



Santa Monica Daily Press

June 26-27, 2004

A newspaper with issues

Volume 3, Issue 194

DAILY LOTTERY

FANTASY 5

11 20 21 23 28

DAILY 3

Daytime: 4 5 8

Evening: 7 1 3

DAILY DERBY

1st: 07 Eureka

2nd: 09 Winning Spirit

3rd: 03 Hot Shot

RACE TIMES: 1:44.43



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ After an investigation, the FBI concluded that a motion sensor found on the tracks near Philadelphia's 30th Street rail station just after the Madrid train bombings was not related to terrorism but was put there by a employee trying to sleep on the job but worried about a supervisor catching him. And just as gasoline prices cleared \$2 a gallon in May, Minnesota's Commerce Department levied a \$70,000 fine against Murphy Oil Co.'s 10 stations for charging too low a price. (A 2001 state law requires that dealers make at least 8 cents a gallon profit.)

■ In a murder trial about to conclude at press time in Martinez, Calif., the circus-like cast of characters included Glenn Helzer (already convicted of several bizarre murders designed to vault him to power as the one true Mormon prophet), his brother Justin (charged in Glenn's crimes and described as one who takes his meals on the kitchen floor on all fours), Dawn Godman (a self-described "good witch" who pleaded guilty as Glenn's helper and then, as the government's star witness, described Glenn's plot to recruit Brazilian orphans to go to Utah and kill Mormon elders, thus hastening the apocalypse), and a former Playboy centerfold (September 2000), not charged with a crime, who was Glenn's girlfriend and took the stand to vouch for Justin's good character.

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Ruling puts onus back on landlords

Decision against City Hall could now be in jeopardy

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Forced to make a decision or lose jurisdiction over the case, a state appellate court on Thursday agreed to consider again a lawsuit over whether City Hall can pursue landlords for evicting tenants maliciously or without cause.

The ruling gives the landlord group Action Apartment Association Inc. until July 8 to argue that a May decision in their favor should be upheld. The association had persuaded the court that a portion of Santa Monica's tenant harassment ordinance violated state law because it made landlords unduly vulnerable to possible lawsuits from City Hall.

At issue is how aggressively

City Hall can pursue landlords it believes are harassing renters. Landlords claim it's up to the tenant to file lawsuits if they think they've been harassed. Prosecutors maintain City Hall shares that right because of its municipal tenant harassment ordinance.

City prosecutors filed for another hearing last week, claiming the May 25 ruling by the Second District Court of Appeals didn't properly reflect the law.

"The gist of our argument is that the court struck down an entire section of the ordinance dealing with baseless eviction actions on the theory that the ordinance conflicts with a certain state law," said Deputy City Attorney Adam Radinsky, who is handling the 2-year-old case. "We argued in the petition that the state law does not even apply to the vast majority of cases when the ordinance might be used. Even in the rare situation where it might apply, it is not the kind of state law that can preempt a local ordinance."

See APPEALS, page 5

Liquid asset



Alejandro Cantarero II/Daily Press
As part of a weekly contest, the first reader to identify where this photo was taken wins a prize. E-mail answers to sack@smdp.com.

Line-backers



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Moviegoers line up early to catch Michael Moore's new documentary 'Fahrenheit 9-11' on Friday afternoon at Loews Cineplex on the Third Street Promenade. The controversial movie premiered Friday.

Blind girl sets her sights on national Braille event

10-year-old to test mettle in day-long grammar contest

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK — Although she's blind, 10-year-old Kyra Sweeney has managed to achieve what many adults dream of. She's an avid skier, and an accomplished actor and musician. Today, she'll test her mettle in a national competition.

Sweeney, a fifth grader at John Muir Elementary School, was one of 12 blind

children in her age group from throughout the country selected to represent California in today's Fourth Annual National Braille Challenge Invitational in Los Angeles.

The day-long event tests reading comprehension, spelling and proofreading. A total of 60 top blind students, ages six to 19, were chosen by qualifying judges earlier this year. Sweeney said Friday she's "pretty confident" she'll excel.

"I started in the Braille Challenge when I was in first grade, and I got

See BRAILLE, page 5



sss
Kyra Sweeney, 10, reads Braille on Friday at her home in Ocean Park. Sweeney will represent California today in a national academic competition for blind children.

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

*****-Dynamic ****-Positive ***-Average **-So-so *-Difficult





ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Get past a natural resistance that could prevent you from enjoying your friends and the day. Adapt plans accordingly to make you feel more comfortable than before. Humor and laugh with a close loved one. Together you relax. Tonight: Make time for a serious talk.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You might push someone a little too hard. He or she could be uncomfortable with what you are sharing. In fact, a coldness might inject itself between the two of you. Give this person the space to re-adapt. A talk becomes inevitable. Tonight: Take care of yourself.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Ever playful, you enjoy yourself but must keep your eye on the budget. You could feel roped in or as if your hands are tied. Let your imagination loose, and you'll find solutions. Fun doesn't have to cost. Tonight: Share a banana split.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★ You might be a "heavier" presence than you realize. Family might steer a course away from you. Get into a physical pastime or perhaps take a mini-yoga session to relax. You will be able to speak your mind later. Tonight: Don't stray far from home.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ An uncomfortable feeling surrounds a premonition involving a dear friend or loved one. Relax more and enjoy yourself. If you aren't careful, you could ruin the afternoon. Your creativity surges. Have an important talk later. Tonight: Take your time sharing your thoughts. Create the right atmosphere.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Expenses could force you to say no when you really don't want to. Worry less about disappointing a friend, and take care of yourself first. Others might note your discomfort, especially family and close loved ones. Tonight: Have a long-overdue talk.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Your lightness and imagination propel others into motion, with perhaps the exception of a parent or an older relative. You might not be comfortable with someone who puts you down or becomes more of a burden to be with. Tonight: Establish boundaries.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★ What you know seems right. However, when you distance yourself and take a look, you will see something else. Discuss and research the problem with a trusted friend who understands you. Don't hold back. Tonight: Play it low-key.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Adapt plans to be with whom you want, when you want. You could find a partner or loved one very difficult to deal with. A little distance might heal what could become a potential rift. You can empathize with but not indulge someone. Tonight: Let another lead.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You take the lead and follow through. Investigate what is necessary to help several friends or associates who feel out of sorts. Be sensitive to those not in the swing of things, but don't stop the party! Tonight: Paint the town red.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ A friend adjusts plans to be with you. Although you could be flattered, you might not like readjusting your schedule. You could feel pushed beyond your limits. Smile, detach and know what you need to do. Tonight: Try a new cuisine.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ A child or loved one's problems could drag you down. You might need to cancel or postpone plans that involve a dear partner because of this person. Be flexible. A must appearance or responsibility cannot be postponed. Tonight: Have a quiet talk.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Schwarzenegger handpicks SM man

By Daily Press staff

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Friday announced the appointment of a local man to a high-ranking position in the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

William Parente, 62, of Santa Monica, has been appointed deputy secretary of Veterans' Homes for the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Parente has over 34 years of experience in health care administration, including serving as president of St. Vincent Medical Center in Los Angeles from 1998 to 2003.

A former lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve, the Democrat will be paid \$103,332.

Local college students make the grade

By Daily Press staff

Three of Santa Monica's children earned themselves and the city recognition away from home this past spring semester.

Stephen K. Bayes, Gene T. Kafka and Adam P. Saltsman were named on Colby College's spring Dean's List. In order to make the list, the Waterville, Maine-based college requires a grade point average of 3.2 for continuing students and 3.0 for first-year students.

Bayes graduated from the city's Crossroads School and is majoring in biology and minoring in psychology while at Colby. During Saltsman's time at the college, he chose to major in anthropology, after he graduated from Palisades High School. Kafka, a graduate of Santa Monica High School, is double-majoring in physics and English.

Find Nemo and Davis at gallery

By Daily Press Staff

Recently discovered paintings by jazz trumpet legend Sir Miles Davis will be on public display this month at Dahl and Gallant Fine Art Gallery in Santa Monica.

Dahl and Gallant recently announced the local exhibit of Davis' "other" art. The exhibit is presented in cooperation with the Davis family, who have agreed to bring items from their private collection to supplement the exhibit of six original works.

The Davis exhibit will be accompanied by a collection of rare jazz memorabilia belonging to the immortal composer Henry Nemo, touted as the "creator of jive." Nemo's collection documents his days at the Cotton Club in the mid-1930s, where he wrote the lyrics for "I Let a Song Go Out of My Heart," with Duke Ellington. The historical collection includes original photographs taken by Nemo at the Cotton Club, Cotton Club memorabilia, and a 1939 telegram from Ellington to Nemo, written in jive. Nemo later partnered with other renowned industry music elite including Frank Sinatra, Mildred Bailey and Tommy Dorsey over his seven-decade career, ultimately landing in Los Angeles.

