

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

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DAILY 3

Daytime: 1 3 4

Evening: 9 0 6

DAILY DERBY

1st: 08 Gorgeous George

2nd: 05 California Classic

3rd: 03 Hot Shot

RACE TIME: 1:40.18



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Kenny Borger survived a one-car crash in upstate New York on May 1, but his passenger was killed, and Borger decided to surreptitiously bring the body home to Hamilton, N.J., in the damaged car and then figure out what to do next. What he decided on was to commandeer a backhoe one night from a previous employer, scoop up the body, drive it about five miles out of town, dig a 13-foot-deep hole with the backhoe, and bury the body. He was later arrested and charged with tampering with evidence. Said Mercer County prosecutor Joseph Bocchini Jr., describing Borger's plan, "I couldn't make this stuff up."

TODAY IN HISTORY

FORTY YEARS AGO, on July 15, 1964, Sen. Barry M. Goldwater of Arizona was nominated for president by the Republican national convention in San Francisco.

■ **In 1606**, Dutch painter Rembrandt was born in Leiden, Netherlands.

■ **In 1916**, Boeing Company, originally known as Pacific Aero Products, was founded in Seattle.

■ **In 1948**, President Truman was nominated for another term of office by the Democratic national convention in Philadelphia.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It is astonishing what force, purity, and wisdom it requires for a human being to keep clear of falsehoods."

— MARGARET FULLER

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A year later, crash victims mourned



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Kariem McKnight is surrounded by co-workers Curly Holden and Steven Elam from Step Up on Second, and others on Wednesday during the memorial ceremony at the Farmers' Market. Leroy Lattier, a client at Step Up, was killed in the 2003 crash and Herb King, another client, was seriously injured.

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

THIRD STREET PROMENADE —

A small crowd gathered here Wednesday just before the Farmers' Market got underway, remembering those who lost their lives a year ago, and praying for victims still healing after being struck by a Santa Monica man who drove through the outdoor market.

To mark the one-year anniversary of what many describe as the most horrific day in Santa Monica history, clergy members held a re-consecration of the site where Russell Weller, 87, drove through the market, killing 10 people and injuring 63 on July 16, 2003.

Under the hot morning sun and amidst noises from the market's activity, a group of about two dozen people prayed, sang and recited words together in an effort to find closure and heal the wounds of the past year.

For Maria Martinez, whose sister-in-law Gloria Olivera Gonzalez was killed at the market, being there Wednesday didn't make grieving much easier.

"It's like reliving it all over again," she said, as her family gathered around her, many of them weeping.

As difficult as the memories and the losses are for the victims and their families, coming together brought resolution for many of them.

See MARKET, page 6

Public will get access to market accident report

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM COURTHOUSE — One year to the day after an elderly driver sped through a Farmers' Market and left 10 dead in downtown Santa Monica, key details from the ensuing police investigation will become public Friday, a judge ruled Wednesday.

Included in a 914-page accident report are statements made shortly after the crash by Russell Weller, 87, his wife and hundreds of witnesses, along with autopsy and vehicle inspection reports, and expert analysis and opinion of the fatal crash. Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Valerie Baker will decide today exactly how much of the report to release.

Judge Baker on Wednesday indicated nearly every detail ought to be made public, despite its possible effect on a pending criminal trial against Weller. She said she reached her decision after weighing First Amendment rights against Weller's right to a fair trial.

Lawyers in the criminal case have kept the report private since December, when it was completed by authorities and handed over to prosecutors. The Los Angeles

See REPORT, page 6

Police hone in on Pico neighborhood, arrest six

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

PICO NEIGHBORHOOD —

Santa Monica police in the past week have arrested six people here in four different incidents that range from marijuana and cocaine possession to loaded firearms, a drive-by shooting and identity theft.

The most recent arrests occurred Wednesday when two Santa Monica residents were charged with allegedly stealing the identities of more than 25 people.

Tonya Louise Jones, 21, and Joseph Antonio Young, 22, are accused of allegedly stealing victims' identities and making fraudulent

Police found in the residence — which is believed to be in a city-funded low-income housing apartment — an unknown amount of marijuana, a loaded firearm and an undisclosed amount of cash.

lent purchases over the telephone and computer, SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega said. The victims reside in Texas and it's unknown how much money was stolen from them.

"We will be working closely with the authorities in Texas as well as the credit card companies (to determine the amount),"

Fabrega said.

SMPD detectives and patrol officers served three search warrants at 7 a.m. in the 1900 block of 20th Street, the 2000 block of 20th Street and 1900 block of 18th Street. Computers and other evidence were seized at the residences, police said.

Jones' bail was set at \$200,000 and Young's bail was set at \$20,000.

Other arrests were as follows:

■ On July 11, police arrested 21-year-old Ashia Boldwar, who was arrested for alleged possession of marijuana for sale and possession of a loaded firearm.

Police served a search warrant in the 1800 block of 17th Street at 5:15 a.m. as part of a narcotics investigation. Police found in the residence — which is believed to be in a city-funded low-income housing apartment — an unknown amount of marijuana, a loaded firearm and an undisclosed

See ARRESTS, page 9

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Eddie Guerboian

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Choose a relaxing activity, Aquarius

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)**
★★★★ Finally you can relax and let others worry about this and that. You might find out something surprising about yourself. This particular insight might slow you down, but work with it. Can you work from home today? Tonight: Enjoy your pad.

 **TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
★★★★ You have what it takes to glide through the day. Ask questions and discuss what is on your mind with responsible associates. A friend or associate might surprise you with his or her opinion or response. Learn to flow. Tonight: At a favorite hangout.

 **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
★★★ Slow down and work with your budget. Unexpected developments at work in the near future might prove to be a wild card financially. Organize yourself, and you can only gain. Treat yourself to a new outfit or something you have been coveting. Tonight: Stay home.

 **CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
★★★★ The Moon in your sign makes you a champion, or at least a force to be dealt with. You illuminate any room you enter. Everything will flow if you don't hold on to rigid thinking. Your mind might be surprised by another's thought process. See the validity in his or her thinking. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy.

 **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
★★★ Be an observer rather than a player today. You will gain special information involving finances and a long-term obligation. What you see happening will help you ultimately make decisions. Try not to judge. Tonight: Go along with a loved one's surprise.

 **VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
★★★★ You get what you want no matter what goes on at work or within your relationships. People could be a bit out of kilter, but certainly not boring. Bring others together for a meeting. Try to instill more teamwork. Tonight: Where the gang is.

 **LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
★★★ Develop a different way of thinking or perhaps a shortcut involving work. You cannot be everywhere all at once. Your abilities to organize and delegate come into play. Accept a new technology or mechanical device that will make your life easier. Tonight: Out on the town.

