

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

00000

FANTASY 5

35, 27, 26, 39, 36

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 3, 2, 4

Evening picks: 9, 3, 9

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 7, Eureka

2nd Place: 12, Lucky Charms

3rd Place: 6, Whirl Win

Race Time: 1:44.06



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
by Chuck Shepard

■ In June, Jacquelyn Allen-MacGregor, 47, a 20-year executive with United Way in East Lansing, Mich., was remorseful after being sentenced to four years in prison for stealing more than \$2 million from the agency to buy show horses; said MacGregor, "I do believe that I'm obsessed with horses."

■ An independent investigation revealed in August that Mr. Oral Suer, the former CEO of United Way of the Washington, D.C., area, had taken \$1.5 million in improper payments during his tenure; among the alleged improprieties was that Suer made several annual gifts to United Way in his own name but then collected bogus expenses from the organization to cover the donations.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Women need a reason to have sex. Men just need a place."

— Billy Crystal



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Metered parking for sale in Santa Monica?

City Hall leases parking spaces for \$2,250 each

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Apparently metered parking spaces in Santa Monica are for sale. Busy Bee Hardware workers learned that one morning this summer when three spaces that have been used by their customers for decades were taken away from the public.

They quickly found out City Hall rented the spaces to Santa Monica Mitsubishi for \$6,750 a year so the dealership could have valet parking.

"The didn't give us notice or anything," said Veronica Tortillo, manager at Busy Bee, which has been a fixture in Santa Monica since 1914. "One day they were just there."

Owner Don Kidson said his business is suffering from the loss of parking spaces because there is only one metered spot directly in front of Busy Bee, which is located at 1521 Santa Monica Blvd.

Without the three spots, which are located on the north side of Santa Monica Boulevard, many store customers have resorted to parking illegally in the alley, while others walk from blocks away or skip the store altogether, Tortillo said.

"People come here to spend 50 cents or buy a dollar worth of screws and they get a \$30 ticket. It's ridiculous," she said.

City Hall officials said by renting the spots to Mitsubishi it actually frees up more street parking because the dealership's customers no longer use the metered spaces. Citywide, nearly 70 metered spaces have been taken out of the public right-of-way by 28 businesses, said Lucy Dyke, director of transportation management.

"The city was very attentive to making sure we met all the qualifications."

— ED MORGA

Controller,

Santa Monica Mitsubishi

The cost for businesses is the same as it is for citizens — 50 cents per chargeable hour — plus a \$1,750 annual licensing fee. Most of the rented spaces are used by restaurants, but some are used by hotels and other businesses.

"Any business can request a valet zone and it's within the city ordinance that it can be granted," said parking coordinator Bill Bortfeld, adding that the requests are evaluated

See PARKING, page 6



John Wood/Daily Press

Veronica Tortillo, manager of Busy Bee Hardware, stands by the only remaining metered spot in front of the store. City Hall leased the other nearby spaces to a car dealership for valet services.

Sears property eyed for possible light rail stop



John Wood/Daily Press

The Sears automotive building on Colorado Avenue is the 'perfect' location for a future light rail station, some city officials believe.

402 Colorado Ave. may be up for sale

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Though they have no specific plan for it, City Hall officials want to buy a 40,000-square-foot piece of land in downtown Santa Monica.

The property, located at 402 Colorado Ave., is owned by Sears and is used as a retail outlet and car repair shop.

Officials said Monday the land could be the ideal site for the western end of a proposed light rail line from downtown Los Angeles to Santa Monica. It also could be used to build affordable housing or a new

parking structure, officials said.

"There are a number of different possibilities," said Mark Richter, City Hall's director of economic development, who added that "there could not be a more perfect westerly terminus for the light rail project."

The owner of the property agreed a few weeks ago to discuss the possibility of selling to City Hall. Richter said those discussions will begin in the next few weeks but it will be months before any decision is made by the City Council.

If a price is set for 402 Colorado Ave., officials will then determine how the property can best be used.

Plans for a light rail project

See PROPERTY, page 6

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HOROSCOPE

It's your way tonight, Aries



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, September 16 2003:

You develop a better sense of what you want than in previous years. You also find that you can pull white rabbits out of black hats. Your ability to get through problems and see them instead as challenges earmarks your dynamic thinking. Others will want you to take a stronger hand in your personal life, though your focus will be on your work. Your creativity grows in many new ways. If you are single, romance will knock on your door. Others simply delight in your presence. If you are attached, a loved one needs to be more of a part of your work and public life. Share your ideas, desires and goals more openly. You become a strong team. GEMINI pushes you.



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Once you determine that you want something your way, you'll be impossible to stop. You won't give up; you could talk until you are blue in the face. Know when to let go and allow a partner or associate to put in his or her two cents. Tonight: As you like it.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Get an early start on the day, pushing hard to achieve your aims. You could find someone a bit contrary, though this might be a passing phase. Rethink an emotional issue more carefully that involves a friendship. Tonight: Pay bills.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Use the morning to formalize your ideas. Try out concepts on someone you can trust before you present them to the group. You could be overwhelmed by someone's opinion or a boss's reaction. Work with what others offer. Tonight: Do whatever makes you happy.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ What someone says might have a lot to do with your plans. Information that comes forward might have very little to do with reality but could contain some wonderful seeds of office gossip. Know when to put a halt to it. Tonight: Take some time to yourself.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You maintain your prestige despite someone's challenge. You could feel a bit out of sorts with someone you care about. Investigate possibilities that emerge at a key meeting. You might find unusual potential in them. Tonight: Where your friends are.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Others often challenge you. How you handle these confrontations could make all the difference in what comes down the pike. Your perspective could change if you relax more. A boss demands greater productivity. You can do it. Tonight: Work late.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Venus' entry into your sign adds to your popularity and sense of well-being. Many might believe that you have pushed way too hard; now it's time to lie back a little. Your ideas prove as worthwhile as your physical energy. Tonight: Make a long-distance call to a friend.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You might want to think through a decision more carefully. Investigate what needs to happen, especially concerning a partnership. Someone might challenge your thinking. Rather than react, work with what is said. Tonight: Make special time for a loved one.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You get the most work done possible in the morning. By the afternoon, you encounter way too much activity that lures you out of the office. Even a boss might find it better than working. Tonight: Why not go along for the ride?



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Your ability to please those in charge comes through for you once more. Your ingenuity clearly impresses others, drawing the results you ultimately want. Dig into work knowing that you need to carry an idea through. Tonight: Soak away stress in a hot tub.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ News from a distance might have you floating on cloud nine with no hope of anchoring. What you see and what actually happens could be substantially different. With your ingenuity, you can find answers to nearly anything right now. Tonight: Make time for a child or new sweetie.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Say what you think. Don't leave anything to guesswork. You could be pleased by what comes forward if you just free-associate. Someone close to you shares much more than he or she has in the past. Obviously you can trust this person. Tonight: Happily relax at home.

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Pico neighbors to gather

By Daily Press staff

Residents in an eastside neighborhood that has been the site of recent violence are organizing this weekend to discuss the area's issues.

A free picnic, a chance to meet neighbors and the opportunity to help shape the future of the neighborhood await those that attend the Pico Neighborhood Association's annual assembly on Saturday at Edison Elementary School from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The assembly also will feature the election of the board of directors for the group, now in its 24th year of voicing the collective concerns of the residents of the Pico neighborhood. "This year, in particular, we've seen a lot of new people move into the neighborhood," said Cece Bradley, secretary of the organization. "This will give old-timers and new neighbors a chance to meet and eat, as well as help shape our priorities for the coming year and beyond."

Recent events have put the Pico neighborhood in the center of several contentious issues, including the OPCC homeless shelter proposed for Cloverfield Boulevard, a sobering center slated for Pico Boulevard, charges of "dumping" social services in the largely minority, low-income neighborhood, as well as youth violence.

