

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

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Daytime: 4 2 8

Evening: 4 4 0

DAILY DERBY

1st: 08 Gorgeous George

2nd: 10 Solid Gold

3rd: 12 Lucky Charms

RACE TIME: 1:41.33

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Purdy, Mo., banker Glen Garrett, 66, got in trouble in the 1990s and by 1998, according to a Springfield (Mo.) Business Journal report, had spent about \$1 million in legal fees to fight federal regulators who had fined him because he wouldn't stop doing business as his father had taught him, that is, by handshake, rather than by the required, formal paperwork. In one paperless deal, Garrett hired himself to construct a bank building, but that upset the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. because there were no competitive bids, even though an independent appraiser later said that Garrett built the bank for about \$300,000 less than the market price.

TODAY IN HISTORY

ON JULY 28, 1945, a U.S. Army bomber crashed into the 79th floor of New York's Empire State Building, killing 14 people.

■ In 1540, King Henry VIII chief minister, Thomas Cromwell, was executed, the same day Henry married his fifth wife, Catherine Howard.

■ In 1750, composer Johann Sebastian Bach died in Leipzig, Germany.

■ In 1821, Peru declared its independence from Spain.

■ In 1943, President Roosevelt announced the end of coffee rationing.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Modern man will stand for anything — except for a standing woman on a bus.

INDEX

Horoscopes

Live for the moment, Leo 2

Local

The low-down on the DNC 3

Surf Report

Water temperature: 71° 3

Opinion

Pedophiles and polygamists 4

Real estate

A historic look at downtown 8

State

Hearst deal challenged 10

Comics

Crossword puzzle 12

Classifieds

\$3.50 a day 13-14

Service Directory

Need a plumber? 15

\$10M space race launches in SM

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM AIRPORT — Eight years after announcing a \$10 million competition for private space flight, Peter Diamandis of Santa Monica finally got a nod from industry pioneers on Tuesday.

Billionaire Paul Allen's "SpaceShipOne," the front-runner, is primed for a Sept. 29 flight from Mojave, Calif., officials announced during a morning press conference at Santa Monica Airport.

Toronto-based "Wild Fire" — built with the help of 6,000 volunteers dedicating some 150,000 hours — will compete against "SpaceShipOne." It will be unveiled in early August, setting it up for a flight later this fall, team leaders said. Both ships are launched from unmanned helium balloons at about 80,000 feet.

"It's really the U.S. versus Canada," said Diamandis, 45, who lives in the Ocean Park neighborhood. "It's the race to space."

The winner must fly more than 62 miles off the face of the earth

twice in a two week-period. The pilot must be accompanied by two passengers, or their equivalent in weight. "SpaceShipOne" made history by breaking into orbit last month, but it wasn't carrying passengers. It is also the first team to announce that its crew is ready to be launched.

Diamandis, an entrepreneur with a background in medicine and engineering, hopes the competition eventually will make space flight available to more people outside of the government. He points to Charles Lindbergh's famous 1927 flight from New York to Paris in "The Spirit of St. Louis," saying air traffic increased 30-fold in the three years afterward.

Lindbergh won the \$25,000 "Orteig Prize," which was named after a hotel magnate. In doing so, he beat out eight competing teams that had spent in excess of \$400,000 attempting to cross the Atlantic Ocean. Like with the current \$10 million competition, the Orteig prize had been available for eight years.

See SPACE RACE, page 6

T'd off: City takes a swing at golfers

BY JOHN F. MULLER

Special to the Daily Press

CITY HALL — Golfing in area parks is a foregone conclusion: Put down the clubs.

Golfing may be added to the growing list of activities that are against the law in city parks.

City staff proposed to the City Council Tuesday night a new law that would make it illegal to golf in all 24 Santa Monica parks.

It isn't just that golfers are doing damage to the city's grass when they practice their pitching and putting strokes — the sport isn't exactly conducive to the more accepted park activities, said City Hall's open space manager Elaine Polachek. Errant golf balls and circling metal clubs don't exactly link up with soccer players, dog walkers, picnickers and transients who frequent Santa Monica parks.

"We found that people swinging clubs and hitting balls in parks where you have a large population of people sitting, resting, walking, enjoying open spaces is somewhat problematic," Polachek said, adding that she is a golfer herself. "That's what driving ranges are for."

While city officials are unaware of any past golf-related injuries, they pointed to citizen complaints as the reason for the proposed ordinance.

Polachek said most complaints about errant golf balls came from residents near Cloverfield, Virginia and Stewart parks, though people have been seen swinging at all of the city's parks. Balls have been flying into the mobile homes near Stewart Park, she said.

"I know it sounds kind of goofy, but there's a real safety concern here," Polachek said. "We don't want anyone to get hurt."

See GOLF, page 6



Photo courtesy

(Above) A rendering of 'SpaceShipOne,' which will launch into space in September.

(Below) Leaders of the private space flight movement gather at Santa Monica Airport on Tuesday to announce their plans to win a \$10 million competition. From left to right: Dr. Peter Diamandis, chairman and founder of the X PRIZE Foundation; Brian Feeney, team leader for the Candian da Vinci Project Team; Col. Rick Searfoss, chief judge for the competition; Burt Rutan, team leader for the American Mojave Aerospace Team; Amir Ansari, title sponsor benefactor and David Moore of Vulcan Inc., representing Paul G. Allen.

California grid operators brace for hot summer

BY JENNIFER COLEMAN

Associated Press Writer

FOLSOM, Calif. — For three days in a row last week, California broke all-time electricity consumption records as the mercury climbed over 90 degrees across much of the state.

And this is only July. Sizzling August still lies ahead, and the record is almost certain to be broken again.

"We still haven't seen our peak for this year," said Jim Detmers,

acting chief operating officer of the Independent System Operator, manager of much of California's power grid.

The first statewide heat wave of the year has stirred fears of blackouts in California four years after the power system collapsed under the weight of high demand, market manipulation, a botched attempt at deregulation, and inadequate generation and transmission capacity.

Industry experts, citing

See SUMMER, page 7

Jacquie Banks

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Live for the moment, Leo

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 jump in and change procedures, turning a difficult project into a snap. Your vitality and creativity merge. Check out details before you make your grand presentation. Back up ideas with facts and figures. Tonight: In your head.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Your vision is enhanced by a close associate or family member. You might be surprised if you share what comes up for you. Your overindulgent ways continue to come out. You want to dote on someone and let him or her know how much you care. Tonight: Now is the right time to say "thank you."



