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Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

A growing number of historical sites in Mecca (perhaps even including the home of the Prophet Muhammad) may soon fall to urban renewal as developers plan skyscrapers with stores and condominiums, according to a July Reuters dispatch. (Ironically, many devout Wahhabi Muslims support the demolition, hoping to prevent people from worshipping such "sacred" buildings instead of concentrating on their proper duties in Islam. Those Wahhabis view only the Grand Mosque, which is the destination for the annual hajj pilgrimages, as untouchable.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 266th day of 2005.
There are 99 days left in the year.

On Sept. 23, 1779, during the Revolutionary War, the American warship Bon Homme Richard defeated the HMS Serapis after the American commander, John Paul Jones, is said to have declared: "I have not yet begun to fight!"

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The only interesting answers are those which destroy the questions."

SUSAN SONTAG
AMERICAN AUTHOR AND CRITIC (1933-2004)

INDEX

Horoscopes

Dinner for two, Scorpio 2

Surf Report

Water temperature: 62° 3

Opinion

Bush too happy-happy, joy-joy 4

Local

Bad boys, what'cha gonna do? 5

State

Rattle rates may drop 8

National

Not sharing the wealth 10

Entertainment

'Corpse' a live one 12

Comics

Strips tease 16

Classifieds

Ad space odyssey 17-19

Push comes to shove on Promenade



Ryan Hyatt/Special to the Daily Press

Louis Lewellen pinch hits for cart workers taking a lunchbreak on the Third Street Promenade. Many of the city's current cart operators are disgruntled with the city and the contract it has signed with a new managing vendor.

SM mall gives homeless a leg to stand on

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM PLACE — One of the country's largest retail mall owners is putting the homeless to work in Santa Monica.

A partnership between Macerich Co., which owns Santa Monica Place, and Chrysalis, a local nonprofit organization that employs homeless individuals, was announced on Thursday amidst a small group of supporters, including Los Angeles Councilman Bill Rosendahl.

Santa Monica Place is Macerich's first shopping center to "test" the Chrysalis-sponsored "StreetWorks" program with a

See **SM PLACE**, page 7

Toe jam



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Eric Brown, a third-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do, absorbs the blow delivered by his student, Gina Yip, as they practice in the park recently near Santa Monica Beach. Tae Kwon Do is a martial art form stemming from Korea, characterized by its high, fast and spinning kicks.

Dismayed cart operators unhappy with new vendor

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

THIRD STREET — Those concerned about the Promenade's new cart program hope City Hall will help iron out issues with the new vendor, but elected officials are still trying to figure out how they can help.

The program, intended to improve the consumer experience along the Promenade, has been taken over by a new management company. As part of the changes, the company has only offered to sign on five of the 17 existing retail operators. However, more may be allowed to stay if selected, and can meet new financial terms and business conditions, according to cart operators.

In June, Provenzano Resources Inc., (PRI) was awarded a 10-year contract to replace Promenade Services Inc., the group that had managed the Promenade's mobile cart operations since 1989. City

See **CARTS**, page 6

NATIONAL

Homelessness gets put on front burner

BY COLLEEN SLEVIN

Associated Press Writer

DENVER — When John Hickenlooper campaigned for mayor two years ago, he heard a complaint from all directions — do something about the homeless.

They were hanging around the restaurants, lofts and businesses of trendy downtown Denver, panhandling shoppers and baseball fans on their way to Coors Field. Hickenlooper understood: He owns a popular downtown restaurant.

A homeless man also ran for mayor, so the issue frequently came up. And then there was Roxane White, who ran a shelter for teenagers and showed up at forums to grill the candidates

See **HOMELESSNESS**, page 9

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1 e-workshop: 415pch.smgov.net
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2 Two Day Community Workshop: October 1st & 2nd
Rain or shine at the project site, 415 Pacific Coast Highway

Saturday, October 1
10:00 am Welcome: Registration & Refreshments
10:30 am Project Presentation by 415 PCH Design Team
12:30 pm Break-out Discussion Groups

Sunday, October 2
Noon Welcome
12:30 pm Design Team Response to Community Input
Additional Community Comment
3 pm Special Meeting of the Recreation & Parks Commission

3 Landmarks Commission: October 10th, 6 pm
City Council Chambers, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica
This study session of the Landmarks Commission will include presentation, public input and commission discussion.



The revitalization of 415 PCH as a public facility is made possible by a generous gift from the Annenberg Foundation and the recommendation of Wallis Annenberg as a partnership with the City of Santa Monica and California State Parks. Additional funding is provided by the US Department of Housing & Urban Development.

Facilities are wheelchair accessible. To request a disability-related accommodation (such as sign language interpreting), please call 310-458-8310 at least 5 business days in advance. Para información en español, llame al número 310-458-8540.

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Dinner for two, Scorpio

Santa Monica Daily Press



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)**
★★★★ Though you could wake up out of sorts, you quickly pull it together. What helps more than anything is that you remember it's Friday. Start dreaming up special plans. Friends touch base with you; respond to their ideas. Tonight: Loving every moment.

 **TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
★★★★ Before you even make a move, check your checkbook balance. You ask why? You could easily go overboard today. A boss continues to confuse you. Don't worry about it so much. If this situation continues to bother you, consider a job change. Tonight: Your treat.

 **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
★★★★ A must conversation punctuates the day. The sooner you get things off your chest, the happier you will be. You might have a far-out idea. Check out the possibilities. Decisions aren't made overnight. Go with the moment. Tonight: Just make sure you're around music. Your mind relaxes to different melodies.

 **CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
★★ You just might have had enough of everything. There is nothing wrong with this; sometimes we all need a break. A vague comment must not be taken personally; let it go. Take your time. Tonight: Do your own thing.

 **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
★★★★ Others care about how you feel, and they let you know it. You might be closing down without realizing it. Answer a friend's inquiry. Let this person know what is going on with you. Others seem silly or confusing at times. Tonight: Hang with tried-and-true pals.

 **VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
★★ Getting clear of your responsibilities takes a major effort on your part. You wonder what exactly is going on with a boss or a certain someone you admire. Think: Are you being negative? Could that be the problem? Tonight: Don't count on getting home early.

 **LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
★★★★ Your mind isn't present, wherever you are. In fact, your fantasy life seems to take over. A stern comment might bring you back to reality. If you're an artist or are creative, let your imagination flow. Tonight: Your libido calls.

 **SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
★★ A family member is not revealing the true story. There is a strong possibility that even if he or she did, you would not quite hear it. Work and make plans on an individual level. You are better off with those who understand you. Tonight: Dinner for two.

 **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
★★★★ Your intuition is back on target. Use it well, especially when dealing with others. Your sensitivity draws many friends and new want-to-be pals. A relationship benefits as well. "New" might be difficult. Tonight: Go with already-made plans.

 **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
★★ You might not be able to get through as much as you would like. Confusion surrounds a financial/work/daily issue. You need to root out the problem before you relax. Get plenty of exercise, even during the day. Take a walk at lunch. Tonight: In your easy chair.

 **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
★★★★ You simply do not work on the same plane or mental level as others. Your imagination, ingenuity and perspective might influence others more than you know. Go on automatic right now, though others might have difficulty following you. Tonight: Let your hair down.

 **PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
★★ You feel pushed and scattered to the utmost. You need to realize that you are very tired and probably feeling others' demands more profoundly than usual. Quit work early if need be. Tonight: How about a nap first? You need some downtime.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Hotel wraps some love around Katrina victims

By Daily Press staff

Le Merigot Beach Hotel and Spa’s catering manager Jennifer Edwards has family who was displaced from New Orleans and are now refugees in Houston. They have lost everything. But the hotel’s general manager, Paul Hortobagyi, started a clothing collection campaign from hotel employees and those packages were wrapped at a “wrapping party” where Edwards hand-delivered the goods to her family in Houston earlier this month. The staff at Le Merigot also collected money for the Red Cross.

Free English classes being offered

By Daily Press staff

Those who can’t speak English can learn without spending a dime. The Santa Monica College Continuing and Community Education Program has announced that it is offering free English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) classes beginning Oct. 23. Registration is ongoing. Classes are offered at the beginning, intermediate and advanced levels and cover listening, speaking, reading, writing and conversation. “We’re excited to be offering these noncredit classes to the huge population of non-native English speakers in the Los Angeles area who want to improve their English for careers and a wide variety of reasons,” said Erica LeBlanc, assistant dean of continuing and community education. Classes are offered days, nights and weekends at SMC’s new Airport Campus, slated to open this summer. The Airport Campus is located at 3171 S. Bundy Dr., Los Angeles. Parking is free. For more information, call (310) 434-3400.

Local chefs keeping the spirit of New Orleans alive

By Daily Press staff

Some of Santa Monica’s greatest chefs are gathering at The Buffalo Club next week to cook up some support for Hurricane Katrina victims. They’ll gather on Sept. 27 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. to raise money from restaurants, local officials, celebrities, corporations and Santa Monica residents. The fundraising goal of \$100,000 will be given to the American Red Cross. Participating Santa Monica chefs will include Josie Le Balch of Josie; Josiah Citrin of Melisse; Patrick Healy of The Buffalo Club; Raphael Lunetta of Jiraffe; Hans Rockenwagner of Rockenwagner and Piero Selvaggio of Valentino. The chefs will prepare the sounds and tastes of New Orleans, and will honor the strength and resilience of the landmark city and the neighboring Gulf states who were devastated by the natural disaster. For reservations or information, call (310) 450-8600, ext. 0. You also can visit www.chefs4aid.com. There will be an all-inclusive \$200 per person tax deductible donation with proceeds going to The American Red Cross. The Buffalo Club is located at 1520 Olympic Blvd.

