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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Pleasures of the Educated Class: In July, Reuters profiled British mathematician (doctoral degree) Rosi Sexton, 26, on her avocation of "cage fighting" (using martial arts and near-mayhem tactics to beat opponents into submission), which she compares to chess; another cage fighter (a college professor), said the sport "requires good problem-solving skills and a good understanding of anatomy and body mechanics." Also in July, Doug Lenhart, who holds a doctorate in business administration, pleaded guilty in Pittsburgh to several charges for botching a castration, which he had performed on a consenting male-to-female transsexual.

■ Writing in the journal, "Pediatrics" (August 2004), Israeli physicians cautioned against a traditional form of circumcision in which blood is cleaned from the wound not by a suction device but by the circumciser's taking wine into his mouth and then sucking the blood from the wound. Researchers, led by Dr. Benjamin Gesundheit of Ben-Gurion University, found eight cases of infants having developed herpes from circumcisers' mouths.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I don't think anyone should write their autobiography until after they're dead."

SAMUEL GOLDWYN (1882-1974)

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Political divides separate police and fire choices

Police, fire associations make their endorsements

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

PUBLIC SAFETY BLDG. — For the first time in a decade, the local police and fire unions don't completely see eye to eye on who should run City Hall.

The politically powerful Police Officer's Association and the city's Firefighter's Association have announced which candidates they will back for four open City Council seats this fall. The police

prefer two incumbents and two challengers while the firefighters would rather have three incumbents and one challenger.

The POA will prop up incumbents Mayor Richard Bloom and City Councilman Ken Genser, as well as newcomers Bobby Shriver and Patricia Hoffman. However, the Firefighter's Association has thrown its support behind City Councilman Herb Katz instead of Hoffman. The Firefighter's Association also endorsed Bloom, Genser and Shriver.

The 200-member POA decided not to endorse Katz and Mike

See ENDORSEMENTS, page 5

Office seekers sign the 'CEPS' pledge

BY GENEVA WHITMARSH

Daily Press Staff Writer

MONTANA AVE. — Several City Council candidates pledged Monday to support a contract between City Hall and the school district that will secure at least \$6 million a year for local education.

All but two council candidates attended a candidate forum at Franklin Elementary School organized by "Community for

Excellent Public Schools," also known as CEPS.

Only one candidate — Kathryn Morea — hedged on the pledge, declining to sign the document. Morea is backed by the Chamber of Commerce, which supports city funding to local schools.

"I didn't sign the pledge because I was concerned that if I signed it before I was on City

See CEPS, page 6

Shooting suspect sought by police

By Daily Press staff

POLICE HDQRTS.

Police have released a sketch of the man believed to have shot a woman while walking in her Sunset Park neighborhood this past weekend.

The woman was released from a local hospital after she was shot in the right arm while walking in the 800 block of Pacific Street at 3:45 a.m. Sunday.



She told police that a man pulled up in a car and stopped next to her. He tried to talk to her and when she looked toward him, she saw him pointing a gun at her. While she was running away, the victim heard a loud pop and she realized that she'd been shot.

The suspect is described as a white male, possible European, in his late 20s to

See SUSPECT, page 6



Rob Schwenker/Daily Press

Glen Zucam of Rosemead (left) registers to vote after being recruited by Mathieu of San Francisco and Cory Mervis of New York, who drove to Santa Monica to get more people involved in the electoral process.

'Voterdrive' parks in Santa Monica

By Daily Press staff

PALISADES PARK — Cory Mervis drove 10,000 miles to make sure a complete stranger here votes in the upcoming election.

Actually, not just one stranger but 700 of them.

Mervis on Tuesday drove into Santa Monica via a decorated school bus, after driving across America to register voters, and encourage people to get involved in local and national issues. She followed a route across the country that spelled "VOTE" in 1,000-mile-tall letters.

The satellite-guided course the group followed, specifically designed to take them to many communities otherwise ignored in the national political process, spell the word "VOTE," making it the largest conceptual artwork in history. Mervis' group is capable of registering anyone in any state.

The American Bald Eagle bus, renovated by a team of artists in New York, cruised through 30 states and many more cities. At each stop, the crew rolled out an antique typewriter for people to comment on the issues that are important to them, which the team uploaded

to the Voterdrive.com Web site each day.

"The simple act of voting is one of the most powerful community actions we can take, yet many people are so frustrated with the political process that voting participation is at an all-time low," Mervis said. "We are doing something that is more than just voter registration — we're giving people a platform to express what is important to them."

The trip includes a former Manhattan marketing executive, a former political aide to both Republicans and Democrats, a ham radio operator and a master mechanic to keep them all on the road.

"One of the greatest challenges we face doesn't have anything to do with the bus or the drive — it's convincing people that we are absolutely non-partisan," Mervis said. "We all have our opinions on the issues, but above it all what brings us together is the desire to get people to re-engage in the democratic process."

The group left New York on July 22. It will now head back, making another loop and recruiting more citizens to the polls.

Jacquie Banks

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ You cannot skip away from your responsibilities. Asking for support or delegating doesn't work. Have a long-overdue discussion with a co-worker or a person involved in your daily life. Tonight: Let others find you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Work on approaching others in an even gentler manner, especially those you deal with daily. Walk in another's shoes, and you might be much less demanding. Detach and understand others better. Tonight: Rent a movie or choose another relaxing activity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You might feel that a partner or associate holds all the cards. Not so! It might serve you to let him or her think that way. Your amazing creativity and wit emerge this month, supporting a reversal. Tonight: Romp out the door. How 'bout a fall flirtation?

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Others dominate, and you understand the lay of the land. Unfortunately, pressure builds in the next few weeks, as your domestic life becomes far more demanding. You might simply have to say "no" to an activity or two. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Your old vavoom and charisma come out left and right this week. You ask, and others respond. A difficult moment could arise around a risk, child or new flirtation. Don't get caught up in the power play. Work and put in overtime if need be. Tonight: Choose an ultimately relaxing activity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Your happiness stems from a creative endeavor or a special relationship. Don't get caught up in family politics. You could be sorry. Meanwhile, start building your finances for the winter holidays. Yes, buy that item for you, too. Tonight: So frisky.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Despite innate tension, you come out soaring, as the Sun moves into your sign today. Deal with personal matters first, as they could be most troublesome. You might be overly worried about a letter or call. Tonight: Let go and share your feelings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You tell it like it is. Please, however, don't be surprised if someone becomes inordinately touchy or difficult. Don't allow money to get between you and a friendship. Keep the door open to talk and work through this hassle. Tonight: Run errands on the way home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★ Truthfully, you might be causing your own problems right now. You could get stuck on one point and decide to go to war over it. The end results might not be worth it, especially as an authority figure is involved. What an example of winning the battle but losing the war! Tonight: Your treat.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Zoom around all you want, but don't make any major decisions right now. You might be putting more of your energy into a situation than you need to. Focus on work. Avoid gossip. Tonight: What you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★ Continue to hold back. A friend might be causing you more of a problem than you had originally anticipated. Try to understand where he or she is coming from, as difficult as it might be. A conversation doesn't even make sense. Tonight: Vanish and do your thing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Partners could confuse you, especially about a business matter. You might not know which way to go. Keep conversations going. Talk to someone who has helped you before. Tonight: Make nice.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday

Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Newspapers honored for community service

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Elks and the Santa Monica Emblem Club last week presented a "Community Service Award" to the Santa Monica Daily Press for outstanding coverage of community events.

Bill Wittenburg, district deputy grand exalted ruler, was present to confirm the presentation. Doug Randall, exalted ruler, presented a plaque to editor Carolyn Sackariason.

Toni Broneau, immediate past president of the Santa Monica Emblem Club, presented a framed certificate.

Chairman Curt Curtiss said it was nice to have local newspapers that covered events in Santa Monica. The Elks and the Emblem Club also made presentations to The Argonaut, Blue Pacific and the California Crusader.

Future of healthcare a core concern

By Daily Press staff

Worried about your healthcare coverage?

Come learn about the healthcare issue before the upcoming elections at Santa Monica-UCLA. The Center for Humane and Ethical Medical Care at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center will sponsor a free community forum to promote greater discussion and understanding of the problem of uninsured Californians, and the pros and cons of healthcare legislation known as State Senate Bill 921.

Speakers will include Dr. E. Richard Brown, director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research; Dr. William Plested, chair of the board of directors of the American Medical Association; and Robin Podolsky, representing State Sen. Sheila Kuehl's office. Dr. Arthur Rivin, chair of the Center for Humane and Ethical Medical Care at Santa Monica-UCLA, will serve as moderator.

The event is called "Healthcare for all Californians," and will be held Wednesday, Sept. 29, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the community room of the Santa Monica YMCA, located at 1332 Sixth St. Free parking will be available in the facility's underground lot. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (310) 319-4189. Continuing medical-education credits are available to physicians attending the program.

Garage sale for the garden

By Daily Press staff

The local school district will hold a massive garage sale this weekend to benefit kids who will watch their gardens grow.

The "Holiday Decor Benefit Garage Sale" to benefit the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District school garden program will be held on Saturday, Sept. 25, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Proceeds of the sale will go to purchase educational materials for teachers that link gardening to the curriculum, and plants and garden materials for classroom beds throughout the district.

Brand new and used Halloween and Christmas decor will be on sale.

Students in Santa Monica and Malibu schools grow their own fresh vegetables to augment the locally grown farmers' market produce on the salad bars in their school lunch programs. The garage sale — without the garage — will raise funds to help keep the farmers' market salad bar school garden program self sufficient.

The sale will be held at John Adams Middle School, 2425 16th St.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2!



