

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

34 12 39 5 17
Meganumber: 5
Jackpot: 13 Million

FANTASY 5

1 28 34 35 37

DAILY 3

Daytime: 3 9 1
Evening: 0 2 9

DAILY DERBY

1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 11 Money Bags

RACE TIME: 1:41.50



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Electrical contractor Akira Hareruya, 36, whose company went bankrupt, had taken to working the streets of Tokyo in 1999, trying to earn back the money by inviting passersby to put on boxing gloves and take swings at him for the equivalent of about US\$9 a minute. He promised not to hit back, but only to try to evade the punches, and suggested that his customers further relieve their stress by yelling at him as they swing. He told the Los Angeles Times that he averaged the equivalent of about US\$200 a night.

TODAY IN HISTORY

ON JULY 29, 1981, Britain's Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. (The couple divorced in 1996.)

■ In 1030, the patron saint of Norway, King Olaf II, was killed in battle.

■ In 1588, the English soundly defeated the Spanish Armada in the Battle of Gravelines.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"Everybody likes a kiddie, but nobody lends him money."

— ARTHUR MILLER

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Living wage team picks 'chosen ones' for council

City Councilman Mike Feinstein isn't one of them

BY JOHN F. MULLER

Special to the Daily Press

In the first of a series of endorsements for City Council candidates by local political groups, a group of living wage supporters voted this week to back two incumbents and two challengers in November's race.

Presented with the same council choices the Santa Monica's for Renters' Rights will face this Sunday, the Coalition for the Living Wage voted to support

Mayor Richard Bloom and City Councilman Ken Genser, as well as former school board member Patricia Hoffman and Pico neighborhood activist Maria Loya. City Councilman Michael Feinstein did not earn a nod.

None of the other 30 council hopefuls interviewed with the living wage group, whose members cast their votes through secret ballots following a series of interviews. The coalition, which has been in existence since 1996, will provide its candidates of choice with volunteer campaign workers from its union base.

Coalition members wouldn't

See LIVING WAGE, page 6

Highway to hell? Traffic can kill you

DANIELE HAMAMDJIAN

Special to the Daily Press

INTERSTATE 10 — Traffic in Los Angeles may have become more harmful than health officials had anticipated.

That's according to a report released by local health experts and the Sierra Club, which links air pollution from traffic congestion to an increase in asthma, heart attacks and cancer cases.

"The famous Santa Monica Freeway carries hundreds of thousands of vehicles ... this becomes a cancer corridor," said Brett Hulsey, a Sierra Club spokesman, on Wednesday.

More than half of all Americans — or 137 million, according to the Environmental Protection Agency — live in places where the air is unhealthy to breathe. The report summarizes 27 peer-reviewed, scientific studies that document health hazards caused by pollution from busy roadways, such as the Ventura and Long Beach freeways. Health experts are asking local officials to seek rail transit solutions to accommodate the state's growth.

"Hopefully, the Bush administration will take this seriously."

— BRETT HULSEY
Sierra Club spokesman

Hulsey said he hoped the report will make a difference with politicians because of all the scientific research involved in the study.

"Hopefully, the Bush administration will take this seriously," Hulsey said.

The administration plans to cut federal funding by 30 percent for cleaner transportation choices, such as train and buses, according to the report. The group has called on the administration to study and reduce health risks from existing and future highway expansion on nearby neighborhoods, schools

See TRAFFIC, page 6



Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II/Daily Press

GOOD ROLL? Though posted signs prohibit bicycle riding in Palisades Park, it's not technically illegal. A new law proposes to change that, but elected leaders split on the issue.

Bicycle dispute is derailed at City Hall

Council can't agree on whether bikes should be banned in Palisades Park

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — The wheels fell off of a discussion between elected leaders this week over whether bicyclists should share Santa Monica's largest park with walkers and joggers.

While some members of the City Council said bicycle riders intimidate senior citizens and others who frequent Palisades Park, others said putting the brakes on bicycles would make for a more sterile environment. Posted signs currently ban biking in the bluff-top park, but no law exists to enforce them.

"What I see us doing here with a lot of wheeled forms of transportation like this in the community is continuing to push people out of a social and community environment, and only looking at it as a way of getting from one place to another, instead of a way of just being somewhere," City Councilman Mike Feinstein said.

"And when we do that, I think we move away from being a much cooler, live-and-let-live beach community and (towards being) a

See BICYCLES, page 7

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Aquarius, get some R&R

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)**
***** Now is the moment to express yourself no matter how shocked others could be. You surprise others because of your innovative thinking. Brainstorm, adding your special touch of ingenuity. Walk a new path. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

 **TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
***** It is your turn to detach and weigh information. You might want to find your own source and expert. Dig in and find answers. You will discover that there are many directions in which to head and still draw the results you want. Tonight: Let your mind wander.

 **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
***** Work with others independently. Together as a team you could come out with surprising results. Actually, the direction of a project could change because of these results. You find that you need to flex and let go. Others discover just how creative you are. Tonight: Be a duo.

 **CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
***** Others seek you out for advice or simply to tell you how much they know. Be gracious and listen. When you detach, you could find that there are a lot of options in the suggestions you hear. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

 **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
***** As much as you are a playful sign, you understand that the time has come to dig into your work or whatever responsibilities call you. Clear them out and surprise others. You have a very different way or approach. Tonight: Get some exercise.

 **VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
***** Jump forward and don't settle for less than what you want. Usually, you seem less assertive. Others might have a strong reaction. Know your goals and where you are heading. Creativity flows. Write down ideas. Tonight: Start going into weekend mode.

 **LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
***** Others dump way too much on you. You might complain, but it won't get you anywhere. Just plow through with an eye to completion. Laugh and find any shortcut you can. Ask an associate or co-worker for help. Tonight: If you must, bring extra work home.

 **SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
***** Open up and say what you think. Help others understand your position. You might need to be creative in your thinking in order to make a point clear. Do whatever it takes to get through to associates and those whom you want to understand you. Tonight: Don't stray too far.

 **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
***** Let go of the reins of control and let others put their two cents in. You need to focus on security and your well-being. A family member could surprise you with his or her behavior. Learn to flex and not have expectations. Tonight: Pay bills.

 **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
***** You hit one of the power periods of the month. What makes a difference is your sense of direction and internal agenda. What goes down could be a direct reflection on you. Plans change. Ideas prove to be unusual but noteworthy. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy.

 **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
*** Sit back and don't try to impress anyone. Something strange might be going on with your finances. Sort through and understand where the mistake or complication is coming from. Work on your "stuff." Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

 **PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
***** Your unique unpredictability and willingness to get to the bottom of a problem separates you from others. A meeting might be much more important than you realize. Flex with situations. Tonight: Where the action is. You are the action!

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LOCAL



Day 2 at the convention: Pre-party at Affleck pad



BY LARA BROWN
Special to the Daily Press

Tuesday's trials: Tuesday is always an interesting day at the convention — partly because the vast majority of attendees have failed to pace themselves during the first official day and the pre-convention festivities, but more so because most know that the biggest nights are yet to come. The mood changes from one of anticipatory exuberance to anxious exhaustion. In addition, most delegates are just starting to get the swing of “credential trading” and “ticket swapping,” which are extremely complex sports with unwritten rules that are gleaned from veteran convention goers. For the uninitiated, it involves three simple rules:

■ Big donors always have the most passes to everything and they rarely go to anything, which means that if you know them, you can usually convince them to give you their passes for the events you are dying to go to.

