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Santa Monica Daily Press

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A newspaper with issues

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DAILY LOTTERY

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Daytime: 7 4 0

Evening: 8 3 1

DAILY DERBY

1st: 11 Money Bags
 2nd: 05 California Classic
 3rd: 08 Gorgeous George

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Among the reality-TV series being batted around in London, according to recent reports in the Daily Telegraph and The Independent, is "Make Me a Mum," in which a woman reduces a field of men to the two whom she believes will make her the genetically best offspring. At that point, producers will inseminate the woman with sperm from both men and, using intravaginal micro technology, will attempt to record a "race" to see which sperm gets to the egg first. Said Remy Blumenfeld, the creative director for the Brighter Pictures production house, "(This show is) much more about the rule of science than the rules of attraction."

■ British surfboard designer Jools Matthews, working with Intel Corp., built an Internet-ready surfboard with an 80-gigabyte, wireless laptop, powered by solar panels and housing a video camera, for exhibition in June in Devon, England. The waterproofed circuitry adds about 5 pounds to the 9-foot-long board and is carefully placed so as to retain surfers' balance points.

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Plan to end homelessness heads into final stretch

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

Within the decade, homeless people will be eradicated from the streets and parks of Santa Monica — that is, if everything goes according to plan.

That plan, which will be unveiled on Sept. 23, has taken several months to develop and taken into consideration the input and opinions of hundreds of people.

Dubbed "Bring LA Home," a panel convened last year to devise a plan to end homelessness in Los Angeles County within the next 10 years. The plan is similar to that of dozens of other cities taking on the daunting task, which was spurred by the Bush Administration's goal to rid the nation of its homeless population.

The panel of about 80 people — consisting of everybody from politicians to business leaders to homeless advocates — hopes to end the problem that has plagued this city for decades. It's considered the largest effort ever by community leaders to tackle a problem that some say stands as the biggest facing the country.

The philosophy behind the plans so far has been to convert emergency shelters into supportive housing.

There are as many homeless people in Los Angeles County as there are residents in all of Santa Monica, according to an analysis of the county's homeless population. Of the 80,000 people who live on the streets at any given time during the year, 2 percent of them live in Santa Monica.

With just a modest 2 percent of the county's homeless population, homelessness has still had a huge impact on the community, residents say. With the exception of Venice, there aren't many Westside cities that share the burden of taking care of the homeless. That's one of the reasons Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom is involved with "Bring LA Home" — to solve the problem with a regional approach and mandate that other communities help.

About 20 community meetings were held earlier this year throughout LA County to get residents' input on the

See GIMME SHELTER, page 8

Up the water spout



Crill Hansen/Special to the Daily Press
8-year-old A.J. gets a face full of water while playing with other kids in the fountains of Douglas Park on Friday afternoon.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Kids frolic in the splash pool waters of the Santa Monica Swim Center recently during a summer swim camp. The \$7 million facility was rated as "the best pool to swim in" last month by a Los Angeles-based magazine.

Pools allow residents to wet their appetites

BY GENEVA WHITMARSH

Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC — While the Pacific Ocean is just a short jaunt away, many are coming to consider the Santa Monica Swim Center to be an oasis all its own.

Dubbed "the best pool to swim in" last month by Los Angeles Magazine's "Best of L.A." edition, the center is a \$7 million facility comprised of two pools, diving boards and a raised sundeck. Since its much ballyhooed opening in the summer of 2002, the pool has consistently drawn people from across the Los Angeles region. Today, an estimated 1,000 people use the facility each day, according to officials.

"There's nothing quite like this," said patron Leah Crowe, a Santa Monica resident. "It's like they thought of pretty much everything."

Crowe is not alone. Many of the people who use the pool are long-time guests, but a recent advertising push — coupled with the write-up in Los Angeles Magazine — have increased attendance recently.

"We're operating at our maximum," said Barbara Stinchfield, director of community and cultural services for City Hall. "The best

See SPLISH SPLASH, page 8

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Take a night off, Gemini

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)
*** Settle in and take your time with family. Get ready for a get-together, which might happen at your place. Last-minute confusion might upset you. Don't let it. Relax. A child or loved one could be testy. Tonight: Be easygoing.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
***** A conversation could be unusually meaningful. You finally understand where a neighbor or friend is coming from. Romance flows for those who aren't controlling. Let others have their way. Tonight: Beam, and everything will work out.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
*** Step back and see what is going on around you. You might want to tighten your belt and spend less. On the other hand, a family member might be very playful. Whatever you do, make sure you really want to do it. Tonight: Take a night off.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
***** You can be as serious as you want, but friends will lighten you up. Start with the party rounds. You enjoy the company of others. Talking, sharing and laughing come naturally. Use care with spending. Make sure someone understands your terms. Tonight: A good time is had by all.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
***** Others expect a lot from you in general. Responsibilities are dumped on you. Some feel they should organize a party; others want to follow your lead. Expenses could be more than you anticipated. Have a clear conversation with others about expectations. Tonight: Be honest about what you can and cannot do.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
***** You like to look at the big picture. You are more likely to do so this weekend. You turn on your positive attitude. You delight in hearing from friends and people at a distance. Take off if you want. Tonight: Visit with friends or special people.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
***** Work with others, especially a partner. You might not be sure if you want to extend or expose yourself to the level he or she requests. Honor who you are and nix a party or event you would prefer not to be at. Tonight: Spend time with a loved one.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
***** Others seek you out, and "no" doesn't work. Plans to visit with someone at a distance or to take off might not be as enticing as visiting with friends and family who surround you. Flex with opportunity. Tonight: Where the action is.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
***** Read Aries for a suggestion. You might prefer to throw the party this weekend rather than go to the party. A partner chips in. Others want to help. Don't be controlling. Allow others to pitch in. Tonight: Do for others, but also take care of yourself.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
***** Your love life becomes steamy. Perhaps you can help a loved one calm down and relax by being more playful and nurturing. Help people see the big picture. A foreigner or someone at a distance plays a big role. Tonight: You're hot stuff.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
*** You might want to invite a favorite person to visit. What occurs could be more fun than you even anticipated. Be honest if you are tired and need to slow down. Take care of your needs first. Tonight: Happy at home. Don't let confusion bother you. Stay centered.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
***** Express yourself. You don't have to do anything major to make the most of each moment. Hang out and do your thing. Let go of a difficult conversation and seek out those who kick back and enjoy themselves. Tonight: Share your ideas. Flirt. Be present.

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LOCAL



Lights are dimmed at RNC

BY MARK WRIGHTON
Special to the Daily Press

As the saying goes, “All good things must come to an end.”

The curtain dropped on the 2004 Republican Convention Thursday night as the president took the podium in the theater-in-the-round motif and accepted the party’s nomination.

I was in Madison Square Garden. I actually had secured passes on Monday from the New Hampshire delegation but remained quiet in order to see what my students could do as far as getting passes — to take it all in and go on the “Magic Mountain” ride of my political junkie life. Being there was so much different than watching it on television. It was the pep rally to end all pep rallies.

Put simply, the party faithful is raring to go. The atmosphere was electric and one could sense the energy in the president’s base as the delegations are sent home to do the grinding work of getting him reelected. The campaign for the White House is now truly “on” in every sense of the word — even my Democratic friends are revved up more than they may have been after their convention in Boston.



The focus now shifts to the general election campaign between Senator John F. Kerry and President George W. Bush, and the conventions have provided us with great insight into the strategies of the two candidates. Both camps have identified the major issue, which is clearly on the minds of the voters: National security. Each, however, has taken a different approach in staking a claim to it. At his convention, John Kerry chose to emphasize his military record in Vietnam. At the RNC, the emphasis was on the president’s leadership since the terror attacks of 2001. The course of the campaign over the next 59 days and its climax on Nov. 2 will tell us which was the better strategy.

From the political strategist’s perspective, two things struck me as interesting about this convention. The GOP was unabashed in bringing into full play the events of Sept. 11, 2001, and they took many opportunities to draw a distinct contrast between the president and Sen. Kerry.

