FREE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2005

Volume 4, Issue 264

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO
5 11 12 19 39
Meganumber: 10
Jackpot: $37 Million

FANTASY 5
1 2 18 22 30

DAILY 3
Daytime: 6 9 1
Evening: 2 0 7

DAILY DERBY
1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 06 Whirl Win

RACE TIME: 1:48.00

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site: http://www.calottery.com



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In Kyrgyzstan (and some neighboring Central Asian countries) the pre-12th-century tribal custom of "ala kachuu" continues, in which a man reduces the time and expense of courtship by riding up on horseback to a woman, snatching her up, and taking her to his family home, where his relatives (and sometimes hers) prepare her for marriage. According to an April New York Times dispatch from Bishkek, more than half of wives are acquired by ala kachuu (although the term can also mean a more-benign "elopement"), and even some of the snatched wives eventually "consent" to the marriage. Ala kachuu has been illegal for years, but the law against it is rarely enforced.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today the 258th day of 2005. There are 107 days left in the year.

On Sept. 15, 1789, the U.S. Department of Foreign Affairs was renamed the Department of State.
In 1821, independence was proclaimed for Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador.
In 1963, four black girls were killed when a bomb went off during Sunday services at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala. (Three Ku Klux Klansmen were eventually convicted for their roles in the blast.)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Somewhere the Sky
touches the Earth, and the
name of that place is the End."
AFRICAN SAYING

INDEX

Horoscopes
Happy at home, Scorpio 2

Surf Report
Water temperature: **64°** 3

Opinion
Hurricane swirling over D.C. 4

Business
Katrina's impact on investments 8

Comics
Laugh it up 12

Classifieds
Have some class 13-16

Bus-only lane approved on Lincoln Blvd.



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Buses will soon have their own lane once on-street parking along Lincoln Boulevard is eliminated.

Business owners say they've been forced on board

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — A new bus-only lane on Lincoln Boulevard is expected to make riding more convenient for users, while local business owners say City Hall failed to notify them of the change and their livelihoods may suffer because of it.

The Santa Monica City Council on Tuesday approved a limited bus-only lane at peak traffic hours along a portion of Lincoln Boulevard.

While proponents say the move will encourage mass transit use and improve traffic conditions along the city's busiest commercial corridor, local business owners contend that the result of reduced parking will lead to fewer customers patronizing their estab-

See **BUS LANE**, page 7

Cycle of giving



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Revolution, a fitness center on Montana Avenue, raised more than $7,000 to help hurricane victims on Wednesday night in a special spinning class.

LOCAL

Alleged rape reported, gun shots ring out on Pacific Street

By Daily Press staff

Two Santa Monica men and one juvenile were arrested on Wednesday for allegedly raping a woman on Monday at an apartment on Pacific Street, near Lincoln Boulevard.

Over the weekend, shots were fired in the area but no suspects have been identified. Santa Monica Police Department Lt. Frank Fabrega said the incidents weren't related.

The rape suspects have been identified as Louis Hernandez, 23, of Santa Monica, Michael Morales, 35, of Santa Monica, and a 17-year-old male, of Los Angeles. They were booked at Santa Monica Jail on various sexual assault charges.

Apparently the victim came to the SMPD on Tuesday at 10 p.m., reporting that she had been sexually assaulted the previous day, however police reports don't reveal at what time the alleged rape occurred. Preliminary information indicated the victim was at a residence located at 724 Pacific St., sources said. The suspects were known to the victim by name, police said.

See **CRIME**, page 6

Santa Monica man to be put to rest today

An avid cyclist, Scott Bleifer died on Saturday riding the scenic Pacific Coast Highway

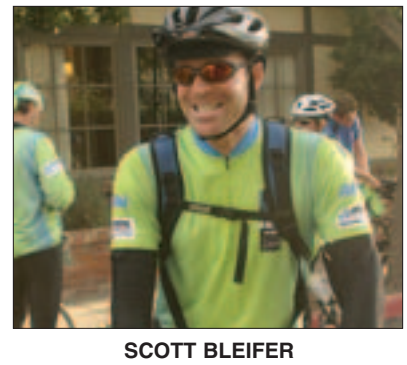
BY ROBERT FATURECHI
Special to the Daily Press

Scott Bleifer usually cycled in packs, but last Saturday the 41-year-old Santa Monica resident decided to go it alone — a choice he'll never get a chance to regret.

As he rode along Pacific Coast Highway — with cars whizzing by on one side — Bleifer, a man those who knew him describe as likable to everyone he met, came across another sole cyclist, Stanislav Ionov.

The two rode together until their morning rides took a sudden tragic turn, when at about 10 a.m., a catering truck hit them on the north-

See **CYCLIST**, page 6



SCOTT BLEIFER



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Happy at home, Scorpio

Santa Monica Daily Press



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'llHave:
★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You could be so happy-go-lucky that you might spend more than you can afford or want to pay. Discussions with a respected friend or co-worker help you see another route that is less expensive. Others are upbeat. Tonight: Think "weekend."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Your temper could come out at the most inappropriate time. A boss or a respected person has been pushing your buttons. A partner does care and lets you know it. You find answers. Tonight: Out late — perhaps later than you want.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You might be acting out of some anger, but only hurting yourself or someone close. Work with others and seek new ideas or ways to approach this hot situation differently. You can resolve the problem quickly. Tonight: Imagine that you are someone else.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Money has a great deal of importance to you, especially how you feel about your day-to-day life. Someone might push you too hard, and sharp words will ensue. Be ready to talk through the problem later. Tonight: Listen to a trusted partner.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You might feel that you are being tested, and in some way you are. Others have their own agendas, which somehow might be in conflict with yours. An argument with someone in charge or someone important might become a big problem. Tonight: Just try to relax.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ All work and no play could have you dreaming, if not actually planning to split early. Actually, a vacation could be just what the doctor ordered. Take tomorrow off if you can. You can simply hide out at home, too. Tonight: Take care of an important errand on the way home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Your imagination helps you get past a close associate's grumbling. As a result of the lack of energy you give this situation, all ends well in the near future, if not immediately. Tonight: Romp away.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ You might not be revealing everything that you know, which could cause some irritation between you and a partner. Know when to step back and let events take their course. Friendship plays a large role in your day. Tonight: Happy at home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You work well with others, at least in conversations. You might need to lay off taking too much action or using a heavy hand at work or on a project. Discussions rather than actions work today. Tonight: Go to a local haunt that has music.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Someone might throw a tantrum when you give him or her an unequivocal no. A discussion later on will open doors to understanding. Pull away from the immediate issue before having a talk. Tonight: Your treat.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You have a way of drawing others to you. You might also cause some unintentional uproar at home or with a parent. Schedule a quiet chat for later in the day. You will clear the air if you make the first move. Tonight: Time with a special person.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ You seem to keep getting into trouble no matter what you do. Spend as much time by yourself as possible, or keep your mouth closed. Don't express your opinions, for now. Talks need to happen quietly and later. Tonight: Do what you need to do for yourself.

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LOCAL

SMPD to check drivers' sobriety today

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica police today will be stopping motorists at random to check the validity of their drivers' license and their sobriety.

The checkpoint, which will occur at undisclosed times, will be staged in the 1400 block of San Vicente Boulevard, the 1300 block of Washington Boulevard and 1400 block of Marine Avenue.

