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Santa Monica Daily Press

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Andre Guthrie, 22, faced with a special five-year-minimum sentence under the law because he robbed a Sovereign Bank in Lowell, Mass., "while masked," argued to his sentencing judge in June that he wasn't actually in disguise but merely in his transvestite mode ("Andrea Guthrie"), including wig, false breasts, and a fake nose and facial moles. "This is what he does," said Guthrie's lawyer. "This is who he is."

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 220th day of 2005.
There are 145 days left in the year.

On Aug. 8, 1974, President Nixon announced he would resign following new damaging revelations in the Watergate scandal.
In 1945, the Soviet Union declared war against Japan during World War II.
In 1963, Britain's "Great Train Robbery" took place as thieves made off with 2.6 million pounds in banknotes.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Men make counterfeit money; in many more cases, money makes counterfeit men."
SYDNEY J. HARRIS
AMERICAN JOURNALIST (1917-1986)

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Party crashers



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

John Franklin (right) and Stephen Carlson of the Cornerstone Ministries protest the Hare Krishna Festival on Sunday. "Don't believe in false gods, read the Bible," they yelled as they marched in front of the festival parade.

Report identifies challenges facing SM

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Writer

CITY HALL — Opportunities and challenges Santa Monicans will face in the future are now available for public review and discussion.

City Hall's planning department released on Monday the completed "Opportunities and Challenges" report, which builds on the community visions presented in the "Emerging Themes" report reviewed by the City Council and planning commission in April.

As part of the two-year, ongoing overhaul of the city's planning and traffic plan, the latest report examines existing conditions and trends that pose challenges to the

See CITY REPORT, page 6

STATE

City employs microbe to clear out MTBE

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Bacteria is gobbling up a massive plume of the toxic gasoline additive MTBE that was migrating toward two city-operated water wells.

The project, which is the first of its kind in Los Angeles, will restore millions of gallons of San Fernando Valley groundwater, which accounts for 10 percent of the city's drinking supply. Scientists believe the bacteria will in the future offer a cheaper way to clean up water contamination.

Santa Monica has faced its own share of MTBE problems. In 1996, MTBE contaminated seven drinking-water wells in the city. City Hall settled with major oil companies for rough-

See MTBE, page 6

COMMUNITY PROFILES |

COMMUNITY PROFILES IS A WEEKLY SERIES THAT APPEARS EACH MONDAY AND DELVES INTO THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY IN SANTA MONICA.

Clark Vautier: Climbing his way out of life's daily grind

BY ROBERT FATURECHI
Special to the Daily Press

Clark Vautier loves to climb mountains, the bigger the better.

The Santa Monica resident recently reached the snowy peak of Mount McKinley, the continent's highest mountain, an experience that's left its mark on Vautier in more ways than one.

"Ultimately when you get out into nature you get in touch with nature, but really you're getting in touch with yourself," the marketing consultant said. "It's that connection with nature that recharges me, and I have to do it."

Though more than two weeks have passed since the native New

Zealander returned home, signs of his snowy adventure still mark his face.

Along his tanned skin — peppered with snowy stubble — are the brownish burns of frost nip, a result of the cold trek along the Alaskan peak.

Though his burns will likely heal and disappear, Vautier said the experience is one that will stick with him.

"When we saw that marker marking the top of the mountain, there was such a great feeling of accomplishment," Vautier said. "There's very few things you can have such a tangible result in front

See PROFILES, page 8



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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Your strength and self-discipline need to come through right now. Others can be distracting, spurring out unrelated facts or ideas. Adjust your thinking; perhaps even change your plans. Focus counts. Tonight: Say yes to an invitation.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You might greet the world with a smile, but others seem out of sorts or need to feel in control. Don't get caught up in the game. Focus on the end results. A boss or higher-up has different but inspiring ideas. Tonight: Head home early.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Basics count, as you shall see. If you want to work from home, do so. You do best when you close the door and focus. Not everything is as it seems, as you will discover. Another's uproar might be coming out of left field. Tonight: Take it easy.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ What you say certainly draws reactions, especially from those in your day-to-day life. Eventually, you will be able to settle a situation or conflict. This situation could revolve around money and security. You need it. So does someone else you are dealing with. Tonight: Visit with a friend.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Emphasize the positive, and you will be able to move through this day with great ease. You have a lot to offer, which you might not realize. You admire others' talents. It is time to recognize yours. A child or loved one acts up. Tonight: Nap and then decide.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You have great ideas. Implementing them might be a whole different story. You find that those you have counted on are aloof or into their own needs and projects. Ask for help from a trusted associate. Tonight: Add more fun into your life.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Take your time brainstorming and daydreaming. Often, how you see a situation could be very different from the way others do. Listen to different perceptions. Finally, you can update your thoughts. Learn better ways to communicate. Tonight: You get a second wind.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Meetings prove to be fertile territory for networking and sharing ideas. You see that a team effort will work. Be very careful with a financial commitment — OK? Listen to feedback without taking comments personally. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Others are demanding. Requests and calls come in left and right. The real question is how to deal with all the demands. You might be provoked and become sharp-tongued. Would it not be better to say a polite no? Tonight: Handle work or visit with an older friend.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Your ability to read between the lines might force you to step back and think. You could be stunned by the realizations that come forward. Be careful with money agreements. Your funds could easily wash away. Tonight: Do some research.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ You might not mean to add confusion, but you do an excellent job of just that. You laugh, and so does another. Friends might be acting strangely, especially one particular friend. Let go and relax. Let associates have their voice. Tonight: Relax and give up control.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Allow others to run with the ball, or you could mess up a project or two. Listen to what you need to do in order to handle a personal matter. Remain pleasant and agreeable. You can change the plan later on, when others are receptive. Tonight: Dinner out.



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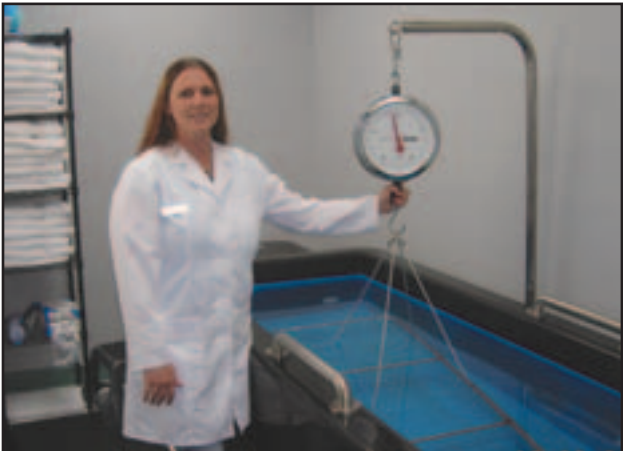
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Mystery photo



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

The first person to identify where this photo was taken will win a prize. E-mail answers to editor@smdp.com.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

'Free Your Mind Projects' launches in Santa Monica

By Daily Press staff

It's time to free your mind.

It is estimated that one in every four people are affected by mental health issues varying from depression to bipolar disorder or schizophrenia. In Los Angeles County, that equates to millions, officials say.

"Free Your Mind Projects" has been developed through a public and private sector collaboration to provide free ongoing outreach to multicultural communities through events such as film screenings, concerts and public forums, in an effort to educate the public about mental illness.

The first in this series is "Out of the Shadow" by local filmmaker Susan Smiley. It is a documentary that chronicles the life of Millie Smiley, Susan's mother.

The launch of Free Your Mind Projects coincides with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health's (LACDMH) planning for use of funds from Proposition 63: The Mental Health Services Act, which passed last year, providing Los Angeles with additional funding for new and expanded mental health services.

Free Your Mind Projects is working with LACDMH to help get the word out about public hearings and community meetings that are coming up throughout the year so that the Los Angeles County community has the opportunity to recommend how the new mental health funds should be spent, according to officials.

There will be Free Your Mind Projects resources available at the Santa Monica Pier at the free screening of the film "Austin Powers" on Tuesday, Aug. 9, beginning at 7 p.m., and at the Santa Monica Pier on Aug. 18 during the Twilight Dance Series beginning at 7 p.m. Free Your Mind Projects will be ongoing throughout the year with new projects being launched in late September and October.

"Free Your Mind Projects" free screenings of "Out of the Shadow" are held Monday, Aug. 15, at Laemmle's Monica 4-Plex at 1332 2nd St. in Santa Monica at 8 p.m., and Aug. 20 at Laemmle's Fairfax 3, 7907 Beverly Blvd., Hollywood, at 11 a.m.

There will be free information and resources available at both locations from NAMI the Mental Health Association, and the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. For more information, visit www.fymp.com

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SURF REPORT

Monday no noteworthy swell is expected, and size is looking nearly flat with only knee- to waist-high NW peaks at times. SW is looking dismal. Tuesday is looking bleak as well with barely any surf to be had.

