

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

FANTASY 5

43 35 24 27 1
Meganumber: 12
Jackpot: 22 Million

FANTASY 5

13 18 19 24 32

DAILY 3

Daytime: 0 4 1
Evening: 1 5 7

DAILY DERBY

1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 10 Solid Gold

RACE TIME: 1:44.91



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ -- In 1998, Charles Cornell, 31, won his lawsuit at the High Court in London, England, and was awarded the equivalent of about US\$100,000 in damages. Cornell's insurance businesses failed when sales plummeted following his automobile accident. In the crash, he received a head injury that his doctors said left him with a gentler, more amiable personality that Cornell proved in court was unsuited for the insurance business.

TODAY IN HISTORY

ON AUG. 5, 1864, during the Civil War, Union Adm. David G. Farragut is said to have ordered, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!" as he led his fleet against Mobile Bay, Ala.

■ In 1884, the cornerstone for the Statue of Liberty was laid on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor.

■ In 1914, the first electric traffic lights were installed, in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1924, the comic strip "Little Orphan Annie," by Harold Gray, made its debut.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"I slept, and dreamed that life was Beauty; I woke, and found that life was Duty."

ELLEN STURGIS HOOPER
AMERICAN POET (1816-1841)

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NTSB calls market crash an accident



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

A new sign showed up on the eastern edge of the Santa Monica Farmers' Market on Wednesday, one day after City Hall was criticized by federal investigators for inadequate signage and for not erecting market barriers.

Report lays blame on City Hall for not erecting barriers

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Russell Weller's deadly drive through downtown Santa Monica last summer was an accident, but it wasn't prompted by ill health or prescription drugs, according to a preliminary report released this week by federal investigators.

The findings by the National Transportation Safety Board apparently contradict earlier reports that led prosecutors to charge Weller, 87, with 10 counts of vehicular manslaughter, with gross negligence. Weller is expected to face those charges in a lengthy preliminary trial starting Oct. 12.

After six months of investigation, authorities determined the

accident was caused by Weller traveling at an unsafe speed, a violation of California penal code. Police also cited Weller's reduced mobility as a contributing factor in the fatal accident.

Jim Bianco, one of Weller's three criminal defense attorneys, said Wednesday the NTSB findings lend further credence to his client's innocence.

"This was a terrible, tragic accident," said Bianco, adding he hasn't seen the full NTSB report, which officials expect will be released in coming weeks. "We hope that the District Attorney's Office will finally agree with us that this case does not belong in the criminal court."

Weller mistakenly hit the

See REPORT, page 7

Emergency meeting called for controversial bond

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC — An emergency meeting has been called to reconsider a controversial \$175 million bond scrapped earlier this week after it fell one vote shy of support.

The Santa Monica College Board of Trustees will meet Friday at 8:30 a.m. to discuss a reduced version of the contentious bond, which has been criticized by some community leaders for being too large — and for being brought up too late in the election cycle.

The city of Santa Monica takes

"This has all happened very quickly ...
I don't know what to expect."

— ANNETTE SHAMEY

SMC trustee

the heaviest hit under the revised, \$135 million proposal. Whereas the previous plan proposed \$75 million in projects at SMC, \$75 million in joint efforts with Santa Monica City Hall and \$25 million in joint projects with Malibu City

Hall, the new proposal has just \$45 million for joint projects with Santa Monica City Hall and a slightly reduced amount for SMC.

Bond proposals require two-thirds approval from the board. That's why the \$175 million bond

failed at a Monday meeting, despite garnering votes from four of the seven trustees.

If one board member switches his or her vote to support the bond measure, voters will decide on it in November. If passed, the bond money would be spent to build and upgrade several buildings at SMC, buy more open space in Santa Monica and Malibu, and fund the development of other properties throughout the city.

Taken off the project list Wednesday were upgrades to the

See BOND, page 7

Homeless encampment ignites fire on SM bluffs

Traffic backs up throughout the city

BY JOHN F. MULLER

Special to the Daily Press

PALISADES BLUFFS — A transient campfire likely caused the blaze that engulfed about an acre here Wednesday morning, officials said. No one was injured.

The fire, which covered a steep section of the bluffs below Marguerita Avenue shut down miles of the Pacific Coast

Highway and a portion of the 10 Freeway during morning rush hour. As a result, traffic jams occurred throughout Santa Monica with motorists using secondary roads as alternative routes.

More than 30 firefighters, including three Santa Monica engines and a mutual aid crew from Los Angeles County were called to the scene at 7:56 a.m., said SMFD Chief Kent Coble. Coble's crew extinguished the fire by 10 a.m. The PCH and the 10 Freeway were opened at about 9 a.m.

"It was time consuming work," Coble said. "It's pretty treacherous down there."

There were no witnesses, but the fire likely started in one of the transient encampments on top of the bluffs near the 500 block of Ocean Avenue, Coble said. He added that he's had to fight fires on the bluffs with similar causes on numerous occasions over the course of his career.

The blaze comes a little more than two months after the City Council passed a law forbidding any person to be present on the

bluffs because of the safety concerns posed by a transient population that often sleeps and stores belongings in the tunnels, caves and shelves within the slopes.

In explaining the need for the new law this past spring, officials pointed to the instability of the dry cliffs, trash and the potential fire hazards posed by transient encampments.

Mayor Richard Bloom said he had few concerns with the city's enforcement policies.

"As far as I know, the law is

See FIRE, page 7

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Eddie Guerboian

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Taurus, you need time off

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)**
***** Share some of your inspired and unusual ideas. You could be a lot touchier about a personal matter than you realize. Separate that issue from the immediate. Brainstorm, network and let your mind wander. Tonight: Nothing is for sure.

 **TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
*** You are pulled between personal and professional demands. As a result, you might clam up and say little. In this case, what you don't say might be more powerful than what you do. A partner gives you yet another perspective. Tonight: Vanish if you can. You need some time off.

 **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
***** What you hear could be subject to change. Confusion surrounds plans, news and information in general. Keep your eye on the big picture and your objectives. Step away from work and do some networking. Tonight: Let your imagination choose.

 **CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
** At times you can be very hard on yourself — like today. The worst part is that others demand high performance from you, which could be hard to achieve. A money deal might not be as good as it seems. In fact, there is a major distortion in the facts and figures. Tonight: Try to get home at a reasonable hour.

 **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
**** Leave a nagging feeling behind and move forward. You gain through conversations with people who have a completely different perspective than you do. Let others present different ideas, and work with them. You might be putting someone on a pedestal. Tonight: Rent a movie.

 **VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
** A meeting, associate or key friend might let you down. Accept what is happening. Others will pitch in and help. Avoid firming up a work project, as you might not yet have all the facts. In fact, you could be surprised by the true story. Tonight: Let a key person share his or her feelings.

 **LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
**** You sometimes push way too hard, and as a result, you cocoon and vanish. You might aggravate a key associate by not responding to his or her calls. Reach out and share more of what is going on with you. Let your imagination rock and roll. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

 **SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
*** You push hard to accomplish enough so that you can call it an early weekend. You might have difficulty getting out of the door, as so much comes up at the last minute. If you could clone yourself, you just might! Tonight: Work late.

 **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
***** Use your ingenuity at work and personally. A key partner could be a bit jealous or withdrawn. Be sure to include him or her. Curb a tendency to be in every which direction. Seek answers by asking an expert. Tonight: Paint the town red.

