

FREE

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 177

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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FANTASY 5
 3, 12, 20, 31, 39

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 1, 4, 0

Evening picks: 7, 6, 3

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 03, Hot Shot

2nd Place: 04, Big Ben

3rd Place: 06, Whirl Win

Race Time: 1:47.09


NEWS OF THE WEIRD
 by Chuck Shepard

Maximizing the opportunity to avoid detection, some illegal immigrants from Mexico choose to enter the United States through a desolate mountain-desert area east of Yuma, Ariz., but in May 2001, 14 of them died of dehydration in a blistering sun. In April 2003, their families filed a \$42 million lawsuit in Tucson against the U.S. Interior Department for having failed to install water stations in the area.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"By dint of railing at idiots you run the risk of becoming idiotic yourself."

— Gustave Flaubert

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Can we talk?



A film crew set up shop Friday evening on the Third Street Promenade to tape a pilot episode of 'Late Night Gorrilla,' a talk show pitched for TBS.

Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Peace march planned in troubled neighborhood

By Daily Press staff

In light of the recent shootings in an eastside Santa Monica neighborhood, residents are rallying together to promote peace.

A peace march is scheduled for Sunday at 3 p.m. and was spearheaded by Oscar de la Torre, founder and director of the Pico Youth & Family Center.

The event is designed to bring awareness to youth violence and show how agencies within the community can help bring peace, unity, respect and hope.

In the past month there have been five gang-related shootings — all occurring within a few blocks of each other. No injuries resulted. However, a May 9 shooting resulted in a stray bullet pene-

trating through two walls of a home on Michigan Avenue before landing in a bedroom.

Santa Monica police have arrested six people who are allegedly connected to the shootings. More suspects are being sought.

The event will begin at 3 p.m. at Virginia Avenue Park, following a route through the community areas and ending at First A.M.E. Church By the Sea.

Scheduled to speak at 4 p.m. are NAACP Branch President Darrell Goode, de la Torre, Santa Monica Malibu Schools Superintendent John Deasy, Irma Carranza from Mothers for Justice and Rev. E. Keith Richardson Sr. The church is located at 1823 Michigan Ave.

Teachers call for SMC president to resign

Faculty votes against Dr. Piedad Robertson

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

The majority of Santa Monica College teachers have no confidence in the leadership of their president and have called for her resignation.

Teachers agreed overwhelmingly on Friday in a vote of no confidence in Dr. Piedad Robertson because they feel more could be done to save academic programs and feel they should have more say in the college's finances.

In a separate measure on the same ballot, the faculty approved a call for action to the SMC board of

"Our participation in academic issues is crucial."

— GORDON DOSSETT
 President, SMC Academic Senate

trustees, which demands that the board change how it closes a \$9.5 million budget deficit the college is facing next year.

"It's about the strongest statement a faculty can make," said Lesley Kawaguchi, president-elect of the Academic Senate, an

See TEACHERS, page 5

Secret OPCO finances to be aired in court

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

The secret finances of a Santa Monica neighborhood group show several cash withdrawals, an examination of public records show.

The disclosure of ATM transactions in the case of the Ocean Park Community Organization comes as its chairman, Rick Laudati, continues to ignore requests by its members to ignore bank statements.

But Laudati's actions in appar-

ently avoiding service of a lawsuit against him faltered one week ago. In a Keystone Cops style episode, his pursuers stumbled upon him waiting in line at the DMV in Santa Monica — and subsequently served him by stuffing court papers under his windshield wiper as Laudati sped away.

Laudati is believed to be holding the financial records of the community organization, and could explain why for at least one month,

See OPCO, page 6

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WITHDRAWALS	240.00-	INTEREST EARNED 2000	1.28
OTHER SERVICE CHARGES	.00-		
NEW BALANCE	2,933.47		
DATE TRANSACTION AMOUNT BALANCE			
12/15	EXPRESS ATM WITHDRAWAL AT 00586A ON 12/11	100.00-	2,849.22
12/31	INTEREST PAYMENT THIS PERIOD	2.97+	2,852.19
1/7	EXPRESS ATM WITHDRAWAL AT 02842V ON 01/06	20.00-	2,832.19
1/10	EXPRESS ATM WITHDRAWAL AT 00586B ON 01/10	60.00-	
1/10	EXPRESS ATM WITHDRAWAL AT 02042V ON 01/09	60.00-	
1/10	CUSTOMER DEPOSIT	220.00+	
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The bank statement shown above details the Ocean Park Community Organization's finances in 1999 and 2000, which shows cash withdrawals made from the non-profit corporation.

