

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

FANTASY 5

8 9 10 13 34

DAILY 3

Daytime: 6 9 5

Evening: 1 9 6

DAILY DERBY

1st: 07 Eureka

2nd: 01 Gold Rush

3rd: 06 Whirl Win

RACE TIME: 1:46.31



NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ (1) Anti-smoking crusader Zhang Yue, 44, who has worked in 60 Chinese cities, arrived in Hong Kong in May to showcase his unique form of encouragement: He simply walks up to smokers on the street and yanks the cigarettes out of their mouths. (2) In May in West Greenwich, R.I., Jeffrey A. Stevens, 39, and two passengers were arrested after a car chase on Interstate 95 for possession of a stolen license plate; at one point in the chase, according to police, one passenger pulled down the back seat, crawled into the trunk, and when Stevens popped it open, reached up and, at 60 mph, unfastened the incriminating plate (which Stevens later tried to discard along the road).

■ Two designers from India's National Institute of Fashion Technology in Calcutta have begun to offer a cotton jacket for women that contains a mild electrical charge, to help protect them from molesters and muggers. A 9-volt battery in the waistband connects to a switch and wires running through the cloth. The domestic price, according to a May Indo-Asian News Service story, is 855 rupees (about US\$20).

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What change is there in me? Egyptian or Hebrew I am still Moses. These are the same hands, the same arms, the same face that were mine a moment ago."

— CHARLTON HESTON AS MOSES
THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

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John F. Muller/Special to the Daily Press

The Santa Monica East All-Stars, in the field during the fifth inning, scored a 3-1 victory over the Culver City All-Stars Tuesday evening in a rematch of their controversial tournament game.

Strike up another one for home team

BY JOHN F. MULLER

Special to the Daily Press

CULVER CITY — It's not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game, or so the adage goes.

But for one Santa Monica Little League team, winning did matter.

After a series of controversial decisions by Little League officials, the Santa Monica East All-Stars were forced on Tuesday to replay a game they already won against the Culver City National All-Stars last week. The game was a crucial one — it meant either being eliminated from a series of tournaments leading to the Little League World Series or continue moving toward the title.

After winning last Thursday's game, 6-3, the 11- and 12-year-old All-Stars were stripped of their victory and forced to forfeit. Following the game, officials ruled one of the Santa Monica All-Stars was ineligible to play because he had been ejected from a previous game. Little League rules prohibit ejected players from playing in their team's subsequent game. The rules also state that coaches must play each of their players in every game.

While 12-year-old Alonzo Gonzalez was told to leave a June 26 game and "cool off" on the bench, he was not actually ejected from the game, according to Steve Heineman, the coach of the All-Stars. He said the umpire told Gonzalez to take a seat when the youngster yelled at his first base coach after a close call at first. Heineman said he didn't approve of his player's unsportsmanlike conduct.

"The bottom line is that 13 kids won the game with a victory on the field," Heineman said. "And it was going to be snatched away from them because of an error and collective indifference by people that don't have to look these kids in the face and try to explain to them what happened."

Culver City National Little League lodged a complaint with district and national league offices after its defeat, which initially gave Culver City the victory.

After a pair of appeals, the Santa Monica All-Star coaches, parents and players were granted a rematch. Little League officials reversed their decision on the grounds that the teams had not been

See BATTER UP, page 6

Motown legend hopes to settle the score in SM

Music mogul Berry Gordy is suing a former singer for 'frivolous lawsuits.'

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM COURTHOUSE — What began nearly four decades ago as a dispute over royalties between Motown legend Berry Gordy and a hired trio of singer/songwriters may be decided here this summer.

As founder of Motown Record Corp. and Jabete Music Publishing Corp., Gordy helped introduce to the world a generation of young talents, including the Commodores, Marvin Gaye, Michael Jackson, Rick James, Lionel Richie, Smokey Robinson, Diana Ross, the Supremes, the Temptations and Stevie Wonder.

Gordy, who lives on the Westside, in 1968 sued Eddie

Holland of the trio "HDH" — which also included Lamont Dozier and Brian Holland — after the trio allegedly defied a contract with Motown and refused to write or perform, according to the suit. Eddie Holland, who was rumored to be in discussions with Capitol Records at the time, responded with a string of lawsuits, claiming the group was defrauded and paid less than their fair share.

Most of the issues raised in those suits have been tossed out of Michigan courts. But in the lengthy legal process, Gordy, now in his late 70s, racked up enormous bills and took a hit to his reputation, his suit contends.

"Every single charge that Mr. Holland filed against Mr. Gordy was thrown out, without even a trial," said Daniel Petrocelli, who works at the high-profile legal firm, O'Melveny & Myers. "Not one was won."

See MOTOWN, page 7

Local centenarian dies

Relatives feel Buchanan was 107 years old

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

PICO NEIGHBORHOOD

— A couple of years after losing a leg to diabetes and just weeks after her health deteriorated to the point that she stopped talking altogether, local centenarian Elnora Buchanan died last week from old age, her relatives said.

Family members believe Buchanan was born in December of 1896, but she wasn't born in a hospital and no known birth records exist. Raised on a farm in Orville,



ELNORA BUCHANAN

Ala., Buchanan was a hard-working mother of eight who followed her children to Santa Monica in 1964.

Buchanan outlived four siblings and five of her children. Asked what the cause of death was, granddaughter Elnora Benjamin, 55, replied, "I would say old age. You know, things stopped working, but she really had a

sense of humor. You would try to take care of her and she was feisty — she would give you a black nose, you know. She was just wonderful."

Older than sliced bread, plastic and even the automobile,

See CVII, page 7

Jaquie Banks

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

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





ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You cannot accomplish as much as you'd like to unless you isolate yourself during the day. Anything you say really doesn't make a difference to others right now. You will have to repeat this conversation in the near future. Tonight: You start to peak.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
HHHH Use the daytime to get what you want done. Don't hold back; instead, carefully discuss a problem involving funds. Not everyone will see a situation like you do. Take your time. You might totally change your mind in the next few days. Tonight: Homeward bound.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Take charge, even if someone challenges you. Be sensitive to others, but follow through on your responsibilities. Whatever you do, it works as if you have a magic wand. Tonight: Where the action is.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Your ability to do research and empathize with others helps you push a project, solution or relationship forward. You could meet someone quite different. You could learn a lot from others. Stay late at work or join a friend out for dinner. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Get as much work done as you can that involves finances and/or a partnership. Your strength is your ability to relate to individuals, which you need to do right now. Start thinking about a trip or something you might want to do on the computer. Tonight: Let your mind wander.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Others continue to seek you out, adding to the pressure you might be feeling about a personal matter. Think through a decision that involves your personal style. You don't need to make a decision right away. Tonight: Trust and share your thoughts with a special person.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You might need to screen your calls. You might not like what you are hearing. Don't get uptight; just concentrate on each task at hand. You might like what happens with an associate or friends. Relax in a meeting. Tonight: Where the crowds are.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Avoid all risks involving finances. Although Lady Luck is often on your side, she isn't right now. Plug your imagination into your work. You'll get a lot done and actually enjoy yourself while doing it. Consider starting a new exercise program. Tonight: Buy a plant or special wine on the way home.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Do as much work as you can at home, or perhaps take the day off. You might need some downtime away from fellow associates. You might be plain exhausted from the weekend. Relax, and your imagination will come forth. Tonight: Be a romantic.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You could hear two different stories, which might confuse you. See where there might be common ground. Avoid black-and-white thinking if possible. Take your time figuring out what is going on. Tonight: Go for some downtime.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You might not be making a mistake financially. What could be going on might be very different from what you think. Use care. Check facts and figures. Then have someone double-check your facts and figures. Tonight: Out and about.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Use the daytime hours to get done what you feel you must. You have the energy to accomplish whatever you want. A boss could be difficult. Remember who is in charge! Smile and go along with another's request. Tonight: Pay bills.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL



Cancer survivor relaying her message

By Daily Press staff

Later this month, Santa Monicans will rally together for 24 hours to battle cancer.

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is an overnight team event that raises awareness of cancer in the community and raises money to fight the disease.

