

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

2 8 22 29 47
Meganumber: 22
Jackpot: \$32 Million

FANTASY 5

15 23 24 34 39

DAILY 3

Daytime: 7 6 7
Evening: 7 7 8

DAILY DERBY

1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 05 California Classic

RACE TIME: 1:49.35

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

The inspirational Charles Gonsoulin of Los Angeles, pursuing a Canadian woman he had met on the Internet, sneaked across the border on foot in February from the North Dakota side (because a 1984 crime would have prevented his legal entry), heading for the bus station in Winnipeg, 75 miles away, even though he had no experience with sub-zero (Fahrenheit) temperatures. When police picked him up just inside Canada, he was disoriented and had such frostbite that he lost 10 fingers and most toes, but, he said later, "It was all worth it for me. It's the difference between sitting around dreaming about things and going out and getting them." "I know my life is complete." He was scheduled for deportation as soon as he recovers, and the pair still haven't met. The woman lives in a Montreal suburb, 1,400 miles from Winnipeg.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 153rd day of 2005.
There are 212 days left in the year.

On June 2, 1953, Queen Elizabeth II of Britain was crowned in Westminster Abbey, 16 months after the death of her father, King George VI.
In 1975, Vice President Nelson Rockefeller said his commission had found no widespread pattern of illegal activities at the Central Intelligence Agency.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Truth is stranger than fiction, but it is because fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities; truth isn't."

MARK TWAIN

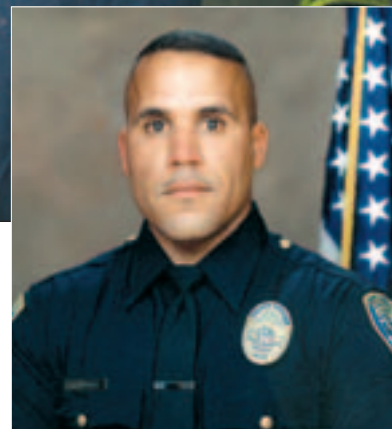
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Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Police officers carry the body of fallen Santa Monica Police Officer Ricardo 'Rick' Crocker into Gates Kingsley & Gates Moeller Murphy Mortuary early Wednesday. Crocker, a Marine Corps reservist, was killed in combat in Iraq last week. A funeral will be held today in Santa Monica. The officers serving as pallbearers worked closely with Crocker on the SMPD's crime impact team and the SWAT team. Clockwise: Det. Eddie Soto, Det. Sal Lucio, Det. John Murphy, Sgt. Mike Braaton, Sgt. Doug Theus, Sgt. Greg Smiley and Lt. Al Venegas. On far right is Marine Corps Colonel Brian Tucker, executive officer of the third civil affairs group. At far left is mortuary manager John Gerchas.



Officer's body brought home

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

LAX — The body of fallen Santa Monica Police Officer Ricardo Crocker was brought back to Santa Monica early Wednesday, six days after he was killed in combat as a Marine in Iraq.

Crocker was escorted by his

family, as well as military and police personnel, in a motorcade comprised of 50 police cars and 30 law enforcement motorcycles shortly after midnight. The motorcade, which also included police cars from other law enforcement agencies, slowly proceeded down Lincoln Boulevard from Los Angeles International Airport

towards Gates Kingsley & Gates Moeller Murphy Mortuary in Santa Monica.

The procession turned decidedly somber when police officers and personnel from the Santa Monica Fire Department stood at attention at the intersection of Marine Street and Lincoln Boulevard. Above them draped a United States flag

hoisted by a hook and ladder truck. Dozens of onlookers watched from the street as Crocker's family, accompanied by SMPD Police Chief James T. Butts Jr., and the hearse passed through the city limits to the mortuary at 20th Street and Arizona Avenue.

See **CROCKER**, page 8

Chamber hopeful it's found a 'jewel' in new chairman

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

WILSHIRE BLVD. — A new era is set to begin at the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce as long-time business owner Edward Guerboian takes the reigns of the organization.

Guerboian, 53, is expected to

be installed tonight as the chamber's chairman of the board of directors during the organization's annual dinner, held at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel. About 400 chamber members are expected to attend the event, with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's deputy chief of staff, Lisa Kalustian, scheduled to install Guerboian. On

July 1, he will officially assume the position, held by Nat Trives for the past year.

"I'm so excited," he said of serving as the chamber's board chairman. He added that he looks forward to building relationships and working with City Hall on community issues.

"I'm a team player, and as a

team, we can accomplish a lot," Guerboian said. "No one individual can do it alone."

"I think it's time for the chamber and the city to work closer."

Guerboian said the key to the chamber's success in the future will be to get its members more

See **CHAMBER**, page 10

GABY SCHKUD

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What a Gem! Happy BDAY Carolyn

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)

★★★★ You might feel as if you are heading in the right direction, but you could find that obstacles befall you left and right. Dig into your creative thinking. Fatigue could be overwhelming if you act like a Bull and keep hitting your head against the wall. Tonight: You need a break.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★ Others could easily disappoint you, especially as you have learned to count on them. Say little; think a lot. Answers naturally flourish for those who want solutions and are ready to accept others as they are. Tonight: Mull over the day's events.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Recent gains might appear to go down the drain. You don't need to let this happen, but you do need to let go and be less vested. Realize when you are heading in the wrong direction, or when you hit complications. Tonight: Let go of today's stresses.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Sometimes a child or loved one pushes you beyond your limits. Right now, bosses, authority figures and routine happenings trigger strong reactions. Know when to say enough; others will follow your lead. Tonight: Understand that the tried-and-true doesn't always work.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Reach out for others and don't hesitate to express your ideas, though you might have difficulty understanding what others are thinking and their logic. Sometimes you push yourself way too hard. Just let it all happen. Tonight: Try to imagine what it feels like to be someone else.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Work together as a team rather than get caught up in another's logic. You understand what others want, but not where they are coming from. Listen to others rather than judge them. Tonight: Togetherness works.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ You could be frustrated by what happens with others. Plans change radically. You want to think in terms of positive interpretations rather than get caught up in a superficial judgment. Tonight: Allow others to display their colors.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ A financial matter presents a situation differently. You might have to give up some rigidity and look at situations differently. Your imagination takes you down a different path. Don't assume it is the right direction. Tonight: Do something just for yourself.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ You need to adjust. Let others see that you can get past an immediate problem. Your energetic and dynamic ways draw results, as long as you don't get stuck. Your lively side helps you blow through problems. Tonight: Where your friends are.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Build on what you know. Don't get caught up in rigid thinking. Your ability to flex and see answers adds to your popularity. Think before you make any dramatic changes. Review present situations with growth and change. Tonight: Hang at home.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Know when to push through a problem and see past the immediate situation. Creative and dynamic thinking proves to be the only way to find an answer. It could be best to let go of what appears to be unstable. Tonight: Hang out.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Knowing when to back off could be important. You could push someone very hard and get a strong reaction, even if you don't want to. Stand back and watch what will happen if you let go. Give someone the space to back off of his or her position. Tonight: A must appearance.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Santa Monica history on display

By Daily Press staff

A local third-grade class has gained some perspective on the history of Santa Monica.

“TOQ’s Santa Monica Timeline,” an exhibit on the history of Santa Monica from 1875 through 1975 was created by a third-grade class from Roosevelt Elementary School. The students did a year-long research project on the city’s history at the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum.

Hidden histories, detailed facts, and historic images are all a part of the exhibit, along with a re-enactment of the first Santa Monica land auction in 1875. The Santa Monica Historical Society Museum is located at 1539 Euclid St.

Call 310.395.2290 for more information.

‘Catalyst’ exhibit features student work

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College art mentor students are ready to show their talent in an upcoming art exhibit entitled “Catalyst.”