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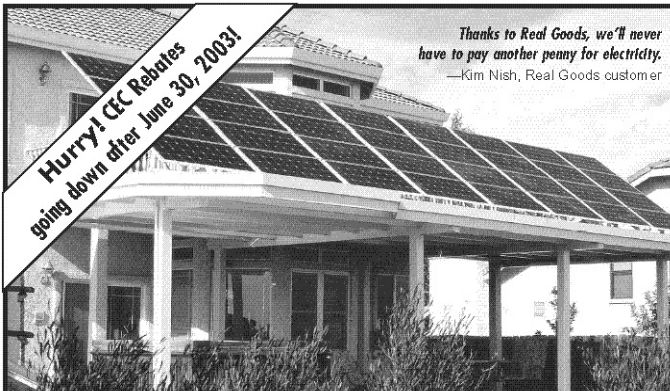
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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, June 7, 2003:

Say what you mean and mean what you say. As a result, others will react very positively to your inquiries and efforts. A partnership could play a significant role in your life. If single, you need to be careful to avoid someone who might be emotionally unavailable. You might not be OK ultimately with this tie, though for some it might work. If attached, take more time alone together, getting more of what you want. You need to work on your relationship together. Your career will expand because of your ability to communicate. CANCER confides in you.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Ideas pop. New beginnings establish themselves as a result. Take time to brainstorm about finances. Decisions made right now stick and will have positive outcomes. Start talking about what you want; don't overthink it. Make a gesture to a loved one. He or she finds you to be gracious. Tonight: Show off your stuff.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Use today to clear out excessive paperwork, return calls and handle as much interpersonal work as possible. Consider what someone says who often is a fountain of ideas. Brainstorm away with this person. Make anything possible. Tonight: Meet with a pal, but still count on an early night.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might think twice or even three times about information that comes forward. Good news will soon head your way. Use your sixth sense with a money matter, though you might choose not to act on it immediately. Get different ideas from others. Tonight: Make a team effort.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Aim high. A friend makes a suggestion to which the only answer is "yes." Brainstorm, network and work with good ideas. Your sense of possibilities opens up. Don't accept a "no"; make "yes" the only answer. Find your path. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Continue to step back. Timing is such that you do not want to take an important action now. What might be significant is to start an information-gathering project. You know what is workable; keep searching for an answer. Someone you count on gives you a lot of suggestions. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Information heads your way that might be too good to turn away from. Though you might want to verify your source, you know you're right-on. Head down the natural path, and you'll discover that you are going the right way. You don't have to push. Tonight: Celebrate.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision, especially if a partner doesn't agree. Check out what might be going on with this person and where he or she is headed. You might not want to push much harder than you already are. Pull back. Listen. Tonight: Make time for that special person.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Needless to say, you cannot change another's mind, but you need to think through a decision. Be more upbeat in how you approach a source of information. This person means a lot to you. Others offer different opinions. Listen. Tonight: Relax with a good book.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ An associate runs the show, but you have to come up with the answers. Request feedback from those in your workplace as well as in your day-to-day life. Interact with individuals rather than a group. Don't slack on work, if possible. Tonight: Save time for a favorite person.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Others find you and demand a lot. Realize more of what you want through an animated conversation. Intuitively you know how to please someone close. Why not do just that? You could make everyone's life much happier! Tonight: Go along for the ride.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Listen well to someone's suggestion. This person means business. Don't do anything halfway right now, and success will head your way. Though a meeting's agenda could change halfway through it, you don't need to get uptight. Think before you leap. Tonight: Relax first, then decide.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Your creativity emerges as you deal with the many different people in your life. Loosen up with a boss who can be controlling, and you'll come up with solutions. Your generosity of spirit emerges with a higher-up. You understand what this person means. Tonight: Take a midweek break.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMC students receive scholarships

By Daily Press staff

Chela Financial will announce it has established scholarships totaling \$40,000 for Santa Monica College transfer students at the 2003 SMC Scholarship Awards Ceremony on Sunday at the college.

Scholarships will be awarded in 2003 and 2004 to deserving students who will be attending California State University Northridge and UCLA.

Since 1979, Chela Financial has been committed to helping students and their families find the financial resources to unleash their potential with loans, scholarships, and information. As a leading not-for-profit education finance company, Chela Financial has helped students achieve their educational goals by financing approximately \$4 billion in loans. The company is actively involved in community-based programs and has dedicated more than \$2 million to scholarship and outreach programs.

Health care reform bill passes in Senate

By Daily Press staff

A bill introduced by Sen. Sheila Kuehl, (D-Santa Monica), that would reform state health care by establishing a single payer health care system for all California residents at no new cost to the state, has passed the Senate Floor on a vote of 23-14.

SB 921, also known as the Health Care for All Californians Act, will now move to the Assembly.

SB 921 could potentially shift more than \$22 billion, now being used to pay for duplicative health care administrative costs, into direct health care services through a streamlined claims and reimbursement system, administered by the state.

The plan also would increase provider reimbursements, require bulk purchasing of pharmaceuticals, reduce reliance on the use of emergency rooms as primary health care and provide every Californian access to their own primary care physician.

