

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

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16-01-27-25-32

Megamember: 12

Jackpot: \$38 million

FANTASY 5

36, 24, 30, 26, 8

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 6, 4, 1

Evening picks: 6, 4, 4

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 8, Gorgeous George

2nd Place: 6, Whirl Win

3rd Place: 12, Lucky Charms

Race Time: 1:45.72



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Most recent mother to fall asleep next to her infant child and accidentally roll over and smother it to death: A 20-year-old woman in Pontiac, Mich., in July.

Latest convicted slum landlord to be sentenced (90 days) to live in her own dilapidated, roach-and-roddent-haven apartments: Sandra O'Neale (Los Angeles, July).

Latest enrollment figures in Florida's statewide program allowing high school students to take physical education courses by computer: 614. (Administrators say they can detect any student cheating; critics don't think so.)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I do most of my writing sitting down. That's where I shine."

— Robert Benchley

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Pico shooting victim mourned

No suspects named yet in Santa Monica's first homicide of the year

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Friends and family members of a Santa Monica teenager who was fatally shot Tuesday evening grieved Wednesday in the small 20th Street apartment he shared with his mother and stepfather.

They described Jalonnice Carter, 19, as an ambitious young man who worked two jobs and was studying for a career in computers.

"Jalonnice was not a bad person," said his mother Shirley Joseph, wiping tears from her cheeks as Carter's stepfather,

Larry Joseph, and several aunts, cousins and friends nodded in agreement. "He was not affiliated with gangs. I know his friends, they were nice guys.

"A lot of these parents are scared of their kids," Shirley Joseph added, saying Carter was kept to an 11 p.m. curfew while living at home. "They're scared to chastise their children. Well not me."

Police don't know who shot Carter or why they did it. Witness David Smith said he heard four gunshots, ran outside and saw Carter running east across 20th Street between Michigan and Delaware avenues. When Carter reached the sidewalk, Smith said he collapsed face first into the pavement and was bleeding profusely.

Smith immediately called 911



Photo courtesy

Construction of SMC's \$18.96 million liberal arts building is expected to be complete in 2006.

Santa Monica College to get new \$19M complex

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College, facing a multi-million budget deficit in the coming years, will build a new liberal arts building that is estimated to cost nearly \$19 million.

The SMC Board of Trustees voted unanimously Tuesday to approve the new complex to replace the current structure that was heavily damaged in the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

Construction of the \$18.96 million project, which will be done in two phases, is expected to begin next spring. Completion of the first phase is expected in fall 2005.

The money used for the building won't come from SMC's operating budget, but instead from a variety of sources that reportedly can't be used to plug the school's deficit.

Funding for the liberal arts

See COMPLEX, page 5



Photo courtesy

Left: Jalonnice Carter, who was fatally shot Tuesday near his 20th Street home, in a recent DMV photo. Right: Carter, shown on the left, as a young boy with his older cousin Alvie Alexander.

and Santa Monica Fire Department paramedics took Carter to a nearby hospital, where he died just over an hour later. Doctors told the Josephs Carter was struck by a .22-caliber bullet that entered through his back and struck his heart.

Asked how Carter may have gotten mixed up in the gunfire, Larry Joseph responded, "There's just a bunch of damn nuts running around here, that's what the problem is."

Larry Joseph said a neighborhood boy rode up to his apartment shortly after the shooting and asked if Carter lived there. When he said Carter did, Larry Joseph said the boy told him about the shooting. Larry Joseph immediately

ly ran down the street to where his stepson was laying on the sidewalk on the 1800 block of 20th street.

The Pico neighborhood has a long history of gang violence, mostly between the Graveyard Crips and the Santa Monica 17th Street gang. One gang is black, the other is Latino. Between May and June, the neighborhood was the scene of five separate shootings, none of which resulted in serious injuries. Santa Monica Police have arrested eight people in connection with those shootings.

Winnie Webster, one of Carter's aunts who visited the 20th

See VICTIM, page 5

Trailer park owner sues city over rent control

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — A mobile home park owner has filed a \$15 million lawsuit against the city, alleging he can't earn a fair return because of the city's rent-control law.

In the Aug. 11 suit, Jim Mackay alleges rents at his Star Dust Mobile Home Estates are considerably lower than the market rate.

Mackay asked the city to approve a \$300-a-month rent increase in May.

The mobile home rent review board denied the request, which would have nearly doubled the rents for many tenants. The three-member board instead granted rent increases of \$9.23 to \$9.70 a month.

Mackay's lawsuit asks the

court to overturn the rent board's decision and grant a rent increase that would ensure him a "a just and reasonable return."

The city's law limits rent increases at mobile home parks based on the consumer price index. The increases range from 2 to 4 percent annually.

Other park owners also are suing the city, saying the law is costing them hundreds of thousands of dollars in rent annually.

Don Lincoln, an attorney hired by the city to defend the law, said he will ask the court to dismiss Mackay's lawsuit.

Mackay declined to comment on the suit.