The team event begins Saturday, July 24, at 9 a.m. and runs continuously until 9 a.m. on Sunday, July 25.

Leading up to the event, the Daily Press will highlight volunteers' stories:

Linda Lovett

Age: 47

Residence: Torrance

Title: Relay for Life Kid's Camp Chairperson

Torrance is my home right now and has been for the past 20 years. I am Linda Lovett, a young-at-heart woman, wife, mother and grandmother. Along with my many hats that I wear at home, I am a career woman. As a rarity in this day and age, my career began as a waitress and ended up at one aerospace company for the past 23 years. Formerly Hughes Aircraft, I work in human resources at Raytheon Company in Fullerton. My specialty is human resources information systems, with a little bit of compensation thrown in. I much prefer letting people know of their increases rather than laying them off due to downsizing.

Three years ago, I discovered a lump in my left breast. Yes, I had breast cancer. I went through surgery fine and three weeks later, took a cruise to Ensenada, Mexico, with 13 close family and friends. Next, I went through 18 weeks (six sessions) of chemotherapy. Following that, I had seven weeks of radiation. All this while continuing to work. And guess what? I'm still here. I am a cancer survivor of almost three years. Since then, I've been on two other cruises — Hawaii and Alaska. There's no better way to see the beauty of our world than from your own balcony on a cruise ship. This year though, I'm foregoing cruises for a jaunt to Ireland with 10 others for 10 days.

Relay for Life came into my life by way of letter. One day, I received a letter from the American Cancer Society telling me about the Relay for Life. They had three choices for me to attend — one in Torrance, one in Beach Cities, and one in Lawndale. Well, the Lawndale one struck my fancy because I had graduated from the school where they were going to have it. So I signed up. Short story here. The Lawndale location didn't come through and since I had gathered a team, we decided to stay with the same weekend and go on a "road trip" to Santa Monica.

My friends, family, and I were hooked the minute we arrived at Santa Monica City College. The rubberized track was one of the good points, but the people and crew were like family instantaneously. I've never felt so strongly about belonging to something and working hard to make a difference. One of my first new friends was Vienna, who managed the Luminaria area. Her joyous spirit reached into my heart and I was engulfed with love. That's getting deep, but that's what Relay is all about to me.

The Survivor's Lap was just the beginning. How proud I was to step out on that track and say, "See everybody. If I can do it, so can you. Join me in triumph." I remember walking and walking and walking. I couldn't stop. Later I paid for it with leg cramps in the middle of the night, but I'm going to do it again this year. I can't wait to walk and show honor to others and give money to ACS.

See RELAY, page 6



SURF REPORT

On Wednesday, look for a mix of small NW windswell and slowly fading SW swell. The morning low tide will keep most spots pretty drained out early on, but as it fills, look for the better-exposed breaks of Northern LA County to see knee- to waist-high waves. Standout breaks see occasional chest-high sets early but then lose size and consistency through the afternoon. South Bay spots stay below waist-high through the day, with a few waist-high sets. At best, SW/combo breaks in the north half of the bay (mainly on the tide push). Look for light and variable wind in the morning to build out of the W 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	5:07	-1.6	4:16	2.2	11:47	4.1	10:32	7.0
SUNDAY	5:54	-1.6	5:13	2.3	12:36	4.2	11:22	6.5
MONDAY	6:41	-1.1	6:16	2.3	N/A	N/A	1:26	4.3
TUESDAY	7:28	-0.6	7:28	2.4	12:15	5.9	2:16	4.4
WEDNESDAY	8:14	0.0	8:51	2.3	1:13	5.1	3:08	4.6
THURSDAY	9:00	0.7	10:22	2.0	2:20	4.3	3:59	4.8
FRIDAY	9:48	1.3	11:47	1.5	3:44	3.6	4:48	5.0

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The QLine

There has been some debate lately over the perceived increase of graffiti in Santa Monica. City Hall-sponsored murals, which line walls throughout town, have been the latest targets.

Some people consider graffiti as art, while many believe it's nothing more than vandalism. Its roots derive not from gang activity, but from the hip hop culture when individuals created it to express themselves.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, **"Why can't graffiti be considered an art form, regardless of its illegality? Why isn't it socially accepted?"**

Call (310) 285-8106 with your responses by 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 think about the wording of your of response.

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OPINION

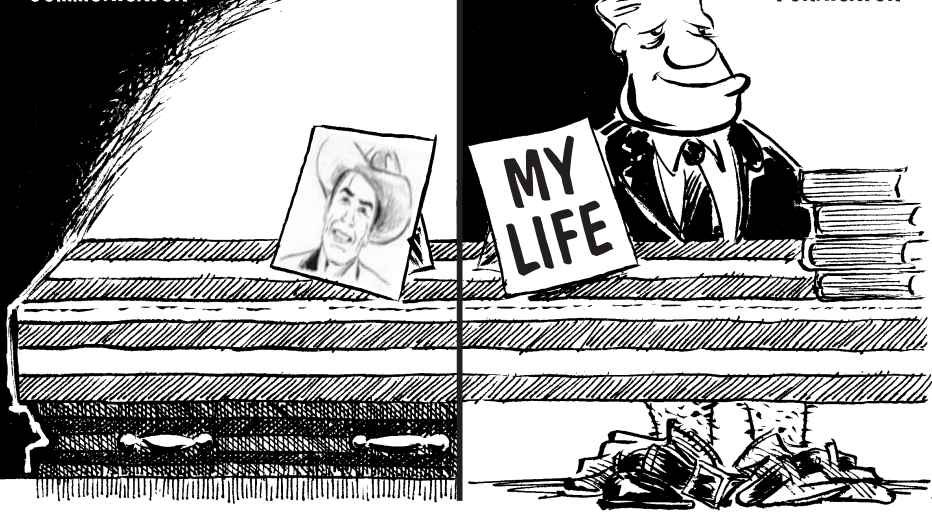
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One of them respected his office so much he refused to take off his jacket...

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Help yourself crawl out of the 'abyss'

Editor:

Kevin McCrae certainly is wrong to blame Ronald Reagan for creating the homeless problem in Santa Monica, just as he and his homeless brethren are wrong for failing to take personal responsibility for the alcohol and substance abuse, and criminal element, found among the city's homeless population. But that's the typical liberal response — blame Reagan but take no personal responsibility.

It seems it was the Supreme Court during the Reagan governorship that ruled the government could not hold people — namely the alcoholic, substance abusing, criminal homeless — against their will unless they were a danger to themselves or others. I'm sure Mr. McCrae and his homeless brethren, along with the liberal dogooders who enable the homeless in Santa Monica, would prefer seeing the homeless confined in hell holes like the Camarillo mental facility, drugged, restrained and locked in a cage.

Instead, our City Council and government enables the homeless to sleep and urinate in public, and, in general, make a nuisance in Santa Monica. If Mr. McCrae or any of his homeless brethren are having trouble finding a meal or services to help them out of their "abyss," as Mr. McCrae describes it, then they have to look no further than the numerous agencies funded by the city that provide services to the homeless, or those who feed the homeless in the city.

Stop whining and take some personal responsibility, Mr. McCrae.

David E. Gonzales
Santa Monica

UN needs to save the day

Editor:

The United Nations, in playing a leading role in helping to stabilize and democratize Iraq, is most welcome.

The UN's experience in organizing elections, as was done in East Timor and many other countries, and its structure for humanitarian assistance, will be a positive step for the people of Iraq.

As the world's premier multi-lateral organization, it is a much-needed antidote to unilateral efforts that have allowed the violence to continue.

Popular grassroots support for UN efforts on behalf of the people of Iraq should enable U.S. interests and personnel to come home.

The UN's involvement will encourage many nations and non-governmental organizations to be more involved in helping the people of Iraq.

Irving Sarnoff
Santa Monica

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

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Booking airfare online proves a turbulent ride



INCITES

BY ED SILVERSTEIN

In last week's column on corporate trickery, I mentioned I could fill 20 columns on questionable practices of the airline industry. Having had my stress level jacked to the stratosphere — thanks to those swell folks at Delta Airlines — I feel compelled to write the first.