This reform would make it possible to provide every Californian with a health plan that includes medical, dental, mental health, prescription medication and durable medical equipment coverage while insuring every consumer the freedom to choose his or her health care providers, Kuehl's office says.

Premiums and other out-of-pocket expenses, would be replaced with a low-percentage, means-based income and payroll tax that together are lower than average health insurance premiums. Health care provision would remain private and subject to competition. Physicians, hospitals and other health care providers would be empowered to negotiate their rates of reimbursement directly with the state through their own professional organizations, Kuehl says.

"It is time for California to address the gross waste and inefficiency that characterizes our current health care system," she said. "We spend more than twice as much on health care as any other industrialized nation, but have millions of uninsured and, generally, much less coverage. In addition, under the current system, if you lose your job, you lose your coverage. We don't need to spend more, we need to spend more efficiently in order to insure that every Californian is covered and every physician is paid fairly and on time."

Local activist recognized for business efforts

By Daily Press staff

A longtime community activist was recently recognized for going the distance on behalf of his organization.

At its Congressional Awards Reception on May 7, the Small Business Council of America honored Santa Monica resident and attorney Neil Carrey, who works at Jenkins & Gilchrist, with the Connie Murdoch award.

The award is presented to one member each year who has gone beyond the call of duty on behalf of the organization. Carrey was recognized for his "outstanding leadership and dedicated service to the Small Business Council of America in its efforts to represent the interests of America's privately owned business community



The surf stayed pretty small on Friday and Saturday will be mostly the same. But it's not completely flat and the water is warming up, so heading to the beach this weekend will likely be worth it anyway.

BAD NEWS: The SW swells hitting us today and tomorrow will be pretty small.

GOOD NEWS: There are SW swells hitting us at all.

OUTLOOK: Chest- to head-high waves next Tuesday through Thursday. The swell was heavily shadowed, so you may have to look hard to find the right spot.

Today the water is:

64°

Sunrise: 6:00 a.m.
Sunset: 7:58 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	9:59	0.3	10:52	2.4	2:33	4.2	5:12	4.3
SUNDAY	10:49	0.5	N/A	N/A	4:06	3.9	5:45	4.8
MONDAY	12:02	1.6	(11:36)	0.7	5:33	3.8	6:19	5.4
TUESDAY	12:59	0.7	12:22	1.0	6:49	3.8	6:55	5.9
WEDNESDAY	1:50	-0.2	1:06	1.3	7:56	3.9	7:33	6.4
THURSDAY	2:38	-0.9	1:50	1.6	8:56	3.9	8:13	6.8
FRIDAY	3:27	-1.4	2:34	1.8	9:53	3.9	8:55	7.0

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The Q Line

Check out next week's question Monday on page 3

in conjunction with federal tax legislation and in its charitable endeavors."

At the same reception, Carrey, who is on the SBCA board, presented the SBCA Humanitarian of the Year award to country singer Karen Shayne.

Shayne, a three-time cancer survivor, has worked closely with Carrey on cancer-related charities. She is president and he is vice president of the Ivan and Sam Foundation, which is developing a series of songs, books and videos designed to help reduce the fear and aid the understanding of children stricken by cancer. The materials follow a young boy named Ivan and his dog, Sam, through the challenge of cancer.

Carrey has been active in the fight against pediatric cancer since his son Chris died of cancer in July of 2000 at 16 years old. Carrey also serves as president of Padres El Contra Cancer, a support organization for Latino children with cancer and their families.

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OPINION

LETTERS

School board thanks Malibu, SM voters

Editor:

(This letter was addressed to the residents of our two communities.)

As members of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education, we wish to express our sincere thanks for your wisdom, foresight and generosity in approving Measure S. We recognize that these are uncertain economic times, which makes your overwhelming and unflagging support for our schools, and your desire to reach into your own pockets to help, all the more admirable and humbling. It is clear to us that your long tradition of valuing and supporting excellence in public education is alive and well. Your vote will make it possible for our district to blunt the most damaging and difficult-to-reverse effects of our state's budget crisis.

Four our part, we pledge to you that we will redouble our efforts to make the SMMUSD a model public school district in every way. With the assistance of our financial oversight committee, we will continue to uphold rigorous financial oversight of our operations. Working with our dedicated teachers, we will continue to develop stronger curricula and foster improved classroom instruction at every level. Under the guidance of our talented superintendent and school principals, we will continue to raise academic achievement for all students while narrowing the achievement gaps that affect schools nationally. The confidence you have shown in our schools demands nothing less.

Congratulations to all of us, for we all win when our schools excel. And thanks again, on behalf of all our students and employees.

