

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

16 26 33 35 45

Megamember: 6

Jackpot: 7 Million

FANTASY 5

7 13 26 38 39

DAILY 3

Daytime: 2 1 6

Evening: 2 6 3

DAILY DERBY

1st: 12 Lucky Charms

2nd: 10 Solid Gold

3rd: 06 Whirl Win

RACE TIME: 1:40.74

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

An econometric study of "happiness" by professors David Blanchflower (Dartmouth College) and Andrew Oswald (Warwick University, England), announced in July, found that a successful marriage brings such a level of joy that those without it would need an additional \$100,000 to compensate. They conclude: Money can buy happiness (but each unit of it is very expensive); increasing the frequency of sex from monthly to at least weekly brings the same happiness as a \$50,000 raise; and those who must buy their sex are the least happy of all.

TODAY IN HISTORY

ON SEPT. 28, 1066, William the Conqueror invaded England to claim the English throne.

■ **In 1781,** American forces in the Revolutionary War, backed by a French fleet, began their siege of Yorktown Heights, Va.

■ **In 1787,** Congress voted to send the just-completed Constitution of the United States to state legislatures for their approval.

■ **In 1850,** flogging was abolished as a form of punishment in the U.S. Navy.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Sometimes I think we Americans are the loneliest people in the world. To be sure, we hunger for the power of affection, the self-acceptance that gives life. It is the oldest and strongest hunger in the world. But hungering is not enough."

SHERWOOD ANDERSON
AMERICAN AUTHOR AND POET (1876-1941)

INDEX

Horoscopes

It could be dreamy, Aries 2

Local

Mystery photo has a winner 3

Surf Report

Water temperature: 64° 3

Opinion

SMRR responds to chamber 4

State

Schwarzenegger not making friends 7

Mommy page

36 ways to say 'no' 10

National

Beyond Iraq 11

People in the News

Regis gets no recognition 16

Santa Monica law firm begins trial against city of WeHo

Plaintiff was permanently injured while walking in unlit crosswalk

BY GENEVA WHITMARSH

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM COURTHOUSE — Lawyers here on Monday began arguing the case of a man who says the city of West Hollywood's failure to maintain a flashing light crosswalk caused an accident that left him permanently brain damaged.

Jason Eli Sayers, then 26, was

making his way across the crosswalk at Sunset Boulevard and Alta Loma Road in early 2001 when a vehicle driven by Danielle Mason struck him, tossing him 28 feet in the air. Sayers landed on his head, suffering major brain damage.

Sayers sued the city of West Hollywood on Dec. 6, 2001 for negligence and dangerous condition of public property, claiming that the motion sensor and flashing lights surrounding the crosswalk weren't working. As a result, Mason was unable to see

See SUIT, page 5

RFK Jr. enters the world of local politics

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

PICO BLVD. — Robert F. Kennedy Jr. was in Santa Monica Monday stumping for his cousin's City Council bid, which has gained national attention in recent weeks.

But Kennedy's focus wasn't just about how well his close cousin, Bobby Shriver, will be able to serve Santa Monica if he wins a City Council seat on Nov. 2. Kennedy's five-minute speech at Lare's Mexican restaurant on Pico Boulevard also was about the environment, something Kennedy has spent his career defending.

Kennedy, son of Robert F. Kennedy, told a small group of local environmentalists and politicians that his family grew up on the

See STUMPING, page 6



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
A FAMILY AFFAIR: Bobby Shriver (left) lunches with cousin Bobby Kennedy at a Mexican restaurant during a campaign event Monday. Shriver is running for City Council.

City Council expected to spend \$1 million tonight

(Editor's note: This is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures which appear on the upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agenda. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.)

By Daily Press staff

CITY HALL — More than \$1 million is slated to be spent tonight by elected officials on everything from book shelves for

the new library to festival lighting on Main Street.

The Santa Monica City Council is expected to approve \$309,635 for book shelves at the new main library scheduled for completion

in the fall of 2005. City officials put the request on the agenda early because an international shortage of steel is expected to cause a cost increase this month, according to city documents.

See CONSENT, page 6



Susan Tam/Special to the Daily Press
Helen Comay stands in front of her house, where a sign depicting the casualties of war and a small cross are displayed. Comay's family made the sign to remind others about the war's aftermath. (Below) The Comays have John Kerry signs displayed all over their property.



Family reminds neighbors of the consequences of war

By Daily Press staff

NORTH OF MONTANA AVE. — A poster of 1,000 photos hangs on a tree outside the Comay residence. The rows of images display like a yearbook, but the frozen smiles are those of the American service members who have died in Iraq since the war began.

The Comay family wanted to express their views on the consequences of war, and decided the best way to do that was by creating a poster with a defining message.

"We feel very strongly about the war in Iraq, that not only is it a terrible tragedy ... but that people should be aware," Helen Comay said. Many Americans, Iraqi police and civilians have been killed, and it continues to happen every day, she added.

"Just today, I heard there was another car bomb that killed two marines and seven or eight others," she said.

Almost three weeks ago, when Comay was inspired by a New

See WAR, page 7

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It could be dreamy, Aries

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

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

***** You greet the Harvest Full Moon with a smile, though hopefully you haven't tossed and turned too much in your sleep. You will need your energy, as you are a pivotal factor in the day of others. Listen to another's words, but know that feelings run even deeper. Tonight: Could be dreamy.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

*** You might have had your fill of others' demands, but be prepared. Today's Full Moon might have you hiding away, or at least closing your door. The good news is that your excellent work will be noticed. Tonight: Yawn — get some sleep.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

***** Where your friends are is where you want to be. Avoid being the office chatterbox; instead, handle calls and schedule a meeting today. You are a sure-bet winner. Please note someone's crush on you. Tonight: Relish every waking hour with those you care about.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

*** A boss or someone you have to answer to could be a tough cookie. Do your best and understand that stress will happen, especially as you feel like a stretched rubber band. You get more support from a roommate or dear friend than you had anticipated. Tonight: Scurry home.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

**** You will be encouraged to figure out what others see as a stop sign. After asking some questions, you will be able to come up with a solution easily. Someone close lets you know how he or she feels. Tonight: Let your mind wander.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

*** Know when to clear out of a losing proposition. You might not see all the problems around a financial venture or risk. Minimize risk-ing to what you can afford to lose. Write agreements today. Don't go for verbal. Tonight: Buy flowers. Make someone's day.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

**** You can be clear, direct and affectionate, but others seem out of control, as if they aren't listening. Touch base with all the "others" in your life. Perhaps go out at lunchtime and buy a slew of cards. Tonight: Mail the cards before you go off and join a fun loved one.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

*** You might want to toss your hands in the air, as so much is going on around you. Unfortunately, with the Full Moon, you have very little control. Listen to your inner voice, and give others the benefit of the doubt. Tonight: Choose a stress-buster.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

***** You see events and discussions as challenging at worst or somewhat humorous at best. Don't share your light perspective, but help others lighten up. Your strength remains throughout meetings, groups and letting your creativity flourish. Tonight: Ever so flirtatious.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

*** Everyone and everything appears to be in a whirlwind. Be smart and pull yourself out before you get caught up in the many pressures and demands. You will be a lot better off. Emphasize image and work. Tonight: Stay chilled out.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

***** You delight many with your wit and your fun ideas. You are like a breath of fresh air for many. Listen and think through a problem that might involve a loved one at a distance. Make a call to explore your options. Tonight: As always, be spontaneous.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

*** Be extremely careful handling your funds, even though someone might be far more generous than you realize. Think carefully about your long-term desires with a partner. Don't worry about him or her so much. Tonight: Make sure money doesn't slip through your fingers.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Culinary student serves it up

By Daily Press staff

A culinary student from St. Joseph's Center got a taste last week of what it means to serve the food she has spent weeks preparing for.

Ardalur Atkins served with a smile last Wednesday at Border Grill's outdoor "modern Mexican" restaurant at the Santa Monica Farmers' Market in order to fulfill some of her intern hours in the center's 10-week food preparation and training program.

