

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

9 18 31 42 45
Meganumber: 26
Jackpot: 7 Million

FANTASY 5

9 17 18 33 37

DAILY 3

Daytime: 5 2 5
Evening: 0 6 3

DAILY DERBY

1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit

RACE TIME: 1:41.32

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In October in Hennepin County, Minn., Rafiq Abdul Mortland, 38, was sentenced to eight to 10 years in prison as the man who habitually asked store clerks whom he robbed to also hand over some Roloids. When asked by police why he did that, Mortland said it was to relieve the stress he got from committing robberies. [St. Louis Park Sun/Sailor, 10-15-03]

TODAY IN HISTORY

ON OCT. 8, 1871, the Great Chicago Fire erupted while another deadly blaze broke out in Peshtigo, Wisc.

■ In 1869, the 14th president of the United States, Franklin Pierce, died in Concord, N.H.

■ In 1890, American aviation hero Eddie Rickenbacker was born in Columbus, Ohio.

■ In 1918, Sgt. Alvin C. York almost single-handedly killed 25 German soldiers and captured 132 in the Argonne Forest in France.

■ In 1934, Bruno Hauptmann was indicted for murder in the death of the infant son of Charles A. Lindbergh.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Politics are usually the executive expression of human immaturity."

VERA BRITAIN
BRITISH AUTHOR (1893-1970)

INDEX

Horoscopes

Join your pals, Gemini 2

Local

District appointees named 3

Surf Report

Water temperature: 67° 3

Letters to the Editor

A lesson on antique laws 6

Opinions

A homeless voice from the past 7

Entertainment

Hail no 'Taxi' 10

State

Fighting a virtual blaze 8

National

Crackdown on crime 13

Crossword

Get your words on 16

Classifieds

Need a knitter? 17-19

Contributions to SMRR slump compared to 2002

(Editor's note: This is the third article in a series this week covering campaign fundraising for the Nov. 2 election.)

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Despite increased canvassing and extra money spent in recent months, contributions to Santa Monica's ruling party are down \$20,000 compared to this point during the 2002 election, campaign fundraising documents filed this week show.

The powerful Santa Monicans for Renters Rights group, which has endorsed a majority of City Council candidates for 19 of the past 26 years, reported \$118,000 in contributions so far this year, as opposed to \$138,000 at the same time two years ago.

Political contributions to individuals and groups in Santa Monica are limited by law to \$250. For the past two decades, SMRR has successfully gotten its candidates into office by employing a large group of paid workers and volunteers to canvass local neighborhoods for contributions and support.

The last three months have been especially difficult for SMRR. According to its report filed at City Hall, the group spent an extra \$10,000 this year compared to the same three months in 2002 on canvassing and other election expenses, but has netted \$5,000 less in campaign contributions.

SMRR leaders blamed the drop in cash contributions on heightened competition for grassroots dollars in a presidential election year. But they remain confident their message will reach local voters.

"Santa Monica has been canvassed by the Democratic National Committee, the Sierra Club and a host of other" groups, said SMRR co-chair Denny Zane, who helped found the group and push through Santa Monica's rent-control law 26 years ago. "People in Santa Monica probably have been door knocked and direct mailed for a slew of mostly liberal and environmental objectives this year, mostly because of the presidential race."

The slump in contributions, Zane added, likely will mean targeting election mailers to a more narrow audience. He downplayed the overall effect, though.

"In practical terms, it will have to do with how much mail and how refined the targeting is for the mail we do," Zane said. "But the other thing

See SMRR FUNDS, page 4

Chamber urging direct donations to candidates

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A political action committee created specifically to change the face of the City Council is not officially raising money for its chosen candidates.

Instead, chamber officials are encouraging Santa Monica business owners to donate to the campaigns of four people who have been endorsed by the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce Issues Committee, which was set up earlier this year to address concerns in the community during the campaign season.

"It's better to direct the money directly to the candi-

See DONATIONS, page 5

Proceed with caution



John Wood/Daily Press

Santa Monica Police Officer Chris Smith watches on Thursday as long-time Santa Monica resident Victor Crolzat, 85, tests his driving skills on a simulator. The SMPD simulators, designed to help people gauge their ability to drive safely, were made available as part of the sixth annual Health Fair and Senior Festival, held this year at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium. Some 4,000 seniors attended the free fair, which was sponsored by the Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging and several other groups.

