

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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SUPER LOTTO

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Mega Number: 19
Jackpot: \$7 million

FANTASY 5

10 17 18 19 25

DAILY 3

Daytime: 1 9 2
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DAILY DERBY

1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 02 Lucky Star

RACE TIME: 1:43.71

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Some people out for morning rush hour on Aug. 5 in the Dorchester section of Boston were treated to a demolition derby on New England Avenue, after Yvesnane Gethers, 27, in a white limousine, chased her husband, Wayne Gethers, in another white limo, at speeds up to 50 mph and rammed him at least five times, causing extensive damage to both cars. The couple just happen to own white limos as their vehicles of choice, and Mrs. Gethers happened to discover her husband in his, having an early morning drink with a female friend.

■ On July 12, federal, state and county officials, responding to a call about an eye-popping scene at a sandbar just off Whale Harbor in the Florida Keys town of Islamorada, discovered a young woman apparently blissfully dangling by the shoulders from meat hooks that were hanging from a makeshift bamboo tripod and stuck in her skin. A Coast Guard officer took pictures and asked if anyone was doing anything he or she didn't want to do, but the heavily tattooed, pierced people at the scene assured him they were just having fun in the sun. A sheriff's spokesman said he couldn't think of any laws that were broken but that he would look into it.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We always like those who admire us; we do not always like those whom we admire."

FRANCOIS DE LA ROCHEFOUCAULD
FRENCH AUTHOR & MORALIST (1613 - 1680)

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Council candidates looking for a chink in SMRR armor

BY JOHN F. MULLER

Special to the Daily Press

CITY HALL — The sudden proliferation of highly organized local political groups may be an early indicator of what is shaping up to be one of the most ferocious and unpredictable campaigns in recent memory, observers say.

The months preceding this fall's election have seen the organization of myriad political committees — some new, some not so new. The groups have been busy bestowing endorsements upon their chosen candidates.

Aside from the Santa Monicans for Renter's Rights group — the coalition that has dominated local

politics for the majority of the past 26 years — political action committees vying to put their stamp on the electoral process now include the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, a new group of city employees, and a newly unified team of teachers. A coalition of living wage supporters passed out their endorsements earlier this month, while the police and firefighter unions are still waiting to give their nods.

"There's more political interest in Santa Monica than in most similar communities," said Bob Stern, president of the Center for Governmental Studies and a former Santa Monica resident. Stern attrib-

See BALLOT BOX, page 7

Urban jungle



Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II/Daily Press

A bevy of stuffed animals lie in wait for brave shoppers to call their number at the intersection of Lincoln Boulevard and Michigan Avenue on Sunday afternoon. Dawn Smith, aka 'Catwoman,' sets up shop each week outside a service station.

Watering hole



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

The first person to accurately describe where this mystery photo was taken will receive a gift certificate for Izzy's Deli. E-mail answers to sack@smdp.com.

While Arnold's away the Dems will play

BY TOM CHORNEAU

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — While Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger enjoys the limelight of the Republican national convention this week, the Legislature's Democratic majority has a big homecoming gift waiting for him — scores of polarizing bills intended to test the first-term governor.

From legislation that will give illegal immigrants the right to get a driver's license to a bill that will

ease rules for buying prescription drugs from Canadian pharmacies, Democrats are looking to force the governor into clear positions they can use against him on the campaign trial.

Although Schwarzenegger has already signaled his disfavor of both those bills, he will have a far harder time deciding other issues — such as whether to raise the minimum wage and to regulate the sale of long-range rifles. The gov-

See LEGISLATURE, page 10

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

The show must go on, but only on his watch

BY GENEVA WHITMARSH

Daily Press Staff Writer

PROMENADE — Stephen Bradford winds his way through the thousands of people walking the Third Street Promenade and stops to chat with a guitarist who plays for the crowd.

"How ya doin' today?" he asks

the musician, extending his hand and looking him in the eyes.

The guitarist smiles and takes Bradford's hand. They chat briefly before Bradford moseys on, looking to connect with each of the performers who have set up shop on the Promenade that day.

Bradford is the Bayside

District's venue manager, a job that entails making sure the street performers, solicitors and other people who use the Promenade to reach out to the public are complying with the city's 15-page street performer ordinance. For example, performers must change

See PROFILES, page 7

Jacquie Banks

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Forget the day, Scorpio

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

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





ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You could easily become aggravated, because you have so much vitality and creativity, and others drag their paws. Schedule a workshop in communication so you have the skills necessary to express yourself to everyone. Adjust and flex. Tonight: Read a good book.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ *ou reverse your position or at least adapt your opinion about an associate and/or joint money matter. Much comes out, but you need to flex rather than throw a tantrum. Transform the situation by transforming yourself. Tonight: Follow your friends.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Concentrate on where you can be successful or at least feel as if you've accomplished something. Others are subject to change. You can count on seeing associates, friends and family differently. Keep your cool. Tonight: Work late.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Eventually you'll find answers through detachment. Recognize what might happen if you grow or add to your professional specialties. Be willing to walk through one door to get to an improved, better place. Tonight: Relax your mind.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Your love life or relationship with a child or loved one could be changing right in front of your eyes. If you are single, you could meet someone in the very near future who will be significant in your life's history. Tonight: Quality time. Relax and listen.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Others come from a different space. You might want to kick back and think through what is going on rather than be a player. The less you have to do with today's uproar, the better off you will be. Observe what is going down around you. Tonight: Out and about.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Your focus needs to be on work, but communication seems to interrupt you. Rather than lose it or slam the door, find a nook where you can get it all done. Prioritize, but be as gentle as possible. Tonight: Find a gym or take a walk. Let go of tension.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Use your libido energies to hop over a problem. How you see a personal matter could transform. A risk at this point could cost you much more than you had intended. Play it conservatively. Tonight: Relax and be playful. Forget the day.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Family and investments need to become your highest priorities. You might want to check out a new home or purchase. An attitude will transform if you willingly open your eyes. Tonight: Happiness surrounds your home.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Give up stubbornness or preconceived notions. What you see go down might have a lot to do with taking off your rose-colored glasses. Others have different styles. Understand their thinking and accept their ideas. You grow. Tonight: Return friends' phone calls. Catch up on news.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Balance your checkbook. Spending right now on a friendship or something you want to have happen might not be the best idea. Consider what really might be going on with this person. Revise your perspective. Tonight: Pay bills first.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Your smiling ways help you develop to a new level. With the Moon in your sign, you could and probably will have your way. Laugh and understand why someone is being so difficult or emotional. Tonight: Don't let others push you around. Claim your power.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday

Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913

1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • www.smdp.com

PUBLISHER Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com EDITOR Carolyn Sackariason sack@smdp.com STAFF WRITER John Wood wood@smdp.com STAFF WRITER Geneva Whitmarsh geneva@smdp.com ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER Rob Piubeni rob@smdp.com ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Rob Schwenker schwenker@smdp.com ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Chris Allen chris@smdp.com	PRODUCTION MANAGER Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II alex@smdp.com PRODUCTION ARTIST Rick Reynoso rick@smdp.com EXECUTIVE TRAFFIC MANAGER Heather Rich heather@smdp.com CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE Mitch Troy mitch@smdp.com CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE Kitty Seeger kitty@smdp.com NIGHT EDITOR Lori Luechtefeld lori@smdp.com	NIGHT EDITOR Michael Tittinger mikeyt@smdp.com CIRCULATION MANAGER Mike Aviles mike@smdp.com CIRCULATION Keith Wyatt keith@smdp.com CIRCULATION Glenn Bolan glenn@smdp.com SPECIAL PROJECTS Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com MASCOT Maya Furukawa maya@smdp.com
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LOCAL



Out of middle America and onward to the RNC

EASY WRITER NOTES FROM THE ROAD



(Editor's note: Santa Monica resident Lance Schmidt is on a road trip across America, on his way to Grandma's house. He will be writing weekly on the people he meets, their political leanings and the environments in which they live).