Gallery owner, Dirk Dahl, ties the two collections together with his latest work in tribute to the two jazz greats. His current work featuring Miles Davis is a series of powerful sculptures depicting the trumpet player. Dahl also will present his recently completed, mixed-media on canvas depiction of Henry Nemo's historical jazz collection. Dahl, a self-taught artist, has collected world-wide.

A public reception featuring the current exhibit, "A Journey Through Music, Art and History," will be held at Dahl and Gallant Fine Art Gallery on July 24, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The exhibit runs from June 20 through July 31. Dahl and Gallant Fine Art Gallery is located at 1828 Broadway, suite A in Santa Monica. For more information, call (310) 453-5100. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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SURF REPORT

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Today the
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64°

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at your local break.



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	10:15	1.2	N/A	N/A	4:11	3.4	5:14	5.0
SUNDAY	12:08	1.3	11:04	1.6	5:47	3.3	5:53	5.6
MONDAY	1:05	0.4	11:56	1.9	7:09	3.4	6:35	6.1
TUESDAY	1:55	-0.4	12:47	2.1	8:18	3.5	7:15	3.6
WEDNESDAY	2:44	-1.1	1:39	2.2	9:16	3.7	8:06	7.0
THURSDAY	3:32	-1.5	2:30	2.2	10:08	3.9	8:53	7.2
FRIDAY	4:20	-1.8	3:22	2.2	10:58	4.0	9:42	7.2

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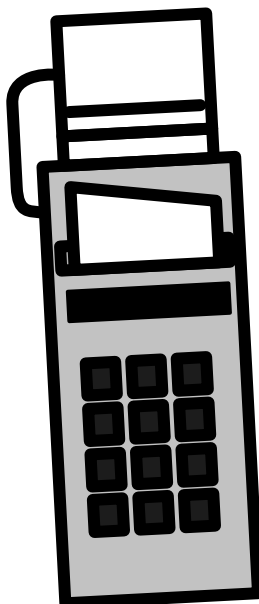
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People & Places



Sunny side up

Last week (pictured at left), the Santa Monica Breakfast Club had its installation of officers and committee chairs for 2004-2005 at the 17th St. Cafe. The installing officer was Shirley Danley, far left. Those installed, were, from left Leila Brown, hospitality chair; Gaby Schkud, program chair; Evelyn Guerboian, president for a second term; Jean McNeil Wyner, chair, diamond luncheon; Carla Barrett, secretary; and Donna Alvarez, treasurer.



(Left) Last week Barbara Hopper was given a going away party at the home of Dee Menzies, president of the Rotary Club of Santa Monica. Hopper served as the club's executive secretary from 1999-2003. She is moving to Pittsburgh, Penn., to be closer to her family. From left, Ruth and Marv Levin, Hopper, RoseMary Regalbuto and John Miller. (Above) Hopper with Larry Maher, Webmaster for the Rotary Club of Santa Monica.



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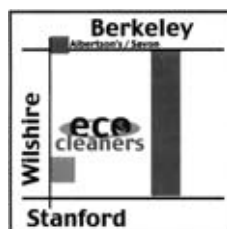
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LOCAL



Prosecutors say system already protects tenants

APPEALS, from page 1

On the other side of the lawsuit is attorney Rosario Perry, an outspoken critic of the city's harassment ordinance. Perry said City Hall acts like a Mafia boss and strong arms local landlords by threatening to sue them every time a tenant complains.

"The city interferes with the owner's ability to manage their property and they interfere on groundless reasons," Perry said Friday. "The city attorney knows nothing about rent control law or landlord-tenant law. They're basically third graders when it comes to that. All they do is they get the tenant's complaint, they ignore a good body of housing law, and they send these intimidating letters. Their purpose is just to stop the owners from moving to evict tenants — or moving to control tenants' behavior."

Perry added that, like the Mafia, City Hall doesn't use the courtroom to resolve its disputes, instead relying on threatening letters to prompt compliance. He said prosecutors have sent out 200 to 250 threatening letters, but filed suit only a handful of times.

"Very poor, poor track records," Perry said. "They're quick to accuse and they don't follow through. If the owner stands up to (City Hall) and says, 'Go to hell' or if the owner gives in, caves in, they've accomplished their purpose."

Those same numbers are viewed differently by prosecutors, who say the small

number of lawsuits proves the system works and tenants are being protected from unruly landlords. Radinsky said City Hall receives about 100 complaints a year under its tenant harassment ordinance, and has pressed charges about 15 times.

Local landlord Doreen Dennis is co-plaintiff in the association's lawsuit against City Hall, which was tossed out twice in the trial courts before being passed onto the appellate court. Perry said Dennis signed onto the lawsuit when City Hall threatened to pursue her criminally after she tried to evict a tenant in her building at 1024 Maple St. Dennis wanted to evict the tenant so her daughter could move into the four-unit building, Perry added.

The court on Thursday announced it would invite a rebuttal from the association and Dennis. Had it not acted by Thursday, jurisdiction over the case would have been passed onto the California Supreme Court, as with all appeals cases 30 days after a decision is filed, officials said.

In order to keep its tenant harassment law intact, City Hall will have to convince the court the law isn't unfair to landlords. In its earlier decision, the court ruled the ordinance would "threaten free access to the courts by providing an end run around the limitations on the tort of malicious prosecution." A tort is a civil offense.

Girl continues to amaze

BRAILLE, from page 1

involved because it was from the Braille Institute" she said. "I didn't make it to the nationals that time."

Sweeney has been blind since birth. She suffers from Leber's congenital amaurosis, a genetically transmitted condition of the retina. Her father Rob, a cinematographer, said he and his wife Barbara, an attorney, both carry the recessive gene, meaning their children have a one in four chance of being born blind.

"She has some light perception — she can tell light from dark, but she can't see shapes and forms," said Rob Sweeney, 49, known for his work on films like "Blue Collar," and independent hits "I'm Losing You" and "The Sleepy Time Gal."

"She is a very happy girl," he added. "She amazes us and everybody with her abilities, rather than her disability. She's very bright and she excels in a school environment. She's always done exceptionally well and is, at least, I would say, ahead of her peers, in terms of her reading and mathematical abilities."

The Sweeney family lives in a bungalow on Beverly Avenue near Joslyn Park. Kyra has an older sister named Kiko, 12, who is sighted. With school out, Kyra looks forward to attending a summer camp in Minnesota for blind children.

She plays the piano and flute, and loves to act. She's

appeared in nine musical theater productions at the Creative Kids' Youth Theater based in West Los Angeles, including playing the lead role of Maria in "The Sound of Music." Sweeney also is a voracious reader and loves to write. One of her poems, titled "The Circus," recently was published in the Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans, and Sweeney was featured in a PBS series on literacy called "Reading Rockets: Launching Young Readers."

All that success has taught Sweeney's parents a thing or two.

"I didn't know anything about blindness when we had Kyra and really had no idea what being blind is about," Rob Sweeney said. "It's a (challenge), but through proper training and techniques she can do practically anything. That's the philosophy that we encourage and she embraces. She's living proof that that is true."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reagan made teen proud

Editor:

Since I was a small child I have learned from my family to respect the man and President Ronald Wilson Reagan. I am now 15 years of age and have studied, read about and observed on television, the grace in which Mr. Reagan led our country. More importantly, and refreshingly, is to find a man who lived with dignity, treating those he knew and met as he wanted to be treated. Thank you, Ronald Reagan for making me proud to be an American.

Stefan Barker
Malibu

Homeless woman needs cash

Editor:

I have been in Santa Monica for five months, and I love your paper and try to read it every day as it is very informative and it’s free. What more can you say about a great paper? I have a serious problem. I have been homeless like many others in this great city (and I love this city). I was staying at Samoshel, and the very next day that I arrived, I was getting a shower, and when I came out of the shower I slipped and fell and fractured my elbow. I had such a difficult time getting care. I kept going to the emergency room. I tried in vain to get the Salvation Army to pay the bill since they did not have the grid that was needed for the women to get out of the showers safely. One woman fell the night before me and they knew they had a problem but did nothing, until two days after I fell and only after I was seriously hurt. No staff ever asked me how my arm was or ever said a word to me about the incident. I was completely ignored while I suffered to get to a doctor. As of today I cannot get the Salvation Army to pay for my injuries. I left Samoshel awhile after. I am still homeless and still have this bill to pay. The Salvation Army gets millions each year and it’s a crime against humanity to do this to me or anyone.

Joan Campagna
Santa Monica

‘Monsters’ need to be held accountable

Editor:

Before we had the chance to thank the Santa Monica city staff for finally cleaning up the artworks under the Fourth Street overpass on Ocean Park Boulevard – and before the restorers could provide the paintings with protective sheathing, both works were attacked anew by taggers.

