



FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

September 25-26, 2004

A newspaper with issues

Volume 3, Issue 272

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

16 18 23 34 45
Meganumber: 14
Jackpot: 36 Million

FANTASY 5

7 12 13 24 31

DAILY 3

Daytime: 3 1 8
Evening: 0 9 8

DAILY DERBY

1st: 06 Whirl Win
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 07 Eureka

RACE TIME: 1:47.92

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In a federal court in Austin, Texas, in June, accused bank robber Adam Martin, 38, acting dramatically as his own lawyer, inexplicably called his brother Michael as a character witness even though he knew that Michael had already pleaded guilty to being Adam's partner on four robberies. Adam asked if Michael had ever committed any crimes. Predictably (that is, to everyone except Adam), Michael responded, "Yeah. You were with me on four different bank robberies, Adam. You know that."

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Delusions of grandeur make me feel a lot better about myself."

JANE WAGNER

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City employees chime in on election

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — More than 1,000 city workers this week have thrown their support behind three incumbents and one newcomer for the City Council race.

The Coalition of Santa Monica City Employees have endorsed former school board member Patricia Hoffman, who is running

for City Council for the first time. The coalition also endorsed incumbents Richard Bloom, Ken Genser and Mike Feinstein — who, until the coalition, hadn't received one endorsement from a Santa Monica political action entity. In previous elections, Feinstein has gotten support from the police and fire unions, as well as the powerful Santa Monicans For Renters' Rights, which has domi-

nated city politics for more than two decades.

"This endorsement is really heartwarming to me because these are the rank and file people working inside City Hall and throughout the city to provide the needed services that help make this a great place to live," Feinstein said. "Their support really means a lot to me, and I'm proud they think my

See COALITION, page 4

Bond proposal gets juice from community

By Daily Press staff

Despite its past controversies, nearly every political organization in Santa Monica has thrown its support behind a bond measure that would infuse millions of dollars into the local community college, as well as public properties.

Voters will be asked on Nov. 2 to approve a \$135 million bond that would be used to build and upgrade several buildings at Santa Monica College, buy new open space in Santa Monica and Malibu, and develop other properties owned by the city.

An earlier bond proposal was shot down by SMC officials and community members. As a compromise, \$40 million was slashed from that original bond proposal.

Santa Monica took the heaviest hit under the revised proposal. Whereas the previous plan proposed \$75 million in projects at SMC, \$75 million in joint efforts with Santa Monica City Hall and \$25 million in joint projects with Malibu City Hall, the new bond proposes just \$45 million for joint projects with Santa Monica City Hall and a slightly reduced amount for SMC.

The \$40 million college officials deleted from the plans would have been used to build an arboretum, a children's outdoor fitness center and instructional resources for the college along the coast, among other things.

If voters give their nod, it would mark the second SMC bond proposal approved in the past 2 1/2 years, and cost the average Santa Monica homeowner \$77 in the first year. The average renter would have to

See BOND, page 5

Let's make up



Susan Tam/Special to the Daily Press

The crew of the TLC reality show "Ten Years Younger" films a segment on Friday afternoon at the Third Street Promenade. Encased behind them stands contestant Felicia Walker, 29, whose age the crowd tries and guesses following a makeover. Prior to the makeover, a previous crowd guessed Walker was 40 years of age. On Friday, Promenade shoppers guessed she was 30.

Police on the lookout for rapist

By Daily Press staff

PICO BLVD. — A woman was raped in broad daylight Thursday after two men grabbed her while she was walking down the street.

At about 6:30 p.m., two men approached the victim from behind and pulled her into an underground parking garage, where one of the men raped her, police said. The

incident occurred near the 700 block of Pico Boulevard, one block east of Santa Monica High School. Both suspects fled on foot. The victim was subsequently taken to a local hospital where she was treated and released.

The two suspects are described as having thin builds.

Anyone having information regarding the incident is encour-

aged to contact the Santa Monica Police Department at (310) 458-8491 or the watch commander's office at (310) 458-8426. Callers who wish to provide anonymous information may also call the We-Tip national hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME (27463). Callers with information that leads to an arrest and conviction become eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000.

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*****-Dynamic *****-Positive ***-Average **-So-so *-Difficult



 **ARIES (March 21-April 19)**
***** You are spunk-plus until the late afternoon, when you retreat. Get going with any people events or interactions in the daylight hours. Later, you want some time with a special person or by yourself. Though you are gregarious, there is nothing wrong with this pattern change. Tonight: Yoo-hoo ... where are you?

 **TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
***** You might need to take care of some responsibilities or visit with an older friend or relative. Once you have completed your “to do” list, you take off like a bird in the sky, feeling as free as the wind. Join your pals. Tonight: Celebrate living.

 **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
***** Whatever you do falls into place. Take off for the movies or a picnic in the woods. Enjoy the change of seasons. You will recharge and revise your perspective away from all the action. By late afternoon, you are back on the scene, an unstoppable force. Tonight: Out there.

 **CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
***** Devote today to a special person, choosing mutual activities that delight both of you. By late afternoon, make plans that appeal to your curiosity. The more different and unusual, the better it will be. Go for it. Tonight: Follow your imagination.

 **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
***** Spend time with your many admirers and friends. You like being the king or queen of the gang. Whatever your general week-end MO is, follow through. Do not forget a special friend or loved one. Save late today for this person. Tonight: Now for the romance.

 **VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
***** If you think you need to get something done, do it. Otherwise, it will plague your mind all day. The good news is, once you are done, you can cut loose and have a ball. Join some of your wilder friends and pals. Tonight: Which invitation will you choose?

 **LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
***** Your instinct to romp the day away is right-on. In fact, the daylight hours allow your creativity and naughtiness to merge. What would you like to do the most? Then go off and do just that. Settle in later in the day. Tonight: Take a break, even if it is Saturday.

 **SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
*** Home and family dominate the day. Whatever has to be done, do it. Free yourself up as quickly as possible so that you can get into weekend mood. No one knows how to enjoy him- or herself like you. Lead everyone to the good times. Tonight: Might not end, and might go into tomorrow.

 **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
*** If you want to escape town, do it immediately, because you will get tied up otherwise. Everyone wants and needs you, especially family. Is this what you want today? Play out the free spirit you are. Tonight: Cozy at home.

 **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
***** You have dealt with finances and your budget. You have done your homework. Go off and make that purchase you have been thinking about. You might be slightly more extravagant than you had anticipated. Tonight: Out on the town.

 **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
***** Use every moment of your waking hours. You can be spontaneous. You can be playful. Remember, this is not a dress rehearsal; this is life. Go for what you want. Balance your checkbook by late afternoon, please. Tonight: Indulge, my dear Water Bearer.

 **PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
*** Take a nap. Lounge around. Be lazy. You need some time not to be accountable, but to be free. By late afternoon, the jig is up. Another person drags you out the door. You are on your way to a wild weekend. Tonight: Be happy you got that extra sleep.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday

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

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LOCAL



Jim Burry
1938 – 2004



Fire victim remembered for devotion to education

By Daily Press staff

A Santa Monica man who died earlier this month after being pulled out of his burning Sunset Park home was recently remembered by his friends, students and colleagues at Pierce College, where he was a professor for nearly two decades.

“Dedicated,” “generous” and “outstanding” are the three most often heard words when the name of Jim Burry comes up. Burry, 66, a highly regarded teacher at Pierce for 16 years, died on Sept. 8, from second- and third-degree burns.

Burry came to Pierce in 1987 and became the lead instructor for PACE, the college’s successful program for accelerated college education geared toward working adults. He taught English and humanities to adult students and became so popular that at times the demand for his classes exceeded a manageable size.

Then-PACE Director Mike Cornner remembers suggesting to Burry that a second teacher could be brought in to help bear the burden. Burry told him, “No, these students signed up to take this class with me, and I’m not going to let them down.”

That is how Burry will be remembered by those who worked with him: As someone students could depend on. English professor Richard Follett knew Burry during his entire Pierce tenure.

“I liked his passion for teaching and his dedication to his students,” Follett

See BURY, page 5

CLARIFICATION — Due to an editing error, the article in the Sept. 24 edition regarding the 10-year plan to end homeless contained errors. The panel devising the plan didn’t hit “a snag” as suggested in the article. The panel released the report for further public comment, which was the intention of Thursday’s meeting. Also, the article suggested that funding for the plan has not been addressed. In actuality, the panel didn’t address funding during its meeting on Thursday. Regarding the headline, the acronym for the project, Bring Home LA, is BLAH. The sidebar headline wasn’t meant to make light of the process, rather to point out the panel’s acronym with a play on words.

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For Sunday, look for the southerly swell mix to fade further while small NW energy pulses up just a touch. Most spots are down around waist high and below.

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SUNDAY	2:35	-0.5	2:36	1.2	8:57	5.2	8:37	6.1
MONDAY	3:08	-0.3	3:17	0.8	9:24	5.5	9:20	5.9
TUESDAY	3:37	0.1	3:57	0.5	9:50	5.7	10:01	5.5
WEDNESDAY	4:05	0.5	4:36	0.3	10:16	5.8	10:42	5.0
THURSDAY	4:30	1.1	5:16	0.4	10:42	5.8	11:25	4.5
FRIDAY	4:54	1.6	5:59	0.5	11:08	5.7	N/A	N/A

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RESPONSES ON PAGE 7.**

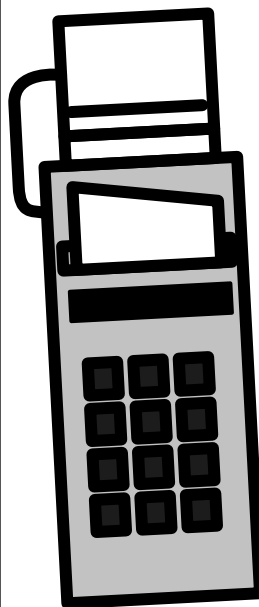


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Group of city workers supports bed tax hike

COALITION, from page 1

work on the council has earned it.”