Today the water is:

67°

Write us at alex@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
MONDAY	5:56	0.3	5:50	2.1	12:24	4.3	11:41	4.9
TUESDAY	6:19	0.7	6:39	2.1	12:51	4.5	12:20	4.3
WEDNESDAY	6:41	1.2	7:40	2.0	N/A	N/A	1:21	4.6
THURSDAY	7:03	1.7	9:04	1.9	1:10	3.6	1:59	4.8
FRIDAY	7:24	1.9	9:42	2.3	1:59	4.8	N/A	N/A

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The Q Line

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Owners of the Robinsons-May store in the Santa Monica Place Mall recently announced they plan to sell off the 137,000-square-foot location in 2006. This announcement comes at the same time that plans for redeveloping the entire mall are in the works.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "What would you like to see move into the large hole that will be left when Robinsons-May closes up shop?"

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

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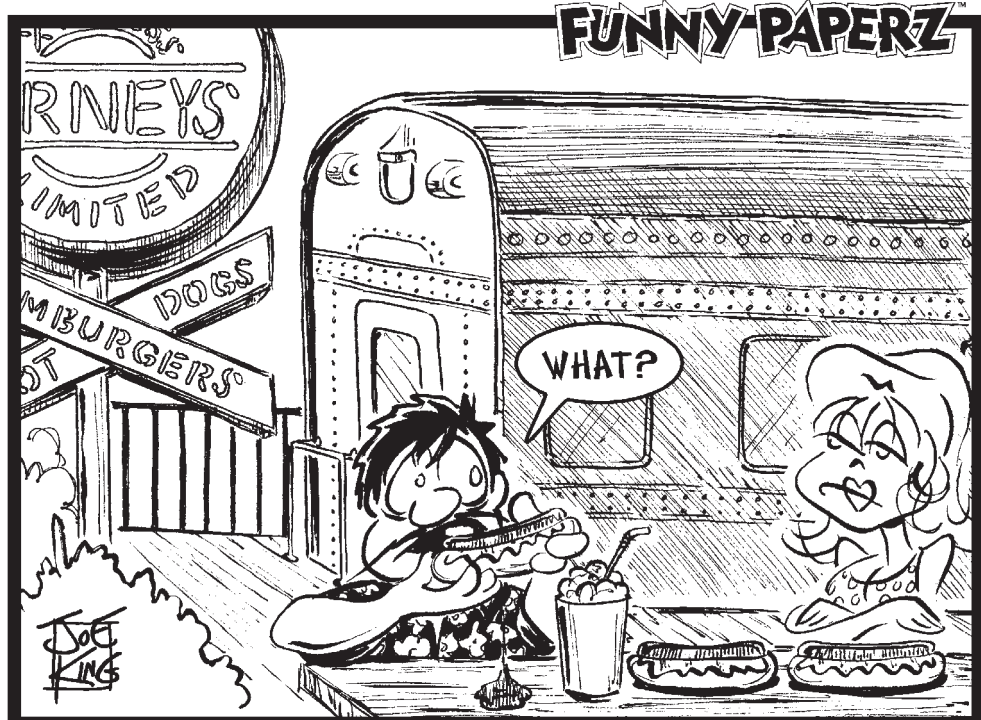
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OPINION



JULY IS NATIONAL HOT DOG MONTH!

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Getting married shouldn't be so easy

Editor:

Kudos to David Pissarra for stating what can't be said enough: That something needs to be done about America's skyrocketing divorce rate (SMDP, June 26, page 7). I don't know if his statistics regarding a higher rate of divorce in the Bible Belt are correct or, if so, the cause might be due to an increased numbers of marriages per se as opposed to other parts of the United States. In either case, it is not a praise worthy comment on us Christians and our success at marriage. I hope those who legislate such matters and those who have the opportunity to conduct pre-marital counseling will heed Mr. Pissarra's point that getting married should be more difficult and getting divorced less complex.

Sunny Kreis
Santa Monica

Sleeping modules a good idea

Editor:

I read with considerable interest the dialogue between Milton Billingsley and Randy Walburger concerning the homeless population in Santa Monica. Mr. Walburger's suggestion of making available an individual sleeping module has great merit. Such a module would provide homeless people both a safe place to sleep and shelter from the elements. The proposal to link homeless people with supportive medical, psychological and social services also has great merit. In fact, I see such a linkage as absolutely necessary in order to improve the quality of life of many whose current quality of life I can only describe as squalid, degrading and foul. Mr. Walburger's modules could probably be manufactured at relatively low cost. However, let me emphasize that linkage to supportive services, especially psychological or psychiatric services, is vital to interrupting the ongoing cycles of squalor and debasement that seems to characterize the living conditions of a great many homeless people. This would be a very effective expression of the love that Mr. Billingsley writes of.

Sterling Walters
Santa Monica

Armstrong's competitors make the ethical grade

Editor:

It doesn't seem to bother an Ayn Rand Institute writer that Lance Armstrong's seven successes are not related to achieving financial success in one's career (SMDP, July 26, page 6).

Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren wrote: "I always turn to the sports pages first. The sports page records people's accomplishments; the front page nothing but man's failures."

Andrew Bernstein is sending the right message to a naive audience. It is not a matter of Lance Armstrong, or any champion for that matter, inspiring youth, as winners and runner-ups are given, but the sportsmanship exhibited by the "little guys" who did not sabotage Lance's chances by swerving into him in all the seven races.

What I think Justice Warren meant is that athletic sportsmanship does not necessarily translate into work place ethical conduct. In the real world Mr. Bernstein, employed and private inventors, writers, many times have to resort to courts to regain ownership. So many of the corporate executives involved in the Wall Street scandals were advised by minions, who apparently were not inspired by Lance Armstrong's heroic wins since about 1999.

A great athlete like Lance Armstrong is only as great as the ethical conduct of his competitors.

Frank Muller
Santa Monica

More money will not solve homeless problem



It's half way through 2005, and the plague that well-meaning city social engineers brought to our community is still upon us.

Over the last 25 years, the city has spent tens of millions of dollars on direct services to transients. The indirect costs of police, paramedics, medical care and other related expenses would probably add up to millions more.

So, it was interesting to see Julie Rusk, manager of the human service division, acknowledge in a recent posting on surf-santamonica.com that the city funded "continuum of care" has failed the most chronic of homeless people."

On average, there are about 1,100 transients at any time in Santa Monica. City-funded homeless services enable hundreds of them. Example: OPCC's (formerly the Ocean Park Community Center) drop-in center offers mail boxes, sack lunches, counseling, clothing and other basics indefinitely, no strings attached.

Many transients refuse to take part in services although they take advantage of the daily food handouts provided by numerous groups and individuals.

Providing food handouts and free services, literally forever, without requiring some kind of response — such as being committed to getting off the streets — is nothing more than enabling. That's why we have so many "hard core" street people, many of whom have been here for 20 years and longer.

The city's "continuum of care" (called the "continuum of misery" by some transients) is predicated on the theory that people want to get off the dole and into productive society. Unfortunately, that theory doesn't apply to most of our hard core homeless.

It's been well documented that two-thirds of our transients have mental or physical problems and/or are alcoholic or addicted to drugs. Many don't have the ability to live an ordered life and would prefer the activity and adventure of "being a free spirit" on our streets.

I see no problem with helping people who will use the help they get. However, despite what our politicians insist, it's NOT the responsibility of the good people

of Santa Monica to save everybody who comes here from around the world because they can't get services where they're from.

Councilman Bobby Schriver phoned a few weeks ago. He was annoyed by a comment I'd written (SMDP, May 23, page 4) about his suggestion of hiring a \$200,000 a year homeless czar — a person of national reputation who would have the juice to work with other communities to ensure "they share the burden."

I told Bobby I didn't think it was Santa Monica's duty or obligation to pay someone to encourage surrounding communities to step to the plate. Bobby disagreed, then acknowledged that it might take more than a year to get something accomplished.

Jeeez! Does that mean we will be paying for a homeless czar for two years, four years or however long it takes to get results — plus expenses that haven't been approved yet? When is enough, enough?

In the meantime, the city added another \$170,000 to its annual human services budget for two employees to administer the "continuum of care" and add whatever new services or programs that cross their bureaucratic minds. None of this is going to reduce the number of drunks, mentally ill and antisocial vagrants on our streets, but it'll cost more and attract additional transients to our red carpet.

The real answer to the "vagrant" problem is as plain as the red nose on an inebriate's face: Reduce services, eliminate food handouts and use "tough love" on those who are here to freeloader, panhandle and take advantage of our hospitality.

If it's tougher here, the freeloaders will follow the course of least resistance and go where life is easier. Think of it. With our displaced transients hanging out somewhere else, those communities will have to provide services. We won't need a "celebrity" to convince them to pitch in.

Maybe we could take the money not spent supporting vagrants and do something good for this community for a change — like make it livable and resident friendly again.

Imagine the benefits if millions of dollars were directed annually to our schools, libraries or recreational facilities, or even to subsidize the increasing costs of solid-waste collection, wastewater and stormwater runoff.

One can dream.

(Bill Bauer is a freelance writer and longtime Santa Monica resident.)

Bitch! Whine! Complain!

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

The Q Line™

COMMENTARY



Why is Christ, but no others, now fair game?



THE WITNESS STAND

BY CLIFF NICHOLS

Why is it that many otherwise politically correct liberals find it perfectly acceptable today to slam Christians but not others? Publicly voiced anti-Christian statements are no longer an aberration in our society. Rather, they are oozing to the surface with increasing frequency, and it is disturbing. Has history not shown us that public ridicule of any particular group within a society often precedes its persecution?

