

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

FANTASY 5

3 15 17 36 38

DAILY 3

Daytime: 3 5 2

Evening: 4 2 0

DAILY DERBY

1st: 02 Lucky Star

2nd: 11 Money Bags

3rd: 08 Gorgeous George

RACE TIME: 1:44.57



NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ According to a doctor's experience reported in the December 1997 issue of the journal *Biological Therapies in Psychiatry*, a 35-year-old female patient receiving a traditional anti-depressant was switched to bupropion, supposedly just as effective but without her regular drug's side effect of inhibiting orgasm. "Within one week, her ability to achieve orgasm and her enjoyment of sex had returned to normal," the doctor wrote. "After six weeks, however, she experienced (spontaneously, without physical stimulation) a three-hour orgasm while shopping."

TODAY IN HISTORY

ON AUG. 4, 1944, Nazi police raided the secret annex of a building in Amsterdam and arrested eight people — including 15-year-old Anne Frank, whose diary became a famous account of the Holocaust. (Anne died at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.)

■ In 1735, a jury acquitted John Peter Zenger of the New York Weekly Journal of seditious libel.

■ In 1914, Britain declared war on Germany while the United States.

■ In 1916, the United States purchased the Danish Virgin Islands for \$25 million.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"Poetry is the record of the best and happiest moments of the happiest and best minds."

— PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY
(1792-1822)

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\$3.50 a day 17-19

On bended knee



Crill Hansen/Special to the Daily Press

A Hare Krishna kneels down in the middle of Main Street this past Sunday during what has been called the largest religious event in Southern California. Tens of thousands of people attended the Festival of Chariots, which included three 50-foot tall chariots rolling from the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium to Windward and the Venice boardwalk.

The annual celebration is sponsored by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

SMC's \$175M bond proposal narrowly flops

Santa Monica voters off the hook in deciding this year

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC — Less than two months after it was presented to skeptical city officials, a \$175 million bond for open space and better school buildings died at the hands of its creator on Monday.

The Santa Monica College Board of Trustees fell one vote shy of placing the controversial education bond on the November ballot. They voted 4-2 in favor of the proposal, with one trustee abstaining. In order to move forward, the bond required two-thirds approval, or five affirmative votes.

Had it been approved, the money would have been used to build and upgrade several buildings at SMC, buy new open space in Santa Monica and Malibu, and develop other properties owned by the city, including the Marion Davies Estate at 415 Pacific Coast Highway and the aquarium on the pier.

It also would've cost the average homeowner \$77 a year and the average renter a little more than \$13 a year. But officials said that was just one reason it was shot down.

"I had a number of issues and

concerns with regards to the size of the bond and the fact that we were going out with a request for additional support ... when we had gone out two years earlier for \$160 million," said SMC trustee Graham Pope, adding he was inundated with calls from bond supporters.

"I just felt in good conscience, given what we promised the voters previously of not going back in the near future and the fact that some of those issues were not resolved, that it was rather difficult to support this rather extensive shopping list of needs," Pope added.

Pope was joined by Carole Currey in voting against the bond. Trustee Annette Shamey abstained from the vote after also expressing concerns about the sudden nature of the proposal.

A total of 17 people spoke to the SMC board, almost all of them urging the trustees to put it on the November ballot. Among the speakers were the college's physical education chairwoman, women's tennis coach, chairman of the music department, chairman of the education department, representatives from the emeritus college, a campaign consultant, neighborhood representative, and officials from the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu.

Trustee Nancy Greenstein said

See BOND, page 6

Neglected neighborhood gets political attention

Residents of troubled community obtain powerful backing

BY JOHN F. MULLER

Special to the Daily Press

PICO NEIGHBORHOOD

After nearly a half century of waiting, residents here are closer than ever before to getting a neighborhood face on the City Council.

Maria Loya, a Pico neighborhood activist and member of the

Mothers for Justice, became the first resident from Santa Monica's most neglected community to gain the endorsement for City Council from the city's most powerful political group. The largely Latino neighborhood has never had an elected representative on Santa Monica's currently all-white City Council.

In addition to Loya, the Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights (SMRR) on Sunday voted to endorse Pico residents Doug Willis and Ana Jara for the Santa Monica College Board of Trustees and the school board, respectively. SMRR has endorsed Willis and fellow Pico neighborhood resident and school board member Oscar de la Torre in recent years.

"Santa Monica has a terrible

past when it comes to race," de la Torre said.

The city's original 1906 charter mandated district representatives and the direct election of the mayor. However, a 1946 charter reform set the current system in place, under which the seven council members are elected at-large. A city-commissioned study in 1992 found that the change was

See PICO, page 7

Jacquie Banks

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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





ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You are full of energy and vitality. Wherever you go, others respond enthusiastically. Your ideas and demeanor send a message of self-confidence -- that you can do it. And you can. Be a pioneer and leader. Tonight: All grins.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★ Pressure builds, and you might feel as hot and tense as the season. You might be called upon to make a change. Right now, neither a "no" nor a "yes" is appropriate. Be the sluggish Bull and take your time. Tonight: Vanish.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Aim high, knowing what you want. Review directions. Add that special touch that will make all the difference. Your laughter and happy mood bond others. Don't hesitate to go for what you want. Tonight: Where the action is.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ All eyes look to you for direction and answers. You can set quite an example for others with your dedication and endurance. Many can count on you because you are reliable. Understand that you could overdo it. Tonight: Don't spend what you don't have.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Your foresight comes from your willingness to think outside of the box. Seek out answers. Find experts with different types of views. A trip might be on your agenda. Why not? Be willing to take a risk or a leap of faith. Tonight: Do something totally new.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Your instincts come into play within a partnership and/or money dealing. Work carefully with this person, and be open about suggestions and what might be going on with you. In this fashion, answers will come forth. Tonight: You do best as a duo.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Others toss suggestion after suggestion at you. You might have a difficult time sorting everything out. Worry less. Your choice makes you happy. Loosen up and discover more about your preference. Tonight: Wherever you are, you hit a home run.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You have a way of discovering what is going on with others through observation and a nurturing approach. Claim your power, especially with a public appearance. Share more of your organizational skills. Tonight: Easy does it -- for now.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Whatever your instincts are, you must follow them. Impulsiveness works right now. Go for what you want. Your lively side emerges when dealing with similar fire spirits. Know what you are doing. Think of the implications. Tonight: Be a wild thing.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Home is where you want to be. Figure out a way to stay home, even if it means taking a personal day or working from your pad. Loosen up and understand a partner better. Talks reveal a new side of this person. Tonight: Stay close to home.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You love the enthusiasm that others have. Before you know it, you are part of the gang playing away and enjoying yourself. Is this really what you should be doing? Nothing will stop you right now, but remember, there is a tomorrow. Tonight: Hang out with your wilder friends.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ The damage you could inflict on your finances right now could be overwhelming. Stop and take stock. Focus on responsibility and work. You can get everything done. Just no risk-taking, please. Keep a tight hold on your checkbook. Tonight: First pay bills.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

City arts draw thousands in grant funds

By Daily Press Staff

Art organizations in Santa Monica are getting a piece of the action this year. The Los Angeles County Arts Commission awarded 12 Santa Monica art groups an estimated \$200,000 in grant funds to continue the city’s visual and performing arts programs.

“Los Angeles County is committed to funding the arts,” said Don Knabe, chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. “We know that the arts improve the quality of life for residents throughout our culturally and geographically diverse region, driving our strong economy.”

The Art Commission’s yearly Organizational Grant Program distributed more than \$1.9 million to 204 nonprofit art organizations to help create and continue artistic endeavors for adults and children throughout Los Angeles County.

In addition to funding existing art programs, the money will help provide art education to the residents of Santa Monica. Listed below are the 12 grant benefactors and the proposed projects.