■ Lobbyists and corporate sponsors have the next best allotment of passes, but the problem is that they are at the convention on business and they need to go the events, so it is tough to get them to give you their passes, unless you can convince them to take you with them.

■ Elected officials (members of Congress, statewide officials, and big-city mayors, council members, and city attorneys) can pretty much walk into any event and if you know that elected official, or you happen to walk close enough to them to be mistaken as a member of their staff, you might just be able to get into the events you want to as well.

Tuesday itself was actually a slow day in terms of convention events. The “hot” daytime party was at Jillian's, a pool hall/bowling alley, near Fenway Park. Ben Affleck was the celebrity in attendance who acted as host for this 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. pre-convention reception. Good food, good music, and probably 500 people partied late into afternoon.

The mood in the Hall was hyper. Folks were excited about Obama and Dean, and the Massachusetts delegation were thrilled to be welcoming Sen. Ted Kennedy and Theresa Heinz Kerry to Boston. Whips had a hard time keeping control of the floor and at one time we were in “lock-down.” If you left the floor you would not be allowed back on.

After-hours took us to San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsome's party, which was hosted by GQ Magazine. We were on the list, but the Fire Marshal could have cared less because the “Federalist” — the restaurant/bar at 15 Beacon Street — has a fairly small maximum capacity (it couldn't be more than 400). As a result, the group of six of us, which included a big donor from San Francisco, decided that standing in the rain waiting for people to exit the club was not going to be in our best interest, so after a few phone calls, one of the members of a traveling party who happens to be a big donor from Boston managed to get a fine restaurant to stay open after-hours (No. 9, on the Boston Common), where we enjoyed an elegant evening, and skipped the night's party scene.



SURF REPORT

Thursday will see a mix of mostly NW windswell and 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 SSW/combo breaks in the north half of the bay. Watch for a few small tropical lines starting to filter in late in the day. 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.

Today the water is:

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 QLine

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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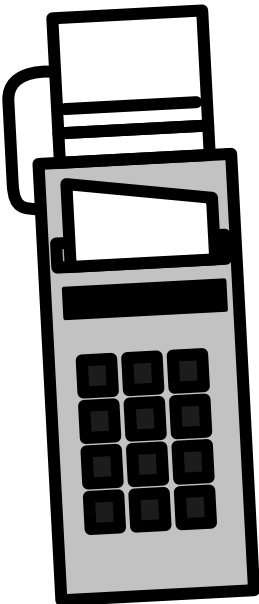


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Linwood shows City Hall spirit

Editor:
 Regarding: Daniele Hamamdjian’s community profiles article (SMDP, July 26, page 1) entitled: “Under pressure: When life’s a wash.”
 Thank you very much for your article on Linwood Fenderson.
 Linwood’s statements perfectly exemplify the excellence that all Santa Monica Municipal Employees aspire to each and every day.
 To us, excellent customer service is job one. Thank you for capturing our spirit. We are proud.

Jeri Wingo
Board director, Santa Monica Municipal Employees Association (MEA)

State losing faith in SMC board member?

Editor:
 In an unusual move, the statewide California Community College Independents (CCCI) passed a resolution opposing Santa Monica College Trustee Margaret Quinones’ appointment to the Community Colleges Board of Governors.
 Why would this statewide faculty organization oppose the confirmation of a seasoned trustee to the state governing board?
 Margaret Quinones’ tenure on the Santa Monica College Board of Trustees has so alienated faculty, students and staff that she was perceived by the CCCI Representative Council as a nominee who would not promote or advance the interests and needs of community colleges.

A year ago, the SMC Trustees faced the decision to terminate several vocational education programs, including the highly respected auto trades program which enrolled a large number of Latino men and women (the very population Santa Monica leaders give lip service to supporting). Ms. Quinones, in public board meetings, unapologetically voted to eliminate these important programs.

Now, the CCCI, among other statewide organizations, is very concerned about Margaret Quinones’ nomination to its state board. The CCCI does not think Ms. Quinones will promote the best interests of the community college system and its students during a period of budget difficulty and uncertainty.

In fact, her confirmation has become so controversial that Sen. John Burton has yet to act on it.

Our community has a fabulous history of exporting dynamic and ground-breaking leaders to Sacramento, such as former Assembly Member Tom Hayden and current state Sen. Sheila Kuehl. What a shame that our next contribution to the state might be the divisive Margaret Quinones.

Dennis Frisch
Associate professor, history department, Santa Monica College; executive secretary, California Community College Independents

Negativity gets you nowhere

Editor:
 Has it occurred to Phil Hendricks and Carl Gettleman (SMDP July 21, page 4) that they should be working with Santa Monica College as opposed to writing negative letters that do nothing but draw a rift between them?

Neither Phil nor Carl have acknowledged that the fiscal problems at SMC are the result of the lack of funds they receive from the state of California, the main financier of community colleges. For years, SMC has operated without adequate state funding, and under those circumstances, I think they did a pretty good job.

Phil, Carl, this criticism is getting you nowhere. Work with the college, not against them, and you will have a greater chance of getting what you want.

Bill Yates
Santa Monica

It’s all ‘us’

Editor:
 Bill Yates wants Phil Hendricks and Carl Gettleman to work with the college, not against them. He is forgetting that Phil and Carl and the entire classified staff, the faculty, the administration and the students are the college, and there is no “them.” We are all in this together.

I am confident that all parties concerned — faculty, staff, administration, and, most importantly, the students, wish Santa Monica College to be successful. But that success will not lie in any party agreeing to shut up and sit down. The rifts that exist within the SMC community did not come about because of a few letters from Phil and Carl. These rifts have existed for years. One need only recall the recent overwhelming vote among these students, faculty and staff of “no confidence” in Dr. Piedad Robertson’s leadership to understand this.

As to the fiscal problems at SMC, the classified staff is aware of the state funding problems, and we are as concerned as any group at SMC. To address these problems, the staff offered a number of concessions designed to ease the budgetary crisis, but all were turned down by the administration. The same holds true for the faculty. Instead, programs were cut and people lost their jobs. Faculty and staff lost their jobs, and students lost programs and classes.

LeRoy Lauer
Santa Monica College, CSEA #36 treasurer; member classified senate

Kerry, Obama, Reagan carry torch in Boston

NEWS ON
THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH

Tonight, Democratic nominee John Kerry takes center stage in full glare of the national spotlight to offer up an alternative to four more years of Bushamerica and everything that has come to mean. He comes into this evening’s huge moment trailing the President in the latest polls despite a gruesome litany of reasons for change. But a botched war, a record national debt, all-time-high gasoline prices, a full-out assault on environmental protection, unconscionable corporate scandals which have left thousands without savings and retirement funds, 40 million Americans without health insurance, the daily threat of deadly new terrorist attacks, and a nation bitterly divided apparently aren’t enough. So what does Kerry have to do tonight?

