

FREE

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2004

Volume 3, Issue 180

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

2 13 15 21 46

Meganumber: 4
Jackpot: \$18 million

FANTASY 5

6 12 8 26 24

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 3 9 7

Evening picks: 0 4 9

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 07 Eureka
2nd Place: 11 Money Bags
3rd Place: 01 Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:48.



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

At the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's "Sex Out Loud" Health Awareness Fair in March, the Feminist Majority organization sponsored a "giant vagina structure" for which students could pay a dollar and stick their heads in to have their pictures taken. Said a spokesperson, "There are a lot of phallic symbols in society, and we wanted to put a vaginal one out there."



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.



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Mistrial declared in SM arson case

Ex-Raider still in custody

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

LAX COURTHOUSE — A mistrial was declared Wednesday in the arson case against an NFL player accused of burning down a Santa Monica store to avenge a business deal gone sour.

Jurors split 7-5 in favor of Anthony Wayne Smith, saying evidence against the former defensive end was incomplete and too many

questions were left unanswered by prosecutors. Smith, 36, will stay in custody until July, when a new trial date is expected to be set.

"I didn't think there was a chance he did it," said juror Bob Walker, 63, of Playa del Rey, a small business owner. "I didn't think he would burn down those buildings over a few hundred dollars — but that's where his background worked against him. That guy's huge."

Smith stands at 6'4" and weighs 320 pounds. He was charged with

See MISTRIAL, page 5

Residents mow down City Hall's hedge law

'Hedge police' will cool their heels for now

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — It prompted a reference to Nazi Germany, and the illegal storage of ammunition and plutonium. It's a dispute over local hedges — how tall they should be and how to best regulate them.

Dozens of well-heeled residents descended on City Hall Tuesday evening to address a 1948 law that limits front hedges to three and a half feet, and hedges in side and back yards to eight feet. More than 100 violators recently were told they had 30 days to cut back their bushes or be fined as much as \$25,000 a day, up to \$500,000.

"I'm almost embarrassed that

we're spending this time on such a trivial matter," said Bruce Leddy, who lives on 10th Street north of Montana Avenue. "A couple of weeks ago I received a letter from the city of Santa Monica saying that I was in violation of a code and I would have to pay \$25,000 a day, up to a half million dollars."

"You might expect that I was storing plutonium in my front yard, or perhaps storing live ammunition somewhere, or something of great public safety danger. My hedges are actually too tall — and I'm showing my face in public."

DIFFERENT SPECIES

Leddy was the first of 45 people to speak on the issue before members of the City Council decided to

See HEDGES, page 6

California seeks lead in adapting to global warming

BY DON THOMPSON

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Global warming will hit California hard, but the state has already become a national leader in delaying and adapting to rising temperatures as it has pushed for tighter controls on automobile emissions and

coped with a major energy crisis, experts said Wednesday.

The scientists who released the results from the nation's first state-sponsored global warming program said the experience fighting the energy crisis three years ago and continued air pollution has made the state a veteran in coping with many of the effects of global warming.

Setting down roots



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Santa Monica High School student Kesha Ram on Wednesday places a new plant in the garden outside of the recently reopened Barnum Hall at Samohi. More than a dozen people who had a hand in helping with the landscape renovation plan, developed in 1995, showed up for an informal dedication of the new gardens, including an Australian one. There are several gardens on the Samohi campus.

"Not only are we figuring out how to adapt to global warming, we're figuring out how to delay global warming," said Arthur Rosenfeld, the California Energy Commission member who oversees a \$60 million budget for research and development. About \$10 million annually goes to studies through the California Climate Change Center.

That means cutting greenhouse gases from cars and power plants that scientists believe have at least aggravated temperature increases during the industrial age.

On Monday, the California Air Resources Board will release draft staff recommendations on how

See WARMING, page 9

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Libra, where the gang is



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)

★★★★ Hold on to your hat, as unexpected news comes forward. How you see someone will flip and change as a result. Though confusion is today's trademark, you have what it takes to settle down communication and events. Tonight: Make yourself happy!



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Some days you might prefer to stay home or play ostrich. Don't be surprised if today is one of them. You could see some expectations fly away, but honestly, it will work out. Use your creativity to resolve what is going on. Don't take any money risks. Tonight: Take a night to yourself.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You absolutely understand your desires, but you might find it difficult to act on them, as work or a boss could be provocative. Make an extra effort. Put in overtime, even if you want to join your friends. Tonight: Find your pals, even if it is late.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Your high energy cracks past a problem and a change of tune. Make it your pleasure to open up and see life from a renewed perspective. Others want to hear your opinion and get a new slant on what is going on. Tonight: Worry less.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Read between the lines with an upset involving a partnership and funds. This person might have tried very hard to handle what is happening by him- or herself. Detach and don't trigger. Answers head your way. You know how to help this person. Tonight: Think through a gesture.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You could be dumbfounded by what goes on with a key person in your life. You have suspected something, but in the next few days a lot will come out. You might be confused by work or a boss, but your good will comes through. Tonight: Togetherness works.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Others seem full of surprises. What you thought was a sure deal around work or daily life proves otherwise. Your instincts help you sort out a confusing reaction or conversation. Use your listening skills. Others cannot talk enough! Tonight: Where the gang is.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ You could be overwhelmed by a child or loved one. Stay on course, knowing what you want. The path to success involves groups, networking and perhaps Lady Luck. You will get there. Confusion surrounds an association. Tonight: Relax and think about what went down today.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Duck if you can. Dig into your creative juices to calm down a disruptive situation. Family, a domestic problem or a matter involving your home dominates your thinking. You'll quickly find the answers. Tonight: A boss, parent or authority figure cheers you on.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Be careful with all types of communication. The unexpected heads your way, but you do need to know this information. An associate is able to pull back and toss out ideas. Tonight: Mosey on home.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You find that your unpredictability is an asset, though someone might need to discuss what is happening with you. Being light and frivolous won't work. Have a heart-to-heart conversation. You'll both gain as a result. Tonight: Consider an investment, but hold back for now.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★ Expenses could be a major topic right now. You also might need to clear the air of a problem or issue you have been keeping to yourself. Others seek you out; in fact, several suitors knock on your door. Please focus on yourself first. Tonight: Pay bills.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Sounds of Lincoln hit high note this weekend