- 18th Street Arts Complex**
Grant amount: \$12,000
Project: To support salary costs for the Development Manager and Program Coordinator.
- American Academy for Dance and Kindred Arts**
Grant amount: \$5,300
Project: To support a comprehensive marketing plan.
- Apollo Amused**
Grant amount: \$11,000
Project: To support staff salaries and guest conductor and consultant fees.
- California Lawyers for the Arts**
Grant amount: \$13,000
Project: To support lawyer referral, dispute resolution and education to under-served communities.
- Crossroads Community Foundation/P.S. Arts**
Grant amount: \$12,500
Project: To support school-based, sequential, standard-aligned classes in dance, drama, music and visual arts for grades pre-K-8.
- Highways**
Grant amount: \$5,500
Project: To support the upgrade of artistic and administrative directors to full-time positions.
- Los Angeles Chamber Ballet**
Grant amount: \$4,400
Project: To support artistic fees.
- National Assoc. of Latino Independent Prod., Inc.**
Grant amount: \$5,200
Project: To support an interactive web-based Latino job/communications network plus fundraising activities.
- Santa Monica Museum of Art**
Grant amount: \$12,500
Project: To support adult education programs presented in conjunction with exhibitions.
- Santa Monica Theatre Guild**
Grant amount: \$4,000
Project: To support the Director of Development position.
- TeAda Productions**
Grant amount: \$4,500
Project: To support implementation of strategic plan goals, re-design of Web site and purchase of computers.
- Virginia Avenue Project**
Grant amount: \$11,000
Project: To support the salary for a new position, Community Development Director.



“MONKEY SEE, MONKEY DO”

William Rupcich, the manager at Johnny Rocket’s, won this week’s mystery photo, which is located near Magicopolis on Fourth Street. Rupcich has won a gift certificate to Over Under Sports Bar. Check next Monday’s edition for the next mystery photo contest.



SURF REPORT

On Wednesday look for a mix of SW swell and a touch of NW wind swell. Northern LA County spots will see surf in the 1-2-3’ range, while the standout spots see more consistent waist-high waves. South Bay spots see mostly the NW windswell for 1-2’ surf, with some waist-high sets at best combo breaks in the north half of the bay. The tide hits a low around 6:40 a.m., so expect many spots to be pretty drained out early on, with improving conditions on the tide push. Look for light and winds in the morning with building W winds 8-12 knots by the afternoon.

Today the water is:

69°

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

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	8:31	2.1	11:11	1.5	3:14	3.3	3:34	4.9
SUNDAY	9:23	2.6	—	—	5:30	3.0	4:34	5.0
MONDAY	5:26	-1.1	5:05	1.7	11:53	4.7	11:10	6.4
TUESDAY	6:04	-0.6	5:59	1.8	(12:32)	4.8)	11:57	5.6
WEDNESDAY	6:41	0.1	6:59	1.8	—	—	1:12	4.9
THURSDAY	7:16	0.8	8:08	1.9	12:48	4.8	1:55	4.9
FRIDAY	7:52	1.5	9:35	1.8	1:48	4.0	2:41	4.9

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Nearly two dozen local veterinarians, pet groomers, animal rights activists and cat lovers descended on City Hall last week to ask elected leaders to draft a law making it illegal to de-claw cats. Some say de-clawing cats leads to behavioral spats, an adversity to litter boxes and extreme paw pain. Council members voted 3-3 on the proposal to draft a law, with one absent. While some said de-clawing cats was inhumane and cruel, others agreed more information needed to be gathered to make a balanced, objective decision. Supporters are expected to raise the matter again.

So this week, Q-line wants to know, “Do you think de-clawing cats should be outlawed in Santa Monica? Why or why not?”

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we’ll print your response in the weekend edition. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Who's in touch, really?

Editor:

While I agree with Bobby Shriver's views concerning our City Council and applaud his passion (SMDP, Aug. 3, page 1), I'm not sure how "in touch" you can be with the citizens of Santa Monica from atop the bluff on Adelaide Drive.

This is a perfect example of why the issue of creating political districts in Santa Monica should be rapidly brought back to the table.

Ron Yukelson
Santa Monica

Where's the sense of humor?

Editor:

I really had a good laugh reading Ken Genser's response last Friday to David Pizarra's recent column in your paper (SMDP, July 27, page 5). Mr. Genser, being the typical politician that he is, talks out of both sides of his mouth, and thus is downright disingenuous when he claims he and the City Council he sits on are not directly involved in the minute design review of homes, or any of the other numerous problems and delays faced by homeowners in this city — which has been widely reported in your paper.

Mr. Genser is just plain full of nonsense. Indeed, it's Mr. Genser and his City Council cronies that proposed and then adopted the regulations that allow city boards to impose their — and thus Mr. Genser's and the council's — arbitrary personal tastes in style and design, instead of allowing the homeowner to decide based upon reasonable codified standards. Further, it's Mr. Genser and his City Council cronies who appoint like-minded people to those very same city boards in order to stack the deck.

Mr. Pizarra used humor — which, of course, is completely lost on the likes of Mr. Genser and the other letter writer who supported him — in his column to point out that it would be just as reasonable for someone to impose their personal tastes and style in the way that Mr. Genser dresses.

It is indeed unfortunate that Mr. Genser cannot admit that he is the one behind this unreasonable and intrusive government act. And it's equally unfortunate that Mr. Genser is completely humorless.

Saul Cohen
Santa Monica

Officer Joe says good-bye

Editor:

The time has come for this old cop to go "End of Watch" and retire. I will always value the time I was able to serve the community of Santa Monica while working side by side with some outstanding police officers, educators, parents and students. You have each made an impact on my life, and I hope I have in some small way done the same.

I can not help but think about how my tour of duty would have been had I not had the opportunity to represent the Santa Monica Police Department in their outreach program to the community and their children as a school resource officer. I know that some of you may not even know me, but I know that you are demonstrating positive role modeling to all of the students of Santa Monica while keeping the community safe. Don't be afraid to reach out for the good of the youth and make them responsible for their actions. Every school has a purpose for the children in the neighborhood, so reach out and see how you can help support their goals.

I was born and raised in the city of Santa Monica. I attended the local schools and will remember those years fondly. In 1967 I joined the United States Marine Corp. and was very proud to serve my country at home and on foreign land. I feel that very same pride having served here at home as a Santa Monica Police officer. The years have passed by quickly, but the memories will be with me forever. May the good Lord always bless you, your family, our community and our country.

"Officer Joe" Analco
Santa Monica

101 reasons not to vote for George W. Bush



INCITES

BY ED SILVERSTEIN

I'm warning you up front that what I'm going to say will offend just less than half the country. If you vote for George Bush in 2004, you're crazy, hopelessly uninformed or a corporate executive who cooked the books.

Now before you conservatives open your arsenals and come looking for me, let me assure you that this is not an attack on Republicans. Truth be told, my political beliefs are more closely aligned with moderate Republicans (if they still exist) than liberal Democrats. No, this is strictly about George W. Bush.

Let's start with his integrity, the thing he was going to bring back to the Oval Office. We all know what Bill Clinton lied about, but what about George? Well, there was his cocaine use, his insider trading scandal, his drunk driving arrests and his dereliction of duty in the National Guard.

Of course, those are all in the past. So how do you know if he's lying these days? His lips are moving.

During his first campaign he lied about the cost and who benefited from his tax cut, the effectiveness of his "leave no child behind" scheme and about his record in Texas, which he had sealed 10 minutes after he left office. He lied about knowing Ken Lay and Ahmed Chalabi. He lied to Christine Todd Whitman and Paul O'Neill about his commitment to fighting global warming. He lied about being a compassionate conservative and that he would work with both parties. He lied about Iraq. In fact, I could fill this entire column with the lies from George Bush.

Of course, George will say that we should vote for him because Kerry is a flip flopper, which, by the way, is twisting the truth, or, another euphemism for lying. In fact, it is Dubya who is the ultimate flip flopper. I won't even go into the ever-changing rationales for entering into a preemptive war with Iraq. Instead, let's talk about the president's programs that were never funded.

