

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

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Meganumber: 19
Jackpot: \$12 Million

FANTASY 5

4 5 7 9 31

DAILY 3

Daytime: 2 1 8
Evening: 0 9 2

DAILY DERBY

1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George

RACE TIME: 1:45.67

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In March, the Oregon board that enforces teachers' standards and practices charged Salem high school football and track coach (and science teacher) Scott Reed with gross neglect of duty after investigating parents' complaints that he routinely licked the bleeding wounds of his players to help them recover. In addition to knowledge he acquired as a teacher of science, Reed had also earlier taken the standard teachers' seminar on bodily fluid contact (which he was ordered by the board to retake).

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 181st day of 2005.
There are 184 days left in the year.

On June 30, 1963, Pope Paul VI was crowned the 262nd head of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1971, a Soviet space mission ended in tragedy when three cosmonauts aboard Soyuz 11 were found dead inside their spacecraft after it had returned to Earth.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Those who love deeply never grow old; they may die of old age, but they die young."

SIR ARTHUR WING PINERO
ENGLISH DRAMATIST (1855-1934)

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Bank heist, chase end with suspects shot



Ryan Hyatt/Daily Press

Santa Monica police officers and detectives work the scene following a shooting in Marina del Rey on Wednesday. Officers shot two suspected bank robbers after they led them on a chase down Lincoln Boulevard.

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

MARINA DEL REY — Santa Monica police shot two suspected bank robbers on Wednesday after they led officers on a three-mile chase which ended in a parking garage off of Lincoln Boulevard. The suspects are listed in stable condition at a local hospital.

The suspects were arrested and charged with armed robbery following the incident, which included a chase lasting for several minutes. Police have yet to identify them. No Santa Monica police officers were injured during the incident.

The Santa Monica Police responded to several emergency calls at 10:28 a.m. on Wednesday regarding an armed robbery occurring at the First Federal Bank on 2827 Main St. Police units

See **BANK ROBBERY**, page 10

King's Head handed over

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — It's the end of an era for a landmark Santa Monica eatery and watering hole, as its founders prepare to sail off into the sunset.

Phil and Ruth Elwell, who have owned the Ye Olde King's Head for more than 30 years, handed over the keys on Tuesday to their famous restaurant, bar and gift shop so they can retire. Located at 132 Santa Monica Blvd., the King's Head is known as a hub to

tourists and locals alike its for traditional British fare and good conversation.

The new owners, Paul Bettcher and Donald Tavey, also own Busby's, a nightclub located on Santa Monica Boulevard.

Ruth and Phil Elwell will be kicking off their retirement with a European cruise in September. While looking forward to their travels, the couple admits there is some sadness in leaving their old business behind.

See **YE OLDE**, page 11



Photo courtesy of Lisa Powers

Phil and Ruth Elwell sold the Ye Olde King's Head, a Santa Monica bar, restaurant and gift shop following three decades of ownership.

See you on the dark side of the moon, mon

Free summer concert series begins tonight with some Pink Floyd, reggae style

By Daily Press staff

SANTA MONICA PIER — While the calendar officially marked the beginning of summer last week, for many Santa Monicans summer begins when the free music starts up each Thursday night.

And it starts today with a reggae rendition of Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon." The 21st Twilight Dance Series kicks

off with the Easy Star All-Stars presenting "Dub Side of the Moon," with Detour Posse as the opening band.

Longtime friends Michael Goldwasser and Victor Axelrod, from the core of the Easy Star All-Stars, grew up in New York surrounded by some of reggae's finest players. The idea for "Dub Side of the Moon" was hatched by Easy Star Records' president, Lem

Oppenheimer. He imagined a reworking of Pink Floyd's seminal album that would echo Dark Side's cover artwork, refracting Pink Floyd's musical vision through a prism of reggae's rich rhythmic and instrumental possibilities.

Detour Posse, an LA-based reggae band, will open the show

See **DANCE SERIES**, page 11



Nicky Five Aces/Five Aces Photo

Thousands of music enthusiasts are expected for tonight's annual kickoff of the Twilight Dance Series on the Santa Monica Pier.

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Shop on way home, Aries

Santa Monica Daily Press

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)
★★★ If you can, put the brakes on your pace. Others need your time and attention. Take your time with each person. Treat an associate to lunch and have a lengthy chat. A little teasing helps others relax. Conversations will flow then. Tonight: Shop on the way home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You will get past some basics of the day quickly. You are anchored and know what you want. You might decide that a little indulgence around your home would be nice. Go off and do what you want. Pressure builds. Tonight: As you like.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★ Know when to pull back and say little. Much might be thrown at you. You will get everything done if you take your time and relax. Don't push beyond your limits. Close your door and get as much done as possible. Tonight: Take some time for yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Aim to please, but be careful how much you spend. Try to buy cards rather than token gifts. Others appreciate your thoughtfulness. Resist buying something for yourself. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Responsibilities fall on you, but you like the attention and being in the limelight. Someone admires you and lets you know it. Make a point to use your gentler side when dealing with others. You'll get results. Tonight: Count on being out late.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Take an overview right now, as you could be unusually sensitive and uptight. Someone might mean something totally different from how you take it. In fact, misunderstandings seem to be part of the day. Detach and gain a perspective. Use care with new people you meet. Tonight: Talk to a trusted friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Others dominate, though you might not be disappointed by the end results. You find meetings and get-togethers to be very informative. You might be touched by the support you get from others. Tonight: Get into the whirlwind of life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Let others make the first move; see where they are coming from. You gain because of a superior or an authority figure. Someone admires you. Compliments come in left and right. Go along with others' suggestions. First confirm that you are speaking the same language. You will like what happens. Tonight: Say yes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Dive into your must-do list in order to get done what's necessary. Remember that the weekend is coming. Make last-minute plans to visit with a friend or loved one at a distance. Tonight: Bring extra work home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Use some of your creativity to get your work done. Investigate new ideas, and renovate your work and daily life. If you are single, you could attract a very special individual. If you are attached, invest more time in your relationship. Mix-ups occur with loved ones. Tonight: Express your playfulness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Others clearly count on you to take care of what they don't want to do. You might not be happy with all the responsibility. A loved one or friend lets you know that he or she will pitch in any way possible. Let him or her. Confusion surrounds plans. Tonight: Out and about.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Say what you think, but choose your words with care. Someone in your daily life needs that extra sensitivity and care. Meanwhile, schedule a massage or something special just for you. Clear your desk. Double-check on a meeting. Tonight: Catch up on a neighbor's news.

AUDIT PENDING

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Jazz to fill the air

By Daily Press staff

Jazz is being served up in the house of God.

The monthly Jazz Vespers concert at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Santa Monica continues with a performance by singer Thelma Jones.

Concerts are held on the first Sunday of every month. Admission is free. The next concert is July 3 at 5 p.m. at Mt. Olive, 1343 Ocean Park Blvd.

For information, call (310) 452-1116.

Movie buffs pony up to chat with director

By Daily Press staff

A local theater is giving movie buffs a chance to meet a famed Hollywood producer and director.

The Santa Monica Conservancy brings director-actor-producer Sydney Pollack to Santa Monica's recently refurbished historic Aero Theater to discuss the filming of "They Shoot Horses Don't They?" This period piece, directed by Pollack, was filmed in Santa Monica and will be discussed in an interactive question and answer format moderated by Joe Morgenstern, film critic for The Wall Street Journal and KCRW radio.

Pollack directed the movie in 1969, creating a replica of a marathon dance ballroom on the Santa Monica Pier. Santa Monica's role is spotlighted in the craze known as "Dance Marathons," a phenomenon at its peak during the Great Depression, officials say.

Pollack received a nomination for best director for the film. Gig Young won the Academy Award for best supporting actor, and Jane Fonda was nominated for best actress in a leading role.

Pollack has received two Academy Awards for Best Director for "Out of Africa" and as its producer for Best Picture. He has directed 19 films which have been nominated for a total of 46 Academy Awards. Among his many other awards are two Golden Globes for Best Director and the Directors Guild of America John Huston Award, conferred by the Artists Rights Foundation. He is a founding member of The Sundance Institute; chairman emeritus of the American Cinematheque, and is on the board for the Motion Picture and Television Fund.

Morgenstern, who lives in Santa Monica, is the Pulitzer Prize-winning film critic of The Wall Street Journal. He also reviews films for KCRW, and is co-founder of the National Society of Film Critics.

Pollack will introduce the movie at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 13 followed by an audience and director talk.

Tickets will be sold by the Conservancy, not American Cinematheque. Prices are as follows: conservancy members pay \$25, non-members \$30, and those wishing to join the conservancy and attend the event pay \$40. Prices include refreshments.

Checks for advance sales should be made payable to SMC and mailed with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 653, Santa Monica, CA., 90406, or can be paid online with Paypal at the Conservancy's Web site, www.smconservancy.org. Advance tickets must be paid by July 10 and will be sent by mail. Tickets sold on the day of the event are \$40 for all. Doors open at 6 p.m. For more information, call (310) 458-0633.