SURF REPORT

Today the gradually fading SSW swell (185-200) will still be good for chest- to shoulder-high waves for lots of exposed spots in the morning. Best breaks will continue to hit overhead on sets. Slow drop in size and consistency as the day goes on. The trend towards smaller surf persists through Thursday.

Spots without the good southerly exposure will definitely have the weaker waves Wednesday and they'll be averaging under waist high. Thursday stays down.

Expect 3 to 4 foot, waist- to shoulder-high, occasionally 7 feet and fair to good conditions.

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

Today the
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71°



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	5:30	1.7	6:55	0.7	12:01	4.3	11:54	5.7
SUNDAY	5:58	2.2	8:12	0.8	1:06	3.6	12:36	5.6
MONDAY	6:27	2.8	9:51	0.6	2:53	3.2	1:34	5.4
TUESDAY	N/A	N/A	11:23	0.3	N/A	N/A	3:00	5.3
WEDNESDAY	10:23	3.4	N/A	N/A	7:05	3.7	4:39	5.4
THURSDAY	12:29	-0.1	12:02	3.0	7:35	4.1	5:58	5.7
FRIDAY	1:19	-0.4	1:03	2.4	8:03	4.5	7:00	6.0

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The Q Line

Since the 1990s, Santa Monica City Hall has been closed to the public every other Friday. It's part of a statewide effort to reduce car trips — to cut down on pollution and traffic.

Several other cities also are part of the program, but practice it in different forms. In Santa Monica, employees are supposed to work 80 hours a week in nine days, with most taking the 10th day off. Other cities just reduce their staff levels and keep their services available on Fridays.

But staff are considering opening some

departments, like building and safety, to the public five days a week. The idea was proposed in a recent study looking at inefficiencies within City Hall, which also suggested customer service needs improvement.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do you think City Hall should be open five days a week? Why or why not?"

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

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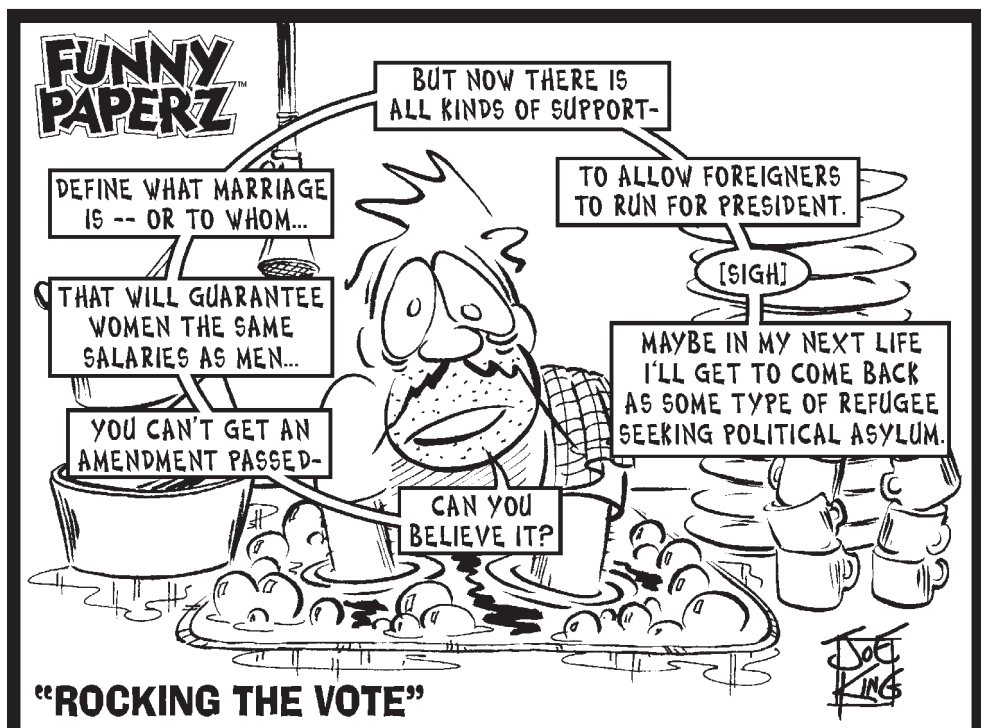
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OPINION



I'm an American dag-nabit! Doesn't that count for sumthin'?

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Home' needs no brand name

Editor:

I don't think Santa Monica has an identity crises to solve (SMDP, Sept. 20, page 1). This city is much too rich and too complex for a simple brand name or a logo. I decided a year ago to make it my "home of choice" after having lived in nearly a dozen countries for 35 years as a foreign correspondent, being a citizen and permanent resident of Zurich, Switzerland, I chose it not just because of its physical beauty and superb climate. Santa Monica must always have been special. Over half a century ago it was "home of choice" to such different men as Bertold Brecht, the Marxist writer, and Thomas Mann, the aristocrat (who probably would be labeled a progressive liberal nowadays). Klaus Mann, son of Thomas, and the German philosopher Adorno, mentor of the 68 student generation, felt comfortable here, as well as Arnold Schoenberg. Some of the spirit that drew those people to Santa Monica seems to be still alive today. I personally know of no other city that blends the best of America with the best of Europe. Where else do you find these sidewalks for pedestrians that let you discover every single neighborhood on foot? And to my friends in Europe who say, "as long as Bush is president we won't visit the USA any more" (there are not few of these Europeans nowadays) I answer: "Come and visit me in Santa Monica where Bush and Cheney seem not to have that many friends..." Some places in Southern France — Cote d'Azur — did have a similar quality of life. That was 30 or 50 years ago. It has been destroyed by greedy developers, sun worshippers and its own population. So let me conclude by asking all and everyone in this unique city: Please do take good care of it.

Karl Kranzle
Santa Monica

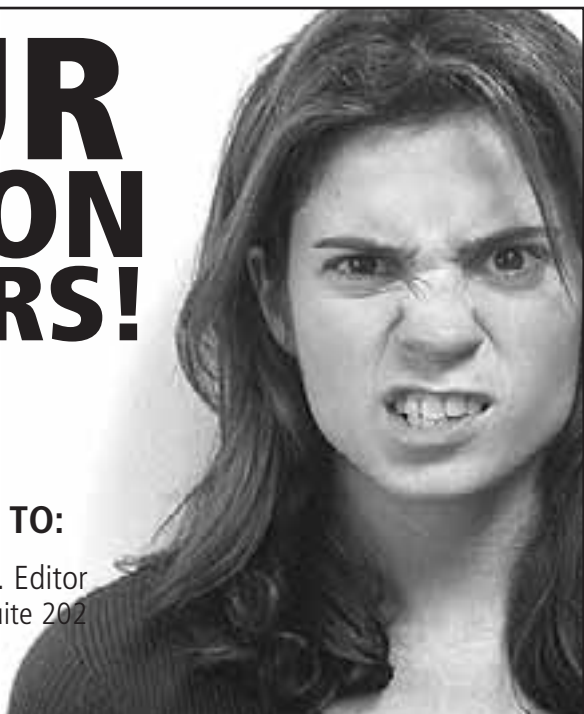
OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff.

Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to 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.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

PLEASE SEND LETTERS TO:

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The new American anti-semitism on display



INCITES

BY ED SILVERSTEIN

From beneath Stetson brims, squinting against the smoke drifting from dangled cigarettes, steely gazes follow the progress of a curly headed figure carrying a guitar, almost daring him to step onto the stage of this Tucson Country Western bar. Scant applause follows the introduction of Barat, a television host from Kazakhstan.

Nervously, in broken English, he informs the unwelcoming beer-swilling crowd that he will sing a song about the problems in his country. He sings, in a nasally twang, inane lyrics concerning how the transportation is slow in his country because Kazakhstan is big. The crowd begins to eye him as if he had just set fire to an American flag.

But in the next instant, as Barat sings his second verse, he finds his voice. And just like that, the crowd is his.

"In my country there is problem," he sings. "And that problem is the Jew. They take everybody's money. They never give it back." The audience begins to perk up. "Throw the Jew down the well. So my country can be free." A guy loudly echoes, "SO MY COUNTRY CAN BE FREE." "You must grab them by the horns. And have a big par-ty."

International relations — at least as far as these Tucson cowboy wannabes are concerned — have just taken a giant leap forward. And when Barat hits the next chorus of "Throw the Jew down the well," the crowd is clapping to the beat, singing right along and wagging their fingers alongside their temples as if they had horns.

What the crowd does not know is that Barat is none other than Jewish comedian Sasha Cohen. Cohen is the creative force and star behind the hit HBO series, Da Ali "G" Show, in which he takes on various personas in elaborate practical jokes designed to ridicule ignorance and extremism.

But watching this particular episode, while I appreciated Cohen's sardonic antics, I couldn't help feeling disturbed by the ease and enthusiasm in which the crowd participated.

Anti-semitism has experienced a cataclysmic rise throughout the world. A recent study showed a dramatic increase in attacks against Jews in Europe, specifically Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Britain. And though Muslims share much of the blame the main culprits, according to the BBC, are young, disaffected white Europeans.

These increased attacks are not surprising when you take into account that Jews have been victimized by a campaign of lies and propaganda every bit as vicious and scurrilous as the Swift Boat Commanders attacks against Kerry. The Arab media spews out a never-ending stream of hate that has blamed Israel and the Jews for everything from the war in Iraq to 9/11. Anti-semitic Internet sites have increased by 300 percent. The mainstream media, while better, seems unable

to extricate itself from the anti-Israel bias perpetrated by a UN that has allowed the dialog on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict to be hijacked by extremist Muslim countries.

