

FREE

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2004

Volume 3, Issue 174

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

3 14 22 35 43

Meganumber: 15

Jackpot: \$10 million

FANTASY 5

1 3 7 14 35

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 0 5 6

Evening picks: 5 3 9

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 09 Winning Spirit

2nd Place: 11 Money Bags

3rd Place: 03 Hot Shot

Race Time: 1:41.12

Swede spot



Seth Kotok/Special to the Daily Press

Jonny Sundin of Sweden spends his Wednesday afternoon putting at Pacific Park's new miniature golf course on the Santa Monica Pier. Pirates Pier Mini Golf officially opened last week.

Appeals court puts City Hall on notice

It finds portion of tenant harassment law illegal

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Barred by a judge last month from prosecuting landlords who attempt to evict their tenants maliciously or without cause, lawyers here are now deciding how to fight back.

They hope to protect City Hall's tenant harassment ordinance, passed in 1995 to shield renters from unruly landlords looking to profit off of vacancy decontrol, which allows property owners to raise rents when tenants move out of rent-controlled units. Before 1995, rents were kept low even for vacant units.

An appeals court on May 25 ruled against City Hall, finding in favor of a landlord group which claimed a portion of the tenant harassment law violated state law and was unconstitutional.

At issue is a clause in the ordinance that allowed City Hall to prosecute landlords who they deemed served eviction notices maliciously or without cause. The published decision by the Second District Court of Appeals found the law impinged on landlords' rights under state law.

"The ordinance would 'threaten free access to the courts by providing an end

It's not a legitimate function of city government. They're not omniscient."

— ROSARIO PERRY
Landlord attorney

run around the limitations on the tort of malicious prosecution," the ruling reads. A tort is a civil offense.

The lawsuit was levied against City Hall in May of 2002 by the Action Apartment Association, a group representing the interests of local landlords. It was tossed out twice by the trial court before the court of appeals heard it and ruled in favor of the association.

"The city attorney does not have the authority to make a determination as to whether or not the housing provider has acted maliciously," said attorney Rosario Perry, who handled the case for the association and co-plaintiff landlord Doreen Dennis. "It's not a legitimate function of city government. They're not omniscient."

See APPEALS, page 4

Local man walks with \$1.5M in poker win

Dan Harrington, an investor, wins fourth place in 35th annual World Series of Poker

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

LAS VEGAS — A Santa Monica man played his cards right last week and walked out of a casino \$1.5 million richer.

Dan Harrington, 58, a local investor, placed fourth in the 35th annual World Series of Poker at Binion's Horseshoe Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. Co-founder of Anchor Loans on Ocean Avenue, Harrington was one of 13,000 to play in the poker tournament.

Most of the 2,500-plus gamers in the finals paid \$10,000 to play. Not so for first-place winner Greg

Raymer, 39, a corporate patent attorney who took away \$5 million. Raymer won his seat in the finals after cleaning up in an online poker competition.

ESPN filmed the month-long tournament, and will begin airing it July 6. The finals will be shown on Sept. 14, organizers said.

Participants in the finals played "Texas No Limit Hold 'Em," a version of poker where each player is dealt two cards and shares a communal pile of five cards. During games last week, players were at the table for 12 to 16 hours a day.

As is the norm in gambling

houses, cocktails were free — but organizers said players were more keen on the free massages.

"It's definitely an endurance challenge," said Nicole Khoury, a publicist for Harrah's Entertainment, Inc., which bought the rights to the event this year. "They get breaks for 15 minutes, and then there's a dinner break for 70 minutes or 75 minutes, but they're playing for hours and hours and hours."

Harrington was one of nine players at the final table Friday. He was joined by players as young as 23 years old, with occupations ranging from a professional poker player to an aspiring math teacher and an economics student.

Nicknamed "Action Dan" for

See POKER, page 4



Eric Harkins/Special to the Daily Press
Harrington was nicknamed 'Action Dan' for consistently strong play.



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

ALSO, IN THE LAST MONTH

■ The 48-year-old father of a high school basketball player, riled at the officiating of a game, was charged with assault after allegedly biting two of the three referees in an on-court brawl (Colorado Springs, Colo.). And crude oil bubbled up from the toilet and sinks of Leila LeTourneau's home, covering the floors (possibly from an old, uncapped well under the home) (Longview, Texas). And two Cubans who had tried to land in Florida last year on their pontooned 1951 Chevy truck (but were turned back by the Coast Guard) tried again with a pontooned 1959 Buick (but were again turned back).



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"So let it be written...
So let it be done..."

Yule Bryner as Egyptian Pharaoh
The Ten Commandments



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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 have endurance and can deal with whatever this Full Moon drops in your lap. Others seem vague, or could it be that you are blocking the message? A change in your plans seems inevitable. Go with the flow and don't buck the currents. Tonight: Put on some music.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Hold on to your wallet tightly, as money seems to slip through your hands. If working financially within a partnership, you need to be clear about what each other is saying. Mistakes could be costly. You might revise your approach to money after a talk. Tonight: Listen rather than commit.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Others are in control, and it would be foolish to try to change what is happening. Be a detached observer, though your imagination could go hog-wild. Others might not understand your perspective. Be especially understanding of those around you. Tonight: Say "yes." Be easy.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You tend to go high and low, depending on your mood. Full Moons like today's tend to encourage emotional swings. Concentrate on work, and you'll achieve much more than in the past. Tonight: Choose a stress-buster.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You feel like others are pushing you very hard, especially those you care about. Friends appear sympathetic to what is going on. Be sensitive to that person who might have a crush on you, unless it is mutual. A loved one or child demands what he or she wants. Tonight: Flow with change.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Your happy ways might irritate someone close more than you realize. Smooth ruffled feathers, especially at work. You know what works with each person. A partner does the unexpected one more time. Share your feelings. Tonight: Happy at home.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You can say whatever you want, but uproar is the natural order of your day. Work with associates and demonstrate an ability to jump over obstacles. Your instincts come through for you. Don't spill out everything that is on your mind. Tonight: Swap war stories with your pals.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Be ready to make a financial adjustment. How you see a problem might be a lot different from the way others do. A risk will not pay off, and could be more of a problem than you anticipated. Friends have great ideas but not ones that will work for you. Tonight: Play it inexpensive.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ No matter what you say, others will be contrary, especially a roommate. Don't get caught up in the moment. Adjust your plans and head on a more peaceful path. The only way to win a control game is not to play. Tonight: Try something new.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★ A secret pops out that might make you uncomfortable. Instead of reacting, pull back and detach. The issue might be bigger to you than it is to others. Take your time, though you might want to pull back and be less of a player right now. Tonight: Early to bed.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Friends or a specific friend might be causing you a bit of stress. Play it easy, as others might be having a very hard time. Refuse to get your finances involved. You might think a risk looks good. Wait. Tonight: Where your friends and the action are.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★ You could be pulled between betwixt and between by bosses and family. Let someone else pitch in, even if you're not comfortable with delegating. In the long run, you will get more done. Learn to trust more. Tonight: Work late.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Gems in the rough

By Daily Press staff

Black students this weekend will get some extra cash for continuing in school. The California non-profit corporation Santa Monica Gems will award \$25,000 in scholarships to 24 black students who are graduating from Santa Monica high schools and pursuing their studies at Santa Monica College.