"I love the people in the food industry," Atkins said. "The managers, the chefs, the customers. There's so much positive energy. And I believe that once you set your goal, you must follow your dream. My goal is to start a soul food restaurant that everyone can afford."

Border Grill's involvement with St. Joseph Center over the past three years has included two tours of the Fourth Street restaurant for culinary training students and, last year, a media lunch by 20 chefs to introduce "Share Our Strength," as well as meet with community activists, and taste the dishes featured in the Taste of the Nation fundraiser.

Each spring, "Share Our Strength," one of the nation's leading anti-hunger, anti-poverty organizations, presents Taste of the Nation, when more than 10,000 community leaders in more than 65 cities across the United States and Canada organize one-of-a-kind culinary events. Since 1988, the events have distributed more than \$58 million, which have supported more than 450 organizations working to end hunger and poverty in the United States and abroad.

St. Joseph Center's culinary program provides 10 weeks of training in food service and life skills, and places 68 percent of its graduates in jobs within 90 days after graduation. Established in 1991, the program has graduated hundreds of students who have gone on to gain careers in the food service industry.

The center also provides emergency services, child care, case management, and senior services for homeless and low-income men, women, and children on eight sites in Venice, Santa Monica and West Los Angeles.



Photo courtesy

(Left to right): Raquel Naranjo, Border Grill chef; with Ardalur Atkins, St. Joseph Center student, and Christine Staggs, Border Grill manager, cooking and serving modern Mexican food at the Santa Monica Farmers' Market.



SURF REPORT

Today look for a mix of fading NW swell and slowly building SW swell (210-220). Most NW spots are in the knee-waist high range, with a few bigger sets showing at best breaks in the morning, up to chest high. Those waves back off through the afternoon. For the good SW spots, look for the SW swell to provide inconsistent knee-waist high waves in the morning.

Expect 2 to 3 feet, knee- to chest-high, occasionally four feet, and fair conditions.

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

Today the water is:

64°



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	2:00	-0.6	1:52	1.8	8:30	4.9	7:51	6.2
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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The Q-Line

The Santa Monica Visitors and Conventions Bureau for the past year and a half has been researching how this city should be "branded" to visitors. Focus groups have been held in New York, Chicago and London, as well as in Los Angeles to determine what people think Santa Monica should be known for — its positive aspects.

Las Vegas is known as "Sin City" and New York is the "City that never sleeps." Whatever Santa Monica's moniker will be is intended to be used in promoting the city as a destination place.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "How should Santa Monica be branded? What should the rest of the world know about us?"

Please don't respond with answers like "Home of the homeless" or "People's Republic of Santa Monica," as many already view the city in that regard.

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



Mary Moran is this week's mystery photo winner. Moran accurately described where this photo was taken — it is the Volkswagen Beattle delivery car for Bucca Di Beppo. Moran has won a gift certificate to Izzy's Deli. Look for the next mystery photo in the Monday edition.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?

CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2!

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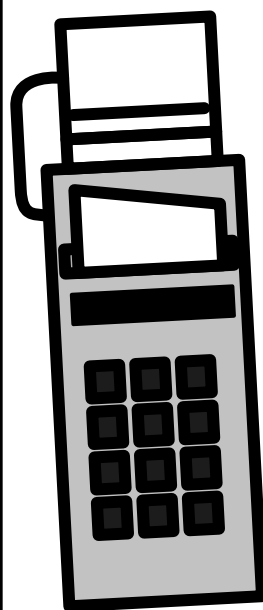
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OPINION

**FUNNY
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**THE CBS EVENING NEWS
WITH
DAN RATHER**

Joe King

AN ALL-SEEING EYE OR JUST TUNNEL VISION?

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SMRR and chamber agree on one thing

Editor:

I regret the implication that Mike Gruning, immediate past chairman of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, has taken from a recent letter that I sent to SMRR members about the upcoming election (SMDP, Sept. 25-26, page 4).

Apparently, Mike read the letter to infer that the chamber opposes funding for our schools, an inference that angered him. However, Mike has misread our letter. The inferences he draws were not at all intended.

In fact, chamber leaders and SMRR leaders have worked well together in support of funding for our schools for more than 20 years. Continuing that well-established tradition, Mike and I, and other SMRR leaders have worked well together these past several years in CEPS, seeking from the city more significant and predictable funding for our schools.

The importance of adequate school funding is an issue that SMRR and the chamber have always agreed on, and agree on now.

The point of the letter, sent to our 4,000-plus members, were the things we believe we do not agree with the chamber on: How to protect our city from the pressures of excessive development; who renters can trust to work to protect their apartments from being demolished by condo developers; and the importance of a living wage for underpaid hotel and other workers.

On these issues, I believe, that SMRR and the chamber have very significant differences.

Denny Zane
Santa Monica

Co-chair, Santa Monicans for Renters Rights

'Mr. Ed' either a dope, or smoking it

Editor:

Oh, here we go again.

Reading, as if it were the only bad novel left in lockup, the tired and old hat bigoted diatribe of your resident anti-Christian anti-Catholic columnist, Ed Silverstein — I could not help but laugh at this round's installment (SMDP, Sept. 22, page 4).

If it wasn't for the fact that most folks in Santa Monica, including many of my Jewish friends, that I talked to think this guy is a total idiot, his vitriolic nonsensical bigotry might be considered dangerous. But when he makes claims stating that American soldiers in World War II were more anti-semitic than their German captors, that is where this community and your paper should put its foot down and throw this dope out on his ear.

Mr. Silverstein also used historically egregious creative license in a previous article when he stated that all German people that fought in World War II were anti-semitic. I suppose Mr. Silverstein also thinks that all persons who viewed "The Passion" (over \$370,000,000 gross and just after six months, the all time top 10 movies at the U.S. box office) are anti-semitic as well. Then, according to Mr. Ed's logic, if you count all of the Christian Americans that vote Republican or are conservative, including those that vigorously support Israel, along with the Swift Boat commanders against Kerry, then add the Palestinian people and all Muslims, you have roughly one-half of the world's population that is out to get Ed and his ilk.

Ed begs the question of if he is paranoid. The answer is, yes. Lay off the hookah pipe, Ed.

Maria Bell
Santa Monica

SM cat show breeds a culture all its own



ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

A lot of normal people own cats, but the term "cat lady" didn't evolve on its own. There are some special ladies in this world, and bless their hearts, they were all congregated at the Santa Monica Cat Show this month.

I know it's terrible, but nearly every year now I head down Main Street mid-September to attend the Santa Monica Cat Show. But the reason why it's reprehensible is because I don't go to look at cats. I go to look at cat people.

Tell me you've never honestly been a voyeur in your life and I'll buy you a candy bar. Because I don't care who you are, there's always something you like to look at. Pretty cars, high-heel shoes, random power tools or the cute man or woman in the mall, you inadvertently have your eye on something.

That's why I spent \$8 for parking and \$8.50 for admission to look at cat people. But before I even entered the building, a whiff of kitty litter and aggregated cats wafted over as a forewarning of what was to come — 100 cats in mini condominiums.

If you've ever been to a cat show you know exactly what I'm talking about. The room is filled with 10 to 15 rows of tables with cats on display in plastic or clear net carrying bags. But most owners don't leave it at that. They'll stick feather boas over the top of the case or insert leopard carpeting on the carrying bag's floor. Some women choose themes like "Proud to be an American," and put stars and stripes over the cage. Others administer warning signs like "the cat might not bite, but the owner will."

And that's what I like to look at — the biting owners — because honestly they're the real attraction of the cat show. You can spot them by their knee-high shorts, large print T-shirts (with cats), slightly odd disposition and unintentional retro haircuts. One woman literally had enough hair bunned off it look like she was carrying a beach ball on her head. Basically, imagine you're in a room with a lot people who are really good at spelling.

Just like the movie, "Best in Show," owners hold their busy bees and dangle shiny toys to make the bored animal look animated. Others watch with an eagle eye to make sure you don't pet their pure-bred cat. My favorite are the men and no-nonsense women who gruffly push you out of the way to get their cat judging on time. "Cat coming through!" you'll occasionally hear yelled as your elbow is braised.

