

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

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6-25-26-42-12

Megamember: 7

Jackpot: \$42 million

FANTASY 5

37, 12, 13, 34, 5

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 9, 6, 8

Evening picks: 4, 3, 7

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 11, Money Bags

2nd Place: 03, Hot Shot

3rd Place: 01, Gold Rush

Race Time: 1:43.61



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

In Easton, Pa., in June, Richard James Clader, 38, was sentenced to at least seven months in prison for a series of episodes on state roads 22 and 33 in which eventually 27 people contacted authorities to report that a motorist (identified as Clader) had driven nude, with the horn blasting, while vigorously masturbating. Clader told the judge that he believes his behavior stemmed from feeling neglected as a child and later by his wife, but said he is making substantial progress.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Any girl can be glamorous, all you have to do is stand still and look stupid."

— Hedy Lamarr



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Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Two of Samohi's six new houses will be in the history building and one will be in each of the English, technology, business and foreign language buildings. The redesign will be mostly complete by Sept. 1.

Mali's 'Golden Voice' on SM pier tonight

By Daily Press staff

Tonight's free concert at the Santa Monica Pier features multiple Grammy-nominee Salif Keita.

Known as the "Golden Voice of Mali," Keita fuses traditional African music with contemporary funk, rap and pop.

Born in Mali, Keita's light skin was considered "bad luck," and he was shunned by his family and community. However, by 1967, Keita was playing in clubs and in 1973 he joined a locally popular band known as the Les Ambassadeurs.

As his reputation extended beyond Mali's borders, Keita was recognized by President Ahmed Sekou Toure. Keita composed "Mandjou," which tells the history of the Mali people and praises the president.

After leaving Mali in the mid 1970s due to political

unrest, Keita settled in 1984 in Paris, where he now lives.

South African national Vusi Mahlasela, whose words and music deal with the struggle against apartheid, will open for Keita.

Mahlasela was a seasoned performer by the age of 17.

Combining his unique poetic voice with African and jazz influences, Mahlasela's songs speak to the struggles of South Africans against violence, political unrest and suffering.

Mahlasela's music was part of Nelson Mandela's inauguration celebration and he has been featured on many compilation albums, including Red Cross fundraising CDs and the Oscar-nominated "Mandela" soundtrack.

Tonight's concert runs from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on the parking deck of the Santa Monica Pier.

New Samohi design nears completion

School officials expected to approve \$170K in moving and supply expenses tonight

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Officials are expected tonight to spend \$170,000 to split Santa Monica High School into six campuses by the end of August.

Samohi administrators will move into newly built offices in the next few weeks, and classrooms will be unpacked and set up before the fall semester begins on Sept. 3.

More than 150 teachers, counselors and administrators will be relocated to fit the new design, which is expected to boost test scores and allow teachers to spend more one-on-one time with students because class sizes will be reduced.

Samohi is following a national trend of high school reform that involves redesigning large campuses with the goal of giving students a better, more personalized education.

By redesigning large campuses into smaller, individual ones, schools have higher attendance rates, higher

grade point averages, lower dropout rates and students and teachers report being more satisfied with the experience, school administrators say.

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Superintendent John Deasy said the move is going smoothly and described the process as a team-based community effort.

School board members are expected tonight to approve a \$48,162 contract for King Relocation Services for this summer's moving costs. Another \$123,935 contract will likely go to Sierra School Equipment Company for partitions, office furniture, blackboards and other materials.

Though the money for moving comes out of the district's general fund, Deasy said some of the costs will be offset by private donations by alumni and other benefactors. The equipment costs will be paid with money from Proposition X, a city-approved building bond for local schools that was approved in 1998.

Under the new plan, Samohi's 3,400 students will be divided into six schools, each with its own principal, teacher leader, two advisors and

See REDESIGN, page 5

SM officials not impressed with budget compromise

By staff and wire reports

Local school and city officials are not pleased with the results of Tuesday's state budget passage, saying lawmakers haven't addressed the ongoing deficit.

But they are glad some progress is being made.

The state Assembly approved a compromise budget Tuesday that alleviates a record deficit by slashing spending, raising fees and relying on borrowing but still leaves the state with a big deficit to solve next summer.

The deal approved in the house's longest session in history avoids raising sales and income taxes, but counts on a \$4 billion annual car tax increase and the elimination of a tax break for manufacturers.

After a marathon Assembly session of more than 27 hours, the budget bill passed 56-22 when Republicans —

who had insisted on budget cuts — instead received an additional \$300 million in spending to benefit local governments, law enforcement, schools and farmers.

Steve Stark, Santa Monica's finance director, said it appears the state shortfall in city funding will be at least \$2.8 million. The city's budget was balanced in June with an estimated \$4 million drop in funding.

"At this point, there is less of an impact than we anticipated when we adopted a budget," Stark said Wednesday. "However, there is still a lot more to be done."

Stark said every day the state fails to adopt a formal budget, local municipalities suffer.

The marathon session was extended by demands from Republicans to increase state spending, including

See BUDGET, page 6

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The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average
★★-So-so ★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Easy does it with associates. They might not be on the same page as you. Spend time making sure everyone is coming from the same place, or else you could be stunned by what will happen. Don't lose your temper. Work on accountability. Tonight: Put your feet up.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Examine what needs to happen in order to make someone close to you happy. Even if you don't agree with this person, you might enjoy brainstorming. Your creativity is stimulated by this interchange, and solutions come forward. Tonight: Kick up your heels.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Juggle your different demands and find out what is workable. Your positive approach draws the kind of results you really want. Still, use caution with those in charge. A superior could be on the warpath. Be careful with this person. Tonight: Roll on home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You know what you think and what you want. Others seem bent on creating more than their share of uproar. Knowing when to put a halt to the shenanigans might be important but difficult. The only way out of the game is to not play. Tonight: Stay with the tried and true.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You must use your intuitive sense with finances if you are going to get the results you desire. Realize where a problem is coming from. A discussion with the source could be touchy but necessary. Put forth suggestions in as nice a manner as possible. Tonight: Your treat.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Be your positive self, even if you have difficult people surrounding you. The only way you can keep the peace right now is to be a good listener, as well as pretending you are an international diplomat. You can do it; you need to do it. Tonight: Whatever puts a smile on your face — it's about time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Take your time, as you could easily walk into a big problem. Use your sixth sense and diplomacy to handle the many touchy people in your life. A boss or superior could be demanding but justified. Look at what he or she is saying from his or her point of view. Tonight: Continue to cocoon.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Keep your eye on the big picture, as many forces seem to be working against you. Understand where others are coming from, but still hold the line. You could find friends and loved ones close to impossible. Choose to go your own way. Tonight: Where your friends are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ You might want to make an additional effort to create certain events. Think twice, if not more. Look around and observe the moods of those close to you. You might decide to lie back and look for a better time. Tonight: A family member wants one thing, and you need to do another.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ If you detach, you might understand much more of what is spinning around you. You might want to lighten up and not get into any hot discussions. Use your ability to work with others and help them understand what you see. Tonight: Treat your mind to some candy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You might want to defer to someone else, especially if you find yourself blocked at every turn. Knowing when to put a halt to present spending might be instrumental to your well-being. Others might challenge you unnecessarily. Tonight: Follow another's lead.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You might see yourself as totally logical, but actually, others find you ever so outrageous. Think before losing your temper. If you can, look within and see what might be going on with you. Think positively. Tonight: Let others make the call.

