

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

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Daytime: 4 0 7

Evening: 9 6 0

DAILY DERBY

1st: 08 Gorgeous George

2nd: 05 California Classic

3rd: 06 Whirl Win

RACE TIME: 1:42.14



NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Author-athlete Sri Chinmoy sponsored an endurance race for runners in New York City in 1998, won by Istvan Sipos of Hungary, who finished the 3,100-mile course in 47 days (running from 6 a.m. until midnight). Four other runners competed on the concrete grounds of a Queens school, circling the facility about 115 times every day (only prizes: a trophy and a photo album). Said one runner, "To me, what the race is all about is the blossoming of the human spirit," but according to the wife of another, the runners are "nuts."

TODAY IN HISTORY

On Aug. 25, 1944, during World War II, Paris was liberated by Allied forces after four years of Nazi occupation.

■ In 1825, Uruguay declared independence from Brazil.

■ In 1875, Capt. Matthew Webb became the first person to swim across the English Channel, getting from Dover, England, to Calais, France, in 22 hours.

■ In 1916, the National Park Service was established within the Department of the Interior.

■ In 1921, the United States signed a peace treaty with Germany.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"The final lesson of history: 'Let's never go back there again!'"

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE
GERMAN PHILOSOPHER (1844-1900).

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'Slave' case rests in the hands of jury

BY GENEVA WHITMARSH

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM COURTHOUSE — A Santa Monica jury here heard closing arguments Tuesday in the case of a Filipino woman who claims a Sony Pictures executive and his wife forced her into domestic slavery.

Jurors will begin deliberations today and will decide whether to award Nena Jimeno Ruiz, 60, backpay and damages in her claim that James and Elizabeth Jackson brought her to the United States under false pretenses, then forced her to sleep on a dog bed and work long hours with little pay for more than a year.

James Jackson is employed as the vice president and assistant general counsel for the corporate legal department at Sony Pictures. His wife, Elizabeth Jackson, is of Filipino descent.

The lawsuit, filed in early 2003, claims involuntary servitude, violation of the California Labor Code, false imprisonment and invasion of privacy. It also claims fraud, assault and battery, and intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

Lawyers for both sides addressed hotly contested issues in the case, while Ruiz and the Jacksons sat nearby. Ruiz, dressed in a blue suit, looked down through most of the closing arguments on Tuesday,

The lawsuit, filed in early 2003, claims involuntary servitude, violation of the California Labor Code, false imprisonment and invasion of privacy.

while Elizabeth Jackson sat upright and seldom glanced at the jury.

Ruiz's attorney, Dan Stormer, told the court his client was forced to work more than 18 hours a day, seven days a week. Ruiz alleges that she got paid \$300 for the entire year she worked for the Jacksons. He also said she was the victim of physical and emotional

abuse, and was afraid to approach local authorities because the Jacksons told her she'd face jail time for an expired visa.

"What (the Jacksons) did was take away this woman's dignity ... so they could save a few bucks," Stormer said. "You can't give her dignity back, but our system deals

See SLAVE, page 5



File Photo

The city's forest could take on a different look someday soon, as Santa Monica's trees battle both old age and a ferocious fungus.

No sure-wood forest in SM

BY JOHN F. MULLER

Special to the Daily Press

CITY HALL — Residents who think Santa Monica's urban forest is going to just remain the same might be barking up the wrong tree.

The city forest, which includes some trees that go back more than 100 years, is entering something of a mid-life crisis. Around 40 percent of the city's

trees are nearly 40 years old, and the vast majority of the palm trees lining city streets are getting near the end of the road. About 90 percent of the city's Canary Island date palms are more than 40 years of age, as are about 80 percent of its fan palms.

"You're going to see more diversity (in the forest)," said Walter Warriner, the community forester for the City of Santa

See PALMS, page 6

Local Olympians test their mettle in Athens

By Daily Press staff

While two Santa Monicans have already seen success in Athens, another is still awaiting his turn to make a bid for Olympic glory.

Misty May and her partner Kerri Walsh captured the gold medal in women's beach volleyball on Tuesday with a victory over Brazil. May spent her formative years living in Santa Monica with her late mother, Barbara May, and her father, Robert "Butch" May — a member of the 1968 U.S. volleyball team. The family owned the "Hot Dog on a Stick" stand south of the pier and a nearby pizza place before relocating down the coast in Costa Mesa.

May, 27, entered the 2000 Sydney games but faltered in the quarterfinals, losing with her former partner Holly McPeak to the same Brazilian team she helped fell on Tuesday. As a child, she spent hours on "Muscle Beach" and at Will Rogers State Beach, along with her parents and early beach volleyball players who have since been etched in legend, according to family friend and longtime resident Bunny Olds.

May entered millions of American homes during Super Bowl XXXVIII, when she and Walsh appeared in a Visa commercial that showed the pair playing



Misty May

volleyball on a snowy beach and playing "rock, paper, scissors" to decide who would have to retrieve a ball from the icy ocean water.

■ Santa Monican Ronda Rousey went 1-2 and finished ninth in her first Olympic appearance in judo. The 17-year-old Rousey was the youngest player in the entire tournament. Her finish was the best among USA's women. The USA has never won a gold medal in judo.

See OLYMPICS, page 5

Jacquie Banks

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Tonight Treat Yourself, Libra!

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)

★★★ When all's said and done, you are the person who makes a difference and has an impact at work or wherever you choose to be today. Your ideas come from a logical place, though you might just be choosing to express thoughts you have been mulling over. Tonight: Follow your instincts about a boss or a must appearance.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Express willingness to do whatever is needed to make the grade, at work or in whatever realm of your life necessary. You are full of life, vivacious and creative. Express your uniqueness through your actions and thinking. Walk the least-trodden path. Tonight: Start making plans for a getaway out of town.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Your feelings are easily understood by a close loved one, partner or friend. Knowing you, you might feel the need to verbalize. You get support when you decide to do or say something quite unique and different. If it feels right, do it. Tonight: Be a duo.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Your approach to work and day-to-day life makes a difference. Even though you're frequently challenged, keep explaining your objectives. Others will respond heartily as long as you keep the lines of communication open. Tonight: Accept a unique invitation.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ You have the motivation to work as you plunge into your day with enthusiasm, ideas and spontaneity. Money — yours and others' — could be a point of discussion. Someone comes up with a wild idea. Buy a lottery ticket. Tonight: Do for yourself.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ You could be a snake charmer, with so much magnetism and allure right now. Just don't keep it to yourself. Focus on your desires, creativity and an unusual person in your life. Tonight: Show all the other signs how much fun you can have. Paint the town red!



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ A lot goes on behind the scenes. Either personal matters are involved or a crucial work decision might be coming up. Do research; go within to find out how you feel intuitively. You'll gain insight and note a forgotten conversation or detail. Shake up the status quo if necessary. Tonight: Trust yourself.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Aim for what you want. Others work with you to manifest long-term goals and desires. Meetings, calls and communication star in your success. Don't hesitate: Start talking about what you want. Tonight: You flirt!



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Pressure builds as others demand your perspective and maybe your help. Your finances need to be your highest priority in the decision-making process. You could be stunned by a family member and/or domestic issue. Avoid making any investments right now. Tonight: You cannot please all the people all the time, especially today!



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ The Moon in your sign pushes you to the forefront. You radiate, and others respond. You might be surprised by another's reaction. Carefully check out a car or computer before buying it, as much as you might want it now. Tonight: As you like.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★ Deal with money issues. You might not be ready to discuss everything with a partner or associate, but you need to. Openness is the only way to go with a trusted friend, associate or loved one. Tonight: Spend quality time with a special person.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ You might be more reactive than you have been in a while. When you see a goal about to be achieved, you get excited. Know what you want and where you are heading. Listen to others more. Tonight: Play follow the leader.

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Beans and bending: Yoga master on 'Coffee Break'

By Daily Press staff

Take a break today in front of the tube and learn more about how yoga and how aging can be combated.

"Coffee Break," on CityTV channel 16, will feature Robert Andrews, M.D., an ear, nose and throat expert, and Eric Small, a yoga master with special expertise in teaching yoga to people with chronic health conditions.

"Coffee Break," a health and lifestyle talk show for people over 50 years old, airs live on Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., on channel 16 in Santa Monica, and LA City TV channel 36.

Dr. Andrews, a board certified otolaryngologist affiliated with Saint John's Health Center, will discuss voice and swallowing problems people may experience as they age.

Eric Small, a yoga master at Beverly Hills Iyengar Yoga Studio, will discuss how yoga can help people with chronic illnesses such as Multiple Sclerosis. He also will demonstrate yoga poses that will help all viewers retain flexibility and strength as they age.