The art mentor program is a year-long program for gifted visual art and art history students, selected by SMC art department faculty. The program — in many ways similar to a graduate school program — was created to provide an innovative, experimental and interdisciplinary environment for students to explore a variety of art forms, professional practices and critical theory, school officials say. Students work in small groups with a professional artist or art historian, visit artists’ studios and art institutions, and participate in group discussions and critiques.

Art mentor alumni have gone on to various schools throughout the nation.

The work in the exhibit includes painting, sculpture, ceramics, video, mixed media, and digital images and installation. The student artists are Teresa Amanfu, Kit Bessenbacher, Anna Bruinsma, Florence Canicave, Phoebe Chui, Leanne Dare, Udeni Dharmapala, Visperd Doust, Meghan Drean, Anita Faye Korngute, Marc Hirsch, Lina Högberg, J. Andrew Klein, Linda Larson, Francisco Martinez, Stefan Meyer, Jenn Romero, Sharron Shayne, and Del Simplicio. The art historians are Jo Ann Robson and Esenija Rudolf.

The opening reception for the exhibition will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, June 3, at the college’s Pete & Susan Barrett Art Gallery, located at SMC’s Madison campus on Santa Monica Boulevard at 11th Street.

For more information, call (310) 434-3434.

Students at Crossroads School receive accolades

By Daily Press staff

Crossroads students are receiving attention from across the nation.

Two upper school publications and several students from Crossroads School in Santa Monica received top honors for scholastic publications in the 2003-2004 academic year at the 81st Annual Scholastic Convention at Columbia University in New York City. The school’s student newspaper, Crossfire, received the Gold Crown Award, the highest honor the Columbia Scholastic Press Association bestows. Publications are judged on writing and editing, design, content, concept, photography, art, and graphics. In addition, Crossroads literary magazine, Dark as Day, received the Silver Crown Award.

In addition, Crossroads student writers, editors, photographers, and designers received Gold Circle awards and certificates, which are given to individual students in both verbal and visual categories.

Crossroads School is considered one of the leading college preparatory schools in the nation, with a notable arts program, according to school officials. Crossroads School was founded upon five basic commitments: academic excellence, arts, the greater community, development of a student population of social, economic, and racial diversity, and the development of each student’s physical well-being and full human potential.



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SURF REPORT

On Thursday, the SW will be backing off, still giving some, infrequent knee- to waist-high sets. The dominant swell should be the NW wind swell, which should increase size around west-facing breaks into a more consistent chest high-zone.

Morning low clouds and fog clearing near the beaches during the afternoon.

Today the
water is:

64°

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	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	8:19	-0.8	7:42	2.9	12:30	5.8	3:36	3.8
SUNDAY	9:22	-0.5	9:33	2.7	1:41	5.2	4:35	4.1
MONDAY	10:20	-0.2	11:10	2.1	3:06	4.6	5:23	4.6
TUESDAY	11:13	0.2	12:24	1.4	11:13	0.2	12:24	1.4
WEDNESDAY	12:24	1.4	11:59	0.7	6:00	3.9	6:39	5.5
THURSDAY	1:22	0.6	12:41	1.1	7:13	3.8	7:13	5.9
FRIDAY	2:18	0.9	1:17	0.9	8:09	3.4	7:45	5.2

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The QLine

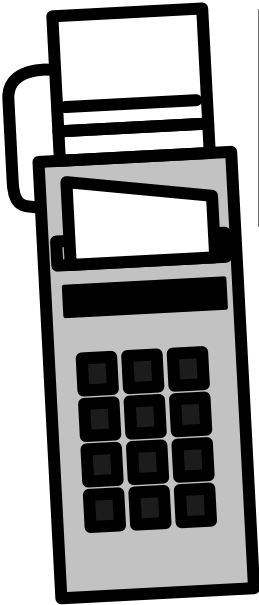
Staffers within City Hall are proposing significant utility rate increases for Santa Monicans because they say the money is running out. However, as they analyze the city budget prior to its adoption in June, City Council members are questioning why and if the rate increases are necessary.

Staff says solid-waste, water, wastewater and stormwater fund balances have been decreasing to varying degrees over the last four years. So, the costs are most likely going to be passed to the

users.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, “Do you support rate increases on your utility bills to restore the fund balances to healthy levels? How much are you willing to pay?”

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



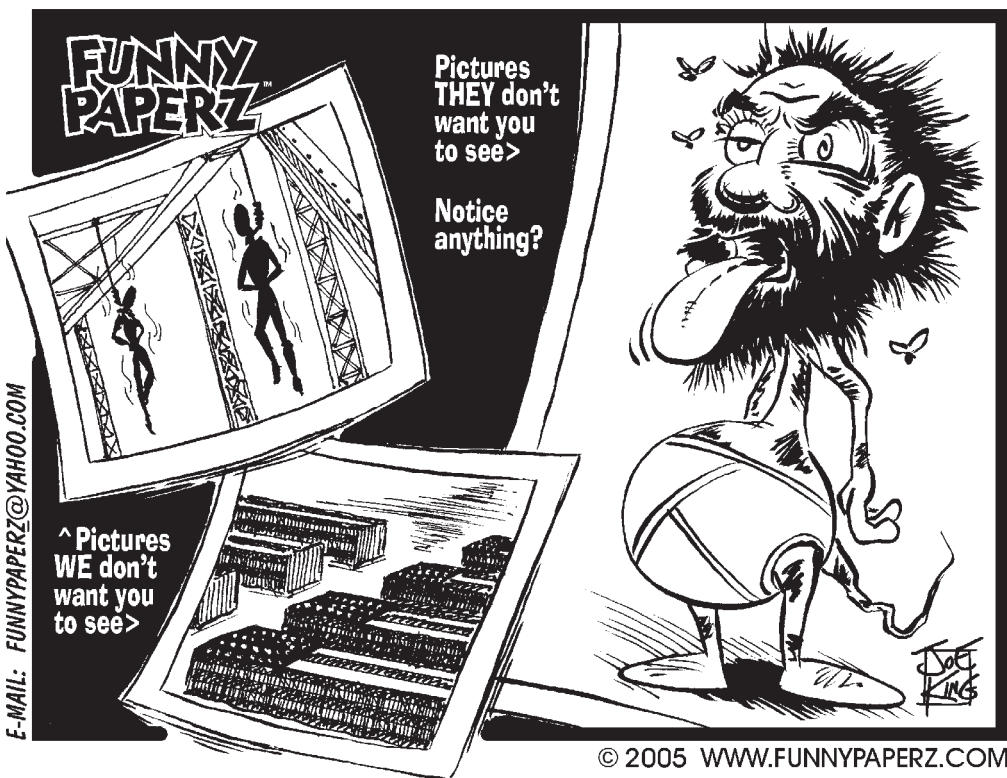
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Classified school employee week a success

Editor:

Santa Monica College recently held its classified school employee week luncheon and dinner, attended by more than 250 classified employees. The event was jointly planned and executed by classified employees and managers. It was a great success, and we were pleased that several speakers recognized the contributions of our classified employees, who include our police officers, secretaries, groundskeepers, custodians and many more.

Speakers included SMC Board of Trustees chair Carole Currey, interim president Dr. Thomas J. Donner, and Giovanni Vela, the new president of the California School Employees Association Chapter 36.

We're also grateful to the volunteers whose contributions were invaluable: Jim Serikawa, Carol Evans, Kyle Smith, Jere Romano and Katharine Muller.

We want to publicly thank all who contributed to the goodwill generated at the event.

SMC Classified School Employees Week Committee

Maria Bonin and Martha Jimenez, co-chairs, and Patricia Brown, Joanne Guercio, Sherri Lee-Lewis, Delia Padilla, Judith Penchansky, Rhu Ramirez, Alex Siefert, and Gayle Sosa.

Not so black and white

Editor:

Mr. Schwartz makes an interesting concession about policy driven reactions (SMDP, May 27, page 5). The closer we are to our perceived enemies, the closer they are to us. I think that is why the United Nations must be participative as our worldly interdependence necessitates check and balances.

