

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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FANTASY 5

34, 19, 22, 12, 1

DAILY 3

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DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 12, Lucky Charms

2nd Place: 11, Money Bags

3rd Place: 06, Whirl Win

Race Time: 1:40.87



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

One beneficiary of Oregon's budget woes, according to an April report in the Salem Statesman Journal, is Jose Leonidas Selva Jr., who had just been arrested behind the wheel of a stolen car, his third arrest in two months. As in the previous arrests, Selva was summarily released two days later because Oregon had no money to pay a public defender to represent him. The limited defense funds were to be used for suspects in violent crimes, and by his third arrest, Selva knew that: "I figured, they're just going to release me. They're not going to hold me. I'm just going to keep doing it." Selva was ordered to return after July 1, when new budget money is supposedly available.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Get your facts first, then you can distort them as you please."

— Mark Twain

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Hospital ordered to pay attorney fees in class action lawsuit

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A judge has ordered Saint John's Hospital to pay \$70,000 in attorney fees as part of a lawsuit alleging that the hospital set up a fictitious debt collection agency to goad patients into paying their bills.

United States District Court Judge Steven V. Wilson ruled last month that Saint John's must pay two law firms that represented the 11,000 patients who received letters between June 20, 2001 and Dec. 11, 2002 from Excel Credit Service demanding that the debt allegedly owed to the hospital be paid. The case was filed as a class action lawsuit on their behalf.

Patient David Marco Weber originally filed the suit. He claimed Saint John's violated the law by concocting a fictitious collection agency name. He alleged the hospital falsely led patients to believe that a third party had been retained to collect the debt.

The suit was settled in early June when Saint John's admitted no wrongdoing but agreed to pay a minimum of \$370,000.

Jeff Koncius, who represented Weber, said settlements in class action lawsuits usually include attorney fees, but in this case he asked that they be added to the award.

"As attorneys, it's important to get the money for the class and worry about the costs later," he said. "(Attorney fees) take away from the full award."

The lawsuit alleged that the debt collection letters violated the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act by failing to advise consumers of their rights to dispute the debt.

"As attorneys, it's important to get the money for the class and worry about the costs later."

— JEFF KONCIUS
Attorney

Tom Papageorge, head of the consumer protection division of the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, said his office is interested in the case but hasn't investigated the allegations.

He said the claims, if true, appear to violate a section of the act that prohibits specific misrepresentations made in communications with the consumer by a debt collector.

The California version of the act forbids a debt collector to use misrepresentations such as phony letterhead or a statement that a third party is seeking payment of a bill, Papageorge said.

"Over the years, debt collectors have used sharp, coercive prac-

See SUIT, page 3



John Wood/Daily Press

The Ocean Park Community Center is in escrow to purchase this building at Cloverfield Boulevard and Michigan Avenue.

Homeless center may have found new home

OPCC to buy building at Cloverfield, Michigan

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

The city's largest homeless services provider may soon be moving to a new address.

Ocean Park Community Center, a private, non-profit agency with a \$7 million annual budget, is in escrow to buy a two-story building located on the northeast corner of the intersection at Cloverfield Boulevard and Michigan Avenue.

The new building will cost OPCC \$5 million to purchase and another estimated \$4 million to upgrade. To help fund the move, OPCC officials plan to ask the Santa Monica City Council for a \$7 million loan on Aug. 12.

"We're going to have to move out when they move in if the homeless start (defecating) and (urinating) all over my front yard at night — which they will."

— KOREY TATARYAN
Owner, Bon Voyage auto shop

At least one neighbor of the proposed center wasn't pleased with OPCC's plans.

See OPCC, page 5

Private Malibu golf course facing opposition

By The Associated Press

MALIBU — The California Coastal Commission has delayed a decision on whether a TV executive's private golf course is permissible under zoning rules.

Commission officials on Thursday told their staff to examine the legal issues more carefully before granting A. Jerrold Perenchio, who heads the Spanish-language television network Univision, a retroactive permit.

"I'm concerned that either way we decide,

we would end up in litigation. So I want to make sure we do it right," Peter Douglas, the commission's executive director, said.

Perenchio had received the commission's permission in 1982 to build an 8-foot rock wall, three gazebos, ponds, a jogging track and extensive landscaping on his property.

He said he later received informal permission from the commission to swap out the track and gazebos for sand traps and putting greens.

The commission is concerned about coastal development rules, because the property sits

along Malibu Lagoon.

Perenchio's lawyer, Rick Zbur, said his client would be willing to cut back on pesticides used on the greens and build a drainage system to prevent chemical-contaminated water from reaching the lagoon.

Jan Chatten-Brown, a lawyer representing environmental activists, argued that the golf course is clearly a violation of coastal development rules.

The commission will likely re-examine the issue in October.



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Accept an invite out, Leo



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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, July 14, 2003:

You might not be sure exactly what to do this year, as there could be many conflicting messages. Take charge of your life and events. Spending develops into a primary issue over the year. How you feel about yourself and how you express your feelings this year makes all the difference in what goes down. If you are single, you'll have a unique opportunity to meet people, especially after the summer. Don't feel as if you need to impress someone you're interested in. Just be yourself. If you are attached, as a couple you will need to look at mutual issues involving spending and money. Respect each other's individuality, but resolve different financial perspectives. Communication becomes easier in the fall. AQUARIUS understands you on a deep level.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ You might have a sense of direction that few others do. Stay on track despite the confusion surrounding your associates. By keeping the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow as an objective, you'll stay centered. Know what your goal is. Tonight: Swap war stories.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Take charge and handle your problems directly with your innate energy and force. Pressure builds as you try to sit on multiple tea kettles. You can't. Decide on your priorities, and everything will flow. Tonight: Handle responsibilities.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Your ability to see the big picture and visualize more helps you understand what is happening around you. You might decide that it's your job to help others sort through the overwhelming amount of information heading in all of your directions. Tonight: Escape into some music.

