



Santa Monica Daily Press

June 5-6, 2004

A newspaper with issues

Volume 3, Issue 176

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

1 3 23 25 34

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 5 4 7

Evening picks: 6 5 0

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 12 Lucky Charms

2nd Place: 02 Lucky Star

3rd Place: 07 Eureka

Race Time: 1:48.92



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

In January, University of Utah hospital surgeons removed half the skull of Briana Lane, age 22 and unemployed, in order to save her life after an auto accident, but because putting the skull back in place was not quite an emergency, it was delayed by negotiations over cost. The skull remained in a freezer for three months, with Lane battling serious pain (and wearing a plastic helmet for protection, feeling her brain "shifting" on her) while the hospital negotiated with the state Medicaid office, which pays only for long-term "disabilities." Her skull was finally reattached on April 30.

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Applying within



Seth Kotok/Special to the Daily Press

Tom Bry is reflected in glass at the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium while filling out an application to be a volunteer at the center, which is a community program of Heal the Bay.

Ex-Raider refutes arson paper trail

Anthony Wayne Smith says his trash was used by actual firebomber

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

LAX COURTHOUSE — A former NFL player on trial for setting fire to a local business took the stand Friday, detailing for the first time how papers with his name and address might have found their way into the makeshift firebombs used to ignite the blaze.

The documents may have been left in an alley by immigrant day laborers hired to help transport items between the defendant's li-

uidation business and storage garage in Lancaster, and his condo in a Marina del Rey high-rise, lawyers suggested.

Prosecutors have levied one count of arson against Anthony Wayne Smith, 36, for the February 2003 fire that gutted Simply Sofas and Lona Antiques on Lincoln Boulevard. Smith, a standout defensive end for the NFL's Raiders in the 1990s, is being held in lieu of \$1 million bail. If convicted, he faces up to nine years behind bars.

Smith had a dispute with the owner of the businesses shortly before the blaze. Investigators alleged he set fire to the building

See TESTIFY, page 5

Drawing the line in the sand

By Daily Press staff

SM PIER — Celebrities and big time spenders descended on the Santa Monica Pier Thursday to save the beaches from further destruction.

Celebrities, business leaders and the environmental community supported Heal the Bay's 13th annual "Bring Back the Beach," a high-profile fundraiser that attracts 1,000 of LA's elite. The event generates nearly a half million dollars in

proceeds for local ocean wellness programs. Heal the Bay, a Santa Monica-based nonprofit organization, has worked to make Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life since 1985.

"As a non-profit organization, our budget depends entirely upon the generosity of the public and our corporate partners," said Heal the Bay Executive

See HEAL BAY, page 8



Nicki Five Aces/Special to the Daily Press

A couple enjoys their surroundings during a Heal the Bay fundraiser off of the Santa Monica Pier on Thursday.

Lasting impression for artists

BY DANIELE HAMAMDJIAN

Special to the Daily Press

SUNSET PARK — When photography student Alfred Benjamin fearfully stood in front of Adolf Hitler in 1934, he never could have pictured himself sharing that experience with dozens of Southern California high school students more than a half-century later.

Benjamin, an 88-year-old painter and Holocaust survivor, concluded a series of intimate sessions with students from the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts this

week at his Santa Monica home. As Benjamin described his experiences as a young man, the students interpreted his tales by creating images through different art forms.

"I let things come to mind as I never thought before," said Benjamin, who has lived in Santa Monica for the past 32 years.

Since February, Benjamin has been working with visual arts students as part of a project initiated by the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust. The "Annenberg" project invites

See SURVIVOR, page 12



Alfred Benjamin/Special to Daily Press

Gianina Ferreyra stands in front of her photo of Holocaust survivor and artist Alfred Benjamin, on display at Cal State University.



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Spontaneity rules, Leo

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 wake up with extra zip. Others could find you a lot rougher than you realize. Take your time and explain what is on your mind. Someone appreciates your thoughtfulness. Work on a long-term desire. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Others could be touchy at first, but later on, everyone is in agreement. What could have been a problem isn't. Talk money. Discuss what you want to achieve for yourself. Brainstorm with an older friend or relative. You might find the path. Tonight: Opt for something different.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Continue relating on an individual level, and you'll gain. Emotional relationships need tending. Take your time; talk about your feelings more freely. Others respond to your dynamic thinking and ideas. Live a fantasy. Tonight: Follow the music.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Don't develop into a worrywart in the next few months. Air out your feelings. Express more of what is on your mind. You might be far more feisty than you realize. A loved one comes to the rescue. Your instincts and a close friend make a difference. Tonight: Be with that special person.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Mellow out. Don't feel like you have to do anything. You might like just chatting on the phone or visiting with someone at a ballgame. A special friend or loved one demonstrates his or her imagination. Only go along if you want to. Tonight: Spontaneity rules.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Be direct with those in your life who count, but tone down your language if you're expressing something that's hard for someone to hear. You get feedback from someone you put on a pedestal that might even surprise you. Tonight: Make it a dreamy night out on the town.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Make it OK to spend a lazy day at home relaxing. You don't always need to be at everyone's disposal. News from someone at a distance takes you in a new direction. You actually might take off at the drop of a hat. Tonight: Let a loved one choose.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You talk a good game. Others respond to what you say and share a lot more than you anticipated. A long-overdue chat with a loved one or partner might be necessary. You will feel closer than you have in a long time. Tonight: Let your imagination lead.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Expenses might be way out of whack because a partner could be a bit careless with expenditures. A discussion takes you in a new direction. Listen to his or her side. You might want to separate funds, and be happier with each other that way. Tonight: Out on the town.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Someone might be provocative, but you might not care, either. You might want to discuss a problem, but better yet, just get your day going. Express your happiness through actions. Others loosen up because of your nurturing way. Tonight: Be yourself.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ What you have in mind might be done best by yourself or with one other person. Your imagination goes haywire, and you have the energy you need to follow through. Allow yourself to get into some mischief. Tonight: Enjoy, enjoy.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might not choose to let everyone know what is going on, and who can blame you? You'd be a lot happier if you stay mum. Pinch yourself, if need be, as a fantasy becomes a reality. Share more of yourself. Tonight: You are the party!

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Cheers to Turning Point

By Daily Press staff

Sipping champagne at a luxury hotel next Sunday afternoon could help a homeless person.

The third annual Blues by the Sea event salutes individuals, groups and businesses for their support of Turning Point Transitional Housing. Turning Point provides homeless adults with housing, food and clothing assistance. Dedicated staff and volunteers also provide counseling and advocacy aimed at reversing the cycle of homelessness in the community.

Volunteer supporters' contributions will be recognized at the event. Blues by the Sea — Celebrating Turning Point will be held on June 13, from noon to 3 p.m. at the Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel.

The fundraiser will feature a champagne reception, silent auction and the Sam Graham Trio, with Dante as emcee. Admission is \$35 per person, with 100 percent of the proceeds going directly to Turning Point.

