

FREE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2004

Volume 3, Issue 179

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

6 24 26 27 30

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 4 1 1

Evening picks: 4 6 2

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 03 Hot Shot

2nd Place: 08 Gorgeous George

3rd Place: 06 Whirl Win

Race Time: 1:42.15



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Among the secret British military plans recently revealed from classified documents: (1) a huge landmine to be planted during World War II on the German plains (to prevent the Soviet army from overreaching), to be kept at a warm, detonatable temperature by the body heat of thousands of live chickens underground (according to Britain's National Archives in April), and (2) a post-World War II plan disclosed in May to equip pigeons as suicide dive-bombers carrying explosives and biological agents to a targeted area.



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

There are two kinds of pedestrians — the quick and the dead.



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Oh No! Hair we go



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

White Sox player Julien Solomita teases Steve Heineman as his Little League coach gets his head shaved at home plate in Memorial Park on Tuesday. Heineman agreed to let his hair down if the White Sox captured the city championship. Despite his team's setback to the Giants last Saturday, Heineman showed his team spirit anyway. The White Sox, who finished the season at 16-4, reeled off 10 straight victories before falling to the 18-1 Giants in a tight championship game.

Hard times for fans of Doucette

By Daily Press staff

CITY HALL — About a dozen people gathered on the lawn here Tuesday to remember a man who proved you can fight City Hall — and win.

Len Doucette, who died recently, won a case on behalf of Santa Monica's homeless, who maintain the right to assemble and eat in city parks.

Doucette, who was in his mid 70s, led scores of protests in

Santa Monica by homeless people in the early and mid '90s, including a six-month fast and protest in Palisades Park.

Doucette also founded one of Los Angeles' first-ever homeless newspapers, "Hard Times," which was a publication about homeless issues and the forerunner of today's current Santa Monica-based homeless paper "Making Change."

He also co-founded Santa

Council candidates get a wake-up call

Hopefuls must be prepared to campaign tirelessly, advisors say

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — To win an election in Santa Monica, one must campaign tirelessly and be ruthlessly devoted to squeezing every spare nickel out of friends and supporters.

That's the message a group of elected leaders and campaign advisors delivered Monday evening at a forum for contenders in the November election. Four seats will be open on the Santa Monica City Council, and three seats on both the local school and college boards.

Campaigning for the elections won't heat up until after Labor Day, but already some candidates have established

fundraising groups and begun to plot their strategies. All four council incumbents may run for reelection. Their likely challengers include several veteran community members.

Among those attending the chamber's forum at 501 Colorado Avenue were school organizer Shari Davis, local activist Patricia Hoffman, businesswoman Ann Greenspun, USC professor William Crookston, chamber of commerce president Mike Gruning, League of Women Voters representative Barbara Inatsugum, Tom Viscount from the Red Cross and a handful of others. The meeting was chaired by the chamber's president-elect, Nat Trives, a former mayor who some have suggested should run again.

City Hall will accept candidate declarations from July 12 to Aug. 9. Candidates

See COUNCIL, page 6

Mock trial: Imposter attorney guilty of fraud

Clark spent 33 days in jail

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM COURTHOUSE — After spending 33 days behind bars, a local woman was convicted Tuesday of illegally posing as an attorney and taking close to \$50,000 from clients.

Bound by handcuffs and wearing a jail-issued green jumpsuit, Anita Lauren Clark pleaded no contest to 10 of the 46

criminal counts she faced, including six counts of grand theft. The disabled mother of three can avoid additional jail time and be placed on probation, if she returns the money to her victims.

Clark, who worked out of offices on Wilshire Boulevard and Bicknell Street, was arrested in December after a four-month investigation. She immediately posted bail, but was subsequently taken back into custody on two separate occasions after prosecutors alleged she contin-

See FRAUD, page 7



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Deputy City Attorney Marty Tachiki relives his memories of homeless advocate Len Doucette.

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Aquarius, indulge tonight



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ You might want to hold back some, as others are testy and negative. Pressure builds. Express your thoughts to a family member. Choose your words with care or, instead, you might decide to rearrange your furniture. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ You can count on many different opinions and mixed directions. Associates might not be easy, but you could be a bit Bullish and stubborn. Make an effort to bring friends and loved ones together. Release some steam right now. Tonight: Aim for what you want.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Holding the reins of a bucking horse is hard. Others in the workplace act in that exact manner, being headstrong. You might want to pull back some and do what works. Tonight: Buy a favorite nibble on the way home.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ You have the energy to complete what you want. Use your strong mental capacities to avoid running headlong into a wall. Instead, walk around and don't get into an unnecessary problem. Detach and use your mind. Tonight: Give your mind some candy.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Pushing to achieve your goals might have the exact opposite reaction. Others are in control, so let go and watch what happens. You will find the right time to express your thoughts. If you must, choose one person right now to confide in. Tonight: Togetherness works.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ You might have the best of intentions, but everything goes flying. Realize what you expect from others. Then give it up. You might have a much easier time that way. A male friend could push you very hard about something you want. Tonight: Go along with plans.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Entrench your mind and body in work, as you might not want to deal with others, as zany as they might be. Know that nothing is written in stone. Open up to new ways of thinking. Let go of rigidity. A parent or family member makes demands. Tonight: Work late.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Your imagination could cause a series of unbelievable problems and/or reactions. Learn to be independent and discuss what is on your mind. Take a drive or a mini-break if you get too involved. Activity helps an overactive mind. Tonight: Rent a movie.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Others unnerve you, and you can do little. For your own sake, distance yourself to where you can relax and observe. A domestic matter seems to explode from out of nowhere. Talk to another key person who is involved. Tonight: Vanish, please.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Others seek you out, but you might not like the waves they cause in your plans today. Claim your space gracefully, but if you must, slam the door. A partner or associate still weasels his or her way in the door. Tonight: Chat with a friend at a favorite spot.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You might be awed by the expenses that come up. You made one assumption but find out otherwise. Don't worry so much about others right now. Do your work and look less to others for approval. A friend is difficult. Tonight: Indulge and buy a favorite snack on the way home.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Please be aware that you could be sabotaging yourself and causing a lot of problems. Share more of what makes you tick and what is going on in your mind. Others might understand your actions better as a result. An interested admirer makes a strong move. Tonight: Your time to play.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Root, root, root for the home team

By Daily Press staff

For the first time ever, CityTV of Santa Monica will be airing coverage of the Santa Monica Little League Championship Series. The Minor League and Major League Championships were played on Saturday and will be aired on a tape-delayed basis this week. All replays will be on channel 16 in Santa Monica.