What I think I have problems with is Mr. Schwartz's undifferentiated liberal/left and conservative/right categorical labeling. The use of any style of management, autocratic, democratic and participative, or free-rein depends on the situation. Good leaders will use a style that is contingent upon a specific set of circumstances.

Mr. Schwartz, is it possible that influential people may be liberal in some issues, but conservative in others?

Frank Muller
Santa Monica

Don't bash the liberals

Editor:

People all over the world, and throughout the ages have behaved well towards others without a deity. Believers in deities are taught what to think, and the basic belief is that the world would not be wondrous without the intelligent design of a deity, their deity.

The Ayn Rand institute commentary was evocative enough until Peter Schwartz goofed (SMDP, May 27, page 5.) He couldn't resist creating a bogus "liberal" premise. Schwartz's "liberal" is a handy one to deride and demolish. Too bad his creation doesn't resemble reality.

"The left's persistent assault on moral values ..." Who are these lefty people? I don't know any, or of any who assault someone else's moral values. Most people disagree with the religious right trying to force their beliefs via laws on all Americans.

Liberals and most Americans often have one notion in common: butt out. Mind your own business. Keep your religion among your believers.

Mostly people are indifferent to the beliefs of others. You can do whatever you want. Just don't tell me about it. Not anti-religious, just indifferent. You needn't act so put upon, no one cares enough about your business. We all do care when your dogma, posing as "moral values" infringes on the freedoms of all Americans.

Rather ethical of us liberals and others, to want you to be free to believe what you want.

Wish Peter Schwartz would stick to the issue of morality and ethics and not liberal bashing.

Nadine Gallegos
Santa Monica



OPINION

A sad day in America as soul fades to black

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



"There's a little black spot on the sun today." You know when you just can't get a song out of your head?

Everybody seems a little sadder than usual. Of course, it was a sad weekend for America, Memorial Day and all, as the nation mourned its war dead, and department stores rolled out the blockbuster sales in their own unique way of honoring the fallen — at 20 percent off.

But this year, the sadness may well linger beyond the holiday, as proud and decent citizens continue their struggles in coming to terms with the growing list of dead in this latest war, and with the soul of a nation that appears to be diminishing right in front of their eyes while freedom continues "on the march" as the President again reminded us in his speech Monday at Arlington National Cemetery. Ted Koppel read the list of every one of the fallen soldiers later that night, was hoarse by the time he finished, and the ratings went through the roof as a nation respectfully hung on every name.

It's a sad day for America when "freedom" has its name dragged mercilessly through the Iraqi desert, as another 77 American troops, and some 600 more civilians were killed in May, figures that grew even as Bush spoke with a straight face at Arlington about the United States being a "reluctant warrior" in this conflict. Whatever kind of warrior America was that invaded Iraq, "reluctant" it wasn't.

It's a sad day for America when "freedom" must cover its face in grotesque disguise as it did Saturday, when a reported 40,000 Iraqi police under U.S. command formed a barricade around their own Baghdad, effectively cutting off the free movement of their newly-liberated citizens in the wake of the ongoing bloody resistance to foreign occupation.

It's a sad day for America when what it appears to be saying to the rest of the planet is, "The only terms we are willing to play by are our own terms." American arrogance has been

brehtaking in disdaining global cooperation by opting out of pact after pact that would bring us into closer harmony with our co-inhabitants. "He Hate Me"—remember that old XFL nickname? That would be the one sewn onto the new American collective game jersey, "He" being the rest of the world. In the Bush years we have:

- Refused to join 141 nations to ratify the Kyoto Protocol that combats global warming.

- Backed out of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia.

- Nullified America's signature on the International Criminal Court.

- Withdrawn from an accord that allowed the International Court of Justice to rule on U.S. treatment of foreigners in its jails.

- Refused to ratify along with 57 nations, the first global tobacco control treaty.

- Blocked a global treaty to curb mercury use.

- Broke a promise to sign a treaty that bans landmines.

- Refused to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The list goes on, but add to it the Bush nominee for Ambassador to the United Nations — John Bolton — famously quoted as saying about the body he is about to represent us in, "The U.N. doesn't exist."

Friends, we've been holding our first three fingers up for some time now, saying to one and all, "Read between the lines."

It's a sad day in America, as the crosses will be placed in the sand on the beach north of the Santa Monica Pier again this weekend, more than 1,658 of them, representing every American soldier who has died in the Iraq War. I stood on the pier taking it in and calculated that it would take the sands all the way up to Santa Barbara if they were to throw in the dead Iraqis. And nobody would be able to tell friend from enemy because, as the President said in front of the mass graves at Arlington, "At a distance, the headstones all look alike."

Sting, paraphrased — that's our soul down there.

(Ron Scott Smith may be from another planet, but at least he's down to Earth. To reach him in cyberspace, e-mail to edge-ofthewest@aol.com.)



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LOCAL



Browne in this season, jamming for art's sake

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

SAMOHI — Legendary singer and songwriter Jackson Browne will perform on campus this weekend, hoping to raise thousands of dollars for arts programs in the local school district.

Proceeds from the benefit concert will go to the Education Foundation of Santa Monica-Malibu's For The Arts Endowment Fund, which to date has raised \$1.5 million of its \$15 million goal.

For The Arts, a campaign of the Education Foundation of Santa Monica-Malibu, is a community-wide effort with a goal to ensure that each student in public schools receives a broad introduction to the arts — music, visual arts, dance and drama — through the creation of a permanent endowment fund.

A portion of the proceeds from the Jackson Browne concert will go to specific music programs in the neediest schools next year: third grade general music in the four Title 1 elementary schools; fourth and fifth grade choral music in the four Title 1 elementary schools; and Dream Winds, which provides semi-private instrumental music instruction, at two Santa Monica middle schools. Additional money raised by the concert will be put into the endowment specifically for music programs within the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

Browne, who has a nephew in the local school district, has been a supporter of local schools for years. He performed last year with local band Venice at Santa Monica High School's Barnum Hall, which raised tens of thousands of dollars for For the Arts.

The Education Foundation of Santa Monica-Malibu, established in 1982, is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, supporting and enhancing a comprehensive range of programs within the school district.

The foundation's mission is to raise funds in support of literacy, arts, science, technology, sports and enhancements to existing curricula. The foundation's goal is to ensure an equitable and vibrant educational experience for Santa Monica and Malibu students with the support of the community, according to its organizers.



JACKSON BROWNE

Linda Gross, executive director of the foundation, said the fundraising goal is nearly reached for two of the four disciplines targeted in the endowment — \$25,000 is still needed for dance programs and \$50,000 is still needed for drama programs at the high school level. The total endowment for the two disciplines is \$400,000, with a grant given each year to expand the already existing programs.

Gross hopes to raise the remaining money so the grant can be administered this fall.

"Once we are through this weekend, I definitely will do nothing but hunt down donors to give us that money," she said. "Those programs will get \$20,000 a year and while it might not seem like a lot, it is absolutely \$20,000 more than they had."

Jackson Browne, Ozomatli and Venice will perform outdoors on the Samohi campus at the Memorial Greek Theatre on Sunday, June 5, beginning at 2 p.m.

In addition to the general and reserved seating available through TicketMaster, special gold and silver seating packages are available at www.guacfund.org.

The concert is produced by The Guacamole Fund and House of Blues Concerts in association with Artists For The Arts, a non-profit foundation dedicated to producing fundraising concerts to benefit arts and music programs in public schools.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Business

Don't put all your eggs in one basket

MARKET MATTERS

BY BRIAN HEPP

In the course of accumulating various investments, sometimes investors find themselves with a significant portion of their wealth in stocks. In fact, you may find yourself in a situation where you have too much invested in just one stock. While there are a number of different ways this can happen, such as putting money in your own company's stock, you will probably want to find a way to manage these large concentrations of stock so as to keep a good balance in your overall investment mix. Fortunately, there are several alternatives you can utilize to make effective use of your concentrated equity position.

