

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

36, 18, 7, 3, 29

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 7, 2, 9

Evening picks: 5, 1, 3

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 11, Money Bags

2nd Place: 9, Winning Spirit

3rd Place: 12, Lucky Charms

Race Time: 1:48.35



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Robin Wilkinson, a 19-year veteran prosecutor who resigned after being charged with DUI, said her main defense would be that, at the time of the traffic stop, police did not tell her that she had the right to an attorney (Orlando, Fla., August). And an accountant was charged with embezzling \$170,000 from his employer (a local union) and explained that he gave it all to a female assistant for three years' worth of oral sex (New York City).



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Roses are red, violets are blue, I'm a schizophrenic and so am I."

— Frank Cow



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Be happy, Cancer 2



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John Wood/Daily Press

Top: Workmen construct a ramp off the Santa Monica Pier Thursday for Saturday's Flügtag event, which means 'flying day' in Austrian. Organizers expect thousands of people to converge on the beach to watch pilots fly their man-made machines into the ocean.

Bottom: From left to right: Hooters bartender John Grello, manager Scott Leslie and general manager Sean Richards pose in their flying machine outside of Hooters on Santa Monica Boulevard. Leslie will pilot the machine, called 'Hot Wing 1.'

From flying to food: The pier will have it all

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

In what is expected to be one of the busiest weekends on the Santa Monica Pier in years, men and women catapulting themselves off the north fishing deck in crude, man-made machines is sure to take center stage.

New and unique to the pier, Flügtag, hosted by Red Bull on Saturday, features fearless amateur pilots attempting to fly human-powered machines as far as they

See FLÜGTAG, page 7

Taste this ...

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

Sampling the menus of the best restaurants in Santa Monica would normally take days and hundreds, if not, thousands of dollars.

But at the Taste of Santa Monica, it'll only take five hours and 30 bucks.

Sunday at the Santa Monica Pier will be a day filled with food,

See TASTES, page 7

Promenade, Grove: Imitation the best form of flattery

Officials: Keeping customers means staying on top of the competition

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

With the success of the Third Street Promenade over the last decade, its competitors have both modeled themselves after it and built upon its failures.

One shopping area — the Grove off Fairfax Avenue in Los Angeles — is often referred to as a primary competitor by business owners and officials who run downtown Santa Monica. They wonder how much the Grove cuts into Santa Monica's marketshare.

In recent years, the Grove has

"A woman with children, I think, feels much safer at the Grove."

— RICK CARUSO
Shopping mall owner

taken customers away from the Promenade because it offers the same popular outdoor shopping experience without the drawbacks inherent to a public setting.

While the Nordstrom-anchored Grove is a private mall with a deep-pocketed parent company,

See COMPETITION, page 6

Cops make the big move

Operations temporarily set up in City Hall

By Daily Press staff

The new public safety facility will officially open for business on Monday, officials said.

Personnel from the Santa Monica Police Department spent most of this week packing up their offices. They plan to report to work in the new building next week. Movers will begin hauling boxes and furniture this weekend.

While the SMPD moves, police operations that require 24-hour services — like the watch commander, records section and front desk — will be moved to the lobby of City Hall over the weekend so no service will be interrupted, said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega.

"It'll be business as usual," he said.

However, not all of the new building will be open — the jail will remain empty for a couple of more weeks while the SMPD waits for the Department of Justice to formally sign off on the new accommodations. During that time, prisoners will remain in the

old jail, Fabrega said.

Close to 500 city employees will occupy the new building, which cost about \$66 million. The grand opening and community celebration for the facility was held on Aug. 27.

"It'll be business as usual."

— LT. FRANK FABREGA
SMPD

The complex behind City Hall will replace the 50-year-old police building, which will allow all of the city's emergency personnel to operate under one roof. Both the police and fire departments have expanded significantly over the past five decades, which has forced employees to work in crowded spaces or in satellite offices throughout the city, officials say.

What's to become of the old building, which is attached to City Hall, remains unclear. Some have suggested that it be demolished and replaced with open space.

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, September 19, 2003:

Lady Luck drops in on you, taking you in a new direction. You might be most pleased by what comes down your path this year. Others work with you to get much more of what you want out of life. By stating your desires, you're on the way to making them real. Allow your friends to pitch in more often. Your ability to network also draws success in whatever area that is important to you. Caring flows, though you might spend way too much in order to let others know how you care. You are likely to make a commitment to a group or organization. If you are single, someone of significance will enter your life toward late spring or summer. If you are attached, you find that socializing more will draw the two of you together. Also consider making a commitment to a cause you both care about. CANCER cheers you on.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Your excessive concern with an associate or a co-worker might touch this person but also could be easily misread. You need to be as clear as possible. Work flows if you go with the moment. Tonight: Happy as can be.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Keep reaching out for those around you. At the same time, clear your desk and return your messages. You could receive delightful news from a child or a new friend. Your imagination and humor help associates relax. Tonight: Out doing the Friday-night thing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Your expenses easily could get out of whack. Realize more of what you want. A family member goes out of his or her way to make you feel good. Check out a property investment with care; this opportunity might not be too good to be true. Tonight: Treat yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You have a way that draws others to you. Sort through your many goals, knowing full well what you want. You have the ability to harness your drive and the willpower to make what you want happen. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Slow down and take your time. What you might be feeling about a money matter could change if you listen to your inner voice. Don't worry so much; keep extending yourself toward others. You find that a positive attitude goes far. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Meetings and especially groups prove to be unusually successful for you. Encourage others to join in and help you. Teamwork makes you a sure winner. Extremes surround an expenditure and/or feelings. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Answer to a boss and/or be willing to take a leadership role. Your intuitive nature helps you follow through on what is important. You might go overboard letting someone know how much you admire him or her. Tonight: Take a superior or a parent seriously.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Reach out to another you haven't heard from in a while. You could be overly sensitive at the moment, so it might be important for you to detach some and not trigger because of what someone says. Think positively. Tonight: Take off ASAP.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Deal individually with those you care about. You might be quite touched by a friend and his or her efforts. Try your hardest, as someone might have a difficult time hearing your ideas. You command attention. Tonight: Go for togetherness. Help a loved one feel secure.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You might want more feedback from a partner. You could find that this person is withholding from you on some level. Rather than react, kick back. You'll have the kind of perspective that makes you much happier. Tonight: Say "yes," even if you find another a touch difficult.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Your job will be to get things done. You could be overwhelmed by what gets tossed on your plate. A talk with a trusted associate helps you weed your way through the problem. You appreciate the insight and feedback. Tonight: Do something relaxing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Others come forward and have such strong, positive feelings that you barely know what to do. Just respond. You'll like what happens as a result. If you're available, your ability to network yourself into unavailability could be amazing! Tonight: Play up a storm.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL

A 'dance' at the beach



Photo courtesy of Rob Hoover

Actress and dancer Noelle North performs 'Dance of the Sea Spirit' recently at the Church of Scientology's second annual 'Joy of Creating' event at Bay Street. About 80 church members participated in the event, which began with free surf lessons by organizer and surf club president Rob Hoover. The crowd then picked up trash along the beach and built numerous sand castles.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

State coastal cleanup day this weekend

By Daily Press staff

While thousands are expected to flock to the beach on Saturday for the first-ever Flüttag event on the Santa Monica Pier (see page one), hundreds of people are expected to be cleaning the same area.

The 19th annual California Coastal Cleanup Day, an international event in 90 countries and all 50 states, will take place in Santa Monica from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. Six beach sites at designated lifeguard towers have been selected in Santa Monica, including towers 4, 8, 14, 20, 24 and 27.

There will be free parking for volunteers in assigned beach lots, which are:

Tower 4: Lot 10, 445 PCH

Tower 8: Lot 8, 810 PCH

Tower 14: Lot 4S, 2030 Barnard Way

Tower 20: Lot 4S, 2030 Barnard Way

Tower 24: Lot 4S, 4030 Barnard Way

Tower 27: Lot 5S, 2600 Barnard Way

Tell the parking attendant you are a cleanup volunteer for free parking.

Co-op to help Farmers Market victims

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica's homegrown natural food grocer next weekend will donate 2 percent of its sales to the victims of the July 16 Farmers Market tragedy, which involved an 86-year-old man driving through a crowded downtown street, killing 10 and injuring close to 80 people.

On Sept. 27, Co-Opportunity, 1525 Broadway, will donate its proceeds to the Santa Monica Victim's Assistance Fund, which was set up by the chamber of commerce and has raised more than \$150,000 since July.