His attorney, Robert Coldren, did not immediately return a call requesting comment.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2003

Sometimes you have a difficult time sorting through what is and isn't important. Strong decisions will come your way if you float with temporary indecision. Somehow the right thing just happens. Don't make anything more complicated than it needs to be. Recognize that what might be at the bottom of a problem could walk you toward a resolution. Don't push yourself too hard, and recognize your limits. Work demands unusual attention, as does your personal life. If you are single, you'll have a sudden opportunity to start a very special relationship. Ultimately, it will be your call as to which way to let this bond develop. If you are attached, avoid petty disagreements that could easily develop into power plays. Your relationship will grow if you don't lock horns. CAPRICORN plays away.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You could spend a large part of your day trying to sort through what's what. You discover that the unexpected works in your favor. You go where angels fear to tread, not fearing the confusion around you. As a result, you'll gain a different perspective. Tonight: Could be a late night.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ A partner might have misgivings about one of your ideas, which he or she might consider quite the scheme. Don't take his or her comments personally; instead, evaluate the comments and research further. Tighten up the project at hand. Tonight: Read between the lines.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Someone challenges you one more time, forcing you to question what is going on. Take a stronger stand on the home front, feeling ready to take a leap of faith. Also allow a partner to give you adequate feedback. Tonight: Make nice.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Plunge into work with an eye to what you can get done as opposed to what you want to accomplish. You'll get past a problem with ease if you simply relax. You don't need to prove everyone else's point. Check in with someone at a distance. Tonight: Make happy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Dip into your ingenuity to come up with better ideas. You might be taken aback by a loved one who could be touchy about a financial matter. Evaluate what might be going on with this person. Could he or she be justified? Tonight: Work till the wee hours.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might be more out of sorts than you realize. Try your hardest to clear a touchy or difficult matter without offending someone close to you who really does care about you. Later in the day you'll find a creative option. Tonight: Kick up your heels. Think "weekend."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Others seem to specialize in mix-ups. You cannot be clear enough in your dealings. Your ability to get past this problem might take many different approaches. Realize what is going on with a child or loved one. Tonight: Stay close to home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Expenses get out of hand without your intending them to. You could feel overwhelmed by what does come down your path. Laughter marks the later afternoon, when friends and co-workers add that extra touch of spark to your life. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Others come toward you. Your personality helps sort through confusion, though it might be close to impossible to come to a final resolution in the next few days. Take charge of a money matter, which is your specialty. Tonight: Your treat.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Play it low-key until the afternoon, when you feel a surge in your energy. You suddenly get a strong sense of direction coupled with high energy. Use a recent vision plus research. Others step back, pleased you're in control. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ What the group wants could be in direct conflict with an individual's request. Your ability to understand this person might help you sort through this problem. Ultimately, you need to weigh what is most important to you. Tonight: Take a night off.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Realize what is happening with a child or loved one. This person pushes hard to have you believe what he or she is touting. Others will come around to your thinking, perhaps even today, if you don't push too hard. Tonight: Where the gang is.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMC board member resigns

By Daily Press Staff



Patrick Nicholson

Santa Monica College board of trustees member Patrick Nicholson announced at the Tuesday meeting of the board that he will resign from his post effective Sept. 30.

The eight-person board makes decisions on a range of campus issues. It is expected to vote Sept. 15 on the final budget for the 2003-2004 school year.

With Nicholson's departure, board members are left with two options, said Bruce Smith, a college spokesman. They can either work with one seat vacant until a special election is held in March of 2004 or they can appoint a board member to serve until November of 2004, when the next election is scheduled.

Nicholson has been on the board since 1987 and has served as chair three times. A professor and chair of the religious studies department at California State University at Northridge, he teaches courses in world religions, religion and literature, and ethics. He is currently the director of the honors program at CSUN and recently served on the faculty council for CSU Channel Islands.

Nicholson is the former president of the California Faculty Association, the union that represents approximately 20,000 professors at all 23 campuses of the CSU system. He is a member of several organizations, including the American Association of University Professors and Santa Monicans for Renters Rights.

Nicholson, who could not be reached for comment Wednesday, received his bachelor's degree in philosophy from St. John's College, a master's in religion at Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles, and a Ph.D. in social ethics from the University of Southern California.

Cops plan to sue state

By Daily Press staff

The California Union of Safety Employees has announced it plans to sue the state if the legislators and Gov. Gray Davis approve Senate Bill 60, which awards drivers' licenses to illegal aliens.

As one of the state's largest public safety and law enforcement groups, CAUSE is attempting to protect millions of Californians from identity theft and the potential for terrorism, they say.

"I find it incredible that after Sept. 11 when we had thousands of Americans murdered that any legislator would advocate for such a bill," said Alan Wayne Barcelona, president of CAUSE. "Don't they realize that drivers' licenses are used to gain employment with our schools as bus drivers, teachers, janitors and in security-sensitive jobs at nuclear facilities and in law enforcement? This is more than just a state issue, it's a national public safety issue."