CLARIFICATION: In a story regarding the city's liability in the farmer's market crash (SMDP, July 30), former City Attorney Robert Myers was responding to a reporter's questions about a separate case regarding a woman who sued the city for liability in a car accident after she ran through a red light. Myers said the city chose not to settle the case despite an attractive settlement offer. Myers did not link the two incidents together, but simply answered a reporter's questions about the woman's suit against the city.

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LOCAL



Local housing provider awarded nearly \$100K

BY PATRICK KINMARTIN

Daily Press Staff Writer

Joan Ling's local work has earned her national acclaim.

Ling, the executive director of Community Corp. of Santa Monica, was recognized as one of the nation's leading housing development professionals when she was honored with the James A. Johnson Community Fellows Award last week in Washington, D.C.

Ling was one of six housing development leaders from across the nation to receive the award, which comes with a \$90,000 grant that includes a \$20,000 educational travel and study stipend.

Ling said she plans to use the stipend to travel around the U.S. and parts of Europe to analyze some of the best practices used in urban development and design. She also plans to use much of the grant money to take three months off and help Sen. Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) with environmental housing concerns.

The Fellows award is given to housing development professionals who have significantly impacted the field of community development and affordable housing.

CCSM also will receive a \$25,000 grant for transitional costs while Ling is temporarily gone.

"The city of Santa Monica should be recognized as well for putting its money where its mouth is in providing affordable housing," she said.

Since Ling took over as executive director in 1991, CCSM has gone from owning and managing 300 affordable housing units to owning and managing 1,200 units in Santa Monica.

"Joan has transformed her agency from a troubled group to a professional and able housing developer, and not incidentally, the major provider of affordable housing in Santa Monica," said Bob Moncrief, the city's housing and redevelopment manager.

Ling also has taken an active role in influencing housing policy at local and state levels. In 1998, after settling a NIMBY ("not in my backyard") lawsuit that sought to block four CCSM projects, Ling and other affordable housing advocates prompted city leaders to put an affordable housing referendum on the ballot.

Voters approved the referendum,

which allows the city to build up to 2.5 percent of its housing stock as low-income every year. Since the referendum passed, 40 projects with about 800 units of affordable housing have been built.

After homeowners recently threatened to use California's environmental law to block affordable housing projects, Ling worked with other advocates and city leaders to exempt some smaller-scale projects from environmental review at local and state levels.

Although Ling is proud to be an award recipient, she emphasized it takes the hard work and support of "dedicated armies of people" to promote changes to increase the availability of decent, affordable housing for low- and middle-income people.

The James A. Johnson Community Fellows Program was created in 1998 and has helped to increase the number of first-time homeowners, refurbish homes for elderly and handicapped homeowners and encourage changes in land-use policy to promote affordable housing.

"The program is an incredible opportunity for the honorees to develop new ideas and strategies that will ultimately benefit the field," said Stacey Stewart, president of the Fannie Mae Foundation.

Ling plans to continue developing a statewide coalition of affordable housing advocates, environmentalists, real estate professionals and city leaders. The coalition's aim will be to promote policies that make it easier to develop much-needed affordable housing projects.

Ling believes the coalition will be crucial for California, which has been overwhelmed by growth, overcrowding and sky-rocketing housing prices. Helping the state overcome those challenges will be a task welcomed by Ling, who said she enjoys "the thrill of making something beautiful and functional out of a heap of materials."

Perhaps no thrill, however, would be greater for Ling than to see the reaction of her late father after she was recognized with the award. Ling pointed out how pleased he was when she built a doghouse from scratch as a young girl for the family pet.

"He was just beside himself with joy and pride," Ling said. "So I think that he would probably feel the same way."

surf report

Though the low tide may be hiding it, there is a new SW out there in the water this morning.

BAD NEWS: Conditions are a little murky. Rain is a possibility.

GOOD NEWS: Expect head-high sets at the best spots.

OUTLOOK: The SW and the S swells will stick around through the beginning of next week. Tropical storms could also point surf our way, but it's still too soon to say

Today the water is:

66°

Sunrise: 5:50 a.m.
Sunset: 8:15 p.m.

Get stoked on an epic sesh? Get burned by a bad report? Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing at your local break.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	3:00	-0.1	1:48	2.7	9:40	3.7	8:07	6.0
SUNDAY	3:33	-0.4	2:27	2.6	10:10	3.8	8:43	6.3
MONDAY	4:04	-0.6	3:05	2.5	10:39	3.9	9:19	6.4
TUESDAY	4:36	-0.7	3:44	2.3	11:08	4.1	9:56	6.4
WEDNESDAY	5:08	-0.7	4:26	2.2	11:39	4.2	10:34	6.2
THURSDAY	5:41	-0.5	5:13	2.2	(12:12)	4.4	11:15	5.9
FRIDAY	6:15	-0.2	6:07	2.1	N/A	N/A	12:48	4.5

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The Q-Line

The recent accident at the Santa Monica farmers market that left 10 people dead and scores wounded has raised many questions about how to prevent such a tragedy from occurring again.

In fact, in a stunning coincidence earlier this week in Florida, an elderly man did almost the exact same thing as the 86-year-old Santa Monica man, though no one was killed in that incident.

