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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In 2002, Boston surgeon David Arndt had his license suspended after he left the operating room in the middle of a procedure in order to cash a check at a nearby bank. (Subsequently, Arndt was also charged with cocaine possession and sexual abuse of a minor.) In April 2005, prominent Boston plastic surgeon Joseph Upton stepped away from the operating room during a scheduled break in surgery at Beth Israel Deaconness Medical Center and walked down the street to Children's Hospital Boston to conduct another surgery that he had double-booked for the time, before returning to Beth Israel and satisfactorily finishing the first job. Both patients are fine, but Dr. Upton was ordered not to double-book in the future and not to leave the floor during surgeries.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 202nd day of 2005.
There are 163 days left in the year.

On July 21, 1925, the so-called 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.)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The love we give away
is the only love we keep."

ELBERT HUBBARD

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Renters court stay from demolition

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK — It's crunch time for City Council and a 1924 courtyard apartment complex, whose tenants are hoping for a last-minute reprieve from the demolition ball.

The Santa Monica City Council is set to decide on Tuesday whether the Christie Courtyard, a Mission Revival-style apartment building at 125 Pacific St., is worth saving and should be spared demolition in order to preserve its historical qualities, or be razed to the ground so the owner can build a condominium complex.

If elected officials do decide to dedicate the building as a historic landmark, a lawsuit levied by the property owner, 125 Pacific St. LLC., seems likely. Anticipating such a move, the City Council is expected to meet behind closed doors on Tuesday, just hours before it will discuss the landmark designation during the public meeting.

City Attorney Marsha Moutrie said topics discussed behind closed doors generally focus on the legal aspects of pending council decisions.

"Either there has been a threat of litigation, or we think there is a

See **TENANT TROUBLES**, page 7



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Christie Courtyard tenants John Nafsinger (left) and Randy Davidson discuss the building's future on Wednesday.

'Irish Moses' recalled by sea of admirers

BY ROBERT FATURECHI

Special to the Daily Press

SM AIRPORT — James Daniel walked slowly through the Santa Monica Airport parking lot. Though the 88-year-old former airline pilot — face glistening with perspiration, hand pressed against his wife's back for support — had to stop from time to time to catch his breath, he marched on intently.

He came to say good-bye to an old friend.

Daniel, along with a couple hundred others, gathered Wednesday at the Santa Monica Airport to pay tribute to pilot Robert Maguire Jr., an Oregon native

See **SKY HIGH**, page 11



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Robert Maguire III, whose father was honored by friends far and wide on Wednesday for his heroic efforts in flying displaced Jewish refugees to Israel in the 1940s, gives a modern-day flyer the thumbs-up at Santa Monica Airport.



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Hang out tonight, Sagittarius

Santa Monica Daily Press

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You might wake up with many ideas or remember a special dream. You might do well following this path; you seem to be on the victory path. Others support you in your ideas, actions and desires. What more could you ask for? Tonight: A child or loved one could be down.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Your mental life might be more important in your decisions than you realize. Though you seem to be in charge as you make key choices, you actually might not know the source of your ideas. Tonight: Could be working late.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ A partner or associate could shake you up in the early hours, but by midmorning, you will have gained a perspective. Do not accept any information on hearsay. You need to do your own research and fact-finding. Tonight: Relax to music.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Deal with others graciously, even if you question their intentions. They might not know where they are coming from. Make time for individual discussions. You'll learn much more as a result. Tonight: Special time with a loved one.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might think you are working today, but events quickly turn social, or shall we say "networking"? Be gracious and not uptight. Others want to try out their ideas on you. Give feedback that can be understood and accepted. Tonight: Accept an invitation out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Focus on getting done what you must. With the weekend closing in, you will want to have a clear desk or feel as if you have completed as much as possible. Others will help you accomplish what you want. Tonight: Be efficient.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Use your creativity with people, work or problem situations. You will be delighted by the outcome. You have finally seemed to figure out a problem. Don't take any grand risks anyway. Tonight: Let your smiling ways bubble over.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ The more you can accomplish at home or quietly with your door closed, the better the end results will be. Handle a situation in which your mind keeps floating off topic. Otherwise, you won't be able to focus. Tonight: Head home and relax.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Get over the heavy feeling you have been carrying around. In fact, if you just make an effort to reach out to others, you might have a lot to smile about. Start making plans to get together with friends soon. Tonight: Hang out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You have been a veritable whirlwind this week. Finally, it is time to stop. Take care of necessities that impact you. You might not realize how depleted you have become. Take care of yourself first. Tonight: Treat yourself to something relaxing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ The Moon in your sign might make you feel invincible. It could make you a bit of a daredevil. Remember that your natural traits are emphasized when the Moon is in your sign. Watch what happens. Tonight: Zoom in on what you want.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★ Know when to back down and do your own thing. Sometimes you are overwhelmed by what goes on. Right now, take in what is happening around you. Refuse to make a judgment just yet. Process first. Tonight: Do something just for you.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Relay for Life coming around the track

By Daily Press staff

This weekend in Santa Monica is all about community and fighting against cancer. Relay For Life is a community event to celebrate cancer survivors, honor the memory of cancer victims, educate about cancer prevention, and raise funds for the American Cancer Society. For 24 hours, teams will walk the track of Santa Monica's Corsair Field. Entertainment, food, contests, prizes, and many experiences awaits participants.

Entertainment includes Kathy Leonardo, local singer and songwriter, who has been personally affected by cancer.

"I think it's a great cause and it's up to all of us to affect a change," she said. "When I was a child, my mom was diagnosed with breast cancer, which did eventually take her life. I know a lot of families are going through that same painful journey. You feel very helpless. So I'm glad to be able to contribute by donating my voice and my music to the cause."

Leonardo will be performing at 6 p.m. on July 23.

Also joining the American Cancer Society's Santa Monica Relay For Life are multiple faith-based communities as a joint team, called the "Holy Strollers."

To start your own Relay For Life team, or for information about the event, call (310)348-0357, option three, or visit www.acsevents.org/relay/ca/santamonica.

This year's relay will be at Santa Monica College at the Corsair Field, from the 9 a.m. kick-off on July 23 until the closing ceremony at 9 a.m. July 24. For more information on the ACS Relay for life and how to donate, contact ACS or Kathy@kathyleonardo.com.

A history of a coastal institution, a history of a city on the edge

BY SARA MILSTEIN

Special to the Daily Press

The face of Santa Monica's beach has changed dramatically from how it appeared in the beginning of the 20th century, but one feature has remained a constant — the Los Angeles County Lifeguards.

A new book by 32-year lifeguard veteran an Arthur C. Verge chronicles the development of Santa Monica's beach culture, as well as the lifeguards who advanced it.

More than 220 vintage photographs, commentary and personal accounts comprise Verge's "Los Angeles County Lifeguards", a vivid visual and written history of those who man the beaches. Distributed by Arcadia Publishing, the book explores the connection between the lifeguarding profession and the profound success of Westside beach communities.

"In the early 1900s and 1920s, nobody went in the water because they were afraid of drowning," said Verge. "Lifeguards changed all that. Property near the beach became desirable."

Property values along the beaches soon exploded once the waters were deemed



ARTHUR C. VERGE

safe by wary swimmers, according to Verge's research. Beach communities also became a hotbed of local activity, and Verge suggests that the LA lifeguards had a considerable influence on Southern California's culture.