For those who doubt that Christ, Christians and Christianity have been designated fair game for public condemnation, consider these recent statements made just the other day by a columnist in our very own Santa Monica Daily Press:

"It did make me cry when you realize the depth of the hypocrisy and ignorance and pure evil that parades itself as devout Christianity in this ... country.

"I recommend (a documentary about foster children being placed with gay couples) not as an escapist hour, but as a window into the black abyss called fundamentalist Christianity, and the culture war that is being fought by the quiet masses of unsung heroes who are just trying to live their lives."

Regrettably, such sentiments are not unique. Numerous others have been served up for public consumption elsewhere repeatedly and often just within the last year. For example, Princeton faculty member Sean Wilentz expressed his alarm that "religious fanaticism" has "seized control of the federal government."

Ex-seminarian Garry Wills wrote in the New York Times, "Can a people that believe more fervently in the virgin birth than in evolution still be called an enlightened nation?" In The New Republic, editorialist Leon Wieseltier said, "... the Bush ideal of religion (Christianity) is a zealous ignorance, a complacent renunciation of proof and evidence and logic and argument as if the techniques of reason were merely liberal tools ... Not all religion in America is as superstitious and chiliastic and emotional and dogmatic and political as this. And not all religion is as Christian as this." And, John R. MacArthur, editor of Harper's magazine, blasted both Bush and Kerry for proclaiming "their subservience to Jesus Christ and the Christian god, without the least concern about whether it might offend me."

First, for those Christians who do not feel those statements are directed at them because they do not consider themselves to be "fundamentalists," think again. The defamatory statements that are being directed toward Christians today make one thing clear: Those who would denigrate Christians do not make such a distinction — many, if not most of them, define all who are Christian to be "fundamentalists."

The first question that occurs to me is

why are such statements tolerated? Would not the exact same statements made about Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists or any other religious group, instead of Christianity, be universally condemned as hate speech today?

The next question then becomes what purpose is to be served by those making those remarks defaming all things Christian? Can it be for any purpose other than to work toward eventually marginalizing, if not completely removing, any influence Christians and Christianity might have upon our society? Are not such statements of hate and contempt made for the purpose of psychologically implanting in the minds of the general public the notion that Christianity should be thought of as a malignancy lurking within our society that should rightly be feared, loathed and, out of necessity, quarantined somewhere beyond some imaginary wall — a wall that Christian haters would argue should separate not only the church from the state, but ultimately Christians from the general public as well? To properly evaluate whether the isolation and removal of Christianity may truly be their goal, consider the following statements:

"It's a real conflict for me when I go to a concert and find out somebody in the audience is a ... fundamentalist Christian. It can cloud my enjoyment. I'd rather not know." — Linda Ronstadt, San Diego Union-Tribune.

"I am an atheist. I don't understand religion at all. I'm sure I'll offend a lot of people by saying this, but I think its all nonsense ... (Christianity is the result of) a lack of education. They haven't been exposed to what the world has to offer." — Television personality and columnist Andy Rooney who, interestingly, is himself only a few heartbeats away from finding out if he is right.

"Terrorism is a tactic, not a belief. The true battle will be between modern civilization and anti-modernist ... between those who believe in the primacy of the individual and those who believe that human beings owe their allegiance and identity to a higher authority ... between those who believe in science, reason and logic, and those who believe that truth is revealed through scripture and religious dogma. Terrorism will disrupt and destroy lives. But terrorism itself is not the greatest danger we face." — Robert Reich, former Clinton Administration Cabinet Secretary on why Christianity poses a greater threat to our society than terrorists.

The ultimate question then becomes: Are we of whom these public figures are speaking paying proper attention? If not, perhaps we should be. Again, has history not taught us that repeated public denigration of any segment of society that goes unchallenged often precedes its persecution? Consider the blame, contempt and hatred that was publicly directed toward Jews by Hitler and his minions in the decade preceding the Holocaust.

Regrettably, many Jews ignored the warnings afforded by similar hateful voices to their peril — a tragic mistake they determined subsequently would not be repeated, bringing the Anti-Defamation League into existence. Its purpose: "to

stop the defamation of the Jewish people" wherever and whenever it may occur. The axiom justifying its mission: Words of hate expressed today often lead to very serious and tangible adverse consequences tomorrow.

In light of the hate speech now being directed at Christians today, perhaps they would do well to consider the implications of this same axiom carefully. We may still choose to ignore the warnings now being issued by the likes of Mr. Reich, Mr. Rooney and Ms. Ronstadt ... but we will at least be aware of the possi-

bility that in the foreseeable future our decision could result in our peril. The wall beyond which those who hate Christianity would have us put that at present is only symbolic, could in time become very real, or so at least might history suggest.

(Cliff Nichols is an attorney practicing criminal defense/entertainment law in Santa Monica. He may be contacted regarding this editorial at either 310-917-1083 or www.cliffnicholslaw.com, or you may join his blog at www.thedailystand.com.)



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City’s general plan last overhauled in 1984

CITY REPORT, from page 1

kind of community Santa Monicans want in the future.

The new report also defines focus areas for further exploration during the next phase of the project, categorized as “choices.”

The planning department will host a community meeting from 6:30 p.m. to

8:30 p.m. on Aug. 16 at the Ken Edwards Center, 1527 Fourth St., to informally discuss and answer questions about the report with the public.

Public hearings are expected to be held at the Sept. 7 planning commission meeting and Sept. 27 City Council meeting, with staff reports available prior to each meeting. The report is available online, at all city libraries and at the planning

department’s counter in City Hall.

The report looks at trends associated with 12 broad-based “emerging themes” presented at the April 26 City Council meeting that were taken from a six-month public input process. Santa Monicans were asked what kind of development and transportation policies should be in place in the city for the coming decades.

The themes, not in any particular order, are intended to emphasize the need for Santa Monica to encourage traffic and parking solutions, strong neighborhoods, sustainability, diversity and safety, and to maintain a small-town community feel.

The themes were approved by the Santa Monica City Council. City staff members said the themes are a starting point by which they will continue to analyze information received from the public, and begin drafting new development and transit policies starting in October. The last time the policies were overhauled was in 1984.

Promoting a town-like feel will require City Hall to seriously look at streetscape designs, as well as height and scale of development, the report states.

Another theme aims to offer transportation patterns that work well together throughout the city.

The report states that “despite perceptions of massive traffic congestion, Santa Monica’s intersections generally perform well during peak times,” with only 11 percent operating at an “unacceptable level of service.”

Most of these constricted areas are on Olympic, Pico and Ocean Park boulevards and Centinela Avenue, along routes near the I-10, according to the report.

The report states that as the local and regional population continues to grow, increasing traffic congestion will be inevitable in Santa Monica, unless “non-automobile modes of transportation continue to expand.”

In addition to increased traffic congestion, another problem the city of Santa Monica may continue to grapple with is “the resistance in many neighborhoods toward significant volumes of auto traffic on their streets.”

To address such issues, the report suggests City hall look further into developing more below-ground parking, perhaps at city parks.

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Santa Monica officials are considering cleanup options

MTBE, from page 1

ly \$120 million for the cleanup.

City attorneys and lawyers who represented them currently are embroiled in a bitter lawsuit over contingency fees owed to the private lawyers.

The situation in North Hollywood, however, seems to be on the mend.

“This work is an excellent example of how working with nature, supporting the cleanup activities of organisms already present, rather than creating artificial systems, was successful,” said Kate Scow, a soil-science professor at the University of California, Davis. Scientists in a lab run by Scow and graduate student Kristin Hicks discovered the microbes strain that eats MTBE, leaving behind only carbon dioxide.

Part of Santa Monica’s settlement with the oil companies is the funding of technology to clean up the wells. Officials are considering their options, which include building a new water-treatment facility or employing microbes.

The contamination in North Hollywood occurred when a fuel station

operator leaked thousands of gallons of gasoline in the ground before going out of business. Groundwater MTBE levels were up to 100,000 parts per billion; the acceptable limit for drinking is 5 parts per billion.

Fears that it would spread to wells prompted the Department of Water and Power to shut down two of them.

The oil company Tesoro faced the prospect of buying property in a residential neighborhood and building a water-treatment plant, said Jeffrey Baker, its environmental remediation supervisor. Instead, it sought out Scow and Hicks.

For the past two years, Tesoro has pumped polluted water to two units at a self-storage facility, where the water flows through several chambers containing bacteria and carbon filters. MTBE is below the detectable level of 0.5 parts per billion after several trips through the filters.

This week, Tesoro began reinjecting the water into the aquifer. The new process will save 10 million gallons of water, which is enough to serve 60 families for a year.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

LOCAL



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Know before you go is a weekly update on construction projects throughout Santa Monica. Here are the projects initiated by City Hall for the week of Aug. 8:

Cingular lines

Cingular is installing telecommunication lines on San Vicente Boulevard between 17th and 19th streets. There may be detours around the work area.



Civic Center parking structure

Construction of a new 900-space Civic Center public parking structure located on Fourth Street, next to the Public Safety Facility, continues. Construction will require the closure of Avenida Mazatlan and the Fourth Street sidewalk. One lane of southbound Fourth Street is subject to closure while work is occurring. There also may be delays entering the Civic Center parking lot from Fourth Street. Use the Main Street entrance.