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Others seek you out. You might be unusually assertive. Recognize this possibility, especially if you get a strange response. In fact, your best move is to do nothing and roll with the moment. Others surprise you with their thoughts. Tonight: Just don't be alone.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Stay entrenched in your work, and complete as much as possible. Your ability to handle others in a kind way comes out. Use your sixth sense with a loved one or new acquaintances. Choose not to be hurt. Tonight: Exercise away.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Continue using your drive and strong sense of direction. Praise an associate, friend or loved one for a job well-done. Your attention and verbalization of approval can and do make a big difference. Tonight: Live for the moment.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Keep your thoughts, ideas and imagination close to your chest. Understand where others might be coming from and that they only mean the best. An action taken at the right time could make all the difference. Your wait could take you to tomorrow. Tonight: Buy favorite munchies on the way home.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ How you present your case can make all the difference in whether others go with it or walk away. Lady Luck plus Libra's charming ways work, hitting the bull's-eye. Know that you are a winner. Don't shy away from others. Tonight: Out with friends.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Deal with your budget or money issues with a superior. Not everyone has the right idea as to how to maximize time and money. Demonstrate these innate skills. Others seek you out for help. Listen and share your opinion. Tonight: Play with your home budget.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ No one can effect change like you. With the Moon cheering you on, reach out for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Your ingenious vision provides a different approach, which will work. Others support you, smiling away. Tonight: Whatever pleases you.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Continue to stand back. You have a lot to share, but the timing isn't quite right. A partner pushes you to take a stand now. Just observe. You don't have the full story yet. Take your time, as tomorrow you'll hit a power day. Tonight: Think over your presentation.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You can pull rabbits out of black hats right now. Please don't hesitate to zoom in and get what you want. Others will pitch in. You demonstrate the power of positive thinking. Someone might disagree with you, but is pleased with your success. Tonight: Add some romance to your life.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Bosses demand a lot. You might not want to take the lead, but you will. You are coming from a very positive place. Others respond accordingly. Your energy pushes a job to completion much faster than anyone thought. Tonight: In the limelight.

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LOCAL



DNC: Burnt cheese pizza and inspiring speeches



(Editor's note: Politics, positioning and partying is the name of the game at the Democratic National Convention this week. Santa Monica Daily Press columnist Dr. Lara Brown is spending the week in the thick of it. Here, she'll give readers on the Left Coast a taste of the Beantown scene).

BY LARA BROWN
Special to the Daily Press

First, let me apologize for the mistake in my Sunday report. I wrote that the Blue Dog Coalition held their event at the Roxbury. The nightclub was actually called the Roxy. While, I'm sure the three hours of sleep didn't help much, I must admit, given that we Angelenos, happen to have nightclubs by both names in our fair city, my written report was not the first time that I did it on this trip to Beantown.

Now onto Monday... and what a day it was! The California Delegation had breakfast at the Westin Copley with special guest Howard Dean who gave an inspiring speech, imploring all of us to get more involved than we ever have before. He reminded the delegation of all that was at stake in this election and he urged us to work together to defeat President Bush. VIPs at my table (it was so big, I can't remember all the electeds): New Mexico Attorney General Patricia Madrid, U.S. Congresswomen Zoe Lofgren and Lois Capps.

Lunch, provided by two of California's largest companies — Disney and Southern California Edison — was a moving tribute

to U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein. As former U.S. Senator George Mitchell remarked to the 1,000-plus crowd: "Being the eighth speaker today to comment about how wonderful a Senator, Dianne is, I feel a little like Zsa Zsa Gabor's eighth husband on their wedding night. I know what I'm supposed to do, I'm just not sure that I can make it very interesting." Yet, by the end of the lunch, most eyes had shed a few tears. Sen. Feinstein is a great lady who has served her city (San Francisco) and her state (California) well over her many years in public service. When she reached the podium, she asked us all to please help her with one of her signature causes — ensuring that the assault weapons ban not expire on Sept. 13, 2004.

The day's events were eclipsed by the official DNC events at the Fleet Center. Carter, Clinton, Clinton, and Gore. Each one of their speeches was well worth the plane fare to Boston! Former President Clinton gave a masterful speech, contextualizing government statistics, policy decisions and political platforms. He connected people to the party and himself to the electorate. He endorsed the Kerry-Edwards ticket and he articulated the need for their leadership.

Despite the rousing rhetoric, the food at Fleet Center was really pretty bad (burnt cheese pizzas and ham calzones) and that was in the Premium Club & Banners. Most of us delegates have decided to have dinner before going to the hall from now on.

After the speeches, all of us couldn't wait to turn some of that energy into a party. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus threw one of the hottest events of the night at a club called "Felt." Los Lobos played on the second floor, an open martini bar was flowing on floor three, while grilled shrimp and salsa kept the first floor patrons well-fed enough to enjoy the dancing and pool-playing into the wee hours of the night. Some VIPs in attendance: The entire Congressional Hispanic Caucus. They all danced their hearts out to Los Lobos and unlike the Blue Dog Coalition, these members can actually DANCE!

CORRECTION — In the July 26 edition, Kelly Hayes-Raitt was incorrectly identified in a story regarding Santa Monica College. She is a spokesperson for the Santa Monica Education Team and the SMC Faculty Association.

In the July 27 edition, the number of City Council candidates Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights will endorse was inaccurately stated. It is not yet known how many candidates SMRR will endorse.



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SURF REPORT

Wednesday will see a mix of mostly NW windswell, some fading S swell, and a touch of new SSW swell. Northern LA County spots will see surf in the knee- to waist-high range, while the standouts see a few bigger sets up to chest-high on occasion. South Bay spots see mostly the NW windswell for 1-3' surf, with more consistent waist to occasional plus-sized sets at best NW/combo breaks in the north half of the bay. Look for light and variable to light onshore winds in the morning with building W winds 8-12 knots by the afternoon.

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

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71°



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	8:19	1.5	10:24	1.7	2:11	3.6	3:22	4.9
SUNDAY	9:07	2.0	11:49	1.0	3:56	3.2	4:15	5.3
MONDAY	10:11	2.4	N/A	N/A	6:00	3.1	5:13	5.7
TUESDAY	12:55	0.3	11:26	2.6	7:31	3.3	6:10	6.2
WEDNESDAY	1:50	-0.5	12:36	2.6	8:31	3.6	7:06	6.7
THURSDAY	2:38	-1.1	1:37	2.5	9:17	3.9	7:59	7.0
FRIDAY	3:23	-1.4	2:31	2.2	9:58	4.2	8:49	7.2

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The Q Line

A Santa Monica judge recently agreed to release to the public a 914-page police report that details the events surrounding the July 16, 2003 Farmers' Market tragedy in Santa Monica.

Criminal lawyers — those who are prosecuting 87-year-old Russell Weller, who killed 10 people and injured 63 others — as well as his defense attorneys, argued the report should be sealed in an effort to give him a fair trial.

But the First Amendment won out and the judge ordered that the report be made public.

However, Weller's statements, as well as his those of his wife, remain sealed.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do you agree with the judge's decision to keep Weller's statements private? If you were a juror, would it change how you looked at the case?"