"The beach was home to a lot of Hollywood's stars," Verge told the Daily Press. "You could meet all kinds of people at the beaches, and the lifeguards became really friendly with them all because they were down there every day."

See LIFEGUARDS, page 9

Thinking about Bankruptcy?

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SURF REPORT

Much of the same as Wednesday's prognosis. A weak SW swath of southern hemi energy isn't much to get stoked about, producing knee-high surf for the most part, occasionally waist-high.

Today the water is:

68°

Write us at alex@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
MONDAY	2:13	-0.4	12:44	2.6	8:53	3.4	7:21	6.5
TUESDAY	2:57	-1.0	1:42	2.4	9:35	3.6	8:11	6.9
WEDNESDAY	3:40	-1.5	2:36	2.2	10:15	3.9	9:00	7.2
THURSDAY	4:23	-1.7	3:29	2.0	10:54	4.1	9:49	7.2
FRIDAY	5:05	-1.6	4:12	1.9	11:33	4.3	10:37	7.0

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The QLine

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The city of Malibu recently made it tougher for filmmakers to secure permits to shoot within their boundaries, adhering to resident complaints of noise and disruption. Many feel a ripple effect could adversely affect filming in bordering cities, like Santa Monica.

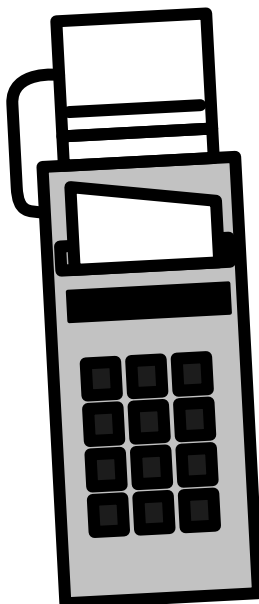
So this week, Q-Line wants to know: Would you welcome a respite from the ongoing presence of filmmakers in the city, or is it invaluable promotion?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your responses in the weekend edition. Please try to limit your comments to a minute or less.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How ‘eminent’ is eminent domain?

Editor:
(This letter originally was addressed to Ms. Bar-El, senior planner at the city planning division.)

Regarding the proposed general plan land use amendment to allow development of automobile dealership parking structures in low- and medium-density housing districts and parking overlay zones on properties currently used legally in conjunction with an automobile dealership, subject to development standards and discrediting review, my concern is this: Will it next legitimize or induce eminent domain seizures?

Flo Ginsberg
Santa Monica

Thank you, Big Blue

Editor:
On behalf of the Secret Society of Carless Santa Monicans, I would like to thank the Big Blue Bus for creating a Rapid version of the No. 3 bus at rush hour, and for proposing a bus-only lane on Lincoln Boulevard at rush hour.

I recently tried the Rapid No. 3 at around 7:30 p.m. and what a pleasure! Not just markedly faster, but also with a different clientele than the regular No. 3. My seat-mates on the Rapid No. 3 were very middle class, some tourists, no homeless, no “colorful characters.” While I hesitate to generalize based on a single ride, I’ve ridden the regular No. 3 dozens of times and the fringes of society were always better represented than the middle class. Hmm ... call in the sociological researchers.

To make the Rapid No. 3 even more rapid, the folks at the Big Blue Bus are proposing that a stretch of Lincoln Boulevard be reserved as a bus-only lane during rush hour — east side in the morning, west side in the evening.

A limited-stop bus with a dedicated lane? Yes. Yes. Yes.

If you want to get people out of their cars and onto the bus, you’ve got to make the bus ride fast. Anyone who has ridden the No. 720 Metro bus on Wilshire Boulevard during rush hour knows how much time is gained by the bus-only lanes in Brentwood.

Elissa Royal
Santa Monica

No ‘thanks’ needed, just hit the road

Editor:
In response to Charles Springer’s delusional response to Mr. Jankowski’s truthful letter (SMDP, July 15, page 4), it is clear that Charles Springer is still using something, be it the “homeless” support system in this city, or drugs. He has and continues to profit from and extort value and services from the homeless industry that our city leaders continue to fund with an open checkbook.

First of all, as some readers may remember, Charles Springer has been sponging off of our enabling city for around a decade. Some three years ago, he was a regular SMDP columnist writing “From the Streets.” He had been “homeless” for many years before that, freeloading in Santa Monica, degrading our streets, properties, beaches, tourism and lives.

He complained about the quality of the new shower facility, not being able to get a date, his wife deserting him, society not helping with his grieving processes, his friend getting killed in a bum fight, having to wait in long lines for free stuff, etc. Nothing has ever been right in his world of “everything for nothing.”

First of all, Springer has been eating at the OPCC since it opened. He has supposedly been attending Santa Monica College for nearly a decade, as close as I can tell. As far as rent control goes, he has rent control. He hasn’t paid a penny in rent in Santa Monica. Not everyone in the world can afford to buy or rent a residence at the beach and he continues to complain about everything he gets for doing absolutely nothing, all the while living here for free at the expense of hard working residents.

Regarding federal taxes and how they are spent, what concern is federal spending to him? He contributes absolutely nothing positive to society. He doesn’t pay taxes, rent, utilities, child support, medial bills, or even his own lunch tab.

Rather than thanking me and Mr. Jankowski for paying his and his children’s way forever, he ignorantly chooses to attack us “working stiffs” for harassing him. I don’t want to harass him, I want him gone. I am sick of paying for him while he trashes my neighborhood and literally pisses on everything I have worked for.

As far as constitutional rights, Springer does not have the right to erode my property values, scare my children, make my city a toilet, and steal my tax dollars by his refusal to pay his own way. Mr. Springer has apparently counted the homeless in Santa Monica. Two percent homeless out of 88,000 residents shows that there are only 1,760 vagrants in Santa Monica? Last year’s election would reflect that far more freeloading losers are casting their votes for the enabling council members that have been re-elected. The count is off.

As far as his mind goes, it is not open — it is gone. As I free fall along the path of my life, while working full time and paying taxes, I do not deserve to have to deal with the stench of urine, or people passed out in every park and on every sidewalk in this city. I do not deserve to have to listen to his ad nauseam articles of how the world has done him wrong. He has paid for nothing, contributed nothing, and continues to take everything. He thinks he’s entitled to live here.

Springer is the poster child for the support system that Santa Monica continues to offer, fund and increase to “help” these people live at the beach for free. Nothing will ever change until Charles Springer and his friends get out of town for good.

Lori Emerson
Santa Monica

Elvis has left building, Lisa Marie best beware

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



“I’d like to thank my three sisters — Kathy, Peggy and Barbara — and of course, my wife, Jane. And I also want to acknowledge ... my daughter, Josie ... and her nanny, and the mailwoman, and Irma at the checkout counter down at Vons.”

OK, the nanny, the mailwoman and the clerk weren’t actually included in the nominee’s acceptance speech, and he did thank his son. But when federal appeals court judge John G. Roberts took the podium Tuesday night to accept the nod from President Bush for the chance to become America’s next Justice of the Supreme Court, did it seem as if he was going a little out of his way to exhibit a bond with the female of the species? It’s not often that you hear guys thanking their three sisters for much of anything, not even on Oscar night in Hollywood — which the nominee’s speech brought to mind. Maybe that’s all it was, just a little Tinseltown flair. Or was he building a foundation to stand on for the looming battle over a woman’s right to choose that awaits him in the upcoming confirmation process? It will be contentious, as he’s the lawyer who wrote a brief while serving in the elder Bush’s administration that stated: “We continue to believe that Roe v. Wade was wrongly decided and should be overruled.”