Given the heavy emphasis on it Monday night, I thought there might be too much emphasis being placed on the events of Sept. 11, but — employing the advantage of having the second convention — the Republicans took their cues from the DNC in Boston. When John Kerry “reported for duty” at the end of his convention, he signaled the green light for the GOP to emphasize the president’s actions in response to terrorism. Good political strategists understand that one should never inoculate one’s opponent on an issue. John Kerry gave the president cover on the issue of terrorism.

Additionally, the GOP has apparently decided to stick with a strategy of drawing sharp contrasts between the two candidates. Throughout this week, speaker after speaker has come to the stage with a metaphorical mirror into which voters could view the image of Sen. Kerry in contrast to the president. Behind this strategy lies the inherent advantage an incumbent has over a challenger. George W. Bush can continue to emphasize his record while John Kerry will still be introducing himself to voters until Election Day.

Some will view these sharp contrasts as “insults” to the senator or as “negative” campaigning. The tactic of contrast is a legitimate political tool and one which can be most effective under the right conditions. Indeed, the public’s definition of “negative” has grown way too broad. No one should be surprised when voter turnout fails to rise despite the perceived intensity of divisions among voters.

Now, the real fun for us political junkies begins. Between now and Nov. 2, the debates, flubs, gaffes, and maybe an October surprise — conspiracy theorists insert your favorite possibility here — or two will all work to shape the outcome of the race.

In the immortal words of boxing referee Mills Lane: “Let’s get it on.”

(Mark Wrighton is an assistant professor of political science at the University of New Hampshire and is spending the year in Washington, D.C. He was in New York attending the RNC with students. He can be contacted at Cajunman@aol.com).



SURF REPORT

Look for 5-8 ft., head-high to 3 ft. overhead sets, occasionally 10 ft., and good conditions.

The wind swell will back down on Saturday, but a solid SE to SSE swell from Hurricane Howard will fill in through the day, hold some waves into early Sunday and then back down as we move into early next week.

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SUNDAY	6:57	2.7	10:23	1.4	3:02	3.1	2:05	4.8
MONDAY	N/A	N/A	11:57	1.1	N/A	N/A	3:20	4.6
TUESDAY	10:24	3.4	N/A	N/A	8:14	3.5	4:52	4.7
WEDNESDAY	12:57	0.8	12:11	3.3	8:21	3.8	6:03	5.0
THURSDAY	1:38	0.4	1:02	3.0	8:35	4.0	6:54	5.3
FRIDAY	2:10	0.2	1:38	2.6	8:51	4.2	7:34	5.6

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YOU HAVE THE ANSWERS.
CHECK OUT THIS WEEK’S Q-LINE RESPONSES ON PAGE 4.



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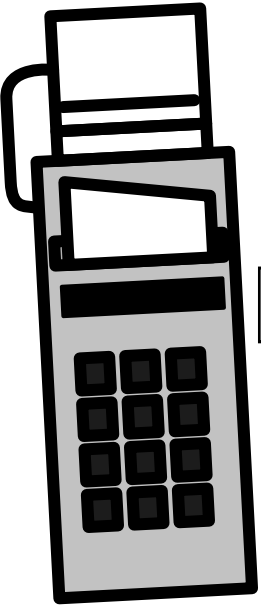


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The QLine

OPINION

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM SAYS RALLIES DO LITTLE

This past week, Q-line asked:

"Do the national conventions typically affect the way you vote? Can President Bush's speech sway you one way or the other in light of your current leanings?"

Here are your responses:

① "I would like to know how John Kerry is going to do all he says and legalize 30 million illegal aliens to become citizens. And I'd like to see a break down of what legal citizens are costing us with housing assistance, Medicaid, education and health care."

② "No. The rhetoric of George W., weapons of mass destruction voice, will not sway me. I will not be tuning in."

③ "The national conventions don't really affect me in any way that I vote. I'm going to vote for John Kerry no matter what the convention say. He's the only one to vote for. Bush had never been in office, he was never elected, he's only appointed. Whatever he has to say is nothing but a lot of hooey. He should get those kids out of Iraq, he should get those swift boat people that are talking against Kerry outta the way, and then maybe he'll be able to talk about something. But whatever he talks about won't amount to a hill-a-beans. Thank you."

④ "The charade of the political conventions most certainly does not affect the way I vote. The overall character of the nominee, his track record over time and what he has done toward resolving key issues like securing our borders, employment, fair and equal taxation, health care for those that are uninsured and saving our environment. It's not what they say or promise, it's what they do or already have done, for good or ill. Thank you."

⑤ "In response to the question do the national the conventions typically affect the way I will vote, no it definitely would not affect my way I'm going to vote this time, particularly with Bush running as the president and wanting to get another term. I think it's obscene all the money that goes into conventions, not only this year but in past previous years. I think we need to start looking at a better way to elect presidents and our senators and our house of representatives. Thank you."

⑥ "Nothing that George W. Bush could ever possibly say publicly or privately could induce me to vote for this crazy person. Thank you."

⑦ "No. I'm a numbers guy and I don't mean street numbers or poll numbers. My feeling is when I look at numbers, I'm talking about the economy. I'm talking about the unemployed. I'm talking about the border patrol people we have at our borders — one for every 300 miles. I'm talking about numbers like how many American people decide they want a change. I look at different types of numbers and I am never influenced by the polls and certainly not the president's speech one way or another."

⑧ "Absolutely not. All his speech would be is political rhetoric and is likened to locking the barn after the horse has been stolen. His, like his father's presidency, has led us into need-less war. As you know, they refer to themselves as war presidents. What happened to finding Osama bin Laden? Oh right, the Bushies are oil men. God help us if anyone is swayed by his speech."

⑨ "National political conventions are obsolete. They are nothing more than self-serving, bias party commercials. President Bush has lost his credibility big time. His being a 'compassionate conservative,' he has led the charge in causing why this partisan division in many decades."

⑩ "I think that convention speeches can affect the way you vote, if you have an open mind. Unfortunately, most people have already made up their minds before the conventions and do not even watch or listen. Too many vote their party's candidate, even if they do not particularly like their party's choice."

⑪ "If President Bush would talk about stem cell research, I think that would be a really good thing."

⑫ "Bush has messed things up so badly, nothing he could say would make me want to vote for him, except possibly telling me that he was gonna make me Vice President. Then I'd vote for him, but I'd still want to see him impeached."

⑬ "No, and the conventions don't sway me, especially this year. It would be sheer lunacy to vote for the incompetent (Sen John) Kerry, who should have been tried for treason along with Hanoi Jane. It's no contest. I will vote for President Bush."

⑭ "There is nothing which can sway me, especially Kerry. My vote is for President Bush. God bless him, and God bless the world. We thank America for being willing to help others."

⑮ "Only idiots would be swayed by a politician's speech. Of course, most people are idiots, which is why people like Clinton and Bush get elected."

⑯ "President Bush is a liar. You can't believe anything he says."

⑰ "Nothing that President Bush could ever possibly say, publicly or privately, would induce me to vote for this crazy person."

⑱ "No, it definitely does not affect the way I vote, particularly as Bush running as the President and wanting to get another turn. I think it's obscene all the money that goes into conventions, not only this year, but in previous years."

Kerry needs a haircut, Bush could cut 'smirk'



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

Now that the Republican convention has come to an end, American audiences have seen that long-windedness, clichés and delegates dressed as if they're going to some bizarre patriotic Halloween party are not just the province of the Democrats.

The good news is that I have compiled the results of last week's Preconvention Presidential Garver Poll. My poll is 100 percent pure — there is absolutely no scientific basis to it.

I received more responses to last week's column than to any previous one. Either this demonstrates that people are increasingly taking the tight presidential race seriously, or that more and more people want to participate in something that is silly and fun. I'm happy either way.

BIG STUFF — 76 percent of those who responded said they would rather have a president whose family is involved in Big Ketchup than in Big Oil.

JOHN EDWARDS — About 60 percent feel that we haven't seen more of John Edwards in the campaign because he's waiting to look older before going out in public again, while 40 percent feel he's been at the "undisclosed location" with Dick Cheney.

NOT SURPRISED BY THE CONVENTION — 40 percent said they would be most surprised by George Bush performing a gay wedding at the convention. Thirty-six percent said they would be most surprised by Colin Powell telling us what he really thinks. And 24 percent said they would be most surprised by Dick Cheney saying, "Maybe there really aren't any weapons of mass destruction over there." I guess 100 percent of them ended up disappointed.