 **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
** You could be overly serious or more anchored than you would like. Confusion surrounds funds. It might be time to separate your funds from another person's. Others act tight and withdrawn. Let it go. Tonight: At home; order in.

 **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
***** You have a way of confusing others, especially when you flow with your mind and imagination. Some love this side of you, but a work associate feels that you make things more difficult. Be sensitive to friends and associates. Tonight: Out and about.

 **PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
** Expenses could prevent you from doing what you would really like to do. Be willing to say "no" and use some self-discipline. Try to tame your imagination. You might be making more out of a situation than need be. Tonight: Write down some of your ideas.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913
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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Old school artists hit the pier tonight

By Daily Press staff

Tonight's music on the pier is supposed to be the "show of the season."

Richie Havens is said to have one of the most recognizable voices in popular music. His fiery, poignant and soulful singing style has remained unique and ageless since he first emerged from the Greenwich Village folk scene in the early 1960s.

Born in Brooklyn, Havens grew up in a musical family and organized doo-wop and gospel performances through his teens and early 20s. After moving to Greenwich Village and experiencing the Beatnik culture there in the late 1950s, his music took a more folk and poetic turn. He first hit the Billboard charts in 1968 with his album "Something Else Again." In 1969, he would garner worldwide recognition following his spellbinding three-hour performance at the Woodstock festival. Havens continues to perform and act, appearing over the years on many television shows, in the stage presentation of the Who's operatic achievement "Tommy," and the Troubadours of Folk Festival which he described as a "Greenwich Village class reunion."

And as for tonight's other performance, Rolling Stone once proclaimed, "Before there was Jewel, there was Janis Ian."

It is an apt portrayal of an artist known for her ethereal vocals, poetic wordplay and sublime melodies. Raised by music lovers in New Jersey, Ian began playing the piano at 2 years old and the guitar at 10. At 15, her career exploded with the release of her controversial tale of teenage interracial love "Society's Child."

The following year, 1967, Ian saw nine Grammy nominations. She wrote international disco hits like "Fly Too High" in the 1980s and reemerged with a folk album, "Breaking Silence" in 1993. In 2003, Ian added "author/editor" to her resume with the publication of "Stars: Stories based on the lyrics of Janis Ian."

Ian is currently on a world tour and has recently released a double-live CD, "Working Without a Net" and a folk album, "Billie's Bones." Through more than three decades, Ian has managed to keep her music fresh and inspiring, always winning praise for her remarkable songwriting and tender voice.

Twilight Dance Series concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday through Sept. 2 with a special finale, KCRW's showcase of independent artists on Saturday, Sept. 18.

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

For more information about the concerts, call the Santa Monica Pier information line at (310) 458-8900 or visit www.twilightdance.org and www.santamonicipier.org For bus information, please visit www.bigbluebus.com or call (310) 441-5444, or visit www.mta.net.



SURF REPORT

The surf drops on Thursday. NW windswell and S-SW swell will both be on the way out without any new swell to replace them. Northern LA county will see the biggest surf with waves holding in the ankle- to waist-high range for many exposed breaks and chest-high sets at the standouts. South Bay breaks will be smaller as they pull in mostly leftover windswell. Look for the average breaks to be in the knee-high range, while the better combo breaks see some bigger sets through the morning low-tide push. Unfortunately smaller surf is expected on Friday. Look for mostly clean conditions early in the morning with building W winds in the 10+ knot range through the afternoon.

Today the water is:

68°

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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The Q Line

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 infor-

mation 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.

CHECK OUT THE COMICS ON PAGE 12!

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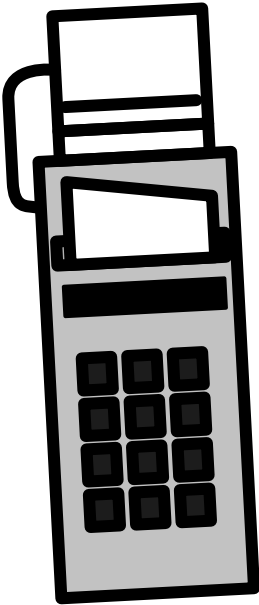


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shooting himself in the foot?

Editor:

Whoa! I can't be the only one who thinks Santa Monica College professor Dennis Frisch is completely insane in opposing Margaret Quinones' appointment to the California Community College Board of Governors (SMDP, July 29, page 4). If SMC wants fairer treatment by the state, then it's a start to have as many friends on that board as possible. This has got to be the most ill-sighted move by anyone ever. Even if you don't agree with her votes, this can only help the union's efforts. Stupidity has hit an all-time high with this one.

David Saunders
Santa Monica

It's not Pico's fault

Editor:

Regarding the letters from Mr. Rosenfeld, "See how they like it in Pico" and Mr. Johnson, "Appeasing the thugs is no answer" (SMDP, July 31, page 4), I believe that these two gentleman should go pound some Venice sand.

Printing both of these cynical and subtly racist letters about the neighborhood where most people of color in Santa Monica live and use the park was too much for me to stomach.

Rosenfeld, formerly from Venice, and Johnson, still in Venice, need to know that their tactics are off target. Their comments are damaging and may cause other uninformed non-minority readers to nod their heads and usher in the next level of gentrification that already has a hold in the corridor.

If, and I agree there are, problems of gangs, violence and drugs are issues, publicly pointing a finger at the neighborhood and its leaders is unfair to those tenured and hard-working families who take pride in their homes and work to maintain decent lifestyles and, also, to those who use the system to address its problems.

The city leaders, namely the City Council and its staff, should be well aware of the problems and they should be held responsible and accountable for providing fair, equitable and solid solutions. The problem over the years has been the Band-Aid approach that this and all of the past administrations have paid to this part of the city. If you want to fix a problem, don't be half-ass about it. If, for example, the mode is to change the city charter to protect a segment of the city then that might be the way to go.

If Oscar de la Torre is leading an effort to turn "at-risk" youth around, why does he have to be criticized? If the problem is so obvious to Mike and Don, Oscar should either get more support, or alternative methods that compliment his efforts should be sought. And, as for "frivolous squandering" relative to what you call spray paint art, don't try and judge what art work is in Santa Monica, that is what the Arts Commission, the Architectural Review Boards and, ultimately, the City Council are for (whew).

If claiming how long I've lived here, worked, or, if establishing myself as a former member of the Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board and the Parks and Recreation Commission had any effect, or, if telling you that you can't move away from violence (cold case: Juarez brothers murdered on Lincoln Boulevard), things may not seem so simple to these "blokes." However, many a better man and woman have preceded and followed my roll in past Pico politics and, like I said, little has changed for this part of town. It makes me wonder (1) is political fodder stored in the Pico Corridor on purpose, and, (2) are there any "thugs" working on the library at Seventh Street and Santa Monica Boulevard.

Francisco Juarez
Santa Monica

Get it over it, Don

Editor:

In response to Don Johnson's letter (SMDP, July 31, page 4). You seemed to be having a bad day.

I hope the Virginia Park mural goes up as planned. It will be a great addition to Santa Monica as a whole and the Pico neighborhood in particular. I look forward to using Virginia Park with the rest of Santa Monica's residents and guests. The residents in the area have been extraordinarily patient as this glacial project has "progressed," and I hope we all have a big party when it is finished. As to the cost of the mural, we will spend more each year just doing regular landscaping maintenance than we will on the one-time cost of creating the mural.

As to your oblique comments regarding Oscar de la Torre, an accomplished man in his own right — I wish we had 10 more like him and that the rest of us could accomplish a tenth of what he has.