That’s a fairly unambiguous statement.

Roberts will be confirmed, and so will another arch-conservative in the months to come when Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist goes, turning the High Court into the dream court Karl Rove and his neo-con band of brothers have been longing for ever since they began grooming the young governor of Texas to be their point man some 10 years ago. America will at long last get what this bunch are certain it has always wanted — a government steeped in fundamentalist religious rule. A government where the president won’t have to parade children out in front of press conferences wearing T-shirts that say: “This embryo was not discarded,” using them as unwitting tools in a sanctimonious battle against evil stem-cell research.

Because stem-cell research will likely be gone, along with anything that dares tamper with what they deem to be the sanctity of life — abortion, euthanasia, contraceptive devices, you name it. Of course, unprovoked war, the death penalty, poverty, health care and an epidemic homeless problem are a few of the things they don’t deem to be associated with the sanctity of life.

Political rule guided by fundamentalist religious principles works splendidly, even as we speak, in places like Iran and Saudi Arabia, and it’s making its way right back into Afghanistan as the Taliban begins to rear its splendid head again. Most noteworthy of all, fundamentalist

rule is slowly taking hold in Iraq, whose luck just seems to keep getting worse. First, they have to endure decades of tyrannical rule under Saddam Hussein. Next, their proud ancient nation is blown asunder by American military might, for any one of three reasons, take your pick: (1) to protect ourselves from the danger imposed by weapons of mass destruction; (2) to retaliate for the devastating attacks on our homeland in 2001; (3) to depose the murderous despot and introduce life-enhancing democracy in his wake. Because (1) turned out to be a lie, and (2) is something Bush, Cheney and that bunch denies, (3) is the given rationale for the war, by default.

But, Houston — or Crawford, as it were — we have a problem ... a most distressing problem. The very democracy that thousands of Americans and tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of Iraqis have died for appears to be yielding a terrible, unintended result.

They elected the bad guys. “Our swords are thriving for the neck of barbers.” So says the chilling note that has been handed out in barbershops and hair salons all over Baghdad. Beauty shops have been bombed, and gunmen have fired indiscriminately into barbershops, killing kids who wait for the cut and the evildoers who man the scissors, in an effort to enforce strict Islamic teachings that forbid messing with a man’s beard or the dispensing of a western-style haircut. Such “crimes” are punishable by death, say the fundamentalist enforcers, emboldened by the results of their free election.

Do you think they would have handed those notes out under Saddam? Saddam had sideburns for God’s sake.

One Baghdad hairstylist was quoted, “They told us no sideburns or we would die,” giving Elvis impersonators a very short time in the spotlight before they leave the building. But it’s not just the king. “We can’t sing in public anymore,” said a pop singer from southern Iraq named Hussin Nimma. “We thought with the change of regime, people would be more open to singing, art and poetry. It’s ironic.”

It’s ironic to the most grotesque degree. Our soldiers die in mass numbers to give a country freedom to take away even more freedom of its own citizens, all the while jacking up the hatred for America to boot. The sizable city of Basra in the south is reported to have fallen almost completely under fundamentalist rule, as unmarked cars cruise the streets carrying armed Islamic enforcers. Liquor salesmen are routinely killed, and physicians are beaten for treating women. “This is the democracy,” said one shopkeeper there. “But there is no freedom in the streets for women.”

Is it far-fetched to imagine an American woman saying something similar one day, while looking nervously up and down a dark alleyway as she exits an appointment with her doctor?

It is far-fetched, isn’t it?

(Ron Scott Smith can be reached at edgeofthewest@aol.com.)

STATE



Oh, *comion*, man: Hispanics prefer bus

BY TIM MOLLOY
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Recent Hispanic immigrants are seven times more likely than non-Hispanic whites to use public transportation and five times more likely to car pool, according to a new study released by the University of California, Los Angeles.

Civic leaders see increased car pooling and public transportation as vital to reducing California highway congestion and pollution, especially in Los Angeles, which has the worst gridlock and air quality in the country.

The findings contradict expectations that the increase in the state's Hispanic population would lead to a corresponding increase in traffic congestion, said professor David Hayes-Bautista, who conducted the study based on 2000 Census data.

"They're not burdening the system the way the post-World War II, largely Midwestern in-migrants burdened the system," said Hayes-Bautista, who directs UCLA's Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture.

The study, released Tuesday, did not look at other groups such as blacks and Asians, but whites and Hispanics are the

two largest in the state. The study also did not look at the reasons for the commuting patterns, although income appeared to be a large factor.

According to the study, recent Hispanic immigrants — defined as those who have been in the United States less than a decade — were the most likely to use public transportation or car pool. But it found that other immigrants and U.S.-born Hispanics were also more likely than whites to share rides or take trains and buses.

The study found that 56.7 percent of recent immigrants car pooled when the Census was taken, compared with 11.7 percent of whites. And while 20.4 percent of recent immigrants took public transportation, only 3.2 percent of whites did.

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who often takes public transit to encourage other commuters to do the same, said some Hispanics simply can't afford other modes of travel.

"Many don't have cars," he said. Ira Mehlman, a spokesman for the Washington, D.C.-based Federation for American Immigration Reform, agreed that many of the riders don't have a choice.

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STATE

Apartment rents rise modestly in the West

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Apartment rents rose in virtually all of the West's largest metropolitan markets, but the increases remained well below the inflation rate almost everywhere outside Southern California, according to a real estate report to be released Thursday.

The metro area consisting of Los Angeles and Orange counties remained the West's most expensive place to live in an apartment with an average monthly rent of \$1,419 through June, based on statistics compiled by RealFacts, a Novato-based real estate research firm.

The average rent in the Los Angeles metro market climbed 6.2 percent from the same time last year — the second biggest increase among the 20 Western markets surveyed by RealFacts.

The biggest increase occurred east of Los Angeles, in the rapidly growing area of San Bernardino and Riverside counties, where the high demand enabled apartment landlords to raise the average rent 6.9 percent to \$1,045.

The only other metro markets where rents increased by at least 3 percent were: Las Vegas, up 6.1 percent to \$803; Fresno, up 4.3 percent to \$722 per month; Reno, Nev., up 4.2 percent to \$798 per month; and San Diego County, up 3.2 percent to \$1,236 per month.

Among the Western markets survey, Colorado Springs, Colo., was the only place where rents declined, falling 1.8 percent to \$711 per month. In the nearby Denver market, rents edged up 0.6 percent to \$851 per month.

In the rest of the West, apartment rent increases ranged between 0.3 percent in Tucson, Ariz. to 1.9 percent in Albuquerque, N.M.

Even small rent increases represents a shift in the San Francisco Bay area, where landlords had been dramatically lowering their prices for years after the dot-com bust wiped out thousands of jobs and forced many residents to either leave the region or move in with family or friends.

The average rent in the five-county San Francisco metro market stood at \$1,323 in June, a 1 percent increase. The region's average apartment rent peaked at \$1,628 in March 2001, according to RealFacts.