Electrical vault installation

Southern California Edison will be installing an underground vault in Santa Monica Boulevard at Seventh Court. There will be detours around work areas. Follow posted signs.

Gas Company main replacement

Southern California Gas Co. is replacing a 4-inch main on Ocean Park Boulevard between 14th and 16th streets. There will be detours around work areas. Follow posted signs.

LADWP electrical transmission line repair

The city of Los Angeles Department of Water & Power has begun emergency electrical transmission line repair at 2677 Centinela Ave., just north of Ocean Park Boulevard. LADWP anticipates that repair work will take several months. The target completion date is Aug. 30. Construction crews will work from approximately 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. daily. During construction, one lane of Centinela just north of Ocean Park Boulevard will be blocked. There also may be some impact to parking along Ocean Park Boulevard between S. Bundy Drive and Centinela. Call LADWP at 1-866-546-9997 for more information.

Main Library

Construction is underway on the new main library, located at 601 Santa Monica Blvd. There is currently no sidewalk access on Santa Monica Boulevard, Sixth Street and Seventh Street adjacent to the project.

Memorial and Los Amigos parks

Demolition of existing park buildings and construction of new restrooms, concession stands and storage buildings. Park buildings will be inaccessible during construction. Memorial Park is located at Olympic Boulevard and 14th Street and Los Amigos Park is located at Fifth and Hollister streets.

On-Fiber telecommunications lines

On-Fiber is installing telecommunication lines on 26th Street from north of Colorado Boulevard to Pennsylvania Street, and along Pennsylvania Street from 26th Street to Stewart Street. There may be detours around the work area.

Street and park lighting project

Work continues on upgrading street lighting with new fixtures and circuits. Construction for the project occurs in the sidewalk area and may impact pedestrians, vehicles and park visitors. Parking restrictions also will be in place immediately adjacent to the work areas. The work is currently scheduled to occur on Colorado Avenue between Ocean Avenue and Sixth Street; Fifth Street from Colorado Avenue to Santa Monica Boulevard; between Seventh Street and Euclid Street; Santa Monica Boulevard from Sixth to 12th streets; and Wilshire Boulevard from Seventh to Euclid streets; as well as Marine and Clover parks.

Seismic retrofit of parking structure no. 5

Seismic retrofitting is underway on parking structure five, on Fourth Street between Broadway and Santa Monica Boulevard, to bring it up to current code requirements and enable it to better withstand future earthquakes. Additional work will improve access for those with disabilities. During construction, the parking structures will remain in full operation, and plenty of parking will be available. However, there may be some added congestion.

Traffic signal upgrade

City Hall's transportation management division is upgrading traffic signals on Ocean Park Boulevard at Cloverfield Boulevard and at 23rd Street. There will be detours around the work area. However, the contractor will maintain at a minimum one lane in each direction on all streets. For information on the project, call (310) 458-4982.

Virginia Avenue Park

Major renovations at the park, located at the corner of Pico and Cloverfield boulevards, are expected to continue through fall of 2005. The park is closed. The project also includes construction of new turning lanes, traffic signals, striping, and irrigation and landscaping on Cloverfield and Pico boulevards adjacent to the park.

(For more information, log on to http://santa.monica.org/engineering/projects/kbug_project_list.asp or call 310-458-8721.)

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COMMUNITY PROFILES

PROFILES, from page 1

of you.”

Vautier, 39, has climbed mountains worldwide since childhood, when his father strapped a backpack on him at age 5. The mountaineer plans to continue his goal of summiting some of the globe’s largest peaks with a possible trip to the Himalayas, among other climbing hot spots.

Though Vautier is now a seasoned climber, he encourages even the most inexperienced to get out into the hills and give the sport a try.

“It’s like running; you put on a pair of running shoes, and you can run anywhere,” Vautier said. “Mountaineering’s kind of the next step to that. It’s accessible to anyone within reason.”

Vautier insists that occasional breaks from the humdrum of cell phones, e-mail and the nine-to-five grind are important in remaining productive, energized and happy.

The Daily Press sat down with the wiry adventurer at a local coffee shop to discuss his adventures.

How’d the idea of climbing Mount McKinley come about?

“It came about when a friend of mine was supposed to go on the trip, but at the last minute because of work commitments he decided he was too busy so I had about four weeks to prepare ... I went with a group called Rainier Mountain Guides based out of Seattle. When it started off there were 12 of us on the trip, and a couple of the guys got sick a few days into it, one of them because of the altitude, and had to be taken down, which is not uncommon. A lot of people get sick on the mountain.”

How’d you prepare for the climb?

“A lot of local hiking around the Santa Monica Mountains. I just strapped on a big backpack with the gear I knew I’d be wearing. I was training with a 70- or 80-pound backpack. I was able to use the local mountains a lot for my training. The best way to train is to strap on a heavy pack and put in the hours.”

How many hours a day did you train?

“Obviously I didn’t have all day, but I tried to get out a couple hours a day. I only had three or four weeks to prepare for this; it wasn’t a lot of time. But I think two things that really helped me were that

I have climbed a lot of mountains over the years and I have spent some time in altitude.”

Talk about your climbing experience.

“I’ve climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa, the Matterhorn in Switzerland, the Swiss Alps. I’ve mountaineered New Zealand, South America, done a lot of local climbing in California: the Sierras, San Bernardino Mountains. I was an adventure guide for UCLA for many years, and we led trips as far as Hawaii and the black canyons in Arizona.”

How did Mount McKinley compare to other mountains?

“It’s big and cold. We spent about 18 days on the mountain, which is the typical round trip. We had a couple storm days where we couldn’t move, we had to stay and camp. The way you climb the mountain is you take your time to acclimatize, which is really important so you don’t get altitude sickness. We would carry gear up to a certain level, dig into the snow and store it, then come back down to our camp and spend the night. So we basically climbed the mountain twice. You go up and back up and back up and back. It got cold. It went down to minus 20, minus 30 degrees. We had winds gusting up to 40-plus knots. We had some pretty intense weather.”

What does frost nip feel like?

“It’s when your skin’s exposed to the wind and cold. It just freezes down and turns white. You’ve got to watch out for the wind-chill factor. The cold temperature combined with the strong winds gets pretty intense. We had some white-out conditions.”

How’d it feel to summit?

“The summit day, we couldn’t see a thing. We had beautiful weather two-thirds of the trip. And then summit day, it started off with good weather, then the weather came in and totally clouded over. But it’s such an exhilarating feeling because that’s your goal no matter what anyone says your goal is to reach the top — but at 20,000 feet, you know your body’s breaking down. It’s hard on your body. There’s a lot less oxygen up there. It’s not a natural place to be for a human.”

Describe your fellow climbers.

“Sharing a tent with someone, you’re in really close proximity. You’re in each others’ space, you have to respect each

others’ space. You’re literally living on top of each other. That’s one way you get really close. There’s a lot of down time — there’s a lot of talking that goes on, so you just naturally ask a lot of questions, share stories.”

Talk about what it was like to struggle together as a group of 12.

“You see people vulnerable, and that’s an attractive thing. You see basic human nature. Climbing a mountain is a great leveler. There’s no status. You’re all even, you all have to carry your own weight. There’s a mutual respect that happens really quickly. It’s very different from everyday life.”

You said your guides warned that you would all be tested. How were you tested?

“I had a couple of days where I was struggling. There was one day in particular I was at the end of a rope team. We spent every day together and one of the most important things about mountaineering is you’ve got to find a steady pace, a rhythm. One particular day the rope team ahead of me was testing me. The pace was all varied and being at the end of the rope, it makes it that much harder. So I got up to 17,000 feet and was all out of rhythm. Literally you take 10 steps, and you have to stop and breathe. It’s pretty intense, but for the most part what helped me was my experience.”

What draws you to mountain climbing?

“I’m passionate about the outdoors because of the obvious beauty of nature and the scale. We were 20 miles from the nearest town, and you feel isolated from civilization, but at the same time you’re just in awe of this beauty around us. It’s incredible watching an avalanche coming down a mountain; the power is phenomenal. And there’s a humility about it. If you don’t watch out, Mother Nature will kick your butt.”

You recently got married. How’d your wife feel about this?

“She had mixed feelings. She was very supportive. She knew this was what I was passionate about, but it’s hard being away. We’re a fairly newly married couple, and I was away from her about three weeks. You miss each other.”

Do the Santa Monica Mountains even compare to the other mountains you’ve climbed?

“They all are unique in some way, but the Santa Monica Mountains I love.

You’ve got stuff that’s unique to this area in terms of high deserts. You’ve got the plants, the smells and the terrain. When it’s the end of winter, especially this year with so many rains, I loved all the waterfalls we had. You’ve got the beauty and the convenience.”

How would someone who’s had no experience with climbing go about it?

“The great thing about climbing is it’s really doable. It’s basically putting one foot ahead of the next. It’s basically walking with some weight on. It’s really easy to build up. You can’t climb any mountain you want, but a lot of mountains become accessible very quickly with a little bit of training. It’s just a matter of getting out there and doing it.”

Talk about the day-to-day struggle.

“Mentally there are moments when you have doubts. You wonder if you’re going to make the summit. You wonder if you’re going to make it through that day. It’s just a natural part of the process.”