Washington, D.C. —
Aug. 27

Having crossed the country and spoken with countless folks from California to Tennessee to Washington D.C., I have tried to get a snapshot of what is on their minds from a personal perspective, an economic outlook and a political sense.

There is something about pulling into a town alone on a Zebra motorcycle that is disarming and humorous. Most folks I have met engage me and have been self-effacing while speaking their mind. They have been helpful with directions, showing me what places to go to. They have bent over backward to lend assistance or just chew the fat. Many feel me out before opening up — that's where the Santa Monica Daily Press drink per diem comes in.

Most everybody that I have met, no matter their political leanings or their economic situation, has been absolutely great. From LA to the Beltway, most folks I have encountered are good people with a sense of pride in themselves, their respective state and in being American. Of course, I haven't pulled into Jersey yet.

One theme that keeps appearing is people are getting more serious, passionate, scared, and sick about the ensuing election. While many staunch supporters of both W and Bones defend the attacks on their candidates, most would rather be watching the Olympics or dwelling on something else. My sense is that most can't wait for this gig to be over.

While at a bar in Dodge City, Kansas, I met a rancher who bought me a beer and claimed to be one of the only Democrats in the county, as well a Vietnam Brown Water Sea Wolf Helicopter squad leader. He explained that the Brown Water Wolves were essentially the air unit that brought support to swift boats. He told me of his lingering nightmares from "free fire" zones and said the accusations against

Kerry are simply misguided. He said wholesale Purple Hearts were common place for a war that was unpopular at home. He explained that many four-month tours on swift boats ended in death. The guy across from us joined in the conversation and barked that he was a 'Nam vet on the Delta and that Kerry was a liar and fabricated his medals. They both had a heated exchange. Fortunately, for them and me, I had a former stripper, Barbara, from Kansas City, in between us to mediate. She interjected by claiming that she was the only stripper from Dodge City to model for "Beef Today" magazine. What to believe? I'll go with Barbara.



Grandma and grandson give a 'thumbs-up'

Aug. 18

Not a good day on the bike. Constant rain, oppressive heat and humidity, as well as truckers' alley on every road I'm on from Kansas to Missouri. I really believe that in a long-haul trucker's mind, motorcycles were created for honing their sick amusement.

Almost three weeks on the road now and I'm getting used to the routine: Pull in a town or forest by about 7 p.m., get a room or pitch the tent, ride to a restaurant, bar or make my meal, then crash. In the morning I get coffee and a roll, and get on the road by about 7 a.m. I usually stop for gas and breakfast after about 100 miles. If I'm staying in a city or place for a few days, I welcome the extra sleep and unhurried pace

Aug. 19

I rolled into St. Louis to rendezvous with my aunt, uncle and cousin. My Aunt Sue is from my mother's side and lives with my Uncle Neil. Their son Neil II

See EASY WRITER, page 6



SURF REPORT

Look for 3-4 ft., waist- to shoulder-high sets and fair conditions. The NW swell will really lose steam over the next couple of days as we see a mix of S and SE swells keep the surf playful at the better exposed spots.

On Monday, look for a mix of dropping NW swell to go along with building SE swell (160-170) from Tropical Storm Georgette and holding S Southern Hemi swell (175-190). The better southerly exposed breaks see surf in the waist- to occasional chest-high range.

Today the water is:

70°

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



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	- 1:42	1.0	1:42	0.3	7:32	4.5	8:03	5.2
SUNDAY	- 2:21	0.3	2:12	0.4	8:20	4.5	8:28	5.7
MONDAY	- 3:01	-0.4	2:44	0.7	9:09	4.5	8:58	6.1
TUESDAY	- 3:44	-0.1	3:17	1.1	9:59	4.3	9:31	6.4
WEDNESDAY	- 4:30	-1.3	3:51	1.5	10:52	4.1	10:08	6.5
THURSDAY	- 5:20	-1.4	4:29	1.9	11:52	3.7	10:49	6.4
FRIDAY	- 6:16	-1.3	5:12	2.3	1:02	3.5	11:37	6.1

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The QLine

Some 2,500 delegates descended upon New York City this week for the Republican National Convention.

Pre-convention polls showed the race to be evenly split, as Democratic challenger John Kerry has lost some of the steam garnered in Boston a month ago. Candidates traditionally enjoy a bounce in popularity immediately following conventions. A Time magazine poll suggests that Bush has gained ground on Kerry on the

economy and Iraq.

This week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do the national conventions typically affect the way you vote? Can President Bush's speech sway you one way or another in light of your current leanings?"

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



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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Feeling marooned

Editor:

Just when I thought the city's brain trust was finished wasting our money by building curbs in the middle of the streets I noticed that they're at it again. This time they've decided to "improve" the traffic situation at Cloverfield and Pico boulevards, an intersection many of us lowly southside residents use to get to the I-10. What could possibly help traffic more than taking up a lane with a curbed island?

Not only do these useless curbs in the roads make traffic worse (and cost how many thousands of tax dollars?), you can forget about trying to ride your bike on a street with them (26th, Montana, Wilshire). How unsafe, and unnerving, it is to cycle when Big Blue buses and Hummer-driving soccer moms are swerving over to the right to avoid the curbs in the middle of the road.

A bike-friendly city, yeah right.

On the bright side, in the future when we're stuck in the bumper-to-bumper traffic on Cloverfield we'll have a lovely new bum campground (oops, I mean skate park) to look at.

Jeff Bender
Santa Monica

School district split regressive

Editor:

Make no mistake about it, a split-off of Malibu from the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District would represent a regressive step. The regressive nature of the proposed split is illustrated quite clearly by one of the goals of the group proposing it, as reported in the Daily Press on Aug. 26, to allow Malibu schools to collect more easily voluntary contributions from Malibu residents for school programs that the district now finds too expensive to provide for all schools in the unified district. As a facile alternative to mobilizing politically to increase funding for all the schools in the metropolitan area, or in the state, or in the nation, such campaigns for donations to local schools are popular across the country. While they are motivated by people's laudable desires to provide generously for their children's education, they also must be seen as part of a pattern of continued efforts by the wealthiest Americans to separate themselves from the rest of society and its problems, and to abdicate their responsibility to contribute to public programs that benefit the entire population.

These efforts go against the liberal and communitarian goals that have guided our country since its early days, but now have been advanced much more in other countries than here. The evolution of our public school system is a prime example. The idea of public schools was for the community as a whole to provide good education opportunities for all its children, but this goal has been perverted by the economic segregation of our society, combined with the persistence of small school districts in many parts of the country, so that we now have so-called public schools for which the price of admission is the price of a \$1 million home, making them more exclusive than the most exclusive private schools.

According to the Daily Press, Tom Sorce, the leader of the group wanting to split Malibu off, says he believes that the more schools are controlled locally, the better they are. This is a view that seems to be held by a large percentage of Americans, but I doubt there is much evidence to support it. Certainly there are some very fine public schools in small districts where most of the parents and school board members are wealthy and well-educated, but there are also some very inadequate schools in poor districts where relatively poorly educated parents and other adults in the community have tried to manage their own schools.

For example, in New Jersey, where I was once a public school teacher, the state took away local control of some urban school districts because they were so mismanaged. In Germany, the country that according to some analyses has the best public schools in the world, schools are run on a state level, proving that a high degree of local control is not necessary for good schools.

Small local school districts are wasteful. Children in one part of a region, or even one part of a nation, need to learn pretty much the same thing as those in another part. The duplication of curriculum efforts hundreds or thousands of times across the nation is unnecessary. In fact, a central panel of top experts could probably do a better job than is currently done in even the wealthiest local districts today.