Although California remains the only Western market where apartment rents average more than \$1,000 per month, that price looks like a relative bargain next to the rapidly rising cost of home ownership of the state.

In the Bay Area, the typical monthly mortgage payment had increased 8 percent to \$2,646, according to DataQuick Information Systems, a real estate research service. The typical monthly payment in Southern California increased at a slower pace than some apartment rents, climbing 4.8 percent to \$2,021, DataQuick said.

Home owners get two major benefits that renters don't — tax deductions on their mortgage interest and rising equity as long as their property appreciates.

Average rents in major Western markets

By The Associated Press

Average rents in major Western markets:
Metropolitan area: average June 30 rent, percent change from previous year.

Los Angeles/Orange counties: \$1,419, +6.2 percent
San Francisco/Oakland: \$1,323, +1.0 percent
Ventura County, Calif.: \$1,317, +1.7 percent
San Jose, Calif.: \$1,293, +1.4 percent
San Diego: \$1,236, +3.2 percent
Solano County, Calif.: \$1,072, +0.6 percent
San Bernardino/Riverside counties: \$1,045, +6.9 percent
Sacramento: \$916, +1.4 percent
Seattle: \$890, +2.2 percent
Denver: \$851, +0.6 percent
Las Vegas: \$803, +6.1 percent
Reno: \$798, +4.2 percent
Portland: \$748, +1.6 percent
Phoenix: \$729, +1.8 percent
Fresno County, Calif.: \$722, +4.3 percent
Colorado Springs, Colo.: \$711, -1.8 percent
Boise, Idaho: \$704, +1.3 percent
Salt Lake City: \$671, +0.8 percent
Albuquerque: \$657, +1.9 percent
Tucson, Ariz.: \$619, +0.3 percent

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Santa Monica Daily Press



It's crunch time for Council and Christie's

TENANT TROUBLES, from page 1

significant risk of litigation if a decision is made in a particular way," Moutrie said.

Attorneys for the property owner did not return calls to comment.

Meanwhile, tenants living at Christie's said they are dismayed their home may not be theirs much longer.

Matteson Barclay moved to Christie's in 2001, but had to leave shortly afterward due to the loss of a job. She subsequently lived with relatives in three different states, always intending to return, which she did in September.

"It's the only place I wanted to come back to," said Barclay, who managed to secure the same Christie's apartment she previously vacated. "I can't explain to you the energy and feeling this place has."

Christie's was once adjacent to the Pacific Electric Railway and has been a stopping ground for artists, tourists and mid-level professionals for more than 80 years.

The bungalow complex includes two single-story buildings, each containing eight attached units that face a common grass courtyard. A two-story building with four units on each floor closes a "U" that connects the two one-story buildings on the north side of the lot.

A staff report describes the courtyard as modest in scale, surrounded by wood-frame construction, stucco siding, flat roofs and parapets highlighted with an edge of red clay tile. Concrete sidewalks border the courtyard, and two rows of

planters containing agaves, yucca trees and bougainvillea are adjacent to the front entrance steps.

To be designated a landmark, a site must meet one of six criteria established by City Hall. Randy Davidson, a Christie's resident of five years, said Christie's falls under three of them. In a 10-page report he prepared for the City Council, Davidson relates Christie's to the architectural, economic and social history of the Ocean Park area, aspects that make it worth saving, he said.

Davidson's report is a follow-up to a 43-page survey he and other residents wrote which compares Christie's to 18 courtyard sites in the Ocean Park area. Contrary to the city staff report, the survey contends there are not many "superior examples" of the Mission Revival style. The survey said many of the "courtyards" are more like walkways or lack the ambiance of Christie's. The survey argues City Hall's historical inventory, used to account for unique old buildings, is flawed.

In addition, Davidson has included with his submissions a petition signed by 180 individuals and 15 letters of support requesting the council preserve Christie's. Written by former tenants and community members, the list of notable letter-writers include artists and old-timers, many describing the community spirit they felt while living at 125 Pacific St.

"Anyone who walks, bikes or drives along Neilson Way recognizes this building as an 'established visual feature,'" wrote Santa Monica resident Laurel

"The social interaction generated by the courtyard design has played, and continues to play, a major role in shaping the fabric of Santa Monica."

LAUREL ROENNAU
Former Christie's tenant

Roennau. "It is as familiar and comfortable as an old friend.

"The social interaction generated by

the courtyard design has played, and continues to play, a major role in shaping the fabric of Santa Monica."

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NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS CITY OF SANTA MONICA TASK FORCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Applications are invited to fill one vacancy on the Task Force on the Environment. All persons who reside or work in Santa Monica are invited to apply regardless of race, sex, age, disability, religion, marital status, national origin, sexual preference, or ancestry. Appointment will be made at a City Council meeting in September 2005.

Application forms and information are available at the city of Santa Monica Environmental Programs Division, 200 Santa Monica Pier, Suite I, Santa Monica, CA 90401. You may request an application by mail or fax by calling (310) 458-2227.

**To be eligible, applications must be received at the
Environmental Programs Division office by 5:00pm
Wednesday August 10, 2005.**

Business

SANTA MONICA BUSINESS BRIEFS

Customers can complain for free

By Daily Press staff

Adelphia Communications has introduced a new toll free customer service phone number. Customer service questions can be handled at 888-683-1000. The new phone number supersedes any previously listed phone numbers. The change has been made to streamline and improve customer care.

For more information, visit Adelphia's Web site at www.adelphasocal.com.

Be an educated business owner

By Daily Press staff

Knowledge is power, especially in today's world of small business ownership.

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The Small Business Development Center offers workshops and seminars that are intended to provide a solid business foundation of proper practices, procedures and philosophies from which to build your successful business. First, identify your strengths and weaknesses, then access the training that best addresses your needs.

Accounting

Tired of juggling paperwork and creating spreadsheets that spread nothing but numbers all over the place? Would you like a better balance? This class introduces and overviews essentials for small business finance and accounting from profit and loss statements, to quarterly financial statements, cost analysis and projections to basic record keeping from the perspective of what bank loans are looking for, accounting audits require and financial projections that allow a business to plan ahead and truly understand the financial status of their business.

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Are you thinking of starting up a new business? This three-hour class introduces what it takes to start up a new business from home-based to franchise, permits to DBA's, research to business plans. We overview research solutions, start up resources, strategies and recommendations. The class then discusses loan options for new businesses, where to find money and what the banks are looking for. We review available resources to assist from VEDC, SBDC, SBA, SCORE and local sources.

Westside SBDC: \$25, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. July 13, Aug. 10, Aug. 31, Sept. 15, Oct. 19, Nov. 10 and Dec. 16.

Business plan basics

If your company is seeking financing or direction and you want to know the basics of how to write a business plan — sign up here. Businesses typically allow their daily operations to steer the direction of their business. Without proper planning, goals, objectives, check-points, and checks and balances in place, businesses veer far from their original courses often into dead-ends. Avoid pitfalls and detours — go directly to success with the hands-on business plan class that will teach you how to best identify goals and objectives in relation to marketing, sales, distribution, management and finance. We review informal and formal business plans and how best to address your company's needs.

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Getting on a roll all full of options



MIND YOUR BUSINESS

BY KIRK G. AGUER

If you're changing jobs, it's important to understand the options you have for managing your IRAs.