Call (31) 285-8106 with your responses by Friday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in the week-end 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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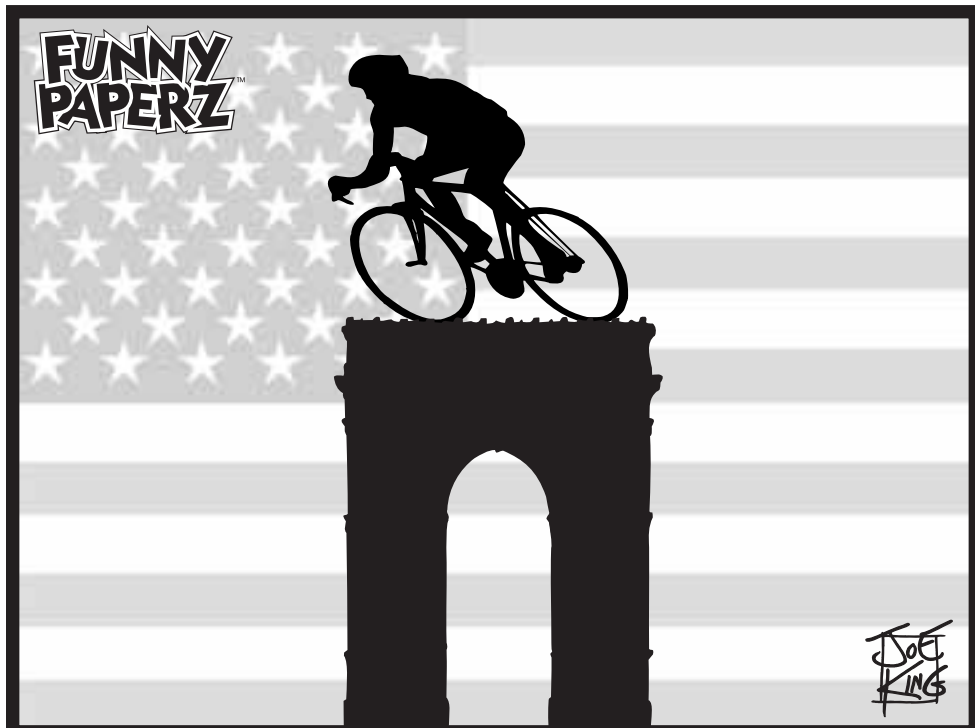
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OPINION



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cancer causing elements need to be wiped away

Editor:

This letter is in response to the article regarding the American Cancer Relay for Life, entitled: "Helping to remove the word 'cancer' from the English language" (SMDP, July 21, page 3).

As a cancer patient whose cancer has metastasized beyond ever being "cured," what I'd like to see more of than money gathered for research, is money gathered for advocacy. In short, I'd feel a whole lot better if people were getting more upset about the damage done to the environment of which cancer is a symptom.

And as far as the elimination of words from our English language, given the natural resources we waste, I'd like to see the huge SUVs such as the Durango, Suburban, Yukon, Escalade and so forth removed from both our streets and our vocabulary.

Joy Oakes
Santa Monica

Laws upon laws

Editor:

To Mike Kirwan's "impeachment warranted" letter (SMDP, July 15, page 4): Extremely well said. The only thing to add is "Amen."

To Mike Schaefer of Las Vegas on his quest to stop the city's hidden laws (SMDP, July 16, page 4): I hope you succeed. I used to work for the Chamber of Commerce in Santa Monica and received hundreds of phone calls from very angry victims of unfair parking tickets who vowed never to come here again. But don't look for the City Council to do the right thing. They are stuck in an ivory tower and are not in touch with what the people want on far too many issues.

Santa Monica has passed another hidden law. No smoking at bus stops. Of course people merrily light up at every bus stop, and why not? Again, no signs are posted. If and when anyone is ticketed for this, you can bet it will be a tourist or an ordinary Santa Monica resident. The transients can live at the bus stops, smoke, drink, shoot up, take bathroom breaks — whatever they want. It's all sanctioned by the City Council.

They are so busy passing laws that everyone ignores. It's positively silly. Police cars drive by guys with leaf blowers all the time. I don't say they should arrest the poor guy, who is no doubt unaware of the law, but to tell them to stop as they are polluting the air and making terrible noise, not to mention it's against the law.

However, they do, as you know, enforce secret parking laws. In a city that is trying to attract tourists, this is very arbitrary as the very people ticketed are most likely out-of-towners. I bet you and every other victim of the secret parking laws just can't wait to come back and spend some money in Santa Monica.

To Irving Bacon (SMDP, July 16, page 4): Yes, November IS almost upon us all.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica

Gay bashing polls ignore pedophile polygamists



INCITES

BY ED SILVERSTEIN

The GOP and President Bush's latest scheme to create a wedge issue to beat up Democrats — a Constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage — went down in flames when the administration couldn't even arm twist a majority of their own.

The effort was led by the same old nasty group of ultra right-wing Republican party hijackers, such as majority leader Representative Tom DeLay and Vice President Dick Cheney — whose own wife opposes the ban. These narrow thinkers seem little different than the backward bigots who fought to keep interracial marriage illegal because — and this may sound familiar — it was a threat to the sanctity of marriage and our society. Though to be fair, at least some of the earlier breed, such as the late Sen. Strom Thurmond, did believe in civil unions with the underage daughters of their maids.

The rhetoric from these supporters of state sponsored intolerance was the usual GOP foul and offensive fare. For example, Republican Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania compared gay marriage to Al Qaeda terrorists by suggesting the amendment to ban gay marriage was true homeland security (see "aside" below). Equally appalling is the argument forwarded by David Frum, Bush's old speechwriter, columnist Charles Krauthammer and the legions of the Republican controlled and financed echo chamber, who suggested that there is no difference between same sex relationships and polygamy, child molestation and incest.

Let me list the differences. First, it is not illegal to be gay here (though it is in most radical Muslim countries.) Second, polygamy is illegal in all 50 states. Third, child molestation is a crime in every western country. Fourth, incest is abhorred throughout the world. And finally, all these crimes are allowed to flourish, unabated, under the very noses of some of the staunchest supporters of the constitutional gay marriage ban.

Among the residents of Arizona, Colorado and, in particular, Utah, according to Jon Krakauer in his book, "Under The Banner of heaven," are between 20,000 and 100,000 fundamentalist Mormons. This extreme sect, disavowed by the more mainstream LDS Mormon church, strictly adheres to the teachings of Mormon founder John Smith who advocated plural marriage or polygamy. In fact, the taking of multiple wives is not only allowed, but it is considered a divine obligation.

Now, one might think that these law breaking "sinners," living in ultra conservative states such as Utah, home of two of the most vocal self-proclaimed protectors of the sanctity of marriage, Sens Orin Hatch and William Bennett, might be in hiding. Nothing could be further from the truth.

According to Krakauer, all but a handful of the 9,000 residents of Colorado City, a town on the Arizona/Utah border, are Mormon fundamentalists engaged in polygamy. And there are many such communities across Arizona, Colorado, Utah and throughout the West, Canada and

Mexico. But there is even a darker side.

The majority of these plural marriages are arranged. The brides are often adolescent girls, some as young as 12, who are forced into marriages with men many times their age. One girl of 16 was forced to marry a man in his 80s. And there are cases in which mothers encouraged their daughters to marry their stepfathers.

Many of the marriages are abusive. And, if the church becomes displeased with the husband, the wives can be taken away and given, like chattel, to another man. If the women protest — which is rare since they are forbidden to watch television or have any contact with the outside world — they are threatened with eternal damnation. If that doesn't work, "wayward wives" may be taken to a "leave no marriage behind" re-education camp where they are brutally beaten and abused. Some of these women have even been murdered.