It will be a shame if again this situation is left unaddressed for eons, as it was until the city’s recent effort. Leaving a couple of tags unchallenged on these murals resulted the last time in an explosion of activity that included not only dozens of assaults on the pieces themselves, but also in the vandalization of homes, walls, sidewalks, cars and storefronts throughout the neighborhood.

Already, on the murals themselves, the situation is worse than it was before the clean-up. The three or four scripts that appeared a month ago have been joined by a dozen more, including three the size of golf carts that will be very difficult and expensive to repair. Together, these calamities might as well be an advertising billboard announcing that the neighborhood is ripe for vandalizing.

Someone – the city, the Main Street Merchants, OPCO, art activists, this newspaper – should take up the cause of these murals before it’s too late.

The work on the north side, depicting the escape of the horses from the carousel on the Santa Monica Pier, is a treasure that especially deserves protection. Let’s turn photographs of the new tags into wanted posters, offer a cash reward for turning the perpetrators in. And when the little monsters responsible for these desecrations are finally caught, let’s hold them – and their parents – responsible for the cost of restoration.

John Gabree
Ocean Park

There is nothing amateur about vandalism

Editor:

I must protest at the use of language on the front age of your June 24 issue concerning the vandalism of the “Whale of a Mural” on Ocean Park Boulevard.

First, you call those responsible for this criminal act “amateur graffiti artists” then you compound it by talking about “skilled members of the graffiti-art community.” Would you ever describe thieves as “skilled members of the shoplifting career community?” How about attempted murderers as “amateur life-terminators?” I didn’t think so.

Ocean Park and Sunset Park – and I am sure other parts of Santa Monica – have been attacked by petty acts of this scribbling on private and public property for some months now. I urge you to send a photographer down to walk the streets and alleys and take a look. He or she will find curbs, lampposts, utility poles, road signs, walls, garage doors, even trees that have been damaged not by skilled (or unskilled) members of the graffiti-art community but by criminals.

Let’s stop minimizing this wanton and pointless act, pretending it is a harmless prank. It is not. It is outright vandalism and should be treated as such.

Martin Gould
Santa Monica

Tag the taggers

Editor:

I read with dismay your article about those “artists” that perpetrated the vandalism on the “Whale” mural, (SMDP, June 24, page 1).

Perhaps your writer could explain the difference between art and vandalism to Mrs. Gomez whose son, Miguel, was slain on Thursday by an apparent tagger for his efforts to remove “art,” here in our county. I believe Miguel’s funeral is this week so be sure and show up with pictures of Santa Monica’s “art” just to prove to the mourners that Miguel was misguided.

I have been running by the “Whale” mural for over 15 years and view it as a mainstay of Santa Monica and Ocean Park culture. When I viewed the most recent “art,” I figured it must have taken taggers at least an hour or more to do this. Perhaps if our police force weren’t so busy dealing with the intricacies of our city’s social experiments, they could have been more attentive to our aspiring artisans. But then again, maybe we could spend another \$500,000 from the general fund to build a really nice graffiti artist academy and institute.

Graffiti is starting to become prevalent all around Ocean Park and other parts of the city, and the residents are getting tired of it. Please, fix this broken window before it spreads.

Lance A. Schmidt
Santa Monica

The Q Line

DOG-DAY AFTERNOONS NOT FOR EVERYONE

This past week, Q-line asked:
“Should a portion of Santa Monica’s beach be designated an off-leash zone for dogs?” Why or why not?”

Here are your responses:

(Editor’s note: Due to the high volume of responses, not all answers to this week’s question will be printed today. Look for more responses next week in the Santa Monica Daily Press).

- ☉ “A free running zone for unleashed dogs is all right with me, providing the dog owner is required to maintain a high-end liability insurance policy. All dogs are not of the same size, nor disposition. Prudence dictates that the owners have insurance for their own legal protection or for another pet or person that may be injured.”
- ☉ “No, we should not have a special place for dogs. The beach is for people. Santa Monica has three dog parks already that have turned into a chip place that is not available to anybody in the community except for dog owners. I think that’s very limited use and it states that animals should come before people. I vote for people and don’t think dogs should be allowed on the beach.”
- ☉ “It is high time we had a doggie beach. I grew up in Carmel and we had a pristine area. We found people becoming more human with more dogs around. I think that is a great idea.”

- ☉ “Why do we need an off-leash dog beach? It will be more urine and feces on the beach, just like the homeless do. The kids will be playing on the beach, sitting in urine-drenched sand. Even if the owners pick up the poop, the urine will still be there.”
- ☉ “I think there should absolutely be a designated area for dogs on the beach, just not unleashed. They should all be leashed, it would be nice to walk a dog on the beach. I live here in Santa Monica and can’t walk along the coast with my dog. I think they should at least change the law so you can walk your dog on the beach.”
- ☉ “I don’t think it’s a bad idea to have a supervised area for dogs on the beach. If we let the homeless and the vagrants take over our parks and beaches, urinating, defecating and vomiting at will. What could be wrong with somebody’s nice, clean, behaved doggie buddy? Sounds like an improvement to me.”
- ☉ “Use common sense on this. Beaches are not for dogs, cats or other animals. Unless you are 20 miles away from humans. Beaches are for humans. This is a bizarre recommendation and I am sure it won’t pass.”
- ☉ “I think we owe it to the dog citizens to provide a nice beach run. I think it’s a great idea.”
- ☉ “Nobody should be allowed to bring a dog onto the beach, off the leash or not. Dog owners should band together like a co-op and purchase their own stretch of beach, not use public property. Then they can muck it up all they want.”
- ☉ “Santa Monica residents deserve a place they can take their dog to the beach. People assume that a dog beach will affect water quality, or be a liability issue to the city or safety issue. Yet careful research of all 57 dog beaches in California does not show that any of these issues are facts. The quality all around does not go down and dog areas are often cleaner than the rest of the beach. There have been no liability or safety issues in any of the municipalities that have dog beaches.

OPINION



GUEST COMMENTARY BY ROBERT GARMONG

The friendly skies are for all to explore

SpaceShipOne, the first privately funded manned spacecraft, shattered more than the boundary of outer space: It destroyed forever the myth that space exploration can only be done by the government.

Just a week earlier, a Bush Administration panel on space exploration recommended that NASA increase the role of private contractors in the push to permanently settle the moon and eventually explore Mars. But it appears that neither the Administration nor anyone else has yet considered the true free-market solution for America's moribund space program: Complete privatization.

There is a contradiction at the heart of the space program: Space exploration, as the grandest of man's technological advancements, requires the kind of bold innovation possible only to minds left free to pursue the best of their thinking and judgment. Yet, by placing the space program under governmental funding, we necessarily place it at the mercy of governmental whim. The results are written all over the past twenty years of NASA's history: The space program is a political animal, marked by shifting, inconsistent, and ill-defined goals.

The space shuttle was built and maintained to please clashing constituencies, not to do a clearly defined job for which there was an economic and technical need. The shuttle was to launch satellites for the Department of Defense and private contractors — which could be done more cheaply by lightweight, disposable rockets. It was to carry scientific experiments — which could be done more efficiently by unmanned vehicles. But one "need" came before all technical issues: NASA's political need for showy manned vehicles. The result, as great a technical achievement as it is, was an over-sized, over-complicated, over-budget, overly dangerous vehicle that does everything poorly and nothing well.

Indeed, the space shuttle program was supposed to be phased out years ago, but the search for its replacement has been halted, largely because space contractors enjoy collecting on the over-priced shuttle without the expense and bother of researching cheaper alternatives. A private industry could have fired them — but not so in a government project, with home-district congressmen to lobby on their behalf.

There is reason to believe that the political nature of the space program may have even been directly responsible for the Columbia disaster. Fox News reported that NASA chose to stick with non-Freon-based foam insulation on the booster rockets, despite evidence that this type of foam causes up to eleven

times as much damage to thermal tiles as the older, Freon-based foam. Although NASA was exempted from the restrictions on Freon use, which environmentalists believe causes ozone depletion, and despite the fact that the amount of Freon released by NASA's rockets would have been trivial, the space agency elected to stick with the politically correct foam.

It is impossible to integrate the contradictory. To whatever extent an engineer is forced to base his decisions, not on the realities of science but on the arbitrary, unpredictable, and often impossible demands of a politicized system, he is stymied. Yet this politicizing is an unavoidable consequence of governmental control over scientific research and development.

Nor would it be difficult to spur the private exploration of space — it's been happening, quietly, for years. The free market works to produce whatever there is demand for, just as it now does with traditional aircraft. Commercial satellite launches are now routine, and could easily be fully privatized. The so-called X Prize, for which SpaceShipOne is competing, offers incentive for private groups to break out of the Earth's atmosphere.