 **SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
★★★★ Your ability to see past others' thought processes gives you the reputation of being insightful and creative. Your instincts carry you far. Plug in your imagination. Brainstorm and enjoy the ideas that come forth. Tonight: Go into weekend mode.

 **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
★★★★ A partner or associate demands your attention. If you want a project to work, do what he or she wants. You might re-organize your finances as a result. Be flexible and don't feel as if someone is trying to control you. Tonight: Togetherness works.

 **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
★★★★ Others seek you out, but you might not believe what you hear. Surprises surround you. You are learning that not everything works as it used to. Flex and enjoy the unpredictability, instead of getting stuck in rigid thinking. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

 **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
★★★★ Don't let your unpredictability affect your finances. Be careful with your choices. Go for a conservative approach for a change. Focus on work, and stay out of trouble. You'll ultimately be a lot happier. Tonight: Choose a relaxing activity.

 **PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
★★★★ You cannot help yourself; you are simply unpredictable at the moment. In fact, you often surprise even yourself. Add some of this spontaneity into your relationship and work. Others appreciate your creativity. Tonight: Get into the weekend spirit.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

The 'Green Machine' revs up today

By Daily Press staff

DOWNTOWN — City officials will gather this week to promote being green. The public is invited to join the local environmental and design community for the official ribbon cutting of the Green Building Resource Center at 2218 Main St. today at 4:30 p.m. Speakers at the grand opening include Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom; green architect Larry Scarpa; and Global Green USA President Matt Petersen.

The ceremony will be followed by an office warming for Global Green USA and a free raffle of green building products from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

A partnership between Global Green USA and the city of Santa Monica, the Green Building Resource Center is a community resource for sustainable design, city officials said. The center provides free design advice and information about environmentally friendly building strategies.

Among its free resources, the Green Building Resource Center offers:

- Displays of environmentally friendly building materials.
- Design advice for specific building projects.
- Recent publications about green building and "healthy homes."
- Technical information for design and construction professionals.
- Information about financial incentives and rebates for energy-conserving appliances and water-saving equipment.
- A directory of local design and construction professionals with green building expertise.
- Monthly educational workshops about green building topics.

Servicing homeowners, renters, property owners, design and building professionals, and those interested in innovative and environmentally conscious design, the Green Building Resource Center is a place for anyone planning a building, land-

See BRIEFS, page 9

'Venice' comes to the pier

By Daily Press staff

SM PIER — "Venice" and the Irish-influenced "Young Dubliners" will perform tonight at the pier as a part of the weekly Twilight Dance Series.

Concerts are held at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday through Sept. 2 on the Santa Monica Pier. Admission is free.

Since local group "Venice" was formed in the 1980s, its surf-scented harmonies and folk-pop sounds have earned the respect of many discerning critics. The band includes the cousins and brothers Kipp, Michael, Pat and Mark Lennon. It recently released "Spin Art."

After touring across Europe with Jethro Tull and performing for athletes and fans around the world at the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, the "Young

Dubliners" released their new album "Absolutely." The band is known for Celtic-influenced rhythm and features Keith Roberts, Bob Boulding, Bren Holmes, David Ingram and Chas Waltz.

Next week, the series features the bands "Les Yeux Noirs" and "Quetzal."

Pier officials strongly recommend walking, biking or riding the bus to the concerts, as parking is limited. A free shuttle is available from the 2030 Barnard Way lot south of the pier starting at 6 p.m. each Thursday.

For bus information call (310) 441-5444 or visit www.bigbluebus.com. For more information on the concerts, call the Santa Monica Pier information line at (310) 458-8900 or visit www.twilight-dance.org and www.santamonicapier.org.

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SURF REPORT

Thursday look for a mix of holding NW windswell and secondary S Southern Hemi. Northern LA County spots see knee- to waist-high zone waves. Average South Bay spots stay below waist-high with waist-high waves at NW/combo breaks in the north half of the bay. Expect some minor SSE swell to fill in the best tropical swell exposed breaks on Friday. 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:

70°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	10:37	1.8	N/A	N/A	5:25	3.2	5:33	5.2
SUNDAY	12:53	1.0	11:28	2.2	7:00	3.2	6:15	5.4
MONDAY	1:44	0.5	12:18	2.5	8:13	3.3	6:54	5.6
TUESDAY	2:26	0.1	1:04	2.7	9:06	3.4	7:30	5.8
WEDNESDAY	3:02	-0.2	1:44	2.7	9:45	3.5	8:05	5.9
THURSDAY	3:36	-0.4	2:21	2.7	10:18	3.6	8:39	6.0
FRIDAY	4:07	-0.5	2:56	2.6	10:48	3.7	9:13	6.1

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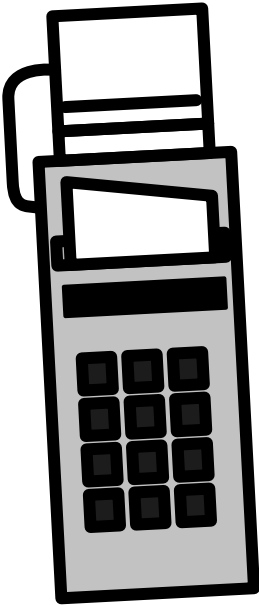
The QLine

More than a dozen new retail outlets, restaurants and other merchants are expected to open locations in downtown Santa Monica this summer, which officials hope will fuel the Third Street Promenade and its more dormant side streets with new life.

One objection often raised in recent years regarding the Promenade and its surrounding streets is the increasing presence large corporate chains have in this area. City Hall officials struggle to control the mix of merchants, but some say that it is uncertain where the balance of businesses should be. After all, the corporate chains are the ones that have — and often bring in — the money.

So this week, Q-line wants to know, "What mix of businesses would you like to see on the Promenade and its surrounding areas? Should all businesses have equal access or should City Hall closely regulate the balance of independent owners and corporate chains?"