María León Vázquez, president
José Escarcé, vice-president
Emily Bloomfield
Julia Brownley
Oscar de la Torre
Mike Jordan
Shane McLoud

Now it's time for City Hall to buck up

Editor:

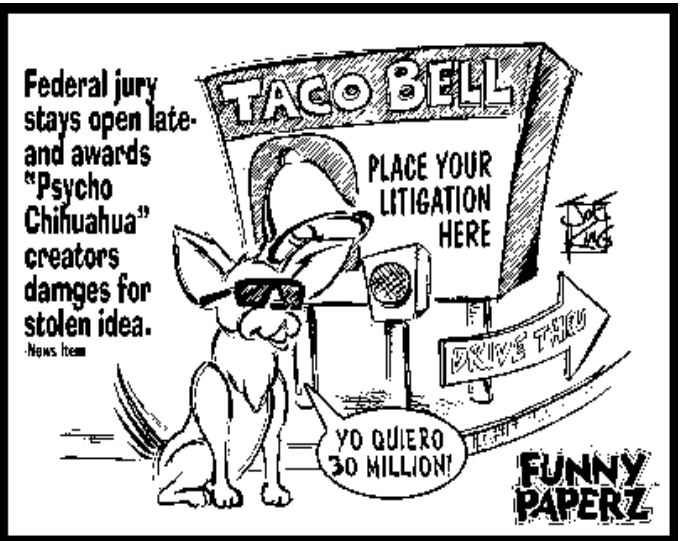
With the impending City Council decision on June 17 to allow proper funding for our schools, the afterglow of a recent school funding decision still linger. The luster of Measure S is glinting and we should all be proud.

It passed because we care about our schools. The amount of voters who support education came out in a big way. Their votes really counted as the measure passed by almost 200 votes and garnered a two-thirds super majority. If it was just a majority

vote, as most elections are, it would have been considered a landslide. City Hall should consider this a sounding board for what the majority of their voters want. Listen to us mayor and council members. Fill the gap of school budget cuts. Make sure that every penny is accounted for and give more than 1 percent of the city budget to our schools. We implore you to recognize the Santa Monica citizens who really care for the support of a life long learning community. Learn something new every day, that's what our schools teach. Hopefully our decision makers at City Hall do that every day and hopefully they understand that a little more than 1 percent of \$380,000,000.00 isn't too much to ask for.

Nicole Picard

John Muir PTA Legislative Chair



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So where is the second most powerful man in the world?



MODERN TIMES

By Lloyd Garver

For the past couple of weeks some members of the press have been asking the U.S. Administration some tough questions like: Where is Osama bin Laden? Where is Saddam Hussein? Was that really Saddam in those videos or were they his doubles? Where are all those weapons of mass destruction we were supposed to find? Are we certain that the WMDs ever existed? (Time Magazine even referred to them as "weapons of mass disappearance").

These questions have intensified as the searches have dragged on and have been largely fruitless. I don't blame people for asking where these monstrous people and dangerous weapons are. However, I am

concerned with another question: Where is Dick Cheney?

Where is the Vice President? Where has he been all this time and what has he been doing? Americans have a right to know what's been going on with this other WMD — WYOMING'S MISSING DICK Cheney.

When President Bush left the country last week, I foolishly assumed that we would see more of Vice President Cheney during the President's absence. But no. We saw on the news that President Bush went to France and then to the Mideast. But while the President has been away, what's the Second Most Powerful Man In The World been up to? You'd think the least he could do for the Bushes while they're out of town is take care of the dog and bring in the newspapers.

About a week ago there was an alleged Cheney sighting. He broke the 50-50 tie so the Senate could pass the President's tax bill. I saw a news photo of him, sitting up there in front of the Senate on that day. But was that really him or was it a double?

Since all Cheney did in the Senate was say, "Aye," voice analysis will probably be impossible. After examining the photograph, I'm just not sure. His coloring is slightly different from the last photo I saw of him. His hairline seems to be more receded. In general, he appears to be slightly older. Is this because it's not really him, or is it because it's been so long since he's been seen in public?

Last year someone claiming to be the Vice President gave a commencement speech at Michigan State University. As part of his speech, he alluded to the fact that he had been asked to speak at two colleges on that same day. He said, "You're getting me, the other college is getting the guy who plays me on 'Saturday Night Live.'" Was he making a joke, or did he slip and admit that there are Cheney doubles out there?

Personally I don't put much stock in the doubles theory. If it were true, wouldn't we be seeing more of Cheney (or Cheney look-alikes)? No, it seems like there is either something much more mys-

terious going on, or — more likely — the guy just has nothing to do.

John Adams described the Vice Presidency as "the most insignificant office that ever the invention of man contrived or his imagination conceived." It looks like Dick Cheney has embraced this description with gusto.

For years many of us have been concerned about Mr. Cheney's health and some people wonder what would be best for his future. Like most heart patients, I imagine his doctors have advised him to avoid stress as much as possible, make time for himself to exercise and refrain from working too hard. In other words, he should seek re-election.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He has also 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.)

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.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn. Editor:

1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 Santa Monica • 90401 • sack@smdp.com

LOCAL



SMC faculty push to save eliminated programs

TEACHERS, from page 1

organization of teachers. "This was the only route that we could take."