"We're delighted to air these championship games," said Robin Gee, CityTV station manager. "We hope the community enjoys watching our coverage. We will have play-by-play announcers and commentary about the players. You'll not only hear about the players' background, skills and what they learned this year playing baseball, but don't be surprised if you hear about their favorite subject in school and the names of their pets too."

The Minor League Championship game between the Angels and Mariners will air on June 11 at 6:30 p.m., June 13 at 3 p.m. and June 14 at 7 p.m.

The Major League Championship game between the White Sox and the Giants will air June 11 at 8 p.m., June 13 at 4:30 p.m. and June 14 at 8:30 p.m.

CityTV is the government cable channel for the city of Santa Monica. Seen on cable channel 16, the channel airs local public meeting coverage, news and other programs of community interest.

Old school: SMC turning 75

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College, ranked as one of the 10 best community colleges in the U.S., is gearing up for a yearlong celebration of its 75th Anniversary.

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, at its annual installation dinner on June 10, will honor the college with a special recognition for contributions to the community.

SMC will officially turn 75 on Sept. 10, but the festivities will begin with SMC's "Celebrate America" on July 3.

"Over its history, Santa Monica College has made an enormous impact on the lives of hundreds of thousands of people," said SMC President Dr. Piedad F. Robertson. "We're proud of our service to the community, our tradition of academic excellence and our alumni."

SMC is the No. 1 transfer institution to the University of California, USC and other four-year schools, according to officials.

For more information, contact Judy Neveau, director of community relations, at (310) 434-4303.

A case for the defense

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Police Department is offering free, self-defense classes to adults who live, work or attend school in Santa Monica.

The SMPD defensive tactics team will teach an abbreviated version of the Krav Maga system of self-defense, which is taught to all officers and non-sworn personnel. Krav Maga is easy to learn, regardless of age, gender or physical fitness. It is a system of self-defense which teaches you to use your personal body weapons and intuitive reactions rather than relying on strength. The four-hour class will be offered on June 26 from 8 a.m. to noon, or 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Registration is open until June 16, or until the classes are full.

For more information or to register for a class, call the SMPD community relations Unit at (310) 458-8474.



"FIGURE IT OUT"

Seven-year-old Alexandra Farhadian accurately described where this recent mystery photo was taken — Joslyn Park. Check out the weekend edition for this week's mystery photo.



SURF REPORT

Look for NW wind/ground swell to mix with S swell today. Many spots see waist- to shoulder-high waves off the mix of swell, while standout combo breaks see head-high sets. Look for variable S wind up to 10 knots in the morning to build out of the SW to W in the 8-12 knot range for the afternoon.

Today the water is:

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today at your local break.



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	- 6:11	-1.6	5:12	2.5	1:02	3.7	11:30	6.4
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
FRIDAY	12:13	1.5	11:39	0.9	5:42	3.6	6:24	5.3

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The Q Line

Recognizing that Santa Monica College and the Santa Monica and Malibu communities face a shortage of parks, physical education, recreational and other facilities, college officials are considering a \$175 million bond measure for the fall ballot to fund a wide range of local projects. Two years ago, voters passed a \$160 million bond measure at SMC that funds nearly two dozen projects, and the local school district recently completed building and renovating nearly \$100 million worth of new facilities using money that

was generated by a school bond passed by voters in 1998.

So this week, Q-line wants to know, "Would you support another bond measure to build more facilities at SMC and local schools? Why or why not?"

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

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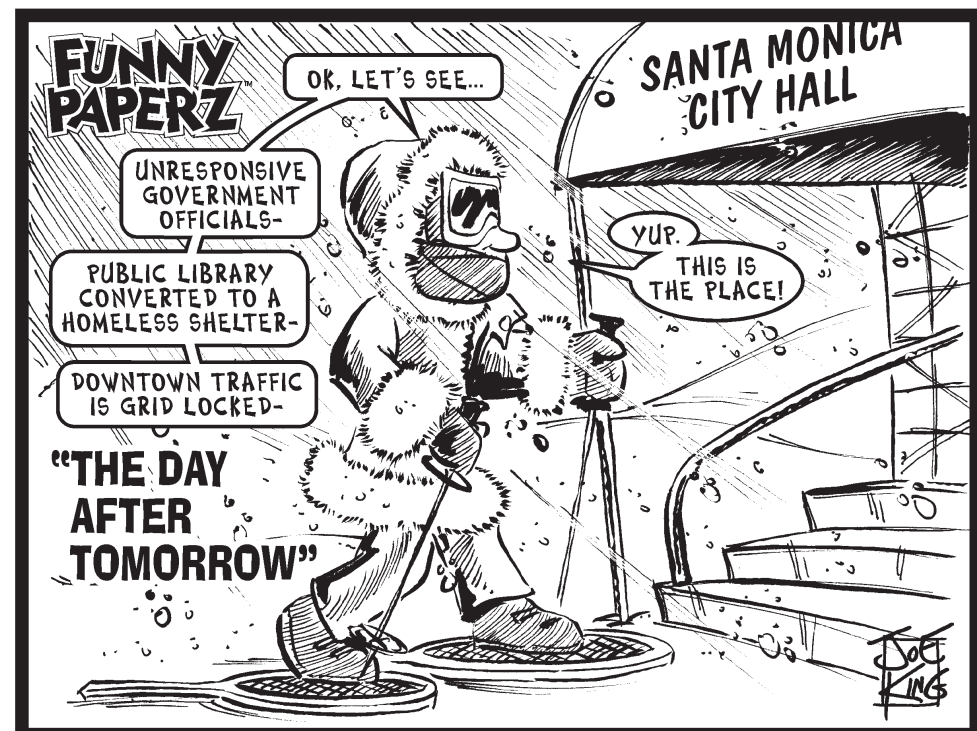
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OPINION



Hey Dick-Thanks for the movie ticket!

