

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

7 40 35 10 29
Meganumber: 21
Jackpot: 10 Million

FANTASY 5

2 13 22 25 30

DAILY 3

Daytime: 3 3 9
Evening: 8 2 7

DAILY DERBY

1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 07 Eureka

RACE TIME: 1:42.67

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

A U.S. Army laboratory in Natick, Mass., has developed a lightweight, dried-food meal that can be safely hydrated by adding virtually any kind of liquid, from dirty swampwater to a soldier's own urine, according to a July report in New Scientist. A membrane with ultra-tiny gaps allows only water molecules to pass, filtering out "99.9" percent of any bacteria and most chemicals. (While urine will theoretically work in a pinch, the developers discourage its use since urea is not blocked and will build up in the kidneys over time.)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I am not young enough to know everything."

OSCAR WILDE (1854-1900)

CAMPAIGN 2004

Campaign season in Santa Monica is heating up. The chamber of commerce's political action committee has spent the week interviewing City Council candidates, in anticipation of making their first-ever endorsements. It's also the first time the public will see where these candidates stand on the most pressing issues facing the city. Check out the Daily Press weekend edition if you are interested in where 11 people vying for four open seats on the City Council want to take Santa Monica in the future.

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A senior moment: SMC turns 75 today

BY GENEVA WHITMARSH

Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC — At the end of a decade marked by jazz, flappers and the Great Depression, a group of 153 students gathered without fanfare on the second floor of a high school building to attend Santa Monica Junior College classes.

What a difference 75 years make. Today, the college has dropped the "junior" from its name and poured millions of dollars into its campuses, which extend throughout the city and attract 30,000 students. And

though the swinging '20s are a thing of the past, the college has left its mark on a more current icon: Rolling Stone magazine recently named SMC one of "Ten of the Best" two-year schools in America.

But as the college swells in size and popularity, officials deal with aging buildings, and the community faces increased traffic and less parking in the residential areas surrounding the school.

"It's a balancing act," said Bruce Smith, SMC's spokesman. "We love the fact that SMC has an outstanding academic reputation. But at the same time, we have to balance that it can create problems and traffic for neighbors. The state legislature rewards us (monetarily) for growing. We'd suffer if we didn't."

The parking issue, coupled with increased enrollment, has spawned four satellite campuses throughout Santa Monica.

"Sure, there's traffic around the school, especially during the first week of registration," said City Councilman Herb Katz, who lives three blocks from SMC. "People say the school is too big. My argument is that if it wasn't that big, we couldn't have a lot of the courses that are offered."

Another issue facing college officials is outdated buildings, the

See SMC, page 7



Crill Hansen/Special to the Daily Press

Students still relax around the clocktower at Santa Monica College, which is one of the original structures on campus.

Arson trial of ex-Raider delayed

BY GENEVA WHITMARSH

Daily Press Staff Writer

LAX COURTHOUSE — An ex-NFL player accused of setting fire to a Santa Monica furniture and antique store won't face a jury for another month due to changes in his legal representation.

Michael S. Evans will defend

Anthony Wayne Smith, 37, in a jury trial scheduled for Oct. 12. Smith's former lawyer, David Houchin, didn't return calls Thursday.

"(Smith) fired one lawyer and hired another," said Deputy District Attorney Larry Droeger. "That's the raw way of putting it."

The trial date, originally set for Sept. 9, was pushed back to allow Evans to familiarize himself with the case, he said.

"I don't know if I'd say (Houchin) was terminated, but I was retained, and the judge has given me some time to get ready

See SMITH, page 6

City Hall forces a settlement with landlords

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

Two landlords accused of discriminating against a single mother have agreed to pay \$1,000 as part of a settlement with City Hall.

May and Alan Wong, owners of an apartment building at 1048 19th St., also have agreed to attend

a management training course certified by the Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles and will face double penalties if they are found to discriminate against their tenants within two years, said Deputy City Attorney Eda Suh.

City Hall began investigating the Wongs in September of 2002

after Donna Thomas filed a complaint with City Hall that alleged the landlords wouldn't rent her a one-bedroom apartment because she is a single parent.

Thomas said she had been turned away from four other apartments before finding the Wongs.

See COMPLAINT, page 6

Jacquie Banks

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 **ARIES (March 21-April 19)**

★★★★ Don't let a feisty dream start your day on the wrong foot. Remain optimistic, positive and goal-oriented. You'll come up with answers and shortcuts. Let your ingenuity spill out and help find answers. Tonight: Start the weekend with your favorite person.

 **TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**

★★★★ Your family is always your highest priority, but more so now. You might be adding a new addition, anywhere from a child to a hot tub to a new puppy. Don't be too fussy. Give this addition the love and guidance it needs. Tonight: Happy at home.

 **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**

★★★★ Refuse to get into a controversy. Hop past another's stubbornness in a conversation. You will be able to ground yourself and others. Discussions need to take on a pleasing tone. Buy a card or token of affection. Tonight: Haunt your favorite spot.

 **CANCER (June 21-July 22)**

★★★★ Think of yourself and funds first. Someone (maybe you) might have a great idea that simply doesn't conform to someone else's. Controversy isn't needed. Work toward a solution together. You'll find an answer that suits you. Tonight: Choose an enjoyable activity to start the weekend.

 **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**

★★★★ Your personality mellows others out. You could find a child difficult and wanting to push past established limits. With your personality and logic, you make sense. Many follow your lead as a result. Tonight: Lead others into the weekend.

 **VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**

★★★★ You are brighter-eyed and more bushy-tailed than you have been in a while. Still, play your ideas low-key and use the weekend to think them out. Your feelings are unusually sensitive, causing you a problem. Be careful and get to know new acquaintances. Tonight: Vanish into thin air.

 **LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**

★★★★ You head in the right direction no matter what you choose to do. Some matters might be better kept to yourself, like a budding relationship or a misunderstanding where you thought someone demeaned you. Work with groups. Tonight: Join co-workers out.

 **SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**

★★★★ Someone could leave you holding the bag at work if you're not careful. Laughter makes everyone relax. Your perspective might be deeper than many, but because you can detach, you see the humor in situations. Tonight: Pack your toothbrush. It could be a late night.

 **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**

★★★★ You need to take the road less trodden if you want to succeed. Think beyond the obvious. Brainstorm with a boss or superior who knows how very important you are to him or her. Tonight: Take a magic carpet out of town.

 **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**

★★★★ Work with others individually, and you will gain a new perspective as a result. Everyone has an opinion. When you air out a topic, you grow and change your mindset. Think outside of the box. Tonight: Add spice to your life.

 **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**

★★★★ Defer to others, and you'll gain a new point of view. Don't overthink; just absorb information. You will have plenty of time to mull over what is shared. Network and get into the Friday mood. Tonight: Accept an invitation from your many admirers.