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



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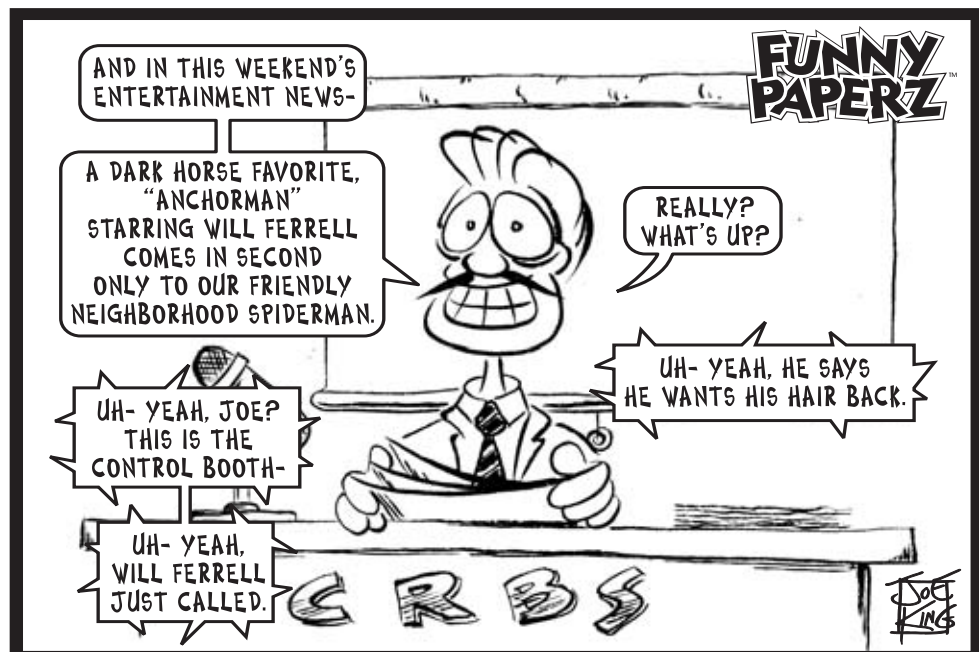
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OPINION



Officially NOT a member of the Hair Club For Men!

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Untruths about SMC

Editor:

About a week ago, I sent your paper a letter thanking Santa Monica College for the fireworks celebration.

After all, they provided this event free of charge, and I didn't see the harm in writing a letter to show my appreciation. Unfortunately, this Phil Hendricks character has once again written an opinion piece blaming SMC for only god knows what (SMDP, July 14, page 4). From his vantage point, you'd think SMC was being run by the Third Reich. I know some of the trustees and administrators, and understand that what Phil Hendricks says is not true. I feel sorry for those at the college who have to deal with him.

Jan Keller
Santa Monica

What have you done for SMC lately?

Editor:

Phil Hendricks' opinion piece was his usual rant, nothing new (SMDP, July 14, page 4). I have never seen one thing from Hendricks that made any sense. In fact, I've never seen anything he's written that's nice about SMC. So I guess that leaves me with one question for Phil: In addition to your whining about how "evil" the college is, what have you personally done to help the college?

David Saunders
Santa Monica

The clock has struck midnight

Editor:

Thank you for your in-depth farewell to a deeply missed Midnight Special (Past midnight: Local bookstore gone for good" by John Wood, SMDP, July 9, page 1). Strangely, it was on the same day Congress voted to maintain that heinous part of the "Patriot Act," which allows government invasion into our bookstore receipts and library slips. Perhaps the Midnight Special, which always shined a light on us, got out just in time.

Henry Rosenfeld
Santa Monica

Impeachment warranted

Editor:

Barney Thompson praises President Bush. (SMDP, July 12, page 4). He has that right, it is still a free country. Despite John Ashcroft. Sure we liberated Iraq. The Iraqis are so grateful, they kill us every day. But since mission is accomplished, it isn't a war anymore, so it doesn't count. People get killed in Detroit, and the rest of our cities. We should be doing something about that, instead of worrying about Iraq. If anyone believes Bush is doing a great job, vote for him. There are a lot of corporate big shots around who will do just that. But a lot of people will not vote for Bush this time. Just as what happened in 2000. As we all remember that one, Bush couldn't win fair and square, he had to steal the election. Channel 7 mentioned last night of Bush officials contemplating postponing the November elections in case of terrorist attack. This should be front page news. First, postpone an election you know you can't win legitimately. Even with some Republicans trying to help that idiot Nader get on the ballot. Then declare emergency, special powers, suspend rights, and so on.

We need a Congress who is willing to do its job, and start impeachment proceedings. We do not need another four years of this maniac.

Mike Kirwan
Venice

Oops, our bad ... War is officially a mistake

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



Where does the buck stop in the Bush administration? Not on the President's desk.

The Senate Intelligence Committee confirmed last Friday what all the world seemed to have already known — that the United States went to war with Iraq on the basis of flawed intelligence that was "overstated and not supported by the underlying evidence." Senator Pat Roberts (R-Kan.), chairman of the committee and a staunch Bush ally, admitted that Congress would probably not have authorized the war had it been given correct information. So about 1,000 Americans and some tens of thousands of Iraqis have gone to their violent and premature deaths because nobody with the power to make these life-and-death decisions took a close enough look at the facts? Hundreds of billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars have been squandered by unleashing the world's mightiest military upon what has turned out to be an unarmed nation on the basis of faulty information? Bush and his Senate committee stopped the buck at the CIA, and the director of that agency, George Tenet, did his loyal duty to the President and took the fall, resigning amidst the furor. In a further attempt to absolve Bush from any blame, the committee made it clear they "found no evidence that administration officials attempted to coerce, influence or press analysts to change their judgments," in presenting the bogus information that would justify war.

So if that's what their official party line is — that there was no arm-twisting by the administration to get the intelligence they wanted — then what we're left with might well be characterized as one of the biggest blunders in the history of mankind. It is incompetence to the most unimaginable degree. Mega-death and destruction handed out ... by mistake. Uh, sorry, guys, our bad. We'll try to make it up to you. Could there ever be a more compelling reason for a president to resign? Far, far from resigning, this president is convinced that his nation can somehow withstand four more years of such bad judgment, and is in full reelection mode, out in the heartland somehow reassuring his faithful minions that the security of America is best left in his blundering hands.

If it comes down to Florida again, at least this time all the convicts will be banned from voting, and not just the select list that Governor Jeb Bush put together in 2000. Florida election officials say this November they will use a more accurate and complete list of felons who are ineligible to participate, not the partial one they used in 2000, which conveniently failed to block thousands of Hispanic felons, allow-

ing them to vote their Republican loyalty, effectively handing the state's decisive electoral votes, and thus the presidency, to W, by the razor-thin margin of 537 votes. Of the nearly 48,000 felons prohibited from voting, only 61 were Hispanic. Sixty-one! Jeb promised the state to his brother and he delivered.

The current race for the presidency would appear to be a runaway for the challengers, given the documented incompetence and corruption of the current regime, but America is stubborn, and it appears another nail-biter is in the works. And once again, the specter of Ralph Nader looms as perhaps the decisive factor to turn the thing Bush's way. With Nader out of the race four years ago, Gore is in the White House today, running for reelection, and would the nation and the planet be better for it? You make the call. Well, Nader the crusader is back, apparently in the race for keeps, and certain to siphon thousands of idealistic votes away from the Kerry-Edwards ticket. His campaign is being financed in large part by right-wing groups, who know a good left-wing thing when they see one. Howard Dean, once the Democratic front-runner, tried to convince Nader to get out of Dodge in a debate last week on National Public Radio. "Ralph, you're being disingenuous," Dean scolded. "Forty-six percent of all the signatures to get you on the ballot turn out to be Republican supporters." Nader, no love lost for Democrats or Republicans, suggested he is in this thing to the end, firing back at Dean, "Howard, you were an insurgent who is now a detergent of the dirty linen of the Democratic Party."