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Painful lessons in mismanagement

Editor:

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and the Santa Monica Community College school boards seem to be all about spending more of our money than what we have available. The communities of Malibu and Santa Monica need a mutiny and circulate a referendum, just like the proponents of more money for schools, to endorse better choices with the money we already have.

Local school spending has risen three times faster than the rate of inflation in California, while overall local student performance has fallen steadily. Teacher salaries in the local school districts are based on how long teachers have been teaching, not how well they do their job. Less than half of the dollars are used for basic instruction and little money is spent for industrial arts. Are we, the inhabitants of Malibu and Santa Monica, really buying more value for our students with the balance of the money that is funneled to our schools? Do SMMUSD parents want to raise unintelligent children? No!

In the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District alone, more than half of the high school graduates who go on to Santa Monica Community College must take remedial courses in reading, writing and math. This is just to prepare them for community college-level work.

In a recent proposition, Santa Monica-Malibu taxpayers voted for and gave the SMMUSD a second parcel tax on our property, but few dollars of the money are being spent in the classroom. Three years ago we gave Santa Monica College \$160 million for the college and now the voters will be asked to provide the college with a supplementary \$175 million of taxpayers' money.

More money and higher teacher and administrator salaries does not mean higher academic achievement. Instead of our school boards focusing on "input" (more money and more teachers), they should be focusing on "output" (student achievement and better test results).

Tom Fakehany
Malibu

Can't we all just get along?

Editor:

The city of Santa Monica contributes support (in its way) to a body of individuals called Side by Side. This organization is intended to be something of a "coalition" between homeless residents and those who dwell indoors, with at least the partial goal of serving as a communicative bridge between these two fractious and often mutually hostile collection of citizens. I would encourage anyone interested in community dialogue to attend these meetings if for no other reason than to get a fuller sense of their neighbors.

My fellow citizens (indoors and out), we do dwell together, in some spaces and at least for now.

Rick Reutter
Venice

Black Sabbaths for Jews suddenly flocking to Bush



INCITES

BY ED SILVERSTEIN

There has been a mass conversion among the Jewish population as of late. But the conversion is not to Christianity, but rather to George W. Bush.

According to polls, Jewish voters who would likely vote for Bush have increased from 17 percent in 2000 to 30 percent if the election were held today. The increase is related to Bush's support of Israeli Prime Minister Sharon's Gaza disengagement plan.

Under the plan, Israel would pull out of Gaza, keep some well-established settlements in the West Bank and deny Palestinians the right of return to Israel. The plan, albeit with certain modifications, offers the best chance to break the stalemate of violence. Until this cycle is ended, there is virtually no chance that either camp will embrace the moderate leadership needed to negotiate peace.

However, supporting a Bush presidency based on this single issue is a little like someone stranded on a life raft drinking sea water. It feels good, then it kills you.

Bush has not been a particularly good friend to the Jews. His has been a faint voice condemning the anti-Jewish rhetoric and violence that has exploded across the globe. And the entire Bush clan, including the president, has been dogged by persistent charges of anti-Semitism.

The president's grandfather, Prescott, actively helped finance Hitler. Dubbya's dad, the former President George H. Bush, was forced to fire several members of his presidential campaign when the press uncovered that they were neo-Nazis and anti-Semites.

Brother Jeb faced charges of anti-Semitism when he refused to fire a staffer who sent e-mails with the following Biblical passage: "... Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist."

And in 1994, then Texas Governor George W. Bush displayed his own insensitivity when, according to the Austin American-Statesman, he told reporters that he planned to stop in Israel and tell the Jews they were all going to hell.

Even Bush's support of Israel is suspect. He initially walked away from the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. In fact, the president showed little interest in Israel until he realized his royal Saudi buddies had become vulnerable and that he needed Israeli intelligence to realize the grand neo-conservative scheme of redefining the entire region through American military might.

Of course the Bush-Israel love-fest may simply be the cynical machinations of political puppet master, Karl Rove. Supporting Sharon's plan not only attracts Jewish voters, but also offers patronage to the president's Christian Holy Roller base who believe in a Biblical prophecy that presages the second coming of Christ only after Israel returns to its ancestral lands. These lands include the West Bank, parts of which will be annexed by Sharon's plan.

However, this Fundamentalist Christian support is not good news for the Jews. The prophecy goes on to predict that all but 180,000 Jews will be slaughtered with the survivors having a choice of becoming Jews for Jesus or suffering the eternal torments of hell.

Even if Jews should not meet this dire fate during a second Bush term, there are other more troubling concerns. The next president will likely appoint two Supreme Court Justices. If it is Bush, we can expect nominees cut from the same Shroud of Turin cloth as Justice Scalia. This would leave a bench heavily weighted toward extremist right wing Christian fundamentalist duck hunters.

The effects of such a bench would be catastrophic for Jews as well as other non-Christians. Progressive social ideals normally embraced by Jews would be struck down. Constitutional protections concerning separation of church and state would be dangerously eroded.

These Jews for Bush might find that they are suddenly out of place in their own country. There would be an explosion of predominantly Christian religious symbols adorning many public buildings and spaces. Prayers in the public schools will again be permitted. And though the court might restrict schools to non-denominational prayers, there is little reason to believe that a bible thumping educator from Kansas, whose burning passion is to bring creationism back to the curriculum, will be able to put away his or her religious fervor and avoid the "J" word just because "one of them Jews" — who are going to hell anyway — have infiltrated their classroom.