For more information about dance marathons, visit http://www.historylink.org/essays/output.cfm?file_id=5534



SURF REPORT

Thursday is looking smaller yet, as the SW swell continues to decline. Our call is for waist- to chest-high sets for most all south-facing breaks, but still some pluses at times. On Friday, look for smaller and less consistent, with waist-high SW.

Today the water is:

66°

Write us at alex@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
TUESDAY	9:28	0.5	10:52	1.7	2:48	4.3	4:25	5.0
WEDNESDAY	10:18	1.1	N/A	N/A	4:20	3.6	5:13	5.3
THURSDAY	12:15	1.1	11:09	1.6	6:00	3.2	5:58	5.6
FRIDAY	12:42	0.9	11:47	1.3	7:14	3.8	6:37	5.2

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The Q Line

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Pier officials are working on a plan to bring sport fishing and boating back to Santa Monica.

Currently they are considering two options: an estimated \$13 million plan that would restore the breakwater just north of the Santa Monica Pier to accommodate commercial boating and a harbor, or a substantially less expensive gangway that might achieve the same goal. A recommendation could be presented to the City Council as early as August.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Which plan do you favor — the breakwater rebuild or the gangway? Why? Is there another option that should be considered?"

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

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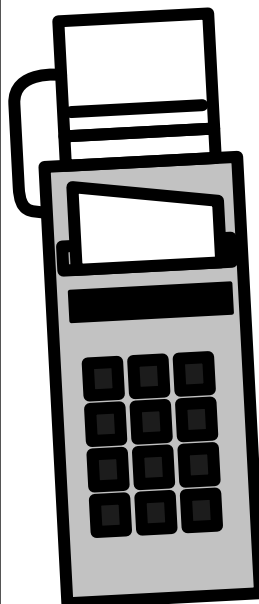


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OPINION

FUNNY PAPERZ



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SMDP should walk the plank for story

Editor:

The misleading front page photograph, uncredited and pointing at an area nowhere near where the city is now proposing a breakwater expansion, is only the beginning of the misinformation in the Daily Press' story (June 25, page 1) on the city's latest efforts to increase tourism on the pier.

The photo's arrow, hundreds of yards closer to shore than the actual breakwater, more accurately indicates where dredging would be required to remove the build up of sand that accumulates within breakwaters. This dredging, which according to the plan would be regularly required and performed at the city's expense, was omitted from your article on this proposed offshore "transit mall" the city is contemplating.

There is a distinct possibility that such dredging may not even be allowed off Santa Monica shores, given the high contaminant levels found in soils analysis already completed and required by the project. Further, the proposal to dump our "toxic sand" farther up the coast may not be welcomed by Malibu residents.

Omitted from the article was the sheer scale of the projects. The city's plan for the breakwater allows for the mooring of a dozen ships as long as 150 feet, designed to accommodate the larger Catalina Express ferries, with seating capacities greater than a 747. From the scant information provided by the city and Pier Restoration Commission, the elevated gangplank is targeting the same capacities.

Your article goes on to give the impression that an complete Environmental Impact Report, long delayed for the breakwater, would not be needed for an "elevated gangplank" extension to the pier. Given the environmental effects, both offshore — increased fuel and exhaust contaminants, elevated solid and human waste levels — and onshore, increased traffic, parking requirements, etc., a complete EIR will certainly be required for this imaginative construct.

Included in your account, however, was the headlined information that the Santa Monica Fire Department could use the proposed elevated gangplank "to safely evacuate people in case of an emergency," and that "many officials believe" the current escape hatch is "inadequate." Believe is an especially appropriate choice of words, given that no one contacted could ever remember an "evacuation" similar to what the city is imagining.

There is a reason that the Army Corps of Engineers has recently canceled proposed breakwaters faced with the threat of lawsuits, and why an organization such as the Surfrider Foundation has a strict policy of not supporting "the installation of stabilization ... structures along the coastline." Developments like the proposed breakwater necessarily come with long term detrimental effects to our local environment.

Which would ultimately result in our killing the goose that lays our golden eggs.

The involvement of the Daily Press in this whole matter is of concern, as well. To have the public (via your "Q-Line") weighing in on a matter in which so little information — and to this point misleading information, to boot — borders on unconscionable. By asking residents to "pick our poison" at this stage, you do nothing more than abet one version or another of a project that residents may not want, and more important, given the size of our city's budget and current popularity of our pier, certainly don't need.

In the face of the tremendous growth in development in Santa Monica over the last decade, and now the apparent intent of the city to go offshore with the same zeal, the expanded "escape hatch" of the proposed aquatic "transit mall" may be the only feature of this whole mess that has any appeal to our long-suffering residents: a mass evacuation is looking better all the time.

Don Gray
Santa Monica

Thou shalt not ignore the writing on the wall

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



Usually one to hang on his every word, I ignored President Bush on Tuesday. Figuring the speech would be more cheer-leading for one of the most catastrophic blunders in history while offering no clue as to how or when he gets us out of it with as many limbs intact as possible, honestly, my stomach wasn't up to it.

So I'm counting on you war supporters — and it's got to be getting harder by the day to be that — to write in here and tell me how he nailed it for you. Tell me what I missed.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court finally came to a decision on the Ten Commandments dispute. Have Scalia, Thomas, etc., been reading the op-ed pages of the Daily Press? They banned the commandments from government buildings in Kentucky, but let them stand in Texas where they are truly needed, which is exactly what was suggested here months ago. The following is some of what was written then:

In Austin, a six-foot granite replica of the Ten Commandments has been on display in front of the Texas state capital building for more than 40 years. Hard to miss, right now it has the full attention of the U.S. Supreme Court. Under intense pressure from a growing new wave of fundamentalist influence in America starting at the very top of government, the high court has its hands full as it weighs the value of citizens seeing a top 10 list of how-to-live-your-life-according-to-the-gospel against the basic, nation-founding principle that separates church from state.

"I am the lord thy God, thou shalt hold no other gods before me," are the first words carved into that granite, the first of the commandments, and the president may be taking that one a little too far. His war on terror is a war on the radical fundamentalist Islam that spawns most terrorism, which could be taken to mean it's war on Allah to keep him from being held before our God. Only trouble is, Bin Laden and about a zillion Muslims happen to like Allah best of all, and they too will have no other God held before theirs. So who or what determines whose God gets to be held before who else's? You got it. Boom. Whoever can make the most things explode, which most likely angers either one of the two Gods and would anger just about any decent, all-knowing God, wouldn't you think?

"Thou shalt not kill." Well, goodness, where do you even start? How about with the reported hundreds of thousands of

innocent Iraqi human beings obliterated in an unprovoked war in order to, as it turns out, free them? Now the warrior chieftains justify the killing to God by saying it's not murder, it's only killing, while conveniently insisting that God really meant "Thou shalt not murder" when he said "Thou shalt not kill," and that "kill" is not all that bad a thing when you're handing out freedom and protecting yourself against phantom weapons of mass destruction. Must be nice to know exactly what God really means, especially if it doesn't appear to mean what you want it to mean.

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." Especially when bearing false witness against him in order to justify demolishing him. Like for instance bearing false witness against him about non-existent yellow-cake uranium, mobile biological weapons labs, and metal tubes to be used in building nuclear bombs, the "smoking gun" evidence concocted to convince a wary American populace that Baghdad must fall at any cost. The president ignored the wisdom handed down by his own father, who knew at the close of his very own war with Iraq the deadly chaos that would reign with a U.S. occupation in its aftermath, and wisely pulled the troops back home.

"Thou shalt honor thy father and mother." If Dad disapproves of your overthrow an evil despot to create a democracy in which a fundamentalist regime is likely to be elected that will be even more anti-American than the despot ever was in the first place, then honor Dad, accept his wisdom with grace and honor, save the money and the lives. "Patience, my son," the elder Bush may have advised his hyper son. "Evil despots, too — though it's hard to see — sometimes have a place in the natural order of things, like wasps and earthquakes."

"Thou shalt not steal" also is carved into that stone in Austin. Does anybody care to talk about the money that's inexplicably missing from the coalition-controlled Iraqi reconstruction accounts? It's \$9 billion and would look something like this on a check made out to you: \$9,000,000,000. That's an awful lot of zeroes to be losing track of. Some might not call it stealing.

So go ahead Justice Scalia, Justice Thomas, the whole gang — let the commandments stand in Austin, carved into that boulder. And let the president and the similarly righteous take a good hard look at it when in the neighborhood. If thou shalt hold it up for all to see, then thou shalt better damn well read it, get it right and heed it.

(Ron Scott Smith can be reached 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 editor@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.

STATE



Hearings are planned for National Guard's suspected spy agency

BY DON THOMPSON

Associated Press Writer

MATHER, Calif. — A California congresswoman and a state senator said Tuesday they plan separate hearings into whether a California National Guard unit was established as a spy agency.

Guard spokesmen denied that was the unit's intent but declined to make the unit's commander available for an interview to fully explain its function.