But perhaps what is most wrong about small school districts is their contributing effect towards segregation and inequality. Affluent couples flee from urban areas when they have children, not only to escape violent crime, but also to find "better schools." Meanwhile, the children of poor families are not allowed to attend "public" schools outside their impoverished districts.

No, the direction of progress is towards larger, not smaller school districts. We should be trying to create a Southern California school system, if not a statewide school system for the effective and equal schooling of all the children in the state. The creation of a Malibu school system to allow the wealthy residents of Malibu to provide well for the education of their own children without having to be concerned about anyone else's would be a step backwards.

David Sirkin
Santa Monica

Sometimes fax of life can really take a toll



COMMON SCENTS

BY CAROLE ORLIN

Like many of you, I use my fax machine every day for business. It is an important part of my workday. In the last few months, I've been increasingly bombarded by unsolicited advertisements for everything from trips to Disney's Orlando to refinancing offers, from home improvement offers to Caribbean cruises, from stocks to work-at-home opportunities (which I try to do when I'm not being harassed by these evil faxes).

Lately, the first thing I do every morning before I can start my day is to sort through the dozens of sheets of junk faxes that have come through overnight and separate them from the important things I need for my work. Then, I call each of the fax removal numbers, knowing it is an exercise in futility. I even started saving them and made written notations as to the dates I supposedly had them deleted. Despite my valiant efforts, I seem to be getting more and more faxes. My first thoughts were to: (1) throw out the fax machine; (2) hire someone for an hour a day to deal with this nuisance; (3) sue the bastards!

I decided to do a little research because I knew I could not be alone in receiving this fax-based harassment. Joyfully, I found that there are hordes of people receiving these gems, and that there are things being done about it. (Not that I'm happy that other people are being harassed, but it's nice to know you're not alone.)

Anyway, I found out that you can sue the bastards! Not only that, but you can sue for up to four years from the date you receive a junk fax. There is a federal law that has been in place since 1991 which makes it clearly illegal to send an unsolicited commercial advertisement to a fax machine anywhere in the U.S. It provides for remedies that we "victims" can use, including a monetary award for each violation. It should be noted that there is pending legislation (Junk Fax Prevention Act) in Congress, as well as new rules from the Federal Communications Commission that could arguably weaken the existing law as early as January. Whether that happens remains to be seen in the coming months; it may require us to be more vigilant in taking legal action. But, for now, I am going to share with you the information I received from the Foundation for Taxpayers and Consumers Rights on how to sue the junk faxers.

The existing fax regulations are part of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act [47 U.S.C., Sect. 227 (b)]. The FTCR states that for a fax to be illegal under the federal law it must "be unsolicited, meaning you did not ask for or give your permission to receive the fax, and (the fax) must advertise the commercial availability or quality of property goods or services." Once that criteria is met, this is what to do. First, save and date the faxes you receive, because the court may ask you when you received the fax, and the harassers may also want to check their

business records. Second, you must identify the offenders. You must find out the name and address of the junk fax advertisers. There are many creative ways to do this, like tell them you are interested and want a service agreement; or if a fax promotes a web site, visit the web site and do a "who is" search to find out information for its registered owner. A good web site is better — whois.com. To get public records, call the county tax assessors or the secretary of state, or use this link, <http://www.factfind.com/states.htm>.

There are other ways, but this is a good one. You can find out if they have been cited by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and file a complaint. You can do that online at <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/complaints.html>, or call the FCC Consumer Center at 1-888-225-5322. Third, send demand letters. This is important, because often the harassers, knowing that by federal law you get at least \$500 per fax, and in some situations up to \$1,500 per fax, may want to avoid a lawsuit and will offer a settlement out of court. The following web site explains how to write a demand letter: <http://www.nolo.com/encyclopedia/articles/cm/cm22.html>. They also have a sample demand letter. "Generally you must demand payment before suing." This is fine with me.

Now if you don't get satisfactory results from a demand letter, you can sue in small claims court, which costs approximately \$30. This can really have an impact. Encourage your friends and anyone else who is a victim of this harassment to follow suit. It's worth it. They also suggest not agreeing to keep the settlement confidential. Let everyone know, and we can rid ourselves of this scourge!

If you have numerous faxes from the same faxing service and want to get a court order and do this on a larger scale, you can go to a "general jurisdiction" state court. Of course, that will cost more and take more time. FTCR is presently suing junk faxers in California Superior Court. For information about suing in general jurisdiction courts, they recommend you consult a lawyer. I also discovered through my research that you can file a complaint with the Public Inquiry Unit of the Attorney General's office at <http://www.ag.ca.gov/consumers/mail-form.htm>.

If all this sounds like a lot of work, think about how much time you spend futilely calling the fax removal lines, having the machine tied up, the cost of the wasted fax paper and toner. Worst of all, remember the pain of stubbing your (my) toes to answer the ringing of the fax machine early in the morning. (I have to keep it on 'round-the-clock for business in different time zones.)

Now, as this column is coming to a close, I plan on implementing my own advice. I have in my hands 17 faxes from the last six days, and am about to write my first demand letter. I will keep you posted about my journey, but don't worry, it won't be by fax.

(Carole can be reached at Caroleorlin@yahoo.com)

OPINION



Too much 'me' time can obscure true self



HIP TO BE SQUARE

BY CAROLINE BODKIN

I was browsing at Barnes & Noble on a hot Sunday when I walked toward, and paused at, the table display of self-help books. One in particular — “What Happy People Know” — looked full of sunshine, so I reached for it.

When I touched it, a wave came over me. I was put into a trance. My mind went fuzzy. The room blurred and one thought dominated my mind: I have the ability to make myself better. I can become great.

And from that moment on, I could only focus on one goal — to find a better me ... no, to find the best possible me.

I wanted SuperMe.

I turned the book in my hands, gazed at the big smiling, cart-wheeling figure on the front cover, read the rave reviews on the back and felt powerful.

Self-help is about bettering the person you are. But I wanted more. I wanted to be the best.

The list of ways in which I would become the best version of me sprung to life in my mind in rapid succession: I will be my strongest emotional self; I will be my most insightful; I will be in my best shape; I will be my most well read; I will be my most selfless; I will be the best listener by listening to understand, not listening as a way to pass time until it's my turn to speak; I will tutor children and will always be respectful of elderly people; I will be the most grateful; I will perform nothing but good deeds every day; I will be polite to telemarketers; I will yield for pedestrians; I will breathe away road rage; I will be the best yogi.

I will become SuperMe — the person friends rely on and enemies secretly admire.

But who was this person? What would she look like?

I had no idea.

But I believed the answers were being revealed to me right there in Barnes & Noble and the self-help book was my sign and my entryway into greatness. There, I ventured into my study. My quest for best.

I bought that and a stack of other

books, all of which would focus on areas to improve (“Men are from Mars,

Women are from Venus,” “Rich Dad, Poor Dad,” etc.). I flew home and, ignoring the work I had to do that night, I opened the first page.

I sucked up that book like oxygen and then moved ahead, flew through the rest of the books, and then on to other mediums — radio and television. I made a list of shrink-hosted radio talk shows and listened to them at every opportunity. I TiVo'd talk shows, studying the masters with great intensity: Dr. Phil, Oprah, even the Queer Eyes were my gurus.

I'd take notes from the books, the shows and the hosts. These notes became “to be my best” lists, which I'd tape to the bathroom mirror or the steering wheel of my car as reminders of what I had to do.

From morning to night, I was a sponge for self-improvement and, for a while, I was happy, secure in the knowledge that when this studying was done, I'd be the best me there was. It was all I could think about.

In fact, becoming the best was like a full-time job, and took all my energy and focus. I was distracted from work. I had no time for friends. I even passed up rare quiet moments with my boyfriend in favor of my studies. I was spending so much time figuring out how to become my best person that I had no time to be a person.

