

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

FANTASY 5

6 14 15 19 24

DAILY LOTTO

Daytime: 6 4 1

Evening: 3 1 9

DAILY DERBY

1st: 03 Hot Shot

2nd: 07 Eureka

3rd: 06 Whirl Win

RACE TIME: 1:42.55



NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In May, the Columbus (Ohio) City Council approved a building permit for the Faith Christian Center ("On Fire for God") to construct a 52,000-square-foot commercial complex centered on an indoor skateboard park, and including a restaurant, arcade and pro shop, named Godz Xtreme Power Park.

■ A March Wall Street Journal story reported on the growing number of churches that have introduced services aimed at improving the lives, and chances for salvation, of parishioners' pets (at least in part under the belief that some former worshippers would return to church if it were more "relevant," such as by offering prayers for protection from fleas). In some places, clergy accompany parishioners to pet euthanizations, or hold "bark mitzvahs," or dispense Holy Communion to dogs.

TODAY IN HISTORY

ON JULY 21, 1925, what's called the "Monkey Trial" ended in Dayton, Tenn., with John T. Scopes convicted of violating state law for teaching Darwin's Theory of Evolution. (The conviction was later overturned.)

■ In 1831, Belgium became independent as Leopold I was proclaimed King of the Belgians.

■ In 1861, the first Battle of Bull Run was fought at Manassas, Va., resulting in a Confederate victory.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"This is the final test of a gentleman: His respect for those who can be of no possible service to him."

— WILLIAM LYON PHELPS
AMERICAN EDUCATOR

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\$3.50 a day 13-15

Shriver mulls throwing hat into ring

Kennedy descendent is among group of residents pushing to have controversial hedge law lifted

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

ADELAIDE DRIVE — Frustrated by City Hall's cumbersome dealings with residents, Bobby Shriver, a descendant of the Kennedy family and step-brother to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, is considering joining the race for a seat on the Santa Monica City Council.

Shriver, 50, has lived in Santa Monica for 27 years. The oldest of five children born to Sargent Shriver and Eunice Kennedy, Shriver is a lawyer, philanthropist and, as of late, a major force behind the push to lift a 56-year-old law restricting the heights of hedges.

Though he hasn't made a final decision on whether to add his name to the November ballot, Shriver said there are a number of local issues he has strong viewpoints on, including parking, security, education and City Hall's strained relationship with residents. Candidates have until Aug. 9 to turn in materials and qualify for the ballot.

"People are upset with the government," said Shriver, who canvassed two local neighborhoods last weekend, talking to residents and gathering signatures against

"People are upset with the government."

— BOBBY SHRIVER
Resident

the 1948 hedge law. "I don't have a platform yet because I'm not a candidate, but if I become one, I'll figure it out."

Asked for his opinion of the powerful Santa Monicans for Renters Rights group that's endorsed the majority of council members over the past two-plus decades, Shriver said he'd yet to gather any detailed analysis of the political climate, but added, "I spend my life working for poor people or disadvantaged people, so I certainly support anything for poor people or disadvantaged people. Certainly. And I think a lot of people in SMRR started out that way. Whether that's always the case, I don't know."

A lifelong Democrat who has

See SHRIVER, page 5



Nicky Five Aces/Special to the Daily Press

Proponents of a push to lift a 56-year-old law on the city's books restricting the height of hedges throughout Santa Monica are quick to point out that City Hall itself is often in violation. Some of the shrubbery outside City Hall, like the hedge pictured, stands as high as 7 feet tall.

Thirtysomething: Council race crowded

BY JOHN F. MULLER

Special to the Daily Press

CITY HALL — In a City Council race that is rapidly becoming one of the most hotly contested in recent memory, the field of potential candidates has grown to 30.

Since 18 candidates arrived at City Hall to take out nomination papers on the July 12 start date, another 13 have since thrown their hats in the ring, many expressing frustration with the councils of recent years and the Santa Monican's for Renters' Rights.

Robert Stern, the president of the Center for Governmental

Studies, said the influx of council hopefuls was a strong indicator of significant discontent in a community that feels something is at stake in elections.

"It generally means that a lot of people are wanting to serve because they are very unhappy with the government," he said. "But the problem is that you don't have a runoff... the SMRRs might have only a couple of candidates out of the 30, but the most well-known people are still going to win."

A number of political groups have emerged to challenge SMRR, however. The chamber of commerce will be endorsing candidates this year along with groups

of city employees and teachers.

Council hopeful David Cole, the seventh-highest vote-getter in the 2002 council race, said he and a group of Santa Monica residents would announce the formation of another group next week — one designed to fight for resident's rights. Cole said the group would allow voters to avoid the absolutisms of the renter interests and the business interests represented by SMRR and the chamber.

"I'm part of a rising tide of residents that want to restore rights to the residents of Santa Monica and focus only on what's important to the voters in this city — the residents," he said. "We've gotten

away from that in Santa Monica, especially in the last 10 years."

Other hopefuls like Kathryn J. Morea, Bill Bauer and Lorene "Leah" Mendelsohn withdrew papers out of frustrations similar to Cole's.

Morea has lived in Santa Monica for eight years and works as a database analyst. She said recent councils have mixed up their priorities and failed to focus on what's important — resident services like the school system, police and fire protection, and dealing with homeless and traffic problems.

"There are a lot of like-minded

See RACE, page 6

Jacquie Banks

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Togetherness works, 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)
★★★★ Although you're loaded with work, you go out of your way for others, and they react positively. Even though you might feel overloaded with chores, you do finish them. Change plans, if you must, to get as much work done as possible. Tonight: Take it easy.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Tap into your ingenuity, and you'll find many new ways of making money and/or enhancing a romantic relationship. A discussion, though serious, could take you in many different directions. You might need to adjust to a partnership. Tonight: Play the night away.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You seem to smile no matter what happens, as you come from a very secure place. You might be thinking about increasing the size of your home or sprucing it up. A boss could be difficult, but knowing you have solace at home helps you push through the day. Tonight: Buy a favorite treat on the way home.



CANCER (June 21-July 22) HHHH
★★★ You have the wherewithal to see what others don't. This perspective might make you a bit serious. New information continues to come out, which could keep opening up your mind. Flex with changes. Don't fight; rather, work with news. Tonight: Meet a friend at a favorite place.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Take your time before making a money commitment, as enticing as it might look. Play it cool and hold back. You won't do well risking right now. Play it conservatively, and you won't make a mistake. Do your research. Tonight: Don't break your piggy bank.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Accept a contrary family member or roommate (even possibly the cat). Everyone else remains highly responsive to your suggestions. What you want to achieve might be difficult, but you will get there. Don't lose hope. Tonight: Keep on smiling.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Listen to your inner voice when dealing with difficult bosses. You are letting go of a lot of problems that have been trailing you for the past 10 years. Be honest with yourself. Refuse to get into a power play. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Seek out others, knowing what you want. Working as a group proves more successful. Refuse to get your funds involved, as you might find that a commitment is an emptying well. Try to understand another's point of view. Don't close yourself off. Tonight: With the crowds.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Maintain high visibility, even though you might feel pressured by a partner or a certain public appearance. Remain confident. Don't turn yourself inside out about a problem. Don't be so critical. Tonight: In the limelight.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You have the ability to detach and take an overview if need be. Your ability to realize what is your "stuff" and what is someone else's could make all the difference. Others might be overly serious but helpful. Tonight: Relax your mind by escaping into music, a movie or a reverie of some sort.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ A partner's or associate's ideas take you down a new path of thinking. You might need to abandon a hope or wish that means a lot to you. A friend could disappoint you. Don't take on more than you can handle. Tonight: Togetherness works.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ When all's said and done, you could be rethinking a decision, though you might not be comfortable with what might be coming down. You find that a loved one could be unusually difficult, or a child could be touchy. Indulge others. Tonight: Follow the action.

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LOCAL



Helping to remove the word 'cancer' from English language

By Daily Press staff

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

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

The team event begins Saturday, July 24, at 9 a.m.

and runs continuously until 9 a.m. on Sunday, July 25.