Hoffman, Genser and Bloom are backed by SMRR, as well as the Police Officer's Association. The city's Firefighters' Association also backed Bloom and Genser, but not Hoffman. They opted for Herb Katz and Bobby Shriver, who also won the endorsement of the police.

“I'm very appreciative that they've recognized my service, my experience and my ability,” Hoffman said, who also is endorsed by the coalition to protect a living wage; the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), local 660, which represents classified employees in the school district; the Santa Monica Democratic Club; the Los Angeles County Democratic Committee; as well as a host of politicians, community leaders and doctors.

After a series of questionnaires, interviews and meetings, the political action committee representing the coalition of city workers decided that their candidates of choice had the best track record for supporting the issues important to them — safety, labor, community services and the local economy.

“They've all proven that they're committed to public service and to keep the city at full service,” said Lauralee Asch, president of the coalition. “We want to keep our members working and we don't want to lose staff.”

The coalition's political action committee was formed this past fall in response to concerns about possible layoffs due to budget cuts in city services, general budget issues and the City Council's discretionary control over the budget.

City Hall has faced budget shortfalls in the tens of millions of dollars in the past few years. The current City Council has been able to balance the budget and eliminate the shortfall without having to layoff any employees. However, 31 positions were eliminated last year through attrition, retirement and reassignments. Another 13 positions were either eliminated or not filled in City Hall this year.

“I'm very pleased and honored by their endorsement,” said Genser, who also is endorsed by SMRR; the police and fire unions; the Santa Monica Democratic Club; the American's Democratic Action Club; a coalition to protect a living wage,

and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), local 660. He added that, despite how financially challenging the past few years have been, keeping staff at normal levels has been important to him.

“We tried to keep (layoffs) to a minimum,” Genser said.

The coalition of nine city employee bargaining units gave birth to their own political action committee in hopes of giving a voice to city employees in the political realm of Santa Monica.

The coalition was formed as an ongoing employee organization to address matters of significant impact to the 1,400 non-safety employees in City Hall. As the coalition works closely with police and fire personnel to provide service to the community, they've worked hand-in-hand to review potential contenders and determine which candidates will support the best interests of employees and the community.

“I am very proud to have the endorsement of the municipal employees, fire-fighters and police officers associations,” Bloom said. “We share the common goal of providing the highest level of service to the people of Santa Monica.”

Along with financial backing, members of the coalition also will volunteer to help their endorsed candidates' campaign by doing some of the leg work, making phone calls and canvassing neighborhoods.

Political action committees have generally had a strong impact on election outcomes and are not uncommon in cities like Santa Monica and Los Angeles. However, because of the multitude of groups involved in politics in Santa Monica, political observers doubt whether or not the city employees' PAC will make a significant difference in local campaigns. The bigger players — the ones with massive fundraising capabilities — will be SMRR, the Chamber of Commerce and the police union.

Hundreds of thousands will be raised by candidates and their respective political action committees, sending mostly direct mail to voters in the next six weeks. Mailers will cost between \$60,000 and \$80,000. Thousands more will be spent on door-to-door campaigning and newspaper advertising.

The coalition also strongly endorses a “yes” vote for Proposition N, which would increase the bed tax 2 percent. The tax is assessed to visitors in local hotels.

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LOCAL



Measure Yes: Widespread support for bond proposal

BOND, from page 1

pay \$13 in the first year.

Opponents of Measure S criticize the distribution of the money as disproportionately affecting Santa Monica. Joint projects between Santa Monica College and Malibu City Hall took less cuts than those with the city of Santa Monica. Also, perceived promises that another bond wouldn't be needed after voters approved a \$160 million bond in 2002 added to the criticism.

Some say the measure was thrown together with insufficient time for public debate, and was greatly watered down from the original. It was a mere four days between the rejection of the initial \$175 million proposal and the revised \$135 million measure that passed unanimously by the SMC Board of Trustees.

However, many organizations still support the bond.

"It shows widespread support and includes almost everybody which is a pretty good demonstration of community

support," said Measure S campaign spokesman Denny Zane, who also is a paid consultant for SMC and the co-chair of Santa Monicans For Renters' Rights, the political powerhouse that holds a majority on the City Council.

Endorsements include:

Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce
 Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights (SMRR)
 Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education
 Santa Monica-Malibu PTA Council
 Santa Monica College Faculty Association
 Santa Monica Child Care Task Force
 State Sen. Sheila Kuehl
 Assemblywoman Fran Pavley
 Santa Monica Police Chief James Butts
 All members of the SMC Board of Trustees
 All members of the Malibu City Council
 All members of the SMMUSD Board of Education

Ex-educator published 50 works

BURRY, from page 3

said. "Did you know he only slept four hours a night? He would read every student essay two times: Once as an overview and the second time for comments. He went above and beyond the call of duty."

Burry retired from Pierce in January, 2004. While there, his love was PACE, according to Follett. On his own time, Burry established legendary four-hour Friday evening workshops on survival writing skills open to any PACE student. Called "chalk talks," the voluntary sessions focused on common mistakes in writing and the nuts and bolts of writing a term paper. "Chalk talks" regularly drew a full house in a large lecture hall, and students came semester after semester for refresher lectures.

"People attended his Friday night workshops in droves," Follett said. Burry also regularly sponsored a large number of independent study classes for which he received no remuneration.

Dean Charlotte Doctor, who followed Cornner as PACE director, said "Jim was extremely dedicated to students and their success, and especially to students who wanted to pursue a career of teaching English. He often offered special research opportunities for them. He always put their welfare first in his life."

Cornner, now marketing director, affirmed, "He was an outstanding teacher of writing. He was also very generous with his time."

The PACE office still gets letters of gratitude from past graduates for the skills they learned in Burry's English classes, or because they finally are traveling and seeing the world they had learned about in his humanities classes.

Burry was born on Dec. 8, 1937. Following military service as a soldier in the United States Regular Army, he attended Santa Monica College. He transferred to UCLA and earned

an M.A. in English. The multilingual Burry was credentialed in language arts and literature, in humanities, and as a community colleges supervisor. Before coming to Pierce, he worked at UCLA in the Institute on Educational Testing and taught English at West LA College.

During his tenure at Pierce, he served on the Academic Senate and was instrumental in the development of the English placement exam. For many years he supervised sessions for English and ESL classes, read assessment exams and advised students.

Burry published more than 50 works. He also was a musician. He is remembered with great respect by his peers.

Memorial services will be private. The family has requested that a memorial fund for scholarships be established and a fund has been set up through the Foundation for Pierce College. One scholarship will support a transferring PACE student and another benefit a student planning a career teaching English.

Donations to the Foundation should be identified "in memory of Jim Burry." Direct them to: The Foundation for Pierce College, 6201 Winnetka Ave., #2600, Woodland Hills, Calif., 91371.

(Editor's note: This article originally appeared in a Pierce College publication).

Queen for a day



Lance Schmidt/Special to the Daily Press

Police on Friday escort the motorcade of Sheika Mozah, the queen of Qatar, on Fourth Street. Mozah, who was in town visiting the Rand Corp., is the wife of Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, the emir of Qatar.

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I KEEP SEEING THIS THING WHERE MY CARTOON IS SUPPOSED TO APPEAR—WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

IT MEANS YOU'RE NOT FUNNY.



JOE KING

Member: AAEC & NCS REG., SCGS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Headlines aren't supposed to be funny

Editor:

We are not without a sense of humor and appreciation of a clever turn of phrase here at City Hall, but Geneva Whitmarsh's otherwise balanced story on release of the Bring LA Home draft report on ending homelessness (SMDP, Sept. 24, page 1) was contradicted by a misleading headline and lead paragraph and trivialized by the sidebar title.

Bring L.A. Home is on track. Officials from all the agencies and jurisdictions involved remain dedicated and determined to move from talk to action as quickly as current and future funding will allow. The most important message, which your reporter captured in the last quote of the article, is "It's a matter of all of us working together." Santa Monica has always put its money where its mouth is to address homelessness. Now, the entire region is on board as it needs to be.

I appreciate your commitment to accuracy, which you have shared with me many times, including headlines that accurately reflect story content.

Judy Rambeau

*Assistant to the City Manager, Community Relations
(Editor's note: See page 3 for a response to this letter).*

GUEST COMMENTARY

BY MIKE GRUNING

Chamber vs. SMRR: 'And the truth shall set you free'

Apparently some groups will go to any length and use any underhanded tactic to twist and distort the truth to fit their purpose.

In a letter to the Santa Monicans for Renters Rights (SMRR) membership last week, their chairman, Denny Zane, asked the following rhetorical question: "What is it that the business interests have against SMRR anyway?" He then offered an answer: "SMRR leaders have successfully worked to provide millions in city funding to protect local schools from drastic state budget cuts." The implication is that SMRR was the impetus for and the engine behind the recent CEPS (Community for Excellent Public Schools) school funding initiative, and that the business community and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce were either opposed to, or not part of promoting that initiative. This is a bald-faced lie.

The business community in general and the chamber in particular, have long been supporters of public education as is evidenced by our backing of Measure EE two years ago and the school funding measure, known as "Measure S" last year. In general, chambers of commerce are not typically supporters of tax increases, but we nonetheless were major proponents of Measure S, which was a tax of \$225 per year on every parcel in Santa Monica.

