



FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

August 27-28, 2005

A newspaper with issues

Volume 4, Issue 247

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

16 21 27 38 40
Meganumber: 23
Jackpot: \$19 Million

FANTASY 5

3 9 10 23 34

DAILY 3

Daytime: 1 5 7
Evening: 4 6 3

DAILY DERBY

1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 05 California Classic

RACE TIME: 1:45.01

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Poor Candidates for Rehabilitation: Paul Meeter, 21, just released from jail in Elk Grove, Calif., in June on traffic charges, was arrested a few hours later and charged with smuggling out the orange jumpsuit he had been wearing while behind bars. And a 15-year-old boy, who had a juvenile-court hearing on a theft charge in Macon, Ga., in July, was accused of stealing about \$600 from the blind snack bar operator in the lobby of the courthouse.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 239th day of 2005.
There are 126 days left in the year.

On Aug. 27, 1945, American troops began landing in Japan following the surrender of the Japanese government in World War II.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"In soloing — as in other activities — it is far easier to start something than it is to finish it."

AMELIA EARHART
AMERICAN AVIATOR (1898-1937?)

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High tidings: Malibu gets cleanup cash

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

MALIBU — Efforts to clean up Surfrider Beach and preserve this scenic habitat for future generations took a step forward recently, when Malibu received a \$2.5 million grant to acquire land for its proposed water quality management facility.

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Corporation (SBRC) approved the grant on Aug. 19 with the understanding it be put towards the purchase of the Chili Cook-Off property near Malibu Creek, within the city's civic center.

The pending land acquisition is intended to house facilities that will treat stormwater, before releasing it into the ocean, as well as collect and divert local wastewater.

Supporters of the project say such operations will significantly improve environmental conditions around the bay, which currently threatens wildlife and poses health risks due to contamination, according to some groups.

SBRC's Vice Chair David Nahai said his group is glad to assist Malibu's environmental cause, which will likely affect countless Santa Monica Bay resi-

See MALIBU, page 12

Of his own accord



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Buckwheat Zydeco jams on his accordion at the Santa Monica Pier on Thursday night, presenting his own brand of Louisiana folk music infused with elements of rock, pop and soul. Next week's concert — with performances by Shonen Knife and The Knack — will conclude this summer's annual Twilight Dance Series.

Padraza dodges murder charges

Manslaughter conviction
could equal 11 years in jail

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

AIRPORT COURTHOUSE — The Santa Monica bar owner accused of killing a patron he shot to death more than 20 years ago has been found not guilty of murder.

Jurors deliberating for nearly 15 hours decided on Wednesday that Antonio Padraza was not guilty for the first-degree murder of Javier Garcia, 25, on June 21, 1984. Garcia was shot multiple times in front of the Jalisco Cafe, a now-defunct bar once located at 1811 Olympic Blvd.

However, Padraza, 58, still faces up to 11 years in prison for voluntary manslaughter, a lesser offense the jury said he committed on Wednesday.

Superior Court Judge Stephanie Sautner is expected to sentence Padraza on Sept. 29.

The fatal shooting occurred late at night, after an intoxicated Garcia was kicked out of the bar for throwing beer bottles on the floor, according to witnesses and police. Garcia waited outside until Padraza confronted him from the front side of the building. Garcia was killed in the ensuing shoot-out.

Garcia suffered a total of 14 gunshot wounds from 11 bullets — with some of the gunshots entering and exiting multiple parts of his body, police said.

See NO MURDER, page 14

STATE

'Surf' strife: Two cities for every slogan?

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — State lawmakers have waded into a dispute between Santa Cruz and the Orange County city of Huntington Beach, which both claim the title "Surf City USA."

For years, the cities have observed an informal truce, with both using the name lifted from a

1963 Jan and Dean hit in their marketing.

But Santa Cruz officials say the Huntington Beach tourism bureau recently broke the truce when it chose a surfboard-shaped "Surf City USA" logo and signed a deal with Dean Torrence and the estate of Jan Berry to use their song in an upcoming marketing blitz. The city

also applied for federal trademarks.

The Senate Rules Committee this week passed a resolution that said Santa Cruz, home of the wet suit, was the nation's true "surf city" and that Huntington Beach could not claim exclusive rights to the name. Any city can use the

See SURF CITY, page 13

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Be a couch potato, Cancer

Santa Monica Daily Press



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)

★★★★★ What seemed close to impossible to resolve or discuss yesterday finally becomes a snap. Your ingenuity is appreciated. You come up with some dynamic plans. Others want to join in. Why not? Tonight: Catch up on a pal's news.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ A financial matter falls into place, whether it is getting a loved one to agree or getting a loan. You might have been more stressed out than you realized. Get into a project with your innate enthusiasm. Tonight: Your treat.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Others enjoy your playfulness and sense of direction. Your ideas are welcome. Catch up on others' news. You might not be as au courant as you would like to be. Add your innate sense of fun and joy. Tonight: Don't challenge a partner or a friend.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Sometimes being a little more low-key helps you recharge. You find out the scoop on a money matter. Carefully check out any purchase involving property or family. You might go overboard. Tonight: Be a couch potato.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Friends help you enjoy your time off. You might be surprised at how easy others are compared with yesterday. A chat could develop into a very fun happening. Partners are agreeable and full of ideas. Tonight: You have a great time wherever you are.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ You might have a must-appear event that you have been dreading, but surprise of surprises — you have a great time. You might decide to splurge on a new item just for you. Pressure from others builds. Tonight: Don't let a family member press you.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Your smile opens doors. Why not take a drive or visit some local sight-seeing spot that you have never been to? Go for something different. You might want to change your plans at the last minute. Romance flickers for those who are interested. Tonight: Do the unusual, be it restaurant choice or a musical event.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Work with a partner, and you'll get the type of reaction you want. Finally, you can reveal what is on your mind and get to the root of the issue. Leave money matters aside for now. You won't agree. Tonight: Enjoy a special person.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You might want to change your mind-set. You alone could be the source of a problem, as everyone seems to have relaxed and given up the recent tension. Friends surprise you. News makes you smile. Tonight: Go along with others.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Get into a project that you enjoy, and invite an older friend or relative to pitch in. This person will be delighted to help and likes to be needed. Take time to enjoy a mutually favorite game or hobby. Tonight: Don't push.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Romance flickers for those who are available. A little nourishing warms up any established relationship. You could be taken aback by someone's sharing and happiness to be with you. Share some of your dreams. Cancel plans if you want to. Tonight: Love the one you are with.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Staying at home fits the mood and what you want. You might need to change plans, as you are happiest hanging out with a special person. Let yourselves reconnect and enjoy extra time together. Tonight: At home.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Hanks to make a splash at Saint John's

By Daily Press staff

Academy Award-winning actor Tom Hanks and his wife, actor and producer Rita Wilson, will be honored as the 2005 Caritas Award recipients on Oct. 15, at the Saint John's Health Center Caritas Gala. The annual black-tie event, which provides vital support to Saint John's, will be held at the Regent Beverly Wilshire in Beverly Hills.

Hanks and Wilson met on the movie set of "Volunteers," a beginning to their partnership of civic and charitable involvement. They have been longtime champions of Saint John's Health Center, where their two sons were born. In 2004, they narrated the Emmy-nominated Saint John's community service video, which highlights health center services.

Also being honored at the event is Glen McDaniel, retired chairman of the executive committee of Litton Industries, Inc., who will receive the Spirit of Saint John's Award for 25 years of volunteer service to the health center. McDaniel, a trustee and past chairman of the Saint John's Health Center Foundation, worked tirelessly to help rebuild Saint John's into a state-of-the-art health center after the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

The Caritas Gala is hosted by the Saint John's Health Center Foundation and the Irene Dunne Guild, a key support group of the hospital. With a membership of 75 women, the Irene Dunne Guild provides a variety of volunteer services and philanthropic support to Saint John's.

In addition to hosting the Caritas Gala, the Irene Dunne Guild helped fund the new Saint John's Mobile Blood Donor Center and created the "Angels of the ER" program to provide non-medical assistance to emergency room patients and their families. This year's gala is chaired by guild member Judy Piro.

Past event honorees include Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and First Lady Maria Shriver, Anthony Hopkins, Martin Sheen, Vin Scully, Robert Wagner, Angela Lansbury, former First Lady Nancy Reagan and Jimmy Stewart.

Tickets for the 2005 Caritas Gala are \$400 each. For more information, call Cookie Galanti at Saint John's Health Center Foundation at (310) 829-8423.

Aura in disrepair? A place for healing

By Daily Press staff

A regional psychic group is looking to heal Santa Monica residents. The Southern California Psychic Institute will host a free event on Tuesday, Aug. 30, at 1737 21st St.

Psychics will provide adults and children with a variety of services including aura healings."

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. for the two-hour event.

For more information, call (310)587-3536.



SURF REPORT

Winds this morning are light and variable most everywhere. In SoCal, south-facing breaks are doing best with waist- to chest-high surf. Standouts are seeing the occasional shoulder-high set waves. West-facing breaks are running waist high. On Saturday, most south-facing breaks are in waist-high surf. Sunday is when our next SW swell is due. Expect shoulder-high surf.

Today the water is:

66°

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
SATURDAY	9:48	3.2	N/A	N/A	7:24	3.3	4:41	5.0
SUNDAY	12:52	0.5	11:49	3.3	8:17	3.7	5:56	5.1
MONDAY	1:42	0.2	12:57	3.1	8:46	3.9	6:53	5.3
TUESDAY	2:21	0.0	1:41	2.8	9:08	4.0	7:38	5.6
WEDNESDAY	2:52	-0.1	2:14	2.4	9:27	4.2	8:14	5.8

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RESPONSES ON PAGE 4.

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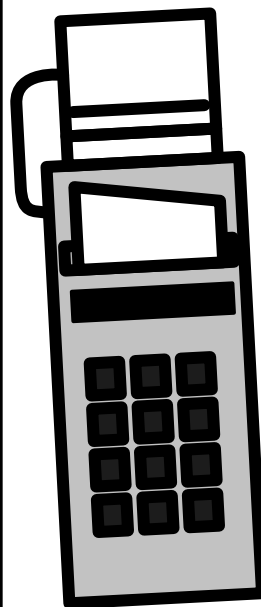


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OPINION

The Q Line

THE PRICE TO BE PAID FOR FREE HOUSING

This past week, Q-line asked:
What has to be taken into consideration by local officials to make a pilot program targeted to chronic homeless people, which helps pay their rent in free-market housing in Santa Monica, as successful as possible?

Here are your responses:

© “First of all, what needs to be considered is the fact that these people should not be housed in Santa Monica, a prime real estate and high rent area. The money should be directed to the lower-rent areas. Many good citizens have had to leave Santa Monica due to rising rents and many good people can’t afford to relocate here for the same reasons. If these people can’t afford to live here, how can we, the taxpayers afford to house all these indigents here? They need to go where the money will go the furthest, not the high-rent areas.”