More appalling is that, if the courts allow vouchers for religious schools, Jews might find themselves paying taxes to fund the Christian equivalent of extremist anti-Semitic Muslim madrasas. Even the relatively moderate Catholic school my wife attended in Queens taught her that the Jews killed Jesus and were all going to hell.

Certainly Israel's safety and survival is a key issue for American Jews, as it should be for any compassionate human being. But like Jesus in the wilderness, Jewish voters should beware of surrendering to temptation. Because, while a second coming of Bush might herald the rapture for conservative Christians, it will only bring Armageddon for the rest of us.

FLASHBACK ASIDE: Rush Limbaugh called the torture and sexual humiliation at Abu Graib "frat house pranks" and "nothing you couldn't see on an episode of Friends or at a Brittany Spears concert," and House Majority Leader, Tom DeLay, said there was no need for a full-fledged investigation because that would be like saying we need an investigation every time there's police brutality on the streets. Listening to them was like being transported back to the South in the early '60s and a bunch of porcine, tobacco-chewing, good ol' boys were explaining why it was no big deal that a young black man had just been castrated and lynched.

And you know what? It's just as despicable today as it was back then.

(Ed Silverstein is a Jewish freelance writer living in Santa Monica. He has never been bar mitzvahed, however, will accept gifts and comments at incites@incites.net).

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

OPINION



'Morning in America' looks good in hindsight

POLITIGIRL

BY BETH SOLOMON



I'll never forget the day I met Ronald Reagan. I was 17. My Aunt Nina, a newspaper editor, took me to the annual White House Christmas party for the press. It was 1983.

The food was great. Lots of chefs in big white hats stirred up a parmesan noodles dish with peas in skillet on flaming grills. Like most kids, I didn't like peas, but they sure tasted good at the White House. Everything tasted good. The peas were so yummy I skipped the succulent roast beef under the knives of a second flotilla of white-hatted chefs.

We got in line to meet President Reagan and the First Lady. Nancy didn't look too pleased. Who could blame her? An afternoon shaking hands with hundreds of strangers? The media? Eek!

A handsome uniformed guard asked my name and whispered it into Reagan's ear. Taking his cue like a true professional, the President looked at me admiringly and reached out his hand. "Elizabeth!" he exclaimed, putting both his hands around mine. "I'm sooo glad to meet you." He looked in my eyes and beamed lasers of energy and affection my way. No minor star, no light bulb could do the same thing. I was at the center of the universe. It was morning in America.

My aunt pulled me away as we gleefully shared some more parmesan noodles, and cream puffs for desert. The good life was ... good.

Just down the road, in front of a Safeway store, Henry Franklin, a laid-off systems analyst, was selling flowers in a suburb. Bill Rich, who had just turned 50, was hawking mums at a nearby shopping center. He had lost his job as a bartender. And William Withers, a former construction worker, had taken to peddling roses in front of a nearby 7-Eleven to support himself and his cat.

They had all lost their jobs during Reagan's recession of the 1980s. Writing about them for my high school newspaper, the Walt Whitman "Black & White," I wrote about the cold, the jobs they lost, ordinary people slipping into hard times during "Morning in America."

"Propped up behind mums and roses at their respective stands," I wrote, "these three men espouse the philosophy that holding a job — any job — is better than not working."

Franklin was taking home \$125 a week while looking for other work. The others got assignments from a wholesaler whose business was down. They made a few bucks.

"People say they can't get work and all that, but anybody can go out and do this," said Bill Rich, the ex-bartender. "I'll bet a lot of them are just too proud to do it." He stamped his feet against the cold sidewalk. "The way I figure, it's a living. I'm not standing in no soup-line or anything."

Remember those?

A tall, older man wearing a cowboy hat approached one of the multi-color stands. "Yes, I buy flowers regularly," he said. "Am I on TV or something?" My high-school tape recorder kept rolling. "I think flowers are delightful to live with. I like all flowers, especially a single splash of color, like yellow or red." He raised the bouquet he was holding. "These are for my mother-in-law."

Little did I know, innocent me, these men were success stories in the making — Gordon Gecko's, Wall Street moguls, probably going on to be multi-multi-millionaires. All they had to do was get in tune with Reaganomics ("Greed is Good.")

Ronald Reagan brought us what he called the largest tax cuts in American history. He brought optimism. The stock market surged. He radically increased defense spending and reduced spending on paltry social needs. The deficit tripled.

Sure, some people tried to rain on the parade. President George H. Bush called his policies "voodoo economics." Homeless populations exploded. Millions lost their jobs. Some say, the effects of the Reagan Revolution — the budget and trade deficits — took 15 years to correct.

But all of that loses sight of the optimism we all had. On a cold sidewalk or munching White House peas, wasn't it great to be optimistic? To vanquish the 'Evil Empire'? To be on top again? To drive a big car?

It was a great time.

And don't forget, 15 years of "correcting" the Reagan Revolution brought us right to 2000, to an administration that makes the Reagan years look really good.

(Beth Solomon is a Washington-based Left Coast writer reachable at beth-solomon@earthlink.net.)

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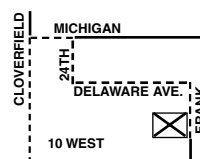
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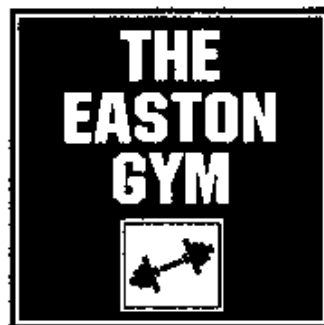
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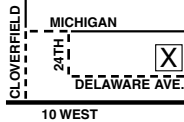
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LOCAL

Key endorsements to be handed out this summer

COUNCIL, from page 1

must be at least 18 years of age, and be a resident and registered voter of Santa Monica. Felons are barred from running. Council members earn a base pay of \$10,351 a year, and receive full health benefits.

Robert Kaplan, who's raised more than \$120 million in campaigns nationwide, told the potential candidates the first thing to do is sit down with their rolodexes and think about money.