Days passed, the obsession continued, and then one day I returned home to unpaid bills, a slew of messages on my machine, unreturned e-mails and a sad note from my boyfriend. I had forgotten dinner plans yet again.

And that's when it occurred to me that I missed myself. I missed my life. And for the first time in a long time, I saw what my real life — the life I already had — had to offer.

SuperMe was something I'm not. I returned the books. I stopped TiVoing the shows. I turned off the radio.

For a while, at least, I just appreciated the quiet parts of my life. And went from there.

(Caroline Bodkin lives in Los Angeles and is working on a novel, “Insight Into Self.” You can e-mail her at hip-tobesquarebybodkin@yahoo.com)

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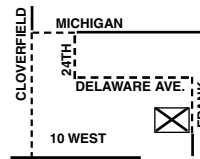


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The Q-Line



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LOCAL

Catching up, kissing good-bye in Missouri rain



(Top) Blue Ridge Mountain camping. (Above left) Lowest gas prices thus far, outside Richmond, Virginia. (Above right) The Mississippi Queen prepares to embark from Nashville, Tenn., setting its course for New Orleans.

EASY WRITER, from page 3

also lives in the St. Louis area and just bought a new house and lives with his girlfriend, Chantal.

Sue and Neil put me up for a few days while I put the motorcycle in the BMW shop for some needed repairs. We were then scheduled to drive down to my grandmother's house about three hours away to the small farm town of Advance, Mo.

Aug. 21

After getting my bike out of the shop, \$700 later and the Missouri rain lighting up, we headed out to grandma's house on into Advance Mo, population 1,244. The only notable thing that I could find about Advance is that Sheryl Crow was born in Kennett, Mo., just down the road.

Alma Lee Trops, was born Alma Lee Pixley on Aug., 17, 1907. She was born and still lives in Advance. She is one of 10 children. Alma married Lloyd Arthur Trops in 1929. She raised my mother, Winnis, and Sue on into their teens. My grandfather died in 1963. Both of my grandparents were from large farming families that hailed from England and Germany in the 1800s. Grandma Trops has lived in the same house for over 50 years.

I sat down with her on a hot and muggy Midwest afternoon for a small chat.

Me: It's been about 10 years since I've seen you grandma, you look terrific.

Grandma: Well, at 97 you can't be a model you know.

Me: Well, you could be grandma. I am so glad I could come visit you and say hi.

Grandma: Well, you sure have grown, just like that tree down yonder (she points to a big maple tree down the street) and you're a handsome young fella.

Me: Thank you grandma. So, do you mind if I interview you for the newspaper?

Grandma: Oh no, I don't have anything to say, just write what you want and I'll sign it.

Me: I can't do that grandma. That wouldn't be proper journalism.

Grandma: Well, they make up stuff

all the time in those newspapers don't they?

Me: Good point. Say, do you remember who was president when you were a little girl?

Grandma: Let me see, Hon, there has been so many. I don't recall, but I do remember Daddy saying that when I was born if I were a boy, he would have named me Teddy after the president. Was that Teddy Roosevelt?

Me: I believe it was grandma. Say, since we are talking about presidents, who is your favorite president?

Grandma: Oh, let's see now. I liked Harry Truman — he was a tuffy. And I liked Kennedy. It's just sad about him being shot. (She ponders awhile) But my favorite president is Clinton.

Me: Why is President Clinton your favorite?

Grandma: He's cute and he's a charmer if there every was one.

Me: So I take it you are a Democrat.

Grandma: Have been all of my life. All the Pixleys are Democrats and all the Trops's are Republicans. It's always been that way. But we all got along.

Aug. 22

Today was a sad day for our family.

I helped Sue, Neil and Neil II put grandma into a nursing home because she just couldn't continue living alone in her house.

While I know it will take Grandma Trops some getting used to in her new environment, I also know she will be taken care of properly and spend the rest of her days around friends. I also know it won't be long before she's running the place.

I said good-bye to Sue, Neil and Neil II, kissed grandma on the forehead, told her I loved her and rode out of Advance, Mo. facing the morning sun and into the Tennessee afternoon with a heavy heart.

Next week: Nashville, the Beltway and the Republican National Convention.

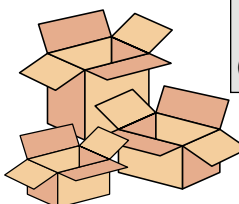
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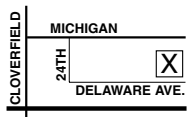


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LOCAL



Rush of rivals nothing new for dominant SMRR

BALLOT BOX, from page 1

utes much of the activism to the often divisive issue of rent control, which popped up in the late 1970s as housing prices skyrocketed. "There's no SMRR in Los Angeles. There's no SMRR in Culver City. There's no SMRR in Manhattan Beach. Up in Berkeley, there's a similar coalition.

"Berkeley and Santa Monica have the most active grassroots organization in the state."

Thomas Hollihan, a USC professor and expert in campaign politics and communication, said he wasn't surprised by the increase in the activity and organization of local political action committees — groups that prop up candidates through fundraising campaign volunteering.

"As people learn from the process, they see what they should do to get their voice heard," Hollihan said. "Politics is very Darwinian in that sense — the strong survive and the smartest take advantage of everything they can possibly use to get

their desired outcome.

"It doesn't strike me as unnatural that, in response to the development of a strong power, that that becomes a strong signal for other groups to create their own committees. That's what we've seen on the national scene."

While many of this season's political committees haven't come out in clear opposition to the city's current ruling party, all of the groups have worked to at least qualify the SMRR endorsement. Each of the committees has its own motivations for supporting a slate of candidates — even if those candidates are endorsed by SMRR.

City Councilman Bob Holbrook said the division exhibited by the overflow of groups and candidates could make for an extremely contentious election.

Two of the incumbents — Michael Feinstein and Herb Katz — didn't receive the SMRR endorsement. While Katz did not seek the party's support, Feinstein did but was unable to win over SMRR, which

helped him get elected in 2000.

"It's always hard to challenge SMRR and win," Holbrook said. An independent, Holbrook was elected in 2002 with virtually no endorsements. "SMRR is a well-oiled political machine ... What's different about this campaign is that we've got people like (Bobby) Shriver, who's someone new and exciting, and Katz, who's someone people have gotten to know, and some other exciting people who have thrown their hats into the ring.

"Michael Feinstein, of course, is a wild card," he added. "I'd expect that there will be three or four candidates who emerge as leading non-SMRR candidates, and SMRR will be battling amongst themselves over Feinstein."

Though City Councilman Ken Genser and SMRR co-founder and co-chair Denny Zane agreed that more political groups had sprung up this campaign season, they said similar political action committees have opposed SMRR over the years — just under different names.

"It seems like there are several well-funded independents and non-slate based candidates," Zane said. "That's different. But the battle lines are essentially the same between, in my view at least, the folks for whom real estate and business objectives are a primary concern and folks for whom neighborhood and community and housing security are prime objectives."

SMRR opponents have said that perceived division is oversimplified, maintaining that voters should focus on the common issues confronting the city — like homelessness, traffic problems and the education system — instead of building divides.

Thus far, SMRR has maintained its hold, much to the amazement of political observers like Stern.

"The amazing thing to me is that they've been in power so long, that they've stayed unified for so long," Stern said. "This year, there's enough opposition, we may see them start to show some cracks."

COMMUNITY PROFILES

PROFILES, from page 1

locations each two hours, be a certain number of feet from each other and not exceed a certain noise level.

The 54-year-old former San Diego resident brandishes neither a badge nor a gun, crediting a sense of fairness for helping him earn the respect of the people he encounters each day on his beat.

What does your job entail?