A ceremony will be held on Saturday, June 5, at 3:30 p.m. in the Carter Education Center where 24 students will receive scholarship award checks. The program will be highlighted by Indira Hale Tucker, wife of the Honorable Marcus O. Tucker, Jr., Los Angeles Superior Court Judge.

The event will take place on the Calvary Baptist Church grounds at 1502 20th St.

Seedlings planted in Topanga

By Daily Press staff

The Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum is presenting staged readings of three new plays this summer, part of its ongoing development series for playwrights, called Botanicum Seedlings.

“New plays don’t just happen,” said Theatricum playwright-in-residence Jennie Webb, who heads the series. “Our goal with this series has been to focus on the needs of the playwright, figure out what other artists can bring to each writer’s work, and then allow an audience to become part of the process at a certain point, any new play must have an audience in order to reach the next stage in its development.”

The first play presented is “Oranges & Lemons” on Saturday, June 5 at noon. Playwright Catherine Bush, tells the story of a 15th Century English family man who is about to become the king’s head executioner.

On June 12 at noon, Travis Baker will introduce “Ich Liebe Dich, Mi Amigo,” an absurdist exploration of how and why men reach out to one another, both as friends and adversaries.

Martha Stevens’ “Seed” will conclude the series of readings on Saturday, June 19 at 11 a.m. Set at the twilight of the gods, as the powers-that-be begin to lose their grip on the universe, a mother and daughter have epic struggles of their own.

The Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum is located at 1419 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd. Admission is free. For reservations, call (310) 455-3723.

Nurse returns to UCLA

By Daily Press staff

Posie Carpenter has returned to UCLA Healthcare as director of nursing at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center.

A Westchester resident, Carpenter held several managerial and staff positions at UCLA Medical Center in Westwood from 1989 to 1998.

She joins Santa Monica-UCLA from the Southern California Orthopedic Institute in Van Nuys, where she was director of surgical services. Previously, she was executive director of the Kerlan-Jobe Orthopedic Clinic in Los Angeles.

Carpenter holds dual master’s degrees in nursing and public health from Columbia University and a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Georgetown University.



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SURF REPORT

New SW swell moves in on Thursday and mixes with smaller but steady NW windswell. Look for an increase in surf throughout the day as the swell builds through the morning and begins peaking later in the day. Most exposed breaks will see waist- to shoulder-high sets, while the standout combo breaks pull in some head-high and occasionally overhead sets. There may be some interference from local islands and seamounts so expect a little less size and consistency than the more exposed counties. Look for light WNW winds in the morning building into the 10-15 knot range by the afternoon.

Today the water is:

69°

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



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	12:35	1.5	12:07	0.8	6:07	3.7	6:45	5.2
SUNDAY	1:21	0.7	12:46	1.0	7:12	3.8	7:14	5.7
MONDAY	2:05	-0.1	1:24	1.3	8:12	3.9	7:48	6.2
TUESDAY	2:50	-0.9	2:04	1.5	9:08	3.9	8:25	6.7
WEDNESDAY	3:37	-1.4	2:45	1.8	10:04	3.9	9:06	6.9
THURSDAY	4:26	-1.7	3:29	2.0	11:00	3.8	9:50	6.9
FRIDAY	5:17	-1.8	4:17	2.3	12:00	3.8	10:38	6.8

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The QLine

While pouring over the upcoming year’s \$377 million budget, the Santa Monica City Council this week noticed a key expense missing: The living wage.

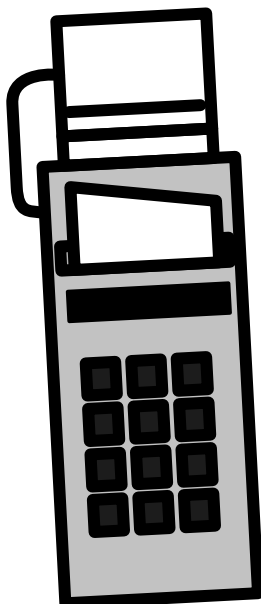
Council members want to mandate that City Hall workers make a minimum of \$11.50 an hour, and that would include all contractors who have \$25,000 projects or more with the city. The additional cost to City Hall would surpass \$1 million.

City officials already have cut \$2 million from the budget and found ways to increase revenues to close a \$4 million budget short-

fall. Belt tightening is expected for a couple of more years.

So, this week Q-Line wants to know, “Do you think City Hall should pursue a living wage for its employees despite its budget crunch? Why or why not?”

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



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LOCAL

City Hall expected to appeal court ruling

APPEALS, from page 1

They don't know whether the housing provider is acting with malice — and they're not allowed to put their opinion in the mix. That's up to the court."

Perry said Dennis signed onto the lawsuit when City Hall threatened to pursue her criminally after she tried to evict a tenant in her building at 1024 Maple St. Dennis wanted to evict the tenant so her daughter could move into the four-unit building, Perry added.

"It's B.S.," he said. "She wanted to move her daughter in, and where the city attorney's office got off questioning her motives and threatening to sue her criminally, I don't know — but they did."

Dennis didn't return calls seeking comment for this story.

Prosecutors at City Hall said they are working on a response to the ruling and soon will present a proposed course of action to the City Council.

"The office is obviously taking this very seriously," said Deputy City Attorney Adam Radinsky, who is working with a team of City Hall prosecutors on the case. "We're very disappointed by the

results and we obviously disagree with the court's interpretation of the law."

Radinsky wouldn't discuss any details of possible responses to the ruling. City Hall is expected to appeal the ruling, or ask the appeal court to hear the matter again.

Officials receive about 100 complaints under the ordinance each year, Radinsky said. Most of those have been resolved out of court and City Hall has pressed charges only about 15 times.

The merits of the ordinance have been challenged before, and City Hall has prevailed in all of those instances. Radinsky said the same subsection currently at issue has been challenged twice before and other portions have been challenged three times. This was the first time the ordinance went before an appeals court.

"Regardless of what direction the city takes and regardless of the final outcome of this litigation, we strongly urge all Santa Monica tenants who believe they have received an invalid and harassing three-day notice or eviction to come forward, tell us about it," Radinsky said. "There are other legal remedies available under state law in many of these cases, including the consumer protection laws."

'Fossilman' petrifies the competition, takes \$5M

POKER, from page 1

his consistent play, Harrington, who lives in a condo off of Second Street, has been a finalist in the poker world series three times in the last 10 years. He won the championship in 1995. Harrington turned to gambling to make his "second fortune" after establishing himself as a successful investor, organizers said.

"It's very rare that somebody's been able to be in the top 10 as many times as

he has," said Stephen Krallman, vice president of finance for Anchor Loans.

First-place winner Raymer, a native of North Dakota, worked around the country before settling down with his wife and daughter in the woods of Southeastern Connecticut. This was his first appearance at the final table. Other players called Raymer "Fossilman" because he collects antique fossils. His motto? "I only appear to be wacko — in reality, I'm much worse."



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STATE



Judge: Partial-birth ban unconstitutional

BY DAVID KRAVETS
AP Legal Affairs Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — In a ruling with coast-to-coast effect, a federal judge declared the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act unconstitutional Tuesday, saying it infringes on a woman's right to choose.

U.S. District Judge Phyllis Hamilton's ruling came in one of three lawsuits challenging the legislation President Bush signed last year.