"Most people think of fundraising as a burden," said Kaplan, president of the LA-based fundraising firm the Robert Kaplan Company. "Well, it's really not a burden. It's an opportunity to change something in the community ...

"Fundraising is a game of nickels and dimes and quarters — whatever you can pick up is part of the tally," he added. "The point is, if you're raising money, you have to be relentless."

Kaplan recommended that the candidates start early and enlist friends and supporters who have already given money to seek out further contributions. He said setting goals will force supporters to produce and reminded the candidates always to ask for more money than they expect.

Veteran council members Pam O'Connor and Bob Holbrook took turns describing the atmosphere of campaigning for and serving on the council.

"It's not being a CEO. It's not being a city manager, or a directly elected mayor," said O'Connor, who's served 10 years on the council. "It's more like being a member of a board of directors."

O'Connor said it can be difficult to juggle one's family and career with council work, adding she spends between five and 25 hours a week on City Hall business. She advised candidates to always be prepared for a candidate forum or interview — and keep pressed clothes at an arm's length.

She also warned the candidates not to become consumed by the role.

"It's a serious job, but you can't take yourself seriously," she said. "It's not about status."

Holbrook noted that because the community is so politically active, running for office in Santa Monica is unlike campaigning for office in any other city in the country. He urged candidates to be themselves and take advantage of every opportunity available to have their voices heard.

A Democrat not endorsed by Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, City Hall's longtime ruling party, Holbrook drew laughter from members of the forum by pointing out his prior campaign weaknesses. He advised candidates to seek out key endorsements, adding they could even invent organizations to list on their election documents that might lend credibility to their cause.

"I've won six elections in a row and I don't think I was favored to win in any of them," he said.

Candidates this summer will vie for endorsements from SMRR and other groups representing local merchants, teachers, and police and fire officials. Those endorsements are worth tens of thousands of dollars, because the groups use direct mail and other means to solicit votes for candidates. Kaplan indicated it costs about \$17,000 to send a targeted mailer to Santa Monica voters.

This year will be different than others, because the local chamber of commerce has created a political action committee and will for the first time endorse candidates. Chamber officials hope to break the hold on City Hall by SMRR, which backed five of the seven current council members and has held the majority for much of the last two decades. SMRR and the chamber will endorse candidates in August.

While the election is sure to pit hardened SMRR veterans against the chamber's chosen challengers, officials at the forum cautioned the hopefuls against campaigning on harsh rhetoric. Those ultimately elected to office will have to work with varying viewpoints, they added.

"This is a small community," Kaplan said. "You have to recognize that there's a day after the election."

Activist recalled fondly

HARD TIMES, from page 1

a board member of one of the largest, and today's most prominent, Los Angeles-based anti-poverty organizations, The Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness.

While still homeless — and without any apparent formal education — Doucette co-founded and co-lectured one of the first California State College courses ever offered concerning the phenome-

non and causes of modern American homelessness through the California State University at Bakersfield. And Len was a constant guest speaker on homelessness at colleges, churches, synagogues, civic clubs and other groups.

"Although I didn't completely understand him, I loved him," said Deputy City Attorney Marty Tachiki, who remembers Doucette well through his activism and hanging around City Hall.

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LOCAL



Woman who posed as attorney free after brief stint behind bars

FRAUD, from page 1

ued to work as a lawyer. Clark was last jailed May 12.

After paying \$5,000 towards the restitution fund, Clark was freed Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. Neither Clark nor Richard DeBro, her attorney, were available for comment. In March, Clark said she was the victim of an overzealous City Attorney's Office, adding that mostly she just performed routine paperwork.

Still, Clark did acknowledge she had made some mistakes. Deputy City Attorney Adam Radinsky said Clark's case was the most serious violation of consumer protections City Hall had seen in several years. Clark took as much as \$7,000 from each of three dozen people, Radinsky said.

"It's a very sad case, because you have a person who clearly was out of control with her illegal behavior and, on the other hand, you have dozens and dozens of victims who not only were bilked out of their money, but also had their very important legal cases messed up in the process," he said.

According to an agreement with prosecutors, Clark will avoid a three-year jail sentence as long as she abides by the terms of a five-year formal probation sentence. Clark must also repay her victims \$49,716, not take any jobs in the legal profession, cancel all ads and phone numbers for her business and maintain a full-time job. She may also have to compensate other victims not covered in the action.

One such victim was Mark Malkowski, an 18-year resident of Santa Monica who paid Clark \$1,500 to file immigration papers for his South American wife. Malkowski said Tuesday he was pleased with the settlement agreement, as long as Clark has the ability — and does — repay her victims.

Like several other clients, Malkowski said Clark presented herself as an attorney when he and his wife met with her. That appearance was followed by a lack of action and a series of unreturned phone calls.

"It's a very sad case ..."

— ADAM RADINSKY
Prosecutor

"We met her on a Saturday," explained Malkowski. "I work on Saturdays, so I'm accustomed to people being somewhat casual ... but the casualness was reflected more afterwards, when we didn't get copies of the documentation. Nor did we get a receipt for the work performed."

The investigation into Clark began last year. Clark has said she moved from an office in Ocean Park to an office on Wilshire Boulevard after divorcing her husband in 2002. The rent there was raised substantially after three years, forcing her to move her office again, said Clark, who added she missed a month's worth of messages due to a phone line mix-up. Prosecutors seized Clark's records in August.

It's a crime to practice law without a license. Practicing law constitutes giving legal advice, making legal decisions in a case, claiming to be an expert in an area of law, contacting an opposing party and writing legal documents, according to Radinsky. Non-attorneys can only provide clerical help or do paralegal work under a certified attorney. Clark is not being charged with any crimes related to document preparers.

"This case sends a clear message to consumers with legal problems," Radinsky said in a statement issued Tuesday. "If you try to save money by hiring a non-attorney, beware — they are breaking the law if they perform lawyer-like services without a supervising attorney."