"The Co-op's employees, members and board members and shoppers alike were



The surf will begin to pick up today. It won't be a whole lot right at first but it will add some size throughout the day. The S-SW'er will build throughout the weekend and mix with consistent WNW-NW local windswell.

OUTLOOK: The SW pulse strengthens slowly through the weekend and peaks on the 21st and 22nd with surf in the 3-5' range.

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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personally affected by this tragedy," said Will Simon, the Co-op's general manager. "Our collective shock has worn off a bit now and we're hoping to refresh and renew our community's concern in extending their continued support for the victims and the victims' families of this tragedy, whose lives may never be the same again, no matter how much time passes."

Hotel helps Girl Scouts

By Daily Press staff

A local hotel recently came to the rescue when local Girl Scouts sought certification in CPR and first aid but didn't have a place to train.

So the Santa Monica Sheraton Four Points Hotel bucked up and gave the group a free meeting room for the day. As a result, eight new people are certified in adult and child CPR, and first aid.

Those interested in taking one of the regularly scheduled CPR and first aid classes through the American Red Cross can call (310) 394-3773 or visit redcrossofsantamonica.org.

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OPINION

The Q-Line

City government responsible for state of Santa Monica

After a longtime restaurant on the Santa Monica Pier was replaced by Bubba Gump Shrimp it prompted this week's Q-Line question:

"Do the city's politicians do enough to keep locally owned businesses here? What should be done?"

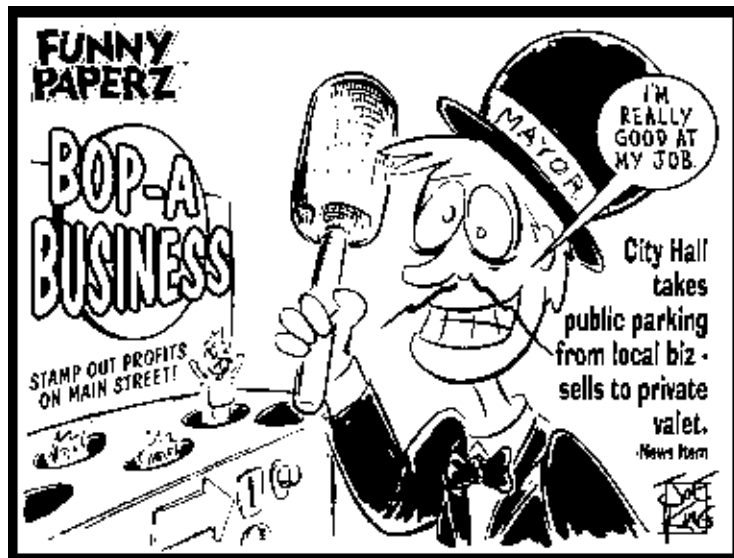
Here are your responses:

■ "The 50-year-old Boathouse restaurant should never have been booted off the Santa Monica Pier and given to Bubba Gump Shrimp, which was the worst thing that ever happened. Also, all the locally owned businesses that were on the Promenade have all disappeared. All we get are expensive, company-owned stores where most of the people in Santa Monica can't afford to go to.

Something should be done with the City Council in this city. Michael Feinstein should be impeached, recalled, or anything to get him out of there. He is the worst city councilman we ever had."

■ "Because of the worsening vagrant population, many businesses and long-term, good citizens are gradually begin-

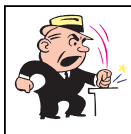
See Q-LINE, page 5



Member: AAEC, NCS, SCS, SCS --

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The dumb, dumber and even more dumb in SM



MY WRITE

By Bill Bauer

THE DUMB

One of the dumb events last week was a presentation to the combined Planning Commission and Architectural Review Board by Boris Dramov of the ROMA Design Group, the San Francisco-based design group de jour for most of the major urban planning projects in the city.

In a classic "close the barn door after the horses are out" move, the city hired ROMA to suggest new design standards for the downtown area. Dramov's presentation concerned the predominantly residential area just east of the downtown business district — a neighborhood that has recently been built out.

Although much of the area is dominated by new five-floor market rate apartments and condos, mostly from developer Craig Jones, Dramov recommended raising height limits and creating larger, noisy, claustrophobic, interior courtyards by reducing private balconies and side setbacks in new construction.

Dramov advised that reducing on-site parking requirements would result in

lower construction costs passed on to the consumer, promote more affordable housing and positively effect livability and the environment.

Dramov thinks there's plenty of available street parking to accompany resident overflow, visitors and nearby businesses. The problem is there's a critical shortage of street parking in the area and reducing on-site parking for new buildings will exacerbate the problem. This is not a way to achieve urban livability and harmony.

Dramov then predicted that this, along with narrowing streets and widening sidewalks, would "encourage alternate transportation means."

The incredible part was listening to the — well, B.S. With statements like "savings in construction costs could be passed along to tenants" and "everyone's in favor of increasing density downtown," Dramov was piling it on thick.

My favorite ROMA-speak is that taller, six floor buildings will result in "more innovative building types of a higher quality." Sure. And, I've got a bridge in Brooklyn for sale.

The last time I heard anything this ridiculous was about a dozen years ago when another overpaid consultant hired to "redo" Montana Avenue revealed he found 36 additional spots for metered parking on Montana. His embarrassment was palpable when he was informed that

the potential parking spaces found were bus stops.

The ROMA Design Group also is the design consultant for the controversial Civic Center Master Plan. This, too has been loudly and extensively criticized by many residents as flawed — with recommendations that fly in the face of logic and community livability.

However, Dramov is smart like a fox. He only has to play to City Council members and he knows what they want to hear.

Another public meeting will be held on Oct. 29. Final recommendations will be forwarded to the City Council for action.

If ROMA's design recommendations are adopted, expect higher and denser development, a lot less parking, narrower streets, even more gridlocked traffic and an extremely uninviting and flawed environment to live in, shop in or visit.

THE DUMBER

The Gov. Gray Davis administration is running a \$38 billion state deficit this year. When he took office five years ago, there was a \$13 billion surplus.

I guess this all kinda snuck up on the good governor and the legislature — the latter, which according to a recent field poll, has a paltry 19 percent approval rate among California voters.

Davis gutted educational funding, plunging the Santa Monica/Malibu

Unified School District further into debt by adding another approximately \$5 million to its shortfall and cut millions in community college operating funds, resulting in numerous program eliminations and layoffs at Santa Monica College.

Then, the governor diverted millions in state funding previously allocated to cities, thus causing our city's deficit to soar to \$18 million.

His fiscal incompetence has resulted in hard times, economic chaos and substantially higher taxes — the recent school parcel tax increase — for all of us.

So what do partisan community leaders — I'm talking Democrats, here — do? They open a "no on recall" campaign office.

What are Santa Monica Democratic Club president and planning commissioner, Julie Lopez Dad, former Rent Control Board chair, Delores Press and other leading, local Democrats thinking? Maybe they aren't.

Have they all forgot how, as captain of the ship, Gov. Gray Davis has run us onto an iceberg and we're sinking in a frigid sea of red ink?

But, it gets even dumber-er. How about the democratic group's endorsement of "No recall, vote for Bustamante" Isn't that kind like having your cake and eating it, too?

(Bill Bauer is a longtime Santa Monica resident and a freelance writer.)

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

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OPINION



The Q-Line

Q-LINE, from page 4

ning to leave Santa Monica. Get rid of the filthy, panhandling vagrants and maybe the shoppers and diners will return and businesses will prosper again. Did they ever think of that? I know there are other problems here. Hassles with City Hall permits and taxes and whatever, but I think the vagrant problem is a significant problem."

■ "Sears-Roebuck, Hot-Dog-On-a-Stick, and the Merry-go-round are the only businesses left in the downtown and pier area that have been there for ages. Now that the commercial rents in the Santa Monica area are so very expensive, it is difficult for small businesses to survive. Still, any entity opening a business on the Santa Monica Pier should understand that the pier caters to hard-working, blue-class workers. Whether they will find a high-tone restaurant such as Bubba Gump Shrimp to their liking will remain to be seen."

■ "I don't know if the politicians, so-called politicians, or city government do enough to keep locally-owned business here, but I haven't seen any effort here on the part of small, locally-owned businesses to help each other and strengthen their ability to survive. I know that independent book stores, nationwide, have been doing that and it's helped some of them resist being put out of business by big chains. If this attitude doesn't change, I don't know what the city government could do about it. I support locally owned businesses. I wish that locally owned businesses would do more to support themselves. By that I don't mean support themselves by making more money, but supporting each other by understanding their situation and working together to improve it. We don't need all these giant chains in Santa Monica. It will change Santa Monica into some other place entirely. The business people need to educate themselves and learn how to get along with each other and get something going so that when they go to City Hall, they can go with a plan that they already know will work."