All things Wilshire on Conservancy tour

By Daily Press staff

Have you stopped to think about the rich history along Wilshire Boulevard? Well now you can. On Oct. 2, the Los Angeles Conservancy will take visitors on a self-guided tour from downtown Los Angeles, through Beverly Hills, to Santa Monica while exploring the architectural and cultural history of the famous thoroughfare. Wilshire Boulevard includes the most dense and ethnically diverse neighborhoods of Los Angeles; represents virtually every dominant building type of the 20th century; and exemplifies the role of the automobile in the growth of the region, officials said. Six selected sites along the way will be open for docent tours, such as the former Bullocks Wilshire, now part of the Southwestern University School of Law. A guidebook and kid’s activity book are included. Tour goers may drive their own cars or take the Wilshire Metro bus. Tickets for the Wilshire Boulevard tour — which includes the tour of Miles Playhouse and the Palisades Park guidebook — are available for \$35 at www.laconservancy.org, or by phone at (213) 623-2489.

The Buddhist life featured at SMC

By Daily Press staff

Get a chance to get up close and personal with the Buddhist way of life. “Tibetan Masters & Visions of the Buddhist Life: A Photographic Journey” is the title of a free lecture that will be given at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7 at Santa Monica College. Don Farber — who has spent nearly 30 years traveling through eight Asian countries and the U.S. to create a visual record of Buddhist life — will give the talk in room 214 of the art complex, 1900 Pico Blvd. A book signing will follow, and books will be available for purchase. Seating is limited and is on a first-arrival basis. Parking is free. The lecture is co-sponsored by the SMC Associates, a private organization that funds speakers and special programs on campus, and the University of California Press Associates, which provides support to the prestigious University of California Press. Farber is the author of two books, “Visions of a Buddhist Life” and “Portraits of Tibetan Buddhist Masters,” both published by UC Press. For information, call (310) 434-4303.



SURF REPORT

On Friday, the southern hemi swell should increase slightly with size running chest- to head-high at most south-facing breaks. Standouts can expect some set waves running a foot or two over-head. Hurricane energy should also be in the mix similar to today.

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

Today the water is:

62°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
MONDAY	4:25	0.2	4:56	0.2	10:37	6.1	11:04	5.3
TUESDAY	4:56	0.9	5:46	0.2	11:10	6.2	11:57	4.6
WEDNESDAY	5:26	1.6	6:43	0.4	11:45	6.0	N/A	N/A
THURSDAY	1:01	3.9	12:22	5.7	5:55	3.0	7:51	0.7
FRIDAY	2:39	3.4	1:08	5.3	6:21	2.9	9:20	0.9

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The QLine

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The City Council has approved a new bus-only lane along Lincoln Boulevard that officials say will help ease congestion during peak traffic times of the day. Business owners along Lincoln, however, say the subsequent loss of street parking will hurt their businesses.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, “Do you support the creation of the new bus lane as an attempt to ease traffic congestion despite the loss of some street parking for local businesses? Why or why not?”

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

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OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wheels of justice blind to the make of our cars

Editor:

In response to Bill Bolt’s letter to the editor (“Press unbalanced in coverage of bicyclists’ deaths,” SMDP, Sept. 21, page 4), how was the coverage of the accidental deaths of the cyclists unbalanced? They told us who, what, when, where and why.

You accuse them of “blaming the poor and powerless.” I wasn’t aware that “the poor” are not responsible for controlling their vehicles. How do you even know the driver of the truck is poor? Maybe he’s the owner of the catering company? Who is making unbalanced assumptions now?

Bottom line, anyone behind the wheel is responsible for driving and maintaining control — a catering truck driver or the driver of an \$80,000 Mercedes. I am a cyclist myself, I’ve ridden PCH a handful of times, construction aside, it’s very dangerous. Most of the drivers are cruising well above the speed limit and many don’t seem to have any desire to take cyclists into consideration. Once I got into an altercation where someone yelled obscenities and then spit at me. You want to blame the synagogue for doing their construction? Why not blame Cal Trans for the concrete erosion barriers near Topanga? They forced me to inch into the lane for about 10 seconds to bypass it. The cars usually inch over as well or slow until a rider can get back onto the shoulder. It’s called paying attention to driving and sharing the road. Construction goes on all the time on PCH. Maybe SMDP should have had a separate article about the catering truck driver’s life and background. Would that have made it more fair and balanced? It’s a tragedy for all involved, the deceased and the families of the deceased and accused. As for the farmer’s market debacle — I had read that the elderly gentleman caused an accident, turned the corner onto Arizona, and flustered, he floored the car making no attempt to brake. Barriers or not, the responsibility seems to be quite clear in that accident.

Mark Sanderson
Santa Monica

Bush needs to embrace dark side



HERE’S
THE THING

BY LARA M. BROWN, PH.D

If you’ve been following the storms in the Gulf, you know that there is a monster heading towards Galveston, Tex. Hurricane Rita — a category 5 storm — is expected to make landfall sometime late Friday or early Saturday morning. It’s expected to wreak havoc on towns all along the Texas coast, and if it turns to the right, Louisiana is threatened.

Politicians — eager to show that they learned from the mistakes of Hurricane Katrina — have been more adamant about evacuating people from their homes prior to the storm. Texas Governor Rick Perry has ordered the evacuation of everyone along the coast. Overall, about 1.3 million people have left or are in the process of leaving the region. The mayor of Galveston has worked to secure buses and other means of transportation for the residents of her city, focusing on the elderly, the infirm, and the poor first. Some local officials have even let people bring their pets in crates and the buses have begun to resemble a modern day Noah’s Ark.

The Bush Administration has made certain that FEMA is ready to roll. They have brought water, ice, ready-to-eat meals, and they have coordinated with National Guard troops, so that should a military presence be needed, it will be on hand. President Bush has declared a state of emergency in both Texas and Louisiana, opening the doors to several federal assistance programs. On Wednesday, President Bush said, “We hope and pray that hurricane Rita will not be a devastating storm, but we got to be ready for the worst.”

While it is comforting to know that we can learn from our mistakes, it’s painfully apparent watching this coordinated response at the federal, state, and local level how much more could have been done prior to Hurricane Katrina. In other words, it doesn’t take much imagination to wonder how different it would be now had Bush taken the attitude towards Katrina that he took on Wednesday towards Rita. What if he hadn’t been so

focused on his vacation? What if he had been willing to cancel his speech in California?

More generally, what if he had been willing to hear bad news? What if he had been willing to consider that a massive hurricane was heading towards Louisiana and if the “worst-case” models were right, then New Orleans could be under water within 48 hours? While some may say, “well he is doing it now,” the point is, why did he need to have a glaring example of why he should do it, in order to do it?

Time Magazine reported last week that President Bush doesn’t like to hear bad news and that he isolates himself, listening only to those staffers who report good things. While some may believe that this behavior only makes him out-of-touch politically, it is much more dangerous than that. What it means is that he doesn’t accurately assess the potential costs or risks associated with his actions. The administration’s overly optimistic assessment of how the Iraq war would turn out is the most obvious example of the danger of this kind of thinking.

Here’s The Thing:

President Bush is dangerous as a leader not because he is slow on the uptake of a situation, though his reaction time is not impressive by any means — whether it was seven minutes on the day of the World Trade Center attacks or 72 hours with hurricane Katrina — but this is not his gravest fault.

President Bush is dangerous as a leader because he always likes to look on the bright side of things, and he doesn’t seem to understand that leaders don’t have that luxury. While their job is to tell the people about the bright side, they must be ruthless with themselves about reality and the worst case scenarios. If they are not, then they unwittingly lead their people into perilous situations and they abuse the trust that has been given to them. Leaders must learn to understand, even relish in the darkness if they hope to protect their people from it and this is something President Bush refuses to do now that he has been “born again.”

(Lara M. Brown, Ph.D., is a political scientist from Los Angeles, and teaches at California State University, Channel Islands. She can be reached at larambrown@aol.com)

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

LOCAL



CRIME WATCH

By Daily Press staff

Rape averted by patrolling police

At 9:38 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 18, Santa Monica police officers were patrolling the 800 block of Fourth Street when they heard a woman's scream. The officers contacted the female, who said she was homeless and sleeping on the sidewalk when the suspect approached her, exposed his penis and pinned her against the wall. Jesus Eduardo Torres, 21, transient, was identified and arrested for intent to commit rape. Bail was set at \$100,000. The victim was not injured and did not desire medical treatment.

At 11:35 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 12, the Santa Monica police responded to the 1900 block of Ocean Way regarding suspicious activity. When officers arrived to the scene, they saw four subjects in a laundry room and it appears they were attempting to break into the machines. Jose Mauricio Martinez, 21, Salvador Martinez, 21, Natasha Florana Esparza, 21, and Jasmine Chavez, 18, all from Los Angeles were booked for commercial burglary and transported to Santa Monica jail. Bail was set at \$50,000.

At 2:24 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 14, the Santa Monica police responded to the 2700 block of Wilshire Boulevard, at the Washington Mutual bank, regarding a fraud suspect. When officers arrived to the scene, they contacted the bank employee who said the suspect was attempting to pass a fraudulent check for \$4,900 using a fraudulent California drivers license. Officers contacted the suspect, who also had a \$10,000 traffic warrant. Nadine Trammell, 42, transient, was arrested for fraud. Bail was set at \$30,000.

At 4:40 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 16, the Santa Monica police responded to the 600 block of Pico Boulevard, Santa Monica High School, regarding a suspect in custody for possession of a knife, marijuana and alcohol. The suspect, a student at the high school, was detained by security, and brought to the principal's office, where police officers contacted him. He had in his possession a folding knife, less than an ounce of marijuana, and an alcoholic beverage. Juan Carlos Solis, 18, of Santa Monica, was released into police custody and booked for possession of a knife on school grounds, possession of less than an ounce of marijuana and a minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage. Bail was set at \$20,000.

At 12:39 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 17, the Santa Monica police responded to the 400 block of 21st Street regarding a trespass investigation. When officers arrived to the scene, they contacted the reporting party, who said that the house should be vacant. However, someone had moved in without permission. Officers contacted the suspect, who stated he had been living in the residents for six months without the permission of the owner. Alfred Smith Doss, 58, transient was booked for trespassing. Bail was set at \$3,000.

At 2:55 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 18, the Santa Monica police responded to the 1200 block of Palisades Beach Road, regarding an assault investigation. When officers arrived to the scene, they contacted the victim, who said she and her boyfriend are homeless, and while she was asleep, her boyfriend returned and became argumentative with the victim. He attempted to smother a pillow over her head. The victim, six months pregnant, was able to get away and call police. Robert Niko Cheatham, 33, transient, was arrested for attempted murder. No bail was set.