State Sen. Joseph Dunn, D-Garden Grove, whose budget subcommittee oversees funding for the California National Guard, ordered the Guard to turn over all documents about the unit, formally called the Information Synchronization, Knowledge Management and Intelligence Fusion program. That would include any information collected about citizens.

That last request will be easy, because no such information has been collected, Guard spokesman Lt. Col. Douglas Hart said.

He said the new unit includes nine soldiers and airmen, two of whom monitor the military's classified e-mail system and seven who work with the State Terrorism Threat Assessment Center. That center is the successor to a terrorism-information unit created after the 2001 attacks and operated by the state Department of Justice.

The seven help gauge terrorist threats to bridges, buildings and other structures, said Tom Dresslar, spokesman for Attorney General Bill Lockyer.

"They don't monitor the activities of groups that are engaged in anti-war protests or the like," Dresslar said.

The National Guard intelligence unit came to public attention after a story published Sunday in the San Jose Mercury News. The story referred to the unit's monitoring of a Mother's Day anti-war demonstration at the state Capitol that was organized by several peace groups — the Gold Star Families for Peace, Raging Grannies and CodePink.

An e-mail chain that began in Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's press office culminated in an advisory a few days before the protest from Col. Jeff Davis, who oversees the National Guard unit: "our Intell. folks... continue to monitor" the event.

Hart said the monitoring amounted to recording television coverage and reading newspaper articles about the protest. He said the unit did not infiltrate the groups or observe the rally.

"That's all there was to it. That was the extent of our 'surveillance'," Hart said.

Margita Thompson, spokeswoman for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, said, "The administration is concerned, and we are

looking into it."

U.S. Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-San Jose, plans to question California National Guard officials at a House of Representatives Homeland Security Committee hearing.

Peninsula Raging Grannies co-chair Ruth Robertson said she suspects the government has a greater interest, perhaps because of her group's efforts to dissuade people from enlisting in the military.

"Our median age is 72 — we are not threatening," Robertson said. "We are all about peace."

Gold Star Families member Cindy Sheehan said she's not bothered: "If they're monitoring what we're doing, we must be scaring them, and I think that's great." The group is composed of people whose sons or daughters have died in military conflicts.

Dunn said he was not reassured by the unit's denials.

"History has not been kind to such assertions by government and military officials," Dunn said.

He referred to the Vietnam War era, when the military collected information on more than 100,000 Americans during the 1960s and 1970s.

Questions about the state's anti-terrorism center also arose two years ago, when Lockyer's Criminal Intelligence Bureau warned Oakland police about "potential violence" during a protest there.

Police, firing wooden dowels and beanbag projectiles, ultimately injured at least two dozen protesters. Lockyer subsequently disavowed the tracking of groups or individuals that avoid violence or other illegal acts, even if they engage in otherwise harmless civil disobedience.

In a statement this week about the National Guard unit, Lockyer said, "You have to wonder how monitoring the activities of soldiers' widows and orphans advances the anti-terrorism effort."

Dunn said that even if the National Guard unit formed last year isn't spying, the Guard should have cleared the unit with legislators because "perception could put a cloud over these activities," Dunn said. "Spying on United States citizens is a radioactive topic."

The Guard on Tuesday abruptly canceled an interview The Associated Press had scheduled with Col. Robert J. O'Neill, director of the new program, citing Dunn's planned hearings.

"I would respectfully suggest the Guard is taking absolutely the wrong approach to shut down information to the public or media about this unit," Dunn said. "It only raises the suspicions of the public and the media when the Guard retreats into a bunker mentality."



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Marine town reacting to Bush's Iraq speech

BY ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press Writer

OCEANSIDE, Calif. — Residents of this seaside Marine town reacted with little surprise to President Bush's prime-time address but said they supported his refusal to set a timetable for troop withdrawal.

A handful of Marines from nearby Camp Pendleton watched the speech while getting haircuts at the Beachcomber Barbershop, where a photograph of President Bush hung on the wall, and U.S. Marine and American flags flew outside.

Cpl. James Anderson, 22, said he welcomed Bush's refusal to set a timetable.

"Like any Marine, you do the job until it's done. You don't just do it halfway and leave," said Anderson, a Houston native who said he was scheduled to leave for Iraq soon.

Fellow Houston native Cpl. Chase Krebbs, 22, agreed.

"I'm a Marine. That's why I joined, to do this stuff, to serve and protect," Krebbs said.

During his speech Tuesday night at Fort Bragg in North Carolina, Bush acknowledged the death toll from the 27-month-old war but sought to persuade skeptical Americans that his strategy for victory needed only time — not any changes — to be successful.

"Like most Americans, I see the images of violence and bloodshed," he said. "Every picture is horrifying and the suffering is real."

But he promised the country "will stay in the fight until the fight is won."

He asked Americans to have patience with the "difficult and dangerous" work ahead in Iraq.

California-based troops have suffered more deaths than troops from any other state, accounting for 181 of 878 fatalities since the June 28, 2004, hand over of sovereignty to Iraq from the U.S.-led coalition.

Their deaths hit home in Oceanside, about 35 miles north of San Diego, where the main street is lined with barbershops, dry cleaners and military supply stores that cater to the Camp Pendleton Marines. Many of the casualties are from Camp Pendleton's 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

Democrats were critical of the speech. U.S. Representative Maxine Waters, D-Los Angeles, said she was disappointed with Bush.

"The president did not level with the American public," she said. "I think the president failed to talk about the real situation in Iraq. He referred to us as winning, when in fact we have soldiers dying ever day," she said.

At Mary's Family Restaurant in Oceanside, Pat Tolford said she supported Bush's effort to shore up support for the war.

"I think he's just trying to get everyone behind him," she said over a plate of fish and chips.

Asked if he succeeded, she responded it was hard to say.

Restaurant owner Jose Hernandez said his customers continue to support the war despite the mounting casualties. One customer recently stopped in to tell him that her son died in Iraq during his second tour there, Hernandez said.

"We have a lot of kids still there. We can't stop supporting them until they come home," he said.

Democrats say redistricting plan could lead to pact with governor

BY STEVE LAWRENCE

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Senate Democrats proposed a redistricting plan Tuesday that they said could lead to a deal with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, but Republicans said it would give lawmakers too much control over the design of their districts.

"You can't dress up a pig and think we are going to vote for it," Assembly Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Bakersfield, told reporters.

Schwarzenegger's press secretary, Margita Thompson, also said the Democrats' plan would maintain too much of a link between the Legislature and redistricting, but she said it was a "positive sign that they were willing to put something in writing."

"It should not surprise anyone that the first proposal that they gave in writing is the one that they had the most self-interest," she said.

The Democrats' plan, in a constitutional amendment by Sen. Alan Lowenthal, D-Long Beach, would take the power to draw legislative and congressional districts away from the Legislature and give it to a seven-member commission.

The governor, the Democratic and Republican leaders in the state Senate and Assembly, the California Judicial Council

and the president of the University of California each would appoint one member of the commission, which would draw new districts beginning after the 2010 census.

Schwarzenegger is backing a November ballot measure that would give redistricting duties to a panel of three retired judges who would try to draw new districts in time for 2006 elections, a step Democrats see as an attempt to elect more Republicans. The state's primary is in June of next year.

It is one of three initiatives the governor has placed on the Nov. 8 special election ballot. The others would implement a state spending cap and require teachers to work longer to gain tenure.

But Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, D-Oakland, said there have been talks on a staff level with the governor's office about trying to reach a compromise that could be added to the Nov. 8 ballot by the Legislature to give voters an alternative.

He said the Lowenthal legislation was "our effort to show the governor that we, in fact, are interested in the issues he believes are important."

"This is the beginning, not the end," he said at a news conference with Lowenthal and Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero, D-Los Angeles. "We embrace



Bush's justification for war draws ire

BY NEDRA PICKLER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Congressional critics of President Bush's stay-the-course commitment to the war in Iraq argued Wednesday that the administration lacks sufficient troops on the ground to mount a successful counterinsurgency.

Democrats in particular criticized Bush for again raising the Sept. 11 attacks as a justification for the protracted fight in Iraq after the president proclaimed anew that he plans to keep U.S. forces there as long as necessary to ensure peace.

Urging patience on an American public showing doubts about his Iraq policy, Bush mentioned the deadly 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington five times during a 28-minute address Tuesday night at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Some Democrats quickly accused him of reviving a questionable link to the war in Iraq — a rationale that Bush originally used to help justify launching strikes against Baghdad in the spring of 2003.

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi accused Bush of demonstrating a willingness "exploit the sacred ground of 9/11, knowing that there is no connection between 9/11 and the war in Iraq."

Bush first mentioned the terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center at the beginning of his speech, delivered at an Army base that has 9,300 troops in Iraq. He acknowledged that Americans are disturbed by frequent deaths of U.S. troops, but tried to persuade an increasingly skeptical public to stick with the mission.

"The war reached our shores on September the 11th, 2001," Bush told a national television audience and 750 soldiers and airmen in dress uniform who mostly listened quietly as they had been asked to do.

"Iraq is the latest battlefield in this war," he continued.