Not to be mean people, but you got a 10-minute window ... and it's only a room away.

That's one of my favorite parts — the judging of the cats. In a separate room, there's about eight judging tables decorated in a luau theme with cat competitors, cat owners/lovers, and me. One by one, the judge takes a feline out of its cage and checks the cat's coat, temperament, among other things. The judge slightly drops the cat to gauge its balance. Cat lovers ooh and aw over the feline's agility and beauty. Owners cringe, biting their nails as they wait to see if their cat is awarded a ribbon. I sit, eating my Reeses Pieces, and watch.

While I was enjoying the scene, I started getting the remorse that comes with making fun of people, even though it was just in my head. Was it right that these cat ladies in their cat lady worlds were giving me so much entertainment?

Probably not, but as I watched my friends' band "Aria Decline" play Friday night at the Malibu Inn, I couldn't help but think this was yet another highly concentrated cross-section of culture. Instead of intense lovers of cats, you had your voyeurs of anything with the word "indie" attached. These people study up on pop culture mostly to make fun of it. They refuse to admit enjoying mainstream films but will rave about anything from Laemmle or NuWilshire without having seen it. Music is the same. Clothes can't be too bright, mass fabricated or from the Gap, but 20 girls wearing the same Idaho shirts from Urban is acceptable. When in doubt, making fun is always the better, safer choice.

The closer I looked at this "trendy" group, I realized the large majority of these kids were just as good of spellers as the cat ladies, but had hidden this identity under the "indie" banner. However, strip them of their clothes, movies, pop culture references and witty remarks, and you had some excellent spellbound candidates on your hands. The difference is, "indie" kids see their oddity as a catalyst to make them uniquely cool, while cat women demonstrate their differences unabashed. They love cats, and are willing to drive thousands of miles to put a kitty in a muffler outfit to show what they're all about.

So as I sit here contemplating if I want to get "The Killers" or "Garden State" CD, I'm encouraged by cat women to be who I am, and let the world eat Reeses Pieces as I secretly enjoy finding the 10 permutations of vsaaeg.

(Heidi is an advertising account executive, freelance writer and lover of pug dogs. To contact her, e-mail her at anydayinla@gmail.com).



**GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?
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LOCAL

Trial expected to last more than a week in SM

SUIT, from page 1

clearly, lawyers argued.

Both sides waived their rights for a jury trial. The case is being heard by Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Valerie Baker.

Sayers' attorneys claimed in opening arguments that a pedestrian crossing sign in the area was partially obscured by foliage and several petitions asking for safety measures at the intersection were ignored by city officials. As early as 1990, hundreds of people who worked in nearby offices petitioned the city's transportation department to make the intersection safer, including those employed by Playboy Video Enterprises, Inc. and Western International Media, according to Sayers' attorneys. One petition allegedly included 565 signatures.

"(The city's) options were clear," said Browne Greene, of the Santa Monica-based law firm Greene, Broillett, Panish and Wheeler, LLP. "They could either fix the problem or do nothing, and they chose to do nothing."

The city's attorney, Scott C. Haith of the Calabasas-based law firm Robertson & Vick, argued that the responsibility for the accident falls on the driver and pedestrian, noting that the city installed a pedestrian crossing sign, a crosswalk sign and painted the crosswalk with reflective paint to prevent such accidents.

"The city's position is that the accident was caused solely by the negligence of two people — Mason, who failed to yield to the pedestrian in the crosswalk and Mr. Sayers, who violated what all of our parents told us when we were let out of the house for the first time and that is to look both ways when you cross the street.

"(Sayers) left a place of safety in front of the vehicle that had stopped for him and — without looking — stepped in front of (Mason's) vehicle," Haith added.

Haith further argued that the two signs near the intersection exceed CalTrans standards. A painted crosswalk is the only required safety measure.

"The pedestrian crossing sign would have been visible to Ms. Mason as she was coming up to the crosswalk," Haith said, adding that two vehicles had stopped at the crosswalk when Mason's vehicle approached it. Mason didn't see Sayers, didn't slow down and reported making eye contact with him immediately before the collision, he added.

"(The stopped cars are) an additional visual cue," Haith said. "So you had all these signs available for Ms. Mason. She said she didn't see any of the other visual cues, but she did see the two vehicles stop and thought they were turning into a driveway. There is no driveway at the intersection."

Attorneys for Sayers read several letters written to West Hollywood transportation official Lucy Dyke, who is now the transportation planning manager in Santa Monica.

"Today a woman was hit by a car," one letter read. "She is the second person to be hit while crossing in the crosswalk since I've been here ..." Another letter read, "Many of us have witnessed far too many accidents or near accidents. How many pedestrians must be injured before West Hollywood takes responsibility for the traffic in this area?"

The city conducted a study on the intersection in the early 1990s and found that of the 42 vehicles who passed through the intersection at roughly 8 p.m. one night, not one yielded to pedestrians about to enter the crosswalk. During the daytime, roughly 90 percent of the cars failed to yield to pedestrians, Sayers' attorneys argued. They also showed that a 1997 state of California report noted that West Hollywood had "the worst pedestrian accident rate for the 98 cities in the state," and approximately 82 accidents were reported in the area from 1988 to 1998.

The flashing light system at the crosswalk was installed in 2000, according to city officials. The flashing light system, in which a motion detector causes lights to flash along the crosswalk while it's in use, was a method to "enhance, not correct" the safety of the intersection, Haith said.

"A blind bat couldn't miss the crosswalk (with the blinking lights)," read a city document that lauded the installation of the blinking light system. "Although we don't expect bats to drive down Sunset, an intoxicated bar patron might."

Alcohol is not believed to have been a factor in the accident.

But Sayers' lawsuit alleges that the lights weren't working for several months prior to his accident. Haith agrees that the system malfunctioned almost as soon as it was installed. The lights began sinking into the pavement and there were underground wiring problems.

City officials say the intersection was instead marked for a traffic tri-light signal which was to be installed. The traffic signal was ultimately installed two years later. Haith said the Playboy Video Enterprise, Inc. building wasn't occupied a portion of the time the flashing lights weren't working, making the repairs less urgent. He also said the city would have had to pay \$5,000 for repairs that would disrupt traffic and add to unrelated construction taking place at the intersection.

"(The city) still had the crosswalk at the intersection," he said. "That was reasonably safe for pedestrians."

The case was originally scheduled for a jury trial on May 17, 2004, but was postponed by Judge Baker to allow Sayers' lawyers more time to work on the case. The trial is expected to last eight days.

Greene, Broillett, Panish & Wheeler, LLP. also is representing victims of the Farmers' Market tragedy, in which an elderly man behind the wheel of a Buick LaSabre drove through the crowded market last July, killing 10 and injuring dozens of others. Lawyers are suing Santa Monica City Hall.

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LOCAL

Kennedy stumps for environmental causes, cousin

STUMPING, from page 1

precept that future generations will judge how well the previous one did. Shriver, 50, who is vying for one of four open Santa Monica City Council seats, is a man who will work tirelessly to improve the community he has lived in for 17 years, Kennedy said.

"Bobby Shriver may be the smartest man I know, but more than just intelligence, he has a lot of wisdom," he said. "Bobby has enduring values, he's someone who always keeps his word. I think Santa Monica is so lucky to have someone who is so absolutely trustworthy."

While introducing his cousin, Shriver said his campaign polling suggests that the second most important issue facing Santa Monicans is the environment, particularly stormwater pollution that runs directly into the Santa Monica Bay. The No. 1 issue to Santa Monicans is homelessness, Shriver said.

Those who attended the lunch included local officials from the National Resource Defense Council; the Baykeeper; actor and staunch environmentalist Ed Begley Jr., as well as Shriver's local supporters, including Santa Monica College trustees; Harry Keiley, president of the local teach-

ers' union; and longtime community member Delores Press, who co-founded Santa Monicans For Renters' Rights, the city's ruling political party.