Meanwhile, the Bush attacks on Kerry's Vietnam War record have subsided for the moment. He'd probably rather not talk Vietnam-era activity. Maybe it doesn't rise to the level of the infamous "18-minute gap" in the Nixon White House tapes during the Watergate scandal, but microfilm records of Bush's service in the Texas Air National Guard have been "inadvertently destroyed" recently, according to the Pentagon. The material included payroll records for the first quarter of 1969 and the third quarter of 1972, and could have documented his whereabouts at the time — the subject of much investigation — since few fellow guardsmen have come forward to confirm they ever saw the President on duty. Many contend he never attended requisite classes and training sessions, that he may have deftly avoided the commitment to the Guard that allowed him to avoid the war itself. Mysteriously enough, the records that may have cleared him "were among the records destroyed," said C.Y. Talbott of the Pentagon's Freedom of Information section. "Searches for back-up paper copies were unsuccessful." The incredible, disappearing microfilm must have just rolled over and swam away.

(Ron Scott Smith smells something fishy. Reach him at edgeofthewest@aol.com.)

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to 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.

OPINION

Wasn't Sen. Edwards the obvious choice?



HERE'S THE THING

BY LARA M. BROWN, Ph.D

On July 6, Democratic nominee John Kerry announced that Sen. John Edwards would be his running mate, to the delight of many in the Democratic Party. According to several media reports last week, Edwards was the right choice, even if according to the Bush campaign he was Kerry's second choice.

Why did it take Kerry so long — more than four months — to do the right thing? He wrapped up the nomination on Super Tuesday, March 2, the day California voted and the day word leaked out that Edwards, Kerry's last serious competition, would withdraw from the race.

Kerry took more time to choose his running mate than the voters took to choose him as the Democratic Nominee. Much more.

While some voters, especially those in Iowa and New Hampshire, have nearly an entire year to get to know the candidates running for their political party's presidential nomination, most voters in most states are fortunate if they have two or three weeks to assess the candidates.

And voters never have the benefit of professional investigators or a committee to help them vet the credentials of those running. Voters have to rely on the available media reports and the materials (advertisements and position papers) produced by the campaigns. They have to rely on their own judgments, assessing a candidate's likeability and electability. They have to try to anticipate how well a candidate's message will play against another message, in what states, and to whom.

In most elections, voters are asked to do something that candidates are never asked to do — make a rational decision with incomplete information and make that decision in a short period of time. Even when incumbents aren't sure of what they're voting on in Congress, they can be assured that someone in his or her political party has done the research and that his or her vote is not an "irrational" one, given where he or she stands on the issues. Voters never have such assurances.

In this past primary, most voters had less than a week to meet, see, review, and decide, which candidate they would cast their ballot for.

But if we, the voters, effectively decided that he, Kerry, should be the presidential nominee in less than eight weeks (the Iowa caucuses were held on Jan. 19), then why did it take Kerry four months to decide who should join him as his running mate?

Some would defend Kerry, saying that he had to take into account things like the background of the candidates, and whether or not his running mate would help him, hurt him, bring him votes in various regions, balance the ticket, appeal to certain constituencies, etc. Some

would say that this was Kerry's first opportunity to appear presidential — that it was important that he not rush to judgment, that he appear to be making his own choice, and that they are glad that he took his time.

I would argue that they're wrong. Kerry is a politician who simply needed to make a political decision.

HERE'S THE THING:

Decisiveness is presidential. Timeliness is presidential. Leadership that is unencumbered by a preoccupation with managing expectations is presidential.

Since March, the Kerry campaign and the 527 organizations supporting his candidacy have significantly outspent President Bush's campaign on television advertising. For Kerry to still be even with Bush or behind in some of the key swing state polls says that Kerry needed to do more during these past few months to convince voters that he could be President of the United States. Whether or not naming his running mate early would have helped Kerry is uncertain, but by not having done it, Kerry squandered a leadership opportunity that was his for the taking.

Kerry left himself open to attack with no "wingman" to defend him on the campaign trail, and far from looking deliberative he reinforced the perception that he was flip-flopping with all of the emphasis on the "veepstakes" guessing-games. Would he name McCain, Gephardt, Vilsack, Clark, Edwards, or perhaps, even Biden or Bayh? Why couldn't he make up his mind?

Presidents need to make decisions quickly. They're only in office four years. Most need to pick their entire cabinet in four months.

If Kerry had named Edwards by the first week of May, he would not only have sent a message to the Democratic base that he trusted them and their judgment (Edwards came in second in several of the primaries), but he also would have had another two months to broaden the appeal of the ticket to the swing voters in the swing states.

What was the use of frontloading the primaries if Kerry wasn't planning on using the time to promote the Democratic ticket?

(Lara M. Brown, Ph.D., is a visiting scholar at UCLA's Institute for Social Science Research and she served on Sen. John Edwards National Finance Council for his presidential campaign. She can be reached at larambrown@aol.com).

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LOCAL

Community remembers tragedy, moves forward

MARKET, from page 1

"For a long time, I didn't want to come to the market at all, and this kind of helped me get over it," said Kariem McKnight, who works at Step Up on Second, a transitional housing program for the mentally ill that's located on Second Street.

Step Up employees and clients had arrived shortly before 2 p.m., when the market was beginning to shut down. Step Up employees and clients regularly visit the market to buy and collect produce for their Fresh Start Cafe.

Leroy Lattier, a client at Step Up, was killed in the crash. Another client, Herb King, broke his hip when Weller ran into him with his 1992 Buick LeSabre.

"I have to put the baby to bed and stop being morbid about it," McKnight said as tears welled up in her eyes. As a result of the enormous medical and emergency response to the accident, McKnight is now pursuing a career as a physician's assistant.

There were many witnesses, including McKnight, who felt helpless but responded anyway.

"People on cue did what they what they had to," she said.

Another spontaneous helper was her co-worker, Steven Elam, a case manager at Step Up. He rushed to the aid of King, who was pinned under a table at the corner of Arizona Avenue and the Third Street Promenade.

"There was a lot of common folk who helped that day," he said. "I'll never forget."

And neither will Weller, a retired wholesale grocer who has lived in seclusion in his home north of Montana Avenue since the accident. He apparently lost control of his car after he rear-ended a Mercedes Benz at the intersection of Fourth Street and Arizona Avenue. Police say he hit the accelerator instead of the brake.

"I feel so bad for that man, he's been through enough," McKnight said.

It was business as usual at the market Wednesday, as shoppers packed Arizona Avenue under a baking midday sun. Signs commemorating the victims lay at the intersection of Arizona Avenue and the Promenade, where a few shoppers stopped to study the handwritten messages left for the victims and write their own. Most continued along the road, sampling fruits and vegetables from the stands and navigating through the heavy foot



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

The family of Gloria Olivera Gonzalez, who died in last year's farmers' market crash, mourn her death on Wednesday during the one-year anniversary ceremony of the fatal accident.

traffic.