In what CAUSE officials call a "well-meaning attempt to extend driving privileges to immigrants long enough for them to work and become citizens," SB 60 originally contained no safeguards against illicit use of drivers' licenses.

The bill's supporters later added money for a biometrics system but prohibited cross-referencing information obtained from a thumb or fingerprint with such information as a person's name, photo and license number.

"Under a California Supreme Court decision, the DMV has the right to collect and compare fingerprints for the purpose of preventing fraud," Barcelona said. "If the Attorney General won't do it for his client, the DMV, then CAUSE and its legal counsel will sue to have these rights sustained should SB 60 pass in its current form."

In addition to the potential of terrorists easily obtaining a California drivers' license, SB 60 severely handicaps efforts by the DMV for cracking down on the growing crime of identity theft, CAUSE officials contend.

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surf report

The SW starts to fade today but the new S will fill in late in the day, bringing us some fun, chest-high sets at the best breaks.

OUTLOOK: Those waves will fade on Saturday and through the weekend. It looks like we could see building SE to S swell from the tropics by Saturday and into Sunday, although this is very dependent on the track the depression takes.

Get stoked on an epic sesh? Get burned by a bad report? Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

65°

**Sunrise: 6:28 a.m.
Sunset: 7:37 p.m.**

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	5:34	0.3	5:58	1.1	11:53	5.4	11:58	5.0
SUNDAY	6:06	0.9	6:59	1.1	N/A	N/A	12:30	5.5
MONDAY	6:41	1.5	8:15	1.0	12:58	4.3	1:14	5.5
TUESDAY	7:22	2.2	9:50	0.9	2:22	3.6	2:10	5.5
WEDNESDAY	8:22	2.8	11:26	0.5	4:33	3.2	3:24	5.5
THURSDAY	10:09	3.1	N/A	N/A	6:40	3.5	4:47	5.6
FRIDAY	12:38	0.0	(11:30)	3.0)	7:42	3.9	6:02	5.8

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The Q Line

The state's recall election is heating up as the top leaders position themselves for the governor's seat.

There have been plenty of polls conducted by various news outlets trying to nail down who's in the lead for Gov. Gray Davis' job. One day it's Davis, then it's Arnold Schwarzenegger, or Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante, or Arianna Huffington.

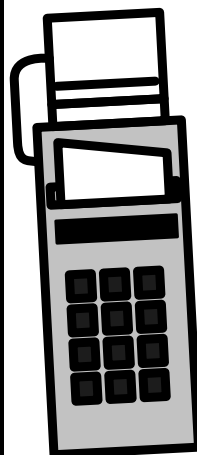
As we enter a new month, the public expects to hear some real messages coming from these candidates about how they are going to fix the state's problems. Even

if we don't get any answers, it promises to be an entertaining news cycle.

This week, the Santa Monica Daily Press will conduct its own poll of Santa Monicans' thoughts on the election, though it won't be quite as scientific as the others.

"Will you vote for or against the recall? And who will you vote for and why?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.



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OPINION

LETTERS

Leave Main Street alone

Editor:

(This letter was originally addressed to Santa Monica City Council members).

I have been a resident of the Ocean Park district of Santa Monica for 20 years, as a renter and a homeowner.

I love my community and I don't want to see Main Street lose the character that initially brought me here.

How dare anyone try to ruin the businesses that make Main Street so vibrant and unique. There is no other place in Los Angeles that comes close to offering so much to its residents — top restaurants, coffee houses, saloons, unusual shops — all nestled in a historic zone bordering the Pacific.

I rarely visit other areas in the evening because of the endless amusement available on Main Street, moving from shop to shop, restaurants to coffee houses and bars or just sitting outside and watching the parade of life go by.

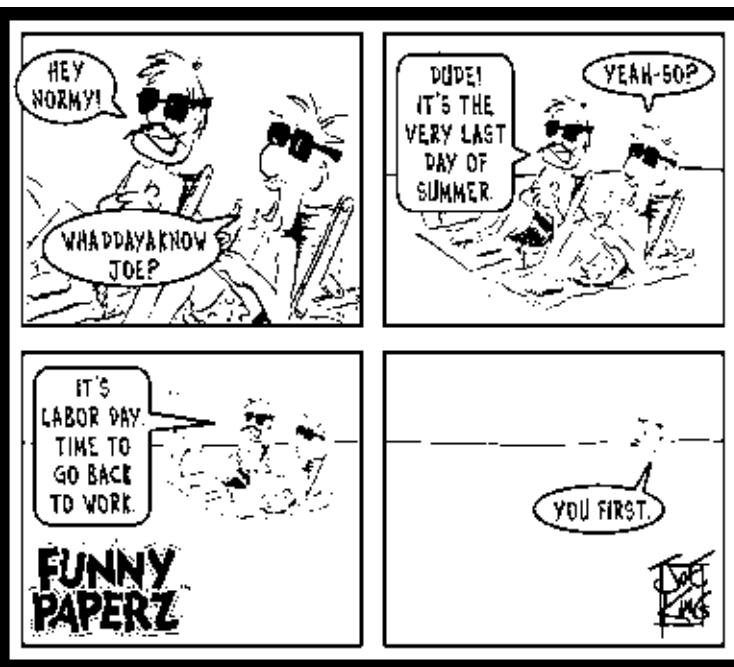
I can't imagine living anywhere else.