SM settles \$20K lawsuit

BY PAM WIGHT

Special to the Daily Press

CITY HALL — Officials here recently settled a lawsuit for \$20,000, brought by a man who claimed he was injured when the city bus he was riding made a sudden stop, causing him to hit his head.

Eddie Johnson of Los Angeles claims he was traveling on a Big Blue Bus four years ago when it clipped the side mirror of a parked Jaguar.

Johnson claims the driver of the Jaguar, Lindsay Gardner, then chased the bus to the next stop

while honking and yelling for attention. He allegedly cut in front of the bus and forced it to a sudden stop. The stop pitched Johnson forward, causing him to suffer severe injuries, his suit claims. Johnson alleges that his injuries resulted in some permanent disabilities and the loss of income.

Johnson sued City Hall about two weeks after the Nov. 3, 2000 accident. His suit claimed "injuries, disabilities, losses and damages."

City Deputy Attorney Debra Kanoff said Johnson originally asked for more than \$150,000,

See SETTLEMENT, page 4

Jacquie Banks

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★★★ You skip into the office just to skip on out as fast as you can. Whatever happens during the day, you're focused on the weekend. Do apply some of your enthusiasm and creativity to work — make a good show for the boss, if nothing else. Tonight: Remember, you don't have to do it all in one night!



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★ You are between a rock and a hard place. Bosses are confused or not focused on the moment. Getting a clear answer might not be in the realm of possibilities. Your family and domestic life (and the cat) demand your attention, whether you like it or not. You do a major juggling act; so what if you drop a pin!? Tonight: Rush home, slam the door shut and don't answer the phone. Then take a deep breath!



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ You insist on being the office chatterbox. With all the words that spill out of your mouth, how will anyone get the essence of your message? Plans or meetings change at the last moment. Schedule personal phone calls for tomorrow. Tonight: Join your pals.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★ Money becomes a prime consideration in a partnership. Have you thought that you give too much? An associate or partner might be confused about his or her values. This person also might presently not be able to add two and two. Tonight: Treat yourself to something new.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ You might not be seeing someone in his or her true light, but how you want to see this person. Right now, everything, including plans, falls as you would like it to. Please note others' reactions. You cannot always be as dominant as you are now. Tonight: The Lion is truly king or queen right now.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★ Step back, especially as you might be a bit confused by something in your daily and/or work life. Mulling over a decision could be the right way to go. Build financial security through real estate. Tonight: Just don't be alone.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ You enjoy people. Friends are great, but loves are even better. Somehow you will manage to mix both this weekend. Be careful with a key person in your life. He or she could have an attack of the green-eyed monster. Tonight: You are the party, once more.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★ Others look to you for guidance. Isn't it tiring being the person everyone comes to and often drops his or her responsibilities on? Express your dismay so others can hear it. Your instincts work with a public appearance. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ You have an unusual perspective, brought on by detachment. Your ability to “intuit” the right answer or solution might be questioned by others. Tonight: Opt for a new place or restaurant. Break patterns.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ Others seek you out. Many have questions that tap your strengths. You could be evaluating how much you want to get involved. Make time for trusted associates, partners and friends. Tonight: Quality time with a loved one.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ You might be confusing others, maybe even yourself. You miss what others really say and do. You insist on being starry-eyed and idealistic. When others tumble off their pedestals, recognize who put them there! Tonight: Just don't be alone.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★ Take your time. Put the finishing touches on work and a project. You might want to run an errand on the way home. Get needed exercise and take care of yourself. Buy a new plant or favorite munchie. Tonight: Put your feet up.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Top administrators named in school district

By Daily Press staff

School leaders have appointed two new administrators into their ranks. The local school board on Thursday approved the appointment of Winston A. Braham as assistant superintendent and chief financial officer in charge of fiscal and business services. Dr. Gabriel Soumakian was appointed as director of human resources.

Braham comes from the Los Angeles Unified School District where he was business manager. He holds a master's degree in business administration and is a doctoral candidate at Pepperdine University. Braham has a broad professional background in school business management.

Included in his responsibilities at LAUSD were formulating budgets and administering approximately 80 school sites with 80,000 students, 7,000 employees and a combined annual operating budget of about \$487 million. He analyzed and evaluated the effectiveness of plans, policies and programs; is knowledgeable in the impact of certificated, classified and collective bargaining unit agreement rules and practices; developed local policies and procedures; and supervised all core local business services.

In the private sector, Braham was a consultant in the health care industry and was responsible for contracts, risk management, budget analysis and strategic planning.