Repeating, line for line, Bill Clinton’s Monday night speech might not be a bad place to start. The former President delivered a spot-on dissertation on the philosophical differences of the two political parties on opening night, bringing back memories of a kinder, gentler, more prosperous decade for those in the hall and most Americans. (Remember, a half-million more of them voted for his vice-president than for Bush.) Clinton said this about the War Without End On Terror: “We live in an interdependent world where we cannot possibly kill, jail, or occupy all our potential adversaries. So we have to both fight terror and build a world with more partners and fewer terrorists.” He seemed to speak directly to the current resident in White House when he said, “Strength and wisdom are not opposing values.”

A skinny young black man named Obama — only one mis-typed letter away from America’s arch-villain — gave a rousing keynote address, outdoing even Clinton, according to many. All political conventions unveil a new rising star, and Barack Obama, Senatorial candidate from Illinois, appears to be all that for the Democrats.

Another young man — this one with the exact name of an arch-villain of the Democrats he stood before — delivered a passionate advocacy of stem-cell research, a medical frontier being largely ignored for dubious religious reasons by the neocons running the country. It is research that, allowed to be carried out to its fullest extent, may one day save the lives of those afflicted with the disease that felled his father, Ronald Reagan.

The droves of right-wing pundits in Boston are gleefully reporting that the rat-

ings for this thing are the worst ever for a national political convention, as most Americans prefer Wheel of Fortune reruns to watching a choir being preached to. But if they think the viewership is low for this one, what do they think awaits them next month with the coronation of Bush going up against the Olympics and the onset of football season?

The corridor circling the Fleet Center arena has truly been an echo chamber this week, as conservative talk-radio stars from around the nation have parachuted down behind enemy lines to serve up their inimitable brand of bashing, up-close and personal. Hannity, Prager, Elder, Gallagher, Hewitt, O’Reilley, et.al., have been shoulder-to-shoulder on the walkway, trying to out-whine each other from their respective broadcast booths.

Pro-war Fox News commentator, Bill O’Reilley, took on anti-war filmmaker Michael Moore, in a memorable confrontation Tuesday night.

O’Reilley: “Do you want to apologize to the President now or later for calling him a liar?”

Moore: “He didn’t tell the truth, he said there were weapons of mass destruction.”

O’Reilley: “Yeah, but he didn’t lie, he was misinformed. That’s not a lie.”

Moore (looking down at convention floor): “So if I told you there was nothing going on down on that stage ...”

O’Reilley: “That would be a lie, because we could see.”

Moore: “I’d have to turn around to see it, and then I would realize, oops, I just told you something that wasn’t true.”

O’Reilley: “It’s not a lie if you believe it to be true.”

Moore: “A seven-year old can get away with that. Mom, dad, it was just bad information. Actually, it’s the President who needs to apologize to the nation.”

Then the filmmaker asked a question to the commentator.

Moore: “We were told we were under some sort of imminent threat. Now over 900 of our brave soldiers are dead. What do you say to their parents?”

O’Reilley: “It was a mistake.”

Moore: “Uh, we’re sorry, it was a mistake.”

O’Reilley: “That’s what you tell them.”

Moore: “Would you sacrifice your child to secure Fallouja?”

O’Reilley: “I would sacrifice myself.”

Moore: “Where’s the recruiter? When can we sign him up?”

Scrambling against deadline, remote still in hand, I can’t help but notice this evening that O’Reilley is back behind his desk at the Fleet Center, far removed from Fallouja, which remains far removed from secure.

(Ron Scott Smith isn’t signing up for service overseas, either. While covering the convention from his sofa, he can be reached at edgeofthewest@aol.com).

OPINION



Will the 'convention bounce' last for Dems?



HERE'S THE THING

BY LARA M. BROWN, Ph.D.

Watching the political shows this week, the topic that consumed most pundits were bounces — the percentages that candidates rise in the polls after their nominating conventions.

In 1988, Dukakis bounced nearly 18 percent percentage points ahead of Bush, but that lead evaporated by Election Day, and he lost the presidency. In 1992, Clinton started his convention in third place, behind both incumbent president Bush and challenger Ross Perot. After his week in New York, Clinton not only came out ahead, but he stayed ahead and managed to win a plurality of the popular vote, and the electoral college vote in November.

The pundits kept stressing that Kerry needed to follow Clinton's example, and not Dukakis' campaign strategy. What was astounding to me about their discussions were that each of them seemed to forget that candidates matter in a campaign. It was as though they believed that "if Kerry just followed Clinton's tightly scripted convention plan and post-convention strategy, he would win." This assumes that the voters don't make a distinction between Dukakis, Clinton and Kerry, as candidates — as people.

You can't substitute strategy, message, financing, and get-out-the-vote efforts and assume you will have the same results. That is like assuming you could cast Jimmy Stewart as Rhett Butler (instead of Clark Gable in *Gone With the Wind*) and get the same film. The movie wouldn't be the same. It might be better, it might be worse, but one thing is certain, it would not be the same, even with the same director, writer and producer. Chemistry changes when people change.

This is part of what makes politics an art, as much as a science. The voters know it, even if the pundits forget it — the character and the temperament of the candidates matter.

Hart Associates, a public opinion firm, recently conducted a focus group discussing presidential character and leadership traits, among other things. The focus group's discussion was broadcast on C-SPAN and was very telling about how people view the candidates on each of the political party's tickets.

The moderator asked the focus group to imagine each of the five candidates (Bush, Cheney, Kerry, Edwards, and Nader) as their next-door neighbors and to describe what would they be like. The consensus was that Bush would "be outside a lot," and would always be hosting "barbecues that you would be invited to." Conversely, the group felt that Cheney would almost always be "inside, with the curtains drawn," and that you would "rarely, if ever see him, that he would be reclusive."

Kerry would be the kind of neighbor who "you might wave to, but never really talk to," and who would "always be hosting formal parties, with elegant looking people, but you wouldn't likely be invited to join them." Edwards, on the other hand, would always be "at the garden gate, talking with you, and out playing with his kids." They also said that Edwards would "be real friendly, that you would always feel welcome borrowing a cup of sugar, or whatever you needed." Most felt that Nader would be "stand-offish and cold," yet also kind of "strangely materialistic." They were split over whether his home would have a "hippy, '70s design," or whether it would be "well-appointed and foreboding."

Another set of questions involved matching the candidates with specific roles. The moderator asked: "If you needed a character witness to go before a court of law and testify for you, whom out of the five candidates, would you choose?" The majority chose John Edwards. They said it was because they felt that people would perceive him as most trustworthy of the group. The moderator then asked: "If you were captured by a terrorist, and you needed someone to negotiate your prisoner exchange, whom out of the five candidates would you choose?" The majority replied Dick Cheney. They said he was intelligent and experienced, and they felt he would know how to deal with "people like that."

HERE'S THE THING:

The Democratic National Convention in Boston will likely produce a bounce of 10 percentage points for the Kerry-Edwards ticket. Whether or not it will last is more a matter of whether or not the voters continue to like Kerry and Edwards come September, rather than whether or not the campaign follows Clinton's strategy into the fall.