 **PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**

★★★★ You might need to work late, as others flee the office. You can harness an associate or two by asking the right question or simply asking for help. Be sensitive to what must be done and what you want done. Tonight: Relax at home. Take a walk to relieve stress.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Santa Monica Red Cross to hold Sept. 11 remembrance event

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Red Cross will be hosting an informal remembrance ceremony today and Saturday.

Photos from ground zero will be on display, provided by Santa Monica Fire Chief Jim Hone, who was one of the first responders on Sept. 11, 2001.

Red Cross disaster mental health counselors will be available on both days. In addition, Red Cross disaster workers who were deployed to Ground Zero also will be in attendance to discuss their experiences. The Santa Monica Red Cross is located at 1450 11th St. in Santa Monica.

For more information call (310) 394-3773.

You say you want a Rail-Volution?

By Daily Press staff

Interested in how Santa Monica Boulevard will be rebuilt for mass transit, or how light rail might affect the entire city?

A national audience of transportation professionals, urban planners, community activists and others will be coming to Los Angeles Sept. 18-22 to highlight regional efforts to create more livable communities with transit.

The 10th annual national Rail-Volution Conference, hosted this year by Metro, has become the nation's premier industry gathering for public and private sector groups committed to working together to create more livable communities through mass transit, officials said.

Conference planners have organized 20 "mobile workshops" that will allow attendees to tour new transit-oriented developments and other urban centers in downtown and East Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Hollywood, Pasadena, Fullerton, Brea, Claremont and Long Beach.

On Sept. 18, a tour will be given along Santa Monica Boulevard from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Another tour throughout Santa Monica is scheduled for Sept. 19 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The conference also will serve as a forum for local officials, business and environmental leaders, developers and architects interested in making cooperative land use and transportation decisions.

Transit is reshaping the way more Los Angeles County residents live, work and play. The region was first built around the world's largest inter-urban electric rail system in the early part of the 20th century. It is returning to those roots with a growing transit infrastructure that is helping improve the region's urban, social and economic environment, officials said.

"Los Angeles has long been one of the primary trendsetters in American culture," said Congressman Earl Blumenauer (3rd District, Ore.), founder of Rail-Volution. "As it faces changes in population and demographics, increasing sprawl and traffic congestion, a lack of affordable housing and economic uncertainties, it is becoming one of the most important laboratories for livability in this decade. Los Angeles is where America is headed."

More than 60 workshops are planned covering a wide range of topics, including smart growth, urbanism, economic development, schools, community building, advocacy, health and environmental protection.

A nationwide panel of speakers also is planned. Key speakers include: FTA Administrator Jenna Dorn; Oregon Congressman Earl Blumenauer; Reid Ewing, Rutgers University Center for Urban Policy Research; David Goldberg, Smart Growth America; Todd Litman, Victoria Transport Policy Institute; Stephanos Polyzoides, Moule & Polyzoides; Roger Snoble, Los Angeles Metro; Shelly Poticha, Center for Transit-Oriented Development; Robert Puentes, Brookings Institution; and Molly White, Nike USA.

Conference fees are \$400. The mobile workshops are an additional \$35. To register or to obtain additional information, visit the Rail-Volution Web site at www.railvolution.com.



SURF REPORT

On Friday look for small NW wind swell to join a touch of SW and SE swells. Northern LA spots will see mostly knee-high waves, with a few bigger sets at the best spots up to waist high. South Bay breaks will work the modest NW energy for 1-2' waves at many breaks and occasional bigger sets at best spots. Winds will stay light through the morning and build out of the W to NW in the 8-12 knot range for the afternoon.

Today the water is:

71°

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LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	6:39	2.2	8:41	1.5	1:24	3.7	1:17	5.0
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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The QLine

A plan to end homelessness in Los Angeles within a decade will be unveiled on Sept. 23. The plan has taken several months to develop and has taken into consideration the input and opinions of hundreds of people.

The planning 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.

In Santa Monica, homelessness is one of the most hotly debated issues in the community.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "What must be included in the panel's plan? How can homelessness most effectively be eradicated in the next 10 years?"

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



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Killing pedestrians in a blink of a light

Editor:

Well, here we go again. Over the past few years Santa Monica has spent a lot of money on some dumb and unnecessary changes. The old saying, “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it,” does not apply to our beloved city. However, the latest idea of these crosswalks with the blinking lights are out and out dangerous.

In the last three weeks on two different occasions, I have personally seen pedestrians push the button and then, with no hesitation and without looking, step off the curb in front of oncoming traffic. This false sense of security is going to get someone killed.

Now Santa Monica is putting this death trap on Ocean Park Boulevard near the middle school. Most of these kids don’t pay too much attention under the best of conditions. I hope those who designed and implemented the blinking devices will feel intensely guilty when a few people are badly hurt or killed.

D.L. Darling
Santa Monica

What have you done for renters lately?

Editor:

“What have you done to protect tenants’ rights and truly preserve rent control?” is the question we must ask every City Council candidate.

The majority of Santa Monica voters are still moderate income tenants living in fully rent-controlled apartments.

Rent control always is under threat from political foes. We renters risk losing our protections and being priced out of Santa Monica if we foolishly believe candidates with conflicting agendas who disingenuously tell us not to worry, that rent control is safe.

The only way we can be sure to protect our Santa Monica renters’ rights is to ask candidates to tell us concretely what they’ve done for renters.

Rufus Baker
Santa Monica

GUEST COMMENTARY
BY DAVID SIRKIN

To conquer, schools must not divide

In order to be able to control and fund their local schools, a group of Malibu residents would like to split Malibu off from the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

I protested in a previous letter (Aug. 30) that this would be an unfortunate and regressive step. I had not realized then that one of the aims of this group, which is to allow individuals to make donations to Malibu schools without any of the money being siphoned off to spread the wealth to other schools in the district, practically has been achieved already. The Daily Press reported on Sept. 1 that the district has a pending policy, under which an individual school would get all but 15 percent of a donation made to it. Because of opposition, much of it from “wealthy schools in Malibu,” to even that small percentage being siphoned off, the school board was set to approve Thursday night an amended policy, under which the percentage would be progressively diminished with each \$100,000 raised by a school. Apparently, the wealthy schools, or those who donate to them, considered 15 percent for the district to be an “unfair tax that would quell the enthusiasm of many generous donors.”

Oh, my goodness. How can one use the word “generous” to describe people who would begrudge even 15 percent of their donations being used by the district to help the schools that need it most, the schools where most of the economically disadvantaged children of the district are enrolled? I would have thought 50 percent would have been a reasonable compromise between funneling money where it is most needed and exciting donors with the prospect of being able to earmark part of their donation for their favorite school (for example, the one their child attends). Consider another viewpoint.