With employees changing jobs more frequently than ever before, it's rare to find someone who has worked his or her entire life for the same company. Whether or not you have recently changed jobs or you have retired from your long-time employer, you should know that you may be facing some complicated tax rules and potentially significant tax consequences if you decide to take your retirement assets out of your current retirement plan.

Funds received from an employer plan distribution will likely represent a significant portion of your liquid financial assets. As a result, they deserve all the time and attention you can afford to give them. We've outlined below some of the key issues you should keep in mind when thinking about rolling over your IRA. If you'd like more information on how to make the best financial use of your distribution, contact your financial advisor.

MANAGING YOUR LUMP SUM DISTRIBUTION

Many employees, upon changing jobs or retiring, find themselves eligible for a distribution from their employer-sponsored retirement plan, which can include, among other types, an Internal Revenue Code section 401(k), defined benefit pension, or Code section 457 plans. Deciding on how to make the best use of this money is not an easy task. Just one or two hasty decisions may leave you with a tax bill that could wind up costing you up to 30 percent of the assets you've worked so hard to accumulate.

MANDATORY WITHHOLDING TAX

The IRS requires that a 20 percent withholding tax be automatically applied to all lump-sum distributions. If you'd like to avoid this withholding, you can arrange in advance to either do a "direct rollover" to another eligible retirement plan (such as an IRA) or do a trustee-to-trustee transfer to another qualified

defined contribution plan — such as a Code section 401(k) plan — with a new employer. You may also take possession of your distribution, and roll over only part of your distribution into an IRA rollover account using the balance for whatever purpose you wish. Of course, you'll still be liable for both the 20 percent mandatory withholding, plus any additional taxes due on the amount actually distributed directly to you outside of those accounts. If you choose to rollover into a Traditional IRA, the IRS requires that you begin taking distributions by April 1 of the year after you reach 70 years old.

ROLLOVERS MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN 60 DAYS

If you take a distribution from your qualified plan or IRA and do not directly roll over your distribution, you'll still have 60 days to weigh your rollover options. After that time, the distribution amount will be considered "earned income" to you and taxes may be owed on that amount when you file your annual tax return. In addition, if you are under 59 years old, you may also be required to pay a federal 10 percent early withdrawal penalty tax. If you take a roll over from your employer's plan and directly receive the amounts, your employer is legally required to withhold 20 percent, leaving you with 80 percent of the distribution. You may still roll over the full value of the distribution but must replace the 20 percent withheld from another source. And you can't wait until you get a tax refund to roll over the amount withheld.

ROLLOVERS CONTINUE TAX DEFERRAL

If you decide to roll over your retirement assets into an IRA rollover account — either directly or within the 60-day period — taxes on your distribution will be deferred until you begin making withdrawals. In addition, any account earnings or gains have the opportunity to grow on a tax-deferred basis. What's more, a rollover account may offer a variety of investment options — from mutual funds to professionally managed portfolios — which may be suitable for a wide range of investors.

(To reach Kirk Aguer, contact him at Morgan Stanley's Santa Monica branch office at (310) 319-5220. Morgan Stanley DW Inc., member SIPC.)

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releases to

editor@smdp.com

LOCAL



Photos courtesy of Arthur Verge

Decades ago, lifeguards spent most of their time in the water atop paddle boards.

Riding the tides of change

LIFEGUARDS, from page 3

One of the book's more unique photographs depicts Marilyn Monroe at a lifeguard luau in the 1950s.

Much of Verge's interest in Santa Monica's beaches and lifeguard culture stems from his own personal history. Verge represents the fourth generation of his family who are residents of Santa Monica, and the second generation of lifeguards, following in the footsteps of his father, Arthur Verge Sr.

Verge has many fond childhood beach memories of hanging out with such surfing greats as Preston "Pete" Peterson and Mike Doyle, and sharing an afternoon with such political giants as Earl Warren, who would become governor of California in 1942 and then Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court in 1953.

Over the past 20 years, Verge has expanded his collection of rare photographs. From his connections in the lifeguarding community, Verge has had access to the individuals who could provide him with first-hand accounts and personal snapshots. He scoured microfilm archives at the Santa Monica Public Library, finding the material that would take him six months to organize and finalize.

The result of his extensive research is a 128-page historical tome detailing what Verge describes as the rich and fascinating past of the LA County Lifeguards.

"Los Angeles County Lifeguards" also touches on one of lifeguarding's most famous trademarks — the "Baywatch" television show, which was filmed at Will Rogers State Beach. The NBC show premiered in 1989 and ran until 2001, but few know that TV personalities portrayed by David Hasselhoff and Pamela Anderson had real-life counterparts.

Well, sort of.

"The book will make people more aware about what we're about," Verge said. "People just reduce it to 'Baywatch', but perception is reality, and this book is more along the real lines."

Verge emphasized that the real lifeguard crew are not all tanned, oiled and complimented by red swimming trunks. What is real, however, is the diversity and bravery among them, he said. The current crew includes doctors, film and movie producers, and numerous other professionals. For some, lifeguarding is a part-time job, but for many, lifeguarding remains a full-

time passion. Verge believes that his inspiration for writing his books has come from living the life of an "average lifeguard." However, the stories that lifeguards have to tell are in no way average.

Since 1974, Verge has devoted his life toward protecting the beaches of Santa Monica and Venice, as well as its visitors. He admits that in his three decades of dedication, he has seen a change. It used to be that beaches were local hangout spots where one could see friendly, sometimes famous faces.

Verge believes that, with the advent and popularization of cars, the beaches have become more accessible to outlying communities. Verge and his team of lifeguards no longer know a local beach crowd, and celebrities instead look to the more empty beaches of Malibu and beyond. Still, Verge sees the positive.

"One thing that has stayed the same is the big crowds that come down in the summer and on weekends," he said. "The waves are still the same, and the job is still the same."

"It's still the best job in the world."

When he's not surveying the beachscape or riding the waves at Santa Monica or Venice beaches, Verge wins "Distinguished Professor" awards at El Camino College in Torrance, where he teaches history. Verge also is busy writing his third book, in progress for the last five or six years. The book will be a memoir-account of his own childhood experience growing up in Santa Monica, surfing and beach-going with some of the most famous faces of the day. Verge also plans to delve into his experiences responding to some of the unhappy tragedies that Santa Monica's waters have seen, including murders and plane crashes.

Verge considers every day a triumph, despite the inherent difficulties of his work.

"It isn't a job, it's a way of life," Verge noted wistfully about his devotion to being a lifeguard. "Not only is it involved in protecting and saving lives, but there's also something magical about going surfing in the ocean before work."

"Los Angeles County Lifeguards," is available at area bookstores, independent retailers, on-line bookstores or directly through Arcadia Publishing. Verge will be signing his book at 7 p.m. this evening at Duttons Bookstore (11975 San Vicente Blvd. in Brentwood).

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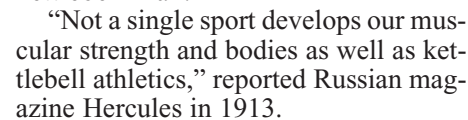
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Flyer's 'Magic Carpet' ride saved thousands

SKY HIGH, from page 1

who led a secret operation during the late 1940s to fly more than 40,000 Jewish refugees from Yemen to Israel, soon after the Jewish state was created. Maguire, who made 380 flights over hostile Arab territory over the course of more than a year to complete Operation Magic Carpet, died on June 10 at his Northridge home. He was 94.