"Coffee Break," broadcast to 700,000 potential viewers, is hosted by community leaders and Saint John's Health Center vice presidents Paula Golden and Bob Klein. For more information, or to be a guest on the show, call (310) 829-6585.

Hurry up and relax

By Daily Press staff

Hurry up and meditate.

Santa Monicans can learn to meditate in just eight minutes. The "8 Minute Meditation" is a new book and program that Time Magazine calls "The most American form of meditation yet."

Author Victor Davich will discuss and teach "8 Minute Meditation" at the Fairview Branch of the Santa Monica Library from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. on Sept. 15. The event is free. The library is located at 2101 Ocean Park Blvd., at the corner of 21st Street. Call (310) 450-0443 for further information.

A day to heal in Topanga

By Daily Press staff

It will be a day of healing in Topanga in October.

Plans are underway for the first annual Topanga Healing Arts Day. The one-day event is offered by the members of the Topanga Healers Association in an effort to take a more active role in the well-being of the community as a whole.

The free event will take place at the Topanga Community House, 1440 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., on Sunday, Oct. 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Healing Arts Day will feature local practitioners offering acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine, hands-on energy healing, craniosacral therapy, nutritional counseling, polarity therapy, Reiki, Alexander Technique, astrology (western and vedic), Tarot readings, palmistry, spiritual counseling, zero-balancing, aromatherapy, detoxing treatments and much more.

The workshops, classes and lectures scheduled throughout the day are inside the Topanga Community House.

Call (310) 455-0652 or (310) 455.2402 for more information.

Musical performances are expected by Suzanne Teng and Gilbert Levy. Kritan with Andrew Behla and Miche'le Krolik will provide devotional chanting for health and harmony. Nutritious food will be available provided by Inn of the 7th Ray.

The Healing Arts Day was initially inspired by the events of 9/11 that left Americans deeply affected and in need of greater connection, comfort and support, event organizers say. Recent world events have left many people with an increased and ongoing sense of vulnerability, anger and frustration. The diverse group of healers in the Topanga area have now come together in an effort to take a more active role in creating greater healing and well-being in the community.



SURF REPORT

Look for sets of 3-4 ft., waist- to shoulder-high, occasionally 5 ft. and fair conditions.

Mid-week gets better at well-exposed spots thanks to a steep new, long period NW'er and some steep, intermediate period SSE swell from the tropics.

On Wednesday, the first significant NW(290+300+) ground swell we've seen for quite a while will be filling in. The NW'er was generated by a good looking low which moved into the Alaskan Gulf over this last weekend.

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

Today the water is:

67°



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	6:45	1.6	8:24	1.5	12:54	4.0	1:27	5.1
SUNDAY	7:18	2.1	10:03	1.2	2:13	3.4	2:19	5.2
MONDAY	8:06	2.7	11:38	0.7	4:31	3.0	3:28	5.4
TUESDAY	9:46	3.0	N/A	N/A	6:52	3.2	4:48	5.6
WEDNESDAY	12:47	0.0	11:35	3.0	7:51	3.7	6:02	6.0
THURSDAY	1:40	-0.5	12:49	2.7	8:28	4.0	7:03	6.5
FRIDAY	2:24	-0.9	1:46	2.3	9:01	4.4	7:56	6.8

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The Line

Election time is drawing near. That means now, more than ever, it is important for citizens to let their elected officials and those running for office know exactly what is on their minds.

It's your chance to sound off, Santa Monica.

So this week, Q-line wants to know, "What's bugging you? What issues

need to be brought to the table during this election season and what do you have to say about them?"

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

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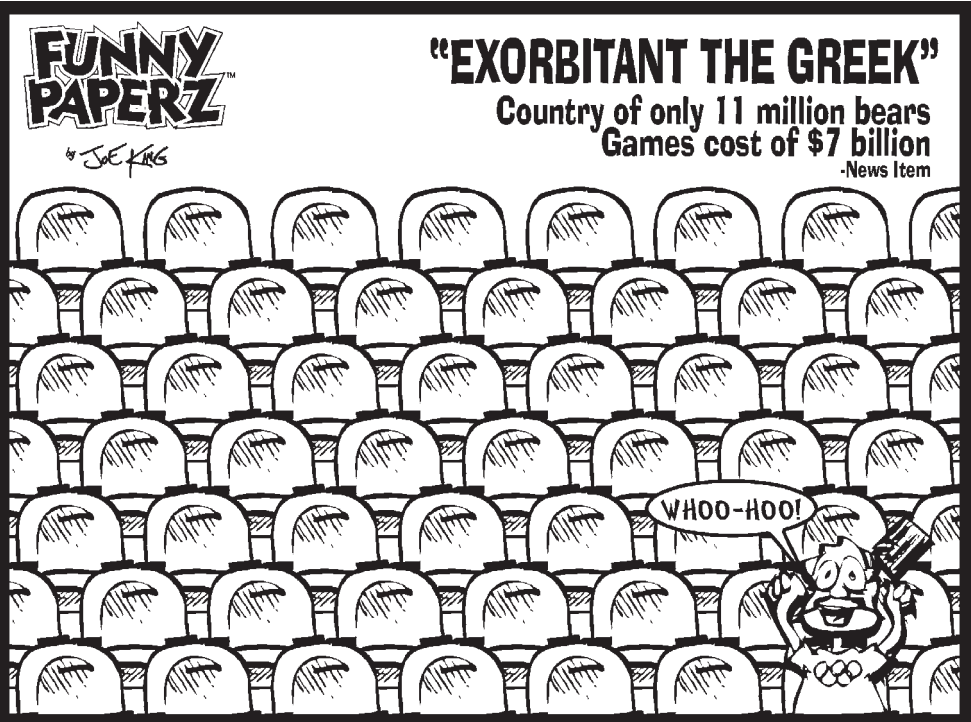
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OPINION



What if they threw an Olympics and nobody came? © 2004 WWW.FUNNYPAPERZ.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Officer Joe will be missed
Editor:
The community profiles take on Officer Joe (SMDP, Aug. 23, page 1) was a brilliant tribute to a man who committed so much of his time to the children, young men and women, and the schools that they attend within our district.
I only hope that there are equally able mentors of justice to provide hope to young people. The one point that hit home to me in his many directives of wisdom is that the school district needs to provide a mediary between the school community and the police. Then, groups like the Mothers of Justice and the PTA could make things work out. Is that possible? It just takes enough students, parents, school administrators and the SMPD community relations people to make it happen. Of course, it takes funding too.
Let's make the future generation know how important they are and help them any way that we can. Officer Joe did and let's hope there are more like him.

Nicole Picard
Santa Monica

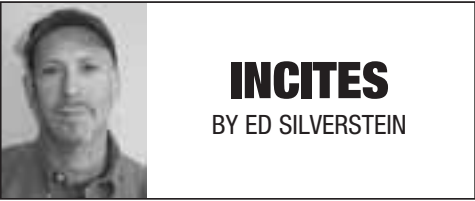
Band director coverage damaging
Editor:
Dr. Carl Hammer has been vilified by the Daily Press (SMDP, Aug. 18, page 1) and the local papers.
His case should not be lumped together with the coach who is also charged, as Dr. Straus has said, they are two very different situations.
Dr. Hammer is a fine man and talented composer and should be given the benefit of the doubt. He is innocent unless proven guilty. He has been a devoted father and I know him both as a teacher and father, and don't believe he could have done the things he is accused of.
Virtually all of our community is saddened by the charges.
I love your paper and its insightful coverage, but in this case you may have ruined his ability to ever teach again.

Joe Pundyk
Santa Monica

Power-walking grandma
Editor:
I was walking my little dog late Thursday evening north of Wilshire. It was so quiet, there was hardly a car to be seen in the street.
As I was approaching Fifth Street and California Avenue, I noticed some lights coming from the southwest corner. There was a little "trailer" parked there and I recognized it as a driving speed calculator. My 70-year-old mind simply cannot recall its proper name. Anyway, on with the story.
It was flashing some numbers so I looked around to see if there were any cars in sight. Nary a one, so it had to be "clocking" me.
It "clocked" me, walking, at 32 mph.
Can you imagine an old lady able to walk that fast? Isn't it wonderful? (Tongue-in-cheek, of course) ... end of story.
I hope my subtleties here get through.

S.G. Thomas
Santa Monica

Waxman: Public misled leading up to Iraqi war



INCITES
BY ED SILVERSTEIN

(Editor's note: This is the second installment in a three-part series of an interview with Henry A. Waxman, congressman for the 29th district).