Australian charged for selling bogus Lakers tickets on Ebay

By Daily Press staff

LOS ANGELES — A 26-year-old Australian who allegedly sold an estimated \$55,000 in bogus playoff and season tickets for the Lakers to five victims through the Ebay auction Web site was charged Tuesday with grand theft, the District Attorney's office announced.

Scott Raymond Thomas, was arrested by Los Angeles Police officers at LAX Monday morning as he stepped off a plane from Australia, said Deputy District Attorney Jeff McGrath. Thomas was charged with three counts of felony grand theft and two counts of attempted grand theft.

McGrath said he will ask that bail be set at \$1.5 million.

If convicted, Thomas faces up to five years in state prison.

Thomas allegedly offered Lakers playoff tickets on Ebay if the seller would buy season tickets between \$15,000 to \$25,000. McGrath said one victim from Burbank paid \$25,000 and two others — one from Manhattan Beach and the other from Los Angeles — paid \$15,000 each. No tickets were ever received.

Two other people were offered the tickets but didn't pay any money. Police were notified by one of the potential victims from Glendale who became suspicious, McGrath said. An investigation led to Thomas. Australian authorities assisted in the investigation.

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SANTA MONICA

SUMMER GUIDE 2004

COMING SOON TO RACKS IN THIS WEEKEND

Real Estate

You bet your assets you should write a will



DAYS ON THE MARKET

BY JODI SUMMERS

Financial advisers say if you have more assets than you had in college, you should think about writing a will.

“It’s never too early to start,” notes probate attorney John Hilbert. “Anything can happen at any time.”

According to the American Bar Foundation, only 40 percent of Americans have a will. That statistic grows to 70 percent for people over 55.

“If you have assets, you really need a will. Wills are vital if you have small kids, you would not want to leave their guardianship up to the state,” Hilbert said.

If you die without a will, the state of California divides up your assets following statutory provisions provided by a court of proper jurisdiction. Title to real

property may be passed on by succession. Those who die without wills typically have higher court and attorneys’ costs.

Wills let people allocate their assets as they choose. It also allows you to appoint a personal representative, the estate’s executor. There are no surprises about which wicked relative oversees your estate.

If you own property, it would behoove you to have a will, even if you own property in joint tenancy. Yes, joint tenancy does imply the right of survivorship. Upon the death of a joint tenant, their interest is automatically terminated and the property passes to the surviving joint tenant(s). But joint tenancy doesn’t dictate what happens if both people die at once or too close to each other to change their financial planning.

“The more property there is, the more likely a trust is going to be useful,” observes Charlie Sabatino, assistant director of the American Bar Association’s Commission on Legal Problems of the Elderly. Federal estate taxes go into effect if the estate is worth more than \$650,000, so

anyone nearing that dollar value of assets ought to get estate-planning advice, he said.

You can write your own will using a variety of books or software programs. Most essentially, a will should be dated and written by the owner of the property in their own hand.

“I recently had a case where we were told many times that there’s a will,” Hilbert said. “When I asked about the will, I was told it was in the cigar box on a piece of paper. It was on the back of her envelope, dated and in her own hand it said ‘I leave everything to Margaret, I need to put this into legal form.’ It was signed and dated. The court accepted it.”

If you have a collection of assets, Hilbert advises that you need to seek council. When you go, be well prepared:

- Arrive with instructions of how you want your estate divided. That way you already know who gets what before you start paying attorney’s fees.
- Allocate your assets by percentages rather than in dollar figures, because the

dollar value of your estate will change.

- Review the will before you sign it.

If you’ve gone this far, go for two other important documents: A financial power of attorney and a medical power of attorney. These will allow you to decide who makes decisions about your money and your health care if you’re incapacitated or unable to run your affairs yourself.

Living trusts are another viable option that can cut down on the probate costs involved in executing a will, but they’re more expensive to set up. The upside of this is that your beneficiaries save on taxes after you die.

“It’s well worth the fee because you save so much in estate planning if you do it right,” said lawyer and accountant Avery Neumark.

Estate planners suggest you review your will every three to five years, and after you’ve had a major change in your life.

(For your real estate needs, e-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call (310) 309-4219).