Most of the marriages take place in spiritual ceremonies, but have no legal standing. This allows the additional wives to claim to be single mothers and tap into federal assistance. Colorado City gets a whopping \$8 in federal funds for every \$1 they pay in taxes, which they call "bleeding the beast." It also allows the faithful to avoid prosecution for polygamy, though, in the case of underage brides, opens them up to charges of child rape. Incest also is rampant in these communities. And yet these Fundamentalist Mormons believe that homosexuality should be punished by death.

So what have Sens Hatch and Bennett done to stop the polygamy, incest and child rape/slavery that is going on under their watch? Nothing. What about Attorney General Ashcroft, a man so offended by sexuality that he spent thousands to cover the bare breast of a marble statue. Has he launched an investigation to put these marriage miscreants behind bars? No. Then there's President Bush, the main thrust behind the gay marriage ban. Has he paraded around the country expressing outrage at such immoral criminal conduct? Of course not.

This amendment was never about the sanctity of marriage nor does it have anything to do with the Republicans' feigned moral outrage. It was a political dirty trick and it failed.

More important to Bush, Mormon fundamentalists are much more likely to vote for him than gays. And the president needs every vote he can get.

ASIDE TO SENATOR SANTORUM: Having lost a family member in the World Trade Center attack, let me assure you that saying "I do," to the person you love, regardless of sexual orientation, bears no similarity to a father of three telling the person he loves, "It doesn't look like I'm going to make it. Tell the kids I love them." And for you to plumb the depths of depravity by making such a cynical comparison for selfish political gain creates a far greater threat to our society than two loving people ever could. You should be ashamed.

(Ed Silverstein is a freelance writer living who splits his time between Santa Monica and Georgetown Lake, Mont. Comments and requests for copies of this column may be addressed to incites@incites.net).

SANTA MONICA SUMMER GUIDE 2004

AVAILABLE IN NEWSTANDS ACROSS SANTA MONICA

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

OPINION



Manufacturing remains bedrock of U.S. economy



POLITIGIRL
BY BETH SOLOMON

When you say manufacturing, some people visualize a WWII-era assembly line — a moment in history — a relic of the past. But walking into Kellie Johnson's manufacturing plant in Torrance is like walking onto the set of "Star Trek V: The Final Frontier." And listen to this, Uhuru: Johnson's company may hold the key to a healthy U.S. economy.

Johnson is the president of ACE Clearwater Enterprises, an aerospace company founded by her grandfather that makes parts for companies like Boeing, Honeywell and Lockheed Martin. In 1989, Johnson — who had enrolled in graduate school to become a social worker — was chipping in at ACE, then led by her father, working human resources and administrative jobs, when Boeing offered them a huge contract.

"We were a \$10 million-a-year company and Boeing put \$10 million into our shop overnight," she said. "We grew from 100 to 175 employees. We were out of control, hiring people without doing background research."

ACE couldn't handle the outsize demand and fell behind in deliveries.

"They weren't happy," Johnson said of the new client. Boeing sent an emergency management team to Torrance and insisted that the young Johnson take charge.

It was not easy.

"I had to prove that I was more than just Daddy's girl," she said. Some problems were bigger. When Johnson sat before Boeing supervisors in her first meeting in Seattle, "Four men looked across the table at me and said, 'Your plan will never succeed.'"

Johnson shuddered. Then she sharpened the company's strategy and dug in on the assembly line.

"We got more customer-focused and did what we said we would do," Johnson said. "I hired a right-hand man to be in charge of change and progress, and we took our team through a lot of training on things like communication skills, team working and project management."

The result? Boeing named ACE Clearwater its "Supplier of the Year" for 1994.

Johnson's focus on the human side of manufacturing is an unexpected key to her success.

"I'm not very mechanical, but I know how to deal with people," she said. "We have an incredibly diverse workforce in terms of race, gender, education, skill."

Manufacturers like Kellie Johnson may hold the keys to the U.S. economy of the future. Whether you call it "high-tech," "biotech," "aerospace" or "rocket launchers," U.S. manufacturing:

- Generates spin-off growth in the economy. Every \$1 in manufactured goods generates an additional \$1.43 worth of additional economic activity — more than any other economic sector.

- Helps create U.S. jobs. Manufacturers are responsible for almost two-thirds of all private sector research and development, which ultimately creates more jobs and technological advances.

- Keeps trade in balance. Sixty-two percent of all U.S. exports are manufactured goods, double the level of 10 years ago.

- Generates productivity. Manufacturing productivity gains enable Americans to compete in the global marketplace, facilitating higher wages for everybody.

- Provides better paying jobs. Manufacturing compensation averages more than \$54,000, the highest in the private sector, and much higher than service jobs.

So why are U.S. manufacturers under such pressure?

Even in high-tech industries like aerospace, there are cheaper labor markets overseas.

"We get a lot of pressure from our customers to move to Mexico," Johnson said. In addition to low-cost labor, Mexican employers don't have heavy bills like workers' comp, health insurance, and energy and regulatory compliance, which make up 50 percent of ACE Clearwater's overhead.

In three years, ACE's workers' comp premiums climbed more than 150 percent, health insurance rose 36 percent, and the other two items increased 27 percent, Johnson said.

"Sometimes I wonder why I'm still here," she admits. But Johnson doesn't plan to move jobs overseas. "The jobs that have gone to Mexico are now going to China, and then they'll go to India. I don't believe in chasing the lowest labor costs." Johnson would rather chase technology upgrades that make her current workforce more productive.

But another part of the problem for companies like Johnson's is that manufacturing isn't considered the sexiest industry, so the whole sector may be suffering from a lack of enthusiasm.

Johnson — an international relations and political science major — didn't exactly dream about manufacturing as a girl, either. But the realization that companies like hers are providing some of the best jobs in the economy led Johnson to join the board of the National Association of Manufacturers in Washington, D.C. to spread the word that manufacturing offers great opportunities for jobs and economic growth in America.

As part of her public awareness campaign, Johnson invites local elementary school kids in Torrance to visit her factory.

"One kid came in and was obviously bored with the whole thing. He asked a supervisor, 'Why would anyone want to do this job?' The employee answered: 'I have a high school education, I make \$72,000 a year and some of the parts I've made are being used on Mars.'"

"That kid perked up," Johnson told NAM's Leadership journal.

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(Beth Solomon can be reached at beth-solomon@earthlink.net).

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LOCAL

Local resident was first space tourist in 2001

SPACE RACE, from page 1

Diamandis said space flights initially will cost members of the public about \$100,000, but rates will fall sharply.

"Someday you'll drive out to Santa Monica Airport and you'll hop into a vehicle that will take you out into space," Diamandis added.

Already one local millionaire has paid to become the first space tourist. Three

years ago, investor Dennis Tito, whose offices are on Santa Monica Boulevard, paid a reported \$20 million to travel with Russian astronauts to the International Space Station. Tito, who lives in Pacific Palisades, is a close friend of Diamandis and sits on the board of directors for the X Prize Foundation, the St. Louis-based company offering the prize.

Sponsors for the prize range from a racing company to a wealthy Dallas fami-

ly to private benefactors, Diamandis said. A total of 26 teams are competing from around the globe.