© “Those we see on the streets of our cities have one thing in common, a denominator — they are awash with chronic and acute alcoholism. To say they are homeless is only partially true. Most are young and have families they could return to if they would behave. Still, they have no intention of behaving. Cleaning and sobering these people up is a good idea. Then their families should be called. They will need constant care or they will return to their quest to reduce themselves to degradation.”

© “To ensure that the program will be successful we need a panel of impartial (outside Santa Monica) auditors to see to the disposition of this grant.”

© “More of this money will be wasted because a lot of these people are impossible to reason with. Some of them are insane. They should be locked up in the nut house. Some of them are on drugs and booze and they won’t quit the drugs and booze and they should be locked up in prison. Some of them are just impossible, they won’t be in society, they should be removed out of society or put on a chain gang or something. Some of the ones in Santa Monica are down on their luck, you know maybe they lost a job or got sick and they couldn’t pay their rent. Those are the ones that need help, those are the ones that are willing to accept help and are willing to work to get back on their feet. The rest of them are useless and should be locked up, put on a chain gang, or put in an insane asylum where they belong because they are not fit to be part of society.”

© “I strongly recommend that the homelessness program is linked somehow with the department of mental health to provide only psychiatry and medication for the people that are homeless. I think that is an essential link.”

© “As a former landlord in this beautiful city of Santa Monica, I wish they would make units available for more people than just the homeless, and I was a captain of a homeless feeding program years ago, but let’s spread it around. Right now, I would love to have a ground floor unit made available to me, but I guess that’s a lot to ask for. But I believe in God, so maybe it will happen.”

© “What? \$700,000 to put 30 people in free housing? Why are the rest of us working? This money is going to fund another bloated City Hall responsible bureaucracy, the community corporation. What’s left will go to the non-effective, non-profits who profit off the least fortunate in our city. All a non-profit assistant director, making a \$100,000 a year, is worried about is when is his next paycheck and how much does it cost to drive his Volvo two miles to his office. Take all this money and support-proven homeless organizations, the Good Will industries, the Los Angeles Mission, the Salvation Army, the Union Rescue Mission. They bring real hope and faith to the least fortunate in our society. Some of these organizations have experience dating back over a 100 years. They bring Jesus into people’s lives and as disturbing as that maybe to some socialists in this town, I would rather see Jesus as a force in a homeless person’s life than Karl Marx.”

© “Helping 30 people won’t work. Get 30 sober living houses and help 300 people get gradually back on their feet.”

© “There is so much homeless bashing over public urination and that they are dirty, yet most public bathrooms close at 6 p.m. There are no public restrooms on Main Street and few on the Promenade where they mostly hang out. Where’s a homeless person supposed to get a drink of water and poop in this city, especially after 6 p.m.? It would help the homeless population and keep the neighborhoods cleaner if we spent the money on simple things like extending the bathroom hours and adding public restrooms and a few showers.”

© “First, that part of this money does not end up into the pockets of those who have benefited in the past, including friends, family, and relatives. Also, I feel that a detailed business plan should be set up for all Santa Monicans to see what program is getting what and how much, etc. And that should be monitored for honesty and accuracy. A lot of money has been poured into this program in the past and if something was done and if people were honest, then this situation would not have reached this disgusting proportions of people that we see on the street today. So I feel honesty is the first thing, hiring somebody else to do the job is not it. Santa Monicans should see how much each program is getting. I feel that if there is honesty, the program should work, whatever program it is should work.”

© “If you don’t require sobriety, don’t even bother, don’t spend any money on it because it won’t do any good. A hand-out and a hand up are two different things.”

President shouldn’t be Alfred E. Neuman



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

President Bush passed his recent physical with flying colors — and I mean “flying.” He’s 59 years old, but does not need cholesterol-lowering or blood pressure drugs. He eats healthy foods, and has lost eight pounds since December. And the most amazing revelation is that his resting pulse is 47 beats per minute. That’s not the kind of pulse rate usually associated with people in high-stress jobs or situations. It’s the kind of pulse that well-trained athletes have.

To put it in perspective, the average pulse rate for a healthy male is about 72 beats per minute. Unofficially, the average pulse rate for a writer on a deadline is 102. President Bush’s remarkable 47 is down from an also exceptional 52 beats per minute in December. Obviously, I’m thrilled that he’s in such good health. But I have to admit that part of me would feel more comfortable if his pulse were just a little bit higher.

I wouldn’t want a president whose heart rate went off the charts every time there was a crisis in the world. But it would be nice if there were some indication that President Bush, like the rest of us, had some physical reactions to world events. History is filled with world leaders who grew old before their time, especially when their country waged war. We can read about leaders who were unable to sleep, incapable of eating properly, and could never take their minds off the killing that was going on. I don’t wish that on President Bush, but he seems to be on the extreme opposite end of the spectrum.

People have continued to die every day in Iraq, and his pulse hasn’t gone up a beat. In fact, it’s dropped five points since December.

Terrorists strike London, but his pulse is still a 47.

Opposition to the war, even from members of his own party, is at an all-time high this summer. He’s still at 47.

Gas prices soar, and his pulse is still a 47. The grieving mother of a young man killed in battle, Cindy Sheehan, wants to meet with the president a second time. He’s still at 47.

She camps out near his ranch. 47. People point out that to diffuse the situation, all he’d have to do is cut one of his bike rides short by 20 minutes and meet with her. He refuses. 47.

I’m not suggesting that he doesn’t care. Everybody reacts to tragic events differently. It’s just surprising that he doesn’t seem to have the kind of physical reactions that most people have to these events. My pulse goes up when I watch the news on TV. He actually is the news, but his pulse stays low.

So, the question is whether being in such good shape and having a low pulse is an advantage for a world leader. In ancient times, when the heads of countries would actually fight each other, being in great physical shape was an obvious advantage. Today, we could still probably shout to various foreigners, “My president can beat up your president,” but it wouldn’t mean very much. These days, world leaders don’t put on armor and fight. They send others to do the fighting. So, while they’re home and others are fighting, how important is it for them to ride mountain bikes and remain so calm?

Some might say that calmness should lead to rational behavior and decisions. I can see that point. Others might say that it’s only when you get upset and are affected in your heart and gut by world events that you’ll be motivated to take some action. I can see that point, too.

So, let me just reiterate that I’m very happy that President Bush is in such great health. But ironically, ever since I’ve learned that his pulse has gone down over the past few months, mine’s gone up.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from “Sesame Street” to “Family Ties” to “Frasier.” He also has read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the “Modern Times” column for CBSnews.com’s opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com and a weekly column for SportsLine.com.)

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COMMENTARY



GUEST COMMENTARY BY ALEX EPSTEIN & EDWARD CLINE

Israel's deadly appeasement process should be halted

The Israeli withdrawal from Gaza is being portrayed as a wise (albeit unpleasant) move by Ariel Sharon. By addressing a longtime grievance of the Palestinians and their supporters — the presence of Israeli security forces and Jewish residents on the Gaza strip — we are told, Israel will abate the hatred that drives so many Palestinians to terrorism.

In fact, the Gaza withdrawal is a deadly act of appeasement toward Israel's committed enemies: the Palestinian Authority (PA), its rabidly anti-Semitic Palestinian supporters, and other Arab regimes throughout the Middle East. It will only increase their hope and ability to achieve their long-standing goal: The obliteration of Israel.

Contrary to their pronouncements to Western media that they seek peace with Israel via a "reasonable" land-for-peace "compromise," the PA and its supporters have proven by their actions — and by repeated statements in Arabic — that they seek to destroy Israel. Due to their racist, tribalist, primitive philosophy, much of the Arab world seeks the eradication of Jews — and, more broadly, Western Civilization — from the Middle East. In polls taken, 80 percent of Palestinians say they do not regard Israel as legitimate. As for Israel's other Arab neighbors, they have attempted to destroy Israel in three previous wars.

Why have those who seek Israel's annihilation turned from open warfare to the negotiating table? Because they have learned that this — combined with terrorism — is their most effective means of destroying Israel.

Observe what the absurdly named "peace process" has consisted of. The PA and its Arab neighbors deliberately keep the Palestinians in misery, indoctrinate them with anti-Semitism, and sponsor terrorism against Israel. They then blame Israel's "occupation" of territories won in a war of self-defense (and crucial for Israel's security today) for the Palestinians' misery — and blame the Palestinians' misery for Palestinian terrorism. The solution, they convince Israel and the West, is more land, loot, and power for the "downtrodden" Palestinians — money which the Palestinian leadership uses to fund still more attacks on Israel.

By relying on terror and unearned guilt, the enemies of Israel have been able to undermine Israel's security and moral confidence in a way they never could by direct attack.

Consider the recent history. In response to his long record of terrorizing

Israel in the name of "Palestinian liberation," Yasser Arafat got recognition as the "legitimate representative" of the Palestinians. Under the Oslo accords, he was given billions in cash and a vast arsenal of deadly weapons for "security forces" that he would use to oppress Palestinians and terrorize Israel. Unsurprisingly, terrorism coupled with blaming Israel, having been handsomely rewarded, increased dramatically. Then, in 2000, Arafat was offered unprecedented territorial concessions. Figuring he could get more by terrorism, he rejected the proposal and launched a second Intifada. The resulting escalation of terrorism, along with Arab nations claiming that anti-American terrorism stems from sympathy for the mistreatment of Palestinians, led to a promise from President Bush for a Palestinian state — and endless calls for Israel to show "restraint" in the face of a terrorist onslaught.

Terrorize Israel and blame it for the misery you inflict on Palestinians, the Palestinian leadership has been taught, and you shall be rewarded. Now, further terrorism and Israel-bashing have gotten the PA an unconditional withdrawal from Gaza — a crucial launching base for Arab wars of the past, and an easy means from which to further terrorize Israel. Smelling blood, Palestinians and their beloved terror organizations are already boasting: "Today Gaza, tomorrow Jerusalem."

Any further Palestinian terrorism, of course, will simply be blamed on Israel not conceding enough, and we will be told that peace can only be achieved if Israel takes more "risks for peace" — i.e., continues to give Palestinian murderers more resources with which to launch their aggression.

The only way to stop Palestinian terrorism is for Israel to identify the PA and its supporters as the evil they are — and to righteously defeat them. Not only should Israel retain Gaza, it should destroy the Palestinian leadership and do anything else necessary to eradicate the hope that drives Palestinian terrorism — the hope of Israel's destruction.

Then, and only then, will Israel be able to adopt a new slogan of its own: "Yesterday Palestinian terrorism, today Palestinian defeat."