■ "An answer to this week's question: No. 1, the rents in Santa Monica for small businesses are very high, especially in the Promenade. No. 2, Santa Monica is overrun with homeless. On the Promenade, no matter what day of the week or time that you go, you find that the homeless have their rear ends plopped all over the benches, laying down — you name it, they're doing it. This discourages tourists and the resi-

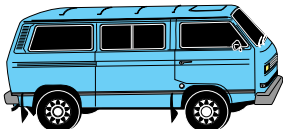
dents of Santa Monica from shopping on the Promenade. They don't have the problem with the homeless, so much, on Montana because it's an upscale area. But around the downtown area, it's terrible. I've lived in Santa Monica for two and a half years and haven't seen Santa Monica do anything about the homeless. They need to clamp down on this. If they do, maybe they'll get the smaller businesses back."

■ "The politicians are practicing their usual double-speak, giving lip service to locally owned business and then throwing them out in favor of large, money-making chains. My family really sympathizes with the owner of the Boathouse, or late owner of the Boathouse. They were emotionally attached to the business, and didn't overcharge, and we're going to miss the Boathouse. We've been packing that by for 45 years and I think it's a sad commentary that we're all becoming cookie-cutter businesses down there. Once there was talk about changing the tourist office into the shape of a dolphin, and it gave me the idea: How about putting a large fence around Santa Monica and charging admission? Maybe residents would then be recompensated for putting up with all the traffic, hordes of tourists, lack of parking, parking tickets, higher prices for everything, etc. Anyway, let's not vote these politicians back in again. Someone is responsible."

■ "I have some information that I'm a little frustrated about, as a Santa Monica resident. I've lived in Santa Monica my whole life; I shop at a local lumber store here, Fisher Lumber, as well as a building materials store here, Borge Brothers. My brother is a contractor here in Santa Monica and we understand that Fisher Lumber is going out of business. It's the only lumber business here in Santa Monica, without going to the West LA area, from my understanding. We also heard that the Borge Brothers were going to be picking up the lumber business from Fisher Lumber. However, after talking to the folks at Borge Brothers, they're not sure that that's going to go through because the city of Santa Monica is not moving on giving them proper permits for what they need to do to create an adequate lumber yard. We're kind of bewildered by this because here in Santa Monica there will be no lumber once Fisher is gone. Borge Brothers is willing to take over that business, from our understanding, but they can't because the city of Santa Monica is not moving on a permit. So, just a perfect example of how businesses that have been here for decades are not being supported by our city politicians."

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LOCAL

Grove has more control than Promenade does

COMPETITION, from page 1

the Promenade is mix of businesses on a public street. That means less money for marketing, and bigger problems with parking, homelessness and regulating the influx of chain retailers.

City officials and local business owners keep close tabs on the Promenade's competitors because millions of dollars in revenue for City Hall is at stake — 1 percent of all taxable sales wind up in city coffers.

Consumers have a choice of where to shop, and the two malls — which are similar in a number of ways — both heavily compete for their dollars. Both are set up along an outdoor street. Both feature live music, top-notch restaurants, movie theaters and a mix of retail outlets. Both have Farmers Markets.

But while the Grove has a sanitized feel, the Promenade has a more eclectic character, officials say.

"We're not spit-shined," said Kathleen Rawson, executive director of the Bayside District Corp., a nonprofit that runs downtown with City Hall. "We have an urban reality that you don't see in other places."

"Because this is a public space, you have as many challenges as opportunities, that's for sure," she added.

As the Promenade moves towards its 15th year, officials say the biggest issues facing the three-block mall are homelessness and the lack of cleanliness, as well as parking and traffic issues and balancing the mix of retail and restaurants. Another major issue Bayside officials and merchants have complained about are the filthy alleys that serve as the Promenade's main access point from the parking garages.

Officials have addressed the homelessness issues through new legislation now being enforced that make it illegal to camp in business doorways or distribute food to large groups in nearby parks. They've also asked for more money for lighting on outlying streets and other improvements. Meanwhile, City Hall promises to expand and upgrade the parking structures downtown.

Bayside spends about \$500,000 on marketing out of its \$897,000 annual budget.

Rick Caruso, founder and CEO of Caruso Affiliated Holdings, which owns the Grove, declined to say how much the Grove spends on marketing or what its annual budget is, but said that most of the money is spent on magazine advertisements. The ads target families, households with high incomes, tourists, and the movie and studio industries.

There is not a single vacancy in the 50-plus shops at the Grove, despite the laggard economy. Meanwhile, the Promenade, which has more than 80 stores, has two vacancies — the old UCLA building and what was once Hennessy and Ingalls — and another four properties that are vacant but rented.

At 440,000 square feet, the Promenade is quite a bit smaller than the 575,000-square-foot Grove. Restaurants make up about 28 percent in both malls.

Rawson said 20,000 to 30,000 people visit the Promenade each day, on average. The Grove, on the other hand, attracted 16 million last year, an average of 44,000 a day, Caruso said.

"Third Street Promenade is a great street, but it can get very seedy on the weekends and the evenings," Caruso said. "A woman with children, I think, feels

much safer at the Grove."

Ruth Elwell, a member of the Bayside board and a local business owner, said the Promenade can learn a few lessons from the Grove. But she said the Promenade has the potential to be a much stronger destination because it's situated in the heart of Santa Monica, with the Pacific Ocean just blocks away and plenty of room for growth onto neighboring streets.

"It's an 18-hour destination. And having people within walking distance is going to strengthen that even more."

— KATHLEEN RAWSON

Executive director,
Bayside District Corp.

"I've been to the Grove, they've done a nice job," said Elwell, adding that it seems safer and cleaner than the Promenade. "But they can hardly match our facilities. When the tourists, when they come into this town, they love the city, they love the position — they don't like the panhandling."

Promotional documents say the 17-acre Grove, which opened in March of last year, has an "authentic feel and sense of permanence that usually emanates only from places that have evolved over time."

But while the Grove will stay virtually unchanged in the coming decades because of its physical constraints, Bayside officials said foot traffic on the Promenade will increasingly spill onto neighboring streets, where new developments are adding housing and merchant space. The overall effect will make downtown even more attractive to shoppers, officials hope.

Rawson said she is watching closely the design standards being discussed in City Hall and that she one day hopes for a connected downtown with solid pedestrian flow from the beach up to Seventh Street. She also said that the movie theaters, which are becoming outdated as technology improves, will need to be remodeled.

"It's an 18-hour destination," Rawson said. "And having people within walking distance is going to strengthen that even more."

But Caruso said the Promenade will always have a tougher time with some issues because it is public. He pointed to a new law that limits the storefronts of new merchants on the Promenade with the aim of encouraging smaller businesses downtown.

"We have the advantage that we control the whole property," he said. "The City (of Santa Monica) doesn't have that advantage and, frankly, their problems are more complicated because they don't have that control."

"The local merchant in my opinion always adds the most flavor and intrigue of any of the merchants because they're on the property — they personalize it, they make it feel more like your part of town. It's like knowing the shopkeeper when you go there. And that's a problem the Promenade has."

LOCAL



Take flight at the SM pier

FLÜGTAG, from page 1

can before plunging into the Pacific Ocean. Event organizers of Flügtag, which means "Flying Day" in Austrian, expect as many as 50,000 people to watch from the beach just north of the pier.

Among the 32 teams selected in Southern California, two are Santa Monica-based, including the Hooters Restaurant, 321 Santa Monica Blvd., and "Duff Blimp," a group of entertainment industry workers.

Hooters' flying machine is a chicken wing called "Hot Wing One" and is made with a three-wheeled tricycle covered by styrofoam and shrink wrap. The chicken wing is made of copper tubing, said its builder Scott Leslie. Hooters bartender John Grello designed the machine.

Leslie isn't too concerned about how far he'll go — one of the categories judges look at — but just that he lands safely.

"I'm worried about going straight down," he said. "Anyone who is worried about flying distance should be disqualified because you would need a parachute."

Since its debut in Austria in 1991, the idea of flying hand-made machines into bodies of water has spread like wildfire. From Ireland to San Francisco, inspired pilots have come out of the woodwork to construct their own outrageous crafts. And while the flights have yet to set any records, the showmanship has been unparalleled.

Teams will fly down a ramp 60 feet long by 30 feet wide, set up on the western edge of the pier that will send the pilots off the north fishing deck before they fly through the air and drop as much as 22 feet into the Pacific Ocean.

"This is the first time we're doing it in the ocean," said Red Bull spokeswoman Jessica Mandoki.