The Tuesday press conference was timed to meet a requirement that teams announce their flights 60 days ahead of time. "SpaceShipOne" will have two weeks after its Sept. 29 flight to conduct its second flight, though it doesn't plan to use the full amount of time. Members of the public can buy tickets to both launch-

es from the Mojave Airport Civilian Aerospace Test Center for \$35.

Also on Tuesday, Col. Rick Searfoss, pilot and commander of three Space Shuttle missions, was selected to judge the X Flight competition.

"As an experienced astronaut, I can tell you that I'm personally excited to see the beginning of a new generation of space flight," said Searfoss, who has spent 939 hours in space.

Drinking, smoking and camping illegal in SM parks

GOLF, from page 1

The new proposal isn't exactly coming out of nowhere, said Barbara Stinchfield, director of community and cultural development at City Hall. Park users have been asked by rangers not to use golf clubs in public spaces for years. While warnings were often effective, there were some golfers who just kept on coming.

"There's a practice of asking people to voluntarily comply with the prohibition," she said. "But there's nothing legally stopping them from golfing. Lately, we've been doing a lot of review on our practices and moving to make them into actual ordinances."

The cities of Los Angeles, Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, Glendale and Pasadena all have laws prohibiting golfing in their parks, Polacheck said.

By having a law, the penalty for golfing in a city park would be a ticket and a fine, Polacheck said. It's unknown how much the ticket would cost.

Alcoholic beverages, overnight camp-

ing, "moonbounces" and animals other than dogs on leashes are not permitted in the city's parks. It is illegal to smoke in parks, as well as sell or distribute food. Cooking is only allowed at city-provided grills, and skateboarding is only allowed so long as it is done in a safe manner and does not damage city property.

The ordinance also would expand the definition of "park facility" to include park amenities that are often damaged by skateboards like railings and walls. The new definition would allow park officials and police to more easily prosecute abusers of city property.

As to the growing number of transients in the city's parks, Stinchfield said those who frequent the city's public spaces would have the same standards applied to them as other park users, golfers and non-golfers alike.

"We apply all of our park use rules consistently, regardless of whether someone has a house or doesn't have a house, or whether they're from Santa Monica or elsewhere," she said.

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The Q Line

Check Out the Question of the Week on Page 3 and let us hear what you have to say

STATE



Coastal Commission challenges value of Hearst deal

BY TIM MOLLOY

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — One of the Hearst Corp.'s biggest selling points for its proposal to spare thousands of acres of Hearst Ranch from development is that its \$95 million asking price is less than half the deal's appraised value.

But as state hearings on the agreement draw closer, one of Hearst's old opponents, the California Coastal Commission, is raising questions about whether the land is really worth the \$230 million the state says it is. The appraisal has buttressed arguments that California should seize the chance to protect the prized land surrounding Hearst Castle, which sprawls from rocky shoreline to rolling green mountains.

But commission employees' questions have brought a volley of personal criticisms to those on both sides of a debate that once focused on such arcane issues as zoning laws and parcel sizes.

Hearst attorney Roger Lyon says one employee may have demonstrated a bias when she spoke out against the plan on behalf of the Sierra Club — and that another improperly called other state officials to try to drive down the price of the deal.

A state Department of Transportation official involved in the transaction agreed with Lyon that the call was inappropriate.

The commission's executive director, Peter Douglas, defends the actions of both employees and says Lyon is trying to distract the public from the details of the deal. He calls it a "bait and switch" that would do little to protect the land.

"This is a lousy deal for the public and I think that should be the issue, and not what a guy like Roger Lyon, who is paid to talk and to dissemble, says," Douglas said. "I think they're trying to divert attention from the real warts on this deal."

The hard feelings go back to 1998, when the commission, which regulates coastal development, rejected Hearst's plan to build an 18-hole golf course and 650-room resort on the land. The company began working on the preservation plan soon after the decision.

Under the plan, Hearst would give the state 13 miles of beaches and bar development on 80,000 acres of land. In return it would receive \$80 million cash and \$15 million in tax breaks, and retain the right to build a 100-room hotel, 27 homes, and 15 employee housing units. It would also be allowed to develop 3,600 acres that could include orchards, vineyards and row crops.

Commission staff said the \$230 million appraised value was wildly inflated because it assumed that Hearst would be able to build more than 400 homes on the land if no preservation deal was reached — something they said the commission would never allow. The commission has also expressed concerns about development, public access, and preserving views, habitat, and wildlife.

Lyon said \$230 million was a conservative figure, and that the appraiser hired by the state worked with all the regulators involved, including the commission. He said the commission was overstepping its primary role of enforcing the state Coastal Act.

One of Lyon's complaints involves a call from a commission employee to the

California Department of Transportation several months ago, before the department began trying to determine the value of Hearst land the department would buy in the deal.

Steve Price, who is managing the acquisition for the department, said the employee told the department about restrictions on developing the land — a factor that could lower its value. Price said his department ignored the call because it isn't supposed to consider whether regulators would grant permits for future development.

"We don't believe that's proper, but what we do is, we say that's a nice chat, and we go about with our process," Price said. "We don't think it's appropriate for a permitting regulatory body to try to affect the value."

Douglas said the commission had a responsibility to let CalTrans know about restrictions on the land it was considering purchasing.

"They should know what the land use constraints are. That has nothing to do with driving down the value of the property," he said. "We as a public agency have a responsibility both legally and morally to let the public agency that's going to spend public money to acquire property in the coastal zone know what the constraints are."

The commission employee who made the call, development and transportation liaison Tami Grove, said Douglas asked her to call the department's district director, who then asked her to call another department employee.

"I think somebody's really trying to

make hay," Grove said. "It's simply not a story. I'm a state employee doing my job."

Hearst's other complaint involves Sarah Christie, the commission's legislative analyst and a member of the Sierra Club. After identifying herself as a member of the environmental group, Christie spoke against the plan at a July 15 meeting where state officials listened to public feedback. The Sierra Club has many of the same objections to the plan the commission does.

Lyon said the appearance raised questions about whether Christie had a conflict of interest.

Douglas said commission employees have every right to belong to environmental groups, but said he has asked Christie to stop speaking out on Hearst Ranch on behalf of the commission. He said he made the decision "out of an abundance of caution" because he wants to avoid any appearance of bias.

The commission plans to present its concerns to other state officials before votes on funding for the project scheduled for Aug. 12 in Sacramento before the Wildlife Conservation Board, and Sept. 15 in Napa at the California Coastal Conservancy board meeting.

Al Wright, executive director of the Wildlife Conservation Board, said the group would ignore the back-and-forth as it weighs the proposal.

"People are going to say what they're going to say," Wright said. "I think we need to look at the facts and make our judgments about whether this is a good deal for the public."

Californians have forgotten how to conserve, some say

SUMMER, from page 1

improvements in transmission lines and the construction of new power plants, said a repeat of the rolling blackouts of 2001 is unlikely this summer.

Nevertheless, California's power market is still in flux, transmission bottlenecks persist, and customers have been falling out of the habit of conserving. Not only that, but California's reservoirs are lower than usual, which means there will be less hydroelectric power later this summer, when demand is highest.