"He was a wonderful guy. That's one thing we could say for sure," Daniel said. "Very bright, very good to his friends, very good to everybody, actually."

Maguire and crew were often shot at by Egyptian forces as they made the 1,400-mile trip from the southern tip of Yemen to Tel Aviv, a massive transport of refugees that earned Maguire his nickname "the Irish Moses." The pilot was forced to fly dangerously low to the ground to avoid being detected by Arab nations hankering to take down Maguire's DC-4 "Spirit of Freedom" aircraft.

"Somebody had to have explained to him the subjugation of these Jews in Yemen. He knew everything about what he was doing, he knew he was saving these people," said Lynn Weiner, an embedded journalist who flew with Maguire on some of his secret flights.

The afternoon tribute had a surprisingly lighthearted milieu, as attendees — who sat under the hot summer sun on white fold-out chairs set up along the runway — mostly laughed and shared old stories about Maguire before the ceremony got under way.

"I'm from Coosbay, Oregon, and, well, it was just boring but Uncle Bob was exciting. He was the most exciting because he would just fly in from wherever he was in the world and he always had good stories to tell," said Kathleen Bomke, Maguire's niece.

Guests were welcomed by Maguire's son, Robert Maguire III, who spoke glowingly of his father on a stage adorned with an American flag and an Israeli flag planted side-by-side. The day's speakers also included Weiner and Rabbi Marvin Hier, who presented Maguire's son with the U.S. Ambassador's Honor award for his father's involvement in Operation Magic Carpet and Operation Ali Baba, a subsequent mission that lifted Jews from Iran and Iraq to Israel. Ehud Danoch, the consul general of Israel and son of two Yemenite refugees Maguire airlifted, also attended, but did not speak.

The DC-4 airplane Maguire used to airlift the Jewish refugees landed near the ceremony stage, as two bagpipers blasted traditional Irish melodies and attendees broke out into applause.

Maguire, born in Portland, Oregon, in 1911, attended Reed College and the University of Oregon. The day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and fought in the Pacific region during World War II. Maguire later went on to work for Alaska Airlines, which was awarded a contract to fly Jewish refugees from around the world to newly created Israel. After the airline was forced to give up the contract, Maguire took it upon himself to hire pilots, commission planes and start his own airline to airlift refugees into Israel.



"He wasn't afraid to step in and do something," said Larry Bomke, who met Maguire after marrying his niece. "That showed what kind of guy he was. He stepped in and said 'if the airline's not gonna get it done, I'll get it done.'"

Maguire, in order to avoid enemy radar, was forced to fly without the aid of his radio — instead depending solely on maps and careful timing. Maguire was eventually able to gauge the arrival time of the multi-hour flight to within 12 seconds, Weiner said.

The pilot transferred 40,000 Yemenite refugees without a single death, though Maguire did avoid some close calls with the enemy. During one flight, Maguire's plane ran out of fuel over Egypt — a nation that often fired on the refugee-packing flights — forcing him to land. Egyptian officials who rushed the cockpit ready to detain all on board were stopped cold when Maguire warned he had small pox-ridden passengers on board.

The fabricated warning persuaded Egyptian officials, who had put a 25,000-pound bounty on Maguire's head, to allow his crew to refuel and continue their flight to the Jewish homeland.

Maguire later went on to become the president of a Los Angeles-based real estate firm.

His friends remembered Maguire as a deeply spiritual man, who put others before himself.



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

(Top) Well-wishers and old friends of Robert Maguire Jr. view the DC-4 'Spirit of Freedom', the plane the former pilot used on countless refugee transport missions. (Above) Maguire's son, Robert Maguire III, accepts the U.S. Ambassador's honor for his late father from Rabbi Marvin Hier on Wednesday.

"There are certain individuals who are once in a lifetime," said Norman Decker, who worked with Maguire in real estate for about 40 years. "Bob was one of those."

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415 PCH



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Explore the vibrant history of this legendary beachfront property, learn how a partnership with the Annenberg Foundation is bringing the site back to life, get project updates and give us your ideas - We'll pass them on to the Design Team!

415 Design Team Open House

Thursday, July 28 - Anytime from 4:30 to 7 pm
Back on the Beach (445 Pacific Coast Highway)
Before heading off to the Twilight Dance Series on the Pier, stop by for a 415 site tour and an informal chat with the Design Team. Let us know what would make 415 sparkle for you and your family!

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September 2005 at the Site
Insight wanted! Join us for a series of group discussions as the visionary design for 415 PCH emerges. Visit 415pch.smgov.net later this summer for more information.

Limited parking in Beach Lot 10 is available. Visitors are encouraged to walk or bike along the beach path from the Pier. Back on the Beach is wheelchair accessible. To request a disability-related accommodation, please call 310-458-8310 at least 3 business days in advance. Para información en español, llame al número 310-458-8540.

The revitalization of this public site is made possible by a generous gift from Wallis Annenberg and the Annenberg Foundation in partnership with the City of Santa Monica and California State Parks.



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Christina S. Porter
Vice President

Anti-nuclear groups bid for Los Alamos

By The Associated Press

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. — Two anti-nuclear groups have filed bids to run the Los Alamos National Laboratory, with the aim of dismantling its nuclear weapons research and turning the lab's research program toward the environment.

Santa Fe-based Nuclear Watch of New Mexico and California's Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment submitted a joint 24-page proposal Tuesday to manage the lab for the Energy Department.

They suggested reversing direction for the lab where the atomic bomb was developed 60 years ago, turning its future toward research on environmental restoration, renewable energy, green manufacturing and combatting global warming.

The two major contenders for the contract — one group headed by the University of California and engineering company Bechtel Corp., the other by defense contractor Lockheed Martin and the University of Texas — also turned in management bids. They submitted hundreds of pages of materials.

The DOE is to hear oral presentations

in August and is expected to make its choice by Dec. 1.

The proposal from the anti-nuclear groups said they believe all nuclear weapons activities "should be conducted in a purely custodial role while all nuclear arsenals await irreversible dismantlement."

They wrote that the United States and other signatories to the Nonproliferation Treaty made a binding pledge to take steps toward nuclear disarmament. The groups said it is in the interest of national security to fulfill that pledge.

They also said the United States' lack of energy independence threatens its national security.

The anti-nuclear groups' bid pledged to make the lab more accountable to the public by increasing protections for whistle-blowers, developing community access programs and paying gross receipts taxes to the state of New Mexico, worth up to \$80 million a year.

They said they would not seek to protect the lab from penalties for violations involving occupational safety, nuclear safety, security, fiscal management and the environment. That indemnification was allowed in the bidding process.

Windy City wonders take to pier tonight

BLUES, from page 1

Included among the night's veteran performers are vocalists Nick "The Greek" Gravenites and Tracy Nelson, keyboardist Barry Goldberg, guitarist Harvey "The Snake" Mandel, drummer Sam Lay and harmonica master Corky Siegel.

Many of the veteran artists boast lengthy resumes rooted in the Midwest.

Keyboardist Goldberg collaborated with vocalist Charlie Musselwhite on his notable 1967 album "Stand Back." Vocalist Gravenites spent his heyday singing with Electric Flag — a blues group started up by guitarist Mike Bloomfield in 1967.