She agreed with abortion rights activists that a woman's right to choose is paramount, and that is therefore "irrelevant" whether a fetus suffers pain, as abortion foes contend.

"The act poses an undue burden on a woman's right to choose an abortion," the judge wrote.

Hamilton's ruling applies to the nation's approximately 900 Planned Parenthood Federation of America clinics and their doctors, who perform about half the 1.3 million abortions done each year in the United States, because the federation brought the suit on their behalf.

Federal judges in New York and Nebraska also heard challenges to the law earlier this year but have yet to rule.

Planned Parenthood lawyer Beth Parker welcomed the ruling, saying it sends a "strong message" to the Bush administration "that the government should not be intruding on very sensitive and private medical decisions."

In a statement, the Bush re-election campaign said: "Today's tragic ruling upholding partial-birth abortion shows why America needs judges who will interpret the law and not legislate from the bench. ... John Kerry's judicial nominees would similarly

frustrate the people's will and allow this grotesque procedure to continue."

Kerry spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter said her candidate voted to restrict late-term abortions only when there was a "clear exception for life or health of women."

"However, George Bush pushed through a different piece of legislation that failed to protect the health of women and that is what the court struck down today," she said. "When John Kerry is President he will appoint judges that are committed to upholding the Constitution not pursuing an ideological agenda."

Justice Department spokeswoman Monica Goodling said the government "will continue to devote all resources necessary to defend this act of Congress, which President Bush has said 'will end an abhorrent practice and continue to build a culture of life in America.'"

The law, signed in November, represented the first substantial federal legislation limiting a woman's right to an abortion. Abortion rights activists said it ran counter to three decades of Supreme Court precedent.

Justice Department attorneys argued the procedure is inhumane, causes pain to the fetus and is never medically necessary. A government lawyer told the judge that it "blurs the line of abortion and infanticide."

Abortion proponents argued, however, that a woman's health during an abortion is more important than how the fetus is terminated, and that the banned method is often safer than a conventional abortion, in which the fetus is dismembered in the womb and then removed in pieces.

In her ruling, the judge

said it was "grossly misleading and inaccurate" to suggest the banned procedure verges on infanticide.

Rep. Steve Chabot, R-Ohio, the chief sponsor of the House bill, said the banned abortion method "has no place in a civilized society," and predicted the Supreme Court would decide the outcome.

The measure, which President Clinton twice vetoed, was seen by abortion rights activists as a fundamental departure from the Supreme Court's 1973 precedent in Roe v. Wade. Abortion advocates said the law was the government's first step toward outlawing abortion.

Violating the law carries a two-year prison term.

Late last year, Hamilton, a Clinton appointee, and federal judges in New York and Lincoln, Neb., blocked the act from being enforced pending the outcome of the court challenges.

The Nebraska and New York cases are expected to conclude within weeks. The outcomes, which may conflict with one another, will almost certainly be appealed to the Supreme Court.

The New York case was brought by the National Abortion Federation, which represents nearly half the nation's abortion providers. The Nebraska case was brought by a few abortion doctors.

The U.S. Supreme Court had overturned a Nebraska partial-birth abortion law because it did not allow the banned procedure even when a doctor believes the method is the best way to preserve the woman's health.

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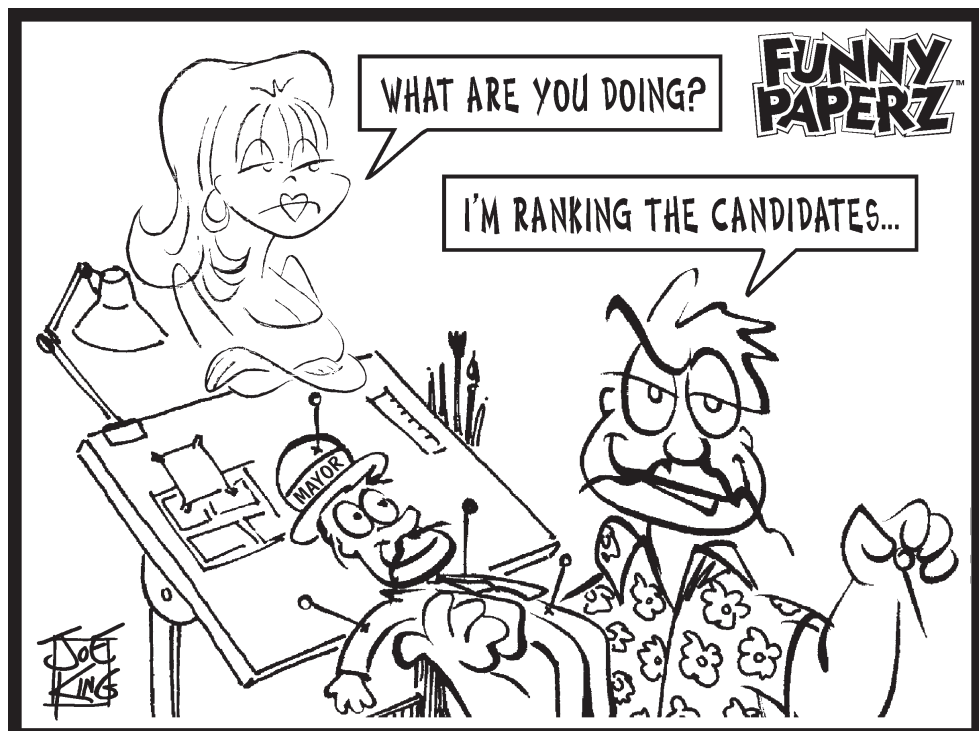
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OPINION



"VOTE EARLY & VOTE OFTEN!" -- Al Capone

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Erosion of morality evident in White House

Editor:

Ed Silverstein's piece (SMDP, June 2, page 6) struck a resonant chord with me over the very same issues that he addressed — sacrifice. Which brings me to the current state of affairs in Iraq and who is directly bearing the burden for this military adventure. Primarily the children of the American working class who in good faith enlisted in the armed forces and went uncomplainingly to serve in "harm's way." Messieurs Bush and Cheney come from America's political and corporate "elite." Indeed, they were born and bred to inhabit the positions in the American social scale that they now occupy. The children of such elites rarely find themselves in uniform, let alone in potentially lethal situations such as armed conflict. But the kids of bus drivers, janitors, farmers, mechanics and construction workers do end up in just such risky situations. And they go stoically.

The sacrifice that Messieurs Bush and Cheney take so much for granted seems to me to be merely another example of these two gentlemen's thorough going moral decadence.

Rick Reutter
Venice

Street kid needs a few lessons in life

Editor:

I would like to clear up a few things Mr. Cancer mentioned in his response to my letter (SMDP, June 1, page 4). Maybe some things were left out of his interview, we have to go by what was printed. When he came out here, it was on a whim. Despite the efforts of the Bush administration, it's still a free country. But he should have saved up some money first. He says his group sleeps on a patio area with the permission of the owner. If he has permission, then he has permission. But a lot of property owners do not want people sleeping on their property. They have rights to have that dealt with. He did say if a job was boring, he either quits, because he can't handle it, or gets fired. He better grow up. Most jobs are boring.

People won't pay us to go have fun. And if he ever has kids, he better be able to support them. The taxpayers shouldn't have to. He says he prefers to be clean, this should help him get a job. Maybe some of these shelters will allow use of an address or phone number. Something needs to be said. It is hard for even educated non-homeless people to get jobs these days. The Bush administration and Republican policies favor the greedy businessmen who export our jobs.