SILVERSTEIN: Congressman Waxman, during the lead up to the war in Iraq, the president issued many statements which turned out to be inaccurate. Do you believe the Bush Administration was the victim of intelligence failure or were the American people deliberately misled?
WAXMAN: I think that there was an intelligence failure, but what is disturbing is that the Bush Administration intentionally misled the American people with information that they knew could be false ... One of the strongest arguments for the war, to me, was the idea that there could be a nuclear bomb in the hands of Saddam Hussein. And the evidence for that ... was the claim that Saddam Hussein was trying to bring in uranium from Africa. The president made this claim ... during his State of the Union address when he said, "According to British intelligence, we are told that the Iraqis are trying to bring in uranium from Africa." And while that turned out to be technically accurate, because that's what the British intelligence was saying, our intelligence people knew at the time that it wasn't true. And they told the president it wasn't true and insisted that the statement be rewritten ... so that it would be technically accurate. But it was clearly intended to mislead.
That's only one of a number of examples, and what we did was compile many of the public statements ... made by the president, vice-president, secretary of state, secretary of defense, the national security advisor and put out a document called "Iraq on the Record" (available at: <http://www.waxman.house.gov>) which brought all these statements together and showed how they are false and misleading based on what they (the administration) knew at the time.
... They knew there was no tie between Saddam Hussein and Sept. 11, that there was no tie to Al Qaeda. They overstated and exaggerated the threat from Saddam Hussein ... They were trying to find any shred of evidence that could meet their preconceived political goals of getting the American people to support the war in Iraq.
SILVERSTEIN: Would you consider yourself a flip-flopper for voting to authorize the use of military force against Iraq, then voting against the \$87 billion in additional funding?
WAXMAN: Well, I voted for the resolution to give the president the power to go to the UN and to demand that Saddam Hussein disarm himself, disarm his country ... I did it at a time when the president said he was going to go to the UN, had just gone to the UN, and I wanted ... Saddam Hussein to see bipartisan support for this effort ... But I think the most important factor that brought me to that decision was the possibility of nuclear weapons because it was unthinkable to allow Saddam Hussein to be able to blackmail all the countries in the region. We didn't know until later how false and misleading this information was.

I wrote to the president not to go to war unilaterally, that he needed to continue the inspections the UN had started and that he needed to make an effort to get the international community's support in any actions that he felt he had to take. So I felt at the time that it was the right vote.
SILVERSTEIN: You've launched investigations into the no bid reconstruction contracts awarded to Halliburton and others and the subsequent allegations of waste and fraud.
WAXMAN: I was concerned when I heard about Halliburton getting a no bid contract in March or April 2003, because they had a history of over-charging the government. We were told at first that Halliburton had to get this no bid contract because they were just being hired for a short time to put out oil well fires once the war started and that they were the best ones to do it. Well, I found out later that the contract was for more than that. It was for many years and many billions of dollars, not just millions.
We kept on top of this issue and found that Halliburton had, in fact, overcharged for the work they were doing in Iraq. They were charging twice as much to bring in gasoline from Kuwait into Iraq as the government agency that does the same thing.
(Audits) ... have come back from the Pentagon itself and from the general accounting office showing that Halliburton, in a number of areas, has overcharged the people in America. When you think about the fact that we've got young men and women putting their lives at risk and some of them don't even have body armor to wear ... yet we're overpaying Halliburton, it really gets to be obscene. It's what's usually called "war profiteering."
... Vice President Cheney insisted that he had nothing to do with the Halliburton contract — that he was not informed about it, that no one in his office knew about it and that it was awarded by career people in the Pentagon. In fact, the contract to Halliburton had been awarded by a political person. This fellow, Michael Mopps, told us that he was the one who decided to give the contract out, not the career government contractor people, and that he knew there were other companies who could've bid. So he went to a committee called a "Committee of Deputies," which included Scooter Libbey, who was the chief of staff for Vice President Cheney, which seems to indicate that the statements made by the vice president were inaccurate. The vice-president has not responded to requests for information.
The other interesting thing is we all were led to believe that Halliburton was in the best position to put out our oil well fires because they'd done it in the past. We found out that Halliburton was not involved in putting out the oil well fires in the first Persian Gulf War. It was Bectel. But they weren't even asked (to bid).
SILVERSTEIN: Is the mission accomplished?
WAXMAN: No, the mission's not accomplished.

(Shraddha Jaiswal assisted with the preparation of this column. Ed Silverstein is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. Requests for copies of this column can be addressed to incites@incites.net)

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

LOCAL



Domestic dispute: Jury begins its deliberations

SLAVE, from page 1

in dollars. Can it be \$1 million? Yes. Can it be \$2 million? Yes.”

The case “makes no sense,” according to the Jacksons’ lawyer, Jack Daniels.

“Does it make sense that Mr. and Mrs. Jackson — who never had a live-in maid before or after — would go through this elaborate scheme to bring a woman from the Philippines?” he said.

Daniels also argued that there is no proof of the physical abuse Ruiz claims she endured or the mental anguish she says she suffered since leaving the Jacksons’ home in early 2002.

“If you assume what she said is true, you have a split lip and a bruise on the head,” he said in reference to her alleged injuries. “There are absolutely no medical bills for anything my clients allegedly did to this woman.

“These people are dog lovers, when their family comes to visit, everyone joins in, and they’re taking care of (Elizabeth Jackson’s) sick mother,” Daniels told the jury. “They’re good people, and (Ruiz) is making them out to be some kind of monsters.”

The lawsuit alleges that Ruiz was originally told she would be coming to the United States to work as a traveling companion for Elizabeth Jackson’s ill mother. She was granted a four-month visa and accompanied the ailing woman to the U.S. in early 2001.

The two women moved into a cramped apartment in Sacramento, but Ruiz was later told that a lack of space made it necessary for her to live at the Jacksons’ Culver City condominium, Stormer said. Elizabeth Jackson’s mother would stay in Sacramento because she was unable to navigate the stairs in her daughter’s home.

The plaintiff’s attorneys say the Jacksons were simply looking for a maid and used the traveling companion job as a ploy to lure Ruiz to the United States.

How she was treated after arriving in the country is the subject of intense debate in the courtroom. The Jacksons say Ruiz was given a futon pad and comforter in the upstairs guest bedroom, while Ruiz says she slept on a dog bed on the dining room floor. Ruiz she was allowed one haircut in the year she worked for the Jacksons, was never taken to a doctor,

was prohibited from talking to people outside the home and was often given 3-day-old left-over food to eat, her attorneys said.

Stormer told the jurors that, by contrast, the Jacksons’ dogs were constantly fussed over to the point where Ruiz’s duties included cooking dinner for them, brushing their teeth and cleaning out their ears. An enlarged list of the duties given to Ruiz were shown to jurors.

“You’ve seen the demeanor of Mrs. Jackson in this courtroom,” Stormer said. “Do you think those are simply guidelines? They are not.”

Daniels said the Jacksons paid Ruiz \$400 a month, plus room and board. But subtracted money for phone calls she made and items they bought her.

“There are so many different answers to what she was paid, and they’re all illegal ...,” said Stormer, adding that California law states Ruiz was entitled to minimum wage and overtime, without deductions. “Either (James Jackson) is the worst vice president of corporate legal affairs in the history of a corporate entity, or he’s simply not telling the truth.”

Daniels said the Jacksons urged Ruiz to return to the Philippines with Elizabeth Jackson’s mother a few months after they arrived in the United States, but she refused. They had signed an affidavit of support when they initially applied for Ruiz’s visa and allowed her to continue in her home after the visa expired.

“They were trying to help,” Daniels said.

Law enforcement officials became involved after Ruiz approached a neighbor, Sandra Sheridan. According to Sheridan’s earlier testimony, Ruiz was visibly shaken and upset.

Stormer asked jurors to consider Sheridan’s testimony, as well as the testimony of her then 13-year-old daughter, who said she heard someone being physically abused from within the Jacksons’ home.

“The Sheridans, who have absolutely no stake in the outcome of this case, have said they always saw her in uniform, and she was always working,” Stormer said.

Ruiz is requesting unpaid minimum wages, overtime premiums with penalties and interest, liquidated damages, general, compensatory and special damages, and punitive damages, according to court documents.

Santa Monican to make his run at Olympic glory

OLYMPICS, from page 1

Rousey, who spent much of the year training for the games in Massachusetts, saw her Olympic teammate and training partner Jimmy Pedro take home a bronze medal. Rousey has recently been under the instruction of Pedro’s father. She left Santa Monica High School in the middle of her sophomore year for an online home-schooling program that could better accommodate her training and travel schedules.

Rousey’s mother, AnnMaria Rousey, became the first American woman to win the Judo World Championships in 1984, four years before judo became an Olympic

sport for women. Rousey first tried judo six years ago when she was just 11.