Teams consist of five people — one pilot and four who will push the machine down the ramp.

Admission is free, and for those who can't make it onto the pier, there will be two large screens set up on the beach showing the live action. Gates open at 10 a.m. on Saturday, starting with a live DJ spinning music and the Lakers girls dancing. The Red Bull skydiving team will then take a leap before the event takes off.

Parking is free at 28th Street and Ocean Park Boulevard, where a shuttle will take spectators to the pier. Free valet bike parking will be available near the event.

Flügtag, which takes its first flight at precisely 11:38 a.m. and runs until 4:30 p.m., is exactly the type of action the pier has been looking for, said Ben Franz-Knight, executive director of the Pier Restoration Corp., which manages the pier. He said he hopes that Flügtag and Taste of Santa Monica become permanent fixtures at the pier.

"We hope these sorts of activities continue," he said. "It's certainly going to be one of the biggest weekends of the year."

Taste of Santa Monica on tap

TASTES, from page 1

drink and entertainment. The event will feature 36 local restaurants that will prepare specialty dishes that range from duck confit, shrimp and papaya salad, Hawaiian style barbecue ribs, Korean fire chicken and caramelized banana tart.

Food lovers can eat to their heart's content and learn some tips and techniques for preparing gourmet cuisine from culinary experts representing some of the best restaurants Santa Monica has to offer.

"We have some of the best restaurants in the world," said Kathryn Dodson, executive director of the chamber of commerce, which is hosting the event. "This is kind of a microcosm of Santa Monica."

Professional culinary art instructor Chef Hailey Nghyen and some of Santa Monica's finest chefs will attempt to dazzle tastegobers with culinary demonstrations throughout the day. The demonstrations are developed to inspire the crowd, and to give novice gastronomes basic instruction so they can try recreating the menus at home.

"We have some tantalizing presentations and charismatic chefs slated for the demo stage," Dodson said. "I advise all

home-chefs to bring their notepads and cameras. We're having a lot of fun putting the event together and expect the crowd will enjoy the show."

Last year was the first time the chamber held the event, which had 24 booths and attracted 600 people. This year will have 42 booths and the event will be capped at 2,500 people. Half of the tickets have been sold and Dodson expects the other half will be sold at the event.

"We capped it so it can be a great event for everyone ... it's not about cramming a bunch of people in and making a ton of money," Dodson said. "We want it to be high quality and make it a signature event."

The sounds by Os Bohemos and the voices of the New Directions choir will fill the air while patrons savor food from the most recognized restaurants in Santa Monica.

Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$20 for students and \$10 for children ages 4 through 10. Ticket price includes all food. There is an additional charge for soda, water and alcoholic beverages. Tickets are available at www.tasteofsantamonica.com or (310) 393 9825, ext. 16.

The event, which runs from noon to 5 p.m., includes the following restaurants:

Acadie Hand Crafted
French Crepes
Bistro 31
Blue Forest Bakery
Bravo Cucina and Bravo
Pizzeria
Buca di Beppo
Cezanne @ LeMerigot Hotel
Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf
Coral Tree Café
Duke's Malibu
El Cholo
Fairmont Miramar Hotel

Gladstone's Malibu
Hooters
i Cugini Restaurant
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La Vecchia Cucina
La Serenata de Garibaldi
Library Alehouse
The Lobster
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Loews, Santa Monica
Beach Hotel
Louise's Trattoria
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Entertainment

‘Secondhand Lions’ is nothing more than ordinary

Review

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Haley Joel Osment, the young star of “Secondhand Lions,” is in an awkward place. The 10-year-old kid who wowed everyone with his performance in “The Sixth Sense” is now a few years older and stuck between an Oscar nomination (for mak-

ing us all believe he could really see dead people) and a hard place (puberty). The transition from child star to adult actor is never an easy one, and as his too-tightly-wound turn in “Secondhand Lions” demonstrates, Osment’s journey won’t be any exception. While he was appropriately creepy in “Sixth Sense” and to a lesser degree “AI,” he’s unintentionally creepy this time around — repeatedly pursing his lips and narrowing his eyes in an attempt to convey emotion that instead gives the impression he’s constipated. Fortunately for him and his new movie, a pair of the best ever — Oscar winners Michael Caine and Robert Duvall — pitch in to make “Secondhand Lions” a somewhat palatable coming-of-age tale.

Osment plays Walter, a 14-year-old kid in the early 1960s whose gold-digging mother (Kyra Sedgwick) dumps him at the Texas ranch of his eccentric great uncles Hub (Duvall) and Garth (Caine) McCaan on her way to find a husband in Las Vegas. It isn’t long before

the kid discovers that these mysterious, gruff old would-be farmers have a wildly adventurous past. As Garth, the more accessible of the two, spins yarns about the brothers’ exploits, we’re transported (via flashbacks) to exotic lands with sheiks and swordfights and beautiful princesses. Along the way, Walter learns the value of chivalry and honor, and the old men rediscover their zest for life. The message is a good one, but it’s delivered with an overdose of sentimentality. Writer-director Tim McCanlies (who penned the screenplay for the animated feature “The Iron Giant”) has a great deal of fun with the flashback sequences, but struggles to develop the relationship between the boy and his crusty keepers. From beginning

to teary-eyed end, it all feels too artificial, partly because the script is a little thin, mostly because Osment can’t hold up his end of the bargain. As hard as Duvall and Caine try to push this unwieldy family fare along, the old hands can’t quite advance “Secondhand Lions” beyond the ordinary.

(Rated PG for thematic material, language and action violence.)



Robert Duvall talks about Canadians, politics and his film, ‘Secondhand Lions’

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Oscar-winning actor Robert Duvall has starred in some of the most popular films of all-time, including the first two installments of “The Godfather” trilogy and “Apocalypse Now.” He’s been nominated by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences an impressive six times and took home the Best Actor hardware for 1983’s “Tender Mercies.” Duvall’s most recent credits include “Gods & Generals,” “John Q” and “Open Range.” His latest film, “Secondhand Lions,” opens Friday.

Question: You were quoted as saying you’re sick of making movies in Canada, which raised the ire of our neighbors to the north. What brought on the anti-Canuck stance?

Robert Duvall: I got in trouble, right, for saying I don’t like working in Canada. They jumped on me, these Canadians. But I would rather work here. They wanted to do “Secondhand Lions” in Canada, and I said if they did it there, I wasn’t doing it. I just finished doing the other one (“Open Range”) in Canada, which was great — in Alberta. But “Secondhand Lions” is a Texas movie, and you make a movie about Texas in Texas. At least,



that’s what I think anyway.

Q: Your character in “Secondhand Lions,” Hub, isn’t one to walk away from a fight. Same goes with the cattleman you played in “Open Range.” Have you had much personal experience as far as mixing it up?

RD: No, I kind of stay away from

brawls and stuff like that. It’s play-acting. Fiction.

Q: You’re an avowed conservative. That makes you kind of an anomaly in Hollywood, doesn’t it?

RD: It’s a funny thing. So often when these guys (in Hollywood) spout off, a lot of whom are liberals, I get very embarrassed. It’s all emotion, it seems like. I’d rather put more faith in Secretary of State Colin Powell than Secretary of State Sean Penn, if you know what I mean? (laughs)

Q: What about Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger?

RD: I don’t know. Why not? The guy’s game. He’s got his wife whispering in his ear, whether that’s good or bad, I don’t know. As a team, maybe they’ll do OK. Who knows? I don’t live (in LA) but I guess things are in a pretty bad state. The only celebrity I think is refreshing and who I listen to is Dennis Miller. That guy’s hilarious, and I happen to agree with a lot of what he says. I love that guy.

Q: Would you be interested in running for office someday?

RD: No, no, no. I don’t even know what the rules of order are. I wouldn’t want to be in politics, no. Actors should do what they do, and politicians should do what they do.

What’s playing

By Dan Dunn

MATCHSTICK MEN

An evocatively honest look at the dishonest lives of two con men, featuring stellar performances by Nicolas Cage and Sam Rockwell.

ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

There is no shortage of entertaining, eye-popping pyrotechnics and hyper-kinetic fight sequences, but what this film is sorely lacking is a sense of clarity.

DICKIE ROBERTS: FORMER CHILD STAR

Has a lot in common with star David Spade’s filmography: It shows early promise, but quickly degenerates into an unfunny mess.

THIRTEEN

Grabbed the top director’s prize at the 2003 Sundance Film Festival, and deservedly so. This is one of the most compelling films of the year.

JEEPERS CREEPERS 2

Relies on far too many stale clichés. The result is a film that is as lifeless as, well, most of the cast is by film’s end.