Bush said he understands the public concerns about a 27-month-old war that has killed more than 1,700 Americans and 12,000 Iraqi civilians and cost \$200 billion. But he argued that the sacrifice "is worth it."

"We fight today because terrorists want to attack our country and kill our citizens, and Iraq is where they are making their stand. So we will fight them there, we will fight them across the world and we will stay in the fight until the fight is won."

He offered no shift in course in Iraq and said he did not believe it necessary to send more troops. U.S. forces

in Iraq total just under about 140,000 and they constitute the bulk of the coalition fighting force.

Appearing on television news shows Wednesday, some key lawmakers took issue with that position.

Sen. John McCain, interviewed on CBS's "The Early Show," maintained that "one of the very big mistakes early on was that he didn't have enough troops on the ground, particularly after the initial victory, and that's still the case."

Sen. John Kerry, Bush's Democratic opponent in last year's presidential election, told NBC's "Today" show that the borders of Iraq "are porous" and said "we don't have enough troops" there.

Sen. Joseph Biden Jr., appearing on ABC's "Good Morning America," disputed Bush's notion that sufficient troops are in place.

"I'm going to send him the phone numbers of the very generals and flag officers that I met on Memorial Day when I was in Iraq," the Delaware Democrat said. "There's not enough force on the ground now to mount a real counterinsurgency."

Biden argued, "The course that we are on now is not a course of success. He (Bush) has to get more folks involved. He has to stand up that army more quickly."

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21 AND OVER

Democrats propose plan

REDISTRICTING, from page 6

and encourage everyone to participate. We are very hopeful that our Republican colleagues will join the discussion as well."

McCarthy is willing to negotiate, but said the Lowenthal measure was a "step backward" that would still allow legislative leaders to dominate the redistricting process and produce a bipartisan plan to protect incumbents.

"This is about politicians picking their friends (for the commission) and drawing it up," he said.

Lowenthal contended that redistricting standards in his legislation, including requirements for compact districts that respect communities of interest, would prevent pro-incumbent plans.

McCarthy also said other provisions in the amendment could run afoul of the single-issue requirement for ballot measures. The proposed initiative also would require the commission to recommend ways to improve legislative procedures and bar the Senate or Assembly from starting a summer recess each year before lawmakers approve a new state budget.

Democrats need some Republican support because it would take two-thirds votes to add the amendment to the ballot.

Chellie Pingree, president of Common Cause, and Jacqueline Jacobberger, president of the League of Women Voters of California, praised the Democrats for trying to reach a compromise but indicated they had some problems with the Lowenthal legislation.

The measure is scheduled to be considered Wednesday by the Senate Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments Committee.

Business

SANTA MONICA BUSINESS BRIEFS

Art Institute names new dean of academic affairs

By Daily Press staff

The Art Institute of California-Los Angeles has announced that Vi Ly has been appointed as the new dean of academic affairs.

Ly has been with The Art Institute of California-Los Angeles since 1998 and has been serving as the assistant dean of academic affairs since 2004. Prior to that, she was department chair of the media arts and animation and game art and design programs.

Ly has helped to develop one of the largest animation programs in The Art Institute system and instructed students who have gone on to work for major studios such as Sony Pictures Imageworks, Disney Features Animation, Electronic Arts, Warner Brothers Feature Animation and Activision.

Students under the tutelage of Ly have had their work featured in major film and animation festivals and have won regional Emmy's.

"Vi's talent, enthusiasm and understanding of the mission of The Art Institute programs will provide strong continuity in our academic affairs department," said Laura Soloff, president of The Art Institute of California-Los Angeles.

Ly holds a bachelor degree of fine arts in drawing/printmaking from the University of Cincinnati and a master's degree of fine arts in painting from the San Francisco Art Institute. Prior to joining The Art Institute of California-Los Angeles, Ly was a department chair at Learning Tree University, a computer graphics artist at Clarity Station, Inc. and on the drawing faculty of Monterey Peninsula College, Cabrillo College of Santa Cruz, and the San Jose City College.

As an artist, Ly has exhibited widely in the United States and her art is on display in many private and public collections, including the Permanent Collection of the San Jose Museum of Art.

The Art Institute of California-Los Angeles is one of The Art Institutes, with 31 education institutions located throughout North America, providing training for design, media arts, fashion and culinary professionals. The parent company of The Art Institutes, Education Management Corp., is among the largest providers of private post-secondary education in North America, based on student enrollment and revenue. Student enrollment exceeded 66,000 as of fall 2004. EDMC has 70 primary campus locations in 24 states and two Canadian provinces.

Microtel going macro with California plans

By Daily Press staff

Microtel Inns & Suites, the nation's fastest growing, new construction hotel brand in the economy segment, is targeting California for expansion.

Company plans call for 50 new local hotels by 2010, employing more than 750 area residents. There are currently five open locations in California, with more than 30 in various stages of new development.

As the No. 1 travel destination in the United States, California annually generates more than \$75 billion in direct travel spending into the economy, according to the California Lodging Industry Association.

Microtel was ranked No. 1 in the economy hotel segment by J.D. Power and Associates Hotel Guest Satisfaction Study for 2002, 2003 and 2004, and has received high marks in other prominent industry studies conducted by D.K. Shifflet & Associates, Business Travel News, and Entrepreneur Magazine, hotel officials say.

According to Pat Ford, president of Lodging Econometrics, the industry authority for hotel real estate, the lodging industry is now in an early recovery stage and has seen 22 consecutive months of robust operating improvements. That development activity is boosting investor confidence and solid expansion, particularly throughout California.

"The hotel industry is healthier and more profitable than it has been in years," said Manu Naran, vice president franchise sales and development. "Our track record in markets with similar demographics, and the growing consumer demand for contemporary, high quality hotels at an affordable price makes Microtel the ideal fit for California."

How's your sense of 'style' when it comes to investing?



MARKET MATTERS

BY BRIAN HEPP

While this may come as no surprise, every investor has a unique financial situation. As a result, there is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all investment strategy that caters to everyone who chooses to invest. However, there are some overarching concepts that apply to large groups of investors of similar types, and it is important that all investors understand which investment styles fit them best.

To help you better understand how certain investment styles differ, a look at a couple different investing styles can give you a clearer picture of the alternatives. Two of the more prominent approaches are "value" investing and "growth" investing. A value style is usually characterized by investing in companies whose stock is undervalued, or "cheap." Growth investing, on the other hand, refers to the strategy of investing in companies that offer good potential for growth in earnings. Let's explore a little further the merits of each.

VALUE INVESTING

Investors who use a value-oriented approach try to identify stocks that they believe are undervalued. Several financial measurements can be used to make such calculations, and there is a certain amount of variation and subjectivity involved in determining what constitutes a value stock.

A traditional value approach attempts to identify stocks with low absolute valuation multiples. For example, a stock's price/earnings ratio — its current price divided by earnings per share — is a typical measurement that can be used to determine value. An absolute valuation approach would say that stocks with a certain P/E or lower would be considered value stocks.

Alternatively, other value assessments place more emphasis on relative valuation. Rather than being based entirely on absolute measurements, this approach is more concerned with how a stock compares when measured against another indicator. For example, a stock with a P/E of 18 might be considered high when

evaluated by itself. However, if the rest of the stocks in the same sector are trading at a P/E of over 25, then the original stock would probably be seen as a value play, by comparison.

Value investing offers several possible benefits. If a company's shares are currently trading at a price lower than what they're judged to be worth, then an investment in the stock could increase your portfolio eventually. Additionally, this approach offers the potential for limited downside risk if a company's assets actually have greater value than the market is currently paying.

GROWTH INVESTING

While value investing often focuses on the current state of a company's balance sheet, growth investing typically focuses on the company's income statement and its ability to increase earnings on a long-term and continuing basis.

Growth investors seek to recognize stocks whose revenues and earnings are growing — or are expected to grow — at rates greater than companies within the same industry or the economy as a whole. A long track record of consistent earnings growth, above-average return on equity, and below-average dividend yield are just some of the primary factors used to identify growth stocks.

Growth investing offers several possible benefits to investors as well. For one thing, earnings growth may protect the company and stock in periods of economic weakness. What's more, in periods of economic uncertainty, investors may move toward investing in companies with long records of earnings increases and strong cash flow.

Regardless of which style of investing suits you best, it's important to understand how your individual financial situation lends itself to a particular investing approach. Armed with that knowledge, you can chart a course for success.

(Brian Hepp is a financial consultant of A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. and can be reached at (310) 453-0077 or at brian.hepp@agedwards.com. A.G. Edwards is a full-service retail brokerage that offers a complete spectrum of financial products and services, including stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, retirement planning and tax-advantage investments. Member SIPC.)



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Bush Administration looking out for little guy

GUEST COMMENTARY

BY HECTOR V. BARRETO

One of the many key responsibilities of the U.S. Small Business Administration is to ensure that small businesses receive a fair portion of federal procurement dollars. The SBA takes pride in both its efforts and accomplishments in what it has attained. For example, the latest figures available indicate that in fiscal year 2003, the U.S. government met its goal of awarding 23 percent of prime contracts, more than \$65 billion, to small businesses. If you count associated subcontracts, small businesses received more than \$110 billion in contracting dollars. While this is good news, we're striving to do more.