"My title is venue manager. I'm not an enforcement person — enforcement is left up to the police — but I track the time and position of all the performers on the Promenade. It's my job to see that they're in compliance ... The key to the whole thing is rotation. On the even hour — two, four, six, eight, 10 and 12 — everybody rotates. It doesn't matter when you started. If you started your performance a quarter to 12, you have to pack up and be gone at 12. That allows anyone who wants to participate access to a spot on the Promenade. A person cannot lay claim to a spot — they have to move. Everybody.

Just having said 'everybody,' not everybody moves, because there's a category of people called Heartland Vendors, and it's called that because of a court case. They are free speech performers, or advocates, and are using their free speech rights on the Promenade. There are sever-



Daily Press

MEN AT WORK: Stephen Bradford (right) goes about his day enforcing the city's street performer ordinance recently on the Third Street Promenade.

al of these people, and they don't rotate.

It's a public street, so anyone who wants to say anything can stand out there and do that to their heart's content all day long, but once they set up a table or musical instruments to perform for the benefit of the public, and are taking money, then

the city has some right to say where they are, how long they're there and how loud they can be. So rotation is the key.

You can't return to a spot you were at previously or a spot within 120 feet of that spot but one time in a six-hour period. There's a real key distinction I need to

make between monitoring and enforcing. I don't have the authority to write tickets. I don't have the authority to remove anyone's permit. I don't have any of that authority. I am the monitor, or the liaison between the performers and the police in the city, and the performers and the store operators and cart operators. Another essential aspect of the ordinance is the noise limits. It's my job to make sure everyone is performing under these limits."

So, if speakers are blaring, you let them know the limit?

"Right. And I have a couple different ways to monitor that. I have a relatively inexpensive Radio Shack-style meter that registers continuous volume. If I'm listening to something and having people turn it down, the needle will register that so we know they're at the level where they need to be. And then I have access to a very expensive, very complicated piece of machinery that I still don't know exactly how to use completely, and hopefully — in the off-season this fall — I'm hoping to take a class to learn how to use that machine better. But it's a very sophisticated sound meter that can tell you within a tenth of a degree how loud a person is, and it's the meter that the police use."

How did you end up in this position?

"I heard about the opening and applied."

See PROFILES, page 8



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COMMUNITYPROFILES

PROFILES, from page 7

I come out of a background of 25 years of freelance video production in many different areas such as government, education, business and litigation, working as a producer creating animation, graphics, video, film, an occasional commercial, an occasional music video. I started as a PA and did writing, producing, directing, editing. This job is very much like certain aspects of the production world. I compare it to being the production manager on a shoot that never ends, because there's no script but there's 100 performers. Actually, the city has issued over 1,000 permits. I have no idea how many are going to show up. I have no idea what kind of mood they're in, no idea if they're having a terrible day or a wonderful day. I have no idea if they're going to be in full compliance of all the rules or whether it'll be a headache from start to finish. With that many people, there are some people who don't want to be told what to do, and there are other people who appreciate the opportunity so much to be here that they never give me a hint of trouble.

It can get a little tricky because it's a 15-page ordinance of things they have to be aware of, such as the spacing between performers, how late they can play on a certain day, and the noise section of the ordinance changes during the week and during the day. So at 4 o'clock on a Tuesday afternoon, you can't be as loud as you can be at 4 o'clock on a Saturday afternoon or 9 o'clock on a Sunday night."

What is your typical day like?

"I have a kind of crude map of the Promenade. There's three blocks, and using different color pens, I track where everyone is in any two-hour period. What I like to do typically is anticipate the changeover by 10 or 15 minutes, and if I see someone who has two giant speakers and a lot of equipment and it's five minutes to two, he's not going to be done in time and the setup and breakdown part of the act is part of the two-hour performance block. So, I have to anticipate that change over a little bit, and since there's only one of me for three blocks, I like to get out there a little early. And then there are times on a busy Friday or Saturday where I'm pretty much out there solidly from 6 to 10 (p.m.).

last few weeks have been extremely busy, and I'm anticipating that we will kind of peak with Labor Day, and then it picks up again as the holidays approach, and then there's a lag time in the winter and then again in the spring it starts to pick up."

Did you grow up in Santa Monica?
"No, I grew up in California. I'm from San Diego, went to college in San Francisco. But I've been here since 2000."

Do you like living in Santa Monica?
"Oh, yes. In fact, my grandparents moved to Santa Monica in the mid '70s, and being a production person in LA, I'd just be all over the place and would end up working in Santa Monica sometimes. I lived here in the mid '80s for about a year and then since 2000."

Do you see the city differently since you're seeing more of its more colorful characters?

"You know, it's amazing. A lot of people live in a community but work outside that community — like I have done most of my life. This is the first time I've been able to live and work in the same town. I live nine blocks from here, so I can walk to work. It's wonderful. But it also just gives you such a different perspective of the city you live in. If you're working eight, 10, 12 hours downtown and you live in Santa Monica, you get back here, have dinner, go to bed, get up and repeat. But to live and work in Santa Monica is incredible, and I get to see so much more of how the city works."

What have you learned about the city?

"Well, Santa Monica has the reputation of being the home of the homeless, and there's certainly that aspect of things, but that can become sort of a stereotype that's not really true. There's all kinds of people here — every race, every creed. We have, since it's an election season, the Republicans out on the Promenade, and to see the numbers of people they're attracting and talking to ... You sort of think that people think of Santa Monica as being so liberal or so left wing, but it's not that completely. It's all kinds of things. It's all kinds of people.

I've learned that parking is a real hassle, of course, so it's nice to be able to walk to work so I don't have to deal with that. Just being able to go to local stores and shop locally, go to the Farmers' Market. I'll be walking to work and people will be driving by, honking or waving. I originally asked (my supervisor), 'Am I going to have to wear a badge?' and she said 'no,' within a week everyone will know you."

What kind of person do you think it takes to do this job?

"You really have to be non-judgmental in a basic way because you just encounter so many different people in so many different areas of their life — young people, middle-aged people, people just starting out, kids with attitudes. I've just met so many different kinds of people. You have to really not give into the sort of preconceived notions or prejudices that you've built up, because it's just not true.

You encounter people who have been doing street performing for 25 years and they know a lot more about it than I do, and I can't come into this job saying I'm the big cheese. In fact, I have a tremendous amount to learn about what these people go through daily to get here. We have a lot of immigrants who are here performing, people from South America, people from Asia, people from all over. These people are so grateful for this opportunity. It really makes you kind of stand back and take stock of what we take for granted about living here. Just classic immigrant stories of people arriving here with nothing and being given the opportunity to perform for the city and really enjoying it and making something of it.

You need someone very flexible, who doesn't make snap judgments. One of the things my job entails is probably 10 to 12 times a day I'm resolving disputes among performers, or among performers and cart operators, or between performers and store owners. And so it's like being a diplomat, I have to look into both sides of the story and make a fair judgment.

I can give you an example: We were having a hassle with one of the political groups on the Promenade. They set up in the wrong locations. Part of the ordinance dictates to these folks where they can set up on the Promenade for safety reasons. I arrive on the scene, and these guys are going at it with the police. When I arrived, the person arguing with the police said, 'OK, I will do whatever he says,' referring to me, and the reason he said that is for several weeks I'd been very fair in making sure their table was correct, making sure they didn't have too many signs, making sure that people who disagreed with their point of view weren't in there hassling them too much. So, as a result, instead of automatically doing what the police told him to do, he said I'll do what he tells me to do.

I've said that all the authority I have is a clipboard. I don't have a badge, I don't have a gun, I don't have anything that automatically says to anybody that they must do what I say. I need to rely on building relationships with the folks that are out here and establishing relationships with the people who are out here for the first time. Virtually every day there's someone who's never done this before and here comes this strange person who you can't automatically identify as a city official. I have to convince them to do what I tell them to do in a sense, so it is the most difficult, challenging job I've ever done."