But some in the neighborhood want to change its character ("Businesses get loud over new noise law," SMDP, Sept. 1, page 1). Main Street will die if the 10 p.m. noise ordinance passes, livelihoods will be lost, the enjoyment of the neighborhood will end, it will no longer be a destination for those in other parts of the city and Ocean Park's property values will plunge. There's a lot of history on this street, please don't erase it.

I hope you won't even consider this inane and counter-productive proposal. Leave Main Street and Ocean Park as it is — one of the most desirable, beautiful and exciting places to live in Southern California.

"If it ain't broken, don't fix it."

John Blanchette
Santa Monica



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Ten Commandments are irrelevant, inapplicable today

In all the discussion about displaying the Ten Commandments in the Alabama courthouse, has anyone asked the fundamental question: What are the Ten Commandments? What is their philosophical meaning and what kind of society do they imply?

Religious conservatives claim that the Ten Commandments supplied the moral grounding for the establishment of America. But is that even possible? Let's put aside the historical question of what sources the Founding Fathers, mostly Deists, drew upon. The deeper question is: Can a nation of freedom, individualism and the pursuit of happiness be based on the Ten Commandments?

Let's look at the commandments. The wording differs among the Catholic, Protestant and Hebrew versions, but the content is the same.

The first commandment is: "I am the Lord thy God."

As first, it is the fundamental. Its point is the assertion that the individual is not an independent being with a right to live his own life but the vassal of an invisible Lord. It says, in effect, "I own you; you must obey me."

Could America be based on this? Is such a servile idea even consistent with what America represents — the land of the free, independent, sovereign individual who exists for his own sake? The question is rhetorical.

The second commandment is an elaboration of the above, with material about not serving any other God and not worshipping "graven images" (idols). The Hebrew and Protestant versions threaten heretics with reprisals against their descendants — inherited sin — "visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation ..."

This primitive conception of law and morality flatly contradicts American val-

Guest
Commentary

By Harry Binswanger

ues. Inherited guilt is an impossible and degrading concept. How can you be guilty for something you didn't do? In philosophic terms, it represents the doctrine of determinism, the idea that your choices count for nothing, that factors beyond your control govern your "destiny." This is the denial of free will and therefore of self-responsibility.

The nation of the self-made man cannot be squared with the ugly notion that you are to be punished for the "sin" of your great-grandfather.

The numbering differs among the various versions, but the next two or three commandments proscribe taking the Lord's name "in vain" and spending a special day, the Sabbath, in propitiating Him.

In sum, the first set of commandments order you to bow, fawn, grovel and obey. This is impossible to reconcile with the

American concept of a self-reliant, self-owning individual.

The middle commandment, "Honor thy father and mother," is manifestly unjust. Justice demands that you honor those who deserve honor, who have earned it by their choices and actions. Your particular father and mother may or may not deserve your honor — that is for you to judge on the basis of how they have treated you and of a rational evaluation of their moral character.

To demand that Stalin's daughter honor Stalin is not only obscene, but also demonstrates the demand for mindlessness implicit in the first set of commandments. You are commanded not to think or judge, but to jettison your reason and simply obey.

The second set of commandments are unobjectionable but are common to virtually every organized society — the commandments against murder, theft, perjury and the like. But what is objectionable is the notion that there is no rational, earthly basis for refraining from criminal behavior, that it is only the not-to-be-questioned decree of a supernatural punisher that makes acts like theft and murder wrong.

The basic philosophy of the Ten Commandments is the polar opposite of

the philosophy underlying the American ideal of a free society. Freedom requires:

■ A metaphysics of the natural, not the supernatural; of free will, not determinism; of the primary reality of the individual, not the tribe or the family.

■ An epistemology of individual thought, applying strict logic, based on individual perception of reality, not obedience and dogma.

■ An ethics of rational self-interest, to achieve chosen values, for the purpose of individual happiness on this earth, not fearful, dutiful appeasement of "a jealous God" who issues "commandments."

Rather than the Ten Commandments, the actual grounding for American values is that captured by Ayn Rand in "Atlas Shrugged":

"If I were to speak your kind of language, I would say that man's only moral commandment is: Thou shalt think. But a 'moral commandment' is a contradiction in terms. The moral is the chosen, not the forced; the understood, not the obeyed. The moral is the rational and reason accepts no commandments."

(Dr. Harry Binswanger, author of "The Biological Basis of Teleological Concepts," is a member of the board of directors of the Ayn Rand Institute and teaches philosophy at ARI's objectivist graduate center. The Institute promotes the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of *Atlas Shrugged* and *The Fountainhead*. Send comments to reaction@aynrand.org.)