(Alex Epstein is a junior fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine. Edward Cline is a contributing writer to ARI. ARI promotes the ideas of Ayn Rand, best-selling author and originator of the philosophy of Objectivism.)

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STATE

Speaker Nunez looks to smooth relations

BY JOHN RICE
Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY — California Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez on Thursday urged Mexican President Vicente Fox to press for immigration reform in the United States and said he tried to ease anger at Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's remarks about migrants.

But Nunez also found himself explaining his own call for a state of emergency along the border after similar declarations by other states had irritated Mexican leaders.

Not by coincidence, Nunez's meeting with Fox wasn't mentioned on the president's daily schedule of public events.

"The perception here in Mexico is that this is a call to close the border and place responsibility and blame only on Mexico," Nunez acknowledged during a news conference after his meeting with Fox.

The Los Angeles Democrat said that the proposed emergency decree "is between California and the Bush administration" and was meant to get the federal government to help "make sure California is getting its fair share of funds" for imprisoning illegal immigrants and other costs.

The governors of Arizona and New Mexico recently made such declarations. Schwarzenegger has said there is no need for such action in California and that, in any case, state law does not grant him the authority to do so. On Thursday, four Republican lawmakers said they will introduce legislation allowing the governor to declare emergencies along the border.

Nunez, a rival of the Republican governor, prodded Schwarzenegger to promote the federal Kennedy-McCain bill that would legalize many current undocumented migrants in the United States.

He also encouraged Schwarzenegger to visit Mexico, the state's largest foreign trade partner.

"People in Mexico feel that he's anti-Mexican because of some things that he has said, like we should close down the border," Nunez said.

Schwarzenegger made such a comment last spring to a gathering of newspaper executives, but he quickly explained that he meant to say the border should be properly secured.

"I don't think he's anti-Mexican," Nunez said. "I disagree with a lot of his policies ... but on a personal level, I do think that he's a decent human being so I do think that he needs to come to Mexico. He needs to mend those ties."

Nunez said he had urged Fox to work with the U.S. administration in achieving reforms that would treat the 2 million

undocumented Mexicans in California "with the respect that they deserve through legal residency."

California, he said, "is where undocumented workers contribute most to the economy but at the same time it is where they are most unrecognized."

Nunez's trip comes at a time of heightened political tensions in California.

California Democrats and labor unions are opposing a November special election called by the Republican governor that seeks to reform key aspects of state government. State Republican officials said Nunez's trip was orchestrated to woo Hispanic voters ahead of the Nov. 8 election.

Before leaving Sacramento, Nunez said he hoped to soothe what he said was unhappiness in Mexico over Schwarzenegger's statement of support for the Minuteman patrols. The volunteer group says its purpose is to help U.S. border agents arrest illegal immigrants streaming across the Mexican border. Schwarzenegger also has called upon the U.S. government to increase border security.

On Aug. 18, Nunez called on Schwarzenegger to declare an emergency in California, saying it would help pressure the federal government to stop drug-running and illegal immigration.

Schwarzenegger said there was no need for such a declaration. He also said state law allows him to declare emergencies only in case of war, natural disasters or epidemics.

In a letter he sent to Nunez on Wednesday, Schwarzenegger said the law was intended to protect health, safety, life and property in extreme circumstances.

"The current situation in California does not rise to this level," the governor wrote.

On Thursday, four Republican state lawmakers said they intended to introduce a bill that would amend state law, giving the governor authority to declare a state of emergency along the border. It was not immediately clear whether the bill would be supported by the governor's office.

In his letter to Nunez, Schwarzenegger said he has lobbied federal officials extensively for more federal aid and has met with other governors to address concerns related to the porous U.S.-Mexico border. Those include drug smuggling, human trafficking and issues associated with illegal immigration such as car theft and environmental damage. He said California has committed about \$30 million to combat those problems.

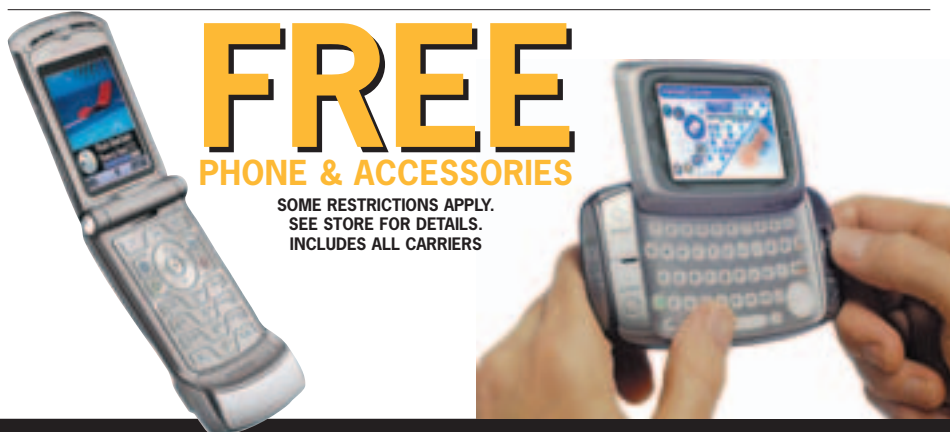
"I am committed to addressing this issue in a significant way and have always made my commitment in this regard clear," Schwarzenegger said in his letter.

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STATE



CalFed founders aren't going with the flow

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — A decade-long effort to end one of California's internal water wars and safeguard the water source for 22 million residents is floundering in a bureaucratic morass just when it is needed most, former Gov. Pete Wilson and former U.S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt said.

The two are the architects of the joint California and federal Bay-Delta Program, better known as CalFed. The program is designed to coordinate efforts by governments and water users to restore the San Joaquin-Sacramento Bay Delta and ensure future water supplies.

The government watchdog Little Hoover Commission is considering a restructuring of the program and the Bay-Delta Authority that oversees it, a review that came at the request of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. The first of three hearings was held Thursday.

Experts said the effort worked well for a while but has faltered as the major state and federal water agencies act on their own. In addition, the CalFed program is embroiled in leadership turmoil, budget uncertainty and legislative criticism.

The importance of protecting the delta can't be overstated, Wilson and Babbitt said. Babbitt called it "the most important issue in this century in this state."

The delta collects and filters Northern California water, much of which is then pumped to farmers and Southern California cities. It supplies water to 22 million Californians. It also is important ecologically, nurturing a major commercial and sport fishery that includes salmon making their way down the Sacramento River system.

The debate over CalFed's future comes amid plans to send even more water south and as the populations of four key fish species have declined sharply, signaling environmental problems in the Delta.

"CalFed was formed with ambitious goals, born of necessity," Wilson said. "Today, CalFed appears to be losing ground."

CalFed made progress with a broad delta restoration agreement in 2000, but fell short of its concurrent goal of protecting the state's drinking water supply and "is nowhere close to preparing the state for the next drought," Wilson said.

Vision and leadership have fallen victim to bureaucratic squabbles, Wilson said, to the point that federal participation was stalled for nearly a year because of a legal dispute over whether federal officials needed to file state conflict-of-interest statements.

The CalFed program can be improved but also should get credit for making progress in preserving the delta, said Mary Nichols, former Gov. Gray Davis' resources secretary, and authority Chairman Gary H. Hunt.

Hunt told skeptical commissioners that his agency generally functions well and downplayed the need for a sweeping reorganization.

Experts and commissioners said the answer is not to dismantle but to strengthen an agency that in its current form has little authority other than making recommendations.

CalFed's financial overreaching has been a key downfall, as it planned for an unrealistic \$8 billion in spending over a decade without lining up the funding, said Bennett Raley, President Bush's former assistant Interior secretary for water and science.

The plan prompted irate state lawmakers to cut the authority's funding this spring, prompting the resignation of Patrick Wright, the director who led CalFed since the beginning, and Johnnie Moore, the agency's top scientist.

The California Bay-Delta Program at a glance

The Bay-Delta Program is a joint California and federal attempt to coordinate efforts to restore the San Joaquin-Sacramento Delta and ensure future water supplies for Californians. It is overseen by the Bay-Delta Authority.

The delta collects and filters Northern California water that is pumped to farmers and Southern California cities. It supplies water to 22 million Californians.

CalFed was created a decade ago in an attempt to end the water wars between farmers, urban users, fishermen and environmental groups. It was intended as a long-term multibillion project bringing the first major changes to California's water systems since the 1960s.

Its projects have largely been funded by voter-approved state water bonds, but the money is projected to soon run out. Congress last year approved \$395 million for the program.



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STATE

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Wait a minute! Candidate can't use Minuteman moniker

By The Associated Press

SANTA ANA — Congressional candidate Jim Gilchrist, promoter of citizen patrols along the U.S.-Mexico border to thwart illegal immigration, cannot use "Minuteman movement founder" as his ballot designation.

There are 17 candidates running in the Oct. 4 special election to succeed Rep. Christopher Cox, R-Newport Beach, who resigned last month to become chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In addition to rejecting the Gilchrist "Minuteman" designation, the California Secretary of State's office said Thursday that Republican candidate Edward A. Suppe cannot use "veteran/international businessman" on the ballot, spokeswoman Nghia Nguyen Demovic said.

The elections code allows ballot designations for identification so candidates can inform voters of their "principal profession, vocation or occupation."

"This is all being done to protect politicians who are scared to death to have a veteran on the ballot," said Suppe, who will change his listing to "international businessman."

Gilchrist, representing the American Independent Party, and Suppe have until noon Monday to submit different descriptions for the primary election to fill Cox's 48th District seat. If no one wins a majority of the vote, the top vote-getters from each party will move on to a Dec. 6 special general election.

The secretary of state's office rejected any designation for Gilchrist that included the words "Minuteman" or "Minutemen," Gilchrist campaign manager Howie Morgan said. Morgan said the decision will hurt the retired accountant's chances with voters.

"Let's face it, Jim's proud of his movement and he'd love to put it on the ballot," Morgan said.

Democratic candidate Bea Foster said she protested Gilchrist's designation with the secretary of state's office this week as inappropriate campaign advertising.

Tally taker fazed out prior to election

By The Associated Press

SANTA ANA — Orange County's Registrar of Voters Steve Rodermund was placed on administrative leave just months before a pair of special elections will be held.

On Oct. 4, more than 400,000 voters are expected to cast ballots to fill a vacancy in the 48th Congressional District. Rep. Christopher Cox resigned last month after he was appointed chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

On Nov. 8, voters will go to the polls in a special election called by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

County Executive Officer Tom Mauk would only confirm Thursday that Rodermund had been placed on leave. It wasn't known why Rodermund, 54, who headed the department as an interim chief for a year before being appointed in December 2003, was placed on leave.

Orange County spokeswoman Dianne Thomas Plunk would only say, "Steve is going to be out of the office for a while."

"I see it as a CEO tackling some issues head on and providing the adequate time to hear all sides. It doesn't mean there's impropriety," Supervisor Chris Norby said.