Do you have any notable stories from your work out there?
"There have been three arrests of either performers or people on the Promenade. I just never have been in a situation where I've ever even been close to an arrest, not personally, not professionally — nothing. So to be thrown into a situation — I mean it's a public street and there are a lot of wonderful things going on and horrible things going on. There's crime, all kinds of stuff, so having to call the police and have them come out and arrest someone on my say so has been very traumatic and difficult. In all cases, it was absolutely necessary to do."

Where do you see yourself in the future?

"I have no idea. It's a funny position because there are things in the past that qualified me, but it's a unique position as well. This is almost a unique situation in the country in terms of performers. There is no other venue that I know of in the country where \$37 a year gets you virtually unfettered access to these three blocks and this many people going by. People who have been doing this a long time tell me just what an incredible place and great opportunity this is. They say we have a great system here. There's nothing else like it.

I take it day-to-day. I'm here day-to-day, making sure this weekend or this day goes well."

Is there something you really wish the community knew or was aware of?

"When I told people I was taking this job, every one of them said, 'Oh my God, the Promenade. I never go to the Promenade. I hate the Promenade. It's full of — take your pick — homeless, drug addicts, crime.' So, if there's one thing I can say to people in Santa Monica, it's that the Promenade is really a wonderful, wonderful place and it's full of incredibly talented people. It's like vaudeville. It's the bedrock of entertainment in this community, in Los Angeles and in the country because anyone can come out here and do it. Anyone who has the desire and pays \$37 a year — that's 10 cents a day — will not only have a place to perform, but there's a system in place to protect them while they're performing and assure them they get a fair shot. And as a result, we've attracted some tremendously talented musicians and artists, jugglers, mimes, rap artists. It really covers the gamut. So I would say to people in Santa Monica — don't give up on the Promenade. Come down here and enjoy it. It's not nearly as loud and stinky as you think."

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STATE



Gov. denies Shelley access to federal funds

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Saying there's growing concern about how Secretary of State Kevin Shelley has handled public money, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has frozen \$17.6 million in federal dollars earmarked for state election programs.

The move was made Friday and follows a legislative committee's vote ordering state auditors to conduct a full review of how Shelley has spent millions of dollars from the Help America Vote Act.

The troubled secretary also faces an investigation from the FBI, the state attorney general and the Fair Political Practices Commission over allegations of illegal campaign financing.

Shelley has denied wrongdoing. His spokesman Doug Stone could not be reached for comment Saturday.

Problems began for the beleaguered Democrat with disclosure earlier this month that a nonprofit group run by a political ally of Shelley's paid \$108,000 from a state grant to two people and two companies who then made donations of nearly identical amounts to Shelley's campaign.

The grant money came from a \$500,000 allocation to the San Francisco Neighbors Resource Center, an organization founded by Shelley ally Julie Lee. Shelley himself helped win the grant for the center in 2000, when he was Assembly majority leader.

Shelley has said he was unaware of the donations and has since returned \$125,000 to the state.

On another front, records also show that Shelley has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars from the Help America Vote Act intended to upgrade voting machines and improve voter registration to hire friends and Democratic consultants and other purposes that may exceed the limits of the federal program.

Schwarzenegger's finance chief Donna Arduin notified legislative leaders Friday that the administration was concerned about how the federal voting funds had been managed by the Secretary of State. Arduin said her office was holding back the remaining money until the state audit was completed.

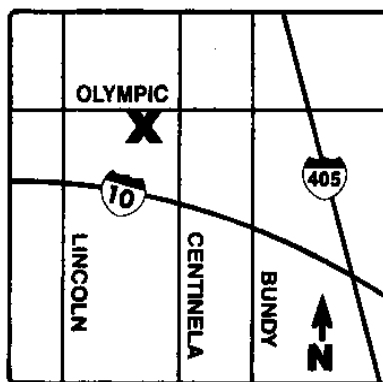
The state audit is expected to take 60 to 90 days.

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Bush readies his proposals on eve of convention

BY RON FOURNIER
AP Political Writer

NEW YORK — Abortion-rights protesters and the first Republican delegates descended on President Bush's heavily fortified convention city over the week-end as campaign officials said their boss would use the nomination spotlight to defend his hawkish foreign policies and offer a second-term agenda for health care, education and job training.

"He believes it's important for a candidate to talk about what he's done and, most important, where he wants to lead," said adviser Karen Hughes, aboard Bush's campaign bus in Ohio. "The speech is very forward-looking. It talks about what another four years of a Bush presidency would look like."

Democratic rival Sen. John Kerry said most voters won't look kindly on another term for the Republican. "For the last four years, we've had a dark cloud over Washington," Kerry told supporters on an overcast day in Washington state. "We're going to get rid of it on Nov. 2."

With his decorated combat record in question, Kerry said, "I'm in a fighting mood," and a campaign ally chided Bush for serving stateside in the Texas Air National Guard while others fought in Vietnam.

In an interview, Bush told NBC's "Today" that Kerry "going to Vietnam was more heroic than my flying fighter jets. He was in harm's way and I wasn't. On the other hand, I served my country. Had my unit been called up, I would have gone."

Pre-convention polls showed the race evenly split, though the challenger has lost ground since his convention in Boston a month ago. The four-day Republican convention opens Monday.

Bush campaigned deliberately through battleground states en route to an overwhelmingly Democratic convention city — fertile ground for protests against his foreign and domestic policies. Thousands of abortion-rights activists marched across the Brooklyn Bridge, 10 abreast in a protest a half-mile long. The night before, 264 people were arrested for disorderly conduct in a bicycle protest past Madison Square Garden. New York police said 25 people were arrested Saturday for various convention-related incidents, bringing the three-day total to 311.

The convention site is less than five miles from Ground Zero, where two hijacked planes destroyed the Twin Towers, killing 2,749 people and catapulting the nation into war. Bush's approval ratings soared as he led the nation in mourning, then ordered troops into Afghanistan to overthrow the Taliban regime and begin the search for Osama bin Laden.

Three years later, the terrorist leader is still at large, and the U.S. military is fighting an unpopular war in Iraq. As the death toll of U.S. troops nears 1,000, Bush hopes to persuade voters that the invasion of Iraq has made the nation safer.

"The power of liberty cannot be stopped," the president told supporters in Lima, Ohio, borrowing a line from his work-in-progress acceptance address. "Freedom is peace. Free societies are not going to harbor al-Qaida."

But even free societies must be diligent. Security precautions here showed it.

Police were out in force guarding New York roadways, bridges, tunnels and ports, while vehicle restrictions on an 18-square-block area around the Garden snarled traffic in a city already congested.

Police said they might have headed off disaster as they arrested a U.S. citizen and a Pakistani national in an

alleged plot to bomb a subway station in midtown Manhattan.

Inside the hall, the transformation from sports and entertainment center to convention site was complete, with a custom-made podium filling one side of the hall and thousands of balloons above.

A smattering of delegates had arrived midweek for platform hearings, and scores more were making their way to the city. They won't starve for food or attention. Among the parties planned was a huge gathering at the Temple of Dendur at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and an intimate affair in an apartment high above Fifth Avenue overlooking Central Park.

Bush arrives in his convention city Wednesday after an eight-state campaign swing. He'll spend one night in New York before bolting for the battlegrounds of Pennsylvania, Ohio and beyond shortly after accepting the GOP nomination.

Hughes said Bush will argue that the world and the nation are changing rapidly in the new century, forcing U.S. leaders to adapt. While a desire for stability guided foreign policy for decades, "now we recognize that only when our values and beliefs in freedom are able to take hold will we see our security improve."

Campaigning with Kerry in Washington state, retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark said Bush failed to act on terrorism before Sept. 11 and should be replaced. "George Bush is an incompetent commander in chief," said Clark, a former presidential candidate.