Out of 481 ballots cast, 86 percent of teachers voted to send a message of no confidence and 85 percent voted in favor of the call for action regarding the budget.

Seventy-six percent of SMC's 334 full-time teachers voted in the election, along with 300 part-time instructors.

Though the measures carry no legal weight, supporters said it sends a clear message to the administration that plans to drop six academic programs from next year's roster are unacceptable. The eliminated departments are architecture, geographic information services, public safety, recreation, tourism and hospitality, and transportation technology.

Eight full-time teachers and about 30 part-time instructors will lose their jobs because of the cuts, which will leave more than 500 students without a major and save the school roughly \$1.2 million.

"Our participation in academic issues is crucial," said Gordon Dossett, president of the Academic Senate. "There's a pattern of the administration meeting, determining what matters and then coming forward to ask us what we think. It's very different than being at the discussion table to begin with."

The faculty demands that Robertson conform to the ideal of shared governance or resign immediately. The teachers also ask the board of trustees to rescind the program eliminations and associated lay-offs, listen to ideas from college groups and discontinue Robertson's contract.

Robertson could not be reached for comment Friday.

This is not the first time Robertson has faced a vote of no confidence. As the secretary of education in Massachusetts, Robertson received a handful of no confidence votes from universities and community colleges that were displeased with her handling of that state's deficit, Kawaguchi said. And when Robertson was named as president of SMC in 1995, the faculty split 217-217 on a no confidence vote in the board of trustees for appointing her.

Kawaguchi said the faculty was displeased because of Robertson's background and because she beat out a popular SMC teacher that was vying for the position of president.

Herb Roney, chair of SMC's board of trustees, described the cuts as painful but necessary and said much more will be lost before the remaining \$9.5 million deficit is bridged.

"It's just been a very, very terrible year," said Roney, a former SMC student and teacher. "There's always hope in (saving the) programs. However, in reality, I also see a huge negative budget."

Roney said the board acted to eliminate the programs with the idea of impacting

the least amount of students overall.

"A lot of people think we are evil people," he added. "But the board is really concerned about the college and we're concerned about the community. We want to make sure the college will continue to be there — we're not making irresponsible budget cuts."

SMC's entire budget is \$112 million. Because SMC spends 80 percent of its money on salaries, more lay-offs will have to be considered, said Randy Lawson, vice president of academic affairs at the school.

"A lot of people think we are evil people. But the board is really concerned about the college and we're concerned about the community. We want to make sure the college will continue to be there — we're not making irresponsible budget cuts."

— HERB RONEY
President, SMC board of trustees

The Academic Senate, along with a host of other school organizations, asked the board in May to consider an alternative that would plug the shortfall mostly by eliminating certain courses and instituting a wide-reaching series of pay cuts.

Robertson said at the time that the board could not consider the plan because it depends on a number of variables, including the value of retirement incentives that have not yet been used.

"I can only build (a budget) on reality," Robertson told an audience of 350 teachers, students and community members before the vote that officially cut the six programs.

While the school waits on a final decision from the board on July concerning the programs, a summit between nine campus organizations is planned to discuss the budget sometime early next month. In the meantime, some SMC teachers are shaking their heads at the most recent dialogue at the college.

"The faculty and the administration for a quite a while now have been like a couple that is going through marital differences and they argue a lot," said Ethan Gallogly, a chemistry teacher. "That's not good for anybody and the students get

caught in the crossfire.

"We know what the faculty's argument is, it's very obvious," he added. "And, to be fair to the administration, when the money is coming in they've been hiring new teachers. They've done a good job of promoting the college. No confidence, in

my mind, is equal to incompetence. And I think that's unfair and too extreme.

"I understand that the senate has tried. I just would have liked to see one step before this. Something that said, 'We're upset, here are the issues and let's try to resolve them.'"

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LOCAL

Community organization must answer to judge

OPCO, from page 1

all withdrawals from the group's bank account were made in cash.

OPCO member Tom Fuller filed a complaint in Los Angeles Superior Court last September, which formally demands the release of the 2000 and 2001 financial records. But that complaint went unanswered. The inaction put OPCO in technical default, thus preventing the organization from defending itself.

But because of some legal technicalities, Fuller and his attorney, Gary Clouse, were asked by Superior Court Judge Allan J. Goodman in April to amend the complaint. The court required that Laudati be served again, which became a painstaking process for Fuller.

Fuller and a private detective had been unsuccessful for two months in finding Laudati so they could serve him with court papers. That all changed on May 30 when Laudati was spotted standing in line at the DMV in Santa Monica by one of Fuller's friends, community activist Chuck Allord.

Allord immediately called Fuller, who arrived with a fellow employee 15 minutes later at the DMV parking lot at Cloverfield and Colorado. They found Laudati sitting in his car.