They give tax breaks to the rich for all the profits they make with their cheap imports. Things that used to be made in this country. Whatever the economy, anyone who hires people won't hire or keep a person who is under the influence. This DMX, I never heard of it, may be legal, but so is alcohol. Nobody wants a drunk working on the job. As for his music, he is right, American Idol is lame. His kind of music probably has clubs and such where he could perform.

If he becomes a star, more power to him. But most don't become stars, so we have to get jobs. I would settle for even a boring job. I am unemployed, not a greedy businessman. I am not from Boston, New York, and (fortunately) I am not from Texas either. I am from Los Angeles. Our climate brings a lot of bums out here, that is the way it is. He isn't helping anybody by being one of them. Maybe things will get better as soon as we get rid of that idiot Bush and his cadre of corporate folks, the sooner the better.

Mike Kirwan
Venice

See LETTERS, page 7

Air America: A 'Shrill, shrieking insanity' that rules the airwaves

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



The fledgling liberal hosts on Air America don't stand a chance.

If you blinked you missed it, but a thing called "Air America" flew across your radio for a few days not too long ago. That's the name of a new national network that was created to offer an alternative to the relentless right-wing echo chamber that passes for AM radio. It featured Al Franken, Jeanine Garofalo and a few relatively unknown voices who moved over from National Public Radio. It was buried on a weak, obscure Mexican station way up there at 1580 on your dial and was to be the counter-punch to Limbaugh, Hannity, O'Reilly, Elder, Prager, Medved, Savage, Rantel, Handel, Schlesinger, Ingram, Hewitt — did I forget anybody? — the bunch that dominates the AM band all across America.

Something about — in true liberal tradition — money problems, and just like that — after three shaky days — Air America was banished from LA. They're hanging on in a few other markets around the nation, but don't hold your breath. The project was fairly doomed from the outset. How could they possibly compete with the entertainment value found in full-blown hate-radio that daily spews forth with such gems as these:

From Rush Limbaugh, self-anointed, opiate-addicted king of the genre: "Liberals are idiots and we shouldn't listen to anything they say ... they think it's cool to worry about other people." I couldn't make this stuff up.

From Michael Medved, self-anointed "cultural crusader," earnestly citing a study that purported to show conservatives to be the happier campers among us: "Liberalism is bad for your health, and in fact, shortens your life." Then, showing not an ounce of sympathy for the sad sacks doomed to the lives cut-short: "Liberals are a disgrace."

Dennis Prager, self-anointed superior intellect of the bunch: "Liberals are humanly (sic) wrong, and Americanly (sic) wrong." And his all-time classic doesn't go unappreciated here: "The dropping of bombs on Iraq is a loving act."

The list goes on ad infinitum, but I'll spare you. This gang is long on self-anointing but never short on bombast, arrogance, high-school-style name-calling, and just plain trouble-making, as they seek, in tandem, to boost ratings by accelerating the pace of what they hail as the new Civil War for the soul of America. Sean Hannity, self-anointed, cartwheeling captain of this Bush cheerleading squad, even copped to it recently, boasting, "I want to create problems, that's what we're best at here."

Pick a day, any day. Wednesday? OK, Wednesday. It was reported that Los Angeles County supervisors have decided to remove a tiny cross from the official county seal in deference to a lawsuit being contemplated by the ACLU. The ACLU vs. the cross. Now that's money, the kind of thing these right-radio boys orgasm over, so they were fairly jumping out of the speakers all day Wednesday trying to out-rant one another.

Bill O'Reilly, the no-spin-meister himself, was first out of the box with, "They're going after us. This is an anti-Christian Jihad by the ACLU." Prager, not to be outdone by his competition down the dial fired back, "The ACLU are the secular Taliban who terrorize Christians. This is a calculated attempt to de-religionize (sic) the country." If you're beginning to think Mr. Prager has a problem with vocabulary, consider this, from a recent show: "Our schools have been utterly de-god-ized (sic)." Sorry, I don't even know how to attempt to spell that one.

Next up, local gay conservative Al Rantel, knowing a goldmine when he sees one, shouted, "The ACLU are Nazis who treat Christianity like it's pornography. If you support the ACLU, you need a brain scan." Nice work, Al, you'll soon go national if you keep firing shots like that.

Let me just warn you, friends, don't try this at home. Leave it to the professionals. Stick with the rock and roll on the FM band. I'll do the dirty work and keep an ear on these guys. It's a tortuous task but good for at least a few belly laughs a day, and there's a certain lurid fascination with it, not unlike being drawn to the scene of a train wreck.

Although it's their own bitching and moaning about an America that has evolved beyond them that reverberates through their echo chambers, they continually blast the "enemies" on the "left" for being malcontents. Limbaugh: "In this battle, the only ones being heard are the whiners and complainers." Prager: "The squeaky wheels on the left get the grease. Did I say that right?" Medved: "It's all the whining and complaining that shortens liberal's lives." And, of course, the lucid Hannity, who inadvertently said it best for all of them while preaching to his choir to stay on pitch in America's new civil war: "We need you now, more than ever, to counter the shrill, shrieking insanity that's out there. We're glad to be a part of it."

(Ron Scott Smith hasn't seen it all, but he's certainly hearing it all. To reach him, e-mail to Edgeofthewest@aol.com).

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff.

Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

OPINION



Changing rules at the polls changes the game



HERE'S THE THING

BY LARA M. BROWN, PH.D.

"... A President of the United States ... (shall) be elected as follows: Each state shall appoint ... a number of electors, equal to the whole number of senators and representatives to which the state may be entitled in the Congress ... The electors shall meet ... and vote ... The person having the greatest number of votes for president, shall be president, if such a number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed ..."

So reads Article II, Section 1 of the United States Constitution. Few decisions stirred as much debate at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 — delegates wrestled with the topic of how to select a president at least 20 times during that summer — and few passages in the final document confound politicians and the public the way the electoral college does today.

Many would like to scrap it in favor of a direct popular election, which they argue would allow for true democracy. Many believe that the 2000 presidential election result was illegitimate — not the Supreme Court decision, not the alleged voting irregularities, but the electoral college tally itself.

Four times in history candidates have won a majority of electors, yet failed to win a plurality of the popular vote, becoming president — Adams in 1824, Hayes in 1876, Harrison in 1888, and Bush in 2000. Reformers assume that "if these instances have occurred, then something must be wrong."

Imagine playing a basketball game. One team wins (go Lakers). A referee then tells you that you must replay the game, but free throw points don't count. Would you assume the game's result would be the same? That each team would finish with the same score, that either team would play as they had before, that they wouldn't make adjustments? No.

Presidential candidates and the two major political parties design their strategies around one number: 270 — the number of electoral college votes needed to win the presidency. They don't focus on winning the popular vote. If they had, they'd have played a different game.

Reformers also argue that a direct popular election would force the candidates to compete nationally, rather than in only a few states. It's true that candidates would have national strategies, but what would this mean? They'd likely be in fewer places than they are now and the campaigns would be more expensive.