But through it all, America seemed to remain an island of reason. Growing up, and until recently, I could count the anti-semitic remarks on one hand and still have a finger left to flip off anyone who said something in the future.

This is not to say that I wasn't aware that anti-semitism existed. My father, when he was held in a German prisoner of war camp, experienced more anti-semitism from his fellow American soldiers than his Nazi guards. And America has historically produced bumper crops of ignorance.

But for the past several decades, thanks to the civil rights movement of the '60s and the Vatican II that renounced many entrenched anti-Jewish beliefs, such hatred had dissipated. A majority of Americans even elected a Jewish vice president in the last election. But all of this is beginning to change.

Some of the fault goes to bigoted right wing pundits, such as Rush Limbaugh, who blame all of America's moral ills on "those Jews who control Hollywood," even as they canonize Republicans who have made a religion of dirty tricks and breaking the rules.

Mel Gibson's film, "The Passion," a sadistic and brutal portrayal of the crucifixion, also deserves blame for this rise of hatred. Gibson egregiously ignores the historical record and the advice of theological scholars by depicting the Jewish priests as the architects of Christ's murder rather than servants doing the dirty work of Rome. Gibson, who is the son of a rabid anti-semitic, has stated that all Jews will go to Hell.

President Bush, who has pushed a Christian first agenda, also has made the statement that all Jews will go to Hell, as have many of the Christian right politicians that support him.

And while Limbaugh's bigoted stereotyping, Gibson's Jew bashing and Bush's Christian chauvinism might only provoke a few direct attacks against Jews, it makes it more acceptable to openly denigrate the Jewish people.

And dredging up long rejected allegations that the Jews killed Jesus and the insistence, no matter how gravely or reluctantly stated, that all Jews are going to Hell, creates a mind set in which Jews are cast as villains.

It is time for President Bush and other American leaders to divorce themselves from such insensitive and inflammatory talk. It is far too similar to accounts describing the early rhetoric of the Nazi party, which eventually took the lives of 6 million Jews. And while I would like to believe that a bunch of liquored up crap-kickers from Tucson are not capable of genocide, neither did I believe that America would sanction torture.

Maybe I'm being paranoid. But if you read the memoirs of Holocaust survivors, there is one universal theme: They all knew it couldn't happen there.

(Ed Silverstein lives in Santa Monica. Comments or requests for copies of this column can be e-mailed to incites@incites.net).

LOCAL



City employees have yet to make endorsements

ENDORSEMENTS, from page 1

Feinstein — both incumbents who were backed by the association four years ago.

Katz said he was pleased by the Firefighter's Association support and surprised by the POA's abandonment. The POA has previously endorsed Katz in his council bids.

"I really thought I was going to get their endorsement," he said. "I saw no reason why I shouldn't have gotten it ... I haven't changed one iota since I ran last time."

Police questioned Katz's comments made in recent weeks about his frustration being in the minority on the City Council. Police took that to mean he's not as passionate as he once was. They also frowned upon his idea to create a "tent city" of sorts at a beach parking lot where homeless people could sleep and use portable restrooms.

Katz said he is passionate about being a City Council member and hopes to get more satisfaction from it by making changes to improve the entire community. He just needs more than one other council member to sway the votes to change City Hall's policies.

"It's not fun being a minority 5-2," Katz said. "But this is a time to change this. I will win with or without them. There is no doubt I will win."

The last time the two associations differed on their candidate slates was in 1994. But the disparity is not surprising to many political observers who would agree that the upcoming election is unique in many ways — both in terms of the people running for local office and who is coming out to support them.

Bloom, Genser and Hoffman have been endorsed by Santa Monicans For Renters' Rights (SMRR), which has influenced city politics for much of the past 26 years. Shriver and Katz have been endorsed by the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, which is seen by many in the community as butting heads with SMRR on a regular basis.

Chamber officials hope that will their interests be represented on the council with Shriver and Katz. And Shriver's connections to the federal and state governments is a favorable point to all that have endorsed him. Shriver is a member of the

Kennedy family and brother-in-law to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"Bobby Shriver understands the importance of public safety and the service that firefighters provide to our community," said Ken Polhill, the president of the 102-member Firefighter's Association, adding that Shriver's problem-solving experience will serve Santa Monica residents well. "Santa Monica needs Bobby Shriver's problem-solving approach. Members of the Santa Monica Firefighter's Association will work hard to elect Shriver to the Santa Monica City Council."

The Firefighter's Association seven-member political action committee held joint interviews with the POA last week. The POA has backed nine of the 10 most recent City Council winners, and will likely serve as a powerful campaign force in the coming weeks. The POA has more than \$60,000 in its campaign war chest, according to City Hall documents. The Firefighter's Association has less money but plenty of volunteers who will knock on doors and walk precincts.

Genser said he'll rely heavily on those efforts.

"I'm honored by the results," Genser said. "These are the men and women who put their lives on the line to protect us. It's personally meaningful to me."

Shriver and Bloom last week also received the endorsement of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party.

"I am proud that Santa Monica Democrats believe that I can create effective strategies for dealing with homelessness, traffic, parking, affordable housing and open space in Santa Monica," said Shriver, who was appointed by former Governor Gray Davis to the California's State Parks and Recreation Commission.

The last endorsement seen as key to local candidates is the Coalition of Santa Monica City Employees, an organization comprised of 1,400 city workers who have not been sworn into their positions. Members include all city employees ranging from park maintenance workers to clerical staff.

The coalition's political action committee interviewed candidates during the same meeting as the POA and Firefighter's Association. It's unknown when the coalition will make its endorsements.

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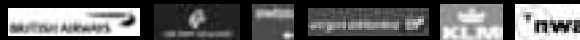
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CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

He's bringing them back

By The Associated Press

LA VERNE — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger rolled up to a warehouse Monday in a custom-painted moving van to announce a sign-printing company was closing its doors in Las Vegas and bringing its jobs to California.

All 10 of them.

"This is the first company that is moving back to California, bringing jobs back to California," Schwarzenegger said, standing beside Candice Doi, owner of the Lynch Sign Co.

"We have hope again in California," the governor said. "We are all into creating action and creating jobs."

Last month, Schwarzenegger boasted that if a company was willing to relocate to California, he would get a truck and move them.

He didn't go that far.

The moving tab, estimated to be as much as \$25,000, will be paid by corporations represented on the governor's Jobs Commission, including Countrywide Financial Corp., Yahoo! and Fox Entertainment, said commission spokesman Mark Mosher.

The sprinkle of jobs for California's recovering economy was scoffed at by Nevada officials, who said they were launching a \$700,000 marketing campaign next month to convince major California employers to cross the border. In the past fiscal year, 37 California companies fled to Nevada, creating an estimated 1,500 jobs, officials said.

"It was a business that already wanted to leave," said Jeanie Ashe, a spokeswoman for the Nevada Commission on Economic Development. "The number of employees, the size of the shop, was very small."

City and school officials still need to solidify \$6M verbal agreement

CEPS, from page 1

Council and I had to hear from two sides on a school issue that I would be prejudiced," Morea explained. "Not that I don't support it. I admire what CEPS did. I just thought that I might have to recuse myself later on if something comes up."

CEPS viewed the forum as an opportunity for the public to evaluate both school board and City Council candidates on the issue of education.

Earlier this year, CEPS brought forward a controversial charter amendment that would have forced City Hall to give the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District a minimum of \$6 million every year. It would have required voter approval in November.

But in May — six months prior to the election — City Hall and the school district entered into an agreement that was along the lines of CEPS' demands, a move that the organization's members applauded. Shortly before the deadline for submitting signatures that would have qualified the measure for the election, the school board and the City Council reached a voluntary, negotiated agreement. The compromise agreement mirrored the CEPS measure in many ways, providing predictable, long-term funding to public edu-



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I will vote to affirm the agreement when it appears on the City Council agenda and to provide necessary funds at budget adoption.

I pledge to increase City support to the School District whenever the City's revenues will allow such an increase, as provided by the agreement.

X
Leticia Maria Anderson

X
Linda Armstrong

X
Bill Bauer

X
Richard Bloom

X
David Cole

X
Matt Dinolfo

X
Michael Feinstein

X
Ken Genser

X
Patricia Hoffman

X
Herb Katz

X
Maria Loya

X
Jonathan Mann

X
Kathryn J. Morea

X
Bobby Shriver

City Council candidates were asked to sign the 'CEPS Pledge' to prove their support.

cation from City Hall with increases tied to the city's revenue growth.

"The agreement was that the city would give \$6 million each fiscal year to the district, with increases as available

funds increase," said Shari Davis, CEPS co-chair, who got involved in the organization in 1999.

But, Davis said, an official contract has yet to be created.

"The city is working on the wording, so we're waiting to see the actual contract," she said. "Everybody is fairly confident that it will be as it was presented in May."

The terms of the agreement, which is not yet signed, requires City Hall to provide a minimum of \$6 million in annual revenues to the school district for five years. After that, the current city administration has indicated that the contract should be renewed for another five years. The proposed charter amendment would have required City Hall to fund schools indefinitely.

Last year's contribution to the school district from City Hall was \$5.25 million — its regular \$3 million annual contribution, plus \$2.25 million in one-time funds. City Hall also dolled out one-time funds above and beyond its annual contribution in previous years, despite its own budget problems.

The school district faced a \$13 million budget shortfall last year, but was able to close the gap through personnel cuts, and new revenue sources such as the parcel tax, which brings in \$6.5 million annually over the next five years.

Police looking for possible European

SUSPECT, from page 1

early 30s, having a thin, long neck and round shoulders, an oval shaped head with prominent features, light brown wavy hair and a slight accent.