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

Lisa Purkhiser

I am a 54-year-old professional woman, native Angelino, who lives in Hawthorne, works in El Segundo at Raytheon Co., and am the volunteer chair for the Santa Monica Relay for Life.

In a few days, I will be remembering the 10-year anniversary of my brother, Rex's final surrender to bone cancer. He was diagnosed with a rare bone disease about six months after he was born in 1951, and he endured more than 40 operations in his short life.

His diagnosis changed suddenly to bone cancer when he was in his late 30s — but it was OK — because it was the "slow growing" kind. He had always been cheerful, bright, talented, and funny but I suppose you can only fight for so long before you eventually give up. He had used crutches all his life but with every operation he became more and more dependent on them. First were his knees, ankles, then a hip, then the other. There was less and less Rex to haul around. I was able to stay at his house for the last week of his life. He chose to remain in his home with his wife, our mother, his many, many visiting friends, relatives and me. He was in a big hospital bed in the living room/dining room where we attempted to "act normally." Rex was given incredible amounts of morphine (he had been using it and others for several years) but still seemed to be in pain. It took my baby brother eight days to die. We prayed that he would be taken quickly. We prayed for forgiveness. We prayed to trade places with him but we had no power to influence God or Rex's disease. When he finally succumbed, we were all left with a tremendous void which had been filled with the wonderful man who had been my brother.

We were powerless when it came to reversing Rex's cancer. I read a lot about it after his death but it wasn't until my dear friend Linda was diagnosed with breast cancer — seven years later that I saw a chance to help — not only Linda but potentially millions of people who may be diagnosed with this horrific disease. Linda is a very strong individual with a positive attitude and had a lot of friends, and family, who rallied around in our attempt to help.

Not everyone is as strong as Linda, nor do most people have her dynamic support group. But she also was lucky in that her cancer was diagnosed early. Through the American Cancer Society there is hope. It maybe too late for my brother but I know that the money we raise for the Relay for Life will put us one step closer to a cure.

I am volunteering for the Santa Monica Relay for several reasons. Unlike other charitable activities I have been involved in, I found incredible self-less dedication, empathy and camaraderie the "Relay people" exhibited so very inspiring.

The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life donates an amazing amount of the proceeds to research and education. The percentage is practically unheard of. I believe it is because the minute you start talking "cancer" people are connected. Who doesn't have a friend or loved one touched by cancer?

This will be my second Relay for Life in Santa Monica with my fantastic friends and our "Fighting (Against Cancer) Flamingos!" Our team raised \$5,000 last year and figured with a team twice as big, we should be able to raise \$10,000.

See RELAY FOR LIFE, page 5



Lisa Purkhiser



SURF REPORT

The low tide in the morning made things dumpy and powerful here in the heart of the bay. On Wednesday, it still will be walled out at most of the beach breaks, but expect knee- to waist-high waves, and bigger sets. More tide helps.

Today the water is:

67°

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

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	4:38	-0.5	3:31	2.6	11:17	3.8	9:46	6.1
SUNDAY	5:08	-0.5	4:07	2.6	11:46	3.8	10:19	6.0
MONDAY	5:38	-0.4	4:46	2.5	12:16	3.9	10:52	5.8
TUESDAY	6:08	-0.2	5:30	2.5	12:48	4.0	11:28	5.4
WEDNESDAY	6:38	0.1	6:23	2.5	N/A	N/A	1:21	4.2
THURSDAY	7:09	0.5	7:28	2.4	12:09	4.9	1:56	4.4
FRIDAY	7:42	1.0	8:50	2.2	1:00	4.3	2:36	4.6

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The QLine

Los Angeles County health officials recently posted warnings at area parks that West Nile Virus could be in the area.

Officials recommend residents avoid spending time outside during dawn or dusk, drain any puddles of water where mosquitos gather, and wear bug repellent, shoes, pants and long sleeves when mosquitos are most active.

Though the sometimes-fatal disease hasn't been detected in Santa Monica, it is moving westward, and officials expect it will infect all

areas of LA County by the end of the year. There have been no reported deaths in California.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "How concerned are you about West Nile Virus? What steps, if any, should the city take to protect residents?"

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 to think first about the wording of your response.

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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Disclosure, please

Editor:

Why did LeRoy Lauer (SMDP, July 20, page 6) fail to mention that he's on the executive board of the union that Phil Hendricks is president of?

David Saunders
Santa Monica

SMC needs to raise the bar

Editor:

In SMRR's (Santa Monica for Renters Rights) July 2004 newsletter Margaret Quinones, chair of the SMC Board of Trustees, and the sole incumbent trustee running for reelection, characterized Santa Monica College's recent accreditation evaluation report thusly:

"And just to brag a bit, we've just completed accreditation, and have been commended as 'outstanding' due to a great faculty and a strong institution."

But the accreditation team responsible for issuing the accreditation evaluation report produced a document quite at odds with Quinones facile assessment. While agreeing that SMC is a strong institution with a great faculty and staff and student body, the accreditation team, a peer review group composed of administrators and academics, did not see the college's present situation as "outstanding."

The accreditation evaluation report pointed to an organization in a highly precarious state due to substantial loss of student enrollment; dysfunctional governance; deficiencies in its structural organization; diminished student services; multi-year operating deficits; inaccurate and untimely financial data; understaffing in critical student service areas; inadequate decision-making process; low morale; a lack of tracking data in regard to student use of service centers; a rising number of disciplinary cases; little or no coordination between human resources, physical resources, student learning, and institutional planning; inadequate assessment of student learning outcomes; disregard for the principles of shared governance; a propensity for making capital acquisitions without factoring in total cost of ownership; a general lack of interdepartmental functional integration; among other problems.

The accreditation evaluation report in its entirety can be found on the college's Web site, www.smc.edu/policies/MasterPlans/Accreditation_2004.htm.

All California community colleges must be reaccredited through the Western Association for Schools and Colleges every six years. The 12-member accreditation team has the college prepare a comprehensive self-study according to a prescribed format. After the self-study is submitted to them, the team visits the college and meets with the board, the administration/management, faculty, support staff, and students; attends regularly scheduled committee meetings; and walks around the campus. The team also examines documents related to the college's finances, policies, planning procedures, technology, academic and vocational educational achievement, curriculum, student services and shared governance.

While no community college in California has ever failed to be accredited, in an unprecedented occurrence for SMC, the accreditation team directed the college to submit a progress report on a list of critical recommendations listed in the accreditation evaluation report by March 2005.

How does a college that retains a veteran superintendent and employs a relatively high number of well paid administrator/managers find itself in the position of having such a plethora of problems, many of which have developed and been exacerbated since the last accreditation report in 1998?

Much of what was exposed in the accreditation evaluation report was already known to the administration and board of trustees through surveys, formal group dialogues, and formal reports from classified support staff, faculty, and more recently, students. So ignorance is not the explanation.

Put simply, the college suffers from a well known and well documented phenomenon of social psychology, termed diffusion of responsibility. It is an observable fact that when more managers are involved in getting things done, each manager assumes that the others are taking action and so each manager tends to be less proactive. By consciously growing the managerial/administrative segment of the college's employment base to twice the state average ratio per employee, the board of trustees effectively ensured that each administrator/manager's personal responsibility was diluted.

Compounding the problem of diffusion of responsibility is the lack of accountability for administrators and managers. The accreditation evaluation report states that "classified managers are evaluated on inconsistent basis" and provides no specifics on the president's process of evaluating administrators or the board's process for evaluating the president.

If the managers at SMC are not being held accountable by the administration and the administration is not being held accountable by the board, then it is up to the Santa Monica/Malibu community to hold the board accountable for the deteriorated condition the college finds itself in. In November, the voters of Santa Monica/Malibu have the opportunity to place three new members on the board of trustees of Santa Monica College. The future viability of the college as a community asset is at stake.

Roseanne Barr once defined her notion of competent motherhood: "The way I look at it, if the kids are still alive at the end of the day, I've done my job."

The hierarchy at SMC seems to have adopted this minimalist approach to defining organizational success. True, the place hasn't burned to the ground and no one has been led away in handcuffs. Still, that's a not very high bar for gauging the effectiveness of the college's ruling elite.