■ Khadevis Robinson will be looking for his shot at Olympic glory in the next few days. A sprinter in the 800-meter event, the 28-year-old finished second at the Olympic trials in the 800. Though he was born in Texas and attended Texas Christian University, Robinson currently resides in Santa Monica.

The first round of the 800-meter race takes place today, with the semifinals scheduled for Thursday. If Robinson makes it to the finals, he’ll compete on Saturday for a medal, earning a spot on national television in the process.

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Palm readings display a short lifeline for trees

PALMS, from page 1

Monica. "Different species are being brought in. When you think about the fact that about 40 percent of our forest is close to 40 (years of age) or over, when statistically the average life span of a street tree is 60 ... our forest is in transition at this point.

"We are looking at how we are going to rotate out the old, declining trees and bring in new trees that are going to benefit our forest and add diversity to the community forest as a whole."

Many of the city's trees are facing problems other than just old age. Some of the Canary Island date palms, many of which were planted along Ocean Avenue 60 or 70 years ago and tower to more than 50 or 60 feet in height, are suffering from a fatal fungus disease that has struck cities across the Southern California. The palms generally have a life span of around 100 years.

"Generally, once these palm trees are infected, that's it," said Jim Downer, the farm advisor in environmental horticulture and plant pathology for the University of California Cooperative Extension in Ventura County. "It's a one-way ticket to the dumpster. There's nothing you can do about that."

The fungus is spread from tree to tree by unsterilized pruning implements and remains dormant for many years before a palm becomes obviously affected, Downer said. It can also spread through the soil if a palm is planted in the same spot where the fungus claimed the life of another palm.

Donald R. Hodel, an environmental horticulturist at UCCE who works in LA

County, likened the disease — which is known as Fusarium Wilt — to AIDS. He pointed out that it is both an entirely preventable and an entirely fatal disease.

However, much remains unknown about the fungus because it has received little research funding and cities have not been forced to actively confront the issue, Downer said. With mature Canary Island palms fetching prices in upwards of \$10,000, he said research would be costly.

"(Cities) are in denial," he said. "If you have a really big problem and it doesn't evolve too quickly and you can kind of forget about it until it gets really bad, then you can deny that it exists, especially when the disease can be latent — that is, in the tree but not showing symptoms yet."

Warriner said the city has been addressing the issue for years, replacing between 10 and 15 Canary Island date palms a year for a variety of reasons, requiring tree trimmers to soak their cutting implements in bleach between trees to stop any potential spread of the disease. The city has also been putting in different species of palm trees to preclude new trees from catching the disease in infancy.

"We're not raising the red flag about Fusarium," he said, adding that the city has also had to deal with other threats to its tree populations. "Fusarium has been around for decades. It's something we've always known about, we've always had it, and we've always dealt with it."

As the Canary Island palm population phases out and a number of older tree populations continue to decline, the city will witness a gradual change in its urban forest, Warriner said.

Police seeking Wisconsin man in connection with camp deaths

TERENCE CHEA
Associated Press Writer

SANTA ROSA — A 21-year-old Wisconsin man was being sought for questioning in the mysterious shooting deaths of two camp counselors, according to law enforcement officials.

Sonoma County detectives sent out a statewide alert Tuesday seeking Nicholas Edward Scarseth, of Chippewa Falls, Wis. The teletype alert sent out just after midnight says Scarseth is "wanted for questioning as a potential witness."

"We have received information that a subject similar to Scarseth's physical description was reportedly in the Jenner area during the time frame of the killings," Sonoma County Sheriff's Lt. Dave Edmonds said Tuesday. Edmonds said authorities are still trying to find him.

Edmonds wouldn't say why detectives are interested in Scarseth.

Police stopped Scarseth on Friday in Fort Bragg — about 100 miles north of Jenner, where Lindsay Cutshall, 23, and her fiancé, Jason Allen, 26, were found last week shot to death in their sleeping bags.

Fort Bragg Police Sgt. Rogelio Orozco said Scarseth was stopped because he was skateboarding downtown, which is prohibited by city ordinance.

Officers ran Scarseth's name through a statewide database, which turned up nothing, Orozco said.

"He was polite. He stated he was traveling through Fort Bragg," he said. "We would've had no clue he was wanted for anything on Aug. 20."

Sonoma County officials had sent out an alert Saturday for someone matching Scarseth's description. Fort Bragg police notified officials in Sonoma County on Sunday that they had talked with Scarseth.

Orozco said Scarseth was last seen at a Fort Bragg coffee shop Monday and is believed to have left the area.

Cutshall, of Fresno, Ohio, and Allen, of Zeeland, Mich., were reported missing Aug. 16 after they failed to show up at a Christian adventure camp in Coloma, about 40 miles east of Sacramento. They had been working as whitewater rafting guides for the summer.

Their bodies were discovered two days later on a beach near Jenner, about 175 miles west of the camp.

Autopsies showed the victims had been shot through the head at close range. Authorities have ruled out a murder-suicide because no murder weapon was found, and there was no evidence of robbery or sexual assault.

Scarseth's mother, Karen Scarseth, said he was last home about a month ago and she last talked to him on the telephone about a week ago.

"I know he was in California somewhere," she said, adding she did not know where.

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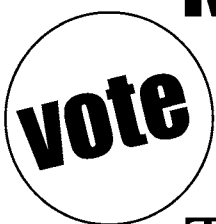


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STATE

Battle of water lieu: State faces new energy obstacle

BY DON THOMPSON

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — With state lawmakers again concerned about keeping the lights on three years after California's energy crisis, two new studies Tuesday warned that the real battle of the future may be over another increasingly scarce resource: water.

The studies by an Oakland-based independent research institute focus separately on problems facing California, and on growing worldwide challenges for businesses.

California's electricity and water shortages are related, says the first report by the Pacific Institute for Studies in

Development, Environment, and Security, in cooperation with the Natural Resources Defense Council.

"They're both particularly scarce resources here in California. A lot of people don't realize if they save or conserve water, they're saving electricity," said NRDC spokesman Craig Noble. Plus, both are at a premium during the hot summer months.

The report comes with Southern California in the midst of a multiyear drought. The state is setting new records for electricity use. And GOP Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Democrats who control the Legislature are battling over electricity deregulation and an ambitious plan to build 1 million solar homes, with a

showdown postponed until Wednesday in an Assembly committee.

It takes 2 percent to 3 percent of all the state's electricity to pump water from northern to southern California 2,000 feet up and over the Tehachapi Mountains, the highest such lift in the world, says the report entitled "Energy Down the Drain."

Conservation, the report said, is the best way to solve the state's growing water needs, not seeking new water supplies, building new dams or desalination plants.

The second report, called "Freshwater Resources: Managing the Risks Facing the Private Sector," warns that companies face increasing difficulty finding enough water to run their plants in the United States and around the world, and aren't

doing enough about it.

Problems include water cutoffs, scarcity, contamination and rising costs.

"These are multimillion-dollar risks — actually, tens, even hundred-million dollar problems," said Peter Gleick, director of the Pacific Institute and a co-author of the study. "I think the days of cheap, reliable water are over."

Like the California-focused study, the business report suggests improving water-use efficiency is a key alternative to simply seeking more water. California's water battles could be replicated worldwide, resulting in community opposition to companies' water use that could lead to plant shutdowns or disruptions, the report says.

Despite dispute, stem cell advocates raise millions

BY PAUL ELIAS

AP Biotechnology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Even as a recent statewide poll showed California voters sharply divided over human embryonic stem cell research, the campaign war chest supporting a controversial pro-research ballot measure swelled past \$12 million this year.

The burgeoning coffers were helped with a \$100,000 contribution from Sen. Jon Corzine, D-N.J., and a \$500,000 donation from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, campaign records filed late Friday night showed. The nonprofit foundation has now contributed \$1 million to the campaign in favor of Proposition 71, a \$3 billion bond measure that would sup-

port stem cell research in California.

Corzine, the former chairman of the Wall Street firm of Goldman Sachs & Co., is the current chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. Corzine's Washington, D.C., office referred inquiries to his political office in New Jersey, which didn't return a telephone call Monday.

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation chief executive Peter Van Etten said the nonprofit's second \$500,000 contribution this year was not connected to the Aug. 15 Field Poll results, which showed that 45 percent of the 534 likely voters questioned about Proposition 71 said they supported the proposal and 42 percent said they were opposed. Thirteen percent were undecided.

"In some ways the second contribution is confirmation of our confidence of what we're seeing going forward with the campaign," Van Etten said.

As a nonprofit organization, the diabetes foundation is not required to list its contributors. In previous elections, donations from such foundations have been criticized, as opponents said they masked the true source of the campaign contributions.