Because equality of educational opportunity is one of the most important principles underlying the organization of our public school system, contributions to

individual schools, or even individual school districts, should be strictly forbidden. Anyone who wishes to be an educational philanthropist should be allowed to donate only to the state or federal departments of education, for those agencies to send the gifts where they are most needed.

From this viewpoint, allowing the wealthy to earmark 50 percent of their donations for their own children’s schools is already quite indulgent, let alone 85 percent or more.

I made a couple of phone calls to school district offices and discovered two more disturbing things about how our school system works. These are additional aspects of the system that make Malibu already almost a de facto separate district. First of all, children can only attend a school that is not the closest one to them if there is space available. This rule may be appropriate for elementary school children, but it is definitely wrong, wrong, wrong for high school students. All high school students must have equal access to all the high schools in the district. If the demand for one high school is too high, then enrollment should be determined by lottery without regard for where the students live. This is especially important if parents or others are allowed to earmark financial donations to particular schools.

Most of the time, students will choose to attend the school nearest them, but if one school begins to be much more luxurious or better than another, students will be willing to travel significant distances to attend the better school. Allowing students throughout the district equal access is an important check that must be put in place to prevent one school from becoming a good, upper-class school, and the other a bad, lower-class school.

The district also could make each of the high schools be, to some extent, a magnet school. For example, it deliberately could make one of the schools a bit stronger in the arts, and the other a bit stronger in languages or sciences. This would encourage mixing of students from different parts of

the district. Public schools could and should help knit the fabric of our society together. Too often we have allowed them to help tear it apart, as locally controlled schools have motivated the well-off to flee urban areas and turn the landscape of our nation into a patchwork of isolated, segregated communities.

The other disturbing thing is that the district seems to be unable to transfer teachers from one school to another according to the needs of the schools. The only time a teacher is transferred is when the teacher requests it. Worse than that, each school does its own hiring, and two schools in the district may even compete with each other for an applicant. This practice could lead to an unequal and unfair distribution of good teachers among the schools. The least desirable schools could expect to end up with a disproportionate number of the weakest teachers, those that are inexperienced, or lacking in talent or motivation. The unequal distribution of good teachers is one of the worst, and one of the least recognized, of the evils of separate local school districts, and it should not be allowed to occur within our larger, unified school district.

I urge the residents of Santa Monica to do what ever is necessary to hang on to the Malibu part of the unified school district. Doing so is very likely more important for your children and for your neighborhood than you have realized. I urge you further to demand of the board of education three things:

- A generous percentage of all gifts to the schools must be distributed by the district to the schools that need them most, with the percentage staying the same or increasing, not decreasing, with every additional amount of gifts raised by a single school.
- All students in the district, at least at the high school level, must have equal access to any school in the district.
- The district must hire and reassign teachers as necessary among the schools

to ensure that each school’s needs are equally met.

To the residents of Malibu: Try to stretch your heart to generate in it a feeling of community that extends beyond your immediate neighborhood to the whole Los Angeles area, to the whole state of California, to the whole nation, and even to the whole world, but at the very least to Santa Monica.

Recognize that it is right for all children to have the same educational opportunities, that it is essential for the improvement of our society, for the further evolution of our civilization. If you consider the distribution of your gift money by the district to be a tax, consider it a fair tax rather than an unfair one. Recognize that the wealthy in America are among the most under-taxed groups of people in the world. In other industrialized countries, people have a broader feeling of community and a greater acceptance of taxes as the most effective and fair means of getting the wealthy to support programs and services that benefit all.

Because of our greater ethnic and racial diversity, we have a more difficult time seeing even our relatively close neighbors as members of our community. We must remind ourselves of the reason for our difficulty.

The situation that exists in the school district now, namely extra funding for certain schools, teachers who can choose their schools and students who cannot, is a blueprint for educational inequality.

It is a situation that must be remedied. We cannot hope to eliminate entirely the inequalities in environment and learning opportunities among children.

But if we have a public school system that is itself unequal and unfair, then shame on us. We can and must do better.

(David Sirkin lives in Santa Monica. He is a former New Jersey high school science teacher).

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn. Editor: 1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 Santa Monica • 90401 • sack@smdp.com

OPINION



'Happy Days' of politics spark a book and party

POLITIGIRL

BY BETH SOLOMON



Happy days were here again recently at Teatro Goldoni — Washington's sparkling political stage — literally. The occasion was a party for "Happy Days Are Here Again," a book by the late Chicago Sun-Times columnist Steve Neal about the one of the most dramatic political gatherings in U.S. history: The 1932 Democratic convention that nominated Franklin Delano Roosevelt for president.

There were no teleprompters back then, no insta-pundits, no portable phones, but there was a "wheeler-dealer, whiskey stealer named Joe Kennedy," said party co-host and conservative columnist Robert Novak.

"Roosevelt almost didn't get the nomination," Novak said. "If he hadn't, it probably would have been Newton Baker, ladies and gentlemen. The history of the world would have been different."

Some at the party said without FDR, there would be no JFK — John F. Kerry, that is.

"It was at that point in history that the open hard-left — the Communists and the Socialists — were subsumed into the Democratic party," said UPI political analyst Peter Roff. "I believe that you can draw a straight line through Eugene Victor Debs to FDR, to George McGovern, to John Kerry."

Do you get the impression there were Republicans at this gathering?

The wine flowed, the hors d'oeuvres floated by on trays held by Frenchmen.

Frenchmen?

Congressional Quarterly publisher Bob Merry, a co-host of the party, said author Neal was one of the best political minds of his time. Merry said his evidence was extended bourbon-soaked bull sessions with Neal. True enough: You don't know a person's mind until you've experienced it under the influence.

The author's widow Sue Neal said her husband was a passionate historian when he wasn't doing his day job writing about politics. "He would come home at night and write books," she said. Among them: "Harry and Ike: The Partnership That Remade the Postwar World" and

"Eleanor and Harry: The Correspondence of Eleanor Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman."

"Steve used his vacation time," she said.

NBC News legend Sander Vanocur used his vacation time to attend the party.

"The reason I'm in town is I was visiting the National Archives to find out why I got on Nixon's enemies list," said Vanocur, a panelist in the historic 1960 presidential debate, who now lives in Santa Barbara. What was the answer? "I don't know. Why was Joe Namath on the list?" The 1960 debate was the first ever to be televised. Some said Nixon's shadowy TV performance versus John F. Kennedy cost him the election.

Former CNN star Peter Arnett, who famously reported from Baghdad as bombs fell on the Al-Rashid Hotel during the first Gulf War, was also on hand for the book party. He is back in Baghdad now, writing a book about America's "20-year love-hate relationship with Saddam Hussein." Arnett is concentrating more on love than hate these days — he just persuaded his wife of six months, Molly Walsh, to join him in the Iraqi capital.

How did she muster the courage to go? "It's time for us to spend time together, so I'm going," she said simply.