Chamber members Robert Kaplan, Nat Trives, Ann Greenspun, and I worked for many months to fundraise among the business community to gather funding for ballot qualification. We walked the streets to get out the vote, which helped result in an extremely narrow victory at the polls. Our early and vocal support made a crucial difference in that razor-thin outcome. Measure S provides \$6 million each year, which goes directly to our local schools. The chamber also sponsors a "New Educators Reception" each year to welcome the 150 or so new teachers to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. This reception is hosted by one of our chamber member hotels like the Le Merigot, Fairmont Miramar, or Four Points Sheraton and includes a gourmet buffet

luncheon and goodie bags from local business for all the new educators.

Because business recognizes the importance of a well-educated citizenry for a stable, healthy community, and for a future well of talented employees to draw from, we were one of the earliest backers of the CEPS initiative. Current Chairman of the Board of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, Nat Trives and I were, and still are, members of the CEPS steering committee. For almost a year, Nat and I worked side by side with Denny Zane, the SMRR chairman who penned that scurrilous diatribe which denounced business and the chamber. Week after week, we sat together with Denny at CEPS steering committee meetings discussing how best to use the chamber's influence and resources to pass our initiative. Robert Kaplan's political savvy and insights were invaluable in strategizing and directing our course through the land mines of local politics. Former Santa Monica Mayor Nat Trives was a calming voice of reason, which helped us keep our eyes on the prize.

Perhaps Denny suffers from selective amnesia and doesn't recall:

- That he and I literally sat next to each other for countless sessions of phone banking, trying to gather the required number of signatures to have the ballot initiative qualify.

- That we stood next to one another at the entrance to Grant Elementary School gathering signatures on open house night.

- That while I was the chairman of the chamber board, I spent many nights and weekends personally gathering almost 500 signatures. If this is not an indication of my and the chamber's commitment, I don't know what would be.

- Perhaps he does not recall all the time, money, and effort that former chamber board chairman, local attorney, and long-time champion of public education, Chris Harding spent in shepherding our initiative through the process.

- Perhaps he has forgotten the press release photo of me in front of Bob's Market signing the initiative along with co-chairs Shari Davis and Louise Jaffe,

which officially kicked off our campaign.

- Or that at the urging of the steering committee, I lobbied for and was successful in getting the official chamber endorsement from our board of directors for the initiative, which psychologically buoyed up the spirits of the CEPS committee, as well as sent a message to a hostile City Council that our initiative had broad-based support.

- Has Denny forgotten that the chamber endorsement came only a week after City Council members gloated in a press release about "How happy we are that the chamber has chosen not to endorse the CEPS initiative?"

- Or that the business community contributed more than \$41,500 to the CEPS campaign with the following notable donors:

- The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee: \$2,500.

- Developer Mark Benjamin of Morley Builders: \$2,500.

- Chris and Lori Harding: \$5,250.

- The Law Firm of Harding, Larmore, Kutchel, and Kozal, including Tom Larmore's \$250: \$1,750.

- HLKK's landlord Robert Segal: \$1,000

- First Federal Bank's affiliate Seaside Savings: \$7,000

- Developer Craig Jones: \$10,000

- Hotels Casa del Mar and Shutters: \$10,000.

Let's compare and contrast that with SMRR's contributions to the effort. Not only was SMRR not an early proponent of the initiative, which the chamber was, but also to this day they have yet to endorse it. One reason that SMRR never endorsed the CEPS initiative was for fear of alienating their SMRR-backed council members who were vehemently opposed to it. They lacked the requisite courage and took the easy road of silence. The chamber showed no such reticence or trepidation even though support from the chamber membership was not unanimous. That is what distinguishes true leadership.

We could try to compare the \$41,500 that the business community has contributed to the SMRR organization's contribution, but that would be impossible because SMRR did not and has not given one red penny to the cause.

Additionally, it was the chamber board, which unanimously endorsed the proposed 2 percent increase in the Transient Occupancy Tax with the hope that this increase in revenue would go to public school funding.

Lastly, compare the statements from various members of the business community praising proponents of the CEPS initiative for our local schools to the harangues from SMRR-backed council members Mike Feinstein and Pam O'Connor. From the dais at City Council, Feinstein petulantly beat up on the CEPS initiative, CEPS leadership, and the entire education community for having the temerity to want what was best for our children and for asking to share in the bounty of our city's revenues. He denigrated our efforts as "slash and burn politics." Fellow SMRR-backed O'Connor used epithets like "school-yard bullies and thugs," to describe our sincere efforts at improving education.

That Denny Zane would take an issue like support for public education, which we had all come together on for the common good, and politicize it, is unconscionable. That he would go beyond that and outright lie about the business community's constant and ongoing support for education, speaks to the heart of who he is as an individual and of what he is capable. I understand that this is an election year, but desperate and divisive strategies like his can only come home to roost. How can he face those who worked collegially along side him for the last few years? If the truth be known, simply ask the co-chairs of the CEPS committee what the business community has contributed to their cause.

(Dr. Michael E Gruning is a steering committee member of CEPS and immediate past chairman of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce).

OPINION



The QLine

A HIGH-FIVE FOR KEEPING LIGHTS ON

This past week, Q-line asked:
"Do you think City Hall should be open five days a week? Why or why not?"
 Here are your responses:

© "Of course they should be open five days a week like any other normal, functioning, service center that serves the public needs. Ah, but therein lies the dilemma. No matter how many days or hours these ineffectuals were open or in operation, the public will still come up wanting. Lots of revamping needs to be done, top to bottom."

© "I agree that city employees get extra time off, but not for the reasons mentioned — traffic and pollution. Santa Monica has Pacific Coast Highway to the west and the 10 freeway to the south, with Wilshire and Santa Monica boulevards in between. All are quagmires of pollution. I am willing to free up city employees a couple of extra days a month due to the amount of haranguing they receive on a daily basis. Residents do not call City Hall because they are pleased. For the most part, they call to complain. This can have an illing effect on the recipients of these calls. They need the extra rest to stay well. I also wish to say that each time I have called the city with a righteous complaint, the city has responded immediately, especially in those areas of public safety. I sincerely thank and appreciate the city of Santa Monica's employees for their efforts."

© "The building and safety departments should definitely be open five days a week and, in fact, probably having extended hours, maybe staying open an hour or two later in the evening, or maybe opening an hour earlier in the morning. Meanwhile, the Rent Control Board should permanently close.

There's no need for them anymore. So, we can create some additional space in City Hall with the departure of that particular department. After 25 years, say good-bye, guys."

© "I think we would all be better off, instead of City Hall being open five days a week, it should be closed five days a week."

© "I have definitely strong feelings about the four-days-a-week work. I lived and worked in Santa Monica for the last 35 years. My feelings are, if you like working for the city and serving the public, you should give 100 percent to serve the public. If you don't like the five days' work, you should find another job some place else."

© "Yes, I think it's excellent that the Santa Monica offices are closed on Fridays. We need to conserve a lot of our energy. I think it's wonderful."

© "The work week for the City Hall employees should be a total of five days, 40 hours per week, only Monday through Friday. The formula has been used here over the past number of years, since 1990. Eighty hours a week in nine days? What's that mean? I don't get it. Does that mean after 40 hours in the five days of work, that they receive the additional pay of 40 hours at premium overtime pay? That's wrong, wrong, wrong. Remember, the actual City Hall offices are closed every day after 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. and (allow) no access either by telephone or in person."

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

Profiling isn't always the best angle to take



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

What do a man in a tutu and clown shoes, someone dressed like Batman, and the guy next to me on a plane have in common?

No, the answer is not, "I wish any of them were running for president this year instead of those other two guys." They all point out some security problems in general, and specifically, the folly of profiling for security purposes.

Last week, a man was able to get onto a balcony at Buckingham Palace while dressed like Batman.

At the Olympics, a man wearing a tutu and clown shoes was able to sneak into the pool area and dive into the water.

Recently, on a flight to Minneapolis-St. Paul, after we were in the air, the passenger next to me realized he had mistakenly gotten on the wrong plane. The flight attendants eased his embarrassment, and promised to get him to St. Louis (and his luggage) as quickly as possible after we landed in Minneapolis.

Were the security people at the Olympics and Buckingham Palace so busy looking for people who fit a specific description, that they didn't pay attention to those who just blended into the crowd — guys dressed like Batman or a ballerina in clown shoes? And would everyone have been so nice to the guy on my plane if he'd gotten on the wrong plane and had a mustache and a Middle Eastern accent?

For years, African Americans have talked about being pulled over by police because of DWB — Driving While Black. Since 9/11, I imagine many people have been stopped at airports because of FWA — Flying While Arab. Putting discrimination and civil rights issues aside for a moment — something that some members of this administration have no problem doing for much longer than a moment — there also is another question about profiling: Does it work?

After the Oklahoma City bombing, should police have started detaining every white, American, Army veteran driving a truck?

And don't forget the "They're Not Stupid" factor. Since the bad guys must know that we're vigilantly looking for people who resemble those responsible for the 9/11 attacks, I have a feeling that terrorists are smart enough to use people who don't look like those guys. Aren't they more likely to hire blond, blue-eyed women to do their dirty work? Should we, therefore, be suspicious of every Swedish woman we see?

During World War II, we shamelessly put thousands of Japanese Americans in "camps," not because of their beliefs or past behavior, but just because of the way they looked. None of them turned out to be a spy for Japan. Imagine the unnecessary psychic and economic damage done to these people. And is it possible that the war would have been shortened and lives spared if all of these people had been allowed to participate at home and abroad?

The kind of profiling I'm not against is profiling people who have past criminal records or associate with violent groups. I promise I won't get impatient if the guy in front of me at the airport is detained because yesterday he bought a new hairbrush, some toothpaste, and, oh yeah, 4,000 pounds of fertilizer. I hope the security people don't buy his story that he's just very particular about his vegetable garden.

I'm not criticizing all the hard-working security people who are dedicated to keeping us safe. But profiling based on ethnicity and appearance is not the answer. It leads to bigotry and panic, and takes money and people away from protecting us from real dangers.