The suspect's vehicle is described as a

'90s Toyota model, perhaps a Camry sedan, with power windows, minor dents and scratches on the passenger side.

Anyone with information is encouraged to call the Santa Monica Police Department at (310) 458-8491. Callers

who wish to provide anonymous information also may call the We-Tip national hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME. Callers with information that leads to an arrest and conviction become eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000.

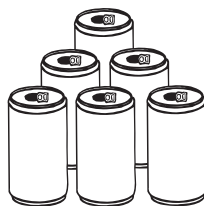
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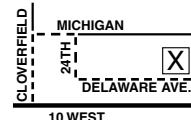
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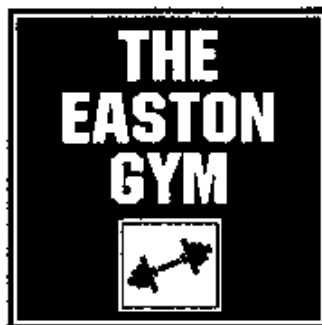
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Demystifying Yoda: Untold tales lighten 'Star Wars'

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — When it comes to "Star Wars," maybe there's too much gravity in space.

Fans invariably take "Star Wars" too seriously, but the people behind the sci-fi series recall the experience as a surreal comic opera.

Training a monkey to play Yoda? Studio complaints that Chewbacca was pantsless? The only thing that worked on R2-D2 was the dwarf inside?

As the original trilogy heads to DVD for the first time Tuesday, the madcap tales told by those who lovingly toiled on "Star Wars," "The Empire Strikes Back" and "Return of the Jedi" demystify three of the most revered sci-fi films of all time.

NOT THAT KIND OF MOVIE:

Some films can be endlessly dissected and debated. But Luke Skywalker himself says "Star Wars" was just meant to be fun.

Twenty-seven years after the first movie debuted, actor Mark Hamill said he is amused by all the fact-checking fans do. One recent Web site shocked him.

"I think it was speculating on the administrative cost of the janitorial staff of the Death Star, taking this hard-edged reality to something that's fantasy," Hamill joked. "But I was that way myself. I remember saying things like, 'Well, wait a minute. I just got out of the trash compactor. How come my hair's all perfect?' And Harrison (Ford) would go, 'Hey kid ... it ain't that kind of movie.'"

HELP ME OBI-WAN:

Some memories of "Star Wars" stick more than others — especially for the actors who had to do multiple shots of famous lines.

"I do remember permanently the hologram speech, because we had to reshoot it," Carrie Fisher, who played Princess Leia, wearily told fans at the recent Comic-Con festival in San Diego.

"Whenever I get lost on the way to someone's house, or I just forget your name, it's because I remember the speech. ... 'General Kenobi, years ago you served my father in the Clone Wars ...'" she said. "I'm a thousand years old and I still remember that thing. It's very disturbing. I have to take medication, and yet it still won't go away."

'SHORT' CIRCUIT:

"Every day there were terrible problems that had to be solved," said 81-year-old Irvin Kershner, who is a real-life version of Obi-Wan Kenobi — the wise Jedi sage played by the late Alec Guinness.

Kershner, a film professor at the University of Southern California who was a mentor to "Star Wars" creator George Lucas, is the man Lucas asked to direct the sequel "The Empire Strikes Back," which is widely regarded as the best of the series.

"Before I went off to do the film, I had a talk with George," Kershner recalled. "He said, 'I want you to know something. They're going to prepare all these special devices for you but nothing is going to work ...' I thought he was kidding. From the third shot on, it was true. We had to improvise constantly."

For instance, Kernsher said he had eight R2-D2 robots, each of which could do a different task.

"But you know, they never did what you needed them to do. So we ended up pulling them with nylon cords instead of using the electronics because it would get stuck and go in little circles instead of going straight."

"The only thing that worked was when we would put a little dwarf inside one and he'd shake him to show that R2-D2 was nervous. That worked, the human factor!"

OVEREXPOSED WOOKIE:

The Chewbacca character was a good-hearted but fearsome Wookiee, a species that was a combination of human, ape and canine. Peter Mayhew, a 7-foot-3 British actor, played the roaring "Chewy" in a thick furry suit that covered every inch from head to toe.

But studio executives in the 1970s worried that the character itself was indecent because all he wore was a strap of ammunition across his chest.

"I remember the memos from 20th Century Fox," Hamill said. "Can you put a pair of lederhosen on the Wookiee?" All they could think of was, "This character has no pants on!" This went back and forth. They did sketches of him in culottes and baggy shorts."

In the midst of budget wrangling and the studios' efforts to get him to drop the word "Wars" from the title, Lucas also successfully fought to keep the Wookiee au naturel.

MONKEYING WITH YODA:

"In the beginning, we didn't know what Yoda should look like," Kershner said. "One of the thoughts was that he'd be 9-feet tall with a huge mosaic beard and would look like Michelangelo's Moses, imposing. After all, he's 800-years-old and he knows everything and he has great powers. ... It seemed like a cliché."

Instead they decided to make Yoda very tiny and modest in nature. But how to do it?

"I asked that it could look like it ate, that it could climb," he said.

A puppet seemed ridiculous. No one had ever tried to pass one off as an actual living creature before, so Kershner looked for other solutions first.

"We thought, 'Maybe if we trained a monkey, in an outfit, and then animated the lips ...?'" Kershner said, his voice rising decades later over the old frustration. "You go crazy, and you try anything!"

Ultimately, the puppet proved to be the wiser choice.

"But there's never an expression change on Yoda," Kershner said. "You know that, right? You think there is, but it's body language. It's the eyes drooping, it's the ears going down. But it's the same face. Did you ever see Yoda smile? No."

PECULIAR MERCHANDISE:

"Star Wars" famously launched one of the most popular toy lines of all time.

However, the lumpy aliens in the "Star Wars" tavern and the many shuffling background robots were only background dressing before the action figures.

"Nine months after we filmed George looked at all the props being turned into toys and gave them names," Hamill said. "A lot of these things we'd call just, like, The Trash Can Robot. Now it's: 'No, no, no — that's IG-88.'"

Fisher said she liked being a doll, but found some of the Princess Leia merchan-

dise slightly unnerving. "I always liked the shampoo bottle where you twist my head off and pour liquid out of my neck. That's very Freudian," she said. "If I dreamed that, what would you think it meant?"

GREEN PHILOSOPHY:

Kershner, who studies Buddhism as a hobby, said the "Star Wars" movies have a homespun wisdom, but that people shouldn't look too seriously to the Force to solve their problems.

"Yoda's philosophy was quite simplistic. 'If you get angry, you're gonna lose.' 'Don't try, do.' He has a basic philosophy that is very charming. Not very profound, although young people consider it profound. I wish they would read more."

Kershner credited Hamill with making Yoda seem more alive and smarter than he was, even though the actor couldn't hear Yoda's lines. "He's the one who made Yoda work," Kershner said. "He was acting to a mute puppet — pretty hard to do!"

SPACE GRAVITAS:

So it's OK to love "Star Wars," but the people who created the films have this advice for the die-hard galactic geeks: lighten up, have some fun.

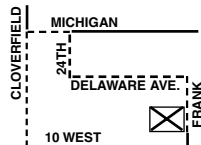
Maybe Yoda isn't really a genius, maybe R2-D2 was kind of clunky ...

Hamill says maybe there shouldn't be too much nitpicking or overblown reverence.

As the Skywalker actor put it: "How can you be so serious on a film where you are dodging explosions and running away with Sir Alec Guinness on this side and an eight-foot monkey on this side, and the eight-foot monkey is the one flying the spaceship?"

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NATIONAL

Group says Indians suffer from substandard housing

BY **FREDERIC J. FROMMER**
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Housing on Indian reservations is plagued by substandard infrastructure and overcrowded conditions that can lead to a host of health problems, an advocacy group said Monday.

The National American Indian Housing Council's survey of Indian housing authorities, unveiled at a news conference, found that 83 percent reported "substandard" housing on their reservation, while 59 percent said housing was overcrowded.

The group used the U.S. Census Bureau's definition of overcrowding — more than one person per room.

The survey found that most housing authorities reported that the housing problems led to health and societal problems ranging from alcoholism to sleep deprivation.

"The federal government has not done its share," said the council's chairman, Chester Carl. He called on the White House to set up a working group of government agencies to address the problem.

The report was timed to come out on the eve of the opening of the Smithsonian's new National Museum of the American Indian.

"Tomorrow's opening of the National Museum of the American Indian is a cause for celebration, but our story is not all celebratory," said Gary Gordon, the council's executive director.

Wealthy tribal leaders in town for the opening said Monday they are developing a plan to forge business relationships with more Indian-run companies to help boost the Indian economy around the country.

Dave Anderson, the head of the government's Bureau of Indian Affairs, didn't challenge the council's findings.

"The observations by this group are very accurate," Anderson, a Choctaw and Ojibwe Indian from Minnesota, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "As Indian people, we have been almost like a Third World developing nation. It's unfortunate that America's first people probably experience the bottom rung of every social dysfunction there is."

Anderson said he was working with federal housing officials to "cut red tape" in order to promote home ownership as a means to improve housing conditions.

"I am a firm believer that if we are going to have economically thriving communities, we have to have home ownership as a base," he said.

He said his department was exploring ways to work with the Housing and Urban Development Department to create innovative programs to help Indians buy their own homes.

Parts of Ariz. border crackdown to continue indefinitely, officials say

BY **ARTHUR H. ROTSTEIN**
Associated Press Writer

TUCSON, Ariz. — Parts of a government crackdown on illegal immigration in southern Arizona will continue beyond Sept. 30, the day the initiative was supposed to wrap up, a top Homeland Security official said Tuesday.