Indian taker: IRS probing casino bond sale

By The Associated Press

CABAZON — Internal Revenue Service investigators are examining the \$51 million tax-exempt bond sale arranged by the Morongo Band of Mission Indians to pay for roads, water-treatment facilities and a parking garage next to the tribe's Cabazon casino.

The IRS is questioning whether bond proceeds are being used for governmental purposes or commercial gain at its new Morongo Casino Resort and Spa. Federal tax law prohibits using proceeds for commercial gain.

Charlie Anderson, IRS manager of field operations for tax-exempt bonds, said the agency has opened eight to 10 audits of bond issues nationwide during the past three years.

The Morongo IRS examination is the second probe of Riverside County tribal bond sales. In April, the IRS ruled interest was taxable on a \$145 million bond arranged by the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians in 2003 to pay for a hotel, parking garage and convention center next its Fantasy Springs Resort Casino near Indio.

Federal tax law allows tribes — sovereign nations with tribal governments — to issue tax-exempt bonds, but proceeds are restricted to "essential governmental functions" such as water-treatment plants and roads.

The IRS alleges the bonds issued by the tribes it is auditing don't qualify because the revenues are being used for moneymaking ventures.

"The tribe intends to cooperate with the IRS in its examination," Morongo chairman Maurice Lyons said in a statement.

Great ganja! Man holding half-ton of pot

By The Associated Press

PLACENTIA — Nearly a half-ton of baled marijuana was allegedly found in a home, mostly in a bedroom where three young children were playing.

Julio Cesar Lizarraga, 26, was booked for investigation of possession of marijuana for sale and child endangerment, investigators said Thursday. He remained in custody with bail set at \$500,000. Some 935 pounds of marijuana, a handgun and drug paraphernalia were also found in the Orange County home, most of it in a bedroom occupied by Lizarraga's children, ages 1, 2 and 4, investigators said.



Greenspan warns that history repeats itself

BY JEANNINE AVERSA

AP Economics Writer

JACKSON, Wyo. — Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan on Friday cautioned Americans against thinking the value of their homes and other investments will only go higher, saying “history has not dealt kindly” with that kind of optimism.

Greenspan also said that bloated trade and budget deficits threaten the long-term health of the U.S. economy.

His warnings, made at a high-profile economic policy conference, came as the Fed chief and prominent economists pondered his 18 years at the central bank and the legacy he will leave. He is expected to step down in five months.

Rising house and stock prices have made many people feel more wealthy and have helped to support consumer spending, a key ingredient of the economy’s good health.

Greenspan, however, said people shouldn’t count on that paper wealth, which can evaporate if economic conditions deteriorate rapidly.

“What they perceive as newly abundant liquidity can readily disappear,” he said. “Any onset of increased investor caution” could cause home and stock prices to drop, he noted.

A long spell of low interest rates and low risks for investors has especially encouraged investment in homes. Greenspan worried about what would happen if that climate were to change.

“History has not dealt kindly with the aftermath of protracted periods of low-risk premiums,” he said.

Low interest rates have powered the booming housing market. Home sales have hit record highs four years in a row, and house prices are surging. In previous speeches, Greenspan has warned of “froth” and “speculative fervor” gripping some local housing markets.

If house prices were to fall suddenly or if interest rates were to rise rapidly, some local housing markets, homeowners and lenders could get clobbered.

“Greenspan is giving individuals ample warning that they need to take that into account,” Allen Sinai, chief global economist at Decision Economics, said in an interview. “He’s throwing out a yellow flag of caution.”

Sinai and others believe Greenspan was strengthening his warning about the booming housing market. But they didn’t think he was signaling a new concern about the development of a national housing price bubble. Instead, they said, he seemed to be stressing his oft-stated worries about bubbles in local housing markets.

“He’s staying with the position he had before. There are local bubbles but no national bubble,” Allan Meltzer, a Carnegie-Mellon University professor, said in an interview.

Stock prices and house prices are factors that Fed policy-makers are increas-

ingly needing to consider when setting interest-rate policy, Greenspan said. “Our forecasts and, hence, policy are becoming increasingly driven by asset price changes,” he said.

During the high-flying stock market days of the 1990s, the Fed chief in December 1996 famously questioned whether Wall Street investors were engaging in “irrational exuberance.” Despite the warning, stocks continued to soar. In 2000, the stock market bubble began to rupture and wiped out trillions of dollars in paper wealth.

Maintaining economic flexibility is especially important, Greenspan said, to deal with what he called some of America’s economic imbalances: the swollen account trade deficit, which surged to a record \$668 billion last year, and the housing boom.

“Developing protectionism regarding trade and our reluctance to place fiscal policy on a more sustainable path are threatening what may well be our most valued policy asset: the increased flexibility of our economy, which has fostered our extraordinary resilience to shocks,” he said.

Teamsters President James Hoffa took issue with Greenspan’s comments that trade protectionism is a threat to the economy.

“I think Alan Greenspan is wrong,” Hoffa said in an interview with The Associated Press in Washington. “Teamsters unions and machinists have seen thousands and thousands of jobs go overseas that are never coming back” due to “unwise trade agreements.”

Job loss, Greenspan said, should be addressed “through education and training, not by restraining the competitive forces that are so essential to overall rising standards of living of the great majority of our population.”

Greenspan said that “fear of change” is behind stalled international trade negotiations and the hesitancy of Congress and the White House to “face up to the difficult choices that will be required to resolve our looming fiscal problems.”

In the past, Greenspan has urgently called on policy-makers to shore up Social Security, saying a big wave of baby boomers starting to retire in 2008 will put massive strains on the system and if not fixed can imperil the overall economy.

Greenspan’s remarks were to a conference, sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, called “The Greenspan Era: Lessons for the Future.”

“The Greenspan era gets extraordinarily high marks,” said John Taylor, professor at Stanford University. Those thoughts were echoed by many others attending the conference.

Greenspan’s appearance at the annual two-day conference, which is attended by Fed policy-makers, economists, academics and central bank officials from around the world, is expected to be his last as Fed chairman.

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Work in oil industry may be losing luster

BY RICHARD TROUT

Associated Press Writer

HOBBS, N.M. — It's the most critical issue the southeast New Mexico energy industry has faced in 25 years, according to one Lea County oilfield professional.

It's the work force, or lack of it, that concerns Will Palmer, superintendent of Read & Stevens in Lovington, and others.

They're saying a shortage of qualified workers is preventing the Oil Patch from taking full advantage of the bull market in energy.

“We had about 4,000 drilling rigs running 25 years ago. Now we have 1,500 and we can't even find hands for those,” Palmer said. “You can't find the quality workers to fill all the positions we have in the oilfield, so we're having to rely on unskilled, unqualified workers to fill positions that require a lot of experience.”

The past two to three years have been one of the best boom times since the early 1980s, with the price of oil breaching the once-unobtainable level of \$60 per barrel.

But as a profession for skilled young men, the oil and gas industry has lost its luster. And many experienced workers have retired or moved on to management positions here or in new jobs in Houston.

There's another problem that creates an extra challenge for producers and service companies looking for good hires. It's the economy.

In the 1970s and early '80s, the Permian Basin often recruited workers from other parts of the country, an effective tactic considering the economy was in recession everywhere else.

That's not the current situation.

“The industry places ads in trade journals across the U.S. to attract people, but we don't have anyone willing to move to southeast New Mexico because the economy in the rest of the country is doing well,” Palmer said.

Others agreed the oilfield is struggling with the employment issue, but Harry Teague, owner of Eunice Well Servicing Co., sees promise on the horizon.

“It is harder to find people. The company is putting all the stacked equipment back to work and they're hiring all the surplus employees,” Teague said. “It is a problem, but it is a problem that will take care of itself. The people who are not working in Phoenix or Denver or Chicago will hear about the shortage and gravitate to where there is work.”

Teague's well-service company has about 90 employees. He also owns ABC Rental Tool, which grew from 13 employees to 51 since he bought it three years ago. Teague attributed much of ABC Rental's growth to the bull market in the energy industry.

Finding qualified workers also is familiar to James Tyler, who owns Tyler Well Service, a 28-year-old Hobbs company with 36 employees.

“We've got the wages up, but it doesn't seem to be helping. I thought high school guys would want to work in the oilfield,” he said. “If we buy a new rig we don't know where we're going to get the hands for it.”

Raising wages has become necessary to remain competitive, but some Hobbs companies, such as Aries Well Service Inc., are going even further.

“It's extremely tight and extremely

competitive, and everybody is experiencing the same thing now,” said Aries' owner, Brad Roberts, who also owns an oilfield fluid trucking company, Ram Services Inc. in Jal. “The employees are very independent, they can work anywhere, and there are very few entrances into the work force. So we have to look at wages and benefits.”

The trucking company presents the biggest hiring challenge because of hazardous-materials credentials required by the Department of Energy.

**Aries Well Service
is not without strategies
of its own, including
a plan to compensate
for the inexperience
of many employees.**

So he's offering a \$1,000 signing bonus — \$500 upfront if they have credentials and another \$500 if they stay for six months. Drivers who need training get \$250 upfront and \$250 six months later.

Aries Well Service is not without strategies of its own, including a plan to compensate for the inexperience of many employees.

“With the well-servicing company we're hiring extra hands, using a five-man crew instead of a four-man crew to make sure they're not put in harm's way,” Roberts said.

The ethnicity and nationality of the current work force also serves as a striking contrast to the employees years ago.

Teague estimated 90 percent of the workers in the field are Hispanic, while Palmer said about 30 percent are recent immigrants from Mexico. In the early '80s, employees were mostly Caucasian.

Palmer said hiring recent immigrants can present a language barrier, as many don't understand English.

“It's not only a communication issue but a safety issue,” he said. “If you can't tell someone how to do a job, they don't know how to do it properly and safely. This is not a slam against Hispanic immigrants; it's just a simple fact of life that these immigrants need more basic training in our language and in our work practices.”

Teague, however, said most oilfield workers speak Spanish and English, and disagreed with Palmer's language-barrier observation.

“Almost all of the crews, your roustabout well-servicing crews, start at the low-entry jobs and through experience and education they work up the chain,” Teague said. “I see this as a positive thing. They are good workers. The people who come with the green cards are hard workers, very good working people.”

Tyler also said there used to be a language barrier, but now 80 percent of the workers are bilingual.

“We have a good operator who speaks Spanish and he can talk to the employees who don't speak English. You just have to have someone who is bilingual,” he said.