And the wild card, as usual, is wildfires. They can take down transmission lines at the worst possible time, just when temperatures are soaring in late summer.

"As summer progresses, our reserves get tighter and tighter, the margins get thinner and thinner," said Jim McIntosh, director of ISO's grid operations. "When in you're in that situation, it only takes one event" to cause a crisis.

Or as Jan Smutny-Jones, executive director of the Independent Energy Producers, put it: "Generally, blackouts aren't a result of one thing. It's not the first or the second thing, but the third event. That's when you get into trouble."

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger planned to meet with business leaders Tuesday to urge them to volunteer for programs under which companies get a price break on power if they agree to curtail their electricity use when grid managers call of them.

On July 19, California broke the all-time record for power use, set in 1999, and then broke the new mark the next day, and did it again the day after that, when the amount of electricity surging through the grid reached 44,360 megawatts. At the same time, the state's power managers had to close seven major transmission lines threatened by a Southern California forest fire.

To cope with the crisis, officials asked

people to scale back their electricity use until the evening. But the lights stayed on, and the ISO did not even have to issue an emergency warning of low reserves.

For all the drama last week, the temperatures were not as high as they were when the previous records were set. In other words, California's power usage was off the charts not because the temperature was off the charts, but because Californians are using more electricity.

Energy officials had projected a 3.5 percent increase in demand over the past year, but are seeing a 6.6 percent gain, mostly because of economic growth.

Since the 2001 crisis, California has added 8,300 megawatts to the grid, and many of the long-term contracts the state signed in 2001 are still bringing a steady supply of power. The California Energy Commission has approved about 10,000 more megawatts of power, but those plants are awaiting financing.

Still, some transmission problems remain, such as in Southern California. There, three new plants just over the Mexican border can generate about 1,600 megawatts, but crowded power lines can import only about 400 megawatts, McIntosh said.

The state's most notorious bottleneck is an 84-mile stretch of high-voltage lines that run between Northern and Southern California. An extra line that will allow an additional 1,500 megawatts to flow between the two regions is being added but will not be completed until the end of the year.

During the electricity crisis, conservation trimmed 14 percent from the state's energy use, ISO spokeswoman Stephanie McCorkle said. Those habits have largely tapered off, said Suzanne Garfield with the California Energy Commission, though some effects are still felt, mostly because so many consumers bought energy-efficient appliances.



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Real Estate

Downtown Santa Monica is rich with historical places from notable faces



DAYS ON THE MARKET

BY JODI SUMMERS

(Editor’s note: This is the third in a series about the landmarked properties in Santa Monica).

The definition of a National Historic Landmark is a nationally significant historic place designated by the Secretary of the Interior. Landmark properties are chosen because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States and designated under the authority of the Historic Sites Act of 1935. Today, fewer than 2,500 historic places bear this national distinction. Santa Monica has slightly more than 400 residential properties listed in City Hall’s Historic Resources Inventory — 43 are official landmarks, and are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

We continue with our tour of Santa Monica landmark properties by heading into downtown.

■ Miles Playhouse, 1929 1130, Lincoln Blvd.

Several legends surround the endowment of the Miles Playhouse. The story goes that the late 1920s City Councilman J. Euclid Miles bequeathed the city of Santa Monica \$25,000 to build a hall for young people, in memory of his daughter, Mary, with the provision that the city maintain it in perpetuity.

The city’s favorite son, architect John Byers, designed the playhouse in the Spanish Colonial revival style. After years of decline, the Miles Playhouse was finally rebuilt after the 1994 Northridge earthquake, and is home to several children’s theater groups.

■ Streamline Moderne Commercial Building, 1940 507 Wilshire Blvd.

Old timers will remember 507 Wilshire Blvd. as the LLO-DA-MAR Bowl. The bowling alley was converted into retail use in the 1970s, but W. Douglas Lee’s design still exemplifies the commercial Streamline Moderne style. The style shows an evolution from the frill early Art Deco exchanging the baroque touches for aerodynamic lines, borrowing design elements from trains, ships and automobiles.

■ Santa Monica Bay Woman’s Club Building, 1914 1210 Fourth St.

Architect Henry Hollwedel is noteworthy for both his professional and civic contributions to Santa Monica in the early part of the century. He was a member of the Santa Monica Board of Trade and served as the city building inspector. While he was inspector, he oversaw the construction of the Santa Monica Pier.

■ Gussie Moran House, circa 1891 1323 Ocean Ave.

This Queen Anne style Victorian hints the time when Ocean Avenue was a parade of Victorian homes, and was

once owned by international tennis sensation Gussie Moran. In 1949, Moran competed at the Wimbledon Championships wearing a short tennis dress with ruffled, lace-trimmed knickers peeping out below the hem. The effect was electric — this was the first time in history that ladies’ knickers had been fully and intentionally put on broad public display.

■ Victorian House, 1906 1333 Ocean Ave.

When you see this Queen Anne-inspired Victorian, think back on the day when Ocean Avenue was a eucalyptus-lined street dotted with fashionable residences.

■ Georgian Hotel, 1931 1415 Ocean Ave.

During prohibition, the Georgian became one of Los Angeles’ first speakeasies; a rendezvous spot for celebrities including Clark Gable, Carole Lombard, Bugsy Siegel and Fatty Arbuckle.

Originally named The Lady Windemere, the Georgian Hotel was built as a seaside hideaway. It was the vision of Ms. Rosamond Borde — one of the first females to conquer the male-dominated building industry. Ms. Borde commissioned architect Eugene Durfee to construct the posh establishment, mixing elements of Romanesque Revival and Art Deco, and Chicago School tripartite design. The hotel is an architectural model of how to transform an elementary rectangular tower into an urbane landmark.

■ Rapp Saloon/Old Town Hall 1875 1438 Second St.

Some properties become renowned for strange reasons. This one-story structure was built for William Rapp by Mr. Freeman. The contract went to Spencer & Pugh bricklayers and plasterers. It was the first masonry structure in Santa Monica. An 1877 advertisement in the Santa Monica Outlook called the establishment the “Los Angeles Beer Garden” with “fresh-tapped Los Angeles beer always on hand.”

■ Mayfair Theatre, 1911, 212-216 Santa Monica Blvd.

How sad that this landmark has been boarded up since the Northridge Earthquake. Legend had it that the theatre, originally erected in 1911, was the oldest legitimate theater operating in Los Angeles. Believed to be constructed as an opera house, the Mayfair was built in 1911 by Charles Tegner, another founding father of Santa Monica. Designed by architect Henry C. Hollwedel, the theater, with its elaborate façade of baroque swirls and inset shields was restored in 1973 and again in 1988.

■ Oregon Avenue Sidewalk Sign, pre 1912 Santa Monica Boulevard and Fifth Street

Prior to the founding of the city of Santa Monica in 1875, streets were either numbered or named after states and territories. This corner sidewalk inlay illustrates how street labeling looked at the turn of the 20th Century. Oregon Avenue was renamed Santa Monica Boulevard in 1912.

■ Lido Hotel, 1931 1455 Fourth St.