AMERICAN SPLENDOR

Based on the cult-classic comic book series of the same name, the film is funny and sad and disheveled and, most of all, it’s us. In his first go as a leading man, Paul Giamatti just flat-out nails it.

STEP INTO LIQUID

Whether you’re a SoCal beach bum or a mainland who doesn’t know a point break from a coffee break, you’ll likely enjoy this exciting, beautifully crafted love letter to surfing.

THE MEDALLION

The only thing missing from all the new, well-appointed multiplexes are barf bags for use in case of unexpected turbulence or films such as “The Medallion.”

OPEN RANGE

Boasts enough eye-popping scenery and well-choreographed gun battles to make it one of the better westerns in recent memory.

What’s playing

continued

THE MAGDALENE SISTERS

Powerful and thought-provoking tale of three young women imprisoned inside a convent in 1960s Ireland.

FREDDY VS. JASON

For fans of the series, both of which lost their luster roundabout their 16th or 17th installment, the film is likely to be the ultimate letdown.

S.W.A.T.

With a compelling story, strong characters and a plethora of gritty action sequences, the film is a vast improvement over the mediocre television series that spawned it.

FREAKY FRIDAY

This remake strives to be a little more inventive than the 1977 original, and with the help of Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan succeeds to a large degree.

AMERICAN WEDDING

Doesn’t succeed like its predecessors, but it’s a serviceable send-off to one of the more likable film franchises of the past decade.

SEABISCUIT

A nice film that makes the heart swell with patriotic pride and nostalgia, while the head marvels at the depth and complexity of some truly wonderful performances.

SPY KIDS 3-D: GAME OVER

A muddled special effects spectacle that invites you to play along with the game, and hopes you forget that you actually paid to see a movie.

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

Without a doubt the best Big Screen adaptation of a theme park ride ever, this film goes a long way toward redeeming Disney for the sin that was “The Country Bears” movie.

DID YOU KNOW?: Indian comic actress Manorama has played the most leading roles of any performer in movie history. She began her career in 1958 and in 1985 had appeared in her 1,000th movie.

ENTERTAINMENT



Ricci gets two thumbs, 'Anything Else' ranks average

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

It's easy to appreciate a new Woody Allen film in these CGI-happy times, when good character sketches are as hard to come by as a leading lady with hips. That's why "Anything Else," which stars the trimmed-down yet (thankfully) still curvaceous Christina Ricci, gets two thumbs up (courtesy of my left and right hands) even though, as Allen flicks go, it ranks in the middle of the pack with the likes of "Mighty Aphrodite" and "Small Time Crooks."

Ricci plays Amanda, a provocative wanna-be actress in — where else? — Manhattan, who bewitches a budding young comedy writer named Jerry Falk (Jason Biggs). Jerry's a real pushover, beset by a number of destructive relationships that he cannot bring himself to walk away from. He timidly endures Amanda's incessant cheating, a bumbling shyster of a manager (Danny DeVito) and a therapist who, in three years, has yet to offer a single word of advice. The nebbishy Jerry represents one half of the Woody Allen persona. The other manifests itself in Jerry's

closest confidant, comedy writer David Dobel (Allen himself), a conspiracy theorist with an expansive vocabulary and a large gun collection. Dobel takes it upon himself to motivate Jerry to become his own man, free from the dysfunctional ties that bind him. The scenes of Dobel dispensing counsel such as "Never trust a naked busdriver" are often hilarious, as well they should be, since Allen shamelessly pilfered some of the gags from his earlier, most successful, work.

There's still a respectable audience for Allen's films, but in recent years the ranks of the faithful have dwindled. There are an assortment of valid explanations for the decline, one being that as he's gotten older, the filmmaker's characters have become increasingly saturnine, and as a result, harder to embrace. It's a critique that applies here. The players in "Anything Else" will make you laugh some, and think a little, but they won't go out of their way to make you like them very much.

(Rated R for a scene of drug use and some sexual references. Running time: 108 minutes)



CULINARY BRIEFS



Culinary students cook up charity

By Daily Press staff

The graduating students from the Westlake Culinary Institute in Westlake Village, Calif. will cook up their specialties this weekend and raise funds for the victims injured in the July 16 Farmers Market tragedy.

The Westlake Culinary Institute on Sunday will hold their graduating banquet at the Lavande Restaurant in the Loews Hotel, 1700 Ocean Ave. For \$70, guests will enjoy an eight-course dinner with accompanying wines beginning at 5 p.m. during a cocktail hour. A graduation ceremony will end the evening beginning at 9 p.m.

Students from all over Southern California gathered together for the past six months under the supervision of Cecilia DeCastro. In addition to creating recipes for Wolfgang Puck's television show, DeCastro has taught the professional cooking series at the Westlake Culinary Institute for the past 15 years.

For more information call (818) 730-0444 or Jill Hymas (805) 241-1626.

Wine dinner on tap in Venice

By Daily Press staff

Co-owners and co-chefs Brooke Williamson and Nick Roberts of Amuse Café, the quintessential neighborhood restaurant in Venice, 796 Main Street, offers monthly wine dinners that introduce their patrons to premium small-scale wineries from all over the world. The kick off to the monthly wine dinners will be on Monday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. with Rich Frank, owner of Frank Family Vineyards and former President of Walt Disney Studios. Guests will have the opportunity to taste Frank Family Vineyards' top rated chardonnay and cabernet sauvignon and sample their small lot productions of Zinfandel and Blanc de Noirs.

What's for dinner:

- Assorted passed Hors d'oeuvres
- Frank Family Vineyards Blanc de Noirs, NV
- Lavender glazed scallops with watercress and grapefruit emulsion
- Frank Family Vineyards Napa Valley Chardonnay, 2000
- Duck confit ravioli with mustard greens, black cherries and figs
- Frank Family Vineyards Napa Valley Zinfandel, 2001
- Tournado of beef with cremini mushroom, fingerling potato and cabernet ragout
- Frank Family Vineyards Rutherford Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, 1998
- Bittersweet chocolate panna cotta with spiced cream and hazelnut brittle
- Napa Cellars Late Harvest Zinfandel

Cost:

\$75 per person (not including tax and gratuity)

Upcoming wine dinners at Amuse Café include:

- Sunday, Oct. 26 — A sake dinner. The five-course menu of modern American bistro cuisine demonstrates how to pair sake with more than just sushi or tempura.
- Monday, Nov. 24 — Crichton Hall Vineyards of Sonoma featuring award-winning European-style chardonnay, pinot noir, and their own Bordeaux blend called reflexion.

Call (310) 450-1956 for reservations and more information. Seating is limited.

Music Scene

Woody Guthrie tribute brings singer's life back to his roots

By Daily Press staff

The Woody Guthrie Show — a tribute to the songwriter, folklorist and labor leader — returns to the Will Geer Theatrum Botanicum in Topanga next weekend.

The spirit of Woody Guthrie is brought to life through his own words and music in the annual event performed by members of the Geer family and their friends, including Peter Alsop, Ellen Geer, Thad Geer, Wally High, Laura Kass, Melora Marshall and Linda Wilcox.

Developed and often performed by Theatrum founder Will Geer along with family and friends, The Woody Guthrie Show paints a musical portrait of the self-described "rambling man from Oklahoma." The tribute is built upon songs such as "Pastures of Plenty," "Worried Man," "Union Maid" and "This Land is My Land," and incorporates selections from published and unpublished writings of the seminal American artist who was considered a member of the Geer family.

The relationship between Woody Guthrie and the family began in the late 1930s in California, when the musician met an equally impassioned young actor named Will Geer. Along with Geer's wife, Herta Ware, the pair performed together at union labor rallies and immigrant camps. When Will Geer got a job on Broadway in a production of Tobacco Road,

Guthrie joined them in New York where he met up with Pete Seeger and others who would be at the center of his musical and political activities for the rest of his life. Guthrie lived some of his last years on the Theatrum property in Topanga, in what today remains "Woody's Shack." He often gave informal concerts there.

Woody Guthrie's life was filled with battles, inspiration, idealism and almost unimaginable losses.

"I hate a song that makes you think that you are not any good; I hate a song that makes you think that you are just born to lose," Guthrie once said. "I am out to sing songs that will prove to you that this is your world and that if it has hit you pretty hard and knocked you for a dozen loops, no matter what color, what size you are, how you are built, I am out to sing the songs that make you take pride in yourself and in your work."

The Woody Guthrie Show takes place on Sunday, Sept. 28 at 12:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15; children ages 7-13 are \$10; children 6 and under are free. The Will Geer Theatrum Botanicum is located at 1419 North Topanga Canyon Blvd. in Topanga, midway between Malibu and the San Fernando Valley. For tickets and information, call (310) 455-3723.

