

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

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DAILY 3

Daytime: 8 8 4

Evening: 0 6 8

DAILY DERBY

1st: 04 Big Ben
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 01 Gold Rush

RACE TIMES: 1:48.76



NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In May, the Washington Times profiled Mark and Lorraine Moore's growing business selling bird diapers at \$20 to \$26 (Lycra suits with straps that fit around the wings, with a Velcro flap in back, with pads that must be changed every six hours, but which allow birds to roam the house without soiling the furniture). And Frank Morosky of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has introduced charcoal-lined diapers, at \$20 to \$50, designed to reduce the odor of dogs' flatulence. (A Cedar Rapids veterinarian said he didn't think the diapers would sell because so many owners revel in their dog's flatulence as a way of distracting attention from their own.)

■ MCI Inc., in bankruptcy protection and planning to lay off 12,000 workers this year, revealed to its shareholders in May that it had dismissed its president, Richard R. Roscitt, who worked for the company for only seven months, but that according to Roscitt's shrewdly negotiated contract, it had to pay him severance of \$8.1 million, plus assorted benefits.

■ The New York Times reported in June that overworked Catholic clergy in the U.S., Canada and Europe are outsourcing certain ritual prayer requests from their parishioners over to Catholic clergy in India. Priests said such a practice is not new, but that a priest shortage might have caused a bump in numbers. Indian priests said the requests are typically accompanied by US\$5 to \$10 (much more than they are offered for domestic prayers).

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish that He didn't trust me so much."

— MOTHER TERESA

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Ex-Raider likely to be convicted of arson, judge says

Bail for Anthony Wayne Smith will remain at \$1 million

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

LAX COURTHOUSE — Despite a mistrial in his case last month, a former NFL player accused of burning down a Santa Monica furniture and antique store is still likely to be convicted. As a result, his \$1 million bail won't be reduced, a judge here ruled Thursday.

Anthony Wayne Smith, 37, a defensive end for the Raiders in the 1990s, has been in custody almost a year. He is accused of setting the February 2003 blaze that gutted Simply Sofas on Lincoln Avenue. Prosecutors alleged Smith started the fire in a rage-filled act of revenge, after arguing with the store owner over the value of a statue he left with her to be sold on consignment.

Investigators were led to Smith by partially burnt pieces of mail bearing Smith's name and address, which were found stuffed inside makeshift fire bombs used to ignite the blaze. The fire destroyed \$1.2 million worth of merchandise and caused \$900,000 in property damage.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Keith Schwartz said Thursday Smith's lawyers hadn't presented a logical defense for the circumstantial evidence. Though a jury last month split 7-5 in favor of acquitting Smith, the judge pointed to easily remedied weaknesses in the prosecution's case

See ARSON, page 4

Homeless plan to be unveiled this summer

San Francisco unveiled a \$350M effort this week

By staff and wire reports

A 10-year plan to end homelessness in Los Angeles is expected to be unveiled this summer, following closely on the heels of a similar plan announced this week

in San Francisco.

Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom, a key member of the "Bring LA Home" task force, said Thursday officials were busy planning and hoped to present a draft plan this month. The philosophy behind the plans so far has been to convert emergency shelters into supportive housing.

"It's part of the same effort to refocus energies and resources in a more proactive way," Bloom said. "On the whole, I think it's very positive. I think the issue remains funding all of these plans."

San Francisco city officials on Wednesday unveiled a \$350 million, 10-year plan that aims to end the city's chronic homeless crisis.

The "Changing Direction" plan focuses on improving the lives of the estimated 3,000 chronically homeless people in San Francisco, including those who struggle with combinations of mental illness, alcoholism and drug abuse. Once those people are helped, officials

See HOMELESS, page 5

Sign says no more butts along the beach

By Daily Press staff



Photo courtesy

It's official — signs were put up along the beach in Santa Monica this week that forbid smoking along the coast.

SM BEACH — Just in time for the Fourth of July weekend festivities, no smoking signs were posted this week along Los Angeles area beaches signaling the beginning of a smoke-free summer.

"Nearly 34 miles of Los Angeles area beaches, from the Ventura County line south to Marina del Rey are now smoke-free," said Los Angeles County Health Director Jonathan S. Fielding. "Surfers, sunbathers and other visitors, including families with small children, can now enjoy our community beaches without toxic secondhand smoke and litter from cigarette butts."

Proponents of the smoking bans say the new laws were designed to decrease the litter and create family environments free from secondhand smoke. According to Communities Organized Against Smoking and its Trash, also known as COAST, cigarettes are the No. 1 source of beach litter and take at least 15 years to degrade.

"Cigarette butts pollute the ocean, pollute the air we breathe and endanger our small children and marine animals," said Robert Berger, chairman of the Los Angeles County Smoke-free Beach Task Force and a Santa Monica resident. "With our no smoking policies, the Los

See SMOKING, page 4

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Flex with changes, Taurus

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)
 ★★★★★ Opportunity strikes when you are least prepared to run with the moment. You might feel scattered and pulled in opposite directions. Go for the least interference. Stay centered. Tonight: Your determination comes out.


TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ How you value a personal matter could change with new information. You might have too many ideas or your imagination might go a bit berserk as others seek you out. Be willing to work with negativity. Tonight: Flex with changes.


GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ Examine alternatives that surround finances. Evaluate what you want to do, as you feel push comes to shove. You have many more alternatives than you're aware of. Deal with people individually for success. Tonight: Don't let a money matter get out of hand.


CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ You could say too much, and you just might not care. Consider the possibility of trying another approach with key associates and/or friends. You might be a lot more dour or serious than you realize. Avoid being negative. Tonight: Get out of your shell.


LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ Pace yourself even though you have a lot of energy, especially directed toward work or your daily life. Remember, you don't have a money tree in your back yard. Play it conservatively. Say you are tired and make it an early day. Tonight: Get some rest.


VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Playfulness points you in a new direction. In fact, as unusual as it might be, you could be all over the map. You have a lot of ground to cover! A family member could be a bit touchy. Or is this a friend? Humor this person. Tonight: Paint the town red.


LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ You experience an inordinate amount of pressure with the Full Moon. Multiple demands don't work with each other. Regroup and follow your instincts. You will find a way to come out of this dilemma whole. Tonight: Vanish quickly.


SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ What you say counts, but don't expect to get past inordinate stress. Friends, as well as associates, seek you out. How to mix everyone in and accomplish what you want takes talent. You have what it takes. Stay calm. Tonight: Rearrange plans if need be.


SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ Expenses could get the best of you if you're not careful. If you are married or have joint finances with someone, you might not be coordinating your spending. Take a hands-on approach, and you will get through the problem. Tonight: Hold back on excessive spending.


CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ You're in your prime days of this month; still, others could be touchy, difficult or challenging. You can not win over everyone. Reach out for a new perspective or a friend who helps you get past problems. Tonight: Claim your power. Beam in what you want.


AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★ Keep your nose to the grindstone, and you'll get a lot more done than you thought possible. Investigate new ideas, but do it quietly. Make time for one special person who always helps you see life positively. Trust this person to understand you. Tonight: Keep it low-key.


PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ Aim for what you want. The problem might not lie in conflicting demands but with a negative associate whom you have difficulty turning around. Don't stay vested in what happens. Your flexibility will save the day. Tonight: Where the gang is.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Washington feeds Santa Monica's homeless

By Daily Press staff

The city's homeless men, women and children were recently served a warm meal by the director of President George W. Bush's Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives at St. Joseph Center's Bread & Roses Café in Venice. The appearance by director Jim Towey, his 9-year-old son and other Washington, D.C. representatives at St. Joseph's human services agency represented the government's new approach to helping those in need.

"I've never seen anything like this before, and it's great," Towey said. "The sense of community at the café and the gratitude from the clients is tremendous."

The St. Joseph Center provides emergency services, childcare, case management, employment training and senior services to more than 8,000 homeless people each year in eight different locations in Venice, Santa Monica and West Los Angeles. The White House's support of faith-based and community organizations ensures that grassroots leaders can compete on an equal footing for federal dollars, receive greater private support, and face fewer bureaucratic barriers, officials said.

Washington suits visited the center last November and commended it as a model of innovative and comprehensive human services provided by faith-based social service agencies in Los Angeles County, officials said.

"What an honor it is to be recognized for our years of work on behalf of working poor families and homeless persons," said Rhonda Meister, St. Joseph Center's executive director. "Our programs will certainly benefit from the support of the Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives."

More information about the center can be found by calling (310) 396-6468, ext. 328 or by visiting www.stjosephctr.org.



Photo courtesy
(Left to right) Rhonda Meister, St. Joseph Center executive director; Jim Towey, director, White House Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives; and Joe Towey, his son.

24 hours to run/walk for your life

By Daily Press staff

"We're gonna keep on, keep on, keep on movin'. Keep on singin' and dancin' all through the night."

Those lyrics in the Brady Bunch movie weren't necessarily speaking literally, but they are in fact exactly what the American Cancer Society and Santa Monica College are inviting residents to do for 24 hours beginning 9 a.m. on July 24 at Corsair Field.

The college and the ACS are teaming up for the third consecutive year in an effort to raise money for cancer research.

"Our college and the community have lost several heroes to this devastating disease and we are proud to be doing our part in the fight against cancer," said Tony Prestby, SMC's liaison for the event.

The event creates teams of 10 or more people who will walk or run continuously around the SMC track in shifts, from 9 a.m. Saturday, July 24 to 9 a.m. Sunday, July 25.

Runners and walkers waiting their turn to "keep on movin'" will be able to camp at the field and enjoy entertainment while building team spirit in the fight against cancer.

There also will be a special luminaria ceremony on the track to commemorate and honor cancer survivors and those who have died from the disease at 9 p.m. on July 24.

Corsair Field is located at the southwest corner of the SMC campus, on 16th Street between Pearl Street and Pico Boulevard. For information on the event and on forming teams to keep the research moving, contact Prestby at (310) 434-4003. You can also visit <http://www.cancer.org>.



SURF REPORT

Look for a mix of NW wind swell and slowly building SW swell today. North LA spots start off mostly below waist-high, but build into the knee- to waist-high range at many breaks in the afternoon. Top spots see occasional bigger sets. South Bay breaks are mostly in the 1-2' range, with some bigger waist-high-plus sets at best SW/combo breaks in the north half of the bay by the afternoon. Look for light and variable wind in the morning to build out of the SW in the 8-12 knot range for the afternoon.

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

Today the water is:

69°



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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The Q Line

For the first time since the laws were put in place, city officials have decided that regulations pertaining to street performers on the Promenade are sufficient and do not need any significant revisions this year. Merchants on the Promenade and the performers themselves, however, have voiced concerns that the regulation requiring performers to be 40 feet away from each other does not provide enough room, forcing performers to increase their decibel levels

and risk noise-violation tickets.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Are the ordinances governing street performers on the Promenade sufficient? If not, what needs to be changed?"

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

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LOCAL

One juror blamed space
aliens for SM arson fire

ARSON, from page 1

and said a conviction against Smith would be probable at a second jury trial.

“The evidence is very strong,” said Judge Schwartz. “There’s a very strong finger pointing towards Mr. Smith and, if these things are corrected, there’s a very strong likelihood Mr. Smith would be convicted.”

Judge Schwartz said the prosecution’s weaknesses were apparent when jurors raised questions about the building’s broken alarm system, which wasn’t trigged in the arson. Jurors also expressed their distaste for the investigating officer, who on three occasions during the trial apparently mistakenly played segments of taped police interrogations meant to be left out. The portions in question were censored because they didn’t apply to the charges and were considered prejudicial.

But more critical to the case were shortcomings in the jury itself, added Judge Schwartz, who said at least three jurors were “functionally unable to handle their oath as a juror.”

“One of the jurors believed that aliens set the fire,” said Judge Schwartz, who interviewed the jury after it deadlocked. “Two of the jurors suggested that the investigating officer set the fire ... That’s not possible. There’s absolutely no motive or reason to suggest that.

“These jurors are clearly not functioning on a basis that we would like jurors to do. So I can’t put much credence in their decision.”

The denial of a bail reduction was a blow to Smith’s wife, Teresa, and two family friends present for the hearing. Supporters had brought a bondsman to court in the hopes that bail be set as low as \$100,000. Smith, who turned 37 in jail on June 20, wore handcuffs and was dressed in an LA County Jail XXXX orange jumpsuit. He turned and smiled at Teresa and their friends as he was led out of the courtroom by a deputy. Smith and his wife have three young children.

“There’s a very strong finger pointing towards Mr. Smith and ... there’s a very strong likelihood Mr. Smith would be convicted.”

— JUDGE KEITH SCHWARTZ
Los Angeles Superior Court

Deputy District Attorney Jean Daly, who is prosecuting the case, told the court Thursday new evidence has come forward that further strengthens the prosecution’s case. The exact nature of that evidence is unknown, though lawyers said it partly consists of interviews with witnesses who rebutted Smith’s alternate explanation for how his documents wound up in the bombs.

At trial, Smith’s lawyer suggested the mail pieces were left in an alley behind the store by day laborers, and may have been picked up by a third party who started the fire.

When the Raiders moved to Oakland, Smith said he kept a local mailing address and several boxes of non-essential mail were taken by an assistant to storage. The day laborers were hired by Smith to help move boxes and other items between his office and a storage space in Lancaster, and his condo in a Marina del Rey. When Smith retrieved items from Simply Sofas, the laborers may have mistaken a box of mail documents in the back seat for trash, his lawyer said.

Judge Schwartz said the explanation wasn’t compelling.

“It doesn’t make sense to me,” he said. “It just doesn’t. Even the jurors who voted not guilty, at least the ones I talked to, felt that was really questionable.”

Statewide ban may be next

SMOKING, from page 1

Angeles coastline will become a more safe and beautiful destination for visitors, both human and non-human.”

According to a survey conducted by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, 88 percent of people support smoking restrictions on beaches.

Many organizations and public officials see a need for a statewide ban. Legislation to ban smoking at 64 state beaches was approved by the Senate Natural Resources Committee this past Tuesday and is now waiting to be debated by the Appropriations Committee.

The following is a list of city and county beaches that have passed no smoking ordinances:

SANTA MONICA

Santa Monica Beach

MALIBU

Malibu Beach

LOS ANGELES

Cabrillo Beach

Dockweiler Beach

Will Rogers Beach

Venice Beach

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Mothers Beach in Marina del Rey

Topanga Beach

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LOCAL □ STATE

Effect of homeless plan on Santa Monica unknown

HOMELESS, from page 1

believe space will be made available and other transients will be pulled into housing and rehabilitation services.