Laura Avery, who manages the city's farmers' markets, said it seemed busier than most Wednesdays. And beyond the ceremony, not much was said about the tragedy.

"We're glad to be moving ahead," she said. "The first anniversary is hard but we all made it and we are still here."

The events of a year ago remained on vendors' minds.

"I'm still sketchy at the farmers' market when I hear cars accelerating," said Howard Gregory, 36. Gregory runs the olive stand at the market's east end, where Weller entered. "I didn't even look up until he was through the barricade. I remember hearing the noise and thinking that somebody needed to slow down. Then I look up and he's going through the market making soup."

"I went to bed hearing 'thump, thump' and waking up hearing it," he said. "It's

worn off now. I was really messed up psychologically those first few days. I felt really guilty that I (had seen) people dying, people up in the air, but I hadn't been hurt."

Fred Kosmo, a 68-year-old farmer from the San Luis Obispo area, helped lift Weller's car off of a body when it finally came to a stop on the west end of Arizona Avenue. On Wednesday, he publicly thanked all of the emergency personnel, police and vendors who helped clear the carnage from the street.

"They were very good, they got here quick," Kosmo said, adding he went home that night and had "two hellacious martinis" to take the edge off what he experienced that afternoon.

A DARK AFTERNOON

In a matter of seconds on July 16, 2003, downtown Santa Monica was trans-

formed into a dark, eerie and unrecognizable place.

Chaos reigned along Arizona Avenue as by-standers rushed to help the wounded, sirens blared the arrival of emergency personnel and hordes of news helicopters began a buzzing vigil in the skies above that would last until after nightfall.

Then, as the dead were covered and the depth of the tragedy started to sink in, the skies suddenly opened and a rare summer downpour added another layer of sorrow that seemed to magnify the pall of the afternoon.

All along Arizona, from Fourth Street where Weller first entered the bi-weekly farmer's market to west of Second Street where his battered car finally came to rest, was littered with debris. A mangled baby stroller lay near the car, while behind it stood a wide trough of destruction that included smashed fruit, crushed bouquets

See MARKET, page 7

Judge to issue final ruling on Farmers' Market report today

REPORT, from page 1

District Attorney's Office filed 10 counts of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence against Weller, who will stand trial this fall. In the meantime, Weller, a retired grocer who lives with his wife on 25th Street north of Montana Avenue, has remained secluded and is said to be in deteriorating health.

Mark Borenstein, one of Weller's defense lawyers, joined with Deputy District Attorney Ann Rundle on Wednesday to argue the report should be protected by a court order. Among their arguments were that Weller's statements likely wouldn't be admissible in trial, and releasing details about witnesses to the crash could make them targets of harassment.

"People observed a terrible accident, they didn't consent to an interview with the LA Times," said Borenstein, one of at least five lawyers working for Weller. "We all have a modicum of privacy and you don't lose that just because you witness something terrible."

Rundle said she had received calls on the issue from members of the public as recently as last week, and suggested witnesses may be subjected to the same type of harassment. Borenstein added the report was likely to be posted online.

"It'll be put on the Internet and people will have access to it, and there's no protection from that," he said. "Just because he's accused of a crime, and just because he's a defendant in a criminal trial ... doesn't give the world a right to see that."

In making her decision to release the controversial report, Judge Baker reflected upon a variety of high-profile cases, including major media lawsuits and criminal cases surrounding celebrities like O.J. Simpson and Charles Manson. Because LA is a large metropolis, Judge Baker said pre-trial publicity wouldn't make it impossible to find an impartial jury.

Though it's not a party to the ongoing lawsuits, The Los Angeles Times joined the courtroom proceedings last week, arguing the public deserves access to the report under the First Amendment. Judge Baker previously had indicated the report would remain sealed at least until after a preliminary criminal trial was held. Judge Baker reversed course last week, issuing a tentative ruling to make the entire report

public. She affirmed that ruling in her comments Wednesday, but reserved a final written order for today.

Weller's attorneys are likely to appeal. Though many portions of the report will become public Friday, several other controversial sections will be protected for several more days, to allow Weller's defense team to seek an injunction from an appellate court.

More than two dozen victims have filed civil lawsuits related to the Farmers' Market crash. Because Weller's assets will be quickly exhausted, the lawsuits also target a variety of other entities, including City Hall. Lawyers in the civil cases argue the city should have erected barriers to protect shoppers at the outdoor market on Arizona Avenue.

LOCAL



Eerie chaos reigned over city on July 16, 2003



MARKET, from page 6

of flowers, bloody gloves and towels, splintered wooden tables and green and white tents blasted askew.

A Red Cross helicopter swooped between buildings ferrying the most critically ill to area hospitals. Witnesses and onlookers near the makeshift triage area at Fourth and Arizona seemed to be moving in slow-motion while a hurricane of action swirled around them.

Members of the city's clergy were on scene too, blessing the wounded and administering last rites to the dead.

And in the days following, an outpouring of community support and unity filled the street.

Hundreds of donors lined up to give blood for the injured at a Red Cross Bloodmobile and mourners laid flowers and candles at a makeshift monument at the corner of the Promenade and Arizona Avenue.

Three days following the tragedy, an interfaith group of more than a dozen religious leaders led a procession from St. Augustine's By-the-Sea Church, on Fourth Street, to the intersection of Arizona Avenue and the Third Street Promenade. There, they consecrated the site with blessings and prayers.

A year later, some of the same clergy leaders returned for a reconsecration. During the ceremony on Wednesday, they said these words:

"... There are not two people who are struggling over this piece of land, this street, this market."

Instead there are two conflicting emotions.

One is the emotion of memorial and mourning.

Remembering what happened here one year ago,

we feel, somehow, that this place can never again be given over to the normal day-to-day.

How can we smile and laugh in this place — a place where many can still hear the echoes of pain, suffering and even death?

How can we go about living in a place where other lives were cut short? Do we insult those who died and were injured here when we come here and do not remember?

The other emotion that struggles to own this land is our very human passion for life, for the future.

We know that this future is filled with fragility,

fraught with danger, failure and disappointment.

But the future is also filled with possibilities for creativity, kindness, caring, insight, strength and love.

We do not come here and not remember.

We do not come here and forget.

We come here to live,

To taste the flavors of the marvelous produce,

To see the colors,

To smell the fragrance,

To enjoy the company of friends old and new."



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

(Top) Community leaders on Wednesday gather around an easel with the names of victims who died in last year's Farmers' Market tragedy. Clergy members re-consecrated the site where 10 people died and dozens of others were injured.

From left to right: David Shukiar and Neil Comess-Daniels from Beth Shir Sholom, and Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce Chairman Nat Trives.