The electoral college system turns the presidential election into 50 statewide elections, rather than one national election. To

win, you need to win enough states, so that when you add up all of their electoral college votes, they come to 270. The system favors large states (more electoral votes) that are competitive (they could vote for either candidate). The more competitive the state, the more likely each candidate will spend resources trying to win the state's electors. This year, states like California and Texas are ignored because they are considered "safe" for one candidate or the other, while 17 are in "play."

If you change the rules, then each candidate would need around 52 million votes to win, assuming 50 percent of registered voters vote for president. Rather than ignoring "safe" states, candidates would ignore "safe" regions. Bush would ignore rural areas (Great Plains, South, and Mountain West) and conservative cities (Houston and Dallas), while Kerry would ignore most urban centers (Los Angeles, Boston and New York) and the progressive coastal towns (Eastern and Western seaboard).

The only places the candidates would allocate resources (travel time, advertising money, and grassroots campaigning) to would be the cities and suburbs that are fairly large and highly competitive. The "International Airport Tour" should be the title of this proposal because the candidates would likely be traveling to cities that are between 1 million and 4 million people and that recently — in the last 20 years — expanded their airports to include multiple international carriers (e.g., St. Louis, Phoenix, San Diego, Charlotte, NC, etc.).

Not incidentally, these cities have fairly expensive media markets, which means the cost of the campaigns would likely increase. To make matters worse, you probably wouldn't see a candidate outside a large venue (possibly a stadium or ballpark), or on a commercial because all that would matter would be vote "volume" nationally.

HERE'S THE THING:

Often zealots suggest reforms without analyzing the implications of their proposals. Nothing wreaks more havoc in our political system than ill-conceived laws passed with good intentions. Reform is necessary and important. Change can be positive. But don't confuse change with progress.

Before endorsing ideas that just "sound good," like more direct democracy, spend time understanding why things are the way they are. The electoral college has many benefits (see Hamilton's cogent defense of it in the Federalist 68), and the practical drawbacks of a direct popular election should be enough to give one pause.

(Lara M. Brown, Ph.D., is an education policy consultant and a visiting scholar at UCLA's Institute for Social Science Research. She can be reached at larambrown@aol.com).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 6

Education Foundation wired in

Editor:

You wrote an excellent article on the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation (SMDP, May 31, page 1). I've been teaching students in the SMMUSD, who are often from disadvantaged backgrounds, for 25 years. From its inception the Education Foundation has provided additional funding for technology that otherwise would not have been available to them.

The foundation provided Olympic High School with its first modem in what is tech eons ago. Our students were online and conversing with students from around the country and around the world (at 300 baud!) long before most district students even had a computer in their classroom. The knowledge, understanding, and tolerance of other cultures that this little step up provided our students was priceless — yet without the Education Foundation's efforts, it would not have been possible.

SMMEF funded our first scanner, our first digital camera, and our first laser printer. From these grants came our Desktop Publishing Program and our school newspaper.

Hundreds of students have learned to express themselves more clearly and professionally since then.

SMMEF funded and then embraced the Tech4All program which has refurbished over 100 donated computers and gifted them to the families of disadvantaged students in our community.

Linda Gross, Cheri Orgel and Ralph Mechur deserve repeated accolades for their years of selfless service to our community.

Thank you SMMEF!

Jack Casey
Olympic HS

System being sucked by thugs

Editor:

Blah, blah, blah. How boring, how repetitive.

Here's another transient (in this case a gang of them), that has/have landed in Santa Monica, the land of endless homeless services and support, at the detriment of anyone with anything invested in this city. (SMDP, Community profile of Cancer Alucard, May 24, page 1).

True to his name, he is one of thousands of "cancers" on our community. There is nothing special about Mr. Alucard, with one exception. He has admitted to everyone that his greatest goal in life is to manufacture his "drug of choice." This kid is but a trailer and a few chemicals away from starting his own drug lab. As for the marriage he is entering into, (with five other people), geez, how "special" must his fiancé feel? He is just another whack job, plaguing our streets, malls, parks and day centers. Just another bum (or group of them), wanting something for nothing, and truly believing they deserve it. I won't ramble on.

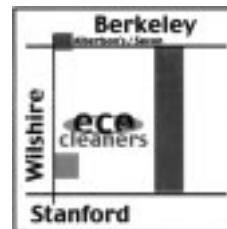
Rather than (continuing to) bash yet another system sucking "gang of thugs" he hangs with, it seems more appropriate to challenge the Santa Monica Police Department to keep an eye out for these people, and check them for narcotics. Put them in jail, put them on a bus, continually "dog" them, so they don't have a moment of peace, just like us residents that try to walk the streets, raise children and run the businesses of this city.

Residents and businesses have to, as they say, "get the vote out." For the umpteenth time, the City Council needs to go! Residents and registered voters of this community need to "back" and vote in council members that have a true stake in this community, not a bunch of carpet-bagging liberals with agendas that have nothing to do with what is truly good for this community.

P.S. Mr. Cancer, we are California natives, and have lived in Santa Monica most of our lives.

Lori Emerson
Santa Monica

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BUSINESS

Four things every retiree should consider



IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

BY JOHN KIM

If you're a retiree today, you may find that your retirement funds need to last a lot longer than you had anticipated. With current advancements in healthcare technology, a 65-year-old could live an additional 20 years or longer.

Your pension and Social Security may cover basic expenses, and your investments and savings could help supplement your income. But, in an era of reduced return on investments and low interest rates, you need to determine how to best use your assets without depleting them too soon. To help you protect your hard-earned assets, at the very least, make sure the following items are included as part of your routine retirement maintenance.

REVIEW YOUR PERSONAL FINANCES

To help maintain the lifestyle you desire, it's just as important to manage what you owe as what you own. A periodic review of your personal net worth could help keep you on a sound financial footing. Think about your living expenses, fixed debt like outstanding mortgages or other loans, variable debt such as credit cards, travel and entertainment. Then review your savings, retirement plans and other investment accounts.

Based on your own circumstances, consider the following: How long do you expect to live? Will your funds be needed to support a younger spouse? Do you plan to leave an inheritance for your children or grandchildren, a bequest to a favorite charity? If you have an investment portfolio, what kind of returns do you anticipate? When will you need these assets?

As a retired person, you can't afford to absorb big losses. So keep in mind that how you allocate your assets can strongly impact your portfolio's performance. One of the best ways to manage the risk inherent in any investment portfolio is to diversify or spread your funds among several investment types — stocks, bonds and cash. In addition, the right asset allocation can help you ride out market volatility and economic downturns. And, be prepared to adjust your plans as your circumstances change.

GET LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE

Whether you have planned well or not, unforeseen factors could derail the smooth ride through retirement you envisioned. Many health problems associated with advanced age are largely preventable and can be controlled by adopting a healthy, active lifestyle. Good nutrition, social contacts and physical activity will go a long way toward your physical and mental well being. Your financial well being is another story.

If you think a long illness is devastating physically and emotionally, imagine what it can do to you financially. More than 50 percent of Americans are expected to need some form of long term care — either home care or institutional care — at some point in their lives. The average cost of nursing home care is approximate-

ly \$60,000 a year and home care costs can range from \$50 to more than \$200 a day.

In the event of a long term illness, long term care insurance covers some or all of the expenses you might incur, including assisted living, at-home care, adult day care, therapy services, paid companions and even transportation. With long term care, you may be able to protect your assets, maintain your independence and preserve your standard of living. So don't leave this key item out of your plan.