But all this private exploration is hobbled by the crucial absence of a system of property rights in space. Imagine the incentive to a profit-minded business if, for instance, it were granted the right to any stellar body it reached and exploited.

We often hear that the most ambitious projects can only be undertaken by government, but in fact the opposite is true. The more ambitious a project is, the more it demands to be broken into achievable, profit-making steps — and freed from the unavoidable politicizing of government-controlled science. If space development is to be transformed from an expensive national bauble whose central purpose is to assert national pride to a practical industry, it will only be by unleashing the creative force of free and rational minds.

We have now made the first steps toward the stars. Before us are enormous technical difficulties, the solution of which will require even more heroic determination than that which tamed the seas and the continents. To solve them, America must unleash its best engineering minds, as only the free market can do.

(Robert Garmong, Ph.D. in philosophy, is a writer for the Ayn Rand Institute (www.aynrand.org) in Irvine. The Institute promotes the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of Atlas Shrugged and The Fountainhead).

The only bad question is the one never asked



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

It's that time again. Some people are speaking from the heart and making excellent points. Others are angry and vilifying those who disagree with them. No, I'm not talking about the current presidential campaign. I'm talking about e-mails I've received recently in response to my columns.

In my column about Las Vegas, I suggested that it was time to PUT THE SIN BACK INTO "SIN CITY."

MKGERN — "I agree wholeheartedly. I hate it when there are a bunch of little kids roaming around when we are happily losing our money in Vegas."

When I suggested that THE REASON THAT POLITICIANS LIKE TO TALK ABOUT SEXUAL ISSUES like Janet Jackson exposing her breast for a nano-second and same-sex marriages is because they like to avoid talking about more important issues. However, many readers didn't think there were any issues that were "more important."

SAM — "Your fingers aren't anywhere near the pulse of America, nor do you get the whole concept of why we don't want gay marriages. I won't even waist (sic) my time explaining it to you because you've cowed down to the moral standards of your kind. Fortunately for America you don't run this country."

DOUG — "I have a number of friends who are gay or lesbian couples. Thinking about their long-term dedicated relationships that have had to endure constant societal prejudice gives STRENGTH to my 34-year marriage to my wife. I tell myself that if they can work that hard to keep things together, I should do no less."

THE REV. MAURICE — "When the nation fails to demand His standard of decency, accountability to God can be our only fate."

WHAN — "You need to know that I am a 'conservative Christian.'... While gay marriage is a big issue, your eternal destiny is a bigger one."

FROM 84-YEAR-OLD M.V. — "I'm not in favor of same-sex marriages, nor am I in favor of abortion. But I firmly believe that the separation of church and state is fundamentally what this country is all about and we should not try to impose our beliefs on others."

My response to Congress passing the CHEESEBURGER BILL got some interesting reactions:

DAVE — "Think I will go have an 'over-sugarized' doughnut with a cigarette chaser."

RON — "If obesity overtakes smoking as the leading killer in the USA, does that mean Congress will ban the fast food

industry from advertising on TV, magazines and billboards like they did the cigarette industry?"

In SPELLING STILL KOUNTS, I expressed my outrage at the fact that you find misspelled words everywhere these days. Richard disagreed:

RICHARD — "As a lifelong poor speller I've taken refuge in one guiding principle when it comes to putting anything down on paper: Spelling a word the same way each and every time indicates a decided lack of imagination on the part of the writer."

I talked about the current trend of PEOPLE WRITING THEIR OWN OBITUARIES. One response was touching, funny, and bizarre:

ALAN — "As a terminal cancer patient, I've decided to have the following inscribed on my tombstone:

Here I lie, in the dirt

I can see up your skirt.

Please go to my Web site and make a huge donation."

I received some spirited responses to my suggestion that DAN QUAYLE WOULD MAKE A PERFECT RUNNING MATE FOR JOHN KERRY.

KIT — "LOL. Great stuff."

PATRICK — "Amazingly juvenile worthless nonsense."

Readers had definite opinions on MY PARODY OF THE 911 HEARINGS:

JOHN — "It is my belief that the Bush administration has done so much more to fight terrorism than any liberal Democrats. Your views seem far from the truth to me."

KEN — "I nearly got kicked out of the restaurant for laughing so loudly ... Keep up the good (and funny) work."

The first GARVER POLL dealt with such subjects as President Bush, Barry Bonds, the price of gasoline, and people who peek in other people's medicine cabinets. I got the feeling that not everybody took it too seriously — and that was the appropriate reaction. For example:

ARTHUR — A, B, B, B, A, A, B, B, ... but not necessarily in that order.

PAT — "There is definitely a place in heaven for anyone who can make a complete stranger smile or laugh (without profanity I might add)!"

(Maybe Pat should write to the Reverend Maurice and to WHAN on my behalf).

Finally, I haven't gotten a response to MY RSVP TO TOM DELAY'S DINNER. So, I'm not sure if I'm still welcome at the dinner even though I plan on bringing a salad or dessert instead of \$5,000.

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

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.

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STATE



An anxious governor calls for action on the budget

BY TOM CHORNEAU

Associated Press Writer

FOLSOM – Using a lunchtime crowd at suburban Italian restaurant as a backdrop, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger criticized Democratic leaders Thursday for the snail's pace of budget negotiations.

But a few hours later, Democratic legislative leaders said they believe they're close to a deal with Schwarzenegger that would pass an on-time budget before the June 30 end of the fiscal year.

While saying there a lot of details that need to be addressed, Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez said he thought an agreement was imminent.

"We'd like to get this done by tomorrow night," said Nunez, D-Los Angeles. "I'm hopeful that we can reach some type of tentative agreement on framework, if not by tomorrow night certainly this weekend."

The Republican governor and the Democrats who control the Legislature have said for weeks that only a handful of issues separate them on the governor's proposed \$103 billion spending plan.

Lawmakers say three of the issues – more money for state universities, a wage guarantee for home health care workers, a cost of living increase for welfare recipients – are all but settled.

Schwarzenegger said two other issues – pension reform and local government funding – remain the sticking points.

"When we solve those two issues, it's a little more than \$2 billion, then there will be a little bit of money left so that they can look at that," Schwarzenegger told reporters following a 45-minute session roaming around the Folsom restaurant, where he complained about the Legislature and urged them to call their lawmakers in support of his budget plan.

Democrats have said they want to add about \$60 million to the budget to lift a cap on enrollment proposed by the governor on state colleges and universities next year. They also want to restore \$130 million – revised upward from \$98 million –

that would protect wages of workers who provide domestic services to the disabled and elderly. Democrats also want a cost of living increase in welfare payments that will add another \$400 million to the budget.

Money for local government is more complicated.

Schwarzenegger and local government leaders agreed in May to cut \$2.6 billion in state money to cities and counties over the next two years in exchange for a promise the money would be paid back in the future. Schwarzenegger also pledged to support a constitutional amendment that would permanently protect local government from future raids by the state.

Democrats say they support the cuts but don't want to commit to a "flawed" financial relationship between the state and local governments, which are too dependent on sales taxes to pay for services.

As former Gov. Gray Davis tried to do last year, Schwarzenegger wants to sell \$1 billion in bonds to make the state's \$1 billion payment for public employee pensions. But he also wants to link the bonds to a new two-tiered retirement system in which new employees would get lesser benefits than current state workers.

Senate President Pro Tem John Burton, D-San Francisco, said Democrats will not support reducing the benefits of future state workers. He said their counter proposal involves imposing a two-year delay before new employees would be allowed to join the state retirement system.

The governor, Burton said, was still assessing the Democrats' offer.

While negotiations continued, Schwarzenegger's noontime trip to Folsom was another example of how he uses his popularity with voters to pressure reluctant Democrats.

Much smaller and quieter than a rally last week in Chico, the governor's stop at a Macaroni Grill in a suburban shopping center put Schwarzenegger among voters who were enthusiastic to see the former movie star.

He told diner Andrew Volpendesta that things were going well, although he would "have to discipline" the Democrats who were holding up his budget.

"I want to make the cuts so we stay within the budget, so that they balance the budget, and they of course want to continue spending the way they always have, so now we are negotiating to meet somewhere in the middle."

He posed for pictures with Ann Gennuso-Newton and her daughter, Natalie Emken, in exchange for them agreeing to call their legislators.

"Put pressure on them," Schwarzenegger told them. "Tell them, 'Pass the governor's budget now. Otherwise, I will not vote for you.'"

Assemblyman Darrell Steinberg, a Democrat from Sacramento and chairman of the budget committee, said the governor's Folsom trip didn't bother him.