Our so-called "education president" starved his "leave no child behind" programs to death by reneging on the \$26 billion he promised. Yes, I know, another lie. Millions continue to die in Africa because he hasn't provided the \$15 billion that he promised to combat AIDS. (Lie). He promised to increase funds to pay for more police and firemen, our front-line defense against terrorism, but instead he cut existing funding. The president reminds me of a guy who goes to a charity benefit, takes a bow for pledging a large donation, then bounces the check.

The president has cut veterans benefits, supported outsourcing of jobs and

engaged in systematic union busting. He has given billions in tax breaks and giveaways to big business and special interests while drastically cutting services to those most in need. He has engaged in gay bashing, racial politics, character assassination and attacks on our allies.

And being in love with George Bush is never having to hear him say, "I'm sorry." The president hasn't apologized for creating record deficits. He hasn't apologized for ignoring the warnings about terrorism before 9/11. Bush has yet to apologize for the war in Iraq, despite the fact that we haven't found a single WMD; that the country has become far more deadly for Iraqis and the world, and that Americans are still dying there long after the president declared, "Mission accomplished." The president has yet to apologize for even a single mistake.

Some might excuse this as strong leadership. I call it arrogance.

And it is this same arrogance that has turned the United States from the most respected and envied country in the world into a feared bully and a pariah. It is this arrogance that allows the president to substitute his narrow, uninformed ideology for proven science and expert opinion.

Hence we have a leader who stands before us and claims that global warming does not exist, that abstinence, not condoms, will check the spread of AIDS, that we should drill in an Arctic wilderness instead of developing alternative and renewable energy sources, and that it is OK to eliminate regulations against the worst polluters in the Western world. It is why he has stacked every advisory organization with like-minded ideologues that will turn their nose up at any dissenting opinion.

And then there are the scandals. Bush's National Guard service; insider trading; failure to address terrorism; refusing to cooperate with congressional investigations; outing an undercover CIA agent for revenge; secret meetings with energy executives to hatch a business-friendly energy policy; elimination of environmental regulations; lying about the true cost of the Medicare prescription drug program that does not even allow the government to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices; awarding multi-billion no-bid contracts to Halliburton and others; approval to use torture in Iraq and Afghanistan; misleading Americans and the world about Iraq's WMDs; their connection to al Qaeda and their participation in 9/11; and, of course, stealing the election.

The Bush administration is divisive, selfish, mean-spirited, obstructive, arrogant, secretive and outright dishonest. He is arguably the worst president in modern history and maybe of all time. And it is time for a change.

(Ed Silverstein is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. Comments and requests for copies of this column can be addressed to incites@incites.net).

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

OPINION

GUEST COMMENTARY BY DR. STEVEN M. MINTZ

When outsourcing becomes a personal affair

Outsourcing is just another example, like allowing illegal immigrants to receive driver's licenses, of putting economic and political interests ahead of doing the right thing. We need to examine issues such as these from an ethical perspective. Is it right or wrong? Is it consistent with society's values?

Most writers on the subject defend outsourcing based on economic considerations. Some say while jobs are sent overseas, ultimately more jobs are created at home and the countries benefiting from the outsourcing develop economically with more spending power. However, job displacement and social costs exist that should be considered before the trend of outsourcing jobs overseas threatens the long-term viability of our economic and educational systems.

The California legislature recently found that the United States has lost nearly 3 million jobs over the last three years, with at least 15 percent outsourced to a foreign country. Outsourcing by the state and local technology sector is a growing trend, with an estimated \$10 billion in net contract value subject to outsourcing to foreign countries in 2004. By 2008, an estimated \$23 billion will be subject to outsourcing by this sector. According to Cynthia Kroll, senior regional economist at UC Berkeley, at least 14 million service sector jobs are at risk of being outsourced over the next decade.

The long-term effects are likely to be even greater unless actions are taken now to slow down the trend. There are important social costs to consider.

The key word is "responsibility." Has anyone in government done a study of the long-term effects on our educational system? Should I, as a college professor, advise my students not to study computer programming or software development because when they are ready to graduate, those jobs will be handled primarily from India?

What should they study in college? How about accounting? They can learn tax preparation. Everyone pays taxes — right? Yes, but as Lou Dobbs reported recently on CNN, "Tax experts estimate between 150,000 and 200,000 American tax returns were prepared in India this year."

What if it was your tax return? Would you want to know that the sensitive personal tax information given to your American preparer might be transmitted to someone in India (or wherever) who put the return together and transmitted it back to the United States? I sure would.

Unfortunately, proposed bill SB 1451 was amended recently to drop the disclosure due to business opposition.

SB 1451, introduced by Sen. Liz Figueroa (D-California) on Feb. 19 addresses the risk of privacy when personal medical and financial information is transmitted online to overseas workers for processing. The bill ensures that confidential information regarding a California resident, such as social security and bank account numbers, tax information, and health information that is legally protected by confidentiality laws in California, will be protected when used by parties outside California.

The ethical issues of outsourcing were made very apparent when it was disclosed in an article in the San Francisco Chronicle on Oct. 22, 2003, that a Pakistani transcriber of medical information threatened a medical center in San Francisco with posting patients' medical records online unless she received more money for her services. Although the matter was ultimately resolved, the dangers are all too apparent.

This is not an isolated situation. Lou Dobbs reported in May that U.S. software company SolidWorks Corp. found that a worker employed by its Indian outsourcing partner tried to sell its property to a competitor.

States are dealing with the issue as well. In May, the Tennessee Legislature prepared a bill that Gov. Phil Bredesen has signed, making it the first state to give businesses an incentive for not outsourcing data entry and call-center work to cheaper offshore locales. The new law asks state procurement officials to give preference in bids for such services to contractors employing workers only in the United States.

AB 1829, by Assemblywoman Carol Liu, (D-La Canada Flintridge) prohibits California agencies or a local government from expending state-provided funds for contracted services unless the contractor certifies under law that all work will be performed by workers solely within the U.S.

Outsourcing potentially compromises the confidentiality of patient and tax client information, and the practice is unethical unless the consumer of the service is given the right to "opt out" of the arrangement. It's time for those interested in this issue to address the ethical problems.

(Dr. Steven M. Mintz is a visiting professor of accounting at Claremont McKenna College).

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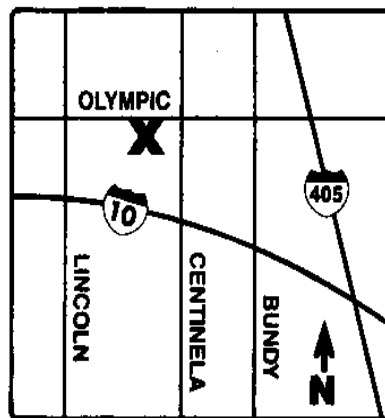


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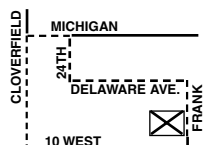
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LOCAL

SMC, local school district might pursue future bonds

BOND, from page 1

she had hoped voters would decide the issue. Community members viewed the bond favorably despite the tax burden, according to polling conducted by SMC.

"I'm disappointed for the people who had such hopes for the programs," Greenstein said on Tuesday. "I was on the dais, and I was looking at the faces of the people ... and you could see their disappointment, because they were so enthusiastic and the faculty were very enthusiastic."

Greenstein said at least one good thing came out of the bond discussion process — the college was forced to work collaboratively with city officials. City Hall and SMC have had a tumultuous relationship over the years regarding some large projects and the college's role in its immediate neighborhood — Sunset Park.

"There was great interest in people wanting to work together," she said. "That was exciting to me."

Neither SMC president Piedad F. Robertson nor Don Girard, her newly appointed executive assistant, returned calls seeking comment. Robertson personally spearheaded the ambitious bond. She attended numerous meetings to explain details of the proposal and discuss concerns with community leaders.