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

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn. Editor:

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LOCAL



Pico shooting: Victim's family accepting donations

VICTIM, from page 1

Street apartment Wednesday, said Carter had been shot before. He was hit in the leg a few years ago while visiting his best friend who lives just south on 20th Street and whose daughter is also Carter's god-daughter. Carter told relatives after the shooting that a car full of Hispanic men was parked across the street that day but he didn't know them and didn't think anything of them. When Carter left the house, the car pulled out and opened fire on the building, hitting Carter on his leg near the ankle, Webster said.

An avid 49ers fan who liked to lift weights and play dominos with his friends, Carter was a graduate of Olympic High School and a student at the International Career Development Center Inc. in Los Angeles, which helps find jobs for students after they graduate. His mother said Carter, who had earned a certificate in June for perfect attendance, was on track for a degree in computers this fall and wanted to pursue a career in book-keeping. Carter held down two jobs while he studied, working with his father three nights a week as a janitor in Hawthorne and also stocking inventory at Gymboree, a children's clothing store in the Santa Monica Place Mall.

"He was a really hard worker," said Tracy Smith, an assistant manager at the store. "He smiled all the time, he just always smiled — and he had a great big smile. He was so sweet."

SMPD detectives first met with the Josephs and Carter's other relatives shortly before 3 p.m. Wednesday. Shirley Joseph said the detectives apologized for the delay in contacting them but offered few details on the shooting, saying only that they are examining every possibility, including one suspect that lives nearby in the Pico neighborhood.

Santa Monica Police Department Lt. Frank Fabrega confirmed Wednesday that bullet casings were found at the scene, but wouldn't say from what type of gun. The investigation is ongoing, he added.

"If we had suspect information we would be putting it out immediately, but we don't have it," he said. "When we get the information, we'll provide it."

David Campbell, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office, said Carter's body was received Wednesday and an autopsy will be performed this week.

Tuesday's homicide was the first this year in Santa Monica, however it wasn't the first in the history of the troubled east-side Santa Monica neighborhood.

Oscar de la Torre, director of the Pico Youth and Family Center, said Tuesday's shooting marks the 28th homicide in the last 10 years in the eight-block square that runs north of the Santa Monica Freeway to Santa Monica Boulevard, south to Pico Boulevard and east from Lincoln Boulevard to Centinela Boulevard. de la Torre called upon City Hall to direct more resources, such as higher-paying jobs and better after-school programs, into the neighborhood. He said that City Hall responded to the shootings earlier this year with temporary measures but what's really needed is a long-term fix.

"It sends the message to us that when blacks and Mexicans die in Santa Monica, it doesn't matter," de la Torre said during a Wednesday visit to Carter's home.

Family members on Wednesday were still in the process of planning Carter's memorial, as friends and well-wishers visited the small apartment, dropping off flowers, and expressing their shock and sorrow at the fatal shooting.

Dauntase Haskins, Carter's sister, was on her way home from Louisiana, where she is studying law. Larry Joseph, who works a second job as a cook at St. John's hospital, and Shirley Joseph, who works in the kitchen at Lincoln Middle School, said they will accept donations for the cost of the service.

They can be mailed to:
Attn: Jalannie Carter Fund
Pico Youth and Family Center
828 Pico Blvd., #9
Santa Monica, Calif. 90405

Second phase of construction slated to begin in fall 2004

COMPLEX, from page 1

building will come from four sources: City of Santa Monica Earthquake Redevelopment Project funds (\$10.2 million), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (\$3.08 million), the state (\$4.46 million), and Measure U, the 2002 Santa Monica-Malibu bond measure (\$1.22 million).

The new 53,000-square-foot complex has been designed as two units — each with three stories and a basement — that will be connected with pedestrian bridges and walkways. To be located just north of parking structure C in a central location, the project — whose contemporary design features the use of Roman brick, painted metal, white concrete and glass — will face onto a campus quad.

The first of the two phases will have nine classrooms and faculty offices and the second will have 13 classrooms, faculty offices, as well as lab and tutoring

space. Each classroom will be wired for computer and Internet access. The complex will house the history, social science and psychology departments.

Construction of the second phase is scheduled to begin in fall 2004, with completion in 2006.

The current liberal arts building, constructed in 1952, was heavily damaged in the 1994 quake, and college officials say repairs have not satisfactorily restored the structural and seismic strength of the building. The building will be demolished when the new liberal arts complex is completed.

The project was designed by Renzo Zecchetto Architects of Santa Monica, a renowned architectural firm whose current projects include the Nativity Parish School in Rancho Santa Fe and the Lux Art Museum in Encinitas. The project architect is the Santa Monica office of Gensler, an award-winning international design, architecture and planning company that has done major projects and

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STATE

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Downtown LA to be revitalized

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Downtown may soon be a place to go on the weekends.

The County Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to create an authority that will design a 16-acre park and develop several parking lots into retail and residential units.

The proposal is part of a beautification project to build wider sidewalks and outdoor dining areas along Grand Avenue, where the Walt Disney Concert Hall will open in October.