If one particular security makes up a sizable portion of your portfolio, one of your first concerns should be diversification, which can help you reduce your overall risk. One solution may be to simply sell some of your shares. Then you can take the proceeds and reposition them to fit your changing needs.

Selling over a period of time will allow you several opportunities. You can spread your gain, and corresponding tax liability, over time — in some cases even several tax years. Reinvesting in other types of securities will immediately diversify your portfolio, assuming you choose investments that are substantially different from your current holdings. This strategy also lets you retain control of your financial situation, because you can start or stop the program if necessary, or adjust your investment selections as appropriate.

Just remember that if you sell your shares over time, the sale price will likely vary, and this will require careful record keeping and tax planning. You also need to be prepared for the amount of time necessary to liquidate your shares, which could be a number of years.

Another alternative to handle a concentrated position involves estate planning and charitable considerations. These strategies help you achieve philanthropic goals, while at the same time reducing overall income and estate tax liabilities. Using charitable giving strategies, you can receive a current

income tax deduction and a continuing income stream for yourself or your heirs. You may also find a way to avoid paying capital gains tax on appreciated assets.

Again with charitable giving, some of the simplest methods can provide the greatest benefits. One thing you should consider is making your annual charitable gifts or pledges with appreciated securities instead of cash. This allows you to conserve your cash while at the same time avoiding the taxable capital gains you would create by selling the appreciated assets.

Another idea for giving is something known as a charitable remainder trust. It's a little more complicated, but in basic terms it allows you to donate assets to charity and retain an income interest from the donated assets. It also entitles you to a current income tax deduction. Here's how it works:

First, you transfer low-cost-basis stock into the trust. Then the trustee (usually a professional trust company) repositions the assets to provide you or your beneficiaries with current income, either for your lifetime or for a specified number of years. Because the sale of the stock occurs under the charitable trust umbrella, you incur no capital gains tax liability when the stock is sold. When you die, the remainder of your trust goes to charity — hence the name.

Charitable remainder trusts are just one of several ways you can use your concentrated equity positions to make a donation to a worthy cause. And regardless of whether you decide to do something charitable with those positions, you should certainly look into all the options you have to divide any large concentrated positions. For more details on how you can make these investments work for you, check with your tax advisor and your financial consultant.

A.G. Edwards does not offer legal or tax advice. Be sure to consult with your tax or legal advisor before implementing any plan.

(Brian Hepp is a financial consultant at A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. Member SIPC. He can be reached at (310) 453-0077 or at brian.hepp@agedwards.com. A.G. Edwards is a full-service retail brokerage that offers a complete spectrum of financial products and services, including stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, retirement planning and tax-advantage investments.)

SANTA MONICA BUSINESS BRIEFS

Collision center opens in SM

By Daily Press staff

Caliber Collision Centers has opened a 90,000-square-foot collision repair center in Santa Monica.

The center is one of the largest collision repair facilities on the West Coast, according to Dan Pettigrew, president and CEO of Caliber.

"The facility's size and history set it apart; we are excited to be a part of the vibrant Santa Monica community and look forward to the center being a leader in customer service, repair quality and cycle time," he said.

Craig Waring will oversee the new Santa Monica facility as the center manager. A former manager of a large-scale body shop in Van Nuys with more than 20 years of experience in the collision repair business, Waring will have overall responsibility for the center's day-to-day operations.

Founded in 1991, with headquarters in Irvine, Caliber Collision Centers operates collision repair facilities in California and Texas. Caliber currently owns and operates 68 facilities and plans to continue acquiring, developing and integrating high-volume collision repair centers while providing collision repair solutions and automobile physical damage claims support.

Caliber's new Santa Monica center is located at 1100 Colorado Ave.

Chairman selected for RAND Institute Civil Justice

By Daily Press staff

The RAND Corp. and LRN, a provider of legal, compliance, ethics management and corporate governance solutions, has announced that Dov L. Seidman, chairman and CEO of LRN, has been appointed to the Board of Overseers of the RAND Institute for Civil Justice (ICJ).

Seidman joins senior corporate officials and general counsels, senior partners of major law firms, consumer and labor organization executives, senior members of the judiciary and leading academic scholars in advising ICJ on research strategies and activities.

"Dov Seidman has personal experience as an attorney, entrepreneur and innovator, corporate executive, and international leader in corporate ethics," said Robert T. Reville, director of the ICJ. "He brings a profoundly unique set of perspectives to the challenging issues the ICJ will address in its next 25 years."

The ICJ Board of Overseers unites leaders in industry, public service and legal practice to provide insight and advice on the development of new research projects, issues of impartiality and autonomy in reporting results, and building support for the Institute and its mission.

"For more than 25 years the RAND Institute for Civil Justice has conducted seminal research that has examined and corrected conventional wisdom concerning the forces that shape civil justice," Seidman said. "I accept the challenge and honor of membership in a group that is notable for its individual accomplishments, diversity of perspectives and soundness of judgment."

In addition to Seidman joining the ICJ Board of Overseers, RAND and LRN recently announced a strategic alliance to create the LRN-RAND Center for Corporate Ethics, Law, and Governance, operating under the aegis of the ICJ, to improve public and private policy shaping corporate ethics.

The organizations are actively looking for corporations and individuals committed to shaping policy to the new center's Board of Advisors. More information is available at www.rand.org/icj or http://www.lrn.com/about/rand_center.php.

The RAND Institute for Civil Justice is an independent research program that facilitates change in the civil justice system by analyzing trends and outcomes, identifying and evaluating policy options, and bringing together representatives of different interests to debate alternative solutions to policy problems.

The RAND Corp. is a nonprofit research organization providing objective analysis and effective solutions that address the challenges facing the public and private sectors around the world.

LRN creates and distributes legal knowledge and provides online legal, compliance and ethics awareness education and corporate governance process management tools and services to companies throughout the world, including Boeing, Dow Chemical, DuPont, Pfizer, Procter & Gamble and Raytheon. More information is available at www.LRN.com

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STATE



Schwarzenegger unveiling global warming plan for U.N.

BY TERENCE CHEA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger aimed to steal the show at the United Nations environmental conference Wednesday by unveiling a plan to combat global warming by setting goals for reducing California's emissions of greenhouse gases.

The goals, set forth in an executive order, appear on the surface to put the Republican governor on an opposite course from the Bush administration, which has rebuffed international efforts to address climate change.

But because Schwarzenegger — at least for now — isn't offering specifics that will be locked in to state law, the targets won't likely have as much impact as some scientists and state lawmakers want. The California Assembly this week overwhelmingly passed a bill to meet international greenhouse gas reduction standards by 2010.

"The targets are an excellent starting point, and now the heavy lifting of enacting policies to meet them must begin," said Jason Mark, California director of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Still, Schwarzenegger's announcement was sure to grab headlines as big-city mayors from around the globe arrived Wednesday for the first United Nations World Environmental Day Conference held on American soil.

And while mayors and governors can't do much more than act locally, any such move in such a large state could have major consequences, since California would be the world's eighth largest economy if it were a nation unto itself, according to the latest estimate by the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp.

Many scientists believe that greenhouse gases — which include carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide — are trapping heat in the Earth's atmosphere, altering weather patterns, shrinking wildlife habitats and raising sea levels around the globe.

Schwarzenegger's "Environmental Action Plan" calls for reducing the state's emissions of such gases to 2000 levels by 2010, 1990 levels by 2020 and 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050, the governor's office said.

The executive order establishes a "Climate Action Team" led by the secretary of California's Environmental Protection Agency that will be responsible for meeting those goals.

"It's a large step but it needs to be accompanied by

specific policies to be enacted by the legislature," said Michael Hanemann, director of the California Climate Change Center at the University of California, Berkeley.

Schwarzenegger was unveiling his plan at the opening of the five-day UN World Environment Day Conference. While no major Bush administration official has announced plans to attend, at least 70 mayors from cities such as London, Rio de Janeiro and Shanghai are expected, trading ideas on renewable energy, recycling, public transportation, city parks and clean air and water.