The San Francisco homeless population is estimated at 15,000. According to city officials, San Francisco has the highest per capita number of homeless in the United States.

The plan focuses on replacing emergency shelters with at least 3,000 units of supportive housing. The units will provide counselors and services to help residents get over their problems and stay off the streets. Beds will be reduced only when housing and services are available to replace them.

Money for the plan is expected to come from state, federal, private and local funds. The proposal models itself after successful homelessness programs in New York, Philadelphia and Atlanta.

"This is a gutsy plan, one that I absolutely believe will end chronic homelessness when it is implemented," said Supervisor Angela Alioto, chairwoman of the Ten-Year Planning Council.

"The plan produced by the Ten-Year

Planning Council is both a blueprint and a bold step toward a new and revolutionary way to break the cycle of chronic homelessness," said San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom.

The Bring LA Home team, assembled as part of a direction from President George Bush to end homelessness in 10 years, has been delayed because of the vast extent of information it has gathered to date, officials said. A June 24 meeting to present a draft plan to the focus group was canceled, though officials hope to meet sometime this month to push the project forward.

It's unclear whether Santa Monica's shelters will be transformed under the pending plan for LA, but Bloom said it's certain they will be looked at for their "continuum of care" philosophy, which tracks the services homeless people use locally and how they progress.

"Santa Monica is one of the more significant resources that the project is relying on, so I think whatever direction this initiative takes, in some way it's going to be reflective of what we're already doing here," Bloom added. "In other ways, it's going to bring about some change."

Off-the-books employees make governors' staffs larger

By The Associated Press

The total number of employees who report to the governor traditionally is much larger than the number recorded on the official executive office payrolls.

After seven months in office, Schwarzenegger has a total of 154 state government employees working for him. That number includes the 61 listed on his official office payroll plus dozens of others who work for him but are paid by other state departments.

The salaries for all those staffers total \$11.6 million a year, with an average salary of \$75,260, according to documents provided by Schwarzenegger's office under a California Public Records Act request.

Davis had 164 employees sprinkled throughout state government as of Sept.

SEE RELATED STORY

STATE SALARIES SOAR

PAGE 10

28, 2003, according to a confidential staff roster obtained by The Associated Press. That document contained no salary information and did not include employees who might have been working for Davis outside of Sacramento.

Schwarzenegger's office, responding to an AP request, released unofficial figures from last August showing 194 people working for Davis, who by that time had been in office for five years. The salary total was \$12 million, with an average salary of about \$62,000. That salary roster could not be immediately confirmed.

Schwarzenegger's office is continuing to hire employees.

Source: Governor's office

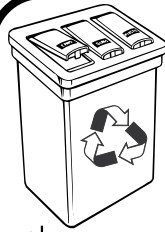
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Only in Santa Monica

Editor:

I read that the Santa Monica Police Department (SMDP, July 1, page 1) had the time to ticket one of your reporters who, while working at her job, reportedly was standing in the street in front of the YMCA about a foot from a curb between two parked police cars while taking a photograph of the police at a crime scene.

Evidently, the police cited the reporter for failing to “yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway so near as to constitute an immediate hazard,” at least according to the code section the police elected to use. Perhaps standing next to a parked police car constitutes an immediate hazard, or maybe it’s having the press so near and observing the police that constitutes an immediate hazard to our police department.

Something like this could only happen in Santa Monica, where the police seem to have an overabundance of time to ticket someone who has a job and is actually working, and who it appears is not violating any law, including the code section above. I’m embarrassed our police would try and stretch the law just to write a ticket to someone actually working.

And only in Santa Monica would the police stretch the law unreasonably to cite this working person while at the same time choosing to ignore the hoards of drunken, unemployed homeless who sleep, urinate and defecate in our parks, on our sidewalks and in our streets, making those parks, sidewalks and streets unsafe and unusable for our children. The most unfortunate thing is that it would not take stretching the law to ticket or arrest homeless lawbreakers. No, just the application of existing law and an effort on the part of the police. But as a Santa Monica resident with two small children who cannot use our parks, I’ve discovered that the city and the police find it much easier and preferable to target and persecute responsible working people because the city and the police can’t be troubled to take on the homeless.

Katherine Marie Anderson
Santa Monica

Where’s the money?

Editor:

I am writing in regards to the guest editorial of “Feinstein’s attorneys refute” (SMDP, June 25, page 7).

Let’s clear this up, shall we? I’ve served on the Green Party of Los Angeles County Council since October 2003 and have been involved with this matter since August 2001. The attorneys’ rebuttal states that “Michael Feinstein never took any money belonging to the GPLAC.” There can be no doubt that the contribution was intended solely for the Los Angeles County Green Party. You can view the check itself and a letter from the donor by visiting www.leavetheroom.com. But Mike Feinstein, who was not even the treasurer of the county party, took the check and deposited it into a bank account controlled solely by himself. He also did not bother to tell the county

party that they had received a \$10,000 contribution.

A few months ago, it was discovered that Feinstein deposited at least one check made out to the state Green Party into that same exact bank account. The attorneys didn’t touch that one even though Donna Warren (SMDP, June 18, page 5) did mention it in her guest editorial.

Recently, a constituent wrote to me and asked what kind of an issue did I have with the way that the money was spent. The answer is simple: We don’t know how the money was spent. The bank account was solely in Feinstein’s name. Mike Feinstein has refused for the past three and a half years to provide the documentation we need to make a full and complete Fair Political Practices Commission filing as required by state law.

The attorneys claim that there were “serious questions” about the authorization for the small claims court case against Feinstein. This claim is quite incredulous. How could one doubt that the county council took this action when the vote to file it was unanimous? The attorneys assert that the lawsuit was intended as part of a political vendetta.

If Feinstein had done nothing wrong, then there was nothing to fear. Feinstein, however, did react quite assertively after the court case was filed. He ran for the Green Party’s Los Angeles County Council along with a slate of allies. Their very first action? They dismissed the case. And Feinstein cast a vote to dismiss a lawsuit against himself, violating the spirit of conflict of interest. It is true that there have been numerous attempts to mediate this matter with the state and county parties.

These attempts always flounder when the issue comes up of opening the bank records to complete the FPPC filing.

(Joe Crompton is a member of the Green Party’s Los Angeles County Council).

Joe Crompton
Los Angeles

Find your own bathroom

Editor:

Jean McNeil Wyner (SMDP, June 30, page 4) displays a whole lot of what I would call chutzpah in criticizing Barnes and Noble for closing its bathrooms because of constant problems with the homeless using the facilities and leaving them filthy. I know, I’ve been in their bathrooms in the past while shopping in the store.

It takes a lot of chutzpah for a paid public relations flack for UCLA-Santa Monica Hospital to criticize a business because it’s tired of having to clean up after the homeless, the same homeless that the city of Santa Monica and its bleeding heart politicians enable.

What is Ms. Wyner and her employer, UCLA-Santa Monica Hospital, doing to encourage and facilitate the homeless’ use of the hospital’s bathroom facilities? Are the hospital’s doors and bathroom facilities open for the homeless to use? Will we see the hospital post flyers around the city alerting the homeless that its bathroom facilities are available? I’m not going to hold my breath waiting for that to happen.