Each performer will be backed by a trio of instrumentalists including drummer Gary Mallaber, bassist Rick Reed with Zach Wagner on rhythm guitar.

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Pier officials strongly recommend walking, biking and using mass transit to get to the concerts, as parking is limited. Parking is available in beach parking lots located at 2330 Barnard Way, located south of the pier, and 1550 PCH, just north of the pier.



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NATIONAL



High Court nominee has explaining to do

BY DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court nominee John Roberts will receive “full, fair and complete” hearings, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee pledged on Wednesday as a group with White House ties unveiled a televised ad campaign aimed at assuring confirmation.

Abortion rights organizations declared their opposition to Roberts, a 50-year-old federal appeals court judge. But as yet, there were no outright calls for his rejection from any of the Senate’s 44 Democrats.

“I urge the Senate to rise to the occasion, provide a fair and civil process and to have Judge Roberts in place before the next court sessions begins on October the third,” said President Bush, the morning after he tapped the Harvard-educated lawyer with a sterling resume and impeccable conservative credentials.

If confirmed, Roberts would replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O’Connor on the court. She has frequently been a swing vote in recent years on issues ranging from abortion to affirmative action and states rights.

That made Roberts’ nomination a potential political flash point in the Senate and beyond.

Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa. chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said hearings would begin in late August or more likely early September.

“And I can assure you that the hearings will be full, fair and complete,” he told reporters in the Capitol.

Roberts had breakfast with Bush at the White House, but did not speak to reporters. He saved his talking for later in the day, when the White House scheduled the first in a series of courtesy calls on senators who will ultimately decide whether he takes his place on the high court.

His first stop was in the office of Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee, who has pledged to meet Bush’s goal

of completing the confirmation proceedings before the court’s new term begins on Oct. 3.

Roberts also had a meeting with Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid on his schedule. Bush’s pick “has had an impressive legal career” and other fine qualities, the Nevada lawmaker said in remarks on the Senate floor during the day. But, he added, “they do not automatically qualify John Roberts to serve on the highest court of the land.”

He said senators “must be convinced that the nominee will respect constitutional principles and protect the constitutional rights of all Americans.”

Abortion surfaced quickly as a point of contention.

NARAL-Pro Choice America announced its opposition to Roberts even before Bush formally made his selection public in a prime time televised White House appearance on Tuesday. The group planned an “emergency demonstration” against the nomination across the street from the Capitol at midday.

On the other side of the political equation, Progress For America called a news conference to announce a television commercial to begin running soon. The group, which coordinates its efforts with presidential aides, pledged in advance to spend at least \$18 million on advertising and grass roots activities to buttress the confirmation prospects of whomever Bush chose.

Abortion, a polarizing issue for lawmakers, will be the “hot button” issue in the confirmation battle, conceded Fred Thompson, the former senator who will shepherd the nomination through the Senate.

At the same time, he cautioned against reading too much into Roberts’ various writings on Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

“Many of the positions he’s taken are positions he took as an advocate ... representing a client,” said Thompson.

Specter, who supports abortion rights, said he was dis-

appointed that some liberal organizations view Roberts as unsuitable over the issue of abortion.

He did say, though, that he felt it appropriate to ask Roberts about his previous statement that Roe v. Wade was settled law. “If he said it’s settled law, it would be relevant to confirm the fact that has been said,” Specter said.

Democrats raised questions and said they would await the hearings to seek answers.

“If he wants to be on the Supreme Court, he has to be more forthcoming to convince the American people that a man who could serve on the court for 20 to 30 years really is in the mainstream of American thinking,” said Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., who is a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Democratic concern over Roberts’ abortion views stem from two seemingly contradictory positions that Roberts took on Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.

In a brief that he filed with the Supreme Court while serving as deputy solicitor general in the administration of the first President Bush, Roberts said that Roe v. Wade “was wrongly decided and should be overruled.”

Several years later, he told senators during his 2003 confirmation hearings for his current appellate court post that the decision was “the settled law of the land.”

Thompson said the administration expects lawmakers to ask tough questions about Roberts’ abortion views. But he also said they should distinguish between Roberts’ role as a policy advocate as a one-time deputy solicitor general in a Republican administration and his contrasting role as a jurist.

“It’s not a question of whose side he’s on,” Thompson said. “He’s on the side of the litigant that comes into court with the facts and the law on their side. And he will not be prejudging any cases before the committee or anyone else.”

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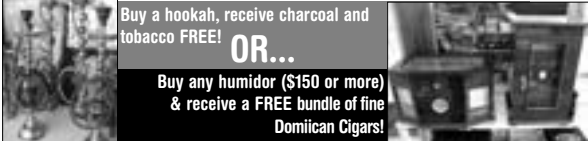
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INTERNATIONAL

Lack of security prompts Sunnis to break from talks

BY BASSEM MROUE
 Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Sunni Muslim members on a committee drafting Iraq's new constitution suspended their participation Wednesday in the wake of a colleague's assassination, saying they need more security. A suicide bomber blew himself up outside an army recruiting center in central Baghdad, killing at least 10 people.

The suicide attacker detonated his explosives belt at the entrance to a recruiting center at Baghdad's defunct Muthanna airport, according to police and medical officials.

At least 21 people were injured, said Dr. Muhannad Jawad from Yarmouk Hospital. The recruiting center has been targeted multiple times in recent months, with a July 10 attack killing 25 and wounding 47.

The violence came a day after two Sunni Arabs helping draft the constitution — committee member Mijbil Issa and committee adviser Dhamin Hussein al-Obeidi — were gunned down as they left a restaurant in Baghdad's Karradah district. A bodyguard also was killed.

Issa was among 15 Sunni Arabs appointed to the committee last month to give Sunni Arabs a greater voice in preparing the constitution, which must be approved by parliament by Aug. 15.

Two Sunnis already had quit due to insurgent threats, and with the death of Issa the others were considering withdrawing from the committee. Kamal Hamdoun, a Sunni member, said the 12 remaining members would meet Thursday with Sunni leaders to decide what to do.

"Our membership has been suspended temporarily until tomorrow when we meet the committee that chose us," Hamdoun said. "We don't have security."

Humam Hammoudi, chairman of the constitutional drafting commission, said Wednesday he remains confident the constitution will be finished on time.

Members of the committee say Shiites are pushing for a greater role for Islam in civil law — a proposal that could erode women's rights in such matters as marriage, divorce and inheritance.

Mariam al-Rayyes, a female Shiite Muslim member of the committee, said Islam will be a "main source" for legislation in the constitution and the state religion.

"It gives women all rights and freedoms as long as they don't contradict with our values," Al-Rayyes said. "Concerning marriage, inheritance and divorce, this is civil status laws. That should not contradict with religious values."

On Wednesday, the government observed three minutes of silence for nearly 100 victims of a massive suicide bombing in Musayyib over the weekend, and nearly 30 others, including 18 children and teens, killed July 13 in a suicide attack in Baghdad.

"Let the entire world see and hear who is standing behind these acts, who wants to kill childhood, to kill innocents and worshippers," said Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari.

Throughout the city, observance was sporadic, with Iraqiya Television showing traffic at a standstill in the al-Allawi district in central Baghdad as well as along a main street in southern Basra.