Republican pollster Frank Luntz also stopped in to say hello. His polls show President Bush bounded to a double-digit lead in several battleground states following a successful — if not suspenseful — party convention. Luntz is writing a book, too. Just kidding. But that's what political media types do.

While there might not be much uncertainty in party conventions any more, there is some question as to whether political books like Neal's can survive the modern publishing age. Neal's agent Deborah Grosvenor of the Grosvenor Literary Agency — who represents best-selling authors like Eleanor Clift, Mort Kondrake and Susan McDougal — said books that try to take an objective look at politics are as rare these days as a soft-spoken swiftboat man.

"What's selling are polemics on the left or the right," she said. "I don't read them. But it's very hard to sell a more balanced view these days."

Not to mention having one.

(Beth Solomon is reachable at beth-solomon@earthlink.net).

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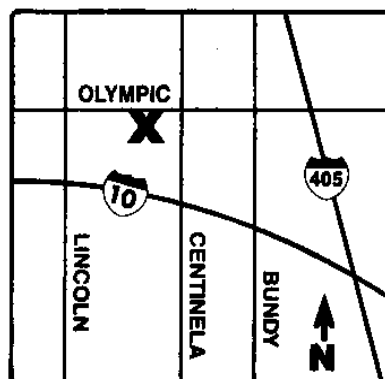
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Judge questioned jurors' capability during first trial

SMITH, from page 1

for trial," Evans said.

Smith, a standout defensive end for the Los Angeles Raiders in the 1990s, has been in custody for nearly two years for the February 2003 blaze that gutted Simply Sofas on Lincoln Avenue.

The trial scheduled for Oct. 12 will be Smith's second, following a mistrial in June.

Prosecutors alleged during the first trial that Smith set the fire in a rage-filled act of revenge after arguing with the store's owner over the value of a statue he left with her to be sold on consignment.

Investigators were led to Smith by partially burnt pieces of mail bearing Smith's name and address, which were found stuffed inside the makeshift bombs used to ignite the blaze. The fire destroyed \$1.2 million worth of merchandise and caused \$900,000 in property damage.

Although the jury split 7-5 in favor of acquitting Smith, the judge pointed to weaknesses in the prosecution's case and said a conviction against Smith would be a strong possibility at a second jury trial. He refused to reduce Smith's \$1 million bail.

During the first trial, an investigating officer apparently mistakenly played segments of a taped police interrogation that didn't relate to the charges and was considered prejudicial.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Keith Schwartz also said three of the jurors were "functionally unable to handle their oath as a juror." One of the jurors, he said, believed a malfunctioning fire alarm had been set by aliens, while two of the jurors suggested that the investigating officer had set the alarm off.

Deputy District Attorney Jean Daly, who handled the case during the first trial, told the court earlier this year that new evidence had come forward that strengthened the people's case. The exact nature of that evidence is unknown, though lawyers said it consisted in part of interviews with witnesses who rebutted Smith's alternate explanation for how his documents wound up in the bombs.

At trial, Smith's lawyers suggested the pieces of mail were left in an alley behind the store by day laborers and might have been picked up by a third party who started the fire. When the Raiders moved to Oakland, Smith said he kept a local mailing address, and several boxes of non-essential mail were taken by an assistant to storage. The day laborers were hired by Smith to help move boxes and other items between his storage space in Lancaster and his condo in a Marina del Rey. Smith said that when he retrieved items from Simply Sofas, the laborers might have mistaken a box of mail documents in the back seat for trash.

Landlords agree to pay tenant and City Hall

COMPLAINT, from page 1

"It wasn't blatant, but I could tell that they weren't happy I had a child," Thomas said. "But she was more blatant. I told her that I had a daughter, and she told me, 'I don't know if that would work.'"

Thomas said she found the one-bedroom vacancy on the Internet and set up an appointment to see the unit with May Wong. Wong asked Thomas how many people would live in the unit, and Thomas answered that she and her 7-year-old daughter would live there. At that point, Wong said she didn't think the apartment would work for two people and hung up the phone, Thomas claims. Wong never showed up for the scheduled appointment and refused to return Thomas' follow-up calls, City Hall alleges.

Thomas claimed that she then had a friend call Wong and say that he was interested in the one-bedroom for himself and his child, who would be living with him half of the year. When Wong hesitated, the friend said he would see if the child's mother could take the child for the whole year. Wong encouraged him to do

so. Later the friend called Wong and told her that he would have to have his child half of the year. Wong promised to call him back but never did, City Hall alleges.

"I was really upset, and I wasn't going to do anything about it," Thomas said. "But then I thought, that's unfair for her to discriminate."

That's when Thomas filed a housing discrimination complaint with the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office. Within three days, the City Attorney's Office investigated the complaint. The investigation included the use of two undercover "testers" from the Los Angeles Housing Rights Center. City officials also surveyed the Wongs' existing tenants to see if other children lived in the building. The investigation confirmed that the Wongs strictly limited their one-bedroom unit to single occupants.

"Limiting one-bedroom units to single occupants is discriminatory and illegal," Suh said.

Federal, state and local laws prohibit discrimination against families with children. Limits on the number of occupants

See COMPLAINT, page 7

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LOCAL



SMC kicks off 75th anniversary celebration today

SMC, from page 1

oldest of which was built in 1952. Smith said the 1994 Northridge Earthquake jump-started multi-million dollar improvements to several campus structures, as two buildings were destroyed and others were damaged.

"A lot of the buildings were simply getting older, and others had other problems, like they weren't Internet

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE TRIVIA

■ The letters C-R-W in KCRW, SMC's flagship National Public Radio station, stand for College Radio Workshop.

■ Goldie Glitters was the only male student elected homecoming queen in the college's history, in October 1975.

■ The college mascot is the Corsair, which is the French word for pirate.

■ "Splinterville" was the affectionate nickname given to the collection of tents and bungalows that served as the campus for SMC in the 1930s and 1940s.

■ SMC has served as the location for a number of film shoots, including "Rebel Without a Cause," which starred James Dean, a college alumnus.

■ A running track was specially built at SMC's Corsair Field for the 1984 Olympics and has served as the training ground for such Olympians as Carl Lewis.

KEY DATES IN SANTA MONICA COLLEGE HISTORY

Sept. 10, 1929: Santa Monica Junior College opens on second floor of Santa Monica High School with 153 students.

1932-33: SMJC moves to old brick building at Garfield School site at Seventh Street and Michigan Avenue, but the 1933 earthquake renders the building uninhabitable; college moves to tents and bungalows on site, affectionately called "Splinterville").

1952: Classes start on new campus, which continues to be SMC's main campus at 1900 Pico Blvd.

1975: SMC's Emeritus College, the widely acclaimed program for older adults, opens.

1988: SMC's first satellite campus, located at Santa Monica Airport, opens.

1989: SMC's second satellite campus, the former Madison Elementary School on Santa Monica Boulevard at 11th Street, opens.