One of the realities about government contracting is that it is not what it was just a decade ago. Now, contracts can last 20 years or more. For small businesses com-

peting for government contracts, this more complex environment has crucial implications. The key is to make sure small businesses can compete fairly for contracting dollars. To that end, the administration has undertaken a number of actions to streamline and strengthen the contracting process.

In 2002, President Bush, as part of his small business agenda, ordered that contract bundling be minimized. There is a widespread practice of consolidating contracts performed by small businesses into a single, larger one. The resulting contract is not suitable for small businesses to bid on. As a result of the president's directive to level the playing field, SBA in conjunction with the federal procurement community, published regulations addressing the mitigation of contract bundling.

Additionally, the SBA has improved the accuracy of its small business procurement database by purging businesses that may have in fact been large. In addition, small businesses in this database must now update their information annually.

Other steps we've taken include permitting small businesses to challenge any contract award where they may question the size of the winning firm. Also, the SBA now lists on its Web site businesses found to be other than small as the result of a formal size determination made by the agency.

One important action that took effect last December requires small businesses to recertify their size when a contract they have is transferred to another firm. SBA also will soon release final size recertification rules that would redefine when during the life of a long-term contract a small business' size status should be determined. The net effect of these activities will help the federal government have a clearer picture on how small businesses are faring in government contracting and more importantly, to take steps if it's required.

Contracting opportunities for small businesses are dependent on their size. Because of this, we're re-examining what is actually defined as a small business. Today, there are 37 different definitions, depending on revenues and/or number of

employees.

We're being innovative by creating other procurement opportunities for small businesses. Our Business Matchmaking program has resulted in millions of dollars in new contracts, but more importantly tens of thousands have gotten access to buyers and decision makers they never would have met otherwise. In the near future, the purchasing arm of the federal government, the General Services Administration, will go out to bid on multi-billion dollar contracting opportunities specifically set aside for small businesses.

Something I know directly from having been a small business owner is that small businesses don't expect anything to be handed to them. What they do want is more business. The actions by the Bush Administration, as well as the SBA with respect to federal procurement, will help to do exactly that.

(Hector V. Barreto is a former small business owner and the 21st administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration.)

Size does matter: Small business standard needs to be downsized considerably

By Daily Press staff

Local small business owners on Wednesday spoke out against proposals by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) that they claim would strip government contracts from legitimate small businesses in favor of large corporations.

The SBA is currently holding 11 hearings across the country on a number of proposals that would let big businesses continue receiving government contracts intended for small businesses. The hearings take place in the wake of a comment period that ended in April, during which the SBA received more than 6,000 comments — the highest number of responses ever received in the history of the SBA — from small business owners and community activists opposing one or more of the SBA's proposed policy changes, according to the American Small Business League, a national organization focused on promoting the interests of the 23 million American companies with fewer than 100 employees.

The Small Business Act of 1953 requires at least 23 percent of federal contracts go to

small businesses. But in December of 2004, the SBA Office of Advocacy reported that more than \$2 billion in small business contracts had been awarded Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, Carlyle Group, Electronic Data Systems, Booz Allen Hamilton and Hewlett-Packard.

A series of reports by the SBA Office of Investigator General this year showed that not only are federal agencies awarding small business contracts to large businesses, but the SBA itself is violating size standards for its own procurement, in direct contravention of its mission, according to the American Small Business League.

In 2003, the SBA removed nearly 600 large corporations from its database following an investigation by the American Small Business League. Among those large corporations obtaining small business contracts were Barnes & Noble booksellers, Dole Food Co., AT&T Wireless and Verizon.

"The SBA knows large companies are receiving small business contracts and they've refused to do anything about it," said Lloyd Chapman, president of the American Small Business League. "Their

failure to act on these violations speaks louder than words. If SBA officials are serious about helping small businesses, they'll listen closely to the business owners testifying at these hearings and pay attention to the number of Americans who will continue to lose business because of these proposals."

Among the changes the SBA is considering is a grandfathering proposal that would allow corporate giants in the U.S. and Europe to keep their small business contracts for up to five more years, even if small business size standards are reduced in the future, according to the American Small Business League.

"The SBA should be doing more to help business owners like me win government contracts, instead of considering proposals that continue their practice of putting big business first," said Juan Santana of Jungle Communications in San Francisco. "Why would the SBA want to protect big businesses that are currently making money from contracts meant for small businesses? It hurts the American economy and defeats the SBA's own stated purpose."

Together with small business owners,

the American Small Business League is advocating to revise size standard discrepancies for what constitutes a real small business. In the U.S. today, 98 percent of all firms have fewer than 100 employees, and until 1986 the SBA defined a small business as one with fewer than 100 employees. But in 1986, the SBA changed the definition to allow up to 500 employees, and current policy sets different size standards for every industry. Both of these factors make it increasingly difficult for SBA officials to find fraudulent corporations misrepresenting themselves as small businesses. The ASBL has advocated a return to the simple, 100 employee-based size standard, making it easier for the SBA to discover fraudulent small business and enforce their policies against violators.

"The issue here is the SBA's failure to enforce size standards, and their bigger failure to punish those corporations who knowingly misrepresent their small business status," Chapman said. "The more universal and straightforward the standards, the easier it become to monitor their enforcement and weed out fraudulent firms misrepresenting themselves as small businesses to other federal agencies."

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Among the items found at the scene of Wednesday's shootings were bloody clothes (left) and money believed to have been stolen from the First Federal Bank branch at 2827 Main St. Ryan Hyatt/Daily Press

FBI says it will leave investigation to SMPD

BANK ROBBERY, from page 1

received further information en route to the scene that indicated one suspect, armed with a handgun, had exited the bank and was being driven away by a second suspect in a black sport utility vehicle, according to SMPD Lt. Alex Padilla. Lt. Padilla said several police units intercepted the fleeing SUV on Lincoln Boulevard and proceeded to chase it south through Venice into Marina del Rey. The SUV entered a parking garage at

the Villa Marina Marketplace on the 13400 block of Maxella Avenue. The vehicle stopped near a stairwell and arriving squad cars stopped behind it. According to Lt. Padilla, responding officers noticed the two men reaching for their waistbands as they exited the SUV, at which point the officers began to shoot at the suspects. "We're still figuring out how many rounds were fired and by whom," said Lt. Padilla. "But there was more than one (officer who fired)."

The officers involved in the shooting, as per standard procedure, will be assigned to desk duty for a couple of days. A man who calls himself "R.J.," who works at a coffee shop at the top of the stairwell, said he stepped outside as he heard approaching sirens. The witness said he walked downstairs in time to see two men flee the vehicle and watched police officers begin to fire at them. "They were coming toward me. I was scared, so I started running," R.J. said. "I ran past the shops and told the people to lock their doors, because (the cops) were shooting." R.J. said he ran along the west wing of the second floor, avoiding the chase. Lt. Padilla and Santa Monica police detectives held a press conference following the incident, showing reporters and cameramen the crime scene. Lt. Padilla said one of the suspects was apprehended near the top of the stairwell, a spot littered with money and a blue denim jacket.

There was no blood, but Lt. Padilla said that was not uncommon. "Sometimes when someone gets shot, there is only internal bleeding at first," Lt. Padilla said. A trail of blood spots from the second suspect started near the top of the stairwell and led several yards east to a small outdoor corridor between businesses. Lying close to a pool of smeared blood were a cell phone, white sneakers and a yellow Polo shirt. Officials from the FBI, which usually leads bank robbery investigations, said that they would leave the investigation to the SMPD. "We look at it on a case by case basis," said Laura Eimiller, an FBI spokesperson, adding the SMPD is the lead agency in the investigation. However, it appears the FBI is working the case as well. "It's under investigation whether or not these individuals have robbed before," she said.



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Musicians, fans brace for some Pier pressure

DANCE SERIES, from page 1

with their blend of roots, dance hall, funk and rhythm and blues. They have toured the globe, playing with international superstars like Barrington Levy, Sean Paul and Kymani Marley.

The free outdoor concerts will run from June 30 through Sept. 1. This summer, expect to hear an eclectic musical mix,

including reggae, folk, blues, Tex-Mex, jazz, pop, alternative and rock music from a host of bands.

Tinariwen, an international band from the southern Sahara, performs their melodies on July 14. One week later, a collaboration of Chicago blues legends who defined the sound of their generation — the Chicago Blues Reunion — will take to the stage.



DETOUR POSSE



EASY STAR ALL-STARS

Out with Olde, in with the new

YE OLDE, from page 1

“It is a very sad day,” Ruth Elwell said. “At the same time, we’re happy we’re entering a totally different part of our life.”

Betcher and Tavey plan on leaving the King’s Head as is, including the current staff. Nicola Coleman, who handles the gift shop, and Lisa Powers, office manager, are both nieces of Phil Elwell who will stay on board.

“The people who bought the King’s Head are super nice guys,” Ruth Elwell said. “They love the concept and don’t want to change anything.”