THE DEBATES — While many people said they would like to see President Bush insisting that Dick Cheney accompany him at the debates, and others want the Bush twins to debate Emma Claire and Jack Edwards, more than half of the people said that what they would most like to see at the debates is, "either candidate actually answering any question."

CAMPAIGN CONFUSION — Less than 4 percent found the Electoral College confusing while about 17 percent are confused by President Bush's position on stem cell research, and one-third are confused by Bill Clinton looking younger now than when he was president. Over 40 percent are confused about why both

sides talk so much about how they're not going to talk about Kerry's military career.

ANGER AND ENVY — Only 4.5 percent are angry that John Kerry has a really rich wife, and 13.6 percent are angry that George Bush has a really rich father, but an overwhelming 81.2 percent are angry that they don't have a rich spouse or a rich father themselves.

THE UNDECIDEDS — 12 percent think the undecideds are waiting for Kerry to say he only deserved two purple hearts, and 31.7 percent feel that the undecideds are waiting to find out where President Bush was when he was supposed to be with the National Guard. But the largest number of people feel that the undecideds are waiting for Osama's capture to see if he'll say, "The United States never would've found me if that war hero guy were president."

YOUNG VOTERS — 15 percent thought that more young people would vote if the candidates dressed hipper; 42.5 percent thought the candidates should rap during their speeches and an equal 42.5 percent thought more young people would vote if there were just better candidates to choose from.

WILDEST POLITICAL FANTASIES — Only 4.6 percent fantasize about some evidence that Ralph Nader has been a crook all these years, 17 percent dream about John Kerry accidentally slipping into French while making a speech in Ohio, and 42 percent would love it if President Bush said, "Let's not count any state whose governor happens to be related to one of the candidates." For about 37 percent of the people, their biggest fantasy would be if both sides were positive and refrained from bad mouthing each other for the rest of the campaign.

WINNING IS NO MYSTERY — I saved the best for the last. An overwhelming number of readers feel that the thing that annoys them most about George Bush is "The Smirk." The thing that annoys people the most about John Kerry is "His Hair." So, if Bush wants to win, all he has to do is drop the smirk. If Kerry wants to be president, all he needs is a different hairstyle. It's all so simple. Why do they spend all this time and all these millions on this thing?

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He also has read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermodern-times.com)



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OPINION

GUEST COMMENTARY BY **FREDERIC HAMBER**

Labor Day should be remembered for man's mind

It is fitting that the most productive nation on earth should have a holiday to honor its work. The high standard of living that Americans enjoy is hard-earned and well-deserved. But the term "Labor Day" is a misnomer. What we should celebrate is not sweat and toil, but the power of man's mind to reason, invent and create.

Several centuries ago, providing the basic necessities for one's survival was a matter of daily drudgery for most people. But Americans today enjoy conveniences undreamed of by medieval kings. Every day brings some new useful household gadget, or a new software system to increase our productivity, or a breakthrough in biotechnology.

So, it is worth asking: Why do Americans have no unique holiday to celebrate the creators, inventors and entrepreneurs who have made all of this wealth possible — the men of the mind?

The answer lies in the dominant intellectual view of the nature of work. Most of today's intellectuals, influenced by several generations of Marxist political philosophy, still believe that wealth is created by sheer physical toil. But the high standard of living we enjoy today is not due to our musculature and physical stamina.

Brain power is given a left-handed acknowledgment in today's fashionable aphorism that we are living in an "information age" in which education and knowledge are the keys to economic success.

The importance of knowledge to progress is not some recent trend, but a metaphysical fact of human nature. Man's mind is his tool of survival and the source of every advance in material well-being throughout history, from the harnessing of fire, to the invention of the plough, to the discovery of electricity, to the invention of the latest anti-cancer drug.

Contrary to the Marxist premise that wealth is created by laborers and "exploited" by those at the top of the pyramid of ability, it is those at the top, the best and the brightest, who increase the value of the labor of those at the bottom. Under capitalism, even a man who has nothing to trade but physical labor gains a huge advantage by leveraging the fruits of minds more creative than his. The labor of a construction worker, for example, is made more productive and valuable by the inventors of the jackham-

mer and the steam shovel, and by the far-sighted entrepreneurs who market and sell such tools to his employer. The work of an office clerk, as another example, is made more efficient by the men who invented copiers and fax machines. By applying human ingenuity to serve men's needs, the result is that physical labor is made less laborious and more productive.

A culture thrives to the extent that it is governed by reason and science, and stagnates to the extent that it is governed by brute force. But the importance of the mind in human progress has been evaded by most of this century's intellectuals. Observe, for example, George Orwell's novel 1984, which depicts a totalitarian state that still, somehow, is a fully advanced technological society. Orwell projects the impossible: Technology without the minds to produce it.

The best and brightest minds are always the first to either flee a dictatorship in a "brain drain" or to cease their creative efforts. A totalitarian regime can force some men to perform muscular labor; it cannot force a genius to create, nor force a businessman to make rational decisions. A slave owner can force a man to pick peanuts; only under freedom would a George Washington Carver discover ways to increase crop yields.

What Americans should celebrate is the spark of genius in the scientist who first identifies a law of physics, in the inventor who uses that knowledge to create a new engine or telephonic device, and in the businessmen who daily translate their ideas into tangible wealth.

On Labor Day, let us honor the true root of production and wealth: The human mind.

(Frederic Hamber writes for the Ayn Rand Institute.)

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People & Places



Photos courtesy The Santa Monica Star

Each year, the Rotary Club of Santa Monica participates in a Japanese exchange program with students who live in various cities in Japan. (Above) A group of students with members of host families. During July, American students stay at the homes of Japanese families, each for one week, who show them the sights. During August, Japanese students come to visit Southern California, staying with American families who introduce them to the culture.

(Below) A farewell party for the visitors, host families and the young people who had participated in the program was held at the Malibu home of Tom and Stephanie Loo last month.



(Above left) Elza Ruhman, Nat and Ida Trives and Pat Collins. (Middle, from left) Betty and Pat Cashin, Rotary district governor; Santa Monica Rotary Club President Lionel Ruhman, and Mary and Ingo Werk, incoming district governor. (Above right) Host of the farewell party, Tom Loo, and a member of the Rotary Club of Santa Monica, Sally Pai.

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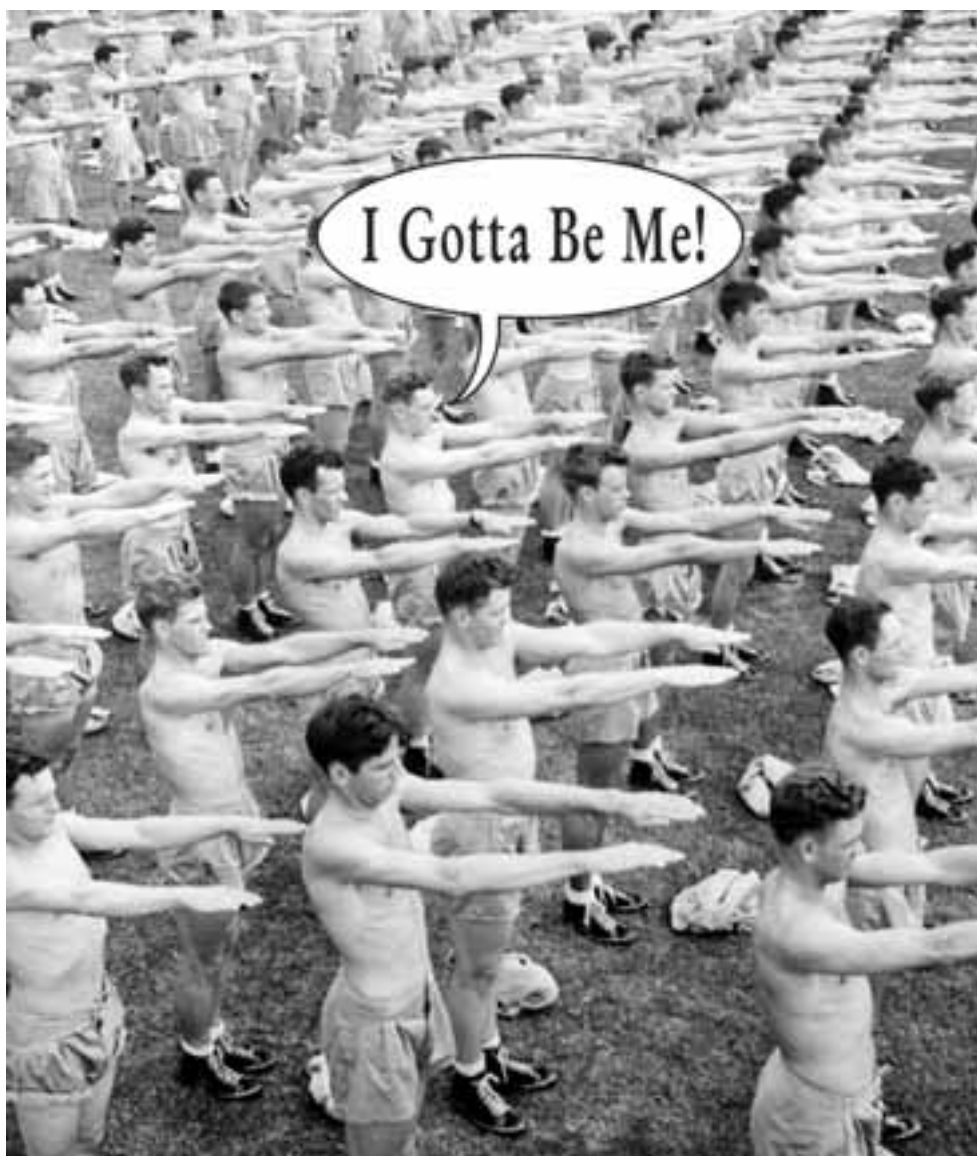
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LOCAL