"I feel pressure but not because the governor holds an event," he said. "I feel pressure because it is our job to get it done on time, but it also our job to get it done right. It's always the balance between those two things."

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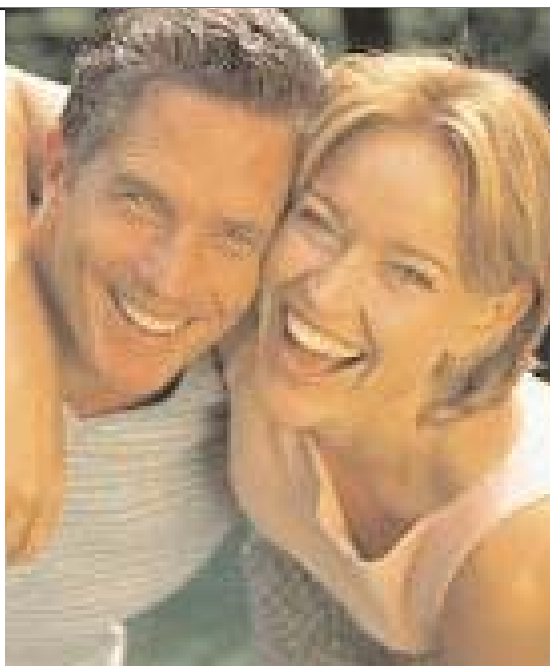
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NATIONAL

International marine census takes on deep Arctic

BY RACHEL D'ORO

Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — An international team of scientists is delving into the icy depths of the Arctic Ocean to inventory aquatic life in the far north.

Researchers say a melting polar ice cap gives urgency to the project, part of a decade-long, \$1 billion marine survey taking place around the world. The Census of Marine Life is launching the arctic study with a \$600,000 grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, researchers said Thursday.

"Increases in sea temperature are occurring globally with consequences that are hard to predict," said Ron O'Dor, chief scientist of the global census. "Accurate measures and predictions of species distribution, abundance and natural variation through time across a range of species are urgently needed to help policy-makers respond appropriately to the consequences of changes in the ocean."

The Arctic is the least-documented ocean on the planet, but past studies have yielded a surprisingly diverse collection of species. About 5,000 known multicel-

lular species live in arctic waters, according to researchers.

"It is certainly not the desert people thought it to be," said Russ Hopcroft, a marine ecologist at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the project headquarters.

Experts in biology, physics and geology from circumpolar and other nations will particularly focus on the Canada Basin, a little known ice-covered cavity more than two miles deep north of Alaska and the Yukon Territory. It is believed to contain the world's oldest seawater, a still pool surrounded by steep ridges.

Many species in the basin's chilled depths are thought to have lived in isolation for millions of years. Scientists hope to learn more about the genetics of species that can survive in such extreme conditions.

A small sampling taken in the area already has found at least five new marine species as well as the discovery of species previously unknown to the area. Researchers expect to find more, using sonar equipment, camera-equipped underwater robots, plankton nets and other tools.

"We need to begin paying more atten-

tion to biodiversity in the arctic, which is more vulnerable to climate change because of its multiyear ice cover," Hopcroft said. "There are animals here that are uniquely adapted to that ice cover. If the arctic continues to lose ice each summer, these animals could become extinct, not to mention overall changes. We just don't know what it would do to the whole ecosystem."

Since the mid-1970s, the winter ice pack in the arctic has decreased 2 percent to 3 percent each decade, said Rolf Gradinger, a UAF sea ice ecologist participating in the study. Scientists say that without large ice masses, which reflect the sun's rays into the atmosphere, the earth absorbs more heat, contributing to further warming. Ice also serves as a platform for walrus and seals.

"When the ice cover disappears, you lose an important environment," Gradinger said. "Changes in sea ice produce a domino effect."

Researchers also plan to look at the mouths of rivers in Russia and Canada that pour an estimated 2 trillion tons of

fresh water into the Arctic Ocean each year. Climate change could bring more runoff, changing species composition.

The arctic project also calls for consolidating data gleaned from environmental studies for oil and gas exploration in the region.

Among challenges facing the project are finding and paying for the use of ice breakers, usually scheduled at least two years in advance, researchers said. August trips are planned, however, on Russian and Canadian vessels already scheduled for unrelated endeavors.

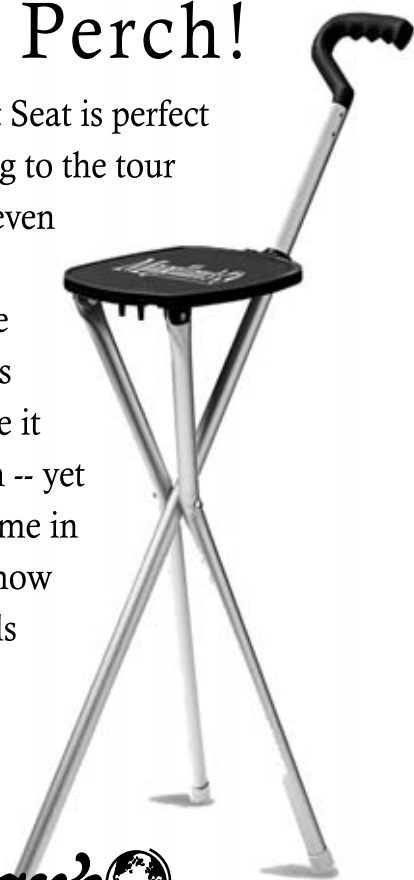
Smaller research trips also are planned.

Political boundaries also could complicate access to some places. Taking sea floor samples could become a sensitive issue, for example, in areas valued for their underground resources or suspected sites for dumping nuclear and other wastes.

The Census of Marine Life is a growing network of researchers in more than 50 nations engaged in a 10-year initiative to assess the diversity of marine species worldwide. The census also is developing a sister project for the Antarctic Ocean.

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NATIONAL



Cyber sleuths patrol the Web for signs of terrorism

BY MELANTHIA MITCHELL

Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE — Fort Lewis Army Spc. Ryan Anderson thought he was communicating with a Muslim extremist on the Internet when he allegedly asked if a “brother fighting on the wrong side could defect.”

The 26-year-old Washington state National Guardsman didn’t know his e-mails instead were secretly collected by Shannen Rossmiller, a small-town Montana city judge and amateur cyber sleuth who draws out would-be terrorists and turns them over to authorities.

Anderson was arrested in February and now faces a court-martial on five counts of trying to provide terrorists with information about U.S. troop strength and tactics, along with methods for killing American soldiers.

Rossmiller, 34, of Conrad, Mont., is one of an unknown number of citizen cyberspies who, unrestricted by laws prohibiting entrapment, gather information they say authorities don’t always catch.

She said government agencies at times have little understanding “regarding the extent and depth with which the terrorists and their followers utilize the Internet for their means and methods of communications.”

Today she’s a member of 7-Seas Global Intelligence, a small group that tracks terrorist activity on the Web and passes the information to government and military officials.

As a citizen, Rossmiller did nothing illegal when she turned Anderson’s e-mails over to the FBI, said John Strait, an associate professor who teaches entrapment law at the Seattle University.

“As a judge, she of course cannot sit on any case involving 7-Seas matters,” he said.

To prove entrapment, Strait said the defense would first have to prove Rossmiller was acting on behalf of law enforcement. Then a case would have to be built showing Anderson “was not predisposed to do what he did.”

Rossmiller testified last month during Anderson’s Article 32 hearing — the military equivalent of grand jury — that after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, she felt compelled to help. So she began searching the Internet for possible terrorists, both domestic and international.

She said she posted the call to Muslim holy war that drew Anderson in only after she discovered an Internet message from him that had been sent using the name Amir Abdul Rashid.

Bob Wright, FBI special agent in Salt Lake City, likened work by 7-Seas and similar groups to neighborhood watch programs.

“That type of forum, if it’s not used in a spiteful manner, can be a good thing,” Wright said. “It’s the same thing with people traveling the Internet highway, it can be very useful to law enforcement.”

Rossmiller bristles at the comparison, saying it demonstrates that authorities are still catching up to how much terrorists use the Internet.

Brent Astley, a 44-year-old software developer in Ontario, Canada, has been with 7-Seas since it formed in January 2003. He said the small band of seven came together on an Internet forum where people discuss current events.

Today they monitor various Web boards frequented by groups they believe may have terrorist or extremist views. Astley declined to identify specific sites, fearing they would be taken down and therefore lost as a source.

Most of the group’s investigating involves filtering through information to discern what’s worthwhile, he said.

“There are certain people who we know are perhaps closer to the core of al-Qaida than others,” he said.

Rossmiller testified at Anderson’s hearing that

through a string of Internet searches she connected the name Amir Abdul Rashid to Anderson’s military e-mail.

Over several months she drew details from the man, including that he was an American soldier who was about to be deployed to Iraq.