If the current approach isn't "revisited" as the politicians say, get ready for even longer lines at the airport. Using "profiling logic," they may start detaining everybody who likes to wear a Batman cape with a tutu who happens to speak with a Swedish accent. And you can just imagine how many people that description fits.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He also has read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's opinion page and can be reached at sack@smdp.com.)

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LOCAL

The world of physical fitness is the same wherever you go



EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT

BY THADDEUS REICHLEY

Like many people living in Southern California, I'm a transplant.

I recently moved to Santa Monica from Aspen, Colo. It's 1,001 miles from Aspen to Santa Monica — 1,000 miles across the country and a mile and a half of elevation loss.

Besides getting used to the time change, the temperature, the lack of rain, and all of the oxygen here at sea level, the transition to the Southern California lifestyle has been relatively easy. When I first arrived, I was a little confused to see an attractive woman wearing UGGs getting out of a Hummer with a hamster-sized canine in her arms. "Am I still in Aspen?" I wondered. Clarity quickly returned as a surfboard-laden wagon drove by on its way to the nearby evening

surf spot. "You better hurry, Bra," I said pretending to sound like I knew what I was talking about. "It gets dark early this time of year." I think it was about 3 p.m.

While I was in Aspen I used to write a weekly column. Unless you are my mom or my girlfriend, I would not expect you to have read any of my stuff. It is mostly health related — as an endurance junkie, I cynically and sarcastically ramble, which usually develops from some random thought that plagues me on one of my weekly workouts.

I am about as much of a salesperson as I am a writer, but I do have a few basic qualifications. First, I am a decent athlete. I have spent a bulk of my life involved in athletics in some form or another, and have found myself racing in the pro-triathlon world for the past couple of years. I have competed in everything from sprints to Ironmans, and have sprinkled in a few 24-hour mountain bike races, a "Southern Traverse" adventure race, and many others. Qualified or stupid, you make the call.

One of the products of training 20-plus

hours a week is that it gives you a great deal of time to think. Some people choose to work towards Nobel prizes. I put out 800-word mental meanderings spotlighting diet fads and footwear. Personally, I am convinced that the path to world peace begins with comfortable running shoes and equal rights for all breads.

So, for as long as I can last, I will be writing a "health related" — used in the broadest sense of the term — column on a bi-weekly basis. I hope that you will take a look on occasion and maybe even send me a question or comment when the spirit moves you. I might not have an answer, but I am a middle school teacher so I can fake it.

This week, I leave you with a few initial observations I have made about life, liberty and the pursuit of physical fitness here in Santa Monica.

1. It does not matter if you are skating, biking or walking your lizard (I really saw this), nor does it matter what side of the boardwalk you are on or what direction you are going ... You are going the wrong way.

2. On any given night the only place sure to be more crowded than Father's Office is Vinnie's yoga class at Yoga Works.

3. Unless you have rather large breast implants you need to be extremely careful when running or biking because people here drive fast and are not going to notice you.

4. The best place to meet fellow fitness enthusiasts seems to be Peet's Coffee on Montana Avenue. I heard you can get a cup of coffee there too. My advice: Order before you start your ride and it should be ready when you get back.

5. Living here requires a certain level of cultural savvy. For instance, I have already learned that metallics and brooches are in. Bagels on the other hand, are totally last Tuesday.

(Thaddeus Reichley is a pro triathlete and middle school teacher living and training in Santa Monica. Send questions, comments and concerns to thadscollumn@yahoo.com).

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STATE



Merge in, lane is warm: New bill allows hybrids to slide into carpool lanes

BY STEVE LAWRENCE
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Rebuffing lobbying by the chairman of the Ford Motor Co., Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a bill Thursday that will let thousands of single-occupant hybrid vehicles use carpool lanes, which supporters hope will prompt more consumers to buy the fuel-efficient, low-emission cars.

"This bill is great for California," said the measure's author, Assemblywoman Fran Pavley, D-Agoura Hills. "It eases our commutes. It saves us money at the pump, reduces our dependency on foreign oil and cleans our air at the same time."

The bill allows up to 75,000 hybrids to obtain decals from the state to use carpool lanes without having to have the minimum number of two or three occupants. Certain other advanced-technology vehicles could also qualify for the program.

To obtain the decals, the vehicles would have to get at least 45 miles per gallon and meet tough emission standards.

The new law is scheduled to take effect on Jan. 1, but it also needs federal approval to be implemented because federal funds help pay for carpool lanes. A bill pending in Congress would grant that approval.

Pavley's legislation will expire in 2008 unless extended by lawmakers.

Opponents complained that the legislation would lead to congested carpool lanes and undercut the purpose of the lanes, which is to reduce overall traffic.

Sen. Debra Bowen, D-Marina del Rey, who owns a hybrid, said the bill wouldn't

"encourage a single person to buy a hybrid who wasn't going to buy one already. What it will do is clog carpool lanes, increase emissions from non-hybrid vehicles on the freeway and build resentment among real carpoolers."

The bill requires the state Transportation Department to suspend hybrid access to any of the 1,112 miles of carpool lanes in California that become overcrowded.

The bill was supported by state Treasurer Phil Angelides, who could be Schwarzenegger's Democratic opponent in 2006 if the governor runs for re-election, and Schwarzenegger's Environmental Protection secretary, Terry Tamminen.

It was opposed by Bill Ford, chairman of Ford Motor Co., who wrote Schwarzenegger a letter urging him to veto the bill. Ford called the legislation a "buy Japanese bill" that would primarily benefit owners of the Toyota Prius.

The Prius and the Honda Insight and Civic hybrids qualify for the decals, but Ford has no vehicle that does. Its new Escape hybrid is expected to get only about 35 mpg.

Pavley said Toyota lobbyists had no influence in how the bill was written and had pushed unsuccessfully for a lower gasoline mileage threshold to qualify for the decals.

California already allows battery- and natural-gas-powered vehicles and motorcycles to use carpool lanes without meeting the occupancy requirements. Hybrids run on a combination of gasoline engines and electric motors.

Cost of illegal immigration can be seen in graveyards

By The Associated Press

HOLTVILLE — The cost of illegal immigration has become increasingly evident at cemeteries in border towns across the Southwest, where the burden of identifying and burying the bodies of those who die while crossing to United States falls on local taxpayers.

Sgt. Charles Lucas, the supervising deputy coroner of Imperial County, says officials want to identify the dead to help give families closure but the effort is straining resources. The eastern county, the poorest in California, expects to pay at least \$30,000 this year for these autopsies.

Across the Southwest, 314 people have died crossing the border since October 2003.

Imperial County pays for the autopsy and the investigators' overtime to try to identify the individuals. A funeral is paid for by the family or the Mexican government if the body is identified.

Often they are not, and the burial bill averages about \$900, and the costs of investigating the death and identifying the body can reach \$2,500 or more, officials say.

The coroner's offices uses whatever it

can to identify the bodies, from tattoos to names scribbled in their clothing.

When county officials attempted to halt autopsies of illegal immigrants, the Mexican government threatened to sue. It did not offer to pay for the autopsies, citing poverty.

The county backed down.

"These are illegals, and people don't care about them," said Martin Sanchez, the gravedigger at the humble Terrace Park Cemetery in Holtville. "The politicians don't say nothing about them," Sanchez said. "They can't say nothing. If they do, they lose a vote somewhere."

Homeland Security Department statistics show the number of people illegally coming into the United States across its southwestern border with Mexico has reached levels not seen since before Sept. 11, 2001, despite promises and millions of dollars from the federal government to increase security.

More than 1.1 million people have been apprehended along the nearly 2,000-mile border since October 2003. Immigration experts estimate that for every one caught, three make it in.



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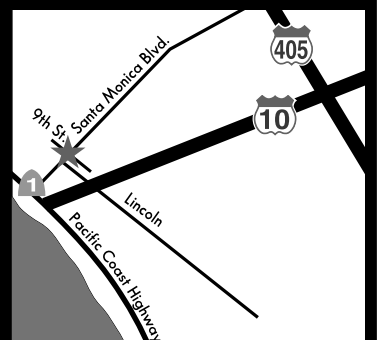
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SANTA MONICA **SUMMER GUIDE 2004**

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STATE

San Diego's dilemma: How to fix pension mess?

BY ELLIOT SPAGAT

AP Business Writer

SAN DIEGO — For 16 months, the whistleblower was ignored. Diann Shipione, a dissident trustee of the San Diego City Employees' Retirement Fund, penned opinion pieces in local newspapers, spoke at City Council and wrote the mayor, warning that the city pension fund was a ticking time bomb.

Shipione, a 52-year-old stockbroker, labeled San Diego the "municipal Enron" in one editorial. But the mind-numbing

accounting complexities she described made it easy to dismiss her as a misguided gadfly. The assistant city manager assured the City Council that she "omitted, slanted and misrepresented the facts."

The tables turned one Friday night last September.

Paul Webber, an outside attorney who was handling a sewer bond sale for San Diego, came across a Shipione missive to City Hall and grew alarmed. He got on the phone with the city's assistant auditor and demanded answers. The \$506 million bond sale — set for the following

Tuesday — was shelved.

Webber's hard-nosed questions sparked a series of events that have plunged the nation's seventh-largest city — long hailed as a model of fiscal probity — into full-blown scandal. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the Justice Department are investigating whether the city hid bad news, and the mayor is spending the final weeks of his re-election campaign denying that bankruptcy is near.

"America's Finest City" is in a fine mess. Its unfunded pension liability — the gap between the value of its pension assets and its obligation to retirees — stood at \$1.17 billion at the end of January. It faces an additional shortfall of \$545 million for retiree medical benefits.

The seaside city of 1.3 million people would need to double its pension contribution to \$259 million next year — or about one-tenth of its annual budget — just to avoid falling further behind, said April Boling, who heads Mayor Dick Murphy's Pension Reform Committee. That's more than three times what it spends on parks and seven times what it gives libraries.