San Francisco unveiled homeless plan in July

GIMME SHELTER, from page 1

process and give suggestions on how to end homelessness.

The final plan was supposed to be done in July, but delayed for various reasons.

“It was delayed and I was disappointed with that,” Bloom said. “But this plan addresses the regional issues and is the first substantive plan.”

Santa Monica currently spends about \$2 million each year on services for homeless people. The city of Los Angeles

spends more than \$14 million, most of which comes from the federal government, said Robin Conerly, deputy director of the LA Homeless Services Authority.

LA County also spends tens of millions of dollars on homeless services and special needs programs, such as mental health and social services, she added.

San Francisco city officials unveiled a \$350 million, 10-year plan in July that aims to end the city’s chronic homeless crisis. The “Changing Direction” plan

focuses on improving the lives of the estimated 3,000 chronically homeless people in San Francisco, including those who struggle with combinations of mental illness, alcoholism and drug abuse. Once those people are helped, officials believe space will be made available and other transients will be pulled into housing and rehabilitation services.

That city’s homeless population is estimated at 15,000. According to city officials, San Francisco has the highest per capita number of homeless in the United States.

The plan focuses on replacing emergency shelters with at least 3,000 units of

supportive housing. Those units will provide counselors and services to help residents get over their problems and stay off the streets. Beds will be reduced only when housing and services are available to replace them.

Bloom said the plan for LA County is more complicated than San Francisco because it encompasses dozens of cities.

“LA is more complex than other areas,” he said. “There are 81 cities. Coordinating the plan with the region was complicated.”



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Residents keeping cool in pools



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Adult swimmers get their kicks in, and exercise, in the Santa Monica Swim Center’s lap pool.

SPLISH SPLASH, from page 1

gauge of whether a facility was designed to meet the needs of the community is whether people use it. And in this case, its been a huge success.”

The pool, built as part of a joint agreement with Santa Monica College and situated on the school’s campus, doesn’t resemble most community swimming pools. From the outside, the blue-green building’s pothole windows give passers-by a unique glimpse inside. The pools are ringed with palm trees, while a glazed brick wall serves as a sound barrier.

The two pools collectively hold almost one million gallons of water. The splash pool is a 25-yard, 10-lane pool that ranges in depth from two to four feet. The fitness pool is a 25-yard, 50-meter pool with depths of 6 1/2 to 13 feet, and one- and three-meter diving boards.

A community room and sundeck overlook both pools, and organizers threw in a few amenities not always common at public pools, such as spin dryers for swimsuits.

“We’re always looking for ways to improve,” Stinchfield said.

The pool was originally situated in the center of campus, but after the 1994 Northridge Earthquake caused a parking structure to collapse, officials decided to swap the two in order to make the pool visible to the community.

The final design evolved from a series of workshops with residents, as well as some of the principal users of the pool — children, experienced swimmers and senior citizens.

But there were problems during its construction. The original contractor hired to complete the project went bankrupt halfway through the project, causing a delay as the

city solicited additional bids. City officials then hired San Francisco-based Swinerton Builders to complete the job. The project’s price tag swelled from \$5.3 million to \$6.85 million, but the builder’s insurance company absorbed the added expense.

Designed to last approximately 75 years, the center is constructed of glazed concrete masonry to withstand both weather and graffiti, while steel elements are used to support sound-mitigating panels, sunscreens and trellises.

There are different entry fees for Santa Monica residents and non-residents. Residents of Santa Monica pay \$2.50, or \$1.25 if they are a student. The fee for non-residents is \$5 (\$2.50 for students). There are separate fees for children. The fees cover 25 percent of the pools’ operating expenses, according to city officials.

Patrons must plan their visit to concede with the college’s swim classes, practices and meets. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, the pool is closed to the public from 9: 30 a.m. to 3 p.m. It’s closed to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.

There are several swimming and water workout classes available at the facility for an additional fee.

“We have swim classes, diving, water polo,” said Amy Cramer, principal supervisor for the pool. “There’s really a wide variety of classes.”

Patrons can park in campus parking structures A and C with a valid permit. The permit can only be obtained if they are registered in class or purchase a swim pass. Parking also is available at street parking meters near the center.

For additional information regarding entry fees, class information and schedules, log onto www.santa-monica.org/aquatics/.

LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Residents can air grievances about airport

By Daily Press staff

Anyone with complaints about Santa Monica Airport can soon air their grievances and ask questions of government officials.

A City Council candidate forum will be held on Sept. 13 to address the environmental, noise, health, safety and other quality-of-life issues related to the community around the airport. Each candidate will make a statement before answering questions from an invited panel of media guests. The public also will have the opportunity during the session to ask questions directly of their prospective representatives. Journalist Bill Rosendahl will be the moderator.

Organized by the Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution (CRAAP), the forum has invited all local Santa Monica and Los Angeles area candidates for the State Assembly, State Senate and the United States Congress.

The forum will take place at the Ken Edwards Center. For further information, call Martin Rubin, CRAAP director at (310) 479-2529 or (310) 478-3069.

Digital search for reality

By Daily Press staff

People tired of the world of lies can ponder the soundness of their personal reality at a digital art exhibit.

Scott Ferry's "Witch World" exhibit at Santa Monica High School explores the questions of reality in relation to the world around us. Using a mix of traditional techniques and computerized equipment, Ferry creates a sensual, dark and mysterious world which centers on the wicca goddess and the female spiritual forms.

Ferry uses photography and digital drawing to create his personal vision of a surreal space where magic, fear and joy intertwine. Witches, mandalas, fairies, and eerie architectures and landscapes characterize the exhibit.

Ferry was born in La Mirada, Calif., but has been living and working in Montreal, Canada from 1994 to 2002. He was resident artist at TechnOboro, Montreal in 1997, where he learned the digital technologies he employs for his work.

The exhibit will run between Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 at Santa Monica High School and is being presented by Roberts Art Gallery. Hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or by appointment. For more information, call Tania Fisher at (310) 395-3204.

SMC appoints second woman athletic director

By Daily Press staff

Almost 40 years after the modern womens' movement began, the local college has its second woman athletic director.

Santa Monica College named Rhonda Hyatt as its director, responsible for 16 intercollegiate athletic teams, the coaching staff and several other employees.

Previously employed at California State University Northridge, Hyatt served as head athletic trainer from 1984 to 1999, then was promoted to assistant and then associate athletic director.

The college is planning potential expansion of its athletics and dance facilities and Hyatt comes well-prepared.