By Daily Press staff

The public is invited to hear 60 Lincoln music students play the night away. As part of the Lincoln Family Concert Series, co-directors Peter Park and John Redfield have prepared the students in both solo and ensemble formation performances. The free concert will take place on Sunday at 7 p.m. The Lincoln Middle School Auditorium is located at 1501 California Ave.

SMC serenading into the summer

By Daily Press staff

A concert this weekend performed by seniors isn't just for seniors. Wallace UMBER is leading the SMC's acclaimed Emeritus College Band in "A Concert in the Park," an eclectic program of classical, jazz and more. The 60-member concert band will be playing at 3 p.m. on Sunday at the SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. Admission and parking are free. The program includes a wide range of pieces, including Smetana's "Dance of the Comedians," Duke's "April in Paris," numbers from "My Fair Lady," and selections from marches. For further information, call (310) 434-4306 or (310) 474-5271.

Working hard pays off for students

By Daily Press staff

A Santa Monica High School student is guaranteed a ticket into college, thanks to a government-sponsored program. Senior Salomae Kpohanu was one of more than 750 students that were chosen by the Los Angeles County Office of Education Advancement Individual Determination (AVID). The students recently celebrated their acceptance into college based on the skills they developed from the AVID program. Kpohanu has been participating in AVID for four years. She will attend Mount St. Mary's College and major in psychology. "AVID is not only a place to provide me with confidence as I enter college," she said. "AVID is a place where I know I am free to be myself without fear that someone will misjudge me." AVID is a middle school through senior high school academic program, dedicated to helping students who are academically "in the middle," and who have the potential for success in college preparatory curriculum. AVID students are enrolled in the most rigorous curriculum a school can offer, and motivated to complete a college preparatory path, such as the University of California A through G requirements. AVID students receive support for success in the rigorous curriculum through the AVID elective class, a regularly scheduled elective within the normal school day.

Kiwanis Club doles out the cash

By Daily Press Staff

About \$35,000 will be distributed to 19 organizations in Santa Monica the by Kiwanis Club of Santa Monica, continuing an 80-year-old tradition of community service by the club. From noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Four Points Sheraton on June 23, the club also will celebrate their hard working members. "By helping youth and families we make a difference that lasts," said Maggie Hall, the committee's chairperson. "It's all in a volunteer day's work." The gifts will touch the lives of thousands of youth from birth to young adulthood, officials said. The \$35,000 is just a portion of the almost \$100,000 given annually by Kiwanis Club of Santa Monica to youth and youth organizations. The club has a strong local business network throughout Santa Monica and a commitment to serve the community, officials said. The Four Points Sheraton is located at 601 Pico Blvd.



SURF REPORT

On Thursday look for a mix of S swell and NW wind swell. For Northern LA County, look for many spots to see surf in the waist-to shoulder-high range off the mix of swells, while standout S/combo breaks see head-high sets. South Bay spots pick up the wind swell for waist-high waves at many breaks and some chest-high sets at best breaks. Look for light wind in the morning to build out of the W in the 8-15 knot range for the afternoon.

Today the water is:

67°

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

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	- 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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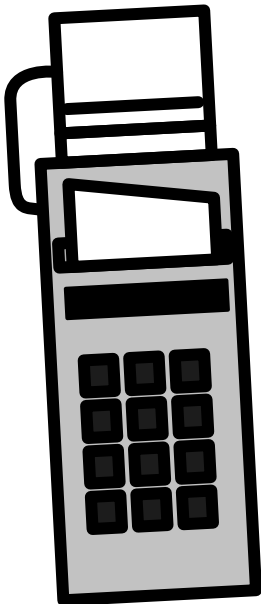
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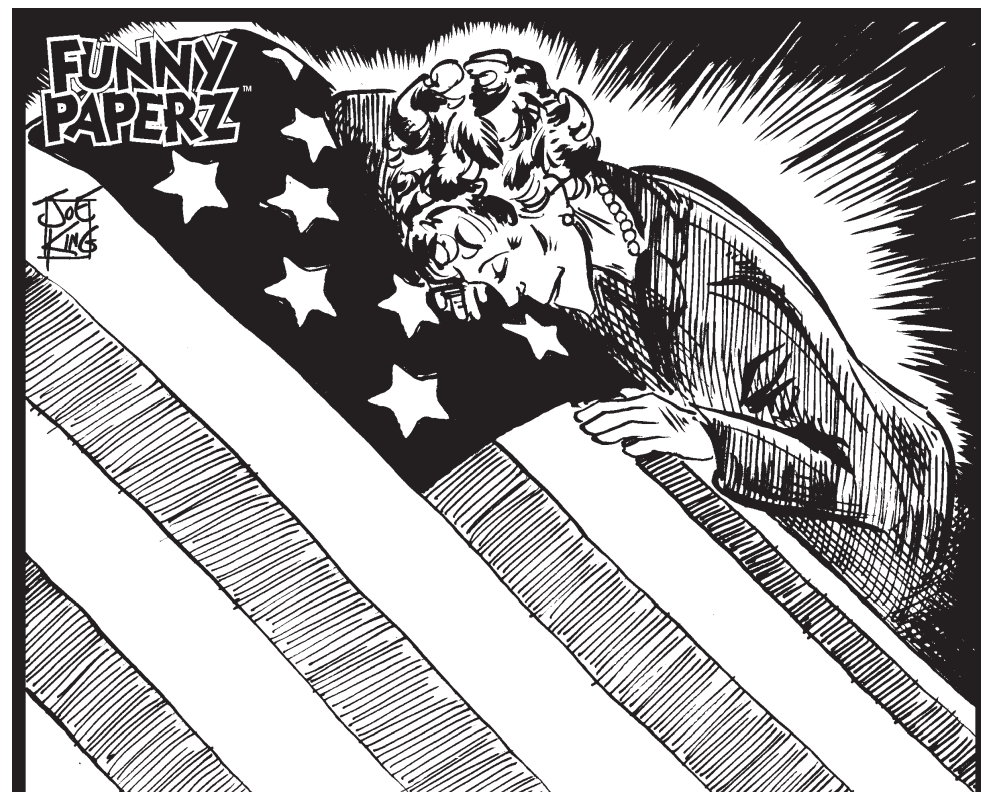
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OPINION