Different awards will be handed out, including the Open Heart Award to recognize the service of St. Monica Community Parish. The Generous Spirit Award will be given to Hal Ross, in appreciation of his generosity. The third award, the Brilliant Star Award, recognizes corporate contributions and will be given to the Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel.

Seeing the forest through the trees

By Daily Press staff

Are you concerned about the future of trees in Santa Monica?

If so, you might want to check out City Hall's community workshop on the value of preserving tree canopy for the 21st Century.

On June 12, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., residents will have the opportunity to discuss approaches to preserving trees on private property.

The workshop will take place at the Ken Edwards Center, 1527 Fourth St. For information call the open space management division at (310) 458-8974. The Ken Edwards Center is accessible for persons with disabilities. If you have accommodation needs, call (310) 458-8701.

SMC grads moving on with transportation secretary

By Daily Press staff

U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta will be the speaker at Santa Monica College's 74th commencement ceremonies on June 15.

About 500 students are expected to receive their Associate of Arts degrees at the graduation ceremony, scheduled for 6 p.m. at Corsair Field, 1900 Pico Blvd.

Mineta oversees an agency with 60,000 employees and a \$56.3 billion budget.

In response to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Mineta oversaw the creation of the Transportation Security Administration, which seeks to protect Americans as they travel across the country through such measures as air passenger screening.

Prior to joining President Bush's administration, he served as U.S. Commerce Secretary under President Clinton, becoming the first Asian Pacific American to serve in the Cabinet.

Mineta and his family were among 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry forced from their homes into internment campus during World War II.



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SURF REPORT

SW swell will be on the way down on Saturday as it mixes with increased NW wind swell. For Northern LA County, look for many spots to see surf in the chest- to shoulder-high range, while standout breaks see head-high+ sets. Spots in the north half of the South Bay also pull in some of the energy in the 3-4'+ range on occasion. A -1.6 low tide just after sunrise will keep many breaks on the drained-out side early in the morning, with improving conditions on the tide pushing through mid-morning. Winds are mostly light in the morning and build out of the W in the 8-12 knot range for the afternoon.

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SUNDAY	7:07	-1.3	6:20	2.7	N/A	N/A	2:09	3.8
MONDAY	8:05	-0.9	7:46	2.8	12:28	5.8	3:15	4.0
TUESDAY	9:04	-0.4	9:26	2.6	1:35	5.1	4:15	4.3
WEDNESDAY	10:00	0.0	10:59	2.1	2:53	4.5	5:05	4.6
THURSDAY	10:52	0.5	N/A	N/A	4:19	4.0	5:48	4.9
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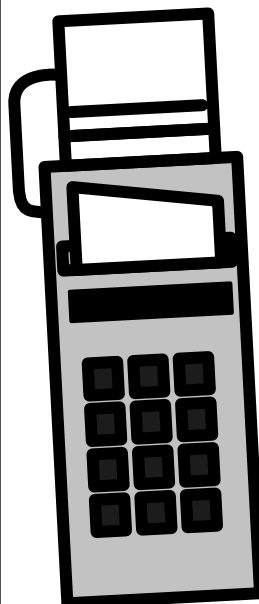


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People & Places



Photo courtesy
Allen Gross, music director and conductor of the Santa Monica Symphony, conducting Mozart's 'Jupiter' Symphony on May 30.

Free and clear: SM Symphony ends 59th annual season on a high note

REVIEW

BY D'LYNN WALDRON, PHD.

Special to the Daily Press

The Santa Monica Symphony was recently met with a standing ovation at its last performance of the year.

An audience of 2,000 of all ages in the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium on May 30 roared for conductor and music director Allen Gross, violinist Roger Wilkie and symphony members during the concluding concert in this season of the symphony's 59-year tradition of admission-free concerts.

The program began with Ravel's 'Le Tombeau de Couperin', which appropriately for Memorial Day, was written as a tribute to six of his fellow soldiers who fell on the battlefields of World War I.

Under Gross, the orchestra fully expressed the variety of emotions Ravel intended for this piece, and the symphony's solo woodwind players handled the virtuosic demands of the score with ease.

The next piece was Prokofiev's Violin Concerto #2 in G Minor, Opus 63, with a virtuoso performance by acclaimed violinist Roger Wilkie. Wilkie's emotional engagement with the music brought into full realization

the lyricism of the first two movements and then the powerful statement of the last movement.

Following the intermission, the orchestra played Mozart's marvelous last symphony, #41 in C Major, later named "The Jupiter." Gross seemed to have the soul of Mozart in the tips of his fingers as he guided the orchestra in the intricacies of the playful passages, which are interwoven with the profound elements of the Symphony in a display of the theatrical genius that has made Mozart's operas enduringly popular.

The "Jupiter" is Mozart's culminating statement that life is to be enjoyed, and so was a fitting conclusion for 59th season in the Santa Monica Symphony's tradition of admission-free concerts that have brought joy into the lives of the hundreds of thousands of people of all ages. There were people at the concert who had come as children and were now bringing their grandchildren.

The many children brought to this concert, some as young as 5 years old, all listened and watched with enraptured attention, proving that good music, well played, is enjoyed by all ages.

As part of the symphony's outreach to the schools, on May 23, the children of Grant Elementary School were invited to talk with Dr. Gross, who is a professor of music



Photo courtesy
Children at the rehearsal in Grant Elementary School on May 23.

at Occidental College and Caltech, and relates wonderfully with small children. Wilkie played passages of music for them. The children then attended a rehearsal of symphony orchestra in their auditorium.

In another part of the symphony's outreach, in April, 1,600 elementary school children enjoyed a special concert of "A Colorful Symphony" based on the children's classic "The Phantom Tollbooth."

The Symphony's 2004-2005 60th Anniversary season of five concerts begins with a concert on October 10th, 2004, and will conclude May 29, 2005, with the most popular symphony in the classical repertoire. There will also be special events for the children of the Santa Monica/Malibu Unified School District.

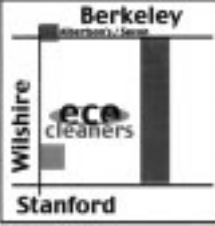
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LOCAL



Ex-Raiders standout reveals family members died in 1996 house fire

TESTIFY, from page 1

in a rage-filled act of revenge. Smith called that notion ludicrous, and said he didn't know how his mail ended up in the firebombs.

Michael Houchin, Smith's lawyer, asked a string of questions Friday focused around two dates Smith visited Simply Sofas to pick up a check and leftover items he had asked be sold on consignment. The relationship between Smith and Marilyn Nelson, the owner of Simply Sofas, fell apart after one of Smith's items ended up broken.