Officials at the local school district said the move to postpone or drop the college's bond measure probably wouldn't have affected budding plans to take out another bond for Santa Monica's primary and secondary schools. District leaders had contemplated joining SMC's bond, but decided there wasn't enough of a benefit to them in the proposal to put their names behind it. Instead, they plan to launch their own venture, perhaps as soon as next year.

"I don't think the decision affects the course of the district in this particular matter," said John Deasy, superintendent of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

**"There was great interest
in people wanting to work
together. That was
exciting to me."**

— NANCY GREENSTEIN
SMC trustee

SMC's controversial bond split elected leaders at City Hall. While some said the college's ability to spend taxpayer money with only 55 percent approval from voters was too good to pass up, others said the enormous bond needed more careful consideration and community input. College officials waited until June to unveil their proposal. They said the delay was because of ongoing negotiations between City Hall and the local school district, where supporters had threatened to put a separate school-funding issue on the ballot.

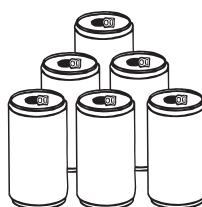
Mayor Richard Bloom, perhaps the bond's most vocal critic, said he was heartened by the process and looked forward to seeing the issue discussed in more detail in the coming months.

"I think the important thing here, in my view, is the whole process has really been positive for the community," Bloom said Tuesday. "This is the first time the school district, the city and the college have really seriously thought about the inter-relationships we have in the community. Even though the bond measure isn't going to be on the November ballot, I think we can't let the discussion die."

City Councilman Herb Katz agreed, with regrets.

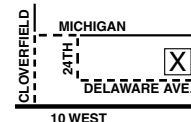
"I think it's a missed opportunity," Katz said. "I'm sorry they didn't vote for it. I do understand the concerns of the board ... It's good news, bad news. The bad news is it didn't pass. But the good news is I think it sets up a working relationship where we come back and do it next election or at a different date."

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LOCAL



Bullet voting questioned in endorsement process

PICO, from page 1

partially designed to exclude a growing black population in the Pico neighborhood from political power, according to news reports.

For years, the neighborhood — which runs north of the Santa Monica Freeway to Santa Monica Boulevard, south to Pico Boulevard and east from Lincoln Boulevard to Centinela Boulevard — has been plagued with shootings, drug dealing and gang activity. Although police have beefed up enforcement periodically in the area, little has been done politically to address the neighborhood's problems.

Loya said her recent successes have been more than just victories for the long disenfranchised neighborhood where she lives.

"It's a step forward for all working-class families, not only within the Pico neighborhood, but throughout Santa Monica," Loya said. "It's a step forward for increasing diversity on the council with having more women on the council, considering that 52 percent of the population in Santa Monica is women."

"I believe it's important to have some ethnic diversity because the council is considered the face of this city, so it's important to demonstrate that Santa Monica is a diverse city— not only ethnically, but also in terms of gender and economic status."

SMRR also voted to include Patricia Hoffman in its four-candidate slate for City Council. If both Hoffman and Loya are elected, the council would have three female members for the first time since 1996. Councilwoman Pam O'Connor has been the only woman on the seven-member council since Asha Greenberg resigned from her post in 1998.

"There has long been an imbalance on the council," said Denny Zane, a co-founder of SMRR and a co-chair of the group. "One woman in six years? That's really quite inappropriate for a community with Santa Monica's commitment to diversity and equity. It's about time that somebody from the Pico neighborhood was represented as well."

Loya attributed her success to her ability to build alliances with other members of the greater Santa Monica community, not just the Pico neighborhood. de la

Torre, one of her strongest supporters, expressed hope with the neighborhood's ability to mobilize.

"The only real solution to poor people's plight is a political solution," de la Torre said. "There are three things that have power in this country: Organized money, organized people and knowledge. Right now, in the Pico neighborhood, for the first time in a long time, we have organized people under intelligent leadership. If you combine those two, and then you wrap that around social justice, you have a winning formula. That's why there is hope right now in our community."

Loya's success comes amidst controversy over the election tactic of "bullet voting," where a candidate's supporters only check their preferred candidate on a ballot that allows multiple selections in order to keep the number of votes competitors can receive as low as possible.

Backers of Councilman Mike Feinstein and Loya employed the tactic at Sunday's SMRR convention, when 300 members of the group were given the opportunity to vote for four out of the five possible candidates — Loya, Feinstein, Hoffman, Councilman Ken Genser and Mayor Richard Bloom. Loya's 43 bullet votes were enough to qualify her for an endorsement, but Feinstein's 26 were not. Without the bullet votes, however, Loya still would have had more votes than Bloom in the first round of voting, where she netted the endorsement.

Zane, Bloom and Hoffman agreed that bullet voting didn't change the ultimate outcome of the convention and pointed out that bullet voting has been used in previous conventions, especially more recent ones.

Loya and de la Torre attributed the votes to a group of supporters extremely intent on seeing Loya endorsed.

"I know what bullets are," de la Torre said. "Bullets kill people in my neighborhood. I don't call it bullet voting, I call it choice voting. I'm sure some people get upset at the bullet voting, but it comes with the territory. People who organize have to have a right. Bullet voting is the ultimate expression of patriotism and civic participation. That's what makes this country great. That's what makes the democratic process worth dying for."

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BUYING
AND SELLING
BY THOMAS KHAMMAR

If you are interested in buying a home, but don't think that you have the funds to qualify for a loan or come up with a down payment, don't give up. There are creative ways to get you into your first home. It might seem overwhelming, but you don't have to figure it out on your own. Real estate professionals help people buy homes every day — miracles are awaiting you.

Here are some tips to prepare you for developing your home-buying budget and accumulating your down payment.

■ Tax Breaks. The U.S. Tax Code lets you deduct the interest that you pay on your mortgage, property taxes you pay, and some of the costs involved with buying your home. In addition, if you choose to have rental property and it isn't always rented, there are deductions that you can take while it is vacant. Consult your tax accountant or attorney for more information.

■ Gains. In 1998 and 2002, national home prices increased at an average of 5.4 percent annually. And while there is no guarantee of appreciation, a 2001 study by the National Association of Realtors found that a typical homeowner has approximately \$50,000 of unrealized gain in a home. In the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area, we are especially lucky to see an average gain of 25.8 percent in the last year, according to the California Association of

Remaining in one neighborhood for several years gives you a chance to participate in community activities, lets you and your family establish lasting friendships, and offers your children the benefit of educational continuity.

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■ Equity. Money paid for rent is money that you will never see again, but mortgage payments let you build equity ownership interest in your home. Use this equity to purchase income property, and you are on your way to letting your money work for you, instead of you working for money. Talk to your local real estate agent to find out more about investing in income property.

■ Savings. Building equity in your home is a ready-made savings plan. And when you sell, you can generally take up to \$250,000 — \$500,000 for a married couple — as a gain without owing any federal income tax. This is a once in a lifetime credit offered to us through the IRS. You might think that you will never have enough money saved to purchase your own home, but there are programs that will allow you to purchase a home with zero down. You might be closer to owning a home than you think. Consult your tax accountant or attorney for more information regarding this special credit.

■ Predictability. Unlike rent, your mortgage payments don't go up over the years, so your housing costs might actually decline as you own your home longer. This will allow you to make a more realistic long-term financial forecast for yourself. However, keep in mind that property taxes and insurance costs will rise.

■ Freedom. The home is yours.

You can decorate any way you want and be able to benefit from your investment for as long as you own the home. Wouldn't it be great to use your money for something that you want, instead of throwing it away by renting? Think of all of the things you could do with the savings you will earn if you own your own home. You might be thinking about taking a trip around the world for your 50th birthday. By using the equity in your home, this is possible.