One of the most talked about solutions revolves around coming up with some kind of new test that drivers over a certain age must take and pass on a regular basis if they want to keep their driver's licenses.

ver's licenses.

In the past, attempts to pass such a law have been met with strong resistance from senior groups.

So, this week Q-Line wants to know, "Should senior citizens be regularly required to demonstrate the physical and mental skills necessary to operate a motor vehicle? Why or why not?"

Call (310) 285-8106 before Thursday at 5 p.m. and we'll include your response in Friday's paper. Please keep your answer to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response before you dial the phone.

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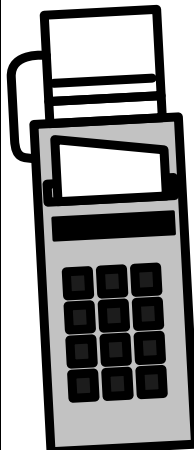
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LETTERS

An accident waiting to happen

Editor:

Two weeks ago, the tragic event took place on Arizona. I was just exiting the Bank of America at Fourth Street and Arizona Avenue, and witnessed people screaming and running into the street in panic. The SMPD was doing its best to restore some kind of order. Then, many different agencies converged on the market to help the injured and the dead. There was still much confusion. Then, the news helicopters (about 10) hovering over. Chaos!

When I learned that an elderly driver was involved, I thought of my family members who were also killed by an elderly driver on Mother's Day, May 11, 1997 on I-40 in Oklahoma City. I lobbied the state Legislature to bring about a law to test elderly drivers. The issue got to Committee and the "Sunday Oklahoman" July 6, 1997, ran a front page story on the "Page Family Tragedy."

I hold compassion and much forgiveness for Russell Weller. He made a mistake as did the 86-year-old lady who hit my family members head-on on I-40. She drove east bound on a west bound expressway. She died in the accident, too. What a tragedy.

Yes, it is prudent to test elderly drivers.

Also, I want to see the issue of elderly drivers brought to a federal level where the issue effects all 50 states.

Barbara Ann Murchison-Page
Santa Monica

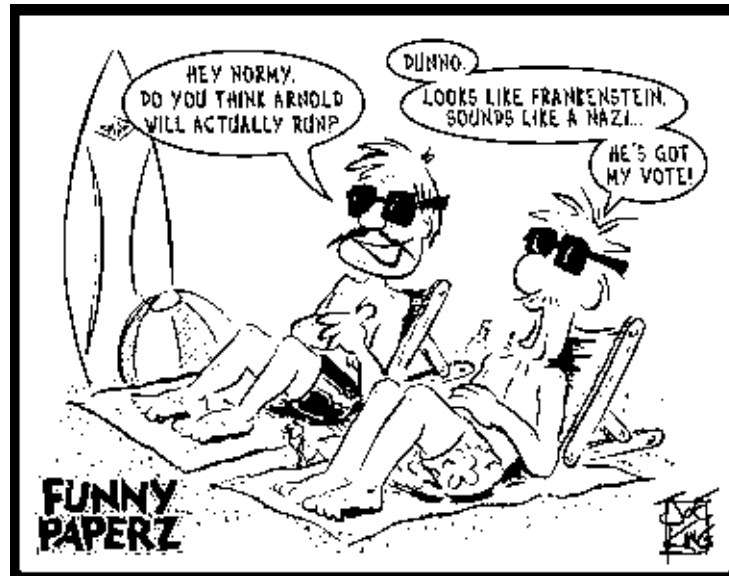
Silverstein wrongly believes the lie

Editor:

While Ed Silverstein may never have told a "big lie" he certainly repeated one in his July 30, 2003 column (SMDP, page 4). Mr. Silverstein, and much of the press, repeats the canard that President Bush lied to the American public about Iraq's attempts to purchase nuclear material in the State of the Union Address. The truth is that the President merely stated that British intelligence was reporting that Iraq was seeking nuclear material in Africa.

British intelligence did, in fact, hold that opinion and still does. What the President reported was true, what Mr. Silverstein repeated is the "big lie."

Craig Mordoh
Santa Monica



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Hatred and terror are in the eyes of the beholder



TITTINGER'S TAKE

By Michael J. Tittinger

(Editor's note: This column originally ran in the Santa Monica Daily Press in November of 2002).

People are strange
When you're a stranger.
Faces look ugly when you're alone.

— Jim Morrison
"People are Strange," 1967

The three of them sat at the end of the bar on Wilshire Boulevard, taking in their surroundings with both wide eyes and wary gate. They were very far from home, but excited, nonetheless, to be in Santa Monica.

Given their nationalities and homelands, that much could be expected.

"Where are you from?" I asked the lone female in the group.

"Lebanon," she replied. "But there was a war going on so my parents moved us to Southern Africa ... Nigeria."

Talk about one bad situation after another. Nigeria is currently in the throes of a self-inflicted Holy War between Muslims and Christians following a flap about the Miss World pageant and sparked by a seemingly innocuous newspaper story. The story in the question suggested the Prophet Mohammad would probably have married one of the Miss World contestants had he been alive today. The fallout has left close to 200 people dead in and around the mostly-Muslim city of Kaduna.

Christine was a long way from home indeed, and the USC student appeared all the happier for it. Her two friends and fellow students hailed from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, respectively. But a funny thing happened on the way to talking about all of the obvious problems between our home nations and all the foreign policy issues plastered across our front pages each day. We talked about Michael Jordan, the alcohol content of "Star" beer in Nigeria and the hidden wonders of canned tuna fish.

In the end, foreign policy wasn't even discussed. The four of us, an unlikely grouping, but one that is thankfully not unheard of in the Santa Monica melting pot, connected as fellow people. Borders be damned! The trio even returned to the bar momentarily just to shake hands and say good-bye.

It's not easy being a stranger in a strange land, and being of Middle Eastern dissent in the United States at this time in history must be downright scary. Even being of similar appearance can be a harrowing ordeal.

Archit Patel, a 19-year-old school of pharmacy major at Santa Monica College, came to the United States with his parents in 1990, at the age of 7.

"Coming from India, a completely separate nation having nothing to do with the Middle Eastern situation, we are still discriminated because we look alike in some ways," Patel said this week. "Yet, Americans do not know that India has been battling terror long before America has, and against a country considered a U.S. ally — Pakistan. But we ourselves are terrorists just simply because we look like them. It's kind of sad, a country like the United States,

so diverse, can't tell the difference between the good guy and the bad guy."