And why would Barnes and Noble want to join the Chamber of Commerce? What

See LETTERS, page 7

City Hall a fair target for letters to the editor



MY WRITE

BY BILL BAUER

I love letters to the editor. It’s fascinating to see what’s on our readers’ minds.

There are always letters about Santa Monica’s homeless. Typical is the comment by Mike Kirwin (SMDP, June 13) who said that “people are fed up with the bums but the City Council is clueless.”

No Mike — and others, City Council is not clueless. They know exactly what they’re doing. They know what the problems are and ignore the cost to the community. They don’t give a damn. They’re on a noble cause and don’t hear complaints because they’re right and we’re not.

It’s about ego. Many of our city leaders fancy themselves as being on the cutting edge of social reform and deliberately refuse to acknowledge the damage their failed policies have done to Santa Monica, let alone make changes.

Letter writer, Jean McNeil Wyner, (SMDP, June 30) scolds Barnes and Noble booksellers on the Third Street Promenade for closing their restrooms to

the public. She claims Barnes and Noble says they did it because “the homeless were making a mess.” My neighbor also recently complained to me that her Montana Avenue bank had terminated customer access to restrooms because of similar problems.

Private restrooms all over the city are now off limits to the public because of vandalism by transients and the mentally challenged. No store employee should have to unclog stuffed toilets or remove human waste and other biohazardous materials from fixtures, floors and walls. Even the city has closed public restrooms downtown because of the constant damage.

Wyner (who seemed to be equally annoyed that the bookseller isn’t a Chamber of Commerce member) and my neighbor should be directing their wrath at city leaders whose mission to save humanity is more important than our well being and quality of life.

Mayor pro tem Kevin McKeown (SMDP, June 30, page 6) responded to another letter writer, Klaus Mennekes, for opposing a proposed \$11.50 hourly minimum wage for city employees and contractors. McKeown reiterated the old liberal economic myth that higher minimum wages will “afford our workers the dignity of making ends meet through their pay

checks, not through food stamps.”

McKeown ignores the fact that rising wages including minimum wages, fuel inflation and higher prices. They restrict an unskilled, uneducated person’s ability to secure entry level positions. In time, workers fall even further behind the economic eight ball. Those on fixed incomes or Social Security really get nailed as prices go up. But, “pensioners” aren’t on McKeown’s radar screen, nor have the backing of the powerful labor unions behind the proposal.

There have been numerous letters about “tagging” the whale mural under the Fourth Street overpass on Ocean Park Boulevard. Tagging is a warning that says, “We’re angry. We don’t give a s**t about you.” Many street taggers are disenfranchised young hoodlums who have no tolerance for the law or basic rules of society — the same type of person who likely packs heat and would cap anyone in their way.

Pico Neighborhood Association Board member Jim Ries wrote (SMDP, June 22, page 4) and blamed just about everyone and everything — except his PNA — for the continued violence and gun play in the Pico area.

Where was the PNA when non-Pico Santa Monica Police civilian volunteers and former PNA board members handed

out flyers in the “hood” a couple of months ago announcing a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the murderer of Jalonnie Carter? The PNA board was informed of the flyer distribution beforehand but were probably just too busy to help catch a killer. Nineteen-year-old Carter was shot down by an unknown assailant(s) on 20th Street in broad daylight last fall.

Members of a PNA Pico violence sub-committee addressed the city’s Social Service Commission Monday night and presented a draft plan of action. Although almost every point in their presentation has been discussed repeatedly over the years, the problem is that the present PNA leadership has a reputation of being difficult to work with, unwilling to put aside its own agenda and do whatever it takes for the common good.

However, the authors of the presentation were right about one thing: “More City Hall time and money is spent helping the homeless than addressing ongoing Pico neighborhood violence.”

One thing’s for sure. Until City Hall makes the Pico area the top priority, the bickering, posturing, letter writing and violence will continue.

(Bill Bauer is a longtime Santa Monica resident and a freelance writer).

OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 6

is the chamber actually doing about the homeless problem? And I don't mean giving the issue lip service. Well, your guess is as good as mine, since the chamber isn't being run by business people who have day-to-day problems with the homeless, like Barnes and Noble. No, the chamber is being run by retired politicians and school teachers who don't own businesses. And I have to wonder if the chamber has opened the bathroom facilities in its office to the homeless? Probably not.

If Ms. Wyner is in such need of restroom facilities while on the Promenade there are the numerous public bathrooms in the many public parking structures adjacent to the Promenade. Oh, wait, aren't those facilities also frequented by the homeless and filthy as a result? I guess Ms. Wyner can always go to UCLA-Santa Monica Hospital if she needs a clean restroom.

Saul Cohen
Santa Monica

Dog owners promise to pick up

Editor :

As is always the way, when dog lovers propose the opening of a dog beach, a host of people join one side or the other. Most of them, even the dog lovers have little experience of how much of their lives will change because of the continuous need of servicing the beach and funding it. In addition, there are the animal haters, and no mater what you do to assure them, nothing seems to change their minds.

I would like to share a few facts about Huntington Dog Beach. Anything stated here can be backed up with documentation — most of it presented to the city of Huntington Beach as long as seven years ago. This information would apply to any dog beach — anywhere. The original objections to Huntington Dog Beach were that feces and urine would contaminate the sea, sands and bluffs. I could spend hours on the subject, but briefly we produced evidence that due to the location of a dog beach (by the ocean) the beach, water and bluff remained clean and safe, and has remained so for the past seven years, even with more than 100,000 dogs visiting each year. We would be delighted to send you reports from experienced and well known environmentalists (and scientists) that confirm this. Perhaps the second most important matter is the people who will maintain the dog beach and supplies. This would require an income to pay for all expenses, dog bags, dispensers, signage, paid cleaners and other employees including a legal team. This was done at Huntington Dog Beach by forming a non profit organization. HDB (for short) pays for all dog beach expenses, and has employees and brochures at all entrances of the beach to instruct visitors of rules. Paid cleaners work seven days a week and a PR person is to be found on the beach to assist visitors with questions. All this is in addition to the dozens of volunteers who come to our monthly clean ups. Our paid representatives working closely in conjunction with law enforcement (lifeguards and police) have produced a controlled and safe environment. HDB receives no funding from the city and does in fact contribute monies to the city. Because of the thousands of visitors that come to dog beach each year, our staff estimate that the city receives \$250,000 in income annually from parking, restau-

rants and other retail stores.

This is a success story that I believe can be applied to many other beaches. I surely hope so for our dogs (and their owners) deserve it.

“Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole.” — Roger Caras

Martin Senat
President, HDB

Books and bathrooms go together

Editor:

I would like to “second that emotion” of letter writer J. M. Wyner (SMDP, June 30, page 4) regarding the elimination of bathroom facilities at Barnes Noble. I used to be a frequent visitor and customer at both Barnes and Noble and Borders Books. Both stores used to have bathrooms available to customers. In my experience, Borders was the first to close theirs down. I vowed never to visit that place again, and haven't. I took all my business to Barnes and Noble. Not that I need to use the bathroom every time I visit a bookstore, it is nonetheless important to me to have a facility available. Part of the experience at both these bookstores, as originally conceived, was to create a very friendly, almost living room-like atmosphere, where one could hang out, browse, sit down and read something, and (in my case at least) make purchases. The business plan of these places seemed to incorporate an invitation to spend an hour or two, or maybe three, at the store. Now, with these new consumer-hostile policies, that invitation is gone. And so is my patronage. I use Amazon.com now in the comfort of my home ... where I have a bathroom.