PLAN YOUR ESTATE

Careful estate planning can ensure that a good part of the wealth you have accumulated over your lifetime is protected and distributed according to your wishes — what you would like to have happen to your assets and who should benefit from them after you're gone. At the very least, create or update your estate planning documents. These documents should include a will, a living will, power of attorney authorizing another person to handle your business affairs should you become incapacitated, and a health-care proxy naming someone to make health-care decisions for you should you become unable to do so.

Your will should keep pace with changes in your personal circumstances, objectives and adjustments in tax laws. Marriage, divorce, birth, death, a move to another state or a change in your finances should signal an immediate review and possible updating of your will.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TAX BREAKS

If you are fortunate enough to have accumulated enough funds to spare, lifetime gifts to family members or others can reduce your assets and subsequent estate tax liability, and may also shelter appreciation on those assets from estate taxation. You are entitled to transfer up to \$11,000 per person each year without incurring any gift tax or reducing your applicable exclusion amount. Spouses together may gift up to \$22,000 per person. Additional gifts made directly to educational institutions for tuition also are excluded from gift tax.

Gifts to qualified charities may be exempt from the gift tax. The value of the charitable donations, including financial assets such as stocks, artwork, real estate and certain business interests, and any future appreciation of those assets, reduces the value of your estate. Plus, these charitable donations may qualify for current income-tax deductions.

Even during retirement, it's not too late to develop a plan to help make your funds last as long as you do. But before you take any action, discuss your financial and estate planning objectives, concerns and fears with your family, financial advisors and your attorney.

(Smith Barney does not provide tax or legal advice. Consult your tax and/or legal advisor for such guidance. John S. Kim is a financial consultant with Smith Barney, located in Beverly Hills. Call (310) 205-4939 or visit www.fc.smithbarney.com/jkim. This article is based, in whole or in part, on information provided by the sales and marketing communications department of Smith Barney. Smith Barney is a division and service mark of Citigroup Global Markets Inc. Member SIPC).

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Prison health care costs viewed as criminal

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — California Department of Corrections contracts with a Beverly Hills dermatologist and a La Jolla orthopedist are just two examples why inmate health care costs are spiraling out of control even as the state considers cutting medical benefits for law-abiding citizens, state lawmakers said this week.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is counting on prison cost cutbacks to help pare his budget, yet only within the last year have prison officials begun coordinating contracts and searching for inefficiencies.

“The CDC has got to stop hemorrhaging health care dollars,” said state Sen. Jackie Speier, D-Daly City, who has led hearings focused on prison overspending and employee wrongdoing. “California inmates enjoy a better level of health care than millions of Californians.”

An April audit found the department does a poor job in contracting for expensive outside medical care. Most contracts are awarded without competitive bids; the department negotiates badly; and some contracts don’t include information the department needs to get promised discounts. Others exceed standard rates, the department spends beyond what the contract allows, or prisons ignore cost guidelines.

Jury to decide transgender murder case

By The Associated Press

HAYWARD — A prosecutor asked jurors to find three men guilty of murder in the death of a transgender teenager, saying they acted coldly and deliberately and were not, as a defense attorney claimed, panicked by the shock of sexual deception.

“Eddie Araujo was a real human being. He laughed and he cried. He had friends and family who loved him,” prosecutor Chris Lamiero said in his closing argument Tuesday. “In a matter of a few hours ... Eddie was tried and convicted and executed. He was not afforded an opportunity to appeal. He was denied the due process that these still-living men now ask of you.”

Araujo, who was born male but lived as a woman, was beaten and strangled, prosecutors say, after her biological identity was revealed at a late-night confrontation in October 2002.

Three men are on trial for Araujo’s death, which was charged as a hate crime — Michael Magidson, Jose Merel and Jason Cazares, all 24. A fourth man, 21-year-old Jaron Nabors, pleaded guilty to manslaughter and testified against the others.

Merel and Magidson had sexual encounters with the 17-year-old Araujo after meeting her in late summer 2002 and, according to trial testimony, had suspicions about her gender after comparing notes.

HBO bails convicted murderer out of jail

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Juan Catalan spent 5 1/2 months in jail for a murder of a teenage girl he says he didn’t commit. And, the most unlikely of allies helped him produce a seemingly airtight alibi.

HBO filmed scenes for “Curb Your Enthusiasm” on May 12, 2003, at Dodger Stadium and captured Catalan in the background watching the game with his 6-year-old daughter.

That night about 20 miles north in the San Fernando Valley, Martha Puebla, 16, was gunned down in front of her home as she talked with friends.

Police arrested Catalan in August, alleging he killed Puebla because she testified against his brother in another case.

Catalan maintained he was at the Dodgers game, watching them lose to the Atlanta Braves, 11-4.

Thanks to a resourceful attorney and some timely filming, Catalan was released in January because a judge ruled there was no evidence to try him in the slaying.

“To hear the words from the judge’s mouth, I just broke down in tears,” Catalan said Tuesday, a day after celebrating his 26th birthday. “It was the happiest moment in my life.”

Green card process whittled down to a week

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Immigration officials have announced a pilot program that cuts the average time to renew or replace green cards from a year to about a week.

The program allows immigrants in much of Southern California to file renewals for permanent residency over the Internet to local processing centers, rather than sending applications to the state service center. If successful, the program could be expanded nationwide.

“All it takes, once the applicant has filed electronically, is a visit to one of our Application Support Centers,” said Jane Arellano, district director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. “Applicants get a new green card in less than a week, in most cases.”

About 1,500 immigrants have already used the online service since it began quietly last month. The service is available to all immigrants living in Southern California except those in San Diego and Imperial counties.

Applicants get an automatic receipt including a telephone number they can call to set up an interview within a week.

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NATIONAL

Planned market manipulation caught on tape

BY KRISTEN HAYS

AP Business Writer

HOUSTON — Enron Corp. traders openly discussed manipulating the California power market and joked about stealing from grandmothers during the Western energy crisis in 2000-2001, according to transcripts of telephone calls filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The transcripts, some littered with profanity, were filed by a public utility district near Seattle.

The calls on the transcripts are central to the Justice Department's investigation of Enron's trading practices.

John Forney, a former top trader in Enron's defunct Western trading operation based in Portland, Ore., is slated to stand

trial on charges of wire fraud and conspiracy. Two other former Portland traders, Timothy Belden and Jeffrey Richter, have pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud and are helping prosecutors.

Energy merchants regularly tape trader conversations to keep a record of transactions.

According to the Snohomish County Public Utility District, which obtained audiotapes of trader conversations from the Justice Department and transcribed them, traders openly discussed creating congestion on transmission lines, taking generating units offline to pump up electricity prices and overall manipulation of the California power market.

For example, in one transcript a trader asks about "all the money you guys stole from those poor grandmothers of

California."

To which the Enron trader responds, "Yeah, Grandma Millie, man. But she's the one who couldn't figure out how to (expletive) vote on the butterfly ballot."

Conversations that involve Forney, Belden and Richter appear throughout the transcripts.

In one of those transcripts, a trader says to Richter, "So, uh, somebody's figured out how to set congestion?"

Richter: "Well, we ... we can set it if we want. I mean, it's not a hard game to do ..."

In another, an Enron trader identified as David discusses shutting down a steamer from a generating unit to increase prices.