The incident occurred when an out-of-state friend and I tried to coordinate travel plans on Delta's Web site. All went smoothly at first and we were able to quickly find a suitable itinerary. I booked my ticket, left for the day and came home to discover that when my friend tried to book his ticket it was no longer available.

No problem, I thought. Delta would gladly change my ticket. "Not so," said the reservation agent. There would be a \$100 fee to change my ticket. "Not so," said I, "Your policy allows cancellation of a ticket booked online within 24 hours." She insisted I was wrong, so I insisted that she connect me to her supervisor.

The recording invited me to visit Delta's Web site, then kept me holding for a period that would easily have allowed enough time to make it through LAX airport security during a holiday weekend. The supervisor finally came on the line and made me repeat all the information. The supervisors claimed my reservation didn't exist because computer programmers have still not figured out that confirmation codes should not include the letters I and O which can be confused with the numbers 1 and 0, then checked my frequent flyer status, which was apparently not impressive enough to warrant friendly customer service.

I mentioned the reservation had been made within the past 24 hours and that all I wanted to do was arrive and depart with my friend without incurring a 30-percent penalty because the information on their system had become obsolete in the five minutes it took to book our reservations.

No, absolutely not, no way, she explained, reminding me that the ticket was non-cancelable, non-transferable, and non-refundable. Utterly frustrated and wondering where I could purchase an Uzi, I firmly stated (I'm being kind here) that there was no way I was going to pay \$100 to change my ticket and could she give me the corporate phone number.

Remember that car salesman who gave you his rock bottom price, then when you start to leave he says "let me talk to my sales manager" and goes over to a person and they talk about last night's baseball game, then he comes back and tells you they need to fill a quota so they're willing to take a loss so they'll knock \$500 off which is what it should have gone for all along, but now they've wasted a couple hours of your time and you hope there is a hell because you're sure that if there's any justice in the world, that's where they're headed? It was like that.

The supervisor said she needed to check with her superior, put me on hold where I was again invited to go to the Delta Web site, then days — OK, minutes — later, the supervisor was back on the

line happily chirping that, since I had purchased my ticket online within the last 24 hours, I was allowed to cancel it.

Now where had I heard that before?

Certain that these people had less training than the Iraqi security force, I contacted Delta's corporate customer care and spoke to a manager who apologized profusely and asked me what could Delta possibly do to make amends for such shabby treatment. Then the tooth fairy flew through my window and told me I had won the lottery.

What actually occurred was that the customer care manager defended Delta's actions, stating that the agent was perfectly correct in telling me I couldn't change or cancel the ticket because only supervisors were authorized to do so. She refused to listen when I tried to tell her that it was the supervisor who told me that I couldn't change or cancel the ticket, and when I insisted that she hear what I was saying instead of trying to twist the facts, she hung up on me. Which is to be expected from a company that has been repeatedly bailed-out with billions of our tax dollars.

Airlines have shrunk seats, eliminated food, made checking luggage a game of Russian roulette with five bullets, and corrected disastrous on-time records by extending scheduled flight times. The only thing left to get right is customer service. And I do admit that Delta's customer service has built brand loyalty ... for Greyhound.

And I have no way of knowing if my experience was a result of gross incompetence or a corporate scheme to subvert my customer rights. But one thing is certain, attitudes, such as those displayed by the reservation agent, her supervisor and the manager in customer care, are symptomatic of a top down indifference to their customers and clearly demonstrates the airline's inability to differentiate between people and freight.

In stark contrast, this weekend I went to one of my favorite restaurants, Gaucho Grill, and ordered one of my favorite dishes — skirt steak. Unfortunately, my steak was tough. The waitress apologized and took my plate to replace my order. A couple of moments later, the manager came over to apologize, explained that they were not happy with that weekend's shipment of steaks and suggested that I order a different dish. He also provided a free salad while I waited and offered my wife and I either a round of drinks or dessert for our trouble. My new dish was excellent, we felt appreciated. We'll return often and I couldn't help but think that it would do Delta a world of good if all their top executives were required to spend some time waiting tables there.

PROLOGUE: As Delta was our only option, we again attempted to make reservations, this time by phone. The first — outsourced — agent apparently became confused at our complicated itinerary and hung up in mid-conversation. A second agent — also outsourced — refused to connect us with his supervisor, then spent 40 minutes making repeated errors, managing to book only one of four reservations and left us pining for the days of travel agents.

(Ed Silverstein is a freelance writer who has been grounded in Santa Monica. Your comments are invited at incites@incites.net).

OPINION



'Truth' be told: Former ambassador spells it out



POLITIGIRL

BY BETH SOLOMON

WASHINGTON — Iraq Ambassador Joe Wilson might have completed his 15 minutes of fame in 1991, when he famously sported a noose before television cameras in Baghdad, daring Saddam Hussein to further threaten Americans in the U.S. Embassy at the dawn of the Gulf War. But Joe Wilson's public life as a diplomat and foreign policy expert would only intensify.

When President Bush claimed in his 2003 State of the Union address that "Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa," implying Weapons of Mass Destruction — Wilson could not stand by silently. At the request of the CIA and Vice President Dick Cheney's office, he had traveled to Niger the previous year to check out the claim, and found it to be false, as he then reported to intelligence officials.

In a New York Times op-ed, "What I Didn't Find in Africa," Wilson told the story. The White House attacked Wilson's claims and exposed the undercover identity of Wilson's CIA agent wife, Valerie Plame.

Joe Wilson spoke recently about his new book called "The Politics of Truth."

Q. How's the book tour going?

A. I always assumed that it was "Field of Dreams," if you wrote a good story, they would come. But now I've discovered that you actually have to stand on sidewalks and streetcorners and hold it up and say, "If you buy my book, I'll be able to eat."

Q. Recently Rep. Jane Harman of Venice criticized the Bush administration for not predicting the insurgency in Iraq. Was it that hard to predict?

A. On the book tour, I've had a lot of people who've come up to me and said, "You know, we understood this a year ago." I actually called someone in Washington and told him that, and my friend said, "Don't you understand? Washington is always the last to get it."

Q. Is Washington an echo-chamber?

A. Certainly in this war, the extent to which the president only listened to his trusted advisors and if he did read the newspapers, he was reading editorials that supported this theory that we could go in there easily and get this done.

Q. How did you choose the title?

A. We wanted to come up with something that was more catchy than "My Life." One of the things that pushed me out into the public eye was the New York Times op-ed piece, which was essentially speaking truth to power.

Q. You have Republicans in your family.

A. And I'm proud of them!

Q. Have you ever registered as a Republican?

A. I think I registered as a Republican in 1972 so I could have the pleasure of voting against Dick Nixon in the primary.

Q. In the context of the Republicans in your family ...

A. When I was Ambassador to Gabon, a fellow came through who I saw 10 years

later, who said, "I thought for sure you were a Republican." So my politics have not lent themselves to easy classification.

Q. How would you rate the Bush Administration?

A. I think the Bush Administration has operated so far outside the parameters of normally acceptable American political behavior — that it is an aberration.

Q. What kind of an aberration?

A. I don't think it represents mainstream Republican views. I think the hardcore base is a coalition of the radical imperialists — also known as the neo-conservatives — and the theo-conservatives, those that assert other values than those that are in the Constitution of the United States.

Q. That's harsh.

A. I happen to believe that our democracy is stronger when we have a vibrant political debate. But I think it's deplorable when one side decides that in order to short-circuit the debate they're going to engage in character assassination or in my case, dragging my family, dragging my wife into the public square.

Q. Is this the core Republican Party?

A. This is only your Republican Party if you believe that America should be imposing its values by military force. Or if you believe in the literal interpretation of the Book of Revelations.

Q. Newsweek editor Evan Thomas's review says you're a publicity hound.

A. I think if you go back and take a look at what has thrust me into the public eye, in a way that has sort of conjured up these ideas, is the fact that I wrote this opinion piece for the New York Times. And then I refused to lie down and take the outing of my wife. That's basically the thrust of it. Before I wrote the opinion piece, I was speaking privately with people in the administration, I was speaking off the record to the press, to try to get the administration to come clean.