Smith testified that on both Jan. 25 and Jan. 28 he hired day laborers from in front of the Home Depot in the Marina to help him move boxes and other items between his office and his storage space in Lancaster, and his condo. He stopped by Simply Sofas to pick up a check on Jan. 25, but was unable to take the leftover items because the truck was loaded down, he said.

Smith said the truck was full again when he stopped by on Jan. 28, but it had been packed carefully with items to be thrown away — stickers, old jackets and other items — stacked on the back seat. The workers threw those items away behind Simply Sofas, but may have also mistakenly thrown away a box holding Smith's mail, lawyers suggested.

When the Raiders moved back to Oakland in the mid 1990s, Smith kept his address in the Marina, and a personal assistant took most of his mail to storage.

Deputy District Attorney Jean Daly, who is prosecuting the case, tried to poke holes in that theory by firing repeated questions at Smith about the age, height, nationality, appearance and names of the workers on both days. Smith responded by saying he tries to hire workers "about" his age, and none stood higher than his chin.

The 6'4" former player added that the workers called him "El Jefe" or "Amigo," which mean "boss" and "friend," respectively. He said he called them by the same names.

Smith also offered an alternative explanation on Friday for an alleged admission of guilt prosecutors have repeatedly brought up in their case. Santa Monica Police Department Sgt. Robert Almada testified that when he showed Smith pictures of the partially burnt mailing labels left in the oversized water jugs, which were filled with gas to start the blaze, Smith dropped his head and began to

weep, saying, "I'm sorry. I'm so sorry."

But Smith said he never cried, and instead expressed condolences for firefighters who had to jump from the roof of the building to escape the growing fire. Smith said Almada told him the firefighters were injured, a contention Almada denies. Smith added a July, 1996 North Carolina house fire left his father severely burned, and killed his stepmother and stepsister. Prosecutors denied ever knowing that, though Smith maintained he had told Almada.

When asked if he set the fire, Smith replied, "No sir, I did not."

Smith's wife Teresa also testified Friday, saying Smith didn't generally wake up in the middle of the night, and the night of the fire was no exception. Smith and his wife are regular churchgoers, and friends and religious leaders from St. Augustine's By-the-Sea, an Episcopalian Church on Fourth Street in downtown Santa Monica, have been fixtures at the trial. Smith also volunteered much of his time to charities throughout Los Angeles.

The case is expected to be handed to jurors on Monday, after lawyers deliver their closing arguments. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Keith Schwartz, who is presiding over the matter at the Airport Courthouse near LAX, denied a motion by the defense to drop the case for lack of merit. The motion was made before Smith took the stand.

With jurors out of the room, Judge Schwartz outlined several reasons why the case should go forward. First, he said at the time, no reason had been provided by the defense for why Smith's mail was found in the firebombs used to ignite the blaze.

"Who knows what goes through people's minds or what sets them off," he said. "There's certainly strong evidence that connects him to this."

Judge Schwartz also pointed out that a potential motive existed in the case — revenge — and said the bombs, which were made out of five-gallon water jugs, could not have been easily handled by somebody of less stature.

"Whoever did this had to have the physical ability to do it," he said. "You're not going to get a kid doing this and you're not going to get an old lady doing this."

Back Pain?

West L.A., CA — According to a recently released back pain relief report, most back pain sufferers have no idea how to eliminate their pain. Some use heat, others ice. From sleeping on the floor, to pillows underneath the legs, back pain relief techniques vary. But thanks to a free report, local back pain sufferers finally know exactly what to do. To get a copy of the free "Back Pain Relief Report".

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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ACLU has veered off course

Editor:

In response to the current flap of the suit of the ACLU against the small cross on the county seal, let us analyze ACLU.

American — meaning all of the various components of the country.

Civil liberties — meaning all liberties within the context of a law abiding citizenry.

Union — a coalition of various individuals.

The ACLU, as defined today, is none of the above. It is nothing more than a parasitic, hate-mongering, coat-holding organization feeding off the litigious malcontents of society.

As the United States was founded on religious freedom and various states settled by religious groups, how dare the ACLU dictate what may or may not make up a seal of any state or county? They are attempting to rewrite history.

The rampant silliness of their venue and the equally silly pontification of any legal body giving it the time of day is pathetic.

The ACLU is not representative of the beliefs or non-beliefs of the entire population. To make such an issue out of a small historic symbol on the seal smacks of supreme pettiness. Business must be slow for this ignorant, short-sighted organization.

Betty A. Darling
Santa Monica

Living wage dilemma offers opportunity

Editor:

The recent omission by staff of a so-called living wage in next year's city budget may have been just what our city leaders need to help them focus on the needs and priorities of our residents, businesses and workers. In every dilemma there lies an opportunity, and with a budget already \$4 million in the hole, we need to be very careful about how funds are allocated.

A recent Chamber of Commerce study, as well as numerous surveys by the City of Santa Monica, has indicated that the community wants our leaders to focus on issues that we encounter every day such as homelessness, parking and traffic, and our schools. The upcoming debate on the city budget offers just that opportunity. We believe in a fair wage for workers, and think that the city ought to have an open and focused debate on this issue, but is now the time? Can we afford a proposal that will add nearly \$2 million in additional costs to the city budget. The voters spoke loudly when they recently defeated the living wage ordinance, and the City Council ought to closely review the impacts of such a measure before moving forward.

As city staff has said in published reports, "There are a number of priorities for our community, and we need to be very cautious how we spend the city's funds." We encourage our City Council members to take a hard look at the many issues that we face and consider how to balance the needs of workers and the needs of the community as a whole. We also encourage the council to bring the community into the debate by holding more public meetings, meeting one-on-one with business and community members and making sure that the budget process is transparent and inclusive.

We are indeed lucky that the budget deficit this year is only \$4 million. Some communities in our region are facing huge, insurmountable budget problems. Here again as a community we have an opportunity to lead by showing other cities that Santa Monica is on the leading edge and can effectively address critical public issues.

We look forward to working closely with the city on this and other matters that affect the quality of life for all of us who live and work in this great town.

Dr. Mike Gruning

Chairman, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce

Groovy with Garver: The people have spoken



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

Great news! The results for the first Garver Poll are in. I was very pleased by the number of people who participated, proving that Americans like to give their opinions (and that I might not be the only person who will do just about anything to avoid work). Regarding the accuracy of the poll, remember I have no background in statistics whatsoever. I've never even been all that good at subtraction — especially when a nine or a zero are involved. If you are looking for a poll that is statistically accurate, you should check out a real poll or legitimate survey. If you just want to have fun, keep reading.

The answers most people gave are in BOLD.

1. If the presidential election were held today, would you be more likely to:

A. Vote for one of the major party candidates?

Or

B. Ask, "why am I voting today instead of in November?" (61 percent)

Analysis: Maybe this proves that you can't fool all the people all the time, except in November.

2. Which do you think might actually be connected to something:

A. That button you push to supposedly make the red light change to green faster?

Or

B. The voting machine where you cast your ballot? (55 percent)

Analysis: 0 percent felt that voting machines were connected to traffic signals.