(Bottom) A couple of Santa Monica community safety officers take time to buy vegetables at Wednesday's farmers' market, where it was business as usual on the one-year anniversary of what's been described as the city's most horrific tragedy.

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INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?

CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2!

Business

Your child's introduction to money management



IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

BY JOHN KIM

There is a lot of information out there about giving your children an allowance. While there are differences of opinion on how much you should give and whether you should base it on good grades or doing chores, most authorities agree giving an allowance is a great way to teach your children how to manage money responsibly.

So why give an allowance?

If you are a parent, you will probably agree that children spend a tremendous amount of money. Not only do they have more money to spend than previous generations, they develop spending patterns

at an earlier age.

What your children learn about money comes from the ideas, attitudes and spending habits they learn from you, their peers and in the media.

An allowance teaches your children money management skills because it allows them to manage their own money based on their own needs, wants and goals. Your children learn from their own mistakes at a time in their lives when the consequences are less serious. For instance, if they spend money they have earmarked for a weekend movie with friends, the greatest consequence they will face is that they may not be able to go to the movie. By contrast, if they squander funds earmarked for tuition or rent, they could end up out of school or moving back home, which can be a scary thought for most parents.

If you are considering an allowance for your children, here are a few things that

could help make the process go smoothly:

■ As soon as your children start asking about money and how things are bought and sold, they are ready to receive an allowance. Don't be surprised if your 3-year-old shows an interest. Buy a piggy bank and use this opportunity to teach your younger children about saving at the same time.

■ After discussing an amount — your 15-year-old should, of course, receive a larger allowance than your 7-year-old — and payment schedule with your family, put it in writing to avoid any confusion.

■ Be clear on the terms of the allowance, if any. If all parties have agreed to tie the allowance to household chores, describe the chores in detail, as well as any consequences of not performing those tasks.

■ By all means, help your children set up a spending and savings plan suggest

how the funds could be used more effectively. But, once you give your children an allowance, allow them to control how it will be spent.

■ And, pay on time (show them you can manage your money, too).

Children who learn good money management skills while they are young stand a better chance of becoming adults who can make sound financial decisions, avoid excessive debt, manage income and expenses to reach their financial goals. So give them an allowance.

(John S. Kim is a financial consultant with Smith Barney in Beverly Hills. Call (310) 205-4939 or visit www.fc.smithbarney.com/jkim. This article is based, in whole or in part, on information provided by the Consulting Group of Smith Barney. Smith Barney is a division of Citigroup Global Market Inc. Member SIPC).

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Children put in protective custody after Pico arrest

ARRESTS, from page 1

amount of cash.

Fabrega said two small children were found in the apartment. They were taken into protective custody and turned over to the Department of Child Social Services.

Boldwar has no bail because he's on felony probation for a weapons violation, Fabrega said.

Boldwar was arrested by SMPD last summer on a robbery warrant. He was one of several suspects police alleged was involved in a string of shootings that occurred in the neighborhood last May and June. It's unknown if he was convicted of any charges relating to the shootings.

■ Also on July 11, the surveillance team watching Boldwar's apartment noticed a vehicle driving in the area

of 17th Street that they believed a wanted person might have been in. Detectives radioed to patrol officers, who stopped the car in the 2000 block of Olympic Avenue.

Shortly after 5 a.m., officers arrested Desiree Wright, 45, and Terrance Brown, 24, for alleged possession of cocaine. The suspects agreed to have the car searched and police found the drugs inside. Both suspects' bail was set at \$10,000.

Brown also was arrested by SMPD last summer after detectives served a search warrant at his home. He was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon and outstanding warrants. SMPD recovered a firearm and about 100 bullets from Brown's home, authorities said. It's unknown whether Brown was convicted on those charges.

■ On July 7, police arrested Kendrick Dove, 21, for

alleged assault with a deadly weapon relating to a drive-by shooting that occurred on June 14 in the 1800 block of 17th Street. Two victims, who were walking down the street, were shot at by a suspect in a car, police said.

At 8:05 p.m., Dove was on foot in the 1900 block of Delaware Avenue when police found him. His bail was set at \$45,000.

Mexican avocados soon may dip into California; growers concerned

BY DAISY NGUYEN
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — California growers are bracing for a possible onslaught of Mexican Haas avocados that would end a 90-year ban on the import of the fruit to the state.

A pending proposal by the U.S. Department of Agriculture would allow Mexico to ship the bumpy-skinned fruit to all 50 states year-round.

Currently, Mexican growers can only export avocados for six months a year to 31 states. California is not among them.

Many California farmers fear the avocados could carry pests that threaten the state's \$358 million avocado industry and other produce.

"The fight for avocados is a fight for all agriculture," said Jerome Stehly, chairman of the California Avocado Commission. "If a Mexican avocado brings in a fruit fly, for example, it affects other crops and causes a quarantine."

Many growers also fear the increased competition but hope an expanded supply of avocados would boost consumption throughout the country.

Under the proposed new rules, Mexico could nearly triple the annual amount of avocados it sends to this country — from 38.5 million pounds to 141 million pounds, according to the USDA proposal.

California's 6,500 avocado growers have until July 23 to submit comments aimed at persuading the agency to delay the move for at least another year.

California now produces about 400 million pounds of avocados annually, making it the nation's leading grower. Most of the crop comes from Southern California, close to the Mexican border.

State farmers have been fiercely protective since the 1914 discovery of seed weevils in Mexican groves that

led the USDA to ban avocados from that country.

Since then, the Mexican government has repeatedly sought to regain access to U.S. markets. The ban was finally dropped in many states — despite strong opposition from California growers — in the mid-1990s, shortly after the North American Free Trade Agreement was reached.

Stehly said the discovery of Mexican fruit flies prompted a quarantine last year of his 1,500-acre citrus and avocado groves in Bonsall, about 50 miles north of San Diego. As a result, he lost about \$300,000.

"I grew up in farming and accept it as a risky venture," he said. "But you can't afford" repeated pest infestations and quarantines.

The USDA decided to push for full access to U.S. markets in response to a request by the Mexican government. The agency conducted a risk assessment that concluded "an overall low likelihood of pest introduction" into the United States.

It also cited a study that found the Haas avocado is not a natural host for the Mexican fruit fly.

"The USDA feels there's a sufficient safeguard to keep pests away from the fruits," said Larry Hawkins, a spokesman for the agency's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Those safeguards include inspections at Mexican orchards and packing facilities, and requirements that the fruit be moved in insect-proof containers.

The California Avocado Commission is not convinced the measures will work.

"It's one thing to have a series of safeguards and propose to ship it to New York or North Dakota where avocados aren't grown," said Tom Bellamore, senior vice president of the commission. "It's entirely different when you're bringing it here, where pests may thrive on our trees."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

scaping or development project, city officials said.