Soumakian is from the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District where he was an assistant principal and principal. He has a master's degree in education and a doctorate in education leadership. Dr. Soumakian has extensive professional experience and training at the district, regional and state levels and participates in associations such as the California Department of Education, Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) where he is a leader in technological change, California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO) and California School Leadership Academy.

Young opera alumnus featured in SMC concert series

By Daily Press staff

A 27-year-old award-winning opera singer and alumnus of the Santa Monica College music department will make a special appearance this weekend as part of the school's year-long celebration of its 75th Anniversary.

Tenor Rodell Rosel will sing a selection from Verdi's "La Traviata, Aria of the Worm" from Corigliano's "The Ghosts of Versailles," and Leoncavallo's "Mattinata." His performance is part of an eclectic mix of concerts in October, including a special SMC Symphony Orchestra concert on Oct. 10.

Rosel was a winner at the 2003-04 Metropolitan Opera Western Regional Auditions, won first place at the 2001 Palm Springs Opera Guild of the Desert Vocal Competition, and was a finalist at the 2004 Loren L. Zachary National Vocal Competition. He also has received various awards and scholarships from organizations such as the Pasadena Opera Guild and Los Angeles Southeast Symphony Association.

In 2001 he transferred to UCLA, where he sang leading roles with Opera UCLA. He has studied with some of the leading opera singers, including Marilyn Horne.

Rosel will be joining the Lyric Center Opera for American Artists in Chicago for the 2005-06 season. He attended SMC from 1997 to 2001, starting out as an accounting major but switching to music after performing in The Dialogues of the Carmelites with the SMC Opera Theatre.

This November he will be singing the tenor solo on Haydn's Creation with the Angeles Chorale at the Bel Air Presbyterian Church.

The orchestra, which is under the direction of music professor James Smith, also will perform "Dancing Scene" from Gliere's "The Bronze Horseman" and Rimsky-Korsakov's "Capriccio Espagnol."

The concert will be held at Sunday, Oct. 10 at 4 p.m. in the SMC concert hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased by calling (310) 434-3000

See BRIEFS, page 4



SURF REPORT

Today look for a rise in steep new NW swell and SSW Southern Hemi. Northern LA spots see mainly knee- to waist-zone waves with chest-plus surf at best combo breaks. South Bay spots see mainly NW swell knee-thigh-waist-high waves, top breaks hit chest-high sets. More NW wind swell on Saturday will be joined by another round of NW ground swell Sunday. Winds are light in the morning, turning WNW 8-10+ knots for the afternoon. More afternoon onshores for the weekend.

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HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	5:14	2.2	6:49	0.8	12:12	3.9	(11:35	5.5)
SUNDAY	5:28	2.7	7:53	1.0	1:15	3.4	12:04	5.2
MONDAY	N/A	N/A	9:26	1.2	N/A	N/A	12:42	4.8
TUESDAY	N/A	N/A	11:03	1.1	N/A	N/A	1:49	4.5
WEDNESDAY	10:20	3.7	N/A	N/A	8:03	3.8	3:50	4.3
THURSDAY	12:08	0.8	12:04	3.4	7:44	4.0	5:22	4.5
FRIDAY	12:50	0.6	12:48	2.9	7:51	4.2	6:20	4.8

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The Q Line

The City Council recently adopted a new law that limits the size of storefronts on the Third Street Promenade to 50 linear feet as a way to discourage more chain stores from coming to Santa Monica's outdoor mall.

Chain stores typically need a lot of space and limiting how much they can have on the Promenade might deter new corporate stores from coming here. The City Council has been concerned for years about the homogenization of the street — there aren't enough independently owned retail stores and restaurants, they say. But critics

argue the Promenade is thriving and constantly attracting shoppers, making it a significant sales tax revenue generator for Santa Monica.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Should the city government get involved in regulating the free market?"

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



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Bus accident case set for trial at end of month

SETTLEMENT, from page 1

including medical expenses for major surgeries. The Santa Monica City Council approved the settlement on Sept. 28.

"The city was exposed to over \$100,000 in expenses," Kanoff said, adding officials feared a jury might be sympathetic toward Johnson. "It was too risky."

Johnson also sued Gardner. The case is scheduled for trial on Oct. 25 at the Santa Monica Courthouse.

Both defendants and an independent witness, who was on the bus the day of the accident, tell a different version of what happened. They said the bus never made a sudden stop. Gardner's attorney, Michael Nork, could not be reached for comment, but court documents show that his client denied forcing the bus to stop.