The checkpoint is in accordance with a State of California Office of Traffic Safety grant. The grant entitled, "We LEADD — Westside Law Enforcement Against Drunk Driving" is intended to assist the community in traffic-related areas, and reduce the number of victims killed and injured in alcohol-involved and unlicensed driver related crashes.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DJ to be in SM to raise money for Katrina victims

By Daily Press staff

Radio entertainer and "Weekly Top 40" host Rick Dees has announced the first-ever "DIGITHON" to mobilize and motivate listeners around the world to help in the aftermath of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina, to be broadcast live on Monday, Sept. 19 from the Digital Hollywood's fall conference at the Loews Hotel in Santa Monica.

"Radio is a personal medium built around the power of community," Dees said. "Through our broadcasts around the world, we intend to motivate the entire global community to join in this massive rebuilding process."

All-day streaming broadcasts are now being offered for listening at RICK.COM to raise funds toward immediate hurricane disaster relief along the Gulf Coast of the United States. The first global "DIGITHON," replete with stars from the music, entertainment, and new media world, will join with live, unplugged performances to be streamed to the world on RICK.COM (and via the DDN Network)

Since 1990, more than 40,000 top industry executives have attended Digital Hollywood in Los Angeles, New York, San Jose and in Las Vegas, including representatives of every major studio, technology company, cable, satellite and communications company and retailer, as well as content developers and programmers for all entertainment industry media and market.

Guide to help the voting process

By Daily Press staff

The Easy Voter Guide Project is offering free nonpartisan guides for organizations that want to help new and busy voters understand the eight statewide propositions in the Nov. 8 special election.

Orders can be placed online or by downloading an order form at www.easyvoter.org. The guide will be available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean. The minimum order is 250 booklets. The guide and other helpful information for voters in multiple languages will be available at www.easyvoter.org.

The Easy Voter Guide uses community reviewers to create its language and layout. Then expert reviewers from the Legislative Analyst's Office and Secretary of State's Office provide assurance of accuracy. The guide is distributed by libraries, the League of Women Voters, elections offices, schools, community colleges and a wide variety of community-based organizations engaged in voter education.

The Easy Voter Guide Project is a collaboration of the California State Library, the California Secretary of State's Office and the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund, with additional support from The James Irvine Foundation. The Easy Voter Guide has been produced for each statewide election since 1994.

CORRECTION — In the Sept. 10-11 edition, the name of a Santa Monica firefighter who helped create a Sept. 11 terrorist attacks sculpture on display at the Public Safety Building behind City Hall was spelled incorrectly. Jim Enge, a SMFD firefighter, helped bring a piece of steel from the north tower of the World Trade Center to Santa Monica.

SURF REPORT

In SoCal, most all breaks are seeing knee- to waist-high sets. Today there should be continued SW from the burst of energy that came in on Wednesday. Expect to see some forerunners in the 20-second range from the SW swell due on Friday. Additionally, a minor swath of NW ground swell is due. Size for most south-facing breaks is expected to be around waist- to chest-high with an occasional plus going head high, but rare. West-facing breaks are looking at waist-high surf. Note that by the evening, south-facing breaks will likely see a noticeable increase in size.

Today the water is:

64°

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

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
MONDAY	9:49	3.5	N/A	N/A	7:38	3.6	4:42	5.5
TUESDAY	11:48	3.1	N/A	N/A	7:48	3.9	6:00	5.9
WEDNESDAY	1:28	-0.5	12:54	2.5	8:11	4.3	7:00	6.4
THURSDAY	**2:08**	**-0.8**	**1:46**	**1.9**	**8:37**	**4.7**	**7:53**	**6.7**
FRIDAY	2:38	-0.2	2:39	1.7	8:58	4.0	8:40	6.2

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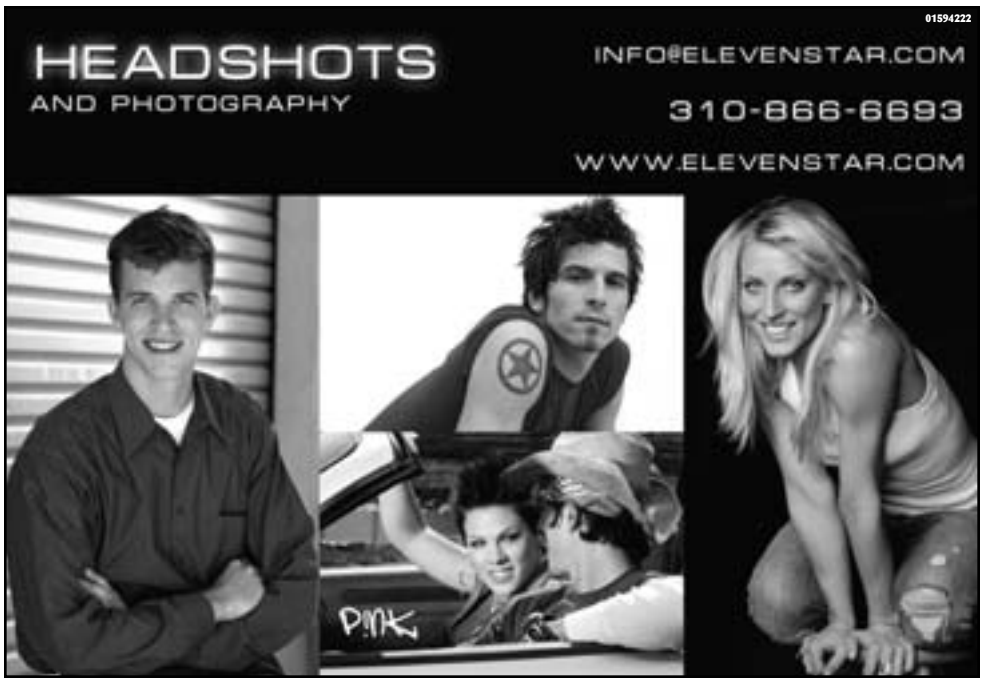
City Hall has issued a request for proposals that opens the bidding process for the sites currently occupied by Perry's Beach Cafe and Rentals, four beach concession stands that have been a trademark of Santa Monica for more than 25 years. Officials say it's all part of a basic, legal procedure that ensures the best possible mix of businesses in Santa Monica; the owner of Perry's contends the request invites large food-service chains to sweep away his company.

So this week, Q-line wants to know, **"What business(es) would you like to see in the space currently occupied by Perry's stands? Should things stay as they are, or would you like to see a change?"**

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your responses in the weekend edition. Please try to limit your comments to a minute or less.

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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

There ought to be a law

Editor:

Reading about the Pico bust (SMDP, Sept. 10-11, page 1), I was again amazed at the catch.

Guns, cash and drugs all at the same Pico area apartment. It seems like we need to get a new law made. Why not make it so when they get caught with guns, drugs and or drug cash that they have to be evicted from their Santa Monica digs?

This would help in at least two ways: They would be out of this area at least — attrition in action — and they would think twice about causing any harm to our fine city before they did another crime. I would like to know why we don't have this law on the books. It could be called "Pico's Law."

Derek Lantzsch
Santa Monica

A model citizen

Editor:

Thank you for the article on Evett's Model Shop (SMDP, Sept. 12, page 1). In these days of corporate sameness, Evett's is also a sanctuary for their customers, as well as Evett himself. My daughter is now 21. We did many projects — planes, trains, boats, cars, a doll house — with kits and parts from Evett's. It is a wonderful neighborhood shop. I thank Evett and wish him the best.