"But taking care of important business doesn't mean we can't have a good time," said board member Wes Terry. "All our residents have to bring is their family and their opinions, especially what they think will help make this neighborhood a better place to live."

This year marks a change from the usual location. Virginia Avenue Park, the site of the last several annual assemblies, is closed for renovations. Edison School is located at 2425 Kansas Ave., just a block east of the park.

Realtor bucks up for schools

By Daily Press staff

A local realtor is donating part of his commissions to local schools.

Geoff Parcels, a realtor at Re/Max Westside Properties in Santa Monica, has started a new program to help support aid to local schools and youth programs. In an effort to help generate community support for the programs, he will donate 10 percent of his commission to the local school or youth program of the seller or buyer's choice.

"If we want to have the best programs for our children, then we need to support them," Parcels said.

For more information, call (310) 998-8207.

SMC honored for student photography

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College students have captured more than one-third of all the awards in the college division of the 2003 Los Angeles County Fair Photography Exhibit, billed as the largest photo show in North America.

Images by SMC students make up about 40 percent of the images selected for the college division portion of the show, which represents the work of students from universities and colleges throughout California. Of the 195 photographs in the college division display, 75 are by SMC students.

Altogether, eight SMC students won first-, second-, or third-place awards in the fair's college division and captured an additional nine honorable mentions.

The Los Angeles County Fair's 2003 New Photography Exhibit opened on Friday and runs through Sept. 28 at the fairground's Millard Sheets Gallery in Pomona.

The SMC winners were Jacquie Beaubien, first place in the close-ups category; Thomas Feucht-Haviar, first place, scenic; Raul Vasquez, second place, life studies and black-and-white; Andrea Oliviera, third place, fine art; and Tania Fallert, Ethan Pines, and Janice Yim in a three-way tie for third place in life studies.

Winning honorable mentions were Emily Baker, Marguerite Courtney, Alden Desoto, Richard Frinta, Sara Hakan, Martin Lingnau, Gloria Stenzel-Santamaria, Patty Wilford, and Michael Witcher.

In addition, three SMC alumni captured eight awards or honorable mentions in the open division.



surf report

Small waves will pound our shores this morning before Hurricane Linda gives our breaks some SE exposure and a little love in the evening.

OUTLOOK: Linda stays strong into Wednesday. The southern hemisphere is sending us a new, more substantial swell for the end of the week. Stay tuned — summer's not over yet.

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

Today the water is:

66°

Sunrise: 6:45 a.m.
Sunset: 7:03 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	5:11	1.0	5:39	1.2	11:25	5.2	11:39	4.5
SUNDAY	5:32	1.5	6:22	1.3	11:49	5.1	N/A	N/A
MONDAY	5:51	2.0	7:14	1.5	12:22	3.9	12:15	5.0
TUESDAY	6:04	2.5	8:29	1.6	1:19	3.4	12:47	4.8
WEDNESDAY	5:55	2.9	10:18	1.5	3:18	3.0	1:33	4.6
THURSDAY	N/A	N/A	11:50	1.2	N/A	N/A	2:55	4.5
FRIDAY	10:26	3.5	N/A	N/A	8:18	3.6	4:40	4.6

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The Q-Line

The 50-year-old Boathouse restaurant was booted off the Santa Monica Pier last year to make way for Bubba Gump Shrimp. Despite that the Santa Monica City Council and Pier Restoration Corp., which manages the pier, maintains that they prefer locally-owned, independent businesses, the movie-themed chain restaurant will enter the Santa Monica scene next summer.

This week, Q-Line wants to know, "Does the city's politicians do enough to keep locally-owned business here? What should be done?"

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

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

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

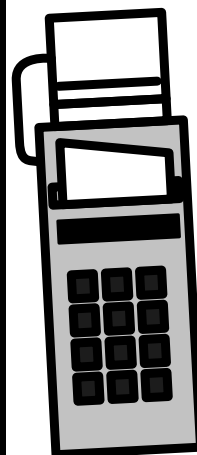
She will be speaking about the people she met — and remet — in Baghdad, Hillah, Babylon, Fallouja, Basra and Umm Qasr.

Wednesday, September 17

7:30 am Universal City Sunrise Rotary Club, Universal Studios
(at the commissary) Lankershim Blvd. in Studio City

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

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



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LETTERS

Something not right in City Hall

Editor:

Let me get this straight. Santa Monica officials claim that it cost them around \$50,000 in attorney's fees to get rid of the Boathouse, a business that had a long history in Santa Monica, so that we could have a chain restaurant on the pier (SMDP, Sept. 12, page 1). Yet when it pursued a dead end case against ATM fees all the way to the US Supreme Court that work was called "in-house" or free, therefore not a burden to the local taxpayer. As one who has appealed a case in federal court, it is an expensive endeavor if only measured in hours worked on the case. Something is not right at City Hall.

Dan Kolhoff
Santa Monica

Being homeless is not a day in the park

Editor:

I feel compelled to respond to the letter written by Jose Marcos (SMDP, Sept. 10, page 4). Congratulations on the successful and productive life that you have had so far, Jose. I understand that you must have worked hard for your accomplishments. You have also been blessed with mental health, if not much compassion.

I would like to offer you some food for thought. You suggest that the "happy" campers (the homeless) should pay for their camping out on the streets, in parks and in their cars. What makes you assume that they are happy? Maybe some of them choose a form of happiness rather than despair over what they perceive to be an inability to change their lives. Maybe some of them choose to self-medicate and look happy for the moment. Many are mentally ill from any number of causes. Over 40 percent of the homeless population is comprised of veterans who have been forever changed by their horrific experiences. You might try asking some of them what they went through for their country. Do you think the daily scorn from people like yourself

feels good?

Where do you sleep if you are homeless and destitute? If you are lucky you live in a shelter or you have a car to sleep in but if not, common places appear to be public garages, underneath freeway passes, on the sidewalks of industrial areas or maybe by an airport or a bus lot. The air in these places is filled with particles and carbon monoxide and fuel fumes from combustion engines. Not much like lakeside camping. You might choose to sleep on the beach or in a pretty park. But there is pressure to move along. Nobody wants their beautiful public places marred by the by-products of an imperfect society. No reminders of human need and suffering, thank you. So you congregate where you can leave the world's judgment behind and find companionship and safety together.

Is there someone that you know that you love, that is perhaps a little eccentric, someone with a creative, gentle soul that has a hard time with the practical functions in life? Someone who would rather spend time drinking in the infinite beauty of a flower or strokes the cat rather than tackle that tedious, frustrating homework? Maybe that person has a learning disability or ADD. Imagine someone like that in a family of similarly undiagnosed, frustrated and angry people who act out abusively. Maybe that person gets thrown out or fearing for their life, runs as far away as they can. How can they make their life work? What to do, where to go? Many jobs later ... many places later ... many relationships later, they might just find themselves in a beautiful, soothing place like Santa Monica.

It is a big challenge to find a way to really help the homeless. Help them to help themselves. Help them find hope that their future can be different. Help them with resources and encouragement. Help them heal from mental illness and joyfully rediscover their God-given gifts. Just maybe the same person you sneered at recently will someday be giving you their autograph or will own that bigger apartment building next to yours.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Ann S. Petersen
Homeless in Santa Monica



UC board appointment a classic example of basic California politics, or was it?



Evelyn Jerome

■ "For the race, everything. Outside the race, nothing." A ridiculous, racist slogan, right? It's the mantra of MeCHA, an organization to which many of today's Latino politicians belonged when they were in college, and a slogan that many of them have renounced.

But consider this:

State Sen. Gloria Romero threatened to torpedo Gov. Gray Davis' nomination of Norman Pattiz to the University of California Board of Regents because Pattiz is white. Five of the 18 appointed Regents are black or Latino. One is Asian. Six of the 18 appointed Regents are women. But in explaining her opposi-

tion to Pattiz, Romero described the board as "a who's who of wealthy white men in California."