"I didn't follow this moment of silence, not because I ignored those who were killed but because I don't believe that this moment of silence will do anything for this tragedy," said Amer Kudhair, 32, a supermarket owner in the Karradah area.

An official confirmed that nine staff members of the Iraqi special tribunal preparing to try Saddam Hussein have been dismissed because of links to the ousted dictator's Baath Party.

The cases of 19 others, including the chief investigative judge, are under review.

The executive director of the Supreme National Commission for de-Baathification, Ali al-Lami, said the nine dismissed staffers held administrative jobs such as the witness security protection program and tribunal security.

Al-Lami said that the committee is preparing another list for 19 persons, mostly judges, for possible dismissal. They include chief judge Raid Juhi, he said.

The head of the government committee in charge of purging former Baath officials is Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Chalabi, a former Pentagon favorite.

"We believe that many Baathists have infiltrated the special tribunal and they should be dismissed," said Entifadh Qanbar, Chalabi's spokesman. "The reasons behind the delay in the trial of Saddam is the presence of Baathists in the special tribunal and they represent an obstacle to the trial of the former regime members."

Explosions were reported Wednesday at two oil pipelines in central Iraq, police said.

An early morning blast hit a pipeline nine miles south of Samarra, linking the Beiji and Dora refineries, said Capt. Ahmed Salih.

An explosion occurred Tuesday at a crude oil storage depot 25 miles south of Baghdad, said another policeman, Rashid al-Samarei.

The pipelines feed domestic power plants, and such attacks often mean more electricity shortages for Baghdad's 6.5 million people.

Even before the pipelines were hit, Azzam newspaper quoted the electricity ministry as saying power cuts would be extended in Baghdad.

Electricity will be provided for two hours, followed by a 10-hour cut instead of the previous four-hour cut.

In other developments:

■ A U.S. helicopter was forced to make an emergency landing in Taji, north of Baghdad, because of mechanical problems though no injuries were reported, a military spokesman said.

■ Ten explosions were heard Wednesday at the U.S. military base in Ramadi's eastern neighborhood of Al-Ziraa, 1st Let. Mohamed Al-Obeidi of the city police said. It was unclear what had caused the explosions.

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INTERNATIONAL



Journalist claims Polanski flirted after Tate killing

BY JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press Writer

LONDON — A New York magazine editor testified Wednesday that Roman Polanski made “tasteless and vulgar” advances to a woman at a Manhattan restaurant shortly after the death of his wife, Sharon Tate.

Testifying in Polanski’s libel lawsuit against publisher Conde Nast, Lewis Lapham, editor of Harper’s magazine, confirmed that he was the source of an anecdote related in a 2002 article in Vanity Fair magazine.

The article reported Polanski had tried to seduce a woman at Elaine’s restaurant while he was traveling to Los Angeles for his wife’s funeral. Tate, who was pregnant, was killed by followers of serial killer Charles Manson in August 1969.

Polanski, who testified Monday by video link from Paris, called the story “an abominable lie” that “dishonors my memory of Sharon.”

Lapham, 70, told the jury in High Court that he was with model Beatte Telle when Polanski sat at their table.

“He began to talk to her in a forward way. He began to praise her beauty and speak to her — romance her,” Lapham said.

“At one point he (Polanski) had his hand on her leg and said to her, ‘I can put you in movies. I can make you the next Sharon Tate.’ He meant it as a compliment. He was attempting to impress her, wanting to express his admiration for her looks,” Lapham said.

“I was impressed by the remark, not only because it was tasteless and vulgar, but because it was a cliché.”

Conde Nast now accepts that the incident didn’t happen before Tate’s funeral, but says it was about two weeks later. The publisher maintains the article is substantially true.

Lawyers for Conde Nast have attempted to paint Polanski as a “fugitive from morality” and a fantasist incapable of telling the truth on important matters.

Polanski conceded during his testimony that he was unfaithful and has little memory of the weeks following his wife’s death.

The director, now 71, has lived in France since fleeing child-sex charges in the United States in 1978. He was unwilling to come to Britain for fear of extradition.

On Tuesday, Mia Farrow, star of Polanski’s 1968 film, “Rosemary’s Baby,” described his sense of “despair and bewilderment and loss” after Tate’s murder.

Farrow said she had been with Polanski that night at Elaine’s and he had been “unable to talk about anything else ... He just kept saying over and over, ‘Why? Why?’”

Conde Nast is based in New York, but libel actions concerning the international media are often brought in British courts because they are considered friendlier to claimants than U.S. courts.

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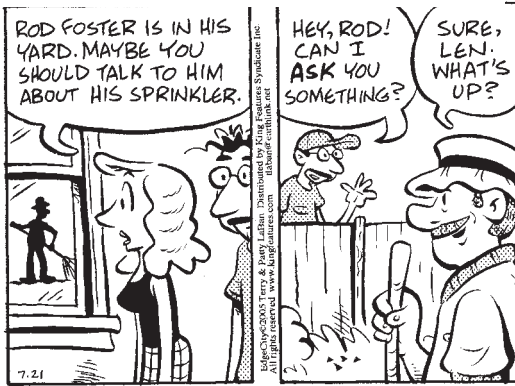


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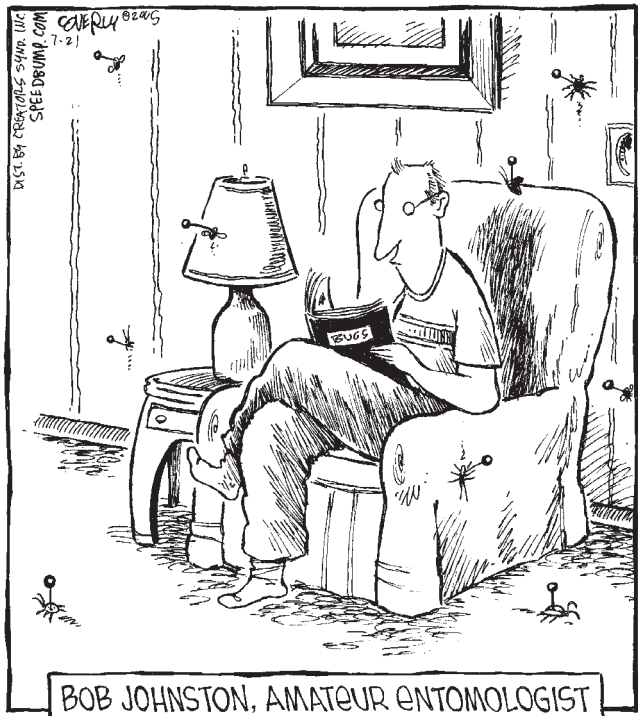
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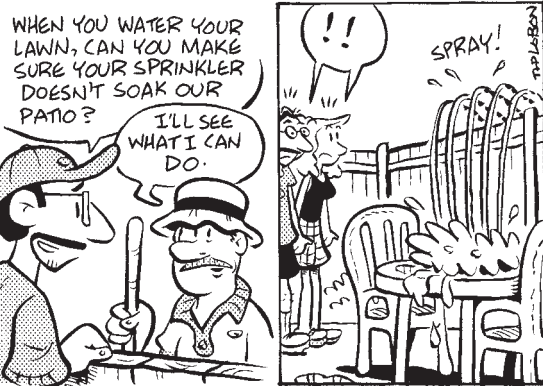


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13. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2000; 284: 2561-2566.

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