Last Tuesday at the Skirball Center on Sepulveda Boulevard, just north of Santa Monica along the 405, local filmmakers staged a free premiere for their documentary entitled "Why U.S.?" a film in which 24-year-old director Daniel Lindsey and company combed the United States, Europe and the Middle East in search of answers as to why Americans were so loathed abroad as to warrant the 9/11 hijackings and other attacks. The answers were neither simple nor completely clear. Yet, seemingly everyone had an opinion.

Following the premiere, the filmmakers staged an open forum whereby audience members were free to discuss the film, the subjects therein or terrorism and perceptions in general. One of the panelists made an insightful remark about perceptions and to the degree they are warped in translation. Just as Americans are not the characters portrayed in Hollywood and viewed the world over — totting guns, crashing cars and loving supermodels — all Middle Easterners are not religious fanatics, anti-social and devoid of enjoyment in life. We are all people, all the same deep down, whether we appear to be on the outside or not.

Perceptions can be a dangerous thing. When we make caricatures of other cultures and peoples it leads to greater misunderstanding down the line.

Frederic Thenault is an aspiring actor who came to the United States via France a few years back. His accent is still thick.

"So why do the French hate Americans?" I asked, tongue-in-cheek.

"We don't. I never understood that stereotype," he replied thoughtfully. "You

know, if you look back at history the French always have sided with the Americans in terms of foreign policy."

Thenault went on to explain that the perception of American-hating people populating France likely stems from the overflow of tourism in Paris, the most popular tourist destination in the world. It's really more resentment towards tourists in general overrunning their prized City of Lights. We then laughed while rattling off the American-abroad stereotypes — boorish, braggarts, obnoxious, loud, cocky, penchant for violence, etc., etc., none of which the transplanted Frenchman subscribed to after living in New York, and now, Southern California.

On the week that president Bush signed into effect the sweeping Homeland Security bill, an ambitious attempt to better protect the American people from the threat of domestic terror attacks, we find that we have work to do with ourselves. We all need to view people as people, regardless of race, appearance, and what-have-you. We need to not buy into stereotypes, even as they gather momentum in times of crisis like the one right now involving our nation and the Middle East.

"To change one's view is very hard," reasoned Patel. "Americans will change their view when the government changes its view ... The average American has to think with their own individual mind and not simply what everyone agrees with."

"A group of people can agree upon something, but it doesn't make it right."

People are strangest, when they are strangers.

(Mike Tittinger is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. To reach him, e-mail him at TooRoam@aol.com)

LOCAL



Announcement expected in Samohi grievance

REDESIGN, from page 1

dozens of teachers educating more than 500 students. Each house will have a different name — “S” “A” “M” “O” “H” “I” to keep them distinct from one another.

Two of the houses will be located in the history building on campus and one will be located in each of the English, technology, business and foreign language buildings. The music, art, science and physical education programs will be shared by all Samohi students.

Each Samohi student has been assigned to a house, where he or she will stay for the remainder of their high school career. Though the idea is to have students taking all of their academic courses in their respective houses, Samohi assistant principal Ruth Esseln said it may not happen right away.

The short-term goal, Esseln said, is to have as many lower classmen as possible taking all of their academic courses in their respective houses this fall. She said the scheduling details will be dealt with over the next few weeks and she's hoping that almost all lower classmen will achieve that goal.

“We're in the middle of that puzzle right now,” Esseln said, adding that the courses for all freshmen and sophomores will be scheduled by hand.

It may take a little longer to have upper classmen taking their classes entirely in their respective houses, Esseln added. Administrators will begin this fall by placing as many juniors and seniors in separate houses for their English and social studies courses.

“We don't have the resources right now to have kids take 100 percent of their classes in their houses,” Esseln said. “And I don't know that there will ever be a time at Samohi where there won't be some classes (shared by all of the houses).”

With Ilene Straus, Samohi's principal,

on vacation this week and the scheduling details being hammered out, Esseln said Samohi also is in the process of hiring about 30 new teachers for next year.

Mark Kelly, Samohi associate principal, said there is a handful of veteran teachers who will still have to move their classrooms next summer to complete the new design.

“We don't have the resources right now to have kids take 100 percent of their classes in their houses.”

— RUTH ESSELN
Assistant principal, Samohi

But Deasy said moving those teachers won't cost the district any money.

Harry Keiley, president of the local chapter of the Classroom Teachers Association, the local union that represents teachers and some staff, said his group will watch closely the ongoing expenses of the new design.

“We don't know yet and we won't know until we're able to look at some data in the months ahead,” Keiley said. “But schools that have undergone similar redesigns that have not been successful, one of the reasons they have not been successful is because of financial limitations.”

The union filed a formal grievance against the school district in May, alleging the district failed to properly include teachers in its plan to split up the campus.

With the grievance pending, Samohi administrators decided to go ahead with the move. Officials expect to make a public announcement about the grievance next week.

Sports

Michael Chang plans to hang on for a while as a winner

BY TOM A. MCFERSON

Special to the Daily Press

Michael Chang continues his tennis farewell tour this week, stopping at the Los Angeles Tennis Center at UCLA for the 2003 Mercedes Benz Cup.

Chang seems determined to stay for awhile, easily crushing Zach Fleishman 6-1, 6-1 in his first round match.

With only one win (two after defeating Fleishman) and six losses since his farewell tour began last February, Chang would like to build some momentum as he heads towards the final tournaments of his career. According to the Michael Chang official Web site, his last tournament will be the U.S. Open in August.

Chang will next play 2003 Wimbledon finalist Mark Philippoussis, who defeated Adam Kennedy 6-3, 6-2. The match is tentatively scheduled for tonight.

Other matches tentatively scheduled for Thursday are fourth-seeded and three-time French Open winner Gustavo Kuerten against former UCLA Bruin Eric Taino and second-seeded Sebastien Grosjean

against red-hot American Robby Ginepri.

Three-time Mercedes Benz Cup champion and fan favorite Andre Agassi, practically a permanent fixture at this tournament over the years, chose to play a competing event in Washington D.C. this week, the Legg Mason Tennis Classic.