"I was wondering, um, the demand out there is er ... there's not much, ah, demand

for power at all and we're running kind of fat. Um, if you took down the steamer, how long would it take to get it back up?"

"Oh, it's not something you want to just be turning on and off every hour. Let's put it that way," another trader says.

"If we shut it down, could you bring it back up in three _ three or four hours, something like that?" David asks.

"Oh, yeah," the other trader says.

"Well, why don't you just go ahead and shut her down, then, if that's OK," David says.

Eric Christensen, a lawyer for the utility district, said it is seeking to convince a FERC administrative law judge that Enron should be ordered to surrender as much as \$2 billion in unjust profits.

Companies bid \$53.9M on Alaska petroleum reserve leases

BY MATT VOLZ

Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Five oil companies bid Wednesday for the right to develop 1.4 million acres in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, in the largest onshore federal lease sale in state history.

The high bids totaled \$53.9 million and covered 123 individual tracts. The highest bid for a single tract was \$13.74 million, made by Fortuna Energy Inc., a subsidiary of Calgary, Alberta-based Talisman Energy Inc.

The land, more than 5 million acres in the northwest region of the NPR-A, is remote and without infrastructure. It could take more than a decade to explore and develop, said officials with the federal Bureau of Land Management.

"The energy resources of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska are essential to meeting our nation's energy demands," said Henri Bisson, BLM's Alaska director. "These resources will enhance domestic energy production in the future and decrease dependence on foreign oil sources."

The NPR-A covers about 23.5 million acres of public land west of Prudhoe Bay and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge on Alaska's North Slope. Estimates of oil reserves in the NPR-A range from about 6 billion to 13 billion barrels of oil.

BLM will review the bids over the next 90 days before formally awarding the leases, bureau spokesman Edward Bovy said.

ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc., Petro-Canada Alaska Inc., Fortuna, Anadarko Petroleum Corp. and Pioneer Natural Resources Alaska Inc. turned in their sealed bids by Friday's deadline, BLM spokeswoman Jody Weil said. The bids were unsealed and read Wednesday morning in Anchorage.

Many of the higher bids were located near the Barrow Arch, a potentially oil-rich geologic vein that cuts across Prudhoe Bay and west through the reserve.

"There are always surprises in these lease sales," Bisson said after reading the bids. "You don't know what information people have about the resources, or what

their take is on those particular resources. They obviously feel the lease tract is worth it or they wouldn't have bid that much."

Some of the companies bid together on some tracts and separately on others. Fortuna and Petro-Canada had not participated in previous NPR-A lease sales, Weil said.

Richard Garrard, ConocoPhillips exploration manager, said the Canadians companies' entry this time surprised nobody.

"We expected some Canadian companies would come here," Garrard said. "They're accustomed to working in northern latitudes and more remote locations in the Arctic."

Petro-Canada spokeswoman Michelle Harris said her company was pleased with Wednesday's sale, but did not have immediate plans for the land the company bid on.

"We see it as a future growth area," Harris said.

The proceeds from the lease sales and the annual rental payments are split between the federal government and the state. The state's

share from Wednesday's bids could come to \$26.9 million, Bisson said.

A federal judge ruled last week that leaseholders would not be able to occupy any of the land until a legal challenge by seven environmental groups has been resolved.

The environmental groups say the lease plan violates several environmental protection laws and ignores sensitive habitat for North Slope birds, wildlife and whales.

Garrard said the lawsuit should not delay any plans ConocoPhillips has to explore the area.

"We were not anticipating going out and starting physical operations ... this winter, but hopefully it will be resolved by the time we do want to go out."

President Warren Harding established the Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 in 1923. The reserve became NPR-A in 1976 when it was turned over to the Department of the Interior.

Wednesday's lease sale was the third in the NPR-A since 1999 and the first in the region's northwest section.



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INTERNATIONAL



Interim government to do more caretaking than true governing

BY GEORGE GEDDA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush and top U.S. officials repeatedly stress that Iraqis will have “full sovereignty” after June 30. The interim Iraqi government that takes power then, however, will be more caretaking than autonomous, unable to do basic functions such as make laws or control military forces.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, national security adviser to former President Carter, says the term “full sovereignty” — emphasized Tuesday by Bush, Secretary of State Colin Powell and national security adviser Condoleezza Rice — lacks credibility. No government can be fully sovereign while its country is “still being occupied by a foreign army, 140,000 men, subject to our authority,” he said.

Brzezinski envisions a government of “limited sovereignty,” the same wording used by Undersecretary of State Marc Grossman before Congress in April.

The Bush administration quickly disavowed that phrase in favor of “full sovereignty.”

Nevertheless, the Iraqi administration to be installed on July 1 is more a caretaker government than an entity with broad authority to exercise its will.

As an example, U.S. forces there will remain under American control. Also, the approval of any new laws must await the early 2006 installation of an elected government contemplated under the current timetable.

The main task of the interim authority will be to run the country through the various government ministries and to organize elections in January for what Bush calls “the first freely elected, truly representative national governing body in Iraq’s history.”

The State Department said Tuesday the interim government — a 33-member cabinet was announced Tuesday in Baghdad — will be free to establish diplomatic relations with Iran or other countries if it wishes.

But Simon Chesterman, of the Institute for International Law and Justice at New York University, likens U.S. relations with the future Iraqi caretaker government to the dominant role the Soviet Union maintained over pliable East Bloc allies during the last century.

U.S. officials say the two situations are not comparable, based on the permanent nature of the Soviet troop presence in Central Europe contrasted to the U.S. goal of leaving Iraq as quickly as possible and American support for a transfer of power to an elected government.

Powell said Tuesday he believes the transfer in Iraq from the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority will be genuine.

“The Iraqi people will now see that their destiny is in the hands of their own leaders,” he told reporters. “The occupation as they know it is coming to an end, in that their political leaders are in charge.”

Brzezinski sees things far differently.

“The transfer of nominal sovereignty to a few chosen Iraqis in a still-occupied country will brand any so-called sovereign Iraqi authority as treasonous,” Brzezinski says.

But U.S. officials hope that Iyad Allawi, prime minister of the new government of the still nonsovereign Iraq, will gain more acceptance from Iraqis than the U.S.-picked Iraqi Governing Council, which dissolved itself Tuesday.

In terms of public support, Allawi appears to have a leg up on the council because he has the blessing of Lakhdar Brahimi, the U.N. envoy to Iraq.

The more the new government is seen as sovereign by outsiders, the better its chance of acceptance by Iraqis.

Accordingly, the adminis-

“The Iraqi people will now see that their destiny is in the hands of their own leaders. The occupation as they know it is coming to an end, in that their political leaders are in charge.”

— COLIN POWELL
Secretary of State

tration is nurturing in virtually all public statements the notion that a “fully sovereign” Iraq is about to be born. Powell is confident that the U.N. Security Council will endorse the new arrangement.

The United States and Britain submitted a revised resolution to the council Tuesday that for the first time sets a deadline, 2006, for the departure of U.S. and other foreign troops. It also would give the interim government control over Iraqi army and police forces.

Bush will have plenty of opportunity to present his case to allies. He leaves Thursday for visits to Italy and France. After meetings with leaders of both countries, Bush travels to Sea Island, Ga., to host next week’s summit of the Group of Eight, the world’s seven major industrial democracies plus Russia.