Julian Maltese
Santa Monica

Give the beach to the dogs

Editor:

Dog Beach Now has recently completed a survey of all 57 dog beaches in California and what we found is 57 dog beaches that have no water quality issues and no liability issues. In fact most beaches, including Huntington Beach in Orange County (one of the largest off-leash beaches in the state), have the best water quality within a 12-mile radius due to the diligence of dog owners, who not only pick up after their dogs, but pick up all the other debris which washes up onto beaches from urban runoff.

There are many miles of deserted beaches in California which make perfect places for people and their dogs to recreate. With 750,000 dogs in Los Angeles and approximately 250,000 dog guardians, and a total lack of available parkland, these deserted stretches of beach make a perfect place for us and our pets to recreate. This includes the area of beach at Dockweiler and the one in Santa Monica that are being lobbied for. And if anyone doesn't want to frequent a dog beach, then please don't. Let us recreate in peace and enjoy the fruits of the over \$60 million a year that we pay in taxes for this right.

Daryl Barnett
Dog Beach Now

Women want and do it all, if they think it through



INSIDE OUT

BY AMY PERRITT

After noticing the DVD cover on the Blockbuster shelves for several months, I finally rented “Searching for Debra Winger,” a documentary by Rosanna Arquette. I'm glad I did.

From Holly Hunter and Vanessa Redgrave to Robin Wright Penn and Diane Lane, Arquette interviews a range of Hollywood actresses and explores with them the pressures of working in show business. She interviews Sharon Stone in what looks like a hotel room. She has lunch with a group of women, including her sister Patricia Arquette and Kelly Lynch, Daryl Hannah and Melanie Griffith.

I watch Entertainment Tonight occasionally. While standing in line at the grocery store, I flip through People Magazine. But I could tell this documentary was going to be something more rational, something I could relate to. And I did.

Not the industry aspects, of course. Let's face it. How many of us could register a bank account that receives seven- and eight-digit paychecks? How many of us own not one but several multi-million

dollar homes located in Los Angeles, New York, London and Florida? How many of us take our children to sets for the first five years of their life and can afford 24-hour nannies?

What this documentary does in asking these actors how they manage their Hollywood careers is tackle the universal conundrum women — including my friends and colleagues — face today ... the act of juggling family, friends, work, etc.

When asked if a woman can have it all — the career, children, a happy and healthy relationship, plus hobbies all at the same time — the answer is quite simple: Yes.

We're women aren't we? Of course we can accomplish it all. But when asked if women have it all without feeling we're neglecting a certain part of our lives, the answer isn't so easy. Can we do it all without feeling guilty? With all of it, can we honestly claim spiritual satisfaction?

Of course not. We're women aren't we?

To paraphrase and snippet some of Arquette's interviews, Salma Hayek says that “... happiness is never perfect ...” and goes on to explain that in order to achieve happiness we must have a life that is complete. We give importance to all of the components of our life (work, motherhood, health, family) without becoming obsessed with one aspect — then we can

have it all.

Many of the actors in their own words agree it's a difficult balance. I think of my friend who returned to being a real estate agent soon after her second child was born. Heading home following an open house, her husband called her with both children crying in the background. Stuck in traffic, her breasts started leaking and panic set in.

“... it's not whether a woman is working. It's when she's with the baby, the child, the adolescent, is she really there ...,” says Jane Fonda. Debra Winger, the courageous Hollywood defector, states: “... anyone that says that having children is not a sacrifice is pretty much lying or not taking care of their kids.”

It was noon on Friday. I pulled away from my computer and forced myself to leave. I had e-mails to return, the message light on my phone was flashing and there were still 10 unchecked “to dos” on my list but I was taking the afternoon off.

I walked out of the office building and saw my friend and her 2-year-old daughter waiting out front. They were picking me up to go to lunch.

While giving me a colorful Happy Birthday balloon (it was the next day), the little girl suddenly started screaming for the bathroom. She was in the early stages of toilet training, so needless to say, my

friend immediately kicked into emergency mode. Un-strapping her daughter from the car seat, she ran to the trunk with the transportable potty.

“You are a good girl for telling mommy,” my friend reinforced while I sat in the front seat thinking about an e-mail I had forgotten to send my boss. I nodded at the business people standing out front smoking and chatting. Watching our spectacle.

“Do you have to go poopy? Are you going sweetie? Did you go?”

“I think we made it but let's get home fast just in case there's more,” my friend said, putting her daughter in the car seat for the second time. Now in the driver's position, I maneuvered us slowly through a turn in hopes to avoid potty spillage and after that picked up the pace. Then ... the balloon escaped through the open window.

I swung the car around and my friend jumped out and grabbed the gift floating mid-street.

“Are you sure you don't want to stay at work,” she joked. For three years, she had chosen play dates over her career as a promising photo director.

I shook my head and smiled. By then I had stopped thinking about work.

(Amy Perritt can be reached at aperritt@hotmail.com.)

Entertainment

WHAT'S PLAYING

SPIDERMAN 2
Outclasses any of this summer's big-budget pretenders. The best comic book flick of all time.

FAHRENHEIT 9-11
No matter which side of the political fence you choose to stand on, it's impossible not to be moved by the film's most powerful images. Well-deserving of all the attention it's garnering.
Starring: Michael Moore

THE NOTEBOOK
Rachel McAdams is the best thing going in this otherwise limp flick. Starring: Rachel McAdams, Ryan Gosling

WHITE CHICKS
Diarrhetic house pets produce better crap than this. "White Chicks" is fit for the Pooper Scooper.
Starring: Shawn and Marlon Wayans

THE TERMINAL
It's easy to relate to the main character, who is stuck somewhere awfully boring (when was the last time anyone had fun at an airport?) for what feels like an eternity.
Starring: Tom Hanks, Catherine Zeta-Jones

DODGEBALL; A TRUE UNDERDOG STORY
It's inane, implausible and at times very funny. Anyone who shows up expecting highbrow humor deserves to get whacked in the noggin by a red rubber ball.
Starring: Vince Vaughn, Ben Stiller

THE STORY OF THE WEEPING CAMEL
The soul of this magical, simplistic film is as stirring as the visuals.

THE CHRONICLES OF RIDDICK
A fine return to action-hero form by Vin Diesel, but film suffers from excess and a convoluted storyline.
Starring: Diesel, Thandy Newton, Judi Dench

NAPOLEON DYNAMITE
Boasts enough humdingers to qualify as a winner in what has thus far been a humdrum year for comedies.
Starring: Jon Heder, Jon Gries,

GARFIELD
What abhorrent sin did humankind commit to deserve Breckin Meyer?
Starring: Meyer, Bill Murray, Jennifer Love Hewitt

HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN
Not only more visually appealing than its forebears, it is decidedly more mature and interesting. A momentous motion picture that effectively evokes author J.K. Rowling's bookish magic.
Starring: Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint

THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW
Hampered by galumphing human interest stories, but filled with enough edge-of-the-seat action to make it worth the price of admission.
Starring: Dennis Quaid, Jake Gyllenhaal

RAISING HELEN
In the wake of a recent spate of similar slush - "Jersey Girl" and "Uptown Girls" come to mind - I offer this: Give it a rest, please.
Starring: Kate Hudson, John Corbett

SHREK 2
There are oodles of gut-busting gags for all ages in a sequel that not only does its predecessor proud, but ranks among the funniest animated features ever.
Starring: Mike Meyers, Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz



‘Spiderman 2’ the best comic book flick ever

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

The critics — all of them — agree: “Spiderman 2” is one bitchin’ movie. It says here that this high-flying summer stunner surpasses the original, which in turn makes the sequel the best comic book flick of all time. Yeah, baby, it’s THAT good.