The Mercedes Benz Cup, which continues today through Sunday, Aug. 3, does have a talented line-up, with Lleyton Hewitt, winner of two grand slam titles and formerly No. 1 in the world, headlining the event. Hewitt was scheduled to play his second round match Wednesday night.

The Mercedes Benz Cup is played at the Los Angeles Tennis Center on the campus of UCLA, near Pauley Pavilion. The singles draw is comprised of 32 players and the doubles draw is comprised of 16 doubles teams. Total prize money is \$380,000. Matches begin at 11 a.m.

Tickets are still available. For more information, call (310) 824-1010, or visit the tournament's Web site at www.mercedes-benzcup.com. Discounts are available at certain sessions for students, senior citizens and USTA members.



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LOCAL

Budget negotiations set new record in state Assembly

BUDGET, from page 1

more money for schools and local law enforcement.

However, that additional money is on top of the approved cuts to local school districts, which don't fare much better than they did before the budget was passed.

Although he hasn't seen the final language of the budget, Santa Monica-Malibu School District Superintendent John Deasy said the results of the approved state budget actually makes it slightly worse for local schools.

"It's absolutely not (better)," he said Wednesday. "It's a very complicated shifting of other pools of money. It's slightly worse for us. Them wanting to give more money to the schools is patently false."

The local school district earlier this year faced a \$13.7 million shortfall. Much of that was plugged with the passage of a local parcel tax passage, additional funding from the cities of Malibu and Santa Monica as well as significant district cuts.

Both Deasy and Santa Monica College President Piedad Robertson said the approved budget is irresponsible on the part of lawmakers because it leaves an \$8 billion deficit for next year.

Robertson said Wednesday the idea of having a state shortfall next year "sends chills through my bones." More than 50 percent of SMC's budget, which must be passed by September, is state funded. SMC will not receive any money from the state until a formal budget is adopted by Gov. Gray Davis, which is likely to occur next month.

"It is better to have a budget than not to have a budget at all," Robertson said. "Whether it's good or bad, we still have a budget."

She added that the recently passed budget improves SMC's budget deficit, which was estimated at \$9.5 million after the May revise, to about \$6.5 million.

"It's a very complicated shifting of other pools of money. It's slightly worse for us. Them wanting to give more money to the schools is patently false."

— JOHN DEASY
SMMUSD Superintendent

The state Assembly vote was enough to give the near-\$100 billion proposal the two-thirds majority required to pass it. It now goes to Gov. Gray Davis, who said that he will sign it this week.

"It's not pretty but it could have been a whole lot uglier," Davis said. "It is far from perfect, but further delay was unacceptable."

The budget trims the state's record deficit that could have mushroomed to nearly \$40 billion by next July, Davis said. Instead, the shortfall will be about \$8 billion by next summer, a problem Davis said he will address by appointing a special task force of business and financial experts to examine and make recommendations to the state on how to resolve.

Davis said he wants to hear from the panel before deciding anything about whether the state needs higher taxes or spending cuts to close that \$8 billion shortfall.

Some politicians say the proposed budget largely protects education funding for the next year. Public health and human service programs are also expected to be maintained at the same levels as last year.

The plan uses a complex tax swap that allows the state to borrow nearly \$11 billion to help bridge the state's revenue shortfall.

But because lawmakers could not agree on imposing deeper cuts or raising more revenue through taxes, they delayed for at least a year a decision on how to deal with a portion of the deficit.

Speaker Herb Wesson, D-Culver City, apologized to Californians for failing to pass a budget sooner and said the com-

promise would cause heartache and hurt.

"This is a bittersweet moment for me. I'm glad we've climbed this mountain," Wesson said. "But I'm very saddened by the millions of people we will affect by not moving forward on this budget on a balanced approach."

Republican Leader Dave Cox claimed victory, saying his party was "able to get a budget that didn't increase taxes for Californians. It was a victory for our side."

That characterization was fine with Davis.

"Let them claim victory," the governor said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "Clearly the Republicans' footprint is all over this budget."

Republicans were able to avoid taxes beyond the automatic increase in the vehicle license fee, but "there's a price involved, and the price is drastically reduced services," Davis said.

Because spending has far outpaced tax collections in a slumping economy over the past two years, officials forecast earlier this year that California taxpayers would face a \$38.2 billion deficit by next July if aggressive steps were not taken.

Passage of the budget should ease Wall Street investor concerns but it's not likely to change the state's low credit rating. Last week Standard and Poor's, one of the country's most influential rating agencies, downgraded California's debt to one notch above junk bond status.

Compromise over the budget came only a few days after an effort to recall Davis

qualified for a special election this fall.

Assemblyman Joe Nation, D-San Rafael, said it was ironic that Republicans would hold up approval of the budget for more spending after criticizing Democrats for overspending.

"I don't think it is a responsible position," Nation said. "It's not realistic to assume that the Legislature can request additional programs without addressing the revenue side of things."

The month-long deadlock was caused by a disagreement between Democrats and Republicans over tax increases and spending cuts. The final vote received support from 45 Democrats and 11 Republicans. Two Assembly members, one from each party, were excused and did not vote. Two Democrats voted against the budget.

Democrats, who hold big majorities in both houses but need Republican help to muster budget-approving two-thirds votes, wanted a half-cent sales tax to help close the budget gap. Republicans said the gap could be closed using existing revenues and deep cuts.

The Senate approved the budget compromise Sunday night and sent it to the Assembly, which took up the matter at noon Monday.

Negotiations continued through the night and Wesson said he would hold members on the floor as long as necessary, breaking a 26.5-hour continuous session record set in 1963 when then-Speaker Jesse Unruh forced the Assembly into overtime on an education dispute.

"Yesterday I decided it was important for us to work around the clock to get this job done," Wesson said, reminding his colleagues that he used to coach football. "Sometimes in the fourth quarter, people get tired. Sometimes when people get tired they need to press forward and that's what we've done."

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CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Ads that criticize tobacco industry approved

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — State officials unveiled two new television spots Tuesday that slam the tobacco industry's attempts to push smoking on poor, minority communities.

It comes on the heels of a federal court ruling allowing California to keep running its tough anti-smoking ads despite tobacco companies complaints that they shouldn't be forced to pay for ads they disagree with.

Meanwhile, five Western states announced a deal Tuesday with oil giant BP West Coast Products to crack down on cigarette sales to minors at its ARCO gas stations.