Alarmed, she alerted the Homeland Security Department and shared her information with the FBI.

Undercover agents in February met with Anderson, and a nearly hour-long video of the meeting shows him telling about weaknesses in the M1A1 Abrams, the Army’s main battle tank, and presenting sketches of it.

Astley said 7-Seas’ intent only is to pass on information that otherwise may go unnoticed by federal investigators.

“We gather it, we don’t try to act upon it. We’re not trying to take over any kind of role of law enforcement,” he said. “There’s just way too much out there for any agency to keep full track of.”

Astley couldn’t say how often information from 7-Seas

has led to a full-scale investigation, but he stressed the federal government has never solicited help from 7-Seas.

“Typically what will happen is we’ll send something and in a few cases they’ll ask for follow up or to keep an eye out. I can’t honestly say we’ve been sought out.”

Federal agents are wary of the amateur sleuths, welcoming the information but leery of having private citizens investigate.

Special Agent Robbie Burroughs in the FBI’s Seattle office said the agency constantly receives tips from private citizens, but she wouldn’t say specifically whether more people seem to be gathering information from the Internet.

“People call in with information. I wouldn’t be comfortable being more specific than that,” Burroughs said.

Asked if the agency welcomed information from people acting as private investigators, Burroughs said, “It would not be our normal practice to utilize private citizens to conduct investigations on our behalf.”

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NATIONAL

Black African tribes of Darfur are being targeted for genocide

BY GEORGE GEDDA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON – Genocide has struck many victims over the past 65 years: European Jews during World War II, Cambodians in the late 1970s, Rwandans in 1994.

There may be a new addition: The black African tribes of Darfur province in western Sudan have faced murder, displacement, pillage, razing of villages and other crimes committed by Arab militias known as janjaweed.

The dictionary defines genocide as “the systematic killing of a racial or cultural group.” The U.S. government is reviewing whether Darfur qualifies for the designation.

“The janjaweed are the government’s militia, and Khartoum has armed and empowered it to conduct ‘ethnic cleansing’ in Darfur,” says Human Rights Watch. The Brussels-based International Crisis Group says Darfur can “easily become as deadly” as the Rwanda genocide of 1994. Then, soldiers, militiamen and civilians of the Hutu majority killed more than 500,000 minority Tutsis and politically moderate Hutus in 100 days.

All along, Sudan has denied allegations of complicity with the Arab militias and has blamed rebels for rights violations.

In February 2003, the Zaghawa, Fur and Masalit black tribes rebelled against what they regarded as unjust treatment by the Sudanese government in their historic struggle over land and resources with their Arab countrymen.

Countless thousands of tribesmen have died in a brutal counterinsurgency. The conflict has uprooted more than 1 million, and the Bush administration believes this many could die unless a peace settlement is reached and relief supply deliveries are greatly accelerated. Sudanese cooperation has been limited but is improving.

The Muslim-vs.-Muslim conflict is separate from the

21-year war between ethnic Arab Muslim militants in northern Sudan and the black African non-Muslim south. That three-decade-long struggle may be ending thanks to peace accords signed last month.

A U.S. interagency review is aimed at judging whether the Darfur tragedy qualifies as genocide under a 1946 international convention that outlaws the practice.

“I believe what is occurring in Sudan approaches the level of genocide,” says Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee. He and several colleagues are pushing for \$95 million in emergency assistance for Darfur’s victims.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a group opposed to intolerance in all forms, says Washington could increase the pressure on the Sudanese government by issuing a “stern warning” that, in the U.S. view, it is “close to if not bordering on genocide.” This would greatly impact international public opinion, said Hier, founder and dean of the center.

Mark Schneider, a vice president of the International Crisis Group, says Hier may have a point. He also cautions that a genocide designation by the United States could thrust the U.N. Security Council into prolonged debate, deflecting attention from Darfur’s massive humanitarian needs.

A role for the United Nations is made clear under Article 8 of the Genocide Convention: “Any contracting party may call upon the competent organs of the U.N. to take such action under the Charter of the U.N. as they consider appropriate for the prevention and suppression of acts of genocide.”

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he wasn’t ready to describe the situation in Darfur “as genocide or ethnic cleansing yet,” but he called it “a tragic humanitarian situation.”

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NATIONAL

Of all the nerve: Incinerator nixes Cold munitions

BY JEFF BARNARD

Associated Press Writer

HERMISTON, Ore. — As early as mid-August, munitions handlers hope to go to one of the 80-foot-long concrete bunkers in K Block of the Umatilla Chemical Depot, fire up a forklift, and move to the door two pallets stacked with a total of 30 M55 rockets filled with deadly nerve agent.

Outside the bunker, another forklift will load the rockets into a 19,000-pound pressurized containment cylinder on a flatbed truck, which will drive down a short road to a huge building inside the U.S. Army's Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

The rockets will be the first of more than 220,000 munitions containing nerve and mustard agents left over from the Cold War to move through the robotic disassembly line, where they will be punched, drained, chopped and finally burned in special furnaces, disposing of a threat that has sat in the rolling sagebrush of the Columbia Plateau for more than 60 years.

"It's time," said Frank Harkenrider, who as mayor of Hermiston from 1990 to 2000 took part in many of the battles fought over the past decade to get to this point. "It's time to say yes to the incinerator."

The last remaining yes needed to fire up the furnaces with real nerve and mustard agents is expected to come Aug. 13, when the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission considers the results of three years of testing.

Destroying the munitions and shutting down the Umatilla plant is expected to take the next six years — three years past the initial deadline set by international treaty — and cost a total of \$24 billion.

Still, not everyone is eager to get on with it. Karyn Jones, who manages her father's dental office here and grew up downwind of radiation from the Hanford nuclear reservation, has fought the incinerator every step of the way. She and the grassroots organization GASP still have three lawsuits pending, hoping to force the U.S. Army to start over with a chemical neutralization process.

"It's a disaster waiting to happen," Jones said.

The first of the chemical weapons arrived on five rail cars in August 1962, just two months before the Cuban missile crisis, when the Cold War conflict between the Soviet Union and the United States almost went hot after President John F. Kennedy refused to let the Soviet Union put nuclear missiles on Cuba.

A total of 7,300 tons of deadly nerve and mustard agents contained in missiles, artillery rounds, bombs, land mines, sprayers and storage containers came to be stored here in row upon row of concrete bunkers originally built for World War II bombs and ammunition. About 140 have leaked since 1984, increasing pressure to destroy them.

President Nixon halted the manufacture of chemical weapons in 1969, and the Army has budgeted \$25 billion to destroy the 31,000-ton national stockpile. To date, more than 9,000 tons have been destroyed.

The Army decided in the 1980s to build incinerators at the eight storage sites around the country and one on Johnston Atoll, south of Hawaii. Johnston Atoll has finished incinerating its stockpile. As tech-

nology improved and local opposition to incinerators increased, the Army agreed to switch to chemical neutralization at four sites — Newport, Ind.; Blue Grass, Ky.; Edgewood, Del.; and Pueblo, Colo. Sites in Tooele, Utah; Pine Bluff, Ark.; Anniston, Ala. and Umatilla are going ahead with incineration.

Neutralization is not without its problems. Disputes remain over how to dispose of millions of gallons of contaminated wastewater generated by the process.

Construction and testing of the Umatilla incinerator had problems, too. Construction workers claiming they were exposed to nerve agent while building the plant in 1999 have won the first round of their lawsuit against the Army. A federal judge ruled the government was negligent in providing emergency response when the workers became mysteriously ill.

The Army and Washington Demilitarization Co., which built and operates the incinerator, were fined \$185,000 for bypassing safety systems during furnace testing last year. Another \$11,000 in fines were levied after an employee left the grounds with a diluted vial of the nerve agent sarin in his pocket.

There are four incinerators. Two burn the liquid agent at 2,700 degrees. A deactivation furnace destroys explosives and rocket motors. A metal parts furnace burns off traces of agent from remaining hardware. Exhaust gasses go through an afterburner, then a system of scrubbers and filters before being released into the air.

In the control room, supervisor Lance Pappas can watch over the weapons from bunker to furnace. He feels safe for himself, as well as his family in Kennewick, Wash., 35 miles away.

"I worked in refineries, and refineries are a whole lot more dangerous than this is," Pappas said.

Pappas and everyone else must carry a gas mask and special syringes loaded with antidote in case of a spill. Orange wind socks around the compound show which way the wind is blowing in case gas is released. Weather conditions are constantly monitored to project where a

leak may spread. Reader boards on nearby Interstate 84 are ready to warn of an emergency.