As an aging "thug" and former "boy at risk" I would like you to give me a call and maybe we can all sit down and talk about stuff. How about it?

Phil Hendricks
Santa Monica

It's the feds

Editor:

I think the blame for lack of funds at Santa Monica College lies with the federal government. California gives quite a bit to the feds, but we get less and less dollars back. This has been a problem for years and is getting worse. The funding formula needs to reflect the people, not political shifts.

Rachel Underwood
Santa Monica

Is America becoming the 'fortress of fear'?

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



"What we're talking about here is a very serious matter based on solid intelligence," he said with a straight face and a lot of nerve. President Bush stood before us Monday and touted "solid intelligence" in proclaiming this nation to once again be in a heightened state of danger. "Solid intelligence" — not generally heralded as the guiding light of this administration — has apparently been uncovered on a computer in Pakistan that targets specific buildings in New York, New Jersey and Washington for terrorist attack, so the president and all his men have been out in full force, warning us and moving us once again through the terror-alert rainbow of colors.

You'd think they might be embarrassed by now and have the good sense to scrap the thing, but they keep right on wheeling it out, moving us from color to color as they deem appropriate. It's a system that could have been devised by grade-schoolers, by grade-schoolers who have been taught the parable of the boy who cried "wolf" one too many times. Listen, just leave the thing on blood-red and be done with it. We all know what we're up against out here.

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, slightly discomfited by it all, has served notice that he won't be back at his job beyond the current term. Poor Tom is the one they put out front to admit that most of this current "solid intelligence" turns out to be four years old. The lame-duck Secretary explained, "Al Qaeda often plans well, well in advance."

This particular plan would appear to reach the level of well, well, well in advance. But being identified by Ridge as "a 10 on a quality-of-intelligence scale of 1 to 10," it was enough to send New York into a partial lockdown. Thousands of citizens have been standing in long lines to get into workplaces, streets are closed, trucks are banned from tunnels and bridges and machine-gun toting officers stand watch. Out on the river, Mayor Michael Bloomberg opened the Statue of Liberty to the public Tuesday for the first time since 9/11, proclaiming, "We are not going to be intimidated. We are not going to be cowed." However, only Lady Liberty's base may now be visited, as her lofty crown remains unliberated and off limits for security reasons.

Meanwhile, right down the interstate, Washington D.C. officials express outrage that federal law enforcement officers are transforming the city into an armed fortress without regard for the people who live and work there. Mayor Anthony

Williams said, "They are turning what are supposed to be symbols of freedom and democracy — the Capitol, the Library of Congress, the Supreme Court — into a fortress of fear."

America does not wish to turn into a fortress of fear, does it? But these grave federal warnings seem more intent upon doing just that than actually stopping attacks. Is anybody else wondering — why can't they get these guys? A high-level intelligence official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the LA Times, "We have a pretty good sense of who they are, in terms of being terrorists." Nice work. Is a "pretty good sense of who they are" all we get? If they are able to locate enough "solid intelligence" to warrant throwing the whole nation into semi-panic mode, it's hard to believe they can't follow the trail of information to the doorstep of the would-be perpetrators at least once. How can the mighty FBI and CIA continue to be unable to identify the source of so-called "chatter"? What is this "chatter" anyway? It's largely e-mails and cell phone calls, no? Fairly easily traced, no? What part of "get these guys" is so hard to get?

They say there's no political motive behind the warnings but Laura Bush made a convenient appearance Tuesday at the targeted 59-story Citigroup Center in mid-town Manhattan to praise New York workers for having the courage to show up in such a terrifying setting. She said, "I want to thank people for coming to work."

In a climate where merely coming to work is deemed courageous, where trucks full of necessities are denied entry into a city, where armed sharpshooters lurk on rooftops, where the Statue of Liberty is only half-liberated, is another attack likely?

It might be asked, why would they bother? Why would Al Qaeda blow up the Prudential Building when they see a whole nation slowly imploding all around it, perhaps unable to withstand the weight laid upon its shoulders from the one swift blow of September 11, 2001. Losing only 19 lives that day, spending only tens of thousands of dollars, the enemy killed 3,000 of ours. In response, we have already lost over a thousand soldiers, have spent hundreds of billions, and have spawned more young terrorists than Bin Laden saw in his wildest dreams.

In a damp, dingy cave far from Citigroup Center, he dreams wildly on. He dreams about hanging a "Mission Accomplished" banner — like one he once saw somewhere — on the side of his mountain. Will we let him?

(Ron Scott Smith is also hiding in a damp, dingy cave. Reach him at EdgeoftheWest@aol.com.)



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OPINION

Think you have a hot bod?

INSIDE OUT

BY AMY PERRITT



So it would seem everyone's getting liposuction these days. Friends (now in their 30s) tell me they are going to consider Botox if the crow's feet continue to multiply. And they will. Television dramas on the subject are becoming worthy of Emmy considerations.

Me. If I could just find a woman who can try on a bathing suit without finding a fault with her body I would be willing to pull out a tooth with my bare hands.

Unfortunately no matter how much our mothers, grandmothers, cousins and aunts marched for our liberation, from the moment we plan to buy a new bathing suit (particularly if it's a bikini) until the moment we walk out of the store with or without one purchased, we feel fat. Even after eating lettuce for three days prior.

I am five feet, three inches and 115 pounds (in the morning). Yet it has still taken me 15 years to realize that a bathing suit won't ever fit my body like it does the Victoria Secret models in the catalogue that arrives on my doorstep just after I have eaten a bowl of ice cream.

So finally after having accepted the fate of my ever-evolving figure once and for all, I decided to throw out my 8-year-old blue and white two-piece and search for a new one.

I learned a few rules along the way:

1. Beware of the shops popular amongst younger women.

It is hard enough to find a bathing suit that makes your bum look two sizes smaller than it is, gives you cleavage you don't have and is in a color that goes well with your skin tone. But when you end up in a dressing area with 20 year olds, chances are you won't find your gem no matter how many you try on. You will simply be reminded of the body you had over 10 years ago and probably didn't like it back then either.

2. Only bring your husband if you think he "gets it."

Without their knowing it, husbands can do more damage than good. Sure it's nice to share the moment, model some suits for him and get his preferences. Heck, it will probably be the most attentive you have ever seen him when shopping together. But I promise you he will bring back itsy bitsy teeny weenie bikinis for you to dress in and that you

know, with one glance, are going to accentuate the areas you plan to hide.

While you are busy twisting and contorting your body in front of the mirror to get a good look at the cellulite on the backs of your legs, he'll suggest a quickie in the changing room.

3. The store's florescent lights and mirrors are the enemy.

A friend of mine buys several suits and takes them home where she can try them on in more forgiving light and in front of her friendly mirror. Think twice before standing in front of the store mirror because it won't hesitate to tell you things you don't want to hear. "You need a wax job and fast" it will say unimpressed. "Just say 'no' to desserts" it will instruct as you pinch the skin sneaking out around the seams. "Did you get any sleep last night?" it will ask when you get up close to inspect your face, the four lanes of wrinkles on your forehead and two pimples acting as speed bumps.

4. Do research.

The bikini has evolved greatly since its inception nearly 60 years ago and so has the science behind its creations. A quick search online will tell you that the bathing suit no longer has to remind us that we have a pear-shaped body. Just buy a suit that is darker on the bottom and has a pattern on the top. If you have a tummy, choose a suit with a detailed neckline. And for the no-waisted women such as me, well they say we should wear a suit with a sash or belt to give the illusion of a waistline. (I think I would rather wear shorts and a T-shirt to the beach.)