Peter Davison
Santa Monica

The 'haves' must help the 'have nots'

Editor:

It's inherently strange to consider these United States with "refugees" but that is indeed what we have. Refugees. Homeless, now jobless, and not anchored anywhere in particular. We're used to tight pat solutions. Nice sound bites from our president. Something that gives us solace, wraps it up just like the Hollywood productions our nation is known for. But this situation has no pat answer. There is no simple sound bite. A wound has been opened for the world to see. What has struck me about the whole situation is the divide between the haves and have nots. This ugly wound. These people, like thousands of other Americans, live on the edge of survival. Relying on a daily, weekly or a monthly check to sustain them. No safety net, because perhaps they made more money than the official "low" figure on exactly how poor one must be to garnish any assistance. For the last several years, we have witnessed successful politicians winning on platforms that espouse "no new taxes." Well, if we don't have a tax to support our infrastructure and everything that goes with it, we then now have "refugees" in a supposedly first world leading nation, the United States of America. We are now in a predicament that is unprecedented for our nation, and there is no more hiding behind rhetoric or facade. This is the real deal. As the mayor of New Orleans first announced ... "This is not a test..." and it's turning out to be one, for the Administration.

Yes, this was an unplanned natural disaster, but those who could afford to leave are not the ones stuck in the Superdome on their way via bus to the Astrodome in Houston, or worse, dead. The overwhelming majority of those who got out had enough money and means to leave. Thousands — we can see who they are — were stuck and now homeless. Our system is flawed and we're developing into a two-tiered economic entity. Lopsided with homeowners and the homeless, or those just barely surviving. Parts of all major cities that double of backdrops for third-world nations, in a supposedly first-world country. As much as we don't want to look at this, or blame those who are suffering, we have to realize it can't be argued when you look at the indicators of the kind of jobs that many millions of Americans work at. The non-union, low-paid service sector is by far the most touted about by the Bush Administration when they brag about new jobs or employment numbers. What we are looking at is a natural and economic disaster for the nation. The bedsores of inactivity are no longer hidden by our position in bed, we've been turned over now, and the bedsores of what we've created through apathy are open for the rest of the world to see. Two Americas, unequal and economically divided. The reason that I am jumping on this is because it is readily apparent that those who could not afford to leave are poor, mostly black, some white and elderly, with no money for a motel up the road and perhaps no friends to help them. Or no car to take them there either. This is the reality. The thousands of "have nots" who "could not" leave. Now we must care about them, too.

How this is dealt with is crucial and non political. Those who can lead with their hearts have a huge opportunity to show us what actions they can make to create a difference. These are regular people who exist in every city across our great land. They need help. Someone with heart and compassion, and the power to do so. It is human suffering on our own land, and in our own backyard. Hopefully the short memories won't abandon these people in October if Sunni and Shiite factions in Iraq begin a civil war there. Like our soldiers over there now, these victims cannot be forgotten.

Stephen Martin
Santa Monica

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

After 9-11 and Katrina, what next?

NEWS ON THE EDGE
BY RON SCOTT SMITH



"Bush: 'Worst natural disaster to ever hit the U.S.'"

That, in fact, is a front-page headline that ran in a small town, East Coast newspaper a few days ago. They were quoting the president — I think — but read between the quotation marks and it takes on a whole new meaning.

The barn is burning down — the one the horse is out of in Crawford, Tex.

They say bad things happen in threes. After 9-11 and Katrina, America holds its breath and covers its eyes, wondering what could possibly complete this particular triumvirate, because, bless his heart — love him or hate him — George W. sure seems to be a magnet for epic disaster. God help us all, we've got over three more years of it to get through.

Exactly the wrong man at exactly the wrong time in exactly the wrong place, and that has to be about the fifth time I've been reduced to using that thing in print, starting when the Supreme Court decided the 2000 election. The guy is a Category 5 waiting to happen. You thought Gerald Ford tripping down airplane stairs was bad? Reagan falling asleep at summits? Clinton hiding nubile things under his desk? The Bush gaffes are slightly more monumental, as lives have been laid to waste under his watch in the tens, if not hundreds of thousands. Wading through filthy water trying to get anywhere dry, the surviving citizens of what used to be New Orleans appeared on TV as if unwilling extras, caught in the middle of some sort of gruesome hybrid of "Armageddon — Again" and "National Lampoon's Presidential Vacation," where Bush outblunders even Clark Griswald.

You know this already if you're not living in a cave or in a sports arena somewhere in Texas or Southeastern Louisiana, but it bears repeating: While the great American city of New Orleans was turning into Lake New Orleans, leaving hundreds of thousands homeless, hungry, and/or dying, the "big four" who rule America and thus the world, sat on top of it, chilling.

Hurricane Katrina exploded into the Gulf Coast at 6:10 a.m. Monday. Bush was in Arizona eating birthday cake with John McCain later that afternoon. The next day he flew to California where he strummed a guitar given to him by a redneck-singer-buddy while the birthplace of the blues, the "crescent city," was looking more like a giant teardrop.

Meanwhile Dick Cheney was in Wyoming fly-fishing.

Rumsfeld was at a San Diego Padres game later that night eating cotton candy, hoping to catch a foul ball while Condie was shopping for $300 pumps at Ferragamo's in New York City. You want to talk about gall? Bush actually stopped back at the ranch in Crawford on Tuesday night, refusing to sacrifice one last night of vacation before heading back to the office Wednesday to deal with the Katrina nuisance. By this time Biloxi was gone, New Orleans was good as gone.

Meanwhile Dick Cheney was in Wyoming fly-fishing.

The George W. Bush response to Hurricane Katrina will go down in history along with his reading of that book about goats to kids for seven minutes after he was informed in no uncertain terms that the United States of America was under attack.

Condie played tennis with Monica Seles on Wednesday, then went back to the shoe store for more goodies on Thursday. Girl's going to have some styling feet. Dead bodies were floating in 20 feet of water down Canal Street but the Secretary of State was walking on air down Broadway in the new Halstons.

Meanwhile Dick Cheney was in Wyoming fly-fishing.

Cheney finally kicked off the wading boots when it was confirmed that his good buddies, Halliburton, were awarded a huge government contract on Friday to clean up the mess. That was all it took to get the old blood flowing again — he was in New Orleans in a flash on Saturday, checking out the destruction, dollar signs floating up from piles of rubble? Halliburton: Rebuilding for fun and profit. Sound familiar?

Speaking of profit, that randy bunch of old horn-dog American oil barons were hitting on Katrina before she ever so much as got to the dance. The silver-tongued devils must have been drooling in anticipation, because in the midst of a season of record profits, they nonetheless raised the prices at the gas pumps in Kansas City for instance, by 40 cents a gallon while the lady was still getting dressed somewhere out over an overheated Gulf of Mexico.

But before anybody goes ballistic over laying out the 100 bucks or so to fill her up at the local Chevron, please refer to your Capitalism for Dummies manual, where it tells you in black ink on white paper these fundamental truths: (a) Expense incurred to corporation by natural or man-made disaster shall always be passed along to consumer. Always. (b) Corporation shall always maintain comfortable profit margin, disaster or no disaster. Always. (c) Consumer shall always bend over, touch toes, and be grateful. Always.

(To reach Ron Scott Smith, e-mail him at Edgeofthewest@aol.com.)

Tell Santa Monica what you think!