Q. One of the ironies of the book is that, on the one hand, it's very inspiring, you really get the feel for Africa and being a foreign service officer. But the context is that this work that you did was twisted, and it shows that the system can be corrupt.

A. I would hope that the message is ... we're still standing. In a great democracy, we have to be better stewards. What I did by writing the article was nothing more and nothing less than an act of civic duty. It's the same thing citizens do across this country every day when they petition their city councils, when they go to the zoning commission to complain about liquor licenses, when they complain about airport noise, when they go to the PTA, whatever they do at the local, county, state or federal government. These are the actions we take as citizens to hold our government to account and the fact that I did it in an area where I happened to know a good deal of the facts makes it no more noble than what any other citizen does.

Q. So the lesson is ...

A. We should in fact be going after our government like hawks. We should be following our government the way we used to follow the stock market. Because after all, the decisions that are taken in our name are going to affect not just us, but they're going to affect our future, our kids and our grandkids.

(Beth Solomon is reachable at beth-solomon@earthlink.net).

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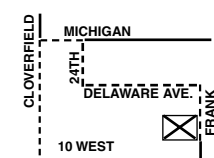


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LOCAL

Little Leaguers' playoff victory had mass appeal

BATTER UP, from page 1

properly notified of Gonzalez's eligibility. They ruled that Gonzalez had indeed been ejected from the game because the umpire had used the word "ejection." Because Gonzalez was initially ruled eligible, officials reasoned that a rematch was the best solution.

Gonzalez was not allowed to play in Tuesday's game, in which the Santa Monica East All-Stars prevailed again, 3-1. The team will face North Venice next. It needs another four victories to take the district title.

Heineman gave credit for the appeal's success to the team's parents.

"We weren't really getting much of a response," Heineman said. "The fact that (the parents) mobilized and made the effort to explain it from their perspective and their child's perspective, it really forced (National Little League officials) to review their decision ..."

"One of the most disturbing things to me was that a couple of the kids (on our team) said that a couple of their friends had told them that we were thrown out of the tournament because we cheated," he added. "That, to me, was when I said 'no, this cannot happen.' If this wasn't set straight by the district, that was going to be the perception."

RELAY, from page 3

I thought it couldn't get any better and then we had the Luminaria Ceremony. Words can't describe the power, the spirit and the love. I thought my family and friends just signed up to support me because they had always been there for me throughout my ordeal with cancer, but each and everyone of them got something out of this event for themselves. It became not about me anymore but about everyone. We are all touched by cancer in one form or another. We can all make a difference by giving of ourselves. ACS was there for me and now I'm there for them.

Did I mention that I was an energetic person? Last year, my team, "Fighting (Against Cancer) Flamingos" had 14 members and we raised \$5,000. This year, my family encouraged me to raise the bar. So our team grew to be 28 members strong and our goal is \$10,000. Can we reach it? Can we exceed it?

ACS promotes education and wellness, and provides funds for research. The reason I support ACS is that with all their volunteer support, the money that is raised (95 percent) actually goes into these much needed areas. I figure if a lot of people volunteer their time, then others will benefit when help is needed.

As Kid's Camp Chairperson, I have tried to plan out (for Saturday day only) a fun-filled day of games and activities that will entertain all kids and have them screaming for more. Parents will want to bring their kids for the fun and they'll also want to walk for the cause. I'm looking for volunteers to help have fun with the kids. If you are interested, contact the SMRFL Committee at (310) 348-0356. That way, all of us can participate in other activities throughout the day.

Won't you join me in Santa Monica this year? I'm sure you will want to:

- Experience what I have experienced.
- Walk to honor survivors.
- Walk to remember those who have lost the battle to cancer.
- Walk to support those going through this dreaded disease.
- Come out to see if the Flamingos raise \$10,000.
- Check out Kid's Camp.

The Santa Monica community has raised more than \$100,000 since 2002, when the first American Cancer Society Relay For Life was held. This year, the third annual Relay will be held at Santa Monica College's Corsair Field on July 24-25.

Teams are made up of at least 10 to 20 people who will walk or run around the SMC track in shifts, with the goal being that someone is on the track at all times. Each team member raises money in the weeks leading up to the event. The event is not only to raise money to fight cancer, but also to remember loved ones who lost their battle to the disease and celebrate the lives of those who have survived.

There will be dozens of cancer survivors — representing all forms — walking the opening lap on Saturday morning. From there, the weekend is all about fun, community and raising money. To participate, recruit friends, family members, co-workers and neighbors to form a relay team. People camp out and create a community party atmosphere together.



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LOCAL



Motown jury trial may get underway in August

MOTOWN, from page 1

"We're seeking to redress years of wrongful and groundless litigation against Mr. Gordy and the only real way the law gives us to do that is through a suit for malicious prosecution. Hopefully, the result in this case will set the record straight once and for all," added Petrocelli, the lead lawyer on the case.

Richard Towne, Holland's lawyer, declined to comment. In their lawsuits against Gordy, Holland has maintained that Gordy breached his agreement with HDH, that Holland's signature was forged to defraud him and song rights were sold at prices widely varying from the agreed-upon rate.

Tens of millions of dollars may be at stake in the trial, which could begin as early as this August. Though the lawsuit does not specify an exact amount of money, Gordy is seeking reimbursement for legal fees, and punitive and exemplary damages. Lawyers were expected to meet

before Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Valerie Baker today to discuss ongoing delays to the trial, which started without a jury last month.

At the heart of the current lawsuit are three suits levied by Holland against Gordy in 1968, 1988 and 1992, respectively. Gordy alleges the dispute was settled in a mutual settlement of the 1968 suit before it went to trial, but that Holland continued to press charges frivolously — even going so far as to intimidate employees of Motown and Jabete by filing personal lawsuits against them.

In order to win the malicious prosecution suit, Gordy must prove he won the previous lawsuits on their merits and not technicalities, that Holland had no probable cause to bring the suits and that the lawsuits were brought with malice. Already, Judge Baker has ruled Gordy won the cases on the merits. The other two issues were still to be decided, as well as how much money, if any, Gordy is owed.

Service for centenarian planned for this Friday

CVII, from page 1

Buchanan studied through elementary school at the Shiloh Baptist Church school in Alabama. She worked as a hired hand, picking cotton for years before moving to Mobile, Ala., with her husband Thomas and their children. There, Buchanan did domestic work, later taking a job at Brookley Fields Air Force Base.

Referred to as "Grandma" and "Mama" by several generations of relatives, Buchanan moved in February of 1964 into an apartment on 14th Street, where she cultivated a fruit and vegetable garden. She later moved to an apartment on 17th Street, where she lived until her death last Monday. She is survived by a sister, Viola Hayes; children Rebecca "Puddin'" Benjamin, Dorothy Mae McNeil and Ovetta "Bump" Simmonds; 16 grandchildren; 21 great grandchildren; and 11 great-great grandchildren.

Kathleen Benjamin, 47, a granddaughter, said Buchanan was a skilled gardener, cook and caretaker of children, who stayed strong through difficult and changing times.

"She used to say 'Just keep on living,' because she had a more worldly concept of things," Benjamin said on Tuesday. "Probably, that helped her endure the changes in her lifetime ... You go from gas-burning light to digital — it's a long way."

Kathleen Benjamin recalled how Buchanan was ahead of her time as a recycler and organic gardener. She said three generations of relatives have shared a story of walking home from Santa Monica High School with Buchanan as she stopped frequently to collect cans.

"She would need assistance to get

down into the trash cans, so she'd have her stick, but as she was walking she'd have us come over and help her," Benjamin said. "You think you're all young and cute, and Grandma says, 'Get over here and get these cans out of there.'"

Over the years, Buchanan was interviewed by many of the local media outlets, including The Outlook, the Santa Monica Independent-Journal and the Santa Monica Mirror. Confusion over Buchanan's age was apparent in the news reports. An August 2002 article in the Mirror covered what was billed as Buchanan's 107th birthday party, which would have made her nearly 109 today.