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Lovely Mar Vista Hill Home. Hardwood Floors, Stone Fireplace, Central A/C & Heat French Doors from Bedroom. Built-in Closet Drawers & Organizers, some Electric & Plumbing Upgrades. Auto Sprinklers. Updated 3/4 Bath with Spanish tiled floors. Restful yard. Some Garden & Interior Exclusions



3564 MAPLEWOOD, MAR VISTA

Beautifully Remodeled House in a Prime Area of Mar Vista. Corner Lot, On A Quiet Street. Marble Entry, With Newer Door. Master Bedroom Suite, With Walk-in-Closet, and Private Bathroom. Updated Kitchen with Oak Cabinets, Garden Window, and Marble Floor. Bay Windows in the Living Room. Lush Landscaping in The Front. Tastefully Landscaped Backyard. 2 Car Attached Garage.



2560 FEDERAL AVE.

Beautiful 1929 Spanish with all the original details. Coved ceilings with defining arches make this home charming and full of character. Dramatic light fixtures adorn this home along with a Malibu Tile fireplace in the living room. Intricately designer laid linoleum flooring in kitchen and breakfast nook. Tiled bathroom with the original bathtub. Beautiful hardwood floors.



13103 VENICE, MAR VISTA

Corner lot in Mar Vista, Duplex, Great income property. Unit one is one bedroom one bath rent \$900. Unit two is two bedroom and 1.75 bath. With remodeled kitchen. Both units can be available vacant.. Buyer can set income amount.



3718 GLENDON, MAR VISTA

Rental house with builder's potential. Accepted offer subject to seeing interior. No termite, no home warranty, "AS-IS" condition. Some copper plumbing, bathroom walls around tub retiled. Some electrical updated. Long driveway to 2 car detached garage. Large Service porch for washer and dryer hook up



11345 VENICE, MAR VISTA

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LOCAL

Malibu needs another \$6M for land grab

MALIBU, from page 1

dents and tourists.

"We are extremely satisfied to be able to support this regionally important project as we believe it is one of the keystones to restoring Santa Monica Bay," Nahai said.

Malibu is attempting to purchase the 20 acres of land for \$25 million. So far, \$12.5 million has been committed to the land acquisition fund. An additional \$6 million is set to be reviewed for approval by state board actions in October and November. Malibu is still in need of at least another \$6 million, city officials said.

The Malibu Land Company, which owns the property, has offered to sell it at a rate substantially lower than its market

value, estimated between \$40 million and \$50 million. However, as a condition of purchase, Malibu must successfully secure the funds by Dec. 31.

SBRC's \$2.5 million contribution marks the first time a state agency has formally committed money to help Malibu secure the site.

The Chili Cook-Off parcels — the setting for the famous event staged each Labor Day weekend for the past 20 years — was once part of a coastal wetland complex called the Malibu Lagoon system, one of two major habitats along Santa Monica Bay.

If acquired, more than 17 acres of the site would be used for treatment of stormwater, further stimulation of a riparian habitat, wastewater treatment and

removal, and recreation.

Approximately 2.5 acres of the site is occupied by 29,354 sq. ft. of commercial development and associated parking lots, which would remain in operation if acquired by Malibu.

An April feasibility study indicates the proposed stormwater treatment facility would be designed to handle 1,400 gallons of runoff per minute. The stormwater would be detained in the wetlands system and slowly metered through the filtration and disinfection facility, before being discharged into Malibu Creek. With the Chili Cook-Off parcels, it is believed Malibu would be able to disinfect 80 to 90 percent of the passing water.

The wastewater treatment facility would be able to process between 150,000

to 350,000 gallons per day.

The acquisition of the land would also reduce commercial development in the area by 125,000 sq. ft., according to the study.

That space would become a recreational area, according to Malibu's plan.

Malibu Mayor Pro Tem Ken Kearsley said the city has come far to realize an environmental goal, but there are steps ahead that will require more cooperation among local residents.

"It would be a tragedy to miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Kearsley said. "I encourage the entire Malibu community to unite in our efforts to raise these funds so that we can create a central park and clean up Malibu Creek, Lagoon and Surfrider Beach."

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Storming the beach



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Actors pose amid a photo shoot on Friday at Santa Monica Beach. The advertisement for "View From the Lense Production company" is being produced for the Korean market.

Surf cities are clashing over which can use lyrical moniker

SURF CITY, from page 1

monicker if it wants, according to the resolution. The resolution, which carries no weight of law, must still be approved by the full Legislature.

Sen. Joe Simitian, a Democrat who represents Santa Cruz, said he hopes the nonbinding resolution will help Santa Cruz's efforts to thwart Huntington Beach's patent

applications.

Republicans opposed the Senate resolution, which was approved on a 3-2 vote. Sen. John Campbell, a Republican who represents Huntington Beach, said the Senate should not get involved.

He said neither Santa Cruz nor Huntington Beach qualifies to be Surf City under the terms of the classic song because neither has "two girls for every boy."

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LOCAL

Garcia shot 11 times in bar fight turned fatal

NO MURDER, from page 1

Pedraza was never questioned by police at the time of the shooting. He fled the scene and abandoned his bar, wife and three kids. He was on the lam for 19 years before being arrested in Los Angeles in July of 2003 on drug charges. He allegedly sold narcotics out of a bar parking lot where he worked, according to police.

Shortly after the shooting, police found Pedraza's tan Ford pick-up truck abandoned in Santa Monica.

According to his testimony, Pedraza went to Mexico. He returned to the United States 10 years later and lived here under a different name until his arrest.

Mojgan Aghai, Pedraza's public defender, said she believes the jury made a wise decision in finding Pedraza not guilty of murder.

"This case was a classic example of someone exercising his legal right to self-defense, and a prosecutor attempting to overtake that right," Aghai said. "If this were a policeman who shot someone in a similar situation, do you think (the D.A.'s office) would prosecute, like it did with Pedraza?"

"The police get the benefit of the doubt, but citizens don't."

Larry Droege, the deputy district attorney assigned to the case, wasn't

available for comment.

Sandi Gibbons, D.A. spokeswoman, said her office prosecuted on grounds they felt they had a case.

"We believe the evidence shows the defendant was guilty of murder, but that's why we have the system in place," Gibbons said. "The jury decides."

Jurors deliberating on the case weren't available for comment.

WEIGHING THE FACTS

Pedraza said it was common for customers to bring guns and shoot them inside and outside his bar. On the night of the shoot-out with Garcia, Pedraza was without a security guard because that man had been shot at the bar in an unrelated incident a few weeks before.

For protection, Pedraza was wearing a bullet-proof vest and was armed with a can of mace and a .38 semi-automatic pistol tucked in his waist.

Garcia and his brother, Ramon, entered the bar, and were served. Garcia, who appeared angry, took his beer to the pool table and proceeded to smash his and other customers' beer bottles against the floor, Pedraza testified.

Pedraza asked Garcia to leave, calling him a huero, which is a slang word for "blondie" or "light-skinned." Garcia was Hispanic.

"If someone is shooting at you and you can't shoot back, what is the 'right to self-defense' supposed to mean?"

MOJGAN AGHAI
Pedraza's attorney

A struggle ensued. Pedraza maced Garcia and escorted him out of the bar.

Garcia threatened Pedraza. He returned near the entrance of the bar a few minutes afterward and pointed a gun at Pedraza, who he could see through the doorway.

Pedraza walked toward the back door of the bar. He heard a revving car take off and thought Garcia had left, he testified.

Pedraza walked along the side of the building toward the front of the bar.

Pedraza took a step on the sidewalk and spotted Garcia, who was near a tree on the opposite side of the bar's facade. Pedraza warned "blondie" that he didn't want to kill him and that he should go home.

Garcia proceeded to fire, charging Pedraza. Pedraza took a bullet to the chest, which was protected by his vest.

Pedraza took cover behind the corner of the building, while Garcia was exposed on the sidewalk. They fired at each other

repeatedly. Garcia fell to his knees, and Pedraza continued shooting until Garcia fell face first in the street.

Pedraza walked up to Garcia and shot three more rounds in the back of his head.

During the trial, Droege argued the final shots proved the case was an act of murder. He noted that Pedraza failed to lock the front door of the bar when Garcia first pointed the gun at him. Pedraza also failed to notify police once he felt threatened Garcia might kill him.

Pedraza said he acted the way he did because he was fearful for his life and leaving his children orphaned.

Aghai agreed with her client.

"He gave Garcia the opportunity to go home, and he didn't," Aghai said. "Instead, he started shooting."

"If someone is shooting at you and you can't shoot back, what is the 'right to self-defense' supposed to mean?"



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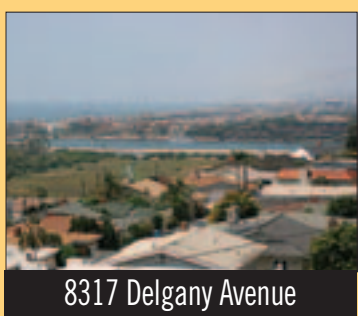
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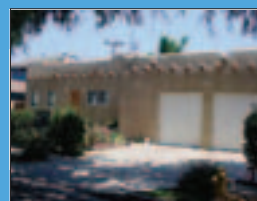


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NATIONAL

Dissension in ranks of drilling monitors

BY BECKY BOHRER

Associated Press Writer

PINEDALE, Wyo. — It was seen as an experiment and a way to head off potential litigation that could stall development in one of the biggest natural gas fields in the country.

Most involved agree that, on paper at least, it was a great idea for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to bring together a diverse group for advice on ways to track and minimize the effects of drilling in this vast, western Wyoming valley.

But a year into its work, the group is already unraveling. One member has walked off and others are confused about what role the BLM wants them to play in overseeing development and wondering whether the drilling and its consequences are being monitored closely enough.

"The big question in our minds is over who has authority," said Linda Baker, a conservationist and chairwoman of the group, the Pinedale Anticline Working Group.

While BLM says it wants the group's advice, some members accuse the agency of hearing only what it wants and preventing it from weighing in on such things as industry plans to drill year-round in key wildlife areas. The BLM insists it just wants to keep the volunteers focused on an already-huge workload

limited largely, by charter, to monitoring the results of decisions the agency makes.

"We're the only group to have any input at all and it's a shame it only has to be on decisions that are already made and looking backward," said rancher Kirby Hedrick, a former oil company executive who quit the panel in frustration earlier this month.

"The government can make some pretty bad mistakes," he said.

BLM realized five years ago, when it authorized a long-range blueprint for drilling on and around the mesa known as the Pinedale Anticline, that it would need help monitoring development because there were so many unknowns, said Prill Mecham, BLM's field manager in Pinedale.

While thousands of mule deer are known to winter on the mesa, federal officials couldn't say for sure how greatly they would be disturbed by drilling. In 2000, when the environmental study was released, there were barely a dozen wells in the area, and it wasn't clear how much gas was there, she said.