Kennedy said environmental issues need to be addressed on the local level, which Shriver — a board member of the California Parks and Recreation Commission — understands. Kennedy added that Santa Monica exists because of its environment — the Pacific Ocean serves as the city's backdrop.

"Are we going to preserve that for the long term or take short-term benefits for economic prosperity and participate in wasteful behavior?" he asked, adding it's up to the local communities to take responsibility.

"All politics is local, and that is more true than ever," he said. "At the state level, a lot of the initiatives are disappearing because of budgetary issues. The onerous and the burden is falling on communities."

He pointed to Proposition O, which asks voters in Los Angeles to approve a multi-million dollar bond to clean up stormwater runoff. More than 10,000 tons of trash — everything from cigarette butts to syringes — washes up on beaches each year, resulting in beach closures, according to Prop. O literature.

Kennedy has been described as one of the country's most prominent environmental attorneys. He is the president of the Waterkeeper Alliance and senior attorney for the National Resource Defense Council, which has headquarters in downtown Santa Monica. He has fought for the environment, and everyone's right to clean water and air by tak-

ing on big corporate polluters and holding them accountable for their actions.

Kennedy said the issues are not about preserving flowers and birds, but about creating a livable community for future generations.

"It's not about esoteric battles, we protect the environment because it enriches us," he said. "We have a choice of living like miners or conquistadors, taking the resources and leaving, or do we put down roots and build communities that are sustainable?"

Kennedy, who lives in New York, was in Los Angeles working on the John Kerry campaign, as well as to promote his new book, "Crimes Against Nature," which decries the Bush Administration's track record on the environment and is on the New York Times Best Seller List. Kennedy writes that George Bush and his administration have eviscerated the laws that have protected the nation's air, water, public lands, and wildlife for the past 30 years, enriching the president's political contributors while lowering the quality of life for the rest of the American public.

Shriver, who is just a few months apart in age from his cousin, spent much of his childhood years with Kennedy, often times outdoors near the family compound in Hyannisport, Mass. Kennedy stressed how the environment and the outdoors played a significant role in his family life and is an important value for the next generation.

"We need to create a community our children will be proud of," he said. "We will be able to look them in the eye and say 'I left you something better than I received.'"

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Hundreds of thousands go toward rehabilitation projects

CONSENT, from page 1

expected to last five years or longer in a marine environment.

In late 2002, the City Council approved various contracts and expenditures for what's called the "Ocean and Main Street Sewer Rehabilitation Project," including \$250,000 that was set aside for Main Street in anticipation of business loss due to construction. The money for the lights will be taken from that fund.

City officials also are expected to approve the use of \$300,000 for the Comprehensive Housing Services' residential rehabilitation program. The funds will be used to continue to remediate lead-based paint in low-income units; continue health and safety repairs at the city-owned property at 1614 and 1616 Ocean Ave.; and continue assisting elderly households and households with a disabled family member with minor repairs.

City Hall has operated the residential rehabilitation program since 1996 to provide assistance to low-income residential property owners. At least 51 percent of the tenants qualify as low income, according to city documents.

An additional \$112,000 will go toward a lease agreement to ensure space for three new communication systems housed at the Hollywood Hills antenna site and used by the Big Blue Bus. The Hollywood Hills site currently houses one transponder owned by the bus service, but now needs to accommodate three.

The transponders are needed by the Big Blue Bus because of a contract with Siemens VDO Corp. for the installation of

an Advanced Fleet Management System. One component of the AFMS project involves the upgrade of the equipment at the Hollywood Hills site.

Another \$279,500 will be used to structurally rehabilitate the roof slab at the Franklin Street Water Reservoir, which was built in the 1940s. The pavement on top of the reservoir shows signs of distress and has inadequate steel reinforcement, according to city documents.

And \$54,990 will go toward the environmental assessment and remediation services at the city corporate yard through October 2004. The work includes remediation of subsurface contamination under the oversight of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The city already has spent nearly \$3 million on the project. The money is used to conduct environmental investigation and remediation services at the Santa Monica Airport, the Big Blue Bus barn and the city yards.

And finally, City Hall is expected to approve the release of \$33,228 in Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) program funds to Los Angeles County. The county's district attorney's office will use the funds for a special projects prosecutor to manage Santa Monica juvenile cases referred to the Juvenile Offender Intervention Network (JOIN) program.

The district attorney's office created the JOIN program in 1994 to deal with minors arrested for non-violent, first time crimes that are too serious for probation, but not serious enough to be sent to the court system. The JOIN program diverts the offenders to an intervention program that holds them accountable for behavioral improvement.



Schwarzenegger bill signings test conservatives' support

BY BETH FOUHY

AP Political Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The Rev. Lou Sheldon wasn't thrilled when Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed legislation requiring health insurance policies to offer equal coverage to partners of gay and lesbian workers. Sheldon, a conservative activist and president of the Anaheim-based Traditional Values Coalition, grew more upset after Schwarzenegger approved legislation allowing hypodermic needles to be sold with no prescription as a way to slow the spread of AIDS.

But then, when Schwarzenegger approved a bill Wednesday to expand the definition of hate crimes — which conservatives fear will lead to prosecutions of those who condemn homosexual-ity — Sheldon declared war.

"Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger must not be too troubled by what he's called 'girlie men' because he's just signed a bill into law that maintains 'sex' in California to include drag queens, cross-dressers and transsexuals," Sheldon announced in a written statement. "Schwarzenegger has sided with the homosexual and drag queen lobby in muddying the biological realities of male and female."

While Schwarzenegger has billed himself a social moderate since the beginning of his improbable political career, Sheldon isn't the only conservative activist steamed over the celebrity governor's first-ever round of bill signings. From gay rights to AIDS prevention to the environment and gun safety, Schwarzenegger has adopted positions that are far outside of the GOP orthodoxy — and even to the left of some Democrats.

So far, Schwarzenegger has fashioned himself an environmentalist, signing tougher auto smog restrictions, creating Sierra Nevada conservancy, reducing

cruise ship pollution and allowing hybrid cars to drive in coveted freeway car pool lanes. He's approved legislation banning the sale of high-powered .50 caliber BMG rifles over the objection of the California Rifle and Pistol Association. He's enacted the most permissive parole system in recent state history, releasing a record 48 murderers serving life sentences. And the clean needle legislation, which is being hailed by AIDS activists, was twice vetoed by his Democratic predecessor, Gray Davis.

"My administration supports this measure because it will prevent the spread of HIV, hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases among injection drug users, their sexual partners and their children," Schwarzenegger said in a statement.

His supporters say conservatives shouldn't be surprised by any of this — that his moderate views on social issues were well known during last year's historic recall election and that voters chose him mostly because of his promise to restore fiscal discipline in Sacramento.

Meanwhile, analysts chalk it up to smart politics.

"The governor enjoys very high popularity and can take some risks," said Mark Baldassare, polling director for the Public Policy Institute of California, whose latest poll shows 61 percent of Californians approve of the job Schwarzenegger is doing.

"But he is also a Republican governor who recognizes that most California voters are Democrats and independents," Baldassare added, "and to continue to receive high approval from public, he needs to reach out beyond the conservative roots of his party."

To be sure, no one is going to accuse Schwarzenegger of being a latter-day Jerry Brown. He has also shot down bills raising the minimum wage and granting driver's licenses to illegal immigrants, and has come out against a ballot initia-

tive requiring employers to provide health coverage for uninsured workers. Those vetoes and others led Steve Maviglio, a spokesman for Assembly Democrats, to deride Schwarzenegger as "Pete Wilson with biceps."

But that still doesn't placate conservative activists, many of whom gathered on the steps of the state Capitol Friday to protest what they billed as Schwarzenegger's repudiation of the conservative voters who helped sweep him into office.

"It is sad and disappointing to pro-family voters and conservatives to see how the governor has infringed on free speech, promoted drug use, expanded the transsexual agenda, undermined marriage and is paroling a record high number of murderers into our neighborhoods," said Randy Thomasson of the Campaign for California Families.