February 1993: President Clinton visits SMC in his first visit to California since his inauguration the month before.

January 1994: The Northridge earthquake hits SMC hard, causing millions of dollars in damage.

March-April 1997: Marking a first for SMC, the theatre arts' production of "Once on this Island" is selected from more than 900 plays at colleges and universities throughout the United States for the prestigious Kennedy Center/American College Theater Festival.

June 1997: The renamed John Drescher Planetarium opens after a major facelift and installation of a state-of-the-art projection system.

September 1998: SMC holds dedication ceremony for its new Academy of Entertainment & Technology, a then-unique program to prepare students for careers in the entertainment industry, particularly new technologies.

Sept. 11, 2001: The SMC family suffers losses in the 9/11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York. Student Emily Aoyama's father is killed on American Airlines Flight 11, as is SMC alumnus Edmund Glazer.

July 2002: The Santa Monica Swim Center, a new municipal aquatics complex on the northwest part of the campus, opens.

Winter-Spring 2003: SMC faces biggest budget crisis in history, prompted by historically high state budget deficit. The budget crisis, which includes mid-fiscal-year cuts, continues through 2002-03 and the early part of 2003-04.

October 2003: SMC's Emeritus College for older adults moves into its new headquarters in downtown Santa Monica. The new 24,000-square-foot building was purchased for \$8.65 million.

connected," Smith said.

SMC is reinvesting in itself with projects such as a main stage for the school's theater arts program and a 10-acre site at the Santa Monica Airport that will eventually house the education, nursing and community service programs. Among those completed are a \$2.2 million athletic complex on the east side of the football field and a downtown Santa Monica satellite campus for senior citizens.

And there's more on the horizon. Voters approved a \$160 million bond proposal in March of 2002 that will fund facility upgrades and the purchase of new buildings. And a multi-million dollar performing arts complex is being planned for SMC's Madison Campus on 11th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard.

This year, college officials are anxiously awaiting the outcome of a \$135 million bond proposition on the November ballot. The money would be spent to build and upgrade several buildings at SMC, buy more open space in Santa Monica and Malibu, and fund the development of other properties throughout the city.

The proposition's creators originally asked for a \$175 million bond, but reworked the proposal after failing to garner enough support among the college's board of trustees. Santa Monica took the heaviest hit under the revised proposal. Whereas the previous plan proposed \$75 million in projects at SMC, \$75 million in joint projects with Santa Monica City Hall and \$25 million in joint projects with Malibu City Hall, the new bond proposes just \$45 million for joint projects with Santa Monica City Hall and a slightly reduced amount for SMC.

"All in all, the city's relationship with the college is good, but there needs to be discussion among the college and the city so we don't duplicate services," Katz said. "That's starting to happen. Part of the \$135 million bond will go to items with the city, but there has to be an educational element to it. So, obviously that's something that has to be coordinated."

Today, students and staff will focus on celebrating the college's 75th anniversary and marking the accomplishments since that first class day in 1929. The school now holds the record of being the No. 1 transfer institution to the University of California, USC and other four-year schools. It also boasts a roster of distinguished alumni including California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, actor Dustin Hoffman, singer/musician Rickie Lee Jones, astronaut Walter Cunningham and NFL player Isacc Bruce.

Betsy Hiteshaw, who taught child development at



Photo courtesy

Homecoming at Santa Monica College in 1949.

SMC from 1970-97, will be one of many to commemorate the anniversary.

"When I started teaching at SMC, it lacked the richness and ethnic diversity it has today," she said. "We pushed the envelope further and further every year and made it simply amazing."

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce already has honored SMC for 75 years of service, but the college's festivities began with the start of the academic year. The following are events going on over the next few months:

■ "Einstein's Universe" is the feature show at 8 p.m. today and Sept. 17 at SMC's John Drescher Planetarium. The show examines the 100-year anniversary of the launch of Einstein's relativity revolution that led to the discovery of warped space, black holes, the Big Bang and more.

■ The California Heritage Museum in Santa Monica will honor SMC and its president, Piedad Robertson, at its Oct. 1 Heritage Award Dinner.

■ SMC's Opera Theater Benefit featuring artistic director Sue Ann Pinner and college opera alumni will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 1 at Christ the King Catholic Church in Hollywood.

■ SMC's Homecoming game is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Nov. 13. The college will take on East Los Angeles College, and a special outreach is planned for alumni.

■ Graduates of SMC's Arts Mentor Program will show their work at an exhibit scheduled from Nov. 16 to Dec. 10. The opening reception will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Nov. 19 at the Pete and Susan Barrett Gallery.

Local tenants urged to educate themselves on their rights

in the rental unit raise discrimination problems if the COMPLAINT, from page 6

effect is to ban occupancy by families with children. The courts have held that a policy of limiting one-bedroom units to one occupant is suspect because it has a disparate impact on single parents with children, Suh said.

"I hope that people know they have an option in Santa Monica," Thomas said. "There are so many tenants that don't know about the laws."

The Wongs had been working with City Hall through their Santa Monica-based attorney Eric Meller for months.

"We discussed possible settlements, so we knew were going to settle it," Suh said, adding the Wongs told city officials that they do allow children in their building, but when officials attempted to contact former tenants, they got no response. The Wongs also told city officials that they would provide paperwork to prove children lived in

their building. However, the paperwork never materialized.

"We wanted to hear what they wanted say, and we gave them time, but it didn't lead to any evidence," Suh said.

Meller and the Wongs couldn't be reached for comment.

Rather than face litigation, the Wongs last week agreed to settle the matter. They agreed to pay Thomas \$500, which is the maximum fine under city law. The Wongs also will reimburse City Hall \$500 for investigation costs from the housing rights center.

Had City Hall pursued litigation and won the case, the Wongs could have faced steeper penalties under state and federal housing discrimination laws, Suh said.

"Many people don't know that it's illegal to impose this kind of occupancy limit," Suh said. "We encourage building owners to protect themselves by learning about the law."