The resource center is open to the public Wednesday, Friday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Thursday from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, visit the Green Building Resource Center's Web site at www.globalgreen.org/gbrc or call (310) 452-7677. To sign up for the mailing list e-mail to gbrc@globalgreen.org.

Global Green USA, the United States affiliate of Green Cross International, fosters a global value shift toward a sustainable and secure world through education, advocacy, partnerships, and programs focused on the safe elimination of weapons of mass destruction, stemming climate change, reducing resource use, and preventing conflicts over fresh water. Acting as a catalyst, facilitator, and mediator, Global Green encourages collaborative approaches and cross cutting solutions to environmental challenges. For more information about Global Green USA, visit www.globalgreen.org, or call (310) 581-2700.

A meeting of the minds

By Daily Press staff

WEST LA — Screenwriters and movie aficionados are invited to meet the minds behind "Shrek" and "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl" at Westwood-LA Borders today. Ted Elliot and Terry Rossio will talk about everything from their approach to writing to their current projects such as the "Pirates" sequel.

The writers, who received an Oscar nomination for "Shrek," are also known for their work on "Aladdin" and "The Mask of Zorro." The event will last from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., with the last 30 minutes being reserved for a signing of DVDs that will be available for purchase at the store.

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NATIONAL

Meager contribution to Afghanistan causes concern

BY GEORGE GEDDA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — When NATO took command of the international peace-keeping force in Afghanistan last summer, there were high hopes for multiple pay-offs for the alliance.

An effective NATO performance could smooth over the American-European split caused by the Iraq war and, perhaps more importantly, create the security environment the Afghans urgently need to hold national elections.

Now, almost a year since NATO took on the task, there is widespread disillusionment with its performance, contributing to doubts about Afghanistan's future stability.

While accusing NATO of dithering, Bush administration officials say the allies still have time to help ensure a successful presidential election in October.

Parliamentary elections, due to have been held simultaneously, have been put off until spring.

John Hulsman, a European analyst at the Heritage Foundation, says halfhearted allied efforts in Afghanistan is deepening American suspicions about NATO's utility.

"Our interests are not the same. We have to stop pretending that they are," he says.

Officially, the alliance takes a different view. A communique issued at the NATO summit in Turkey two weeks ago said, "Contributing to peace and stability in Afghanistan is NATO's key priority."

"NATO's leadership of the U.N.-mandated International Security Assistance Force demonstrates the readiness of the North Atlantic Council to decide to launch operations to ensure our common security."

Charles Kupchan of the Council on Foreign Relations says NATO's commitment in Afghanistan has yielded little thus far.

While helping to stabilize Kabul, he says, "most of rest of country is the wild, wild west, including the south and east."

Bush administration officials say such comments fail to recognize that the deployment to Afghanistan is a bold departure for an alliance that had never ventured beyond Europe's borders.

At Istanbul, the allies committed themselves to increase troop levels from 6,500 to 10,000. Some of the new forces will be

stationed outside the country for use only in an emergency.

The NATO troops serve apart from the 20,000 U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan, which focus on tracking down remnants of al-Qaida and the deposed Taliban government, mostly in the border area with Pakistan.

These militant groups would benefit from any failure of democracy in Afghanistan to take root. Other anti-democratic forces also would profit, including the violent warlord-led militias that control much of the countryside.

The International Crisis Group, which offers analyses on a host of trouble spots, said in a June report on Afghanistan: "Security affects everything from elections to reconstruction to women's rights to drugs to the disarmament and demobilization of warlords."

Afghan President Hamid Karzai made warlord disarmament a top priority earlier this year but has made almost no headway.

At the Istanbul summit two weeks ago, Karzai implored the Europeans to take Afghanistan more seriously.

"Please hurry," he said. "Provide the

Afghan men and women with a chance to vote freely without fear, without coercion."

NATO has agreed to branch out beyond Kabul to the west and north of Afghanistan, setting up civilian-military teams designed to help the Karzai government extend its authority and to create a secure environment, among other goals.

NATO has had the authority to expand operations beyond Kabul since last October but the only such deployment has been the dispatch of a German unit to the northeastern city of Kunduz, considered a relatively safe area.

Germany, with 1,909 troops in Afghanistan, and Canada, with 1,576, are by far the most generous of the NATO contributors. France ranks next with 565. The remaining 23 NATO countries, plus 11 outside NATO, have pitched in about 2,500 combined.

To the extent that Afghanistan is short-changed, many Europeans say the situation would be less uncertain if the United States had redoubled its efforts there — and not depleted its resources on what they regard as a highly questionable war in Iraq.

Canadians told not to fear tighter U.S. border security

By The Associated Press

VICTORIA, British Columbia — Canadians shouldn't expect tighter security that would mean more delays on the U.S. border as the political season heats up in the United States, U.S. officials said.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently boosted its terrorism alert in advance of the Democrat and Republican party conventions and the

presidential election in November.

As of now, though, there should be no reason for longer delays at the border, Alfonso Martinez-Fonts, special assistant to Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, said Tuesday at the annual Pacific Northwest Economic Region summit.

"My feeling is there will just be a continued awareness of what is going on, inspections will continue as normal as whatever is the routine," Martinez-Fonts

said. "I don't see any change at the borders at this point."

U.S.-Canadian border security is "pretty good," he added in an interview.

"We are doing many, many things across our borders," Martinez-Fonts said. "We don't want to stop the commerce and the trade, and flow of people and tourism. We want to make sure that people continue to do what they do."

"We just want them to pay that little

extra special attention."

Jim Williams, another homeland security official, said border security would be tightened only if "there was a specific threat of some kind."

"We absolutely want people to come to the United States," Williams said. "We just want to make sure we can verify the good people versus the bad people. We just want to let the bad people know, 'If you try to come, we will stop you.'"

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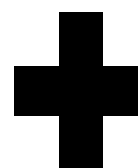
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Christina S. Porter
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NATIONAL

Republicans to keep pressing for gay marriage ban

BY DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The Senate dealt an election-year defeat Wednesday to a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, rejecting pleas from President Bush and fellow conservatives that the measure was needed to safeguard an institution that has flourished for thousands of years.

The vote was 48-50, 12 short of the 60 needed to keep the measure alive. Six Republicans joined dozens of Democrats in sealing the amendment's fate.

"I would argue that the future of our country hangs in the balance because the future of marriage hangs in the balance," said Sen. Rick Santorum, a leader in the fight to approve the measure. "Isn't that the ultimate homeland security, standing up and defending marriage?"

Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle said there was no "urgent need" to amend the Constitution. "Marriage is a sacred union between men and women. That is what the vast majority of Americans believe. It's what virtually all South Dakotans believe. It's what I believe."

"In South Dakota, we've never had a single same sex marriage and we won't have any," he said. "It's prohibited by South Dakota law as it is now in 38 other states. There is no confusion. There is no ambiguity."