The amphitheater is terraced into the hillside of the rustic canyon, so audience members are advised to dress casually and bring cushions for the stadium seating. The Botanicum Café serves snacks, salads and sandwiches, and picnickers are welcome on the grounds before or after the performances.

Attention wine lovers:

Maybe you've been to a restaurant and had an awesome wine but you either can't remember what it was, or you figured you'd never be able to afford it. Red wines come in many variations, varietals and prices. With all of the varietals, you can find an amazing wine for under \$20 — yes even Cabernet Sauvignon and Bordeaux.

So, we've found a sommelier who understands that concept and applies it to today's vast selection of wines from around the world. And yes, some of them are French.

WINE PICK OF THE WEEK

2000 Barbera d'Alba "Carolina," Cascina Val Del Prete

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Price: \$25-\$30

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STATE

Immigrants chasing American dream changes the face of Los Angeles

BY JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press Writer

TEMPLE CITY — He was pursuing the American dream when he joined the rush of Asian immigrants to Los Angeles County in the 1980s, says Jason Chen as he prepares for another rush — of lunchtime customers to his noodle house.

"My mother brought us here just for a better life, I guess," said Chen, 32, as he, his mother and their employees prepared a variety of dim sum, rice and noodle dishes, and exotic Asian drinks at their Quality and Quantity Kitchen late Wednesday morning.

Then, laughing sheepishly, he added: "Isn't that what everybody says?"

Indeed, waves of dream chasers like Chen, who have helped transform several cities like this one into booming Asian-American suburbs, have made Los Angeles County one of the most diverse areas in the nation.

The state's most populous county now has the fastest growing population of Asians and Hispanics, as well as the largest population of American Indians and Alaskan natives found anywhere in the United States, according to census figures released Thursday.

The increase in the two years tracked since the last national census gave Los Angeles County 1.3 million Asians, 47,000 more than reported in 2000, according to the Census Bureau.

The area also had the largest number of Hispanics at 4.5 million and the largest numerical increase at 300,000, as well as the largest population of American Indians and Alaska natives at 156,000.

Other parts of the state also showed steady increases in their Asian populations, according to census officials, although their overall numbers do not match those found in Los Angeles County.

San Diego County's Asian population, for example, increased to 274,469 from 245,659 in 2000. Alameda County, in the San Francisco Bay area, saw its numbers rise from 301,225 to 327,017 during the same period. Orange County, with a burgeoning Vietnamese population, saw its number of Asians increase from 393,689 to 422,656.

In Los Angeles County, the Asian immigration wave, which includes Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean and other ethnic groups, has been building quietly for decades.

It first gained national attention when Monterey Park, located just over a hillside from downtown Los Angeles and not far from that city's Chinatown, became America's first Asian-majority city in the 1980s. The suburb of about 60,000 people, which was transformed during that time from a collection of blue-collar homes to an area known as Little Taipei, and later as the Chinese Beverly Hills, is now more than 60 percent Asian.

Chen, who lives in Baldwin Park, settled there when he arrived from Taiwan 20 years ago.

"Most people started in the Monterey Park area," he says of fellow Chinese immigrants. "That's where we had family and friends. That's where we could communicate in the beginning, until we learned English."

Many then fanned out east across the county's San Gabriel Valley, transforming suburbs like Temple City, Rosemead, San Gabriel, Alhambra, Diamond Bar and Arcadia into bustling areas of Asian-American commerce. Radio and cable TV stations now carry programs in various Asian languages and main streets are lined with Asian-run businesses, many hawkling Asian-language newspapers.

**"My mother brought us
here just for a better life,
I guess ... Isn't that what
everybody says?"**

— JASON CHEN
Asian immigrant

"Asians come here for three reasons," said Steve Lee, a Korean American who manages the repair shop at an Arco gas station in Arcadia, a city of about 53,000 whose Asian population nearly doubled to about 45 percent during the previous decade.

"There are lots of jobs. You can get a job as a cook or in a cleaners here right away. Then you can save and open a small business and have a better life," he added.

"And the third reason Asian people come here is for the schools," he said.

Arcadia's small school district has recorded some of the highest test scores in the state, according to state Department of Education statistics.

Other immigrants cited different reasons for settling and staying in Los Angeles County. Among them, the word that Asians are more welcome in metropolitan areas like New York and Los Angeles than the rest of the country and that, when all else is equal, Los Angeles wins out for better weather.

Charles Jin, who arrived from China in 1984 to attend college, says he enjoys living in an area where he regularly comes in contact with Hispanics, whites and blacks, as well as Asians.

At his dry cleaners in Temple City, he said, his customer base is so varied that he no longer addresses Asian people in Chinese unless he knows that's what they prefer.

"So many Asian people look so much alike that they could be Japanese or Korean or Chinese," he said. "So I speak to them all in English."

But while Jin says he'll never leave Los Angeles County, citing the weather and the friendly people, his son recently finished medical school in Louisiana and said he isn't coming back.

"He told me for the medical business it's kind of hard to find a job here now, so he'll probably stay back east," he said.

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STATE

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Candidates move ahead despite election uncertainty

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Arnold Schwarzenegger cast himself as a grateful immigrant citizen and Gov. Gray Davis emphasized his service as a Vietnam veteran Wednesday as the major figures in the California recall campaign pressed ahead amid uncertainty over when the election will be held.

Democratic Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante, the leading candidate to replace Davis, campaigned against an initiative that would restrict state collection of racial and ethnic data, and Republican state Sen. Tom McClintock, running third behind Schwarzenegger, espoused the virtues of local government control.

Bustamante and McClintock also joined Green Party candidate Peter Camejo and independent Arianna Huffington in a Los Angeles debate marked by the lieutenant governor's repeated attacks on Schwarzenegger for being absent.

Schwarzenegger, who plans to participate in one debate in which questions will be provided in advance, instead appeared on CNN's "Larry King Live." He dismissed the other debates as "little warm-ups" and asserted that he was going for "the Super Bowl of debates."

The candidates appeared unwilling to risk letting the campaign trail grow cold even though a federal appeals court panel ordered the Oct. 7 election postponed because some votes would be cast on problematic punch-card ballots. Efforts to get the court to rehear the issue were under way.

Voters getting fed up with recall election

By The Associated Press

IRVINE — At first, Rick Lowery followed the twists and turns of California's recall election, from its overwhelming number of candidates to its possible postponement, with dedicated interest.

But now, Lowery said he has begun to suffer information overload from the near-daily developments in the campaign to oust Gov. Gray Davis.

"At first, it was kind of a shake my head in disgusted disbelief," Lowery, 42, of Tustin said Wednesday. "Now, I have to put up with six more months of it? I would actually laugh if the whole thing wasn't deadly serious."

As voters wait to find out whether a federal appeals court will reverse its Monday ruling to postpone the Oct. 7 election, many say they are frustrated, confused or just plain tired of the roller coaster ride.

Registrar offices across the state have fielded thousands of voter inquiries; talk radio has been saturated with caller questions. Casual conversations often are often punctuated by head shakes and eye rolls at the latest developments.

Circle K employee sues boss over lottery ticket

By The Associated Press

POMONA — A former convenience store clerk is suing her boss, claiming he cheated her out of an \$8 million winning lottery ticket.

Jury selection has begun in the Superior Court suit by Arwa Farraj against the Circle K store chain and her former boss, Gurinder Ruby.

Farraj claims she bought a Quick Pick California SuperLotto ticket on Christmas Day in 1996 while working as a clerk at a La Verne store.

Ruby tricked her into believing the ticket was worth \$88, then cashed it in and received \$3.5 million after taxes, Farraj claims. She is seeking \$3.5 million damages.

Pierce O'Donnell, representing Circle K Stores, Inc., said his client "is not responsible for this alleged theft."

Ruby's attorney, Stanford Horn, said the jackpot belongs to his client.

"This started out as a dream on Christmas Day when he won the lottery," he said. "A month later it turned into a nightmare."

The days of walking to school are over

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Most California youngsters are driven to school by parents instead of walking or taking bicycles as they did a generation ago, a new study concluded.

Walking or biking account for only 16 percent of daily trips by California kids, while public transit accounts for just 1.5 percent, according to the study released Wednesday.

The safest form of transportation for children is school buses, according to the study, which cites data from the California Department of Transportation and the federal government.

While 54 percent of public school students nationwide rode buses to school in 2001, California school bus ridership fell to 16 percent.