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The governing board of Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District will hold a public hearing on the BUDGET OF THE DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2005, prior to Final Adoption as required by Education Code Section 42103.

The public hearing will be held at 1651 16 th Street/Santa Monica on June 24, 2004 at 8:00 o'clock p.m. The public is cordially invited to attend this meeting.

The proposed budget will be on file and available for public inspection at the following location(s) should members of the public wish to review the budget prior to the public hearing. Location Office of the Chief Financial Officer – 1651 16 th St., Santa Monica, CA from June 21 – 24, 2004 during the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Dr. Darline P. Robles, Ph.D., Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools
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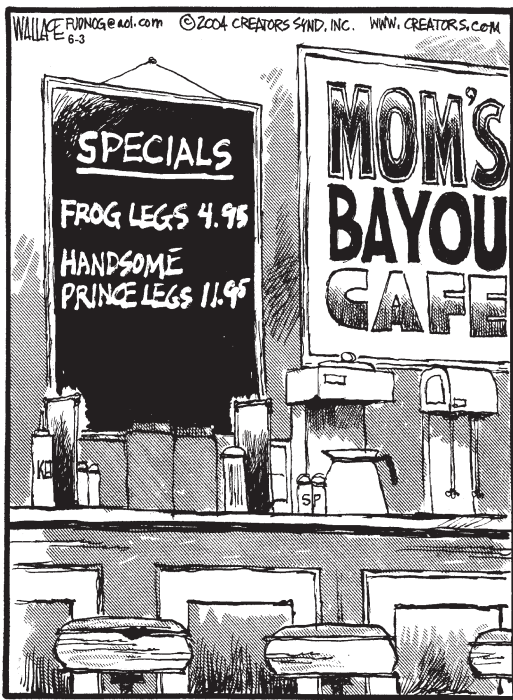
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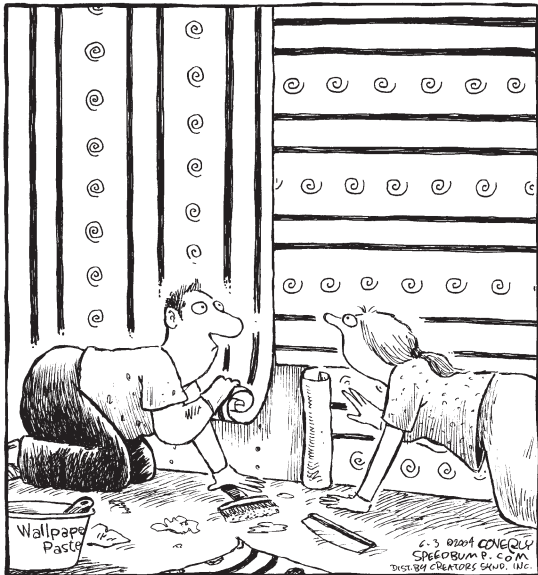
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

'American Idol' runner up readies for release of single

By The Associated Press

■ **NEW YORK** — Diana DeGarmo came in second place on "American Idol," but she already has plans to release a single.

DeGarmo's first song is scheduled to come out June 22 through RCA Records, according to the record company's Web site.

The bubbly 16-year-old from Snellville, Ga., was the runner-up last week on the Fox TV singing competition. "Idol" winner Fantasia Barrino topped her by just 1.3 million votes out of more than 65 million votes cast.

Barrino, a 19-year-old from High Point, N.C., is working on her first single, which is due out June 15. She and DeGarmo both performed the song, titled "I Believe," during last week's finale.

Coming in second isn't so bad, last season's runner-up, Clay Aiken, went on to sell more than 2 million copies of his debut disc and enjoys just as much fame as the winner, Ruben Studdard.

Both singers and the other 10 "Idol" finalists will go on tour starting July 14 in Salt Lake City.

■ **BERLIN** — Helmut Newton was buried in his native Berlin, with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder among those paying their respects Wednesday to the acclaimed photographer who fled Nazi Germany as a teenager.

Newton, who died in a Los Angeles car

crash in January at 83, was laid to rest in the leafy Friedenau cemetery four graves away from actress Marlene Dietrich's.

The photographer's widow, June, actor Roger Moore, Berlin Mayor Klaus Wowereit and Schroeder were among about 100 people at a memorial service before the urn with Newton's remains was placed in the grave.

Newton returned to Berlin last October to donate more than 1,000 of his photos to a new gallery, saying he was proud to have his work displayed in his hometown. At the time, Schroeder called his decision a "sign of reconciliation."

Born Helmut Neustaedter on Oct. 31, 1920, Newton fled Germany in 1938 to escape persecution as a Jew.

A fashion photographer whose work appeared in magazines including Playboy, Elle and Vogue, Newton was best known for his stark, black-and-white nude photos of women.

Newton died Jan. 23 after apparently losing control of his car and crashing into a wall.

■ **RALEIGH, N.C.** — The North Carolina Court of Appeals has overturned a civil judgment ordering rapper Sean "P. Diddy" Combs to pay \$450,000 to a man who claimed he was beaten by bodyguards the rapper had hired.

The ruling came Tuesday in a lawsuit filed by Cedrick Bobby Lemon, who said he was beaten in June 1995 by body-

guards Combs hired to protect soul singer Mary J. Blige at a concert in Winston-Salem. Combs was Blige's manager.

Because Combs didn't respond to the complaint within the time required by law, a Forsyth County Superior Court judge ruled in Lemon's favor and ordered a default judgment against Combs. But the appeals court found that Lemon didn't meet other requirements when he requested the default judgment and overturned it.

According to Lemon's lawsuit, he worked as a limousine driver and wore an identification badge that permitted him to stand backstage.

As two bodyguards tried to clear the area to escort Blige from the coliseum after the concert, they punched Lemon in the head, kicked him in the back and broke his right ankle, according to the lawsuit.

Combs was negligent because he failed to train the bodyguards properly for their duties, the lawsuit said.

Lemon's attorney, Howard C. Jones, told the Winston-Salem Journal that his client hasn't decided whether to appeal the decision. He had medical bills of \$14,400, the lawsuit says and the attack left him unable to work as a limo driver.

■ **LAKE PLACID, N.Y.** — Director Martin Scorsese will speak at the fifth annual Lake Placid Film Festival, which runs Wednesday through Sunday.

He will introduce a restored print of the 1963 Italian film "The Leopard,"

considered by some critics to be a lost classic, on Saturday.

Organizers said about 60 features will be screened, including "Touch of Pink," about a gay man's crisis when his mother tries to set him up with a Muslim girl, and "Metallica: Some Kind of Monster," a documentary about the veteran heavy metal band.

The festival is hoping to rebound financially after a year in which it suffered from a lack of corporate sponsorships and ran up a deficit.

■ **NEW YORK** — New York Yankees manager Joe Torre joined hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons and business leaders in an event aimed at curtailing domestic violence.

Torre, who has spoken out before about growing up in an abusive household, said his father, a police officer in New York, "was violent with my mom."

"He never hit me, but the scars that a child takes with him into adulthood, they don't go away," Torre said Tuesday.

Torre, who has led the Yankees to four World Series titles, added that coaches and managers need to do more to foster healthy attitudes toward women among athletes.

"You tell them to be aggressive, go out there and beat somebody up, go out there and win a ballgame, and unfortunately when they go out on a date that night they don't take 'No' for an answer," he said.

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