The state Department of Health Services, which runs the anti-smoking ad campaign, decided to release the ads less than a week after the federal court ruling "to send a message to big tobacco that we're not going to let up," said department Director Diana Bonta.

R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. and Lorillard Tobacco Co., which together control 35 percent of California's cigarette market, sued the state in April to stop a series of ads they said unfairly vilify tobacco companies and their executives.

Last week, however, a U.S. Eastern District Court judge said the state has the right to use cigarette taxes to urge people not to smoke.

Renewable energy to be increased

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — California energy agencies want a fifth of the state's energy to come from renewable sources by 2010, which is seven years faster than the previous goal.

Power Authority head David Freeman said Tuesday that if by year's end the Public Utilities Commission hasn't begun requiring utilities to provide more power from

renewables to meet the goal, he will ask legislators to give him that authority instead.

"We're going to see some renewable action in this state, one way or another," Freeman said while touting the jobs that could also result.

"It's an important aspect of our energy plan," Freeman said. "The utilities need to be entering into long-term utility contracts that will support the financing and building of new wind farms and solar power and other renewable energy."

Utilities commission spokeswoman Terrie Prosper said there will be no need for the authority to seek a legal change. The commission, she said, already is working to ensure the state meets the renewable energy goal jointly set this spring by the commission, the power authority — known formally as the Consumer Power and Conservation Financing Authority — and the Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission.

The state's three energy agencies agreed to increase California's use of renewable energy to 20 percent by 2010, twice as fast as the previous 2017 target.

Bill to help identity theft victims

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — In a flurry of bill signings Tuesday, Gov. Gray Davis approved legislation that gives identity theft victims more time to uncover crimes and more information about what was stolen.

The bill stalls the statute of limitations from beginning until the theft has been discovered, and lets victims file complaints up to four years after the date of discovery.

Davis said it is common for victims to be unaware of the crime for some time, and to need extra time after the discovery to determine the problems it has caused.

"These crimes destroy a person's credit records and cause months, if not years, of economic problems for consumers," Davis said.

A second bill lets victims get information on unauthorized mail receipts, forwarding addresses, rental applications and evidence of accounts fraudulently opened in their name.

The new laws add to California's existing efforts, including what Davis called some of the nation's toughest identity theft laws.



WORLD BRIEFLY

Liberian president refuses to leave

By The Associated Press

MONROVIA, Liberia — Charles Taylor hedged on his promise to give up the presidency and leave the country as fighting engulfed Liberia's two main cities.

At the southeastern port of Buchanan, government forces counterattacked, battling in the streets in an attempt to win back the city.

Taylor's military officers also reported themselves in heavy fighting for the former Taylor stronghold of Gbarnga, 110 miles north of Monrovia.

Holed up in the capital, Taylor's government reacted angrily to the spread of fighting. A spokesman said the attacks had made Taylor rethink his promise to cede power.

"We are of a different opinion now in the government about the validity of the overtures of the president to step down," Taylor spokesman Vaanii Paasawe said.

He said the rebels read Taylor's pledge to step down as weakness and led them to escalate the war.

Taylor, a former warlord blamed for 14 years of conflict in Liberia, has said since early June he would yield power.

Philippine intelligence chief resigns

By The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine army intelligence chief resigned Wednesday following a failed military mutiny but warned that the current political crisis is far from over.

Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, whose resignation was demanded by the mutineers, said he quit to ease restiveness among the soldiers following Sunday's bloodless uprising.

"The current political crisis is far from finished. There is still deep restiveness in the officers' corps," Corpus wrote to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who accepted his resignation.

The 296 soldiers and officers who took over a commercial and shopping complex in Manila's financial district accused Corpus of incompetence and involvement in a recent deadly bombing to justify more military aid from Washington.

The mutineers claimed Corpus was in the southern city of Davao when the bomb exploded in a crowded wharf, killing 16 people in April. They said Corpus was either involved or so incompetent he failed to detect the attack.

Corpus dismissed the accusation that he had a hand in the Davao bombing as without basis.

'Burnout' to prevent advancing wildfire

By The Associated Press

WEST GLACIER, Mont. — Fighting fire with fire, state officials scrambled to burn 2,000 acres of trees and other fuel from the path of a 12,000-acre forest fire threatening Glacier National Park and a nearby village.

Fire officials said the so-called "burnout" using torches and incendiary bombs was successful, as wind pushed it toward the main fire and away from the park's west entrance Tuesday. Combined with high humidity, conditions were perfect for the backfire.

Officials said they would know if the burnout will stop the advancing wildfire in the coming days.

"I'm not going to pull any punches," fire behavior specialist John See told about 300 people at a public meeting late Tuesday. "It's going to be challenging for fire behavior (Wednesday)."

See said the forecast for Thursday called for menacing westerly winds that could push the fire into Apgar Village and West Glacier.

Senators argue over redistricting

By The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Democratic and Republican senators dueling across the Texas-New Mexico line as each camp tried to score political points in the intensifying battle over congressional redistricting.

Republicans on Tuesday tried to coax 11 of the 12 Senate Democrats to return from Albuquerque, N.M., following their walkout Monday that forced the Senate to a standstill.

"No Texas problem has ever been solved in New Mexico," said Sen. Todd Staples, chairman of the Senate Republican Caucus. Democrats remained firm: "We're not here on a vacation," said Democratic Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos in Albuquerque.

The walkout comes less than three months after a similar move by House Democrats, who broke a quorum in their chamber and killed a redistricting bill by fleeing to Ardmore, Okla.

Republicans are pressing for more seats in the state's 32-member delegation to the U.S. House. The Democrats hold a 17-15 advantage, which Republicans say does not reflect the state's increasingly Republican voting patterns.

Most Democrats want to keep the congressional map drawn by a three-judge federal panel in 2001. They say

redistricting amounts to a power grab pushed by U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay.

As long as the Senate Democrats stay away, business in the chamber stops.

US may question Saudi authority

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Saudi Arabia's foreign minister says FBI and CIA agents in his country may question an employee of the Saudi civil aviation authority who befriended two of the Saudis involved in the 9-11 hijackings.

That concession made, Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal expressed disappointment that President Bush would not declassify parts of a congressional report on the 9-11 hijackings. He said the refusal deprives the Arab kingdom of a chance to clear its name.