So last week, after "discussions" with Sen. Romero, Gov. Davis nominated Dolores Huerta, the 73-year-old United Farm Workers icon to the UC Board of Regents. After Davis nominated Huerta, Romero said she would reconsider supporting Pattiz' nomination.

Sounds like nothing short of political hostage-taking to me.

I'm not going to comment on Huerta's qualifications to serve on the Board of Regents. I bet there are a whole host of Latinos who have more specific experience with higher education, and who could contribute to our state university system, but Huerta herself is not my beef.

I've lost more than just a few notches

of respect for Sen. Romero, whom I've spent time with and who I didn't consider an ethnic hard-liner until this particular incident.

The politics of race have enveloped California and clearly not for the better. I'm sure Romero's constituents didn't elect her to stonewall all gubernatorial nominations until racial parity is achieved on each and every appointed state board.

I'm sure that more than a handful of Romero's constituents would be embarrassed at her transparent effort to increase the Latino representation on the Board of Regents. If a Republican state senator had announced he would not vote for a Board of Regents nominee because of his race, we would call him racist. What's the difference in this situation?

Part of the responsibility of holding elected office is learning how to use, and not abuse, the power that comes with the job. Sure, any official has the ability to hold up a nomination by withholding a vote. But having the power and using it are two different things.

In politics, image is everything. Go back and look at that MeCHA slogan again, and tell me how Romero's actions have shown her rejection of it.

(Evelyn Jerome is the founder and principal of Strategic Communications, a communications consulting firm. She is a past president of the Los Angeles County Young Democrats and a Santa Monica homeowner. To respond or to reach her, e-mail evelyn_thinktwice@yahoo.com.)



Todd Flora

■ Who should govern the University of California system as a "Regent," or for that matter the Cal State University system as a "Trustee?"

Varying opinions are held between those who feel education experts should run the system, to those who favor business savvy executives, to others who argue for a diverse array of Californians. I think they are all correct.

Our higher education system needs education savvy individuals, but also those who know numbers and budgets. And it must represent the many faces of California. My largest concern is that

both university systems seem to make their respective board's reward appointments for campaign donations.

But last week, through political pressure applied by State Sen. Gloria Romero, labor icon Dolores Huerta was named to the University of California Board of Regents. I applaud the Huerta appointment for two reasons. First, a strong labor leader is qualified to sit on this board, as many issues relating to faculty and staff contracting and facilities development are commonplace in Regent meetings. Second, Huerta brings much needed diversity to the "Board of Donors" that is currently lacking.

What gets ugly is the politics. Gov. Gray Davis, under the Recall gun, is feeling pressure to sew up his base. But instead of using this particular recall appointment

to do so, Davis was on the verge of reappointing a generous donor to a full term. Enter Romero, who, as a voting member of a key state senate committee, vowed to hold up the appointment until Gov. Davis gave the Board of Regents some much needed diversity.

Evelyn and I had originally decided that in this week's column we would both lash out at the "hostage taking" of the Regent appointment process by Romero, and perhaps discuss more of our differing views on the appointment of Huerta. But the more I thought about it, the more I realized Sen. Romero's tactics are used all the time. We live in a pluralistic system of checks and balances. Our beloved Democratic Party has held up the appointment of many conservative feder-

al judges, and Romero held up Gov. Gray Davis' appointment process on grounds of principle and diversity. That's politics. Politics well played, I might add.

If the Huerta appointment and Romero's tactics prove anything, it is this: If people stand up loudly to a system built on money in politics, they can and often do succeed. If they remain silent, money will continue to keep healthy democracy and governance from most of us.

(Todd Flora is the former state director of the California Clean Money Campaign, and the former western regional director of the Concord Coalition, a fiscal watchdog organization. To respond or to reach Todd, e-mail him at junkfood6@aol.com.)

COMMENTARY

City Hall should stay out of the business of business



LEGAL VIEWS AND NEWS

By David Pizarra

The President has proclaimed this week to be "National Small Business Week." In its press release the White House said, "The success of small businesses in America reflects the innovation, determination, and hard work of the American people. During Small Business Week, we celebrate the entrepreneurs and business people who create goods, services, and jobs, and bring opportunity and economic prosperity to communities throughout our country. We also reaffirm our commitment to helping more small business owners and their employees realize the American Dream."

And evidently our City Council has decided that it is now time to agree with the President, at least on this issue, by limiting the size of new stores on the Promenade to only 50 feet of frontage space. This is in response to the current state of the Promenade, which now looks unsurprisingly like just about every other mall on the planet.

It's ironic that in the same week that the council moved to limit the size of new stores on the Promenade, they were asked to grant concessions to Bubba Gump Shrimp, the new restaurant on the pier which at one time housed the locally owned, non-chain restaurant known as the Boathouse. Let's take a quick trip down memory lane.

I am reminded of a July 6, 2000 statement by our own highly esteemed councilmember Kevin McKeown who was quoted in Robert Scheer's local L.A. column during the infamous Boathouse travesty. Quoting the column directly, "Councilman Kevin McKeown reports he is being inundated with e-mails that are all pro-Boathouse. But he was 'already investigating this matter because personally, and as a Green (party member), I support small, locally owned businesses.'"

Not to leave out then Mayor Ken Genser, again quoting the Scheer article, "Mayor Ken Genser, who is the council's liaison to the PRC, (Pier Restoration Corporation) told me, 'I think it is appropriate for the council to monitor this situation.' He added: 'I would be absolutely disappointed if what ends up there is a chain establishment that can be found everywhere else and not something with its own unique character.'"

It has been three years since that column ran. Three years in which the council has had the opportunity to "investigate" to "monitor" and to protect our small businesses, our community and our lifestyle from the encroaching onslaught of corporate megastores.

I think they are acting a little late. They are trying to close the barn door after the horses have left.

The fact of the matter is, the rents on the Promenade have risen dramatically, mostly as a consequence of the influx of the major retailers. It has driven up the

square foot costs on retail spaces that landlords are able to collect. That means a new business, which is limited to leasing a smaller space, must make more sales per square foot to pay the rent. It also means that they must have more customers flow through their businesses in order to make any money.

If the goal of this new legislation is to protect the smaller, more intimate restaurants, they have a task which is nigh on impossible due to the economics of the industry. The fine dining restaurants, which can charge more money for their fare, are also the kind of restaurant where people will sit and enjoy their meals. A good restaurant on average turns its tables two times a night. A fine dining establishment operates on approximately 30-35 percent cost of goods sold. — the food costs should be about 30-35 percent of the operating revenues. The rest is to cover the expenses of the restaurant, and allow for a small profit for the owner. They cannot charge enough money on the Promenade at a low level of business to pay their rent if it's \$14 or \$15 a square foot.

The new regulation will have the effect of either preventing the establishment of new restaurants on the Promenade, or forcing the landlords to lower their rents to a level that will allow new restaurants to open. Considering that new restaurants have a failure rate of about 90 percent and the costs to set up the business could easily be \$50,000, how likely is it that the rents are going to come down on the Promenade? Not very.

The cycle of all malls is pretty much the same. It's the little guys that attract the population, then the landlords start to increase the rents so that only the big chains can afford to be there, then the little guys leave, then the population leaves. Then the big chains leave, then the landlords can't afford to pay their taxes and the City Council asks, "what happened?"

I believe that City Council members do the best they can with the information available to them and their ability to understand it.

The problem is they are trying to solve an economic problem with a legislative solution. Here is where they don't know what they are doing: They are relying on "staff" as usual, and I don't have anything against the "staff," but they are government workers, not business people. They don't know what it is like to try to make the rent or the mortgage payment each month and not know where the money is coming from. They don't know the emotional travails that a businessperson goes through, whether they are a landlord or a tenant.