"We want to complete what has been a goal to create a 24-hour environment and nightlife in downtown Los Angeles," Supervisor Gloria Molina said.

Officials hope the park will be used for events such as farmers markets, musical performances and political rallies.

No price tag has been put on the project yet. Funding is expected to come from a variety of sources, including the city and county.

Officials said the city's Community Redevelopment Agency will vote Thursday whether to recommend creation of the authority.

LAX modernization plan takes flight

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The city Airport Commission has voted to begin work on Mayor James Hahn's \$9 billion modernization proposal for Los Angeles International Airport, even though the project hasn't been approved yet.

The preliminary design work approved by the commission Tuesday could cost up to \$2 million a month, officials said.

Commission President Ted Stein said it is necessary to start work on the plan now to avoid delays later.

Richard Marchi, a senior vice president with Airports Council International, a trade group, said the decision is risky because whatever money is spent now would be wasted if the project isn't approved.

The city has already spent \$116 million in planning costs since former Mayor Richard Riordan first proposed reworking the airport about 10 years ago.

The City Council will be able to choose from Riordan's expansion proposals as well as Hahn's alternative when it considers the package, probably in about a year.

The Federal Aviation Administration also has not reviewed the proposal yet.

UCLA Medical Center leader leaving

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The head of UCLA Medical Center is leaving to take a top post at the University of Kentucky's medical center.

Michael Karpf, who oversaw the university's three hospitals and 18 primary-care clinics, announced his departure Tuesday.

During Karpf's tenure the hospital system struggled with finances. The Hunter Group, a consulting firm, issued a report in March that found inconsistent billing, declining revenues and a disorganized administration.

The group recommended cutting 475 jobs over the next three years to save \$31 million.

Karpf was recently criticized by nurses and doctors for accepting a bonus while overseeing job cuts.

Karpf said Tuesday he had "absolutely not" been forced to leave his post. He said he is excited about his new position as the University of Kentucky's executive vice president of health affairs.

Karpf also defended his work at UCLA. Since he came to the system in 1995, he said, he has helped find money to rebuild two hospitals in Santa Monica and Westwood.

"I've got done what I set out to do here," Karpf said.

Karpf will begin work in Kentucky on Oct. 1.

Caretaker convicted of elder abuse

By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE — A Pine Cove caretaker was found guilty of abusing and killing her husband.

Jurors on Tuesday convicted Naomi Arcuri, 58, of elder abuse and second-degree murder of Anthony Porco, 65. She was found innocent of a torture charge.

Arcuri faces 15 years to life in prison when she is sentenced Sept. 26.

Her husband died Aug. 29, 2001, shortly after she drove him to the hospital.

Prosecutor Mark Mandio said Arcuri beat Porco with a metal pipe.

"There was an increasingly severe cycle of violence, stemming from her need to increasingly control him," Mandio said.

Defense attorney John Lueck said Arcuri did not inflict the injuries that killed Porco. He said Porco fell from a steep stairway down a hill the night before he died.

Prosecutors also said Arcuri didn't feed her husband enough, which led him to beg for food from neighbors. Lueck said Porco had an eating disorder.

Arcuri worked as a caretaker for the mentally and physically disabled. She took over Porco's care in 1998, and they married the same year.

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FACE-to-FACE with the Women & Children of Iraq

Local resident Kelly Hayes-Raitt just returned from her second trip to Iraq, where she found some of the children and women who touched her so deeply during her first visit in February. She also saw firsthand the impact of the bombings and invasion on innocent people's lives, homes and hearts. The trip revealed much devastation — and much inspiration.

She will be speaking about the people she met — and remet — in Baghdad, Hillah, Babylon, Fallouja, Basra and Umm Qasr.

Friday, September 5

7:30 pm at Pacific Palisades Methodist Church

801 Via da la Paz in Pacific Palisades

Since February, Kelly has addressed over 60 audiences, including religious congregations, state women's conferences, school classes, community clubs, large peace rallies and small neighborhood meetings. If you would like her to address your group, please call (310) 581-4421 or e-mail C2CCampaigns@aol.com.

Photos may be viewed at www.CommunityCampaigns.com/Iraq.

NATIONAL □ INTERNATIONAL



WORLD BRIEFLY

Government showdown on horizon

By The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, locked in a power struggle with Yasser Arafat, insists on being confirmed by parliament in a vote of confidence, sharply raising the probability of a showdown between the Palestinian leaders, a senior official said Wednesday.

Abbas initially said he would leave the decision on holding a vote to legislators. His reversal came after mediators failed to resolve his dispute with Arafat over control of security forces, said the official who met for several hours with Abbas on Tuesday and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Abbas, who is increasingly unpopular, could be toppled in a parliament vote. His ouster, in turn, could throw an already troubled U.S.-backed peace plan into greater turmoil.

The Palestinian prime minister was to address parliament Thursday to sum up his first 100 days in office. His has failed in his two key objectives — persuading militants to halt attacks on Israelis and improving the daily lives of Palestinians through progress on the “road map” peace plan.