Campaign officials said they expect to start airing television commercials beginning later this month or early in September.

In contrast, an organized opposition campaign has reported raising a total of \$15,000, including a \$10,000 donation from Calistoga winery owner Judy Barrett. Barrett didn't return a telephone call Monday.

If passed, the proposition would dole out nearly \$300 million annually to support stem cell research in California. Legislative analyst Elizabeth Hill said the bond measure will cost California \$6 billion in principal and interest if paid off over 30 years, as is typical.

Many conservative groups, including the Catholic Church, oppose the research because it requires destroying days-old embryos donated by fertility clinics. Even though some scientists are experimenting with cloning for medical-use only, their work still upsets those who believe human

life begins at conception.

Backers of the initiative, which include business groups, medical organizations and 21 Nobel laureates, said the bond measure is needed to jump start a promising field left moribund by severe federal funding restrictions.

Campaign contributions reported this month totaled \$4.2 million and included a \$52,000 donation by billionaire home builder Eli Broad and \$250,000 from San Francisco philanthropist Bernard Osher. Billionaire savings and loan executives Marion and Herbert Sandler contributed \$1 million. In addition, Robert Klein II contributed \$258,000 this month, bringing his total contribution to more than \$2 million.

Campaign officials returned a \$50,000 contribution made by generic drug maker Agvar Chemicals Inc. of Little Falls, N.J. The company is managed by Agnes Varis, a major national Democrat donor who has given at least \$1.5 million to Democrat-supporting independent expenditure organization Joint Victory Campaign 2004.

The campaign declined to discuss the return of Varis' contribution, which was reported by the California secretary of state on Aug. 19. Varis said no one from the campaign has contacted her and she is unsure why her donation was returned.

"I think it is some kind of mistake," Varis said. "I can't think of any reason why they would return it."



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STATE



Genetic fight against grape-killers draws criticism

BY DAISY NGUYEN

Associated Press Writer

RIVERSIDE — Since the discovery five years ago that a ravenous insect was spreading grape-killing Pierce's Disease in California, grape growers have contributed millions of dollars to fund research projects they hope can end the scourge.

One project at the University of California, Riverside involves introducing genetically altered bacteria into the plant. When the bug — known as the glassy-winged sharpshooter — eats the material, it neutralizes the pathogen that causes the disease.

The technique, however, alarms environmentalists opposed to using genetically modified organisms, or GMOs, in nature.

In addition, some grape growers are concerned that even a slight change to plants would taint classic grape varieties — Merlot, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, for example — that are prized by wine lovers.

"Growers say it's a marketing issue," said Ray Van Rein, a spokesman for the California Department of Food and Agriculture Pierce's Disease Control Program. "Even if the solution becomes available in the lab, it won't make it into the field unless consumers find it palatable."

A major outbreak of Pierce's Disease was detected in 1999 when vineyards in Temecula in San Diego County showed yellowing leaves and shriveled young grapes.

The culprit was determined to be the sharpshooter, a half-inch flying insect that can suck up and excrete about 30 times its body weight in fluid from a plant.

Since then, sharpshooter infestations have decimated

vineyards elsewhere in Southern California but have been found in just a few spots in the northern part of the state.

In June, however, alarms sounded when a colony of the insects was discovered in Vacaville, about 30 miles from Napa Valley, the heart of California wine country.

If left unchecked, the sharpshooter could cause major damage to California's 880,000 acres of grape vines and paralyze the \$2.3 billion grape industry — the state's second-largest agriculture commodity behind dairy.

"It's put the fear of God in us," said Ben Drake, who grows and manages vineyards in Temecula.

Before the infestation, the region had 2,500 acres of vines, Drake said. That number has since been reduced to 1,800.

Pierce's Disease is caused by a bacterium known as *Xylella fastidiosa*, which sharpshooters spread as they feed. The bacteria infects and kills plants by clogging the vessels that carry water and nutrients.

At UC Riverside, a research group led by Thomas A. Miller has isolated another bacteria found inside the sharpshooter, called *Alcaligenes*, and is genetically altering it.

In the technique called "symbiotic control," scientists inject the altered bacterium into a plant. When the sharpshooter feeds on it, the bacterium can kill *Xylella*, said Miller, an entomology professor.

"The way I envision it, it gives a grower a tool with which he can protect the plant," he said.

The Environmental Protection Agency, which regulates most microorganisms, has granted Miller permits to experiment outdoors. So far, he said cautiously, his team of researchers have seen promising results.

"We've been warned by our sponsors not to be too enthusiastic too soon because agriculture industries are plagued with false hopes all the time," he said.

So far, the field tests have shown that altered *Alcaligenes* injected into plants were not detected in grapes or soil. Still, Miller concedes a lot more research needs to be done, and it will take time for the public to get used to the idea.

In a review of research projects targeting Pierce's Disease, the National Research Council of the National Academies concluded that such transgenic approaches may be a long-term, expensive strategy.

Although scientifically appealing, the report said, regulatory and legal hurdles along with public resistance to the release of GMOs would have to be overcome.

Meanwhile, state agriculture officials and growers are settling on a combination of tactics to fight sharpshooters, including using pesticides and releasing natural enemies.

Drake, the grower who also chairs the California Association of Winegrape Growers, has donated some vineyards for Miller to conduct his field test.

"I feel the research needs to go forward, and I think that as we move forward, at some point the industry has to address GMOs and everything else going on," Drake said.

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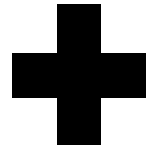
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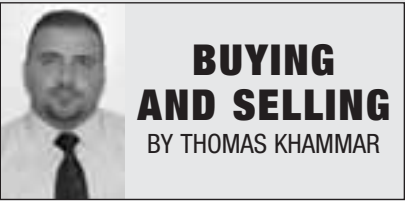
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**BUYING
AND SELLING**
BY THOMAS KHAMMAR

When you invest in the stock market, you are investing in other people's companies. You give them your money and they run the show. However, when you invest in real estate, you make it your own business. You are aware of how the company is being run, where the money comes from and where it goes. You are in control of whether you succeed at making money, or if you lose it.

When considering the pros and cons of investing in real estate versus the stock market, consider these fundamental differences between the two:

■ When you invest in stocks, you can build a hugely diversified portfolio of stocks from around the country and world, reducing your vulnerability to shifts in the market.

■ In real estate, you are tied to one property or type of property and therefore one market. You are putting all of your eggs in one basket, so to speak.

■ On the upside, real estate prices in general over the years have tended to be much more stable when contrasted with the volatility of the stock market. For example, over the past three years, we have seen the stock market plummet and local real estate has more than doubled. For Santa Monica specifically, the price of single-family homes rose 43.6 percent and condos rose 33.1 percent since June 2003. You would be very lucky to find a stock

As with all investments, higher returns mean higher risks. To minimize the risks in real estate, you need to arm yourself with real estate professionals.

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■ You can find stable stocks on the market. The risk is low, the return is low.

As with all investments, higher returns mean higher risks. To minimize the risks in real estate, you need to arm yourself with real estate professionals. Find a real estate agent that specializes in investment property. If you don't have the time to manage the property, find yourself a good, reliable property management company. In most cases, the realtor you have hopefully grown to trust can recommend one. Make sure to have both a CPA and an attorney who deal with real estate transactions available should you need them. Build a relationship with this team, so that they know what your needs are and how they can best help you. This core team will be your asset on your way to making it with investment property.

Why is investing in Los Angeles County profitable? In a report recently published by the California Association of Realtors, the minimum household income needed to purchase a median-priced home at \$469,170 in California in June was \$111,690, based on an average effective mortgage interest rate of 6.01 percent and assuming a 20 percent down payment. The percentage of Los Angeles County households capable of making this purchase is

17 percent. That means there are going to be a lot of renters.

Before you decide to purchase a property, you need to decide what your goals are for this investment. For example, do you want to "flip" properties for a quick buck or have long-term income from them? Discuss these goals with your core team and create a clear strategy for making it work.

Here are a few tips:

■ Decide what your comfort level is with the income you generate from the property. Is a 10 percent return acceptable or do you need a higher percentage to cover the time and energy that you put into this business? Stick to this number.

■ When figuring the income, be sure to consider all related expenses as well. There is more to it than mortgage and rents. Your real estate agent can help you develop an estimated budget before you buy if you review the financials of the building.

■ Keeping your property in tip-top condition is critical to tenant retention, as well as to maintaining your property values. To do this successfully, you'll need to budget annually and you'll need to plan ahead to keep from being caught unprepared.