"I Love You Ronnie..."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SM must remove religious undertones

Editor:

The comprehensive coverage by the SMDP and other local media regarding the controversy surrounding the inclusion of a perceived religious symbol on the official seal of the County of Los Angeles has alerted me to a systemic and pervasive problem. Galvanized by zeal borne of your splendid reportage, I have come to realize that this plague of official recognition of religion is far more pervasive than even SMDP realizes. Immediate action is required lest we all be subverted by invidious insinuations of the forces of religiosity.

In the interest of seeking the fullest protection afforded by our Constitution I am sending this demand to our fearless mayor pro tem:

The recent flap over the removal of a minuscule cross from the county shield has brought my attention to a shocking and blatant breach of the principle of separation of church and state that is perpetuated by our own city. As an alternative to the instigation of litigation seeking a writ of mandamus, I am affording the council the opportunity to enact legislation to forthwith correct this breach of the Constitutional duty that you are sworn to uphold.

This city has perpetuated the official glorification of individuals canonized by the church of Rome. Such a practice is a blatant violation of the city's Constitutional obligations. The use of religious titles in the very name of the city must immediately cease.

All official signs that refer to any Saint, San or Santa must be changed at once. This would include, in addition to the name of the city, itself (Ms. Monica), but of similarly offensively named thoroughfares such as Mr. Vincente and Ms. Monica boulevards.

While I realize that bringing the city into compliance will entail some significant expense, especially for signs and stationery, it should be noted that Constitutional obligations trump any subordinate legislation. Therefore, the cost of compliance must be funded on a priority basis.

Perhaps, two mandates can be combined were the council to employ the homeless to repaint all of the city's signs to delete the proscribed religious references. Instead of funneling money to bleeding-heart social agencies to build flop-houses, cash could be directly disbursed to the new temporary city workers who would then be eligible for state-funded assistance on conclusion of their service. Think of the self-esteem that would be fostered by having the former dregs of society elevated to the status of dedicated civil servants.

Of course, since the city would desire to pay these temporary employees a living wage, it may be necessary to seek further economies. The deal to increase the city's contribution to the school district is not carved in stone. Even if it were, school district superintendent John Deasy would have to agree that school funding must necessarily defer to Constitutional compliance. Besides, he will be otherwise occupied bringing the district into compliance with its own version of this problem.

The law of unintended consequence could work in that the new spending mandates could curtail funds currently allocated for cement that is being poured in seemingly every roadway and corner in the city. The resulting increase in the ability to move freely about town could bring in more visitors, which means more tax revenue and more parking violation revenue. So, you see there is a silver lining to every black cloud.

The passage of enabling ordinances to effect compliance must be treated as a priority matter lest I have no alternative but to seek judicial redress.

But then again, dear editor, perhaps I've read one too many Lloyd Garver columns.

Bob Abernethy
Santa Monica

Reagan could 'trickle up' to Mt. Rushmore

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



There were so many cops out on Arizona Avenue Saturday night that for a minute you might have thought it was another DUI checkpoint operation in progress. Either that or they had the notorious SMDP "newsrack bandit" cornered, but then again, they already got that guy, didn't they? That thoroughfare was tied off tighter than a tourniquet, but it turns out — it was just another president rolling through.

Residents on Arizona weren't permitted to move their own cars for 48 hours? The CIA was there, along with sharp-shooting snipers on rooftops? The guy just died, gentlemen. Did you think somebody might still have assassination on their mind? One local resident, whose urgent need to get somewhere in her car didn't measure up to the need to protect the deceased president, declared to a SMDP reporter, "He was a nice guy, but come on."

Leaving no (tomb)stone unturned, reporter John Wood spoke to Mike Ross, owner of the Gates-Kingsley Mortuary, scene of the Saturday night fever where stage makeup would be applied for the last time to the actor-turned-president. Ross must have been working on his stand-up routine when he told the reporter, "I'll take this experience to my grave." The straight man of the act, co-owner Bob Boetticher, deadpanned, "It's the pinnacle for a funeral director."

What provides a "pinnacle" to the careers of Ross and Boetticher only brings heartbreak to millions of Americans who continue to mourn the passing of the beloved 40th president. Thousands endured eight-hour lines for the chance to take a slow stroll around the flag-draped casket in Simi Valley on Tuesday. To protect their eyes from the blazing valley sun, rose-colored glasses were worn in abundance.