In an interview, Chuck Michel of the California Rifle and Pistol Association called Schwarzenegger's decision to ban

BMG rifles "disturbing," as well as his past support for the federal assault weapons ban that expired earlier this month.

"Schwarzenegger coming into office gave a lot of hope to people, because we were dealing with Gov. Davis, who was becoming more and more extreme, signing everything in sight," Michel said. "Some of that hope was dashed."

For his part, Sheldon reminisced fondly about Schwarzenegger's speech at the Republican National Convention, where he thrilled delegates by thundering his commitment to the party's conservative principles — praising Richard Nixon, slamming the United Nations and implying that only Republicans care about "terminating" terrorism.

"His speech at the GOP convention, as good as it was for the party, just doesn't carry the teeth," Sheldon said. "Everyone loves his image in the movies, but the movies are over and we're dealing with the reality show now."

Poster serves as reminder

WAR, from page 1

York Times spread of the photos, her husband, Eli, and daughter-in-law, Liz, began constructing the poster.

"A sign is much more emotional," Comay explained. The sign has been up ever since, and she said she has received many positive responses from people who've seen it. "One lady once asked me where she could get one," Comay added.

Although the family are John Kerry supporters, Comay said the main reason

for the poster was the war.

"I hope that people who see it become aware of just how terrible the war is, I hope it brings (that message) home, in some way."

As long as people notice the sign, and be aware of its message, the work will be worth it, she said.

"I feel as if all our efforts will pay off," she said.

— Susan Tam

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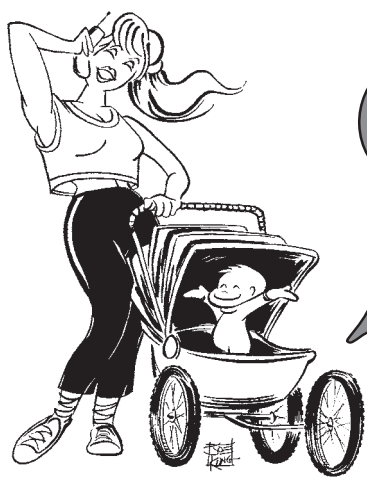
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Santa Monica

A weekly look at events and programs for

How to say 'no' to your kids and really mean it

How Much Is Enough?

By Jean Illsley Clarke Ph.D.

Why does the word "no" stick in the throats of some parents? Why have many kids learned that parents who say "no" will buy what the kids want if they ask nine times?

There may be as many reasons parents don't say "no" and stick to it as there are parents, but some of the common explanations are:

- We want our children to be happy.
- We want our children to have the things other children have.
- We want our children to have what we didn't have.
- We want our children to be busy so they don't get into drugs or gangs.
- We want our children to like us.

All of these reasons are about caring and come from a good heart. But the ability to say "no" and mean it is important if we are to avoid overindulging.

Children need limits as well as love, so they need to know that the parents are in charge of the family; what the family's values are; and where the boundaries are. This means that parents have to be able to say "no" to some things and stick to it as easily as they say "yes," and carry through on other things.

By the time a child reaches her third birthday she should be able to respond appropriately and consistently to the safety commands — stop, come, go, sit and wait. But even if she does know how to respond to those basic directives, she, being a smart kid, will test us.

Think about how your child lobbies for a new purchase. Does he sometimes negotiate by saying "I know this is expensive, but these are the reasons I want it, and if I save half of the cost, will you match it?"

I hope so. But sometimes children whine, manipulate, beg, or guilt. "Please, please, please may I have it?" "I really want it!" Or, "you gave one to my brother so don't you love me?" Or, "all the other kids have it, and, if you get this, I won't ask for anything else."

Remember, children are bombarded with "buy" messages, both directly and subtly, every day. In addition to the constant barrage of brand names and symbols on their and other children's clothing, and on signs everywhere, the American Academy of Pediatrics reports that the average American child sees more than 40,000 commercials a year. Forty-thousand "buy" messages absolutely assure that parents will have to say "no," probably a lot more often than they would like to.

36 WAYS TO SAY 'NO'

Anybody can get tired of saying "no" over and over, so what do you say instead? A recent feature story in Newsweek listed 17 items on my "Ways to Say No" list. Here is the whole list. You can add more. And be sure your face, voice and body reinforce the messages, otherwise the children won't believe you.

- No.
- Just no.
- No, and that's final.
- No, absolutely not, no way.
- No! Do not ask me again.
- Did you hear me say no?
- I have thought about it and the answer is no.
- We don't have money for that right now.
- You already have enough of those.

- That is too old for you.
- We need that money for something else.
- I don't approve of it.
- Nice try.
- I already know you know how to nag.
- Go find something else to do. I'm starting to get really angry with you.
- Your whining makes me think you may already have too many toys.
- I'm considering taking back the last five things I have bought for you.
- I remember saying no.
- Perhaps you didn't hear me say we are not going to do that?
- Who is the grown-up here?
- I'm not going to be changing my mind about this.
- You know the rule and it hasn't changed.
- You may notice I'm not saying yes.
- This conversation is over. I'm walking away now.
- This is not fun. Think of something else to do.
- It's your money, but I'm in charge.
- You are marching around the edge of my patience.
- I am the parent. Parents make these decisions.
- You can be content with what you have.
- It's OK to want something.
- Want never killed anybody.

(Jean Illsley Clarke Ph.D., Connie Dawson Ph.D., and David J. Bredehoft Ph.D. are co-authors of "How Much is Enough? Everything You Need to Know to Steer Clear of Overindulgence and Raise Likeable, Responsible, and Respectful Children." Jean can be reached at jiconsults@aol.com. To read more about overindulgence go to www.overindulgence.info).

Dear Dorie is here to help with questions concerning families with young children ages birth to 5

DEAR DORIE:

How do I calm my fussy 8-month-old?

ANSWER:

The first approach is to rule out the obvious, I call it the "Big 7." They are hungry, thirsty, dirty, wet, hot, cold, gassy. Once you've ruled those out, you can put yourself in true nurture mode to ask yourself some questions, try some things and help calm that baby. Does the baby need motion? Try swinging, rocking, or driving the car — desperate parents do desperate things. Does the baby need quiet? Try a calmer location and lack of stimulation. Does the baby need to be held or put down?

Try both, but give each enough time to get an accurate indication of the baby's cues. Get the picture? Keep trying to put yourself in touch with the infant's needs. It may just be fatigue which you'll know when the baby falls asleep in the middle of it. Above all, if you find yourself losing patience or getting frustrated, seek help or give yourself a time out, with the baby in a safe environment, of course. Parents get fussy, too.

MAMA TIP: Fussy baby? Frustrated parent? Go outside. Go for a walk, preferably holding your baby, or carrying him close to you in a sling or other carrier. My daughter is 2 years old now and we still head outdoors when she

gets fussy or bored, or when I get frustrated and start losing my patience. It's amazing what a change of scenery, a walk and some fresh air can do for both of you. Even in the evening when I am exhausted, we still take a short walk sometimes before bed. I always feel better and she always calms down. And sometimes she even falls asleep.

(Dorie Meek is the director of the "Infant and Family Support Program," provided by Saint John's Health Center in partnership with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Submit your questions to "Dear Dorie" at meek@smmUSD.org, or call (310) 452-6132; fax (310) 452-6392.)

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MARY-MARY, QUITE CONTRARY is a heartwarming tale about a young girl who cannot decide if she is to old to believe in fairy tales. For kids 2 to 102.

Call 394-9779, ext. 2 for reservations. Visit www.santamonicaplayhouse.com for exact dates. Adults - \$12, kids 12 and under - \$10.

MONDAY, Oct. 4th - FAMILY CONNECTIONS - 10:00 a.m.

This free program from SMMUSD's Infant and Family Support Program, provided by St. John's Health Center, features a different speaker each week. Immediately following Lap Time(story time for ages 0-24 months) at Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 633 Kensington Rd. Call 452-6132 or e-mail ifsp@smmusd.org for more info.

REGISTER NOW! – FAMILY ENRICHMENT and PARENT EDUCATION COURSE – brought to you by the SMMUSD's Infant & Family Support Program.