Cleric says conviction was political

By The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Attorneys for a radical Muslim cleric convicted of sedition but cleared of heading a Southeast Asian terror group said Wednesday the verdict was politically motivated, while Indonesia’s government defended the ruling as showing its commitment to fighting terror.

Abu Bakar Bashir was sentenced Tuesday to four years in prison for his involvement in a plot by the al-Qaida-linked group, Jemaah Islamiyah, to overthrow the Indonesian government and lesser charges of faking travel documents and entering Indonesia illegally.

But the panel of five judges cleared Bashir of the main charges of leading Jemaah Islamiyah, saying prosecution witnesses relied on hearsay and therefore lacked

credibility.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Hasan Wirayuda defended the decision.

“We have shown that we are committed in fighting terrorism,” Wirayuda said. “We may be disappointed with the sentencing but there is due process of law here.”

Australian Prime Minister John Howard said Wednesday he was “disappointed” that the court ruling didn’t find that Bashir was head of Jemaah Islamiyah or link him to the 2002 Bali bombings, which killed 202 people, 88 of them Australian.

Manufacturing jobs a hot-button issue

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A downward spiral of manufacturing jobs that started three years ago is getting renewed attention from politicians with the next presidential election now just over a year away.

The nation’s factories have marked a record 36 consecutive months of job losses totaling 2.7 million. Low demand at home and abroad, coupled with a flood of imports, have slowed production.

President Bush has announced plans for a special Commerce Department post to address manufacturing job losses while Democrats vying to challenge him next year are pitching a variety of plans, from tax breaks to repeals of free-trade agreements.

Midwestern states have been hardest hit, and the importance of those Rust Belt states to next year’s presidential election is forcing politicians to take notice.

In Congress, several lawmakers are proposing legislation to reduce tax rates for manufacturers. Some Midwestern lawmakers even have formed a new manufacturing caucus.

Congress pressured about power grid

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress is under increasing pressure to impose federal reliability rules on the national power grid as it looks into the massive electric-

ity blackout that darkened a huge swath of the nation from Michigan to New York.

Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham, scheduled to be the leadoff witness Wednesday before a House committee investigating the blackout, was expected to shy away from trying to pinpoint the cause of last month’s outage, which also hit parts of Canada. His U.S.-Canada task force investigation is still only in the beginning stage of its inquiry.

Abraham will call on Congress to enact federally mandated transmission reliability rules, instead of the voluntary system now in place. The proposal has broad bipartisan support.

The governors of Ohio, Michigan and New York were to testify in favor of new reliability requirements, as was the head of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which under several proposals would enforce the regulations.

“Currently there is no direct federal authority or responsibility for the reliability of the transmission grid,” FERC Chairman Pat Wood said in testimony prepared for the House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing.



briefs

WESTSIDE/CENTRAL

Rideshare Week Set For Oct. 6-10

Make a pledge to carpool, vanpool or use public transit just one day during Rideshare Week Oct. 6-10 and be eligible to win valuable prizes. The program is open to employers and employees alike. Visit metro.net and click on Metro Commute Services for details.

Bus, Rail Ridership Increases

Metro Bus and Metro Rail have both proven to be popular this summer. Ridership figures for July show nearly a 10% increase in average weekday boardings. Daily boardings for Metro Rail averaged 216,000 and Metro Bus recorded 1,149,000.

Public Hearings Held On Service Changes

Metro service sector governance councils are holding a series of public hearings throughout the county on proposed Metro Bus service changes scheduled to go into effect October 26. Visit metro.net for more information.

Get The Metro Safety Experience

Metro’s unique rail safety theatre, Metro Experience, will be appearing at the Los Angeles County Civic Center October 7-9. The mobile theatre presentation will be operating from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the county offices at Temple and Hill streets in downtown Los Angeles.

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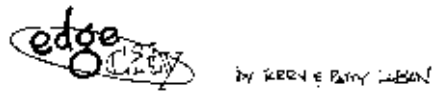
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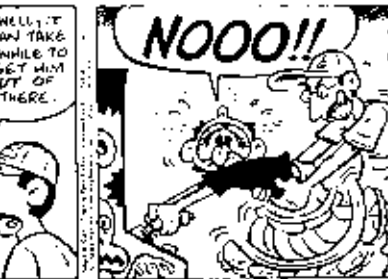
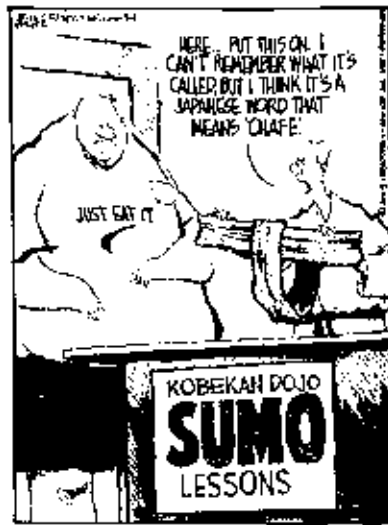
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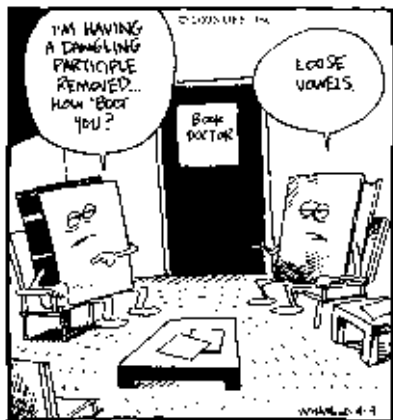
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Documentary of Hunter Thompson promises to entertain