This police report was prepared by Daily Press Staff Writer Ryan Hyatt.



John McGrail, C.Ht.

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Vendor gears for sleeker Promenade

CARTS, from page 1

officials and the Bayside District Corp. — a nonprofit group of business leaders who help manage downtown along with City Hall — felt it was time to see if there were any vendors who could present better concepts or approaches to handling the Promenade that would make it more profitable for all parties involved.

But the road to a sleeker Promenade presentation and the expected revenue increase won't come easy, cart operators said. Those who have been chosen to stay will receive a six-month contract to start, face double their current rent and thousands of dollars in start-up fees.

"In my experience, you don't do business like that," said Itay Yona, who has managed Antiqua jewelry and other carts on the Promenade for 10 years.

Yona said PRI is requiring cart operators to invest too much money without guarantees they will be able to recoup their costs within the six-month period. However, their investment would likely allow PRI to pay for its new carts, which it will use for years.

It's a matter which has piqued the interest of Councilman Richard Bloom, who said he is waiting for more information from city staff to see if this short-term contract is unusual, and if so, what might be done about it.

"One of the things that caught my eye about this issue was the six month's length of the contract," Bloom said. "I

look forward to hearing from staff why that approach has been utilized."

City staff is expected to prepare a public report this week, available online, which will update the council on community concerns about the cart program and what may be done to address them. The report is anticipated to brief the council so they can weigh-in on issues related to the new cart program at the council meeting on Sept. 27.

Deborah S. Kravitz, PRI's president, said the new cart program, expected to be underway by Nov. 21, will consist of 17 retail carts, five food carts and three carts for artists. The new carts are intended to be a more attractive addition to the Promenade, Kravitz said. PRI also has hired a merchandising expert who will see to it the wares for sale at each cart are distinct from other carts and nearby shops.

Such moves will likely increase revenue for the cart operators, Kravitz said.

PRI, which owns the carts, has the discretion to choose which cart operators it will use, according to Miriam Mack, the city's economic development manager.

Previously, merchants complained because an operator could have multiple carts on the Promenade. Under the new system, operators will only be allowed to have one cart, so "everyone can have piece of the pie," Kravitz said.

Also, now there will be carts dedicated solely to artists and food vendors. The crafts to be sold, such as photographs and paintings, are intended to promote LA-

based artists, Kravitz said.

Beginning Oct. 1, no carts will be operating on the Promenade while PRI renovates the carts' storage facilities. The improvements are expected to be finished by Nov. 21, in time to have the new carts up and running for the holiday shopping season, Mack said.

Meanwhile, veteran operators whose contracts have been renewed will have a six-week lag during which they won't be earning revenue.

JURY OUT ON NEW PROGRAM

Yona, who works with a company that competed with PRI's bid, said that with a new vendor a certain level of turmoil can be expected as the parties involved adjust to the new program.

However, besides the initial contract term, Yona said he is generally optimistic the new program will work, because it has to at this point.

"Nobody on the Promenade likes how this is going, but the city has signed a contract which could cost millions to break," Yona said. "The city signed the contract because it believes a better business will come from it.

"But people must realize a good business takes time to develop."

Yona's attitude, however, may prove to be the exception along the Promenade, where many operators feel betrayed by City Hall and still want a system in place that caters more to the needs of small businesses, which they argue the new program doesn't.

Aneeta Sagar, who, along with her husband, owns three carts on the Promenade, including the hat display, said many of the cart operators are foreigners beginning their first business. As such, their efforts represent substantial money, resources and time to create, which is now being threatened to be swept out from under their feet.

"This is these people's livelihood who have put all of their savings into it and now they're just axing us out completely and leaving us with nothing," Sagar said. "Needless to say, employees working with us will be out of a job."

Sagar said she hired a homeless man named "Bob," who receives a regular salary, enabling him to put a roof over his head and help his other homeless friends.

However, with the new program in place, Sagar said she isn't certain how she will be able to keep people like Bob on board.

"Bob is faced with moving back to the streets," Sagar said. "Do we want to contribute to the homeless population any more in Santa Monica?"

It's a question which rings true for Greg Jest, also known as "Jest Greg," a former homeless man who earns \$80 per day and a roof over his head at a local motel, by pushing carts to their locations.

Jest, who said he has been attending the local vendor meetings, said PRI plans on replacing the cart pushers with an automated system, resulting in a loss of work for dozens of people who might otherwise be homeless.

"I want to keep my job," Jest said. "What am I going to do without it, move back to the streets?"

Paul Sauer, who works a sunglasses cart, said he is not surprised by the latest developments on the Promenade, which has been deteriorating for years ever since the city's leadership began to open the pedestrian street to well-heeled operations.

"It's another greedy corporate project brought on by Bayside and the city," Sauer said.

Sauer said there used to be more people who visited the Promenade when it was mostly run by mom-and-pop shops, providing the street with a friendlier feel.

"Until the city takes a local approach to the Promenade, 'good business' will be long in coming," Sauer said. "How many Starbucks and Tommy Hilfigers can you have on one block?"

In some ways, Santa Monica city councilmembers said they have been trying to answer the same question.

Councilman Kevin McKeown said he is concerned with how the city is managing its contracts on the Promenade, pier and the city's beachfront in making sure the city's policy toward encouraging small businesses is being utilized.

At the same time, McKeown said the council agreed that a variety was needed in the cart operations on the Promenade to ensure there was no overlap and to encourage diversity for consumers, conditions which he believes the new vendor shall meet.

"I went back and read the license agreement that came out in June, and what we're asking for is that the new program include more locally made products and space for artisans and vendors," McKeown said. "I understand the lessee has taken a new direction, and not everyone is selling cell phones and sunglasses, and for some of the people there the change of product is a challenge."

McKeown and Bloom said they are looking into options which might allow cart operators the opportunity to take out loans to stay in business.

Another concern McKeown and Bloom are hoping to address is the six-week downtime vendors expect in October and November.

McKeown said there's a chance the downtime may not happen, since City Hall is looking to find alternative storage facilities until the remodeling is complete, and the new cart operators may be able to use the old carts until the new ones arrive.

McKeown said he's committed to helping vendors any way he can.

"I'm very committed to small businesses and think that's a direction we need to go, away from corporatization of our society, so the money stay in the community and our local economy," McKeown said.

Meanwhile, Yona said PRI was acting as the middleman, subject to pressures from both City Hall and cart operators. Considering this, Yona said cart operators who would like to remain on the Promenade may need to keep the situation in perspective when dealing with the new vendor.

"You can say the glass is half empty or half full, but either way, you have what's in the glass," Yona said.



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LOCAL



Macerich, Chrysalis strike deal to provide jobs to city's homeless

SM PLACE, from page 1

contract to provide cleaning services throughout the mall property. The professional work program, which includes the sweeping and pressure-washing of garages and parking structures, will enable the workers to secure marketable experience and job skills.

That's been the case for Heidi Olinger, who has been working at Chrysalis for about a year. She signed on to the StreetWorks program in June. On Thursday, Olinger told the crowd gathered in front of the mall entrance on Fourth Street that having a job has allowed to her to move forward in other areas of her life — including getting married last week.

When she came to Santa Monica, Olinger was broke and living in a shelter. Because she harbored deep psychological scars from her past, she was unable to get a handle on her life. But having a job changed all of that, she said.

"I already have an improved sense of self and my self-esteem," Olinger said, adding that knowing she has a good job helps her realize that homelessness is not a condition, but a temporary situation. It's also improved her outlook on life.

"I love my job," she said. "I clean the toilets and take out the trash."

Adlai Wertman, president and CEO of Chrysalis, said he hopes more local companies will follow Macerich's lead and employ people who need a helping hand.

Chrysalis employs 2,500 homeless or economically disadvantaged people each year, focusing on those individuals who are ready to move on from their addictions, sleeping outside and taking hand-outs.

"We are the only organization in Los Angeles to focus on people at that moment in time," Wertman said. "It can't be done by a nonprofit alone or by government alone, that's why we create partnerships. And this partnership with Macerich is an absolute perfect example."

Without the proper references and the right kind of assistance, it's difficult for homeless individuals to get jobs. Many of those who are down-and-out have been unemployed for decades, have criminal records and no references.

But that wasn't an issue at Macerich



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Los Angeles Councilman Bill Rosendahl (left) and Chris Facas, of Macerich Co., announce the deal between Chrysalis and Santa Monica Place mall on Thursday.

when its corporate executives decided almost immediately to sign onto the program when Chrysalis approached them.

Chris Facas, vice president of property management at Macerich, said from a business standpoint, he was initially nervous about the employees' references, but the decision to say "yes" to the partnership ultimately was natural. Facas also reported that those now working at Santa Monica Place had excellent references.

Chrysalis provides employment through its centers based in downtown Los Angeles, Santa Monica and the San Fernando Valley. Service jobs also include preparation classes — which covers finding job leads — interviewing for jobs, completing applications and preparing a resume.

"Our organization's philosophy is that a steady job is the single most important step in a person's transition to long-term self-sufficiency and we simply could not accomplish this task without companies like Macerich that are willing to work hand-in-hand with us to make it a reality," Wertman said.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

LIFE'S A BEACH AND THEN YOU DINE

FOR INCLUSION IN THIS GUIDE, PLEASE CALL (310) 458-7737

ANNA'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT-Celebrating its 36th anniversary, Anna's has become a landmark in West LA with its famous pastas, pizza, veal, prime beef, chicken, seafood, appetizers and salads all at surprisingly reasonable prices. A must try is the minestrone soup, considered the best around. Owners Andy and Tony are always on hand and many of their friendly staff have been with them since their opening in 1969. Come and experience the best in Roman cuisine (Southern & Northern Italian). Full selection of beer, wine and cocktails. Lunch: Monday-Friday 11:30-4pm, Dinner: 4:30pm nightly. 10929 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles. (310) 474-0102.