Ronald Wilson Reagan might have been a nice enough guy, as the lady on Arizona Avenue said, and he never conjured up the same fear, gloom and doom that the current White House occupant does, but Mt. Rushmore? Yes, Mt. Rushmore. There is a serious movement afoot to carve Reagan's face into the side of that mountain, where he would join Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson and Teddy Roosevelt.

I can almost hear him say, "There you go again, loose-cannon columnist," but as Reagan also once said, "Facts are stupid things." He meant to say "stubborn things," but it came out slightly twisted. Facts, indeed, are stubborn things. They don't disappear under the ground with a

lowered casket.

One stubborn Reagan fact that won't go away — he had an "affair" in the oval office that made Clinton's romps with Monica seem like foreplay, err, child's play. Clinton was impeached for his oval office secret. Reagan ran a secret renegade government from that office, out of sight and out of control, selling American arms to an enemy nation — Iran — to generate hidden revenue that would finance covert military action against a friendly nation - Nicaragua — military action that Congress had explicitly prohibited. Reagan skated. His National Security advisor, John Poindexter, took the fall, and was convicted of five felonies related to the Iran-Contra Affair.

Another stubborn Reagan fact: Homelessness became an American institution during his reign, as he pinched every penny he could out of the social safety net while dogmatically pursuing the "rugged individualism" philosophy that just plain doesn't have room for the impoverished, the mentally ill, or other unfortunates among us. An avowed enemy of "big government," Reagan made it smaller by cutting every cent he could out of school lunch programs while declaring ketchup to be "a vegetable" in order to assure the poorest kids that they would still be adequately nourished as they dipped their French fries and learned how to spell.

Funny how these self-avowed enemies of "big government" sit proudly in Washington in charge of exactly that. They spend billions more than are in the bank while pretending not to, yet inspire their masses by repeating over and over again that this thing they're running is out of control and no good. Reagan ran up a record deficit while insisting upon huge corporate tax cuts. Sound familiar? He could downsize school lunches and close mental institutions, but somehow found billions to spend on a dubious "star wars" missile-defense-shield brainstorm that to this day — with the current president a staunch advocate — has been proven to be a miserable, money-burning failure. Whatever else these guys hang their hat on, friends, don't let them hang it on the anti "big government" rack.

One more stubborn Reagan fact: The "trickle-down economics" that he swore by — you know, where you give as many breaks as possible to the wealthiest and then wait for the overflow of their bounties to trickle downward to the huddled masses? It's a scam — "voo-doo economics" as the elder Bush called it. When I hear the term "trickle-down," I think back to the Brackbill family living down the hill from where I grew up, and how my best friend's father down there teased us about the laws of gravity. "All we get from you big shots up there is your dirty water, trickling down the hill when the pipes clog up." There's your trickle-down.

(Ron Scott Smith majored in Reaganomics. Email him at EdgeoftheWest@aol.com).

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

LOCAL



New arson trial against ex-Raider may be set in July

MISTRIAL, from page 1

the February 2003 fire that gutted Simply Sofas and Lona Antiques on the 2300 block of Lincoln Boulevard after investigators found pieces of mail with his name and address inside the makeshift fire bombs used to ignite the blaze.

The fire was set days after Smith argued with the business owner over the value of a Washington Monument statue he left at the store to be sold on consignment.

For some jurors, the mail in the bombs was damning enough.

"I couldn't imagine any other circumstance," said juror Gary Oberstein, 58, a retired dentist.

During police interrogations and on the witness stand, Smith repeatedly said he had no idea how his mail ended up in the bombs. His lawyers suggested the papers may have been left outside of the store by day laborers hired to transport items between Smith's office and a storage locker in Lancaster, and his condo in Marina del Rey.

Smith moved to Oakland with the Raiders in the mid-1990s, but kept his address in the Marina and non-urgent mail was taken by an assistant to storage. He was in the process of sorting through boxes of old mail at the same time he had the dispute with Simply Sofas owner Marilyn Nelson, Smith claimed. At that time,

he told the workers to throw away items from the back seat of the car to make room for some unsold items he was retrieving from the store. The workers may have inadvertently thrown away a box of Smith's mail either in or next to a dumpster behind the store, lawyers suggested.

That theory didn't hold for juror Melissa Schickler, a 19-year-old college student who lives in Manhattan Beach. She said she already was leaning towards a guilty verdict when the jury began deliberating. She confirmed her decision when she learned the exact definition of reasonable doubt.

Schickler and other jurors were shocked Smith has been in custody since July of last year. During deliberations, Schickler said several jurors said they wouldn't feel comfortable giving jail time to Smith, a regular church goer and father of three young children.

Smith's wife Teresa, somber but cordial, declined to discuss the case. With Smith in

custody, Teresa has left her career as a lawyer to care for the couple's children.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Keith Schwartz, who polled many of the jurors, said there were a few key areas where more evidence could be presented, including questions about trash collection and the building's alarm system, which wasn't tripped when the fire broke out.

Nelson was dropped as a suspect early in the investigation largely because she was underinsured, prosecutors said. Merchandise lost in the fire was valued at \$1.2 million and damage to the structure at \$900,000. Nelson, 56, said she netted \$2.8 million and profited more than \$520,000 the year before the blaze.

Lawyers will meet in July to discuss when to re-try the case.

Smith, who wore a suit and tie during the seven-day trial, was held in a lockup facility while Judge Schwartz interviewed jurors. Smith later was brought back into the courtroom wearing a jail-issued orange jumpsuit so lawyers could agree on the July date. Afterward, as Smith was led away by bailiffs, he looked out at Teresa, put his hands together and kissed them.

Outside the courtroom, Houchin said he will ask the court in July to reduce Smith's bail from \$1 million to \$100,000, something Judge Schwartz indicated he would consider. Houchin also said he would ask to have the case dismissed, but admitted it wasn't likely.