"I've been involved in the past few years in facilities planning at Cal State Northridge, so I bring that experience to SMC," she said.

Hyatt trained at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas and the University of Arizona. She also earned a Ph.D. in educational leadership from UCLA. She and her husband live in Castaic.

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STATE

ChevronTexaco may have tried to grease governor

BY TOM CHORNEAU
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Oil and gas giant Chevron-Texaco Corp. used an array of lobbyists, attorneys and trade groups to gain favorable treatment in Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's ambitious plan to reorganize state government, according to records and interviews.

In particular, Chevron helped win a key recommendation contained in the report: that the governor look for ways to ease some of the restrictions and oversight on oil refineries.

Saying state government was a "mastodon frozen in time," Schwarzenegger undertook the reorganization in January largely behind closed doors. The 2,700-page report, released last month, called for the elimination of more than 12,000 jobs, dozens of departments and potential savings of more than \$30 billion over five years.

But state records and interviews with the participants show Chevron enjoyed immense success in influencing areas of the report important to the company through its array of lobbyists, attorneys and trade organizations.

Chevron is also a major contributor to the governor's campaigns having donated more than \$200,000 to his committees and \$500,000 to the California Republican

Party. Chevron, whose officials acknowledge they lobbied hard to get their ideas in the report, is one of about 20 companies that paid to send the governor and his staff to this week's Republican National Convention in New York.

On Wednesday, Schwarzenegger attended a closed-door meeting in New York with representatives of those companies, including Chevron.

Although the governor's senior aides helped organize and oversee the reorganization effort, a spokeswoman for Schwarzenegger said the review staff, not the governor's office, was responsible for the report. Schwarzenegger announced the review in January and then appointed its two top members, who then assembled the rest of the staff.

Ashley Snee, the governor's deputy press secretary, said it was premature to assume any of the recommendations will be adopted and that those who are unhappy with parts of the report can comment at a series of statewide hearings on the proposal.

Billy Hamilton, co-executive director of the Performance Review, denied that the report's authors were influenced by Chevron or that special interests had any role in the production of the report.

"I don't believe that's what took place," said

Hamilton, deputy state comptroller of Texas, who has been involved with such reviews in the past. "I went through these issues myself. I know these people who did the reports — none of them had anything to gain."

Company executives acknowledge they lobbied hard to get their ideas in the report but deny there is any connection between the campaign donations and favorable treatment in the reorganization plan.

"This is what we are here for," said Jack Coffey, Chevron's general manager over state government relations, from New York where he was attending the Republican convention.

Disclosure of Chevron's determined role in what many believe is the administration's most important political reform effort contrasts sharply with statements Schwarzenegger made during last year's election campaign and afterward in which he promised to sweep out a corrupt system where "contributions go in, the favors go out."

Proposals that would benefit Chevron are peppered throughout the four-volume report. They include:

— Streamlining the permit process for the construction of new oil refineries and the expansion of existing ones. Chevron, which owns two of the state's largest refineries in Richmond and El Segundo, wanted the state's help in revising existing laws so local government officials would be required to make decisions more quickly on construction permits at refineries.

— Streamlining the activities of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. That agency, which issues permits for dredging and sand mining in the Bay Area, oversees activities related to Chevron's interests in the Bay Area.

— Reorganizing the regulatory process for picking the locations for refineries, tank farms, liquefied natural gas and other energy facilities. Chevron has two proposals to build liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities in Southern California and the Mexican state of Baja California.

Chevron lobbyist K.C. Bishop said he met with staff members assigned to the reorganization project and expressed the company's problems with on getting permits. His concerns were later included in the final report.

A trade group that Chevron is also a member, brought complaints to the reorganization staff over the San Francisco Bay commission. Those complaints later become the primary source for a recommendation that the commission's activities should be scaled back.



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STATE BRIEFS

Law enforcement sharing in wealth

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — A state appellate court let stand a lower court ruling upholding an ordinance providing four law enforcement agencies with a guaranteed share of Ventura County's budget.

The Board of Supervisors had asked the justices to declare the law in violation of the state Constitution because it takes budgeting power away from elected officials and allows no flexibility during hard financial periods.

The 2nd District Court of Appeal, in a one-sentence order Thursday, refused to review the lower court's finding and said the case must first proceed to trial.

At issue is whether supervisors illegally diverted \$50 million that should have gone to law enforcement agencies. A law passed by voters in 1993 guarantees that four agencies — sheriff, district attorney, public defender and probation — will share proceeds of a half-cent tax.

The sheriff and district attorney sued the Board of Supervisors last year, alleging supervisors illegally altered the funding ordinance.

Thursday's appellate court decision was seen as a victory by Sheriff Bob Brooks and District Attorney Greg Totten, who said they would urge supervisors to settle the protracted funding dispute that has already cost taxpayers \$1 million in legal fees.

"We certainly view the decision as another battle won," Totten said. "We hope this will motivate the board to come to the table in earnest."

The board can still to ask the California Supreme Court to review the decision on the law's constitutionality. And supervisors' Chairman Steve Bennett said the board could ask the appellate court to again review the law's constitutionality once the trial is complete.

"They have no victories on any of the issues they sued us on," Bennett said. "All that has happened is that one of our defense strategies has not been successful."

'Gender' has a new meaning

By The Associated Press

WESTMINSTER — With help from a Christian legal rights group, the school board voted to sue the state Department of Education in an effort to change the definition of the word "gender" in the anti-discrimination policy for all California schools.

Board members Judy Ahrens, Helena Rutkowski and Blossie Marquez consider a state law that defines gender as "a person's actual or perceived sex" as immoral and they voted Thursday to challenge the definition in court.

The Westminster School District board members believe the state education definition conflicts with the state penal code — which defines gender as "a person's biological sex" — and therefore schools should not be required to comply with it.

The Arizona-based Alliance Defense Fund, a Christian organization that wages legal battles promoting traditional religious views, agreed to represent the district and pay all legal costs.

"This is a legal not a moral battle," said Robert H. Tyler, an attorney with the group. "We see this anti-discrimination policy as a contradiction with the law."

Ahrens, Marquez and Rutkowski have said the state's definition could promote transsexual behavior in schools and they repeatedly voted this year against adopting an anti-discrimination policy that included the state's definition of gender.

The board eventually adopted the state policy but attached the penal code wording.

State Superintendent Jack O'Connell, who threatened to withhold millions in school funding, accepted the district's policy but rejected the attached definition.

Butcher knife enough reason to shoot

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — A district attorney's office investigation concluded two sheriff's deputies were justified in shooting to death a Camarillo man who lunged at them with a butcher knife.

Deputies Michael Rowland and John Hajducko shot Jon Hill on Aug. 26, 2003, because both deputies believed Rowland was in danger of being killed or injured by Hill, investigators said Thursday. The deputies will not face criminal charges.

"It is the district attorney's conclusion that deputies Rowland and Hajducko acted reasonably under the circumstances that they were confronted with and that their use of deadly force to protect deputy Rowland was within the limits of law. For that reason, the district attorney concludes that the killing of Jon Hill was a justifiable homicide," the district attorney report said.

Rowland and Hajducko were among a swarm of deputies who responded to Hill's home during a standoff in April. The shooting concluded a series of events that day between Hill and authorities which included a chase, the minor stabbing of a deputy and the standoff.

Hill, 46, had led authorities on a high-speed pursuit where he drove the wrong way on the southbound Highway 101 and through city streets.

Despite psychological problems, there was no evidence suggesting Hill wanted to commit suicide by cop, Senior Deputy District Attorney James D. Ellison said.

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NATIONAL

Bizarre 'mutant vehicles' face increased regulation

BY DON THOMPSON

Associated Press Writer

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The 30,000-plus residents can walk through the cling-

ing dust and stifling desert heat. The more experienced brought bicycles.

Then there are the "mutant vehicles:" 500 or so fire-breathing, articulated, neon-lit, steel- or cloth-clad, Mad Max versions of parade floats that creep and crawl around the moonscape. Sharks, butterflies, dragons, couches-on-wheels, flying saucers, elephants; the art cars are limited only by the imagination.

Organizers of the annual Burning Man counterculture festival 120 miles north of Reno are struggling this year to avoid a repeat of the transportation tragedies that plagued last year's event.