BENIHANA-For more than 40 years Benihana chefs have been cooking up a feast on the hibachi grill. Steak, chicken, seafood and vegetables are all prepared teppan-style "right before your eyes". Start your meal with a sushi appetizer, then relax and enjoy the show while sipping exotic cocktails served in collectible ceramic mugs. Open every day for lunch and dinner, valet parking nightly at the corner of 4th and Broadway. 1447 4th St., between Broadway and Santa Monica Blvd. (310) 260-1423.

BIG DEAN'S CAFE-Where the 'locals' meet and the 'fun-loving' tourists always return! Come enjoy our highly acclaimed beach fare, beer, and wine at the best people watching place on the beach. Music, satellite sports, 2 outdoor patios, and smoking allowed. This nostalgic eatery has been here since 1902! The prices are reasonable and children are welcome. Now serving breakfast. Also serving lunch and dinner. 1615 Ocean Front, Santa Monica. (310) 393-2666.

BRITANNIA PUB-This English pub has a traditional charm with a Californian flair. Traditional British breakfast is served all day along with all your American favorites. Fish & Chips (our biggest seller) is a must try along with Bangers & Mash and Shepherds Pie or go American with our assortment of appetizers, burgers, salads, soups and sandwiches. We also serve our own hand cut fries. Join us after the restaurant closes for Quiz night, Karaoke, and DJ nights. We now have a late night menu available 10pm-1:30am. Outdoor patio, pool table, full bar, Gold Award from Guinness. Hours: 11am-10pm Monday-Friday, 9:30am-10pm Saturday and Sunday. 318 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica. (310) 458-5350.

BUCCA di BEPPO-gets to the heart of Southern Italian cooking with authentic, family-style recipes like Chicken Parmigiana, Shrimp Scampi, and Tortelloni. Dishes are available in Buca Small portions for 2 or more people, and Buca Large for 4 or more. The full menu is available for curb-side take out; we'll deliver your order right to your car! Located one block off the Promenade at 1422 2nd St, Santa Monica. Call 310-587-EATS for reservations and take out.

CASA ESCOBAR-This family owned institution in Santa Monica has been serving excellent food since 1965. A friendly bar and dinner house frequented by the "locals" and tourists alike. We feature the best Mexican dishes in town. Among the favorites are the crispy beef tacos, spinach enchiladas and our house-cut NY Strip steaks on the grill. Our full bar is home of the famous Casa Escobar Margarita—a winner! While at the bar, enjoy our classic piano bar along with cable TV. Valet Parking available. All major credit cards. Open lunch and dinner. 2500 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. (310) 828-1315.

GLADSTONE'S MALIBU-One of SoCal's busiest seafood restaurants; a million visitors each year. A landmark known for its fresh seafood, live lobsters and crab, and its famous Mile High Chocolate Cake. Gladstone's ocean-front location offers diners huge portions and a casual atmosphere. Dine inside or on the outside deck with unbelievable views and waves of fun. Gladstone's "Good Vibrations" Live Music, 6pm-8:30pm every Friday night, all summer long. Lunch, dinner daily; Saturday and Sunday brunch. 17300 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu. (310) GL4-FISH.

JOHNNIES-The Best Little Neighborhood Italian Restaurant. Come in to our new location and enjoy Traditional or Stuffed pastas, Mile High Salads, Grinders, Roman Style Sandwiches, Hearty Calzones, and New York Style Thin Crust Pizza, in a relaxing neighborhood setting. When you're looking for a reasonably priced, traditional Italian meal with authentic New York attitude, Johnnies delivers. Hours: Sunday-Thursday 11am-10pm and Friday and Saturday 11am-11pm. Dine In, Take Out and Delivery. 1456 Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica. (310) 395-9062.

OVERUNDER SPORTS GRILL-Located on the corner of 14th Street and Santa Monica Blvd., OVERUNDER features 12 draft beers and a fine selection of wine making it a great place to watch any and all of your favorite teams. The house specialty is the Philadelphia cheese steak. OVERUNDER also offers great burgers, salads, Mexican food and more. OVERUNDER is the viewing home for the Cleveland Browns and strongly supports the Lakers, Clippers, Dodgers, and Kings. Frequent food and beer specials are also offered at OVERUNDER Sports Grill. All football, baseball, and basketball games are televised via satellite for every team. 1348 14th Street, Santa Monica. (310) 576-9913.

PANINI GARDEN-This authentic European eatery serves traditional Italian and French style food. Panin style sandwiches grilled on a cast-iron panini grill that seals all the savory flavors inside a bread envelope of your choice, from very soft and thin like the tramezzini, soft and crispy for the al forno and crusty for the rustico. A large selection of meats and cheeses, organic produce, fresh and healthy combinations of menu items to enjoy everyday have made PANINI GARDEN the local's favorite. In addition, delicious crepes are served all day, for breakfast or just dessert, it is always a treat. The setting is quiet in the lavender garden with the bubbling fountain. Hours: 8am-9pm Sunday-Thursday, 8am-10:30pm Friday and Saturday. 2715 Main Street, Santa Monica. (310) 399-9939.

THE GALLEY-Rediscover Service - Rediscover The Galley. Visit Captain Ron at what Zagat Guide refers to as the place to go for "marvelous" steaks and "stiff drinks". NOW OPEN FOR LUNCH ON THE WEEKENDS AT NOON featuring 1/4 lb. Kosher hot dogs with fries served at the bar for \$2.00 until July 31st. GREAT PATIO DINING. All fresh fish from Santa Monica Seafood and the best tuna salad sandwiches you will ever get at any restaurant! Capt. Ron will walk the plank if you don't agree! Hours: 5pm-until Capt. Ron gets tired Monday-Friday, noon until the party stops Saturday and Sunday. 2442 Main Street, Santa Monica. (310) 452-1934.

THE OMELETTE PARLOR-For 28 years The Omelette Parlor has been offering the finest in breakfast fare. With high fluffy omelettes, super sandwiches, and the freshest of salads, it's more than breakfast. Enjoy your day on our garden patio and experience the friendliness of service. Quality and value prevail forever at The Omelette Parlor. We open everyday at 6am. Come early! Hours: 6am-2:30pm Monday-Friday, 6am-4pm Saturday and Sunday. 2732 Main Street, Santa Monica. (310) 399-7892.

THE SLICE-A true neighborhood pizzeria serving authentic New York pizza & buffalo wings. We also offer a selection of hot & cold subs, pastas and salads. You can also create your own calzone. Eat in, take out, or delivery. Catering is available. Hours: open daily 11am-9pm. Visit one of our three locations: 915 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica (310) 451-7542, 1622 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica (310) 399-4060, 13151 Fountain Park Drive, Playa Vista (310) 437-7499.

VIOLET-At Violet restaurant the atmosphere is casual, comfortable, and, like its cuisine, is uncluttered. Chef Jared Simons' flavorful small plate fare has something to suit everyone, from light eaters to those with a taste for a more robust fare. The Braised Short Ribs with Shallot Potatoes (\$14.50) melt apart while the Multi-Colored Beet Salad with Eel delights with Kumquat and Ginger Vinaigrette (\$9) and the favorite among the regulars is the Baked Macaroni and Gruyere Cheese with Serrano Ham (\$7.50). Unique selection of new and old world wines by the bottle, glass or flight as well as an impressive list of domestic & imported artisan beers. Hours: Lunch: Tuesday-Friday, 11:30am-2pm. Dinner: Tuesday-Friday, 6pm-10pm & Saturday and Sunday, 5:30pm-10pm. 3221 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. www.violetrestaurant.com (310) 453-9113.



STATE

Calif. may lower quake insurance rates

BY GARANCE BURKE
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — As federal, state and local officials grapple with the financial and physical ruin wrought by Hurricane Katrina, momentum is building to make earthquake insurance offered by the semipublic California Earthquake Authority more affordable.

Fewer than 15 percent of California homeowners currently pay to protect their properties against earthquakes. That is about half the number who had earthquake coverage in 1995, the year after the magnitude-6.7 Northridge earthquake, which with \$40 billion in losses was the nation's costliest natural disaster before Katrina.

"Katrina is a wake-up call for California," Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi said. "If a catastrophe occurred, a high percentage of the homes wouldn't have insurance. I'm clearly in a mood to drive prices down."

In November, Garamendi plans to convene state insurance commissioners from across the country to discuss creating a national catastrophe insurance program that would make premiums more affordable for homeowners living in areas affected by natural disasters.

For many California residents, foregoing earthquake insurance is simply a matter of evaluating cost and risk. While geologists say temblors as violent as the 1994 Northridge quake can occur in the state once every decade, homeowners

often conclude that paying expensive premiums to guard against Mother Nature's unpredictable whims doesn't make sense.

But lower rates could be enough to persuade Constance Bernstein, who said she doesn't now carry earthquake insurance on her ornate San Francisco Victorian because it would cost thousands of dollars.

"In the last earthquake, nothing happened to my house. One tray fell off a shelf," said Constance Bernstein, a legal consultant in San Francisco. "I live here fearlessly. I know it's going to happen, but I just don't think it's going to happen to me."

Given the prevalence of such attitudes, state officials concede they must make earthquake insurance an attractive and viable option for more families. Last month, the California Earthquake Authority proposed lowering rates by 22 percent, a plan that would cut the average \$699 annual premium to about \$615.

The CEA holds 66 percent of the entire earthquake insurance market in California. If Garamendi approves the plan, more than half of CEA policyholders would see premiums decrease by \$100 per year, depending on the location and age of their buildings among other factors, Earthquake Authority spokeswoman Nancy Kincaid said.

Meanwhile, just more than 45,000 of the CEA's 730,000 current policyholders could see a rate increase of as much as 40 percent, Kincaid said.

The authority based its proposal on a geological survey that predicted the risk of earthquake damage was less than previ-

ously thought. A sudden drop in rates for reinsurance, or the insurance policies taken out by insurance providers, also made officials optimistic that coverage costs can be brought down, at least for the majority of homeowners.

In this respect, California may be in a unique position. States like Florida and Texas, which also manage disaster insurance programs, are unlikely to drop their rates since policyholders' money is still going to cover recent catastrophic losses, experts said.