Judging by the focus group's response to Kerry's neighborliness his hopes of retaining his convention bounce would appear slim, though his running mate's likeability may help him keep some of his shine all the way to Election Day. Maybe Kerry and Edwards should plan a "bus and barbecue" tour across the swing states and make sure to invite the neighbors?

(Lara M. Brown, Ph.D., is an education policy consultant and a visiting scholar at UCLA's Institute for Social Science Research. She can be reached at larambrown@aol.com).

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LOCAL

Next up are SMRR picks

LIVING WAGE, from page 1

elaborate on why Feinstein didn't get the endorsement, but he has not gone without criticism in recent years by community members.

For the past three and a half years, Feinstein has been battling accusations that he misappropriated money within the Green Party. A former Green Party member donated \$10,000 intended for the Los Angeles County Green Party, but the check was deposited into a personal account Feinstein controls. He hasn't show bank records to Green Party officials, despite repeated requests from them.

Feinstein has declined to comment about the Green Party controversy to the Daily Press.

Feinstein also criticized the coalition's choice not to endorse a fellow Green Party member in 2002.

"There were 31 people voting, and there were probably 31 ideas of why they voted the way they did," said Vivian Rothstein, a member of the coalition and the director of the Santa Monica's Allied for Responsible Tourism (SMART). Rothstein has been a key player in several of the living wage proposals. "I don't know why they didn't choose Feinstein."

Abby Arnold, who is also a member of the coalition and received its endorsement in 2002 when she made an unsuccessful run for a council seat, said she thought many coalition members were unhappy with Feinstein's criticism in 2002. She also pointed out that he has traditionally had strategies for implementing the living wage that differ from the coalition's.

"A lot of people are angry at Michael because he ran a candidate against me for the coalition's endorsement two years ago and actively promoted her campaign even though she wasn't endorsed by either SMRR or the coalition and did a hit piece on me the day before the election," she said. "Some people see that as not being loyal to the Coalition for the Living Wage and SMRR."

Feinstein issued a statement via e-mail

to address the coalition's decision.

"My unwavering commitment to improving the lives of working people speaks for itself," he said in the statement, "and no political process will derail it."

The City Council took steps last month to establish an \$11.50 minimum wage for local government workers and government contractors at the urging of Rothstein and SMART. Next year's budget has \$300,000 set aside to cover the added expenses of the new policies, which are expected to be passed by the council sometime this fall, city officials said.

In a contentious community battle, a living wage proposal was narrowly defeated in 2002 that would have required businesses in the coastal zone that made more than \$5 million in revenue annually to pay their employees \$10.50 an hour with benefits, or \$12.50 without.

The coalition's choices might have an impact on how SMRR will act on Sunday, Arnold said.

"The coalition's endorsements could be an indicator," she said. "You never know though. There are all kinds of rumors flying around about who's bringing who to the SMRR convention and what they're going to do when they get there ... The fact is that SMRR has something like 8,000 members in Santa Monica, the vast majority of whom have never been to any events. On a good year we get 250 or 300 people at a convention out of the 8,000. If people get some of those other people to show up, you can never tell what's going to happen."

Along with its council choices, the coalition announced it would back incumbents Jose Escarce and Maria Leon-Vasquez as well as Kathy Wisnicki, a Malibu parent who has been active in school and city politics. It also will endorse Doug Willis and Susan Aminoff for the SMC Board of Trustees.

Those five candidates also got the nod from the Education Team, a group of Santa Monica and Malibu teachers and faculty.

Cancer linked to auto traffic

TRAFFIC, from page 1

and children.

"Cars are getting cleaner but the problem is that there are more of them," Hulsey said. Part of the solution calls for the installation of clean air monitors between neighborhoods and freeways, he added. There are 35 air monitoring stations in Los Angeles County and nearby areas, according to city officials. The closest air monitoring station to Santa Monica is located north of LAX.

"Southern California especially has really taken the lead in dealing with these issues," Hulsey said, adding cleaner buses and more accessible trains are a few of the initiatives taken by the state. In Santa Monica, many of the Big Blue Bus buses are powered with natural gas. State and local officials are pushing for a multi-million light rail system to run from Los Angeles to Santa Monica.

The report also highlights the case of Marie Malahai, a San Pedro resident and former champion skier. She and her 8-year-old son, Matan, live near the truck-choked Harbor Freeway, and both suffer from chronic bronchitis and acute asthma. Her son often requires hospitalization.

"Thousands of people in Southern

California are suffering from traffic-related health effects," Malahai said in the report. "This is an issue that needs attention, both for health reasons and the economic impact on families and insurers."

According to a study conducted by Dr. Howard Wachtel from the University of Colorado, research shows that children living near highways are eight times more likely to develop leukemia and six times more likely to develop all types of cancer.

"Our studies suggest that children who live near busy roads are more likely to get leukemia and other forms of cancer," said

Convincing Southern Californians to get out of their cars and opt for public transportation will most likely be a gargantuan task for state officials. However, results in other cities have been promising.

In a study done by the American Medical Association, making public transportation more accessible, along with other traffic control measures during the 1996 Atlanta Olympics reduced acute asthma attacks by up to 44 percent in children, ozone concentration by 28 percent, and morning peak traffic by 22.5 percent, according to the study. The association also links soot of fine particulate matter to lung cancer, cardiopulmonary disease and other causes of death.

LOCAL

Council spins its wheels, postpones new bike law

BICYCLES, from page 1

much more antiseptic sort of sterile, gentrified community," he added.

Supporters of the proposed law cited the dense throngs of people who gather in the park, especially on weekends and in the southern portion of the park, between Wilshire Boulevard and Colorado Avenue. Thousands of tourists, locals and homeless people regularly gather in that area of the park, where buses and taxis also stop, and demonstrations are often held.

"I guess when you're on a bike and you know what you're going to do, and how you're riding, you just don't understand the apprehension a pedestrian has when you're coming straight for them," City Councilman Bob Holbrook said. "They don't know if they're supposed to move or you're going to go around them. Are you going to slow down by 10 miles an hour, or five miles an hour?"

"I was nearly knocked down Sunday night in front of Il Fornaio restaurant by a guy that came down the sidewalk at about 30 miles an hour — and finally he had to bail out of the bike, because he was gonna just kill 10 people at the corner, because nobody could move," Holbrook added. "I tell you honestly, council members ... a lot of people using the park that are in their late 70s and early 80s are really intimidated by a vehicle coming towards them."

Siding with Holbrook was Mayor Richard

"The next thing we're going to do is stop people from jogging, taking their dogs to the park, because they too can be dangerous — if walking on a leash with a child or a small person next to them."

— HERB KATZ
City Councilman

Bloom, who said special considerations ought to be made for children learning to ride tricycles or small bikes with training wheels, both of which would be banned under the proposed law. Siding with Feinstein were City Councilmen Herb Katz, Kevin McKeown and Ken Genser, though each had slightly different opinion of how to proceed.

In the end, council members realized they wouldn't reach a consensus and continued the matter to a future meeting. The issue was brought to the council after residents who use the park to jog and walk in the weekday mornings complained to park officials that the bicyclists were unsafe, staffers said.