What’s it like being away from the bustle of the city?

“I missed sushi. I kept fantasizing about sushi. That was the first meal my wife and I had off the mountain. But it’s amazing how quickly you get into it. It’s beautiful out there. That’s why people keep doing it. We wouldn’t keep doing it if it wasn’t fun and inspiring. That’s why people keep going back to the mountains.”

Did you miss the city life?

“You think you’re going to miss it, but once you’re up there it all becomes less important. It gets really simplified. That’s another beautiful thing about being in the mountains — simplification. We get so caught up in everyday lives. Things get complicated by virtue of work, friends, relationships, family. You’ve got a lot of things to balance so you’re stripping those away when you get into the mountains.”

How do you find the time?

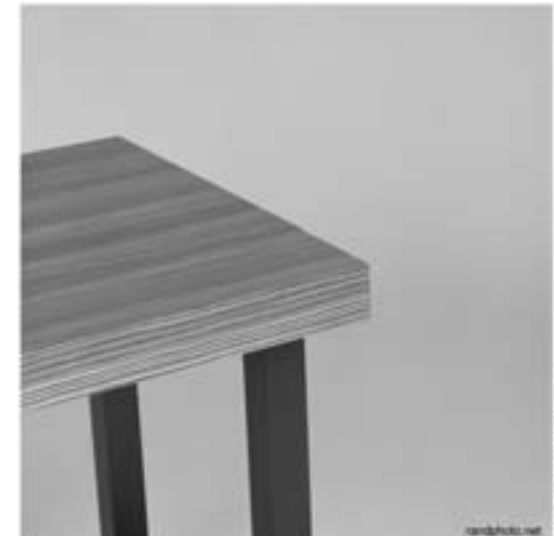
“You’ve got to make the time. It’s not going to come to you. I think it’s so important for everyone to get away regularly. I don’t think Americans do it enough. They generally work too hard. Most people only get two weeks vacation a year. I think it’s important to take regularly scheduled breaks to recharge. The benefits far outweigh the costs. You increase your productivity, your well being. You have to.”



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STATE



Opponents of teen abortion measure sue over language included in certain pamphlets

BY LISA LEFF

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Opponents and supporters of a proposed constitutional amendment requiring parental notification before doctors can perform abortions on minors have filed lawsuits challenging statements that the other side provided for the state's voter guide.

The lawsuits, filed in Sacramento Superior Court by Proposition 73's sponsors and by a pro-abortion rights group called Campaign for Teen Safety, specifically take aim at the rebuttal arguments the opposing group submitted for the upcoming ballot guide. In it, each group offers its view of the ballot initiative's potential impact.

The legal tit-for-tat is just the beginning of what promises to be one of the most hotly contested campaigns of the Nov. 8 special election. California currently has one of the nation's least-restrictive abortion laws, giving minors the same right as adults to seek the procedure upon demand.

Parents' Right to Know, the group behind Proposition 73, said in a lawsuit filed Thursday that it objects to the Campaign for Teen Safety implying the law would apply to "teenagers" when it would cover only minors under 18. The sponsors also want the state to strike language saying "millions of concerned parents" are against the initiative without data backing that claim.

"It is illegal to present such false material because it costs several million dollars for the secretary of state to produce the official voter information guide and in several languages," said Albin Rhomberg, a spokesman for the pro-amendment campaign.

Rhomberg said his group also wants the state to strike or amend a section of the other side's rebuttal claiming "these teens don't need to be put on trial," a reference to a provision of the amendment that allows judges to provide girls with waivers exempting them from the parental notification requirement.

Meanwhile, the Campaign for Teen Safety, which opposes the amendment,

brought a lawsuit Friday on behalf of two California pediatricians and a public health expert. The group said it had identified language it wants stricken from the soon-to-be-published pamphlet that is mailed to registered voters.

It objects to the phrase provided by Parents' Right to Know: "Over 30 states already have such laws, and their real world experience shows these laws reduce minors' pregnancy and abortion rates without danger and harm to minors," the disputed section reads.

The group argues that the parental notification law wouldn't reduce pregnancy or abortion rates while putting teenage girls at risk of botched abortions, poor prenatal care and family conflict.

"Frightened teenagers who have doors closed to them are more likely to take unsafe risks than get the medical care they need," said Dr. Michael Taymor, a Palo Alto pediatrician who lent his name to the lawsuit.

If voters pass Proposition 73 in the Nov. 8 special election, the state would join 32 others that already require parents or guardians to be notified before a minor undergoes an abortion. Abortion providers who do not comply could be sued for damages.

The proposed amendment contains a few exceptions for medical emergencies or to protect girls from abusive families; judges, for instance, would be allowed to waive the 48-hour notification period for individual girls "based on clear and convincing evidence of minor's maturity or minor's best interests."

Beth Parker, a lawyer representing Campaign for Teen Safety, said several studies have shown that California's teen pregnancy and abortion rates have been falling faster than in those states with parental notification requirements.

Hearings on the lawsuits are likely to be held next week because the voter information guide is scheduled to go to the printers by August 18.

Proposition 73 is the latest effort by anti-abortion activists in California whose previous efforts to restrict abortion access for teenagers have been blocked by the courts.



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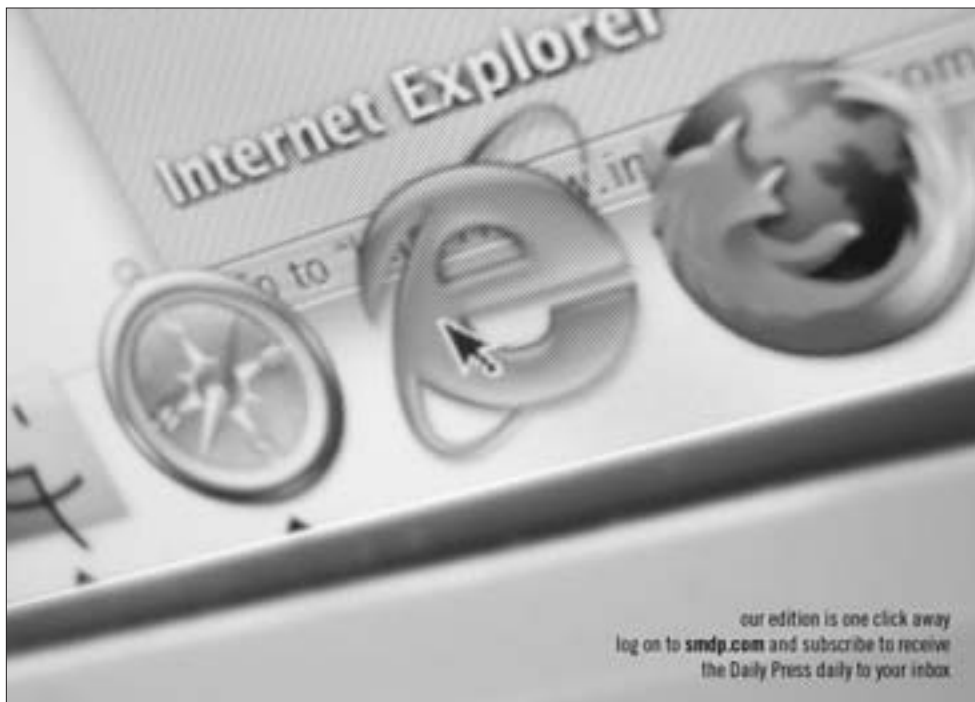
PANINI GARDEN-This authentic European eatery serves traditional Italian and French style food. Panin style sandwiches grilled on a cast-iron panini grill that seals all the savory flavors inside a bread envelope of your choice, from very soft and thin like the tramezzini, soft and crispy for the al forno and crusty for the rustico. A large selection of meats and cheeses, organic produce, fresh and healthy combinations of menu items to enjoy everyday have made PANINI GARDEN the local's favorite. In addition, delicious crepes are served all day, for breakfast or just dessert, it is always a treat. The setting is quiet in the lavender garden with the bubbling fountain. Hours: 8am-9pm Sunday-Thursday, 8am-10:30pm Friday and Saturday. 2715 Main Street, Santa Monica. (310) 399-9939.

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VIOLET-At Violet restaurant the atmosphere is casual, comfortable, and, like its cuisine, is uncluttered. Chef Jared Simons' flavorful small plate fare has something to suit everyone, from light eaters to those with a taste for a more robust fare. The Braised Short Ribs with Shallot Potatoes (\$14.50) melt apart while the Multi-Colored Beet Salad with Eel delights with Kumquat and Ginger Vinaigrette (\$9) and the favorite among the regulars is the Baked Macaroni and Gruyere Cheese with Serrano Ham (\$7.50). Unique selection of new and old world wines by the bottle, glass or flight as well as an impressive list of domestic & imported artisan beers. Hours: Lunch: Tuesday-Friday, 11:30am-2pm. Dinner: Tuesday-Friday, 6pm-10pm & Saturday and Sunday, 5:30pm-10pm. 3221 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. www.violetrestaurant.com (310) 453-9113.





STATE

AAA affiliate fires 27 workers for MySpace messages

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — The Automobile Club of Southern California has fired 27 workers for posting messages on the popular MySpace social networking Web site.