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Santa Monica Daily Press

COMMENTARY

GUEST COMMENTARY **BY TARA SMITH**

The need for an Active Supreme Court Justice

Only a judge who will actively uphold individual rights is fit to serve on the Supreme Court

As the battle over John Roberts' Supreme Court confirmation begins, the one widely agreed upon measure of qualification is that he not be a "judicial activist." While conservatives have long railed against "activist" judges "making" law by legislating from the bench, many on the left in recent years have similarly criticized the Rehnquist court as "activist," on behalf of executive powers, for instance. Charges of "activism" have essentially become a smear intended to discredit any decision with which one disagrees. More damaging, however, the use of this label, on all sides, fosters a serious confusion about the role of the judiciary.

The charge of "judicial activism" typically condemns proper activity on the part of judges along with improper activity. It has become dangerously commonplace to equate a judge's support for overturning a law with pernicious activism. Prevailing wisdom holds that we can identify "activists" simply by counting up the number of times a judge rules against existing laws or government practices. Notice that by that logic, the only way for a judge to avoid overstepping his authority is to engage in no activity — to simply rubber-stamp whatever the legislature and other agencies of government serve up. What, by this reasoning, is the point of having a Supreme Court? Some laws should be struck down. Because the United States is a constitutional republic, we are all bound — private citizens and government alike — to abide by the Constitution. It is precisely the role of the judiciary to strike down laws and prohibit government actions that fail to do so. Judges who so rule are acting responsibly and fulfilling their function.

Laws are necessarily written in broad terms, designed to govern an array of cases that are similar in principle but different in particulars. Judicial rulings are needed when the proper application of those laws, in a specific case, is not transparent. The logical application of a Constitutional provision to novel circumstances is not, therefore, a case of creating new rules ex nihilo. Rather, it is exactly what we need judges to often do. While Article I, for instance, provides for the common defense and the specific maintenance of an army and navy, courts have not been activist dictators by also allowing an air force. While the First Amendment protects freedom of "speech" and of "the press," courts have not brazenly "legislated" by treating written letters as also protected.

In doing their job, judges must be mindful of the Ninth Amendment. The Constitution does not provide an exhaustive catalog of every right that citizens possess. The Ninth Amendment explicitly instructs us that those rights not named in the Constitution are retained by the people. It is thereby laying down a principle to guide Constitutional interpretation. Accordingly, judges must apply the law in a way that respects all the rights of the citizens, unenumerated as well as enumerated. It is no more legitimate to subtract from the Constitution, by ignoring this provision, than to arbitrarily add to it.

The salient question in assessing any nominee, then, is not whether a judge takes action, but the factors that guide his actions. To be qualified to sit on the Supreme Court, a person must, at minimum, understand three basic facts: First, that individual rights are broad principles defining the individual's freedom of action. The familiar rights of life, liberty, property and the pursuit of happiness subsume a vast array of particular exercises of this freedom, some explicitly named in the Constitution (e.g., the freedom of speech) and some not (the right to travel). Second, he must understand that the government's sole function is to protect individuals' freedom of action. As Jefferson explained, it is "to secure these rights, (that) governments are instituted among men." Third, he must recognize that our government properly acts exclusively by permission. Articles I, II and III specify the powers of the three branches of government and the 10th Amendment expressly decrees that powers not delegated to the federal government are reserved by the states or by the people. The government, in other words, may do only what it is legally authorized to do.

These, correspondingly, are the considerations that should guide a judge's decision-making. It is precisely because action from judges is often needed that principled action — action premised on the basic principles of our republic — is essential. Only a nominee whose record demonstrates that he is so guided is fit to be entrusted a place on the Court.

(Tara Smith, associate professor of philosophy at the University of Texas at Austin, is a contributing writer for the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine.)

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LOCAL

Arthritis Foundation dedicating SF to SM bike ride to fallen cyclist

CYCLIST, from page 1

bound side of the road near Pepperdine in Malibu. The two cyclists were tossed 150 feet and died shortly after.

Bleifer's sudden passing has sent shockwaves through the cycling community, organizers from his charity of choice — the Arthritis Foundation — and his family.

"I said 'tell me the truth, is he alive?'" said Bleifer's sister, Karen, recalling a phone call from a UCLA social worker after the accident. "She said 'no he's deceased.'"

Bleifer, a vice president at Union Bank of California in downtown Los Angeles, was putting in some extra miles to prepare for the Amgen California Coast Classic Bike Tour, an annual ride from San Francisco to Santa Monica that benefits arthritis charities, a cause Bleifer had participated in for three years.

Officials at the Arthritis Foundation have dedicated this year's ride to the fallen cyclist after hearing the bad news.

"Scott was actually a good friend of mine, as well as an incredible ambassador for the foundation," said Amy Robertson, the foundation's vice president of campaign development, who called Bleifer a mentor. "Saddened by this is not really the word. We're very upset about what happened."

Robertson said Bleifer was one of the safest riders she knew, a model for beginning cyclists.

"This is something that happened that never should have," Robertson said. "It was of no fault of his own."

Many of his friends are expected to don shirts and wristbands honoring their buddy during the arthritis ride, which begins Sept. 24 and ends Oct. 1. Though the ride will be dedicated to Bleifer, specifics of the dedication ceremony have not yet been finalized, but organizers say moments of silence to open and close the ride are likely.

The catering truck's driver did not immediately stop after hitting Bleifer and Stanislav because he said he was afraid he'd injure someone cooking in back of the truck, which is illegal. The driver has been charged with two counts of felony vehicular manslaughter and felony hit and run, according to friends.

Though Bleifer was not married, his sister described him kiddingly as a playboy.

"He had several girlfriends but none of them knew about each other," she said.

Bleifer had cycled for more than a decade but he got serious within the past five years and often took the PCH route, where more than eight cyclists have been injured this year.

Bleifer, though described as business-like by those who knew him, had his quirks, which his sister recalled fondly.

He loved art but he had the penmanship of a "serial killer," she said.

His schedule was like clockwork. Friends always knew where he was: The beginning of the day at Peet's coffee shop on Montana Avenue, early morning cycling and during the day, at the bank.

And everyone loved his dog, Kona, a sad-eyed chocolate labrador.

"He made so many friends (at Peet's)," Bleifer's sister said. "I'm getting hundreds of people emailing."

Karen Bleifer expects hundreds at her brother's funeral, open to the public today at 2 p.m. at Hillside Memorial Park, located on 6001 Centinela Ave. in Los Angeles.

Bleifer is survived by his mother Charlene, his father Selvyn and Karen, his sister.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT
FOR 2004 PROGRAM YEAR

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica has developed the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the 2004 Program Year. The CAPER provides a status report on how the City is meeting its overall housing and community development needs as specified in the Consolidated Plan (FY 2000-05) adopted by City Council and submitted to HUD in June 2000. The City is seeking community comments on this report.

Copies of the report are now available to the public for a 15-day community review period ending September 29, 2005. To obtain a copy of the report, please contact the Human Services Division, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401, at (310) 458-8701. Please send your written comments to Gigi Decavalles-Hughes at the above address by September 29, 2005.

City of Santa Monica

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this publication is available in alternate formats by calling the Human Services Division at 458-8701 (TTY 458-8696).

Three arrests made, shooting suspects remain at large

CRIME, from page 1

Santa Monica Detectives arrested one suspect in the 700 block of Pacific Street and the two additional suspects were arrested in the area of Ninth Street and Pico Boulevard.

On Friday at 11:06 p.m., SMPD officers responded to the 700 block of Pacific Street after someone reported shots fired. Detectives found several shell casings on the ground but no suspects were seen in the area. Witnesses reported the suspects were Hispanic and looked to be "gang types," police said.