"We're certainly hopeful," he said. "But it's not the kind of thing you put your money on happening."

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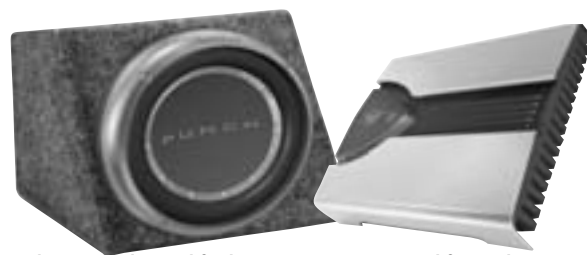
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LOCAL

Hedge law dates to 1948

HEDGES, from page 1

extend a recent moratorium on enforcing the law until it can be studied in more detail, and the enforcement process improved.

City Attorney Marsha Moutrie said although the letter sent to residents says the maximum fine is \$25,000 a day, the actual top fine for hedge and fence violations is \$2,500. The warning issued to citizens is a generic form sent to code violators, she added.

Regardless of the fee, residents clearly had different opinions on the law. At issue is what's public versus what's private. Some claim high hedges are needed for safety and privacy, and others say they create walled fortresses that block out light and air.

"When our children were small, we had a book at home called 'What If Everybody Did,'" said Giles Smith, who supported the law. "I think that's a perfect metaphor for the situation we're talking about here, especially the issue of front yard hedges. When a few people put up very tall hedges around their front yards, they profess to see no penalty to that and no damage to the city. But what if everybody did that? Imagine, every street would look like essentially a tunnel between two high walls, with little doors interspersed periodically between them."

Seventeen-year local resident Manju Devgan agreed. Devgan said a neighbor's hedge drowns out her sunshine.

"It's very pathetic, and we've complained, and they've been cited, and nothing has been done and we've had a lovely run around — which I have not enjoyed at all," said Devgan, who lives at 522 Palisades Beach Rd., but said she's never seen a beach sunset from her home. "We use electricity 24 hours a day. It's like living in a cave."

A SHADY ARGUMENT

Davgan's sentiments were drowned out by arguments against the hedge law. The speakers came from neighborhoods north of Montana Avenue, particularly the expensive homes on Adelaide Drive that overlook the Pacific Ocean. They also came from the pedestrian-only streets off of Ocean Avenue, where residents said they need a buffer from transients and criminals.

"There is no half-way reasonable process to appeal a compliance order. I tried. It cost too much in currency, it cost too much in blood," said Jerry Bass, who's spent thousands of dollars fighting to keep a six-foot-tall fence and 14-foot-tall hedge in front of his house at 15 Seaview Terrace.

"The law is antiquated," he said. "It is ignorant of city life. It must be changed."

One man said City Hall's current solution to the perceived hedge problem was like hitting a fly with a sledgehammer. Another said he needed the hedges to separate him from people that use the sidewalk in front of his Adelaide Drive home like a Starbucks or a gym — regularly hanging out, leaving trash and changing their clothes to exercise on the adjacent staircases leading down into the canyon.

IN MIXED COMPANY

Mayor Richard Bloom four times had to admonish the audience to keep quiet after it broke out in applause or laughter while members of the public spoke.

After saying he felt more comfortable speaking openly because two police officers were in the building, City Councilman Kevin McKeown asked one local resident, attorney Irwin Waldman, why he had "turned in" 600 neighbors by mailing in pic-

tures of their too-tall hedges.

Waldman replied he did so to show the council there were numerous violations, adding nobody seemed to mind the hedges until City Hall stepped in.

"This is not Nazi Germany, where we turn in our neighbors. I didn't turn in anybody — wrong choice of words, sir."

Among those speaking was Bobby Shriver, the brother-in-law of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, an Adelaide Drive resident and Beverly Hills lawyer. Shriver's front hedge was cited for being six inches above the limit, and his side and rear hedges tower much higher. Shriver pointed to the strong outpouring of community members against the law, adding there would have been more if not for the NBA finals airing on TV that night. Some speakers listened to the basketball game over the radio.

'HEDGE POLICE' DEPLOYED

Local attorney Tom Larmore, who was at the podium when Kobe Bryant sunk a last-second, three-point basket that catapulted the Lakers into overtime, urged the council to extend a recently passed moratorium on the hedge law.

"One of the things that's noticeable to me is how relatively few people have high hedges, and it isn't because they know it's illegal — it's because they don't want them," said Larmore, who doesn't have a front hedge, though he lives on a busy stretch of Seventh Street north of Montana Avenue.

"So, to me, what's happened here is we have these three new code compliance officers that are out there looking for something to do, and they've discovered these hedges," Larmore added.

Though the hedge law has been around since 1948, it had been enforced only sporadically until recently. City Hall has been adding investigators, who have targeted business signs, fences and hedges, special permits for merchants, and general code violations, officials said.

A recent report from city staffers said there have been 253 hedge and fence law cases initiated this year and 110 violations determined. Of those, 61 violators complied, another 143 were still being investigated and 49 were still not complying. Hearings are ongoing in another 10 cases.

A GREENER TOMORROW?

After four hours of discussion, the City Council agreed unanimously to extend a moratorium that bans enforcement of the law, except in extreme cases where safety is an issue, like at intersections.

All of the council members agreed front yard hedges should be limited and asked staff to investigate how it could allow higher hedges in the side and rear yards where neighbors weren't adversely affected. A revised hedge law is expected to return to the council late this fall.

City Councilman Herb Katz, who brought the matter to the council with City Councilman Bob Holbrook, said he'd like to go further. The 56-year-old law was made when Santa Monica was lined with one-story beach bungalows and had far less traffic. Today things are different, Katz said.