Still others believed Benjamin was as old as 111, which would have made her just three years younger than the oldest living woman — Hendrikje Van Andel-Schipper of the Netherlands — according to the Guinness Book of World Records. The family agreed Buchanan was born on or near Dec. 25, 1896 after connecting various stages in her life to points in history. That's the date that will be printed in the program at Buchanan's funeral Friday morning at the Greater Morning Star Baptist Church at 17th Street and Pico Boulevard, just steps away from her apartment.

"Each wrinkle that rippled and adorned her skin were the roots of a soul that continues to endure long after the body in which it was housed," reads the text to the program. "Without her, would any of us know the graceful strength of arms that could engulf our fears and knowingly nudge us forward to fly towards our choices, our consequences and the horizons of our destinies? Thank you, mama. Knowing you has brought out the best of the blessed in all of us."

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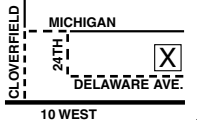
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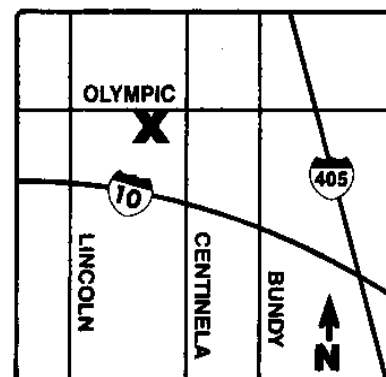
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Real Estate

State's housing market remains on solid footing



DAYS ON THE MARKET

BY JODI SUMMERS

Think we're on top of a housing bubble? Think housing plateau. Here's why. According to the 2003 statistics recently U.S. Census Bureau, California remains the most populous state in the nation with 35.5 million people.

"Based on the state's population growth of nearly 600,000 a year, combined with the continuing lack of enough homes and apartments to meet the demand, there is little chance that the housing market will collapse," said Alan Nevin, chief economist for the California Building Industry Association. "Standing inventories of new homes are at essentially zero.

"You can't have a housing bubble if we aren't building enough houses to handle the demand."

The California Association of Realtors reported that five of the 10 cities and communities with the highest median home prices in California during the first half of 2004 were in the greater the Los Angeles area. These areas include Palos Verdes Estates with a median price of \$1,350,000; Manhattan Beach, \$1,350,000; Malibu,

\$1,250,000; Beverly Hills, \$1,185,000 and Calabasas at \$987,500.

Obviously, when they calculate Santa Monica's median price, they factor in condominium prices because more than two-thirds of Santa Monica residential sales are condos. If they counted only the single-family home sold in Santa Monica between Jan. 1, 2004 to June 30, 2004, they would have noted that the 166 single-family homes had a median sales price of \$1,425,000, according to the Southern California Multiple Listing Service. Those 166 single-family homes are just 29 percent of the total 570 listings that changed hands in Santa Monica during the first half of 2004. Locally, 332 condos sold with a median sale price of \$601,000.

Additionally, 66 income properties traded hands, as did four pieces of land. Family home prices around town increased 34 percent from a year ago, while condo prices increased 28.6 percent.

We have enjoyed an incredible real estate boom, and now, the local real estate market may be reaching a plateau.

Russ Bergeron, general manager of the Southern California MLS, noted that inventory has increased considerably this year, and for-sale properties are spending more time on the market. "If interest rates continue to go up and prices don't go down, this could quickly turn from a seller's market to a buyer's market," he noted.

Now, watch the prime rate. On June 30, the Federal Reserve raised its target for key short-term interest rates a quarter-percentage point, the first such increase since May 2000. This raise could be the first of a series of hikes that could take the federal funds rate to 2.25 percent by the end of the year, and some analysts speculate as high as 3 or 4 percent next year.

As we rise out of the lowest interest rates in 40 years, we can reflect on how this fueled a boom in housing demand and in mortgage refinancing. Homeowners refinanced at lower rates, cutting monthly bills and converting home equity into cash, which helped to keep the economy afloat. Now just wait until those adjustable rate mortgages come due.

By the books, we have now had several straight months of economic expansion, along with three months of job growth. Economists speculate that inflation is an increasing risk, especially with the fed funds rate below the rate of inflation.

"The core consumer price index (CPI) has risen by 3.3 percent annualized over the past three months," Steve Stanley, an economist with RBS Greenwich Capital told CNN. "We'd all better hope that some of this is 'transitory.'"

If core CPI and other measures of inflation keep accelerating, the Fed may again

increase interest rates at its scheduled August policy meeting.

"The Fed opened the door for a half-percentage-point increase in August, if it's needed," stated former Fed Governor Lyle Gramley, now a consulting economist with Schwab Washington Research.

"The summer months are typically a peak time for people to list their homes," stresses Bergeron of the MLS. "The inventory levels after this peak season may be more telling than the current period."

Growth continues, however. According to statistics from the California Building Industry Association, production of new single-family homes exceeded the pace set a year ago, when building starts were at their highest level since 1988.

"It is highly likely that California will break the 200,000-unit level this year, exceeding the 192,000 of 2003," declares CBIA's Nevin. "On the multi-family side, the 2004 total will be heavily dependent on the start-up of several major projects in the urban areas of California. Most of those multi-family units will be condominiums, including a substantial number of mid- and high-rise units."

(What do you think will happen to real estate prices? Tell us. E-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call (310) 309-4219).

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Date Sold:	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$11,900,000	Bed: 5	Date Sold:	SqFt: 950	List Price: \$499,000	Bed: 1	Date Sold:	SqFt: 1,585	List Price: \$895,000	Bed: 1
07/02/2004	Lot Size: 0	Sold Price: \$0	Bath: 8	07/02/2004	HOD: \$299	Sold Price: \$505,000	Bath: 1.5	06/30/2004	HOD: \$475	Sold Price: \$875,000	Bath: 2
Sold 3027 PROSPECT AVE SANTA MONICA 90405				Sold 805 25TH ST SANTA MONICA 90403				Sold 1242 BERKELEY ST #9 SANTA MONICA 90404			
Date Sold:	SqFt: 1,150	List Price: \$799,000	Bed: 2	Date Sold:	SqFt: 1,363	List Price: \$579,000	Bed: 2	Date Sold:	SqFt: 2,540	List Price: \$1,049,000	Bed: 3
06/30/2004	Lot Size: 7,500	Sold Price: \$809,000	Bath: 1	06/29/2004	HOD: \$200	Sold Price: \$639,000	Bath: 2	07/01/2004	HOD: \$417	Sold Price: \$1,025,000	Bath: 3.5
Sold 2526 CALIFORNIA AVE SANTA MONICA 90403				Sold 2431 3RD ST #7 SANTA MONICA 90405				Sold 701 OCEAN AVE #107 SANTA MONICA 90402			
Date Sold:	SqFt: 1,762	List Price: \$1,199,000	Bed: 4	Date Sold:	SqFt: 1,201	List Price: \$650,000	Bed: 2	Date Sold:	SqFt: 1,378	List Price: \$1,100,000	Bed: 2
06/30/2004	Lot Size: 5,280	Sold Price: \$1,220,000	Bath: 2	06/29/2004	HOD: \$239	Sold Price: \$665,000	Bath: 2.5	07/02/2004	HOD: \$1,110	Sold Price: \$1,100,000	Bath: 2.5
Sold 714 17TH ST SANTA MONICA 90402				Sold 1235 YALE ST #4 SANTA MONICA 90404				Sold 201 OCEAN AVE #809P SANTA MONICA 90402			
Date Sold:	SqFt: 2,971	List Price: \$1,875,000	Bed: 6	Date Sold:	SqFt: 1,446	List Price: \$715,000	Bed: 2	Date Sold:	SqFt: 1,566	List Price: \$1,395,000	Bed: 3
07/02/2004	Lot Size: 7,500	Sold Price: \$2,000,000	Bath: 4	07/02/2004	HOD: \$300	Sold Price: \$721,000	Bath: 3	06/30/2004	HOD: \$840	Sold Price: \$1,395,000	Bath: 2.5
Sold 1511 16TH ST #205 SANTA MONICA 90404				Sold 1240 25TH ST #1 SANTA MONICA 90404				Sold 603 OCEAN AVE #2N SANTA MONICA 90402			
Date Sold:	SqFt: 923	List Price: \$439,000	Bed: 2	Date Sold:	SqFt: 1,319	List Price: \$749,000	Bed: 2	Date Sold:	SqFt: 1,846	List Price: \$2,500,000	Bed: 2
06/30/2004	HOD: \$299	Sold Price: \$455,000	Bath: 1	07/02/2004	HOD: \$137	Sold Price: \$745,000	Bath: 2.5	06/30/2004	HOD: \$1,720	Sold Price: \$2,500,000	Bath: 2.5
Sold 1118 16TH ST #1/2 SANTA MONICA 90403				Sold 2454 4TH ST #5 SANTA MONICA 90405				Sold 603 OCEAN AVE #2S SANTA MONICA 90402			
Date Sold:	SqFt: 705	List Price: \$439,000	Bed: 1	Date Sold:	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$775,000	Bed: 2	Date Sold:	SqFt: 1,906	List Price: \$2,800,000	Bed: 2
07/02/2004	HOD: \$262	Sold Price: \$475,000	Bath: 1	07/02/2004	HOD: \$233	Sold Price: \$762,500	Bath: 1.75	06/28/2004	HOD: \$1,720	Sold Price: \$2,800,000	Bath: 2.5
Sold 1224 EUCLID ST #202 SANTA MONICA 90404				Sold 201 OCEAN AVE #303B SANTA MONICA 90402				Sold 1115 EUCLID ST SANTA MONICA 90403			
Date Sold:	SqFt: 1,046	List Price: \$479,000	Bed: 2	Date Sold:	SqFt: 1,188	List Price: \$825,000	Bed: 2	Date Sold:	SqFt: 5,724	List Price: \$1,535,000	Gl: \$104,031
07/01/2004	HOD: \$207	Sold Price: \$475,000	Bath: 2	06/29/2004	HOD: \$2,388	Sold Price: \$770,000	Bath: 2	06/29/2004	Lot Size: 7,496	Sold Price: \$1,535,000	GRM: 14.75