5. You're not alone.

Just remember that 80 percent of women who try on a bathing suit leave the store without one. There's always tomorrow ... as long as you can stand eating salad for one more day.

(Amy Perritt, who finally found two bathing suits after trying on more than 25 in four stores in two different malls, can be reached at aperritt@hotmail.com.)

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Business

Singled out: Parenting tips for managing money



MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS

BY COREY K. QUINN, BRETT A. BROWN

Being a single parent is far from a rarity in the U.S. In fact, one-parent households number in the millions, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Even if another parent provides monetary assistance, single parents often independently make decisions that impact their child's financial security. Here are a few guidelines that may help single parents ensure their family's future.

■ Discuss finances with your children. Kids today are very aware of their environment. Discussing your finances with them will help them to manage their expectations of what the family can afford.

■ Live within your budget. An obvious step to saving money is to develop a

streamlined budget that still meets your family's needs. This may be as simple as limiting discretionary spending which, for some, can add up to a savings of hundreds of dollars a month.

■ Protect your income with long-term disability insurance. A significant number of mortgage foreclosures are the result of loss of income, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Should you become unable to work, long-term disability insurance may be obliged to cover a portion of your salary for an extended period of time. The easiest way to get long-term disability insurance is through your employer. Check the specifics of your company's benefits. You may be covered and not

know it.

■ Update your will. A will ensures that your wishes for your children will be followed instead of being mandated by a state's intestacy statutes. Moreover, assets such as real estate, investments, automobiles and jewelry can add up to a sizable amount. A will can provide guidelines for how you wish your assets to be managed or used to benefit your children.

■ Learn about savings and investment opportunities. With the cash you save from your new budget, consider the many savings and investment opportunities available to you. For instance, instead of keeping too much cash in low- or non-interest-paying accounts, you may want to consider the growth opportunities available through a wide variety of mutual funds or tax-deferred investments. These accounts can be incorporated into a college and/or retirement savings plan.

Your financial advisor can suggest specific strategies tailored for your situation and point out any additional considera-

tions, such as a systematic or dollar-cost averaging plan. However, the program of systematic investment cannot assure profit or protect against loss in a declining market. Because such a program involves continuous investments regardless of fluctuating share values, investors should consider their financial ability to continue the program through all market cycles. This investment strategy helps you make consistent contributions on a regular basis.

Being a single parent can be difficult and demanding. However, successfully managing your finances does not have to be. Your financial advisor can help you develop a personal financial plan to help you get started.

(For more information, contact Santa Monica-based Morgan Stanley financial advisors Corey K. Quinn and Brett A. Brown at (310) 319-5210. Morgan Stanley and its financial advisors do not offer tax or legal advice. Morgan Stanley is a service mark of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. Services are offered through Morgan Stanley DW Inc., member SIPC)

SM businessman becomes wealth advisor in LA

By Daily Press staff

Deutsche Bank Private Wealth Management announced this week that Santa Monica resident Jacques L. DeVore has been appointed managing director and wealth advisor for the firm's Los Angeles office.

His primary responsibilities are relationship management and new business devel-

opment, focused on high-net-worth individuals, families and select institutions.

DeVore has more than 20 years' experience working with high-net-worth investors. Prior to joining Deutsche Bank Private Wealth Management, he was president of J. L. DeVore & Associates, Santa Monica, a private equity and investment

management firm that specializes in serving in high-net-worth investors and small institutions. Before that, he was a vice president for NM Capital Management in Albuquerque, president of Fiske/DeVore Capital Management in Santa Monica and vice president and partner of RNC Capital Management in Los Angeles.

DeVore earned a B.A. in economics from the University of California, Davis.

DeVore is an active member of Big

Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles, where he serves on the board of directors and executive committee, chairs the board associates committee and mentors fatherless boys. DeVore is a past president (1994-96) of Business Exchange 100, a professional organization for Westside business leaders, and was a board member of the Daniel Freeman Hospital Foundation for four years.

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LOCAL

Appeals court stays Weller's civil cases

REPORT, from page 1

accelerator instead of the brake outside of the market, colliding with a Mercedes sedan at the intersection of Arizona Avenue and Fourth Street before careening into the market, according to the report. Weller's stress level increased as he drove through the market, and he most likely "pumped" the gas pedal in a habitual braking response, causing the car to accelerate, the report says.

In a letter to the NTSB, Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney Ann Rundle, the lead prosecutor, pointed out that the report was not an analysis of criminal liability. Still, Rundle noted that "the report is incomplete in that it omits material witness statements which conflict with the report's conclusion. Also, it does not reflect evidence which directly refutes the driver's version of events."

Either way, the NTSB report will not be admissible in a criminal trial against Weller, lawyers said, though expert witnesses will be able to consult it before testifying in front of a jury.

While criminal lawyers continue to grapple with the details surrounding Weller's fateful drive down Arizona Avenue, which left 10 dead and 63 injured, dozens of civil lawsuits have been filed against Weller and the city of Santa Monica. Victims of the

crash argue City Hall should have known to erect barriers that would've prevented vehicles such as Weller's 1992 Buick LeSabre from entering the market.

The NTSB findings apparently support those claims. Among safety recommendations put forward in the preliminary report were for City Hall to construct a "temporary rigid barrier system" at the market's ends, and to update traffic plans annually dealing with road closures. On Wednesday, the market end on Fourth Street, where Weller entered, was protected by a truck parked across the street, a sawhorse and three prominent "road closed" signs.

While some see the added precautions as an admission of liability, attorneys at City Hall have maintained city officials had no way of foreseeing the tragic accident. And while NTSB investigators determined the city was out of compliance with laws governing how to mark closed roads, it also acknowledged the guidelines weren't clear and needed revision.

Meanwhile, criminal lawyers upset over a Santa Monica judge's decision to release portions of a 914-page police report compiled after the crash successfully convinced an appeals court this week to issue a temporary stay in all civil proceedings. That means the report will stay sealed for the time being, and victims hoping to move

A tragic accident

The National Transportation Safety Board released a preliminary report this week stating elderly driver Russell Weller's drive through a Farmers' Market last summer was an unintentional accident. Among the NTSB's other findings were:

- The weather and the design of Weller's Buick LeSabre did not play a part in the crash.
- Weller's medical history, general health and prescription medications did not contribute to the crash.
- Weller inadvertently accelerated when he intended to hit the brake, and continued to pump the gas as he sped through the market, thinking it was the brake.
- The effect of Weller's age and non-prescription drug use on the accident could not be determined.
- City Hall did not follow local, state or national guidelines in closing down Arizona Avenue for the Farmers' Market and failed to protect the safety of shoppers.
- Temporary barriers, like the ones used on the Third Street Promenade, would have eliminated or greatly reduced the number of casualties suffered.
- The laws governing road closures are unclear and need to be revised.
- A data-recording "black box," like the ones used on airplanes, would have helped significantly in the investigation. The NTSB recommended that once standards are developed for car data recorders, they be required in all new light-duty vehicles.

their cases forward may have to wait until after Weller's criminal trial is over.

Geoffrey Wells, who represents a dozen victims, said he expected the delay, as proceedings are beginning to heat up in the criminal arena. As to the preliminary report from the NTSB, Wells said the findings likely will bolster his

clients' claims.

"I think it will help in the civil cases, because they're another independent governmental agency," Wells said. "They're not aligned with us, they're not aligned with the city, and they've gone in there and looked at this, and said they think there's a problem."