Today, there are more than 400 wells. Companies, spurred in part by higher gas prices and emerging technology, are seeking increased access to drilling and closer well spacing to extract as much natural gas as possible. The 2000 study allowed

See **DRILL WYOMING**, page 17

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NATIONAL



Group contends BLM needs to slow the pace

DRILL WYOMING, from page 16

for the drilling of 2,800 wells over time, but given how productive the area is proving to be, that number is probably too low, said Don Likwartz, supervisor of the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission.

There are 40 trillion cubic feet of gas beneath the 30-mile long anticline, and the industry hopes to recover about 60 percent of it, he said. One trillion cubic feet is sufficient to meet the residential needs of 10 million homes for a year.

One of the main factors limiting development is a tight supply of drilling rigs, Likwartz said.

But some members of the working group want BLM to slow the pace further. They are worried that not enough is known yet about how current development is affecting wildlife, such as mule deer, pronghorn and sage grouse; the local community; and water and air quality.

In recent years, Paul Hagenstein, a group member who's lived in the area most of his life, said he's begun noticing haze against the Wind River Mountains "like I've never seen." He can't say for sure the energy development is the main culprit, but he has his suspicions.

Another member and local resident, Susan Kramer, said she has noticed similar changes.

"You can't have everything you want all the time without consequences, and I'm not sure we're all fully aware of the consequences of what we're doing here," she said.

Just this year, the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality set up local monitoring stations to help gather information. Companies like Shell Exploration & Production Co. are chip-

ping in funding for monitoring efforts.

Dan Olson, administrator of the department's air quality division, said officials are using computer models to help determine emissions in the area 20 years ago because of a lack of earlier monitoring numbers.

"Our gut feeling is, we don't have a problem," he said.

While industry, BLM and other agencies are helping fund a range of monitoring programs, Baker says huge holes in research remain. She figures it would take at least \$1 million to cover the needs, and her group is trying to determine which companies are chipping in, and how much.

Ken Leonard, external affairs manager for Shell, which this month sponsored a media tour of its drilling activities near Pinedale, said the company is committed to funding research in the area. He said it would also like to see BLM get more money for monitoring and enforcement.

Some members of the working group say the panel should be allowed to weigh in on operator plans before approval by BLM. They contend these have a bearing on the monitoring programs the group is supposed to recommend to the agency and thought it was part of their job.

Mecham said recently that it wasn't and that a facilitator would be brought in for future meetings to keep the group on task.

Despite the recent turmoil, the work the group has done so far, and the work ahead of it, is of critical importance to BLM, Mecham said.

Both the BLM and members of the group say they want to see it succeed.

"It's an ideal, in my mind, that I bought into, and I'm not ready to let it go," Baker said.



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Hawaii is taking bold step with gasoline caps

BY AUDREY MCAVOY
Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — Hawaii will begin enforcing the nation's first-ever state ceiling on wholesale gas prices on Thursday, but Honolulu resident Jerry Bump is doubtful the unique effort will make much of a dent in what he pays at the pump.

"I think it's a waste of time and energy and resources," said Bump, as he filled his black Nissan SUV with \$50 worth of gas. "I think the state could be trying to solve other problems — like traffic congestion. People have to sit in their cars an hour to come to work. How much gas are they using just to get into work?"

Hawaii's legislators embarked on a bold experiment last year when they imposed the nation's first caps on what refineries can charge for wholesale gasoline. The bill's authors say they aim to prevent oil companies from fleecing the islands' captive consumers.

But critics say the law may inadvertently trigger shortages and chase the state's two refineries out of town. Some add that the law sidesteps the fundamental issue Americans may need to address if they ever want to shield themselves from rising oil prices: How to reduce the nation's dependency on gas.

Richard Miller of the group Citizens Against Gasoline Price Gouging says Hawaii prices tend to stay high regardless of what's happening outside the islands because the companies that operate the state's only two refineries — Chevron Corp. and Tesoro Corp. — have abused their grip on the market.

Last November, for example, the average price for regular unleaded in Hawaii hovered between \$2.35 and \$2.40 per gallon for several weeks even as the national average fell 20 cents to \$1.75.

"It's called an oligopoly. It's not a regular market," said Miller, professor emeritus at the University of Hawaii's law school. "It's a market in which they control the prices and they've been doing it for years."

Under the new law, the state's Public Utilities Commission will calculate the new gas caps each week by taking the five-day average for gasoline on the three mainland spot markets and then tack on allowances for shipping and operational costs.

In Honolulu, the caps will allow wholesalers to charge only as much as 28 cents more per gallon than the average mainland wholesale price.

This could provide considerable relief to drivers in the state capital who have in the past paid about 50 cents a gallon more for gas than their mainland counterparts.

Scott Foster, a spokesman for Hawaii Advocates for Consumer Rights, said there are signs the law is already having an impact even before it goes into effect.

"For the first time in 20 years, Hawaii gas prices are in line with the mainland — that shows they're manipulating prices," Foster said.

There are potential hazards, though.

State Sen. Gordon Trimble, a Republican who represents downtown Honolulu and Waikiki, argues that the gas cap may trigger a gas shortage if the refineries find they can make more money shipping their products to places like California.

"They will act as a rational business and they will sell their product in the market that will give them the best return," Trimble said. "And if that means exporting petroleum products from Hawaii, that's what they'll do."

Chevron and Tesoro both said they had no new business plans because of the cap — but also warned they were wading through uncharted waters and couldn't predict what might happen.

"We will continue to do business as usual until such time as the situation requires us to do something different," said Albert Chee, a spokesman for Chevron in Hawaii.

Hawaii's legislators embarked on a bold experiment last year when they imposed the nation's first caps on what refineries can charge for wholesale gasoline.

"Having said that, we continue to believe the law is flawed and not in the best interest of the state. Furthermore, we are concerned about unintended consequences."

Paul Brewbaker, a Bank of Hawaii economist, wondered whether the caps could trigger bizarre new habits among drivers.

"Will consumers alternately all rush down to the gas station the same day that the all-wise and powerful Wizard of Oz announces what the new higher price will be?" Brewbaker asked in an e-mail response to questions.

"Or will they stay at home this week and put off the shopping until after the prices go down ... Who the hell knows? Why would anybody even want to find out?"

Some energy industry experts said Hawaii is picking a fight it can't win.

"The global market is one big swimming pool. Tomorrow the workers go on strike in Nigeria, and we pay the price here although we don't import oil from Nigeria," said Fereidun Fesharaki, a senior fellow at the East-West Center in Honolulu. "The story is that global oil prices are rising and there is nothing we can do about it."

Fesharaki said the gas caps might prompt Chevron and Tesoro to leave Hawaii, leaving the state with no choice but to import gasoline from elsewhere and pay even more for it as a result.

Hawaii lawmakers built safeguards into the law by giving Gov. Linda Lingle powers to suspend the gas cap if needed. Lingle said last week she would step in if an oil refinery said it would leave, if one started shipping gas to other markets, or if shortages erupted around the state.

Fesharaki said the best way to combat higher oil prices was to use less of it by becoming more energy efficient.

Honolulu-based nature photographer Steve Kaster, 53, agreed. He said Americans should develop vehicles that are more fuel-efficient than the 18-mile-per-gallon truck he drives.

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NATIONAL



Former fugitive attempting to revive his political career

BY MICHELLE ROBERTS

Associated Press Writer

PRESCOTT, Ariz. — The last time Howard Mechanic sought public office, he tried to cloak his past and even his real name.

In 2000, Mechanic was a wanted man living as Gary Tredway, small businessman, community activist and City Council candidate in an upscale Phoenix suburb.

The campaign wound up revealing a three-decades-old secret: he wasn't Gary Tredway. He was Howard Mechanic, a man who had skipped town to avoid a five-year prison sentence for his role in a 1970 Vietnam War protest.

The risky decision to raise his profile with a political campaign landed Mechanic in prison, but the former fugitive has never been able to outrun his idealist streak.

Now free for 4 1/2 years because of a presidential pardon, he is seeking public office again — this time using his real name and his real past.

"Why Prescott Needs This Felon!" read the headline on a newspaper advertisement run by Mechanic's campaign.

He figured the ad, which included details about his conviction and more recent community activism, would help quell the rumors running about town.

"I understand people are going to consider my past when they are voting," said Mechanic, sitting in an easy chair in the living room of the home he shares with girlfriend, Janet Grossman.

"My life hasn't been perfect. I don't know anyone whose has been. Mine's just a little stranger."

Mechanic's life took its strange turn in the early 1970s.

The Washington University senior, studying political science on scholarship at the St. Louis school, was at a demonstration like many others nationwide on May 4, 1970, protesting the war and the shooting of four Kent State University students. During the Washington University protest, fire was set to the ROTC building.

Someone threw a firecracker at firefighters, and although no one was injured, Mechanic was arrested after a witness claimed Mechanic launched the cherry bomb — something Mechanic denies. He was convicted under a tough federal anti-rioting law and sentenced to five years in prison.

Out on bond, Mechanic vanished in 1972. It was a decision that surprised even those close to him at the time.

"I know it was difficult," said Phillip Koch, a friend and college roommate, who helped fight for Mechanic's release from prison. "Those were very different times. It's hard to describe how it was."

Mechanic wasn't the only 1970s activist to go underground to avoid prison. Others, including Kathleen Ann Power, who helped rob a bank to fund anti-Vietnam War activities, and Sara Jane Olson, a former Symbionese Liberation Army member who attempted to bomb police cruisers, have resurfaced in recent years after decades of exile.

Mechanic was sent to prison shortly after being unmasked by Phoenix-area reporters in 2000. "I was a little naive about the risks," he says now of the decision to run for office while on the lam.

He had been in the public eye for his involvement in social causes dealing with growth and campaign finance. He had gotten comfortable there, he said.

After admitting his identity, Mechanic served nearly a year in prisons in Florence, Ariz., and in Lompoc, Calif., while Koch, Grossman and others worked to get his sentence commuted.

Always reserved, he said he started to relax in prison, shedding nightmares of being chased, which nagged him over his 28 years as Gary Tredway.

Grossman, who met Mechanic in 1994 after answering a personal ad in an alternative newspaper, remembers seeing him sitting behind the glass in his brown jumpsuit for the first time and thinking how relaxed he looked in prison. He had never seemed particularly uptight before, but she recalls telling him, "Your face looks freer than I've ever seen it."

Mechanic also got used to being called "Howard" again. (He had forgotten how to spell his real middle name, Lawrence, during his fugitive years.) He wrote an autobiography and thought about what he would do in the future.

"I decided when I was in prison ... I was going to be working on community projects as much as I could," he said.

President Clinton pardoned him on Jan. 20, 2001. Mechanic walked away from prison later that night.

It didn't take long for his penchant for community involvement to kick in.

He sold the apartment hotel he owned in Scottsdale, and he and Grossman settled in pine-studded Prescott, a smaller town with milder weather.

Within months of arriving, he got involved in open space and water issues, some of the most contentious questions in this rapidly growing town.