SANTA MONICA RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

SOLD	551 26TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90402	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 1,855	LIST PRICE: \$1,350,000	BED: 2	06/02/2004	HOD: \$119	SOLD PRICE: \$565,000	BATH: 2
DATE SOLD	SQFT: 2,493	LIST PRICE: \$1,975,000	BED: 3	06/03/2004	HOD: \$870	SOLD PRICE: \$1,235,000	BATH: 3	SOLD	937 5TH ST #5	SANTA MONICA	90403
06/04/2004	LOT SIZE: 9,900	SOLD PRICE: \$1,975,000	BATH: 2	SOLD	723 PALISADES BEACH RD #109	SANTA MONICA	90402	DATE SOLD	SQFT: N/A	LIST PRICE: \$509,000	BED: 2
SOLD	211 20TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90402	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 1,437	LIST PRICE: \$805,000	BED: 2	06/04/2004	HOD: \$192	SOLD PRICE: \$509,000	BATH: 1.75
DATE SOLD	SQFT: 2,128	LIST PRICE: \$1,698,000	BED: 3	06/02/2004	HOD: \$450	SOLD PRICE: \$820,000	BATH: 2	SOLD	2233 4TH ST #5	SANTA MONICA	90405
06/02/2004	LOT SIZE: 8,940	SOLD PRICE: \$1,926,000	BATH: 2	SOLD	1512 IDAHO AVE	SANTA MONICA	90403	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 1,012	LIST PRICE: \$428,800	BED: 2
SOLD	348 SYCAMORE RD	SANTA MONICA	90402	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 1,472	LIST PRICE: \$740,000	BED: 2	06/03/2004	HOD: \$300	SOLD PRICE: \$499,000	BATH: 1.5
DATE SOLD	SQFT: 0	LIST PRICE: \$1,365,000	BED: 3	06/04/2004	HOD: \$250	SOLD PRICE: \$771,000	BATH: 2.5	SOLD	431 MARINE ST	SANTA MONICA	90405
06/02/2004	LOT SIZE: 0	SOLD PRICE: \$1,365,000	BATH: 3	SOLD	1314 16TH ST #C	SANTA MONICA	90404	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 0	LIST PRICE: \$1,875,000	GI: \$144,960
SOLD	1043 25TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90403	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 1,278	LIST PRICE: \$625,000	BED: 3	06/04/2004	LOT SIZE: 7,497	SOLD PRICE: \$1,875,000	GRM: 12.89
DATE SOLD	SQFT: 1,442	LIST PRICE: \$1,095,000	BED: 3	06/03/2004	HOD: \$250	SOLD PRICE: \$625,000	BATH: 2.5	SOLD	1531 10TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90401
06/03/2004	LOT SIZE: 6,072	SOLD PRICE: \$1,300,000	BATH: 1.5	SOLD	1442 YALE ST #3	SANTA MONICA	90404	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 4,800	LIST PRICE: \$1,350,000	GI: \$80,892
SOLD	3003 DELAWARE AVE	SANTA MONICA	90404	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 1,547	LIST PRICE: \$579,000	BED: 3	06/01/2004	LOT SIZE: 7,497	SOLD PRICE: \$1,400,000	GRM: 16.69
DATE SOLD	SQFT: 1,280	LIST PRICE: \$785,000	BED: 3	06/01/2004	HOD: \$328	SOLD PRICE: \$579,000	BATH: 2.5	SOLD	1537 10TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90401
06/04/2004	LOT SIZE: 6,500	SOLD PRICE: \$843,800	BATH: 1.75	SOLD	901 10TH ST #204	SANTA MONICA	90403	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 3,018	LIST PRICE: \$900,000	GI: \$57,072
SOLD	2508 BEVERLY AVE	SANTA MONICA	90405	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 1,192	LIST PRICE: \$599,000	BED: 2	06/01/2004	LOT SIZE: 7,497	SOLD PRICE: \$950,000	GRM: 15.76
DATE SOLD	SQFT: 0	LIST PRICE: \$780,000	BED: 2	05/31/2004	HOD: \$315	SOLD PRICE: \$579,000	BATH: 2	SOLD	2217 OCEAN PARK BL	SANTA MONICA	90405
06/04/2004	LOT SIZE: 3,045	SOLD PRICE: \$780,000	BATH: 1	SOLD	912 6TH ST #4	SANTA MONICA	90403	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 1,776	LIST PRICE: \$725,000	GI: \$6,600
SOLD	32 SEA COLONY DR #32	SANTA MONICA	90408	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 954	LIST PRICE: \$499,000	BED: 2	06/02/2004	LOT SIZE: 4,948	SOLD PRICE: \$725,000	GRM: 109.80

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REAL ESTATE



'Gross' negligence could prove a costly oversight

IN YOUR SPACE

BY CHRISTINA S. PORTER



There appears to be some confusion over the term "gross lease." Although all gross leases are similarly structured, there are significant differences that could have a considerable impact on the degree of a tenant's or landlords' monetary obligation.

As we all know, everything in a lease is negotiable. With that said, there are certain terms and conditions expected to be included, or excluded in a lease that depend on the type of the subject property. When negotiating a lease for an industrial property, it's expected that a landlord will use either a triple net or an industrial gross lease. When negotiating a lease for an office property, a landlord will use one of three types of leases — triple net (seldom used in office leasing), modified gross, or full service gross.

Times have changed and "creative" and "campus style" offices are the trend. Owners of functionally obsolete industrial buildings (of which there are many in Santa Monica) are using industrial gross leases for creative office tenants.

I recently negotiated one of these leases and the proposed tenant's attorney expected a gross lease — not an "industrial" gross lease. The following is what I explained to him:

In a gross office lease, the landlord pays for all of the operating expenses — unless it is modified gross then the tenant pays for his own utilities and janitorial — including maintenance, repair and replacement of the building components both interior and exterior. It's basically any expense attributed to the building or "project," which is a term

used in multi-tenant leases. The first year that a tenant occupies the space is usually considered its "base year," meaning that year is the starting point (they pay no operating expense pass throughs for the first year) and any increase in the operating expenses for the building (project) in the years following will be "passed through" to the tenant by the landlord (if it's a multi-tenant building then the tenant is responsible for its "pro rata" share of any increase). By the way, from a tenant's perspective, putting a cap on the amount a landlord can pass through should be considered carefully.

In an industrial gross lease, it is expected that all of the expenses for the building (project) with the exception of the replacement of certain building components (examples: foundations, roof) are passed through to the tenant via a "common area maintenance or common area operating expenses" (CAM) charge, in addition to the monthly rent. And, not unlike an office "gross lease," there is a base year for the property taxes and landlord's insurance costs. The tenant is only expected to pay for any increase in the cost of those items.

The lease was finally negotiated using a mixture of terms and conditions that would be expected in both types of "gross" leases.

As always, there are many other terms and conditions in both types of "gross" leases especially with regard to what the definition of an "operating expense."

Make sure that you have your attorney explain them to you so you thoroughly understand what it is that you are agreeing to.

(Christina S. Porter specializes in the business of leasing and selling office and industrial buildings Santa Monica and beyond. You can contact her by calling (310) 806-6104 or e-mail at cporter@naicapital.com).

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2901 Ocean Park Blvd	Retail	6/1/2004	2,200sf \$2.20/nnn
501 Santa Monica Blvd	Office	6/3/2004	1,884sf \$2.15/fs
3200 Santa Monica Blvd	Office	6/2/2004	1,000sf \$1.20/+elec
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NATIONAL

Smokejumper recruits showing competitive fire

BY SHANNON DININNY

Associated Press Writer

WINTHROP, Wash. — Red-faced and sweating, 10 recruits at the North Cascades Smokejumper Base gasp for breath as they drop for push-ups in the middle of a country road, just midway through their morning 6-mile run.