Phil Hendricks
President, CSEA Ch.36, Santa Monica College
Carl Gettleman
President, Classified Senate, Santa Monica College

'Mind' over matter: Buck stops with Bush



INCITES

BY ED SILVERSTEIN

The Senate intelligence committee released a 500-page report last week that detailed how the CIA and other intelligence agencies failed to recruit spies in Iraq, relied on questionable sources, ignored all contrary evidence and made hasty assumptions about Iraqi WMDs. Republicans and Democrats were unanimous in terming it one of the worst intelligence failures in our history.

The bipartisan love fest, however, came to shrieking halt when it came to the question of whether President Bush and members of his administration pressured these agencies to provide analysis that supported their desire to go to war.

Republican Sen. Pat Roberts, the chairman of the committee, claims that there was no White House pressure, which was the official position of the committee. Sen. Jay Rockefeller, the ranking Democrat, strongly disagrees. Rockefeller asserts that the Republican-controlled committee created a definition for what constituted pressure that was so narrow that only requests to change information directly from the White House would have qualified.

Of course there's ample evidence that the Bush administration exaggerated the flawed intelligence to make it sound far more ominous. And it is also likely that the president exerted intense pressure on the CIA to find or create a connection between Iraq and al Qaeda. But, thanks to Pat Roberts, an ardent Bush supporter, committee findings on these issues will be delayed until after the election.

But as to the question of whether the White House exerted undo influence on intelligence pertaining to Iraq's WMD program and by extension, plunged the United States into an increasingly untenable war, one need only explore Bush's past record.

Franklin Foer, in his article for The New Republic, "Closing of the Presidential Mind," makes a convincing case that the entire administration is distrustful and contemptuous of experts. They have made a practice of bullying or, that failing, eschewing the advice of any who refuse to kowtow to their ideological dogma.

One example forwarded by Foer were the order to the EPA not to undertake normal scientific and economic studies on the effects of mercury emissions when the administration wanted to loosen restrictions and the editing of EPA reports on the environment and global warming that was so extensive that the EPA refused to release them. And when the FDA's scientific panel explored 40 studies and 15,000 pages of data arriving at an overwhelming recommendation that morning after pills should be sold over the counter, they were perfunctorily overruled. And the findings of six scientists hired by the National Marine Fisheries, who decied the health of West Coast fisheries were just eliminated from the final report.

Another blatant example of manipulation are the Bushes' penchant of sending analysts back to the drawing board when

they present a report that doesn't reflect the administration's preconceived (and I use this word loosely) thinking. Such was the case when terrorism expert, Richard Clark, reported to President Bush that there was no connection between Iraq and al Qaeda or 9/11. And Bob Woodward's book, "Plan Of Attack," details how Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld rejected war plan after war plan until General Tommy Franks finally presented a plan that called for far fewer troops — a pet theory of Rumsfeld's and one of the main contributing factors leading to our current quagmire in Iraq.

And when George Tenet's CIA wasn't providing analysis to the administration's liking, including warnings about putting too much faith in the Neocon's then golden haired boy, Ahmed Chalabi, Rumsfeld created a more responsive shadow intelligence agency in the Pentagon to pressure Tenet to fall into line. And according to the LA Times, at the request of the administration, former CIA Director R. James Woolsey — a consultant with great influence with the agency — set up the Committee for the Liberation of Iraq, an organization set up to advocate war.

An even more egregious example of Bush administration coercion and intimidation, involves the threat or actual firing anyone who does anything to compromise the administrations agenda. This was the case when Medicare Chief, Thomas Scully, threatened to fire a cost analyst if he told Congress the true price of the Medicare prescription plan. Bush also removed members of his bio-ethics panel because they did not adhere to his religious based views and fired members of the U.S. Forest Service because they disagreed with his policies that they felt threatened the health of national forests. The head of the U.S. Parks Department was fired when she warned that staff cuts had left the park open to criminal activity.

Bush also forced the resignation of one of his few honest brokers, Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, for not embracing his destructive economic policies. When O'Neill fought back with a book, the Bush mafia launched one of their signature media blitz/character assassinations. Richard Clarke met the same fate. And when former Ambassador Wilson discredited Bush's State of The Union claim that Iraq was trying to obtain yellowcake uranium from Nigeria, a top Bush official outted Wilson's wife, an undercover CIA operative, thus endangering her life and those of any spies she had recruited.

And, while it seems that none of these incidents constitute pressure under the partisan guidelines of the Senate Intelligence Committee, the message from the Bush administration couldn't be clearer: Disagree with the president and you'll derail your career, be discredited, fired and your family might be killed.

That is not to say that the CIA and other intelligence agencies don't deserve the lion's share of blame for this failure. They do. But anyone who claims that the White House did not pressure intelligence agencies to hype Iraq's WMD programs, was likely pressured by the administration to say so.

(Ed Silverstein is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. Requests for copies of this column or comments may be sent to: incites@incites.net)

LOCAL



Shriver hedges whether to run for seat on Council

SHRIVER, from page 1

raised billions of dollars with U2's Bono for third-world debt relief and the AIDS epidemic in Africa, Shriver has larger-than-life role models. His mother started the Special Olympics. His father started the Peace Corps. His younger sister Maria, a broadcast journalist, is now the first lady of California.

City Councilman Herb Katz, an independent backed by Shriver, said he hoped Shriver would join the already crowded race, which now includes 30 contenders.

"It'd be great," Katz said. "He's thinking seriously about it. Whether he'd do it or not, I don't know. But he's thinking seriously about it. It's time we got off this micro management and this proactive (agenda), which we've taken to the extreme."

TANGLED ROOTS

Shriver, who lives with his wife and stepdaughter on Adelaide Drive in north Santa Monica, grabbed local and national headlines for his leading role in the battle between a group of residents and City Hall over a 1948 hedge law. Code compliance officers this spring cited more than 100 properties for having hedges deemed to be too high, regardless of whether or not anyone had complained.

By law, front hedges can stand no taller than 42 inches, while side and back yard hedges are to be kept at eight feet or below. Supporters of the law cite safety reasons and say high hedges turn neighborhoods into collections of "walled fortresses." Opponents cite privacy and property rights, and say owners should be left to decide.

Last month, the City Council heard from 45 members of the public, many from wealthy streets north of Montana Avenue, or from the pedestrian-only streets off Ocean Avenue. Council members decided to suspend enforcement of the law, except in cases where safety was an immediate concern. They put off making a final decision on the matter until later this fall.

"It's a complicated issue," City Councilman Ken Genser said Tuesday. Genser would like to see a moratorium on new hedges, but a grandfather clause for

existing hedges. Other council members think hedges should be left alone unless someone complains. Still others have more complex ideas. Most seemed to agree the front hedge limit should be kept at 42 inches, but disagreed over how high side and back yard hedges should be allowed to grow.

The issue caused a big stir within the community, largely because the citations carried the threat of fines of up to \$25,000 a day, with a maximum of \$500,000. Actual fines are lower, but officials said the high fines were more likely to prompt action.

A GROWING CONCERN

Last weekend, a group of about 10 pro-hedge residents canvassed the streets north of Montana Avenue and south of Wilshire Boulevard, and in the neighborhoods of Sunset Park and Ocean Park.

Shriver said more than 700 residents signed a petition that read, "In an effort to preserve the quality of life for all Santa Monicans: to maintain our beautiful greenery and enhance security and privacy, we, the undersigned, support residents' freedom to choose the height of their front, side and back hedges and fences. We, therefore, ask the City of Santa Monica, with its long-standing tradition of fostering diversity and personal freedom, to update the related 1948 ordinance to reflect those values."

Shriver is expected to discuss the matter today with Suzanne Frick, City Hall's planning director. He said the group will continue canvassing neighborhoods this weekend, and plans to question each contender for a City Council seat on the issue.

"The current law is unreasonable," Shriver said. "It needs to be studied, needs to be updated — and we need to know where candidates stand on that."

"When I went out, people said they didn't believe me," added Shriver, referring to reports that investigators were dispatched from City Hall in the early morning to photograph hedges. "Then I showed them the photos with the time stamp on the bottom and they'd just shake their heads. The council needs to know that. People just shake their heads when they hear what's going on."