Some agents, prosecutors and helicopters that had been transferred to Arizona for the crackdown will remain here permanently, said Asa Hutchinson, undersecretary for border and transportation security.

The government will also briefly extend a voluntary program that offered free flights to the Mexican interior for illegal immigrants caught while crossing the border into Arizona.

Hutchinson said he would like to see the repatriation program continued and made mandatory but that would have to be negotiated with the Mexican government.

"I think that if it was a mandatory program, it would allow us to break that cycle of smuggling ... to a great extent," Hutchinson said.

Designed to run through Sept. 30, the end of the federal fiscal year, the costly repatriation initiative is designed to discourage repeat border crossings, separate border crossers from their smugglers and save the lives of migrants who try to cross the Arizona desert in scorching heat.



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NATIONAL



Las Vegas renters caught in tight housing squeeze

BY J.M. KALIL

Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — Las Vegans seeking new digs or out-of-towners relocating here have called upon apartment hunter Pat Stanley since 1989.

Stanley and her employees at Apartment Finding Service typically had little trouble placing people in a community in which constant building kept rent prices low and supply steady despite a booming population.

Then, last spring, that trend came to a halt.

"It's a different world than it has been for the last 15 years," Stanley said. "We're having just a terrible time trying to accommodate people, and when we can, they're looking at serious rent increases."

A confluence of factors has gripped the Las Vegas apartment market and, in an echo of the red-hot housing market, sent supply plummeting and rents soaring.

Escalating costs for land, materials and permits have all but stopped apartment construction in favor of more lucrative home building.

Simultaneously, thousands of existing apartments are being turned into condos to accommodate buyers who can't afford rapidly rising housing costs.

With the apartment market shrinking, locals displaced by condo conversion are competing for a place to live with thousands of people moving here each month.

Not surprisingly, apartment complexes have seen their occupancy rates swell from about 92 percent six months ago to 98 percent. It's suddenly a landlord's market.

The monthly rent on the average Las Vegas apartment increased from \$739 in early 2000 to \$768 in late 2003, according to market research firm CB Richard Ellis. That's an average rent increase of only \$7.25 a year, or less than 1 percent annually.

Rents this year have been rising at more than four times that pace, increasing 2 percent in the first six months of 2004 alone, to an average \$784.

Landlords and property managers are almost giddy about demand that will allow some to raise rents at double-digit percentages.

"I have never seen anything like it. I'm just ecstatic," said Karen Mordue, regional marketing director for Camden, which has about 10,000 units in 17 complexes. "We're trying to take advantage of it, but obviously we don't want to gouge our residents."

Complex operators foresee rent increases from 8 percent to 12 percent this year and in 2005, said Bruce Monzulla, president of Realty Management Inc., which manages more than 18,000 apartments in Las Vegas, about 10 percent of the market.

As for incentives such as a free month's rent, forget about it.

"Six months ago, 90 percent of properties were giving discounts or incentives, and now it's about 10 percent and you're dealing with waiting lists," said Apartment Finding Service's Stanley. "There are far fewer apartments out there and a lot more people looking for them."

Clark County issued permits for more than 4,500 apartments last year, up from an average of 3,100 each of the four previous years.

So far this year, only 168 apartment permits have been issued — a more than 94 percent decline in apartment construction, despite about 5,000 people relocating here each month.

Dozens of complexes have evicted their residents and converted rentals into condominiums to cash in on enormous demand for entry-level housing.

More than 3,000 former apartments are for sale as condos, and 11,000 more are under conversion, according to CB Richard Ellis. Some 25,000 other apartments have been mapped with the county for possible conversion.

"There are a lot more going through the mapping process now," said Spencer Ballif, who analyzes the apartment market for CB Richard Ellis.

Market experts expect at least 20,000 conversions over the next two years as an affordable alternative to detached single-family homes, which are continuing a steady march toward \$300,000 on average.

"Is that affordable for the multitude of Las Vegans? Probably not, so condos are the answer right now," Realty Management's Monzulla said.

So why isn't anyone building to meet the massive demand for apartments?

According to interviews with two dozen builders and construction financiers, the numbers just don't add up. Land and building materials are too expensive, and rents are too low.

"In Summerlin, you've seen property values go up 30 to 50 percent, but rents certainly haven't gone up by 30 to 50 percent," said GFD Investments' Leo Davenport, who has been underwriting apartment construction loans for 30 years.

"It's really simple: Why build apartments when you can build condos and make a lot more?" said Vestin Group's Mike Shustek, chairman of the mortgage brokerage.

Several lenders said the costs of land and construction materials have risen to the point that monthly rents would have to increase to about \$1.50 per square foot, or \$1,500 a month for a 1,000-square-foot apartment, for building projects to work financially.

"Demand would indicate it's a great time to build apartments, but the challenge is land and construction costs," said Wells Fargo Senior Vice President Mal Ercanbrack, who manages the bank's commercial real estate portfolio in Nevada.

Intense international demand for construction materials, driven by China's surging growth and economy, have sent prices soaring nationwide.

Locally, concrete prices have jumped from 65 percent to 80 percent since the beginning of the year to nearly \$100 a cubic yard, and projects frequently are delayed by shortages. During the same period, lumber prices have increased 25 percent to 30 percent, and steel prices rose

nearly 90 percent.

Even when an apartment project might pencil out, it can be impossible to procure land for it.

Most available southern Nevada land zoned for apartments gets snapped up by developers who persuade city and county planning commissions to rezone it for more lucrative single-family homes.

"They're simply willing to pay more for land than apartment developers, and city planning commissions hate apartment complexes, so they're completely willing to downzone," said Doug French, vice president of Silver State Bank. "That's taking future apartments off the market."

Banks that have for years underwritten apartment construction in Las Vegas are expecting a big swing in business in coming years, especially as anticipated mortgage rate increases put home ownership out of reach for thousands more people.

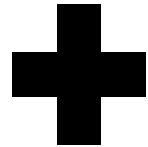
"We're going to see the need for apartments become greater with the interest rate increases that are expected," said Ed Jamison, president and CEO of Community Bank.

That's probably going to drive apartment rents up even higher, lenders say.

"When we get interest rates rising making single-family home payments higher, that's when you're going to see rent prices competing more effectively," Silver State's French said. "As interest rates for single-family homes go to 8 or 9 percent, then all of a sudden, \$1,400 a month for a 1,000-square-foot (apartment), maybe that's not so crazy anymore."

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Real Estate

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**BUYING
AND SELLING**
BY BRENT PARSONS

On the day when a home becomes yours officially, known as closing day, you will have to pay fees for the services of several parties.

In a typical real estate deal, closing costs total 2 to 5 percent of the purchase price of the property. You shouldn't ignore them in figuring the amount of money you need to close the deal. Here are some typical closing costs — listed from those which are usually largest to those which are typically the smallest. Exact fees vary by property cost and location:

Withholding tax: In 2002, the California State legislature added the withholding legislation as a measure to balance the state budget. The law requires the real property buyer to withhold from what would be paid to the seller an amount of 3.33 percent of the gross sale price. It does not take into account costs of the sale such as real estate commissions or other settlement costs.

If you are an individual selling real property, the buyer will not have to withhold from your proceeds if the sale price is less than \$100,000, if you are selling your principal residence or if you are selling at a loss.

The California Franchise Tax Board governs the withholding procedures through a division called the Withholding Services and Compliance Section. For more information on this process you can call (888) 792-4900 and at: <http://www.ftb.ca.gov/geninfo/wscs/index.html>. You may check the Franchise Tax Board Web site to see how the process currently works and for any updates.

Loan origination fees, also called "points," and other loan charges: The fees and charges range from nothing to 3 percent of the amount borrowed. Lenders

generally charge all sorts of fees for things such as appraising the property, pulling your credit report, preparing loan documents, and processing your application. You also may be charged a loan-origination fee, which may be 1 or 2 percent of the loan amount. If you're strapped for cash, you can get a loan that has few or no fees. However, such loans have substantially higher interest rates over time.

Closing fees: Closing fees range from several hundred to more than \$1,000, based on the purchase price of your home. The fees cover the cost of handling all the purchase-related documents and funds.

Homeowners insurance: This insurance typically costs from several hundred to more than \$1,000, depending on the value of your home and how much coverage you want. You can't get a mortgage unless you prove to the lender that you have adequate homeowners insurance coverage. Lenders usually insist that you pay the first year's premium on your insurance policy at the time of the closing. If a current survey indicates flood plain on the property, flood insurance may be required by the lender. Flood insurance can be several hundred dollars, depending on the location and type of property.

Title insurance: This insurance typically costs from several hundred to \$1,000, depending on your home's purchase price. Lenders require title insurance to make sure that they are lending funds on property with a clear, marketable title. You also may purchase title insurance to protect you against the remote possibility that the person selling you the home doesn't legally own it. You will pay a modest, one time premium for title insurance if you purchase it at the closing.

Property taxes: The taxes are based upon the home's purchase price and the date of closing. At closing, you may have to reimburse the sellers for any property taxes that they paid in advance.

For example, suppose that before they sold their home to you, the sellers had already paid their property taxes through June 30. If the sale closes on April 30, you owe the sellers two months' property taxes — the tax collector won't refund the

property taxes they have already paid for May and June.

Inspections: Inspection fees can run from \$200 to \$600. Because you're likely not a home-inspection expert, you'll surely benefit from hiring someone who inspects property as a full-time job. Typically, you pay these costs directly, when you receive the inspection report. Your lender may require additional inspections if the property is on a well, septic system or has other unusual concerns.