"It isn't over," Katz said Wednesday. "I don't understand why we're making it so difficult on people unless they've got a valid complaint. The philosophy is, 'If it ain't broke, let's fix it.' I just think we go overboard, I really mean it. We spend all our time passing laws and making people go down to City Hall and get variances."

BUSINESS



Four things every retired person should consider



IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

BY JOHN KIM

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

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

REVIEW YOUR PERSONAL FINANCES

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

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

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

GET LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE

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

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

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

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

PLAN YOUR ESTATE

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

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

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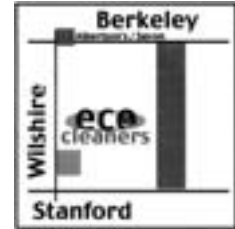
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Gifts to qualified charities may be exempt from the gift tax. The value of the charitable donations, including financial assets such as stocks, artwork, real estate and certain business interests, and any future appreciation of those assets, reduces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

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

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

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STATE

Voting commission head calls for more security

BY ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The head of a federal voting commission called Tuesday for tougher security measures for electronic voting by the November elections, but said the issue of requiring paper receipts as backup needs further study.

DeForest B. Soaries, chairman of the Election Assistance Commission, said he wants election officials to be able to analyze software source code in the electronic systems they pay for, which some vendors have resisted.

"The increased use of electronic voting devices has created security concerns that the U.S. Election Assistance Commission must address," he said in remarks prepared for delivery at a Maryland conference of election officials.

In an interview before the speech, Soaries said the issue of paper ballots that voters can verify — perhaps the most-debated aspect of the controversy over electronic voting — requires more study and that calling for such receipts by November would be unrealistic. He said it was possible the panel would recommend paper ballots in the future.

"If there was unanimity among scholars

and scientists on the paper issue it would be a more compelling case," Soaries said. "All of the research, all of the testimony we've received, all the writings that I've read argue for more research."

Some 50 million Americans — about 30 percent of voters — are expected to vote electronically on Nov. 2. But concerns about the ATM-like machines have grown since computer scientists began criticizing them as dangerously vulnerable to hackers and mechanical failure.

Many local election officials defend electronic voting as reliable and voter-friendly. But increasingly state and federal policy makers are calling for a "voter verifiable paper ballot" that would create a physical record documenting voter intent.

California's secretary of state is requiring electronic voting machines to produce paper trails by 2006.

Some critics of electronic voting also want vendors to make their software source codes public so they can be widely scrutinized for security flaws. Soaries said he wasn't prepared to ask software developers to release such proprietary information. But he said he wants the commission to urge vendors to share their source codes with local election officials who use federal money for electronic voting machines.



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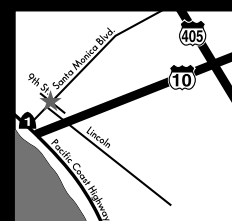
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STATE



Energy consultant: 'Water flows uphill to money'

WARMING, from page 1

California can reduce greenhouse gas emissions for passenger cars and light trucks by nearly 30 percent by 2015, without hurting the state's economy or consumer choice, said Alan C. Lloyd, air board chairman.

Though California's population has grown from 21 million to more than 35 million in the last 30 years, per capital electricity use has remained stable thanks to energy saving requirements for appliances, buildings and utilities, while power use nationwide has grown 50 percent. And while energy efficiency worldwide has increased about 1.6 percent a year, it's increased 4 percent annually in California.

That's a huge environmental impact that equals "getting 12 million cars off the road," Rosenfeld said.

That won't be enough to forestall problems, however.

Much of the effort led by researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, and Scripps Institute of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, is to better monitor changes and build more accurate computer models to help guide decisions by the public and policy-makers.

"Even the most benign of the projected climate changes are sufficient to significantly alter the California's landscape, hydrology, and land and water resources," warned Michael Dettinger of the U.S. Geological Survey. "Those alterations are

likely to become significant within roughly the next 25 years" — well within the range of long-term planning decisions that need to be made now.

For instance, California counts on Sierra Nevada snow for more than a third of its drinking and irrigation water, while snow-fed hydroelectric plants produce about a quarter of its power.

But coastal mountains are being hit hardest by temperature increases that mean less snow melting earlier each spring. That hits California twice, meaning less water in the hot, dry summers when it's needed most, and less hydropower from the Pacific Northwest when air conditioners are cranking in California.

That could mean building more dams and hydroelectric plants to offset less water, though environmental groups say conservation is far cheaper and less damaging.

Higher temperatures and reduced rainfall will also mean more wildfires of the sort that swept Southern California last fall — and, perversely, increased flooding of rivers like the snow-fed Sacramento as more precipitation falls as rain or melts off earlier.

The state's economy will be affected also by efforts to control greenhouse gases, said other scientists. The state, with Oregon and Washington, promised last year to take steps to reduce gas emissions.

Climate change could cost California billions of dollars a year because it will increase sea levels, flooding, fires, along with the cost of farming, energy, and health

care, said Joel B. Smith of Stratus Consulting Inc., summarizing a report to the energy commission. The effects will be most severe in Southern California, he said.

The state's huge agriculture industry could be hit especially hard, as climate change could alter the specific climatic conditions that makes the state's world-class wines, fruits and nuts thrive, said Steve Shaffer, director of the state Office of Agriculture and Environmental Stewardship.

Some farmers already have started growing pistachio, for instance, because those don't require cool winters, he said.

Farming practices may have to change

particularly in Northern California, not only to compensate for changing weather but also to try to capture some of the carbon dioxide in greenhouse gases, researchers said.

That could include leaving more crop stubble in the fields, using cover crops, different crops, fallowing cropland, and becoming more efficient at using fertilizers and irrigation. Limited resources may be devoted to more valuable crops such as those grown San Joaquin and Imperial valleys.