♊ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ A partner could be more direct than you would like. Somehow, you often see confusion when he or she answers. Keep conversations rolling to make sure you see eye to eye. Handle a financial discrepancy directly. Tonight: Let someone know how much you appreciate his or her efforts.

♊ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ As you visualize more, you get insight where you haven't had it previously. Others seek you out. Though you might question where someone is coming from, you will gain ultimately. Investigate possibilities, even if your knee-jerk reaction is "no." Tonight: Accept an invitation out.

♊ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ You could spin in several directions at work, wondering where to begin and where to stop. An inner dialogue of what should be going on could be quite different from what is actually occurring. Don't think you can resolve this conflict right now. Tonight: Work off stress through some exercise.

♊ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You might want to grasp more of what is happening in your immediate circle. Confusion surrounds plans, as well as people. Don't fret; it could become clearer if you step back. Don't get into any black and white thinking. Look at the situation from above. Tonight: Find solutions.

♊ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ A family member pushes hard, forcing you to consider a domestic matter, while superiors make demands left and right. You have your hands full. Expect to be able to meet the demands, but don't be surprised when you sigh a breath of relief later. Tonight: Cocoon at home.

♊ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You see much more than you realize. Use your high energy to handle others and ensuing problems. You could be overwhelmed by what lands on your plate. Others trust your judgment and abilities. Tonight: Gather with your friends and relax.

♊ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Money issues come to the forefront once more. Your decisions could challenge someone considerably. You need to carefully sort through the different perspectives before coming to any conclusion. Tonight: Your treat.

♊ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Your lively ways take you down a new path. Your cheerfulness could challenge an associate or partner. Use your natural assets, and you can get past nearly anything. Smile away, knowing when enough is enough. Tonight: You are the cat's meow.

♊ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Slow down and take your time. Assess what is happening in your immediate circle. Much could be different than you think. Ask questions until you understand why someone close could be inordinately tense. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913
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LOCAL

Santa Monica College to host 'Relay For Life'

By Daily Press staff

For the second year in a row, Santa Monica College will co-sponsor and host the cancer research fundraising event, "Santa Monica Relay for Life," which will be held over a 24-hour period July 26-27 at Corsair Field.

The event features teams — each made up of at least 10 people — who will walk or run continuously around the SMC track in shifts, from 9 a.m. Saturday, July 26 to 9 a.m. Sunday, July 27. Participants will camp out and enjoy entertainment, as well as build team spirit in the fight against cancer.

Corsair Field is located at the southwest corner of the SMC campus, on 16th Street between Pearl Street and Pico Boulevard.

The event will also include a luminaria

ceremony at 9 p.m. July 26, during which luminaria are lit around the track to honor cancer survivors and to remember those who have died of the disease.

"We are proud to have hosted an event for the first time ever in Santa Monica that raised \$65,000 last year," said Tony Prestby, SMC's liaison for the event. "It was a beautiful, moving and community-building event last year and I know it will be so again this year."

The main sponsor of the event is The American Cancer Society, with support from SMC, City of Santa Monica and Santa Monica Police Department.

For information on the event or on forming teams, contact Tony Prestby at (310) 434-4003. You can also visit www.cancer.org.

Hospital collection agency history remains unclear

SUIT, from page 1

tices in collecting debts," he said. "Generally, you cannot lie about the fact that you have referred out to a debt collector for collection."

Both parties determined that it was in their mutual best interests to settle the lawsuit instead of going through a lengthy and costly trial. Saint John's would have to pay no more than \$500,000 because of limitations on damages set by law. The hospital also had to pay tens of thousands of dollars to hire an outside firm to handle patients' claims.

According to the law, the payment would be either 1 percent of the net worth of the company or \$500,000, whichever is less.

The amount each patient is owed was determined based on what the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act required.

As part of the settlement agreement — which works out to about \$40 per patient — Saint John's offered one of three choices to those eligible to share in the fund. It will either make a charitable donation to a local non-profit organization, credit \$40 to the patient's outstanding balance owed to Saint John's, or have \$40 applied to future services there.

The 11,162 patients had until June 16 to submit their claim forms indicating the payment option they wanted. Koncius

said only seven patients chose to opt out of the settlement.

Charitable donations will be made to either the Venice Family Clinic, Westside Family Health Center, Ocean Park Community Center, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Infant and Family Support Program, St. Joseph Center or Serra Project. Saint John's will pick the organization based on community need, according to the settlement.

The numbers of patients choosing each option wasn't known. David Fisher, the attorney who represented Saint John's, didn't return phone calls seeking comment.

However, Koncius said if patients didn't send in the claim or didn't fill out the form correctly, the charity option was automatically chosen.

Saint John's didn't assume liability in the case. Neither side has said whether Excel Credit Service actually was a legitimate business. However, as part of the settlement, Saint John's agreed to stop using the name when collecting from patients.