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Address	LP	BR	BA	#U	SF	LSZ	YB	DOM	LD	ST	SP	MLS
3407 PEARL ST	\$819,000	3	2.00		1,543	5,772	1938	135	03/05/04	08/24/04	\$809,000	04-051866
14TH ST	\$2,150,000	3	2.00		2,200	7,500	1926	32	05/20/04	08/20/04	\$2,025,000	04-067786
2229 23RD ST	\$895,000	3	2.00		0	6,750	1926	43	05/20/04	08/16/04	\$895,000	04-067948
2443 4TH ST	\$1,295,000	2	2.00		1,468	6,400	1911	35	05/19/04	08/17/04	\$1,390,000	04-068088
233 22ND ST	\$2,495,000	5	3.50		3,325	7,550	1940	28	06/16/04	08/20/04	\$2,400,000	04-074812
504 E CHANNEL RD	\$1,895,000	4	4.50		3,285	6,800	1980	33	06/03/04	08/17/04	\$1,850,000	04-070916
347 10TH ST	\$2,995,000	6	6.00		4,995	7,500	1988	19	07/23/04	08/24/04	\$3,050,000	04-083256
901 10TH ST #202	\$475,000	1	1.00	34	1,022	0	1970	36	06/03/04	08/18/04	\$477,000	04-071542
2618 MONTANA AVE #3	\$739,000	2	2.00	3	1,207	0	1986	30	06/14/04	08/18/04	\$850,000	04-073594
721 CEDAR ST #B	\$679,000	3	2.00	10	1,480	0	1968	15	06/17/04	08/17/04	\$659,000	04-074484
9TH ST #3	\$595,000	2	2.00	7	1,210	0	1988	22	06/21/04	08/19/04	\$550,000	04-075328
10TH ST #103	\$999,000	2	2.50	5	0	0	2001	16	06/21/04	08/17/04	\$990,000	04-075544
2940 NEILSON WAY #103	\$749,000	2	2.00		144	0	0	29	06/21/04	08/16/04	\$729,000	04-075818
2950 NEILSON #207	\$710,000	2	2.00	144	1,305	0	1980	18	06/25/04	08/16/04	\$699,000	04-078560
2329 KANSAS AVE #9	\$425,000	1	1.00		9	0	0	0	07/06/04	08/23/04	\$425,000	04-078832
933 17TH ST #5	\$776,000	3	2.50	13	1,637	0	1972	9	07/07/04	08/19/04	\$805,000	04-078936
1220 YALE ST #5	\$899,000	3	2.50	10	1,866	0	1997	14	05/24/04	08/17/04	\$955,000	04-068822
101 OCEAN AVE #B200	\$2,550,000	2	3.00	59	2,902	0	1963	19	05/27/04	08/24/04	\$2,200,000	04-069420
933 15TH ST #E	\$1,095,000	2	2.50	5	0	0	2000	14	05/21/04	08/18/04	\$1,127,000	04-069582
1440 23RD ST #222	\$439,000	2	2.00	59	966	0	1973	8	06/02/04	08/18/04	\$460,000	04-070640
1137 26TH ST #A	\$399,000	1	1.00	24	630	0	1948	50	06/02/04	08/23/04	\$395,000	04-070668
1044 19TH ST #5	\$650,000	3	2.50	6	1,321	0	1971	49	05/06/04	08/17/04	\$640,000	04-064158
2306 6TH ST	\$699,000	2	2.00	10	0	0	1963	23	05/13/04	08/18/04	\$660,000	04-066016
1048 9TH ST #9	\$399,000	2	1.75	9	1,068	0	1969	49	05/18/04	08/16/04	\$399,000	04-067568
3032 EXPOSITION BL	\$675,000	0.00	3		1,495	4,996	1953	21	04/26/04	08/20/04	\$675,000	04-061852
1335 PALSADES BEACH RD	\$1,400,000	0.00	0		2,496	108			03/01/04	08/18/04	\$1,350,000	04-051282
1333 PALSADES BEACH RD	\$1,400,000	0.00	0		2,496	108			03/01/04	08/18/04	\$1,350,000	04-051290
201 OCEAN AVE #B405	\$2,600	1	1.00	317	0	300	1971	9	08/07/04	08/16/04	\$2,600	04-086784
1717 IDAHO AVE	\$1,400	0	1.00	7	452	7,500	1930	7	08/11/04	08/18/04	\$1,400	04-087642
425 MARINE ST #2	\$2,600	2	1.50	6	1,402	0	1975	43	07/07/04	08/19/04	\$2,600	04-079616
2020 DELAWARE AVE #4	\$2,400	3	3.00	8	1,452	1,354	1981	41	07/12/04	08/22/04	\$2,400	04-080066
201 OCEAN AVE #P401	\$5,500	2	3.00	317	0	300	1971	35	07/13/04	08/17/04	\$5,500	04-080600
127 WADSWORTH AVE	\$8,500	4	3.00	1	2,364	2,940	1953	40	07/11/04	08/20/04	\$11,500	04-080690
712 ASHLAND AVE	\$2,700	2	1.00	0	1,028	5,497	1923	33	07/22/04	08/24/04	\$2,700	04-082992
714 16TH ST	\$4,790	3	1.75	0	0	0	1927	19	07/30/04	08/18/04	\$4,789	04-084958
1119 LINCOLN BL #6	\$1,400	1	1.00	10	631	744	1968	21	07/30/04	08/20/04	\$1,400	04-085052
1814 10TH ST #4	\$2,575	3	2.50	5	0	7,497	1962	15	08/03/04	08/18/04	\$2,575	04-085814
448 14TH ST	\$4,900	3	2.00	0	0	7,500	1924	15	08/05/04	08/20/04	\$5,200	04-086644
1427 14TH ST	\$1,275	1	1.00	14	0	7,497	1921	11	08/06/04	08/17/04	\$1,275	04-086742

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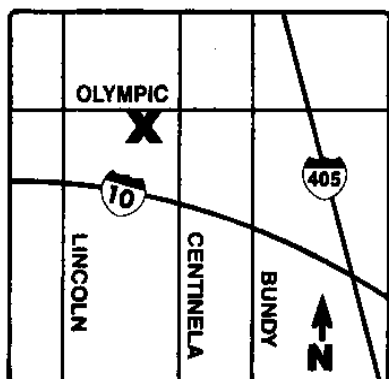
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To the letter: Columnist shares readers' responses



DAYS ON THE MARKET

BY JODI SUMMERS

We've had tremendous feedback to our landmarks series over the past month.

Of all the calls and letters we've received, perhaps the most interesting was the following letter from Bill Bauer, offering a memoir of the effort to save the Santa Monica Pier. We've also thrown in a celebrity letter for good measure.

Dear Jodi,

"I'm writing all this because nobody gets the history of the 'Save the Piers' movement right. It's a slight to the many people who worked very hard and gave money to 'Save the Piers' to see other organizations that were not involved take credit.

In early 1973, the Santa Monica City Council voted to demolish the Santa Monica Pier(s) in order to build a 'bridge' to an artificial island proposed for the Santa Monica Bay. The island to be constructed near the present breakwater would have featured a hotel and convention center. The project with the work of then City Manager Perry Scott and supported by the Chamber of Commerce, as well as the real estate interest- and developer-dominated City Council.

Public backlash against the proposal scuttled the plan however, the majority on City Council did not rescind the demolition order for the Santa Monica Pier and adjoining Newcomb Pier. A number of citizens groups sprang up to defend the piers. The two largest were 'Save the Piers Citizen Committee' and 'Friends of Santa Monica Pier.'

Both committees, and other groups, pier businesses and individuals targeted three councilmen who steadfastly refused to budge on the demolition order and who were up for reelection in the spring. (One of these councilmen was Bob Gabriel). All three were defeated and three pro-pier councilmen were elected. Their first order of business was to rescind the demolition orders.

Some of us (and I was associated with the STPCC) were concerned that a future City Council could vote to remove the piers so we asked the new council persons to enact an ordinance making it a crime with fines for anyone to tear down the pier(s). They were reluctant to pass the ordinance so a group of us got together, and architect Garth Sheriff and others drafted an initiative called the "Pier Preservation Act."

The initiative went on the ballot in 1975 or 1976. A group was formed, collected signatures and qualified the proposal for the ballot in 1975 or 1976. The group made up of persons from both the old 'Save the Piers' and 'Friends ...' was called 'The Citizen's Initiative to Preserve the Piers' and the ballot measure was Prop 1. Our slogan: "Save the Piers, FOREVER." I managed the campaign for passage of Prop. 1 and it passed easily.