Private mortgage insurance (PMI): If you put less than 20 percent down on a home, many mortgage lenders require that you take out private mortgage insurance. This type of insurance protects the lender in the event that you default. At closing, you need to pay anywhere from a couple months' premiums to more than a year's premium in advance. If you can, avoid this cost by making a 20 percent down payment or by obtaining 80-10-10 financing.

Prepaid loan interest: Lenders charge up to 30 days' interest on your loan to cover the interest that accrues from the date your loan is funded — usually one business day before the closing — up to 30 days prior to your first regularly scheduled loan payment. How much interest you actually have to pay depends on the timing of your first loan payment.

Miscellaneous fees: When you review the final closing statement, you will likely find several miscellaneous charges, such as recording fees for the deed and mortgage, overnight/courier fees, notary fees and document preparation fees. These fees can be less than \$50 or over \$100. Your purchase agreement should state who is responsible for fees charged in addition to the closing costs for the transaction. Charges on the closing statement that have not been clearly covered in the purchase agreement can cause unnecessary negotiations at the closing table.

(For all your real estate needs contact Brent Parsons at Pacific Ocean Real Estate at (310) 392-9223 or email him at bparsons@pacificoceanrealestate.com).

SANTA MONICA RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS: SINGLE FAMILY HOMES CONDOS AND INCOME HOMES

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633 10TH ST	\$1,615,000	2	1.00	1,410	7,500	\$1,610,000
428 11TH ST	\$1,750,000	3	2.00	0	7,500	\$1,650,000
511 W RUSTIC RD	\$1,350,000	3	3.00	2,264	6,011	\$1,350,000
1414 IDAHO AVE	\$895,000	2	1.00	N/A	0	\$895,000
840 20TH ST #17	\$717,000	3	3.00	19	1,493	\$717,700
1811 OAK ST #5	\$639,000	2	2.50	5	1,395	N/A
1001 19TH ST #B	\$479,000	1	1.00	8	781	\$479,000
1140 CHELSEA AVE #D	\$769,000	2	2.50	8	2,075	\$850,000
2329 KANSAS AVE #6	\$379,000	1	1.00	9	0	\$350,000
2408 34TH ST #5	\$699,000	2	2.50	7	1,749	\$713,500
1240 FRANKLIN ST #3	\$499,000	2	2.00	7	1,264	\$509,000
1114 20TH ST #6	\$799,000	2	2.50	6	1,518	\$799,000
2336 28TH ST #E	\$678,000	2	2.50	6	1,434	\$657,000
821 BAY ST #C1	\$659,000	2	2.00	15	1,404	\$615,000
1139 YALE ST #5	\$695,000	2	2.50	6	1,249	\$665,000
1437 PRINCETON ST #2	\$599,000	2	2.50	5	1,587	\$599,000
621 CALIFORNIA AVE #4	\$649,000	2	1.50	6	1,136	\$679,000
833 21ST ST #3	\$545,000	2	2.00	7	1,136	\$530,000
1030 BAY ST #3	\$679,000	2	3.00	5	1,645	\$660,000
1327 EUCLID ST	\$1,099,000	N/A	0.00	1	1,722	\$1,099,000
1505 YALE ST	\$888,000	N/A	0.00	3	2,525	\$926,000
1844 17TH ST	\$800,000	N/A	0.00	2	2,436	\$790,000

THOMAS KHAMMAR
AT PACIFIC OCEAN PROPERTIES:
310.392.9223 tkhammar@pacificoceanrealestate.com
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12029 CULVER DRIVE
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11578 CANTON DR., STUDIO CITY
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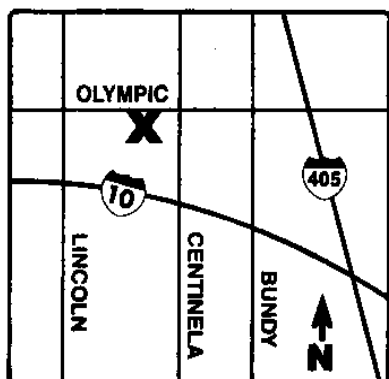
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City Council candidates vow to improve Santa Monica



DAYS ON THE MARKET

BY JODI SUMMERS

The Santa Monica City Council dates back to March 28, 1906, when an election was held to approve the Santa Monica City Charter. Under the new charter, the City Council was comprised of one mayor with veto power, and one council member from each of its seven wards. The charter required weekly meetings. Council members received \$5 per meeting, which were not to exceed one per week.

In 1944, the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce began a study of the problems confronting the city. It had become clear that Santa Monica was not flourishing under its system of divided authority in its city government, and by other repercussions from a charter adopted when Santa Monica had less than a 12,000 population. An elected board spent two years designing the current council-city manager form of government. Nearly half of the cities in the U.S. with populations of 2,500 or more operate under the council-city manager form of government with an elected governing body and a manager hired by that body to carry out the policies it establishes.

This year Santa Monica boasts an entertaining roster of candidates for this year's City Council election — healers, educators, politicians, service providers and the Governor's brother-in-law. We asked all candidates to answer the same question:

If you were elected to the Santa Monica City Council, will you explain how you will make a difference in 25 words or less.

Following, in alphabetical order are the responses we received. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 2. Support Santa Monica. Support Democracy. Vote.

"The front-burner issues of growth, traffic and open space, require my qualified commitment as a public servant. I look forward to the challenge."

Leticia Anderson
Nurse

andersontish@yahoo.com

"Santa Monica will be more 'user friendly.' I'll direct city resources to our citizens and implement common sense solutions to problems, especially vagrancy and traffic."

Bill Bauer
Advertising copy writer
bauer4council@aol.com

"I will continue being a voice for residents who want a livable Santa Monica: beautiful parks, safe streets, great schools and terrific neighborhoods."

Mayor Richard Bloom
richard@bloomlaw.net

"If elected I will represent the renters and homeowners. I am not part of the

good 'ol boy network that has run Santa Monica for decades."

David Cole
Health care administrator
Cole4Council@aol.com

"As a physician, I listen, evaluate data and make difficult decisions. I will prioritize city spending to give our citizens a better quality of life."

Matt Dinolfo
Physician/university teacher
dinolfom@aol.com

"As an independent and thoughtful problem solver, I listen to all voices in Santa Monica so that we can achieve the community we all desire."

Michael Feinstein
City Council member/author
mfeinstein@feinstein.org

"I will continue to emphasize the protection and improvement of residential neighborhoods, funding for education, resources to maintain public safety, and clean (and more) parks."

Ken Genser
City Council member
2004@genser.org

"I will protect our quality of life: Our first rates schools, neighborhood serving businesses, public safety, the arts, parks and beaches, clean air and water."

Patricia Hoffman
Community volunteer
phoffmansm@earthlink.net

"I will continue to serve as the voice of reason on the council to improve the quality of life for all residents of Santa Monica."

Herb Katz
City council member/architect
rtkarch@aol.com

"I will work to improve customer service in City Hall by advocating for a more responsive and accountable city process for property owners."

Maria Loya
Loyamaria@hotmail.com

"All candidates say they will be different. Most forget their promises when elected. I pledge to set up citizen oversight for accountability, to solicit and moderate input from residents, and provide feedback from polling the electronic plebiscite."

Jonathan Mann
Flight attendant
jonmann@adelphia.net

"All my life, I've organized and managed projects that have made people's lives better: I will apply the same dedication and resources to Santa Monica's problems: Homelessness, traffic, and lack of parkland."

Bobby Shriver
bobbyshriver@yahoo.com

(For your real estate needs, e-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call (310) 309-4219).

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Real Estate

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Paying capital gains taxes doesn't have to be painful

IN YOUR SPACE

BY CHRISTINA S. PORTER



The volatile stock market, low interest rates and the thought of paying capital gains taxes are three of the major forces driving our commercial real estate market today.

As we all know, there are record setting prices being paid for commercial real estate, making it nearly impossible for some owners to resist selling their property. The problem is that when they sell, reaping tremendous profit, they are obligated to pay capital gains taxes, which is usually 20 percent to 25 percent.

There is a unique alternative to paying these taxes that does not put you at the mercy of the very tight commercial real estate market conditions.

A Private Annuity Trust could very well be the answer to the challenging, sometimes impossible, task of securing a property to complete a 1031 exchange in order to defer the payment of capital gains taxes.

A Private Annuity Trust allows the seller to defer the payment of capital gains taxes in the following way: The owner of the subject property (the annuitant) transfers ownership to a trustee prior to the sale of the property. The trustee then sells the property to the

buyer, getting cash for the property and holding it in a trust. The trust pays the seller with a special payment contract called a "private annuity," which stipulates that payments from the sale of the property go to the owner for the rest of his or her life. The trustee can invest the money held in trust.

The contract requires that the payments be made in installments. The amount of the payment is calculated by the life expectancy of the seller (how many years) divided into the amount of money in the trust, including any anticipated income from investment. The payment will be comprised of equal payments of the return of your basis in the property, the profit you made and any income from the investment of such proceeds. Out of this payment you will pay the capital gains taxes, recapture taxes (on previously taken depreciation) and income taxes owed for any return.

The best part of the private annuity trust is that you do not have to take the payments until you are 70 years old and there is great flexibility on how you can invest the money. The purpose of the investing is to insure the stream of payments to the annuitant for the rest of his/her life. Depending on your age at the time of setting up the annuity, the investment could very possibly make enough to pay the capital gains and recapture taxes before you even start taking the payments from the trust.

It is important to note that no matter how much the trust earns, the annuitant cannot receive more than the fixed payments. This

could be looked at as a negative but I think the important point here is that the annuitant will be receiving all of the accumulated interest on the unpaid balance of the principal, over time and the taxes will be paid in depreciated dollars (inflation) but the principal will be increasing.