Nork also argued that Johnson's doctors have been unreachable to testify about his alleged injuries and medical treatment. Nork characterized the medical treatment as unreasonable and medically unnecessary. He claimed that the medical expenses were excessive and weren't reasonable related to medical billing procedures in California.

Johnson's attorney, George Baltaxe, maintains that the doctors have been on vacation. He said the entire case rests upon whether the bus was forced to suddenly stop, or if it did at all.

"All parties agree, and the Jaguar driver admits that he was honking and yelling for the bus to stop at the next bus stop," Baltaxe said. "But we think the bus was forced to a sudden stop beyond the next bus stop by the Jaguar."

SMRR still powerful despite funding dip, opponents say

SMRR FUNDS, from page 1

to keep in mind is one of the indirect consequences of all of the canvassing and direct mail and competition is everybody is revved up to vote ... In terms of this election year, we would have a more targeted 'get out the vote' (campaign), because so many people are already going to vote.

"I think in the end it's really going to be a wash, in terms of SMRR," Zane added. "We'll have roughly the same level of message penetration" as in previous years.

Tom Larmore, a local property rights lawyer and vocal critic of SMRR, said the drop in contributions to the group's war chest reflects a change in the community.

"I think people are tired of SMRR," said Larmore, who backs a competing group of candidates endorsed by the chamber of commerce. "I think they're fed up. I think they equate SMRR with a lot of the problems the city has, and they're tired of it."

Still, Larmore and others hoping to wrest power from SMRR recognized the group as a powerful force in local politics. This year's SMRR slate for City Council includes Mayor Richard Bloom, City Councilman Ken Genser, and newcomers Maria Loya, a Pico neighborhood activist, and former school board president Patricia Hoffman. Besides the chamber's four, a group calling itself the "Team for

Change" and several independents are challenging SMRR.

All political groups and candidates are required to file forms with City Hall detailing how much money they've raised and from where, and how much they've spent and on what. This week marked the first pre-election deadline. Candidates will have to file disclosure forms again on Oct. 21 and every 24 hours after that.

The \$35,000 raised by SMRR over the last three months came from a wide array of residents and local activists, including 2002 City Council candidate Abby Arnold; local union supporters Vivian Rothstein, Kurt Petersen and Lantz Simpson; City Hall attorneys Doris Ganga and Cara Silver; and the campaign to re-elect Sen. Sheila Kuehl.

Almost all of the \$42,000 spent over the last three months has gone toward paid canvassers, election literature, professional services and a campaign consultant.

SMRR doled out a total of \$9,342 in more than 30 checks to canvassers Cathy Conway, Lady Idos and Don Pequignot, according to the campaign disclosure documents. Campaign consultant Michael Tarbet received an additional \$5,250, and SMRR paid Progressive Data Services, a professional services firm, \$3,773 over the last three months. By far the largest expenditure the group reported was \$22,393 for campaign literature and mailings.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

or (310) 434-4323.

Other concerts in the series are scheduled as follows:

■ Sunday, Oct. 17 at 4 p.m.: SMC Jazz Band. Under the direction of conductor Keith Fiddmont, the band will perform classic "big band" jazz as well as contemporary pieces. (Tickets are \$10.)

■ Sunday, Oct. 24 at 4 p.m.: SMC Concert Band. Under the direction of conductor Kevin McKeown, the ensemble performs traditional and contemporary music written specifically for the concert band. (Tickets are \$8.)

■ Friday, Oct. 29 at 8 p.m.: SMC Jazz Band Vocalists with the Jon Mayer Trio. (Tickets are \$10.)

■ Sunday, Oct. 31 at 4 p.m.: Baritone Leonard Smetannikov. This leading Russian baritone will perform a program ranging from arias and art songs to Russian folk songs. (Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$10 students.)



Chamber committee quiet on its financial resources

DONATIONS, from page 1

dates,” said Tom Larmore, treasurer of the issues committee. “We are helping them raise money for themselves.”

If the chamber was to directly fundraise for candidates, it would have to set up a separate political action committee. But chamber officials decided it wasn't worth doing that since most people are donating directly to the four candidates who won the business group's endorsement.

By law, candidates are not allowed to collect more than \$250 from any one individual. So the most a person supporting the four chamber picks could donate is \$1,000 — \$250 for each candidate. Donating to a specific candidate committee would only allow an individual to donate another \$250 to the chamber cause.

“The question is whether you could find that many people who donate \$1,250 anyway,” Larmore said. “There are some, but not a lot.”