Some of us went on to form a group called the "Santa Monica Landmark Protectors." The group was formed by the late Jack Sikking. Our first mission was to save the old Spanish Revival style city library on Fifth Street and Santa Monica Boulevard. The city had opened a new

library building at Sixth Street and Santa Monica Boulevard. (Also since demolished). The city moved the library there and sold the old property. That property had been purchased by a developer who wanted to put up a 10-story bank building with an above ground parking structure toward the rear along Fifth Street. He claimed the old library had been irreparably damaged by the 1971 Sylmar earthquake. We failed to save it, it was demolished and I think Cal Fed has the property now.

I dropped out of the 'Landmark Protectors' at that point. It's possible that others went on to become involved in Santa Monica's landmark movement. Some of our people became involved in a movement to divide the city into councilmanic districts, which failed. That led to the creation of the renters rights movement in 1978-1979.

'Save the Santa Monica Bay' had nothing to do with the piers. It was formed in (I believe) the early 1970s to fight an elevated, over the water, multi-lane, vehicular causeway Cal Trans wanted to build right off the coast to extend the Santa Monica Freeway up to Malibu. That project was killed and, "Save the Bay" hung around for years afterwards doing the kind of work "Heal the Bay" does now."

— Bill Bauer, former SMDP columnist

Dear Jodi,

"I love the articles in the Daily Press that you're doing about historical places. It's just charming, however there's a misprint about the Georgian Hotel. It was never called the Lady Windemere. The Lady Windemere was next door, and was torn down and is now Pacific Plaza. I know this because my husband, architect John Lindsey, used to own the Lady Windemere, and tore it down and put up Pacific Plaza.

It's a marvelous column. I think it's a great idea. And congratulations to you, this is just a great page."

— June Lockhart, actress, *Lost In Space*; *Lassie* and *Petticoat Junction*

Dear Jodi,

"Thanks for the terrific six-part series on historical properties in Santa Monica. I've collected the whole set (first one on the block) and can plan my own walking tour. A number of these in the Third Street District I've actually walked past (though I now can relook with information on many of them). For a future installment, why not consider the Masonic Lodge on the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and 10th Street? We live behind it and consider it "our" building, though we only shop there on occasion. Sorry, we don't have any info or stories about it for you. As for the Third Street District, I've mentally "taken home" at least several houses. Thank you for this enlightening edition to our paper this summer."

— Chris Swanson

(If you have stories to tell of early Santa Monica and its property, share them with Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call (310) 309-4219).

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Los Angeles Basin market: You can't touch this



IN YOUR SPACE

BY CHRISTINA S. PORTER

The Los Angeles Basin retail market is hot. Demand from tenants to lease space is strong. And investors looking to buy retail properties is exceptionally strong. Vacancy rates are low, rental rates are rising and sale prices are at all-time highs.

The only cloud on the horizon is that it is difficult to imagine prices climbing any higher than they currently are over the next 12 months.

The Los Angeles Basin economy is clearly expanding, and retailers are aggressively positioning themselves to participate in the expansion. Demand by tenants is particularly strong from fast-food chains, coffee houses, drug stores, discount warehouse and health clubs. It also is strong by Wal-Mart, who is

expanding in the area, including in neighborhood markets. It is weak, however, from the existing grocery chains.

Construction completions have lagged growth in demand, particularly in inlaying locations, and vacancy rates have dropped to a low level — approximately 4 percent basin wide.

Rental rates have climbed to a high level, reaching an average of approximately \$3.25 per square foot for shop space in a grocery-anchored center, and as much as the low \$4 range in parts of West Los Angeles and South Orange County. They also are very high in a number of underserved ethnic areas, where savvy retailers are able to generate as much \$1,000 in retail sales per square foot. Cap rates have fallen to 6 percent for a solid grocery-anchored center, and to 7 percent for older centers. Strip centers, once generally avoided by investors, are now also in favor. They have shown the ability to generate healthy occupancy and rents by targeting, for example, a mix of coffee houses (e.g.,

Starbucks, Peet's Coffee & Tea, Diedrichs), fast-food outlets (e.g., Quiznos, Pizza Hut), local service stores (e.g., dry cleaners, florists and jewelers). The outlook is for continued growth in demand by tenants in the remainder of 2004 and into 2005.

The one exception will continue to be by grocery stores other than Wal-Mart. We would not be surprised to see some consolidation among grocery stores over the next year and a half. Some of the space that they may leave behind would be picked up by Wal-Mart. Other spaces would be absorbed by new users, including gyms and specialty stores. Vacancy rates are projected to remain low, and rents are projected to climb at a pace (2 percent to 4 percent) generally greater than inflation. Construction activity has increased, but is no greater

than projected growth in demand. We project that market conditions will remain healthy for at least the next 12 months. We believe that cap rates have hit bottom, and will begin inching up as interest rates climb. If interest rates should climb precipitously, we actually may see a drop in prices.

(The above is an excerpt from NAI Capital Commercial's Mid Year Market Report. Christina S. Porter can be reached at cporter@naicapital.com).



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NATIONAL

Over the top? Bush eyes boost from tax overhaul

BY TOM RAUM
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Amid signs that the economy is cooling, President Bush is showcasing initiatives for a second term under the banner of an “ownership society” in hopes of bolstering his economic stewardship credentials.

His platform includes initiatives to help people buy homes, start businesses, hone job skills and set up tax-free retirement and health care accounts — plus a still unspecified tax-code overhaul.

But his options are severely limited by a record federal budget deficit — swollen by two large tax cuts, a major expansion of Medicare and the costs of an unpopular war in Iraq.

And Bush advisers remain divided on how much tax overhaul he should advocate.

“I want people owning something in America,” Bush told a rally in Hedgesville, W.Va., last week, sounding a theme he is expected to amplify in his Sept. 2 acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention in New York.

“If you own something, you have a vital stake in the future of America,” Bush says in a television ad being run in battleground states. It shows images of a home, a business, older Americans, children and construction workers.

With polls showing him lagging challenger John Kerry on handling the economy, Bush’s campaign team is looking for ways to demonstrate boldness and new

ideas. Proposing a major overhaul of the tax code would seem to fit the bill.

“It’s very hard to propose tax reform in the middle of an election campaign. But one area that does resonate with voters is tax simplification,” said Alan J. Lichtman, a political scientist at American University.

There is clear political appeal to proposing a fix for a system that millions of Americans consider unfair and overly complicated. The tax code “is, no question, complex. The more simple it is, the better it is for the American people,” Bush said recently.

Bush could borrow a page from Ronald Reagan, who pushed through a far-reaching simplification of the tax code in 1986 after winning approval of a big tax cut during his first term.

But pitfalls lurk in the details.

It’s hard to come up with tax overhaul that’s both fair to all and “revenue neutral.” And Democrats are poised to denounce any Bush tax change as favoring the wealthy.

Bush’s recent suggestion to a Florida supporter that a national sales tax was “an interesting idea” worth serious consideration drew jeers from Kerry, who said it could mean a 20 percent sales tax on everything. Key Bush aides quickly backpedaled.

Pushing for broader tax-code overhaul are Treasury Secretary John Snow and Budget Director Josh Bolten.

House Speaker Dennis Hastert called for a national sales tax or consumption-based tax in a new book. Stephen Moore, president of the Club for Growth, said such an overhaul “would be rocket fuel for the economy.”

And publisher and one-time GOP presidential candidate Steve Forbes renewed his call for a flat-rate income tax. “It would do wonders,” he suggested.

But conservative economist Bruce Bartlett, a former adviser to Reagan and Bush’s father, suggested the president try to make the current tax code more efficient — rather than ditching it entirely. “I think as a first step, we should take some of the silly stuff out of it that everybody realizes is not a good idea,” Bartlett said.

The president seems most likely to make a broad call for simplification in his acceptance speech without being specific, while renewing his request that Congress make permanent tax cuts due to expire over the next few years.

Snow said on Friday that Bush hasn’t decided yet how far to go. “But we clearly have a lot of room for improvement in this code,” the treasury secretary told cable channel CNBC.

Bush’s “ownership” platform includes several unfulfilled campaign proposals from 2000. One would allow younger workers to divert some Social Security taxes into private government-sponsored retirement accounts. Another would create tax-free “health savings accounts” that workers could take from job to job.

Bush aides say the ownership theme helps underscore differences with Kerry, who advocates raising taxes on the most affluent households and spending more on health care, education and other domestic programs.

Democrats counter that the strategy just shows Bush is out of touch.

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Senator calls intelligence changes 'a marker'

BY KATHERINE PFLEGER SHRADER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Pat Roberts says that a year ago he probably wouldn't have proposed the sweeping intelligence overhaul he brought forward this week.

But given the series of inquiries into the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the prewar intelligence on Iraq, and his eight years presiding over "Oh-my-God hearings," the Kansas Republican said he saw the need to act.

On Monday, he put forward details of a plan to break up the CIA and rearrange the Pentagon's spy agencies under a single national intelligence director, among a litany of other changes outlined in a 139-page draft bill.