What the council needs is a good dose of business reality. They should listen to the independent business leaders for information on how the real world works, or they should stay out of the business world, and focus on the important things — like making sure that we have a well fed, if ill behaved, homeless population.

(David Pizarra is a partner in the Santa Monica law firm of Pizarra & Grist, he welcomes questions, and can be reached at (310) 664-9969 or e-mailed at DPISARRA@PISARRA.COM)



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LOCAL

Busy Bee petitions City Hall against valet parking

PARKING, from page 1

for safety and traffic concerns, and are often granted within weeks. "The three meters that Mitsubishi uses are in front of Mitsubishi. If they were in front of Busy Bee it would be quite a different situation."

Tortillo said the small hardware store has 12 accounts with City Hall, from the police and fire departments to the beach maintenance and industrial waste divisions. She added that workers in those departments also have felt the parking pinch and many have resorted to parking illegally in the alley, or putting cones around their trucks while inside the store.

Ed Morga, controller for Santa Monica Mitsubishi — one of the top 25 revenue generating companies in the city — said the dealership needs the valet spots because there is no room for customers to park on site.

"Buying a new car takes over two hours," he said. "In order to do that, to make it convenient for our customers instead of running out and putting change in the meters, it was very helpful to offer that."

"The city was very attentive to making sure we met all the qualifications," Morga added.

Morga said Mitsubishi pays nearly \$10,000 a month to rent a nearby storage property that is used to park customers' cars and store extra inventory. In the last month, Morga said Mitsubishi sold about 170 new cars and another 40 used cars, but the dealership's lot only holds about 160 cars.

"We constantly turn our inventory," Morga said. "If I could park a 10-speed on that lot, I would."

But Mitsubishi's challenges have now created problems for Busy Bee and its customers. They are lobbying City Hall to change the set up, which was approved without their input.

"It sucks. We used to park right there. Now we have to go blocks away."

— RICHARD GARCIA
Busy Bee customer

Kidson in August gathered more than 100 signatures in just two days from customers who want City Hall to change its agreement with Santa Monica Mitsubishi and put the valet area on 15th Street. Customers to the small hardware store, which include actors Harrison Ford and Jimmy Smith, confirmed on Monday that the valet area is a burden.

"It sucks," said Richard Garcia, a parts delivery man and regular Busy Bee customer who parked illegally in the alley to run into the store Monday afternoon. "We used to park right there. Now we have to go blocks away."

In the meantime, customers and area employees use the five metered spots that are still available between 15th and 16th streets, where two car dealerships and Busy Bee are located. Tortillo said of the 12 Busy Bee employees, only two cars are driven to work and they leave the metered spots open.

City Hall to begin talks with Sears property owner

PROPERTY, from page 1

from downtown LA to Santa Monica are still preliminary, said David Mieger, director of Westside planning for the Metropolitan Transit Authority, which oversees transportation issues in LA County. Although \$505 million has been set aside for the first phase of the line, which goes to Culver City and is scheduled to be completed in 2012, no money has been earmarked for the second phase, which would bring the light rail line into Santa Monica.

In the meantime, Richter said the first step in the potential purchase is to determine if the seller really wants to sell and then negotiate a price for the property. He added that Sears officials have not expressed any interest in selling the main retail center, located at 302 Colorado Ave.

However, that property is part of a master plan for downtown Santa Monica that is on hold because of the budget crisis. Officials hope to one day make a giant public space downtown, stretching from

"There could not be a more perfect westerly terminus for the light rail project."

— MARK RICHTER
Director,
City's economic development

the Third Street Promenade, past City Hall and the Santa Monica Courthouse.

Exactly how much the property is worth is unclear.

Commercial real estate broker Barbara Tenzer said the land is "not cheap" but added that its exact value depends on a host of factors, including what the buyer could build there and what the parking requirements would be. She added that there have been no recent sales of downtown properties that would compare in price of a parcel that large.

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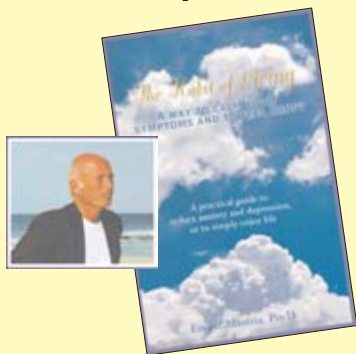
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STATE

Proposition 54 backer challenges views of race

BY DEBORAH KONG

AP Minority Issues Writer

SACRAMENTO — Ward Connerly has been called a “bootlicking Uncle Tom.” He’s been labeled Con-man Connerly, the most hated black man in America.

In other circles, he’s hailed as an American hero, a courageous man of principle who perseveres in the face of enormous opposition.

Love him or loathe him, the 64-year-old businessman is the main figure behind a California initiative that challenges voters to contemplate the role of race in society.

Proposition 54, on the ballot in California’s Oct. 7 election, would prevent the state from classifying people by race, ethnicity or national origin in public education, contracting or employment. Opposed by two major candidates to replace Gov. Gray Davis, Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger and Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante, a Democrat, even Connerly has said it’ll be impossible to match the resources aimed at stopping his effort.

Still, he’s carrying on the campaign. Proposition 54 would, among other things, likely keep officials from learning the race of people in public health surveys and those who apply to state colleges and universities — helping to create a “colorblind” California in the view of Connerly, a man who feels a great personal stake in the issue.

By his own description, the chairman of the Proposition 54 campaign is more or less equal parts French-Canadian, Choctaw, African and Irish-American. Connerly resists being identified as “African-American,” saying he has more non-African than African-American descent.

To call him so is “demanding that I deny the rest of my ancestry,” said Connerly, a balding man with a dignified bearing and a neat mustache, flecked with gray.

The University of California regent, who successfully pushed 1996’s Proposition 209 banning the consideration of race and gender in public employment, education and contracting, sees multicultural California as a “laboratory of this human family that is constantly evolving.”

“My motivation is to present the nation, by way of California, with a different option for the kind of nation that it’s going to become,” Connerly said in an interview with The Associated Press.

He hopes one day people will see “ourselves as one human family, not divided by skin color, or where our ancestors came from, or our sexual orientation, or our gender.”

In his 2000 memoir, “Creating Equal: My Fight Against Race Preferences,” Connerly said he believes race is “an outmoded 19th century concept, which never had any scientific basis.”

Proposition 54 is his latest attempt to change that. “My children are all of me and all of their Irish mother. Two of my grandchildren also have a mother who is half Vietnamese. What box do you want us all to check?” Connerly asked the Sacramento Press Club recently.

After his mother died when he was 4, Connerly lived with an aunt and uncle. Later, he moved in with his grandmother in Sacramento, where dinner was sometimes just a slice of sweet potato and a glass of milk. At times, he lined the soles of old shoes with cardboard.

He began to think about whether race really mattered in college, when he

became the first black member of the Delta Phi Omega fraternity at Sacramento State College. Connerly also testified before the state legislature about housing discrimination against minorities.

He married a white woman, Ilene, in 1962 — “a time when ‘marrying outside your race’ was no easy decision,” Connerly wrote. The couple were estranged from her parents until their son, Marc, was born about a year later.

Again, Connerly realized that racial barriers were artificial.

In the 1970s, he became a Republican and befriended Pete Wilson, who would later become governor and appoint Connerly to the UC Board of Regents.

Around the same time, he and his wife opened Connerly & Associates, a Sacramento consulting firm where he now earns about \$450 an hour originating home repair loans and serving as the administrative arm for professional trade associations.

Connerly often employs his own story as proof that affirmative action is unnecessary. “Why do black people still have this mind-set that the world is stacked against them?” he asked.

He was in his 50s, established and successful, when his crusade to end affirmative action — which he calls “preferences” — was sparked by a visit from a white couple in 1994. They said their son was rejected by several UC medical schools, though he was more academically qualified than applicants of other races.