JODI SUMMERS AT BOARDWALK REALTY: 310.309.4219 jodis@boardwalkrealty.com.
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DID YOU KNOW?: Clans of long ago that wanted to get rid of their unwanted people without killing them use to burn their houses down - hence the expression "to get fired."

REAL ESTATE



What lies beneath allows cooler heads to prevail



IN YOUR SPACE

BY CHRISTINA S. PORTER

Tired of working in temperatures that resemble what you would find in a meat locker? Or a desert? I am. My associate who occupies the office next to mine thinks his office needs to be "cool" (in my words "freezing"). Unfortunately, we cannot seem to find a compromise, so I bring a sweater and he brings a fan to the office. However, it seems that a solution has been

found to this age-old problem — "raised floor ventilation" is becoming more popular in new office construction.

This is how it works: There is a chamber created beneath the office floor (in lieu of ducts with vents above) anywhere from 12-18 inches in height through which conditioned air is pumped and delivered through adjustable vents in the floor. The best part is that it is less expensive to reconfigure and operate than the standard ceiling-duct system. Additionally, it is much simpler to run wires (phones, computer networks) throughout the office. We all know how expensive it is to move the ducts and vents around

when customizing a space for a new occupant in most office buildings. Energy costs will be less because the air can be delivered closer to the occupants, allowing the initial temperature to be an average of 10 degrees cooler, or warmer, because it has less distance to travel. You lose the cooler/warmer air when it comes in closer to the ceiling as it is further away from the person occupying the suite.

Of course, nothing is perfect and the one big drawback with raised floor air projects is that the initial cost is \$1 to \$3

per square foot more. There is an argument, however, that this may not be the case because this system usually requires smaller air conditioning units and fans with no need for sheet metal for the ceiling duct work. Sounds like it might be worth comparing costs at least.

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

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1919 Broadway	Retail	6/24/2004	1,800	\$2.25/nnn
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903 Colorado Ave	Office	6/30/2004	2,105	\$1.75/nnn
903 Colorado Ave	Office	7/1/2004	1,407	\$1.75/nnn
2425 Olympic Blvd	Office	6/30/2004	2,354	\$3.00/fs
1630 Stewart St	Office	6/30/2004	4,500	\$2.00/nnn
1811 Wilshire Blvd	Office	6/30/2004	1,344	Negotiable
1831 Wilshire Blvd	Office	6/30/2004	1,848	\$2.85/fs
3130 Wilshire Blvd	Office	7/1/2004	3,694	\$2.25/fs

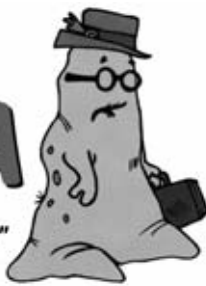
Palisades Associates Inc. purchased the office building at 520 Broadway in Santa Monica, CA. for \$31.6 million or \$265 per square foot. This six-story building was built in 1981 and was 85% leased when sold.

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Entertainment

‘King Arthur’ a bloodless battle of poor calibur

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

The King of the Britons is at it again, this time in a hocus-pocus-less downer from the Jerry Bruckheimer factory that takes more liberties with historical truth than the Bush White House. “King Arthur” purports to demystify the legend of Camelot by presenting fabrication as fact. A title card at the film’s outset erroneously asserts that historians agree the legend of Arthur was based on Lucius Artorius Castus, a half-Roman military commander who protected the Empire’s northernmost interests in the 5th Century A.D., but that’s a load of bunk. Most historians — save the ones scribe Dennis Franzoni consulted when piecing together his screenplay — actually claim Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table are figments of centuries-worth of imagination. Veracity aside, director Antoine Fuqua’s (“Training Day”) retelling falls flat because without the fantastic elements used to great effect in “Excalibur” and the titillating Arthur-Guinevere-Lancelot love triangle that inspired “First Knight,” “King Arthur” is nothing but another bromidic sword-fighting flick. And a bloodless one, at that. In an effort to secure a PG-13 rating and all that precious under-17 dough, epic battles are staged

Review

a la the R-rated “Braveheart” and “Gladiator” (which Franzoni also penned), with nary a drop of blood spilled. Guess it’s OK to have a massive body count just so long as the gore is softcore. Or maybe all those soldiers simply dropped dead at the sight of Guinevere (Keira Knightley) running around the battlefield in a loincloth. The reed-thin Knightley, looking like she was plucked from a lost runway-model episode of “Xena: Warrior Princess,” is an eye-pleasing, arrow-slinging siren who gets stoic Arthur’s (Clive Owen) chain mail jangling. Her storied dalliance with Lancelot (Ioan Gruffudd) isn’t broached

here, apparently because Arthur’s best mate is too busy whining all the time. The other Round Tablers embrace the typical honor and brotherhood ballyhoo with conviction, but none stand out, making it nearly impossible to distinguish a Gawain from a Galahad ... but feel free to galahad and try anyhow (insert rimshot here!) On the positive tip, Stellan Skarsgard (“Good Will Hunting”) delivers a fine performance as the leader of the barbaric Saxon horde.

(Rated PG-13 for intense battle sequences, a scene of sensuality and some language. Running time: 126 minutes)

Knightley of the Round Table

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Keira Knightley is still a teenager, but she’s quickly becoming a lady — A leading one, that is. The 19-year-old Brit came out kickin’ two years ago in the soccer surprise “Bend It Like Beckham,” then wowed audiences last summer in “The Pirates of the Caribbean.” In her latest film, “King Arthur,”

Q&A

Knightley portrays Guinevere as a manipulative warrior-princess who’s as formidable with an arrow as she is with a kiss.

QUESTION: The production notes for “King Arthur” mention your “meteoric” rise to fame. Meteors fall, though. They don’t rise.

KEIRA KNIGHTLEY: That’s true. I’ve never thought of that, actually. They really do use that phrase all the time.

Q: It bothers me.

KK: You’re right about that. Now it’s going to bother me as well.

Q: “King Arthur” kind of debunks the Arthurian myth. Do you think audiences might be thrown off a bit?