The employee attempted to serve Laudati the paperwork through his car window, but Laudati rolled it up and the subpoena got caught. The papers then fell onto the ground. The employee picked up the paperwork and placed them under the windshield wiper of the car. Laudati drove off with the papers still on his windshield, Fuller said.

That same day, a hearing was scheduled in the case, for which Laudati didn't show. Judge Goodman made it clear he was unhappy that Laudati hadn't been served and gave Fuller until June 15 to serve the papers. Legal proceedings require that the party being sued be formally "served" — so the court knows the party has been put on notice.

Coincidentally, Fuller had been on the phone with Clouse pondering their next course of action when Allord called him from the DMV.

"It was very exciting. He finally surfaced," Clouse said. "Laudati is legally obligated to answer the complaint and if he doesn't then he and OPCO will face the consequences."

When Fuller goes to court in July, he doesn't expect Laudati to be there despite having been served.

"My guess is that he will still try to avoid it," Fuller said.

Laudati, as well as other board members, have repeatedly declined comment on where OPCO's money is. Laudati didn't return phone calls seeking comment.

The last bank statement that was made public sits in a file in City Hall. It details OPCO's finances from December 1999 to January 2000. At that time, OPCO had \$2,933 in a Wells Fargo Bank account. During that month, deposits totaling \$220 were recorded and \$240 worth of withdrawals were made — all of which were made from ATM machines, which dispense cash.

OPCO hasn't requested funding from the city for the last three years, but it has in the past. Any neighborhood organization to which the city contributes is required to provide financial records and list its members.

It's unclear how much money OPCO has collected from its members, how many members there are, and what the dues structure is. Some estimates put the organization's membership between 150 and 500.

**"Laudati is legally
obligated to answer
the complaint and if he
doesn't then he and
OPCO will face the
consequences."**

— GARY CLOUSE
Attorney

OPCO was formed in 1978 as a community organization for the Ocean Park neighborhood as a nonprofit corporation. Under California law, it's required to provide its membership with financial records, according to Fuller's complaint.

One of OPCO's functions is to review development projects and then recommend to the Planning Commission and City Council that they be approved or denied. Some OPCO board members who have recently resigned said they fear a lack of protection from liability should the organization's legality be questioned.

Close to a dozen board members have resigned over OPCO's inaction in the past several months. Board members Audrea Golding Bitler, Ted Winterer and Elan Glasser attempted to work out a resolution with the board to get the finances released last fall. But they resigned in November out of frustration that no progress had been made. In early 2002, Bob Loftus, Joe Pipersky and Bill Sunblad resigned over the financial questions.

When Fuller got involved in OPCO in early 2001, he asked to review the accounting books and finances, as well as a list of the organization's current membership. His requests have been ignored.

In his written request to Laudati in June 2001, Fuller said he was concerned about an apparent discrepancy between the number of reported members compared to the small amount of membership fees collected.

Fuller attended the OPCO meeting in December to introduce himself to four new board members who had been recently appointed after others quit over the secrecy issue.

Fuller, who has spent \$12,000 of his own money on the OPCO chase, plans to proceed with the complaint that formally asks that the 2000 and 2001 financial records be released. He also requested the 2002 documents be given to him on a monthly basis, which has not been done.

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STATE



Wife of mariner missing for two months launches search

BY DAISY NGUYEN
Associated Press Writer

REDONDO BEACH — Before sailing from Southern California to South Africa, renowned adventurer Frank Guernsey refused to pack the satellite phone his wife bought for him. He also left behind a long-distance radio and survival gear.

"His excuse was that if he was in trouble, he didn't want to jeopardize anyone's life by trying to save him," Mary Guernsey said.

It's been nearly eight months since anyone has heard from the mariner. He was expected to reach his destination in April, when the 180 days worth of provisions he had laid in were to run out.

Desperate to find some sign of her husband's whereabouts, Guernsey decided she must go against his wishes. On Saturday, she will travel to Cape Town, South Africa, to search for him.

Though the task appears daunting and potentially fruitless — the Coast Guard previously looked for Guernsey for eight days, suspending its search after failing to receive any confirmed sightings of his boat — Mary Guernsey is determined.

Her plan is to raise enough interest in her husband's story to persuade government officials to help her.

"Somebody powerful out there with capability and know-how can help me in this endeavor," she said at her seaside apartment, a short walk from the Redondo Beach Harbor from which her husband set sail.

Coast Guard officials have said there's nothing more they can do.

"Unfortunately he didn't have emergency beacons, which would give you a pretty good idea of where the distressed signal is positioned," said Lt. Christine Leopardi, a rescue coordinator.

Last Oct. 8, Guernsey steered his 22 1/2-foot Pearson Electra sailboat named "MF," an abbreviation for Mary and Frank, out of the harbor 20 miles southwest of downtown Los Angeles, beginning what was to be a 10,000-mile non-stop, potentially treacherous journey around South America's Cape Horn and on to Cape Town.