The domestic terrain is changing, too, with people constantly shifting jobs and women flooding the work force, Hughes said. "So he'll talk about skills and train-

See GOP, page 11

Schwarzenegger to be welcomed with bevy of bills

LEGISLATURE, from page 1

ernor must also choose if he wants to restrict the state's government's use of offshore workers and to require hotels to give work breaks to clerks and maids.

"These are touch choices, and it's either sign or veto," said Jack Pitney, a professor of government at Claremont McKenna College. "He's not going to be able to finesse his way around these things through negotiations, which is what's he's been able to do on a lot of things to this point."

Indeed, Schwarzenegger came to power in the recall election in October where he ran as a political outsider intent on ending the political infighting. And now, even after a bruising summer in which the state budget came

in a month late amid much partisan rancor — Schwarzenegger remains the most powerful politician in the Capitol with public approval rating of 65 percent and the continued image of a pragmatic problem-solver.

But the decisions Schwarzenegger will be forced to make over the next 30 days will more clearly define his politics and likely turn off some supporters disappointed by his choices.

Gone will be the ability to negotiate between interests to find common ground — as he did to get bipartisan support in March for a \$15 billion bond measure and later a landmark reform of the state's worker compensation system. Even the budget was a product of give and take.

Now, the governor will be forced to make black and white decisions and explain any veto in a required message back to the Legislature.

"I think a lot of what is being sent, is being sent deliberately to force him to make choices," said Assemblyman Joe Canciamilla, D-Pittsburg. "I think we will begin to see how he approaches issues, what his priorities are."

Schwarzenegger and his staff have said nearly 800 bills are pending his signature. Margita Thompson, the governor's spokeswoman, said last week that as the governor goes through the process he will look closely at the economic impacts. "The prism under which legislation is going to be looked at is going to be on job-creating and the economy," she said.

But Capitol observers say the governor will have to broaden his scope to successfully navigate the bill-signing chore.

"His win-win strategy has gotten him by the rough patches," said Barbara O'Connor, director of the Institute for the Study of Politics and the Media at California State University, Sacramento. "Now he's going to be forced to

declare his ideological preferences."

The driver's license bill, for instance, O'Connor said, is something of great interest in the fast-growing Hispanic community. The governor campaigned during the recall against the idea and shortly after taking office forced the Legislature to repeal an existing law that gave illegal immigrants licenses.

But in recent months, Schwarzenegger has said he'd be willing to sign a bill that gives back the right under certain conditions — conditions Democrats claim the governor has changed as time has gone on.

"Now they are forcing him to take a stand," O'Connor said.

Republicans also are watching the governor. Although Schwarzenegger will take a primetime speaking role on Tuesday during the convention, there are many in his party who remain skeptical of the actor-turned politician largely because of his moderate position on social issues like gay rights and abortion.

The governor also has given ground on labor issues. Most notably, Schwarzenegger has agreed to allowed union organizing of Indian casinos as part of new tribal gambling compacts he's negotiated. And Democrats have pushed forward a variety of bills intended to help labor.

"I hope he uses the veto a lot," said Assemblyman John Campbell, R-Irvine. "There's a number of bills that are guaranteed vetoes and are being put up just to make a point."

Campbell argued the Democrats' strategy of putting the governor on the spot will backfire because Schwarzenegger is a lot closer to the voters than the majority party. "I think they are putting up a lot more bills that will embarrass them," he said. "I think they've lost sight of the fact that they are out of touch with the people."

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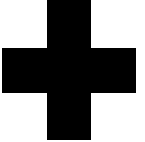
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NATIONAL



Going, going, Gilliam: Rush to save county is on

JULIA SILVERMAN

Associated Press Writer

CONDON, Ore. — When a delegation of dignitaries from Washington, D.C. rolled into this remote corner of north-central Oregon recently to deliver a big check for economic development, the people of Gilliam County pulled out all the stops.

A tent was erected against a backdrop of wheat fields along a rural stretch of highway, an array of bread made from homegrown wheat was available for the eating, and the county's movers and shakers came out in force for the photo op, including Gilliam County Judge Laura Pryor, who leaned her forearms on the makeshift podium, and told the visitors just what was what.

"You are in a frontier county of about 1,900 people," Pryor began. "You're six miles from the Columbia River, in a place that has grain customers in the Pacific Rim. And you're a stone's throw from the Oregon Trail. So you see, every place in the world is a somewhere," he said, standing outside the town of Arlington.

But if Gilliam County, with three tiny towns, no stop-lights and 1.6 square miles for every person, loses much more population, it could soon turn into a nowhere.

Percentage-wise, the county regularly tops the census list of Oregon counties that are losing population, a steady stream of about 80 or 100 people every year.

And Gilliam County is far from the only place in the rural West that's in danger of becoming a ghost county. In places like Clearwater County, Idaho, Niobrara County, Wyo., and Treasure County, Mont., the loss of a hundred or so people regularly translates to population declines of 5 or 7 percent, year after year.

The decline is fueled primarily by two factors: old-timers who die, and young people who move away.

"Our teens graduate and they leave, and why not?" said Jan Eason, an associate pastor at a Nazarene church in Gilliam County. "What is there to come back for?"

In Niobrara County, Wyo., which has just 2,237 people left after a decline of 7.1 percent between 2000 and 2003, 18.7 percent of residents are over 65, compared with just 11.7 percent statewide.

And if the trends continue, in a decade or two, some

such counties may be virtually empty.

"People either move to Billings, or, if they get really old, they go into assisted living or they die," Treasure County Commissioner Mack Cole told The Associated Press last year, after a recent round of census figures showing that population there had dipped to 735 people. "The future is about what is now."

Some places, though, don't want to give up, including once-prosperous Gilliam County, whose farmers supplied wheat and grain to a battered world after World War II.

As other nations rebuilt, demand slipped. By 1984, many local farmers felt they had no choice but to take the buyout

money offered by that year's Farm Bill, aimed at curbing over-production, and protecting eroded agricultural lands.

By the early 1990s, the county's economic backbone was gone. County leaders were searching for any kind of moneymaker at all. All they really had to offer was plenty of vast, empty space.

Fortunately, that was just what urban areas like Portland, 137 miles up Interstate 84, needed — a vast, empty space to put trash. Gilliam County became the site of an environmentally sound rural landfill, a distinction which now brings in \$1 million a year to the county's tax rolls, and is a linchpin of what remains of the economy.

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Bush expected to outline plans for health care and education

GOP, from page 10

ing and education and portability of things like health care and the ability to own a piece of your retirement."

Hughes declined to give details, but other Bush advisers said he was expected to outline new initiatives on health care and post-secondary education. He will renew calls for tax simplification and allowing people to privatize part of their Social Security benefits, but is not expected to offer new initiatives in those areas.

Individually, none of the measures will be colossal, aides said, but collectively it will make a bold package that they argued will appeal to moderates, many of whom have grown wary of Bush's conservative views and the Iraq war.

Looking to the fall, campaign chairman Marc Racicot said he couldn't find any fault with an independent commission's proposal to sponsor three presidential debates and one vice presidential session. Kerry has accepted the proposal. Bush has not.

Bush comes to his convention with a bit of momentum in a race so evenly divided that the smallest movement could cause major ripples. A Time magazine poll suggests that Bush has gained ground on Kerry on the economy, Iraq and the question of who could best lead the nation through a difficult time.

But a potential problem loomed for Bush. In Washington, the FBI was investigating whether a Pentagon analyst fed secret materials to Israel.