It is still unclear how Saint John's set up its collection agency, how long it acted, how it was discovered, or the ramifications on other health care providers.

The industry has been rocked by recent

See SUIT, page 5



Look for a mixture of fading SW swell, building small SSE swell and a touch more NW wind swell on Monday. Southerly swells might show at many of the better summer spots from Zuma down through Manhattan in the 2'-3' range, with best breaks hitting an inconsistent chest-high. Other spots will see mainly wind swell with surf in the 1'-3' range.

Get stoked on an epic sesh? Get burned by a bad report? Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing at your local break.

Today the water is:
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	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	3:23	-1.3	2:24	2.3	9:59	3.9	8:45	7.0
SUNDAY	4:08	-1.5	3:14	2.3	10:45	4.1	9:31	7.0
MONDAY	4:52	-1.4	4:03	2.3	11:28	4.1	10:16	6.8
TUESDAY	5:34	-1.2	4:52	2.3	(12:11)	4.2	11:00	6.4
WEDNESDAY	6:14	-0.8	5:43	2.4	(12:54)	4.2	11:44	5.8
THURSDAY	6:54	-0.3	6:40	2.5	N/A	N/A	1:38	4.3
FRIDAY	7:32	0.2	7:47	2.5	12:29	5.1	2:23	4.4

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The Q-Line

Three years ago, an effort to relocate Santa Monica's largest homeless services provider was thwarted by resident objections.

Now, officials at Ocean Park Community Center have announced plans to buy a building at the intersection of Cloverfield Boulevard and Michigan Avenue. If all goes according to plan, the \$5 million building would undergo a \$4 million renovation and be ready for use in one year once the escrow period ends in about three months.

OPCC — which has a \$7 million annual budget — currently rents space from the city in the Big Blue Bus building, located at 612 Colorado Ave. It must move because the bus operation needs more space.

OPCC officials said last week that they plan to meet with neighbors and include them in discussions about the property, where plans call for beds for 55 people and daytime services for as many as 250.

So this week Q-Line wants to know:

"Is Cloverfield Boulevard and Michigan Avenue an appropriate location for the city's largest homeless services provider? Why or why not? If not, where else should it go?"

Call (310) 285-8106 before Thursday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your response in Friday's paper. Please limit your call to one minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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LETTERS

Send the drunks to Montana

Editor:

On page 1 of the July 7 edition, there was a story that "The city's drunks may soon have a new destination." A 'sobering house' at Ninth and Pico in place of the city jail to save money. Here they will stay until sober, and then be released to the Pico neighborhood.

What a great idea! Concentrate all the drunks in the city into the worst crime and drug infested section in the city. These won't even be your average SM asleep-in-the-alley drunks, these will be the "4.5" drunks per day that are so belligerent that people have had to call the police to have them forcibly removed.

These hard-core drunks will be right at home at Ninth and Pico. Within three blocks there are four liquor stores and a bar. (Along Pico alone within 17 blocks there are seven liquor stores and two more bars.) Two other liquor stores have gone out of business recently as the profit margin on quart-sized malt liquor must be too low with all the competition. The city wonders why they can't get businesses to move into the Pico neighborhood.

I, however, don't live in the Pico neighborhood, because like all the City Council members, all the policemen and all the firemen in the city, I don't want to raise children in this crime and drunk infested area. Not to mention essentially all the section eight housing, drug and mental "rehabilitation centers" in the city.

Let's build a nice place to sober up and rehabilitate all the worst homeless drunks in the city on Montana Avenue. See how they like it!

Rick Parkinson
Santa Monica

Washington insiders 'discount democracy'

Editor:

Now, according to the political pundits and experts inside the beltway, Dean for the presidential campaign is to be taken seriously because of his unexpected success in fundraising compared to the previously predicted pundit front-runners.

Thus, without missing a beat, the expert crowd in Washington will characteristically miss the point while they weigh polls, gossip and war chests. Howard Dean had been labeled by the political aristocracy of both the Republicans and the Democrats, as well as the insider media, as a distant longshot with no chance when he started his campaign one year ago. He didn't listen to them.

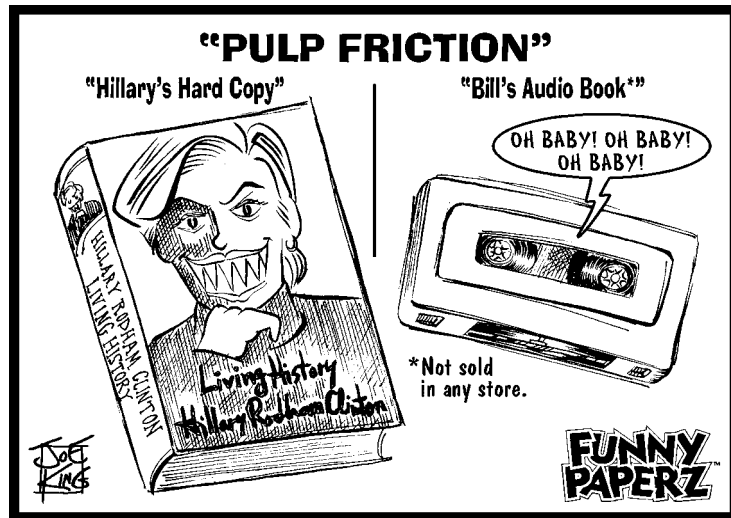
This by the way is the same crowd that predicted Lyndon Johnson couldn't be denied the nomination, Jimmy Carter had no chance of getting elected, Reagan wouldn't win because he lied twice and was too old and President George H.W. Bush couldn't lose in 1992.