Fifteen of the 19 hijackers were from Saudi Arabia, but the Saudi government has asserted it had no involvement in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"Everybody is having a field day and casting aspersions about Saudi Arabia," Saud complained Tuesday after meeting with Bush and his senior advisers at the White House.

Bush had said earlier at the White House "there's an ongoing investigation into the 9-11 attacks and we don't want to compromise that investigation."

Saud said Condoleezza Rice, Bush's national security adviser, requested access to civil aviation employee Omar Bayoumi.

Saud vowed that his government would vigorously pursue terrorists and their financial supporters.

Bush gives broad support to Sharon

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush has given visiting Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon broad support on key issues, backing off from overt criticism of a West Bank security fence and disappointing Palestinians in the process.

Sharon, who was to meet Vice President Dick Cheney on Wednesday morning before flying home, promised Bush that he would make sure to minimize suffering to Palestinians through whose lands the fence will run.

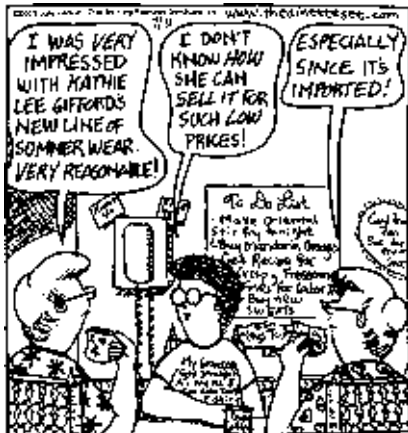
Last week, Bush hosted Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and said the partially built barrier, which in some places cuts deeply into Palestinian territory and divides farms, was not helpful to peace efforts.

On Tuesday, Sharon argued that the fence was essential to stop Palestinian bombers and gunmen from slipping into Israel to carry out attacks. He said construction would go on.

Bush echoed Sharon's call for Abbas to break up Palestinian militant groups so they no longer posed a threat to Israelis. If that were done, he added, the fence could become redundant.

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- 1 Identical
- 5 Finishes a hole
- 10 By the way
- 12 Quite impressed
- 13 Spanish squiggle
- 14 Nevada tree
- 15 Rink material
- 16 Fried tortilla
- 18 Counselor at Troy
- 20 Heater
- 21 Heater
- 23 Pupil's place
- 24 Aspiration
- 26 Bungles
- 28 Arthur on TV
- 29 Foolhardy
- 31 Museum contents
- 32 "Cut that out!"
- 36 Lose everything
- 39 Some
- 40 Temptress
- 41 Rose
- 43 Silly
- 44 Pretext
- 45 Circus sights
- 46 Low digits

DOWN

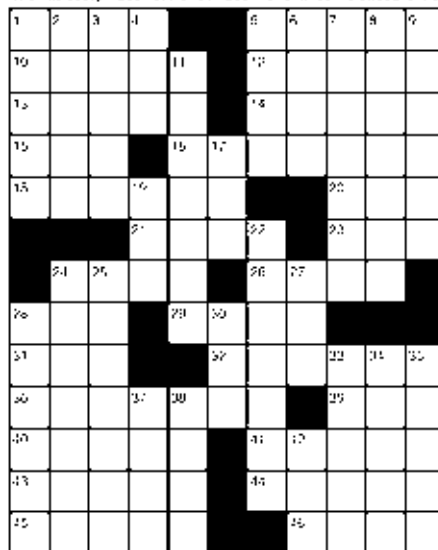
- 1 Gown material
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- 3 Skin spots
- 4 Finish
- 5 Card symbols
- 6 Foot or hand
- 7 Bright bird
- 8 Standard weekend
- 9 Capitol group
- 11 Recover from
- 17 Mine yield
- 19 Pinnacle

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Yesterday's answer

- 22 IRA perhaps
- 24 Jane Eyre. for one
- 25 Muffin makeup
- 27 Greek letter
- 28 Gives up
- 30 Invite
- 33 Cookout spot
- 34 Not free
- 35 Sorts
- 37 Flat lee
- 38 Small bills
- 42 Ump's call

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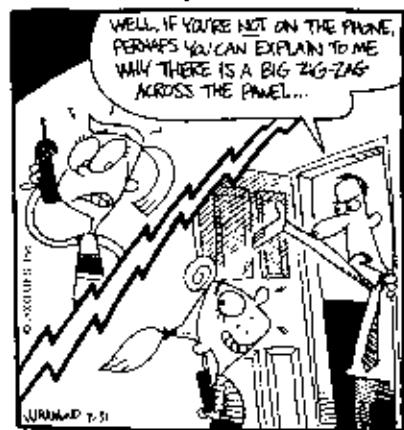
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ITALIAN LEATHER Sofa & Loveseat Brand new, still in crate from designer home show. List \$3000. Sacrifice \$995. Must sell! Will deliver! (310)350-3814.

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Vehicles for sale

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LOOKING FOR housekeeping and nanny position, have experience, California license & speak Russian, organized and responsible and flexible. Call Larisa (818)264-9025.

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Fri - 6pm
Jazz I-II: Mon & Wed - 7:30-9pm
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santamonica dancestudio.com

SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2003

Compiled by Natalia Aivazova

MOVIE °GUIDE

LAEMMLE'S MONICA 4-PLEX

1332 2nd Street
Whale Rider PG-13 — 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15,
Lucia Lucia — 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20,
I Captured the Castle — 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:40
Mildred Pierce — Sat&Sun only 11:00 a.m.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd
Northfork PG-13 — 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
Swimming Pool R — 1:45, 4:15, 7:30, 10:00

LOEWS CINEPLEX BROADWAY CINEMAS

1441 Third Street Promenade
28 Days Later R — 11:15, 1:55, 4:35, 7:20, 10:00
Terminator 3 R — 11:45, 2:20, 5:00, 7:35, 10:15
Seabiscuit PG-13 — 11:30, 3:00, 6:15, 9:30, also
12:30, 4:00, 7:10, 10:25

AMC SANTA MONICA 7

1310 Third Street Promenade
Bad Boys II R 11:20, 12:15, 2:55, 3:45, 6:45, 7:20,
10:10, 10:45
How to Deal PG-13 — 1:50, 2:15, 4:45, 7:40, 10:20
Finding Nemo G — 11:40, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:40
Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life PG-13 —
11:30, 12:50, 2:20, 4:00, 5:15, 7:00, 8:10, 10:00, 11:00
Spy Kids 3D: Game Over PG — 11:00, 1:10, 3:25,
5:40, 8:00, 10:05