■ Stability. Remaining in one neighborhood for several years gives you a chance to participate in community activities, lets you and your family establish lasting friendships, and offers your children the benefit of educational continuity. Having lived and worked in Santa Monica for many years, I know the value of having a consistent, long-term network of friends and business partners. I am thankful to have this group as they have helped me to succeed in my business.

To calculate whether renting or buying is the best financial option for you, use this calculator courtesy of Ginnie Mae at www.ginniemae.gov/ypth/rent_vs_buy/Rent_vs_buy.htm.

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DAYS ON THE MARKET

BY JODI SUMMERS

(Editor's note: This is the fourth column of a five-part series about the land-marked properties in Santa Monica).

In 1973, a group called "Save the Santa Monica Bay" rallied to save the Santa Monica Pier from demolition. Concerned residents convinced the City Council that the pier was a piece of local history worth saving. This led to the Santa Monica Historic Preservation Ordinance, which was passed in 1976 and led to the creation of a Landmarks Commission.

■ Santa Monica Pier, Colorado Avenue and the Pacific Ocean

The Santa Monica Pier is California's oldest pleasure pier and has the only amusement park on a pier on the West Coast. Entertainment entrepreneur Charles Loeffl established his reputation on the East Coast, having built Coney Island's first carousel in Brooklyn, N.Y. In February 1916, he came to Santa Monica and purchased 200 feet of beach-front property for \$50,000 and announced plans to build an amusement pier to be opened later that summer. The Loeffl Pier was an immediate attraction, featuring rides like "The Blue Streak Racer" roller coaster, the "Whip" and "Aeroscope," as well as a hippodrome housing a hand-carved merry-go-round. Currently, more than 3 million people visit the Santa Monica Pier each year.

■ Loeffl Hippodrome, 1916; Santa Monica Pier

The hippodrome is on the National Register of Historic Places. Charles Loeffl built the hippodrome in 1916 to house his carousel. The two-story hippodrome has housed several vintage carousels and organs. The current carousel was built by the Philadelphia Toboggan Co. in 1922. It was moved to the Santa Monica Pier in 1947 and boasts 44 hand-carved and painted wooden horses.

■ Santa Monica City Hall, 1938; 1685 Main St.

President Teddy Roosevelt helped cure the country of "The Great Depression" by creating the Public Works Administration (PWA) projects. By allocating several billion dollars to constructing public buildings, President Roosevelt provided employment and contributed to a revival of American industry.

City Hall is a PWA project. Built in 1938-39 by architects Donald B. Parkinson and Joseph M. Estep, this is an outstanding example of Deco Moderne architecture. It features the tile work of Stanton MacDonald-Wright, founder of the Synchronism art movement, who evolved into the director of the WPA arts program for the western United States.

■ Barnum Hall, 1938; 601 Pico Blvd.

How the preservation committee treasures the Streamline Moderne style of the late Deco period. It got them to designate the Santa Monica High School auditorium as a landmark. Designed by Marsh, Smith & Powell, this PWA project features the mosaics and murals of Stanton MacDonald-Wright.

■ Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, 1958; 1855 Main St.

The Santa Monica Civic Auditorium is the only surviving institutional design by architect and city resident Welton Becket. This property has been described as "an excellent example of the mid-20th century International Style." Go figure.

Becket also is known for building such LA area constructions as the Capitol Records tower, Petersen Automotive Museum, the Sports Arena and Cinerama.

■ Bay Street Craftsman cluster, turn of the 20th century; 137, 141, 145 and 147 Bay St.

These early examples of the Craftsman style Apartment buildings were originally located at Los Angeles Pacific Railway right of way, which connected Santa Monica to points south and east.

■ Horatio West Court; 140 Hollister Ave.

Listed National Register of Historic Places. During the first third of the 20th century, the work of American architect Irving Gill redefined the architectural landscape of Southern California. Gill used concrete and hollow tile to create an inexpensive tilt-wall construction system, which allowed him to modify the existing California mission style into a simplified modern style. Gill was a tireless designer of small-scale, low-cost housing projects.

■ Baxter Residence, 1907; 2450 25th St.

This structure of merit is an intact example of American Foursquare style.

The American Foursquare (a.k.a. the Prairie Box) was a post-Victorian style common in the early 20th century. Its boxy shape provided roomy interiors for homes on small city lots.

■ Shotgun House, circa 1899; Santa Monica Airport

Shotgun houses were typically used as low-cost housing after the Civil War through the 1920s. Each room in this narrow one-story dwelling without halls is placed behind the other in single file. The style got its name because if a shotgun fired through the front door, the shot would pass through the lined-up doors of each room and out the back door.

■ Santa Monica Airport Rotating Beacon Tower, 1928; adjacent to 3223 Donald Douglas Loop

The Rotating Beacon Tower represents one of the earliest navigational tools used in night flying. In the early air mail days of 1923, the U.S. Postal Service worked to complete a transcontinental airway of beacons on towers spaced 15 to 25 miles apart, each with enough brightness to be seen for 40 miles in clear weather. By June 1927, 4,121 miles of airways had lights. By 1933, 18,000 miles of airway and 1,500 beacons were in place. This tower was part of the Los Angeles national airway system and was moved from its original installation in Downey in 1952.

Next week, we finish with Ocean Park.

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Demand in regional industrial markets remains constant



IN YOUR SPACE
BY CHRISTINA S. PORTER

The Los Angeles Basin and Kern County industrial market, with 1.4 billion square feet, is the largest industrial market in the United States.

Demand for industrial space was moderately strong in the first half of 2004, particularly among owner-users who were stimulated by very low interest rates. However, lack of available space in much of Los Angeles and Orange Counties limited the amount of activity that could take place.

Net absorption totaled 10.4 million square feet — a strong pace — but down from the 11.2 million square feet on a six-month pace of 2003. It also was down somewhat from the 13.4 million square feet on a six-month pace witnessed since 1984. Construction activity in the first half of 2004 increased, and 11.1 million square feet of space was completed, expanding the base by a moderate-to-strong 0.8 percent. This was up from the pace of 9.5 million square feet per six months witnessed in 2003. The vacancy rate was flat at 5.1 percent (data includes space available for sublet). This is a relatively low vacancy rate for the area. Asking rental rates were firm, and sale prices climbed sharply, particularly for small buildings.

As of mid-year 2004, 14.5 million square feet was under construction, which, when complete, will expand the base by 1 percent. This is a moderate-to-high level of activity, but a level that is approximately equal to projected growth in demand. Vacancy rates are projected to remain relatively flat. Rental rates are projected to climb upward in most markets. The industrial markets in most of Los Angeles and Orange counties are substantially built-out, and most of the expansion is taking place in the Inland Empire and, increasingly, Kern County.

The Inland Empire captured 69 percent of the net absorption that took place in the basin in the first half of the year. In Kern County, there was a small amount of negative net absorption, but this trend is considered temporary. Vacancy rates are healthy (6 percent to 7 percent) in Orange and Kern counties, and in the Inland Empire, and are tight (5 percent or lower) in Los Angeles and

Ventura counties. Investors and users remain highly interested in industrial product. The primary problem for investors is a lack of investment-grade product.

VENTURA COUNTY/CONEJO VALLEY

The Ventura County/Conejo Valley industrial market is a relatively young market, with 51 million square feet of space, almost half of which has been built since 1984 (48 percent). It has an orientation toward small- and medium-sized buildings, with only 33 percent of its inventory in big boxes. This market is particularly attractive to small manufacturers and distributors.

Net absorption totaled only 31,400 square feet in the first half of 2004. This was down from 2003, which had a pace of 123,600 square feet per six months. And it was down substantially from the long-term average for the county (590,000 square feet per six months, 1985 to present). Part of the reason for the low absorption numbers in 2004 is that there was particularly strong demand from owner-users and a lack of available space to buy small buildings. However, a lack of supply constrained this activity. Construction activity was moderate, and 182,200 square feet came on-line.