Genser said in the northern portion of the park, where he often spends Sunday afternoons, families with small children were the only ones who seemed to bike in the park, and they didn't appear to interfere with anyone else.

"I have mobility impairment and sometimes am concerned when things come fast at me, particularly skateboards and such, or skaters, and I don't get exercise, and I'm decidedly uncool and I've been accused on this dais of being a fuddy-duddy ... but I just don't see the reason for this, at least for this ordinance. I think part of living in an urban area is people having to try to find ways to get along," Genser told his colleagues.

Katz wondered aloud what might follow the proposed biking ban.

"I just think we're getting too stringent," he said. "The next thing we're going to do is stop people from jogging, taking their dogs to the park, because they too can be dangerous — if walking on a leash with a child or a small person next to them," he said. "I think we're just overdoing it."

An eclectic mix of music set tonight at pier

By Daily Press staff

Tonight is a night to funk it up at the pier.

Two bands playing tonight as part of the Twilight Dance Series will offer just about every assortment of sounds, including funk, jazz, and rock, blended with cultures of Latin, Caribbean and African American music.

The Israeli/Ghanaian world music, ambient, trip-hop, African-dub ensemble "Ex-Centric Sound System" is the result of many journeys, a chance meeting and a gathering. Founder and band leader Yossi Fine — the world respected bassist who has toured, played and recorded extensively with such diverse artists as Stanley Jordan, Lou Reed, and Gil Evans — has been fascinated by the shared origins of African, Latin, Caribbean and African-American music.

Grounded by dubby bass lines and enriched by authentic African instrumentation and chant, Ex-Centric Sound System's music reflects the common thread of black music, whether it's from Africa or the Caribbean, England or Jamaica, New York or LA. Expect sounds from the flute, kalimba, traditional drums, balafon, bullhorn, and trap drums.

The other band, "Delta Nove" is a six-piece band from Long Beach committed to the continuous evolution of music. Never satisfied to lock into a single genre, Delta

Nove explores the synthesis of sound and texture through a blend of funk, Samba, jazz, Afro-beat and rock. Drawing from a rich pool of musical training and diverse instrumentation, the group fuses many styles into one funky powerhouse that delights audiences everywhere they go. Expect sounds from the guitar, vibraphone, steel drum, congas, percussion, saxophone, clarinet, flute, trumpet and bass.

The free concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday through Sept. 2.

The pier strongly recommends walking, biking or riding the Big Blue Bus to the concerts, as parking on the pier is limited. A free shuttle is available from the 2030 Barnard Way lot south of the pier starting at 6 p.m. each Thursday.

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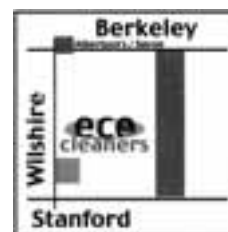
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Business

Charity has its price: Rules and regs to follow



IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

BY JOHN KIM

"I deem it the duty of every man to devote a certain portion of his income for charitable purposes; and that it is his further duty to see it is so applied as to do the most good of which it is capable."

— Thomas Jefferson, *Writings*, vol. xi, p. 92

There are many reasons to pursue a position on a charitable board, or to serve as a director of a nonprofit organization. Charitable organizations offer a way to make a lasting contribution to a community, social issue or other cause.

But with commitment comes a high level of responsibility — serving as a charitable director or trustee means becoming a fiduciary and complying with a labyrinth of federal and state regulations. These fiduciaries also must have an understanding of investment issues and the knowledge of how all investment-related decisions impact their organization's mission and objectives.

Directors and trustees also must document all their decisions for the failure to comply with regulations, or to demonstrate a prudent process may result in personal liability for fiduciary negligence.

An alphabet soup of regulations and governing entities oversee charitable organizations including:

■ **UMIFA.** The Uniform Management of Institutional Funds Act, which clarifies the fact that charitable directors were not bound by the same rules as trustees. This act has been adopted in 45 states and the District of Columbia, and allows charitable organizations to pursue effective portfolio strategies.

■ **UPIA.** The Uniform Prudent Investor Act, helps set a new standard for judging investment decisions, and requires trustees to diversify portfolios to help reduce risk and maximize returns. UPIA has been adopted by 37 states and the District of Columbia; several other states have adopted similar laws.

■ **IRS.** The Internal Revenue Service requires the filing of detailed records of the organization's income, assets and expenditures.

■ **AGs.** State attorney generals are responsible for ensuring compliance with their state's laws. Different states have different regulations relating to nonprofit organizations, including some that hold charitable fiduciaries to strict trustee standards. In addition, many states also require charitable corporations to file periodic reports with the office of the Secretary of State, which describes the organization's activities and also includes information about directors and officers.

In light of many changes in the publicly traded companies, many fiduciaries responsible for the management of foundations and endowments have been reviewing their procedures and re-assessing their responsibilities. Knowledge of

the legal and regulatory requirements, along with a documented fiduciary process, can help nonprofit organizations meet their philanthropic goals.

Many professionals counsel the adoption of a process that involves several key criteria including:

- Developing spending policy.
- Establishing written investment policy statements.
- Developing an asset allocation strategy.
- Selecting appropriate investments and managers.
- Monitoring investments over time and periodically conducting portfolio rebalancing.
- Documenting administrative procedures and maintaining detailed records.

A sound spending policy analysis and strategy helps an organization plan for its present and future commitments, and grant making. Tax laws generally require private foundations to spend an amount equal to at least 5 percent of their total investment assets each year. Financing this target, or a higher one, while meeting inflation and investment costs can be a challenging process.

The development of spending policy varies widely from organization to organization. However, it typically begins with an examination of the resources required to meet an organization's charitable goals and an estimate of the funds needed to meet those goals.

Spending policies require a delicate

balance between the need to fund programs today and preserve assets for the future. It requires weighing two key points: Current and future spending on one hand and investment risk and return on the other. The result of this process is a sustainable budget, which can be accomplished only if the rate of annual spending is held slightly below the average real (after inflation) rate of return on the endowment's assets.

A spending policy results in a target-spending rate that may need to be adjusted to smooth out fluctuations in funding or in response to the actual performance of the portfolio.

In the long run, what drives spending is the endowment or foundation's asset values. Developing prudently diversified portfolios, managed by carefully selected investment management firms, can help endowments and foundations meet their long-term objectives — and help the fiduciaries who manage those endowments manage their responsibilities.

(John S. Kim is a financial consultant with Smith Barney in Beverly Hills. Call (310) 205-4939 or visit www.fc.smithbarney.com/jkim. This article is based, in whole or in part, on information provided by the consulting group of Smith Barney. Smith Barney does not provide tax or legal advice. Consult your tax and/or legal advisor for such guidance. Smith Barney and Consulting Group are divisions of Citigroup Global Markets. Member SIPC.)

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STATE



Schwarzenegger and lawmakers agree on budget

BY TOM CHORNEAU

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders agreed Monday on an estimated \$103 billion budget, ending a 26-day standoff and overcoming a rift that widened after the Republican governor ridiculed Democrats as “girlie men.”