He started attending all the City Council meetings, and Mayor Rowle Simmons appointed Mechanic to a water conservation advisory commission.

Mechanic, now a 57-year-old with short graying hair, decided to run for City Council earlier this year. He's one of eight candidates fighting for three at-large seats; voting in the mail-in primary, during which six candidates will advance, ends Sept. 13.

He took out the newspaper ad discussing his "felon" past after the nominating petition deadline in June.

"That was really, really slick on his part because he knew it would come out," said Simmons. "That was the first shot across the bow."

His past is no secret here because of news stories and reruns of television specials, but in this conservative community, his hippie and fugitive past still rankles some folks, Simmons said. That has opened him to rumors and criticism on talk radio.

Mechanic, who supports himself financially by selling capsule-filling kits to vitamin and supplement producers, said he is willing to take the criticism.

He concedes he's a bit of an idealist. He knows that many people figure there's not much point in being involved, but "I'm sort of more altruistic," said Mechanic, who speaks in even tones even when refuting what he says are lies being spread around town.

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Odd mix of people leave mark in Vegas

BY ADAM GOLDMAN

Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — Each morning, five days a week, a drab, concrete building bulges with security guards, strippers, childcare workers and the occasional dog handler.

Cocktail waitresses, private investigators, bartenders and locksmiths line up next to child pornographers and felons convicted of murder, violent robbery and kidnapping.

They've all come to the Fingerprint Bureau.

It's a bureaucratic oddity that draws the unusual mix. Some come in search of a work card — their requisite ticket to certain types of employment in the booming Las Vegas economy.

They mingle with the criminal element, required by state law to register with the police department when they have done their time or are moving to a new community.

Sometimes you can't tell them apart.

"I've been here 10 years," Cheryl Hunter, a bureau supervisor, said. "I heard everything, seen it all."

Some people try to borrow money from the clerks to pay for work cards. Others stumble on faulty memories when asked about criminal records.

Occasionally a fugitive from justice in need of a paycheck willingly is fingerprinted.

"That big sign outside, apparently they don't read it," Hunter said with a chuckle, referring to the big, black words that adorn the building: "LVMPD Fingerprint Bureau," which stands for Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

The bureau is tucked away at the end of an industrial road, just about a mile west of the Strip. The building doesn't look like much but it's a portal into the lives of thousands of people who flock to Las Vegas each month in the search of a job in the city of gamblers.

On average, the bureau processes 500 people a week, down from about 1,500 when it was issuing work cards last year to many types of casino employees. The work card regulates businesses, trades and professions that require a high degree of supervision, according to police.

As of Jan. 1, 2004, the police department stopped issuing gambling work cards. Most casino industry employees must now register with state regulators.

It costs \$45 for a work card. A criminal background check also runs \$45, and there's a charge for fingerprinting.

The bureau has a certain cadence, similar to your local department of motor

vehicles.

"Now serving 602 at window 10."

"Now serving 616 at window 15."

"Now serving 623 at window 11."

The lines move quickly as the clerks deal with a steady influx of clients and their varied temperaments.

"You have to have patience and thick skin," said Cinda Loucks, director of fingerprinting at the bureau.

Big events bring a monsoon of applicants, such as private security guards hiring on to work championship boxing matches.

Most people are processed without complication, but an outstanding warrant, extensive criminal history or insufficient immigration documentation means no work card and, perhaps, no job.

Lying about a job referral also is forbidden.

"They have to have an offer for a job," Loucks said. "We don't just hand them out."

Goran Jovanovic, 37, a bartender at the Rio hotel-casino, spoke shortly after getting his nongambling work card that's good for five years.

"I have nothing to hide," he said.

He called his short wait at the bureau an aggravation — it was his day off — but he really couldn't complain about the service. He remembers the bad old days when the busy bureau was located on colorful Fremont Street.

"That was hell," he recalled.

But many other applicants were no more forthcoming in sharing details about themselves with a reporter than they are with the clerks. Many declined to provide their last names, like Hannah, a 25-year-old dancer from Denver.

Hannah flew into Las Vegas for a weekend of work at a local strip club that could earn her \$3,000 to \$4,000.

She waited an hour before getting that work card. In her line of work, the card means everything.

"It differentiates between prostitutes and dancers," she said.

Plenty of Hannahs frequent the bureau, especially before a holiday weekend when the building brims with long-legged women in sexy attire. The strippers tend to stand out among the drab cinderblock walls and bolted-down metal chairs.

Loucks and Hunter said they have learned not to judge anyone on appearances. They don't see people in the bureau, they see applicants.

"With today's fashion, sometimes it can get hard," Hunter said.

"I've seen the shortest skirts and the longest skirts," Loucks added.

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NATIONAL

Fantagraphics hopes 'Dennis' has same appeal as 'Peanuts'

BY GEORGE ESTRADA
Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE — "Peanuts" turned to gold for Fantagraphics. Now the once-struggling comics publisher hopes another cartoon icon, "Dennis the Menace," can follow in Charlie Brown's footsteps.

Fantagraphics will publish the first book in a 25-volume series, "Hank Ketcham's Complete Dennis the Menace," in early September. The series will run 11 years and reprint every "Dennis the Menace" newspaper strip drawn by Ketcham — nearly 11,000 strips spanning more than 44 years.

The 624-page first volume will reprint the first two years (1951-53) of the cartoon life of the mischievous lad who bedevils his parents and neighbors. The company also will republish Ketcham's autobiography as a companion to the first volume. The cartoonist was born in Seattle and died in 2001 at age 81.

"Dennis is everybody's kid," said Ketcham's widow, Rolande. "He's a lovable guy who gets into trouble but in a nice way." She had never heard of Fantagraphics until she saw its "Peanuts" anthology and its proposal to reprint "Dennis."

"They did a lovely job on 'Peanuts,' and we are quite flattered that they are doing 'Dennis,' too," she said.

Fantagraphics was on the verge of going broke just two years ago. Four best-selling "Peanuts" reprint editions and a boom in the graphic novel industry helped turn around the struggling Seattle company.

"Compared to where we were two years ago, we're quite prosperous now," said company president Gary Groth.

The first volume of "The Complete Peanuts" was published in spring 2004 and has since sold 110,000 copies. It was the first Fantagraphics product to hit The New York Times list of best sellers in the company's 29 years. The second volume has more than 100,000 copies in print, and the third and fourth volumes each have more than 80,000. Each volume has a retail list price of \$28.95.

Fantagraphics had long been known for underground and alternative comics rather than family fare such as "Peanuts," but a friendship between "Peanuts" creator Charles Schulz and Groth helped the company land the deal. After Schulz died in 2000, his widow, Jean, helped get the project off the ground.

"She helped us cut through all the red tape and convinced the syndicate that this was a good thing," Groth said.

"For a small independent publishing company to get a license for the biggest cartoon character in the world was surprising," said Eric Reynolds, a special projects editor at Fantagraphics. "It's been the biggest thing we've ever done."

Charlie Brown and his pals have an enduring and almost universal appeal.

"He has hope, but knows there is always the possibility of failure," said M. Thomas Inge, a humanities professor at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va. who has curated exhibits on comics art for the Smithsonian Institute. "He's a loser, but he's always trying to get ahead."

"Dennis the Menace," on the other hand, persists in being the troublesome child but also has a universality. "Dennis explores new environments, he challenges parental authority. We can all relate to him because almost every family has a child like this."

Marcus Hamilton, who took over the strip after Ketcham retired in 1994, said that the first volume of reprints might surprise longtime fans who view Dennis as a mischievous, but harmless little kid. "The strip was a little more risque when it first started," he said. For example, in one panel, Dennis tied a swan's neck in a knot.

Inspired by his "rambunctious" young son, Ketcham created "Dennis" in 1951, and the strip started running in 16 newspapers. It reached 100 papers by the end of its first year, and now Dennis trails only Charlie Brown in cartoon popularity. "Dennis" appears daily in more than 1,000 newspapers in 48 countries, and is translated into 19 languages.

Ketcham's autobiography, "The Merchant of Dennis the Menace," was originally published in 1990. The new version will have vintage photos of Ketcham's childhood home, family photos, early sketches and many other illustrations.

Fantagraphics hopes that the continuing boom in graphic novels will help the "Dennis" books.

Graphic novel sales have quadrupled over the past five years, said Jim Killen, a buyer for Barnes & Noble, Inc., chiefly because the number of movies and other media projects based on graphic novels has increased. Also, the explosion of Japanese graphic novels has attracted readership among diverse groups.

Fantagraphics began as a trade magazine called the Comics Journal in Washington, D.C., before moving to Seattle in 1989. It later published comics by Robert Crumb and other underground artists. Alternative-type comics has remained its primary business, although it has also reprinted collections of classic newspaper strips "Pogo," "Prince Valiant" and "Krazy Kat."

Other Fantagraphics titles include "Ghost World," which inspired a 2001 film about two cynical teens. The screenplay by Daniel Clowes and Terry Zwigoff was nominated for an Academy Award.

Fantagraphics almost went belly-up in 2003, when it was about \$200,000 in debt and facing the prospect of more losses from the bankruptcy of a distributor.

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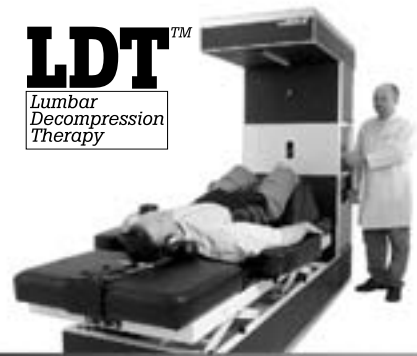


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NATIONAL □ INTERNATIONAL

Air Force Academy scandal results in military-wide reform

BY ROBERT WELLER
Associated Press Writer

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — As Air Force cadets return to classes this month, they are seeing a new system for handling rape allegations — reforms put in place throughout the military in response to the sex scandal that rocked this prestigious school more than two years ago.

The Defense Department is adding sexual assault response coordinators at every major base around the world. Bases also will have at least one victim's advocate, most of them civilians.

In another groundbreaking move, all 1.5 million active duty military personnel will have the option of reporting a sexual assault and having their identity shielded from commanders. Base commanders will be told there has been an incident but given no information about the alleged victim.

Roger Kaplan, spokesman for the Pentagon's Joint Task Force on Sexual Assault, said training began in June and more than 2,300 response coordinators and victim's advocates have been prepped for handling assault cases.

Observers call the changes — part of a series of reforms enacted since the academy scandal erupted — a significant milestone for the military.

"I liken it in importance to the establishment of equal opportunity offices on bases," said Terri Spahr Nelson, an Army veteran and therapist who has written about assault in the military. "How long it is going to take people to get the word, I don't know."