About two years later, Connerly oversaw the passage of Proposition 209, which dismantled many state affirmative action programs.

Connerly’s drive to end the state’s collection of racial data has been more gradual, fueled by stories of people’s confusion over which race box to check on the 2000 census form.

Further inspiration came from a conversation with his granddaughter, Brittany, the child of Connerly’s son and a half-Vietnamese mother. After watching her grandfather take part in a debate on C-SPAN, she asked him, “What race am I?” Connerly recalled. “And I’m not often speechless, but I just kind of sat there.”

“What do I tell her? Finally I just said, ‘You’re you. You’re one of a kind.’”

Among Connerly’s critics, blacks have been the most vocal.

In the Boondocks comic strip by Aaron McGruder, one character referred to Connerly as a “bootlicking Uncle Tom.”

Outside a hotel where he spoke recently, protester Clarence Caesar said Proposition 54 will deprive communities of vital information.

“I think he has issues with who he is. He’s got a right to think what he wants about race,” Caesar said. “To impose those on the people of California as though they’re a remedy for racial problems in this country is ridiculous.”

Julian Bond, chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has labeled Connerly in past speeches as “Con-man Connerly” and the “California terminator” of affirmative action.

A colorblind society is something “we all want to move toward,” Bond said. “But you don’t do that by taking away the tools that demonstrate disparities. All you do is hide disparities, and hidden disparities can never be healed.”

Yet Shelby Steele, a black research fel-

low at the conservative Hoover Institution, admires Connerly’s persistence.

“Ward Connerly is not a great orator or some sort of starlike personality. He’s a guy who goes to work every day for what he believes,” Steele said. “History will see him very favorably ... (as) a man of principle standing against the small-mindedness of his times.”

Though Connerly emphasizes he’s not the only proponent of Proposition 54, he’s the one most closely associated with it.

Even the measure’s name has become political. Connerly calls it the “racial privacy initiative,” while some of his oppo-

nents have dubbed it “the Connerly information ban.”

All the hostility can be disconcerting to Connerly. Seven years ago, something — possibly a pellet gun — punctured his office window, and he removed the sign outside.

“It really began to dawn on me that whether I like it or not, I’m somewhat of an icon. And that means I’m going to take a pretty fair amount of hits from people,” Connerly said.

“It reaches a point where that old saying sort of applies, ‘If you want to lead the choir, you have to turn your back on the audience.’”

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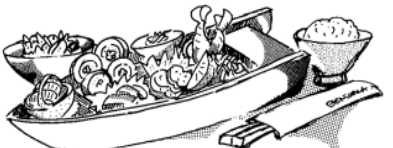
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REGISTRATION IS UNDERWAY FOR MANY FALL PROGRAMS IN SANTA MONICA.

Santa Monica YMCA – Parent/Child Gym and Water Enrichment – 3 months and up. Registration is underway for the fall session beginning September 20th - December 13th. Call 310-393-2721 for information or pick up a registration form at the YMCA at 1332 Sixth St.

City of Santa Monica – the city offers a number of classes for parents and children together, kids and adults including Baby/Toddler classes, dancing, yoga, art and a variety of sports. Registration begins August 28, most classes begin the week of October 6. Class details and registration forms can be found in the current fall issue of Seascapes (in the Recscape insert) or online at www.santa-monica.org then follow Seascapes and registration links.

Music Together – a music and movement program for infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers. For ages birth to 4 years. Pre-registration deadline for returning families is August 23rd. New families registration begins September 1st until full. Classes begin September 15. Free demonstration classes are being held on September 3rd, 6th and 13th. Classes are held in downtown Santa Monica, the Santa Monica Airport and Pacific Palisades. Call 310-396-4436 for info.

Santa Monica Swim Center – Community Aquatics Program Registration began August 18, classes begin the week of September 15. The Swim Center offers a variety of classes including Parent and Me (ages 6 months to 3 years), swim instruction, diving, life-guarding and water polo. Pick up a brochure and registration form at the pool on the campus of SMC at 2225 16th Street.



Tips on how to detect jaundice in your newborn

Guest Commentary

By Edward Malphus, M.D.

Question: What is jaundice and should I worry about my newborn developing it?

Answer: Jaundice is a common condition among newborns that causes a pronounced yellow tint to the skin and the white part of the eyes. More than 60 percent of all infants develop mild jaundice within one to five days after birth. It usually disappears on its own within the first week or two after birth as the baby's systems begin to mature.

Jaundice (also known as hyperbilirubinemia) is caused by the build-up of bilirubin in the blood and typically occurs when the liver is immature. (Bilirubin is a breakdown product of excess red blood cells, which many babies are born with.) In premature babies, symptoms of jaundice may emerge earlier and last longer than in full-term babies.

It can also occur when infants are learning to breast-feed and the volume of milk they are getting is too low, or they are not feeding often enough. In rare cases, jaundice may be caused by other conditions such as digestive system disorders, liver damage or infection.

It is important that all newborns be monitored for jaundice since excessive amounts of bilirubin in the blood may lead to brain damage, including hearing loss, mental retardation and behavior problems.

Generally, the diagnosis of jaundice is based on a physical exam and medical history. Your doctor may also want to do a blood test to

determine the amount of bilirubin in the blood and to determine whether further evaluation or treatment is needed.

The most common treatment for jaundice is phototherapy. The wave lengths of light used in phototherapy are absorbed by the baby's skin. As it is absorbed, the bilirubin in the baby's body is changed into another form of bilirubin that can be easily excreted in the stool and urine. Phototherapy, which is totally painless, is usually done in the hospital, although occasionally babies are treated at home. Some doctors use special phototherapy (fiber-optic) blankets to deliver the light treatment to newborns. The treatment lasts until the bilirubin has fallen to a safer level.

Most of the time, however, no medical treatment is needed for the common form of jaundice. Parents should, however, be aware of the symptoms of jaundice and watch their new-

born for any skin color changes after they bring the baby home. If the yellow tint in your baby's skin becomes more intense after three days old or if you notice that your baby is sluggish, irritable or has a high pitched cry, contact your doctor as these symptoms may indicate that the level of bilirubin in the blood may be rising to potentially harmful levels.

Generally, the most common form of jaundice is nothing to worry about, but you should make your pediatrician aware of it. Your pediatrician's office should be a resource you can turn to with your concerns about any aspect of your newborn's health.

(Edward Malphus, M.D. is a pediatrician at Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica. For more information, contact Saint John's at (310) 829-5511 or visit the hospital's Web site at www.stjohns.org.)

Library reaches out to babies

BY SARA VAN DYCK

Special to the Daily Press

New mothers can now get free kits to help them understand the importance of early language development for their children.

Using a \$4,000 grant from the Weingart Foundation, the Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library have developed and distributed the packages, which are available at the Westside Family Health Center on Ocean Park Boulevard. The Infant & Family Support Program for Children on Lincoln Boulevard, the Family Service of Santa Monica on Euclid Avenue and other agencies also will

offer them.

The materials include guides in English and Spanish for parents on how to help children with language development. A Santa Monica Public Library guide offers suggestions on using library resources and the babies will get a bib in English and Spanish, as well as the Pudgy Pat-a-Cake book.

The Westside Family Health Center serves low-income families, most of whom are Latinos.

"This will encourage women to read to their children and expose them to reading at an early age. I think this is very important," said Maria Honon, assistant director of clinical services at the center.