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COUNCIL COUNTDOWN



The following is a summation of what went on in Santa Monica City Council Chambers during the City Council's Tuesday, Sept. 13 meeting, including a timeline, notable public comments and excerpts taken.

TIMELINE

5 to 7:15 p.m. — The Tuesday, Sept. 13 Santa Monica City Council meeting began with a closed session. Six of the seven city councilmembers were present. Mayor Pam O'Connor didn't attend.

7:15 p.m. — City Attorney Marsha Moutrie reported the City Council discussed two items during the closed session. There were discussions related to negotiations with the city's human resources director, Karen Bancroft, and eight union officials who represent the city's personnel groups. No action was taken. Aspects related to a lawsuit involving Coalition for a Livable Santa Monica against City Hall also was discussed. No action was taken.

7:17 p.m. — Special agenda item — Presentations from city staff regarding homeless services, including recognition of a grant for $710,00 from the federal department of Housing and Urban Development, to be used to house the down and out.

7:20 p.m. — Public comment on special agenda item — Joy Fullmer says something about sewing and low I.Q.s

7:24 p.m. — Discussion of "Housing First," a new plan in which it's the intention of staff to offset the "continuum of care" approach to homelessness, by ensuring the unhoused first have shelter before assigning them a case management plan.

7:39 p.m. — Council weighs in on "Housing First," getting the nod from City Councilmen Richard Bloom, Kevin McKeown and Bobby Shriver.

7:43 p.m. — Consent calendar discussed. Item regarding minutes from the June 21, July 26, and Aug. 9 council meetings is pulled and opened for public comment. Joe Natoli questions the minutes because of previous remarks he made about the need for the City Council to overhaul Bayside Business District Corp. leadership, due to poor downtown management, which were not included in the minutes. Pro se shows a video from a recent council meeting in which Natoli makes his case against Bayside. During the video, Mayor Pam O'Connor said Bayside doesn't manage the Farmer's Market, yet Pro se that isn't actually how the law is written. Pro se said Natoli shouldn't have been interrupted by the mayor, because the public deserves to be heard. Joy Fullmer discusses the need for someone to look into the management of her IRA account. She also laments on the mass transit system, saying the MTA bus lines are slow and overcrowded. She and a few others even received free fare when they had to wait for more than a half hour for a bus ride.

7:55 p.m. — Consent calendar approved. Council doesn't make any changes to the minutes.

7:56 p.m. — Items regarding ordinance updates for conditional use permits, hedge standards and unattended structures in Palisades Park are rattled off and approved.

7:59 p.m. — 12 speakers show up to comment on a proposal to update downtown development and design standards. Many of them argued the proposal went against the city's land use update process and was unfair to "sneak by" the public.

9:10 p.m. — Council weighs in on citizen concerns over downtown design standards proposal. They agree with many citizens' arguments and decide to restrict the update to five suggestions made by the Architectural Review Board, which would increase the ground-floor heights for retail spaces in mixed use buildings; do more to distinguish the ground floor from residential floors above; restrict landscaping requirements around retail windows and walkways; move setbacks; and reduce the amount of required parking for smaller, neighborhood businesses.

9:55 p.m. — Introduction and adoption of ordinance setting the rate for 1990 and 2002 General Library Obligation funds.

9:56 p.m. — Council hears a staff report on the introduction and first reading of an ordinance restricting parking along Lincoln Boulevard for the creation of a bus-only lane during peak traffic hours.

10:06 p.m. — 8 speakers comment on proposed change. One is against it, the others are for it. No business members or residents from Lincoln Boulevard are present to discuss.

10:25 p.m. — Council discusses and approves the bus-only lane.

10:30 p.m. — Council hears a staff report on proposed modifications for vendor use of 1550 Beach Parking Lot.

10:35 p.m. — One man comes to comment on the proposed modifications. He said the changes would allow extended vendor use of the beach parking lot and disrupt nearby residents. He also said residents were not sufficiently notified of the proposed change.

10:40 p.m. — Council discusses the modifications. Shriver questions whether staff had conducted sufficient outreach.

10:55 p.m. — Council tells staff to do more outreach and return with the modification proposal in two weeks.

10:56 p.m. —A staff recommendation to change fiscal services for the Main Street Business and Pico Boulevard Business Improvement Districts is approved.

10:59 p.m. — The Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation annual budget work plan for fiscal year 2005-06 is approved.

11:02 p.m. — Approval of Bayside District Corporation's annual budget and work plan encounters a few snags, when seven cart operators request City Hall step in to better handle the installation of a new cart program.

11:20 p.m. — Council discusses the cart operators' concerns. McKeown requests that staff present a report detailing its contract with the new cart program facilitator and addresses cart operators' concerns. Bayside's budget and work plan are approved.

11:29 p.m. — 11 citizens request City Hall look into changing over to a ranked voting system, intended to provide better representation.

11:45 p.m. — Council confers with staff on the feasibility of putting such a system in place. City Clerk Maria Stewart indicates cost, voter turnout and educational concerns to be associated with putting a ranked voting system in place.

12:15 a.m. — The council vote (5-1) to monitor developments in ranked voting, in order to possibly participate in the future. Councilman Bob Holbrook opposes, saying other voting changes could be made that could actually achieve better representation and turnout.

12:16 a.m. — At the request of Holbrook and Bloom, the council hears a report from Paul Weinberg, emergency services coordinator, and Fire Chief Jim Hone on steps Santa Monica has taken to assist victims in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Council decides to receive more updates from staff in coming weeks.

12:35 a.m. — McKeown requests Santa Monica go on the record for opposing Propositions 74,75 and 76 for this November's special election, which he said will weaken the public school system. Council agrees and approves the city's position.

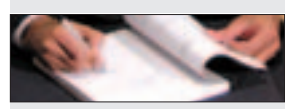
12:40 a.m. — Joe Natoli uses the public comment portion of meeting to discuss the Bayside District Corp., terrorism and public safety.

12:45 a.m. — Meeting is adjourned in remembrance of the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and the Katrina victims.

BY THE NUMBERS

Time spent on laws/policy/codes/commissions: 63 minutes.
Time spent on land use and/or development: 2 hours, 21 minutes.
Time spent on citizen-initiated issue (ranked voting): 46 minutes.
Public comment: 2 hours, 30 minutes.

Time spent on the top three issues facing Santa Monicans based on city surveys:
Homelessness: 17 minutes.
Parking: Zero minutes.
Traffic: 29 minutes.



LET'S TALK CHIT

"Chits" (Public addressing City Council)

"Most of the homeless are single, and that's because single units in Santa Monica are the most expensive."

— Joy Fullmer

QUOTE OF NOTE

"I don't think limos belong in the bus-only lane."

— Councilman Bob Holbrook
Reegarding a bus-only lane set to include certain airport shuttle vehicles, such as limos.

Bus-only lane still needs state approval

BUS LANE, from page 1

lishments.

"I'm disappointed we had no opportunity for input whatsoever," said Pat Barrett, owner of Barrett's Appliances at 2723 Lincoln Blvd. "If I had notice the council would be discussing a bus-only lane on Lincoln Boulevard, I would have definitely come to the meeting to comment."

The plan will require that on-street, metered parking along Lincoln Boulevard be removed and replaced with a bus-only lane.

Barrett and other local business owners said reduced parking at peak times will be bad for business. Customers will be forced to park on residential side streets, where parking is already limited.

The bus-only lane still needs to be approved by the state, which city officials said is likely. Upon approval, it would allow exclusive access on Lincoln Boulevard for buses and other shuttling vehicles during weekdays.