The trick is imposing those regulations in a fanciful utopian society where freedom and self-responsibility are supposed to take the place of legal limits.

Katharine Lampman, 21, of Belmont, Calif., was killed a year ago when she accidentally fell under the wheels of a moving vehicle. In addition, two plane crashes at the festival's temporary air strip sent five people to area hospitals. One victim later died.

In response, the city's DMV — Department of Mutant Vehicles — is this year taking on more of the regulatory role of its real world counterpart.

The 100 or so light aircraft that use the landing strip are no longer allowed to take pleasure flights during the festival; once they land, they're grounded for the duration.

And the bizarre mutant vehicles must be licensed and obey the 5 mph speed law.

"I think people realize when you have a larger and larger crowd, there has to be some civic responsibility," said Dan Donovan of San Francisco, driver of a spaceship built around an old Frito-Lay delivery truck with a hip-hop dance floor on top.

Donovan, 39, said festival organizers have always been strict, even more so this year. But he said regulations can't prevent every accident.

"On a certain level, how do you stop people from doing that?" he said, referring to Lampman's death.

Mark Sheets, 47, Lake Tahoe, has been coming here for six years, driving a mutant vehicle for four.

He agrees some responsibility has to be on the individual.

"At Burning Man you kind of have to pay attention," Sheets said. "Everyone's kind of responsible for your own safety, because there are hazards out here."

But he believes the golden age of Burning Man is coming to an close.

"It's inevitable they'll have to bring a little more order to it — it's getting too big," said Sheets, who drives the Medusa Train, a giant Day-Glo red, two-faced head atop a golf cart, multicolored, snakelike wands protruding from the head.

The vehicles are not just transportation around the desert, but a traveling roadshow that organizers hope will carry Burning Man's cutting edge artistic message to communities nationwide.

This year the Black Rock Arts Foundation is paying to send several "fire sculptures" on an interactive art tour after Burning Man ends.

"They look like giant baby perambulators — baby carriages," said Burning Man founder Larry Harvey. "Burners put wood in them and they spout flame, and they're mobile."

Organizers say they aren't licensing just any custom vehicle: they're looking for the "wow factor," something that makes observers gasp.

Promoting safety without limiting that creativity is a challenge, particularly when organizers expect the temporary community to largely police itself as part of an annual cultural experiment.

Instead of jail or fines, violators are towed around the encampment in what amounts to a public shaming. Harvey said he hopes their humiliation will sink into participants' collective consciousness to promote compliance without impinging on the underlying sense of freedom.

Organizers seek similarly subtle ways to bring structure to a community seemingly a riot away from anarchy. They charge admission, collect garbage and sewage, water down the dust, publish a daily newspaper, provide medical care for those who fall victim to the oven-like heat.

There are street names and "addresses," laid out in concentric circles around the central pyramid where the Burning Man will be torched Saturday night in a pagan-like ritual display of renewal.

The streets this year are named after planets, but the gathering is growing so large, "I ran out of planets," Harvey said. "Fortunately, about the time I got done, they found a new planet."

Imposing a bit of order on a city built on creative chaos is a balancing act that enjoys varying degrees of success, Harvey said.

"Fortunately," he said, "we get to erase the city every year and start over."

Lawsuit states toxic dust warnings at nuclear dump site cost them jobs

BY KEN RITTER

Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — Two former industrial hygienists claim in new court filings that they were fired after warning government contractors about toxic dust in the first tunnel at the site of a planned national nuclear waste repository in Nevada.

Contractors completed the test tunnel for the Yucca Mountain project in 1997 in record time, said Joe Egan, a lawyer representing workers claiming they were exposed to dangerous silica dust.

"They sacrificed the workers to save time and money," Egan said Thursday.

The companies have denied the allegations first made in a civil lawsuit filed in March in Clark County District Court. It seeks class-action status and unspecified damages.

"We're going to vigorously defend our position," said Beatrice Reilly, an official with the chief Yucca Mountain contractor, Bechtel SAIC Co., who said she

spoke for all the contractors.

Drilling began in 1992, but a mandatory respirator protection program did not begin until March 1996.

Judy Kallas, a former industrial hygienist for Omaha, Neb.-based Kiewit Construction Co., alleged that her supervisor ordered her in 1996 to change her notes about toxic silica levels in tunnels. Kallas was fired later that year.

Former Bechtel SAIC Co. industrial hygienist Wilbert L. Townsend was dismissed in March 2002, a month after warning supervisors that workers were being overexposed to silica and other harmful dust, the document said.

Egan estimated that 1,200 or more workers and visitors were exposed over the years to dangerous levels of dust at the site, 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

Silicosis is an incurable and sometimes fatal lung disease that can develop years after exposure to silica dust.

Egan also is lead attorney in Nevada's fight against the government plan to bury the nation's radioactive waste at the Yucca site.

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NATIONAL

Business leaders work to get commercial airline service from Albuquerque to Mexico

BY ERIK SIEMERS
Associated Press Writer

ALBUQUERQUE — Consider the differences between Bob Sachs' two business trips from Albuquerque to Chihuahua, Mexico. The first one required a drive to El Paso, an overnight stay and a plane ride to the northern Mexico city. The second, a nonstop chartered flight, required a drive to the Albuquerque International Sunport.

The first one took parts of two days — one way. The second took an hour and 40 minutes.

This is why Sachs, whose Albuquerque-based research development company wants to do business in Juarez and Chihuahua, hopes state and city leaders can persuade a commercial airline to provide direct service from Albuquerque to Mexico.

But persuading an airline to provide the service will be a hard sell. "We have to approach this logically," said Fred Mondragon, the city of Albuquerque's economic development director.

That "logic" comes in understanding airlines won't provide a new route just because someone wants it. It has to at least promise that a profit is a possibility.

And there must be a market, which is what folks like Mondragon and city Aviation Director Mike Rice are looking for — a market to bring to the airlines.

"All of this is demand driven," Rice said. "We can provide them information to help them make their decisions. We need to find information that the airlines don't know."

Shortly after taking office, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson created a task force to explore international commercial air service and increasing intrastate airline service and to further develop the state's air cargo industry.

That task force has city officials like Mondragon and Rice, state Aviation Director Tom Baca and the state secretaries of tourism, economic development and transportation — all officials in areas that would benefit from easier access to Mexican markets.

So far this year, city officials have made three trips to Mexico.

And along with forming business connections, Rice and Mondragon are trying to organize a list of church groups or other organizations that sponsor regular missionary-type trips to Mexico.

In coming months, Mondragon said the city will do an independent study of these groups, including the Latin American and Iberian Institute at the University of New Mexico, to gauge the frequency of travel to Mexico and to what places.

The information they gather will be shared with airlines. What Mondragon and Rice hope to show is there will be an increase in business if a flight to Mexico is direct rather than connecting through other cities.

Another avenue is to more aggressively promote tourism between Mexico and New Mexico, Mondragon said. Rice has already met with Denver-based Frontier Airlines chief executive Jeff Potter, who he said indicated a willingness to listen.

"His comment was: 'It's got to be a good idea,'" Rice said. "That pretty well says it."

There isn't a particular type of airline local officials are wooing. They know the market is likely to be served by airlines using smaller, regional jets rather than large aircraft.

Rice said Indianapolis-based ATA Airlines, which doesn't serve Albuquerque but is ripe for growth, has agreed to meet with him.

Also being considered are the Mexican airlines

Aerolitoral, Aeromexico and Mexicano, Rice said. "We're open to any airline," he said.

As it is now, Albuquerque International Sunport is "international" in name only.

It keeps the title because of the presence of federal customs and immigration officers who can service incoming international flights.

But to fly international from Albuquerque, passengers must connect to other cities — usually hubs like Houston, Denver, Phoenix, Dallas or Salt Lake City.

Often with several connections, the trips can be long and expensive.

Frontier provided the city's first service to Mexico in 1979 with flights to Mazatlan. It stopped shortly after the company filed for bankruptcy in August 1986, said Dave Jarvis, city manager for Frontier Airlines in Albuquerque. The company re-formed in 1994 but never resumed the Albuquerque-to-Mexico flights.