The only thing non-experts can be sure of is that the Washington experts get it wrong and they never shut-up in disgrace.

What's most troubling is they discount democracy by turning elections and campaigns into a sport to gamble on, while treating citizens like inconsequential props. They are as responsible as any other factor in causing apathy and cynicism to reach record levels in the United States in terms of voting and citizen participation.

Any chance you can find actual meaningful productive work? The country needs a break.

Chuck Levin
Santa Monica



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Spiritual beliefs, 'the program' keep him sober



I was in my sleeping spot last night thinking about what to write in this week's column. I was thinking about the reason I was back on the street again.

Another betrayal of trust — this time by a member of the program. I had spent almost 20 years in the rooms of the program. First with my father's alcoholism, then with my own dealings with alcohol and drugs.

While in the program for my own disease, I studied the beginnings of the program. I read things about Bill W. and Dr. Bob and actually met a man who was around when Alcoholics Anonymous was starting to grow. His name was name was

Jim F. and he ran the Men's 12-Step House in Long Beach.

This man had more sobriety when he died than I had life times two and he would tell us about Dr. Bob and Bill W. from personal experience.

In the beginnings of the A.A. program, most of the members carried Bibles to the meetings and talked about God, not a higher power. They shared about how God relieved them of the obsession for alcohol. In other words, they were cured of this obsession by the power of God through a personal cleansing using principles from the Bible, which eventually became to be the 12 steps and 12 traditions.

I was also told that Bill and Bob used and taught the intervention technique several times whereby they took those who wanted to stop drinking but could not and locked them down and took care of them while they detoxed.

Now, well over half a century later, man has, once again, tried to improve on what God had given people who are addicted. And the program has given the

definition of sobriety a meaning of not using or drinking and has taken the relief or curing of the obsession of the disease of addiction to the level of putting it to sleep and have, in essence, put the power of God in their pockets.

The Webster's New College Dictionary's definition of sober is this: 1a.): A sparing use of food and drink; abstemious, b.): Not addicted to intoxicating drink, c.): Not drunk, 2.): Marked by sedate or gravely or earnestly thoughtful character or demeanor, 3.): (archaic): Unhurried calm, 4.): Marked by temperance, moderation, or seriousness, 5.): Subdued by tone or color, 6.): Showing no excessive or extreme qualities of fancy, emotion, or prejudice.

As you can see, the majority of the definition for sober deals with the state of mind not the use of drugs or alcohol. I am not saying that the program is not good, only that it has veered from the true definition of sobriety. Also it has all but forgotten what true intervention is and how to use it.

There are many on the streets who are

seriously addicted to drugs and alcohol who want to quit but lack the insight and love of self to do so. When I first came to A.A., I was told I would be loved until I could learn to love myself. In the last 14 years I have found the love for myself through God's love through people.

I have learned to be honest with myself and with other people because of it. And this is the key to being truly sober.

So when my former roommate accused me of lying to him, it was an insult to the integrity that God had given back to me. If God had not been at work in my life I would not be succeeding in following my dreams from the streets of Santa Monica. I would not have gotten off the pills I was heavily addicted to when I first hit the streets in 1996. And I would not be making this amends right now.

To all I hurt whether knowingly or unknowingly, willingly or unwillingly, in those dark times of my life, I apologize publicly.

(Charles Springer is a freelance artist and writer.)

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

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1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401
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LOCAL



Neighbors to be included in property discussions

OPCC, from page 1

"I'm speechless," said Korey Tataryan, who owns Bon Voyage, an auto body shop immediately adjacent to the building. "Are they going to control (the homeless)? I don't think so. They wish they could control them."

"We're going to have to move out when they move in if the homeless start (defecating) and (urinating) all over my front yard at night — which they will."

Tataryan, who has worked out of his shop for 15 years, will have an opportunity to discuss his concerns with OPCC officials.

With escrow scheduled to close in 98 days, OPCC officials announced Friday they will conduct an intensive public outreach campaign, when they will meet with area businesses and residents.

An effort to relocate OPCC three years ago to 820 Broadway was shot down by residential neighbors who opposed the new center. But Tataryan said neighborhood objections probably won't stop this effort because the new center is located on an intersection with three gas stations in an industrial area.

Currently, OPCC pays the city \$4,100 monthly to lease 8,500 square feet from the building used by the Big Blue Bus at 612 Colorado Ave. But the bus operation is expanding and OPCC needs a new home.

As the first step in OPCC's outreach campaign, officials on Friday held a press conference.

"We know that neighbors don't want our clients lining up on the streets," said John Maceri, OPCC's executive director, who added that a full-time staffer will patrol the center's grounds. "We're not trying to hide anything. We're completely transparent."

Maceri said the new center will be an improvement over the existing operation, offering beds for 55 homeless or mentally ill people each night, plus daytime services for as many as 250 people. The new building contains than 20,000-square-feet of outdoor space for parking, as well as a seating and recreation area.

But before any of the details are set in stone, officials want to be sure that the community has been included in the process.

"We know that this type of project is a

real sensitive use," said Julie Rusk, manager of the city's social services department.