SM takes heaviest hit in slashed bond proposal

BOND, from page 1

pier aquarium, and construction of both an arboretum at the planned Civic Center downtown and a children's fitness park adjacent to the SMC track and stadium, among other projects.

Repairs and new construction at the old Marion Davies estate at 415 Pacific Coast Highway were included in an earlier proposal, but had been pulled by Wednesday.

It's unclear who called the emergency meeting.

College officials said the emer-

gency meeting was called as a "revision item" by Margaret Quinones, chairwoman of the board. Quinones couldn't be reached for comment.

SMC Trustee Carole Currey, who abstained from voting on the bond Monday, said only somebody who voted against the bond could call an emergency meeting to reconsider. As vice chair, Currey sat in on a meeting with Quinones and SMC president Dr. Piedad F. Robertson on Wednesday to discuss the Friday meeting. Currey indicated she

may decide to support the new bond after all.

"I had emphasized from the very beginning I thought it was an enormous amount and very ambitious, and I thought at this time it was too much to add to the many things the college had on its plate," she said. "I still believe that, but if it can be altered so it's not so enormous — it was a very visionary and very remarkable plan, and we would like to support that for the future."

Currey and SMC Trustee Nancy Greenstein will both be out

of town but will call in to participate in the special meeting. Greenstein will call in from Boston, Currey from Utah.

SMC Trustee Graham Pope, who voted against the bond, could not be reached for comment.

SMC Trustee Annette Shamey, the only other trustee to vote against the bond, declined to say if she called for the emergency meeting or if she would reconsider her "no" vote.

"This has all happened very quickly," she said. "I don't know what to expect."

City still working to keep transients off bluffs

FIRE, from page 1

being enforced," Bloom said. "It's a new law, so typically with most new laws we begin with warnings, and then the enforcement gets steeper over time. With regard to this fire, if it is the case that it was a cooking fire that caused the fire, then it validates the important safety reason for having the law in place."

Santa Monica Police Department Lt. Frank Fabrega said the department has been

enforcing the law through sweeps of the bluff area. He said SMPD issues an average of 10 misdemeanor citations a month to violators camping on the bluffs. Park rangers and city employees who work in Palisades Park often see people on the bluffs and call the police, Fabrega said. That's when a special SMPD team which works with the local homeless population will go to the scene and cite the campers, forcing them leave.

The department also does

sweeps of the area every three months with Tru Green, a company contracted with the city to clean up the area, Fabrega said. The team collects trash, debris and any abandoned objects like mattresses and other furniture, he said.

Over the years, the city has made efforts to keep people off of the bluffs with a fence that extends the length of Palisades Park, between the Santa Monica Pier and the city's northern border. There also are signs posted telling people to keep out of the area.

City Councilman Kevin McKeown said the problem with transients on the bluff shouldn't only be attributed to enforcement.

"We are obviously short on shelter space," he said. "People should not be on those bluffs for their own safety and the community's safety. But, in trying to move them off the bluffs we need to remember that they're people too and that they need a place to live. It's clearly an unsafe situation for all of us."

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STATE

Fun under the sun: Calif. EPA proposes incentives

BY DON THOMPSON

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — California officials are proposing that half of all new homes in the state should be running on solar energy in 10 years, spurred by \$100 million in annual incentives paid for by electricity consumers.

The move comes three years after the state suffered through an energy crisis that left electric customers billions of dollars in debt as the government took over from beleaguered utilities to buy enough power to keep the lights on.

Environmental groups said the propos-

al would once again make California a national trendsetter while spurring technical advances that would help make solar power more affordable worldwide.

"This is so far ahead of any other state ... there's no comparison," said Bernadette Del Chiaro of Environment California. California already is the world's third-largest market for solar technology, but would start to catch up with leaders like Japan and Germany, she said.

A copy of the California Environmental Protection Agency's draft "Million Solar Homes Initiative," obtained by The Associated Press, proposes that the state give rebates to home builders who install

solar panels on new homes, and incentives for installing panels on existing homes.

The program would be paid for with a new monthly utility bill surcharge of about 25-30 cents per household, projected to raise \$1 billion before the surcharge ends in 10 years. But homeowners would be free to sell excess solar energy back to electricity companies, leaving them with no net cost.

"Each month, the homeowner would save more money in reduced electricity charges than the homeowner would have to pay on the solar mortgage," according to the draft presented by EPA Undersecretary Drew Bohan.

The combined solar installations would be the equivalent of 36 new, \$30 million, 75 megawatt natural gas "peaker" plants used when electricity is most in demand, and would avoid pumping 50 million tons of carbon dioxide into the air from the accompanying combustion, the EPA estimated.

"Other countries of the world are way ahead of us," said Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman. He said the administration is trying to build a policy to meet Schwarzenegger's campaign pledge of running half of California homes on solar power.

The incentives should be enough to get solar panels on 40 percent of new homes by 2010 and 50 percent by 2013, the EPA projects. If the incentives aren't enough, the proposal would require panels on 5 percent of homes by 2010 and half of new homes by 2020. Proponents estimate 1.2 million homes would be producing solar energy by 2017, including 884,000 new and 313,000 older houses.

Schwarzenegger has not endorsed the

plan.

"My hope is he comes out even stronger" by increasing the incentives and mandates and applying the requirements to commercial buildings as well, said Del Chiaro. "There's no guarantee the builders will take advantage of incentives, even though the incentives are great."

Environment California also is backing solar home incentives in pending legislation.

The legislative solar incentive bill, approved by the Senate and pending in an Assembly committee, would require that 15 percent of new homes come with solar panels by 2006. The requirement would increase by 10 percentage points a year until it would mandate that 55 percent of homes come solar-equipped by 2010.

The building industry opposes the legislative solar homes bill, but said the incentives proposed by the energy commission are the way to encourage technological and economic improvements that will make widespread use of solar energy more realistic.

"It's a much more sensible approach than an outright mandate," said Tim Coyle, senior vice president of the California Building Industry Association.

Home solar systems can cost \$17,000 to \$20,000 and currently won't pay for themselves, Coyle said. Customers now would typically pay \$120 a month and receive about \$70 in benefits, for a \$50 net loss, he said. With the proposed incentives paying about 40 percent of the cost, the EPA has found a way that "doesn't tax consumers, but rather gives them a financial incentive to invest."

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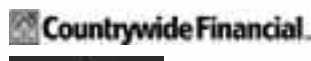
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STATE □ NATIONAL



Gov. calls for state government to match state's spirit

BY JIM WASSERMAN

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Saying California needs a "21st Century government" to match the state's innovative spirit, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger Tuesday received a 2,500-page reform proposal he said will help overhaul a state government that plan authors called "antiquated and ineffective."

"I want to hear directly from you," Schwarzenegger said, sounding his familiar theme of the outsider fighting the Capitol establishment. "I'm asking every citizen: 'How can we make our government better for you?'"

Schwarzenegger handed over the reform package to a 21-member California Performance Review Commission minutes after receiving it from the 275 state employees and consultants who conducted the largely secret "top to bottom assessment of state government" at his request.

Citing the legacy of reform-minded Gov. Hiram Johnson of the early 1900s, Schwarzenegger promised a new round of change. "We can't just chip away at the edges of the state's problems. Sometimes a surgeon has to cut to save the patient."