While earthquake hazards may be lower than expected in much of the state, just the opposite is true in Riverside and Humboldt counties, according to the study by state and federal authorities. In Riverside County, geologists discovered that the desert soil around the San Jacinto fault puts homes there at significant risk, just as the movement of geologic plates in Humboldt County makes houses more vulnerable to landslides.

The California Earthquake Authority proposal would actually increase rates for about 15 percent of the agency's policyholders, most of whom live in those areas, said authority spokeswoman Nancy Kincaid.

As the world's largest residential earthquake insurer, the publicly managed CEA can influence rates. The Legislature created agency after the Northridge quake left many homeowners in legal tussles with insurance companies unwilling to cover the damage to their properties.

Earthquake insurance rates are not based on a home's value, but rather on the cost of rebuilding.

LA homeowners may get a break in event of quake

By The Associated Press

To encourage more property owners to buy earthquake insurance, the California Earthquake Authority has recommended overhauling the existing rate structure. The plan, which must be approved by Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi, would lower earthquake insurance premiums for many homeowners in Contra Costa and Los Angeles counties, but would bring rates up in most of Riverside and Humboldt counties. Here are some specific examples of how rates would change under the proposal:

- The owners of a one-story home built in 1980 with an insured value of \$400,000, near the median price in the Los Angeles ZIP code area 90019, would see their annual insurance costs drop from \$960 to \$632.
- The owners of a one-story home built in 1980 with an insured value of \$350,000, near the median price in the Riverside County ZIP code area 92211, would see their annual insurance costs increase from \$613 to \$847.
- The owners of a one-story home built in 1980 with an insured value of \$400,000, near the median price in the Contra Costa County ZIP code area 94595, would see their annual insurance costs drop from \$1,500 to \$1,108.

MasterPath

THE TEACHINGS OF LIGHT AND SOUND



Sri Gary Olsen,
Spiritual Leader of MasterPath

There are two approaches to God, the conventional and the universal. Conventional truth instructs us to search for God and truth outside ourselves, whereas universal truth instructs us to search for God and truth within ourselves. There is a vast difference between the two of which greater numbers are growing increasingly aware.

— Sri Gary Olsen

CONVENTIONAL APPROACH

Search for God in the church, temple	God, Soul and Spirit exist inside the body
Born in sin, forgiving of sin	Born in Perfection, resolving of karma
Only one lifetime, in one body	Soul experiences many lives, in many bodies
External worship of saints	Realizing your own sainthood
Mind/personality are the disciple	Soul is the actual disciple
Morality, ethics, good and bad	One Truth in all experience
Hope of heavenly reward in afterlife	Heavenly state attained while living
Ascended Master	Living Master

UNIVERSAL APPROACH

All sincere seekers are cordially invited to a free introductory video and talk on the Mysteries of the Divine Spirit by a long time student of MasterPath.

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(This program is not sponsored by the Santa Monica Public Library.)

1:00 - 2:30 pm	Video Presentation of Sri Gary Olsen
2:30 - 3:00 pm	Break
3:00 - 3:30 pm	Introductory Talk

NATIONAL



Denver mayor taps 'bully' for assistance

HOMELESSNESS, from page 1

about an issue that has haunted Denver for years but became particularly salient during the boom years of the late 1990s.

Hickenlooper went on to pick White — he praised her as a “bully for the homeless” — to head a commission charged with figuring out a way to end homelessness within 10 years. The plan is similar to what many U.S. cities, including Los Angeles and Santa Monica, are in the process of developing.

The plan, which took effect July 1, focuses on getting the so-called “chronically homeless” into housing so they can get help with mental health and substance abuse issues as well as helping families pay their rent or get enough money together to sign a lease.

“If someone slips through the cracks they’ll be there for a night but we won’t have people living on the streets,” White said.

The idea dovetails with a Bush administration effort to address homelessness, an area where federal spending has increased by 82 percent to \$3.7 billion over the past four years. Government officials say Philadelphia has reduced the number of homeless people on the streets of Philadelphia by 75 percent in three years. In San Francisco, the number is down 21 percent after one year.

“We’re no longer content simply to manage the crisis, we’re beginning to end the disgrace,” said Philip Mangano, appointed by the president to head the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Officials in 200 cities and counties in every state but Wyoming have 10-year homeless plans or are developing them, Mangano said. He compares the task to ending slavery or extending suffrage to women.

“What once seemed intractable can in fact change by overcoming compassion- and solution-fatigue. When an entire community believes something can get done in our country it gets done,” he said.

The solution in Denver and elsewhere is also driven by the bottom line. According to Denver’s commission, the city spends \$70 million to provide shelter beds and health care to the homeless each year. The cost of a monthly stay in a shelter is \$775 per person, White said.

Last year, 1,074 homeless people were admitted to a hospital with an average stay costing \$29,921. A night in the detox center costs \$295.

The \$70 million doesn’t include police and court costs because the city hasn’t tracked how many homeless people have been arrested for common offenses like urinating in public. But with a jail stay costing the city \$174 a night, the city stands to save some money there too, White said.

“Two arrests and we can pay for a month’s rent,” White said.

George Brown, 50, who spent four years living on the streets carrying everything he owned in a backpack, now calls a one-bedroom condo home. He is part of a pilot program offered by Colorado Coalition for the Homeless for long-term homeless people who have disabilities, mental health or substance abuse problems. About 700

A look at costs, potential savings in Denver’s aim to help homeless

By The Associated Press

Denver officials say they’re already spending a lot on the homeless — \$70 million to provide shelter beds and health care annually — but that focusing on getting people into housing and treatment will save money in the long run:

■ The cost of a monthly stay in a shelter is \$775 per person — more than the cost of a studio apartment.

■ Last year, 1,074 homeless people were admitted to a hospital with an average stay costing \$29,921. A night in the detox center costs \$295.

■ The \$70 million doesn’t include police and court costs because the city hasn’t tracked how many homeless people have been arrested for common offenses like urinating in public. A jail stay costs the city \$174 a night.

■ The plan proposes spending \$7.7 million in the first year to start housing the homeless and getting them the treatment they need so they don’t end up in hospitals. Since the plan began July 1, the city has provided 80 vouchers to both families and long-term homeless individuals to either rent market-rate apartments or live in buildings operated by non-profit agencies.

■ Over the remaining years, the plan calls for providing 300 new housing each year in addition to the support services at a cost of about \$13 million a year. Half the money is expected to come from the city and the other half from foundations, businesses and individual donations.

people applied for 70 spots.

Brown lost his home after splitting up with his girlfriend and says a back injury made it impossible to keep his job as a telemarketer.

Brown, who was also diagnosed with bipolar disorder, said he had the gnawing feeling that he had become a failure. At one point he picked up a rock and put it in his bag to remind him of how low he had gotten.

The rock now sits on a table in his condo. He is working on getting his driver’s license back, getting a job as a car salesman and paying the child support he owes for his six children.

“I’m in a position where all the pressures are off my mind so from here on out, as long as my health holds, I’ll be in a position to accomplish my goals,” he said.

Coalition President John Parvensky said interest in the program shows that homeless people want to change their lives.

“These are exactly the people that people presume are there (on the streets) because they want to be,” he said.

Hickenlooper wants each Denver church, synagogue

or mosque to “adopt” a family by raising money to pay for a security deposit and the first month’s rent to get them into a home, and then helping them through counseling.

That idea came from a Denver Rescue Mission program involving 200 churches. Similar programs are found in other cities, but Mangano said Hickenlooper is the first mayor to call for a larger effort.

Mangano thinks Hickenlooper, recently named by Time magazine as a top big city mayor, is well-suited to addressing homelessness in a new way because of his business background. He said the Democratic mayor is focused on getting results and holding people accountable, rather than simply providing more services.

Hickenlooper opened Colorado’s first brew pub after losing his geologist job during an oil bust and went on to open six other restaurants. After being elected, Hickenlooper balanced a city budget that had been \$70 million in the hole without major service cuts or layoffs.

Brad Meuli, president and CEO of the rescue mission, said the change in leadership has already yielded results.

This is the second year the city has allowed the faith-based mission’s downtown shelter to operate with overflow cots, something that used to only be allowed when the temperatures dropped below freezing.

The mission also added 85 beds with help from the city in moving its New Life program to a former hotel. The program, which provides men battling drug and alcohol addictions with a place to live while they get treatment, now has 126 members, 40 more than when they were squeezed in at the shelter.



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March of the pelicans



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

A series of pelicans perform a fly-by over the Santa Monica Pier recently. The long-winged, warm-water seabirds often work together in chasing fish to shallow waters, then sharing the wealth.

Small Alaska towns struggling after state ends revenue-sharing

BY DAN JOLING

Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The city clerk in Holy Cross doesn't spend much time at her desk these days. Instead, she pitches in as needed for the cash-strapped village of about 200 people.

Connie Walker was laid off because of a lack of town funds, but she still performs such tasks as preparing City Hall for a bingo game to help a family pay for a funer-

al — for no pay. She even drops by to pay city bills, open mail and answer the phone.

Holy Cross, about 420 miles southwest of Fairbanks, is one of dozens of rural communities across the state facing serious financial problems — in some cases they have shut down — since the state ended a revenue-sharing program.

"We've got no money to plow the roads," said Holy Cross Mayor Jeffrey Dementieff. "I've been having to ask for volunteers."

Revenue sharing and matching grants allowed villages to perform maintenance and small construction projects. Both programs were vetoed by the governor in 2003 as the state faced a gap between spending and income.

In the late 1960s, when construction of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline was under consideration and Alaska native leaders questioned how it would make their lives better, they were told that villages should form municipalities and participate in rev-

enue sharing, said Kevin Ritchie, executive director of the Alaska Municipal League.

"It didn't create some huge political infrastructure," he said. "But it was enough to keep the lights on."

According to the municipal league, nine villages have ceased day-to-day operations. Eighteen have serious management or financial problems and another 39 communities have financial problems so severe they could be insolvent in two years.