A Life-affirming race

RELAY FOR LIFE, from page 3

As the volunteer coordinator for the Relay, I need volunteers to help wherever they are needed. Each of the committee members has a need for volunteers and some of the activities are even fun. Want to help with Kids Camp? Are you a member of a group that wants to "give back" to the community? Do you just want to help? Then give me a call at (310) 676-3760 and we will match you up with a memorable activity.

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

Teams are made up of at least 10 to 20 people who will walk or run around the

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

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

For more information, contact the SMRFL Committee at (310) 348-0356.

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9:15 Giant
10:15 Almost Gone
11:15 Nothing Comes True

THURSDAY JULY 22

10:30 Bugs
11:30 Anni Rossi

FRIDAY JULY 23

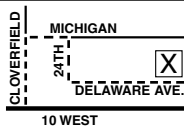
12:00 Hellride featuring Stephen Perkins -
Janes Addiction, Mike Watt-The Minute Men &
firehose & Peter Dinklage-Porno for Pyros

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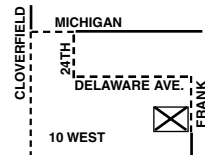
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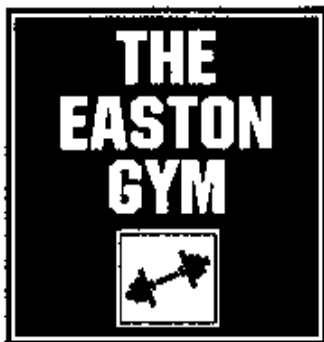


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LOCAL

Break on through



Michael Tittinger/Daily Press

A late-model Jaguar smashed through a retaining wall in the parking lot of the Bank of America branch at Wilshire Boulevard and 15th Street on Monday afternoon. The cinderblock wall, separating the bank lot from an apartment building, was repaired on Tuesday. No one was injured.

Election: 30's a crowd

RACE, from page 1

people out there, but we have not been able to organize past the SMRR machine," she said. "SMRR stands for what they are and that's fine, but there needs to be something else. In America, we have a two-party system, and (the two parties) balance out. In Santa Monica, we don't have that, and I think we need to have that. The people deserve that for democracy."

A Santa Monica renter of 33 years, Bauer works in advertising. Bauer has since suspended his column for the Daily Press. He characterized the city policies of recent years as inept, especially with regard to the issues of homelessness, traffic and parking.

"I think the powers that be are running a noble social experiment that has been a complete failure and has cost the citizens of this city dearly," he said.

Mendelsohn is part of a group of residents that have mobilized to get the city to change its 1948 ordinance limiting the height of hedges. A non-practicing attorney, Mendelsohn said the hedge issue is a symptom of the larger failure on the part of a local government that has ignored the basic freedoms and property rights of its citizens.

Among those also pulling papers were computer consultant Brian Andrus, businessman Stephen Silberkraus, engineer Mike Smith and architect Jeffrey Weinstein. Each said they decided to run

because of their discontent with an unresponsive council.

As expected, incumbents Michael Feinstein and Ken Genser also drew papers along with Maria Loya, the treasurer of the Pico Neighborhood

See RACE, page 7

The great race ...

Residents who pulled papers to run for City Council on July 12, 2004:

Chuck Allord
Linda Armstrong
Richard Bloom
Matt Dinolfo
Beverly Donaloff
Susan Fraser
Don Gray
Patricia Hoffman
Herb Katz
Jonathan Mann
Joseph D. Paolucci
Scott Reiter
Jerry Peace Activist Rubin
Rabbi Erwin Ruch
Jennie Scheer
*Pro Se
Peter Tigler
Tom Viscount

* (Pro Se, who pulled papers for himself, Donaloff, Ruch and Scheer, has since dropped from the race.)



Underway at the Bay: Wetlands restoration begins

BY TERENCE CHEA

Associated Press Writer

SUNNYVALE — One of the nation's most ambitious environmental projects got underway Monday when state and federal wildlife officials released thousands of gallons of brackish water from salt ponds they will convert to tidal marsh along the southern fringe of San Francisco Bay.

The project, which could take more than 30 years, aims to restore habitat for endangered species and migratory birds, improve flood control and create recreational areas in 15,100 acres of former industrial salt ponds.

"This is one of the most dynamic, complicated restoration projects in the country and in the world," Steve Thompson, who oversees California and Nevada for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said just before he helped open three pipes that let the pond water gush into the bay.

The South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project is the biggest effort to restore wetlands since the Florida Everglades and the largest ever undertaken on the West Coast. It's part of an even more ambitious goal: the restoration of 100,000 acres of bay wetlands that were diked and filled to

accommodate a growing population in the decades after the Gold Rush.

In a deal brokered by Sen. Dianne Feinstein last year, the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service joined several private foundations to purchase 16,500 acres of salt ponds for \$100 million from Cargill Salt on Minneapolis. About 15,100 acres — an area 15 times the size of Golden Gate Park — ring the southern edge of San Francisco Bay, while the remaining 1,400 acres sits along the Napa River.

Cargill still owns 11,000 acres of salt ponds along the East Bay. The state Department of Fish and Game already purchased 9,000 acres of Cargill ponds north of San Francisco Bay, where the restoration process is underway.

Built about 60 years ago, the ponds were filled with the bay's brackish water, which evaporated and left behind salt that companies could sell for use in food, medicine and other products.

Before the areas can be restored to tidal marsh, wildlife officials must open them up and allow bay water to circulate through, stopping the production of salt. At high tide, bay water flows in through one set of pipes, while pond water flows

out through a second set of pipes at low tide.

Five ponds totaling 1,350 acres bordering Sunnyvale and Mountain View were opened Monday, and another 2,650 acres will be breached later this month. Other ponds with higher salinity levels will be opened in coming years.

Wildlife officials expect to see new species of birds, fish, invertebrates and plants move into the newly opened ponds.

The salt pond restoration marks a historic reversal for San Francisco Bay, a major stopping point for migratory birds. More than 80 percent of its original tidal marshes have been lost to farming, salt extraction and urban sprawl.

"A lot of people used to think wetlands were just wastelands," said Marge Kolar, manager of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge for U.S. Fish and Wildlife. "They used to think they were just foul-smelling, difficult to walk through and mosquito growing."

But in recent years, environmentalists have campaigned to protect and restore wetlands, which provide critical wildlife habitat, filter pollutants and protect land from flooding. In this case, a coalition of government agencies and citizens groups joined environmentalists to craft an

unfolding plan to convert the salt ponds into a mixture of tidal marsh, mudflats and other wetlands habitat.

Some ponds will be preserved to accommodate species that have settled into the high-salinity environment, and project organizers don't expect to take down the levees that contain the ponds for many years. They first need to study the potential impact on wildlife, contamination and the surrounding land, which has sunk below sea level over the past century.

"The No. 1 problem is flood control," said Steven Ritchie, who is managing the project for the California Coastal Conservancy. "We've moved too many people too close. We can't just let 'er rip because there's too great a risk of flooding for people who live right by the ponds."

As wetlands are restored, endangered species such as the salt marsh harvest mouse and California clapper rail are expected to move into the area in larger numbers.

"Wetlands are the lifeblood of the bay," said Grant Davis, executive director of the Bay Institute, an environmental group. "A healthy bay is critical to this region and the state of California."

Power struggle includes adversaries for SMRR

RACE, from page 6

Association and an active member of the Mothers for Justice. The three will seek the SMRR endorsement, along with incumbent Richard Bloom and Patricia Hoffman, a former school board member. Loya and Hoffman will only run with SMRR endorsement.

"My priority is to address the issue of the lack of affordable housing in Santa Monica, to protect tenant rights, and to support accountable development in Santa Monica, as well as support small businesses," Loya said. "I also feel that it's important that we continue to create

mechanisms to engage the community as a whole in the difficult decisions that are going to impact the future of Santa Monica. I want to work to create those mechanisms and to create the bridge between the community and the decision makers in the city."