Roberts calls it "a marker" in the debate and said he expects changes. But with the legislation, he has solidified his position as a leading critic of the intelligence community by proposing the most far-reaching intelligence overhaul debated since the Sept. 11 attacks.

Roberts' proposal met immediate and broad resistance Monday.

The Intelligence Committee's top Democrat, Sen. Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, said it would be a "severe mistake" to disband the CIA while it is embroiled in the war on terror.

Former CIA Director George Tenet, making his first

public statement since he resigned last month, said Roberts' plan showed a "dangerous misunderstanding of the business of intelligence."

President Bush did not endorse Roberts' proposal Monday. Instead, the president said only that he was interested in finding "the best way to fashion intelligence so the president and his Cabinet secretaries have got the ability to make good judgment calls."

Bush has supported the need for a national director to oversee all intelligence-gathering, but has yet to detail the powers he wants the office to have.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said he hadn't had a chance to see the restructuring proposal in writing.

"We do need to make significant adjustments in how we collect, communicate and dispense information," Rumsfeld told an audience of about 1,300 troops at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, on Monday.

But he added: "We have to be careful about it. ... You don't want, in the middle of the war, to go tearing up the pea patch."

Roberts surprised Republicans and Democrats alike when he announced on a Sunday morning talk show his proposal to remake the intelligence community by splitting the CIA into three separate agencies, pulling all or part of four defense intelligence agencies out of the Pentagon, and creating a new national intelligence director to oversee the National Intelligence Service he envi-

sions.

On Monday, a defensive Roberts said, "If this proposal seems radical to some ... my response would be: What should we do?"

More than three dozen attempts to reorganize the intelligence community over more than five decades have failed, he said, adding that he spoke last week with colleagues of both parties, and eight of his panel's nine Republicans have agreed that Congress must act. Democrats, meanwhile, criticized Roberts for not working in a more bipartisan fashion, and demanded more details.

Lawmakers who handle issues ranging from intelligence to banking are expected to offer proposals to revamp the intelligence community, prodded by a report from the independent Sept. 11 commission that offered more than 40 recommendations for such an effort.

Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, called Roberts' bill a "bold proposal" that conforms to what the commission recommended: Put one person in charge of the intelligence community.

"Is this where we will end up? Probably not exactly, but it's a good place to start the debate," DeWine said.

Yet Republicans were hardly in agreement and it seemed unlikely such a sweeping reorganization could be enacted in the single month Congress has left before its planned adjournment.

Kerry shows some fight amid war criticisms

By the Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attacks on John Kerry's war record may be beginning to have an impact, polls suggest, amid raised voices and new TV ads on a subject at least temporarily dominating debate in the close presidential race.

Democrats are laboring to deflect the questioning of Kerry's record with fresh ads touting his fitness for national command, even as the White House mocks the Massachusetts senator as "losing his cool" over claims he lied to win military medals in Vietnam.

Kerry wasn't going to let such claims pass, spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter shot back on Friday, saying "John Kerry is a fighter and he doesn't tolerate lies from others."

The anti-Kerry group that provoked the furor with a recent commercial distributed a second ad to the news media and said it would begin airing it next week in Pennsylvania, Nevada and New Mexico. The ad mixes clips of a youthful Kerry talking about war atrocities in testimony to Congress in 1971 with images of veterans condemning his remarks.

The Kerry campaign filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission that alleged the group behind the ad was illegally coordinating its efforts with the Bush-Cheney campaign. It cited "recent press reports" and the group's own statements.

The Bush campaign denied the allegation, as did the organization that aired the ad.

The intense late-August back-and-forth underscored the closeness of the race for the White House and came as polls offered the first hint that the questioning of Kerry's medal-winning service in the Vietnam War — allegations that he strongly condemned this week as lies — were taking a political toll.

One poll found that more than half the voters questioned had seen or heard of an ad by Swift Boat Veterans For Truth that accused Kerry of lying about events that earned him five medals a generation ago. The University of Pennsylvania's National Annenberg Election Survey also found that 44 percent of self-described independent voters found the ad at least somewhat believable.

Separately, a CBS poll found a sharp drop in Kerry's support among veterans since the end of the Democratic National Convention that highlighted his war record.

Polls after the convention indicated Kerry had made considerable progress toward the campaign's goal of establishing him as a battle-tested veteran ready to assume command in an era of terrorism. Several veterans who served with him have campaigned alongside him, strongly supporting his combat record and calling him a hero.

In a new commercial that officials said was filmed Thursday, the Democratic Party showed retired Air Force Gen. Merrill A. McPeak saying he had endorsed President

Bush four years ago but was backing Kerry now.

"Nothing is more important to me than protecting America," says McPeak, a fighter pilot in Vietnam who rose to become Air Force chief of staff during the first Persian Gulf War in 1991. "John Kerry has the strength and common sense we need in a commander in chief."

That message is sharply at odds with the image portrayed in the anti-Kerry ad that the nominee denounced

Thursday when he said Bush was relying on front groups to "do his dirty work."

"I do think that Senator Kerry losing his cool should not be an excuse for him to lash out at the president with false and baseless attacks," White House spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters in Crawford, Texas, on Friday.

"We've already said we weren't involved in any way in these ads," he said. "We've made that clear."

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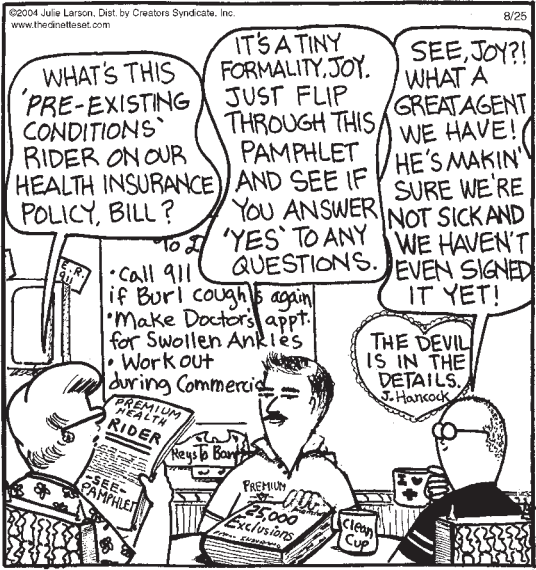
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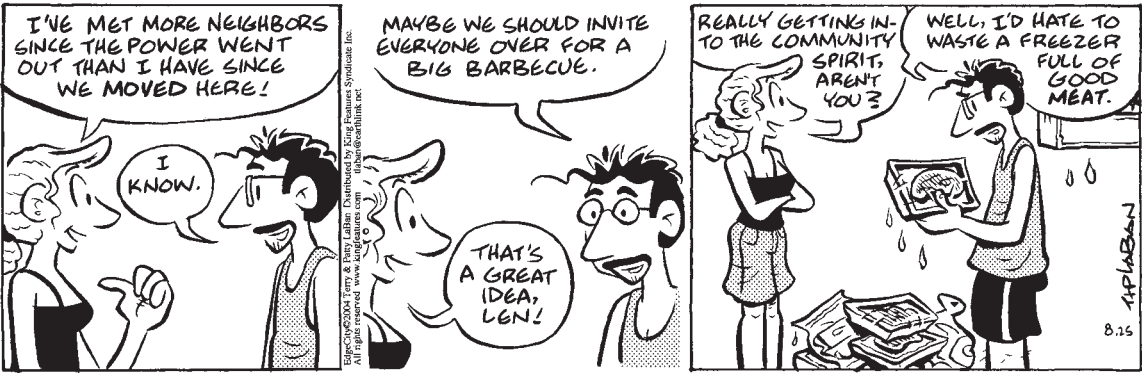


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 - 28 Getz's instrument
 - 29 Puts on display, in a way
 - 31 Purpose
 - 32 Lucy's pal
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 - 34 Puts up
 - 37 "Slammin' Sammy"
 - 39 Emulated Twista
 - 43 Border on
 - 44 Glacial epoch
 - 45 Film editing transition
 - 46 High society
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 - 2 Rage
 - 3 Pitching stat
 - 4 Miserly Marner
 - 5 At any time
 - 6 Helen's mother
 - 7 Help out
 - 8 Regains lost ground
 - 9 "Now — seen it all!"
 - 10 Grass drops
 - 16 Army sites
 - 17 Ewan's "Down With Love" co-star

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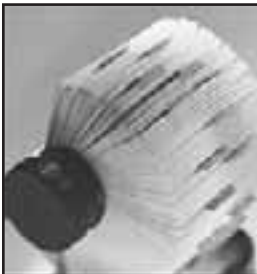
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