3. What do you think is the bigger "whopper?"

A. Barry bonds has never knowingly taken steroids?

Or

B. President Bush saying, "Donald Rumsfeld has been a superb Secretary of Defense?" (86 percent)

Analysis: At 86 percent to 14 percent, finally the president is ahead again in one poll.

4. Which would put you to sleep faster:

A. An explanation of the new tax forms? (70 percent)

Or

B. Listening to a John Kerry speech?
Analysis: nobody volunteered that they would be able to fill out their tax forms while listening to John Kerry.

5. This summer, which are you more likely to spend \$25 on?

A. Bill Clinton's new autobiography?

Or

B. A gallon of gas? (82 percent)

Analysis: "Full service" has become so expensive that most of us go for "self service," even though we end up spilling some gas on our shoes.

6. When you are a guest at someone's house for the first time, are you more likely to:

A. Try to figure out how they could possibly afford the place? (75 percent)

Or

B. Go through their medicine cabinet?

Analysis: Americans are more interested in what their friends put in their pockets than in their bodies.

7. Right after a job promotion, would you rather run into:

A. That ex-lover who said you'd never succeed?

Or

B. That old teacher who said you'd never succeed? (68 percent)

Analysis: Americans might get over tragic love affairs, but we don't forget teachers who picked on us. Especially ones who were mean and made our parents come to school and didn't let me explain that i didn't ... never mind.

8. Now that "Friends" is over, do you care ...

A. More than words could describe?

Or

B. Slightly less than when I learned that zip codes were going to add four more digits? (96.42 percent)

Analysis: Surprisingly, over 96 percent of people who responded didn't care much about "friends" going off the air. This suggests that either there is something wrong with my survey or with the nielsen ratings. I think we all know the answer to that one.

Because the poll was so popular, I have decided to continue this feature from time to time. This week, I'm only asking you one question.

This week's Garver poll question:

In a press conference more than two months ago, President Bush was asked what his biggest mistake had been and what lessons he may have learned from it. The president couldn't think of any mistakes immediately, and said, "I'm sure something will pop into my head ... Maybe I'm not as quick on my feet as I should be in coming up with one." He still hasn't come up with one.

Do you:

A. Think the president deserves more time to think of a mistake?

Or

B. Think he should have been able to think of a mistake by now?

I promise to count every vote, and I assume that you will treat your answers with the same seriousness that I treat the questions.

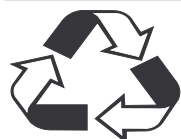
(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He also has read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for cbsnews.com's opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com).

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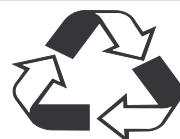
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Santa Monica Daily Press



OPINION



The Q Line

A LIVING WAGE: THE \$1 MILLION QUESTION

This past week, Q-line asked:
“Do you think City Hall should pursue a living wage for its employees despite its budget crunch? Why or why not?”

Here are your responses:

☉ “Anyone who believes that \$11.50 an hour is a living wage has not taken out their abacus recently and equated the high cost of essential products, such as gasoline, compounded by higher housing and food prices. \$11.50 per hour for four 40-hour weeks adds up to \$1,840 per month, less, approximately \$300 in taxes. That leaves a balance of \$1,540 per month for a single person who is paying \$1,350 for a one-bedroom apartment and \$190 for all other expenses. Is this living?”

☉ “The Santa Monica City Council has no business attempting to tell employers what to pay their employees. Thank you very much.”

☉ “I think the City Council is way too overrated, and I think that \$11.50 an hour is just fine. If there is a budget shortfall, I don’t think they should augment the salary of the city employees, who in many cases don’t do a very good job.”

☉ “No, I don’t think that City Hall should pursue a living wage. When they were backing the living wage they said it would only be for hotel workers. Now they’ve jumped on the bandwagon for themselves because the Council knows there are a lot of voters out there who haven’t made the effort to go to school and improve their skills ... those are the people that are going to vote them in. It’s typical for the Santa Monica City Council to contribute to the inflationary problems by trying to get more for nothing. City workers are going to get a raise because the council needs votes next year, and that’s what I think. We have a tight budget.”

☉ “The city should pursue a living wage, despite a budget crunch. There is always more money to be gotten from hedge, sign parking and smoking violations. It’s the birthright of the pigs to make more for doing less at the expense of private persons. After all that’s why there are government jobs.”

☉ “Let’s face it, any employee of this city is well paid and benefited. We have a budget crunch because of the cavalier spending and mismanagement. We need a clean sweep of City Hall in November. The status quo is just not working.”

☉ “The living wage was voted down by the residents of Santa Monica. City Hall should not pursue it. It has no mandate to pursue it. If they want to pay

their employees more, they should pay the top employees less.”

☉ “They had better think about cleaning up hobo town before they distract themselves with any more issues.”

☉ “Give them the money. Give them the \$11.50 an hour for the additional \$1 million a year. The reason is if they work 35-hour work weeks, which translates into 140 hours a month, that’s only \$1,610 a month gross. By the time social security is taken with other taxes, there is very little left for a person to live on. If they are living on \$1,610 a month gross, they are existing with smoke and mirrors.”

☉ “They could pay everybody who actually works for the city a good wage if they cut out all the money they waste on bums. Then people who actually do work can get paid. That does not include paying a salary to the people who go around measuring hedges.”

☉ “The community of Santa Monica is affluent. Most taxes on the well off are at historic lows. The budget crisis is primarily a creation of the affluent caused by the lowering of taxes and other obligations for the affluent. If this thoughtless or heartless breed doesn’t somehow yield to concern for the less well-off, as well as a sense of collective obligation for the well-being of the people as a whole, then our society will continue to deteriorate. Everybody is feeling the effects of inflation in everything from gas to milk. We all know that a raise to \$11.50 per hour will barely make a wage livable anyway.”

☉ “I believe in a free market. I don’t believe in a minimum wage. If people are willing to work for low wages that will keep costs down, in turn, they will have less to spend in the marketplace, which will keep prices down in general so their costs will be less.”

☉ “The city should be providing living wages for its workers and contract workers. That needs to be a top priority, along with good quality public schools and services for residents.”

☉ “Where there is a will, there is way to find the funds. Secondly, the whole community wins when the dignity of every worker is preserved and beyond the community.”

GUEST COMMENTARY | BY ALEX EPSTEIN

Attempts to appease world opinion only emboldens terrorists

It is a testament to the perverse priorities of our politicians and journalists that the biggest American outcry over Abu Ghraib has been not about the gruesome decapitation of American Nicholas Berg by terrorists, but about the fact that many Arabs and Europeans are mad at us.

“We are the most hated nation in the world,” laments Ted Kennedy, “as a result of this disastrous policy in the prisons.”