Lawyer Michael McKernan also took out papers last week, but expressed strong doubts that he would actually run. Daniel Cody rounds out the 13 hopefuls that withdrew papers after last Monday. He could not be reached for comment.

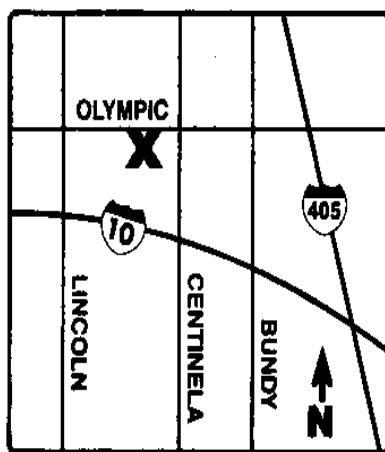
Of the 18 hopefuls who initially withdrew papers July 12, Pro Se told the City Clerk's office he will withdraw from the race.

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Real Estate

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DAYS ON THE MARKET

BY JODI SUMMERS

(Editor's note: This is the second installment in a series about the historically-landmarked properties in Santa Monica).

In 1973, the Santa Monica Pier was slated for demolition. A group of residents called "Save the Santa Monica Bay" convinced the City Council that the pier was an important piece of local history worthy of preservation. The council then created the "Historic Site Committee" to develop standards and procedures for historic preservation. This led to the Santa Monica Historic Preservation Ordinance of 1976 and grew into the Landmarks Commission. We continue on our tour of landmarked properties, this week north of Wilshire Boulevard, near the beach.

■ Marion Davis Estate, north guest house, 1929
321 Palisades Beach Road (a.k.a. 415 PCH)

William Randolph Hearst might have been the first media mogul of the 20th Century. In his day, Hearst owned 28 major newspapers and 18 magazines, as well as radio stations and movie companies. One of the richest men in America, in the 1920s Hearst built San Simeon Castle. The architect was Julia Morgan, the first noted female architect in California. Morgan also designed this Santa Monica beach house that Hearst built for movie star Marion Davies. In 1956, all but this north guest house was demolished. It is now owned by the city.

■ Henry Weyse/Charles Morris house, 1910
401 Ocean Ave.

Architect Robert Farquhar has done many prestigious buildings in the Los Angeles area, including the William Andrews Clarke Memorial Library, the Pasadena Museum of History and the California Club. This two-story

residence combines elements of the Colonial Revival and Craftsman Style for attorney Henry Weyse.

■ A. McFadden residence, 1923
317 Georgina Ave.

This Spanish Colonial revival typifies the early 20th Century architectural style of the North of Montana Avenue neighborhood. The property was owned by Austin McFadden, local entrepreneur, and operator of the Bon Ton Ball Room at Lick Pier. The Lick Pier at Navy Street opened on Easter weekend, 1922 and featured the 22,000 square-foot Bon Ton Ballroom, a Zip roller coaster, a Dodge'em, Caterpillar and Captive Aeroplane rides.

■ The Palama, 1922
211 Alta Ave.

Two rows of mirror image building are typical of the bungalow courts of the 1920s and 1930s — a period of smaller scale multiple family housing. This fine example of the California bungalow court is nicely detailed. All six units show a mixture of Colonial and Craftsman Styles.

■ Vanity Fair Apartments, 1935
822 Third St.

Definitive Streamline Moderne — an evolved version of Art Deco which takes the design elements and strips them down into curves and lines. These distinctive apartment buildings were designed by Carl Henderson, a businessman from Iowa who was known for his success with the Santa Monica Packard Agency before turning to real estate.

■ Cedar Deodara tree
918 Fifth St.

This early 20th Century tree was planted at a point in time in which new species of huge trees were meant to provide shade for many years. This 100-plus-year-old tree has not been pruned, manicured or trimmed. The naturally shaped cedar tree is a reminder of the horticulturist active in the city early in the 20th Century.

■ Turn of the 20th Century cottage, 1906
954 Fifth St.

Cottages like this one were popular in Southern California from the late 1890s through the 1910s. This was one of the initial buildings constructed with the original town of Santa Monica boundaries. Details include a hipped rough, double hung sash doors, exposed rafter tails and bay windows.

■ Sovereign Apartments/Hotel
205 Washington Ave.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, at the corner of Washington and Second Street, the Sovereign Hotel was built in 1929. Five stories, with 130 rooms, it was designed by the firm of Meyer-Radon. The property is a showpiece of Spanish Colonial Revival form and detail. Record has it this property was once owned by C.A. Hamilton, the owner of the concessions at Yellowstone Park.

■ Miramar Moreton Bay Fig Tree
Ocean Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard

This 80-foot tall Moreton Bay Fig Tree is California's second largest. Rumor has it that this tree came into being when an Australian sailor, with no money to pay for his drinks in a bar, paid the bartender with a sapling. The bartender gave the sapling to the wife of one of the city's founders, Sen. John Percival Jones. She gave it to her gardener to plant in the yard of their home.

■ Charmont Apartments
330 California Ave.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, between 1920 and 1930, the population of Los Angeles County grew from 936,434 to 2,208,492 — and people wanted to live by the beach. Necessity led to a golden age of apartment architecture, as exemplified by the Charmont Apartments. This lavish mid-rise residential building was designed by Max Meltzmann in a unique blend of Mediterranean Revival and Art Deco style, and features a motif of chevron points and distinctive tilework.

(For your real estate needs, e-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call (310) 309-4219).

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Santa Monica	SqFt: 2,958	List Price: \$3,095,000	Bed: 5
07/13/2004	Lot Size: 19,230	Sold Price: \$2,895,000	Bath: 3.00
Sold	516 20TH ST	SANTA MONICA	
Date Sold	SqFt: 0	List Price: \$1,995,000	Bed: 2
07/12/2004	Lot Size: 8,940	Sold Price: \$2,165,000	Bath: 2.5
Sold	1663 ASHLAND AVE	SANTA MONICA	90405
Date Sold	SqFt: 2,126	List Price: \$1,250,000	Bed: 3
07/16/2004	Lot Size: 8,460	Sold Price: \$1,447,000	Bath: 2
Sold	1001 STANFORD ST	SANTA MONICA	90403
Date Sold	SqFt: 2,201	List Price: \$1,395,000	Bed: 3
07/13/2004	Lot Size: 8,400	Sold Price: \$1,415,000	Bath: 2
Sold	3021 LINDA LN	SANTA MONICA	90405
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,835	List Price: \$979,000	Bed: 3
07/16/2004	Lot Size: 8,189	Sold Price: \$965,000	Bath: 2
Sold	603 OCEAN AVE #4B	SANTA MONICA	90402
Date Sold	SqFt: 2,474	List Price: \$2,300,000	Bed: 3
07/16/2004	HOD: \$1,720	Sold Price: \$2,150,000	Bath: 2.5
Sold	123 GEORGINA AVE #2	SANTA MONICA	90402
Date Sold	SqFt: 2,105	List Price: \$1,149,000	Bed: 2
07/13/2004	HOD: \$0	Sold Price: \$1,190,000	Bath: 2.5
Sold	122 OCEAN PARK BL #507	SANTA MONICA	90405
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,427	List Price: \$899,000	Bed: 2
07/13/2004	HOD: \$615	Sold Price: \$1,000,000	Bath: 2
Sold	1111 10TH ST #105	SANTA MONICA	90403
Date Sold	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$949,000	Bed: 2
07/16/2004	HOD: \$348	Sold Price: \$930,000	Bath: 2.5
Sold	508 PIER AVE #1	SANTA MONICA	90405
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,866	List Price: \$899,000	Bed: 2
07/15/2004	HOD: \$250	Sold Price: \$875,000	Bath: 2.5
Sold	202 SAN VICENTE BL #8	SANTA MONICA	90402
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,650	List Price: \$825,000	Bed: 3
07/16/2004	HOD: \$350	Sold Price: \$800,000	Bath: 2.5
Sold	930 CALIFORNIA AVE #203	SANTA MONICA	90403
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,476	List Price: \$655,000	Bed: 2
07/16/2004	HOD: \$250	Sold Price: \$685,000	Bath: 2
Sold	2336 28TH ST #B	SANTA MONICA	90405
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,434	List Price: \$615,000	Bed: 2
07/13/2004	HOD: \$287	Sold Price: \$657,000	Bath: 2.5
Sold	1133 24TH ST #11	SANTA MONICA	90403
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,462	List Price: \$649,000	Bed: 2
07/16/2004	HOD: \$270	Sold Price: \$639,000	Bath: 2.5
Sold	944 11TH ST #1	SANTA MONICA	90403
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,044	List Price: \$605,000	Bed: 2
07/15/2004	HOD: \$150	Sold Price: \$638,000	Bath: 2
Sold	2920 11TH ST #4	SANTA MONICA	90405
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,394	List Price: \$619,000	Bed: 2
07/12/2004	HOD: \$170	Sold Price: \$619,000	Bath: 3
Sold	1328 FRANKLIN ST #1	SANTA MONICA	90404
Date Sold	SqFt: 879	List Price: \$379,000	Bed: 1
07/15/2004	HOD: \$208	Sold Price: \$423,000	Bath: 1
Sold	937 5TH ST #3	SANTA MONICA	90403
Date Sold	SqFt: 645	List Price: \$399,000	Bed: 1
07/14/2004	HOD: \$169	Sold Price: \$415,000	Bath: 1
Sold	1541 PRINCETON ST #5	SANTA MONICA	90404
Date Sold	SqFt: 735	List Price: \$275,000	Bed: 2
07/12/2004	HOD: \$240	Sold Price: \$275,000	Bath: 1
Sold	1814 OAK ST	SANTA MONICA	90405
Date Sold	SqFt: 0	List Price: \$919,000	GI: \$61,900
07/16/2004	Lot Size: 6,996	Sold Price: \$914,000	GRM: 14.40
Sold	1111 PICO BL	SANTA MONICA	90405
Date Sold	SqFt: 0	List Price: \$875,000	GI: \$61,879
07/16/2004	Lot Size: 8,708	Sold Price: \$850,000	GRM: 0.00