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Entertainment

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Starring: Ben Kingsley, Carrie-Anne Moss, Aaron Eckhart

WITHOUT A PADDLE

Fishes out of water comedy that is far from great, but it keeps its distance from awful as well.
Starring: Matthew Lillard, Dax Shepard, Seth Green

THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2: ROYAL ENGAGEMENT

A trifling sequel that panders to a decidedly indiscriminating demographic: Little girls.
Starring Anne Hathaway, Julie Andrews

WE DON'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE

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Starring: Naomi Watts, Mark Ruffalo, Laura Dern, Peter Krause

BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS

Eclectic, jazzy, color-saturated sets and costumes are a perfect match for the money- and alcohol-saturated, animated characters.
Starring: Emily Mortimer

COLLATERAL

Cruise makes for one bad-ass bad guy in this unsettling thrill ride from director Michael Mann.
Starring: Tom Cruise, Jamie Foxx

OPEN WATER

If you thought the crew in "Jaws" was screwed out there in their little boat, wait 'til you see what happens to the unfortunate young couple in this one.
Starring: Daniel Travis, Blanchard Ryan

LITTLE BLACK BOOK

No one deserves to watch this movie—and its pot-holed, nonsensical plot—unfold.
Starring: Brittany Murphy, Ron Livingston

CODE 46

It's difficult to wrap one's head around the film's basic conceit because as lovers, Robbins and Morton generate less heat than a meat locker.
Starring: Tim Robbins, Samantha Morton

THE VILLAGE

The final act shocker isn't worth enduring the rest of the film for.
Starring: Joaquin Phoenix, Bryce Dallas Howard, William Hurt

THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE

Director Jonathan Demme returns to "Silence of the Lambs"-type form, taking us on a suspenseful journey rife with intrigue and fueled by paranoia.
Starring: Denzel Washington, Meryl Streep

‘Resident Evil’ not a movie made for adults

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

Admittedly, I'm a 30-something guy who doesn't have much interest in the rapidly developing video game-based film genre. Of course, that could change some-

Review

day should "Frogger: The Movie" or "Donkey Kong vs. Ms. Pac Man" arrive in theaters. "Resident Evil: Apocalypse," however, is intended for a different audience — namely, the legions of adolescent boys who have helped make the "Resident Evil" video game series one of the most successful franchises in history. More than 24 million units have been sold in just a few short years, and the filmmakers have taken note and with this sequel once again wrought a nearly plot-free spectacle that is more a game imitation than adaptation. And the name of this game is "hysteria," as in the kind hormonally charged kids experience when barely clad babes such as

Milla Jovovich and Sienna Guillory employ serious firepower to obliterate zombies and virtually everything else in sight. The bedlam in "Apocalypse" is ridiculous, ear-shattering and relentless, made all the more annoying thanks to the action-horror movie clichés exploding all around: There's the evil mastermind with the sinister Germanic accent; the stiff, flesh-eating undead (dammit, is *everybody* on the Atkins Diet these days?); some gratuitous boob shots; and, of course, the time-worn cheesy heroes' zingers. My fave: After a nondescript good guy from Russia (a clear indicator that he will eventually become zombie meat) puts a bullet in the head of an undead dog, he glibly commands the mutt to "sit." Oh, suh-nap!

Jovovich ably reprises the role of Alice, a bio-genetically enhanced recovering supermodel with a knack for whacking people infected by a zombie-making virus — the work of one of those all-powerful corporate entities that are all the rage in cinematic villainy.

Don't answer the call for 'Cellular'

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

This lightweight action-thriller from child actor turned stuntman turned director David R. Ellis piles one implausibility upon another until it becomes a

Review

nearly impossible burden for audiences to bear. That, coupled with the many deep plot holes around which Ellis and screenwriter Chris Morgan expect us to navigate, makes for an experience that is as exasperating as trying to maintain a cell phone signal in the network-saturated Los Angeles basin. That's just what young surfer-dude Ryan (Chris Evans of "The Perfect Score") manages to do, however, after he is randomly contacted by a frantic stranger named Jessica (Kim Basinger) who claims she's been kidnapped by a group of nasty thugs.

Conveniently left alone by her captors in an attic that just happens to have a phone in it — albeit a shattered one — Jessica, a high school biology teacher, applies her scientific know-how and miraculously manages to place a call by touching together some wires. Knowing that she might not be

fortunate enough to repeat that dubious feat — though you get the feeling that, in a pinch, Morgan wouldn't have hesitated to add a "star-69" twist — Jessica tearfully implores her would-be savior not to hang up. Once Ryan's convinced she's for real, he races blindly and full throttle through the busy streets of LA in an effort to save the mystery woman and her family. All the while chatting up Jessica, as the threat of a dropped call and certain death hangs over them.

Though Basinger and Evans both fully commit to their characters and the flimsy premise that brings them together, "Cellular" falters because it requires audiences to not only suspend disbelief, but completely expel it. Also wasted are solid supporting turns from Jason Statham as the baddest bad guy, and William H. Macy as a retiring cop suddenly forced into action after a career spent behind a desk. And speaking of action, there's plenty of it, mostly involving fast-moving vehicles on crowded roadways.

(Rated PG-13 for violence, terror situations, language and some sexual references. Running time: 94 minutes)

By ably, I mean Jovovich points her gun and shoots without ever messing up her hair. Occasionally she shrieks to indicate a heightened sense of emotion, be it fear or joy or, possibly, hatred for her agent. As fans of "The Messenger" and "The Fifth Element" already know, Milla's is an all-purpose shriek. Of the many curiosities in "Apocalypse," the most conspicuous are three lightning-quick monsters with very large, Gene

Simmons-esque tongues. These beasts are called "lickers," and no, I'm not making that up. They are gone faster than Milla can blow them up and shriek ... but again, they're called "lickers," and for this old man, the name's the best thing going in this dud.

(Rated R for non-stop violence, language and some nudity. Running time 93 minutes)

Milla Jovovich accidentally buffs up for her latest role

At the ripe old age of 11, when most girls are suffering through the sixth grade, Milla Jovovich was chosen as one of Revlon's "Most Unforgettable Women in the World." In the ensuing 17 years, Milla (pronounced

"mee-luh") actually became a woman and, proving Revlon right, has managed not to be forgotten. While continuing to model for heavies such as Donna Karan, Armani and L'Oreal, Milla, 28, has successfully ventured off into music and film, with a list of widely diverse roles under her tiny belt. Her filmography includes "Chaplin," "Dazed and Confused," "The Fifth Element," and "Dummy." Lately, the Ukrainian-born beauty has been kicking ass as Alice in the "Resident Evil" sci-fi action flicks. "Resident Evil: Apocalypse" opens today.

QUESTION: What did it take to morph yourself into an action figure?

MILLA JOVOVICH: Four months of (training) five hours a day, five days a week. It was definitely a full-time job. It was like Olympic-level training we had for this film. But, you know, I understood when we got on the set why, because even after four months I felt like I could've trained more. It was really hard to rehearse completely in costume, with the weight of the guns, the harness and everything.

Q: Did you try to get buff to play Alice?

MJ: I'm not big on weights. I feel like martial arts is enough of a work out. A guy would want weights because he wants to get bigger, but I'm obviously trying to still look gorgeous and sexy and like a girl, somehow. I know I don't look that much like a girl in the movie, but I tried my best to keep it down.

Q: What drew you to this role?

MJ: I've always loved science fiction and fantasy. As a kid, I was

a huge fan of reading any kind of book that had to do with space, superpowers and magic. I guess it's in a way, me sort of fulfilling that part of my fantasies. Like, you know, I always wanted to be a superhero.