As a result, parking will be prohibited on the east side of Lincoln Boulevard from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. between the south city limit and Grant Street, as morning traffic heads north toward Santa Monica and the Interstate 10 freeway. Parking will be prohibited on the west side of the roadway from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. between Pico Boulevard and the city limit, as evening traffic heads south.

A group called the Lincoln Corridor Task Force, comprised of regional government groups and local citizens, studied the expansion of public transportation on Lincoln Boulevard and concluded that adding bus-only lanes is the most immediate option to ease congested traffic on the road, according to city staff.

The high volume of automobiles that use the Lincoln corridor, the threat of more development in Playa Vista, and limited street width indicate "the need for a new, more effective transit service on Lincoln Boulevard as a viable alternative auto use," according to city staff.

Staff indicates the peak-hour, bus-only lane will benefit users by reducing travel times by as much 20 minutes on a one-way trip.

It will be especially important now that the Big Blue Bus Rapid 3 line is in service, running along Lincoln Boulevard between downtown Santa Monica, Marina del Rey, Playa Vista, LAX and Aviation Station, city staff said.

Many of the users are expected to be commuters and tourists who work and visit Santa Monica. Motorists also are expected to benefit from the separation of bus and traffic lanes, since vehicles won't back up behind stopped buses, staff said.

Barrett said he received a phone call weeks ago from a telephone-survey taker representing City Hall. The caller asked questions about the bus-only lane. Barrett said he expressed reservations about it, and was told he was the only business owner who had, which surprised him.

"It made me wonder if I was the only person she had talked to," Barrett said. "If she asked around, I'm sure she would have found many business owners in the area concerned about losing their parking."

Barrett said he was told by City Hall no plans had been made to put in the bus-only lane. He didn't hear about the bus-only lane since until he was informed it had been approved at Tuesday's meeting.

> **"I'm disappointed we had no opportunity for input whatsoever."**
>
> **PAT BARRETT**
> Owner,
> Barrett's Appliances

Barrett said his main concern about the bus-only lane is that it takes away parking from businesses at crucial times. As a result, he said he would like City Hall to consider building a parking structure, or take other measures, to assist businesses trying to stay afloat on Lincoln Boulevard and help them recover the loss of parking.

Jeff Hughes, owner of the Legal Grind, located at 2640 Lincoln Blvd., said he has mixed feelings about the bus-only lane.

Hughes said he received "no notification whatsoever" about the proposal, adding that it "would have been nice."

Hughes said he was never questioned about the proposal in a survey.

A proponent of public transportation, Hughes said he believes it's important for workers commuting to Santa Monica to have as convenient a bus ride as possible.

However, he feels the addition of the bus-only lane is typical of City Hall, which is making Lincoln Boulevard into a busier thoroughfare, instead of taking stronger measures to reduce traffic on it all together, which he would prefer.

As the southern gateway into Santa Monica, Hughes said he would like City Hall to make a more concerted effort to beautify and improve Lincoln Boulevard. He would like to see more trees and a landscaped median that splits the thoroughfare.

Hughes said buses "rumbling past" the boulevard aren't the real problem, which is general neglect and a lack of a specific design plan.

"Lincoln has been abandoned by the city," Hughes said. "It's treated like a cement wasteland."

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LOCAL



Lance Schmidt/Special to the Daily Press

Easy Writer gets dirty while stuck in the Alaskan mud.

Alaskan adventure not for the faint of heart

(Editor's note: Santa Monica resident Lance Schmidt is spending his last summer days cruising through Alaska on his motorcycle. He will provide a glimpse into that world for Santa Monicans every Thursday until he returns home in September. Check out smdp.com/archives for previous reports.)

BY LANCE SCHMIDT
Special to the Daily Press

Alaska has started to grow on and around me like an insipid strangler vine. Unlike the lovely professor — who abandoned me midway through the trip after realizing she's a lesbian — you want to be in her clutches but pray she doesn't take you down.

The men and women who live in this wild-ass place are a breed apart — full of life, opinions, passion, fortitude and contradictions. The work-hard-play-hard title would aptly apply to this breed but is far too mild of an expression, rendering it a cliché.

Alaskan's politics is of statehood loyalty. Environmental pragmatism, a combination of liberal social values coupled with a libertarian view of self-reliance make for a gritty constitution. To me, they respect and revere their native brothers and sisters far more than we do in the lower 48. They are skeptical but friendly to outsiders and do not consider you a true Alaskan until you have had residence for more than 20 years. Most pack a piece and know how to use it.

Day 23: After my rescue from the darkness of the mine shaft, I was once again at the bottom of the food chain in the group. I created a huge burden not only for my benefactors but also put their lives in danger. For the good part of two days, hardly a word was spoken about the incident or to me. I followed behind like the wounded and disrespected Dahl Sheep that I was.

Alaska is one of the only states in the U.S. where men outnumber women. The reasons are simple: The state is relatively new, settled primarily by rugged miners and oil men and the environment is the harshest in the nation. Not a place for a dainty young hottie looking to meet "Mr. Right" but the perfect environment for the seasoned urban snow cougar hunting local prey. A special treat for these vixens of the north is when they come upon a naïve wandering piece of game limping along, ripe for the taking.

Day 24: A better day than the last. The group was going to be riding in some fairly nasty terrain so we realized that we would be relying on each other more. We would be heading past Coldfoot and onto the final throws of the Brooks Range where we would summit Hatcher Pass about noon, get in an hot MRE, then sweep down the North Slope into the noticeably colder and windy barren tundra and on into Deadhorse before reaching the end of the Earth preparing for its nightly freeze.

Our trip thus far had paralleled the Alaskan Pipeline which the Haul Road serviced on its way back from Prudhoe Bay, making its 816-mile one-way trip to the ice-free port of Valdez where it pumps its cargo into huge tankers sailing to refineries all over the world.

Construction began on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System on March 27, 1975 and the first drop of oil moved through the 48-inch diameter insulated pipe on June 20, 1977. It was the largest privately-funded construction project of its day, costing $8 billion to construct. So I am told, it paid for itself in less than a week. More than 14 billion barrels have moved through the Trans Alaska Pipeline System to date.

We rolled into Coldfoot and set-up shop at the last outpost that was the last remaining semblance of civilization before riding the last-leg of our sojourn North.

The place was bustling with motorcycle adventurers, truckers coming in for supplies, as well as various freaks from all over the world trying to show their stuff. Coldfoot holds the distinction of holding the record for the most extreme variation in temperature in the world for one year — recorded in 1987-88 with 97 degrees and 82 Fahrenheit — a spread of 179 degrees.

The women of Coldfoot Services

See **EASY WRITER**, page 9



Lance Schmidt/Special to the Daily Press

Clockwise from top left: (1) Pipeline River snakes down to the Artic Slope. (2) Haul Road descends to Artic Slope. (3) Easy catches a mining trail along Brooks Range. (4) Trans Alaskan Pipeline makes it way to Valdez. (5) Easy Writer emerges from Artic Ocean. (6) Caribou crosses Artic Slope road.

Easy Writer makes it in Polar Bear Club

EASY WRITER, from page 8

seemed to relish this distinction, as well as its mostly male clientele.

Phil, Andy, Darren and I pulled into "last call" for the "Buffalo Train" that would serve as our last hot meal for awhile. As we set our plates down, the diminutive blonde waitress approached us to inquire about our drink selection.

"So, Mr. California what'll ya have," asked Sandy, who had moved up from Montana last year and was considering staying on for the long-haul winter season.