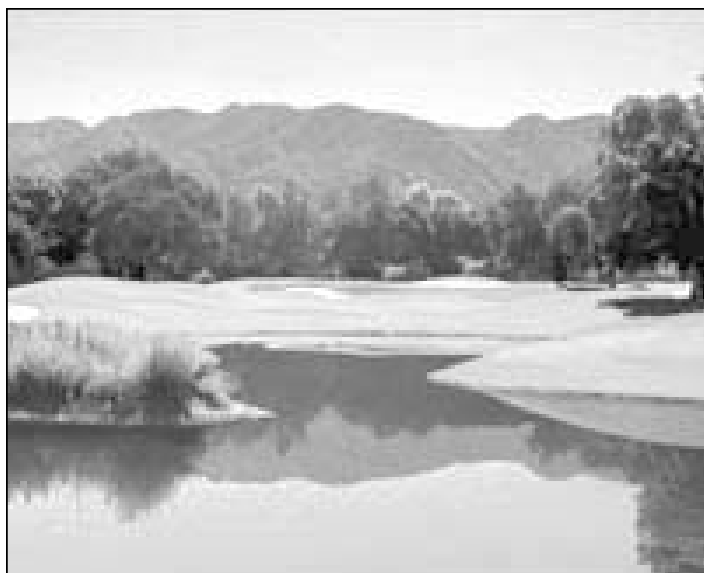
The containment rooms where the munitions are dismantled, drained and fed into incinerators have walls 30 inches thick in case of an explosion. Sensors and alarms around the plant can detect minute amounts of agent. In case of a spill, workers don protective suits to clean it up. Video monitors keep watch over the plant and grounds. Guards tightly control people entering and leaving.

Like the midst of the Cold War, when students around the nation practiced hiding under their desks in case of nuclear attack, the 10,000 students in 28 nearby schools practice assembling in special rooms pressurized to keep out drifting gas in case of a release.

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NATIONAL

Bank takes an interest in lending slice of home

BY RUKMINI CALLIMACHI

Associated Press Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. — There are no velvet ropes or marble teller's counter. No dark wood or imposing glass panels.

Instead, the interior of Umpqua Bank has the feel of a sleek living room — hip leather chairs form the bank's core, flanking a plasma TV screen and a shelf of best sellers. On offer are mortgage consultants, as well as yoga class, movie night, freshly brewed coffee and a chunk of milk chocolate with every transaction.

"What if we felt like home?" asks Umpqua Bank's chief executive Ray Davis, standing next to a pot of steaming coffee in the plush Portland branch.

Started in 1953 in the southern town of Canyonville by loggers who were fed up with driving long distances to cash their checks, the tiny Oregon bank has grown into a cutting-edge institution.

Community banks like Umpqua are gaining prominence by adding a human touch, prompting commercial giants like Wells Fargo and Bank of America to change the way they handle basic financial transactions.

In 1994, Davis — who had just been hired to help Umpqua Bank grow beyond its rural roots — did something revolutionary. He invited customers to linger.

Internet banking had just been invented and the prevailing ethos was that customers could be weaned off human contact.

"If you wanted to check your balance, we sent you to the phone. If you wanted to withdraw money, we told you to use the ATM," said Nancy Kinnard, manager of Umpqua Bank's Eugene branch, who worked for First Interstate Bank before joining Umpqua.

"The big banks had created a vacuum," said 77-year-old Milton Herbert, the only surviving founder of Umpqua Bank.

Into that vacuum, Davis placed a cup of coffee. Not just a pot of generic brew, but the company's own blend. The transformation started in the southern town of Roseburg, site of the bank's headquarters until moving to Portland in 2001. In Roseburg, the bank's design team tore out the teller windows and created a living room, replete with magazines, a couch and a large-screen TV.

"Read, Sip, Surf, Bank," became the bank's motto. "What if we felt like home?" is not just a rhetorical question for Davis — but also the bank's latest advertising line, emblazoned on buses and billboards.

From \$140 million in assets a decade ago, the bank has grown to \$3 billion today. It has 64 branches and recently announced plans to expand into Washington and California.

By inviting people to linger, Davis stumbled upon a concept familiar to the retail industry.

"There is a direct relationship between the time spent in a store and the average amount that you buy," said Dan Stanek, executive VP of Retail Forward, a retail research and analysis firm in Columbus, Ohio.

"Retail is a four-letter word for most bankers," said Davis. "They see them-

selves as the guy with the coat and tie."

Starting in 1996, Umpqua Bank became the first to call its branches "stores."

Like at the Estee Lauder counter, they began offering a complimentary gift with every new account — a T-shirt, a Java mug, a bestseller.

"My customers walk away with a bag full of stuff," gushed Marie Green, manager of the Roseburg branch.

Like in a department store, the products are on display.

"If you were to go outside a Nordstroms, what do you see? Merchandise," said Davis. "If we believe that we're in the same service industry, then we need to figure out how to visualize a mortgage loan."

Open an interest-bearing account, and you get the seed of a Douglas fir tree, wrapped like a pair of Tiffany's earrings in soft, white tissue. At the Roseburg branch, customers walk past an elaborate fish bowl and a sign asking: "Has low tide left your business dry?"

"Retailers understand the importance of touch and feel — even with intangible products like electronics," said Ellen Tolley, spokeswoman for the National Retail Federation in Washington, D.C.

Smart retailers, she said, display digital cameras on the countertop and encourage customers to point and shoot.

A decade after opening its first "store," Umpqua Bank is now far from alone in its approach.

In Seattle, Washington Mutual has pioneered its 'Occasio' branches — Latin for "favorable opportunity." In addition to a coffee bar, the branches include a play area, where children can have fun while their parents "shop."

In Virginia, the 168-year-old Riggs Bank — where Abraham Lincoln had an account — has shed the marble, in exchange for European furniture and flatscreen TVs.

A fireplace with leather-bound chairs greets customers at Old National in Indianapolis.

"It's part of a trend in business which tries to make transactions an experience — rather than just a transaction," said Charlotte Birch, spokeswoman for the American Bankers Association.

Overall, the retail strategy has not only worked — it's forced megabanks like Wells Fargo, Charter One and Bank of America to take notice.

A "hostess" now greets you when you walk into Bank of America branches. And both Wells Fargo and Charter One have signed deals with Seattle-based Starbucks to operate coffee shops inside select branches.

"There are a lot of copycats out there," said Umpqua founder Milton Herbert.

As the banking world has changed, so has Umpqua.

The latest innovation is chocolate served on a tray with every transaction. Close on its heels was yoga class, followed by poetry readings, knitting circles, and seminars on how to build an art collection — all ideas brought forward by employees at individual branches.

Umpqua's edge, said Davis, is that tellers are empowered to partake in the bank's evolution.

SANTA MONICA **SUMMER GUIDE 2004**
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WORLD BRIEFLY

N. Korea wants to test nukes

By The Associated Press

BEIJING – North Korea has threatened to test a nuclear weapon unless Washington accepts Pyongyang's conditions for a freeze of its nuclear weapons program, a senior U.S. official said.

North Korea said it wants hefty energy aid in exchange for the freeze, calling on the United States to make a "responsible, bold decision." The demands came at six-nation talks Friday.

Two previous rounds of disarmament talks have made little progress, and the North Korean threat of a nuclear test suggested the latest round may be unsuccessful, said a senior U.S. official in Washington, speaking on condition of anonymity. The other participants are South Korea, China, Japan and Russia.

The United States has been insisting on complete disarmament by the communist state and submitted a proposal to this week's conference in Beijing outlining a step-by-step plan and the benefits North Korea could receive if it complies.

On Friday, the North renewed a demand for the United States to drop its "hostile policy," though it made no public response to the American proposal. "It is high time the U.S. made a responsible, bold decision," said the North Korean official newspaper Minju Joson, quoted by the North's main news agency.

Politicians bicker over budget

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON – An effort to impose legal hurdles on lawmakers' own spending urges failed as House Republicans split among themselves over taxes and spending during an era of war and deficits.

In a late night roll call Thursday, the House voted 268-146 to reject a bill that would have imposed a legal ceiling on the one-third of the federal budget set annually by Congress to fund routine agency operations.

If such spending exceeded \$821 billion next year or \$843 billion in 2006, automatic cuts would be triggered in those programs to bring them back to the legal limits.

The bill also sought to restrain spending in the remaining two-thirds of the budget that covers automatically paid benefits like Social Security, Medicare and welfare. Under the bill, any expansions of those programs would have to be paid for by cuts in other benefits, though Social Security and some other benefits would be protected.

Many Democrats – and an occasional Republican – said the GOP needs to simply exercise more restraint, not pass a new law.

"We have got to stop handing over our responsibilities to someone else to save ourselves from ourselves," said

Rep. James Walsh, R-N.Y. "We have to have some discipline."

Brits leave Iran, head for Iraq

By The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY – Eight British servicemen detained for four days in Iran returned to Iraq on Friday, ending a diplomatic crisis.