Rusk said OPCC officials plan to make the exterior of the building more attractive through extensive landscaping, lighting, tearing out the chainlink fence and erecting some sort of screened fence or barrier to separate the outdoor area from motorists.

"We know that neighbors don't want our clients lining up on the streets. We're not trying to hide anything. We're completely transparent."

— JOHN MACERI
OPCC's executive director

If the escrow does move forward as officials expect, the next step will be to obtain the proper permits from City Hall, a process that is expected to take one year.

After that, an extensive remodel will commence. Maceri said the building will undergo \$4 million in upgrades, including completely redoing the building's plumbing, sewer connections and electrical system, as well as installing kitchens, sleeping and dining areas, lounges, showers and bathrooms.

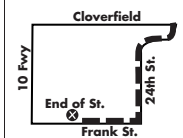
Rusk said the new center will only serve about 30 more clients than the existing center, but will improve the quality of service clients receive. She emphasized OPCC's approach of giving consistent and ongoing care to help transition people from the streets, into jobs and long-term housing arrangements.

More than 97 percent of OPCC clients stay in permanent housing once they are placed, said Maceri, who added that there is still a great deal of work to be done.

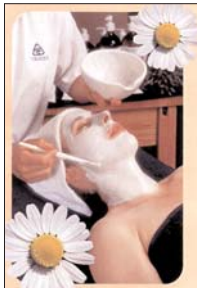
"We're not operating under any fantasy that this is going to solve homelessness in Santa Monica," he said. "But we're happy it's going to provide more beds (for people in need)."

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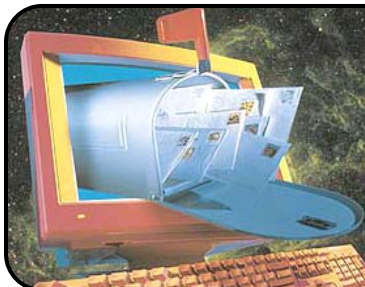
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Expert: Research before paying your collection bill

SUIT, from page 3

national disclosures that uninsured patients can be billed several times the amount agreed to by insurance companies for exactly the same procedures. Then, health care providers use the fear power of collection agencies to make patients pay up. And, patients often believe they owe more than what they are contractually obligated to pay based on what their health insurance carriers paid.

Consumer affairs experts say although they are not familiar with the Saint John's case, misrepresentations of or by debt collection agencies are still common despite provisions of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

"It's common enough for Congress to write it into law in 1977," said Thomas Kane, an attorney for the bureau of consumer protection for the Federal Trade Commission in Washington D.C.

Kane said he hasn't heard of many hospitals manufacturing fictitious credit agencies and that might be because it's just as easy to hire a third party entity to act as the collector.

Papageorge suggested that consumers call the company demanding payment before paying a bill.

"It's best to directly communicate with the company that you owe money to," he said.



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For further information regarding the survivor's reception and lap, contact survivor chairperson Judy La Patka at (310) 579-7100 or judylapatka@aol.com Tracey Mayer at the American Cancer Society (310) 348-0356 option 3/ext. 246 or tracey.mayer@cancer.org.

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STATE NATIONAL

WORLD BRIEFLY

Rainfall helps dampen Tucson wildfire

By The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Rain soaked parts of a mountain wildfire for the first time since the blaze broke out nearly a month ago and destroyed more than 300 homes and cabins, helping firefighters who are trying to keep it from growing.

The fire in the Santa Catalina Mountains overlooking Tucson should be fully contained by Tuesday evening, fire information officer Dick Fleishman said Saturday. The 84,750-acre blaze was 80 percent contained by firebreaks on Saturday.

Officials said one-quarter to three-tenths of an inch of rain fell on the mountains along with some hail.

"In the Summerhaven and Palisades area, they got a pretty good soaking last night," Fleishman said. The fire started June 17 near Summerhaven, a summer vacation community near the top of Mount Lemmon.

Fleishman said the rain caused some erosion in burned areas. A rehabilitation team had started work to prevent additional damage.

Authorities say they have no suspects or strong leads in their investigation of the human-caused fire. A \$5,000 reward has been posted.

Dean is learning as he goes along

By The Associated Press

HOPKINTON, N.H. — Raising \$7.5 million for his Internet-fueled campaign was the easy part. Now Democrat Howard Dean says he must urgently expand his political machine, broaden his message and soften the rough edges of his personality.

Although two of his rivals, John Kerry and John Edwards, have collected more money overall, and others have put more cash in reserve, Dean's fund-raising haul from April to June has shaken up a race that now has three distinct tiers of candidates — but no front-runners.

His foes for the Democratic nomination are sharpening their rhetoric as Dean tries to ensure his momentum doesn't outstrip a relatively immature campaign based in Burlington, Vt.

"We're learning as we go along," the former Vermont governor said between stops in New Hampshire that drew large crowds and tested his acknowledged lack of patience.

Dean shares top-tier status with Kerry, the decorated Vietnam War veteran and favorite of much of the Democratic establishment, and former House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., a Midwest populist with strong ties to organized labor.

Former first lady christens USS Ronald Reagan

By The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — With the order "Bring her to life," former first lady Nancy Reagan sent lines of sailors streaming onto the USS Ronald Reagan as a crowd cheered at the commissioning of the Navy's newest aircraft carrier Saturday.

The carrier, nearly 1,100 feet long and standing 20 stories above the waterline, is the first to be named for a living president.