Tuesdays Oct. 12 – Nov. 16, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Instructor: Marilyn McGrath, M.S., Director of Early Childhood Institute at SMC. The class is FREE, but a \$20 refundable registration fee is required. Classes will be held at Child Development Services, Library, 2802 Fourth St., Santa Monica. Call the IFSP at 452-6132 to register or for more info.

SATURDAYS, OCT. 16th & 23rd – COMMUNITY CPR, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Brought to you by the SMMUSD Infant and Family Support Program, provided by St. John's Health Center. The sessions are FREE, but a \$20 refundable registration deposit is required. Contact the IFSP at 452-6132 to register.

October 16th in Spanish, October 23rd in English.

Special Note – Mommy Care classes at the Dance Factory have moved to 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood. Please see the calendar listings for schedule updates.

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms!

TBD – visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reel-moms for details.

Drama/Mystery; Rated “R.”

11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable.

Storytelling

Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.

Toddler Storytime; 10:00 & 10:30 a.m. For 2 year olds with adult.

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

Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds with adult. Thru Oct. 12.

Lap Time – 11:00 a.m, six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Programs. Thru Oct. 12.

Twilight Story Time -7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.

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

Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.

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

Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 24-36 month olds with adult. Next session begins Sept. 21, registration required.

Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis Themes change weekly; for ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, www.storyopolis.com
Barnes and Noble at the Grove Storytime for ages 2 – 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA

10:00 – 11:00 a.m and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Thursday nights 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.

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

Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge – 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052

10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4 at this neighborhood coffee shop.

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

Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m.,; six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult.

Thru Oct. 13.

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

Lap Time - 10:00 & 10:30 a.m., for ages 0-2.

Toddler Story Time – 11:15 a.m., for 2 year olds.

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

Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.

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

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

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Step Aerobics, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Other

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

THURSDAY

Storytelling

Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590

10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.

Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of

7th and Wilshire.

Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m.; for 2 year olds with adult.

Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.

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

Toddler Story Time – 10:30 a.m; for ages 2 –3. Thru Oct. 14.

La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.

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

Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., for 2 year olds.

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

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

Lap Time – 9:20 & 10:20 a.m., 6-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Program. Thru Oct. 14.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA

7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Tuesdays at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.

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

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista – meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call 310-390-2529 for info.

Mommy and Me Dance– celebrate the wonderful world of imagination Fridays at the Electric Lodge. 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. ages 14 - 24 months; 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. ages 2 – 4.

6 classes for \$75 or \$14 per class. First class free! 1416 Electric Ave, Venice, 306-1854.

Yoga & Exercise

Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Indoor Cycling, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10

classes.

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

Prenatal Breath and Movement – a Continuum Movement and Yoga-based program designed to support women through various sound and movement explorations that celebrate pregnancy and labor as powerful rites of passage. 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. With Deborah Raoult at the Continuum Studio, 1629 18th St., #7. For more info call 625-3739, www.openskymovement.com. \$108 for a six-week session.

SATURDAY

Storytelling

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

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

Children's Book World, 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., 310-559-BOOK.

Village Books, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m. – 454-4063.

Yoga & Exercise

Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonicayoga.com

Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.(babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Other

Snowwhite and Mary-Mary Quite Contrary at the Santa Monica Playhouse

Alternating Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru Dec. 19th , \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com

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

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

Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime

Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.

Breastfeeding

Working Mother's Support Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd. - 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., \$12 fee, led by Ilka Sternberger, certified lactation educator. Call 826-5774 for more info.

SUNDAY

Snowwhite and Mary-Mary Quite Contrary at the Santa Monica Playhouse

Alternating Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru Dec. 19th , \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com

Main Street Farmer's Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.

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

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

Family Fundays at the Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum Ages 4 and up, 11:00 a.m., \$8, 1419 N. Topanga Blvd., Topanga Canyon, 310-455-3723.

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 9:30 a.m. A series for babies up to two years old.

“Family Connections” - 10:00 a.m. Joslyn Park, Craft Room.

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

“Spanish for Little Ones”, 11:15 a.m. Thru Oct. 18.

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

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
Yoga Garden, - Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal – 6:30 p.m., 310-450-0133. www.yogagardenstudios.com

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NATIONAL

Superfund site high-tech steam cleaning flops

BY ELIZABETH M. GILLESPIE
Associated Press Writer

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, Wash. — The toxic goo that seeps beneath wood-treatment plants is hopelessly sticky for good reason: It has to keep water from rotting railroad ties, pilings and telephone poles.

There’s about 1 million gallons of it lurking in the soil and groundwater along an eastern stretch of this otherwise unpolluted island west of Seattle, making it one of the state’s most heavily contaminated Superfund sites.

The Environmental Protection Agency tried a high-tech, steam-injection project, hoping to clean up a century’s worth of carcinogenic creosote, pentachlorophenol and other toxins.

It was supposed to chart a promising new course for dealing with one of the toughest types of pollution to clean up. But now the EPA says it looks like the \$10 million pilot project has failed.

Officials blame it on a series of equipment failures and a pesky chemical called naphthalene, which choked the system’s pipes with crystals as it cooled down after being treated with the superheated steam.

Before that glitch, the project worked well — so well it flooded an old wastewater treatment plant with more sludge than it could handle.

"One piece of the question is: Can you move a lot of stuff out of the ground? The answer to that is undoubtedly yes," said Wallace Reid, an EPA project manager at the site. "The other question is, if you move a lot of stuff out of the ground, can you meet cleanup standards so that we’re basically done with the project? The answer to that is no."

Wood preservatives are the main problem at more than 80 Superfund sites across the country, which had EPA hopeful that a success at the site here, last owned by Wyckoff Inc., which went out of business in the mid-1990s, could lead to easier cleanups elsewhere. While the experiment on Bainbridge Island didn’t work as planned, EPA officials insist it hasn’t been a total failure.

"Every lesson is valuable," said Jim Cummings, an engineer in EPA’s technology innovation office. He noted that steam injection has worked at a utility pole yard in Visalia, Calif., well enough to be picked as the cleanup method for a site in Marion, La., while other types of thermal treatment are being tested at other Superfund sites.

EPA dreamed up the Wyckoff project in the late 1990s, after state and local officials balked at a plan to cap and contain the pollution rather than trying to get it all out of the ground.

Steam cleaning began at in November 2002 and ended about six months later because of technical problems. Cleanup crews kept treating the groundwater, but without steam injection, they couldn’t treat as much of the underground goop as originally hoped, said Cliff Leeper, operations manager for the contractor handling the project.

Since 1990, the EPA has removed more than 100,000 gallons of sludge and treated some 416 million gallons of contaminated groundwater.

On the western side of the site, a stretch of shoreline that once reeked of wood preservatives has been restored into a natural looking beach scattered with bits of drift-wood.

"This area was just a chemical pit," Reid said. "When you came in on the ferry, you could smell it."

Officials say a 100-foot-deep containment wall surrounding the site also has done its job. The rusty top edge of the wall’s interlocked steal beams doesn’t look pretty jutting up from the shoreline, but it’s stopped the pollution from seeping into Eagle Harbor, where contamination once was so bad it gave fish liver lesions.

To date, the cleanup has cost about \$100 million. Most of the money came from the Superfund trust, which dried up recently, about eight years after then-House Speaker Newt Gingrich led a push in Congress to let a tax on polluting industries expire.

The rest came from a trust set up when Wyckoff Inc., later renamed Pacific Sound Resources, went out of business. Future funding will come from taxpayers and the local trust — which has also paid for a cap-and-contain Superfund cleanup in West Seattle.

Most Superfund sites are surrounded by heavily industrialized areas. The Wyckoff site is nestled between wooded slopes and a stunning view of the Seattle skyline.

The City of Bainbridge Island and the local park district are working to buy the land and turn it into a waterfront park. EPA launched the steam-injection project under pressure from community leaders who wanted the site completely rid of pollution.

"People said, ‘You’ll do steaming and we’ll be done and have a pristine area,’” Reid said.