By The Associated Press

■ **ASPEN, Colo.** — New films by John Sayles and Robert Altman will be screened at the 25th Aspen Filmfest, which opens later this month, along with a documentary about journalist Hunter S. Thompson.

The festival runs Sept. 30 through Oct. 5.

Sayles' "Casa de Los Babys" is about a group of American women waiting to adopt children. The ensemble cast includes Mary Steenburgen, Rita Moreno, Lili Taylor, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Daryl Hannah and Marcia Gay Harden.

Altman's "The Company" takes a dramatized, in-depth look at a professional dance company. The film stars Neve Campbell as a dancer and Malcolm McDowell as the company director, and features members of the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago.

"Breakfast With Hunter" is the first feature film by Wayne Ewing of Aspen. It includes scenes from Thompson's early '70s run for Pitkin County sheriff and interactions with Johnny Depp, John Cusack, P.J. O'Rourke and Benicio Del Toro.

A panel discussion about American filmmaking in the '70s will include directors Sydney Pollack and Bob Rafelson, producer Polly Platt and cinematographer Laszlo Kovacs, festival organizers announced recently.

■ **NEW YORK** — Peter Jennings says he liked being in London, thousands of miles from his bosses, and never really wanted the job of sole anchor at ABC's "World News Tonight."

He's since grown quite accustomed to it, and hundreds of broadcast industry stars and executives turned out for a party at Manhattan's Lincoln Center Tuesday night to mark 20 years since Jennings began his current run as ABC's top anchor.

Walter Cronkite, Bill O'Reilly, Charlie Rose, Steve Kroft and Andy Rooney were there, and a round of

taped accolades were sent by the likes of former President Gerald Ford, New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

So did competitors Tom Brokaw and Dan Rather, who were both on the road — Brokaw in California, Rather in Iraq.

"We'll go off to the old anchorman's nursing home sometime down the road together," said Brokaw, who also celebrates 20 years as NBC's top anchor this month. Brokaw, 63, is stepping down as nightly news anchor next year; Jennings, 65, has no plans to quit.

Lauren Bacall paid a winking tribute to Jennings' four marriages.

"You and 'World News Tonight' have been wed for 20 years," the actress said. "I'm so happy you're getting the hang of it."

But it was the retired Cronkite, who befriended Jennings when he first came to work as an ABC News reporter in the 1960s, who looked for an edge behind the tribute.

"Have they said anything about an extension of your contract?" Cronkite said.

■ **HARTFORD, Conn.** — The Old Saybrook waterfront estate of the late Katharine Hepburn is going on sale with an initial asking price of \$12 million.

Hepburn's executors wrote a letter two weeks ago to neighbors of the four-time Academy Award-winning actress, informing them that the property would be on the market soon. As part of a long-held custom in the town's Fenwick section, where Hepburn's home is, neighbors are told first when a property will be sold and asked to submit offers if they are interested.

"That would be the highest property sold in that area," Old Saybrook First Selectman Michael Pace said Tuesday. "I think it probably has a premium attached to it because it was Miss Hepburn's."

Hepburn, who'd been in failing health the past few

years, died June 29 at the Fenwick home. She was 96.

The property includes 13 acres and a pond. Four years ago, the house's value was set at \$2 million. In the Aug. 19 letter obtained by The Associated Press, Hepburn's executors told neighbors they arrived at the \$12 million price "after preliminary consultations with several local and national Realtors."

The sale would not include 4 1/2 acres of wetlands that the actress bequeathed to a conservation group. The Lynde Point Land Trust, an Old Saybrook-based group, is being considered as the recipient for the land, land trust President Ethel Davis said Tuesday.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Say hello to Al Pacino's little friend again.

The 1983 crime drama "Scarface," starring Pacino and directed by Brian De Palma, will return to theaters in 10 cities this month to mark the violent film's 20th anniversary and help promote the release of a two-disc DVD set.

The film features Pacino as the ambitious, foul-mouthed Cuban immigrant Tony Montana, who builds a drug empire in Miami. His famous line at the film's climax, as he whips out a machine gun to fire at his enemies: "Say hello to my little friend."

The film has been restored and features a new digital soundtrack.

"Scarface" will open for a limited engagement in New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Detroit, Dallas, Miami and San Francisco on Sept. 19.

The DVD, which will be released Sept. 30, will include new bonus features, including a 20-minute documentary about the film's influence on hip-hop culture and music, featuring Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, Snoop Dogg and the rapper Scarface.



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