"Water flows uphill to money," said Smith. "The reduction (in water use) basically comes out of agriculture."

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STATE

'Your head's just spinning': Guarding Reagan a heady detail

BY RYAN PEARSON
Associated Press Writer

SIMI VALLEY — For 30 intense minutes at a time, Army Pfc. Clifford Keith stood his ground, feeling thousands of eyes upon him and trying not to blink. After all, he was honoring a president. "We call it the World Series of what we do," said Keith, of Fort Myer in Virginia. He is a member of the joint services military honor guard that watched over Ronald Reagan's flag-draped casket Monday and Tuesday. Sixty members of the Armed Forces Honor Guards were flown to California to guard and honor Reagan, who was 93 when he died Saturday. More than 100,000 people filed by the coffin at the Reagan hilltop presidential library.

The guards in California, like others who were to begin their shifts when Reagan's body lies in state in the U.S. Capitol, had to maintain statuesque vigilance under constant attention from visitors and video cameras. It was an exhausting and stressful endeavor — wearing both physically and mentally on the smartly dressed troops. Coughing, swallowing and other movements were kept to a minimum. Keith, 24, said he tried to "not move a muscle" but avoid locking up his body and passing out. During the total of 2 1/2 hours he spent on duty, cameras snapped "like machine guns," and he tried not to "mix the bowl," as honor guard troops call a subtle, circular swaying. "There's been a lot of guys who've gotten lightheaded," Keith said during a break Tuesday. "Because all the eyes (of visitors) are so close, people get nervous, their body temperature goes up. They tighten up."

Keith said he saw two men, not part of his group, relieved in the middle of their shifts at the library because they were beginning to wobble. "It's not even hot in there. It's just nerves," he said. The honor guards worked in six-member teams that included a leader and a representative of each military branch: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard. About 700 troops in the Armed Forces Honor Guards are stationed in and around Washington. About four-fifths are just out of boot camp. They go through a six-week training program and primarily serve in ceremonies at the Pentagon, national memorials or at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. At Arlington, honor guards are in service almost daily for military funerals. But a presidential death is another matter.

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Metro Briefs

WESTSIDE/CENTRAL

Metro Bus Service Boosted
Added service on eight lines and summer service to the Hollywood Bowl are some of the improvements for Metro Westside/Central bus service coming June 27. Overall Metro Bus service will increase by three percent this year. For details on specific service improvements, visit metro.net

LACC Offers Free Metro Pass To Students
Summer school students at Los Angeles City College are getting a free pass to go Metro to get to class. LACC is the first to participate in the new Metro I-Pass program which allows students to ride any Metro Bus or Metro Rail train.

Metro Rapid Expanding
Metro Rapid, a growing network of fast and frequent bus service, begins running between West Hollywood and Huntington Park June 28. New Metro Rapid Line 705 route travels along La Cienega Boulevard and Vernon Avenue.

'Watch The Road' – Save Lives
Bad driving caused 3,550 deaths and 440,000 injuries in Los Angeles County over the past five years. A coalition of private and public agencies launched "Watch the Road" to educate and raise awareness about responsible driving behavior.

Go Metro To Grand Performances
Enjoy more than 40 free live shows at Grand Performances 2004 Summer Concert series. It's all at the California Plaza in Downtown LA June 24-October 8. For more information, visit grandperformances.org or call 213.687.2159. Go Metro! Take the Metro Red Line to Pershing Square. Use the Trip Planner at metro.net to get there.



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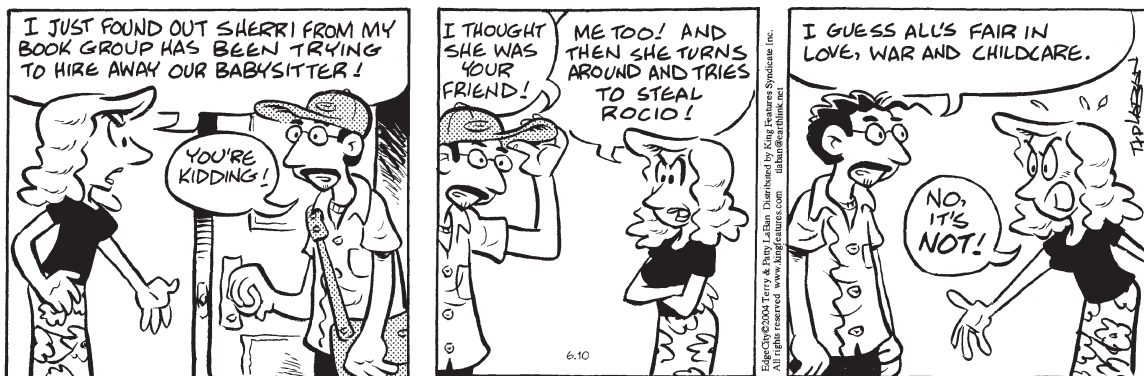
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



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CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Concerning
- 6 Evita's last name
- 11 Worth
- 12 Radiate
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- 14 Eagerly willing
- 15 Aries
- 17 Fan call
- 19 Writer Deighton
- 20 To's counterpart
- 23 Paragons
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- 29 Grass cutter
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- 31 Weed whacker
- 32 Chemin de —
- 33 Power-house
- 35 Athlete's TV greeting
- 38 Mythical weeper
- 41 Future oak
- 42 Bury
- 43 Is rife
- 44 Baffled

DOWN

- 1 Forum greeting
- 2 Stan Getz plays one
- 3 Montana tribe
- 4 Pained cry
- 5 Narrates anew
- 6 Praline bit
- 7 Midterm or final
- 8 Skedaddle
- 9 Unusual
- 10 "The Matrix" hero
- 16 Uses for support
- 17 Item with a barrel