Vacancy rates climbed to 5.3 percent, up from 5 percent as of year-end 2004, but equal to where they were a year ago. This is considered a moderately low vacancy rate. Asking rental rates climbed upward, and averaged \$0.61 per square per month for a typical 75,000-square-foot space, which is considered a high rate. This was up 8 percent over mid-year 2003. Rates were highest in the eastern portion of the county, particularly in the Conejo Valley, and were lowest on the coastal plain, particularly in the city of Oxnard. Demand for buildings for sale remained very strong. Construction has picked up and currently 257,800 square feet is underway. When complete, this space will expand the base by 0.5 percent. This is an amount that can be readily absorbed, assuming at least normal economic conditions. The market is projected to remain moderately tight. Long-term, construction activity will be constrained by highly restrictive local growth ordinances.

(The above is an excerpt from NAI Capital's Mid Year 2004 Market report. Christina S. Porter specializes in the leasing and selling of office and industrial buildings. You can contact her by calling (310) 806-6104, or e-mail at cporter@naicapital.com).



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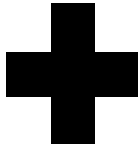
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STATE

Pushed by currents, a diver realizes: 'They left me'

(Editor's note: This is the first part of a three-part serial narrative on an abandoned scuba diver off the California coast).

BY CHELSEA J. CARTER

AP National Writer

NEWPORT BEACH — It's called "May Gray" or "June Gloom," the blanket of fog and low clouds that settles across Southern California's coastal waters during spring and summer. It typically burns off by early afternoon, making way for those blue skies that you see in postcards.

But some days, it settles in, blotting out the crowded, current-threaded sea lanes between Santa Catalina Island and the Southern California coast.

The trip that Dan Carlock was taking in these waters would feature a backdrop of Catalina rising from the ocean — if it were sunny. But on this Sunday in April, the fog was extra heavy, the clouds extra low. Visibility was just 300 feet in spots.

When Carlock boarded the Sundiver at dawn, he saw only a wall of gray and white.

The gloom would blind recreational boaters and confuse even big commercial shippers. It would hamper res-

cuers whose job it is to keep safe all of those sharing these chilly Pacific waters.

Certified for advanced open-water dives, Carlock had been looking forward for weeks to the trip with the Ocean Adventures Dive Co. — 17 recreational divers, three dive masters and a captain. It was a chance to get away from his job as a technical engineer with Boeing Satellite Systems, a position where he sometimes felt as though he was in a "vulcan mindmeld with his computer."

For an hour after leaving the port near Long Beach, the boat rumbled toward the first dive location, the massive Eureka oil rig. Later in the day, the boat would take the divers to a shipwreck 10 miles away.

Only when the captain powered down the engine at about 8:30 a.m. did Carlock realize they were there. Suddenly, he made out the looming form of the rig, one of a cluster of man-made metal islands about 7 miles off the coast of Newport Beach, southwest of Los Angeles.

At 6-feet-2, Carlock cuts an imposing figure, his build magnified in a black wet suit.

He's an engineer whose world is driven by rationality — logic and method dictating action. That's one reason he likes diving. He pays attention to the smallest details. On this day, besides his underwater camera and slate, he

green neon safety tube that can be inflated as both a marker and a flotation device.

He had never needed the safety equipment. But years of instruction had drilled into his head: Always carry it.

Carlock was among the first group into the water, which was cloudy with a stiff current — the kind that required a hard swim to get underneath the rig's main platform. The water's fierce tug would cause the captain to keep a second group aboard the Sundiver, canceling their dive here.

Once under the rig, Carlock and the others were told to stay within the rig's structure during their dive. That way, they could use the rig's columns to keep from being swept along.

It was about 8:45 a.m., and Carlock headed down into the darkness.

A DAY OF PROBLEMS

Heavy fog also had settled in over White's Landing, a cove along Catalina Island, nearly erasing the tall wooden masts of the Argus, a century-old ship once used to haul goods from Greenland to Spain.

These days, the ship hauls more precious cargo. Owned by the Orange County Council Newport Sea Base, a Boy Scouts of America affiliate, it offers sailing adventures to scouting groups from around the country.

At 8:45 a.m., the crew and its passengers were finishing a breakfast of eggs. It was the second half of a two-day trip for Boy Scout Troop 681 out of Rancho Bernardo, a few miles north of San Diego.

This was a heady stuff for the group of 20, 17 scouts and three parents. A day earlier, the boys had climbed a mast to the crow's nest. They swung out on ropes and dropped into the ocean.

They also conducted a man-overboard drill, which required the Boy Scouts to locate an object — a "pretend person," it was called — in the water and point it out so the crew could rescue it.

The exercise was to show the scouts that the crew in the Argus' small rescue boat might not be able to see a person at water level. On the deck of the tall sailing ship, higher above the sea's surface, you can see better.

But the training did not go well. When First Mate Al Sorkin threw the "pretend person" in the water, half the boys failed to point.

"If that was one of you, you would drown," Sorkin scolded, "because we wouldn't find you."

At age 50, Sorkin had some of the bearing of a pirate in the movies, and he could be gruff. But the scouts loved him — and they listened.

They did the drill again, and this time they got it right. Today, they had a different challenge: They were in the middle of a fog bank.

Capt. Fred Bockmiller, who at 72 had helmed the Argus for more than 25 years, knew the heavy fog meant it would take longer to guide the ship back to port in Newport Beach, about 22 miles as the crow flies across the busy shipping lanes.

Most modern ships are made of metal. The Argus was made of wood. Though it had a metal beacon, the wooden hull meant it could be missed by radar on other vessels, including the enormous cargo tankers. Bockmiller decided to leave early.

He ordered the anchor hauled up, then quickly discovered the first problem of a day that would have many. The Argus' hydraulic lift was broken.

Hand over hand, the boys and the crew brought the dead weight up manually — a tedious process "taking forever," thought scout Christian Clemesha, a slight 16-year-old with a dark mop of hair.

REALIZATION HITS

Fifteen minutes into the dive, at about 30 feet, pressure started to build in Dan Carlock's ears. He stopped, waiting for his ears to equalize, or "pop." If he continued down without equalizing, he risked damage to his eardrums.

Carlock waited. The other three in his group continued without him.

It only took seconds for Carlock's ears to pop. Then he followed the bubbles from his group, passing downward into near blackness.

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snapped a whistle to his wet suit and carried a yellow-

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As dusk draws near, so does the fear of sharks

ALONE, from page 12

But soon the bubbles were gone.

At 108 feet down, still not seeing the others in his dive team, Carlock halted again. Where were they? he wondered. Still no bubbles in the inky water. He considered what to do, then decided there was just one choice. Carlock began the slow ascent to the surface.

Reaching a depth of 15 feet from the top, where thin light filtered down, he stopped for a routine three-minute decompression, to allow the body to adjust to the change in pressure.

When Carlock finally broke the surface, he was alone.

The oil rig was in the wrong place. The current had pushed him out from under it, and was still pushing him. In the fog, he thought he could see the outline of the Sundiver — but then it disappeared.

Following scuba diving safety protocols, he unclipped his whistle and blew, trying to get the attention of the boat crew.

He blew again and again and again.

But the whistle's high pitch competed with the groaning fog horn on the rig and the rumbling engines of the boat. There was no sign that anyone heard him.

Surely, he thought, when the crew took a head count, they would realize he was missing and come looking for him. After all, he had signed out on the boat's dry erasure board that tallies each dive group.

He hoped they'd hurry. There was another location they were all supposed to dive on today, that shipwreck. Treading water, he waited.

Time passed slowly. He blew the whistle some more. Nothing happened.

After an hour, at about 10 a.m., an uncomfortable thought was settling in. Carlock could no longer hear the boat's engine.

He had not heard the sounds of others surfacing; he had not heard the Sundiver throttle up and pull away from the rig. But the message of the silence was clear to Carlock.

"They left me," he said to himself.

Unable to see anything, waves breaking over him,

pushing him aimlessly in a Pacific Ocean turned black by fog, he was getting worried.