So much for those hopes. Until the EPA decides

The toxic legacy of treating wood

By The Associated Press

The 10 states with the most wood-treatment plants that have turned into federal Superfund cleanups:

Texas: 9 sites
California: 8 sites
Minnesota: 7 sites
Arkansas: 6 sites
Virginia: 5 sites
Florida, Louisiana, Oregon and Washington: 4 sites each
Mississippi, South Carolina and Montana: 3 sites each

whether steam injection can be re-engineered to work right, the agency is focusing on keeping the wastewater treatment plant running, designing a new one, and installing one more containment wall at the base of a hill on one edge of the site to reduce the amount of groundwater it has to treat.

"We’re disappointed," said Libby Hudson, senior planner for the City of Bainbridge Island. "Hopefully something will work. It’s a real shame to leave 1 million gallons of contaminants underground."

Meanwhile, in southwest Washington, the state Department of Ecology is raving about a steam-injection project that’s cleaning part of the Port of Ridgefield that’s sullied by wood preservatives.

Learning from the pitfalls at Wyckoff, Ecology engineers designed their system to keep certain pipes extremely hot, which has kept them from getting clogged with crystals.

"With a treatment system that complex, you’d expect lots of problems, but we haven’t had any," Dan Alexanian, Ecology’s site manager for the \$8 million project.

Mary Jane Nearman, an EPA project manager, said Wyckoff’s steam-injection system could be reworked the same way, but said it would not likely be feasible. "Our cleanup standards at Wyckoff are very, very stringent because of our proximity to the sound," she said.

Ultimately, EPA officials say there’s no telling how long the soil and groundwater will have to be treated at Wyckoff.

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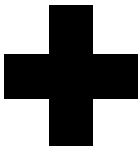
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NATIONAL



Other foreign policy issues taking back seat to Iraq

BY TOM RAUM

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush and Democrat John Kerry are concentrating on Iraq and relegating other international issues to the sidelines. Their preoccupation is not lost on other world leaders.

Iran is busy enriching uranium. North Korea has put off six-nation nuclear talks and may be planning missile tests. Russian President Vladimir Putin is cracking down on dissenting voices. Chinese President Hu Jintao is consolidating power. The Middle East "road map" peace process begun by Bush in 2003 seems moribund.

Some of these topics may come up on Thursday in the first presidential debate, which is to focus on foreign policy and national security. But Iraq and the broader fight against terrorism still will be the main events.

Other issues, including domestic ones championed by Democrats, have ducked for cover in a crossfire of harsh and increasingly personal attacks between the two candidates over Iraq and anti-terrorism policy.

Kerry does charge that Bush's Iraq policies "took our attention and our resources away" from dealing with North Korea, Iran and Afghanistan. Bush does cite upcoming elections in Afghanistan and his hopes for a more democratic Middle East.

But for the most part, both the president and the Massachusetts senator dwell on Iraq and the battle against terrorism as they campaign.

As Bush and Kerry sparred over Iraq:

■ North Korea put off a planned September resump-

tion of six-nation talks on its nuclear program. The communist nation reportedly told China it wants to see who wins the U.S. election. North Korea also alarmed other countries by making possible preparations for ballistic missile tests.

■ Iran defied rules set by 35 nations and announced it has started converting raw uranium into the gas needed for enrichment, a process that can be used to make nuclear weapons. While insisting its intentions are peaceful, Iran pledged to proceed even if it means a rupture with U.N. monitors and an end to inspections of its nuclear facilities.

■ Putin took steps to enhance his own powers and roll back some democratic reforms, citing the need to improve security after hundreds of people died in a school seized by terrorists. The Russian leader continues to link his government's battles with rebels in Chechnya with the broader fight against terrorism.

■ China's Jiang Zemin gave up his post as military chief to Hu, enabling Hu to consolidate power. China continued to maintain a hard line on democracy movements in Hong Kong and Taiwan as it struggled to keep its economy from overheating.

■ Pakistan's president, Pervez Musharraf, an important ally in the terrorism fight, indicated he might not relinquish his army uniform. The general who seized power in a 1999 coup had pledged to relinquish his separate role as army chief by year's end.

Many of these developments have so far flown under the radar of U.S. presidential politics.

As to Russia, Bush did voice concerns about the

undermining of democracy there. Neither candidate, however, is talking about worries over Russian democracy on the campaign trail.

"If I were advising John Kerry, I would take the Putin issue and ram it home," said Ivo Daalder, a foreign policy scholar at the Brookings Institution who has advised Democratic candidates in the past. "Putin has allowed creeping authoritarianism to take place."

North Korea and Iran appear to be thumbing their noses at the United States.

"North Korea is finding reasons to delay getting on with the next round of talks," Secretary of State Colin Powell said. "You can speculate as well as I can the causes of that delay. Maybe they're waiting for the United States election to be over."

Daryl Kimball, executive director of the U.S. Arms Control Association, said the campaign has drawn the administration's attention away from North Korea, Iran and other potential hot spots.

Also missing from the race is "how the two candidates would deal with the broader threat of weapons of mass destruction," Kimball said.

The head of the U.N. atomic watchdog agency said last week that more than 40 countries now have the know-how to produce nuclear weapons.

If Bush and Kerry are not paying much attention to international issues beyond Iraq, the reverse cannot be claimed. Leaders around the world are closely following the U.S. election.

"I think the world watches America," Bush said this week.

One or two earthquakes a minute occurring at Mount St. Helens

BY MELANTHIA MITCHELL

Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE — Small earthquakes at the rate of one or two a minute on Monday had seismologists keeping a close watch on Mount St. Helens.

Scientists were not sure what was going on beneath the southwest Washington volcano and planned a full day of investigations.

Seth Moran, a seismologist with the U.S. Geological Survey at the Volcano Observatory in Vancouver, said that while a major blast was unlikely, there was potential for explosions within the crater that could throw rocks as far as the rim.

The earthquake swarms began Thursday and on Sunday the Geological Survey issued a notice of volcanic unrest, saying there was "an increased likelihood of a hazardous event."

U.S. Forest Service officials closed hiking trails above the treeline at 4,800 feet on the mountain. The visitor's center and most other trails at the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument remained open, but officials did not want climbers exposed to a sudden gas or steam explosion while peering over the crater rim.

"Standing on the rim, from what geologists tell us, would not be a good idea," said Peter Frenzen, monument scientist.

Scientists planned to fly over the 8,364-foot mountain on Monday to test for carbon dioxide and sulfur gases, which could indicate whether magma is moving beneath the crater. They also planned to set up additional seismic sensors and global positioning devices to measure activity.

The May 18, 1980, eruption killed 57 people, leveled hundreds of square miles of forests and dumped volcanic ash across the Northwest.

In October 1980, a lava dome began building in the crater, eventually growing to 925 feet from the crater floor. The last dome-building eruption was in October 1986, but steam explosions have periodically rocked the dome.

Previous earthquake swarms three years ago did not result in any activity on the surface.

"The key issue is a small explosion without warning. That would be the major event that we're worried about right now," said Willie Scott, a geologist with the USGS office in Vancouver.

The hundreds of tiny earthquakes that began Thursday morning slowly declined through Saturday. But on Sunday, the swarms of small quakes were punctuated by more than 10 quakes of magnitude 2.0 to 2.8, the most in

a 24-hour period since the 1986 dome-building eruption, Scott said.

The swarms continued Monday. The quakes were too small to be felt, even at the monument, said Tom Knappenberger, spokesman for the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Similar swarms of quakes in 1998 and 2001 did not result in eruptions.

The current quakes have occurred at depths less than one mile below the lava dome within the mountain's crater. Some of the earthquakes suggest the involvement of pressurized fluids, such as water or steam, and perhaps magma.

In the event of an explosion, Scott said the concern would be focused on the area within the crater and the upper flanks of the volcano. It's possible that a five-mile

area primarily north of the volcano could receive flows of mud and rock debris.

"We haven't had a swarm of earthquakes at Mount St. Helens since 2001," state seismologist Tony Qamar said. "Clearly something new is happening."