The alleged solution to this alleged crisis of “world opinion” is to show more deference toward the rest of the world. Otherwise, we are told, the world’s anger will bring more terrorist attacks and less “international cooperation” against terrorism.

All of this evades one blatant truth: The hatred being heaped on America over Abu Ghraib is undeserved. Throughout the Middle East, torture — real torture, with electric drills and vats of acid — is official policy and daily practice. Yet there are no worldwide condemnations of the dictatorships that practice such atrocities — let alone the Arab-Islamic culture that produces so many torturers. But when, during a war, a handful of American prison guards subject a handful of Iraqi POWs to comparatively mild humiliation — which the U.S. government denounces and promptly investigates — “world opinion” proclaims itself offended and condemns America.

Abu Ghraib is just the latest example of the injustice of “world opinion.” Since Sept. 11, the United States — the freest nation on Earth — has been ceaselessly denounced for any step in the direction of self-defense against terrorism, while terrorist regimes Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and the Palestinian Authority get a moral free pass.

So-called “world opinion” is not the unanimous and just consensus that its seekers pretend. (Observe that the phrase never includes the many pro-American foreigners, such as freedom-fighters in Iran). It is the irrational and unjust opinion of the world’s worst people: The Islamists who seek to subjugate the world to Islamic rule, the socialists and pacifists who seek to subjugate U.S. sovereignty to U.N. rule, and the legions of “moderate” followers who support or sympathize with these goals. These people oppose us not because of any legitimate grievances against America, but because they are steeped in irrational doctrines like Islamic fundamentalism, collectivism, and pacifism — which lead them to oppose and resent American freedom and individualism, and our resulting wealth and power.

The proper response to the anti-American voicers of “world opinion” is to identify them as our ideological and political enemies — and dispense justice accordingly. In the case of our militant

enemies, we must kill and demoralize them, especially the Arab and Islamic regimes that support terrorism and fuel the Islamist movement. As for the rest, we must politically ignore them and intellectually discredit them, while proudly arguing for the superiority of Americanism. Such a policy would make us safe, expose anti-Americanism as irrational and immoral, and embolden the world’s best elements to support our ideals and emulate our ways.

President Bush, like most politicians and intellectuals, has taken the opposite approach to “world opinion.” He has tried to appease it. Instead of identifying anti-American Muslims as ideological enemies to be discredited, he has appealed to their sensibilities and met their demands — sacrificing American soldiers to save Iraqi civilians and mosques, and striving to make the Iraqi occupation not look “too American,” for example. Instead of seeking to crush the Islamists by defeating the causes they fight for — such as Islamic world domination and the destruction of Israel — he has appeased those causes, declaring Islam a “great religion” and rewarding the Palestinian terrorist Jihad with a promised Palestinian state. Instead of destroying the terrorist regimes that wage war against the West — including Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and the Palestinian Authority — he has sought their “cooperation” and even cast some as “coalition partners.”

Such measures have taught the enemies they appease a deadly lesson: Anti-Americanism pays. “Denounce and oppose America,” they have learned, “no matter how irrationally and hypocritically, and American leaders will praise your ideals and meet your demands.” “Attack America via terrorist proxy,” terrorist states and movements have been taught, “and America will neither blame you nor destroy you, but redouble its efforts to buy your love.” Is it any wonder that anti-Americanism is gaining prominence, and that the “War on Terrorism” has no end in sight?

Every attempt to appease “world opinion” preserves, promotes and emboldens our enemies. Every concession to angry Muslim mobs, every denunciation of Israel, every consultation with Prince Bandar or dictator Assad gives hope to the Islamist cause. Every day we allow terrorist regimes to exist gives their minions time to execute the next Sept. 11. America needs honest leadership with the courage to identify and defeat our enemies — world opinion be damned.

(Alex Epstein is a writer for the Ayn Rand Institute (www.aynrand.org) in Irvine, Calif. The Institute promotes the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of Atlas Shrugged and The Fountainhead. Send reactions to reaction@aynrand.org.)

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LOCAL

Sea of Love: Celebrities looking to turn back tide

HEAL BAY, from page 1

Director Dr. Mark Gold.

As part of the live auction portion of the evening, Ford Motor Company donated one of California's first Ford Escape Hybrid SUVs, giving attendees the chance to own the industry's first hybrid SUV months before it's on the market.

Featuring musical entertainment from surfer/songwriter Jack Johnson, who recently earned a platinum record for his Brushfire Fairytales album, "Bring Back the Beach," included a live and silent auction, dinner, and each year plays host to a collection of Hollywood celebrities and Southern California notables.

Celebrities included Julia Louis-Dreyfus ("Seinfeld"); producer/director Garry Marshall ("Pretty Woman", "Laverne & Shirley"); actor Ed Harris ("Pollack"); actress Wendie Malick ("Just Shoot Me"); actor Jack Klugman ("The Odd Couple"); actor Lou Diamond Phillips ("La Bamba"); actor Hector Elizondo ("Chicago Hope",

"Pretty Woman"); actress Amber Valletta ("Raising Helen"); actor Kyle Chandler ("Early Edition"); actor Ingo Rademacher ("General Hospital") and guest auctioneer Ken Howard ("The White Shadow").

The event also showcased recipients of the organization's "Walk the Talk" Award, presented to community leaders who champion environmental issues. This year's honorees include Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn; HBO Chairman and CEO Chris Albrecht; actor/director Rob Reiner; former State Secretary of Resources Mary Nichols; Save Open Space Founder Mary Wiesbrock; Congressman Brad Sherman; Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks; L.A. County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky; State Assemblywoman Fran Pavley; State Senator Sheila Kuehl; environmental activist Mati Waiya; community leader Joe Behar; Calabasas City Councilman Dennis Zine and Calabasas City Councilman Dennis Washburn.

Troubled waters: Runoff has beachgoers on lookout

BY BEN FOX

Associated Press Writer

DANA POINT — Before he plunges into the ocean at this once famed surf spot, Mike Millard first checks the action in a notorious nearby creek.

If San Juan Creek is streaming across the sand into the ocean, Millard knows to avoid the waves at Doheny Beach, a popular stretch of Orange County ocean that was called California's most polluted beach in a new study by the environmental group Heal the Bay.

As people flock to California beaches this summer, they have been advised to take similar precautions at a handful of trouble spots where urban runoff carries bacteria and viruses into the surf and creates a potential health risk.

"Usually, it will start within two to three days after you suck up some bad water," Millard, a 49-year-old deputy sheriff said of the ear and sinus infections that he blames on polluted water. "If you're going to surf here ... you've got to be careful."

The study determined the vast majority of California's coast passes the tests designed to measure bacteria that indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. Even beaches that frequently fall below standards, including Doheny, can be safe for swimming in dry, calm weather.

"People come away with the message that the whole area is a toilet out there and that's not true," said Larry Honeybourne,

program chief with the agency in charge of monitoring water quality in Orange County, home to some of the state's most popular beaches.