The association, a AAA affiliate, fired the employees in one of its San Diego offices after at least one worker complained to management about feeling harassed by the comments, which were written by employees on their own time at home, said auto club spokeswoman Carol Thorp.

She said comments were made about other workers' weight and sexual orientation.

"When a worker complains about harassment, you take it seriously," Thorp said Friday.

Thorp said employees were also dismissed because they discussed online how they planned to slow down roadside assistance at work.

"That hits right at our basic service," she said.

Thorp said the workers, whom she did not identify, were either service dispatchers or administrative support workers.

"This isn't a free speech issue," said Thorp. "You can't just go on and say anything about anybody — and keep your job."

MySpace representatives could not immediately be reached for comment. The site, recently acquired by

Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., features brash blogs and seductive photos within chatty Web networks. Nearly anything goes, though MySpace deletes nude photos and content "which may be offensive," according to the site's posted policy.

Thorp declined to go into details about the association's investigation into the issue, but said several employees used their names and posted their own photos on some of the messages. Others acknowledged their participation when confronted, she added. The workers were fired in the last four to five weeks, she said.

Thorp said the Automobile Club has no official policy concerning employee blogging.

"We may develop one now," she added.

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NATIONAL



Sugar high: Fresh, custom ice cream stores rapidly expand

BY MICHELLE ROBERTS

AP Business Writer

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — The executives at Cold Stone Creamery were looking to expand their budding chain of ice cream shops in the late 1990s, but when an auto parts businessman from Alaska came seeking a franchise, they were skeptical.

The Scottsdale-based chain had only tried its formula of fresh, custom-mixed ice cream in sun-soaked places like Arizona and California, said Chief Executive Officer Doug Ducey.

The persistent Anchorage resident convinced officials to let him give it a try anyway. The result: the best-selling store during the first 18 months following its 1999 opening.

"We thought it was sunshine or warm weather that sold ice cream, but we found it's just the right people," Ducey said.

The formula — the right franchisees and high-end ice cream — have worked far beyond Alaska for the aggressively growing chain.

Six years ago, the company had around 75 stores. It now has about 1,100 outlets in the United States and Guam, opening an average of one per day. There are seven Cold Stone Creamery shops in Alaska.

Ducey said he expects the fast growth to continue at least through next year. It will make its first significant international move later this year, when a Tokyo store opens.

The company outgrew its headquarters

and moved last month to a new two-story building, complete with classroom space and a training store, a lab kitchen for product development and a gym down the hall.

The growth at Cold Stone is happening at a time when analysts say overall ice cream consumption has been flat or down in the United States.

Over the last two years, ice cream sales at grocery stores have been down 6 to 7 percent, said Jerry Dryer, a dairy market analyst. But at the same time, Cold Stone and other players, including Marble Slab Creamery Inc. and Ben & Jerry's Homemade Holdings Inc., are adding shops.

Dryer said cooler summers in some parts of the country and carbohydrate-phobia among some dieters probably hampered sales. But people still eat ice cream, and "the dipping store is the treat kind of thing."

The new generation of dipping shops are selling premium ice cream, and lots of choices.

Cold Stone offers 15 base ice cream flavors, ranging from French vanilla and chocolate to more unusual offerings like ginger wasabi and fruit cereal — the flavor of milk left after a bowl of Fruit Loops. Customers then choose from dozens of different fruits, syrups, candies and nuts that are mixed into the freshly made ice cream on a frosty slab of granite.

After it's mixed, the ice cream is scraped from the stone and put in a foam cup or a waffle cone or cup.

Despite the infinite possible combinations, Ducey said most people develop favorites, and the Cold Stone menu includes some predesigned suggestions, which are most often ordered by people new to the Cold Stone choices. He said customers get braver with experience.

The average number of "mix-ins" is three, but one customer reportedly managed to get 17 items mixed into a single scoop, Ducey said.

Since each mix-in after the first costs more, Cold Stone customers pay a premium price for a scoop of the creamy confection. A medium-sized portion mixed with three mix-ins in a waffle cone sells for about \$5 — more than a half-gallon tub of ice cream at many grocery stores.

"I'm surprised you didn't ask about the price," said Carol Vance, when asked about her twice monthly habit of eating coffee ice cream with fudge and almonds at Cold Stone.

She and her husband experienced a little sticker shock when they made their first visit, and yet, they still go regularly, she said. Vance buys ice cream from the supermarket, but that's for her sons.

"I don't eat (ice cream) at home. This is a treat," said the 40-year-old from Yuma.

Cold Stone's high-end product with rapid growth in a relatively stagnant food segment has drawn comparisons to Starbucks Corp., the phenomenally growing company that made \$4 coffee drinks routine for legions of people.

Ducey, a former Proctor & Gamble sales manager who came to Cold Stone in 1995 and became CEO in 2000, said the comparison is flattering, and his ambitions for the franchise include making it the best-selling ice cream brand by the end of 2009.

The company can do that, he said, by continuing to offer fresh ice cream, plenty of choices and the experience of seeing ice cream orders custom mixed.

"What is the secret ingredient? The conclusion I've come to is the totality of what we're doing," Ducey said.

But Cold Stone isn't alone in making big plans.

Marble Slab, a Texas-based chain with an operation similar to Cold Stone's, has 350 stores and 135 in development, said Chris Dull, vice president of development for Marble Slab.

And Ben & Jerry's, probably better known for its whimsically named pints sold in supermarkets, has about 440 scoop shops in the United States and is growing at a pace of 100 per year, said Will Patten, director of retail operations for the Vermont-based company.

Harry Balzer, a food analyst for market researcher NPD Group, said because ice cream represents such a large market, there is room for new players to grab marketshare even if the category is stagnating overall.

"You are not talking about a niche," he said. "There's room to grab market share."

New general manager has vision for Pikes Peak railway

BY DEBBIE KELLEY

AP Press Writer

MANITOU SPRINGS, Colo. — Spencer Wren Jr. could be viewed as the quintessential tourist. Although he's ridden the Pikes Peak Cog Railway hundreds of times in the past few decades, the classic train excursion that ascends 7,700 feet, from Manitou Springs to the 14,110-foot summit of Pikes Peak, never fails to captivate him.

"It's still a beautiful trip," he said, "and it's fun."

Spoken like a true vacationer, but Wren is more accurately a tourist at heart. Named general manager of the Pikes Peak Cog Railway in February after working nearly a quarter of a century for the railroad, Wren regularly hops on the train as part of his job — and, he said, it's one of the best parts.

"Even though it's a train, it's an unusual mode of transportation. And you usually see wildlife," he said.

Spring and summer bring bears, elk, deer, bighorn sheep, marmots and birds within viewing distance of passengers who sit in enclosed, Swiss-built trains.

Wildflowers, aspen trees and plenty of snow greet guests in fall and winter. Panoramic views abound year-round.

Nature's glory has helped sustain the centenarian sightseeing adventure. Opened in 1891, the railway today ranks among the top 10 attractions in the Pikes Peak Region, according to Experience Colorado Springs, formerly the Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The railway shuttled 223,000 people up and down the fourteener last year. But Colorado's unpredictable weather can be a foe, turning a potentially brisk business day into a dud.

"On the days the peak is socked in, nobody wants to go up," Wren said.

July is the busiest of the nine-month season, he said. During summer, eight trains run at capacity: 2,200 passengers daily.

Since the cog railroad opened April 10 for the 2005 season, business is up compared with last year, Wren said. June showed a 6 percent increase compared with last June, despite nine days of rain. Wren attributes the boost to mostly cooperative weather and more travelers. According to the Pikes Peak Country

Attractions Association, visitor numbers are up 2 percent to 3 percent this summer.

Kitty Clemens, a longtime business associate who directs the city of Manitou's Economic Development Council, said she's impressed by Wren's creativity in tweaking the schedule to accommodate extra trains running on the same set of tracks to increase capacity.

"His also was one of the first businesses in the Pikes Peak region that figured out how to do real-time inventory management and take reservations on the Internet," she said.

The railway normally raises its admission price annually to match inflation. This year, tickets cost \$29 for adults and \$17 for children in the height of the season. The cost reflects a 6 percent jump, a little higher than usual, Wren said, because of the rising prices of two necessities, steel and diesel fuel.

While the ticket price may seem like it generates a lot of revenue, Wren said expenses are high for the business, which is owned by Oklahoma Publishing Co., which also owns The Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs.

Cog line costs \$300 for a six-foot section, and the nine miles of Manitou's cog railway require ongoing replacement, Wren said. The same goes for railroad ties, which aren't cheap, either. "The rising cost of equipment is a real challenge," he said.

Wren views challenges as opportunities, however, especially for the job he's yearned for since he started working for the railroad system nearly 25 years ago. He knows every facet of the field because he's done just about everything, including hard physical labor repairing the train tracks and serving as head engineer for the now defunct Manitou Incline. He also served as traffic manager for the cog lines.

"Spencer started at the lowest levels of the organization and has worked his way to the top through his attention to detail, regard for tourists who spend their dollars to visit the peak and his ability to navigate the myriad transportation rules that govern the running of a public railroad," said John Henry, a longtime friend of Wren's and spokesman for USAA Insurance. The business employs 20 full-time, year-round workers with 80 seasonal part-time employees this year.