"Alaskan Amber," I said, with a smile as the muck crackled my lips. "Pour it like you don't own it."

"I don't," said Sandy, with a wink, "but I could, if I wanted to."

Day 25: We rolled into Deadhorse and onto this barren, desolate and incredibly surreal area of the arctic. This is where the sweet is pumped and sent onto its final journey towards its destination as propellant to internal combustion engines, catalyst to Tupperware and a primary ingredient to latex fetish boots.

Since Deadhorse was essentially a "company town," we needed clearance to stay and co-mingle with the locals. Phil had arranged for us to stay just outside of the oil rigs and be guests of ConocoPhillps and British Petroleum. We were housed in what is essentially an elongated trailer park on skids. The bunk house was equipped with a restaurant, movie theater and a gift shop.

Day 26: I awoke to the sound of the banging on my door and a stern command of a military wake-up call.

"Wake up," came the voice, "if you want to get your name on the books you got 10 minutes. Coffee is on the bus so grab your trunks and a towel."

I grabbed my things and in the bright sun of a 7 a.m. North Slope morning. I hustled onto the dark blue fortified bus along with what appeared to be a full-military escort.

As we approached the oil rigs, we went through a security checkpoint and were commanded not to take pictures.

The bus approached the end of the line — past game, oil rigs, diamond drilling bits and snow cats preparing for the winter ice roads. As we got to the Arctic Ocean, it became apparent to me that this was indeed no place for the faint of heart. It was, as I explained to Phil, Andy and Darren, the only reason I came this far to be woken up this early.

We drove up to the laps of the Arctic Ocean that had absolutely no resemblance to the Santa Monica Bay, save for the stillness and murky appearance.

I dove into the Arctic Ocean (34.2 degrees Fahrenheit) and became an official member of the Arctic Ocean Polar Bear Club as my amused compatriots in their parkas looked on with bemused grins.

(Next week: Easy Writer makes his journey home with a more chilling confrontation. You may reach easy writer at: easywritermail@yahoo.com.)

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Business

SANTA MONICA BUSINESS BRIEFS

Small business owners to network

By Daily Press staff

MBA professor Steven Stralser will soon hold a "business triage" clinic when small business owners and entrepreneurs are invited to seek advice, network with other businesses owners and talk business.

Stralser, Ph.D., will discuss current business issues and opportunities with small business owners, entrepreneurs, and even doctors, lawyers, CPAs, veterinarians or anyone else who finds running a business or a practice especially challenging in today's competitive and complex environment.

"What keeps entrepreneurs, practice owners and partners up at night is likely the challenge of managing and growing the business," said Stralser, clinical professor of entrepreneurship at Thunderbird: The Garvin School of International Management. "While most professionals and entrepreneurs are well-trained in the core elements of their business or profession, they are often most challenged by the business issues they face when implementing their business plan, or maintaining their practices."

In response to those needs, Dr. Stralser recently authored a book "MBA in a DAY: What you would learn at top tier business schools (if you only had the time!)." Dr. Stralser will be signing copies at the clinic and providing advice, insight and discussion about business issues.

MBA in a Day is a guide that is targeted to anyone who wants to develop a practice, manage and grow their business, or successfully launch a new venture. The book offers examples, anecdotes and real-world case studies to help readers grasp lessons in management, finance and accounting, marketing and systems processes.

For more information on the book published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., visit www.mbainaday.com.



Bubba Gump ready to cook

By Daily Press staff

The Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. located on the Santa Monica Pier is near completion. Finishing details are in full swing for an early November opening date.

Howard Laks, AIA Architects, who also designed "The Lobster" restaurant in 1999 said he is confident that the Bubba Gump Shrimp Company will continue to activate a new wave of pedestrian activity on the Santa Monica Pier.

Art Institute offers classes for displaced hurricane students

By Daily Press staff

The Art Institutes has announced that it will assist both domestic and international students from universities in New Orleans, southern Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama universities, which have been closed for the foreseeable future due to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.

The Art Institutes will make available both on-campus and online courses that might be able to permit dislocated students to progress in their academic careers during this semester of disruption. Students at a university forced to close by Hurricane Katrina may register at any of The Art Institutes' 31 locations across the nation for courses, on a space-available basis, for the fall semester.

The Art Institutes will waive tuition for dislocated students who have already registered and paid tuition at their home institution for the fall 2005 semester. If dislocated students have not yet paid their tuition at their home institution, they will be assessed the lesser of the current published tuition and fees at the home institution, or The Art Institutes' published tuition and fees for the fall semester, as determined by the school president.

"The Art Institutes strives to assist college students who have been affected by Hurricane Katrina," said Dave Pauldine, president of The Art Institutes. "The Art Institutes offers this initiative as a way to reach out to the students in the Gulf Coast region whose lives and education have been impacted by Hurricane Katrina and do what we can to assist those students."

The Art Institutes is a group of 31 educational institutions located throughout North America, including a campus in Santa Monica. Offering a broad range of programs including: audio production, culinary arts, culinary management, fashion design, fashion marketing, graphic design, industrial design technology, interior design, media arts and animation, multimedia and web design, photography, restaurant management and video production. Not all programs are offered at all schools.

The Art Institutes operate in Atlanta, Arlington, VA (as The Art Institute of Washington), Boston (as The New England Institute of Art), Charlotte, Chicago and Schaumburg, IL, Cincinnati (as The Art Institute of Ohio – Cincinnati), Dallas, Denver, Fort Lauderdale, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles (as The Art Institute of California – Los Angeles and California Design College), Miami (as Miami International University of Art & Design), Minneapolis, New York, Orange County, CA, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Portland, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Tampa, Toronto , Vancouver (as The Art Institute of Vancouver, York, PA (as Bradley Academy of the Visual Arts) and The Art Institute Online, a division of The Art Institute of Pittsburgh.

Students seeking additional information about The Art Institutes' initiative can view the policy in its entirety at (www.artinstitutes.edu/katrina)or call the National Admissions Information Center at 1-888-328-7900.

GUEST COMMENTARY **BY ROB JUPILLE, PRESIDENT**

The impact of Katrina on your investments

We all share a deep sadness for the devastation and loss of life wrought by Hurricane Katrina. At the same time, investors are beginning to wonder about the potential economic and investment impact the hurricane will have on them.

Although Katrina will have a short-term negative effect on the nation's economy, the longer-term view isn't as gloomy as one might expect because of the positive financial impact of the rebuilding process.

While the average investor historically tends to over dramatize the long-term impact from these kinds of shocks, as with past crises, our economy usually isn't affected very much by natural disasters. This has been reflected by the lack of a reaction from the stock market.

Nevertheless, Katrina is a major event with potentially significant near-term economic consequences. So what can we expect the fall-out to be in terms of our investments?

We are not likely to recommend making immediate changes to a portfolio based on an economic assessment of Katrina's fall-out. However, it is important that we take this opportunity to think about the possible consequences to the economy, how diversified our investments are, and our own tolerance for risk. Katrina is a good example of why we diversify.

Our general conclusion — not a specific forecast — is that the economic risks are not obviously negative, so it doesn't make sense to get more defensive at this time. The triggering of a recession is possible in conjunction with other risk factors — but this seems unlikely at this point.

From a long-term, multi-year standpoint, it is unlikely that the disaster will have a negative impact on the financial markets. There are, however, several short- and intermediate-term risk factors that could threaten the stock market.