The annuitant cannot be the trustee of the trust. The trustee can be any adult beneficiary or any adult, who is independent of the annuitant, for example, an attorney or an accountant. The amount of money in the trust is removed from the

annuitant's taxable estate making the tax obligation when the annuitant dies. Anything left over in the trust upon the annuitant's death goes to the beneficiaries, tax free.

(As always it is extremely important that you consult with your tax/legal professional regarding this subject. Christina S. Porter is in the business of leasing and selling office and industrial buildings. You can reach her at (310) 806-6104 or cporter@naicapital.com)

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1519 6th St	Office	9/17/2004	2,001	\$1.99/mg
1750 14th St	Office	9/13/2004	3,500	\$1.95/mg
1750 14th St	Office	9/13/2004	3,500	\$1.95/mg
2658-2664 29th St	Retail	9/17/2004	2,920	\$2.45/fs
1811-1855 Centinela Ave	Office	9/15/2004	16,000	\$1.85/nnn *
1520-1528 Cloverfield Blvd	Office	9/13/2004	2,000	\$2.00/mg
1520-1528 Cloverfield Blvd	Office	9/13/2004	2,000	\$2.00/mg
1520-1528 Cloverfield Blvd	Office	9/13/2004	2,900	\$2.00/mg
1520-1528 Cloverfield Blvd	Office	9/13/2004	2,000	\$2.00/mg
1520-1528 Cloverfield Blvd	Office	9/13/2004	2,850	\$2.00/mg *
3000 Ocean Park Blvd	Office	9/8/2004	2,340	\$2.35/fs
3340 Ocean Park Blvd	Office	9/8/2004	2,843	\$2.35/fs
3420 Ocean Park Blvd	Office	9/8/2004	1,806	\$2.35/fs
501 Santa Monica Blvd	Office	9/20/2004	776	\$2.45/fs
233 Wilshire Blvd	Office	9/8/2004	1,040	\$3.10/fs
1821 Wilshire Blvd	Office	9/13/2004	1,450	\$2.95/fs
2716-2720 Wilshire Blvd	Office	9/9/2004	5353	\$2.75/mg
2716-2720 Wilshire Blvd	Office	9/17/2004	1,350	\$2.89/mg
2811 Wilshire Blvd	Office	9/7/2004	2,443	\$2.60/fs *

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Check out next week's Q-Line Question only on page 3!

The Q Line

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NATIONAL

Bush defends decision to overthrow Iraq’s Saddam

BY SCOTT LINDLAW
 Associated Press Writer

UNITED NATIONS — President Bush delivered an unapologetic defense of his decision to invade Iraq, telling the United Nations Tuesday that his decision “helped to deliver the Iraqi people from an outlaw dictator.” He appealed to the world community to join together in supporting the new Iraqi interim government.

Bush’s speech to the U.N. General Assembly, running just 24 minutes, also included an appeal for intensifying the global war against terrorism and for focusing energies on humanitarian missions, from helping to end the bloody violence in Sudan to combating AIDS in Africa.

Two years after he told the world body that Iraq was a “grave and gathering danger” and challenged delegates to live up to their responsibility, Bush strongly defended his decision to lead a coalition that overthrew Saddam Hussein’s regime without the blessings of the U.N. Security Council.

He spoke shortly after U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan opened the 191-nation gathering with a warning that the “rule of law” is at risk around the world. Annan last week asserted that the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq “was illegal” because it lacked such Security Council approval.

"No one is above the law," Annan said. He condemned the taking and killing of hostages in Iraq, but also said Iraqi prisoners had been disgracefully abused, an implicit criticism of the U.S. treatment of detainees at Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad.

Bush told a subdued U.N. session that

terrorists believe that “suicide and murder are justified ...And they act on their beliefs.” He cited recent terror acts, including the death of children earlier this month in their Russian school house.

“The Russian children did nothing to deserve such awful suffering and fright and death,” the president said.

Bush reached out to the international organization to help with the reconstruction of Iraq, noting that the prime minister of Iraq’s interim government Ayad Allawi was among those attending the session.

“The U.N. and its member nations must respond to Prime Minister Allawi’s request and do more to help build an Iraq that is secure, democratic, federal and free,” he said.

“A democratic Iraq has ruthless enemies,” Bush added, asserting that “a terrorist group associated with Al Qaida is now one of the main groups killing the innocent in Iraq today, conducting a campaign of bombings against civilians and the beheadings of bound men.”

Bush made specific reference to Monday’s beheading of an American civil engineer. “We can expect terror attacks to escalate” as elections approach in both Afghanistan and Iraq, he said.

“We will be standing with the people of Afghanistan and Iraq until their hopes for freedom and liberty are fulfilled,” Bush said.

Six weeks before Election Day, Bush’s comments were directed as much to his audience at home as to the assembled U.N. delegates. His Democratic rival, John Kerry, has accused him of “stubborn

incompetence” and “colossal failures in judgment” on Iraq policy and of having squandered international good will.

Bush’s speech included an appeal for more humanitarian involvement, ranging from helping to end the bloody conflict in Sudan to fighting AIDS in Africa. “AIDS is the greatest health crisis of our time and our unprecedented commitment will bring new hope to those who have walked too long in the shadow of death,” he said.

With the casualty toll in Iraq still rising and with a rash of recent suicide attacks, Bush did not dwell on his decision to lead the invasion of Iraq. But he suggested that the Security Council had not followed through after it “promised serious consequences” for Saddam’s defiance.

“The commitments we make must have meaning. When we say serious consequences, for the sake of peace there must be serious consequences. And so a coalition of nations enforced the just demands of the world,” Bush said.

"My nation is grateful to the soldiers of many nations who have helped to deliver the Iraqi people from an outlaw dictator," he said.

Bush’s remarks drew applause only once.

He also told the gathering he was proposing a “democracy fund” within the United Nations which he said would help countries lay the foundations of democracy by instituting the rule of law, independent courts, a free press, political parties and trade unions. “Money from the fund would also help set up voter precincts and polling places and support the work of

election monitors,” he said.

Bush said the United States will make an initial contribution. “I urge all other nations to contribute as well,” he said.

On Iraq, Richard Holbrooke, U.N. ambassador during the Clinton administration, said on NBC’s “Today” show Tuesday, said the goals that Bush has articulated for the new Iraq “are things that this administration has proved incapable of achieving.”

Appearing on the same show, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice claimed progress despite the recent wave of car-bombings and hostage-takings.

She said “there’s no evidence” that Iraq is falling into a state of civil war and said things are better than three months ago even though the Iraqi people “are facing a very tough and daring insurgency.”

Secretary of State Colin Powell, interviewed Tuesday on ABC’s “Good Morning America,” called the situation “a difficult struggle” but said “to say we can’t deal with it, this sort of attitude that we’re on the verge of defeat is absolutely wrong.”

Bush’s U.N. speech was sandwiched between meetings with world leaders. It is an unusual burst of diplomacy for Bush, who has been keeping a punishing travel schedule to swing states as he seeks re-election.

Also Tuesday, Bush met with the leader of India, and was to sit down later with the heads of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Japan and Iraq. Last year, Bush met with the leaders of France and Germany. There are no Europeans on this year’s list, and aside from his host, Annan, no sharp critics of the Iraq war.

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NATIONAL



Alaskans to get \$919 each this year in oil dividends

BY MATT VOLZ

Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Nearly every Alaska resident will receive a \$919.84 check this year as their share of the state's oil riches — a \$187.72 drop from last year's payout.

The dividend checks are distributed every year from an oil royalty account called the Alaska Permanent Fund, created in 1976 after oil was discovered on the North Slope. Some 600,760 Alaskans are expected to receive dividends this year.

The payouts are calculated based on a five-year average of investment income derived from bonds, stock dividends and sales, and other investments. Anyone who has lived in the state for over a year is eligible.

Alaska's residents pay no state income tax and no state sales tax, and in the state's two largest cities, Anchorage and Fairbanks,

not even a municipal sales tax. Dividends, paid since 1982, have ranged from \$331.29 to a high of \$1,963.86 in 2000.

The 2004 dividend was announced Monday in Fairbanks at the annual meeting of the Permanent Fund Corp., which manages the investment fund. Direct deposit of dividends is scheduled for Oct. 13; checks by mail will be sent starting Oct. 20.

The fund was valued at \$27.4 billion at the end of the 2004 fiscal year.

Alaska faces chronic deficits because it relies on oil for about 80 percent of its revenue, but the Legislature is restricted by law from touching the fund's principal and the dividends are all but untouchable politically.

The fund has paid \$12.5 billion in dividends to Alaskans from 1982 through 2003, according to the Permanent Fund Corp.

Mainers hope to transform their humble potatoes into premium vodka

BY DAVID SHARP

Associated Press Writer

FREEPORT, Maine — A farmer looking to add value to his low-priced potato crop has launched a business partnership in hopes of turning humble Maine spuds into high-priced premium vodka.

Maine Distilleries Inc. plans to trade on the state's image of pristine water and traditional New England farms as it creates a niche product to compete with the Grey Gooses and Belvederes of the world.

It'll be produced in small batches, much like microbreweries that produce specialized beers, said Don Thibodeau, who is in now in the midst of his fall harvest of 525 acres of potatoes in Fryeburg.

"This is all going to be hand-crafted by the batch," said Thibodeau.

Maine Distilleries already has cleared its first hurdle with the town's project review board. It anticipates having federal and state regulatory approvals to start production this spring.