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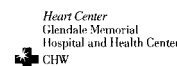
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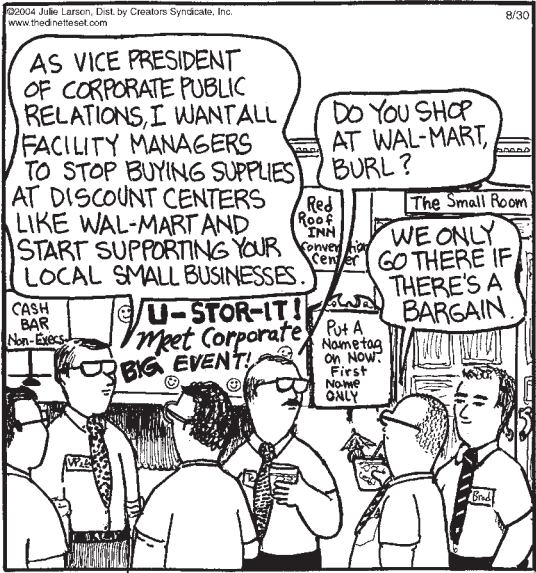
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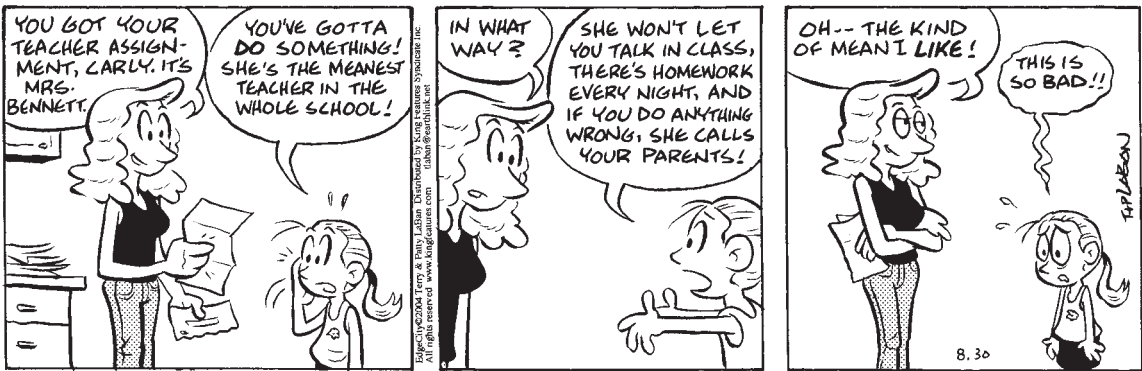


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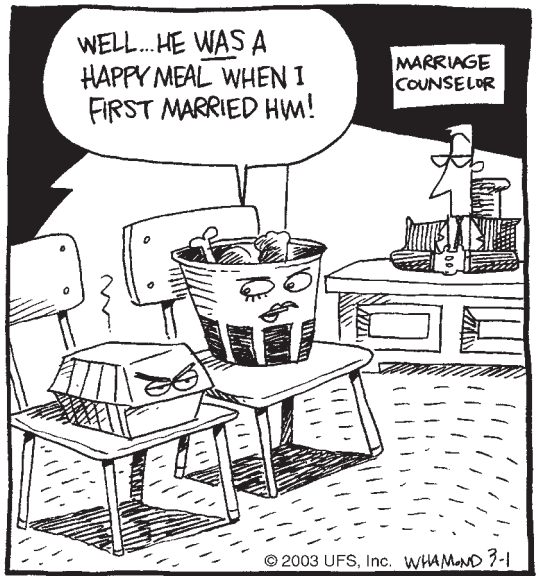
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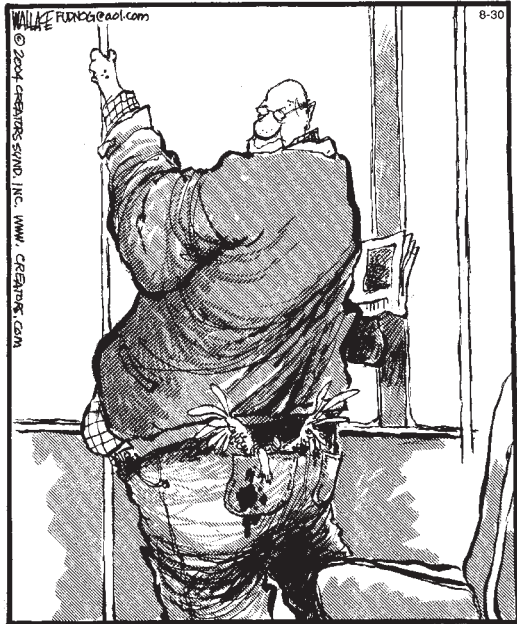
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6 Othello, for one
10 Big tooth
11 Cove
13 Battery end
14 Sinclair of "Coming to America"
15 Director Howard
16 Singer DiFranco
18 Chess piece
19 Spies may wear them
22 Suffering
23 Location
24 Play place
27 Control tower device
28 St. Louis landmark
29 "A mouse!"
30 They miss the pins
35 Flightless bird
36 Grant's foe
37 Honolulu souvenir
38 Convulsion
40 Move like a baby
42 Laconic

43 Small role

- 44 Fabric worker
45 Accumulate

DOWN

- 1 Bright
2 Pay tribute to
3 Without others
4 Craze
5 Molasses
6 Imper-sonate
7 — roll (doing well)
8 Kids' card game
9 Yachting contest
12 Less relaxed
17 Bruins' org.
20 Day follower
21 Japanese port
24 Most wise
25 Played a high suit
26 Insurance worker
27 Hitchcock movie
29 Before, to
31 Bugs bugs him
32 Andean carrier
33 Town south of London
34 Farm sights
39 Compass dir.
41 Ewe's mate

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NO. 04-1936808 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Outletmania,

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE# 04-2095137 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Pearl Films, 15488 Hill
Ninth Street. The full name of registrant(s) is/are :
Alfred Theodore Lobinger Jr. This Business is being
conducted by, an individual. Signed: The reg-
istrant commenced to transact business under the above

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 40-2030808 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Ultimate Janitorial & Painting, 2848 Guirado Street Los Angeles CA 90023. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Esther Melendez This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein. /s/ Esther Melendez This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 8/6/2004. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILING
NO. 04-2056635 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is/are doing business as AQS Service/are doing business as (Inc.) #2619202, 13802 Ibbetson Avenue, Bellflower, CA 90706. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are: Alasco Quality Services Corporation. This Business is being conducted by, a corporation, a partnership, or a sole proprietorship. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name of the names listed herein. /s/ Raquel Almunza This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 8/10/2004. NOTICE: FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14111e of the Business and Professions Code). SANTA

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04-2085205 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Professional Striping Crew, 900 N. Hacienda Blvd. #96 L Puente CA 91744. The full name of registrant(s)

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PARTICIPANTS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04-2029453 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Bigger Than Tr Management, 621 S. Broadway Suite 305 Los Angeles CA 90014. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Michael Pauley This Business is being conducted by, co-partners. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)8/6/2004. /s/ : Michael Pauley, Lewis Evans

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04-2033721 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Mike's Construction Company, 2150 E. 1194, LA. CA 90059. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Michael Johnson 2150 E. 1194, LA. CA 90059 This business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein. -s/- This statement was filed with the County Clerk LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS

LEGAL NOTICES



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4735 Whittier Blvd. Los Angeles CA 90022. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Gerardo Rosales This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Gerardo Rosales This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 8/16/2004. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 8/30/2004, 9/6/2004, 9/13/2004, 9/20/2004

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04-1504784 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Carta's Sport Center, 3652 E. 3rd Street Los Angeles CA 90063. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Claudia Carmona This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Claudia Carmona This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 6/14/2004. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 6/28/2004, 7/5/2004, 7/12/2004, 7/19/2004

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 04-2090937 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Scrap Pix & Pop, Scrapping with Soul, Soul Scrapping, 1342 S. Burnside Ave. Los Angeles CA 90019. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Monique Lisa Fortune This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Monique Lisa Fortune This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 8/13/2004. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 8/30/2004, 9/6/2004, 9/13/2004, 9/20/2004

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