The biggest risk is a sustained reduction in the energy infrastructure — oil refining capacity, which is already stretched, drilling and natural gas — that could result in sustained higher prices. Higher oil and gas prices are not only a problem for individuals and small businesses, but would be harmful to the global economy.

The disruption in a major shipping channel is affecting a wide variety of businesses, and many thousands of jobs have disappeared as the result of the physical destruction created by Katrina. As incredibly disturbing as scenes of the destruction are, once the rebuilding process begins, there will most likely be an economic stimulus that will be positive for the economy.

Having nothing to do with Katrina, we are considering changes to our fixed-income exposure in our balanced accounts that could, at the margin result in more of a recession hedge.

At RTJ Financial, we will maintain our current diversification strategy which, in balanced portfolios, is designed to provide some degree of protection in the event of unexpected events and general recession. That strategy includes exposure to commodity futures, which have soared in the days following Katrina, in most of our balanced accounts. We recommend all investors do the same.

(Rob Jupille is the president of RTJ Financial Management, Inc., which is a fee-only financial firm based in Santa Monica and a registered investment advisory providing broad-based financial management. Services include investment advisory services, asset protection, tax reduction, estate planning an overall financial management.)



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GUEST COMMENTARY **BY DEBORAH WALKER**

Interviewing for a job? Be careful not to screw it up

We've all heard stories of job candidates who looked great on paper but who were absolute disasters in person. With fewer interview opportunities available in our competitive job market, it's essential to make the best possible first impression. Learn from the mistakes of others and avoid these top five worst interview blunders:

1. Not preparing for the tough interview questions.

Like every job seeker, you probably have your own set of tough interview questions you hope will never be asked. The best strategy is to prepare ahead of time with answers to all of the questions. A career coach can be a great resource for helping you work out suitable answers with a positive spin on negative or challenging career situations.

2. Failure to match communication styles.

Making a great first impression is easier to do when you communicate effectively with your interviewer. The best way to do this is by mirroring his or her communication style. Allowing your interviewer to set the tone of the conversation will put him or her at ease and makes the conversation flow more naturally.

For instance:

■ If the interviewer seems all business, don't attempt to loosen him or her up with a joke or story. Be succinct and businesslike.

■ If the interviewer is personable, try discussing his or her interests. Often personal items on display in the office can be a clue.

■ If asked a direct question, answer directly. Then follow up by asking if more information is needed.

3. Talking too much.

In my recruiting days, I abhorred over-talkative candidates, and so did most of my client employers who interviewed these candidates. Over-talking takes several forms:

■ Taking too long to answer direct questions. The impression: This candidate just can't get to the point.

■ Nervous talkers. The impression: This candidate is covering up something or is outright lying.

To avoid either of these forms of over-talking, practice answering questions in a direct manner. Using role-playing in preparing for your interview will help you avoid excessive, nervous talking.

4. Saying negative things about your current or past employers or managers.

Even if your last boss was Attila the Hun, avoid stating your ill feelings about the person or work situation. No matter how reasonable your complaints, your negative comments will be viewed as disrespect towards your boss. When faced with the challenge of talking about former employers, make sure you are prepared with a positive spin on your experiences.

5. Giving away too much salary and earnings information.

Candidates often weaken their future earning potential by speaking too freely about their current income. No matter the official salary range of the position you are interviewing for, your current earnings have an enormous effect on the size of the offer. Investing in a career coach to help you answer salary questions can add thousands of dollars to your new job offer.

You already know that it takes a strong resume that sets you apart as a candidate of choice to be invited for an interview. The next step is to hone your interviewing skills to actually win job offers. Polishing your interviewing skills can mean the difference between getting the job and being a runner-up.

(Deborah Walker, is a career coach and resume writer. For more information, log onto www.AlphaAdvantage.com, or e-mail her directly at Deb@AlphaAdvantage.com.)

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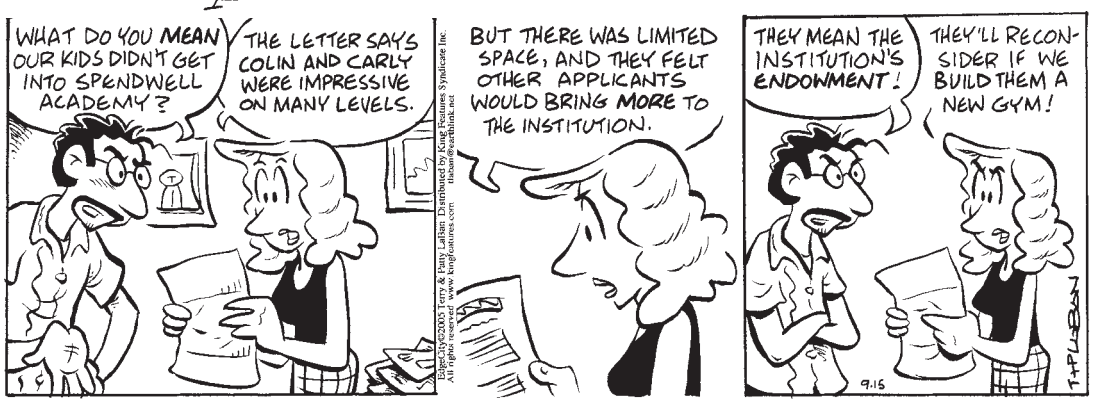
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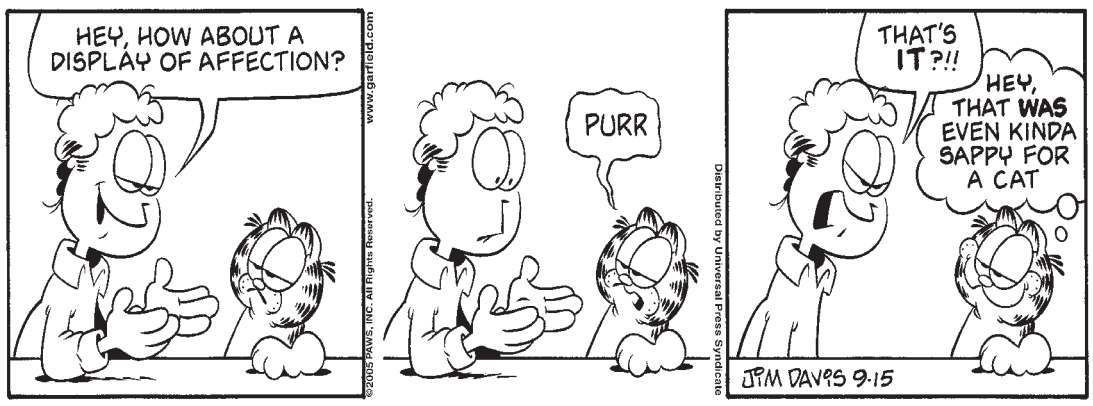
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19 Ticket
20 Sections of history
21 Fizzy drink
22 Animated character
25 Delighted
26 Plover's cousin
28 Blundered
30 Live
31 Clan symbol
33 Crowd sound
34 Opposed to
35 Chick sound
36 Berlin lang.
37 Woods-man's tool
38 Soccer's Hamm

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For Rent

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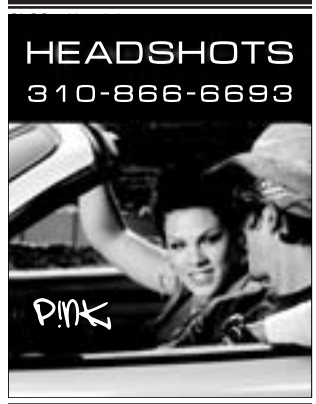


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