This building is the epitome of commercial art deco, circa 1931. The Lido Hotel (today used an apartment building) is crafted of Roman brick and incorporates female motifs along the roofline. The building’s design was needed in response to the 20th Century expansion of the central business district.

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

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Sold	2512 CALIFORNIA AVE	SANTA MONICA 90403	
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,466	List Price: \$1,250,000	Bed: 3
07/23/2004	Lot Size: 5,060	Sold Price: \$1,250,000	Bath: 2.00
Sold	603 11TH ST	SANTA MONICA 90402	
Date Sold	SqFt: 2,740	List Price: \$2,375,000	Bed: 3
07/19/2004	Lot Size: 8,550	Sold Price: \$2,850,000	Bath: 3.00
Sold	1255 PALISADES BEACH RD	SANTA MONICA 90401	
Date Sold	SqFt: 3,197	List Price: \$3,299,000	Bed: 4
07/23/2004	Lot Size: 2,627	Sold Price: \$3,299,000	Bath: 3.50
Sold	2209 ARIZONA AVE	SANTA MONICA 90404	
Date Sold	SqFt: 768	List Price: \$789,000	Bed: 2
07/23/2004	Lot Size: 2,408	Sold Price: \$780,000	Bath: 1.00
Sold	3032 LINDA LN	SANTA MONICA 90405	
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,532	List Price: \$849,000	Bed: 3
07/20/2004	Lot Size: 5,200	Sold Price: \$849,000	Bath: 1.75
Sold	2201 CALIFORNIA AVE	SANTA MONICA 90403	
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,569	List Price: \$1,149,000	Bed: 3
07/21/2004	Lot Size: 5,280	Sold Price: \$1,149,000	Bath: 1.50
Sold	1205 MARINE ST	SANTA MONICA 90405	
Date Sold	SqFt: 908	List Price: \$733,000	Bed: 2
07/20/2004	Lot Size: 5,000	Sold Price: \$733,000	Bath: 1.00
Sold	1343 ASHLAND AVE	SANTA MONICA 90405	
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,510	List Price: \$895,000	Bed: 2
07/20/2004	Lot Size: 7,000	Sold Price: \$991,000	Bath: 2.00
Sold	1242 BERKELEY ST #15	SANTA MONICA 90404	
Date Sold	SqFt: 2,041	List Price: \$728,000	Bed: 4
07/23/2004	HOD: \$417	Sold Price: \$730,000	Bath: 4.00
Sold	828 5TH ST #3	SANTA MONICA 90403	
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,044	List Price: \$649,000	Bed: 2
07/20/2004	HOD: \$205	Sold Price: \$655,000	Bath: 2.00
Sold	110 OCEAN PARK BL #302	SANTA MONICA 90405	
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,229	List Price: \$859,000	Bed: 1
07/20/2004	HOD: \$595	Sold Price: \$859,000	Bath: 1.50
Sold	1425 CENTINELA AVE #5	SANTA MONICA 90404	
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,364	List Price: \$575,000	Bed: 2
07/21/2004	HOD: \$175	Sold Price: \$560,000	Bath: 3.00
Sold	2025 4TH ST #305A	SANTA MONICA 90405	
Date Sold	SqFt: 699	List Price: \$435,000	Bed: 1
07/19/2004	HOD: \$262	Sold Price: \$442,000	Bath: 1.00
Sold	101 CALIFORNIA AVE #307	SANTA MONICA 90403	
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,048	List Price: \$575,000	Bed: 2
07/22/2004	HOD: \$625	Sold Price: \$570,000	Bath: 2.00
Sold	201 OCEAN AVE #606P	SANTA MONICA 90402	
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,256	List Price: \$945,000	Bed: 2
07/23/2004	HOD: \$668	Sold Price: \$890,000	Bath: 2.00
Sold	707 GRANT ST #16	SANTA MONICA 90405	
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,194	List Price: \$499,000	Bed: 2
07/22/2004	HOD: \$300	Sold Price: \$545,500	Bath: 1.50
Sold	1428 BERKELEY ST	SANTA MONICA 90404	
Date Sold	SqFt: 2,625	List Price: \$910,000	Gl: \$48,948
07/22/2004	Lot Size: 7,797	Sold Price: \$955,000	GRM: 0.00

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'Sandwich' leases have plenty of ingredients to chew on



IN YOUR SPACE

BY CHRISTINA S. PORTER

On the real estate exam that I took many years ago, a sublease also was described as a "Sandwich Lease."

This description makes sense in that the lessee's position is literally "sandwiched" between the master lessor (landlord) and the sublessee. It does not, however, give you any indication of the precarious position of a sublessee.

In recent years there has been an inordinate amount of subleasing going on, particularly in the office market, providing bargain rates to sublessees. Knowing how to protect your possession of the premises prior to a commitment will save you time and money, later not losing the benefit of those bargain rates.

Although there are many things to consider when putting yourself in the vulnerable position of a sublessee, one very significant point to remember is that if the sublessor goes bankrupt — effectively creating a breach of their lease — the sublessee is left in a position of no control. The master lessor, at his option, but without any obligation to do so, may require that the sublessee "attorn" to it (meaning that the sublessee may become obligated to the master lessor instead of the sublessor while the master lessor takes on the responsibilities of the sublessor as determined in the sublease). However, in most cases the master lessor will not be liable for any security deposit or prepaid rent, or require that the sublessee vacate the premises immediately or in a manner previously agreed to in the master lease should a breach occur. Winding up in this situation could be particularly troublesome if the sublessee has

invested money in tenant improvements, not to mention the catastrophic effect of having to move with little or no notice.

SOME PREVENTATIVE MEASURES:

■ Check the financial stability of the sublessor (credit check, financial statements, etc.).

■ Get written acknowledgment from the master lessor, prior to agreeing to the sublease, that it will act as a direct lease if the master lease is terminated, and the sublessee's possession of the premises will not be disturbed. This is the best case scenario for a sublessee and could be difficult to obtain, particularly if the sublessee is paying less rent than the lessee is paying to the master lessor.

How much a master lessor will negotiate is, of course, situation specific, market driven and subject to the credibility of the sublessee. At the very least a sublessee should be given notice of the sublessor's default and the right to cure with a fair amount of time provided to do so.

Last and most important, a sublessee should be sure to get a full copy of the master lease and review it prior to agreeing to the sublease. The execution of a sublease generally obligates the sublessee to the terms and conditions set forth in the master lease. The master lease will become a part of the sublease and the sublease is subordinate to the master lease.

If you are considering a sublease, check the proposed sublease document for the points described above. You will most likely discover that some or all of them may already be addressed in some fashion. Above all, be sure to run the document by your legal professional before signing.

(Christina Porter specializes in the business of leasing and selling office and industrial buildings. Contact her at (310) 806-6104, or e-mail to cporter@naicapital.com)

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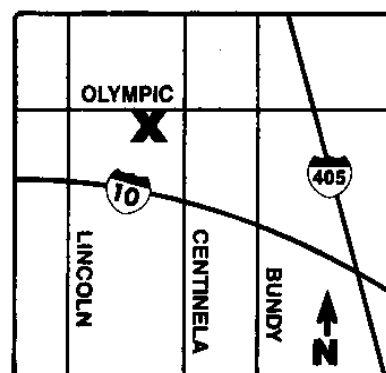
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INTERNATIONAL



Mexico's promise to curb migrant smuggling falls short

BY OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press Writer

ALTAR, Mexico — A year after a spectacular police crackdown on migrant trafficking in this town on the U.S. border, the plaza bustles with smugglers closing deals.