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The QLine

REAL ESTATE



Good time to commit to long-term office needs



IN YOUR SPACE

BY CHRISTINA S. PORTER

The Los Angeles Basin office market, with approximately 320 million square feet of multi-tenant space, is the nation's fourth-largest office market.

The market bottomed in 2002, and began to recover in 2003. The pace of recovery escalated in the first half of 2004. Net absorption in the first half of 2004 totaled 3.2 million square feet, slightly exceeding the total figure for 2003 (3.1 million square feet) and matching the long-term average for the Los Angeles Basin (3.2 million square feet per six months, 1985 to present). Construction completions finally slowed significantly, and only 717,700 square feet came online in the first half of 2004. The combination of strong net absorption and minimal completions enabled the vacancy rate to drop, to 15.2 percent. This is still a moderately high rate, but is down significantly from 16.7 percent as of the end of 2003 and from 16.8 percent as of mid-year 2003.

Asking rental rates, which had been dropping, stabilized in most areas.

Vacancy rates today are highest in high-rise buildings (17 percent), followed by mid-rise buildings (15.4 percent) and low-rise (12.7 percent). They also are highest in Class A buildings (16.4 percent), followed by Class B buildings (13.3 percent) and Class C (7 percent). Construction activity has picked up, and 2.9 million square feet is underway (up from 1.8 million square feet as of year-end 2003). However, when complete, this new space will expand the base by only 0.9 percent, or 4.5 months worth of demand under normal economic conditions. Market conditions are projected to continue to tighten in the remainder of 2004 and into 2005. From a tenant's perspective, the window of opportunity to expand or to lock in low rental rates will soon be closing.

These also are excellent times for firms to take advantage of low mortgage rates to purchase office buildings that meet their long-term needs. However, prices are now quite high. Within the Los Angeles Basin, demand has been strongest in West Los Angeles, the San Fernando Valley and South Orange County. These are high-rent leading the way in the recovery. Vacancy rates are now lowest in the San Fernando Valley (10.7 percent), Ventura County (11.3 percent) and North Orange County (11.5 percent), and highest in the South Bay (20.7 percent).

THE MEDICAL OFFICE NICHE

One segment of the office market that has been the healthiest in recent years is the medical office niche. Demand for this space has been strong and vacancy rates are low (just 7.6 percent). There has been particularly strong demand for medical condominiums. Rental rates and sale prices have been climbing in almost all sub-markets. Demand is projected to grow at a strong pace in future years (approximately 3 percent to 4 percent per year), and supply will be limited, given the unique requirements of this product type (at least five parking spaces per 1,000 square feet of office space, locations near other medical providers, and a high level of tenant improvements).

WEST LOS ANGELES

West Los Angeles commands the highest rental rates in the Los Angeles Basin. It has a large concentration of high-profile firms, including those in entertainment, computer programming and finance, and is in the midst of some of the most exclusive residential neighborhoods in the nation. It has a large office base, with 48.7 million square feet. It is a moderately mature market, with 62 percent of its

space built before 1985. It also is moderately dense, with 61 percent of its space in mid-rise or high-rise buildings.

Net absorption was a very strong — 1 million square feet in the first half of 2004. This was up sharply from a total of 350,800 square feet in 2003. It also was more than double the average of 440,000 square feet per six months 1985 to present. There was strong growth in demand from the entertainment industry (reversing a three-year downturn), as well as from professional services.

No new space came on-line due to construction in the first half of 2004. This enabled the vacancy rate to drop very sharply to 15.5 percent, down from 17.7 percent as of year-end 2003. Asking rental rates remained firm at an average of \$2.72 per square feet per month, full service gross for Class A space. Construction activity has picked up, and 899,200 square feet is currently underway. However, 790,000 square feet of this space is in one building, 2000 Avenue of the Stars in Century City, and this project is not projected to come online until late 2006. The market is projected to continue to tighten in the remainder of 2004 and in 2005.

(This article is taken from NAI Capital's mid-year market report).

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Location	Type	Date Sold	Sq. Ft.	Price
1216-1220 5th St	Office	7/7/2004	1,800	\$2.50/mg
1250 6th St	Office	7/7/2004	2,934	\$3.25/fs
1547 6th St	Office	7/19/2004	1,700	\$2.25/mg
1437 7th St	Office	7/13/2004	8,553	\$2.35/mg
2950 31st St	Retail	7/9/2004	881	\$2.35/fs
903 Colorado Ave	Office	7/8/2004	2,105	\$1.75/nnn
3250 Ocean Park Blvd	Office	7/6/2004	11,266	\$2.35/fs
3435 Ocean Park Blvd	Office	7/13/2004	430	\$1.85/mg
3435 Ocean Park Blvd	Office	7/13/2004	807	\$1.85/mg
3435 Ocean Park Blvd	Office	7/13/2004	985	\$1.75/mg
3435 Ocean Park Blvd	Office	7/13/2004	525	\$1.95/mg
3435 Ocean Park Blvd	Office	7/13/2004	2,385	\$1.95/mg
2425 Olympic Blvd	Office	7/9/2004	8,534	\$1.25/fs
100 Wilshire Blvd	Office	7/15/2004	1,621	\$3.85/fs
530 Wilshire Blvd	Office	7/14/2004	895	\$3.00/fs
1821 Wilshire Blvd	Office	7/8/2004	1,688	\$2.95/fs
2102-2116 Wilshire Blvd	Office	7/8/2004	1,000	\$3.00/nnn
2719 Wilshire Blvd	Retail	7/19/2004	2,307	\$2.50/nnn
2811 Wilshire Blvd	Office	7/9/2004	2,129	\$2.60/fs
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NATIONAL

‘Polluter Protector’
Bush angers EPA

By The Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. —The head of the Environmental Protection Agency for two Republican presidents criticized President Bush’s record on Monday, calling it a “polluter protection” policy.

Russell E. Train, who headed the EPA from September 1973 to January 1977—part of the Nixon and Ford administrations—said Bush’s record on the environment was so dismal that he would cast his vote for Democrat John Kerry.

“It’s almost as if the motto of the administration in power today in Washington is not environmental protection, but polluter protection,” Train said. “I find this deeply disturbing.”