Starting a British-themed bar and restaurant was the brainchild of Phil Elwell, who hails from the United Kingdom.

“It’s always been my husband’s dream,” Ruth Elwell said. “When we met in ’66, he was always talking about ‘when we open our pub, this will look great on our wall.’”

The dream came true eight years later, when the Ye Olde King’s Head opened for business in 1974. Ruth Elwell, who for years has been a diplomatic champion of merchant issues, said downtown Santa Monica is the economic engine that drives the city, and it’s important that it continues to flourish.

Ruth Elwell also retired this month

**“It is a very sad day.
At the same time,
we’re happy we’re
entering a totally
different part of our life.”**

— RUTH ELWELL

Former owner, Ye Olde King’s Head

from the Bayside District Corp., a group that regulates downtown in conjunction with City Hall. She had been a Bayside board member for seven years.

Patricia Hoffman, a Bayside board member, said the Elwells have contributed much to life in Santa Monica.

“They have been a valuable part of our community and literally brought a taste of England to the area,” Hoffman said. “I enjoyed serving with Ruth on the board.”

When asked her thoughts on issues such as homelessness, parking and traffic, Ruth Elwell said she had only one bit of advice for City Hall.

“Santa Monica is a beautiful city, and we need to keep it that way.”



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

The stage for the 21st Annual Twilight Dance Series of summer concerts will be set up today on the Santa Monica Pier. The temporary stage will be erected on the pier’s west parking deck each Thursday prior to the outdoor shows in efforts to save parking spaces during the week.

The Neil Diamond tribute band, Super Diamond, spreads the good word on both Aug. 4 and Aug. 11. Prepare for a fusion of Northern Mexican styles and percussive techno with the Latin Alternative Conference. Also performing this summer will be The Knack, Gordon Goodwin’s Big Phat Band, Suzanne Vega, Shonen Knife, Buckwheat Zydeco and Marc Cohn.

The Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corp., which manages the pier, has invited 10 charities to recruit volunteers and offer information about their respective causes at the venue. Donations will be accepted and split between the charities.

Concerts start at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday on the Santa Monica Pier’s west parking deck. For more information, visit www.twilightdance.org, or www.santa-monicapier.org. You also can call the pier information line at (310) 458-8900. For bus information, visit bigbluebus.com or call (310) 451-5444, or visit www.mta.net.

Pier officials strongly recommend walking, biking and using mass transit to get to the concerts, as parking is limited. Parking is available in beach parking lots located at 2330 Barnard Way, located south of the pier, and 1550 PCH, just north of the pier.

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NATIONAL

House has cabin fever, allows woman to stay put

BY JUDITH KOHLER
Associated Press Writer

DENVER — An 83-year-old woman facing eviction from her home in Rocky Mountain National Park got good news Wednesday: the U.S. House passed a bill that would let her live the rest of her life in the cabin that's been her home for a quarter century.

But Betty Dick can't forget about finding another place to live yet. The agreement that allowed her and her late husband, Fred, to live in their cabin near the park's west entrance expires July 16, and the Senate still has to consider the bill.

"I'm certainly not without hope," Dick said in a phone interview from her home in

the park about 70 miles northwest of Denver.

The National Park Service has said she can take until the end of the summer to move, but it has denied a request from Rep. Mark Udall, D-Colo., that she be allowed to stay until his legislation has run its course.

A similar measure by Sen. Ken Salazar, D-Colo., is pending in the Senate.

Michael Snyder, acting deputy director of the Park Service, testified before a House subcommittee in April that Udall's legislation would set a bad precedent for similar agreements and leases on Park Service land.

Udall and area residents rallied around Dick after news of her impending eviction spread.

"Betty Dick is a good steward of this

property and has been a good neighbor to the park and the surrounding community," Udall said. "She has simply asked that she be allowed to continue to contribute to the park and the community and enjoy this property for the rest of her life."

Fred Dick sued the Park Service in 1979 when his first wife sold their 66.5 acres and cabin to the agency. His first wife got the property in the divorce, but he had right of first refusal.

In an out-of-court settlement, the Park Service acquired about two-thirds of the property. Dick and her husband kept 23 acres and the cabin and paid the government \$7,500.

Dick said she has records showing the agreement was supposed to be a "life estate," meaning they could live there the

rest of their lives. The final documents, though, limited the couple's time on the land to 25 years.

She said by then, her husband had run out of money and the desire to fight. Her husband, who died in 1992, figured the agreement would outlast both of them.

Dick, who spends part of the year in Scottsdale, Ariz., said she doesn't want to move. She's active in area church and civic groups and often invites friends to her home, surrounded on three sides by the Continental Divide.

The Colorado River, still a creek near its beginning, flows by her front door. Moose and elk roam through her yard.

"It's absolutely the most peaceful place in the world," she said.

Senator asks GAO to begin tracking border deaths

By The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist says he has asked the Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress, to begin tracking how many illegal immigrants die crossing into the United States, because there is no systematic gathering of the data.

The border death numbers are used in

congressional discussions about border policy decisions, and when the numbers are wrong they paint an inaccurate portrait of what's going on, said Frist spokesman Nick Smith.

"It's critical that we have the most accurate information for our needs," Smith said. "That's why he's asking the GAO to put together the most reliable and up-to-date facts and figures."

Scores of migrants die each year along

the entire U.S.-Mexico border, many of them in the harsh Arizona deserts. But the numbers vary depending on who's counting.

For example, the U.S. Border Patrol, which provides the official government count, said 172 migrants died in crossings through Arizona last fiscal year.

But an Arizona Daily Star compilation of medical-examiner records showed that 221 people died trying to cross through

Arizona last fiscal year.

Frist didn't ask the GAO to investigate why bodies are missing from the federal tally. Instead, he requested that the GAO count the number of slain illegal immigrants.

For its part, the Border Patrol's Tucson sector, the busiest illegal entry point on the U.S.-Mexico border, said last week it will count all the illegal immigrant deaths, and now tallies 104.

Arizona wildfire now at 152,000 acres, but still far from towns

BY BETH DEFALCO
Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — A lightning-sparked fire northeast of Phoenix had grown to 152,000 acres by Wednesday as it continued to push into central Arizona. Firefighters planned to make a stand to keep the fire from growing any closer to the small communities of Pine and Strawberry.

No evacuations have been ordered, and Tom Berglund, a spokesman for the firefighters, said the Cave Creek Complex fire was about 20 miles southwest of Pine and Strawberry and 12 miles from the point when evacuations may be necessary.

If the fire crosses the Verde River, however, authorities say it could push into a canyon and race into the small towns.

The fire hadn't crossed the river early Wednesday, said fire spokesman Vinnie Picard, but there is concern since the ponderosa pine forest surrounding the towns has been hard hit by tree-killing beetles in recent years.

The National Interagency Fire Center

said Wednesday that 22 active large fires in the West were burning across more than 905,000 acres in Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah.

Picard said the threat of wildfires is something residents of Pine and Strawberry, located about 100 miles northeast of Phoenix, are getting used to having around.

Last year, the lightning-sparked Willow fire burned in nearby Payson for nearly a month. It charred 119,500 acres, making it the second-largest fire in Arizona history until the Cave Creek Complex fire surpassed it this week.

About 860 people fought the fire, which is 20 percent contained. The fire had been 25 percent contained but it grew Tuesday in windy weather and the containment lines didn't grow with it, Berglund said. Crews expected lower winds Wednesday.

The fire began as two lightning-sparked fires on June 21 near Cave Creek and within days had merged and forced the evacuations of some 250 homes north-

east of Phoenix. Eleven homes and three storage sheds were destroyed in that area before the fire moved on.

The 46-foot Grand One, recognized in the National Register of Big Trees for its height, mass of limbs and a base circumference of nearly 8 feet, was scorched. "As much as I'd like to be optimistic, I'm not," said Tonto National Forest spokeswoman Emily Garber about the saguaro's survival.

In Nevada, firefighters vowed to stop two huge wildfires from reaching the southern Nevada railroad town of Caliente, 10 miles away. Fire officials assured residents at a Tuesday night town meeting that the 961 firefighters using shovels, bulldozers, aircraft and a natural barrier of green, wet mountain terrain could prevent the desert fire from reaching the community of about 1,100 residents.

"It's not going to get here," Forest Service incident commander Tom Suwyn said.

About a dozen fires were sparked by lightning on June 22 and burned through

vast stretches of desert tortoise habitat. Some of the blazes merged and other new fires were discovered Tuesday, said David Chevalier, a fire spokesman.

The fire zone covered more than 400,000 acres, though as much as half the land within the fire boundaries may be unburned. Officials said the fires were zigzagging through brittle desert grasses, mesquite, Joshua trees and mountain pines.

Containment was estimated at about 6 percent, with no structures burned. One corner of the fire area stretched into southwest Utah.

In Utah's southwestern corner, relieved residents near the threatened community of New Harmony were returning home after their rural subdivision escaped with no more than close encounter with the 12,000-acre Blue Springs fire.