The warmth of his wet suit had long been lost in the 60-degree water. His arms were beginning to go numb. His legs were weak.

The engineer in him tried to take command.

Determined to stay rational, to record what was happening — though maybe, he thought grimly, it would be just for those who'd find his remains — he unhooked the underwater camera from his wet suit. He aimed it at his watch and snapped two pictures. Then he turned the camera toward himself at arm's length, snapping two more.

He reached for his diving slate and used the pencil to write the time: 10:28.

It had been two hours now. He fought a rising panic. Soon hypothermia would set in. How long could he last out here? How many more hours?

Then another thought came: If he survived to dusk in these cold waters, that, he knew, was when the Great White sharks feed.

Droning out illegal immigration, drugs at border

BY AMANDA LEE MYERS

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — A \$10 million pilot program that uses unmanned aerial drones to monitor illegal activity along the Arizona-Mexico border is gaining momentum, border officials said.

Two Hermes 450 drones, which were launched over Arizona on June 25, use thermal and night-vision equipment to spot illegal immigrants trying to cross the desert into the United States. They can detect movement from 15 miles up, read a license plate, view a vehicle's occupants and even detect weapons.

The drone program, which is financed by the Department of Homeland Security, is part of stepped-up surveillance officials hope will stem the tide of illegal immigrants who have made Arizona the busiest illegal entry point along the 2,000-mile border with Mexico.

So far, results of the program have been encouraging, said Andy Adame, a spokesman with the Border Patrol's Tucson Sector, which covers most of the Arizona-Mexico border.

In 39 days of surveillance of the border, the drones have led to the apprehension of 248 illegal immigrants, he said.

"This is the first time we've ever used this technology, so we were apprehensive about what the outcome was going to be," Adame said. "But now we're starting to get very excited."

On Monday, nearly 70 people were apprehended with the help of a drone, proving how effective the drones are and how comfortable agents are using them, Adame said.

The drones also have led to the seizure of 518 pounds of marijuana and two vehicle used for immigrant smug-

gling.

The Tucson Sector has apprehended a total of about 10,000 illegal immigrants since June 25.

The waist-high gray drones bearing the Homeland Security Department's seal weigh almost 1,000 pounds, have a 35-foot wingspan and can fly faster than 100 mph. They patrol at 12,000 to 15,000 feet and can stay aloft for 20 hours at a time.

It takes 12 to 18 people to operate the drones and monitor images sent back. Using drone technology, agents are able to make video recordings of illegal activity, which helps prosecute criminals.

Following the Arizona test, the Department of Homeland Security plans to try the drones in northern

states, over the Great Lakes, and in Puerto Rico, said Robert Smith, head of the Customs and Border Protection's unmanned aerial drone program.

The Arizona test ends Sept. 30. Tests in the cold and tropical climates should be completed by Sept. 30, 2005, Smith said.

Whether drones will be used permanently along the nation's borders won't be decided until at least 2006.

Elizabeth Ohmann, secretary and founder of Humane Borders, which has placed more than 50 water stations in the desert to aid illegal immigrants, said the group does not support using the aircraft to monitor the desert.

"It's another step toward militarization of the border," she said. "There are other ways that it could be handled."

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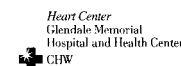
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NATIONAL

Qwest stock falls on second-quarter loss

BY SANDY SHORE

AP Business Writer

DENVER — Qwest Communications stock plunged nearly 17 percent Tuesday after the telecommunications company reported a wider second-quarter loss, citing lower local service sales and costs associated with ongoing litigation and job cuts.

By early afternoon, Qwest stock had dropped 67 cents to \$3.30 a share, hovering just above its 52-week low of \$3.28 a share.

For the April-June quarter, Qwest posted a \$776 million net loss, or 43 cents per share, compared with a \$64 million net loss, or 4 cents a share, in the second quarter of 2003. Revenue totaled \$3.4 billion, down 4.3 percent from \$3.6 billion reported in the same time period a year ago.

The results included special items totaling \$487 million, including \$300 million placed in a reserve for ongoing litigation in shareholder lawsuits and securities investigations.

Qwest officials said that puts the total in the reserve at \$500 million.

There also was a \$127 million charge associated with some 1,600 job cuts, primarily in the information technology division. Qwest officials expect an additional 1,800 layoffs by the end of the year. There also was a \$140 million tax charge.

Excluding special items, the company's earnings were 16 cents a share. Analysts surveyed by Thomson First Call expected a loss of 13 cents a share.

The company, which operates in 14 West and Midwestern states, reported a 6 percent increase in revenue for long distance service and a 3 percent increase in data and Internet revenue. Access line losses declined 1.3 percent from the first quarter but were unchanged in a year-over-year comparison.

Qwest chief financial officer Oren Shaffer said the growth in key areas was offset by competitive pricing pressure and the access line losses.

"I would like to characterize our growth as slightly below our expectations primarily due to unexpected competitive price pressure especially in our enterprise market," he said.

CEO Richard C. Notebaert said the company has a strategy to improve results over the next six months by protecting its local franchises and cutting costs.

"We made some progress in the quarter. We have a long way to go," he said. "It's encouraging that we have advanced the ball to the degree that we have."

In the second quarter, Qwest added 109,000 DSL subscribers to put its total at 853,000 and said it hopes to have 1 million DSL subscribers by the end of the

year. Qwest added 733,000 in-region long-distance lines in the second quarter, giving it 4.1 million total lines.

The company said it overstated the number of long-distance lines in the fourth quarter by about 133,000. As a result, the total line count was 2.2 million in the fourth quarter and 3.4 million in the first quarter. This change didn't affect revenue.

Qwest said it remains on track to complete the rollout of its voice over Internet protocol to all major metropolitan markets within its local service area, as well as to businesses in certain out-of-market areas, by the end of the year.

The company also said it is still on track to close the sale of its PCS licenses and related wireless network assets to Verizon Wireless by year's end or early 2005. The \$418 million cash deal is subject to regulatory approval.

Heightened border security increasing smuggler violence

BY AMANDA LEE MYERS

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — As the U.S. Border Patrol steps up surveillance along the Arizona-Mexico border, immigrant smugglers are acting more violently toward agents, officials say.

There have been about the same number of assaults this year as there were at this time in 2003, but the degree of violence is significantly higher, Border Patrol spokesman Andy Adame said Monday.

As enforcement is beefed up in Arizona, the busiest illegal entry point

along the 2,000-mile border, smugglers are getting more desperate, Adame said.

"They're starting to see some losses," he said, "And when you talk financial gain with smugglers and the loss of it, they're going to react violently."

Adame said the agency has seen dramatic increases in violence involving guns and vehicles. Smugglers have been ramming Border Patrol vehicles with their cars and chasing down agents while driving or on foot.

There also has been a rise in smugglers attacking agents with softball-sized rocks to divert their attention away from border crossers.

"We're not talking about the rocks you throw at the lake or around the neighborhood as a kid," said Border Patrol spokesman Rob Daniels. "We're talking about big, honking rocks."

The most serious rocking incidents result in agents losing consciousness and blood, and requiring hospital and recovery time.

Steve McPartland, a Border Patrol agent in California, said he can't count the number of times he has been attacked with rocks. The most memorable of those times, though, was three years ago, when a group of illegal immigrants trying to cross in Douglas, Ariz., threw dozens of

rocks at him at once.

"I was absolutely terrified," he said. "You're just thinking, 'God, I hope the other guys get here quick.'"

In the past 10 years, McPartland said rockings in San Diego have been occurring almost daily. The rockings and other violent crimes have, however, slowed down somewhat since the 1990s when the Border Patrol launched operations that funneled many smugglers from California and Texas into Arizona.

Initiating their own crackdown, officials expect more backlash from smugglers running out of places to cross.