An Iranian commercial flight took the six Royal Marines and two sailors back to the British sector in southern Iraq after stops in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

The eight were captured Monday when their river patrol boats apparently strayed onto the Iranian side of the Shatt al-Arab waterway, or Arvand River, that runs along the Iran-Iraq border.

Britain said the troops were from a Royal Navy training team based in southern Iraq and were delivering a boat to Iraq's new river police.

Iran initially said it would prosecute them for illegally entering Iranian waters. British concern mounted after Iranian television showed the eight blindfolded and sitting cross-legged on the ground.

Court not in tune with FCC

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK – A federal appeals court struck down an effort by the Federal Communications Commission to make sweeping changes in media ownership rules, handing a victory to public interest groups and consumer advocates who argued the changes would limit diverse sources of news.

The ruling by the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia threw out rules that would have allowed companies to own more television and radio stations in a single market. The court also left intact an order it made in September blocking the rules, announced in June 2003, from taking effect.

However, the court also found the FCC was within its rights to repeal a blanket prohibition on companies owning both a newspaper and a television station in the same city. Several media companies have lobbied for the ban to be lifted.

"This is a big, big win for diversity," said Andrew Jay Schwartzman, chief executive officer of the Media Access Project, a Washington, D.C.-based public interest law firm that led the lawsuit.

FCC Chairman Michael Powell criticized the ruling, saying in a statement it was "deeply troubling and hampers the flexibility of the agency to protect the American public."



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Filing Period:

July 12, 2004 to August 6, 2004. However, because City Hall will be closed Friday, August 6, nomination papers will be accepted through Monday, August 9, until 5:30 p.m. Nomination papers will be issued by the City Clerk starting on July 12, 2004, and throughout the nomination period. In order to qualify, a candidate must obtain at least 100 valid signatures, from voters registered in the jurisdiction, on his/her petition. Candidate Workshops will be held on July 12, 2004, at 8:30 a.m., and July 14, 2004, at 5:30 p.m., in Council Chambers at City Hall. Candidates not able to attend the workshops will be issued nomination papers throughout the filing period at the City Clerk's Office upon request. There is no filing fee.

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE: OCTOBER 18, 2004

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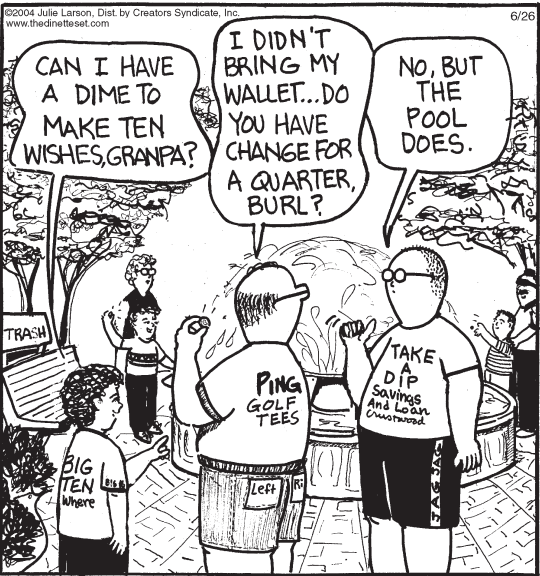
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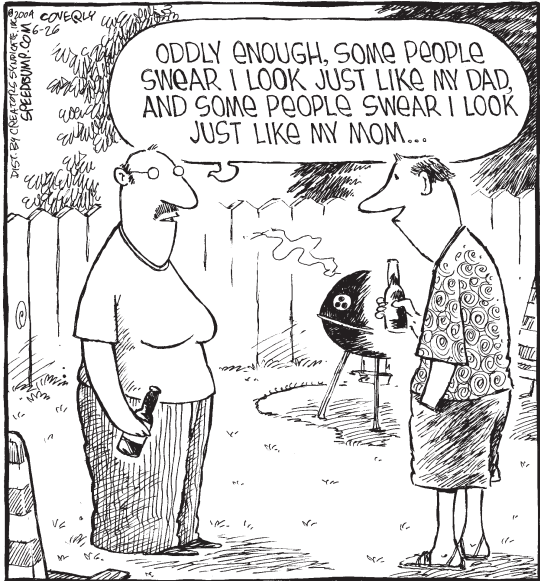
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6-26

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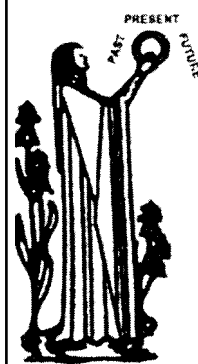
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

In excess? Reality show to provide band with singer

By The Associated Press

■ **NEW YORK** — Australian rock band INXS, which has kept going with guest vocalists since Michael Hutchence died in 1997, has enlisted reality TV guru Mark Burnett to help them find a new singer.

Burnett's reality series "Rock Star" will air next summer on CBS, the network announced Thursday.

His obvious model is Fox's "American Idol." Burnett will hold auditions in the United States and in London, Tokyo and Sydney, Australia. The top contenders will live together in Hollywood and compete live each week.

INXS, which had the hits "What You Need" and "Need You Tonight," will embark on a world tour with their new singer.

Burnett's pedigree as producer of "Survivor" and "The Apprentice" made "Rock Star" a concept eagerly sought by the TV networks.

"Rock stars offer rich material for the reality TV world," Burnett said. "They are colorful personalities and charismatic performers who make great reality TV characters."

■ **NEW YORK** — After an 11-year break from the theater, Neve Campbell is making her Broadway debut.

The former star of television's "Party of Five" and the "Scream" movies will perform in Allan Knee's play "Syncopation," which opens Oct. 24. She previously appeared in the Toronto production of "The Phantom of the Opera" during her teen years.

"I just feel the urge to get back on stage now," the 30-year-old told The Associated Press on Thursday. "I'm sort of disappointed in the scripts I'm reading. I would rather go do a play than sit at home moping. I know it will help me grow as an actor, and it will be good to work my muscles again."

Campbell plays an introverted factory worker in turn-of-the-century New York who dreams about dancing. Her character begins taking ballroom dance lessons on the sly, where she meets a man (played by Michael Hayden) with similar fantasies. The two fall in love.

■ **SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic** — Randal Kleiser, director of "Grease" and "The Blue Lagoon," will begin filming a romantic comedy in the Dominican Republic next week.

Amanda Bynes and Chris Carmack will star in "Lovewrecked," production supervisor Paul Jaconi Biery said Thursday.

Bynes will play a college student who goes on vacation in the Caribbean. Carmack's character plays in a band and the two meet during a concert at a hotel, Biery said.

Filming, set to begin Monday, will take place around the northern town of Puerto Plata, one of the country's most popular tourist areas.

■ **ROME** — An exhibit to be shown in Milan and New York will explore the work of one of the least known Renaissance artists, Fra Carnevale, putting on display his paintings as well as pieces by some masters he knew during his life, including Piero della Francesca and Filippo Lippi.

The show aims to be one of the most comprehensive exhibits ever on Fra Carnevale, a Dominican monk who lived in the 15th century and worked in Italy as an architect and painter, organizers said Thursday.

The exhibit will run from Oct. 12 to Jan. 9 at Milan's Brera museum. It will then be on view at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York from Feb. 1 to May 1.

Highlights include "Nativita della Vergine (Birth of

the Virgin)," which is on loan from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and a companion panel, "Presentazione della Vergine al Tempio (Presentation of the Virgin in the Temple)," from Boston's Museum of Fine Arts.

The two works were part of an altarpiece for a church in Urbino, a central Italian city where Fra Carnevale lived and developed his art.

■ **LONDON** — In love letters to Prince Charles, Camilla Parker Bowles told how she yearned for him and urged her lover to withstand "the onslaughts of that ridiculous creature," his wife, Diana, a newspaper reported Thursday.

The Daily Mail published details of letters it said had been shown by the princess to her biographer, Andrew Morton.

Diana had found them when she searched her husband's briefcase looking for evidence of his affair with Parker Bowles, the newspaper said.

According to the Daily Mail, Parker Bowles urged Charles not to feel guilty about their liaison and promised to be his "forever."

She describes how her "heart and body aches" to be with him. "I yearn to be with you day and night, to hug, comfort and love you," she writes to the man she calls "my most precious darling."

Morton met Diana in 1991 while researching his biography, "Diana: Her True Story," which revealed the princess' bulimia, loneliness and distress at her husband's unfaithfulness.

In a now-famous 1995 TV interview given two years before her death at age 36 in a Paris car crash, Diana said there had always been three people in her marriage — a reference to Parker Bowles. Diana and Charles divorced in 1996 after 15 years of marriage.

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