MANN CRITERION 6 THEATERS

1313 Third Street Promenade
Buffalo Soldiers R — 10:30, 1:15, 4:10, 7:05, 9:30
Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blue PG-1 —
11:35, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle PG-13 — 11:30, 4:20,
9:15
Johnny English PG — 11:15, 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40,
The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen PG-13 —
11:35, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
Pirates of the Caribbean PG-13 — 11:45, 12:20, 3:15,
3:45, 6:45, 7:15, 10:05, 10:35

EVENTS

Teen Craft Program

Kids can enjoy learning new skills while socializing
with peers. Program is for 6th - 12th graders.
Sign-ups required.
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Montana Library Branch
1704 Montana Ave.
For more information call:
(310) 829-7081

Twilight Dance Festival

Enjoy a night of dancing under the stars as Santa
Monica continues its tradition of weekly concerts
on Thursday nights. Salif Keita performs tonight on
the Santa Monica Pier's parking decks. You can
come by car or ride the Tide shuttle from selected
beach lots and from Downtown. A trip by shuttle
costs only 25 cents.
Admission: FREE
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Parking is available in all beach lots.
For more information call:
(310) 458-8900

CULTURE

Presentation and Signing

Come and listen to author Clinton McKinzie as he
introduces the audience to his latest thriller, "Trial
by Ice and Fire."
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Montana Library Branch
1704 Montana Ave.
(310) 829-7081

G-home

Brooklyn-born playwright Murry Mednick stars in
his new play "G-home", a fictionalized autobiography
about an elderly writer looking back on the dif-
ficulties of his life. Mednick, the winner of two
Rockefeller Foundation grants, a Guggenheim
Fellowship and an Obie Award, has previously
written powerfully and prolifically about the
American Jewish experience in the 20th century.
Thu.-Sat. 8 p.m. Sun. 3p.m.
The Powerhouse Theatre
3116 Second St.
310-396-3680

ENTERTAINMENT

Temple Bar

Here visitors can enjoy concoctions like White
Chocolate Martinis, a Gingitini or a Razzmatazz.
Those who are really hungry can enjoy a Chicken
Tamale Plate with Fried Plantains. Temple Bar even
offers vegetarian options like veggie eggrolls and
burgers. But no good bar would be complete with-
out live music. Tonight Latin Sol performs at 10 and
Sambada at 11:15.
Admission \$7.
1026 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica
(310) 393-6611
Club Sugar
A fun place for those who enjoy the night life.
Tonight DJs Daz (UK), Terry "TJ" Newsom and the
Red Devils spin everything electronic on Vice
night. You can go dancing or just enjoy drinks at
the bar. All persons must be 21 and over.
9:30pm - 2:00am
Admission is \$5
814 Broadway (@ Lincoln)
(310) 899-1989

If you know of an upcoming event which may be included in the calendar please send the information
to calendar@smdp.com or fax it to (310) 576 9913



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Oprah Winfrey looking for real estate in Hawaii

By The Associated Press

■ **KULA, Hawaii** — Oprah Winfrey, already the owner of 100 shorefront acres in Hana, reportedly is shopping for more Maui real estate.

Winfrey and Bob Greene, her friend and former personal trainer, have made offers on several properties in Kula, the Maui News reported Wednesday.

According to the paper, the maven at the helm of a multimillion-dollar media conglomerate has had some bids accepted and others turned down.

One sale reportedly underway is of the 31-acre Thompson Ranch. Jerry Thompson, whose father started the ranch in 1901, said Tuesday he "had mixed feelings" about the sale.

Down the road, Carmen Goble of Goble's Flower Farm said she told Winfrey's agents, "No way!" when they inquired about buying her property. "We are not selling," Goble said.

The Maui News says other neighbors are also selling their property or in serious negotiations.

Winfrey's agent on Maui had no comment.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Mayor James Hahn and his wife, Monica, have separated after 19 years of marriage, his attorney said.

Hahn, 53, and his wife are living apart, attorney

Patricia Glaser said Tuesday. Hahn was elected mayor in 2001, and is the son of the late 10-term county Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

Monica Hahn is a homemaker and part-time movie location scout. The couple have two children, Karina, 14, and Jackson, 10.

The mayor's office declined to comment Tuesday.

Glaser spoke on behalf of the mayor because he wanted to respond to rumors about his marriage, she said.

No reason was given for the split or how long the Hahns have been apart, but Glaser said the two are devoted to raising their children.

"They remain friends, and will continue to share the responsibility for raising their two wonderful children," Glaser said.

Divorce proceedings have not begun and no legal papers have been filed, she said.

■ **BUCHAREST, Romania** — Elizabeth Hurley is in Bucharest to start work on a new movie called "The Method," a film company said Wednesday.

The model-actress arrived late Monday and will stay for more than a month to play a leading part in the film by British director Duncan Roy, said Bogdan Moncea, a spokesman for Romanian Castel Films.

Hurley, 38, will play an actress who gets the role of a 19th-century serial killer and begins taking on some of

the killer's characteristics in real life.

Most of the movie will be shot in the studios of Castel Films in the lakeside resort of Snagov, north of Bucharest.

Filming began Monday. Several Romanian actors also have roles in the American-British-Romanian production.

Romania has become attractive for film productions because of low costs and unspoiled scenery. Recently it was the location for "Cold Mountain," starring Nicole Kidman.

■ **NEWTON, Iowa** — The face may be new but the Maytag Repairman will still be lonely.

Actor Hardy Rawls will take over the part of Ol' Lonely in Maytag advertisements from Gordon Jump, who's retiring from the role, the company said Tuesday.

"I've never been so excited about something in my life," said Rawls, 50, another veteran character actor. "I feel it's truly a heartwarming and lovable character that is so much fun to play."

Rawls has appeared in television shows including "Ed," "Law and Order" and "Judging Amy" and is known for his role as the father on Nickelodeon's "The Adventures of Pete and Pete." He also has appeared in movies, the theater and more than 300 commercials.

The 71-year-old Jump has portrayed Ol' Lonely, one of the most famous advertising characters ever created, since 1988. The late Jesse White originated the role in 1967.



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