The United States has urged Mexico to crack down harder, warning that terrorists could tap into the flourishing industry. But Mexico says it can do little at the northern border because, although abetting illegal crossings for a fee is a crime, there's no law to stop would-be migrants gathering near the frontier.

Instead, it appears to have focused on stopping the flow of U.S.-bound migrants from South and Central America at its southern border. In March, police carried out a nationwide sweep against one of the largest migrant-trafficking rings ever uncovered in Mexico.

It netted 42 current and former government employees in 12 of Mexico's 31 states who allegedly smuggled Cubans, Uruguayans, Brazilians, Asians and Central Americans across Mexico's southern border. Those arrested included agents and former agents of Mexico's National Migration Institute who allegedly helped foreigners sneak into the United States.

Mexican officials said corrupt officials illegally freed captured migrants, falsified documents to get them through Mexico, and guaranteed them safe passage into the United States.

The raid at Altar, a town of 7,000 lying 60 miles south of Arizona, caught 27 suspects and rounded up about 60 Central Americans for deportation. Hundreds of Mexican migrants were encouraged to return home, and Interior Secretary Santiago Creel promised more raids would follow.

Yet Altar remains the busiest crossing point along the northern border, and trafficking apparently goes on undisturbed. Boarding houses are almost always full, and many farmers have abandoned their fields and opened restaurants and shops that cater to the transient population.

Last year's arrests were "a complete spectacle," said Francisco Garcia, Altar's mayor at the time. "But as far as I'm concerned, they didn't have any effect because here things remain the same."

Garcia said the raids were just a symbolic response to

U.S. pressure, coming two weeks after 19 migrants died of heat and asphyxiation while being smuggled from the Mexican border to Houston in a tractor-trailer.

Visiting Mexico in February, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge asked Mexico to step up patrols along its border with the United States, saying it would help head off terrorism. In an agreement signed at the time, Mexico agreed to crack down on migrant smugglers.

But breaking up the smuggling rings has proven difficult.

Mexico's Interior Department estimates that as many as 100 smuggling gangs operate across Mexico, charging up to \$1,800 per migrant.

Jose Luis Santiago Vasconcelos, Mexico's chief prosecutor in charge of organized crime investigations, said corrupt officials are one of the main roadblocks.

They "stain our country's reputation and as a result our efforts seem to evaporate," Vasconcelos said. "Everyone is making a great effort to stop this type of activity."

Last year, Congressman Tarcisio Navarrete, a member of the ruling National Action Party, proposed stiffer jail sentences and fines, and broader police powers to investigate suspected smuggling operations. Currently police

can only act on a citizen's complaint.

But Navarrete's term ended in November and his bill has been abandoned.

Critics say the solution lies in job creation, not in tougher policing or in the Paisano program set up in 1989 to help returning migrants.

"For the Mexican government, it is easy to create a program to welcome migrants coming home," said Garcia, the ex-mayor. "But they don't do anything to help them before they become migrants."

Luis Sanchez, a 30-year-old farmer from southern Oaxaca state, said he has crossed illegally into the United States four times.

"We always cross through Altar because here no one bothers you," Sanchez said. "In the last four years, I've always crossed in my first attempt because I'm well prepared. I take salt pills and plenty of water."

Sanchez, bound for Fresno, Calif., was waiting for two more people to arrive and complete his group of 10 migrants before heading to the border. A smuggler from Ejutla de Crespo, Sanchez's home town, would lead the group.

"Everyone knows it won't be easy to cross," he said, "but we all do it because there is nothing left in our towns."

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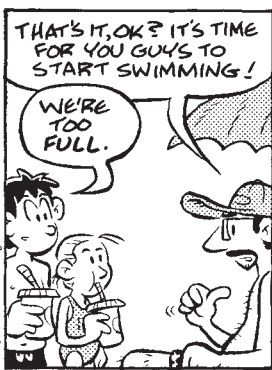


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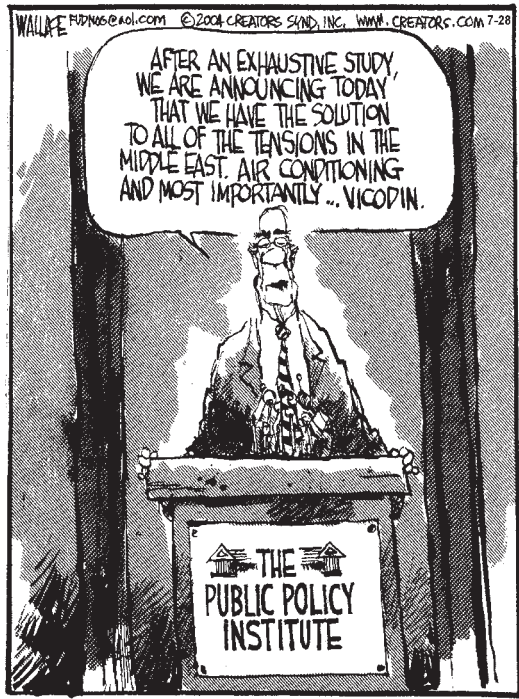
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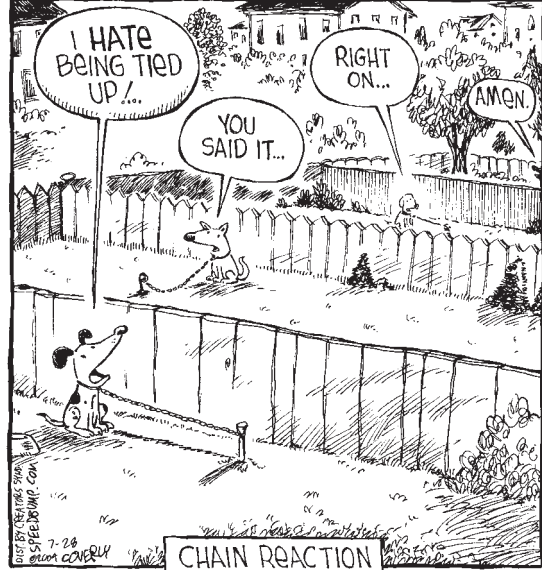
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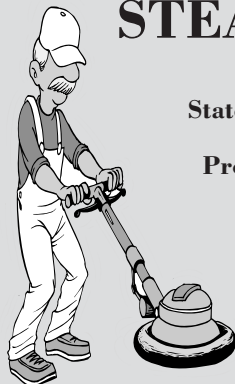
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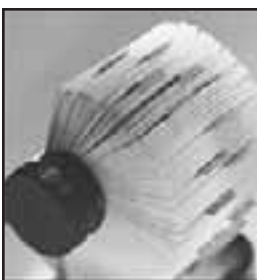
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