Supporters conceded in advance they would fail to win the support needed to advance the measure, and vowed to renew their efforts.

"I don't think it's going away after this vote," Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., said Tuesday on the eve of the test vote. "I think the issue will remain alive," he added.

Whatever its future in Congress, there also were signs that supporters of the amendment intended to use it in the campaign already unfolding.

"The institution of marriage is under fire from extremist groups in Washington, politicians, even judges who have made it clear that they are willing to run over any state law defining marriage," Republican senatorial candidate John Thune says in a radio commercial airing in South Dakota. "They have done it in Massachusetts and they can do it here," adds Thune, who is challenging Daschle for his seat.

"Thune's ad suggests that some are using this amendment more to protect the Republican majority than to protect marriage," said Dan Pfeiffer, a spokesman for Daschle's campaign.

At issue was an amendment providing that marriage within the United States "shall consist only of a man and a woman."

A second sentence said that neither the federal nor any state constitution "shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman." Some critics argue that the effect of that provision would be to ban civil unions, and its inclusion in the amendment complicated efforts by GOP leaders to gain support from wavering Republicans.

Bush urged the Republican-controlled Congress last February to approve a constitutional amendment, saying it was needed to stop judges from changing the definition of the "most enduring human institution."

Bush's fall rival, Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, opposes the amendment, as does his vice presidential running mate, Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina. Both men skipped the vote.

In all, 45 Republicans and three Democrats voted to keep the measure alive. Six Republicans joined 43 Democrats and one independent in opposition.

The odds have never favored passage in the current Congress, in part because many Democrats oppose it, but

also because numerous conservatives are hesitant to overrule state prerogatives on the issue.

Republican strategists contend the issue could present a difficult political choice to Democrats, who could be pulled in one direction by polls showing that a majority of voters oppose gay marriage, and pulled in the other by homosexual voters and social liberals who support it. An Associated Press-Ipsos poll taken in March showed about four in 10 support a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, and half oppose it.

Democrats said that Bush and Republicans were using the issue to distract attention from the war in Iraq and the economy.

"The issue is not ripe. It is not needed. It's a waste of our time. We should be dealing with other issues," said Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee said a decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Court had thrust the matter upon the Senate. The ruling opened the way for same sex marriages in the state, and Frist predicted the impact would eventually be far broader.

"Same-sex marriage will be exported to all 50 states. The question is no longer whether the Constitution will be amended. The only question is who will amend it and how will it be amended," he added.

He said the choice was "activist judges" on the one hand and lawmakers on the other.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

With Elvis gone, Presley girls still in the limelight

By The Associated Press

■ **NEW YORK** — Life after Elvis is far from heart-break hotel for the Presley women.

In the August issue of *Vogue*, three generations of Presleys — Priscilla, her daughter, Lisa Marie, and Lisa Marie's daughter, Danielle Riley — candidly discuss their lives.

Lisa Marie, Elvis' daughter turned pop star, expressed relief that her teenage daughter, who uses her middle name, Riley, hadn't turned out like Paris Hilton.

In April 2003, Lisa Marie said similar things about Paris and her sister, Nicky, to the *Los Angeles Times*: "Those two are the epitome of what my mother raised me not to be. I don't know what they've done. Maybe it's the bleach that fascinates people."

Priscilla, the famed ex-wife of Elvis, isn't so quick to judge.

"Some celebrities' children have done very well, and some are still struggling," the 59-year-old tells the magazine. "It's a very difficult position to be in."

Riley, Lisa Marie's daughter from her marriage to Danny Keough, is just beginning a modeling career. The teen remains unfazed by the innate Presley fame. "My mom isn't famous to me. She's just my mom," she said.

■ **NEW YORK** — David Letterman's Worldwide Pants Inc. is producing its first film, an independent feature based on Comedy Central's cockeyed cautionary tale, "Strangers With Candy."

Amy Sedaris played a middle-aged dropout who returns to high school in the TV series, which ran from 1998-2000. The film also stars "Strangers With Candy" co-creators, writers and stars Steven Colbert and Paul Dinello.

The film, which has the working title, "Strangers

With Candy: The Movie," is being directed by Dinello.

■ **WELLINGTON, New Zealand** — First it was Middle-earth, now New Zealand is turning into Narnia.

Prime Minister Helen Clark has visited the set of upcoming film "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe," adapted from the second installment of C.S. Lewis' seven-book fantasy series, the *New Zealand Herald* newspaper reported Tuesday.

"Narnia," directed by New Zealander Andrew Adamson, whose previous films include "Shrek" and "Shrek 2," is another boost for the New Zealand movie industry, which is riding high on the box-office success of Peter Jackson's "Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

Clark watched the movie's young British stars playing a cricket match on the grounds of a house in the northern city of Auckland.

The newspaper named the actors as Georgie Henley, 9, of London, who plays the lead character, Lucy; Skandar Keynes, 12, who plays Edmund; Anna Popplewell, 15, who plays Susan; and William Moseley, 17, who plays the eldest brother, Peter.

Their names have been kept secret as filming has taken place at locations around Auckland during the past month. The movie is slated for a Christmas 2005 release.

■ **PRAGUE, Czech Republic** — Reacting to criticism from "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling and human rights groups, the Czech government ordered the removal of caged beds from psychiatric facilities.

"The minister ordered that all caged beds be removed immediately, and beds with nets by the end of the year," Aneta Kupkova, a Health Ministry spokeswoman, said

Tuesday.

The move came a day after President Vaclav Klaus received a letter from Rowling protesting the practice in the Czech Republic.

Critics have said the beds, fitted with cages or nets to contain difficult patients, are barbaric.

Amnesty International and the Council of Europe have protested repeatedly against their use, and Rowling's letter was the final straw prompting Health Care Minister Josef Kubinyi to act, Kupkova said.

■ **NEW ORLEANS** — Christopher Reeve and scores of actors are fighting New Orleans' soggy heat in different ways.

Reeve, directing a TV movie about a paralyzed girl's successful fight to return to school, has to spend as much time as possible in an air-conditioned trailer he calls his "Bat Cave," watching monitors.

"When you have a spinal cord injury, your thermoregulatory system goes totally haywire," he said.

The movie is based on the book "Miracles Happen: One Mother, One Daughter, One Journey," by Brooke Ellison and her mother, Jean Ellison.

Brooke Ellison, now a doctoral student in cognitive neuroscience, was 11 and heading to the first day of seventh grade in Long Island, N.Y., when a car hit her and broke her neck.

The screenplay has 60 speaking parts; Vanessa Marano plays Brooke at 11 and Lacey Chabert is the college-age Brooke. Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio plays her mother.

"We're working on a modest budget, couldn't afford to shoot in New York, and didn't want to take the product out of the country," Reeve said."

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