"The good news is that about 95 percent of beaches meet standards," he said.

But there are trouble spots, including Doheny, which was once such a popular surf spot that it merited a mention in the Beach Boys' classic song, "Surfin' USA."

Other beaches with consistent pollution problems include the southern tip of San Diego County, where sewage from Tijuana, Mexico, fouls the ocean; Malibu's Surfrider Beach, a premier surfing beach near Los Angeles; and parts of Huntington Beach, long known as "surf city."

The main culprit is urban water runoff that can carry a witch's brew of harmful pesticides, fertilizers, animal waste, engine oil and other contaminants from yards and streets. The runoff flows to the ocean through networks of storm drains, natural streams and man-made channels.

In most parts of the state, sewers carry waste water from homes and other sources directly to treatment plants. At times, however, raw sewage from broken lines can find its way into storm drains and streams.

Among other things, officials warn against overwatering lawns and hosing down driveways as ways to keep polluted runoff from flowing into the ocean. The city of San Clemente in southern Orange County

See WATER, page 9

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LOCAL

An emotional rescue for artist, students alike

SURVIVOR, from page 1

Holocaust survivors to share their remarkable stories with students, who in turn draw from the survivors' experiences to create innovative artwork. The program was introduced last October by museum director Rachel Jagoda, in cooperation with the Annenberg Foundation.

Benjamin's work dates back to the mid-1930s when he was an apprentice photographer for a portrait studio in his hometown of Hamburg, Germany. Among the bevy of paintings, collages and photographs Benjamin has stored in his house, is a photograph of Hitler speaking to a crowd. He described the dictator as extremely stern while he, mixed in amongst the crowd, was paralyzed with fear.

"When you're that scared, you build an immune system," explained the father of two. Shortly after, Benjamin left Germany for London, where he studied photography and met Selma, his wife of 64 years.

For the past four months, Benjamin has been busy transforming his darker days into illuminating and powerful artwork.

As the sessions with students progressed, the experience proved to be mutually beneficial for both the students and himself, strengthening their bond. Benjamin said his artwork has metamorphosed since he began the project. Disturbing emotions that had remained dormant for almost 70 years have resurfaced in the form of art.

Ten years ago, when Benjamin began creating the series of Holocaust collages a door opened for him, and the memories and emotions came rushing through.

Students have not only used their discussions as artistic material, but also have come forward sharing tragedies of their own. The teenagers told stories of their parents leaving the family, and unexpected

deaths of friends.

Gianina Ferreyra, a 16-year-old sophomore, got involved in the project because she wanted a closer encounter with the past.

"I wanted to visualize history," she said. Only a few of the selected students are Jewish. Ferreyra said that even though she wasn't Jewish, any human being could appreciate the experience of working with Benjamin.

"I don't just see and click anymore," said aspiring photographer Samantha Ollstein. The 17-year-old now searches for the meaning behind every picture she takes.

Professor Gerardo Stawsky, manager of education at the Museum of the Holocaust, approached Benjamin with the idea and has been in close contact with him ever since.

"Through this experience, the students have become the victims because of the bond," Stawsky said.

Stawsky, of Uruguayan origin, is working with educators in Sacramento in hopes of expanding the program into juvenile detention centers. He believes the program fosters tolerance, which is what those types of institutions strive for.

The students' works are to be shown at different venues including Disney Hall, the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust, California State University at Los Angeles and participating high schools. The Santa Monica Museum of Art will hopefully be an addition to the list, Stawsky said.

Benjamin was director of the audio visual department at Los Angeles Orthopaedic Hospital for 25 years, creating a photographically-based process of detecting cancerous cells by screening blood and plasma cells. Learn more about Benjamin's life in Monday's community profile in the Santa Monica Daily Press.

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Summer Guide

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NATIONAL



Hispanic group gives entrepreneurs a leg up

BY JOE ESTRELLA

Associated Press Writer

NAMPA, Idaho — Gustavo Solis did not lack for goals when he arrived in Idaho three years ago.

To improve his English, he took classes at Boise State University. The desire to be a homeowner became a reality when he purchased a house in Nampa last year. Next was his dream to open a printing business to replace the one he owned in his native Costa Rica.

Two months ago, Solis opened Angel's Commercial Printing, a subcontracting shop he runs out of his garage on weekends, when he isn't working days at Thunderbolt Printing or delivering a pizzas at night.

He doesn't mind the long hours. If he can get his new business off the ground, he says, he will achieve yet another goal: providing for his wife, Naomi, their 19-month-old daughter, Raquel, and "the one that's on the way."

"I moved to United States because I wanted to improve my life," he says. "You have to sacrifice a little

to get what you want. And when you work for yourself, you learn a lot."

Solis is learning even more these days, thanks to the Nampa-based Hispanic Business Association, which is partnering with the Small Business Administration to offer a 12-week bilingual course on "The Basics To Starting a Strong Business."

The program is designed to educate new and potential entrepreneurs — both English and Spanish speaking — on what's involved in starting a business in the United States, including federal and state tax liabilities, registering a business and worker's compensation.

"We're trying to take what people have in their imagination, and put it on paper," says association board secretary Alice Whitney. She said most Hispanic entrepreneurs aren't aware of the resources available to them.

One student taking the course already operates a landscaping business, while others want to open everything from an import business to a fashion accessories shop to a children's clothing store.

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Interior chief: Nevada proposal for water trades could take time

By The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — A top Bush administration water official said she doubts Nevada could win quick approval of a proposal to buy Colorado River water from farmers in California and Arizona.

Interior Secretary Gale Norton, the federal official who oversees Colorado River water allocations, did not take a position on the idea. But she said this week in Washington, D.C., that discussions involving the seven states that share Colorado River water would be complex and could take years.

Assistant Interior Secretary Bennett Raley heard a pitch on the proposal last week from Sens. Harry Reid, D-Nev., and John Ensign, R-Nev., and Southern Nevada Water Authority chief Pat Mulroy during a tour of a wastewater treatment facility near Lake Mead.

Mulroy said Thursday she did not expect Norton to endorse the idea without consulting other states, but said she hoped for an urgent response with drought concerns mounting.

Mulroy said an interstate arrangement with Arizona to store unused river water on Nevada's behalf provides a legal precedent for more water trading.

States are eyeing a program in California that lets urban districts buy water rights held by farmers. Nevada officials want to bid for those supplies as well.

In an interview, Norton said a court consent decree, interstate compacts and agreements making up the law of the Colorado River were designed to give each state a certain amount of water.

"It's a different model to talk about moving water between states," she said. "That's obviously much more complex than water markets within a state."

The Colorado River is shared by Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, as well as Mexico. The Las Vegas area depends on the Colorado River for 90 percent of its drinking water.

If the seven states fail to agree on a drought plan, and water levels continue to fall at Lake Mead and Arizona's Lake Powell, the federal government would revert to a 1922 agreement cutting Nevada's 300,000-acre-foot annual allocation by 4 percent.