It would be Maine's first commercial distillery, officials say. White Rock Distilleries in Lewiston makes and markets a full line of spirits, but the alcohol used in White Rock products is imported.

The vodka concept originated with Thibodeau, who was frustrated by market conditions that have led to low potato prices.

The idea is not necessarily new.

Maine farmers have tossed around the idea of distilling vodka to utilize Maine-grown potatoes for years, but the consensus was that it wasn't cost effective to produce large quantities at low prices.

Creating smaller batches of a premium product makes more sense, and potato farmers will be watching the project with interest, said Don Flannery, executive director of the Maine Potato Board in Presque Isle.

There's thought to be only one distillery in the United States that currently makes vodka from potatoes. In Rigby, Idaho, Silver Creek Distillers Inc. produces vodka carrying the Teton Glacier, Blue Ice and Zodiac labels.

Vodka is the most popular of the spirits, accounting for 26.2 percent of U.S. liquor consumption last year, according to the Distilled Spirits Council of the United

States. Rum was second at 12.3 percent.

"It's definitely a growing market," said Shawn Kelley, the trade group's director of public relations in New York.

The robust growth is due to the popularity of high-priced super premium brands and flavored vodkas, along with a resurgence in the cocktail culture that has boosted liquor consumption in general, she said.

Maine Distilleries Inc. plans to start small with one or two batches — up to 500 bottles — each week, said Bob Harkin, a partner in the venture. Each batch will use 4,000 to 5,000 pounds of potatoes grown by Thibodeau's Green Thumb Farms.

The company hopes to win regulatory approval from the federal and state government and purchase the equipment in time to begin production this spring. The goal is to be on the market by summer in Maine and New Hampshire.

From there, company officials plan to press deeper into the northeastern market, Harkin said. If successful, the company could end up buying potatoes from additional farmers in the state, he said.

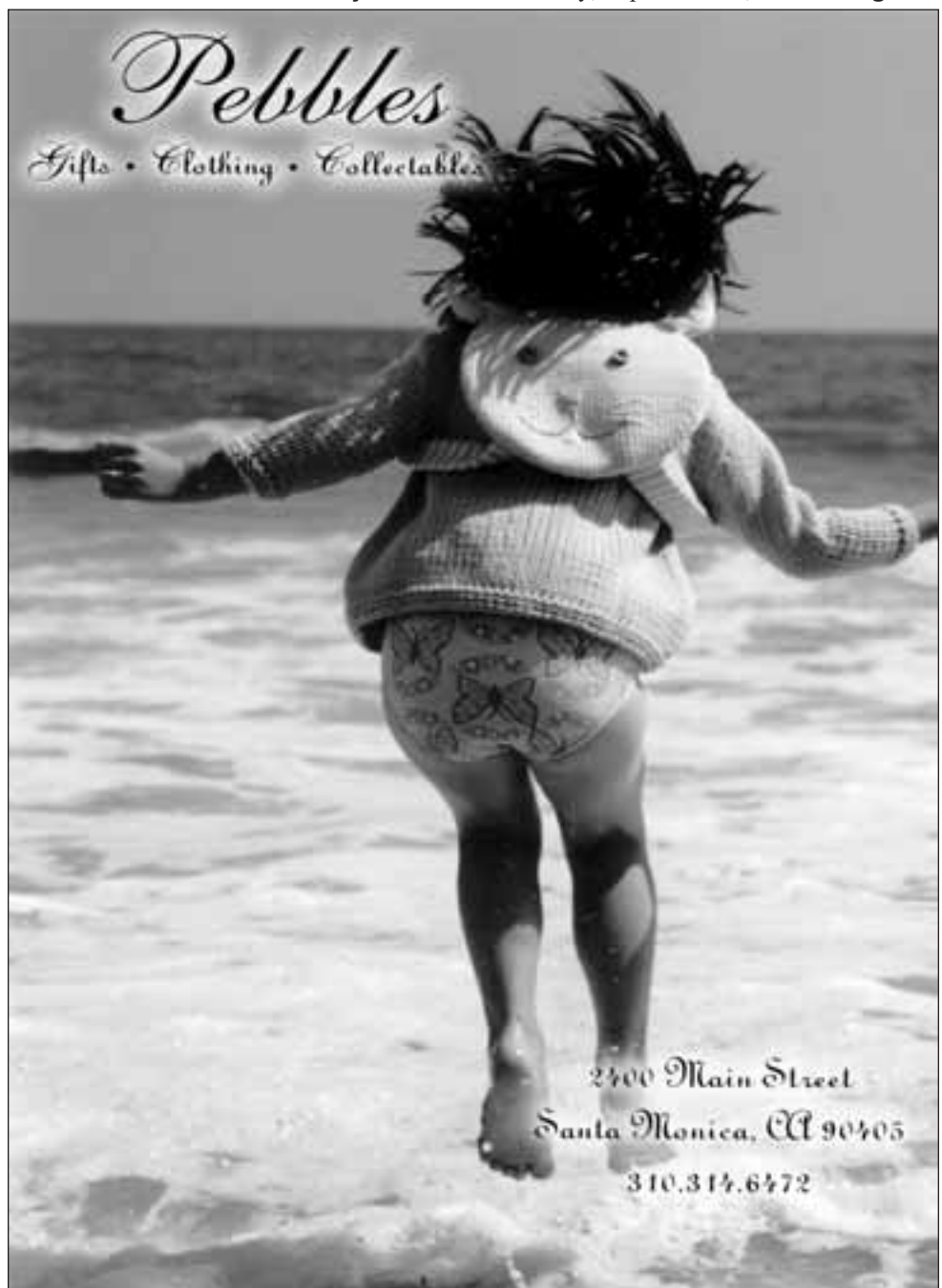
The name and label for the vodka have been chosen, but they're closely guarded secrets, along with the water source.

Harkin recently returned from a trip to Europe to look at equipment. The company plans to invest several hundred thousand dollars in distillery equipment produced in Stuttgart, Germany.

The entrepreneurs view their efforts as similar to those of microbreweries that proliferated in the early 1990s and have taken market share from big brewers like Coors, Budweiser and Miller.

Like those microbreweries, Maine Distilleries sees demand for a premium brand — aiming even higher than Absolut and Stolichnaya to the "super-premium" brands like Grey Goose, Chopin and Belvedere.

The conventional wisdom is that vodka was created in Poland using potatoes. But Harkin says 99 percent of vodka sold today is produced from grains like barley, wheat and corn.



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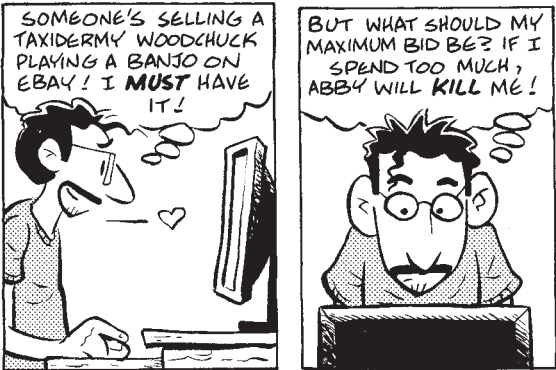


COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



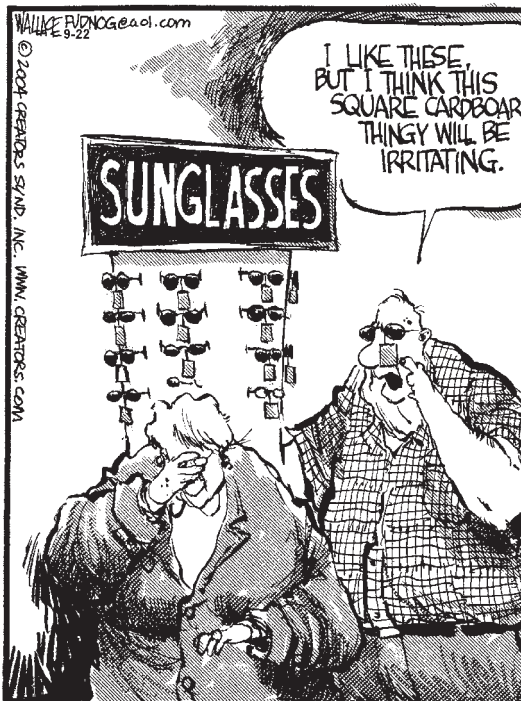
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- 11 Idolized
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- 14 Egyptian reptiles
- 15 Vast
- 17 Thompson of TV's "Family"
- 20 Up in the air
- 23 — chi (martial art)
- 24 "Abso-lutely!"
- 26 Tax org.
- 27 B & B
- 28 Maiden name indicator
- 29 Party's choice
- 31 Work leather
- 32 Ageless dwarf
- 33 Sets the price at
- 34 Result
- 37 Baja boy
- 39 Scents
- 43 Dance and music
- 44 Tomorrow, in Tijuana
- 45 Acid's opposite
- 46 Like some winter days

DOWN

- 1 Compact, e.g.
- 2 Fruit drink
- 3 Pop's mate
- 4 Susan Lucci role
- 5 Nevada city
- 6 Tacks on
- 7 Uses
- 8 Store employees' perks
- 9 Swiss peak
- 10 "You betcha!"
- 16 Battle site of 1914
- 17 Police trap
- 18 Baseball's Hank
- 19 Parts of high bar routines
- 21 Enthusiast
- 22 Most new drivers
- 24 Penalties
- 25 Undivided
- 30 Levy
- 33 Make amends
- 35 Spotlight grabbers
- 36 Test type
- 37 Collar
- 38 George Gershwin's brother
- 40 West of films
- 41 Leaf carrier
- 42 Utter

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