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For Scouts, recent months have been rollercoaster

BY DAVID CRARY

AP National Writer

With a rousing presidential visit just days after a deadly accident, the just-completed National Scout Jamboree epitomized the recent tumult roiling the Boy Scouts of America — tragedy, high-profile scandals, lawsuits and dwindling ranks on one hand, but also a new wave of support extending to the highest levels in Washington.

To some of their critics, the Scouts are now a polarizing organization — determined to stick by policies that exclude atheists and gays. To supporters, the Scouts remain an American treasure, teaching boys from diverse backgrounds such timeless values as duty, citizenship, and teamwork.

“The controversies don’t flow down to the scouting level,” said John Eastman, a law professor who doubles as assistant scoutmaster in Long Beach, Calif. “They make not one whit of difference in how we conduct the program.”

The problems, however, have drawn the close attention of the Scouts’ national leadership, which is seeking to reverse membership declines, end a spate of scandals involving false enrollment data and tighten procedures aiming at keeping pedophiles out of Scout jobs.

Among the recent challenges:

■ The deaths of four adult Scout leaders in an electrical accident at the Jamboree in Virginia, and five other deaths this summer from drowning and lightning during Scout outings in

Wyoming, New Mexico, Utah and California.

■ Investigations in Atlanta, northern Alabama and Tampa, Fla., of allegations that membership rolls of some Scouting programs were inflated to boost contributions. A Scout official resigned in Atlanta and the local United Way held back \$250,000 after auditors found that nearly 5,000 boys, mostly black, were falsely registered in an inner-city program.

■ Lawsuits by the American Civil Liberties Union seeking to limit government support for the Scouts because they exclude gays and require participants to declare belief in God.

■ Several sex-abuse cases involving former troop leaders, and a child-pornography case in Texas against a senior Scout official who ran a task force combatting sexual abuse. Douglas Sovereign Smith Jr., who had worked for the Scouts for 39 years, pleaded guilty to possessing and distributing child pornography; he faces at least five years in prison.

The Scouts’ spokesman, Gregg Shields, said the organization is constantly seeking better ways to protect its boys from abuse, focusing on background screening and education programs teaching volunteers and parents how to spot suspicious behavior.

“Criminal background checks are not perfect and occasionally there’s a problem,” Shields said. “One child abused is one too many.”

Shields depicted the falsified membership cases as “a few isolated incidents” and outlined steps being taken to tighten

verification of enrollment data. “Some people paid for their bad actions with their jobs,” he said.

Yet Atlanta civil rights leader Joe Beasley said he was unimpressed by the Scouts’ handling of the membership controversy. “They’re trying to do as little as they can to get by,” said Beasley, who also contends that the Scouts’ national office lagged behind other organizations in giving blacks an appropriate share of top positions.

Shields disagreed, but said the Scouts don’t have a racial breakdown of Scouts or officials.

He acknowledged that the Scouts need more adult volunteers in the inner cities — and elsewhere. While the number of youths in Scouting dropped 6 percent from 2000 to 2004, to nearly 3.15 million, the number of adult volunteers plunged 16 percent — from 1.4 million to 1,173,064.

Shields said the Scouts want to boost recruiting in minority neighborhoods, immigrant communities and Indian reservations; Scout manuals now appear in multiple languages.

“But our biggest challenge is competition for a boy’s time, for a family’s time,” he said. “The issue isn’t homosexuality and atheism. When we ask parents why they don’t get involved, they tell us they don’t have time.”

Some critics acknowledge that the Scouts, for now, have weathered the storm that followed a 2000 Supreme Court ruling upholding their right to exclude gays. But Matt Coles of the ACLU’s Lesbian and Gay Rights Project

said the policy will gradually exact a toll.

“The Scouts took a stand in the culture war, and in the long run this will hurt them because they’re on the wrong side,” Coles said. “More and more Americans are accepting the notion that gay people are just folks.”

Scott Cozza of Petaluma, Calif., president of Scouting for All, expressed skepticism at the strong support for the Scouts shown by President Bush at the Jamboree, and by virtually every member of Congress in recent votes.

“Bush has the audacity to say no child shall be left behind,” Cozza said. “Those words mean absolutely nothing when gay kids and atheist kids are being left behind.”

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., an openly gay congressman, cast one of the “No” votes on a pro-Scouts resolution approved by the House 391-3 in November. The Scouts, he said, were “a very good organization” clinging to hurtful policies that would bar him from being a volunteer.

“I object to allowing them to use funds paid for by all taxpayers when they say taxpayers who don’t agree with their religious views can’t join them,” Frank said.

Eastman, the Long Beach scoutmaster who heads the conservative Claremont Institute’s Center for Constitutional Jurisprudence, contends that most Americans embrace the Scouts’ principles.

“Every year, I lead the boys in a local tree-lighting parade,” he said. “The fire truck, the police get applause — but the group that really gets the crowd to their feet is the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.”

For Hiroshima’s 60th anniversary, a moment of silence

BY ERIC TALMADGE

Associated Press Writer

HIROSHIMA, Japan — Capping a day of solemn remembrance, thousands of paper lanterns representing the souls of the dead were floated on a Hiroshima river Saturday near ground zero for the world’s first atomic bomb attack 60 years ago.

The annual lantern observance brought to a close a full day of memorials, ranging from official gatherings to a “die-in” and dozens of small-scale peace rallies.

At 8:15 a.m., the moment of the 1945 blast, the city’s trolleys stopped. More than 55,000 people, including Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, observed a moment of silence at Peace Memorial Park that was broken only by the ringing of a bronze bell.

A flock of doves was released into the sky. Then wreaths and ladles of water — symbolizing the suffering of those who died in the atomic inferno — were offered at a simple, arch-shaped stone monument

at the center of the park.

“I offer deep prayers from my heart to those who were killed,” Koizumi said, vowing that Japan would be a leader in the international movement against nuclear proliferation.

Hiroshima Mayor Tadatosh Akiba, an outspoken critic of Koizumi’s hawkish foreign policy, was more emotional in his “Peace Declaration.” He gave an impassioned plea for the abolition of all nuclear weapons and said the United States, Russia and other members of the nuclear club were “jeopardizing human survival.”

“Within the United Nations, nuclear club members use their veto power to override the global majority and pursue their selfish objectives,” he said. “We seek to comfort the souls of all the victims by declaring that we humbly reaffirm our responsibility never to repeat the evil.”

Outside the nearby A-Bomb Dome, one of the few buildings left standing after the blast, peace activists held a “die-in” — falling to the ground to dramatize the toll

from the bombing.

Though Hiroshima is now a thriving city of 3 million, most of whom were born after the war, the anniversary underscores the depth of its tragedy.

Officials estimate that about 140,000 people were killed instantly or died within a few months after the Enola Gay dropped its deadly payload over the city, which then had a population of about 350,000.

Three days later, another U.S. bomber, Bock’s Car, dropped a plutonium bomb on the city of Nagasaki, killing about 80,000 people. Japan surrendered Aug. 15, 1945, bringing World War II to a close.

Each year, the number of dead from the Hiroshima bomb increases because city officials add those who have died afterward of a loosely defined set of bomb-related ailments, including cancers. Officials now put the total number of the dead in this city alone at 242,437.

This year, 5,373 more names were added to the list.

Fumie Yoshida, who survived the blast

but lost her father, brother and sister, said she chose not to attend the formal memorial, instead joining a small group of friends to pay her respects privately in the park.

Yoshida was 16 when Hiroshima was bombed. She hid under a desk at her school, which was about 2 miles from the epicenter.

“My father’s remains have never been found,” she said. “Those of us who went through this all know that we must never repeat this tragedy. But I think many Japanese today are forgetting.”

In central London, more than 200 anti-nuclear activists and others gathered at Tavistock Square, where a cherry tree was planted in 1967 in memory of the victims of the Hiroshima bombing.

In the United States, survivors of the blasts joined hundreds of people in Nevada, New Mexico and Tennessee calling for a global ban on nuclear weapons. The commemorations were held at sites significant in the development of the atomic bombs.