Schwarzenegger has made other attempts to rein in greenhouse gases. His "hydrogen highways" program encourages the installation of enough hydrogen fueling stations to enable the use of zero-polluting vehicles across the state, and his "million solar roofs" program would subsidize residential solar power installations, jump-starting that industry as well.

California became the first U.S. state to adopt regulations to curb greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles in September. The Bush administration has joined automakers in challenging those tailpipe emissions standards in court.

The worldwide Kyoto Protocol, adopted in the Japanese city in 1997, requires industrialized nations to cut greenhouse gas emissions by an average of five percent below 1990 levels. The treaty was ratified by more than 140 countries and went into effect in February.

But the United States, the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, did not sign because Bush administration officials believed the treaty would result in the loss of five million U.S. jobs and raise energy prices, said Michele St. Martin, a spokeswoman for the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

Frustrated by the U.S. government's stance, many Americans states, cities and corporations are making their own initiatives to reduce emissions of heat-trapping gases from factories, automobiles and power plants.

Last month, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels announced that more than 130 U.S. mayors have signed an agreement to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by meeting or beating the Kyoto targets.

This week, the mayors in San Francisco will craft a set of international guidelines for sustainable urban living — billed as a municipal version of the Kyoto treaty. The Urban Environmental Accords are to be signed on Sunday — World Environment Day.

California universities to train more teachers

BY BEN FOX
Associated Press Writer

IRVINE, Calif. — The state's two university systems will seek to encourage more math and science majors to become public school teachers to help raise test scores and do more to prepare students for the high-tech workplace, officials said Tuesday.

With the "California Teach" program, the state's two university systems will increase efforts to recruit students into teaching and will offer incentives such as loan forgiveness and paid internships to those who choose that career path, officials said.

"If California is to be a leader in tomorrow's economy, we need to put more emphasis on science and math instruction," Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said as he announced the program.

In outlining the program, state officials noted the

National Science Foundation ranked California's eighth-graders last in the country in science and seventh from the bottom in math.

Less than 7 percent of all teaching credentials issued in 2002-03 were in math and science and the state has a critical shortage in those areas, officials said.

"There are fewer and fewer and fewer students that are educated in the state of California that are competently trained in mathematics and science," University of California President Robert Dynes said.

Under the program, the number of math and science teachers trained by the 10-campus University of California would quadruple over the next five years, from 250 to 1,000 per year, Dynes said. It would streamline the process for obtaining a teaching credential and add classroom training programs to allow those studying math, science and engineering to graduate with a bachelor's degree and a teaching credential within four years.

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LOCAL



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Santa Monica Police officers escort the hearse carrying SMPD Officer Rick Crocker into the city limits early Wednesday. Crocker's body was flown from Dover Air Force Base in Delaware to Los Angeles International Airport late Tuesday.

Chief: 'He will not be alone one second'

CROCKER, from page 1

Crocker's body arrived in Los Angeles at about 11:45 p.m. on Tuesday from Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. On the East Coast, Crocker's body traveled some 80 miles across two states along with a police escort.

Crocker was accompanied from Dover Air Force Base to Santa Monica by United States Marine Corps. Major Craig Price. Price will remain with Crocker until he is buried on Saturday in Puerto Rico National Cemetery.

Based in Quantico, Virginia, Price volunteered to escort Crocker, which is standard protocol for all fallen soldiers. Price — who recently returned from a seven-month tour of duty in Fallujah and Ramadi, training Iraqi police — had previously been a police officer in Seattle, Wash.

"For every Marine casualty, they have a volunteer escort based on rank or experience ... Major Crocker and I have a lot in common," Major Price said. "It's an honor to escort a fellow Marine."

Six police officers who worked closely with Crocker on the SMPD's crime impact team and the SWAT team served

as pallbearers during the transport from LAX to Santa Monica. As Marines and officers surrounded the mortuary, the pallbearers slowly removed the casket from the hearse and brought Crocker into the mortuary shortly after 1 a.m., while his family and Chief Butts solemnly looked on.

"I want you to know that he will not be alone one second while he is here," Chief Butts said, adding SMPD officers have volunteered to stay with Crocker's body for no pay. Standing outside of the mortuary, Crocker's sister consoled Chief Butts, who has watched Crocker hone his skills at the SMPD for the past 10 years. Crocker most recently was assigned to the Police Activities League, where he was viewed as an outstanding mentor for the city's youth.

"I thought the world of him," Chief Butts told Crocker's sister as he began to cry.

Crocker, 39, who was known as "Rick," was a 10-year veteran of the SMPD and a major in the United States Marines Corps. He was killed on May 26 in a rocket-propelled grenade attack in the

See CROCKER, page 9

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LOCAL



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Santa Monica Police officers stand at attention outside of Gates Kingsley & Gates Moeller Murphy Mortuary as one of their colleagues, Officer Rick Crocker, is carried inside.

Crocker to be laid to rest near sister

CROCKER, from page 8

province of Al-Anbar.

Crocker is survived by his mother, Jeanette; father, Curtis; sisters, Maria and Marisa; and brother, Carlos. Linda, a deceased sister, passed 11 years ago. Crocker had requested to be buried next to her in Puerto Rico.

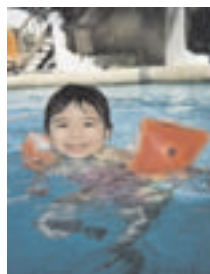
Crocker held the rank of captain in the U.S. Marines when he was hired as a Santa Monica police officer on July 21, 1995. As a reservist with the Marine

Corps, Crocker had already served in Iraq and had been re-deployed. Colleagues who worked closely with him said he had only been back a few months.

Described as being extremely fit, intelligent and tactically proficient, Chief Butts said Crocker was "an excellent police officer and ambassador and protector of the community," and a "consummate caring professional who represented the highest standards and traditions of law

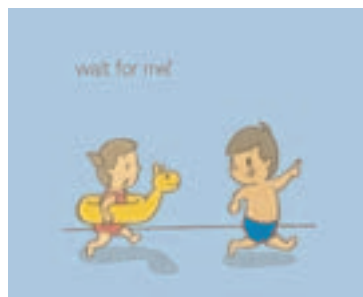
See CROCKER, page 10

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LOCAL

Fifth-generation jeweler tapped to lead chamber

CHAMBER, from page 1

involved in the community. He hopes to continue forming relationships within the business community, City Hall and with residents.

"I look forward to it," he said. "I will listen. I have an open heart and an open mind."

Guerboian said he will champion the chamber's priorities for next year, including continuing with advocacy programs such as the sustainable quality awards which promote environmental-friendly businesses, and expanding the Taste of Santa Monica, held in September.

The chamber also will continue working with City Hall, community members and school officials as an action partner in an effort to quell gang violence in Santa Monica.

Kathy Dodson, the president and CEO of the chamber, said a job fair held last week was part of that effort. About 35 businesses offered up about 150 jobs to nearly 200 kids who attended the event held at Santa Monica High School.

As the chairman, Guerboian will lead the chamber's 37-member board of directors, which sets policy for the organization.

Trives, who served as chairman for the past year, said the chamber has accomplished several goals in the last 12 months. Beyond its advocacy programs, the chamber launched its own magazine and got involved in the 2004 election by endorsing and campaigning for City Council candidates. The chamber also held two academies designed for people to learn more about how to run for political office and how to serve the community through their involvement on various boards and commissions within City Hall.

Trives said he looks forward to passing the baton over to Guerboian, who has been the chairman-elect since he was installed as chairman last year.

"Eddie is solid, well-respected," Trives said. "He comes from a long generation of business here."

After his father's untimely passing, Guerboian migrated to the United States in 1968 by himself when he was 16 years old, with \$100 in his pocket. After settling, he helped to bring his mother, two sisters and brother to the United States.