Boling, who is also Murphy's campaign treasurer, isn't shying away from the b-word. She says the city will need to sell \$600 million in bonds over three years and raise the retirement age to 62 from 55, among other things.

"If the city doesn't follow our recommendations, we will be headed toward bankruptcy," Boling said in an interview. "That is a fact."

The city has turned into a Wall Street pariah, raising questions about an investor bailout. San Diego dumped its longtime

auditor after errors were found in its fiscal 2002 report, and hired KPMG LLP five months ago. The delay in the still-unreleased 2003 audit led Standard & Poor's Ratings Services to take the rare step of suspending its rating on the city's debt Monday.

How did this happen?

A law firm's blistering report last week describes the city's long history of promising more than it could deliver. The 268-page report by Vinson & Elkins LLP, which was hired by the city, portrays a dysfunctional City Hall: a city manager — effectively San Diego's chief executive officer — who didn't bother to read financial disclosures and wasn't on speaking terms with his finance deputy; and a "check-the-box mentality" when it came to preparing financial disclosures.

The problem began in 1980, when the city began spending above-average returns on its pension investments to give annual bonus checks to retirees, whose buying power had been battered by double-digit inflation.

Typically, investment gains are set aside to cushion against market swoons, though experts say San Diego isn't alone, suggesting that other cities may also be in trouble.

In 1996, when the city was grappling with raids on its treasury by the state government and costs for hosting the Republican National Convention, it cut its contributions to the pension fund and — at the same time — promised enhanced retirement benefits.

It cut pension contributions and improved benefits again in 2002 as it

See PENSION, page 11

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Capping crunch: Some key dates in money crisis

By The Associated Press

The city of San Diego's pension fund has a \$1.17-billion gap — plus obligations for \$545 million in retiree health benefits. The city's sudden financial meltdown has prompted inquiries by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and Justice Department. Here are some key dates:

1980: City begins cutting annual checks to retirees with any above-average returns on pension-fund investments.

1982: City withdraws from the Social Security system, assuming responsibility for retirees' health insurance.

1996: City grants more generous retirement benefits in return for labor concessions, averting a budget crisis.

March 2000: City settles class-action lawsuit that forces it to increase retirement pay.

2001

Oct. 11: Terri Webster, assistant city auditor, warns Cathy Lexin, deputy city manager, about the impact of stock market's plunge on the pension fund. The subject line of her e-mail reads: "EEEEK"

2002

May 23: Diann Shipione, a dissident trustee of the San Diego City Employees Retirement System warns Mayor Dick Murphy of "sizeable" problems in the pension system and urges a thorough

audit be done.

Nov. 18: City Council authorizes more cuts to pension contributions.

2003

Aug. 26: City publishes offering statement for \$506 million in sewer bonds

Sept. 5: Paul Webber, an outside attorney for the city, gets an e-mail from Shipione that warns of omissions in bond offering statement. Bond sale is soon shelved.

Sept. 24: Mayor Dick Murphy appoints nine-member Pension Reform Committee.

2004

Jan. 27: City admits errors and omissions in its financial statements.

Feb. 13: Securities and Exchange Commission informs city of probe of city's financial practices; Auditor Ed Ryan resigns

March 16: Michael Uberuaga, city manager since November 1997, resigns.

April: City hires KPMG LLP to audit fiscal 2003 statements, replacing its longtime auditor.

Sept. 15: Mayor's Pension Reform Committee recommends \$600 million bond sale and other measures to close pension gap.

Sept. 16: Vinson & Elkins LLP, a law firm hired to investigate city's woes, finds financial reporting "inadequate in major respects."

STATE



Pension tension: Both sides begin to point fingers

PENSION, from page 10

struggled to meet its obligations under a 2000 class-action lawsuit settlement that forced it to grant even more retirement benefits.

To make matters worse, the stock-market bubble popped, straining pension funds across the country. In an October 2001 e-mail to a colleague, Terri Webster, assistant city auditor, summed up the impact in her subject line: "EEEEK."

Murphy, a former Superior Court judge who was elected four years ago, says now he regrets the 2002 vote but notes the problem began long before him. He's being pounded by his mayoral opponent, San Diego County Supervisor Ron Roberts, for a "steady drumbeat of denial."

When the city's outside attorney began asking hard questions last September, most taxpayers and investors were in the dark.

Shipione, a lone wolf on the pension board who was appointed by the previous mayor, had been crying foul since May 2002. But Webber, a highly regarded partner in the Los Angeles office of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, wasn't so easy to brush aside, even though the city was paying for his work. The city needed his blessing to sell bonds.

Webber, 70, who declined comment, insisted the city detail its billion-dollar problem and spell out future risks, according to the Vinson & Elkins report. City Treasurer Mary Vattimo scoffed, saying in an e-mail to a colleague that his demand "is OVERKILL."

His relations with city officials quickly heated to "a boiling point," according to the report, but the city had no choice. It had to come forward.

Webber, in a message to a city attorney sent on Jan. 26, almost five months after reading Shipione's warning, reflected on angry e-mails he had received from city employees. One sarcastically thanked him for the inevitable "public flogging" and another accused him of making "much ado about nothing."

"The angst and anger, I believe, has grown as disclosure day has approached," Webber wrote in an e-mail.

Webber was upset because he believed city officials ignored a question about future liabilities.

The city treasurer fired back.

"I could've answered this question in a phone call, but this is what happens when trust is lost between client and consultant," she wrote. "I think we all need a rest from each other."

The next day, the city released a statement that detailed its pension mess. Seventeen days later, the SEC informed the city that it began investigating, and the city's longtime auditor resigned.

Shipione, for her part, isn't taking any bows for her prescient — and long-ignored — warnings.

"I don't even want to get into the 'I told you so's,' and pointing fingers," she said. "This is such an enormous problem."

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NATIONAL

Aryan leader arrested on federal threat charges

By The Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — The self-proclaimed leader of the Aryan Nations of Reno has been arrested on federal charges accusing him of making violent threats to minorities and others.

Steven Holten, 40, a “one-man Aryan nation” who has been recruiting members for his white supremacist group in the area, is accused of e-mailing the threats to Jewish communities in Nevada and California, law officers and members of the media, Reno police said.

Holten appeared in federal court in Reno Thursday and was being held without bail Friday in the Washoe County Jail.

Police said Holten allegedly sent a mass e-mail Monday that said the “Aryan

Nations of Reno, Nevada” will carry out “terrorist actions that will be gruesome and something that has never been seen in Reno and San Francisco.”

He detailed violent acts that would be carried out on people and groups on its “most wanted list,” including Jews, minorities, homosexuals, federal and local law enforcement officials, drug dealers, members of the media and anyone against white supremacy, police said.

Holten, who has neo-Nazi SS lightning bolts tattooed on his neck, is the first suspect in Reno accused of sending violent hate threats, which authorities intercepted by tracing an e-mail, acting Police Chief Jim Weston told the Reno Gazette-Journal.

Holten recently purchased a handgun, which later was recovered during a search of his apartment, along with a laptop computer he allegedly used to send the threat, Weston said.

“Our impression is that he is a one-man Aryan nation,” Weston said. “No one wants these types of threats and that is not the conduct one would expect.”

Police said that although Holten has sent threatening e-mails during the past year to various Jewish and minority groups, and to the Reno City Council, the messages did not meet the legal standard to be considered a terrorist threat until Monday.

Weston said Holten is well-known to police as “being centered around some

issue of hate.” He said police received many reports that Holten aggressively tried to recruit members for his white supremacist group in local restaurants and businesses.

“We will not tolerate threats of this nature and will aggressively pursue these types of criminals,” Weston said.

Rabbi Menashe Bovit of Temple Emanu-El, which was spray-painted with anti-Semitic graffiti earlier this month, said he received one of the threatening e-mails.

“What’s wonderful about America is that people have the freedom of speech whether you like it or not,” Bovit said. “But threatening violence and terrorism in this God-blessed nation is not acceptable.”

Swarms of tiny quakes shake Mount St. Helens

By The Associated Press

LONGVIEW, Wash. — Hundreds of tiny earthquakes have been reported at Mount St. Helens, but it is unlikely they pose any hazard to anyone outside of the volcano’s crater, state seismologist Tony Qamar said Friday.

Qamar said the seismology lab at the University of Washington in Seattle is having trouble keeping up with the hun-

dreds of tiny quakes that began Thursday and show no sign of letting up.

“We’re having a swarm of very small quakes — hundreds and hundreds — right under the dome inside the crater,” Qamar said.

The swarms of quakes could indicate that a small amount of magma is moving into the mountain’s crater, cracking the lava dome, he said.

“It’s not a major hazard,” Qamar said. But he added: “At this point we want to be cautious. I wouldn’t recommend going into the crater today.”

The quakes are too small to be felt, even close to the southwest Washington mountain, Qamar said.

A similar swarm of quakes in 2001 resulted in no eruption. However, the quakes could increase the likelihood of

small rock slides from the 876-foot-tall lava dome within the mountain’s crater.

Mount St. Helens erupted on May 18, 1980, leaving 57 people dead, devastating hundreds of square miles around the peak and spewing ash over much of the Northwest. The last dome-building eruption, in which magma reached the surface and added to the pile of lava on the crater floor, was in October 1986.



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10:00–11:00 a.m. City TV: 10Fest at 10 Adelpia Channel 16

3:00–4:00 p.m. SMURRF Tour

6:30 p.m. Free Movie Screening on the Pier: Super Size Me.