Jarvis said Mexican airline Aerolitoral later offered an Albuquerque-Mexico route with a smaller Beechcraft plane, but that service also eventually faded.

While they've had little success sustaining international service, officials are encouraged by statistics culled from two studies commissioned by the state that point at potential demand for the flights.

The studies, which look at ticket sales and surveys of travel agents, show 80 to 110 potential passengers a day travel between Mexico City and Albuquerque either way. Cancun could see between 65 and 70 daily passengers and another 40 to 60 for Puerto Vallarta. The city didn't provide figures for travel to and from Chihuahua.

While encouraging, the numbers alone don't support the need for service, industry analysts say.

"There's not an enormous amount of data to build this decision," said Bill Rathert, a consultant with Dallas-based Sabre Airline Solutions, which did one of the two studies.

Working against the state is the fact airlines like to route flights through their hubs. A flight on Continental would likely get routed through Houston. Likewise with America West in Houston, American Airlines in Dallas or Frontier in Denver.

Because Albuquerque is a hub for no airline, the city should look to recruit an airline whose hub is in Mexico — namely, Mexican airlines, Rathert said.

"One of the things that we're exploring is the potential of running a flight from Albuquerque to Chihuahua to Mexico City," Rathert said. "You're getting the hub service in the largest market, and on the near end you're getting the nonstop to Chihuahua where you have those cultural ties."

Michael Boyd, president of the Boyd Group, an Evergreen, Colo., airline consulting firm, agrees a Mexican airline is likely the best route.

Airlines like to make several stops before reaching a destination so they can pick up more business along the way, Boyd said.

"A Mexican carrier can stop two or three times before it would stop in Albuquerque," Boyd said. "No U.S. carrier would want to do a literal route through Albuquerque to Mexico. You'd make more money running people through your connecting hub than Albuquerque, which isn't a hub."

Still, while the task is difficult, Boyd called it a worthy one.

"Mexico's going to be where it's at business-wise," Boyd said. "At some point Mexico is Japan with oil. Going after it is what they need to do."

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NATIONAL

Bush and Kerry clash in Midwest over economy

BY DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

President Bush hailed a slight decline in unemployment Friday as reason for his re-election, evidence the "economy is strong and getting stronger." Not so, said Sen. John Kerry, countering that the administration's term will end with a net loss of jobs.

"The president wants you to re-elect him. For what?" Kerry jabbed at the Republican in the White House. "Losing jobs? Building the biggest deficit in American history?"

Buoyed a poll showing him surging into a double-digit lead, Bush campaigned across Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Iowa, three states he lost in 2000. Kerry worked Ohio, where Bush prevailed in the last election, as the two men began a nine-week fall campaign for the White House.

A new Time magazine survey showed the president with a 52-41 advantage over his rival among likely voters. It was

released after a campaign stretch in which the Democrat struggled to fend off attacks on his war record while the Republicans stage-managed their convention for maximum political benefit.

Ralph Nader picked up 3 percent in the survey, which marked a sharp break from polls taken over the past few months that had made the race a tossup.

Neither Bush nor Kerry referred to the polls as they plunged into the heart of their campaign.

"There is a clear difference of philosophy in this race. He is for expanding government, I am for expanding opportunity," Bush said in Moosic, Pa. It was his first appearance after Wednesday night's convention acceptance speech, in which the president pledged to defeat terrorists while helping Americans achieve economic security.

"With the right leadership, this young century will be a liberty century. It'll be a century of freedom," he said.

As he had from the convention podium,

he omitted mention of the fact that Osama bin Laden remains at large nearly three years after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Kerry campaigned by bus in Ohio, the most fiercely contested state in this campaign, his rhetoric sharpened in response to days of Republican convention attacks.

The Massachusetts senator said Bush has a "record of failure," and the GOP convention was designed to mask it with attacks on him and fellow Democrats.

"I will not have my commitment to defend this country questioned by those who refused to serve when they could have and who misled America into Iraq," he said.

Kerry received five military medals while serving in Vietnam. Bush served stateside in the National Guard while Vice President Dick Cheney's five draft-era deferments kept him out of the service.

Bush and Kerry found one thing to agree on during the day, both wishing Bill Clinton a quick recovery from the heart bypass surgery he faces. "He's in our thoughts and prayers," the current president said of his predecessor.

No date was disclosed for the surgery, nor was it clear what impact it would have on Clinton's plans to campaign for Kerry this fall.

The campaign clash over jobs was triggered by a Labor Department report showing the unemployment rate at 5.4 percent in August, down from 5.5 percent in July. There were 144,000 jobs created, lower than the 150,000 economists had been expecting.

Bush seized on the report as good news. "Overall, we've added about 1.7 million new jobs since August of 2003," he said. He added that the unemployment rate of 5.4 percent was nearly a full point below the rate last summer and below the average of the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.

Not surprisingly, Kerry was far less bullish.

"I don't think this is something to celebrate. I think it's something to get to work on," he told a group in Newark, Ohio.

He promised to spur employment by

providing tax credits to companies that keep jobs in the United States, reducing health care costs, pursuing research in renewable fuels and investing in science, medicine and other segments of the economy.

"This is the first president in 60 years who is absolutely certain to be running for re-election on Election Day by having lost jobs in America," he said of Bush.

The Time poll was conducted during the Republicans' convention week, a factor that customarily would benefit Bush. It reported the president and Kerry statistically tied when voters were asked which man they would trust more to handle the economy. Bush was preferred on handling Iraq and the war against terrorism, and for leadership qualities.

The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus four percentage points.

Bush and Kerry campaigned as Democratic vice presidential candidate John Edwards reported income of almost \$39 million over the decade ending in 2003. Partial tax returns showed Edwards and his wife paid 34.8 percent of their income in taxes during the 10-year span, a total of \$13.2 million. They paid 8.6 percent of their income to charity.

Edwards was a plaintiff's trial lawyer before winning a North Carolina Senate seat in 1998. His wife is a lawyer, but has not practiced since 1996.

Vice President Dick Cheney campaigned in Oregon, where he criticized Kerry as no friend of the West.

He said the Massachusetts senator as well as Edwards skipped the Senate vote when the administration's legislation passed to allow thinning of more forest land.

"Sen. Kerry did not support the Healthy Forests Act when it came time to vote," Cheney said. "Now, Sen. Kerry says he likes a lot of the parts of the law. That makes one thing clear: it's not only wildfires that shift with the wind."

A Kerry spokeswoman responded that the Bush administration failed to fully fund the Healthy Forests Act hampering firefighters last summer.

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NATIONAL



GOP convention a Bush, Cheney family affair

BY ANNE GEARAN
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — With patrician mannerisms and that instantly recognizable jawline, father George 41, son George 43 and some 80 other Bush relatives were proof this week that politics is the family business of a large and far-flung dynasty.

There are fewer Cheneys, but all of the vice president's immediate family was on hand for the Republican convention _ even an 8-week-old grandson.

For the big finale Thursday, three generations of each clan were onstage as President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney accepted the party nomination.

The tableau was scripted down to first daughter Jenna Bush's teasing references to family disciplinarian Ganny, known to non-Bushes as former first lady Barbara Bush.

Twins Jenna and Barbara Bush, 22 and fresh out of college, represented the full flowering of Team Bush.

Until now, the twins were seen rarely and heard never, and strictly off-limits for the press. The pair had daily campaign events at the convention, although the reviews weren't all good for a giggly stand-up routine introducing their mother in prime time Tuesday.

"I was actually very proud of my nieces," Doro Bush Koch, President Bush's sister, told The Associated Press this week. The twins "really just want to be young girls, be with their friends and move on with their lives, but because they love their mother so much they stood up."

Doro and Barbara Bush the elder made the rounds of Republican women's events, press interviews and other appearances this week, as did Lynne and daughter Liz Cheney. Less visible but here nonetheless were the president's brothers Neil and Marvin and their wives.

With all that love in the air, the few missing faces stood out.

Mary Cheney, the vice president's lesbian daughter, did not join her sister and the rest of her family in the hall Thursday night. There was no explanation, but her absence followed remarks from Illinois Republican Senate candidate Alan Keyes that, as a lesbian, she is a "selfish hedonist."

On Wednesday night, Mary Cheney had sat beside her lesbian partner in the family box to hear her father's acceptance speech, but did not appear with the rest of the family afterward for smiles and waves on stage.