As a fifth-generation Armenian jeweler, Guerboian worked minimum wage jobs on the Promenade while attending Santa Monica College. He started as a jeweler in 1970, and in 1976, he took a job with Readers Fine Jewelers. In 1978, he bought the family-owned business.

Guerboian married his wife, Evelyn, in 1976. They have a son, Avedis, and two daughters, Natalie and Nicole.

Guerboian has become a prominent and active community member of Santa Monica. He is a distinguished past president and executive board member of the Santa Monica Kiwanis. He served as the chairman of the Kiwanis Charities Foundation for the past five years and continues to be a board member. He is currently serving on the governing board of the Santa Monica Boys and Girls Club, and also serves as an advisory board member and a member of the president's circle of SMC and the college's associates club.

He is an advisory board member of the Santa Monica Salvation Army and a governing board member of the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising. He received a Distinguished Service Award in 1990 for his service in the community.



Edward Guerboian

Guerboian and his wife support dental care for needy children through the Santa Monica Breakfast Club and support cancer research through the American Cancer Society of Santa Monica. He also is a sponsor and supporter of the Holy Martyrs Armenian Apostolic Church, the Homenetmen Athletic Organization and served two years as the chairman of the finance committee of Ferrahan High School, where his children attended.

Crocker funeral to be held at St. Monica's

CROCKER, from page 9

enforcement and this department."

In addition to working with the special entry team, the crime impact unit and PAL, Crocker served as a medic for the SMPD's SWAT team. He also worked patrol and had been a field training officer during his career with the SMPD.

Crocker will have a funeral with full military and police honors today at St. Monica's Church at 9 a.m. at 725 California Ave. Between 1,200 and 1,500 people are expected to attend. Four hundred seats of the 800-person-capacity sanctuary are being reserved for uniformed law enforcement and military personnel. The remaining 400 seats are reserved for family, city employees and members of the public. Overflow will be seated in front and just east of church.

About 50 SMPD officers and 10 military officers worked out the details of the ceremony during a rehearsal Wednesday afternoon. About 30 uniformed SMPD officers were present, with close to 20 more out of uniform.

Waiting for the rehearsal to begin, the mood was rela-

tively upbeat outside of the church with small groups of five or six officers laughing as they swapped stories about experiences they shared with Crocker.

A complete Catholic service will be conducted, including communion.

There will be a full rendering of military honors before the casket departs. Crocker will then be flown to his final resting place in Puerto Rico. In the meantime, Crocker's body will remain at Gates Kingsley & Gates Moeller Murphy Mortuary, which has offered its services for free.

"They have been so supportive of the family and to the department," said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega. "They have done a wonderful job and (mortuary manager John Gerchas) said 'this is our duty to the community,'" in offering its services at no charge.

In lieu of flowers, Crocker's family has requested that donations be made to the Santa Monica Police Activities League. Checks should be made payable to: Santa Monica PAL, C/O Santa Monica Police Department, 333 W. Olympic Drive, Santa Monica, CA 90401.

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NATIONAL



Former FBI official steps forward, admits he's mysterious 'Deep Throat'

BY SHARON THEIMER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Watergate whistleblower Deep Throat played a central role in one of the biggest White House scandals ever, helping bring down a president and inspire a political mystery so famous his nickname earned an entry in Webster's. Thirty years later, the source is secret no more.

At age 91, after decades of hiding his role as The Washington Post's tipster from politicians, the public and even his family, former FBI official W. Mark Felt told his secret to a lawyer his family had consulted on whether Felt should come forward.

The attorney, John O'Connor, wrote a Vanity Fair magazine article revealing Felt's disclosure, and within hours of the story's release Tuesday, Felt's family and the Post confirmed it.

"I'm the guy they used to call Deep Throat," Vanity Fair quoted Felt, the former No. 2 man at the FBI, as saying.

"It's the last secret" of the story, said Ben Bradlee, the paper's top editor at the time the riveting political drama played out three decades ago.

Felt lives in Santa Rosa, Calif., and is said to be in poor mental and physical health because of a stroke. His family did not immediately make him available for comment, asking the news media horde gathered outside his home to respect his privacy "in view of his age and health."

"The family believes that my grandfather, Mark Felt Sr., is a great American hero who went well above and beyond the call of duty at much risk to himself to save his country from a horrible injustice," Felt's grandson, Nick Jones, said, reading a family statement. "We all sincerely hope the country will see him this way as well."

Watergate reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein said in a statement: "W. Mark Felt was 'Deep Throat' and helped us immeasurably in our Watergate coverage. However, as the record shows, many other sources and officials assisted us and other reporters for the hundreds of stories that were written in The Washington Post about Watergate."

For many, Felt's admission answers one of the biggest questions in American politics and journalism: Who was the source so fearful he'd be found out by the Nixon White House that he insisted on secret signals rather than phone calls to arrange meetings with the Post reporters, a man portrayed as a cigarette-smoking bundle of nerves by Hal Holbrook in the

1970s movie "All the President's Men"?

"A good secret deserves a decent burial and this one is going to get a state funeral," said Leonard Garment, acting special counsel to President Nixon after the Watergate story broke and author of the book "In Search of Deep Throat."

Felt "had the credentials, he had the knowledge, he had a series of motives, he probably was very unhappy with the way the investigation was going," Garment said.

"I never thought he was in the loop to have the information," John Dean, counsel in Nixon's White House and the government's top informant in the Watergate investigation, told The Associated Press. "How in the world could Felt have done it alone?"

Dean said he couldn't see how Felt, then in charge of the FBI's day-to-day operations, could have had time to rendezvous with reporters in parking garages and leave clandestine messages to arrange meetings. Perhaps FBI agents helped him, Dean suggested.

The scandal that brought Nixon's resignation began with a burglary and attempted tapping of phones in Democratic Party offices at the Watergate office building in Washington during Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign. It went on to include disclosures of covert Nixon administration spying on and retaliating against a host of perceived enemies. The most devastating disclosure was the president's own role in trying to cover-up his administration's involvement.

Deep Throat urged Woodward and Bernstein to follow the money trail.

The resulting campaign finance scandal led Congress to overhaul the nation's campaign finance rules, ordering federal candidates and national party committees to disclose their donors' identities and observe new contribution limits.

Woodward, Bernstein and Bradlee had kept the identity of Deep Throat secret at his request, saying his name would be revealed upon his death. Then Felt revealed it himself, a move that startled Woodward and the Post, the newspaper reported.

Also surprised was Nixon chief counsel Charles Colson, who worked closely with Felt in the Nixon administration and served prison time in the Watergate scandal.

"He had the trust of America's leaders and to think that he betrayed that trust is hard for me to fathom," Colson told the AP.

Even the existence of Deep Throat, nicknamed for an X-rated movie of the early 1970s, was kept secret for a time. Woodward and Bernstein revealed their reporting had been aided by a Nixon administration source in their

best-selling book "All the President's Men." Felt's name doesn't appear there.

A hit movie was made of the book in 1976 starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman. It portrayed cloak-and-dagger methods employed by Woodward and Deep Throat. When Woodward wanted a meeting, he would position an empty flowerpot containing a red flag on his apartment balcony. When Deep Throat wanted to meet, the hands of a clock would appear written inside Woodward's New York Times.

The identity of the source had sparked endless speculation over the past three decades. Dean, Nixon chief of staff Alexander Haig, White House press aide Diane Sawyer, speechwriter Pat Buchanan and Garment were among those mentioned as possibilities.

Felt also had been mentioned, but he regularly denied it. His motive for tipping off Woodward and Bernstein remains unknown, but the Post suggested in a story Tuesday night that anger over Nixon's decision to pass him over for FBI director after the death of J. Edgar Hoover could have been a factor.

Felt had expressed reservations in the past about revealing his identity, and about whether his actions were appropriate for an FBI man, his grandson said. His family members thought otherwise. His daughter, Joan, argued that he could "make enough money to pay some bills, like the debt I've run up for the children's education."