In 1988, Train was co-chairman of Conservationists for Bush, an organization that backed the candidacy of George W. Bush’s father.

Train spoke at an event organized by Environment 2004, which opposes Bush’s environmental record. He accused Bush of weakening the Clean Air Act and said the president’s record falls short of those set by former Republican presidents, from Theodore Roosevelt, who advocated creating national parks and forests, to George H.W. Bush, who supported revised standards for clean air.

The Bush-Cheney campaign defended the president’s record, saying states such as New Hampshire benefit from the president’s Healthy Forests Initiative. They also argued that sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions have dropped during the Bush administration.

First Lady stays
hidden in Glacier

By The Associated Press

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, Mont. —First lady Laura Bush, vacationing here this week with four childhood friends, is keeping such a low profile that even some park workers were not aware she is in the park.

Bush, who canceled plans to visit Glacier last summer because of wildfires that closed much of the park, apparently arrived in Montana on Saturday with friends, and attended a private reception at a home on Lake McDonald. She later checked in to the Many Glacier Hotel on the park’s east side.

Bell clerk Ron Hoppner, 23, a University of Montana student, said Bush’s entourage has “kept the first lady and her party pretty well removed” from sight.

Cindy Ognjanov, president of Glacier Park Inc., the private company that runs the park hotels, said few employees were told any details because Bush wanted to keep things quiet.

“She came with her friends,” Ognjanov said. “The Secret Service agents couldn’t tell us enough times she just wanted to have a good time.”

Idaho food-stamp manager
subcontracts work to India

REBECCA BOONE
Associated Press Writer

BOISE, Idaho — The company that manages Idaho’s food stamp program has subcontracted part of the work to India.

The state administers its electronic benefits transfer program through a contract with New York-based J.P. Morgan Chase, worth about \$1.2 million a year of the department’s \$1.3 billion budget, Health and Welfare Department spokesman Ross Mason said.

But that company subcontracts the call center portion of the work to MsourcE in India, according to a report by Good Jobs First, an advocacy group for higher-paying jobs in America.

Residents who have questions about their electronic benefits transfer cards— the debit-style cards that have replaced paper food stamps— are directed to a call center. If the question cannot be answered using an automated system, the call is directed overseas, Mason said.

About 150,000 Idaho residents call the system every month, he said, and about 1,100 of those calls are sent to the Indian call center. Mason did not know how much each call cost under the contract.

Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne has stressed the need to bring jobs to the state, especially struggling rural communities, and has focused much of his administration on stimulating the economy and reducing Idaho’s unemployment rate, which was 5 percent last month.

But his spokesman, Michael Journee, said that he was aware of no policy aimed at keeping jobs from being subcontracted to offshore groups.

Casino gives Ronstadt the boot
after she gets heated about ‘9/11’

BY ADAM GOLDMAN
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — Singer Linda Ronstadt not only got booed, she got the boot after praising filmmaker Michael Moore and his new movie “Fahrenheit 9/11” during a performance.

Before singing “Desperado” for an encore Saturday night, Ronstadt called Moore a “great American patriot” and “someone who is spreading the truth.” She also encouraged the audience at the Aladdin hotel-casino to see the documentary about President Bush.

Ronstadt’s comments drew loud boos, and some of the 4,500 people in attendance stormed out of the theater. People also tore down concert posters and tossed cocktails into the air.

Journee said the impact of the India call center was likely small.

“It’s just a small portion of a contract that had been subcontracted out. It’s hard to see that there’d be a way to keep good track of that, aside from asking any individual agencies to make sure that they do work within the U.S.,” he said.

The J.P. Morgan Chase contract extends through 2010, and likely wouldn’t be renegotiated unless the Legislature demands it, Mason said.

“It’s safe to say everybody wants to keep jobs in America, short of some corporations,” Mason said. “But you start getting into the lawmaker arena, and whether they want to venture into that realm, whether they’re willing to do the things that need to be done to move that direction. It has to be done at the national level as well.”

Tom Johnson, a spokesman for J.P. Morgan Chase in New York, emphasized that the vast majority of the work under the state contract— managing and monitoring the tens of millions of dollars that flow to food stamp recipients through the cards— is done in the United States.

The relative handful of telephone inquiries answered by people off shore “is a very small part of the overall contract,” he said, and states are made aware of the arrange as part of the disclosures in the contractual process.

“It’s a question of finance,” Johnson said. “We are responding to the needs of the state.”

He said the calls now being handled off shore could be handled in the United States if the state wanted that change, but it would cost more.

“It was a very ugly scene,” Aladdin President Bill Timmins told The Associated Press. “She praised him and all of a sudden all bedlam broke loose.”

Timmins, who is British and was watching the show, said he didn’t allow Ronstadt back in her luxury suite afterward and she was escorted off the property.

Ronstadt’s antics “spoiled a wonderful evening for our guests and we had to do something about it,” Timmins said.

Ronstadt, 58, had been booked to play the Aladdin for only one show.

On Monday, Moore released a letter to The Associated Press that he intends to send to Timmins.

“For you to throw Linda Ronstadt off the premises because she dared to say a few words in support of me and my film, is simply stupid and Un-American,” Moore wrote.

Calls to Ronstadt’s manager were not immediately returned.

In an interview with the Las Vegas Review-Journal before the show, Ronstadt said, “I keep hoping that if I’m annoying enough to them, they won’t hire me back.”

Timmins said Ronstadt would not sing at the Aladdin again: “As long as I’m here, she’s not going to play.”

Moore said Timmins owes Ronstadt an apology.

“I have an idea how you can make it up to her — and to the millions of Americans you have offended,” Moore wrote. “Invite her back and I’ll join her in singing ‘America the Beautiful’ on your stage. Then I will show ‘Fahrenheit 9/11’ free of charge to all your guests and anyone else in Las Vegas who wants to see it.”

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INTERNATIONAL



Filipino hostage freed after troops pull out of Iraq

BY JAMIE TARABAY

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A Filipino truck driver held hostage in Iraq for nearly two weeks was freed Tuesday, a day after his nation withdrew its final peacekeepers from Iraq — a move that met the kidnappers' demands but angered U.S. and Iraqi officials.

The Philippines government and the family of Angelo dela Cruz were overjoyed at his release. His wife, Arsenia, burst into tears upon hearing the news in neighboring Jordan. Philippines President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo grinned during a nationally televised address in the Philippines.

"We must rejoice at the good news, but our happiness must be tempered by the awareness that we live in dangerous times, and that we must work to create a more peaceful world," Arroyo said.

The withdrawal by the Philippines has been strongly criticized by Iraqi and U.S. officials. Many, including Gen. John Abizaid, the top U.S. military commander in the Middle East, fear it will embolden terror groups to take more foreign civilians hostage to try to drive a wedge between the countries in the coalition.

Several previous hostage crises did not push other countries — including Japan — to withdraw troops.

"All of us know that if you appease terrorism you will sooner or later fall victim to it or be taken over by it," Abizaid said Tuesday in the Gulf kingdom of Bahrain.

An online statement signed by the Khalid bin al-Waleed Brigade, the military wing of the Tawhid and Jihad group, threatened Japanese troops in Iraq.

"To the government of Japan: do what the Philippines has done. By God, nobody will protect you and we are not going to tolerate anybody," the statement said.

"Lines of cars laden with explosives are awaiting you; we will not stop, God willing," said the statement on an Islamic forum known for carrying statements by extremist groups.

Abizaid also accused Syria and Iran of tolerating cross-border infiltration and meddling by groups bent on further destabilizing Iraq.

He also said he believes there are elements in Iran now interfering in southern Iraq.

"I do know there are groups within Iran that want to play a destabilizing role in Iraq and I think that would be most unhelpful for Iran and most unhelpful for Iraq," he said.

The ordeal of dela Cruz, a father of eight, had captivated the Philippines, since he was first shown on video wearing a bright orange garment similar to that worn by other foreign hostages who were killed by kidnappers.

With more than 7 million Filipinos working overseas, 1.4 million of them in the Middle East, many in the Philippines felt a personal connection to dela Cruz.