Commissioned by Schwarzenegger in January, the reorganization plan aims to save as much as \$32 billion over the next five years by consolidating departments, cutting growth in state employment by 12,000 positions and privatizing some state work. Widely viewed as the biggest proposed government overhaul since the 1960s, its proposals would let Californians

"I want to hear directly from you. I'm asking every citizen: 'How can we make our government better for you?'"

— **ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**
California Governor

renew vehicle registrations online to trim lines at DMV offices, force higher fees on out-of-state college and university students and abolish 118 boards and commissions, many with members receiving more than \$100,000 a year.

It would also merge 20 different entities dealing with education into one Department of Education and Workforce Preparation, while eliminating 58 county school superintendents and offices of education.

Controller Steve Westly praised Schwarzenegger for trying to reshape state government, but expressed concerns about the eliminating the California Air Resources Board and county offices of education.

"Sound environmental controls in this state are a necessity, Westly said. "Also, as a parent, I am concerned to see the closing of the county offices of education. I think most people understand that you don't want to sacrifice local control of education to Sacramento."

Composed of local and state government representatives and others from business, labor and public policy, the commission will hold five hearings on the proposals in August and September. The first hearing is

scheduled for Aug. 13 in Riverside.

As the opening phase of a process that could consume much of the Schwarzenegger administration's first term, the commission will make recommendations to the state's watchdog Little Hoover Commission, which in turn will advise Schwarzenegger in his recommendations to the Legislature next year.

Administration officials have said most of the savings are at least two years off.

On Tuesday, Schwarzenegger challenged the plan's emerging opponents, who have called the report a power grab by the executive branch, a threat to the state's environment and an unwieldy plan destined to be either rejected or carved up by the Legislature.

"Of course there will be the special interests that will be screaming, that will be complaining, that will be squawking about the recommendations, calling them unfair and impractical and maybe even worse," Schwarzenegger said. "But this is because their agenda is not the peoples' agenda."

Schwarzenegger, a Republican elected in last October's recall election, said he hadn't seen the ideas in the report but

promised to push some to the ballot as initiatives if the Legislature doesn't cooperate.

On Monday, Senate President Pro Tem John Burton, D-San Francisco, said the Legislature would most likely kill the bigger package and work with the administration on narrower reforms.

Others have criticized the process, saying it was too secretive and relied heavily on business and corporate input while excluding public interest groups.

Schwarzenegger said the confidentiality protected deliberations and that the report had "no secrets in there."

Billy Hamilton, the deputy comptroller of Texas who guided the California Performance Review and several similar efforts in Texas, said California's problems are magnified by the government's size and the state's budget problems.

State employees, he said, are especially "tired of the pointless bureaucratic morass they must daily negotiate, they're tired of endless tangle of red tape that prevents them from doing their jobs. They're tired of outmoded technology and systems in the most technologically advanced state in the union."

Success, he said, must come through the Legislature.

"When we do these reviews in Texas ... we find members who are interested in it and we fight every day for our idea," Hamilton said. "There's always going to be interests that are opposed to any sort of change because it upsets peoples' apple carts. But you gotta fight. I hope California will do that, because it makes sense."

Proposal would let BLM use more money from land sales in West

By The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The Bush administration wants to let the Bureau of Land Management use more of the profits from public land sales in the West.

Interior Department officials said Tuesday in Washington that the proposed change in federal law is a small one that will extend and broaden a land disposal program Congress approved in 2000.

Critics said the change would give the BLM more incentive to sell off public land because 40 percent of profits would go to the agency.

"It will create a revolving fund which

they can draw on for their operating budget," said Johanna Wald, lands program director at the Natural Resources Defense Council. "These are places that are America's playground where people go to hunt, fish and boat."

The proposal would let the BLM designate profits from the sale of lands that it has identified for disposal since July 25, 2000. Federal law now requires the profits to be deposited into the U.S. treasury.

Twenty percent of sale proceeds would be directed back to the BLM to cover administrative expenses, 20 percent would be earmarked for conservation pro-

jects, and 60 percent would be used to buy environmentally sensitive land from private ownership.

"From the standpoint of a land manager, it's a disincentive to go through the hard work of a land sale when you're not enjoying some of the proceeds of your land management goals," Assistant Interior Secretary Lynn Scarlett said in supporting the change.

Scarlett said all potential land disposals would be scrutinized through a public planning process.

Nevada BLM spokeswoman Jo Simpson said the agency is identifying

more land for sale in central and northern Nevada.

"As new land use plans are developed, additional or different lands may be identified for disposal that wouldn't qualify for sale under the act as currently written," Simpson said.

Scarlett said the BLM would benefit by having more money for wetlands restoration, wildlife habitat protection, salt cedar eradication and other conservation measures.

She said that in states like Nevada, where about 87 percent of land is controlled by the federal government, less money is needed for land acquisition.

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NATIONAL

ExxonMobil agrees to \$5.2 million settlement

BY MARK THIESSEN

Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — ExxonMobil will pay more than \$5.2 million to settle a lawsuit filed by the government on behalf of the Navajo Nation over oil and contaminated water spills that leaked into San Juan River tributaries in southeastern Utah.

"No question, it's a good settlement," said Dave Basinger, a senior engineer for the Environmental Protection Agency in San Francisco. "We would have liked to have seen it quicker, but we are pleased."

Settlement terms announced Tuesday between ExxonMobil and the EPA and the Justice Department included a \$515,000 penalty.

It also requires the company, formerly known as Mobil Exploration & Producing U.S. Inc., to spend about

\$4.7 million on field operation improvements to reduce spills.

"They've agreed to spend \$327,000 on a supplemental project, which we feel is important and worthwhile," Basinger said.

ExxonMobil will spend that on environmental projects, including sanitation facilities and construction of a drinking water supply line extension to provide running water to 17 remote American Indian residences located on the oil production fields.

"They have very little. Some of them have no sanitation facilities. Some have inconsistent or unsatisfactory drinking water," Basinger said. "Now, they'll have that."

Since this project was not required, Basinger said the government recognized the gesture by the oil company by reducing the penalty somewhat.

Assistant U.S. Attorney General Thomas Sansonetti said he hopes the settlement shows other companies that the government "means business when it comes to violations of the Clean Water Act."

"People are welcome to lease public lands, but they have to make sure they do so by not providing unauthorized discharges of oil and water mixtures into our tributaries," Sansonetti said.

Messages left with ExxonMobil seeking comment were not immediately returned.

Navajos in southeastern Utah had complained for years that the river was being polluted, and asked the government in 1996 to investigate.

Justice officials later filed a civil complaint over an alleged 83 spills that reached the river's tributaries, a violation of the Clean Water Act.

Government tightens reins on lease limits for oil companies

BY DAVID PACE

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is moving to tighten enforcement of a law that limits the number of acres of federal land that oil companies can lease for oil and gas development.

The Bureau of Land Management notified its state offices last week that any company whose holdings exceed the legal limit in a state will not be permitted to acquire new leases in that state until it brings its holding back into compliance.

The directive follows an Associated Press review of BLM records that found a half dozen companies since 1997, including one formerly headed by Commerce Secretary Don Evans, have violated the law that limits lease holdings on public lands to 246,080 acres in any state other than Alaska.

The AP analysis also found the BLM let companies they knew were violating the law in Wyoming continue to acquire thousands of acres of new oil and gas leases in that state after giving them extra years to reduce their holdings so they complied with the law.

The new directive from BLM Deputy Director Francis R. Cherry Jr. says state offices cannot issue new leases or approve a transfer of operating rights on an existing lease to any company or individual that is over the state acreage limit.