Anita Sanchez, spokeswoman for the Miles Foundation advocacy group for victims of military violence, said she has reservations.

"It looks great on paper but it needs to be based on a foundation of law and procedure, not just a policy directive, to guarantee that victims get the support and protection they need," she said.

The scandal here broke in January 2003 when female cadets said they were being punished for minor infractions like drinking alcohol when they came forward to report sexual assaults. Some cadets went to a local rape crisis clinic, saying they feared their military careers would be damaged if they spoke with a commanding officer. Investigators later determined there were 142 reports of sexual assault at the academy between 1993 and 2003.

An investigation by the Defense Department's inspector general said top academy commanders had failed to recognize the severity of the problem. The Air Force brought in new leadership and began researching ways to prevent another scandal.

The Pentagon said Thursday that hostile attitudes and inappropriate treatment of women are still a problem at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., and the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. A task force report called training on sexual harassment and assault issues inadequate, resulting in misunderstandings about how to obtain medical care, counseling and legal assistance.

Col. Debra Gray, a 1980 alumna of the academy's first coed class, was sent to the school in 2003 with orders to find out what was wrong and fix it. She said she and other leaders had to be educated on the impact of sexual assault.

"I went from zero to 100,000 feet in a very short period of time in learning about sexual assault," said Gray, the school's vice commandant. "The more I learned about it the more I understood that a lot of people are not going to come forward and talk about something that is personal unless you give them the avenue of confidentiality."

Only about a third of sexual assault victims report the attacks, according to national surveys. Gray said she has explained to the academy's civilian oversight panel that most rapes involve someone known to the victim — which makes it even harder to report. In some cases, underage drinking or other rules violations are involved, complicating cases.

Since Gray took over, the number of female cadets indicating they were sexually assaulted during their time at the academy declined from 109 women to 79 women, according to a 2003-04 survey by the Defense Department's inspector general. Overall, the military said 1,700 sexual assaults were reported last year, up from 1,012 in 2003. Officials have attributed the increase to heightened awareness about sexual assault issues.

Kaplan said that between June 14, when the new confidentiality policy took effect, and July 31, a total of 40 people made confidential reports of assaults; seven later decided to go public and pursue prosecution of their assailant.

Gray is the response coordinator for the academy until a civilian takes over the job. When victims call, she said she plans to "draw a bubble around" them until they have had time to regain control of their lives.

Shiites offering their final compromise in attempts to snap constitution impasse

BY QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Shiite negotiators have proposed a compromise to the Sunnis and Kurds to break the impasse over the new constitution and called it a final offer, a member of the Shiite committee said Friday.

"We have given the latest draft and we hope they respond today," Abbas al-Bayati told The Associated Press. "We cannot offer more than that" concerning federalism and efforts to remove top members of Saddam Hussein's Sunni-dominated Baath Party from government and political posts.

He said the Shiites had proposed that the parliament that will be elected in December should be given the right to issue a law on the mechanism of implementing federalism. He gave no further details.

The constitution provides for a federal state, one in which provinces would have significant powers in contrast to Saddam's regime in which Sunnis dominated a strong central government.

The charter will allow any number of provinces to combine and form a federal state with broader powers. The Sunnis have demanded a limit of three provinces, the number the Kurds have in their self-ruled region in the north. The Sunnis have publicly accepted the continued existence of the Kurdish regional administration within its current boundaries.

Without limits, Sunnis fear not only a giant Shiite state in the south but also future bids by the Kurds to expand their region, as they have demanded. That would leave the Sunnis cut off from Iraq's oil wealth in the north and south.

On the issue of the Baath Party, al-Bayati said it will be up to the next parliament to set a timetable for the work of the Supreme National Commission for de-Baathification. That would presumably involve how long the commission would operate.

He said President Bush telephoned Shiite leader Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim on Thursday and urged "consensus" on the draft constitution.

The Sunnis had insisted that the issue of dividing Iraq into federated regions be deferred until after the parliamentary election in December. Many Sunnis boycotted the Jan. 30 election for the current parliament, which is dominated by the Shiites and Kurds.

Sadoun Zubaydi, a Sunni member of the drafting committee, said the Sunnis would have to see the fine points of the Shiite proposal first. If the proposal does not make concessions on the principle of federalism but only the mechanism, this would not meet Sunni demands.

"Our position is that both the principle and mechanism should be deferred," Zubaydi told the AP. "Our policy is decentralization, but not political federalism with borders, division of resources, etc. That is separatism, not federalism."

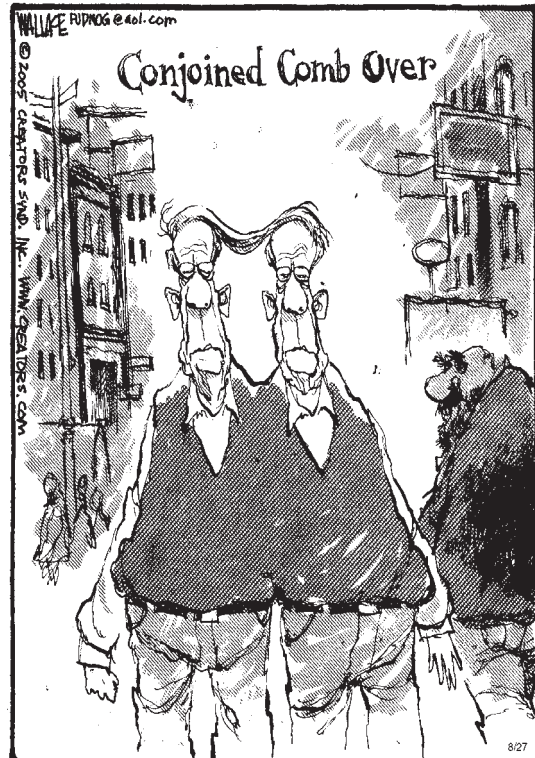
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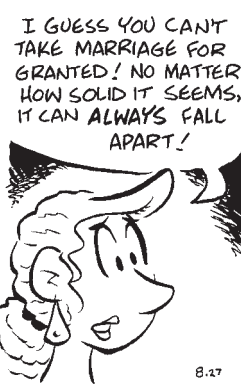
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



'Tommy' terrific: Farley gets his star

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Comedian Chris Farley was a motivational speaker, a rabid fan and a topless dancer on "Saturday Night Live." On Friday, the late comic was the toast of his castmates as they honored him with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

"I think it's sweet that everyone still has a real nice place in their hearts for him, they still remember him," said actor-comedian David Spade, who appeared with Farley during his 1990-95 reign on the show.

"He goes down as one of the greats. And I still think about him every day," Spade said.

Fans, friends and family surrounded Farley's star, the walk's 2,289th, in front of the Improv Olympic West theater where the actor used to perform. Among other celebrities in attendance were "SNL" alumni Chris Rock and Adam Sandler.

"I think every fat comedian owes him 80 bucks that's working today," Rock said.

Farley, whose physical comedy, wild antics and large appetite lent comparisons to another "SNL" alum, John Belushi, died on Dec. 18, 1997, from an accidental overdose of morphine and cocaine. He was 33.

Best known on "SNL" for his characterization of a slovenly motivational speaker named Matt Foley, Farley also drew laughs as an obsessed Chicago Bears football fan and a topless Chippendales dancer.

Born on Feb. 15, 1964, Farley grew up in Madison, Wis. He joined the Second City Theatre troupe before joining "SNL."

Farley later starred in several movies, including "Black Sheep" (1996), "Beverly Hills Ninja" (1997) and "Wayne's World" (1992).

A special DVD edition of Farley and Spade's 1995 hit "Tommy Boy" will be released Tuesday.

ST. LOUIS — A lawsuit has been filed against Eminem, his bus driver and tour bus company seeking unspecified damages for a July accident involving seven vehicles in western Missouri.

The lawsuit was filed Thursday in St. Louis by Michigan truck driver Breck Wyngarden and his wife, Ascension "Tina" Wyngarden. Along with Eminem, whose real name is Marshall Mathers III, the suit names bus driver Charlie Dilligard and the tour bus company, Entertainment Coaches of America.

The accident happened July 13 about 25 miles east of Kansas City. Eminem was not on the bus, but seven people on the Anger Management Tour were among 11 sent to the hospital. Also hospitalized were Tina Wyngarden, two motorcycle drivers and a motorcycle passenger.

Among those injured from the tour bus were the driver; Eminem's DJ Alan Maman, also known as Alchemist; and Stanley Benton, 26, a rapper who goes by the name Stat Quo and is considered one of Eminem's proteges.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol said the bus was westbound about 6 p.m., on its way to a tour stop in Denver

after a stop in Chicago.

Attorney Jeff Lowe, who is representing the Wyngardens, claimed the tour bus swerved to avoid a collision, but struck the side of the tractor-trailer. The lawsuit said Breck Wyngarden suffered rib injuries, while his wife injured her head, neck and back.

Spokesmen for Eminem and Entertainment Coaches of America did not return phone messages Friday. There was no phone listing for Dilligard, of Suitland, Md.

Just last week, two of Eminem's relatives filed a lawsuit against him claiming he's trying to evict them from the home he had built for them. Jack and Betty Schmitt, his uncle and aunt, are seeking more than \$350,000 and possession of the home.

The 32-year-old rap star recently canceled his European tour, citing exhaustion. His publicist has said he is undergoing treatment for dependency to sleep medication.

MALIBU, Calif. — A man who allegedly walked into Jennifer Aniston's home and said he was looking for the actress was arrested Thursday for investigation of trespassing, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said.

David Hesterbey, 48, of Santa Barbara was arrested by sheriff's deputies who found him walking along the beach near Aniston's home around noon, authorities said.

Sheriff's Sgt. Ken Scheurn said two of Aniston's employees told deputies a man walked into the actress' home on the Pacific Coast Highway north of Los Angeles and told one of them he was "looking for Jennifer."

When the second employee confronted the man, he became startled and fled the house, jumping a fence and running toward the beach, authorities said.

Deputies found Hesterbey on the beach a short time later, and the employees identified him as the intruder.

He was believed to have entered the home through an unlocked door, authorities said.

CHICAGO — Oprah Winfrey said she is "furious" at allegations that her absence at the recent funeral for Ebony and Jet magazines founder John H. Johnson was a snub of the pioneering black publisher.

A column published Thursday in the Chicago Defender, a historically significant black daily newspaper, questioned why Winfrey didn't attend Johnson's Aug. 15 funeral in her hometown of Chicago. Former President Bill Clinton, the Rev. Jesse Jackson and many notable black media personalities attended the service.

Chicago Defender Executive Editor Roland Martin wrote that many black media figures have been lamenting Winfrey's "apparent snub of the man who single-handedly made it possible for people like Oprah to launch their own magazines and media companies."

In another column published Friday, Martin recounted a tense phone conversation he had with Winfrey on Thursday.

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