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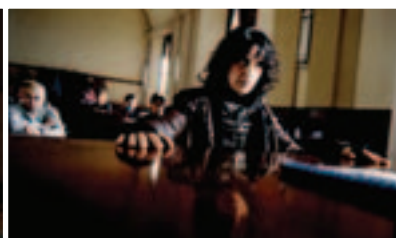
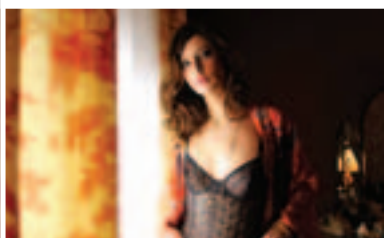


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Entertainment



Burton's 'Corpse' a lively production

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

"Corpse Bride" is Tim Burton's second foray into the old-fashioned medium of stop-motion animation (he served as a

Review

producer on 1993's "The Nightmare Before Christmas") and this macabre musical love story rates among the chimerical filmmaker's very best work. Burton shares directorial credit on "Bride" with Mike Johnson ("James and the Giant Peach"), but one need only glance at the title to know who was the driving creative force behind the project. Using just a wee bit of digital technology to enhance the visual effects, Burton and his team have shattered any preconceived notions of what can and can't be achieved through claymation, one of Hollywood's oldest techniques. Manipulating puppets in extremely tiny increments was, by all accounts, a painstaking process, but the hard work has paid off in what may be Burton's most picturesque picture.

The story, based on a Russian folk tale, is quite clever: The Van Dorts, social-climbing nouveau riche Victorian-era fish tycoons voiced by Tracey Ullman and Paul Whitehouse, have arranged a marriage between their shy son Victor (Johnny Depp) and Victoria Everglot (Emily Watson), the equally uneffusive daughter of a pair of bankrupt aristocrats

(Joanna Lumley and Albert Finney) who want nothing more than to get their hands on the Van Dort's cash. So smitten is Victor with Victoria when they meet on the eve of their nuptials, that the angular lad cannot seem to remember his wedding vows at rehearsal. After an imperious pastor (Christopher Lee) sends him away, Victor winds up in a gray and gloomy forest where — when he thinks he's alone — he's able to recite the vows smoothly. When he places the ring on what he believes to be a tree root, Victor gets a terrifying surprise: The "root" is actually the bony finger of a decaying, but still lovely corpse (Helena Bonham Carter), and she means to hold Victor true to his just-spoken words.

The colorful Land of the Dead to which the Bride whisks her new hubby is a much livelier place than the one "upstairs." It's there that the film showcases several snazzy song and dance numbers from composer Danny Elfman, along with several very funny scenes involving a peppy (dead) puppy. Ultimately the action returns to the Land of the Living, where Victor must choose between the living breathing girl who could be his soulmate, and the pretty corpse he's grown to love ... leading to an ending that is as beautiful and deeply moving as any you'll ever see.

(Rated PG for some scary images and action, and brief mild language. Running time: 77 minutes)

'Daltry' is latest bomb dropped on audiences by Miramax move

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

THE DIRECTOR:

Katrina Holden Bronson

THE STARS:

Johnny Knoxville, Elizabeth Banks, Sophie Traub

In "Daltry Calhoun" we have yet another awful Miramax film that sat on a shelf for more than a year, and is only now being dumped into theaters thanks to the Weinstein Brothers' going-out-of-business-with-Disney sale. If only they'd kept this one hidden in the closet and cut their losses, 100 precious minutes of this scribe's life would not have been so regrettably misspent. I once saw Johnny Knoxville intentionally electrocute his own nuts on "Jackass," and his shockingly bad turn in the title role of this movie is evidence he's trying to inflict similar suffering on the rest of us.

Set in a fictional backwoods place

called Ducktown, Tennessee, "Daltry Calhoun" is a misguided attempt from writer-director Katrina Holden Bronson to meld elements of the Coen Brothers home-spun hilarity (she doesn't even come close) with maudlin "coming of age" tripe from the Hilary Duff oeuvre. Newcomer Sophie Traub delivers a ponderous performance as June, the 14-year-old daughter Daltry abandoned as a child to go off and become a self-made sod magnate. June's terminally ill mother May (Elizabeth Banks of "Seabiscuit") doesn't have much time left. What's killing her character is never explained, but it's clear Banks has come down with a nasty case of career poisoning. May wants to make absolutely certain Daltry has gotten his act together for June's sake. He doesn't, but then again, he's not alone. Everything and everyone in "Daltry Calhoun" is out of sorts.

(Rated PG-13 for sexual content, drug material and language. Running time: 100 minutes)

LOCAL

The 'Other Venice Film Festival' lifts curtain on submission season

By Daily Press staff

The Other Venice Film Festival, a community event dedicated to screening full-length, short and animated films that embody the spirit, energy and diversity of Venice, is now accepting film submissions of all lengths for its third season, March 17-20, 2006.

Based on the sold-out success of the first two festivals, an additional night of screenings has been added to accommodate expanded programming, which will include a new section featuring films for and by kids along with the popular music video competition and experimental section.

The 2006 season of the OVFF will officially kick-off on the main stage of the Abbot Kinney Street Festival at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 25 when, in association with The Venice Community Trust, the OVFF will present the 2005 Abbot Awards for Excellence in the Arts and Community.

The Abbot Awards are presented to members of greater Venice who have demonstrated excellence to local art and culture. In this, the year of the Venice Centennial celebration, Abbot Award recipients include: actor Orson Bean for outstanding achievement in theatrical arts; Gregory Hines for outstanding achievement in performing arts; Ed Ruscha for outstanding achievement in

fine arts; and Carol Tantau, for outstanding achievement in community service.

At the 2005 OVFF in March, the Local Maverick Spotlight Award was presented to filmmaker and original Dogtown Z-boy, Stacy Peralta. Actor/producer and 20-plus year Venice resident Chris Mulkey received the Local Maverick Spotlight Abbot Award during the inaugural 2004 OVFF season.

The OVFF also will be hosting a booth, located in front of the Ananda Boutique on Abbot Kinney Boulevard at California during the Abbot Kinney Street Festival where filmmakers and fans alike can pick up submission forms, meet the festival founders and view clips of Abbot Award-winning films from previous seasons. For more information about the OVFF, the Abbot Awards and submission details for the upcoming 2006 season, visit www.veniceoffilmfest.com.

Venice has been an epicenter for LA artists and filmmakers who continue to pave the way toward expanding the language of underground, alternative cinema. The OVFF bridges the community of Venice and that of greater Los Angeles together in a competitive, fun-filled weekend of movies and mayhem. For a full schedule of film screenings, a synopsis of each film and additional information, log on to: www.veniceoffilmfest.com.

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'Flightplan' crashes soon after taking off

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

THE DIRECTOR:

Robert Schwentke

THE STARS:

Jodie Foster, Peter Sarsgaard, Sean Bean

Theater traffic control to potential ticket buyers: Doing a fly-by on this movie is strongly recommended. I ain't saying "Flightplan" is the silliest flick of the year, but I ain't saying it isn't either. Airline disasters are usually no laughing matter, but this case is an exception. "Flightplan" is such a daffy thriller, it easily ranks among the year's best comedies.

Kyle Pratt (Jodie Foster) and her 6-year-old daughter Julia (Marlene Lawston) take a transatlantic flight aboard the biggest, most technologically advanced plane ever built — this thing's a real modern marvel; except for those antiquated sliding ceiling panels in the john that allow curious passengers like Kyle to climb on up and poke around. And why, pray tell, would she be doing that? Well, she's already distraught at having just lost her husband, and after

Julia disappears into thin air (the same stuff the filmmakers were breathing when they put this thing together), Kyle goes ape-poop and dashes madly about the plane, tearing it apart in the hopes of finding Julia. Her behavior, though understandable, isn't the sort of stuff allowed on airplanes in these troubled times, which makes it all the more puzzling that Air Marshall Suspicious (Sarsgaard, on loan from the indie world) and the flight crew (led by Bean's Captain Evil) don't do more to subdue her early on. Could it be that something fishy's in the air? Hmm ...

With great determination, Kyle attempts to solve the mystery of her kid's disappearance before it's time to deplane. There are several obvious red herrings (some sinister looking Arabs, for instance), and Foster, who's as asexual an actress as they come, does a decent job selling the notion that she might actually be a childless nutcase. You'd be as foolish to buy into that, though, as you would to buy a ticket into the theater.

(Rated PG-13 for violence and some intense plot material. Running time: 93 minutes)

over to INXS guitarist Tim Farriss. I asked him if he could recall some of the wild times he's had being a part of one of the world's most famous bands, and he told me that the best nights were usually the ones he couldn't remember. "But there was this one time in Paris ..." he said, and I'll leave out the rest since this is a family newspaper. Seriously, I gotta learn how to play an instrument. Dave Navarro no doubt could tell some pretty crazy stories, too, but Carmen Elektra was by his side at the "Rockstar" shindig so I thought better of asking.

There's a point, of course, to all this party talk and name dropping and that point is that I am having a much better time than most of you ... no, wait, that's not it — the point is a shot recipe with a name that could make even Tim Farriss turn red.

"(Bleeped) by a Rockstar"

- 1 oz. Pravda vodka
- half-ounce Triple Sec
- half-ounce Rockstar energy drink

Pour ingredients into 2 oz. shot glass and slam it.

(Thirsty for more Imbiber? Pull up a barstool at www.TheImbiber.com)



THE IMBIBER

BY DAN DUNN

Time to party like a rockstar

The Imbiber was chatting with JD Fortune at Hollywood's House of Blues a few hours after he'd been chosen in front of a national TV audience to be the lead singer of INXS.

"If there are words to describe this feeling, I can't find them right now," offered Fortune, who grew up in Canada idolizing the multi-platinum band that was once fronted by the late Michael Hutchence. I hadn't asked JD to share his feelings, but if he needed to put that out there, well, who was I to quibble? To be honest, I was just hoping to have a few drinks on the band's tab, maybe score some babes by association. What a life, eh? From here on out, JD Fortune gets to party like a rock star FOR A LIVING! Talk about your killer benefits packages.

After JD left me to go make time with an undernourished model, I made my way



Photo courtesy

(From l to r) The Imbiber, "Rockstar: INXS" executive producer Lisa Hennessy and new INXS frontman JD Fortune do — what else? — imbibe.