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A 17-day funfest for the entire family combining horticulture, agriculture, education, art, livestock and many forms of entertainment. Major attractions include a carnival with 72 rides, and an End of the Summer Concert Series featuring a range of classic and contemporary performers such as the B-52s and Willie Nelson. Many Kid's activities are offered including this year's special event "America's Kids Road Trip," a large "highway" that follows the historic Route 66, educating kids on the nation's history and culture while taking them on an exciting, interactive road-trip experience. There is also a petting zoo, pony rides and a "Dairy Barn." The fair is fun for all ages.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mon–Thurs; 11 a.m. to midnight Fri; 10 a.m. to midnight Sat; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sun. Kids under 5 are free, prices range from \$5 to \$14 for all others.

MOVIES FOR MOMS AND BABIES

Loews Broadway — Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m., 1441 3rd St. Promenade

Yes, you can go to the movies! Thanks to Reel Moms and Loews Cineplex Entertainment, you can now enjoy a matinee with your baby. Tickets go on sale the day of the show and doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. The lights are dimmed (never completely dark), the sound is monitored so that it is not too loud, nursing, baby talk and strolling the aisles are all okay, and stroller check is free. Adults pay regular movie price and babies are free. The event is geared towards parents/caregivers with babies newborn thru one year old.

This week's film is "Lost in Translation" starring Bill Murray, Scarlett Johansson and Giovanni Ribisi. From "Virgin Suicides" director Sofia Coppola this Comedy/Drama is rated R for some sexual content.

Fridays, September 19 - Night Sky Show at Santa Monica College's Digistar II Planetarium

is followed by the presentation "California Stars," exploring how California has been the land of opportunity for astronomers for centuries. 7:00 p.m.; John Drescher Planetarium on the SMC Main Campus, 1900 Pico Blvd., 310-434-3000.

September 21, 2 – 4 p.m., Youth and Family Ministry at Agape International Spiritual Center

Booksigning, talk and Q & A with author Vickie Falcone, founder and director of the Positive Parenting Network. Her new book is "Buddha Never Raised Kids and Jesus Didn't Drive Carpool: Seven Principles for Parenting with Soul". The book translates the sometimes lofty ideas of the world's great spiritual teachings into seven practical and easy-to-understand principles that

can be applied to the everyday challenges of modern parenting. 5700 Buckingham Parkway, Culver City, 310-348-1250

TUESDAY

Movies

11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. This week's film is "Lost in Translation" starring Bill Murray, Scarlett Johansson and Giovanni Ribisi. From "Virgin Suicides" director Sofia Coppola this Comedy/Drama is rated R for some sexual content.

Storytelling

Main Library – Toddler Story Time at 10:00 and 10:30 a.m., begins September 16, at Reed Park, 7th and Wilshire – 2 year olds with parents, 310-458-8600.

Fairview Branch – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443

Lap Time – 11:00 a.m., September 9 – October 14, a six-week series for babies 0-24 months.

Twilight Story Time – 7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds. Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., September 9–October 14, a six-week series in Spanish for children 24-36 months with adult.

Montana Avenue Branch – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081 Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.

Ocean Park Branch – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804

Toddler Story Time – September 16 – October 21 (registration required). Music, rhymes and stories for 24 – 36 months with adult.

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me(ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 – 2:30pm

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

Ocean Park Branch – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804

Twilight Story Time – 7:00 to 7:30pm – for parents with 3-5 year olds.

Montana Avenue Branch – 1704 Montana Avenue – 310-829-7081

Lap Time – 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. – Next series begins September 24 for six weeks, for 0-24 months, no registration required.

Toddler Story Time – next series begins September 24 for six weeks, for 2 year olds with adult, no registration required.

Fairview Branch – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443

Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m., September 10 – October 16, a six-week series for 3-5 year olds.

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144

Border's, Westwood – 11am – 310-475-3444.

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me(ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 – 2:30pm

Other

Puppetolio – 1:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

THURSDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Toddler Story Time – 10:00 a.m. – Reed Park, for 2 year olds. Begins Sept. 11.

Preschool Story Time – 10:30am – Reed Park. Begins Sept. 11. Stories for ages 3-5. 310-458-8922 for info.

Montana Avenue Branch – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081

Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m. – Begins September 25 for six weeks, for 2 year olds with adult, no registration required.

Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m., for 3-5 year olds.

Fairview Branch – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443

Toddler Story Time – 10:30 a.m., September 11 – October 16, a six-week series for children 24-36 months. La Hora del Cuento – 7:00 p.m., Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.

Ocean Park Branch – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804

Lap Time – 9:20 and 10:20 a.m., September 4 – October 9. Six-week series for 0-24 months with adult.

Other

Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute) September 18 – Sullivan Canyon (West LA) – 10:00am Reservations required – 310-998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org

Yoga

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Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00-2:30pm

FRIDAY

LaLeche League of LA-Westside - Toddler Meeting - September 19

Third Friday of the month 10-11:30 am, Mar Vista

Topic: Nutrition for a Healthy Family. Call 310-390-2529 for directions and to confirm meeting

Night Sky Show at Santa Monica College's Digistar II Planetarium (September 19) is followed by the presentation "California Stars," exploring how California has been the land of opportunity for astronomers for centuries. First show begins at 7:00 p.m.; John Drescher Planetarium on the SMC Main Campus, 1900 Pico Blvd., 310-434-3000.

Magicipolis – 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me(ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9

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Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.

SATURDAY

Storytelling

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144

Children's Book World – 10580 W. Pico Blvd, 310-559-8000; 10:30 a.m., ages 3-8, 9/6 with Jennifer and Jon, 9/13 with Kathleen, 9/20 with Jennifer and Jon

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me(ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9

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Other

Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

"Mary, Mary Quite Contrary" – 12:30 and 3 p.m., Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St. Admission: \$10, under 12 years \$9. Call 310-394-9779 for info.

Magicipolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me(ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9

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Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.

SUNDAY

Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

"Cinderella" – (thru Sept. 14) 6 p.m., Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., Admission: Adults \$12, kids 12 and under \$10. Call 310-394-9779 for info.

"Mary, Mary Quite Contrary" – 12:30 and 3 p.m., Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St. Admission: \$10, under 12 years \$9. Call 310-394-9779 for info.

Magicipolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Youth and Family Ministry at Agape International Spiritual Center, September 21, 2 – 4 p.m.

Booksigning, talk and Q & A with author Vickie Falcone, founder and director of the Positive Parenting Network. More details in the Special Events section. 5700 Buckingham

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-Vanity Fair, April 2002



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NATIONAL

Lawmakers seek to educate those about chronic pain

BY RANDALL CHASE

Associated Press Writer

NEWARK, Del. — Until a gust of wind slammed a door shut on one of her toes, Idamarie Duffy lived an active lifestyle, enjoying everything from tennis and golf to horseback riding and swimming.

Duffy didn't give a thought to the seemingly minor injury she suffered in 1984 or consider that she would spend eight years in a wheelchair and depend on a nurse's aide to feed, bathe and dress her. But the injury resulted in chronic pain.

After years of medical treatment and physical therapy, Duffy, 62, is no longer in a wheelchair, but she must wear a brace on her lower leg and use a cane to steady herself. The only swimming she does is in a therapeutic pool at home.

"I never in my life thought it would cause anything like this," Duffy said of the injury.

At Duffy's prompting, the Delaware General Assembly this year passed a bill establishing a program to raise awareness about Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome, a little-known disease she shares with hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of other Americans.

Duffy is on the board of directors of the national Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Association, based in Milford, Conn. The association claims that more than 6 million Americans may have RSDS, a neurological disease also known as complex regional pain syndrome. It usually develops in response to a traumatic injury or medical procedure.

Health experts say early diagnosis, within a few months of onset of the disease, is critical in treating it. Otherwise, a person can face years of pain so severe even the touch of a bedsheet can be agony.

"It's certainly not a high incidence, but if not dealt with properly, it's a major problem," said state Sen. Steven Amick, the bill's sponsor. The bill is based on legislation New York lawmakers passed last year.

Chronic pain also has been on the minds of lawmakers in other states and in Congress, which has declared this the "Decade of Pain Research."