While the agreement still needs approval from two-thirds of the Legislature, lawmakers are expected to embrace the compromise spending plan.

With billions of dollars in borrowing and one-time savings, the proposed spending plan does little to achieve the spending cuts the governor wanted in January — but Schwarzenegger shrugged off criticism saying the process has produced a fair and workable plan.

“We were shooting for doing the best job for the people of California, and I think we have accomplished that,” Schwarzenegger said at a late night news conference that capped an arduous day of almost nonstop negotiations.

“I said many times, when I was lifting weights and shooting for a 500-pound lift and maybe ended up at 495 — I was still happy to get it done,” he said.

Indeed, Republicans point out that the budget imposes no new taxes and may bring future savings through changes in the way the state does business.

Democrats, on the other hand, got Schwarzenegger to back away from deep cuts to health and welfare programs by using billions of dollars in loans and one-time savings to close a spending gap estimated in January at \$17 billion.

“We were able to produce a budget that I believe is fair,” said Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles. “It’s not a perfect budget but one that we can stand by in a bipartisan manner.”

The two sides reached agreement, they said, by jettisoning some of the demands that kept them apart for weeks. Republicans dropped their ambition to revise a 2002 law that largely prohibits schools from hiring private bus, janitorial and landscaping companies. In exchange they got an agreement to change a law signed during the last days of Gov. Gray Davis’ administration last year that allows

workers to sue their employers over labor code violations.

Finally, the two sides have agreed on reforming local government financing — an issue that had stalled negotiations for much of the last month.

Senate Pro Tem John Burton, D-San Francisco, said the vote could come as soon as Wednesday, although Republicans say they want at least a full day to review the budget bill, which would mean the vote might not come until Friday.

Assembly members have been called and told to return to the Capitol on Tuesday for a possible vote on the budget Wednesday. Democratic lawmakers in Boston for the Democratic National Convention are preparing to return.

While party leaders and the governor appeared together trumpeting the budget deal, the monthlong impasse hurt much of the bipartisan goodwill that marked the first months of Schwarzenegger’s administration and proved to be the one area where the governor’s exuberance and charm failed to deliver a swift victory. A promise to achieve an on-time budget was one of the few major priorities the governor has stumbled on in his first year.

The agreement ends what has been Schwarzenegger’s rockiest patch in office and helps heal the wound caused earlier this month when the Republican governor, frustrated by the negotiations, ridiculed Democrats as “girlie men” beholden to special interests.

In a show, perhaps, that Democrats would not hold a grudge over the issue, Burton joked during the news conference that the breakthrough came when he and fellow senators “accepted the fact that we were really girlie men,” he said.

Until this week, Republicans had insisted on repealing the school contracting law as part of the final budget settlement. They said removing the restrictions would save hundreds of millions of dollars for textbooks and education services.

Democrats, led by Nunez, said that would cost workers money and benefits while still not guaranteeing any savings.

After almost two weeks of negotiations, Republicans have agreed to set the issue aside — at least for now.

Assembly Republican leader Kevin McCarthy of Bakersfield said he discarded the proposal when it became clear that it was holding up the budget agreement. “I didn’t see the sense in making a deal just to make a deal,” he said. “What the Democrats were offering just wouldn’t save any money.”

McCarthy said he will bring the issue back and still hopes to get reforms through legislation, if not, he said he may turn to the initiative process to repeal the restrictions.

While proponents call the budget plan balanced, it contains more than \$5 billion in borrowing as well as at least \$1.5 billion in accounting gimmicks and savings that may not be realized — such as a plan to take part of punitive damage awards in lawsuits.

The centerpiece of the budget is \$2.7 billion in bond money approved by voters in March. The plan also imposes about \$5 billion in spending cuts — far less than Republicans wanted and Democrats feared.

Schwarzenegger was able to negotiate a deal with Indian gambling tribes that will provide the state with \$1 billion over the next year as well as payments estimated by the administration of \$250 million a year until 2030.

In an effort to build early momentum, the governor made deals with several interest groups — education and local government among them — to accept cuts this year in exchange for future promises.

Democrats, however, were able to revise both arrangements, getting more than \$100 million in extra spending this year to let more students attend state universities and recruit minority and poor students.

Schwarzenegger’s goals for \$800 million in pay concessions from unions fell short of expectations. While he wanted \$300 million from the state’s powerful prison guard union, the deal that was struck only saved the state about \$108 million over two years. The pact also raised the ire of a federal judge who threatened to take over the troubled prison system because he said concessions given to guards would give them too much power and undermine reform efforts.

At-a-glance:

Here’s a look at California’s pending state budget, at-a-glance

This year’s pending state budget totals: \$105.3 billion.

The budget for the fiscal year ended June 30 totaled: \$107.3 billion.

Here’s how the various spending categories stack up:

Fiscal year 2003-04/2004-05

General funds \$77.6 billion/\$78.8 billion

Special funds \$19.4 billion/\$23.5 billion

Bond funds \$10.3 billion/\$3.0 billion

Total Budget \$107.3 billion/\$105.3 billion

Budget highlights:

- Eliminates, for the year, a \$17 billion budget gap.
- No new taxes.
- Imposes more than \$4 billion in spending cuts.
- Trims \$2.6 billion from cities and counties over two years.
- Trims \$2 billion from schools.
- Includes a \$1 billion one-time payment and \$300 million in continuing support from five Indian tribes with casinos.
- Relies on nearly \$7 billion in borrowing, including \$2.7 billion approved by voters in March, a \$1 billion transportation money “loan,” \$1 billion from bonds sold to pay pension costs.
- Also relies on more than \$1 billion in accounting gimmicks.

Among Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s budget concessions:

- Lifts the proposed enrollment cap at state universities.
- Ends a plan to cut wages of home health care workers.
- Provides a cost of living increase to welfare recipients.
- These concessions came after he already gave up most of his plans to cut health and welfare programs and to trim union benefits.

Source: State Department of Finance, Legislative Analyst’s Office

Governor seeks change in defiant system

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — California’s messy budget feud may have nicked Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s popularity, but the weeks of frustration steeled his determination to change the way business is conducted in Sacramento, aides said Tuesday.

Passage of the \$103 billion budget is expected this week — nearly a month beyond the June 30 deadline. In recent trips around the state, Schwarzenegger has pointed to the delay as fresh evidence the Legislature remains outdated, inefficient and a handmaiden of special interests.

The governor’s agenda has yet to fully take shape, but aides said he is looking at ideas that range from asking voters next spring to establish a part-time Legislature to imposing blackout periods on political fund-raising. In addition, aides and Schwarzenegger supporters are looking at ways to strip the Legislature of its ability to draw district boundaries, handing the power to a panel of judges or other non-

partisan group.

“This experience with the budget has reinforced” Schwarzenegger’s determination to overturn the status quo at the Capitol, said George Gorton, one of the governor’s circle of political advisers. Schwarzenegger has said repeatedly that “government and politics needs to be reformed.”

The governor is keenly aware of “what needs to change in this building, rather than allowing the building to change him,” added Rob Stutzman, Schwarzenegger’s chief spokesman.