Wednesday, September 29

10:00–11:00 a.m. City TV: 10Fest at 10 Adelpia Channel 16

10:00 a.m. SM Farmers' Market Organic Cooking Demonstration

11:30–3:30 p.m. Green Building: Guided Commercial Building Tour

7:00 p.m. Sustainable Lecture Series: Sustainable Oceans

Thursday, September 30

10:00–11:00 a.m. City TV: 10Fest at 10 Adelpia Channel 16

6:45 p.m. Sustainable Lecture Series: Climate Change & Energy Policy at SMC

7:00–9:00 p.m. Leadership Series at the Ken Edwards Center: Sustainable City Plan – Are You in the Equation?

Friday, October 1

10:00–11:00 a.m. City TV: 10Fest at 10 Adelpia Channel 16

7:30–9:00 p.m. 10Fest Awards Ceremony at Patagonia, Main Street

Saturday, October 2

10:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Green Building: Self-Guided Residential Tour

10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Family Health Fair American Red Cross, 11th Street

7:30–9:30 p.m. Free Movie Screening: Kilowatt Ours, Lincoln Middle School Auditorium

Sunday, October 3

10:00 a.m. SM Farmers' Market Organic Cooking Demonstration

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NATIONAL

Kerry stops short of 'L' word, says Bush 'failed to tell truth'

BY MARY DALRYMPLE

Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA — John Kerry says President Bush "failed to tell the truth" about Iraq and "misled the American people," but that's as far as he seems willing to take it. He stops just short of the "l-word" — liar.

Democrat Harry Truman may have been the last presidential candidate to call his opponent a liar, says Wayne Fields, an expert on political rhetoric. It just isn't something serious presidential contenders do these days.

Instead, this year's Democratic presidential nominee dips into a stack of euphemisms to suggest the president isn't telling voters the whole truth. In a more aggressive verbal assault on Bush in the last few days, Kerry has said:

- "The first and most fundamental mistake was the president's failure to tell the truth to the American people."

- "The president also failed to level with the American people about what it would take to prevail in Iraq."

- "The president cannot deny that they have not achieved what they said they've achieved. They've misled the American people."

- "I think he's living in a make-believe world," Kerry told The Associated Press hours after declaring that Bush lived in a "fantasy land."

Kerry's surrogates haven't felt quite as restrained.

"Let us be crystal clear. Let there be no illusions as it relates to Iraq," Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe said at a fund-raiser in New York. "George Bush lied to the American public. He lied to the world."

Even the candidate's running mate, John Edwards, accused Bush of responding to Kerry's recent speech on the situation in Iraq "with more lies about John Kerry."

But it's risky to say or insinuate that Bush is lying, says Allen Loudon, an expert in political rhetoric at Wake Forest University.

"If you're calling someone a liar essentially, you better darn well be right," Loudon said. "It's a really risky

thing to decide that your president's lying, so you just cognitively try to resist that."

Aides say Kerry isn't trying to insinuate that Bush is a liar without flat out calling him one.

"He's obviously not calling the president a liar," said spokesman Mike McCurry.

McCurry said Kerry is trying to show that Bush's portrayal of the security situation in Iraq and the U.S. economy, for example, doesn't match Kerry's understanding of the facts.

"Either he is so rigidly certain that his vision is correct that he can set aside contradictory information and not absorb it, which is a damning comment," McCurry said, "or that he in fact gets this information and chooses not to share it with the American people, in which case he is deliberately misleading them."

In response, Bush campaign spokesman Steve Schmidt called Kerry's rhetoric a "preposterous" attempt to get ahead in the polls, some of which show a close race or with Bush slightly ahead.

"He has resorted to a fundamentally dishonest campaign to try to tear down the president," Schmidt said.

Anne Demo, a communications professor at Vanderbilt University, said there are few instances where a politician can be provably caught lying. She sees Kerry's rhetoric as encouraging voters to conclude for themselves that Bush is lying.

"They translate mislead into lie," she said.

By not speaking the word "liar," Kerry skirts a debate over his choice of word. The focus stays on his portrayal of Bush as a leader painting rosy pictures over what Kerry says is a failed record, and Kerry avoids the awkward situation of being accused of lying about whether the president is lying.

"The idea of lying is that you know and you told something different than what you knew the truth to be," said Fields, a professor at Washington University in St. Louis. "He's got to be careful that he doesn't accuse them of a lie when it's only an incomplete telling of the truth. They will nail him."

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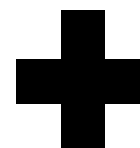
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NATIONAL



Curious Cat: Former singer intrigued by blockade

BY MICHAEL MCDONOUGH
Associated Press Writer

Puzzled and angry at being barred from the United States, the singer formerly known as Cat Stevens returned to London on Thursday vowing to find out why. Surrounded by a throng of reporters at Heathrow Airport, Yusuf Islam said it was ludicrous that he was on Washington's no-fly list for having suspected ties to terrorists, and he said he would challenge the decision to block him from entering the country. "Half of me wants to smile, and half of me wants to growl. The whole thing is totally ridiculous," said Islam, whose string of hits in the 1960s and 1970s included "Peace Train," "Wild World" and "Morning Has Broken." "Everybody knows who I am. I am no secret figure. Everybody knows my campaigning for charity, for peace. There's got to be a whole lot of explanation." Islam, a Briton who was born Stephen Georgiou, abandoned his music career after becoming a Muslim. His United Airlines flight from London to Washington's Dulles International Airport was diverted Tuesday to Bangor, Maine, when U.S. officials reviewing the passenger list discovered he was aboard. U.S. authorities provided few details about Islam's alleged connection to terrorism or when he was added to the watch list. U.S. Homeland Security Department

spokesman Brian Doyle said Wednesday the intelligence community had recently obtained information that "further heightens concern" about Islam. "Yusuf Islam has been placed on the watch lists because of activities that could potentially be related to terrorism," Doyle said. "It's a serious matter." A second U.S. government official said on condition of anonymity Wednesday that American authorities believed donations from Islam may have ended up helping fund blind sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman, convicted for a plot to bomb New York City landmarks, and Hamas, a Palestinian militant group responsible for scores of suicide bombings in Israel that is considered a terrorist organization by the United States. British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw complained to U.S. officials Wednesday about their treatment of Islam, telling Secretary of State Colin Powell "that this action should not have been taken," the Foreign Office said. It was unclear whether Straw was referring to Islam's detention or his inclusion on the watch list. Islam, who was traveling with his 21-year-old daughter, Maymanah, told reporters in London that he was bound for Nashville, Tenn., "to initiate some recording, and suddenly we were forced to land and I was being interrogated by officers." His daughter was allowed to remain in the United States. Islam said he was treated well by FBI agents and U.S.

officials. "The one positive thing I can say is that a lot security officers are pleased because they got my autograph," he said. "People make mistakes. I just hope they made a big mistake. We'll see." A statement on Islam's Web site said he was seeking further information from U.S. authorities "so that we can challenge the decision to refuse him entry." According to his Web site, the singer was last in the United States two months ago with his record company.

Absurd Person Singular

by Alan Ayckbourne



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NATIONAL

Middle-class tax cuts pass by wide margins

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — With lopsided margins in both houses, Congress gave President Bush his fourth tax cut in four years, extending three popular middle-class tax breaks and reviving some expired business tax incentives just six weeks before the election.

Many Democrats complained during the debate Thursday that majority Republicans who control Congress should have offset the lost revenue to keep the nation's soaring deficits from getting worse.

In the end large numbers of Democrats, including presidential nominee John Kerry, supported the package, something that Republican tax-cut proponents had counted on occurring with the election only 40 days away.

The \$145.9 billion tax cut package was approved in the House by a 339-65 vote, with 125 Democrats joining 213 Republicans and one independent in voting for the proposal. In the Senate, the measure passed by a 92-3 vote.

While no House Republicans voted against the tax cuts, the three senators objecting included two Republicans, Sens. Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island and Olympia Snowe of Maine, who joined Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., in voting "no." All three have been critical of the government's inability to get soaring deficits under control.

"I for one am very reluctant to saddle future generations with the bill for this fiscally ruinous policy," Chafee said in a statement.

Bush, whose campaign was hoping for a high-profile victory on taxes in the closing weeks of the presidential race, praised the congressional votes and said his tax relief was "putting more money into the hands of the American people and helping to grow our economy."

Kerry, the junior Democratic senator from Massachusetts, and his running mate, Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, were on the campaign trail and did not vote on the package. Kerry said in a statement he supported it.

"Millions of American families are being squeezed by the weak Bush economy, falling incomes and rising health costs," Kerry said, adding that as president he would roll back Bush's tax cuts for the wealthiest families and use the savings to invest in health care and education.

The tax package Congress passed will affect an estimated 94 million Americans, mainly through its provision to extend a

broader 10 percent tax bracket, which helps reduce taxes for virtually all taxpayers. The package also keeps the per child tax credit at \$1,000 and retains the provisions providing married couples relief from the so-called marriage penalty.

The package extends the child credit for five years, the marriage penalty relief for four years and the expanded 10 percent tax bracket for six years. All were to have expired Jan. 1.

When added to the tax relief Bush persuaded Congress to pass in 2001, all of the provisions will have the effect of keeping the popular provisions on the books through the rest of the decade. After 2010 all of the tax cuts are due to expire.

Bush, in the statement released by the White House, said Thursday's congressional action "brings us one step closer to making the tax relief permanent."

The price tag for the individual tax relief in the newly passed package was \$131.4 billion over 10 years. In addition, Republicans added provisions to extend a group of 23 expiring tax provisions at a cost of \$12.97 billion. The biggest item in this group was \$7.56 billion to extend until the end of 2005 a tax credit to businesses for research and development.

Opponents zeroed in on these proposals as an example of corporate welfare.

Rep. Rahm Emmanuel, D-Ill., said it was ironic that Congress was passing the corporate tax breaks one day after the liberal-leaning Citizens for Tax Justice issued a report saying that 82 of the country's largest corporations paid no federal income tax for at least one year out of the past three.