"By and large, the folks that run transportation certainly have not had kids in mind as a customer," said James Corless, California director for the Surface Transportation Policy Project, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit group.

The two-year study was co-sponsored by the Transportation and Land Use Coalition and the Latino Issues Forum.

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NATIONAL



Treasury keeps rules allowing acceptance of Mexican IDs

BY SUZANNE GAMBOA
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Treasury Department said Thursday it will leave in place rules that allow banks to accept Mexican identification cards, called matricula consular, which often are used by undocumented immigrants to open accounts.

The decision, which extends to all foreign-issued identification, is considered a victory for immigration and Latino groups that have protested efforts to prohibit use of the identification card as anti-immigrant and anti-Hispanic. Financial institutions, too, had opposed any change in the rule.

Opponents say the cards are too fraud-prone and pose a risk to homeland security. Immigration opponents also have said the card acts as de facto amnesty for illegal immigrants.

The card is issued by Mexico's consulates to its citizens living abroad and shows the date of birth, a current photograph and the address of the card holder. Many of the cards have been issued to Mexicans in the United States, including those in the country illegally.

Cardholders have used them to open bank accounts, turn on utilities, check out library books, get drivers' licenses or

other basic services in some communities and states.

Treasury decided that under the existing rules, financial institutions bear the risk of failing to have an effective policy on what types of identification to accept. That risk acts as incentive for the institutions to adopt policies that will stem fraud, but still gives them flexibility to accept identification most used in their communities.

"When an institution decides to accept a particular form of identification, they must assess risks associated with that document and take whatever reasonable steps may be required to minimize that risk," the agency said in a statement.

The department still would hold financial institutions accountable for the effectiveness of their customer identification programs. And the agency will notify financial institutions of problems with specific identification documents that are accepted.

The department's decision comes after Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge told The Associated Press that banks and communities that accept the card for identification do so "at their peril" because the cards are not fraud-proof.

Although Mexico is improving the card's security, the FBI reported this summer that

the cards remain vulnerable to fraud.

But Steve Bartlett, president of the Financial Services Roundtable, said the Treasury decision is the right one because "there never was a valid argument to deny" acceptance of the cards.

"This is a triple win for rational thought. This is a win for the matricula, a win for the economy and a win for our close ally Mexico," said Bartlett, whose organization represents the 100 largest financial services companies.

Comment was not available from the Mexican Embassy in Washington. Many Washington offices were closed Thursday because of Hurricane Isabel.

Under pressure from Congress and the Justice Department, the Treasury

Department decided to review recently implemented rules for financial institutions on identification they can accept from people opening accounts. The rules were mandated by the U.S. Patriot Act, passed into law after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The Mexican IDs still are under review by a White House-led panel.

Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, said the decision would strengthen calls in Congress to ban or restrict acceptance of the card.

"It allows a de facto creeping amnesty to take place without the White House having to sign its name to it," said Krikorian, whose center supports restricting immigration.

Bush Administration backs off on Alaska oil drilling

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House is easing away from insisting that Congress open an Alaska wildlife refuge to oil drilling after the president was told by lawmakers the issue could doom energy legislation.

President Bush, after meeting with legislators involved in the energy talks, said Wednesday he wanted a bill "that will pass both bodies" — the House and Senate. He said the White House would work with those trying to resolve "contentious" issues such as drilling in the Alaska refuge.

To the lawmakers present, it was a clear signal that the White House is willing to accept energy legislation without a provision to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil development, according to congressional sources close to the negotiations.

Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., said he and the other lawmakers made clear to the president "we're not going to let ANWR defeat a comprehensive energy bill."

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NATIONAL

Bush blames Yasser Arafat for peace breakdown

BY TERENCE HUNT

AP White House Correspondent

CAMP DAVID, Md. — President Bush told Palestinians on Thursday that they must have a leader who fights terror if they want peace. He said Yasser Arafat “has failed as a leader” and blamed him for forcing the resignation of a prime minister committed to the peace process.

Bush said he does not expect a new U.S.-backed resolution on Iraqi reconstruction to be ready by the time he goes before the U.N. General Assembly next Tuesday.

“We’re still working it,” he told reporters as he met at the presidential retreat here with Jordan’s King Abdullah II, a vital ally in the Middle East.

The United States is seeking Security Council backing for a resolution that would clear the way for additional peace-keeping troops and money to finance Iraq’s reconstruction from other countries. Administration officials had hoped to have it ready by Bush’s U.N. appearance next Tuesday.

On Mideast peace efforts, Bush said he regretted that former Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas had been forced to resign. “At every turn he was undercut by the old order,” Bush said. He specifically noted that he was referring to Arafat.

“Hopefully, at some point in time, a leadership of the Palestinian Authority will emerge which will then commit itself 100 percent to fighting off terror,” Bush said.

The president noted that he had last met Abdullah three months ago in Aqaba, Jordan, when the king hosted a three-way summit among Bush, Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to launch a U.S.-backed “road map” to peace.

Abbas resigned Sept. 6 after power struggles with Arafat, who has hand-picked Prime Minister-designate Ahmed Qureia to succeed Abbas.

Abdullah praised Bush for the “strong genuine dedication you have shown” in attempting to get the peace process going.

“It took a lot of courage to come to the Middle East,” Abdullah said. “Unfortunately, there is a lull at the moment,” he added, speaking in English.

Bush and Abdullah talked to reporters in a helicopter hangar on the presidential retreat, seeking cover there from the approaching winds and rain of Hurricane Isabel.

Despite initial reluctance of other major countries to step forward with troops or money to help stabilize and rebuild Iraq, Bush said he was encouraged that some nations like Britain and Poland were leading multinational forces in Iraq.

Bush said he would “continue to make the case that reconstruction aid is necessary.”

Asked by a reporter if the new resolution would be ready in time for his U.N. appearance on Tuesday, Bush said, “No, I don’t think so. It could be. We’ll continue to work it, though.”

Bush said that the resolution “must promote an orderly transfer of sovereignty to what will be a freely elected government based upon a constitution.”

Later, Bush’s national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, suggested that the resolution could be completed later next week.

“There will be a lot of face time” at the U.N. gathering, she said. “We’ll have a lot of chance to talk with counterparts. And it seemed like a better idea than trying to press something forward now.”

Other world powers, including France, Germany and Russia, have resisted taking a more active role in Iraqi reconstruction in the absence of specific U.N. authorization, and a larger role for the international organization and for themselves.

Bush also will meet at the United Nations with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

Wolfgang Schauble, deputy chairman of the conservative opposition in the German Bundestag, said Thursday that the meeting could help bridge trans-Atlantic differences on Iraq, but only if Bush “shows he’s not going in a unilateral way.”

“You cannot have world order only through strength. The world is more complicated,” Schauble said in an interview with The Associated Press.

“We’re still working it.”

— GEORGE W. BUSH
U.S. President

The United States is attempting to define the terms of a more active U.N. role in Iraq amid rising American military casualties and a more expensive and more complex reconstruction effort than previously expected.

On the Middle East, Bush said: “Mr. Arafat has failed as a leader ... The people of the Palestinian territories must understand that if they want peace, they must have leadership who is absolutely 100 percent committed to fighting off terror.”

“I remain committed — solidly committed — to the vision of two states living side by side in peace and security. Yet that will only happen with new Palestinian leadership committed to fighting terror not compromised by terror,” he added.

Meanwhile, a political irritant arose to cloud the Bush-Abdullah session as the United States called on Jordan to restore its freeze on the bank accounts of six leaders of Hamas, an extremist group that has killed scores of Israelis with suicide bombings.

Jordan’s Central Bank retracted a decision this week that had frozen the accounts of six leaders of Hamas and five charities that allegedly funnel money to the group, a minister said Tuesday.

“Jordan has been an important ally in the war on terrorists, including the financial war on terrorism” State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Wednesday. “We urge the government of Jordan to restore its order to freeze the assets of these Hamas leaders and charities.”

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WORLD BRIEFLY

U.S. economy not holding up globe

By The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The U.S. economy is growing faster than expected but it won't be able to provide as much global stimulus as in the past because of soaring budget and trade deficits, the International Monetary Fund said Thursday.

Economic activity, which slowed in the United States from about mid-2002, began to regain momentum after the Iraq war in March-April with increased government spending, consumption and private investment, the IMF said in its biannual World Economic Outlook.

That recovery should continue into 2004 at a somewhat stronger pace than earlier expected, it said: 2.6 percent in 2003 and 3.9 percent in 2004. Those are up from the 2.2 percent and 3.6 percent forecast last April.

The IMF noted the costs related to Iraq would only worsen an already ballooning U.S. budget deficit, which it warned would offset the longer-term benefits of the Bush administration's tax cuts if sustained.