An acre-foot is enough water to supply two single-family homes for a year.

Nevada currently uses almost all its allotment of Colorado River water.

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SPORTS

It's all over but crying for the Lakers' next foe

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



When they saw the Lakers yawn and heard them say, "Who's got next" after the Minnesota Timberwolves were disposed of in six games, the Detroit Pistons and Indiana Pacers, still in the midst of their semi-final series, looked at each other and said, "Uh, that would be you." Then, they went on to play out the dreadful thing in exactly that manner. The rims were bent so bad from so many bricks being thrown up that the ball simply had no way of fitting through.

Once the Pistons mercifully finished off the Pacers in the series nobody wanted to win, they recovered from the hangovers, dropped a couple Exedrins, wiped their bloodshot eyes and saw what awaits them in the NBA Finals. It was the first celebration in league history where a team drank to forget what was coming, rather than celebrate what was just won.

Inside sources tell the SMDP that Commissioner David Stern had seriously contemplated invoking an obscure "handicap" clause buried way down deep in the NBA constitution, which allows the two final teams from either conference to combine forces if the match-up in the looming championship round appears to be a joke. Since this series that starts on Sunday at Staples Center would appear to fall into that category, if anything ever did, Stern was this close to pulling the trigger and invoking the clause, thereby giving the Pistons an All-Star center in Jermaine O'Neal, Defensive Player-of-the-Year Ron Artest, and octogenarian sharpshooter Reggie Miller from the Pacers in an attempt to make a competitive series out of it.

He thought better of it when advisors and pundits, including oddsmakers from Las Vegas sports books, convinced him that even with the infusion of talent from Indiana, the Pistons would still be swept away in four games, a slight improvement over the three-game sweep predicted by some if it's just the woebegone Detroit squad. Though a three-game sweep would appear to be mathematically impossible in a best-of-seven series, Vegas oddsmakers put it up on the boards anyway, giving bettors their only chance to get decent odds on a Lakers triumph.

The commissioner is said to be burning the midnight oil in a last-ditch attempt to get Tracy McGrady and Allen Iverson over to the Pistons by Sunday, but they're both out of the country, already indulging in off-season vacations.

Seriously, who's going to guard Shaq? Who's going to stop Kobe? Who's going to deny the Mailman and Payton as they visualize on their aging fingers the rings they obsess over, the rings they gave up millions of dollars to come to LA and play for? That's Dream Team 2004 right there, a team that honestly, if they felt like it, could defeat any NBA All-Star team thrown together.

The Pistons? Please.

Throw the legendary Kareem in with that bunch and it flies off the hook. No, not Abdul-Jabbar, but Rush, the youngblood who stepped into Laker lore last Sunday with his six consecutive three-pointers that sent the courageous T'wolves packing. And as long as we're talking Laker lore, here's one that will forever live on, and it's simply a number, a fraction of a number. It's 0.4 — the time left on the clock when Derek Fisher threw up the answered prayer that turned the San Antonio series into a Lakers rout, and cleared the way for them to reach what

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See EDGE, page 15

NATIONAL



Health Dept. snuffs anti-tobacco grant for gays

BY ALEXANDRIA SAGE

Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — The Utah Department of Health has cut funding for a tobacco prevention program to a gay organization in the wake of a flap over local high school students wearing T-shirts bearing the slogan “Queers Kick Ash.”

The department won’t renew an annual contract with the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center of Utah for a \$100,000 grant sponsoring an anti-smoking campaign targeted at gay 14- to 24-year olds. Last year’s grant, funded by tobacco industry settlements, expires June 30.

As part of its campaign, the Salt Lake City-based GLBT center created T-shirts featuring the letter “O” with a stubbed-out cigarette dangling as a slash to form the letter “Q.” The slogan is a play on one found on T-shirts and stickers popular with teenage females: “Girls Kick Ass.”

The funding cut comes after four students at Midvale’s Hillcrest High School, members of the center’s anti-tobacco task force, wore the T-shirts to school in May and were sent home. The incident sparked a protest by students and the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah.

Two students were officially suspended for a day after they wore the shirts to school for the second day in a row and refused to change.

In a statement released Thursday, the Health Department said the decision was an attempt to “prevent the anti-tobacco health message from being overshadowed by unrelated advocacy activity,” but spokeswoman Jana Kettering declined to clarify that statement.

The center claims the funding cut was politically motivated, since the Health Department never objected to the campaign slogan of “Queers Kick Ash” during its eight months of use until the school incident.

“It goes against the objectives of the Health Department. Their whole reasoning for giving us money was to target these kids, to make them understand they shouldn’t be smoking,” said Jennifer Nuttall, the center’s director of adult programs. “(The shirts) might not be what Hillcrest wants worn at the high school, but that has nothing to do with whether this program should or should not exist.”

On the Health Department’s instructions, the center took down its campaign Web site with the offending slogan and had submitted two alternate names when it received verbal notification on Tuesday that the funding was cut.

The Washington, D.C.-based Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids issued a statement late Thursday urging the Health Department to renew the grant, writing “it is shameful that this incident is being used as a pretext to eliminate a tobacco prevention grant affecting all gay and lesbian high school students served by the GLBT Community Center.”

Both the principal of Hillcrest and a spokeswoman for the Jordan School District denied Thursday any involvement in the withdrawal of funding to the center.

According to district policy, students’ clothing must not present a distraction “which would disrupt the educational mission.” Writing, pictures, or logos that are “crude, vulgar, profane, violent, or sexually suggestive” are not allowed, as are “items which bear advertising, promotions and likeness of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs.”

Principals have the discretion to determine what constitutes a disruption, said a spokeswoman for the district, which explains why the T-shirts were worn in a handful of other schools without incident.

But others say Hillcrest mishandled what could have been a valuable lesson in civil rights and free speech.

Attorney Margaret Plane of the Utah branch of the ACLU sent a letter to the school and the district outlining how the T-shirt ban was a First Amendment violation.

A T-shirt bearing the likeness of Joe Camel, the mascot for Camel cigarettes would violate school policy, but an “anti-smoking shirt” would not, said Plane.

NBA Finals were over long ago

EDGE, from page 14

looks to be an afterthought of a championship round.