The voyage was the 61-year-old insurance broker's latest — and longest — solo sailing trip. Previously, he logged trips to Hawaii, Japan and Tahiti. He also

sailed around Cape Horn once before in a slightly larger boat, a 128-day voyage that he chronicled in his book, "Racing the Ice to Cape Horn."

Surviving that trip, during which he lost 30 pounds and broke three ribs when he fell from the rigging onto an upright beam, showed fellow members of the Redondo Beach Yacht Club he was capable of making long voyages.

"When I went to his going away party that last time, I thought I was going to a wake," said Bruce Neighbors, who often raced with Guernsey. "I thought I'd never see him again, but I did."

Those closest to Guernsey believe the former Marine has the fortitude and resourcefulness to survive storms, physical and mental exhaustion, even hunger. They have watched him prepare meticulously for the voyage and understand his motivations.

"He's extremely independent," said Cy Zoerner, who co-wrote the book about Guernsey's 1995 voyage around the horn. "Out in the ocean, he doesn't have to depend on anyone except himself. That is his highest value."

"Adventure fulfilled his soul," Zoerner added.

Not long after he returned from his sail around the horn, Mary Guernsey sensed her husband was planning to go again when he bought the MF at an impound auction for \$100 and invested thousands of dollars to fix it up.

"He told me, 'I wouldn't go without your permission,' but I could see what was happening. He got a new mast and new sails," she recalled.

After much argument, she said she gave him her approval.

"I knew that if he didn't do this, he would be unhappy, unenchanted and probably resent me a bit," she said. "If I wanted to go on an adventure, I'd want him to support me in my efforts."

In deciding to go to South Africa now, she noted that she has always flown to wherever her husband ended one of his voyages to be there to welcome him. Like those other trips, this is one more effort to see him safely home.

"This is something I have to do for myself," Guernsey said. "I'm doing this in the name of love. We've been married for 25 years. We fight hard, we love hard, and we persevere."

Oracle makes \$5.1 billion bid for PeopleSoft Inc.

By The Associated Press

REDWOOD SHORES — Oracle Corp. is making a \$5.1 billion cash offer to purchase rival business software maker PeopleSoft Inc., the company announced Friday.

Oracle, the world's largest enterprise software company, was offering \$16 a share for all outstanding shares of Pleasanton, Calif.-based PeopleSoft, which creates programs that manage large companies' personnel, customers and supply chains.

That would represent a 5.9 percent premium over PeopleSoft's closing price of \$15.11 a share on Thursday on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

On Monday, PeopleSoft said it was buying rival J.D. Edwards & Co. in a \$1.5 billion stock swap. Oracle said that once the acquisition of PeopleSoft is complete, it will review whether, and on what terms, Oracle would support that transaction.

"The acquisition of PeopleSoft will immediately make Oracle an even more profitable and competitive company," said Oracle chairman and chief executive Larry Ellison. "Although we will not be actively selling PeopleSoft products to new customers, we will provide enhanced support for all PeopleSoft products. Furthermore, we will be incorporating the advanced features from the PeopleSoft products into future versions of the Oracle eBusiness Suite."

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Dennis C. Hardin, M.F.T., Ph.D., is a licensed psychotherapist and marriage counselor specializing in personal growth and goal achievement. He is the author of *THE ETHICS OF PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT*. He has also been certified by the Albert Ellis Institute in the techniques of rational-emotive therapy. His specialty is developing self-help methods which enable clients to retake control of their lives and remake their own destiny.

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The Santa Monica City Council is now accepting applications for two (2) appointments to the City of Santa Monica Personnel Board. Applicants must be a current resident of the City of Santa Monica.

The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income that may be materially affected by their official action. The applicant appointed to serve in this position will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) with the City Clerk's office upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

Applications and information on Board duties & disclosure requirements are available from the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 1685 Main St., Rm. 102 (submit applications at this same location), by phone at (310) 458-8211, or on-line at <http://santa-monica.org>.

All current applications on file will be considered.

Applications due by noon, Tuesday, June 17, 2003.
Appointment to be made by City Council, June 24, 2003.

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9 Grinder
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12 Rust, e.g.
13 Coop's kin
14 Greet, in a way
16 — Khan
17 Chemical suffix
18 Bisque choice
20 Took it easy
22 Reduced amount
23 Many-headed monster
25 Middling
28 '60s gathering
32 Points a finger at
34 Enzyme suffix
35 Eur. lang.
36 Try for a pin
38 "My Fair Lady" heroine
40 Rooted
41 Ultra-serious
42 Army groups
43 Be rife

44 Homes in the wild

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2 Greek salad components
3 Created
4 "Blue Hawaii" star
5 Esau's twin
6 Before now
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8 Pigeon perches
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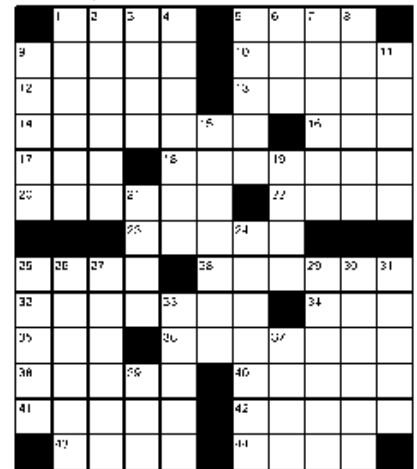
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BACK PAGE



The lure of a hot dog

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stranded for two weeks atop a 253-foot amusement park tower at Coney Island, a wayward raccoon was finally lured to safety with — what else? — a Nathan's Famous hot dog.