MUSIC REVIEW

'Hot n' Nasty' gets down n' dirty in Santa Monica

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY — A marauding band of Hollywood hoodsters recently loaded up a white cargo van and proceeded by motorcade west on the Santa Monica Freeway, unleashing a heavy dose of rock and revelry for dozens of fans eager for a seizure at 14 Below.

The Hot n' Nasty Jam, the latest brainchild of Hollywood Phil, showed up Sunday, Sept. 11 promptly at midnight, hitting the stage hard with a slew of bassists, drummers, guitarists and vocalists. They fired off a cadre of classic tunes before 50 bamboozled hipsters, until Hollywood and his pals signed off an hour later, retreating back to their haunts in the hills.

As rock n' roll continues to cross over into electronica, hip hop and reggae, there are those who keep the tradition in its purest form. It's hard to hear Hot n' Nasty and not feel your inner-renegade awaken. The jam band played nine covers and originals, songs about nostalgia, yearning, too many jack and cokes stirring the senses on a long chilly night, all of it fading too quickly.

Phil, true to form, was the only mainstay during the brief and intense show. With his fiery mangy hair, the electric guitarist wore a pair of jeans and black Rolling Stones T-shirt that flaunted a red-lips logo and American-flag tongue. He ripped into the night with several earth-shattering solos, a maestro licking the sky with the full grit of his bluesy repertoire, leading in with "Hard to Handle" by the Black Crowes.

Phil was joined by Catherine "Cat" Allen from Nine Hours to Tokyo, who kept the boys guessing as she hitch-hiked her way along the bass. Greg Levinson and Brian "B.A." took turns pummeling truth from the drums.

The Crowes' cover was followed up with Bob Marley's "I Shot the Sheriff," Dusty Springfield's "Son of a Preacher Man," Blondie's "One Way or Another" and the Stones' "Jumping Jack Flash." Brack and Taxe, the latter from Amsterdam, filled in on guitar.

Sarah Hethcoat hit the high notes, finishing a set with "Sweet Home Alabama." Denit Levy, an Israeli with the all-chick band Modicum, joined Cat for a few rounds on bass.

Hot n' Nasty concluded with their "Standard Jam," Jimi Hendrix's "Fire" and Led Zeppelin's "Your Time Is Gonna Come." Breaking a leg not a month before — when he fell from a tree — "Gorgeous" George Ritter from Fly Collar provided back-up guitar and dealt the vocals, often doing Robert Plant justice in song and shake.

As they build up their fan base, Hot n' Nasty plans to move past a showcase of musicians doing lively covers.

"We are moving toward being an act that features originals, then members of each band will jam out on a few songs to close the show," Ritter told the Daily Press.

Phil, who has spearheaded dozens of acts since he arrived to Los Angeles in the mid '90s, has come far from his Madison, Wisc. roots. Once believing he would lead the next heavy metal revival, his tastes seem to have been expanded beyond the iron-clad leather universe of Hollywood.

From Dragon Babies to Nine Hours to Tokyo to Pressure Drop to the Trace Devai Band, Phil is burning up the harsh rocket noise of ACDC, Guns n' Roses and Kiss that once fueled him, creating the louder, tighter, more innovative jams he currently plays, a la Jimmy Page.

Twiddling the stick backwards, upside down, whatever, he continues to blur the line between a master's skill and style.

"It ain't rock n' roll if you can't do it lying on your back," Phil said.

Many will come, many will try, and let's face it — few will make it in today's music scene. But for those brave souls who take up the challenge, one thing's for certain ... rock n' roll's with them all the way.

You can catch Hollywood Phil and friends Thursday nights at the Kibitz Room (Canter's Deli), 419 N. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles. For more information, log onto www.myspace.com/thehotnnastyjam.



Photo courtesy

Gorgeous George Ritter and Hollywood Phil say practice makes perfect.

'Dear Wendy' a film with no soul

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

THE DIRECTOR:

Thomas Vinterberg

THE STARS:

Jamie Bell, Bill Pullman

Danish filmmaker Lars von Trier's dissatisfaction with the American Way has been well documented throughout his films, most recently in a bitter pill called "Dogville." "Dear Wendy," which Von Triers penned for his pal Thomas Vinterberg ("The Celebration," "It's All About Love"), is yet another violent vilification of the Evil Empire.

Billed as "an audacious and stylish exploration of guns and violence in America," the movie instead plays like something a couple of disillusioned white teens with access to film equipment, vintage clothing and a boatload of weed might produce.

"Dear Wendy" boasts unlikable characters, a plot that eschews logic and a barrage of ill-informed Anti-American pronouncements. The film is practically soulless. Audiences — especially stateside — will likely and justifiably hold this movie in the same esteem with which Lars von Triers appears to hold us.

(Not rated. Running time: 104 minutes)



Houston-area residents scurry from Rita

BY ALICIA A. CALDWELL
Associated Press Writer

GALVESTON, Texas — Hundreds of thousands of people across the Houston metropolitan area struggled to make their way inland in a bumper-to-bumper exodus Thursday as Hurricane Rita closed in on the nation's fourth-largest city with winds howling at 150 mph.

Drivers ran out of gas in 14-hour traffic jams or looked in vain for a place to stay as hotels hundreds of miles away from the coast filled up.

An estimated 1.8 million residents or more in Texas and Louisiana were under orders to evacuate to avoid a deadly repeat of Katrina.

The storm weakened Thursday morning from a top-of-the-scale Category 5 hurricane to a Category 4 as it swirled across the Gulf of Mexico, and forecasters said it could lose more steam by the time it comes ashore late Friday or early Saturday. It could still be a dangerous storm.

"Don't follow the example of Katrina and wait. No one will come and get you during the storm," Harris County Judge Robert Eckels said in Houston.

In New Orleans, Rita's outer bands brought the first measurable rain to the city since Katrina, raising fears that the patched-up levees could give way and cause a new round of flooding.

Highways leading inland out of Houston were clogged up to 100 miles north of the city. Service stations reported running out of gasoline, and police offi-

cers carried gas to motorists who ran out. Texas authorities also asked the Pentagon for help in getting gasoline to drivers stuck in traffic, and sent gasoline tankers to take up positions along evacuation routes to help.

Gov. Rick Perry halted all southbound traffic into Houston along Interstate 45 and took the unprecedented step of opening all eight lanes to northbound traffic out of the city for 125 miles. I-45 is the primary evacuation route north from Houston and nearby Galveston.

Trazanna Moreno tried to leave Houston for the 225-mile trip to Dallas on U.S. 90 but turned back after getting stuck in traffic.

"We ended up going six miles in two hours and 45 minutes," said Moreno, whose neighborhood is not expected to flood. "It could be that if we ended up stranded in the middle of nowhere that we'd be in a worse position in a car dealing with hurricane-force winds than we would in our house."

With traffic at a dead halt, fathers and sons got out of their cars and played catch on freeway medians. Others stood next to their cars, videotaping the scene, or walked between vehicles, chatting with people along the way. Tow trucks tried to wend their way along the shoulders, pulling stalled cars out of the way.

Hotels filled up all the way to the Oklahoma and Arkansas line.

John Decker, 47, decided to board up his home and hunker down because he could not find a hotel room.

"I've been calling since yesterday

morning all the way up to about 1 this morning. No vacancies anywhere," he said. "I checked all the way from here to Del Rio to Eagle Pass. I called as far as Lufkin, San Marcos, San Angelo. The only place I didn't call was El Paso. By the time you reach El Paso, it's almost time to turn back."

At 2 p.m. EDT, Rita was centered about 435 miles southeast of Galveston and was moving at near 9 mph. It winds were near 150 mph, down from 175 mph earlier in the day. Forecasters predicted it would come ashore somewhere along a 400-mile stretch of the Texas and Louisiana coast that includes the Houston-Galveston area near the midpoint.

Forecasters warned of the possibility of a storm surge of 15 to 20 feet, battering waves, and rain of up to 15 inches along the Texas and western Louisiana coast. Three to five inches of rain were possible over New Orleans, where engineers raced to fortify the city's Katrina-damaged levees and pumps.

Galveston, Corpus Christi and surrounding Nueces County, low-lying parts of Houston, and mostly emptied-out New Orleans were under mandatory evacuation orders. Oil refineries and chemical plants in and around Houston began shutting down, and hundreds of workers were evacuated from offshore oil rigs.

The Texas governor recalled Texas National Guardsmen and other emergency personnel and equipment from Louisiana to get ready for Rita.

Brian Williamson set out from his home in Angleton, along the Texas coast, with his wife, two children and other relatives. "If I didn't have my little kids, I would go home and ride the storm out," he said after pulling into a McDonald's. "But I have to protect my family."

Environmentalists warned that the stretch of coast threatened by Rita is home to 87 chemical plants, refineries and petroleum storage installations, raising the possibility that the storm could cause a major oil spill or toxic release. Southeastern Texas is also home to more than a dozen active Superfund sites.

NASA evacuated Johnson Space Center and transferred control of the international space station to the Russians. Storm surge projections put most of the NASA space center, situated about 20 miles southeast of downtown Houston, underwater in the event of a hurricane above Category 2.

The last major hurricane to strike the Houston area was Category-3 Alicia in 1983. It flooded downtown Houston, spawned 22 tornadoes and left 21 people dead.

Although Houston is 60 miles inland, it

is a low-lying, flat, sprawling city whose vast stretches of concrete cover clay soil that does not easily soak up water. The city is beribboned with seven bayous that overflow their banks even in a strong thunderstorm. Those bayous feed into the Ship Channel, Clear Lake and Galveston Bay.

Scientists have warned that the storm surge from a hurricane could cause the bayous' currents to reverse, pushing water back into the city and swamping mostly poor, Hispanic neighborhoods on the southeast side of Houston.

Along the Gulf Coast, federal, state and local officials heeded the bitter lessons of Katrina: Hundreds of buses were dispatched to evacuate the poor. Hospital and nursing home patients were cleared out. And truckloads of water, ice and ready-made meals, and rescue and medical teams were put on standby.