Q: Have you developed any superhero-like qualities?

MJ: I'm a real girl. I'm a very difficult person to be around, for sure. I catch myself acting like a bitch. My mom, in the early stage, said you're a little snot that came out of my nose, and you'll always be that. So, she always tried to keep my head close to the ground, because I can be a lot to deal with.

Q: Word on the street is that you're engaged to Paul W.S. Anderson, screenwriter of "Resident Evil" and "Resident Evil: Apocalypse." Is this true?

MJ: Actually, no, I'm not engaged. Paul and I are very, very close. We've kind of come to the agreement that probably marriage is not in the near future for us. It's something to look forward to in the next few years. But, I haven't seen the guy in almost eight months. We definitely love each other, but it's hard. Not everybody can be like Brad and Jennifer.

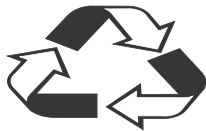
Q: Which do you find more challenging — modeling or acting?

MJ: It's totally different. Obviously what's harder is acting, at least the last few movies I've done — they're crazy action films. But then again, sometimes when I'm on a modeling job and I'm bored off my ass, I think, "This is much harder."

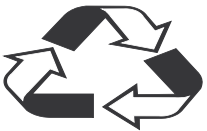
Q: How do you stay so fit with such a hectic schedule?

MJ: I take supplements, I take vitamins, and I try to keep low-carb. I exercise. Because I feel so bad about smoking, I'll exercise, drink a lot of water, take vitamins, try to eat better. Gone are the days of eating McDonald's everyday.

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Santa Monica Daily Press



'Criminal' is stolen version of an earlier film

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

John C. Reilly and Diego Luna star in this puzzling remake of an Argentinean film ("Nine Queens") that was released stateside just two years ago. Either the "Criminal" production team, which includes producers

Review

Steven Soderbergh and George Clooney, believes American audiences have really short memories, or they deemed their aversion to subtitles to be so strong that an English language replica of the entertaining original was in order. That's what "Criminal" is — a near exact copy of a very recent foreign film.

This version features Reilly and Luna as Richard and Rodrigo, two low-level grifters who meet each other in a casino and later that day stumble upon a big-money con involving an Irish billionaire, Maggie Gyllenhaal (as Richard's sister) and some counterfeit silver certificates. As heist movies goes, this one has enough surprises to keep unsuspecting eyes locked to the screen. Problem is, the bulk of the target audience for "Criminal," the art-house set, is likely to have seen "Nine Queens" and thus will be hampered by the knowledge of what's coming. Since the weight of the movie rests upon the climactic twist, those familiar with the material won't find much else to hold their interest, save Reilly's engaging turn as the slimy, opportunistic thief. Luna, on the other hand, plays his con-artist way too cutesy to be convincing. His partnership with a shark like Richard never feels kosher.

(Rated R for language. Running time: 87 minutes)

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New memos state Bush failed to meet standards

BY PETE YOST

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Newly unearthed memos state George W. Bush was suspended from flying for the Texas Air National Guard during the Vietnam war because he failed to meet Guard standards and failed to take his annual flight physical as required.

The suspension came as Bush was trying to arrange a transfer to non-flying status with a unit in Alabama so he could work on a political campaign there.

A memo written a year later referred to one military official "pushing to sugar coat" Bush's annual evaluation.

"On this date I ordered that 1st Lt. Bush be suspended from flight status due to failure to perform to USAF/TexANG standards and failure to meet annual physical examination ... as ordered," says an Aug. 1, 1972 memo by Lt. Col. Jerry Killian, who is now dead.

The same memo notes that Bush was trying to transfer to non-flying status out of state and recommends that the Texas unit fill his flying slot "with a more seasoned pilot from the list of qualified Vietnam pilots that have rotated."

The Vietnam-era documents add details to the bare-bones explanation of Bush's aides over the years that he was suspended simply because he decided to skip his flight physical.

The White House said in February that it had released all records of Bush's service, but one of Killian's memos stated it was "for record" and another directing Bush to take the physical exam stated that it was "for 1st Lt. George W. Bush."

"I can't explain why that wouldn't be in his record, but they were found in Jerry Killian's personal records," White House communications director Dan Bartlett told CBS's "60 Minutes II," which first obtained the memos.

Bartlett said Bush's superiors granted permission to train in Alabama in a non-flying status and that "many of the documents you have here affirm just that."

A memo dated May 19, 1972, five days after Bush was supposed to have completed his physical, summarizes a telephone discussion with Bush about how he "can get out of coming to drill from now through November." It says Bush was "told he could do ET for three months or transfer." ET referred to equivalent training, a procedure for meeting training requirements without attending regularly scheduled drills.

The same memo says "we talked about him getting his flight physical situation fixed" and quotes Bush as saying he would "do that in Alabama if he stays in a flight status." It also says, I advised him of our investment in him and his commitment."

Democratic Party chairman Terry McAuliffe said, "George W. Bush's cover story on his National Guard service is rapidly unraveling. ... George W. Bush needs to

answer why he regularly mislead the American people about his time in the Guard and who applied political pressure on his behalf to have his performance reviews 'sugarcoated'."

Bartlett told CBS, "As it says in your own documents, President Bush talked to the commanders about the fact that he'd be transferring to a unit ... in Alabama that didn't fly that plane," the F-102, the type Bush was trained in.

Using only last names, one of the newly disclosed documents points to sharp disagreement among Bush's superiors in Texas over how to evaluate his performance for the period from mid-1972 through mid-1973.

"Stuart has obviously pressured Hedges more about Bush," Killian wrote on Aug. 18, 1973. "I'm having trouble running interference and doing my job _ Harris gave me a message today from Grip (a headquarters unit) regarding Bush's OETR (officer efficiency training report) and Stuart is pushing to sugar coat it. Bush wasn't here during rating period and I don't have any comments from 187th in Alabama. I will not rate."

The memo concludes: "Harris took the call from Grip today. I'll backdate but won't rate. Harris agrees."

At the time, Walter B. Stuart was commander of the Texas National Guard; Lt. Col. Bobby Hedges was one of Bush's superiors in Texas who two years earlier had rated Bush an outstanding young pilot; and Lt. Col. William D. Harris Jr. was another superior of Bush's.

Mexico, U.S. agree to clean up mountains of old tires at border

BY OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press Writer

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico — Mexican and U.S. environmental officials said Thursday they will dispose of thousands of tires by burning them for fuel in cement factories, the first step aimed at cleaning up the rusting sedans and mountains of radials cluttering the border.

Mexican and U.S. environmental officials, facing an uphill battle to clean up one of the border's most urgent environmental problems, announced the binational accord at a site with 5 million tires in Ciudad Juarez, across from El Paso, Texas.

"The environmental challenges that we face do not respect political boundaries," said Richard Green, a regional administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "We experience them together, and we must address them together."