Ronald Reagan, now 92 and ailing with Alzheimer's disease, didn't attend the ceremony at Norfolk Naval Station, but he was praised by many of the speakers.

Today's Navy is in many ways a monument to Reagan's vision, Vice President Dick Cheney told the hundreds of spectators who applauded under the clear blue sky.

"He came to the presidency with a clear understanding of the tools our Navy would need to protect the American people," Cheney told the crowd.

The crowd cheered wildly when Mrs. Reagan walked to a podium and waved.

"I only have one line, so 'man the ship and bring her to life,'" Mrs. Reagan said.

See BRIEFS, page 7

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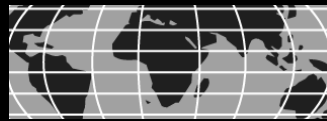


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page 2

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WORLD BRIEFLY

BRIEFS, from page 6

Hussein-al-Qaida connection questioned

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As President Bush works to quiet a controversy over his discredited claim of Iraqi uranium shopping in Africa, another of his prewar assertions is coming under fire: the alleged link between Saddam Hussein's regime and al-Qaida.

Before the war, Bush and members of his cabinet said Saddam was harboring top al-Qaida operatives and suggested Iraq could slip the terrorist network chemical, biological or even nuclear weapons.

Critics attacked those assertions from the beginning for being counter to the ideologies of Saddam and al-Qaida and short on corroborating evidence. Now, two former Bush administration intelligence officials say the evidence linking Saddam to the group responsible for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks was never more than sketchy at best.

"There was no significant pattern of cooperation between Iraq and the al-Qaida terrorist operation," former State Department intelligence official Greg Thielmann said this week.

Intelligence agencies agreed on the "lack of a meaningful connection to al-Qaida" and said so to the White House and Congress, said Thielmann, who left State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research last September.

Calif. lawmaker not afraid to fight

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As the new chairman of the House Resources Committee, California Rep. Richard Pombo is taking on anyone in his way, from environ-

mental groups he's long battled to fellow Republicans who opposed his ascension to the job.

The 42-year-old rancher, chosen for the post over more senior lawmakers, has quickly banished thoughts he would moderate his staunch opposition to government programs and environmentalists to reflect his new prominence.

Also, two Republicans who opposed Pombo's selection as chairman have been stung by his attempts to block legislation they sponsored.

In an unusual airing of intraparty tensions, Rep. Elton Gallegly, R-Calif., wrote to Speaker Dennis Hastert to complain about his fellow Californian's treatment of Gallegly's bill to prohibit bear hunters from using human food as bait.

"On three occasions I asked Richard to ask Resources staff to stop calling Republican members who had co-sponsored the bill to remove their names," Gallegly said in a letter, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press. "He said he would see that it was stopped, but the practice continues."

The bill now has 175 co-sponsors, including close to 70 Republicans. Pombo aides said the committee might vote on it this week.

Bush remains committed to Tenet

By The Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria — President Bush said he still has faith in his intelligence chief after CIA Director George Tenet accepted blame for Bush's erroneous claim about Iraqi weapons.

Asked in Nigeria whether he continued to trust Tenet, Bush said Saturday, "Yes, I do. Absolutely."

"I've got confidence in George Tenet," he added.

Fueled by members of Congress and Democratic presidential hopefuls, the 16-word miscue in Bush's Jan. 28 State of the Union speech has turned into a firestorm of skepticism challenging the credibility of one of the president's primary justifications for the war — that Iraq was trying to reconstitute its nuclear weapons program.

The issue dogged Bush throughout his five-day trip to Africa, leading the White House to execute a well-scripted, two-day mea culpa seeking to quell the political uproar.

First up was Secretary of State Colin Powell, who said on Thursday that the president's claim that Iraq had sought nuclear materials from Africa, based on a British intelligence report, was never meant to mislead or deceive the American public. Powell said the intelligence did not stand "the test of time," and that he chose not to repeat the president's allegation during his own speech just days later to the U.N. Security Council.

Liberian president repeats pledge

By The Associated Press

MONROVIA, Liberia — Liberia's embattled warlord-turned-president repeated his oft-broken pledge to step down Saturday, telling die-hard party supporters that U.N. sanctions had crippled the economy and left his government unable to defend itself against foreign-backed rebels.

"I have decided to make the ultimate sacrifice. I have decided to be the sacrificial lamb that you people should live," Charles Taylor told a gathering of hundreds of ruling party faithful in Liberia's war-torn capital. "We had to come to the realization that with the massive, mighty forces against us, we had to take a different course."

President Bush, under pressure to send peacekeepers to the West African country, has repeatedly demanded that Taylor resign as a first step toward peace.

Taylor — beset by rebels and wanted for war crimes in neighboring Sierra Leone — has accepted an offer of asylum in Nigeria, but on condition that an international force deploys to ensure an orderly transition.