If you’re Spider-senses aren’t tingling throughout this film, well, you might want to consult a physician. After a spectacular opening sequence in which he employs his other worldly powers to ensure a prompt pizza delivery, Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire, the ONLY actor for this role) does just that — sees a doctor — who suggests the cause of some web-impotence he’s been experiencing may be a heart problem ... as in, his heart isn’t in it anymore. Seems all his life-saving, crime-stopping heroics have really cut into Spidey’s “me time,” at the expense of his studies at Columbia and his continuing efforts to get the girl of his dreams, Mary Jane (the delicious Kirsten Dunst). Racked with self-doubt, our bespectacled arachno-freak does the unthinkable and hangs up (trashes, actually) his form-fitting suit, leaving the unsuspecting denizens of New York City to fend for themselves against the forces of evil. And what a force Alfred Molina is as Dr. Otto Octavius, a brilliant scientist whose failed experiment with atom-splitting transforms him into Doc Ock, a madman with four giant snakelike limbs grafted into his spine and a hankering to conquer the world. With all due respect to the Green Goblin (Willem Dafoe, who has a cameo here), the brawny Doc Ock is a far superior menace, with comedic chops that rank with Gene Hackman’s Lex Luther.

Showing marked improvement over

Showing marked improvement over his turn in S1, James Franco returns as Harry Osborne, who in the wake of his father’s death has become an even bigger head-case than his best buddy, Parker.

his turn in S1, James Franco returns as Harry Osborne, who in the wake of his father’s death has become an even bigger head-case than his best buddy, Parker. In what amounts to an extended set-up for the eventual third installment, the perpetually soused Harry has vowed to avenge his old man by killing Spiderman, and repeatedly presses Pete for information on the webbed one’s whereabouts ... as if the guy doesn’t have enough on his mind. J.K. Simmons (“Oz”) is a scene-stealer yet again as J. Jonah Jameson, the tightwad, Spidey-hatin’ editor of the Daily Bugle. The love story drives both character development and the plot to great effect, complimented — not overwhelmed by — scintillating special effects. What director Sam Raimi has wrought, working off a stellar script from veteran Alvin Sargent (“Unfaithful,” “Ordinary People”), simply outclasses any of this summer’s big-budget pretenders. “Spiderman 2” was supposed to be the popcorn movie event of the season, and it lives up to the hype.

(Rated PG-13 for stylized action violence. Running time: 128 minutes)

Tobey Maguire lashes out at press

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

An unusual thing occurred when Tobey Maguire chatted up a roomful of showbiz scribes recently to promote his latest film, “Spiderman 2.” The normally congenial Maguire got a little testy when a reporter (not this one) pressed the star about widely circulated rumors concerning his involvement in the sequel. Now, ripping the entertainment press a new one might not be the most advisable way to create positive buzz for a film, but this is Spiderman we’re talking about here — Spidey don’t need no stinkin’ buzz to rule the box office. Besides, good movies are rife with conflict ... what’s wrong with infusing a little into the junket as well? Lest you think this Webbed Wonder has gotten soft since raking in a few hundred million in 2002, here are some highlights from his spirited exchange with the media:

QUESTION: It was reported after “Spiderman” came out that you had some issues with the costume being uncomfortable. Was it any better this time?

TOBEY MAGUIRE: It seemed a little more comfortable in the second one, not because it actually was, but just because I got used to it. I don’t complain about it anymore because who cares? I’m just wearing the thing. It’s not terrible. It’s just not as comfortable as being in regular clothes.

Q: Would you address reports that director Sam Raimi came to you and said you were going to be dropped from “Spiderman 2” because the studio was afraid your ailing back wouldn’t stand up to the physical demands of the role?

TM: Sam never came to me and said to me I won’t be playing Spiderman. That never happened. I really did want to do this again. Whatever happened outside of me, in terms of your comments (about what Raimi reportedly said), I wasn’t involved in that aspect, so I don’t know about that. From my perspective, if you want to know my experience, rather than presuming things and making statements of which you have no idea ... if you’d like to know what actually happened from my side, I’ll tell you.

Q: Let’s do that then.

TM: Thank you. (sighs) Oh, the press. My back, coming out of “Seabiscuit,” was not great. Not because of “Seabiscuit” — the reports of this happening on “Seabiscuit” were absolutely false. It’s a condition I’ve had for several years, before “Spiderman” all the way through to right now. It goes kind of up and down, sometimes it irritates me more than other times. Coming out of “Seabiscuit” it was really bugging me more than it ever had.

Q: So you let the studio know you were hurting?

TM: I thought that the responsible thing to do was to disclose my back condition to the insurance company because (“Spiderman 2”) is a \$100 million film, and it would be irresponsible not to disclose that. If something happened to me in the middle of shooting it would screw the studio, the insurance company would be pissed, and it would maybe screw up my career.

Q: Apparently it all worked out, though.

TM: I went in and worked with the stunt guys, doing various stunts, testing my back out, basically. And my back was fine. It had actually gotten better over that two-week period that I was so concerned about it. My back felt better than it had in three years, but all of sudden there was all this hoopla, and the press were presuming a lot of things without any real solid information, as they do. I went, boy, I’m going to have to answer questions about this for years.

Q: Nothing in your filmography prior to the first “Spiderman” suggested you’d make a great action hero. Were you surprised when you were offered the role?

TM: I thought I was an interesting choice. Maybe not the obvious one, I understand that. But again, I thought it was an interesting choice, and ultimately a good one. Whenever someone chooses me I think it’s a good choice.