But if there is one moment that will stand out when this whole thing is reviewed and put into perspective, a true turning point that set the Lakers off on the run to their fourth title in five years, it’s this — in the opening round against the Houston Rockets, with the Lakers floundering and trailing in the second half of Game Three in a series tied 1-1, the ball came loose from Rockets guard Steve Francis near mid-court. Flying out of nowhere came a 360-pound body fully laid out. Bam. When that body hit the hardwood around mid-court, all of LA felt the shockwave. It was Shaquille O’Neal, all \$140 million dollars of him, giving himself up for a lousy little loose ball in a game that still had a lifetime to go. What a sight! What a beautiful sight for all of Lakerdom! The funny thing is,

Shaq didn’t even get that ball. He got a world of hurt, bruises all over that massive body, but not the ball. Instead, not a second after his dive, here came another golden blur, flying just as recklessly at the same ball. The number ‘8’ was barely deciphered on the jersey rolling around the floor. It was Kobe. And he had his teammate’s floorburned back. He ended up with the same bruises, but, like Shaq, he did not end up with the ball. Well, screw the ball, folks, what they ended up with — the two superstars giving up their multi-million dollar bodies diving through the air — was a team, a team that took its cue from that moment on, and began in earnest, finally, to go about their business, the business of dominating NBA basketball.

What they ended up with — aside from the floorburns and bruises, assuming McGrady and Iverson can’t be lured back from Tahiti, was a championship.

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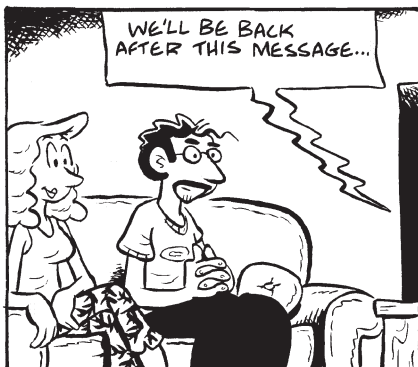


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- 18 Bob Dole and Jim Lehrer
- 20 Water ladle
- 22 Corner
- 23 Wipe away
- 25 Gab
- 28 Home to some crocs?
- 32 Practical
- 34 Cut off
- 35 Colony member
- 36 Apple pie order
- 38 Pig part
- 40 Basketball feat
- 41 Lacking luster
- 42 Tipped

- 43 Scratches the surface?
- 44 Some wines

DOWN

- 1 Simoleons
- 2 Exhausted
- 3 Change producer
- 4 Wave
- 5 "Barnaby Jones" star
- 6 Napkin spot
- 7 Weather map line
- 8 Placid
- 9 Exhausted
- 11 Intuit
- 15 Sun block
- 19 Crockpot contents
- 21 Await
- 24 Capitol VIP
- 25 Deep ravine
- 26 Title role for Mia
- 27 Counting everything

- 29 Split to unite
- 30 Some sculptures
- 31 Forgo frugality
- 33 Appeases
- 37 Lode setting
- 39 Salt Lake City player

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Ben over: Ailing Affleck misses movie premiere

By The Associated Press

■ **NEW YORK** — Ben Affleck missed the London premiere of “Jersey Girl” this week because he was hospitalized in Boston for severe bronchitis, his New York-based publicist confirmed Friday.

The 31-year-old actor had been hospitalized at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center but was now recuperating at his Boston home, Ken Sunshine told AP Radio.

The London screening of the film, directed by Kevin Smith, took place Wednesday night. “Jersey Girl,” which included a cameo by Affleck’s former fiancée, Jennifer Lopez, reaped just \$8.3 million in its March debut.

Smith killed off Lopez’s character minutes into the movie after last summer’s bomb, “Gigli,” which also paired Affleck and Lopez.

■ **HEMPSTEAD, N.Y.** — The father of teenage actress Lindsay Lohan has been charged with assaulting a relative at a party at the family’s Long Island home, authorities said.

Michael Lohan, 42, was accused of striking his brother-in-law, Matt Sullivan, at a first communion party at the family’s home in Merrick on May 23.

Lohan was arraigned this week in First District Court in Hempstead on charges of second-degree assault and aggravated harassment. He maintains that Sullivan was drunk and was responsible for the fight.

Lindsay Lohan, 17, has starred in “Mean Girls,” “Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen” and “Freaky Friday.” She’s scheduled to host the MTV Movie Awards on June 10.

Her father is due back in court on June 8.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — People will be able to bid on a visit with Tom Cruise, the Mini Cooper that Charlize

Theron drove in “The Italian Job,” and a kiss from Sharon Stone as part of a benefit auction for a program that delivers food to people with AIDS and other serious illnesses.

“NYPD Blue” actor Bill Brochtrup hosted a news media preview this week of the items that will be up for bid Sunday at the “Hollywood 100” auction. Proceeds will benefit Project Angel Food, which delivers free meals to people in Los Angeles County disabled by illnesses.

“Project Angel Food is the kind of charity that’s doing something for those in need every day — providing food, support and love,” Brochtrup said.

The items include a visit with Cruise on the Berlin set of “Mission: Impossible 3,” as well as lunch with the actor; one of Stone’s dresses from “Diabolique,” and lunch and a kiss from the actress; a dress made for Elizabeth Taylor, a Bob Mackie costume that Barbra Streisand wore in “Funny Lady,” and Jennifer Garner’s ensemble for “13 Going on 30.”

Also included are a piano bench that Elton John signed, an autographed guitar from Tom Hanks, a dress from Sarah Jessica Parker, a designer jacket from Cher, George Burns’ glasses and cigar, and personal effects from Benji the dog.

■ **BERLIN** — Danish filmmaker Lars Von Trier has dropped plans to direct a production of the Ring der Nibelungen cycle at the Richard Wagner Festival in Bayreuth, the festival said Friday.

The “Dogville” director said he realized that his vision for the production, scheduled for 2006, “would clearly exceed his powers” and fall short of the festival’s high standards, festival organizers said in a statement.

The festival said it was sorry about the decision because preparations had been going on with some success since 2001. No replacement has been named.

“It was not easy for him to accept the growing knowledge that he apparently would not be able to reach his goal,” festival organizers said of Von Trier.

■ **WELLINGTON, New Zealand** — Nearly 40 years after he lost it, Rolling Stones bass player Bill Wyman has one of his guitars back, thanks to a New Zealand musician.

Wellington music maker and business consultant Nick Sceats airfreighted the bass to Wyman two months ago after discovering that it belonged to the rock star.

Now, Wyman has sent a note to Sceats, thanking him for the bass that he thought he’d lost forever, local media reported Friday.

“It doesn’t look too bad for wear and tear, considering what it has gone through and the traveling it has done over the years,” Wyman wrote in the letter, excerpts of which were printed in Wellington’s Dominion Post newspaper.

“Once again, thank you. Your kindness was well appreciated,” he said.

The rare guitar, called a Wyman bass, was one of a small number that the manufacturer Vox made in the 1960s, and the only Vox guitar adorned with an endorser’s name: Wyman.

It’s still unknown how the 67-year-old rocker lost the guitar in Wellington in 1966 on tour with the Rolling Stones.

Sceats, who had the guitar in his possession for 15 years, said it was known among local musicians as the “legendary Wyman bass.” So he wrote Wyman saying he had a bass guitar which may have belonged to him, and offering to return it.

Sceats said he was stunned when Wyman wrote back to say it was definitely his, and that he would love to have it back.

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