Government reform has been a centerpiece of Schwarzenegger’s agenda since his campaign, when, brandishing a broom, he told voters he would “clean house” at the Capitol. For the state to succeed, “politics as usual must lose,” he said the night he was elected.

But little appeared to change with the budget this year, despite the arrival of a popular celebrity governor. The deadline passed. Inertia took hold. When negotiations stalled, the governor set aside talk of

bipartisanship and returned to the fiery language of his campaign, at one point calling Democrats “girlie men” for standing in the way of his spending plan.

“For the last couple of weeks, Schwarzenegger’s message on the stump has had less to do with budget specifics than positioning the Legislature with a target on its back,” said Republican media strategist Dan Schnur. “All signs point to the reemergence of Arnold the Reformer.”

At least by one measure, Schwarzenegger was hurt by the budget stalemate. A poll last week by the independent Public Policy Institute pegged the governor’s popularity rating at 57 percent — a 7 percentage point slide from the group’s May survey, but still an impressive figure for a Republican governor in a Democratic-leaning state.

Pollsters found his support was eroded by his partisan tone in the budget impasse, particularly among Democrats and independents who helped elect him.

Schwarzenegger has talked about seeking a part-time Legislature for months,

complaining its members waste time and too often produce pointless legislation. Aides also say the governor could suggest a two-year budget process to avoid the annual struggle to enact a spending plan.

Also, some Schwarzenegger supporters are part of a coalition pushing an initiative on the November ballot that would establish an open-ballot primary, in which all candidates would run on one ballot, regardless of party affiliation. A run-off between the top two finishers would determine the winner. And Schwarzenegger has a separate task force considering ways to streamline government.

“Reform of government — as well as the political system — will continue to be a focus of governor,” Stutzman said. “He talked about it in the campaign, he’s talked about blowing up boxes and consolidating services.”

Polls have shown the Legislature remains a widely unpopular institution.



NATIONAL

BLM on pace to set record for well drilling permits

BY SANDY SHORE
AP Business Writer

DENVER — As oil and natural gas prices continue to climb, the Bureau of Land Management is on pace to issue a record number of well drilling permits this year for public lands across the nation.

The demand also has extended the time it takes the agency to issue permits, increasing from about 180 days last year to about 200 days as of June 25, BLM geologist Richard Watson said Wednesday.

During an address to a natural gas outlook conference, Watson said the agency

processes many permits within the 30-35 day period established by the BLM, but it has been difficult for the staff to keep up with demand.

The agency had issued about 3,500 permits by June 25, a number that is expected to increase to a record 6,000 by the end of the federal fiscal year in September, Watson said. Last year, the agency issued about 4,000 permits.

"It's unprecedented in the history of the BLM," he said.

The activity comes as the Bush administration pushes to open more environmentally sensitive public lands for oil and gas development.

After his speech, Watson said the per-

mit demand is due almost entirely to oil and gas prices. "What the administration has been pushing is improving the process," he said.

Environmentalists have questioned the need for the rapid pace that the government is issuing oil and gas development leases on public land given that chunks of acreage already leased has yet to be developed.

Wilderness Society officials contend the Bush administration is trying to give industry more control over public land. "It appears to us they're trying to get as much land under lease now while they can," society spokesman Bill Beagle said.

Three years ago, the Energy Task

Force headed by Vice President Dick Cheney asked the BLM to find ways to open new federal lands to oil and gas leasing and to speed up the approval of drilling permits.

To speed up the process, Watson said the agency is encouraging operators to submit multiple applications at once and is working to ensure consistent practices from state to state. He also said employees have been added incrementally to help out as the budget allows.

The North American Natural Gas Market Outlook conference, sponsored by Electric Utility Consultants Inc., continues Thursday in Denver.

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INTERNATIONAL



Kidnappings likely to continue in Iraq insurgency

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Expect to see more targeted kidnappings of foreigners in Iraq, particularly those from countries whose people didn't support the war, American defense officials predict.

Insurgents in Iraq are likely to have been encouraged by the Philippines' early pullout from Iraq to get a hostage freed, the officials say as they survey what they expect to see in the insurgency in coming months.

It's already happened again with the kidnapping, then release amid reports of ransom, of Egypt's third-ranking diplomat in Baghdad. And even as he was let go, two Jordanian truckers were taken and threatened with beheading unless their employer shut down his operations in Iraq.

The kidnappings are regarded as the latest evolution in tactics employed by insurgents, particularly those working with Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian militant ally of al-Qaida, who is believed to be directing some of the anti-U.S. fighters in Iraq.

The tactics have changed several times since April, when U.S. and allied forces faced concurrent uprisings in two parts of Iraq, one by militants of the Shiite sect in south-central Iraq under Moqtada al-Sadr, the other by Sunnis and loyalists of ousted President Saddam Hussein around Fallujah in the north.

U.S. commanders now think the Fallujah uprising was triggered by opportunistic guerrilla leaders hoping to capitalize on chaos created by Sadr's militia, a senior defense official said in discussing on condition of anonymity the government's analysis of the insurgency.

The leaders, including al-Zarqawi, are thought to have concocted a plan to disrupt the U.S.-led coalition but probably were waiting until the last month's handover of power to the Iraqis drew closer, the official said.

When al-Sadr's forces spontaneously rose in early April, the Sunni militants decided it was time to strike, according to the U.S. government analysis.

Their uprising opened with strikes on 15 primary supply routes in Iraq. Fallujah and other nearby towns revolted.

The U.S. Central Command, which has authority over American troops in Iraq, estimates that as many as 2,000 Sunni fighters were killed when Marines fought the revolt, the senior official said.

U.S. losses also were heavy: in April and May, 215 American troops were killed around Iraq.

Although U.S. officials believe both the Sunni and al-Sadr militias suffered severe losses, the strongholds of both — Fallujah for the Sunnis and part of Najaf for al-Sadr's supporters — remained outside U.S. control.

U.S. forces adopted a slow-squeeze tactic because the political and human cost of assaulting both places was deemed too high, the official said.

U.S. officials think Sunni guerrillas in Iraq began altering their tactics in May and June. At that point, they began targeting oil pipelines and other infrastructure and trying to assassinate senior Iraqi leaders. U.S. and Iraqi forces reacted by increasing protection of those targets. That caused the insurgents to switch yet again, this time to kidnappings aimed at removing allies from the coalition.

Militants have kidnapped more than 70 foreigners, mainly truck drivers, as part of the 15-month-old resistance targeting members of the U.S.-led coalition and foreign companies working in Iraq.

The tactic has proved difficult to combat. It has caused widespread fear and put competing pressures on allies — from the United States to stand fast, and in some cases from their populaces to pull out.

That was the situation facing Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo when truck driver Angelo dela Cruz was kidnapped and offered up as a potential beheading victim. She decided quickly to buy his release by withdrawing her country's 51 peacekeepers from Iraq.

Despite at least one report that hundreds of thousands of dollars changed hands to free Egyptian diplomat

Mohammed Mamdouh Helmi Qutb, the Egyptian government said it paid no ransom. The United States said it knew of no Egyptian concessions.