Last year, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation establishing a state advisory council on pain management. The Arkansas legislature passed a bill this year that gives doctors greater leeway to prescribe drugs for chronic pain without fear of losing their licenses. Physicians in Mississippi who treat chronic pain patients are pushing for a similar measure.

Doctors in several states have lost their licenses or been slapped with criminal charges related to the misuse or overprescription of painkillers such as OxyContin.

"Physicians in general are reticent about treating people with chronic pain," said Dr. James Gill of Christiana Care Health Services in Wilmington. "People are constantly watching over you."

In Washington, Rep. Michael Rogers of Michigan, has introduced a bill called

the National Pain Care Policy Act, which would establish a national research center for pain and palliative care, which is meant to prevent or relieve symptoms of a disease or disorder. The bill also would authorize the creation of six regional research centers.

"We don't, even today, have medical professionals trained in pain care management," said Rogers, who plans to hold a hearing on his bill this fall. "When you think of all of the different ailments that involve severe and intense pain, that's kind of a frightening prospect."

"We don't, even today, have medical professionals trained in pain care management."

— MICHAEL ROGERS
Lawmaker

According to the Baltimore-based American Pain Foundation, some 50 million Americans endure serious, chronic pain lasting six months or more every year. In 1998, the National Institutes of Health described pain as a "significant national health problem" costing the country more than \$100 billion each year in health care, compensation and litigation.

In addition to establishing the research centers and developing a protocol for research and education, Rogers' bill would authorize a White House conference on pain care and require the federal government to develop a national awareness and outreach campaign to educate consumers, patients and caregivers.

"It's not just about prescribing medicine," he said. "Doctors and patients both need to be educated."

Paul Silverman, chief of disease prevention and control for the state Division of Public Health, said Delaware's RSDS education effort will be part of an existing project to increase awareness about lesser-known illnesses such as hemochromatosis, fibromyalgia, lupus, Lyme disease and chronic fatigue syndrome.

The RSDS education effort will include dissemination of guidelines for doctors through the Medical Society of Delaware, and submission of those guidelines for publication in a national medical journal. Resource guides also will be made available for distribution to patients.

Along with the education program, Duffy and others are hoping to establish a support group for RSDS sufferers. While there are about 400 RSDS support groups nationwide, there is none in Delaware.

"The closest one we have now is in Connecticut, and that's not right around the corner," said Geraldine McLaughlin, of Wilmington, a 72-year-old retired nurse and RSDS sufferer who hopes to establish a support group this fall.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

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Attn. Editor: 1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202

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NATIONAL □ INTERNATIONAL



WORLD BRIEFLY

Powell visits mass grave

By The Associated Press

HALABJA, Iraq — Secretary of State Colin Powell visited a mass grave Monday to highlight perhaps the single biggest human-rights abuse of Saddam Hussein's brutal regime — the chemical weapons murder of some 5,000 people in March 1988.

Powell flew here from Baghdad to take part in the formal dedication of a memorial and museum to commemorate those who lost their lives here 15 years ago.

Powell traveled in a military C-130 transport aircraft to Kirkut, then transferred to a helicopter, flying over dusty plains and barren hills to get to this Kurdish-dominated town.

The Halabja massacre has been cited repeatedly by President Bush as an example of Saddam's brutality.

It was here that Saddam took revenge on the population for its perceived backing of Iran during the Iran-Iraq war, bombing them with cyanide gas.

Powell described impressive moves toward self-government.

He said the United States is committed to having Iraqis run their government, but wants to cede power after a "deliberative process" rather than the early transfer advocated by some fellow members of the U.N. Security Council.

The poor unite, refuse to be pressured

By The Associated Press

CANCUN, Mexico — Poor nations united and claimed a new voice in global trade talks, even as their refusal to be pressured by rich nations contributed to the collapse of a crucial World Trade Organization meeting.

Mexican Foreign Secretary Luis Ernesto Derbez called a halt Sunday to five days of negotiations among the WTO's 146 members, arguing that an agreement was impossible.

"I don't think we have to beat around the bush. Cancun has failed," EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said. "This is not only a blow for the WTO, but a loss for all of us."

The talks will now return to diplomats at the WTO's Geneva headquarters.

The WTO talks covered a wide range of issues, including reducing farm subsidies and tariffs. But the meeting collapsed because members couldn't agree whether to start a series of new negotiations on topics like rules for foreign investment and competition. The European Union wanted the issues, but several develop-

ing countries refused.

Democrats strategize on GOP plans

By The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Democratic lawmakers were holding their breath to see whether Sen. John Whitmire attends the latest legislative session, a decision that could make or break their strategy to once again block GOP redistricting plans.

The latest round in a bitter fight over the composition of Texas' delegation to the U.S. Capitol was scheduled to start Monday when lawmakers open their third special legislative session.

Several Democratic senators said they would wait and see if Whitmire showed up for the session before they returned to the Capitol. His presence is crucial if Democrats hope to continue denying Republicans a quorum — the two-thirds of members needed to pass bills.

"We assume that he will, but there are some who believe that he won't. I believe that he will," said Sen. Judith Zaffirini, speaking on behalf of her fellow Democrats.

"The fight is now in the legislative arena," she said.

At issue is the shape of the state's congressional districts. Currently, Democrats have a 17-15 majority in Texas' congressional delegation. The GOP's redistricting plan could give Republicans as many as 21 seats.

New Indiana governor ready to work

By The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana's newest governor has his plate full following the death of his predecessor, though lawmakers hope Gov. Joe Kernan won't need time to get up to speed on pressing issues including a growing budget deficit and a property tax overhaul.

"It's not someone who has been sitting on the sidelines," House Speaker Patrick Bauer, a fellow Democrat, said Sunday. "He has been in the game."

In the last two years, Kernan, who became lieutenant governor in 1997, was the late Gov. Frank O'Bannon's point man on pushing major tax-restructuring and economic-development packages through a divided General Assembly.

Kernan, sworn in as governor six hours after O'Bannon's death Saturday, declared Sunday a statewide day of remembrance in honor of O'Bannon. Kernan remained out of the public eye in preparation for the week ahead.

Plans were pending for public funeral services this weekend in O'Bannon's hometown of Corydon in south-

ern Indiana.

Kernan, 57, must choose someone to take over his job as lieutenant governor and persuade the Democrat-led House and Republican-ruled Senate to ratify his choice by a majority vote.

Isabel closely watched

By The Associated Press

MIAMI — Hurricane Isabel weakened slightly early Monday but still packed powerful Category 4 winds as it swept across the Atlantic Ocean on a course that could slam it into the mid-Atlantic Coast later this week.

Computer models showed that weather conditions over the East Coast should prevent Isabel from turning back out to sea and missing land, hurricane specialist Stacy Stewart said. Forecasters warned officials from the Carolinas into the Northeast to closely monitor the storm's progress.

Models showed the storm weakening during the next four days but hitting the East Coast — somewhere between North Carolina and New Jersey — with 130 mph winds late Wednesday into early Thursday, said Krissy Williams, a meteorologist with the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

Some East Coast residents were already preparing for the worst.

In Washington, D.C., emergency officials were working on acquiring additional sandbags, and planned to meet with other department and critical services leaders Monday.

Forecaster Miles Lawrence of the National Hurricane Center added that dangerous surf conditions will affect the southeastern United States for the next several days.

Bush speaks about clean air

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush chose a coal-fired power plant to argue that his administration's efforts to clean the air will also increase the nation's energy production and boost its economy.

Bush was traveling Monday to a Detroit Edison power generator in Monroe, Mich., to take a tour and promote his administration's air pollution policies.

A senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Bush would focus his remarks on a stalled legislative proposal to cut power plants emissions that are the major sources for two kinds of dirty air, while touting the benefits of other changes already in place.