Fire crews worked through the night Tuesday, but turned back flames that came close enough to buckle the vinyl siding on one house. No homes were lost, and the fire was 50 percent contained by Wednesday.

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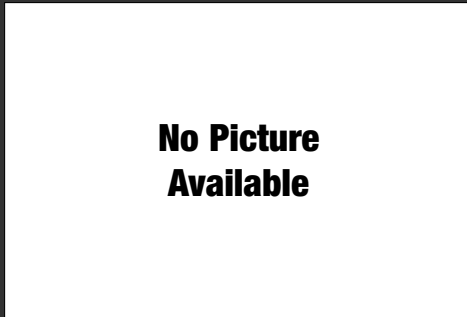
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NATIONAL

Steer unclear: A second case of mad cow is traced to Texas

BY LIBBY QUAID

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The second case of mad cow disease in the United States has been traced to a cow born in Texas 12 years ago and slaughtered last November at plant for pet food, Agriculture Department officials said Wednesday.

The department's chief veterinarian, Dr. John Clifford, said the cow was identified and linked to the herd in Texas through DNA testing. He said the herd had been quarantined and that none of the infected carcass entered the food chain or for use as animal feed.

"The animal did not enter the human food chain. The safety of our food supply is not in question," Clifford said in teleconference call with reporters. He said the government would not release the location of the herd.

He said that the time of the cow's infection could not be pinpointed, but given its age, officials believe it probably was infected before the 1997 ban forbidding the use

of cattle parts in cattle feed.

Eating the brain and other nervous tissue of an animal with the brain-wasting ailment is the only confirmed way the disease is transmitted.

The Agriculture Department confirmed the case last Friday but had to wait for DNA analysis to confirm the cow's origin. Tracing the cow proved difficult because the animal's breed was mislabeled and its tissues got mixed with parts from other cows. It was killed at a pet food plant in Waco, Texas.

Officials suspected last November that the cow was infected because initial screening had indicated the presence of the disease. But more sophisticated tests came back negative, and officials announced then that the suspect cow was free of the ailment.

The conflicting test results bothered the department's internal watchdog, who ordered a new round of tests earlier this month. Those results came back positive, and an internationally recognized laboratory in Weybridge, England, confirmed last Friday that the cow had mad cow disease.

Appeals court has beef with ruling by Supreme Court over checkoffs

BY BOB ANEZ

Associated Press Writer

HELENA, Mont. — A federal appeals court has kept alive a Montana challenge to the beef checkoff marketing fee, despite a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last month that the government has the right to force beef producers to pay the fee.

In a three-page order, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Shepherd-area ranchers Steve and Jeanne Charter can argue before a federal judge that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has wrongly tried to pass off the advertising as expressing the views of individual cattle producers.

The nation's high court acknowledged in its May 23 decision that such an argument still could be made, the circuit court said.

Jeanne Charter said Monday the best she and other opponents of the checkoff could hope to obtain by continuing their case would be a ruling that the federal government must identify the marketing message as its own and not one coming from the nation's ranchers forced to finance by the program. And that, she said, may not be worth the cost of pursuing the legal fight.

"We're trying to figure how just how far we can get with it," she said. "We would like to pursue it because it appears to me that there's this subterfuge. The only thing we may be able to do is prevent the USDA from calling themselves beef producers."

The best bet, in the wake of the Supreme Court decision in May, might be to pressure Congress to repeal the program that relies on producers' dollars, Charter said.

The high court, on a 6-3 vote, upheld the mandatory \$1-per-head marketing fee because it finances a beef campaign that is a form of "government speech" immune to First Amendment challenge. Some ranchers, like the Charters, have argued the checkoff violates their rights by forcing them to pay for advertising with which they don't necessarily agree.

The beef checkoff program raises about \$80 million a year to help fund beef promotion, consumer education and research. The program was approved by Congress and later made mandatory with an industry vote.

The appeals court noted that the Charters' lawsuit deals with an issue not addressed by the Supreme Court — whether the marketing message is unconstitutionally portrayed as coming from cattle producers who actually object to the ad campaign.

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INTERNATIONAL



U.S. chopper gets shot down in Afghanistan

BY DANIEL COONEY
Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan — A U.S. Chinook helicopter that crashed in eastern Afghanistan was likely shot down by hostile fire, and the fate of 17 Americans aboard was unclear, the U.S. military said Wednesday. The Taliban claimed it attacked the aircraft.

The troops were on a mission against al-Qaida fighters when the helicopter went down Tuesday in a mountainous region near Asadabad, in Kunar province.

“Initial reports indicate the crash may have been caused by hostile fire. The status of the service members is unknown at this time,” a U.S. military statement said.

The coalition and Afghan troops “quickly moved into position around the crash to block any enemy movement toward or away from the site” and coalition support aircraft were overhead, the statement said.

The helicopter was carrying forces into the area as part of Operation Red Wing against al-Qaida militants, the military said.

“Coalition troops on the ground in this area came in contact with enemy forces and requested additional forces to be inserted into this operation,” U.S. military spokesman Col. James Yonts told a news conference. “That is why there was an aircraft, that is how it arrived on the battlefield.”

In Washington, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Peter Pace said the “tragedy ... appears to be a shootdown of one of our special operations helicopters,” and was under investigation.

“We think it was an RPG (rocket-propelled grenade), but are not 100 percent” sure, Pace told a Senate committee during a hearing on his nomination to be chairman of the joint chiefs.

Yonts said the helicopter took indirect or direct fire from the ground. “Whether or not that caused it to crash, we do not know yet,” he said.

The U.S. military knew from its contacts with local leaders and residents that “terrorist organizations” were operating in the area of the crash, Yonts said.

“That did not come as a surprise to us, this area has been known to harbor those terrorist organizations or personnel,” he said.

Provincial Gov. Asadullah Wafa told The Associated

Press the Taliban downed the aircraft with a rocket. He gave no other details.

Purported Taliban spokesman Mullah Latif Hakimi telephoned the AP before news of the crash was released and said the rebels shot the helicopter down.

He said the rebels filmed the attack and would release the video to the media. He also claimed that rebels killed seven U.S. soldiers in an attack in the same area, although U.S. spokeswoman Lt. Cindy Moore said no such attack had been made on an American convoy.

Hakimi often calls news organizations to claim responsibility for attacks on behalf of the Taliban. His information has sometimes proven untrue or exaggerated, and his exact tie to the group’s leadership is unclear.

“This is a tragic event for all of us, and our hearts and prayers go out to the families, loved ones and men still fighting in the area,” said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Greg Champion, deputy commanding general of Combined Joint Task Force-76. “This incident will only further our resolve to defeat the enemies of peace.”

The crash was the second of a Chinook helicopter in Afghanistan this year. On April 6, 15 U.S. service members and three American civilians were killed when their chopper went down in a sandstorm while returning to the main U.S. base at Bagram.

The twin-rotor Chinook was one of the workhorses of the Vietnam War, where it was first used, and has been in service in all wars since. It able to lift large loads of fuel or ammunition, or retrieve smaller helicopters.

It has a crew of four, including two pilots, a flight engineer and a crew chief, who man M60 machine guns to protect it.

The U.S. military has launched operations in several areas along the border with Pakistan. Those offensives target remnants of al-Qaida and the hard-line Taliban movement, as well as foreign fighters using high mountain passes to cross the largely uncontrolled border from Pakistan.

Tuesday’s crash came after three months of unprecedented fighting that has killed about 465 suspected insurgents, 29 U.S. troops, 43 Afghan police and soldiers, and 125 civilians.

The violence has left much of Afghanistan off-limits to aid workers and has heightened concerns that the war here is escalating into a conflict on the scale of that in Iraq.

Afghan and U.S. officials have predicted the situation will deteriorate in the lead-up to legislative elections in September.



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Commander: N. Korean threat marginal

By The Associated Press

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA — A U.S. military commander on Wednesday said the United States and South Korea could repel any attack by North Korea, even if the secretive country has one or two nuclear bombs.

Gen. Leon LaPorte, commander of the U.S. military in South Korea, said he believes that North Korea has at least one or two nuclear weapons, but that the combined American and South Korean forces on the peninsula could deter or defeat any attack from the North.

Washington and Seoul “retain our ability to deter North Korean aggression and if required, to decisively

defeat the North Korean threat if they were to threaten South Korea,” LaPorte said in an interview with Seoul’s PBC Radio.

North Korea claimed in February it had nuclear weapons and has since then made moves that would allow it to harvest more weapons-grade plutonium.

Meanwhile, South Korean Unification Minister Chung Dong-young headed to Washington to meet with Vice President Dick Cheney and other U.S. officials. Chung planned to discuss his recent meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, who told Chung that Pyongyang could return to the stalled six-nation nuclear negotiations as early as July — if Washington respects it as a partner.