KK: I don’t see why they should. When I first heard that they were going to do “King Arthur,” I was a bit, like, what’s the point? We’ve seen it so many times before. We all know the legend so well. It wasn’t until I read the script that I actually thought it was really interesting.

Q: What was it that interested you?

KK: I find it a fascinating idea to take a fairy tale — a complete fantasy — and to try and ground it in a very specific reality.

Q: Your Guinevere is certainly a lot less demure than her predecessors. How do you anticipate moviegoers reacting to her?

KK: For me, as a moviegoer, I want to see strong women. I think it’s great that we’re seeing a trend of woman playing action stars — roles that 10 years ago

they might not have been offered. It makes Guinevere someone who’s proactive rather than someone who is going to sit back and watch the men make it all happen.

Q: Which do you prefer — archery, swashbuckling or soccer?

KK: I’ve got to go with archery. I love the fighting in this movie. Part of the thing with me and “Pirates of the Caribbean” is that I’ve been desperate for a sword fight. All the guys were sword-fighting and training all the time, and I kept on watching them and I was so envious and desperate to do it. I more than made it up for it in this film, though, right?

Q: You kick serious butt. Have you ever been in a real fight?

KK: I think when I was very small. But then I kind of went into a girly phase, and now I’m back to being a brawler.

Q: You’ve worked with Johnny Depp, Adrien Brody and Orlando Bloom. Your girlfriends must be insanely jealous.

KK: Yes. It’s the Johnny Depp thing that really does it. He’s so pretty, but he’s such a great actor. He’s a character actor, really, but nobody expects that from a guy with that face.

Q: Which celebrity do you most resemble?

KK: There are so many different actors that people keep telling me I look like. I don’t know. Which one do you think? Keira Knightley, obviously.

Q: You do look a lot like her. Same accent, too.

KK: Weird isn’t it?

Q: Natalie Portman could be your sister.

KK: I actually bumped into her in London of all places, and she’s just this gorgeous little thing. If you’re going to look like somebody, she’s a good one. I’ve had Winona Ryder a couple of times, but I can’t see that at all.

Q: What’s your dream role?

KK: I don’t know if I have one in particular. There are so many good women’s roles out there at the moment that you kind of sit back and go, yeah, it’s a good time to be an actress.

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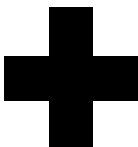
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Kerry puts Vice-grip on former opponent Edwards

BY RON FOURNIER

AP Political Writer

WASHINGTON — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry on Tuesday selected former rival John Edwards to be his running mate, calling the rich former trial lawyer and rookie senator a man who showed “guts and determination and political skill” in his unsuccessful race against Kerry for the party’s nomination.

As Kerry announced his decision in Pittsburgh, a huge crowd of supporters burst into applause, waving handmade signs that mixed with professionally printed “Kerry-Edwards” placards kept under wraps until the last minute.

“I trust that met with your approval,” Kerry, a smile crossing his face, said at a rally. A banner unfurled behind him with the latest campaign message: “Kerry-Edwards. A stronger America.”

As he wrapped up his remarks, Chuck Berry’s “Johnny B. Goode” played, a reference to the first name the running mates share. Kerry later boarded a plane for a speech in Indianapolis, the aircraft sporting an Edwards’ logo that had been added overnight.

Kerry had words of praise for Edwards as he promised thousands attending the conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church that unlike 2000 and the disputed election, “we will make sure every vote is counted.”

By selecting Edwards, 51, Kerry went with the smooth-talking Southern populist over more seasoned politicians in hopes of injecting vigor and small-town appeal to the Democratic presidential ticket. Kerry, a decorated Vietnam veteran whom critics call aloof, calculated that his ticket didn’t need foreign policy heft as much as a flash of pizzazz.

“I was humbled by his offer,” Edwards said in a statement, “and thrilled to accept it.”

Edwards is a self-made multimillionaire who turned his up-from-the-bootstraps biography into a compelling story during his nomination fight against Kerry and several others.

During that campaign, Edwards did better than Kerry among Republicans and nearly as well among independents, according to exit polls conducted by The Associated Press. By comparison, among all voters in those primaries, Kerry beat Edwards 2-to-1. Edwards’ voters frequently said the top candidate quality in their choice was that “he has a positive message.”

President Bush’s allies at the

Republican National Committee immediately labeled Edwards a “disingenuous, unaccomplished liberal” trial lawyer — even as Vice President Dick Cheney called to congratulate him. Spokeswoman Nicolle Devenish said Cheney congratulated Edwards and told his rival that he looked forward to the vice presidential debate and “a spirited campaign.”

Later, Bush used similar language to welcome Edwards to the race.

Kerry revealed his choice in an e-mail to supporters, saying he couldn’t wait to see Edwards go “toe-to-toe with Dick Cheney.”

Rep. Dick Gephardt of Missouri, Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack and Sen. Bob Graham of Florida emerged as finalists in a search that began four months ago with a list of about 25 candidate and a mandate to find a political soul mate who would be “ready at any minute” to assume the presidency.

Kerry called all three also-rans shortly before the rally, an aide said. He also telephoned 2000 Democratic nominee Al Gore, who in turn talked to Edwards.

Edwards was the most popular of the leading contenders for the job, according to an AP-Ipsos poll of registered voters taken last month, and party leaders had been urging Kerry to shed his initial resistance to the North Carolina senator, elected in 1998.

In his 15-minute call to the North Carolina senator, Kerry said, “Teresa and I would like to ask you and Elizabeth to join us on our ticket to take back our country.”

Edwards was at his home in Washington’s Georgetown neighborhood when Kerry told the rally, “I have chosen a man who understands and defends the values of America, a man who has shown courage and conviction as a champion for middle-class Americans and for those struggling to reach the middle class, a man who has shown guts and determination and political skill in his own race for the presidency of the United States, a man whose life has prepared him for leadership.”

Bush’s re-election campaign rushed to the airwaves with a television ad featuring former Republican rival John McCain and titled “First Choice,” an effort to paint Kerry’s running mate as his second choice. McCain, the Arizona senator, had rejected Kerry’s overtures to be No. 2 on the Democratic ticket.

McCain says of Bush in the ad: “He has not wavered, he has not flinched from the hard choices, he was determined and remains determined to make this world a

better, safer, freer place.” Kerry’s campaign rushed into production its own ad featuring the newly minted ticket.

The Bush-Cheney ad alludes to what Republicans hope will be a problem for Edwards — his lack of foreign policy experience and political seasoning. It is not a new argument for Kerry: During the Democratic nomination fight, Kerry groused to associates that Edwards had no right seeking the presidency after less than a single term in the Senate.

Aides said the Massachusetts senator steadily warmed to Edwards, first in the primary campaign, where he stood against Kerry until the end without going negative. After pulling out of the race, Edwards campaigned aggressively on Kerry’s behalf and urged his contributors, mostly trial lawyers, to donate to his former rival’s campaign.

Edwards’ advisers waged a quiet campaign on the North Carolina senator’s behalf. Both Edwards and Gephardt had top aides who joined the Kerry campaign in recent weeks.

Edwards was at his home in Georgetown when Kerry called, readying his two young children for summer camp. Kerry called from his Pittsburgh home.

Kerry kept his decision to himself until the last possible minute, giving Edwards no time to get to Pittsburgh. He met secretly with Edwards on Thursday and the search team headed by Jim Johnson turned over its final reports to Kerry that night.

Kerry waited until Monday night to tell his top two aides, Johnson and campaign Manager Mary Beth Cahill, about his decision.

The Democratic ticket will meet up late Tuesday in Pittsburgh, where the candidates and their families will have dinner together at Kerry’s estate. They fly to Ohio, a major battleground state, on Wednesday for their first joint appearance. Their multistate tour will take them to Edwards’ home state of North Carolina, a GOP bastion that Kerry hopes to put in play with his selection.

Bush travels to the state Wednesday for a GOP counterpunch.

The Kerry-Edwards ticket will be nominated at the Democratic National Convention in Boston, which begins July 26. Kerry hopes to dominate the political landscape in the run-up to the convention, fleshing out his candidacy for voters who know little about him and hopefully opening a lead against Bush. Polls show the race is tight.