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ENTERTAINMENT



‘Sunset’ out shines first film, ‘Before Sunrise’

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

It's been nine years since the release of "Before Sunrise," and this exemplary sequel is worth the wait. Not that the many were counting the days, mind you. Richard Linklater's "Sunrise" is a wonderful movie that made very little noise at the box office back in 1995, which makes

"Sunset" a most unusual entity in American cinema: A sequel motivated by aestheticism rather than avarice. Linklater ("School of Rock," "Dazed and Confused") directed and co-wrote the script with its stars, Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy, both returning a little older, wiser and sexier. When last they met, Jesse and Celine shared one magical night in Vienna that ended with an unkept promise to reunite at a train station six months later. Nearly a

decade has passed before these soulmates finally do meet again, this time at a famous Paris bookstore where Jesse is promoting a novel he wrote about one magical night with a beautiful French girl. Jesse's got just over an hour before he must leave to catch a plane, and he and Celine spend that time rediscovering each other through an intense conversation as the story unfolds in real time. The dialogue is crisp and insightful, and both actors inhabit the roles effortlessly — they know these characters

so well it's easy to imagine that they are these characters. The handsome streets of the Left Bank serve as the canvas upon which Hawke and Delpy paint an arresting portrait of two people who suddenly find themselves face to face with lives that might have been, save for one fateful missed rendezvous. (Rated R for language and sexual references. Running time: 80 minutes)

‘Delovely’ comes up short on hitting a high note

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

The music of Cole Porter is the star of this alternately bleak and bouncy biopic, with Kevin Kline and Ashley Judd as the legendary composer and his muse. Fans of the golden age of jazz will no doubt revel in director Irwin Winkler's celebration of

the era's most accomplished songwriter. The film features many of Porter's greatest hits, performed with varying degrees of competence by the likes of Alanis Morissette, Robbie Williams and Elvis Costello, all of whom were brought in to entice youngsters unfamiliar with the musical genre. Problem is, even Porter devotees will likely find the stuff in between the melodies — the story, that is

— to be excessively glum. Porter certainly led a difficult life as a gay man trapped in a sexless marriage of convenience. Then there was a debilitating horseback-riding injury that left him in constant pain and led to drug addiction (a fact curiously avoided in the film). But it seems there simply had to be more joy in Porter's life than is offered here. After all, the guy penned some of the most romantic, upbeat

tunes of the 20th century. There are reasons to recommend this picture: Both leads acquit themselves well, and many of the musical numbers are absolutely buoyant. Still, I left the theater feeling not so much Delovely as Depressed, wishing the filmmakers had hit a higher note. (Rated PG-13 for sexual content. Running time: 125 minutes)

‘The Clearing’ thankfully lacking

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

The mechanism is conventional in this kidnapping caper, but "The Clearing" is elevated to excellence by deftly nuanced performances from Robert Redford, Helen Mirren and Willem Dafoe. Veteran producer Pieter Jan Brugge ("The Insider," "Heat") impresses in his directorial debut not so much for what he brings to "The Clearing" as what he leaves out. There is no narrative chicanery and nary an explosive action sequence or high-tech special effect. This is as spare a thriller as you'll find, as Brugge is wise enough to know that bells and whistles are unnecessary when you've got a terrific lead trio infusing so much psychological complexity into the picture. Redford is Wayne Hayes, a self-made, self-assured rental car magnate whose professional ambition has exacted a heavy toll on his 30-year marriage to Eileen (Mirren). As Wayne points out early on, while they maintain the illusion of a perfect union, his is a "household of disappointed people." And so it is that when she learns her husband has been

kidnapped, Eileen's expression betrays fear mingled with relief. The routine that has hemmed her in for so long has been interrupted cruelly yet, on another level, thankfully. Wayne has betrayed Eileen, the extent to which is revealed when the FBI begins sifting through the couple's dirty laundry, but she can't help loving the man, especially when confronted with the prospect of losing him forever. Wayne, too, longs for what was lost as he trudges through the woods at gunpoint with his abductor, Arnold Mack (Dafoe), a downwardly mobile plebe who sees Wayne as the embodiment of all he might have been. There's a poignancy to Dafoe's rendering of the troubled Arnold that makes him perhaps the most sympathetic character in the film. We really feel for this guy, despite his crime, partly because — unlike Wayne — he's a devoted husband, and partly because he represents a familiar longing for an ideal that is largely unattainable. The actors, of course, have a field day playing with all that moral ambiguity, and in the end each adds another memorable character to their impressive resumes. (Rated R for brief strong language. Running time: 91 Minutes)

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STATE

State salaries soar under Gov. Schwarzenegger

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Even as he calls for shared sacrifice to solve the state’s financial crisis, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is spending more than his predecessor on salaries for his official staff, an Associated Press investigation found.

Among the key findings: Schwarzenegger is spending nearly 8 percent more on salaries in the governor’s office than former Gov. Gray Davis did at the end of his term; he is paying a higher average salary for each employee; and he’s paying more six-figure incomes within his inner circle.

Schwarzenegger’s office responds that he has fewer employees on his official payroll, has refused to accept a salary for himself and has submitted an overall office budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1 that is identical to the current year.

However, The Associated Press also obtained payroll documents for both governors’ staffs that show the overall number of employees and the spending on salaries are far higher than the official budgets indicate. That’s because dozens of employees who report directly to the governor are paid from the budgets of other state departments.

Asked about the higher salaries and growth in the gover-

nor’s office payroll, Schwarzenegger spokeswoman Margita Thompson said, “The governor is proud of his staff and thinks they are part of what has turned this state around.”

Thompson noted that Schwarzenegger at this point has fewer employees than Davis, but added that he would continue to hire additional staff. The governor’s office is “traditionally exempt” from the hiring freeze he imposed on state agencies last year, she said.

The AP obtained the governor’s office payroll records through a California Public Records Act request to the state Controller’s Office.

According to those records, the average annual salary for employees in the governor’s office has risen 22 percent since Sept. 30, 2003, just a week before voters ousted Davis in the state’s historic recall election. It rose from \$48,861 in September to \$59,585 as of May 28, seven months after Schwarzenegger was sworn in.

Schwarzenegger also has 14 employees on the official governor’s payroll making \$100,000 or more a year, up from eight on Davis’ staff as of Sept. 30.

“For a governor who came to office saying he would cut the government, he seems to have really pumped it up, at least salaries for his inner circle,” said Jamie Court, a consumer activist with the Santa Monica-based Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights. “It does-

n’t show much respect for taxpayers.”

Voters blamed Davis for runaway state spending that led in part to the state’s record budget deficit, replacing him with Schwarzenegger during the Oct. 7 recall election.

Since then, Schwarzenegger has engineered a record round of state borrowing to help close a \$17 billion budget gap. He has cut spending for higher education and other services and said he wants to save more money by reopening contracts with some state employee unions.

He is requesting the same funding for his office, \$6.1 million, that it had this year. In addition to salaries, that budget covers equipment, benefits, travel and other costs for the next fiscal year.

The number of employees on his official payroll, 61, actually is lower than the number on Davis’ roster on Sept. 30 of last year. At that time, a year into his second term, Davis listed 69 people on his payroll. (One hourly staffer who was on both payrolls was omitted from this total because the annual pay was only about \$3,000 a year).

While the size of Schwarzenegger’s office staff is smaller, the size of the payroll has grown, from \$3.37 million annually at the end of Davis’ tenure to \$3.63 million as of last month, a 7.7 percent increase.

In response to an AP request, Schwarzenegger’s office on Tuesday released internal documents from the Davis administration showing the payroll records for all state employees who reported to Davis as of last August. That tally, which could not be immediately confirmed by official state records, shows Davis’ office payroll at \$3.54 million. Schwarzenegger’s official office payroll by the end of May was still 2.5 percent higher.

The state payroll records also show that many members of Schwarzenegger’s staff are making higher salaries than their counterparts in the Davis administration.

Schwarzenegger’s legal secretary, Peter Siggins, makes an annual salary of \$123,284. That’s an 8 percent jump from his predecessor under Davis, Barry Goode,

See SALARIES, page 11

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STATE



Some state salaried employees are on loan

SALARIES, from page 10

who was paid \$113,964.

Schwarzenegger's communications chief, Robert Stutzman, also is paid \$123,284, 8 percent higher than Davis' former communications director, Peter Ragone.