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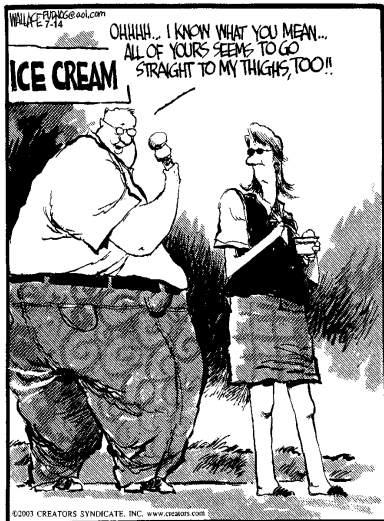


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edge city

by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



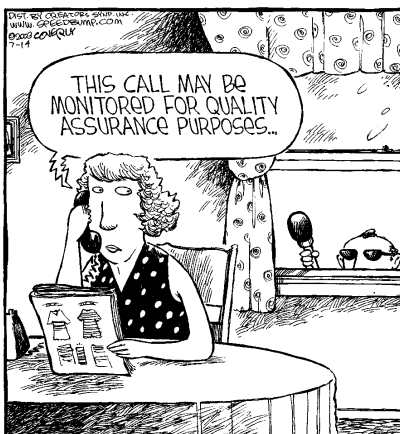
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SANTA MONICA: \$795, 1+1, great area, near SMC, w/d hkups, driveway parking. www.westsiderentals.com (310)395-7368

SANTA MONICA: \$850, 1+1, pet ok, walk to SMC, w/d hkups, driveway parking. www.westsiderentals.com (310)395-7368

SM: \$1150 / mo. 1 + 1, 1245 10th st #9 Stove, carpet, blinds, laundry, no pets. (310) 393 - 6322 mgr. JKW Properties Inc.

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SM SINGLE: 833 5th street. #104. \$1050 /mo. Stove, fridge, laundry, cool, gated garage parking, no pets. (310) 393 - 2547 mgr. JKW Properties Inc.

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For Rent

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BEVERLY HILLS: \$875, guest house, w/d, quiet, garage, utilities included.

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SANTA MONICA: \$995, cottage, spanish-style, r/s, patio, french windows, prking.

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SANTA MONICA: \$550, condo, prvt. room, fireplace, laundry, month to month, prking.

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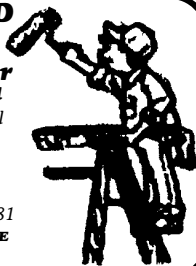
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SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

MONDAY, JULY 14, 2003

EVENTS

Let's Talk About It

Just because it's summer doesn't mean that kids stop reading. "Talk About It" gives 7th and 6th graders a chance to dive into the world of books with this book discussion group. 4p.m. - 5 p.m. Montana Branch Library 1704 Montana Ave.
For more information call:(310) 829-7081

CULTURE

The Getty Center

Perched on a mountain top just nine miles from Santa Monica, this museum offers a variety of exhibitions from ancient sculptures to the Impressionism of Monet and Van Gogh. Visitors can also enjoy panoramic views from the many balconies. The museum even offers an introductory video for first time visitors. Current exhibitions include: "Illuminating the

Renaissance: The Triumph of Flemish Manuscript Painting in Europe", Strange Days: Photographs from the Sixties by Winogrand, Eggleston, and Arbus", "Picturing the Natural World", and "The Making of a Medieval Book." The Getty Center
1200 Getty Center Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90049-1679
(310) 440-7300

ENTERTAINMENT

Club Sugar

A great place for party-goers to enjoy the night life. Tonight is Sensa night with Resident DJs Liza Richardson, Raul Campos, Valida, and Kasey Goto playing their signature "it's-all-about-the-music-booty-shakin'-deep-bangin'-house-grooves." Admission is \$5
4 Broadway (@ Lincoln) Santa Monica 90401 (310) 899-1989

Temple Bar

This exotic bar has live music, drinks and a

great menu. Visitors can enjoy drinks like White Chocolate Martinis. For those who want something munch on Crispy Calamari is served with home made sauce. While those who are really hungry can enjoy a Chicken Tamale Plate with Fried Plantains. Temple Bar even offers vegetarian options like veggie eggrolls and burgers. Tonight Abby Travis performs at 9 p.m. followed by Nino Astronauta at 10:30 p.m. Admission \$5 1026 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica
For more information call:
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14 Below

Offers a bar, delicious food, and a chance to shoot some pool, as well as live music. You can choose between classic burgers, mexican style dishes or fresh salad. This club is also great for sports lovers, it offers a special deal on drinks during all Lakers and Clippers games. Tonight is acoustic night and there is no cover charge.
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MOVIE °GUIDE

LAEMMLE'S MONICA 4-PLEX

1332 2nd Street
Whale Rider PG-13 — 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
Spellbound G — 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55
Banged Up — 11:45 (a.m.)
I Captured the Castle — 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:40
The Housekeeper — 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd
Northfork PG-13 — 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
Winged Migration G — 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45

LOEWS CINEPLEX BROADWAY CINEMAS

1441 Third Street Promenade
28 Days Later R — 11:15, 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 10:00
Terminator 3 R — 11:00, 1:30, 4:05, 6:45, 9:25, also: 11:45, 2:20, 5:00, 7:35, 10:20
The Hulk PG-13 — 11:35, 2:50, 6:05, 9:15

AMC SANTA MONICA 7

1310 Third Street Promenade
Bend It Like Beckham PG-13 — 2:00, 4:40, 7:25, 10:05
Bruce Almighty PG-13 — 11:55, 2:10, 4:35, 7:05, 9:55
Finding Nemo G — 12:05, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55
Legally Blonde 2: Red, White, & Blonde PG-13 — 11:30, 12:10, 2:00, 2:45, 4:30, 5:15, 7:00, 7:45, 10:10
Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas PG — 11:35, 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:35
Washington Heights R — 11:50, 2:05, 4:20, 7:10, 9:30