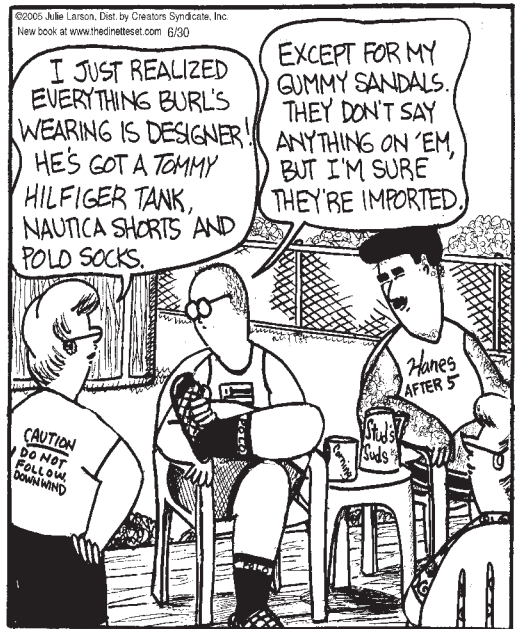
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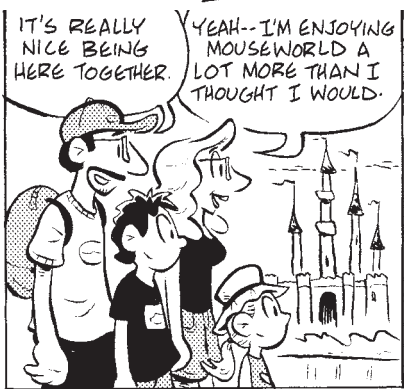


COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson

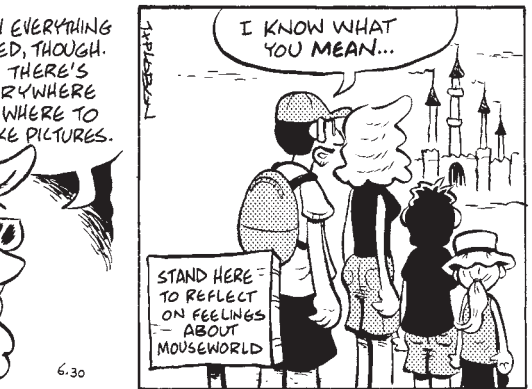


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- 10 Spouse's kin
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- 14 Accumulate
- 15 Flock female
- 16 Cerulean
- 18 Mean
- 20 CPR expert
- 21 Pile
- 23 Legal matter
- 24 In need
- 26 Does something
- 28 Chaney of the silents
- 29 "Huh-uh"
- 31 For both teams
- 32 Home of the Cowboys
- 36 Blushing
- 39 Road-house
- 40 Corn-husker city
- 41 Final letter
- 43 Beam fastener
- 44 Do party work

45 Public

- outburst
- 46 Toy-store buy

DOWN

- 1 Human, for one
- 2 Greatly impressed
- 3 Foreign
- 4 Decline
- 5 Criticize harshly
- 6 Arm, e.g.
- 7 Ready for battle
- 8 Applicant's copies
- 9 Useful abilities
- 11 Oater

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Yesterday's answer

- 17 Mauna — 30 Shelley
- 19 Cry of work
- 22 Dictator 33 Mislead
- 24 War of Duvalier 34 Christ-mas
- 25 At liberty tree
- 27 Cartoon 35 Traffic
- 28 Dozen for Hercules tie-up
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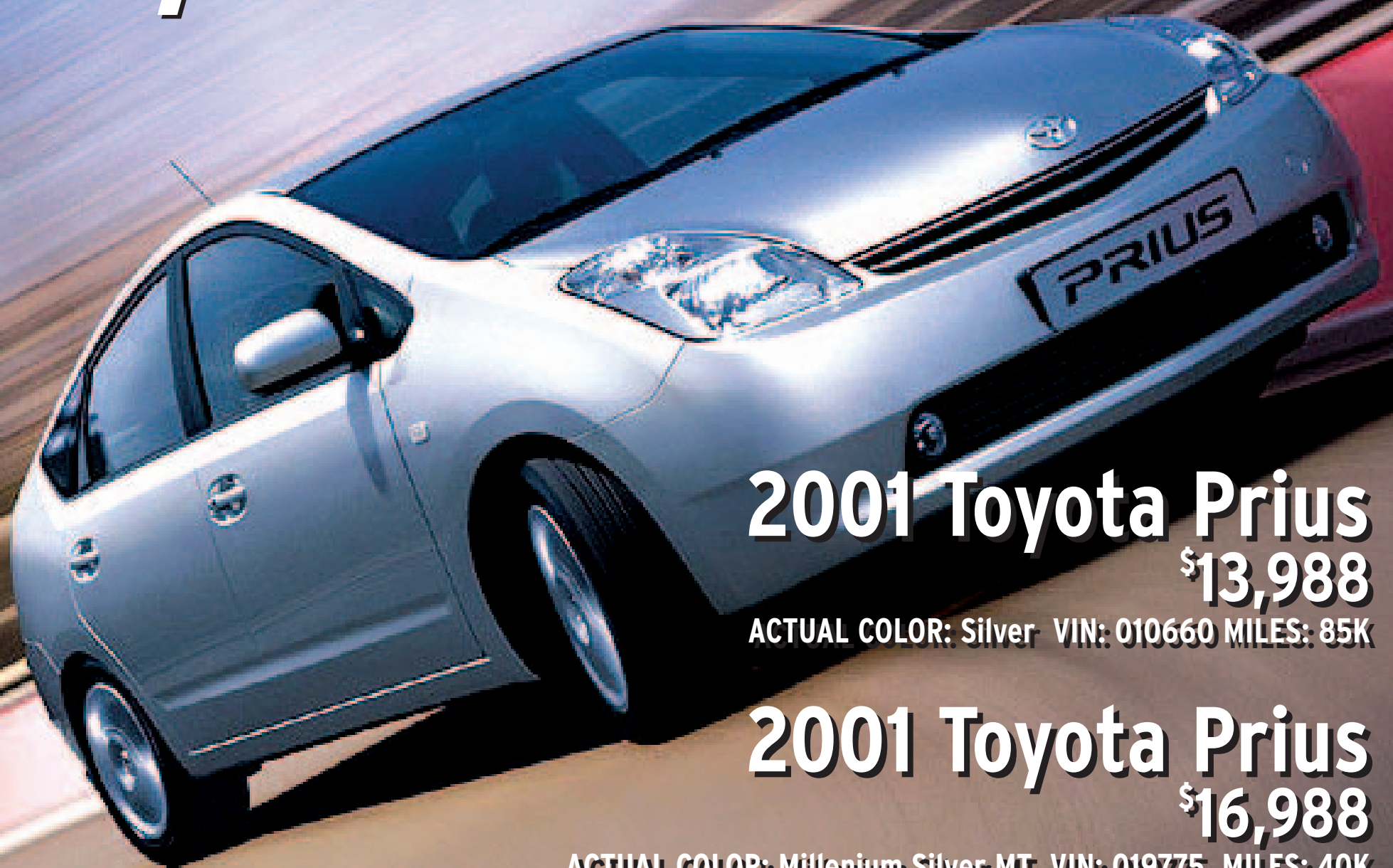
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 +88¢ + TAX PER MONTH
 FOR 39 MONTHS
 FULLY EQUIPPED

\$329.88 + tax first months payment for 39 months on approved credit. \$2179 cap cost reduction + \$795 acquisition fee = \$2974 total due at signing (\$0 security deposit). MSRP \$34,360. Tier 1 Credit. 10K Miles/yr. 20¢ per mile excess. OTHERS AT SIMILAR SAVINGS.

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W.I. SIMONSON EXCLUSIVE!
DEALER CONTRIBUTION \$500
2006 E350 SEDAN ONLY

\$499 10 AT THIS LEASE PAYMENT
 +88¢ + TAX PER MONTH
 FOR 39 MONTHS

\$499.88 + tax first months payment for 39 months on approved credit. \$3124 cap cost reduction + \$795 acquisition fee = \$3919 less \$500 W.I. Simonson contribution = \$3419 total due at signing (\$0 security deposit). MSRP \$50,770. Tier 1 Credit. 10K Miles/yr. 20¢ per mile excess. OTHERS AT SIMILAR SAVINGS.

2005 CLK 320



\$539 10 AT THIS LEASE PAYMENT
 +88¢ + TAX PER MONTH
 FOR 48 MONTHS

\$539.88 + tax first months payment for 48 months on approved credit. \$2692 cap cost reduction + \$1095 acquisition fee = \$3787 total due at signing (\$0 security deposit). MSRP \$59,370. Tier 1 Credit. 10K Miles/yr. 20¢ per mile excess. OTHERS AT SIMILAR SAVINGS.

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STARTING AT ONLY

\$21,995

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STARTING AT ONLY

\$37,995

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STARTING AT ONLY

\$49,995

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MANAGER'S SPECIAL
2005 SL500
 BLACK/BLACK, SPT PKG, 2K MILES, VIN#023612
\$89,995

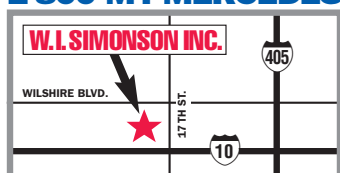
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