The restriction applies even to companies that exceed the limit because of one of two exceptions specified in the law: a merger or acquisition, which triggers a 180-day period for the company to come back into compliance; or the removal of a lease from a legal agreement

that had exempted it from the acreage cap, which triggers a 90-day period for the company to come back into compliance.

If a state BLM office issues a lease to a company or individual that's over the acreage cap, the directive requires that the office cancel the lease and re-offer it for competitive bids. The company that had the lease also must forfeit its bonus bid on the lease, the first year's rent and any administrative or filing fees associated with the lease.

The directive also reminded state offices that they must check all lease holdings in January each year and audit the holdings of any company or individual with more than 200,000 acres of federal oil and gas leases.

During the AP review, BLM officials acknowledged they had never exercised their legal right to cancel leases held by companies in violation of the law, nor had they ever denied a company's request for an extension of time to comply.

Anadarko Petroleum, for example, received a two-year extension to get back into compliance after a 2000 merger with Union Pacific Resources. In the first 15 months of that extension, the Houston company acquired 70 new leases in Wyoming, totaling more than 100,000 acres.

Denver-based Tom Brown Inc. was over the acreage limit in Wyoming from 1997 to 2000, while Evans — now the commerce secretary — was chief executive. Encana Oil and Gas of Canada, which was over the acreage for two years beginning in 2002, recently acquired Tom Brown. The company must bring its combined holdings back into compliance within 180 days of the effective date of the merger.

Jury awards Colorado sheep rancher more than \$4M in gas royalties

By The Associated Press

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. — A jury has awarded an 85-year-old sheep rancher more than \$4 million in unpaid natural gas royalties after finding Williams Production guilty of breach of contract.

The jury returned the verdict late Monday, finding Williams was also guilty of violating the Consumer Protection Act and acting in bad faith.

William Clough, who owns 12,000 acres near Rifle and Parachute, filed the lawsuit, claiming Williams and Barrett Resources, which merged with the Williams Cos. in 2001, had not paid him agreed-upon royalties over an eight-year period.

His attorney, Nate Keever, said Clough could be awarded even more money if District Judge T. Peter Craven in Glenwood Springs decides damages are warranted.

"We wanted to send a message to Williams that deceptive practices like this must stop," Keever said. "They have been underpaying royalty owners for years and concealing that fact."

Williams spokeswoman Susie Hereden said the company "put forth our case that we correctly paid out royalties. We'll evaluate the ruling and decide how to proceed."

The Tulsa, Okla.-based company operates more than 15,000 miles of natural gas pipeline and says it delivers about 12 percent of the gas consumed in the United States.

Keever told the jury Clough was owed some \$4.9 million by Williams. Tony Shaheen, a Williams attorney, sharply criticized the money figure cited by Keever, noting Clough had received \$24 million in royalty payments over the last eight years.



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LA's Transportation Future Planned

Transportation's "Top 10" list of future needs for transit, highways, railroads, airports and shipping in the Los Angeles region have been outlined at Mobility 21, a coalition of local civic and business leaders. Find out what's on the plan list at mobility21.com

Metro Bus Fleet Expands

At Metro, improving service means adding more buses. Metro recently took action to add 75 new buses to its fleet before the end of the year. This most recent increase comes in addition to 130 new buses already on order.

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Public Hearings On Service Changes

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NATIONAL

U.S. pushes reform on devout Saudi Arabians

BY GEORGE GEDDA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — There are times when Saudi Arabia looks like America's best friend.

The Saudis are far ahead of most other Muslim countries in supporting the interim government in Iraq. They also have taken the lead in trying to recruit a Muslim security force for Iraq to replace the U.S.-led multinational force. The proposal, if it should gain traction, could give the United States a way out of Iraq.

On oil, the Saudis have pleased successive U.S. administrations by calibrating production so that prices don't go through the roof. On terrorism, after initial hesitancy the Saudis have been cracking down on cells within the country.

Yet tensions remain. Many Americans suspect that the Saudis are not doing enough to fight terror, and U.S. dependence on Saudi-controlled oil leads to problems. The issue of political change remains a thorn between the two countries, as the United States wants a more open political system in place.

Overall, the Bush administration has been supportive of the Saudi government because the Saudi branch of al-Qaida is bent on destroying the monarchy, which it considers unforgivably pro-American. Since May 2003, terrorism has claimed scores of lives in the kingdom.

If al-Qaida and its allies are pushing Saudi Arabia from the right, the Americans are pressing the other way, imploring the Saudis to realize that its current system — absolute theocratic monarchy — is not tenable these days.

At every meeting Secretary of State Colin Powell has with the Saudis, he urges reform. He believes a more democratic Saudi Arabia will be far more able to deal with the country's mounting terror problem, not to men-

tion its declining economy. Some analysts say the House of Saud, the ruling family, could be in danger of collapse.

The report of the bipartisan Sept. 11 national commission said change must come to the country that spawned Osama bin Laden and 15 of the 19 militants responsible for the worst act of terrorism on U.S. soil.

The study said the Cold War taught that "short-term gains in cooperating with the most repressive and brutal governments" often brought about long-term setbacks.

Oil is not the country's only export; Islamic militancy is one as well. The country's conservative clerics have been endowing mosques and schools in Muslim countries for years. Some of these institutions have been spreading a brand of Islamic extremism believed to be behind much of the terror threat.

Bush administration officials were angered last year when Saudi proselytizers turned up in Ethiopia to inculcate radical Islam on the local Muslims. The Saudis arrived during a famine, bringing food along with their fundamentalism. Irrked Ethiopian authorities ordered the visitors home.

In some ways, the Saudis are pursuing reform, but Bush administration officials believe that the government may not be able to halt the clerics' indoctrination efforts abroad.

Powell, without being specific, seems encouraged by Saudi reform efforts. Turning up last week in the breezy Saudi port city of Jiddah, Powell told reporters, "Reform is under way."

He was flanked by Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal, who said there is a broad consensus in Saudi society that reform is needed. "It is the whole country that is working on this issue," Saud said, pointing to the planned election of a municipal council this fall as an example.

Also, moves are afoot to give Saudi women more opportunities for employment. There is expected to be an easing of the practice of barring women from working in shops, part of a broader prohibition on women mixing with men to whom they are not related.

The breakthrough could begin by giving women employment in shops dealing in women-only items such as underwear and cosmetics.

A recent report by the Brussels-based International Crisis Group, however, says the country can head off turmoil only through deep-seated reforms.

"Fearful of change, accustomed to a system in which it holds enormous power and privileges," the report says, "the ruling family may consider any serious reform a risk not worth taking. The irony is that a program of change offers the most likely path to stability, and the greatest risk would come from doing nothing at all."