On Wednesday, the question of whether Felt was more hero or more turncoat had the current White House hoping to keep its distance. President Bush, said spokesman Scott McClellan, was interested in the story only as "a great mystery."

"There's going to be plenty of analysis on this and we'll leave it to others to do all the analysis of it," McClellan said.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, asked during a Pentagon news conference whether Felt should be viewed as a hero or villain, said, "I'm not in any judgmental mood. ... I think that any time any wrongdoing occurs, I think it's important that wrongdoing be reported."

Woodward and Bernstein were the first reporters to link the Nixon White House and the Watergate break-in.

Nixon, facing almost-certain impeachment for helping to cover up the break-in, resigned in August 1974. Forty government officials and members of Nixon's re-election committee were convicted on felony charges.

Felt was convicted in 1980 for authorizing illegal break-ins in the 1970s at homes of people associated with the radical Weather Underground. He was pardoned by President Reagan in 1981.

O'Keeffe Foundation to turn over assets to museum

BY DEBORAH BAKER

Associated Press Writer

SANTA FE, N.M. — The Georgia O'Keeffe Foundation will transfer its collection — including more than 1,000 of the late artist's works — to the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum next year.

The agreement, announced Tuesday, also gives archival materials and O'Keeffe's house and studio in Abiquiu to the museum.

"This agreement firmly establishes the museum as the single most important repository of O'Keeffe's work," director George G. King said in a statement.

O'Keeffe died March 6, 1986, in Santa Fe. She was 98 and had lived full-time for nearly four decades in northern New Mexico, where she did some of her best-known work.

The foundation was created by a court in 1989 after a legal fight involving Juan Hamilton — O'Keeffe's assistant and companion, and her principal heir — and some of the artist's relatives, who challenged her will. The foundation's tasks include distributing her works of art and making permanent arrangements for the Abiquiu house. The assets are required to be distributed by the 20th anniversary of O'Keeffe's death.

The museum already owns and maintains the more remote Ghost Ranch property, north of Abiquiu, where the artist generally spent part of each year.

The 1,000 art works, which have been in storage, include about 800 sketches on paper, and oil paintings, watercolors and sculptures. The museum would not disclose

the value of the works and property to be transferred.

The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in downtown Santa Fe now owns about 200 works, 140 of them by the artist and the others — photographs, for example — related to her.

Museum curator Barbara Buhler Lynes said the museum will exhibit the collection as well as make it and the archival materials available to scholars.

"The museum, its research center and the O'Keeffe houses form a wonderful and important complex that greatly enhances our ability to acquaint visitors with O'Keeffe's place and significance in the history of American art," Lynes said in a statement.

The transfer is expected to be completed by early 2006.

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Stem-cell standoff involves moral dilemmas

BY RICHARD N. OSTLING

AP Religion Writer

At first glance, the nation's emotional debate over stem-cell research seems a mere rerun of the unending dispute over abortion. Both involve the questions about protecting the development of human life, after all.

But there are important moral and religious distinctions between the two issues, and some groups that oppose abortion are not offended by stem-cell experiments — even though they necessarily destroy human embryos.

Yale University ethicist Gene Outka frames the issue partly as one of urgency — saying that abortion involves a pressing conflict between a pregnant woman and a fetus, whereas limits on stem-cell research merely affect patients who in theory might reap medical benefits at some future time.

He also notes that extraction of stem cells can be considered less morally difficult because it destroys embryos at the very earliest stage, while abortion terminates fetuses that are more developed. But some find destruction of even tiny embryos troublesome because, as Outka puts it, “the requisite genetic information renders them unique ... begin at this stage.”

In the religious world, thinking is var-

ied and sometimes surprising.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, for example, is neutral on the subject though it opposes abortion as unjustified killing except possibly in cases of incest, rape or serious peril to the mother.

The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations favors research if it involves frozen embryos that are left over from test-tube baby treatments. And in Islam, many jurists accept work with embryos to seek medical therapies, says Ebrahim Moosa of Duke University.

As with those Muslim thinkers, many believe that the most compelling moral argument for using embryos is that treatments using the highly adaptable stem cells could someday combat dread diseases, even though success is no certainty.

The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice advocates full access to abortion on behalf of mainline Protestants, Conservative and Reform Jews, Unitarians and others. The coalition believes the medical potential justifies research that employs the test-tube leftovers or aborted fetuses.

Yet even the position of that group's president, the Rev. Carlton Veazey, is nuanced. He's concerned about programs that create cloned human embryos in order to destroy them and acquire stem cells, which many in coalition churches

find morally problematic. “Should we get into the business of creating and harvesting? I don't think so,” he says.

Meanwhile, the California Council of Churches supports a \$3 billion state program that involves stem cell harvesting through destruction of cloned embryos.

On the opposite side of the religious spectrum, the Roman Catholic Church teaches that “the life of every human being is to be respected” once a sperm and egg unite and it vehemently opposes destroying embryos, whether through abortion or for research. Eastern Orthodox and evangelical Protestant leaders generally agree.

President Bush's policy on embryonic stem cell research has been to limit federal funding to research using already existing stem cell lines because that avoids destruction of further embryos. The president has vowed to veto a bill before Congress that would provide funding for research using embryos left over from fertility treatments. (There are no legal limits on research funded by states or private sources.)

Outka, a lay Lutheran who chaired two years of Yale faculty discussions on the problem, disagrees with lay Methodist Bush. He concludes that destruction of these leftover embryos is “morally tolerable” on the “nothing is lost” argument:

They're doomed to die or be discarded anyway.

But that's as far as he'll go. Outka argues in the anthology “God and the Embryo” (Georgetown University Press) that, in advocating the possible benefits of an outcome, you cannot ignore the means used to achieve it. Moral opponents of the Hiroshima bombing use the same argument.

Ethicists also worry that stem-cell work is laying scientific ground for production of cloned human babies — though research proponents emphasize the distinction between such “reproductive cloning” and research on cloned human embryos that are then destroyed.

A related argument for those who believe embryo destruction is immoral is that the government should instead foster promising work with stem cells from placentas, umbilical cords and adult tissues. Last month, the President's Council on Bioethics issued a 99-page white paper on the biology and morality of four new techniques that might produce stem cells without destroying embryos.

The council's 18 members differed in their assessments but agreed that these proposals “and others like them” that could sidestep the embryo problem altogether “deserve the nation's careful and serious consideration.”

Report: ‘Whitewash’ in Border Patrol kickback probe

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Top officials failed to properly investigate allegations of a kickback and expense account fraud scheme by Border Patrol agents in an inquiry that appeared to whitewash the potential involvement of higher ups, says a government watchdog agency.

The report sent to Congress and President Bush by an independent agency created to protect government whistleblowers said later investigations by the Department of Homeland Security also failed to hold high-level officials responsible.

“It stretches credulity that 45 employees at a single Border Patrol station engaged in a kickback and fraud scheme for a number of years ... without the knowledge of management,” the special counsel's office said in a statement released Tuesday that calls for further investigation.

It said Homeland Security investigators “appear to have exerted little effort to follow up on evidence identified by Border Patrol whistleblowers that would call into question the statements of its management.”

Internal investigations by the Justice and Homeland Security departments have found that high-level Border Patrol officials committed no wrongdoing and did not engage in any cover-up.

The report said the current head of the Border Patrol, David V. Aguilar, was informed as early as 2000, when he headed the agency in Arizona, that border agents temporarily assigned there were receiving kickbacks from area landlords, but did not act.

Of the nearly 70 Border Patrol employees suspected of wrongdoing, 45 were punished in some fashion, although almost all were low-ranking agents.

By sidestepping punishment of higher-ups under suspicion, “there is a real risk of

creating the appearance of a whitewash,” Special Counsel Scott J. Bloch said in a statement.

The report involves allegations by whistleblowers Larry E. Davenport and Willie A. Forester, former Border Patrol agents, that agents and at least 16 supervisors in Operation Safeguard were involved in kickback and fraudulent lodging reimbursement claims.