With passage of the individual tax measure, Congress has only one major piece of tax legislation pending — a corporate tax bill that would repeal about \$5 billion in tax breaks U.S. exporters receive and replace them with a variety of other corporate tax relief.

Passage of this measure is needed to end penalty tariffs that are being imposed on 1,600 U.S. exports to Europe as long as Congress fails to repeal the current export tax breaks, which the World Trade Organization has ruled represent violate global trade rules. There are big differences between the versions of the bill passed by the House and Senate.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley on Thursday called on the White House to honor its commitment to get actively involved in lobbying Congress to pass the corporate tax measure now that the individual tax package has been approved.



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NATIONAL



New Mexico governor claims Hispanic voters in West key for Kerry

BY SCOTT SONNER
Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. — Hispanic voters in four key Western states have the power to put Democrat John Kerry in the White House, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson said Thursday.

"We believe the Latino vote can win it for Senator Kerry," said Richardson, the nation's only Hispanic governor.

He said Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado experienced significant growth in Hispanic population since the 2000 elections, following a combined gain of more than 75 percent from 1990-2000.

"If we win those four states with the Latino vote, we will win the election," Richardson said. He expressed confidence Kerry will carry New Mexico.

"I am here in Nevada because Nevada is going to decide the election," said Richardson, who also campaigned in Las Vegas last weekend.

"Nevada is the state with the fastest growing Latino population in the nation. ... It is going to be a very close race. You here in Reno could make the difference," he told about 50 supporters.

Of the four states Richardson cited, George Bush won three in 2000, with only New Mexico voting for Democratic presidential nominee Al Gore by a margin of fewer than 500 votes. In 1996, Democrat Bill Clinton carried New Mexico and Nevada, while Republican Bob Dole won in Arizona and Colorado.

Nationally, Bush received 35 percent of the Hispanic vote in 2000, up from Dole's 21 percent, exit polls show. This election, GOP strategists have a goal to win 40 percent of the Hispanic vote.

"Our goal is to prevent them from get-

ting that 40 percent because if they do that, they win the election," Richardson told The Associated Press after a health forum at the Culinary Union Local 226.

Sharon Castillo, a spokeswoman for Bush-Cheney 2004, said Kerry is sending surrogates to court the Hispanic vote because Kerry "doesn't know Latinos."

"He has no record with the Hispanic community. Even in Massachusetts, where he has been the junior senator for 20 years, they don't know him," she said from Washington D.C.

"It's going to be incredibly hard to catch up to what we are doing. We have had grassroots Latino teams in 30 states since the beginning of the year and spent \$3 million on advertising," she said.

From 1990 to 2000, the Hispanic population grew from 1.8 million to 3.2 million in Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Hispanics made up 18.8 percent of those states' combined populations in 1990, compared with 34 percent in 2000, led by New Mexico with 42.1 percent, Arizona 25.3 percent, Nevada 19.7 percent and Colorado 17.1 percent, the bureau reported.

Richardson, former energy secretary under Clinton, said Kerry's message resonates with Hispanics.

"It's not just immigration and civil rights. Education and health care and home ownership — those are the pre-eminent issues in Hispanic communities," he said.

Richardson said 20 million American children have no health care insurance. He said Kerry's health care plan would provide coverage for about 78 percent of Americans who need it, while Bush's policy covers only 40 percent to 45 percent.

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NATIONAL

Questions swirl around accused killer doctor

BY BECKY BOHRER

Associated Press Writer

BILLINGS, Mont. — When the end came in July 2000, Kathryn Dvarishkis' family was gathered around her hospital bed in Ennis, as they had been for much of the previous week. Sandy Dvarishkis remembers the doctor who was treating her mother gave her drugs, then listened to her heart.

Dr. James Bischoff commented that the woman, who had suffered an apparent heart attack days earlier and whose heart was still beating, was "strong as a horse," she said. He left, but returned moments later with another dose of drugs. Within minutes, she said, 85-year-old Kathryn Dvarishkis was dead.

Dvarishkis said she always had a bad feeling about the events surrounding her mother's death but never questioned Bischoff.

"The guilt I felt since her death," she said. "I wanted to scream, 'It's not her time, leave her alone, it's not her time.' And the second injection killed her."

Madison County authorities last month charged Bischoff with deliberate homicide, saying he gave Kathryn Dvarishkis the drugs that ended her life.

State medical licensing records show there had been previous allegations Bischoff had "hastened some patients' deaths," though authorities have declined to comment.

Bischoff, who's in jail in lieu of more than \$1 million bail on this and separate drug charges, maintains his innocence.

"I'm a good guy," he said in a phone message left for The Associated Press. "I'm completely, totally innocent. I've never murdered anyone in my life."

Authorities say the Dvarishkis case surfaced as investigators began looking into allegations Bischoff fraudulently obtained large quantities of controlled drugs such as Adderall, which can be used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Since the murder charge, Madison County Attorney Bob Zenker said people have come forward to ask him to investigate other cases of patients under Bischoff's care, though he refused to characterize those. Authorities say their investigation continues.

Questions have been raised before about Bischoff's work. Lawsuits brought by at least two families have claimed medical malpractice or wrongful death. A state board placed him on probation in 1994, and his medical license was suspended this summer, shortly before the murder and drug charges were filed.

Bischoff's license was originally issued in the state in early 1990, records say; he was licensed earlier in Iowa, where "no public board action" information is on file, according to the Iowa Board of Medical Examiners. He spent much of his time in Montana in Ennis, including working at the Madison Valley Hospital, where Dvarishkis died.

In 1994, the Montana Board of Medical Examiners placed Bischoff on probation for malpractice or negligent practice, records show.

Conditions of his probation included restricted hospital privileges — such as procedures he could perform with or without supervision — and requiring him to complete 150 hours of "continuing

medical education."

In January 2003, Kenneth and Connie Sciuchetti sued Bischoff and the Ennis hospital over the death of their son, Douglas. Among the allegations were that Bischoff prescribed an overdose of the drug fentanyl, which authorities say was also given to Dvarishkis, and that he failed to monitor their son's "overall condition and care" while at the hospital in August 1999.

Sciuchetti, who suffered a back injury in Washington state the year before his death, admitted himself to the hospital on Aug. 3 for treatment of back pain, court records show. He was "Demerol-dependent," records say, and was being given a number of drugs. He died the next day.

Sciuchetti's death certificate states the immediate cause of death was "complications of mixed drug toxicity."

The couple accepted a \$250,000 settlement in June 2003.

"It wasn't about the money," Connie Sciuchetti said. "What we wanted most was for him not to be a doctor anymore."

Peter Stokstad, an attorney who said his firm has represented Bischoff and the hospital in three cases, including one still pending, declined comment.

Bischoff's license was suspended this summer by a screening panel of the state board. The panel, in a July suspension notice, said it learned in April 2004 that Bischoff was under criminal investigation.

"It was alleged that Dr. Bischoff had hastened some patients' deaths and that he had attempted to illegally induce abortion of some pregnancies," the panel wrote. "It was also alleged that he had written prescriptions for dangerous amounts of narcotic drugs to at least one patient."

The records say that "subsequent preliminary investigation" by law enforcement found one of Bischoff's patients received 2,290 doses of Oxycontin prescribed by Bischoff between January 1998 and December 2001.

According to the notice, the board asked Bischoff to respond to the allegations but he declined.

During the six days Kathryn Dvarishkis was hospitalized, her daughter said Bischoff twice brought up to family members the "option of euthanasia."

In an interview with the Bozeman Daily Chronicle shortly before his arrest, Bischoff said Kathryn Dvarishkis' husband was "begging me to give her a shot. I wasn't just going to put somebody to sleep. I wouldn't even think about it if the family didn't want it."

Her husband did not return telephone messages. Sandy Dvarishkis said she never asked her father about conversations he had with Bischoff.

Prosecutor Zenker has not specified a motive, but insists it doesn't matter whether anyone asked Bischoff to administer the last shot, even if it was to end Kathryn Dvarishkis' suffering.

"There are no provisions in Montana law for something known as 'mercy killing,'" Zenker said. "Whether there's consent, as far as the state is concerned, is not relevant or germane."

Zenker said he would not use euthanasia as a characterization of the case, and said he considered Bischoff's acts "homi-

See BISCHOFF, page 19

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NATIONAL



Physician and family at odds over treatment

BISCHOFF, from page 18

cide and nothing else." He believes the statement Bischoff allegedly made about Kathryn Dvarishkis being "strong as a horse" is evidence of intent.

"The allegations are that, Mrs. Dvarishkis came in with a heart attack, and there were early diagnoses that her death was imminent," he said. "Of course, six days is probably something different than imminent. If she was going to die, the fatal injections hastened that process."

According to an affidavit signed by Zenker, family members expected she would receive "compassionate support but little or no active medical support beyond that."

To help make her more comfortable, Bischoff prescribed Kathryn Dvarishkis morphine and Ativan, records say. Nursing notes showed Dvarishkis received both medications several times during the first few days of her hospitalization.

Bischoff, in notes, indicated he spoke to the family about the option of fentanyl, which is used to relieve pain, according to the affidavit. He noted the drug is more potent than morphine and that it may cause more "respiratory depression," it said.

According to the affidavit, Bischoff gave Kathryn Dvarishkis two doses of fentanyl and Versed, a sedative, within a 10-minute period, and moments later, at 2:32 p.m. on July 16, 2000, she was dead.

A forensic toxicologist who reviewed the case said the second doses of the drugs "followed so quickly after the first doses were predictably an imminent threat to life."

"In plain language," Dr. Graham R. Jones wrote, "there is no other conclusion (than) that the fentanyl and Versed were administered to hasten death."

Bischoff resigned from the hospital in 2001, indicating a desire to "pursue other interests," administrator Pete Brekhuis said. He declined further comment on Bischoff.