Qamar said if an eruption did occur it would possibly involve ash and steam, called phreatic eruptions.

"There's been no explosions, there's no outward sign that anything is occurring. This is all based on the pattern of earthquake activity that is occurring below the dome," said Scott.

Experts believe there is "an increased probability of explosions from the lava dome if the level of current unrest continues or escalates," USGS and the University of Washington Pacific Northwest Seismograph Network in Seattle said in a joint statement Sunday.



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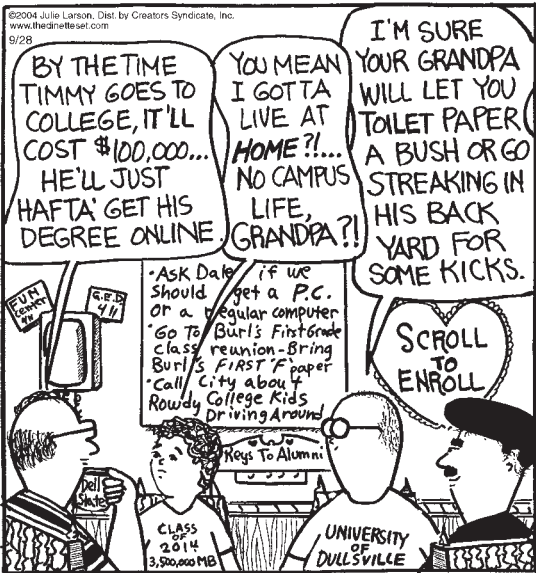
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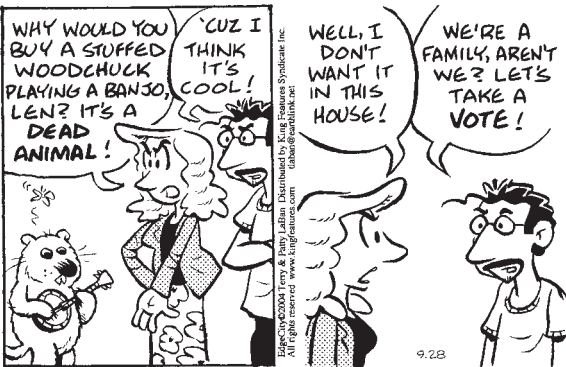


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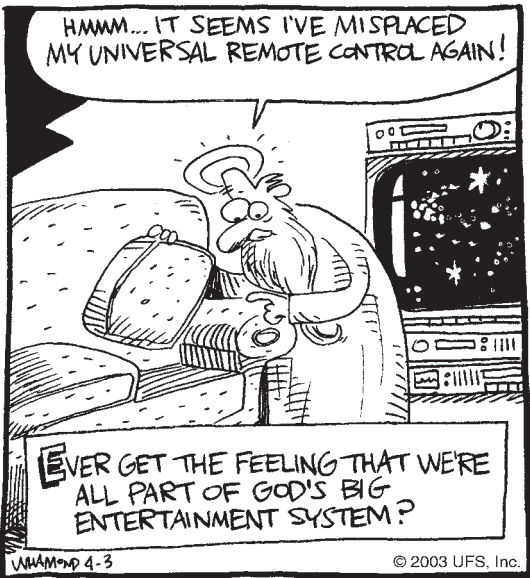
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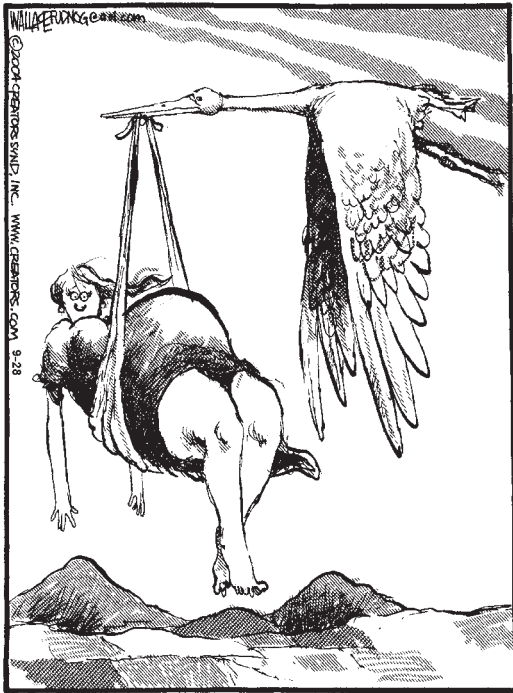
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Regis Philbin fails to get Rely award for playing himself

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — You'd think Regis Philbin is the "Best Regis" — but not according to the Rely Awards.

Instead, comedian Darrell Hammond's impersonation of Philbin was awarded Best Regis in the second annual Rellys, created by the "Live With Regis and Kelly" show, with co-host Kelly Ripa, to offset its lack of success in the Daytime Emmys.

The winners are decided by viewer votes, but the Rellys are otherwise a fun, mock-award show with statues of a Golden Stool — a trophy-size version of the seating that accommodates "Live" co-hosts and guests — that go to mostly self-affirming categories such as Funniest Guest.

Philbin had difficulty believing someone could be better at being, well, him. In fake anger, he trashed the set of the syndicated talk show when Hammond's name was announced Friday. Other nominees for Best Regis included impersonations by Dana Carvey, Tom Hanks and Kevin Pollack.

Prior to the announcement of the awards, executive producer Michael Gelman told The Associated Press: "Wouldn't it be embarrassing if viewers chose someone else as the Best Regis?"

At least Philbin can take solace in his own impersonation. He took home a Golden Stool for Best Dressed — for outfitting himself as Kid Rock.

SNELLVILLE, Ga. — The winner of an eBay auction for lunch with "American Idol" runner-up Diana DeGarmo said he bid \$10,099 for the prize hoping the singer could lend some star power to his nonprofit organization.

Greg Halpern, 46, of Illinois placed the highest of 55 bids for the auction, which ended Friday night and benefits the Partnership Against Child Abuse.

Halpern said he wanted to bring attention to his

group, People for Ultimate Kindness Toward All Living Creatures on Earth, which helps people and agencies find grant money so they can solve problems such as obesity and abuse.

Halpern said he'd like to speak with DeGarmo to gauge her interest in getting involved in his organization, although he would probably give the lunch to someone more deserving.

"Maybe what I'll do, I'll keep that lunch intact, schedule a date and go find an abused child that loves singing and would appreciate that lunch. That could be a lifetime opportunity," Halpern said.

Under the auction rules, up to four people can attend the lunch.

DeGarmo, from Snellville, finished second in the popular Fox television singing competition earlier this year.

NEW YORK — Garrison Keillor, the humorist and best-selling author, will host this year's National Book Awards ceremony.

"I am thrilled to be the emcee of the National Book Awards ceremony, a big night in the book world, when you get to see distinguished authors feign nonchalance though they're all giddy and sweaty and their hearts are pounding," Keillor said in a statement Monday released by the awards' sponsor, the National Book Foundation, a non-profit organization.

"Someday I hope to feign nonchalance myself, and meanwhile I'm thrilled to be the emcee."

The awards ceremony will take place Nov. 17 in New York. Keillor, a native of Minnesota, will announce the finalists on Oct. 13 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul.

Keillor's many books include "Lake Wobegon Days," "The Old Man Who Loved Cheese" and "Homegrown Democrat." He also is host of the radio program "A Prairie Home Companion," which airs on

public stations around the country.

LONDON — Famous guitarists such as Ron Wood of the Rolling Stones, Brian May of Queen and the Eagles' Joe Walsh played at Wembley Arena in a concert celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Fender Stratocaster.

When he took the stage at the outdoor concert Friday night, David Gilmour of Pink Floyd brought some of the packed crowd to its feet by playing the first-ever Fender-made 001 model of the guitar.

The concert, which raised money for the Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy charity, also featured guitarists Hank Marvin of the Shadows, Gary Moore of Roxy Music and Genesis' Mike Rutherford.

They made up a collaboration of big Stratocaster-playing figures in the history of rock 'n' roll spanning five decades.

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