In Amman, Jordan, however, the director of Daoud and Partners, whose two truckers are the latest kidnapping victims, said Tuesday he was closing down all operations in Iraq, where he had contracts with the U.S. government. The kidnappers had threatened to kill the truckers by Thursday.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, without naming the Philippines, suggested last week that government's action would lead to more kidnappings.

"Weakness entices people into doing things they otherwise wouldn't do, unless they believed that it would advantage them. And so to the extent they see advantage in it, they'll very likely keep doing it," he said.

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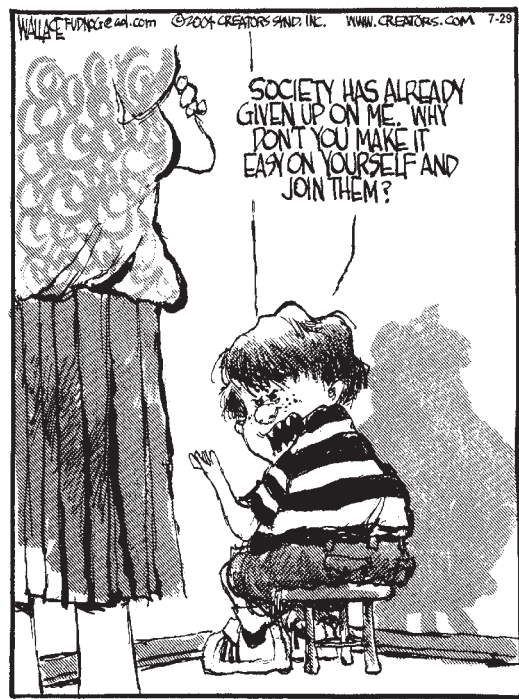
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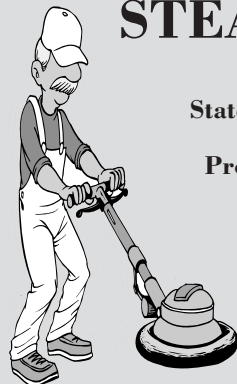


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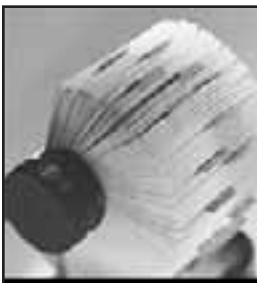
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

'Hi Bob!' statue greets visitors to Michigan Ave.

By The Associated Press

■ **CHICAGO** — "Hi Bob!" could become a popular phrase on Michigan Avenue.

A statue commemorating comedian Bob Newhart's role as Dr. Robert Hartley on "The Bob Newhart Show" was unveiled Tuesday in downtown Chicago near the office building shown in the TV classic's opening credits.

"Hi Bob!" was a frequent greeting on the show, which was set in Chicago and ran on CBS from 1972 to 1978. Hartley was a successful psychologist living in a high-rise apartment with his wife, Emily, played by Suzanne Pleshette.

As Hartley, Newhart employed his famous deadpan, buttoned-down persona, playing the straight man to a brash receptionist, a needy neighbor and a variety of neurotic patients.

Newhart, a native of suburban Oak Park, said he was honored by the statue and viewed it as a "tribute to the writing and to the cast." He said he thinks the sitcom is still being enjoyed because its humor was observational instead of topical.

"We'd get a script and there would be a Gerald Ford joke about tripping over something and I'd say to the writers, 'Guys we're going to look silly in 20 years if we're doing Gerald Ford jokes.' So that was kind of intentional," said Newhart, 74. "We'd try to make it as timeless as we could."

The life-size bronze sculpture was commissioned by the cable channel TV Land, which shows reruns of the classic show. It depicts Newhart's character sitting in a chair next to an empty sofa.

"Oomph!" Newhart said when he sat down on the sofa Tuesday.

"This may come as a surprise to you, but bronze is not as soft as it looks," he told fans gathered for the statue's unveiling.

Newhart, who recently was nominated for an Emmy

Award for a dramatic role on "ER," followed "The Bob Newhart Show" with "Newhart" in the 1980s and two other sitcoms in the 1990s.

The statue will be located until Nov. 1 outside 430 N. Michigan Ave., which was featured in the show's opening credits as Hartley's office. It will then be moved about a mile east to Navy Pier because of concerns about the statue impeding pedestrian traffic.

■ **NEW YORK** — Anna Nicole Smith is jumping to the defense of Kirstie Alley, though it's not clear she needs the help.

Referring to the media's coverage of Alley's increased weight since her days on "Cheers," Smith, a former plus-size model, told syndicated entertainment TV show "Access Hollywood" on Tuesday, "They are just being so mean to her." Excerpts of the interview were released in advance.

Alley's weight problems have been well documented by the tabloids, but she's not running from them. In a reality-comedy series for Showtime, the actress will send up her own image, as well as Hollywood's obsession with weight and beauty, in "Fat Actress." The half-hour series will air sometime next year.

Smith has dealt with her own tabloid coverage, including reports on her recent 69-pound weight loss. She says, "I'm so tired of hearing, 'Oh, she's had bypass surgery ... she's had liposuction. None of it is true.'"

Instead, Smith says the slimming down is due to a healthier diet and Trimspa, a weight loss supplement she advertises.

■ **NEW YORK** — Who better to preside over awards such as "Choice Hissy Fit" and "Choice Liplock" than Paris Hilton and Nicole Richie?

The so-called "celebutants" from the Fox reality show, "The Simple Life 2," will host the 2004 Teen Choice Awards, Fox announced Tuesday.

The awards show, scheduled to be taped Aug. 8 at the Universal Amphitheater in Los Angeles, will also include appearances by Britney Spears, Lindsay Lohan, Usher and Ashton Kutcher. The show will air Aug. 11.

Besides unveiling new categories such as best hissy fit and best liplock, the awards will include "Choice Movie Your Parents Didn't Want You to See."

■ **NEW YORK** — Production has begun on a movie based on Comedy Central's now defunct cult TV show "Strangers With Candy." The film has the working title — not surprisingly — "Strangers With Candy: The Movie."

It is now being shot in New Jersey. "Strangers With Candy," the TV show, aired on Comedy Central from 1999 to 2000. The comedy show's cast reunites for the story of Jerri Blank, an ex-junkie who returns to high school at age 46.

Amy Sedaris, Paul Dinello and Stephen Colbert (of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show") together wrote the script and star in the big-screen adaptation.

Also appearing in smaller roles are Matthew Broderick, Sarah Jessica Parker and Philip Seymour Hoffman.

Sedaris, Dinello and Colbert have modest hopes for the movie.

"This is the greatest assemblage of cast, crew and production companies since 'Ben-Hur' ... on second thought, to hell with 'Ben-Hur,'" they said in a recent joint statement.

■ **NEW YORK** — Move over, Donald Trump. Again. Yet another suit-and-tie reality show in the vein of "The Apprentice" is slated to hit the airwaves.

"American Start-Up," produced by Ben Affleck and Matt Damon's LivePlanet production company, will fund eight baby businesses with \$50,000 seed capital, then eliminate them if they don't measure up, Spike TV's programming and production executive Vice President Kevin Kay announced last week. The announcement was made during the Television Critics Association press tour in Los Angeles.

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