The report says two high-ranking Border Patrol officials in the Tucson sector to whom the whistleblowers complained were Rowdy Adams and Carlos Carrillo, both of whom were personally close to Aguilar, then the head of the Border Patrol in that sector. Both followed Aguilar to Washington last summer when he became the Border Patrol's chief.

In Operation Safeguard, the Border Patrol dispatched more than 1,000 of its uniformed agents to Arizona for one- to three-month assignments to try to stem the flow of

illegal immigrants across the border.

Many of the recently hired agents were on their first out-of-town deployment.

Adams now is a Border Patrol senior associate chief who oversees technology issues, such as its multibillion-dollar America's Shield Initiative to place cameras and sensors along U.S. borders. Carrillo is also a senior associate chief and a top Aguilar aide.

Customs and Border Patrol spokeswoman Kristi M. Clemens told The Washington Post the agency “takes all allegations of misconduct or abuse extremely seriously” and that Commissioner Robert C. Bonner, who heads CBP, “has the highest confidence in Chief Aguilar's leadership and management abilities.”

All the kickback allegations of travel improprieties “were investigated and adjudicated,” she told the Post. “Those responsible were held accountable.”

World Trade Organization delays ruling on softwood lumber dispute

BY SAM CAGE

Associated Press Writer

GENEVA — The World Trade Organization on Wednesday delayed ruling on whether Canada should be allowed to impose sanctions on U.S. products in retaliation for American duties on softwood lumber.

The WTO's dispute settlement body held off after Washington contested the level of the sanctions that Canada was seeking, \$319 million (U.S.).

It also set up a panel to examine whether the United States has complied with a 2004 WTO decision, which ruled that Washington's duties violated global trade rules.

In that decision, the dispute settlement body rejected claims by the Canadian government that the United States had acted illegally in investigating whether lumber from Canada was being sold at below the cost of production — a practice known as dumping.

But the panel also said that the U.S. government's calculations of its

antidumping duties were wrong because Washington used a method called “zeroing,” in which sales at above-market prices are ignored.

Washington later cut its duties, but Canada said the move was insufficient.

Ottawa and Washington have a handful of complex disputes over imports of Canadian softwood lumber, which is used by house builders. The fight has been building up steam since the expiration of their Softwood Lumber Agreement in March 2001.

Under that accord, Canada had been

allowed to ship a certain amount of lumber to the United States without duties, with tariffs set for shipments beyond that level. In return, the United States agreed not to impose any trade action, including protective duties.

When the agreement ran out, the United States, under pressure from domestic producers, moved quickly to impose extra duties on Canadian imports.

The WTO watches over respect for the rules of global commerce established by its 148 member nations.

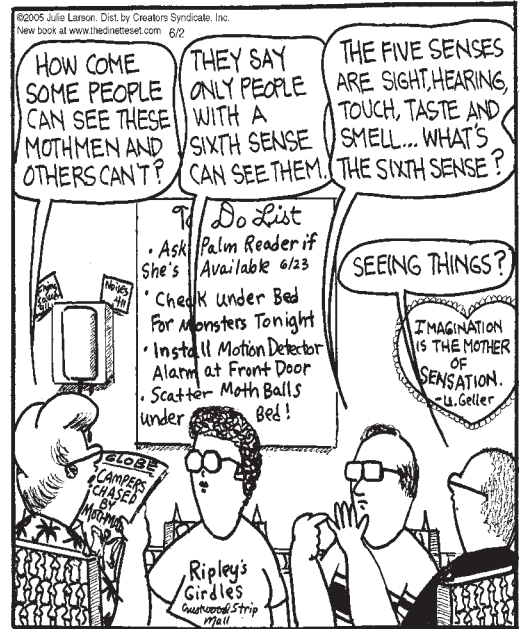


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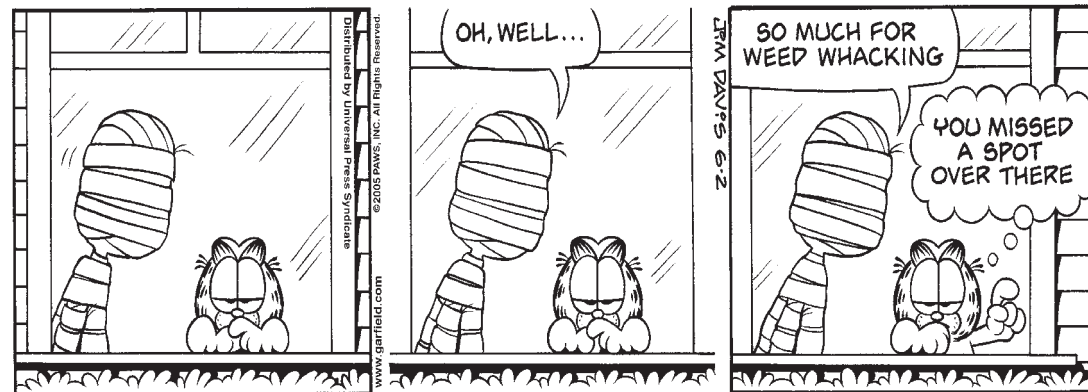
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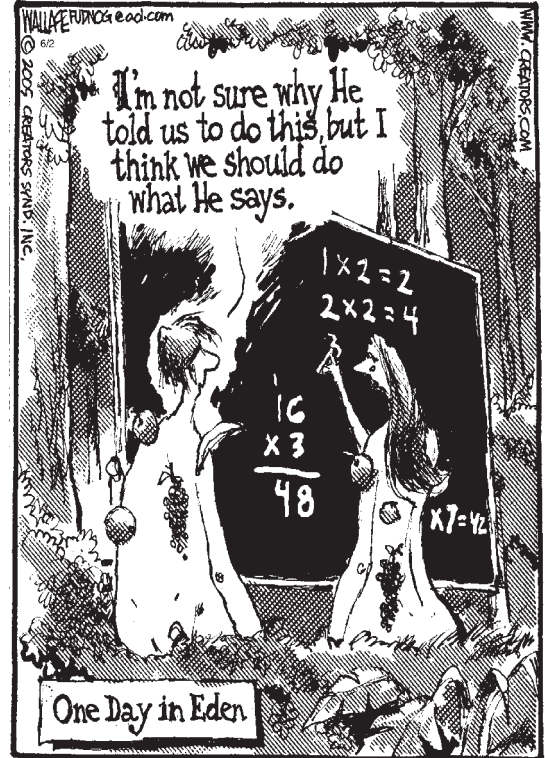


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ACROSS

- 1 Fling
- 5 — Work (rock band)
- 10 Assumed name
- 12 Rust, for one
- 13 Merriment
- 14 Compare
- 15 Apple taster
- 16 With everything taken into account
- 18 Reply to "Gracias"
- 20 Tall tale
- 21 Archaeologist's place
- 23 Not to mention
- 24 Make tea
- 26 Writer Wiesel
- 28 Dolphin's home
- 29 New Haven school
- 31 Call upon
- 32 Flexible
- 36 "Way to go!"
- 39 Chaotic place
- 40 Way to go
- 41 Road reversal
- 43 Mark replacers
- 44 Race prize

45 Flight

- makeup
- 46 Tankard fill

DOWN

- 1 Broken
- 2 Green shade
- 3 Temptress of myth
- 4 Plopped down
- 5 Gangster's gal
- 6 Highway ramp
- 7 Writer Gogol
- 8 Sweet gal of song
- 9 Watched over
- 11 Vague

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Yesterday's answer

- 17 Hurried flight
- 19 Had a bite
- 22 Bankrupt
- 24 Prevail over
- 25 Ecstasy
- 27 Waikiki souvenir
- 28 Rude looks
- 30 GI address
- 33 Sky shade
- 34 Like Thor
- 35 Copier need
- 37 On the summit of
- 38 Porgy's love
- 42 Rickety boat

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