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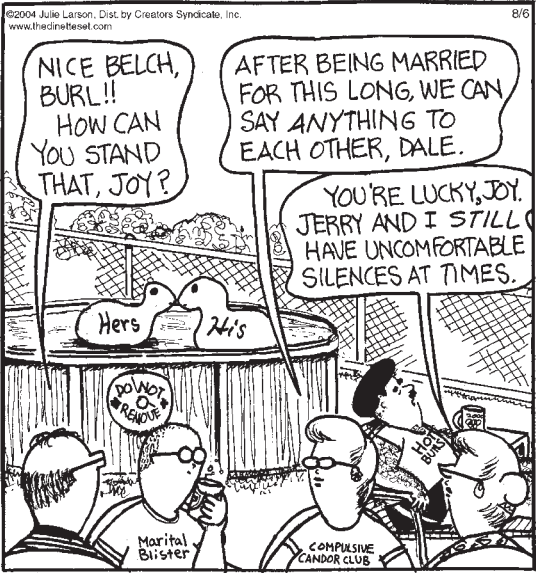
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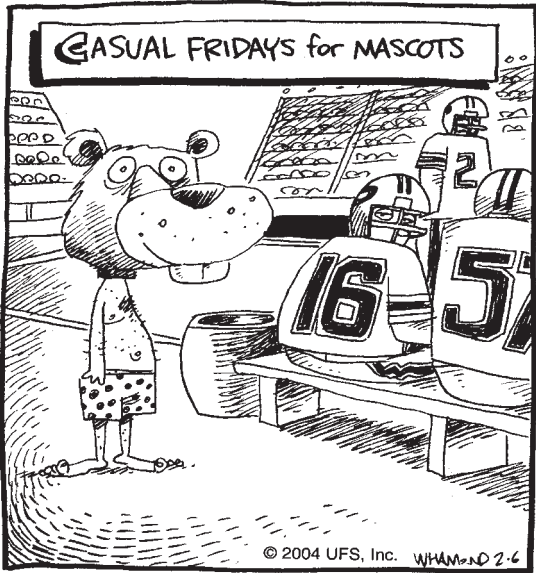
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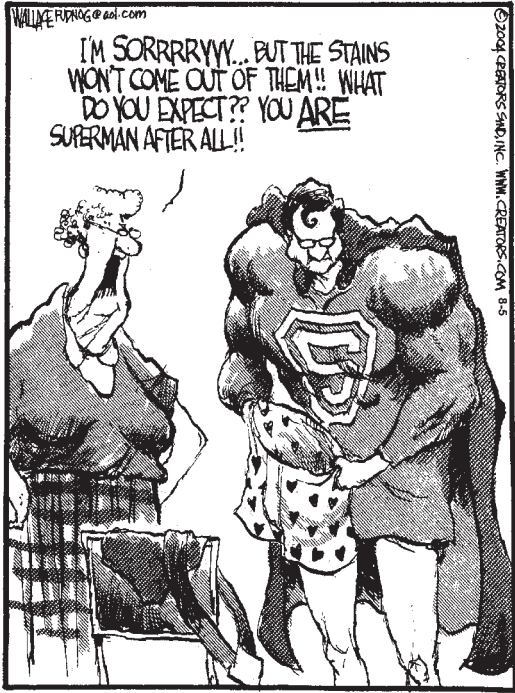
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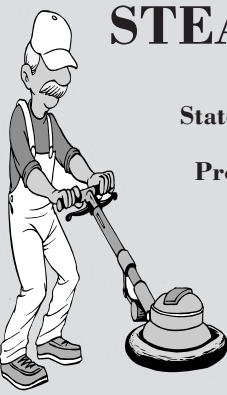
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Jamaican star 'Beenie Man' apologizes for lyrics

By The Associated Press

LONDON — Jamaican dancehall star Beenie Man has apologized for offending people with his lyrics, which critics say incite violence against homosexuals.

In a statement issued through his record company, Virgin, the 30-year-old performer said he had realized "that certain lyrics and recordings I have made in the past may have caused distress and outrage among people whose identities and lifestyles are different from my own."

"While my lyrics are very personal, I do not write them with the intent of purposefully hurting or maligning others, and I offer my sincerest apologies to those who might have been offended, threatened or hurt by my songs," said the statement, issued Tuesday.

"As a human being, I renounce violence towards other human beings in every way, and pledge henceforth to uphold these values as I move forward in my career as an artist."

Beenie Man, whose real name is Anthony Davis, is one of the biggest names in the dancehall scene. But human rights campaigners say tracks such as "Bad Man Chi Chi Man (Bad Man, Queer Man)" could incite violence against gay men.

The performer had previously defended his lyrics, saying they reflect life the way Caribbean people see it.

Spokesman Peter Tatchell of the gay rights group OutRage! dismissed Beenie Man's apology. "He doesn't say who he is apologizing to, or what he is apologizing for," he said.

"This is not about making homophobic comments, it's incitement to murder, which is a criminal offense. All his 'kill queers' songs are still in circulation. He is still profiteering from his murder music."

A vigorous campaign by OutRage! and other human rights organizations has forced the cancellation of some of Beenie Man's concerts in Europe, including one in

June in London, where police questioned the performer about his lyrics.

PRAGUE, Czech Republic — Pop star Pink scrapped plans to linger in Prague for a few days after a weekend concert, apparently because of security fears after a bomb exploded at a downtown casino.

The 24-year-old singer had planned to spend several days in the Czech capital before heading to Denmark, but changed her mind after Sunday afternoon's blast, concert promoter Lukas Vedral said Tuesday.

The bomb, which went off beneath a car parked in front of Prague's Casino Royal, injured 18 people, mostly foreign tourists. Two victims, including a U.S. citizen, remained hospitalized Tuesday. The bomb exploded a few hours before Pink's concert, which drew 5,500 fans, Vedral said.

"She heard Prague was a beautiful town and planned to stay for two days here," Vedral said. "But after the blast, she decided to leave after the concert."

Pink was staying at a hotel near the site of the explosion, which added to her discomfort, he said.

Authorities say the attack apparently was aimed at the owner of the casino, Assaf Abutbul, an Israeli national. Police had not yet arrested the bomber.

HARTFORD, Conn. — Katharine Hepburn's waterfront home in Old Saybrook has been sold to a neighbor who plans to renovate the property, Hepburn's real estate agent said.

Frank Sciamie, a New York City-based architect who owns F.J. Sciamie Construction Co. Inc., signed a contract to buy the home, Colette Harron of The Mitchel Agency in Essex said Tuesday.

She wouldn't reveal the sale amount, but said it was under the \$12 million asking price. The price was knocked down a few times because the 1939 home needs cosmetic work in the kitchen and bathrooms, she said.

The 8,000-square-foot brick house, which sits on 3.3 acres and overlooks Long Island Sound, has nine bedrooms, eight bathrooms and five fireplaces.

Hepburn died June 29, 2003, at the house in the Fenwick section of Old Saybrook. The actress was 96.

Sciamie, who lives in the same neighborhood, described Hepburn's home as "the jewel of Fenwick." His company specializes in historic renovations and has done construction work throughout New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

The sale would not include 4 acres of wetlands that Hepburn bequeathed to a conservation group. The parcel is home to a variety of wildlife and plant life, and it has dunes, which are rare along the Connecticut coast.

LOS ANGELES — The TV production company behind the Fox hit "That '70s Show" and classics such as "Roseanne" has decided to remain independent.

Carsey-Werner-Mandabach said last May it was exploring a possible sale or other strategic alliance or partnership in the face of increased competition from large, studio-based producers.

The company said Tuesday it rejected various proposals brought to it by investment bank UBS.

Company principal Tom Werner said the partners "decided that independence remains the best way for us to navigate the changing waters of the television business."

Last year, Carsey-Werner-Mandabach sold five shows to the major networks, including the sitcoms "Whoopi" and "The Tracy Morgan Show" to NBC. Both shows were canceled.

This year, besides "That '70s Show," the company produces "Grounded for Life" on the WB Network and "Good Girls Don't," which will premiere on the Oxygen Network this summer.

The company also owns an extensive library of shows that it sells in syndication, including "The Cosby Show" and "3rd Rock From the Sun."

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