Mexico's secretary of environment and natural resources, Alberto Cardenas-Jimenez, said Ciudad Juarez and Grupo Cementos de Chihuahua have agreed to dispose of 800,000 used tires each of the next five years.

The city will pay the cement-maker 3.5 pesos (31 cents) for every tire burned and in turn, Cementos de Chihuahua will use the tires as fuel, investing \$2.5 million in equipment at the Samalayuca cement factory, 25 miles (40 kms) south of Ciudad Juarez.

The agreement will only make a dent in the estimated 5 million used tires at the city's collection center. Two million more are scattered in dry gullies and clandestine dumping sites throughout the city, where residents simply throw out tires to avoid paying the 10-peso (\$1) fee the city requires to get rid of them.

"These tires have become breeding grounds for disease, carrying mosquitoes, and when they burn, they release hazardous waste to the air and soil making it a grave environmental and health problem for the people of Juarez," said Alma Leticia Figueroa, director of Ciudad Juarez's Ecology and Civil Protection Department.

Figueroa said each month firefighters put out about 1,000 fires started by people often trying to get rid of both trash and tires.

In addition, as part of the accord, tires from Tijuana and Mexicali, also popular dumping grounds, will be sent to nearby cement factories to be used as fuel.

The tires will be burned in ovens that have been approved by Mexican environmental authorities, assuring no pollutants are released in the air, said Gonzalo Bravo, a Mexican organizer of the environmental forum.

"Using tires as fuel in cement factories is common practice in industrialized countries, and for us it has become the best solution," Bravo said.

U.S. and Mexican environmental officials were wrapping up their two-day meeting Thursday with discussions on another major environmental problem: the rapid growth of smog-spewing, beat-up cars that clog the streets of Ciudad Juarez and other major border towns.

In Ciudad Juarez, a city of 1.3 million across from El Paso, Texas, only one-fourth of the city's population uses public transportation and 80 percent of the city's cars are

at least a decade old.

With the United States so close — and also so willing to sell old cars cheaply — Juarez and other border towns have become huge markets for junkers. Many don't meet environmental standards.

Along the Mexican border, cars are often driven with missing windows or with the hood held together with rope. When the cars break down, drivers often sell them to junkyards or simply abandon the carcass and buy another one.

Forum participants proposed developing a uniform strategy for inspection and control of used vehicles that would apply to both sides of the border, and a Mexican law that would prohibit the entrance of polluting vehicles to the country.

"If we don't have a law that allows me to stop those vehicles, how can we make drivers comply?" Figueroa said. "We want the environmental requirements to be the same on both sides of the border."

In Ciudad Juarez, junkyards have mushroomed during the past six years to about 500 lots holding 2 million cars. An old car often sells for as little as \$300, making it accessible to the thousands of workers who earn about \$100 a week.

"Used cars in this city are a necessity," said Daniel Obregon, who drives a 1977 Ford pickup truck and works at a junkyard where he makes \$90 a week. "Poor people can only afford a used car, and the junkyards are the only way to keep them running."

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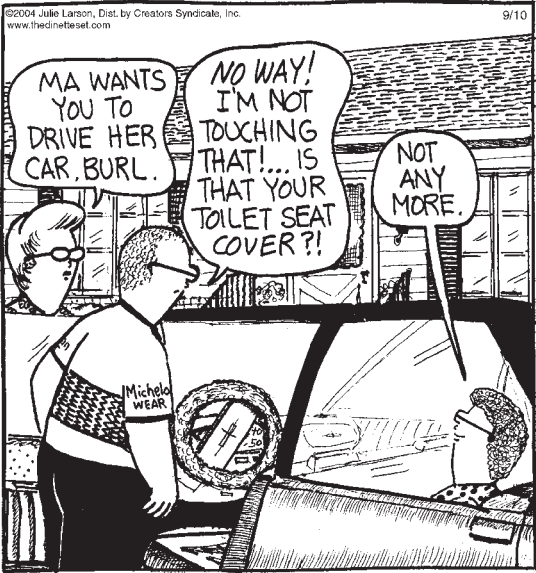
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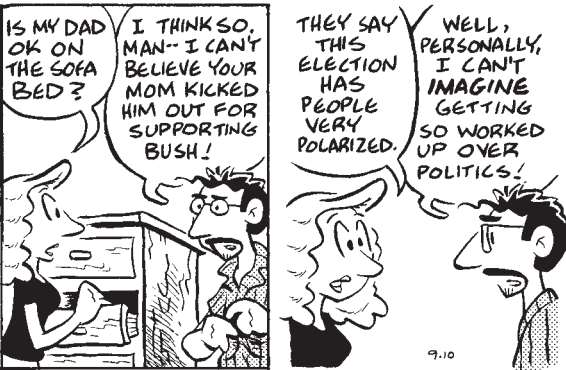


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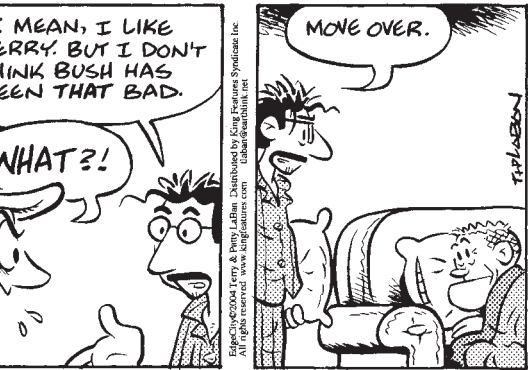
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ACROSS

- 1 Run up
- 6 Mosey
- 11 Banking expert?
- 12 Used a fruit knife
- 13 Additional
- 14 Plug part
- 15 Strays
- 17 Delayed
- 18 Grant in films
- 20 Like some tea
- 22 Need to pay
- 23 Cavorts
- 26 Pitcher Martinez
- 28 Answer back
- 29 Classifies
- 31 That lady
- 32 Ballet attire
- 33 Put in the overhead rack
- 34 ERA or RBI
- 36 Muffin base
- 38 Tag cry
- 40 Last letter
- 43 Game setting
- 44 Yard tool
- 45 Offered
- 46 Edit menu command

DOWN

- 1 Parrot
- 2 Stir
- 3 William Hurt film
- 4 Rueful
- 5 Rating unit
- 6 Program, for short
- 7 Gary's "Desire" co-star
- 8 William Hurt film
- 9 Spring time
- 10 Perimeter
- 16 Polite address
- 18 Noted nightclub, for short
- 19 Wows
- 21 Train makeup
- 23 Left at sea
- 24 Bounce back
- 25 Worry
- 27 Ordinary
- 30 Rickety boat
- 33 South Seas monarchy
- 34 Cinch
- 35 Bullfight critter
- 37 Frolic
- 39 Smidge
- 41 Come into
- 42 Exist

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