Texas authorities also planned to airlift at least 9,000 people from Beaumont and Houston.

"Now is not a time for warnings. Now is a time for action," Houston Mayor Bill White said.

Galveston was a virtual ghost town by late Wednesday.

City Manager Steve LeBlanc said the storm surge from Rita could reach 50 feet. Galveston is protected by a nearly 11-mile-long granite seawall 17 feet tall.

"Not a good picture for us," LeBlanc said.

Anthony Jones, who lives on the west end of Galveston, arrived at an Austin evacuation center in the middle of the night with his wife.

"We're in the area without a seawall and understand what's coming," he said. His wife, Lila, added: "At this point we dont know whether we'll come home to splinters or what."

Joe Todaro from Santa Fe, Texas, near Galveston, said: "I've lived there for 75 years and this is the first hurricane that I've run from."

In Corpus Christi, about 180 miles down the coast from Galveston, buses were sent to evacuate hundreds of people with no other transportation. But the mandatory evacuation order was later dropped in favor of a voluntary one after it appeared that the city would escape a direct hit from Rita.

Houston is home to the biggest concentration of Katrina refugees from Louisiana. Rita forced many of them to pick up and leave again.

Among them was Tommy Green, 38. He was evacuated from his New Orleans-area home during Katrina, found temporary housing in Galveston and recently even received a job offer. On Thursday, he boarded a yellow school bus to safety.

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INTERNATIONAL



A presidential election, but no campaign

BY JOHN RICE

Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY — Mexicans in the United States finally can vote in their country's 2006 presidential election — but they'll make do without the campaign, federal election officials said Wednesday.

Mexico's Federal Electoral Institute approved rules that that virtually ban Mexican candidates from leaving the country for fear they could violate a legal ban on campaigning for the July 6 vote.

And their parties can't spend a cent to reach the estimated 4 million registered Mexican voters abroad, the vast majority of whom are in the United States.

If that sounds like the best of both worlds for voters weary of pre-election propaganda, it's frustrating to politicians desperate to woo what is likely to be a crucial swing vote in a close three-way election.

"How can we bring information to Mexicans who live

outside national territory?" asked Rogelio Carbajal, the National Action Party representative to the election institute.

"A fundamental element ... in any democracy is information," he added, arguing that some of the rules violate constitutional guarantees of free speech.

Members of the institute's board said the tough restrictions were merely clarifications of the terms spelled out in the new law that allows voting abroad for the first time.

Fearing that foreign money could contaminate Mexico's domestic election, Congress banned parties from spending any money abroad or doing any "activities, acts and electoral propaganda" during the campaign.

The law is so rigid that Sen. Marta Sofia Tamayo of the Institutional Revolutionary Party urged the institute not only to ban candidates, but even party sympathizers abroad from giving interviews on foreign soil.

Institute President Luis Carlos Ugalde said the rules banned even the public presence of a candidate abroad.

Already, poll-leading contender Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has canceled a planned U.S. visit because of institute warnings he could be violating the law.

Only the institute itself can legally distribute information about the parties to voters abroad, and board members said they were not yet sure how to do that.

Ideas ranged from buying U.S. television time to the inclusion of information in voting packets.

Several board members noted that the law does allow candidates to give local interviews that are broadcast or published abroad. With other campaigning tightly restricted, that could give foreign news media an unusually important role in the Mexican election.

Ugalde said that new rules are meant to eliminate uncertainty and disputes over what the new law allows.

Another board member, Rodrigo Morales, argued that the limit on interviews by party officials "is not a restriction on the freedom of expression. ... It's simply a territorial limitation" on where they can speak.

Basra's threat to stop cooperating with British seems evident in the city

BY THOMAS WAGNER

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — British troops in the tense southern city of Basra greatly reduced their presence in the streets Thursday, apparently responding to a call from the provincial governor to sever cooperation until London apologized for storming a police station to free two of its soldiers.

For the second day, no British forces were seen with accompanying Iraqi police on patrols of Basra, as they routinely had in the past.

A roadside bomb hit a U.S. convoy in southern Baghdad, killing one soldier and wounding six others Wednesday. Suspected insurgents gunned down at least eight Iraqis in four separate attacks Thursday, officials said.

In an interview with Associated Press Television News in Baghdad Thursday, Iraqi National Security Adviser Mowaffak al-Rubaie called Monday's attack by British forces on a police station in Basra "a flagrant violation of Iraqi sovereignty."

At least five Iraqis were killed during a day of clashes between British forces and Iraqi police and demonstrators on Monday. British armor crashed into a jail to free the two soldiers who had been arrested by Iraqi police and militiamen. Earlier, a crowd attacked British troops with stones and Molotov cocktails.

The fighting has raised concern over the increasing boldness of Shiite militias in the south of the country and the challenge they pose to the 8,500-strong British force in the region. As recently as Wednesday, Britain vowed to keep its troops in the country until they no longer are needed, but also has leaked information recently about planning for a troop reduction. The Shiite militias complicate the British role no matter which way it moves.

On Wednesday, hundreds of Iraqi civilians and policemen, some waving pistols and AK-47s, rallied in Basra, Iraq's second largest city, to denounce "British aggression" in the rescue of the two British soldiers.

Several hours after the protest, Basra's provincial council held an emergency meeting and voted unanimously "to stop dealing with the British forces in Basra and not to cooperate with them because of their irresponsible aggression on a government facility."

Basra Gov. Mohammed al-Waili called the attack "barbaric" and a product of imperial arrogance. He declared an end to all cooperation with British forces unless Prime Minister Tony Blair's government apologized for the deadly clashes with Iraqi police.

Britain defended the raid.

Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari repeated assurances that the troubles in Basra would not cause a rift between the British contingent and the Iraqi security forces.

"I do not think that this will be an obstacle that cannot be overcome," al-Jaafari said Thursday after returning from Britain, where he and British Defense Secretary John Reid sought to defuse tension.

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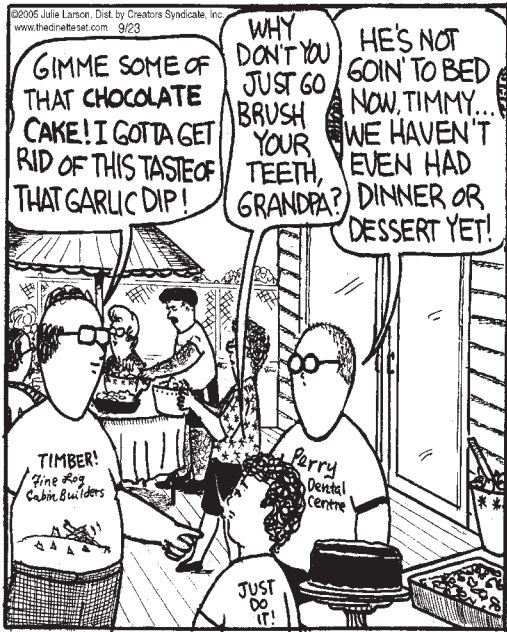


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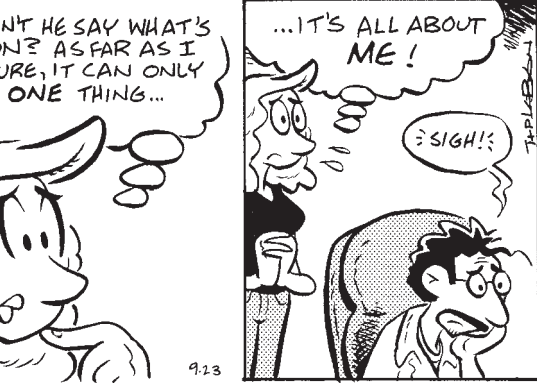
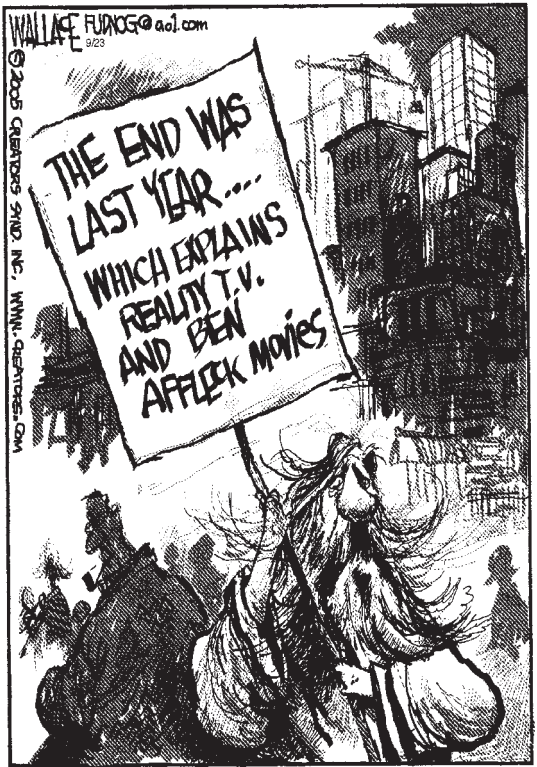
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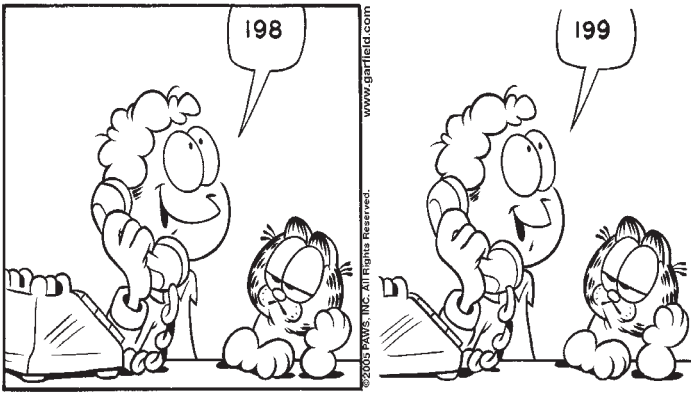
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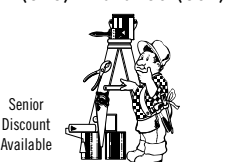
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