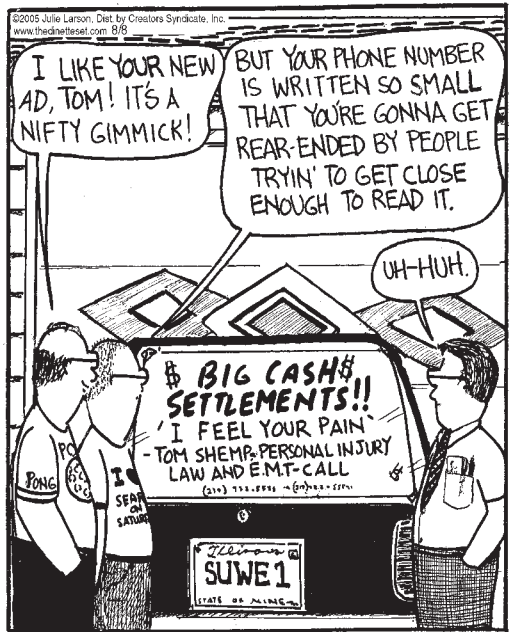


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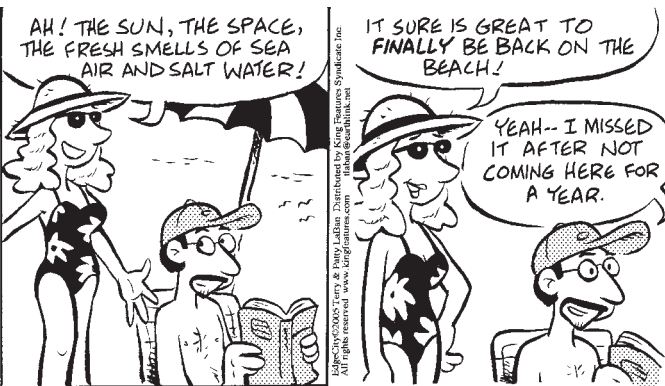
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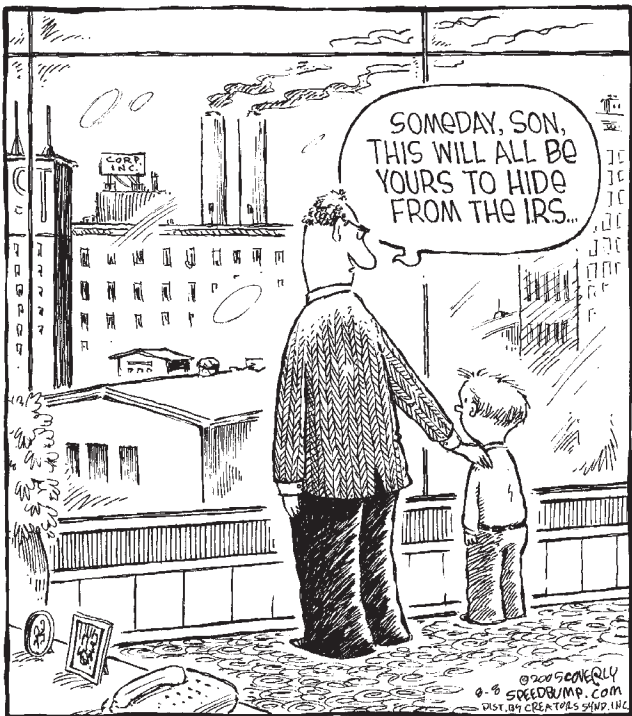
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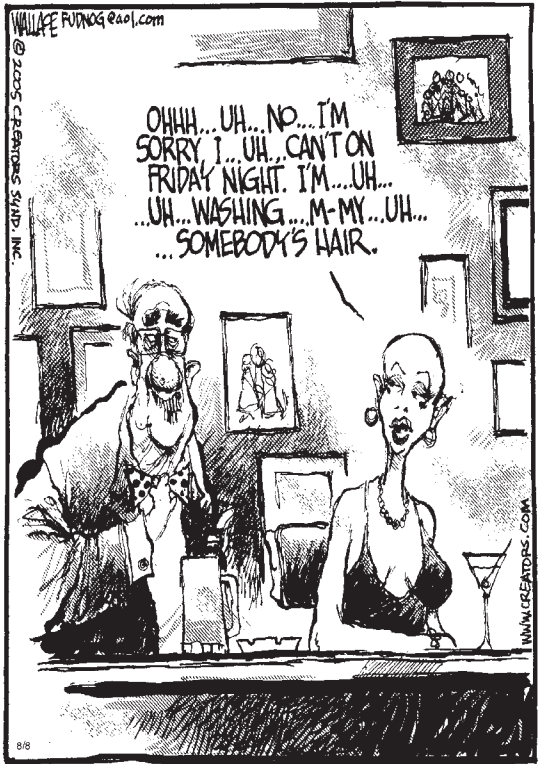


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- 37 Like some dorms
- 38 South Dakota capital
- 39 Diary writer Frank

DOWN

- 40 Forest makeup
- 41 New Jersey team
- 1 Professor at Hogwarts
- 2 Discover-ed by accident
- 3 As a companion
- 4 Locker-room speeches
- 5 Gaming place
- 6 Broad comedy
- 7 Make knots
- 8 "Lou Grant" star
- 9 Break
- 12 Farm machine
- 16 Crocus's cousin
- 21 Hardware-store sight
- 22 Quarrel
- 23 Parent's

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Saturday's answer

- 8 "Lou Grant" star
- 9 Break
- 12 Farm machine
- 16 Crocus's cousin
- 21 Hardware-store sight
- 22 Quarrel
- 23 Parent's
- 24 Actor Tracy
- 25 Ask for divine help
- 27 Snake feature
- 29 Cussed
- 30 "Lorna —"
- 31 Spy
- 32 Mine finds
- 36 Mine find

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8-8

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Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE Date of Filing Application: August 4, 2005 To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: M&Y SUSHI INC. The applicants listed above are

Notices

applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 2830-32 WILSHIRE BLVD., SANTA MONICA, CA 90403. Type of license(s) applied for: 47-ON-SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS TO PUBLISH 08/08/2005.

DBAS

3FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 1624064 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Admata Trucking, 1948 Fashion Ave., Long Beach, CA 90810. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Juan Elio Rodriguez Cornejo, 1948 Fashion Ave., Long Beach, CA 90810 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)7/11/2005. /s/: Juan E. Rodriguez

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 7/11/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 7/25/2005, 8/1/2005, 8/8/2005, 8/15/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 1481934 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Accentz, 11855 Goshen Ave., #201, Los Angeles, CA 90049. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Mahdies Khalatbari, 11855 Goshen Ave., #201, Los Angeles, CA 90049 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)7/11/2005. /s/: Mahdies Khalatbari

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 6/23/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 7/18/2005, 7/25/2005, 8/1/2005, 8/8/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 1668304 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as SPG Properties, 3121 S. Barrington Ave., #15, Los Angeles, CA 90066. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Paula Gill, 3121 Barrington #15, Los Angles, CA 90066 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)7/11/2005. /s/: Paula Gill
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 7/14/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 7/18/2005, 7/25/2005, 8/1/2005, 8/8/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 1588648 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Robani Stores, 43927 Glenraven Road, Lancaster, CA 93535. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Robert N. Hall, 43927 Glenraven Road, Lancaster, CA 93535. Anita S. Hall, 43927 Glenraven Road, Lancaster, CA 93535 This Business is being conducted by, husband and wife. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Robert Hall, Anita Hall
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 7/6/05. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 7/18/2005, 7/25/2005, 8/1/2005, 8/8/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 1589451 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Arcadia Fashion, 27, S. First Ave, Arcadia, CA 91017. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Jimmy Li, 4950 Robinhood Ave., Temple City, CA 91780 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Jimmy Li

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 7/6/05. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 7/18/2005, 7/25/2005, 8/1/2005, 8/8/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 1589415 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Mannas Parfumery, MLM International Fashion, 13501 Arcurus Ave., Gardena, CA 90249. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Veronica Manna, 13501 Arcurus Ave., Gardena, CA 90249 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)7/6/2005. /s/: Veronica Manna

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 7/6/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRI-

DBAS

OR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 7/18/2005, 7/25/2005, 8/1/2005, 8/8/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 1589467 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Nonora's Fine Art & Custom Frame, 4424 E. 7th St., Long Beach, CA 90804. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Ratanana Nonora, 4424 E. 7th St., Long Beach, CA 90804 This Business is being conducted by, co-partners. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)7/1/2005. /s/: Ratanana Nonora

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 7/6/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 7/18/2005, 7/25/2005, 8/1/2005, 8/8/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 1589491 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as G-J Trucking, 11245 S. Garfield, Southgate, CA 90280. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Gus Jaramillo, 604 N. Olive St., Anaheim, CA 92805 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Gus Jaramillo

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 7/6/05. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 7/18/2005, 7/25/2005, 8/1/2005, 8/8/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 1587087 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Businessworld-view.com, 15744 Hesse Drive, La Mirada, CA 90638. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Angelina G. Szeplaky, 15744 Hesse Drive, La Mirada, CA 90638. John Szeplaky, 15744 Hesse Drive, La Mirada, CA 90638 This Business is being conducted by, husband and wife. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Angelina Szeplaky, John Szeplaky

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 7/6/05. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 7/18/2005, 7/25/2005, 8/1/2005, 8/8/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 1600730 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Sin Miedo, Sin Miedo Clothing, Deportes Sin Miedo, 3613 Bell Ave., Bell, CA 90201. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Mario Steven Perez, 3613 Bell Ave., Bell, CA 90201 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Mario Steven Perez

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 7/7/05. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 7/18/2005, 7/25/2005, 8/1/2005, 8/8/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 1589470 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Cuates Trucking, 11140 Excelsion Dr., #1, Norwalk, CA 90650. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Jesus Delgadillo, 11140 Excelsion Dr., #1, Norwalk, CA 90650 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Jesus Delgadillo

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 7/6/05. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 7/18/2005, 7/25/2005, 8/1/2005, 8/8/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 1534297 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Tacos "Q", 10530 Long Beach Blvd., Lynwood, CA 90262. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Pedro Lopez, 10662 Everest Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650. Milagros de Jesus Alfaro, 10662 Everest St., Norwalk, CA 90650 This Business is being conducted by, co-partners. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Pedro Lopez, Milagros de Jesus Alfaro
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 6/29/05. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement

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