After registering the largest-ever budget surplus in 2000 — \$236 billion, or 2.4 percent of gross domestic product, and slightly less than half that in 2001 — the United States is expected to post a deficit of \$455 billion, or 4.2 percent of GDP, in 2003.

Grasso and his millions are gone

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Dick Grasso is gone, and his millions with him, leaving a new, almost certainly less extravagant and likely more public era for the New York Stock Exchange.

The chairman's decision to resign late Wednesday, a response to furor over the \$139.5 million payout he received last month, leaves the NYSE board of directors searching for a successor under the scrutiny of its members, critics and federal regulators, who want changes in how the world's richest market is run.

"Richard Grasso has done the right thing. He's fallen on his sword," said New York State Comptroller Alan Hevesi. "However, the issue is not just Mr. Grasso. The issue is making fundamental reforms at the stock exchange to restore investor confidence."

Hevesi and other state finance officials and pension managers had called for Grasso's resignation, joining an increasingly noisy chorus of politicians, investor advocates and traders who said his lavish salary undermined the credibility of the exchange, a not-for-profit, member-owned institution that also serves as a regulatory watchdog.

Bush makes effort to skirt controversy

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush, working to find common ground with allies on a new U.N. Iraq resolution, sought to dispel controversy about recent administration statements on Saddam Hussein and the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

Bush indicated the United States is not yet ready to present a revised resolution to other governments on the U.N. Security Council but is trying to accommodate some allies' demands for bigger roles in Iraq's reconstruction for themselves and the United Nations. "We're still talking about it," he said.

Later Wednesday, Bush flew to Camp David, Md., a day early because of the approach of Hurricane Isabel. He was hosting Jordan's King Abdullah II at the

Maryland mountain retreat for talks that had been scheduled for Thursday night and Friday morning. That period is exactly when the brunt of the storm was expected to reach the Washington area.

As Bush aides scrambled to move up the meetings to Thursday morning, a political irritant arose that could cloud the session designed as a treat for Abdullah, a vital White House ally in the Middle East. The Bush administration urged Jordan to restore its freeze on the bank accounts of six leaders of Hamas, an extremist group that has killed scores of Israelis with suicide bombings.

Democrats use Clark for posturing

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Wesley Clark's entry into the Democratic presidential primary is already proving advantageous, say congressional Democrats who argue that the retired four-star general's bid negates their image as soft on defense.

Several lawmakers interviewed said regardless of whether Clark wins the nomination, having him among the party's candidates increases their credibility on the military and foreign affairs.

"It's very bad for me as a Democrat to be tagged as somebody who doesn't support the military," said Rep. Baron Hill, D-Ind. "He takes that issue back for us."

Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., a decorated veteran of the Korean War who is backing Clark, said the former NATO supreme commander "is Teflon to the question of being a patriot."

Democrats "need someone who'll stand up with Bush and doesn't have to say, 'I'm as patriotic as you are, now let's debate the issues,'" Rangel said.

Rep. Marion Berry, a fellow Arkansas Democrat who is lining up support for Clark on Capitol Hill, said more than 30 members of Congress have told him they will back the former general. The only other Democratic presidential candidate who can match that is former House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt.

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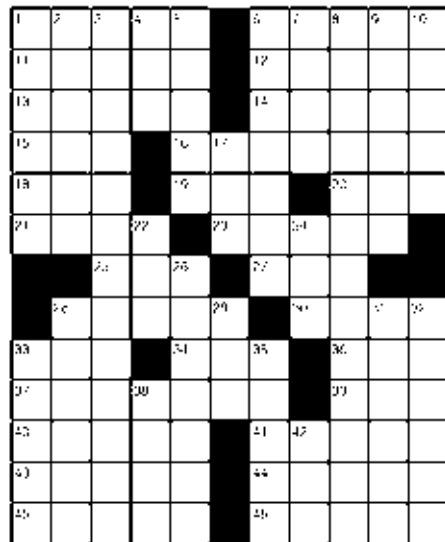
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Yesterday's answer

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Vatican: Mel Gibson's new movie won't offend Jews

By The Associated Press

■ **VATICAN CITY** — Mel Gibson's film "The Passion" has won another Vatican endorsement, with a top cardinal rejecting suggestions the movie may offend Jewish sensibilities and promote anti-Semitism.

"Anti-Semitism, like all forms of racism, distorts the truth by putting an entire race in a bad light. This film does nothing of the kind," Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos said in Thursday's La Stampa newspaper.

Many conservative Christians say the upcoming film powerfully depicts the last 12 hours of Jesus' life. But Jewish leaders say it suggests Jews were responsible for the death of Christ, which could trigger anti-Semitic attacks.

The Roman Catholic Church formally rejected Jewish culpability in Christ's death nearly 40 years ago.

Hoyos, a Colombian, is prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy and heads a Vatican commission that's trying to bring ultraconservatives back to the church. Gibson is a member of an ultraconservative Catholic movement.

"The Passion" is scheduled for release in the spring. Gibson, who directed and co-wrote the film, has defended it as faithful to the Gospels and said it's intended to "inspire, not offend."

The cardinal told La Stampa he saw an unfinished version of the film that Gibson brought to Rome recently.

"I felt moments of deep spiritual intimacy with Jesus Christ," Hoyos said.

U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, who heads the Vatican's social-communications office, told The Associated Press last week he hoped to show the film in the Vatican, and doubted that criticisms of the film were valid.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen will lead the Stockholm Chamber Orchestra at Friday's memorial service for slain Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh.

Lindh, 46, died last week after being stabbed in the abdomen, chest and arms at a crowded Stockholm department store. Like most Swedish politicians, she did not have a bodyguard.

Salonen left Wednesday for Stockholm to prepare the orchestra. He was the conductor of the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra from 1985-95 before joining the Philharmonic, said orchestra spokeswoman Sabrina Skacan. He also was a friend of the foreign minister.

Leaders from Britain, Finland, Norway and Denmark are expected at Lindh's memorial. Secretary of State Colin Powell had planned to attend, but canceled Thursday because of the threat of Hurricane Isabel to Washington.

Salonen will conduct soprano Anne Sofie Von Otter in a performance of Sibelius' "The Death of Melisande."

A private funeral was scheduled for Saturday.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — World champion figure skater Scott Hamilton has earned a new title: Dad.

His wife, Tracie, gave birth to the couple's first child late Tuesday, six years after Hamilton was successfully treated for testicular cancer.

Aidan McIntosh Hamilton weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces, according to a statement released by Hamilton's publicist, Michael Sterling.

"It was an entirely naturally conceived birth," Sterling said.

Hamilton, 45, is a four-time U.S. national champion, a four-time world champion and 1984 Olympic gold medalist. He is now a skating show producer and television commentator and has several upcoming TV specials.

Hamilton was diagnosed with cancer in 1997 and treated with surgery and chemotherapy. He created the nonprofit cancer foundation Scott CARES.

He married 33-year-old Tracie Hamilton, a former nutritionist, last December in Malibu. The couple has

homes in the Los Angeles suburb of Westlake Village and in Denver.

■ **NEW YORK** — Broadway has found its "Sister Eileen."

Jennifer Westfeldt will play Eileen Sherwood, the winsome ingenue in the revival of "Wonderful Town," opening on Broadway in November. Westfeldt is best known for playing the title character in the 2001 film "Kissing Jessica Stein," which she co-wrote.

The musical, with a score by Leonard Bernstein, Betty Comden and Adolph Green, is based on "My Sister Eileen," a collection of short stories by Ruth McKinney that appeared in The New Yorker. They follow two young women from Ohio who arrive in New York during the Depression.

In 1953, "Wonderful Town" was a big hit for Rosalind Russell. The revival, directed and choreographed by Kathleen Marshall, stars Donna Murphy as older sister Ruth. Preview performances begin Nov. 4 at the Al Hirschfeld Theatre, with an opening set for Nov. 23.

■ **DAYS CREEK, Ore.** — A Winston man told police he crashed his car after a bee flew into his mouth while he was singing along with Justin Timberlake's song "Rock Your Body" on the radio.

Douglas County Sheriff's spokeswoman Pam Frank said John L. Nunes, 19, was trying to get rid of the bee or yellowjacket when his car hit a tree.

"I kind of panicked and went off the road," Nunes said Wednesday.

His car went down a 15-foot embankment.

He was taken by ambulance to Mercy Medical Center in Roseburg.

"I had to get a stitch in my tongue, and I got a gash on my left ankle," Nunes said. The tongue injury was from his teeth, not the bee, he said.

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