NATIONAL



Ridge: Financial target data recently updated

BY TIMOTHY WILLIAMS

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge visited one of the financial institutions believed to be targeted by al-Qaida on Tuesday, saying terrorists updated their surveillance of those buildings as recently as January, but there is no evidence that they have actually visited them recently. He didn't elaborate.

After meeting with government officials and financial executives at the Citigroup Center in midtown Manhattan, Ridge said al-Qaida is an organization that "does its homework."

"There's no evidence of recent surveillance ... but the information about the casings that we revealed Sunday have been updated as recently as January of this year," he said. "We know that this is an organization that plans in advance."

The government triggered the concerns Sunday when it announced that terrorists had recently observed the stock exchange and Citigroup, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank buildings in

Washington, and Prudential Financial Inc.'s headquarters in Newark, N.J.

Since then, officials have acknowledged that the information came largely from a Pakistani computer engineer captured last month and that most of the information about the buildings was actually amassed in 2000 and 2001. No timetable for potential attacks has ever been specified.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg waved aside suggestions that the intelligence was outdated and that the city overreacted in enacting new security measures.

"The only thing you ever know about security measures is when you didn't take enough," he said Tuesday on NBC's "Today" show. "You never know when you took too many of them. We do what we think is appropriate."

"Some of this information is old, but what is clear is it has been updated and more of it became available to the intelligence community on Friday," he added.

As it had been Monday, security was tight Tuesday at the building where Ridge met with Bloomberg, Gov. George Pataki,

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly, and representatives from the financial companies. Outside, police officers kept a watchful eye as employees lined up to have their bags and ID cards checked before being allowed in the building. First lady Laura Bush had visited the building Monday.

Police closed Manhattan streets around Grand Central Terminal and banned trucks from some bridges and tunnels. Trucks passing landmarks or traveling on major thoroughfares also were subject to random searches.

"You realize that's the world you live in, and you deal with it," said Kenneth Polcari, a trader at the New York Stock Exchange, one of many weary workers who filtered into the Wall Street building Monday.

Greater security was also more visible Monday in Newark and in the nation's capital.

Washington police checked ID cards as employees filed into the World Bank headquarters; inside, security guards checked them again. Across the street,

guards at the International Monetary Fund swept the underside of cars with detecting devices as they entered the garage.

"I'm concerned, but we have to carry on as normal," said IMF employee Shirley Davies.

In response to the East Coast terror alert, security measures were heightened in downtown Los Angeles and in the Century City complex where high-rise buildings and financial institutions are located.

"We have received no credible information to indicate any of these threats are directed against Southern California. However, we are going to continue to remain on a heightened state of vigilance," Los Angeles Mayor James K. Hahn said at a news conference.

The fears reverberated to the nation's heartland. The Chicago Board of Trade closed its visitors center in response to the threats, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago also heightened security, said Federal Reserve spokesman Douglas Tillet.



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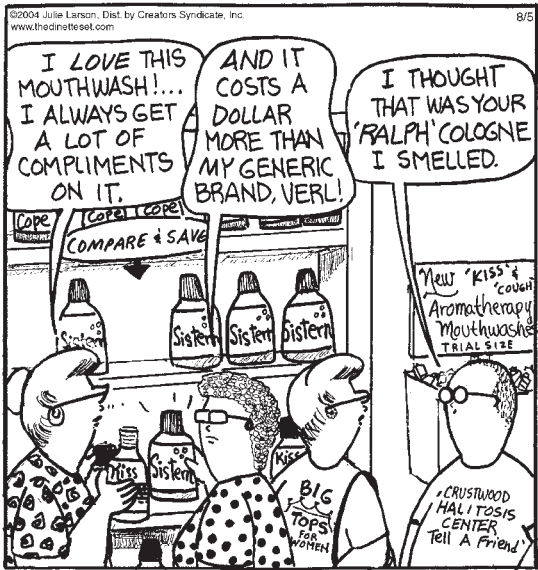
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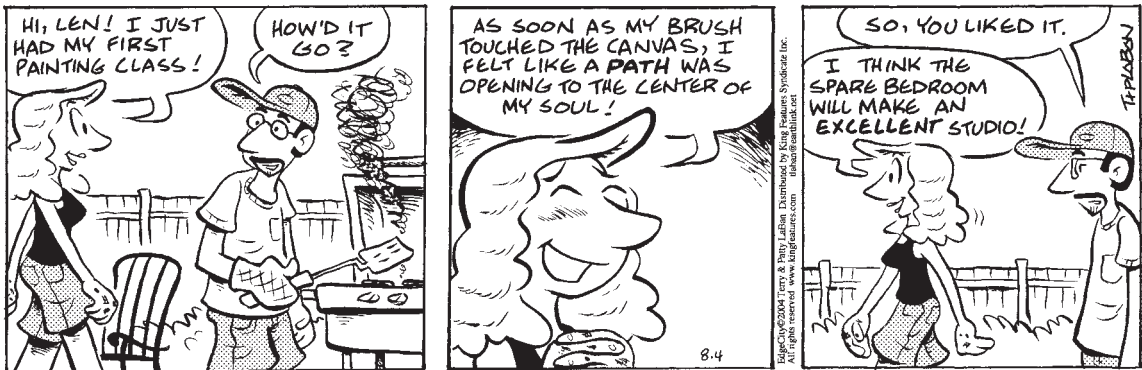


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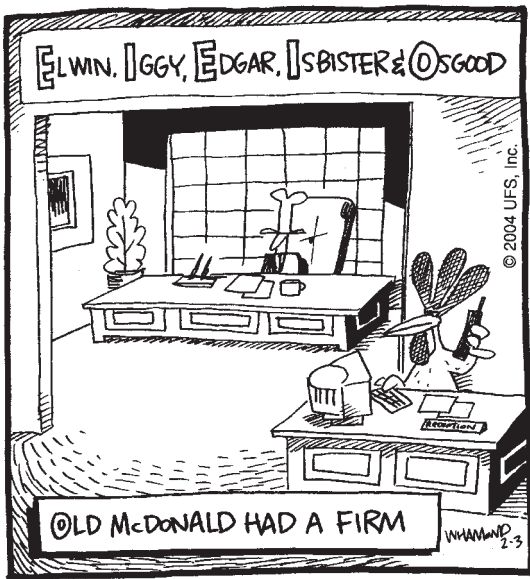
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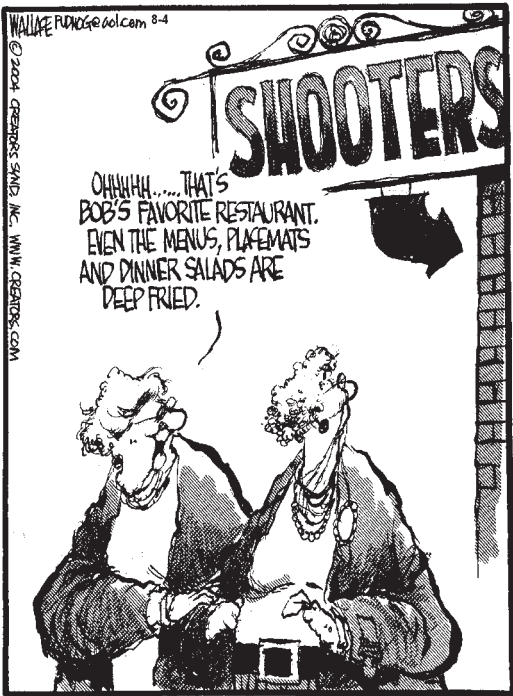
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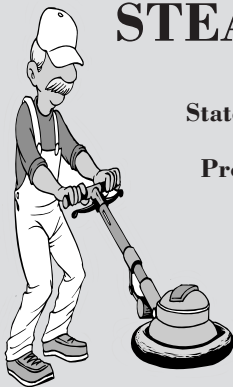
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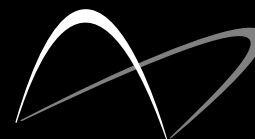
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\$19.95

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

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Expires 09/30/04

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