They gay couple simply left after the speech, and it was not clear whether they jumped out of the more visible onstage family picture or they were pushed.

Also absent this week was Florida Gov. Jeb Bush,

who may have stayed away to avoid stoking rumors of a presidential run in 2008.

The Bush campaign said Jeb needed to tend to the aftermath of Hurricane Charley. Even if Jeb had been here he probably would have returned to Florida before his brother's acceptance speech Thursday. Hurricane Frances could hit Florida by Friday night and Jeb Bush has called out the National Guard.

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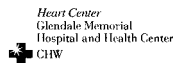
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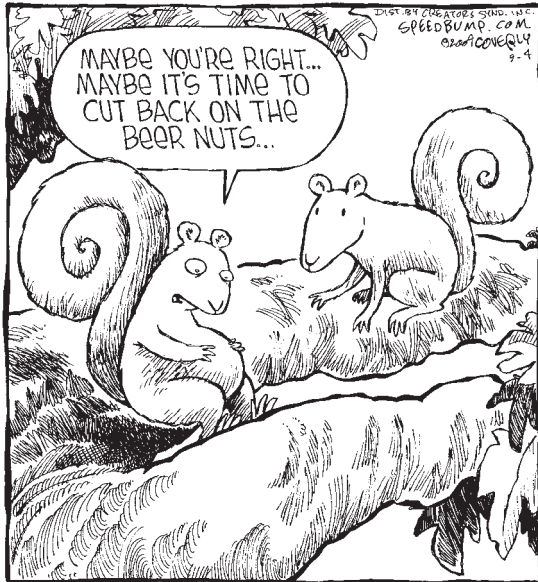
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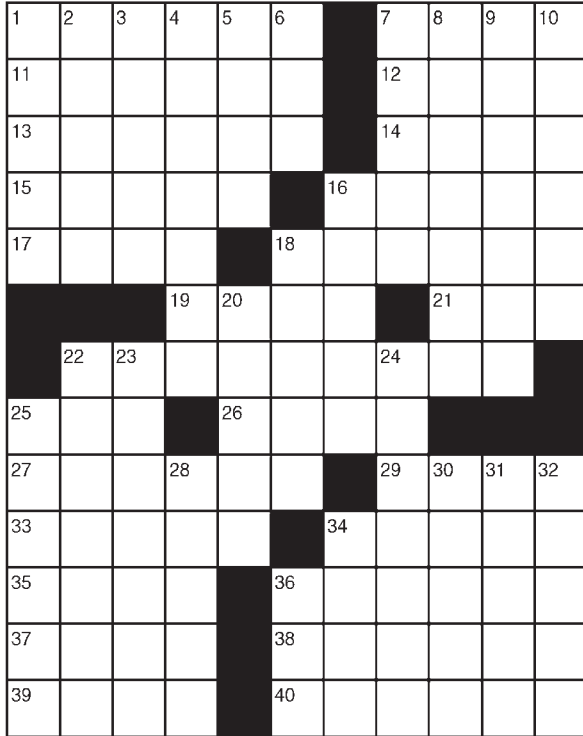


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The American Red Cross of Santa Monica is currently seeking a part-time outside sales representative to market Red Cross products and classes. The candidate must possess excellent written and verbal skills and enjoy interacting with the public. In addition, the candidate must also be proficient in Microsoft Word and Access. Previous knowledge and experience with Red Cross products and services preferred.

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FARMERS INSURANCE in Westwood Village. Customer service experience only. Flexible P/T hours. (310)208-7183 Patrick

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GAS STATION Boat Dock needs PT/FT for MDR Harbor call Randy or Sue 310-823-2444

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SALES & MANAGER:Trendy Jr. clothing store in Santa Monica is hiring for sales & management positions.Benefits available 310-638-9931 or fax resume to HR at 310-638-9954

Sales: 44 year old Forbes 500 Ranked Affiliate CO. is looking for sales pros to keep pace with rising gold market. Top earners make 300k+. Full benefits. No cold calling. Draw/comm. Santa Monica. Visit www.goldline.com or call (310)319-0313.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

UPN clears runway for 'America's Next Top Model'

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — "America's Next Top Model" is heading back to the runway. The UPN reality show has announced the cast for its third season of supermodel boot camp.

The new season debuts Sept. 22.

Under the mentoring of Tyra Banks, 14 aspiring models will compete in tests of catwalks, fitness and publicity skills. The contests, according to the show's Web site, will be judged for "both inner and outer beauty."

The models' poise will likely be tested while they live together in a New York City loft under constant surveillance from the show's cameras.

One contestant, Magdalena, 24, says, "I think it's quite possible for me to lose my temper while living with 13 other girls."

Kristi, who is 20 and from St. Louis, says, "I was raised really Christian. I have a lot of family that might be pretty disappointed if I end up naked on TV."

Toccarra, a 22 year-old from Dayton, Ohio, is the only plus-size model. She proclaims: "Girls, watch out, 'cause big is in!"

VENICE, Italy — Tom Cruise was playing cold and heartless at the Venice International Film Festival in his hit-man role as Vincent, the devil in a gray tailored suit, in Michael Mann's action-thriller "Collateral."

But "Collateral," which isn't in competition for an award, got a warm greeting Friday at the 61st festival, being held on the small Lido island off central Venice. The festival ends Sept. 11 with an awards ceremony hosted by Sophia Loren.

Cruise plays against type as a psychopathic murderer, while Jamie Foxx is a hapless but goodhearted taxi

driver.

Two of the films in competition for the Golden Lion awards — "Rois et Reine" by French director Arnaud Desplechin and "Udalionnyj Dostup" by Svetlana Proskurina of Russia — also were screened Friday.

The incoherent story line of the Russian film led some audience members at a press preview to walk out and others to boo loudly at the end.

PENDLETON, Ore. — "Nip/Tuck," which had won fans among inmates for its surgical gore and sexual innuendo, has been pulled from the airwaves at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution.

"We decided it was all too much," Doug Harder, a spokesman for the medium-security prison in Pendleton, told The Oregonian recently. "Way too graphic."

During one episode of the FX show — which chronicles the racy escapades of two Miami plastic surgeons — inmates gathered in a TV room kept "eyeballing," whistling and shouting catcalls to a female corrections officer, Harder said.

The officer filed a complaint with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, and the prison banned the show, Harder said.

Holly Ollis, a spokeswoman for "Nip/Tuck" producer Warner Bros. Television, said she was unaware of another prison in the country that had blacklisted the series.

"It's an unusual show, and I've heard a lot of unusual things," Ollis said. "But this is certainly a new one for me."

It's been about three years since the Eastern Oregon prison pulled a show from its TV schedule. That was a professional wrestling show called "WWF: Wild One."

Since the behavior problems with "Nip/Tuck" only popped up during group viewings, the ban will not apply to the 10 percent of the 1,621 inmates who have personal televisions in their cells, officials said.

NEW YORK — Haul 250 pounds of supplies on skis. Add attacking polar bears, 80-foot ice walls and temperatures at 75 below zero.

Traverse for 100 days.

The latest reality TV show? Not quite. Former schoolteachers and veteran explorers Ann Bancroft and Liv Arnesen plan to trek 1,200 miles of the mostly frozen Arctic Ocean starting in February.

Bancroft was in New York Thursday to promote the book "No Horizon Is So Far," about her 2001 Antarctic skiing expedition with Arnesen.

She's also training for their upcoming adventure to the North Pole.

"I'm road biking, kayaking and pulling three car tires for four or five hours," Bancroft said.

The car tires don't approach the weight they'll carry from Russia to the North Pole and down to Canada, but "the friction creates resistance," Bancroft said.

The 49-year-old Bancroft, and Arnesen, 51, will ski-sail on the choppy frozen ice and wear dry suits for swimming in open water. Supplies will sit in a canoe-like sled that can float.

Like the previous expedition, they'll share their trip with millions of schoolchildren by the Internet and specialized curriculum.

So far, the trip — expected to cost \$1 million — is sponsored by Volvo and the Norwegian government. CNN tracked the explorers' progress by satellite phone interviews during the 2001 expedition, which cost \$2.5 million.

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