At his first court appearance this sum-

mer, Bischoff seemed defiant, sitting with his arms crossed and sometimes shaking his head and sneering at the judge.

Bischoff is scheduled to be arraigned Monday, and attorneys say the issue of bail is also expected to be raised. One of his attorneys, Kent Spence, said he believes in Bischoff's innocence and that the physician will be vindicated. Spence said he believes Bischoff should be released from jail "as soon as possible."

Vickie Noack, a friend of Bischoff's, said she considers this a "big witchhunt" by former colleagues of Bischoff against a man who has been like a second father to her youngest son.

"I have nothing but good to say about the man. I know he's not perfect, but who is?" she said. "I feel what they're doing to him is totally wrong."

Ennis' Mayor, Ralph Hernandez, said talk is mixed in the town of about 850. It is a sportsman's town that attracts fishermen and hunters from throughout the country.

Initially, he said, "it was a shock to me, and a shock to a lot of people. But everybody seems to be taking it in stride." While there are those who liked the doctor and those who didn't, the charges against Bischoff haven't seemed to be a divisive issue in the quiet community, he said.

Bischoff told the AP he's a "good guy, a brilliant person, and I've got a great heart."

"There's a lot of ugly, business, economic, political things that go on behind the scenes that most people don't know about," he said. "You know, the medical establishment, they can't make any money on someone when they're no longer alive. So, anyway, they try to keep them alive as long as possible, regardless of the family's wishes or quality of life."

Sandy Dvarishkis said she wants her mother's day in court.

"I've had no closure with her death, since her death," she said. "Maybe that means something."

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The City Council of the City of Santa Monica will hold a public hearing to receive public comment on the Amendment to the FY 2004-05 One-Year Action Plan. The One-Year Action Plan, which is a component of the Consolidated Plan, is submitted annually to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It delineates the City's specific projects and activities for one-year use of CDBG and HOME funds in order to meet the City's overall housing and community development needs as specified in the Consolidated Plan (FY 2000-05) adopted by City Council and submitted to HUD in June 2000. To obtain a copy of the Amendment to the Consolidated Plan, please contact the Human Services Division, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401, telephone (310) 458-8701.

**The Public Hearing is scheduled for
Tuesday, October 26, 2004
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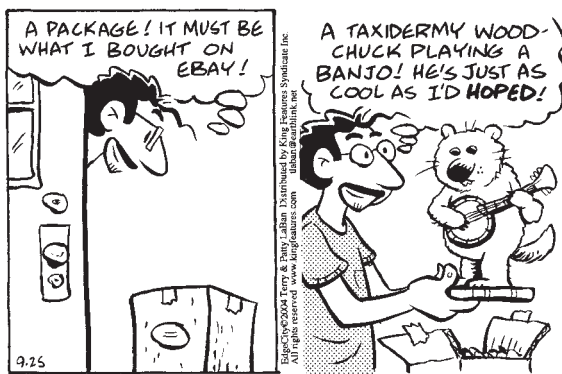


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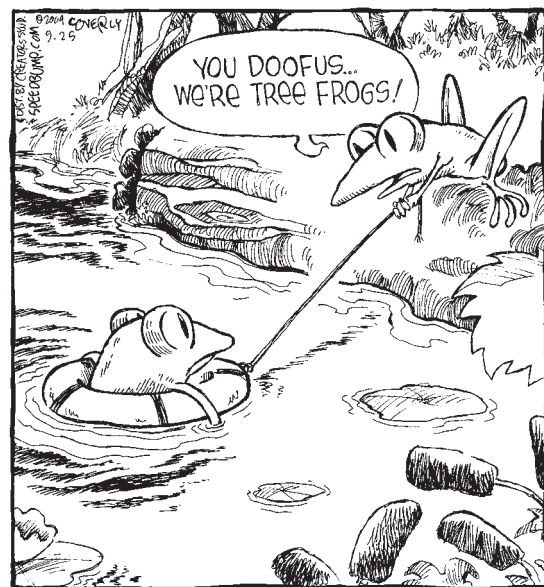
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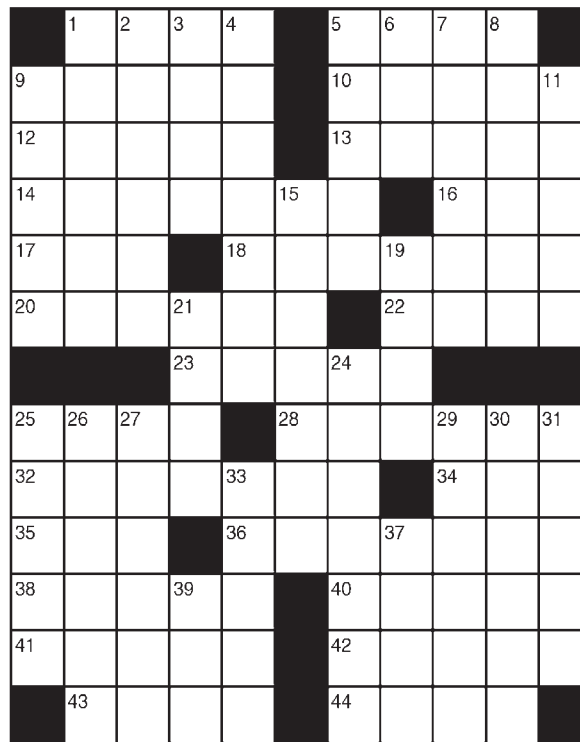
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

O'Connor: Nothing compares 2 being called crazy

By The Associated Press

DUBLIN, Ireland — One-time pop sensation Sinéad O'Connor was back in the news Friday.

O'Connor, who shot to international fame in 1990 with her biggest hit, "Nothing Compares 2 U," claimed she'd been "consistently ridiculed, lashed and called mad" for decades, particularly in her native Ireland.

"I don't think there can be any person male or female from this country who has been as consistently lashed as I have been and always am no matter what I set out to do," she complained during her 2,000-word essay, published in the Irish Examiner newspaper.

"If ye all think I am such a crazy person why do ye use me to sell your papers?" she wrote, "Please, I just want to be a little old lady now, and not be all controversial and not be bashed and called crazy and laughed at when I open my mouth to sing or speak."

O'Connor was known for her skinhead-style haircut and attention-seeking stunts. She refused to let "The Star-Spangled Banner" be played before a concert in New Jersey and ripped apart a picture of Pope John Paul II on live television in a protest against the Catholic Church.

In recent years, she's clashed with her own siblings about her allegations of an abusive childhood at the hands of her mother. Her siblings insist she's exaggerating claims of abuse.

She returned to that theme Friday. "Before God let me swear to you that if I or any of us were to tell you what we went through this country would cry for a month. To know that my brothers and sister survived, makes me proud of us all," she wrote.

O'Connor has continued to court headlines with unusual decisions and occasional essays published in local newspapers.

She was ordained a priest in a breakaway Catholic sect in 1999, but subsequently stopped referring to her-

self as Mother Bernadette Mary and said she'd found the celibacy rule impossible to follow.

Last year, she declared she was retiring from the music business, was interested in a movement called the Death Midwives that counsels chronically ill people, and planned to train as a religion teacher for elementary schoolchildren.

The 37-year-old singer, who has two children, resurfaced on Ireland's airwaves Wednesday when she told the national RTE radio network about her campaign to stamp out head lice in children.

The spread of head lice is a chronic problem in Irish schools, but some commentators sarcastically noted her group's e-mail address, "nittwit," and poked fun at her appeal for Ireland to stage a "national delousing day."

NEW YORK — "Sex and the City" has taken on a whole new meaning for Cynthia Nixon.

The actress, who just won an Emmy for her role as Miranda Hobbes in the hit HBO comedy, is in a relationship with another woman, a source who works with Nixon told The Associated Press on Friday.

The New York Daily News and the New York Post reported Friday that Nixon has been dating a woman since January. The woman is neither in the public eye nor living with Nixon.

"We will not confirm or deny anything," Nixon's publicist, Carrie Ross, told AP.

"My private life is private," Nixon told the Daily News. "But at the same time, I have nothing to hide. So what I will say is that I am very happy."

The actress split in June 2003 with photographer and high school sweetheart Danny Mozes, whom she'd been with for 15 years. They now share custody of their two children.

If "Sex and the City" were to be believed, the revelation would have been more expected from Kim Cattrall's character, Samantha, whose many, many TV

conquests included one woman.

Nixon's lawyer character was the cool professional of the bunch, although her boss mistook her for a lesbian in the first season and set her up with a woman, resulting in a single kiss. Miranda never dallied further and ended up married to her bartender boyfriend.

After two previous nominations, Nixon, 38, won an Emmy this year for her performance on the HBO show. She is working on "Tanner on Tanner," a Robert Altman and Gary Trudeau miniseries for the Sundance Channel.

NEW YORK — Schools Chancellor Joel Klein and Caroline Kennedy, vice chair of the Fund for Public Schools, announced a three-year \$1 million grant from Bank of America to support arts education in public schools.

Calling arts education a key link between intellectual and social development, Bank of America's President and Chief Executive Officer Kenneth Lewis presented the grant at P.S. 116 in midtown Manhattan Thursday in front of an audience that included a class of third-graders.

Klein said the money will go toward fostering relationships among public schools and the city's cultural organizations as well as refurbishing schools' art facilities.

The money also will help enhance and implement a new comprehensive curriculum in visual arts and music, developed this year to help schools teach the arts. The schools expect to have a similar curriculum for dance and theater in place next year, said Fund for Public Schools Chief Executive Officer Leslie Koch.

"This innovative partnership between a leading financial institution and our schools is a great example of how the private sector can play a vital role in improving the city's public schools and expanding our children's horizons," said Kennedy, a lawyer and author. She is the daughter of the late President John F. Kennedy.

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