It was Bush's 11th trip as president to Michigan, a key state he lost to Democrat Al Gore in 2000.

From there, for the 22nd time, Bush was to visit Pennsylvania, another populous state he lost, to add to his \$63 million in 2004 re-election cash with a fund-raising appearance in the Philadelphia suburb of Drexel Hill.

Teacher sues, alleges dismissal over 'disrespectful' poetry

BY LESLIE HOFFMAN

Associated Press Writer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — A former Rio Rancho High School humanities teacher sued the school district Monday, alleging his contract was not renewed because of student poetry that administrators felt was "disrespectful" of the education establishment and the U.S. military.

The lawsuit, filed in state District Court, alleges Bill Nevins' First Amendment rights to free speech were violated and seeks his reinstatement as coach of the school's poetry group, said Eric Sirotkin, Nevins' attorney.

Nevins also wants Rio Rancho Public Schools to establish a policy protecting freedom of speech for teachers and students, Sirotkin said.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages "that would deter this from happening in the future," Sirotkin said.

Named as plaintiffs in the lawsuit are the school district, Superintendent Sue Cleveland, principal Gary Tripp and assistant principal Sue Passell.

The school officials and Kim Vesely, school district spokeswoman, declined to comment on details of Nevins'

case, saying it was a personnel matter. But Vesely said the personnel issues "are not related to any freedom of speech issues or the reading or writing of any poetry by our students."

Nevins alleged Passell told him his classes were not meeting educational standards and that the students "were showing a lack of respect."

Nevins worked as a humanities teacher at the school from September 2001 to May 2003, becoming the leader of the school's poetry team and writing club last September. He said he encouraged members of the club to read their poetry publicly.

Nevins contends problems began last December when an assistant principal visited his class twice during so-called poetry slams, or performances when students read their poetry aloud.

In February, Nevins alleged Passell told him his classes were not meeting educational standards and that the students "were showing a lack of respect."

Later that month, one of Nevins' students read a poem over the school's closed-circuit television system. The poem included critiques of the U.S. government, the military and the educational system, the lawsuit said.

The school's military liaison complained to Tripp about the poem's content, calling it "disrespectful speech," the lawsuit said.

Nevins said Tripp failed to process a transfer form despite repeated requests, and several weeks later placed him on paid leave without explanation.

Nevins alleges school officials then began screening students' poetry to be read at community events and passed a rule banning the reading of poems over the school's intercom. Some of his own poetry questioning war was published in March in a newsletter.

In April, school officials recommended that Nevins not be rehired. He received notice in May that his contract would not be renewed.

Nevins now teaches at an Albuquerque charter school.

DID YOU KNOW?: So far, GENE AUTRY is the only entertainer to have five stars on Hollywood's "Walk of Fame"... one in each of the five categories: Film, TV, recording, radio, theater.

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



by KERN & PARTY LEBENT



By Dave Whammond



By Russ Wallace



By Dave Coverly



By THOMAS JOSEPH

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9.16

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Primus ready to set sail for the 'Tour de Fromage'

By The Associated Press

■ **NEW YORK** — Primus will sail the seas of cheese again when they reunite to go on tour.

The "Tour de Fromage" of the United States and Canada is scheduled to begin Oct. 14 in Davis, Calif., and end Nov. 23 in Toronto. The title is a takeoff on the funk-rock trio's 1991 album "Sailing the Seas of Cheese," which they'll perform in its entirety at each concert, along with other songs.

The band said their Oct. 31 show at The Warfield in their hometown of San Francisco sold out in 20 minutes.

"It's amazing to me the response we've had for this upcoming tour. Tickets are blowing out," singer-bassist Les Claypool said in a recent statement. "The hype around these shows is something I haven't seen in the history of Primus."

The tour coincides with the Oct. 7 release of their new CD/DVD, "Animals Should Not Try to Act Like People." For the first time in seven years, audiences can see the original lineup of Claypool, guitarist Larry LaLonde and drummer Tim Alexander, who left the band in 1996.

■ **DENVER** — Writer W. Bruce Cameron always thought his best lines were funnier coming out of John Ritter's mouth.

Now, Cameron is mourning the death of the actor who played him on the ABC series "8 Simple Rules ... for Dating My Teenage Daughter," which is based on Cameron's best-selling book.

"It was absolutely devastating," Cameron said by telephone from his home in Santa Monica. "He was always so supportive of me and my book."

The writer recalled Saturday that several good actors were considered for the father's role when the show premiered last year.

"But when John Ritter's name came up that was instantly the best choice as far as I was concerned," he

said. "I love my daughters, and the key for the show was to capture that sensibility."

"I try to put my foot down but they have me wrapped around their fingers. I thought it worked out great. The dad who thinks he is in control is always the last to know."

Cameron's book was published after he wrote a popular column on the same topic that first ran in Denver's Rocky Mountain News. Eventually, ABC came calling with an idea for a sitcom.

He said when he met Ritter, who died Thursday at 54 of a rare tear in his aorta, the actor asked him for columns to study. The two men saw each other often, and Cameron said Ritter would give him hugs and buy lunch.

■ **LITTLE ROCK, Ark.** — Now everyone can eat like former President Bill Clinton.

"The Clinton Presidential Center Cookbook" includes 250 recipes and is currently on sale to raise funds for the foundation building Clinton's presidential library.

Co-author Shannon Butler tracked down celebrities, politicians and former White House workers to fill out a 264-page book featuring entrees, side dishes and desserts.

Included in the book are Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's chocolate chip cookies, Bill Clinton's chicken enchiladas, Elizabeth Taylor's spicy chicken and Barbra Streisand's Southern lemon ice box pie.

"This dessert was made for a luncheon on August 13, 2000, that we had on our front yard for President Clinton," said a note from Streisand that accompanied the recipe. Many of the recipes are accompanied by personal notes.

The cookbook was released Friday and is currently available only by direct mail and through the Clinton Library's Web site. The \$35 cost includes \$15 as a tax-deductible contribution to the foundation.

But beware: Butler, the associate director of the Clinton Presidential Foundation, describes herself as the daughter of a former caterer who learned only the basics about cooking.

"I avoid the kitchen whenever possible," she said.

■ **SANTA MARIA** — Michael Jackson hosted a fund-raiser at his Neverland Ranch with a celebrity invitation list that included boxer Mike Tyson and musicians Patti LaBelle and Boyz II Men.

About 700 people were invited Saturday and paid \$5,000 to attend. The proceeds were to go to Make-A-Wish Foundation, Oneness, and E Ai Como E Que Fica, a Rio de Janeiro organization that provide food, clothing and medical care for poor children.

Fans outside the ranch gates traveled as far away as Denmark and Croatia to catch a glimpse of Jackson and other celebrities.

"I'm here to show love and support for Michael," said Tea Kos, 23, president of the Michael Jackson fan club for Bosnia, Croatia, Slovenia and Serbia.

"I'm a fan, but not a fanatic," said Jay-Kid, a 13-year-old Michael Jackson look-and-sound alike. "Michael has always been a big part of my life. My own songs will come later."

■ **HOMOSASSA SPRINGS, Fla.** — Actor John Lithgow is singing the praises of the Florida manatee.

Lithgow was at Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park on Saturday reading and singing to hundreds of children, parents and fans. He was visiting to promote his fourth and newest children's book, "I'm a Manatee."

The Save the Manatee Club made Lithgow an adoptive parent of Rosie, the biggest manatee in the park, about 58 miles north of Tampa. After the performance, many waited in a long line through heavy rain to get their books signed by Lithgow.

"You are so lucky because you live on the west coast of Florida, where there are lots and lots of manatees," Lithgow told the children. "Most of the kids in the country don't know about manatees and how wonderful they are."

Lithgow said he got the idea for the book a few years ago, when he was giving a concert for children at an Ohio zoo. When it started to rain, he and others huddled in the manatee house for cover.

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