"But without the sauerkraut," said Mark Blumenthal, manager of the Astroland Amusement Park, after the masked marauder was lowered to the ground in a special cage Tuesday.

Dubbed Rocky by park employees, the raccoon had climbed to the pinnacle of the observation tower two weeks ago and burgled the elevator motor room — out of fear or an appreciation for the sweeping, 50-mile view of the Atlantic Ocean and four states.

The raccoon was first spotted two weeks ago by an elevator maintenance worker who saw "a pair of eyes looking at him" from the darkness of the motor room, Astroland employee Carol O'Donnell said.

In a check of the tower a few days later there was no sign of the animal. But last weekend, it was spotted anew, and officials at Astroland, home of the Cyclone roller coaster, decided a rescue was in order.

Blumenthal said the raccoon apparently had scaled a narrow metal ladder inside the tower. "The problem was how we were going to get him down," he said.

Astroland employee Manuel Alvarez took an animal-friendly Have-a-Heart cage, baited with the hot dog and some cat food, to the top of the tower. During the night,

the hungry 9-pound procyon lotor walked into the cage, bit the bait and was snared, Blumenthal said.

Plumbing doesn't go to Ocean

By The Associated Press

COSTA MESA — Kids be warned: Flushing your pet fish down the drain will not send it safely into the ocean as depicted in the new computer-animated movie "Finding Nemo."

A company that manufactures equipment used to process sewage issued a news release Thursday warning that drain pipes do lead to the ocean — eventually — but first the fluid goes through powerful machines that "shred solids into tiny particles."

"In truth, no one would ever find Nemo and the movie would be called 'Grinding Nemo,'" wrote the JWC Environmental company, which makes the trademarked "Muffin Monster" shredding pumps.

In the unlikely event Nemo survived the deadly machines, the company added, he would probably be killed by the chlorine disinfection.

Spy satellite hits living room

By The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Seeking a stylish Soviet satellite for the living room?

George Stauffer is selling a sputnik on his Web site for \$39,000.

The site, which also promotes his classic car business in Blue Mounds, does not say if the satellite made it into space.

The Soviet Union launched Sputnik I — the first man-made satellite in space — in October 1957. After 1,400 orbits of the Earth, it burned up in the atmosphere. The country later launched other much larger sputniks.

Stauffer said a friend at NASA in Florida obtained the sputnik for him from Russia. He said the friend sold him a second one that is still in its crate.

"I've got two of 'em," he said. "I really don't need

two. Do you really need one?"

The crated one was taken out and displayed for six months at the Experimental Aircraft Association Museum in Oshkosh. The first hangs in his car dealership.

Museum curator Alan Westby said the sputnik's authenticity was verified when it was displayed in 2001. Stauffer says it has an aluminum alloy orb 23 inches in diameter with four 86-inch antennas and has a letter of authenticity from a Russian museum director.

The Web site says it would make an excellent investment because of its importance in world history. "Any corporate lobby can have beautiful artwork — how many can boast a genuine satellite?"

Mower man hits Santa Monica

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's too late to turn back if he missed a spot — but an Indiana man has finished his second cross-country trip by lawn mower.

Brad Hauter, of Terre Haute, Ind., roared into Battery Park on Thursday, wrapping up a 5,600-mile trek that began in San Francisco and was interrupted when thieves stole his first lawn mower.

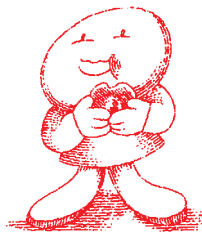
The April 20 theft could complicate Hauter's effort to break the record he set in 1999 by traveling 4,000 miles from Atlanta to Santa Monica, Calif., on a single mower. That journey was recognized as a Guinness World Record.

"We are waiting to see because the mower was stolen, we did this on two different mowers, so we are waiting on Guinness' judgment on everything," said Hauter, the soccer coach at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

A Wal-Mart in San Antonio donated a new riding mower to finish his trip. The machine's gears were modified to allow it to run up to 30 mph.

The trip raised \$150,000 for Keep America Beautiful, which advocates litter prevention, recycling and community improvement projects. Hauter had hoped to raise \$200,000.

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