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Yesterday's answer

- 18 Grace's last name
- 20 Beat cops
- 21 Nouveau —
- 22 Different
- 24 — loss
- 25 Writer Tan
- 27 Pacific Islands, collectively
- 31 Sunday songs
- 33 Frosh quarters
- 34 Gum choice
- 35 Topper
- 36 Bar rocks
- 37 Cohort of Curly
- 39 Quilting do
- 40 Stretch of years

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6-10

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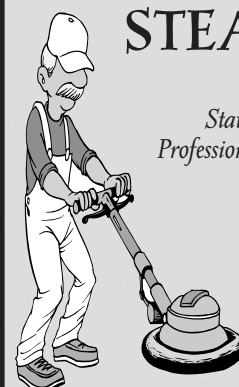
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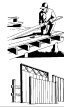
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

'60 Minutes' idea man ends it all with a gold watch

By The Associated Press

■ **NEW YORK** — One Sunday afternoon in the late 1960s, Mike Wallace got a call from Don Hewitt, who wanted to come over to talk about his idea for a television newsmagazine that became "60 Minutes."

"We'd like you to wear the black hat," Wallace recalled Hewitt saying, a reference to Wallace's hard-charging style chasing wrongdoers. The late Harry Reasoner wore the white hat.

CBS feted the 81-year-old Hewitt on Tuesday night at a party in the new Mandarin Oriental hotel. He's just stepped down as executive producer of the newsmagazine he started.

Hewitt received the traditional retirement gift — a gold watch — but CBS was quick to emphasize that he'll still be working on special projects for the news divisions.

CBS boss Leslie Moonves called Hewitt his idol, a status not diminished when Hewitt pitched him the worst idea for a situation comedy that he had ever heard.

Larry King and Katie Couric were among the news glitterati on hand. So were NBC anchor Tom Brokaw and ABC anchor Peter Jennings, although CBS counterpart Dan Rather was absent because he traveled to Washington for former President Reagan's funeral.

Wallace recalled years of legendary arguments with Hewitt. "There was blood on the floor — his and mine," he said.

"He's a pain in the ass," Wallace said, "but he's a genius for what he does. America is the better for having seen 36 years of '60 Minutes.'"

■ **TEMPE, Ariz.** — Pat Tillman received another tribute when the Pac-10 renamed its defensive player of the year award after him.

Tillman, the first NFL player to die in combat since the Vietnam War, won the award himself in 1997 as a safety at Arizona State. The 27-year-old left the Arizona Cardinals

to serve in Afghanistan, where he was killed April 22.

Commissioner Tom Hansen said the league's football coaches suggested the renaming, and the athletic directors approved the change last week.

■ **NEW YORK** — George Lopez will return as host of the Latin Grammys, the Latin Recording Academy said Wednesday.

The fifth annual awards show is set for Sept. 1 at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, and is scheduled to air live on CBS. Nominations will be announced July 14.

Lopez, 43, also hosted last year's Latin Grammys in Miami, where Colombian singer-songwriter Juanes swept the major categories.

"I am truly honored that George has agreed to return for this great musical event," said Gabriel Abaroa, the Latin Recording Academy's president. "We can't wait to see what he has in store for our diverse audience."

The comedian is the co-creator, writer, producer and star of the ABC sitcom "George Lopez." He also just released his autobiography, titled "Why You Crying? My Long, Hard Look at Life, Love and Laughter."

■ **LE ROY, N.Y.** — When he was a boy, Bill Cosby especially liked the taste of lemon-flavored Jell-O that had been sitting in the fridge for two weeks.

"It was rubbery and chewy! Remember?" the 30-year Jell-O pitchman said Tuesday, causing giggles in the crowd gathered for his first trip to the small-town museum dedicated to the dessert.

"You say, 'Oh man, there's an old Jell-O in there.' And finally, when you're by yourself, you say, 'I need something good,' and you pick it up. And it takes maybe, you know, about three or four days — in your mouth — and then it starts to melt and you say, 'Oooh, it's kicking in!'"

The fruit-flavored gelatin that the 66-year-old comedian has championed in scores of television and radio commercials since 1974 was concocted by a young car-

penter, Pearle Bixby Wait, in this western New York village 107 years ago.

The 7-year-old Jell-O museum, which draws close to 10,000 visitors a year, highlights Jell-O's versatility, marketing and enduring popularity — 13 boxes of "America's Most Famous Dessert" are sold every second in the United States.

One corner is devoted to Cosby, who is billed as "the longest-tenured spokesman for any brand in history."

■ **SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic** — Andy Garcia has selected the Dominican Republic for the filming of his new independent movie, "The Lost City."

Garcia's publicist, Stan Rosenfield, said the film centers on a "story of love and betrayal" in Havana in the 1950s, during the transition from the rule of dictator Fulgencio Batista to Castro's revolution.

The Dominican Republic was selected because "there are cultural similarities, architectural thematic similarities and (because of) budgetary concerns," Rosenfield said Tuesday by phone from Los Angeles.

Garcia will direct and star in "The Lost City," also starring Bill Murray. Dustin Hoffman will make a cameo appearance, Rosenfield said.

Shooting was expected to begin this week.

■ **NEW YORK** — Loretta Lynn's aching back has forced her to postpone her June concerts, according to the country singer's Web site.

"Due to a back ailment, Loretta Lynn's physician has ordered her off the road. All of her June concert dates have been postponed. More information to come regarding rescheduling," said a posting on the Web site.

Lynn, 69, had been set to perform in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

A performance at the Loretta Lynn Ranch in Hurricane Mills, Tenn., is scheduled for July 3.

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