More push-ups follow, along with sit-ups and pull-ups and a two-minute drill for getting into their firefighting gear. Gear on, the recruits climb a 45-foot tower and launch themselves off, coasting to the ground by high-wire as they practice jumping out of an airplane.

It's only 11 a.m., and as fire experts tweak their predictions for a potentially damaging fire season ahead, eager firefighters battle for one of the few spots available each year on the nation's smokejumping roster.

Increasing fire danger — and the ensuing demand for firefighters — means more smokejumpers are staying on the job longer. Positions are scarce, and competition for them is fierce.

"People are staying longer and doing this job, making more of a career. We need to retain these people for their knowledge and expertise," said John Button, acting manager of the smokejumper base.

And added pressures for the coming fire season — a

years-long drought, the potential loss of heavy air tankers due to safety concerns, and the mobilization of National Guard troops overseas — make additional resources even more important, Button said.

That includes the roughly 400 smokejumpers at nine bases run by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

In the Northwest, the North Cascades and Redmond, Ore., bases had hoped to hire a total of 20 more smokejumpers for the summer season because of extreme drought conditions and the possible loss of heavy air tankers.

The 33-plane fleet, which was grounded due to safety concerns, are key for initial attack on wildfires.

Smokejumpers, too, are essential for initial attack on small or remote fires, but the Forest Service so far has chosen only to bring in more equipment, including smaller single-engine tankers and helicopters, said Mike Fitzpatrick, predictive services coordinator for the Northwest Coordination Center.

The request for additional smokejumpers was last made in 1992, when the Northwest was facing some serious fire danger, Fitzpatrick said. An additional 20 smokejumpers were hired in the region, which usually kept about 50 smokejumpers on hand.

But by 1994, the fire danger had dropped and valuable

employees, now with two years' experience, were laid off, he said.

"You probably could make a case for having more smokejumpers, but it's a very expensive program, and I think one of the things people don't see is more money coming to this program," he said.

Smokejumpers used to typically cover specific regions near their home base. Today, the North Cascades smokejumpers can travel from their home base in Winthrop to Montana, New Mexico or Colorado in a heartbeat, Button said.

Smokejumpers typically respond as the initial attack for small fires ranging in size from a quarter-acre to 10 acres or for fires in very remote areas. The need for such mobility could increase dramatically if air tankers are not returned to service, Button said.

"We can pick our spots and get equipment and crews in, and those crews are more rested than those who have to hike a mile or two in to the fire," Button said.

The average age of an American smokejumper is 35, while the average age of recruits is 22. The 10 recruits trying to fill the few slots opening through attrition in Washington and Oregon this year ranged in age from 21 to 37.

"We try to hire good firefighters and then turn them into smokejumpers," said Matt Woosley, a 20-year veteran smokejumper who leads the training for recruits. "There's nothing you would do in your normal life that would make sense in this job."

The first two weeks of training consist of heavy physical training — not to get the recruits into shape, but rather to get a sense of their character and induce stress to see how they react in difficult situations.

"It's the safest way we can do that controlled, rather than under a canopy (of trees) or when a fire is about to blow up," Woosley said. "We just induce as much reasonable stress as we can."

Andrew Mattox, 27, knows that all too well. After three seasons with a Hotshot crew, Mattox got his tryout with the smokejumpers.

"Since it is inherently hazardous, I'd rather sweat a lot here and learn how to do it the right way," he said. "We all have psychological challenges, or academic or physical challenges. Here, it challenges multiple aspects at once. The standards are high and I like that."

Growing up in the fire world, the smokejumpers were considered the top of the pyramid for initial wildfire attack, Woosley said.

"It still is. But we're just firefighters," Woosley said. "We just get there a different way, but when we hit the ground, we're all just firefighters."

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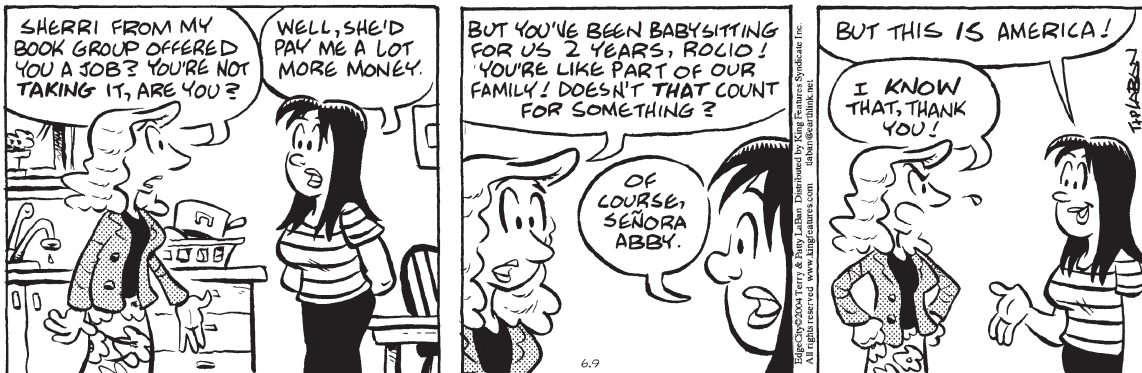
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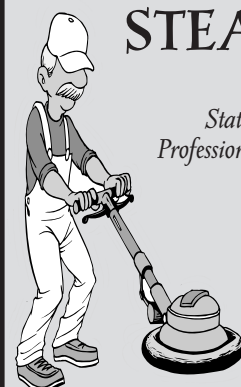
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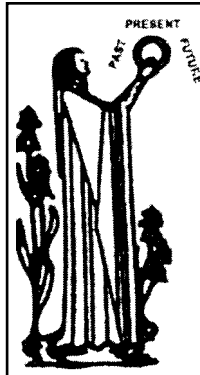
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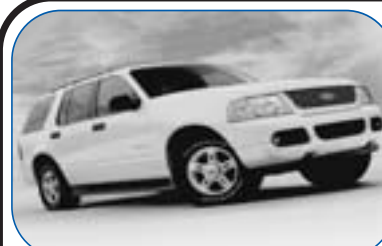
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