MANN CRITERION 6 THEATERS

1313 Third Street Promenade
Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle PG-13 — 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 5:00, 7:05, 8:30, 9:40
The Italian Job PG-13 — 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:15
The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen PG-13 — 10:30, 11:10, 1:15, 2:15, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 7:45, 9:45, 10:30, 12:20
Pirates of the Caribbean PG-13 — 11:45, 12:00, 3:15, 3:45, 6:45, 7:15, 10:05, 10:35

If you know of an upcoming event which may be included in the calendar please send the information to calendar@smdp.com or fax it to (310) 576 9913



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Actress Salma Hayek makes her directorial debut

By The Associated Press

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Actress Salma Hayek says she initially turned down the offer to direct the upcoming cable television movie "The Maldonado Miracle."

"I felt so honored, but I passed," she said. "Then I went to do 'Frida' and when I came back and I started reading scripts and I didn't like anything, I said 'I need to find something that I'm passionate about.'"

The film is Hayek's directorial debut.

"The Maldonado Miracle" is about the testing of a small town's faith when a statue of Jesus appears to be shedding tears of blood. It stars Ruben Blades, Peter Fonda and Mare Winningham.

"She's a born leader and you want to deliver for her," Winningham told the Television Critics Association last week. "She's very inspired and excitable and bossy and creative, and you want to make her dream come true."

Hayek also was executive producer for the movie, which airs Oct. 12 on Showtime.

■ **PHOENIXVILLE, Pa.** — The town where "The Blob" first made horror history is celebrating the movie monster that made it a star.

Several hundred people kicked off the Fourth Annual BlobFest weekend in the former steel town outside Philadelphia. Scores of screaming horror buffs burst from the Colonial Theatre late Friday in a re-enactment of the famous escape scene from the 1958 cult classic that starred Steve McQueen.

"Every year this event has taken on a life of its own," said Mary Foote, executive director of the Association for the Colonial Theatre. "I'm glad so many people came out for it."

People arrived for the re-enactment dressed in a variety of outfits, from 1950s garb to gorilla suits.

BlobFest weekend includes screenings of the movie, and a street festival with vintage cars, music, food, and enter-

tainment. A piece of the original Blob also was on display.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Ruben Blades has always moved easily between the worlds of music, acting and politics. Now the Grammy-winning singer, actor and one-time Panama presidential candidate plans to return to his native country to work as a lawyer.

"I'm just going to go serve my country instead of doing an album or doing a movie. Then I'm going to come back and probably be a musician again," Blades told the Television Critics Association last week.

Blades, who turns 55 on Wednesday, said he earned two law degrees before leaving Panama 30 years ago, but didn't want to be a lawyer under a military dictatorship. He also holds a master's degree in international law from Harvard.

He said he plans to work as a lawyer for five years.

Blades finished third in Panama's 1994 presidential election.

He won a world music album Grammy this year and appeared in the Robert Duvall film "Assassination Tango." He stars in the movie "The Maldonado Miracle."

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Hugh Hefner is gearing up to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his magazine Playboy.

And Hefner, 77, has no plans to retire any time soon.

"I'm the luckiest guy on the planet. What I'm doing keeps me young," he said. "I'll be doing it as long as I can. My mother lived to be 101 and was very vital when she passed away."

Hefner borrowed \$600 to launch Playboy in 1953 with Marilyn Monroe as the first pinup.

Fifty years later, the magazine has become an international success. A&E will broadcast a special marking the anniversary this fall.

"I was trying to give sex a good name," Hefner told the Television Critics Association summer gathering last week. "Because sex had always been both legally and socially and politically outside the boundaries of what

was acceptable in society."

"I tried to create a magazine and a lifestyle around it that incorporated sex as a natural, normal part of life, including recreational sex," he said.

Hefner said Playboy-brand merchandise is even sold at more than 300 stores in China, where the magazine is banned.

■ **NEW YORK** — The head of a private historical group says the government and NBC should have stopped a scantily clad Beyonce Knowles from dancing in a "patently inappropriate" way on the steps of the tomb of President Ulysses S. Grant.

Frank Scaturro, president of the Grant Monument Association, wrote letters Saturday to NBC, Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton and National Park Service director Fran Mainella over Beyonce's nationally televised July 4 performance.

Saying the former Destiny's Child singer used "lascivious choreography" and barely dressed backup dancers, Scaturro's letter to NBC complained: "At that location, a certain decorum should have been observed from which popular entertainers are not exempt."

Representatives of NBC and Knowles didn't return calls seeking comment Saturday. National Park Service spokesman David Barna declined to comment because officials hadn't yet read the letter.

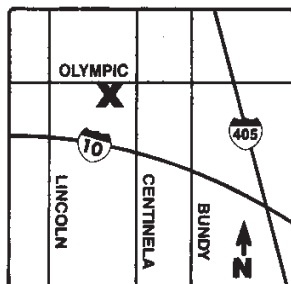
Ulysses Grant Dietz, the great-great-grandson of the Civil War hero and 18th president, said Saturday he didn't object as a rule to most live performances, as long as the tomb is carefully maintained. But he suggested organizers be more thoughtful.

"If they're doing a Fourth of July celebration and they're doing it at a grave of a president, maybe they should look a little more closely at what the performances are," Dietz said.

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