Edwards was the last major candidate standing against Kerry in the Democratic presidential race. He emerged as a favorite second choice of Democratic voters, thanks to his youthful good looks, a self-assured manner and an upbeat, optimistic style. He saved his harshest criticism for Bush, whom he accused of creating “two Americas” — one for the privileged, another for everyone else.

Kerry and Edwards are both wealthy. Kerry came about his money by marriage, Edwards through jury verdicts against corporations that he says wronged middle- and lower-class Americans.

Edwards and Kerry had few major policy disagreements — both supported the decision to go to war in Iraq and both voted against the \$87 billion package for Iraq and Afghanistan.

One division was over the North American Free Trade Agreement: Kerry voted for it, but Edwards campaigned against NAFTA, which the Senate approved before he was elected. Edwards made trade, jobs and the economy the centerpiece of his campaign, questioning Kerry’s vote on NAFTA but not pledging to seek its repeal.

They also differed in some ways on how to approach some issues. Both called for rolling back the Bush tax cuts, but Kerry proposed eliminating the tax cuts for those who make more than \$200,000 a year while Edwards set the ceiling at \$240,000. Kerry voted against the ban on so-called “partial birth” abortion passed by Congress, but Edwards did not vote. A more clear-cut difference was Kerry’s opposition to the death penalty and Edwards’ support of it.

Kerry finished first and Edwards second in the Iowa caucuses in January, surprising front-runner Howard Dean and driving regional favorite Gephardt out of the race. Dean finished second to Kerry in the New Hampshire primary, and as Dean lost the next dozen delegate contests, the race became a contest between Kerry and Edwards.

Edwards could never muster enough momentum to overtake his Senate colleague. He won only a single state during the competitive phase of the primary, his native South Carolina, and ended his bid following the 10-state Super Tuesday elections on March 2. North Carolina gave Edwards a victory in its first presidential caucus on April 17, but the vote meant more as a boost to his standing at the Democratic National Convention and to his potential as a running mate.

Wildfire creeps toward empty mountain community

BY AMANDA LEE MYERS

Associated Press Writer

SAFFORD, Ariz. — Firefighters stood guard around a \$200 million mountaintop observatory and wrapped sheets of aluminum around summer cabins Tuesday to protect them from an approaching wildfire.

As of midday Tuesday, the flames were two miles from Turkey Flat, a community of 74 cabins on the side of Mount Graham. But officials said the 8,550-acre blaze could spread quickly in the hot, dry weather.

“We could very well lose some homes today or tomorrow,” said Pruett Small, an operations chief for the fire management team.

The lightning-sparked fire and an nearby 7,810-acre blaze on another part of the

mountain in southeastern Arizona had earlier prompted evacuation of the Mount Graham International Observatory and a total of about 90 cabins in Turkey Flat and another community.

The observatory’s eight buildings and 8 1/2 acres of pine forest on Mount Graham’s 10,470-foot Emerald Peak were surrounded by a 200-foot-wide clearing, and fire crews planned more controlled burns to expand the buffer zone. It also has a sprinkler system that officials said would be turned on if flames got to within a quarter-mile.

“Every day it gets a little bit better at the observatory,” Small said.

Officials said that while the observatory building would probably not burn, smoke and heat could damage its delicate

instruments.

The observatory, an extension of the University of Arizona, has two operating telescopes and the \$120 million Large Binocular Telescope, which is under construction.

When fully operational next year, the Large Binocular Telescope will be the world’s most advanced optical telescope, capable of producing images nearly 10 times sharper than those from the Hubble Space Telescope.

Fire crews’ main concern Tuesday was Turkey Flat, lower on the mountain about 150 miles southeast of Phoenix. Firefighters removed heavy vegetation from around cabins and drenched the homes with water, while wrapping them with aluminum to deflect heat.

Small said officials planned to decrease the number of firefighters in Turkey Flat because of the danger of the blaze making a strong run.

“I don’t want anyone’s life put in jeopardy because of my cabin,” said Richard Lines, 59, who has owned his Turkey Flat summer home for 25 years. “Everything is replaceable, but a life is not.”

Elsewhere in Arizona, a fire had blackened 85,000 acres of the Tonto National Forest near Payson, a town of some 14,000 people. The blaze was not threatening any homes or communities.

In Alaska, an evacuation order remained in effect Tuesday for 277 homes threatened by a 307,000-acre fire north of Fairbanks.



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The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



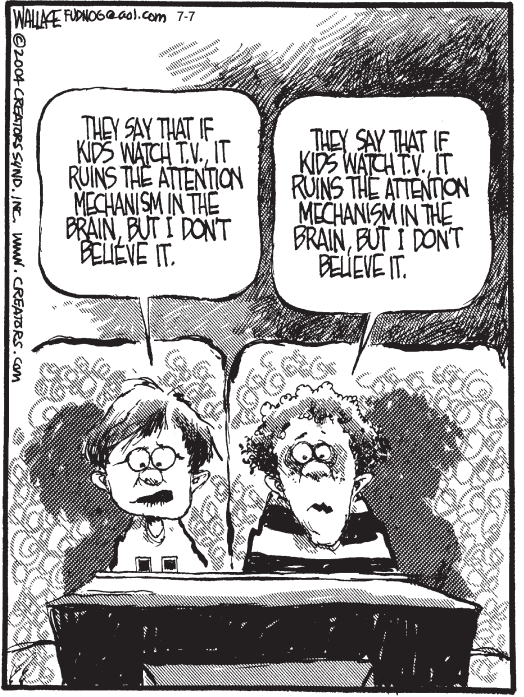
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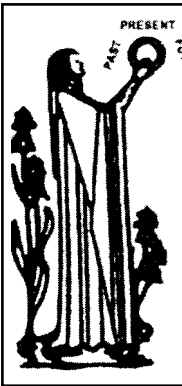
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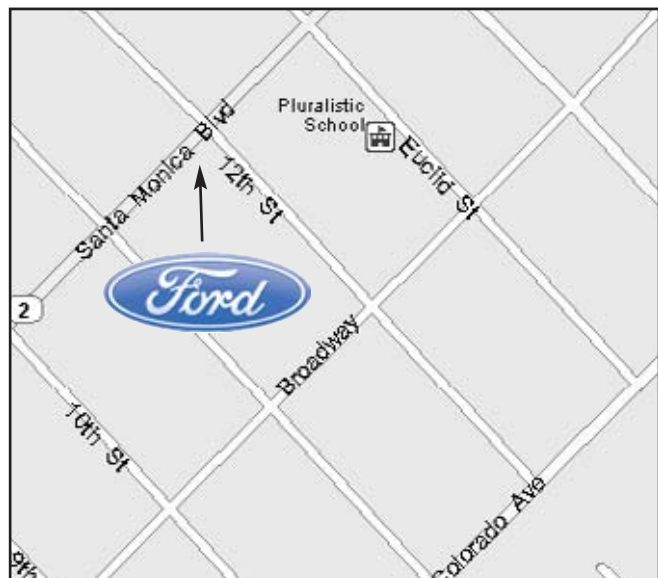
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from the parts dept.**

2-wheel alignment & Tire Inspection \$39.95

Check and adjust camber and toe. Check tread depth and condition all four tires. Additional parts and labor may be required on some vehicles. See Service Advisor for details.

Must mention this ad at time of write up. Taxes extra.
Expires 6/30/04

Minor Service for only \$39.95

Oil Change & Oil Filter Replacement, Lube Hinges, Latches & Applicable Chassis Parts, Silicone Protection of Window Weather Strips, Check Fluid Levels & Top Off to Factory Specifications, Inspect Cooling System, Hoses & Belts, Check Running Lights for Proper Operation, Check Suspension System, Inspect Exhaust System for Corrosion, Inspect & Rotate Tires, Adjust Pressures, Multi-Point Inspection Report Card

Must mention this ad at time of write up.
Excludes diesels & HD "E" & "F" series vehicles/OP code PMinor.
Expires 6/30/04

If you purchased elsewhere ... you probably paid too much!

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