Similarly, Schwarzenegger's appointments secretary, Randal Hernandez, (\$123,284 a year), and press secretary, Thompson (\$118,015 a year), also earn more than their Davis predecessors.

"The governor feels he's been able to attract extremely qualified, the best staff," Thompson said.

Schwarzenegger, a Hollywood multi-millionaire, does not accept the office's \$175,000 salary, which is returned to the budget.

The higher salaries for those who work for him are "disheartening to see when one of the messages that keeps going out is everybody has to share the pain," said John Travis, president of the California Faculty Association, which represents 23,000 professors, librarians and coaches in the California State University system. "It's surprising that everybody is not having a painful experience with this budget."

In addition to the higher individual salaries, Schwarzenegger gave raises to seven Davis veterans who were picked up by his staff during the transition, records show. The raises ranged from about 5 percent to 21 percent, although most of the workers were clerks or secretaries.

The official state payroll records reviewed by The Associated Press provide just a glimpse of the true size and cost of a governor's staff.

Governors have long obscured the precise number of people working for them by attaching various staffers to different state agencies. Their salaries and which agency picks up the tab are difficult to determine, effectively creating two staff rosters for the governor's office.

For example, Terri Carbaugh, Schwarzenegger's deputy press secretary, makes \$100,013 but is not listed on the official executive office payroll.

According to documents released by Schwarzenegger's office under a separate California Public Records Act request, there are 154 people working for him, not just the 61 listed on official payroll records for the governor's office.

The salaries for those staffers, which range from a \$26,000-a-year clerk to his \$131,000-a-year chief of staff, total \$11.6 million annually.

That payroll figure is more than three times the \$3.6 million in salaries funded by his official office budget.

Many of the additional employees, often referred to as "loaned" or "borrowed" employees, are paid by other state agencies or through special funds, even though they work directly for the governor.

The average salary for Schwarzenegger's 154 state employees is \$75,260. Nearly one-third of all those employees make \$90,000 a year or more, those records show. Twenty-six make \$100,000 a year or more.

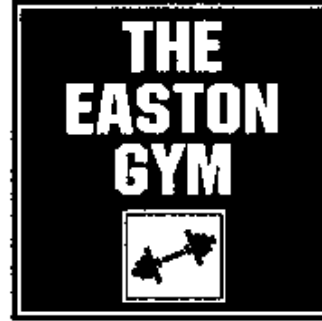
A confidential staff roster for Davis obtained by the AP, dated Sept. 28, 2003, shows at least 164 people were working for Davis in the month before he lost the recall election. That roster did not contain salary figures.

The unofficial Davis documents released Tuesday by Schwarzenegger's office show 194 people working for Davis last August, with salaries totaling \$12 million and an average salary of about \$62,000.

Thompson said the total spending is a more accurate reflection of the governor's operations.

Schwarzenegger, who has called the state bureaucracy a "mastodon frozen in time," has a task force studying the structure and cost of government. In a separate recommendation, his office has said it wants to incorporate all employees working for the governor into his budget, along with the funds to support them.

As for the traditionally opaque budgeting system for the governor's staff, Thompson said, "We are trying to change that to make a more transparent system."



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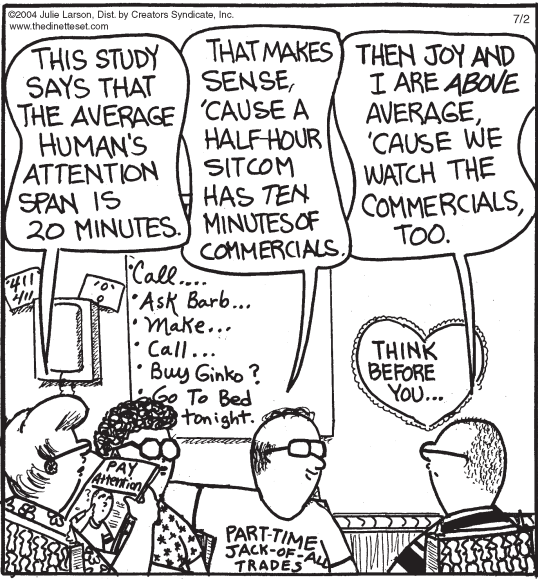
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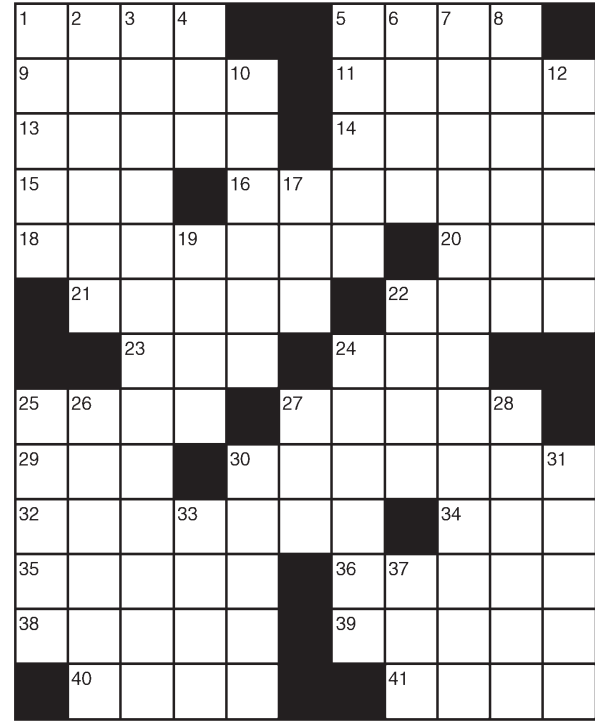
38 News item

- 39 Depleted
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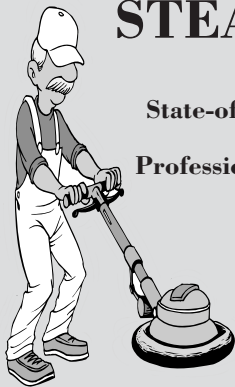
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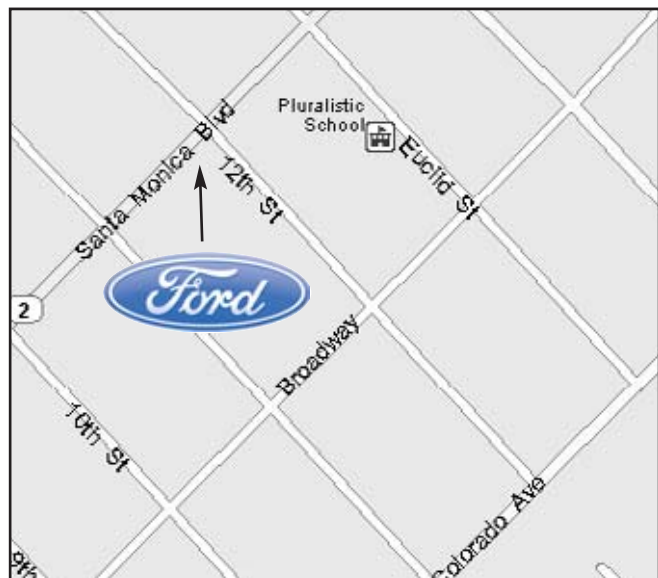
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