"Angelo has become a Filipino 'everyman,' a symbol of the hardworking Filipino seeking hope and opportunity," Arroyo said in her national address.

The news of dela Cruz's release came amid an ongoing wave of deadly violence across Iraq, much of it targeting police and other government officials, whom insurgents view as collaborators.

"Many threats have been directed to the eight council members nominated to the post," said Iraqi council head Abdul Bari Faiyek, adding that another councilman escaped an assassination attempt Monday.

Insurgents have also taken foreigners in Iraq hostage to try to push out coalition forces and private companies helping rebuild Iraq.

The militants holding dela Cruz, who first appeared in a videotape July 7 surrounded by masked, armed gunmen, demanded the Philippines pull out its 51-member force here or they would kill him.

The government initially made a series of ambiguous statements, but finally agreed. On Monday the last Philippine troops, who had been scheduled to leave Aug. 20, drove out of the country and into Kuwait.

About 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, dela Cruz was dropped on the steps of the United Arab Emirates Embassy in Baghdad, said UAE officials, who denied there was any coordination between them and the kidnappers. Dela Cruz was then driven in a silver Mercedes to the Philippines Embassy, where jubilant embassy staff members embraced him.

At news of his release, dela Cruz's family burst into celebration.

"I thank all who offered prayers for our family,"

Arsenia dela Cruz said from Jordan, where she had been awaiting word of her husband's fate.

The Philippines government released a videotape showing Arroyo talking on the telephone with dela Cruz.

Dela Cruz was to be flown to Abu Dhabi on Wednesday for a medical checkup before heading home.

In dela Cruz's home village of Buenavista, in the northern Philippines, relatives and friends raised their arms in jubilation after Arroyo announced he was safe. Others wept tears of joy and shouted his name.

Wealthy Filipinos have taken pity on his family. A popular computer school granted his children full scholarships from grade school to college and assured them of

jobs after graduation. A real estate company donated a house, to be built in the next few days, and a small parcel of land near his two-room shack.

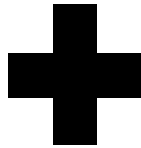
Arroyo said concern for the millions of Filipino contract workers around the world influenced her decision.

"My government has a deep national interest in their well being wherever they live and work," Arroyo said. "I made a decision to bring our troops home a few days early in order to spare the life of Angelo. I do not regret that decision."

While she said she was happy that Angelo dela Cruz is coming home, she warned that other "innocents" will not be so lucky if terrorists continue to mount attacks and kidnappings.

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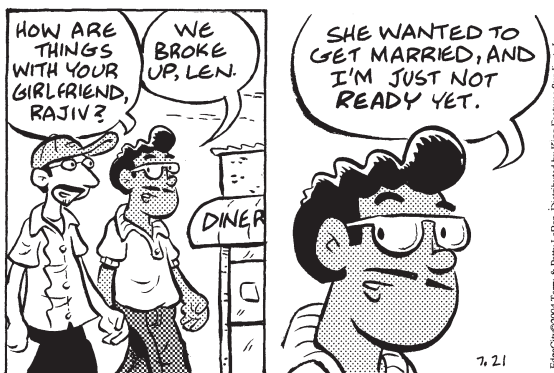
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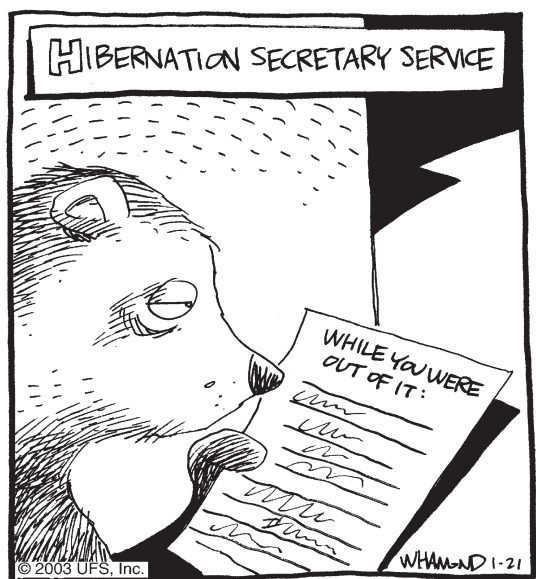
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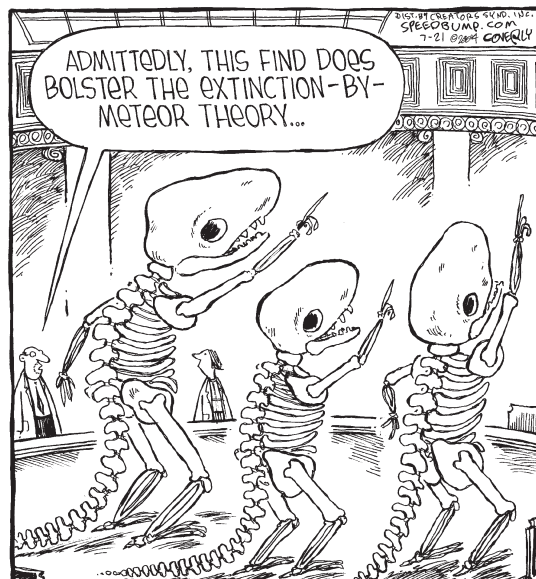
By Dave Whammond



By Russ Wallace



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By THOMAS JOSEPH

41 Tip off

DOWN

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- 4** Border
- 5** Walesa of
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- 6** One-
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machine
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Yesterday's answer

16 Ruling

18 Have a novel experience?

21 Window section

23 Shopping spot

24 "Heavens!"

25 Not yet edible

27 Sioux people

28 Breaking pitch

29 Praline morsel

30 Job for Mason

31 Harsh

33 Pinochle score

37 Inexperienced

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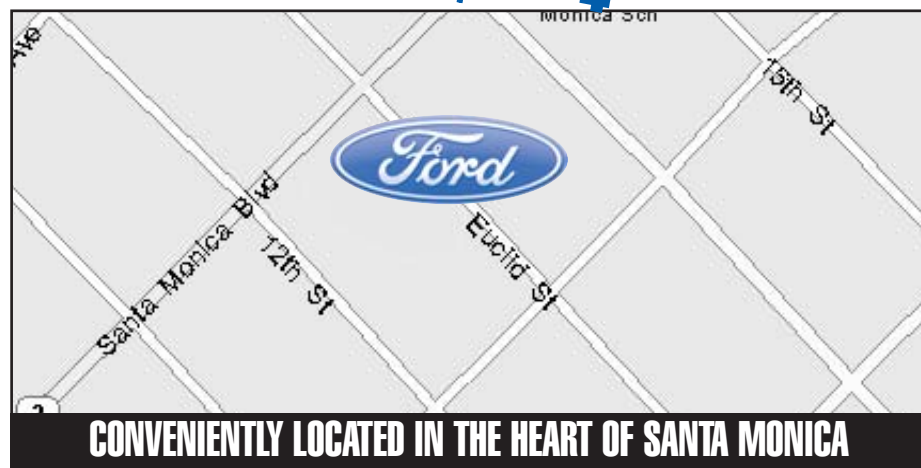
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HAVE WE GOT SERVICE DEALS FOR YOU!

Tire Rotation & Brake Inspection **\$19.95**

Inspect brake friction material, caliper operation, rotors, drums, hoses and connections. Inspect parking brake for damage and proper operation. Rotate and inspect four tires. Dual-rear-wheel vehicle extra. See Service Advisor for details.

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

4-wheel alignment & Tire Inspection **\$69.95**

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

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

10% OFF SERVICE BILL

Bring this coupon to your Service Advisor and receive the above savings applied to your entire service bill, when it does not include services listed on this ad.

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

Santa Monica Ford will meet or beat any OEM tire price

10% OFF any body repair over \$2500
10% OFF of parts purchased
from the parts dept.

2-wheel alignment & Tire Inspection **\$39.95**

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

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

Minor Service for only **\$39.95**

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

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

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

SANTA MONICA  **1230 Santa Monica Blvd. • 310.451-1588**