The idea is that through encouragement of political action committee members and word of mouth amongst the local business community, donations will be given to chamber-endorsed candidates Bobby Shriver, Matt Dinolfo, Kathryn Morea and Herb Katz, so they can spend the money however they see fit.

“The chamber is over 1,000 businesses, and they are able to spread the word much better,” Larmore said. “(The candidates) can spend it better themselves and run their own campaign.”

Dinolfo, who has gotten thousands of dollars from chamber members, said he's pleased with the chamber's strategy, despite that he thought the political action committee would send out mailers promoting its slate of candidates.

“I assumed they would raise money and do slate mailers, but for whatever reason they didn't,” Dinolfo said. “That's fine because I've always been an independent and I'm happy to have their endorsement.”

“When you are asked to dinner, you don't ask what's for dinner,” he added. “Their PAC is an independent PAC, and how they run it and strategize is their business.”

Chamber members also may volunteer their time and effort through phone banking and precinct walking.

“They are all cumulative effects,” Dinolfo said. “It's not just about mail.”

The chamber has previously been involved in election campaigns but never to the level it is this year. Chamber officials have encouraged members to donate to individual campaigns before, but have never officially endorsed anyone through a political action committee.

“I think it's much more focused,” Dinolfo said. “Their message is focused.”

The effectiveness of a strategy that includes the notion of endorsements carrying more weight than what was done in the past remains to be seen. But so far, it seems to be working. Chamber members are donating to the candidates — Katz has received thousands of dollars from several local businesses, as well as chamber board members.

Although it's not raising money for candidates, the issues committee has raised enough money to send out three mailers in recent months, which have been billed as part of an educational campaign aiming to broaden community input on a range of issues.

The first full-color mailer, which was sent out over the July Fourth holiday weekend, features a picture of Santa Monica Pier and the beach on one side, and reads, “This is the Santa Monica we love.” The other side says, “This is what we've got” and shows clippings from various news reports about homelessness, traffic and City Hall. It concludes with “Santa Monica deserves better.”

Another mailer has a picture of a crowded beach with people circled with the words “us” and “them.” The back of the mailer says, “Renter vs. homeowner? Business vs. residents? No, there's only one Santa Monica and we're all in this together.” News clippings on the back also suggest that the current City Council has its own agenda, which comes at the expense of residents' quality of life.

“Our role was to raise issues that we thought were important to the community,” Larmore said.

Larmore declined to say how much the issues committee has in its war chest. He said he's not comfortable speculating on what the committee might do before the election, which is three weeks away. The committee is required to file financial disclosure forms with the state in January.

In July, chamber officials said they had raised between \$40,000 and \$50,000 to spend on the mailers. The first mailer cost about \$15,000 and was sent to about 20,000 households.

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This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of homesellers don't get what they want for their home and become disillusioned and – worse – financially disadvantaged when they put their home on the market.

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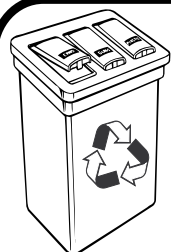
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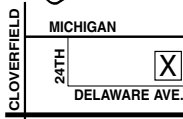
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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cleaning up after homeless a 24/7 job

Editor:

Mayor Richard Bloom forwarded to our office Matt Schabe's e-mail regarding his family's unsettling experience in the alley behind Toys 'R Us recently and your opinion regarding the city's efforts to combat homelessness (SMDP, Oct. 5, page 6).

The mayor has already responded to you on the work being done locally and regionally to eliminate homelessness in the next decade, outlining Santa Monica's efforts in this regard through both police and social services. As he said, homelessness is a national problem, and federal dollars are needed for the implementation of regional plans that will really work to help those in need and retain the quality of life our residents — and all citizens — expect and deserve.

While we look at the longer term solutions, we are challenged daily, as you point out, with jarring examples of life on the street. In response to concerns raised about the condition of the alley between Fourth and Fifth street, a city maintenance crew was dispatched and cleaned up the area by 11:30 a.m. Sadly, when inspectors drove the alley half an hour later, clean-up was again needed. We are working with the management of the business establishments using the alley to help us keep the area clean and to move the trucks that provide a screen for activity. We will continue monitoring all of the downtown and doing our utmost to keep the area safe and sanitary for all. We hope you will continue patronizing Santa Monica businesses and will stay in touch regarding areas of concern.

Judy Rambeau

Assistant to the City Manager

Modern life in paradise

Editor:

Somebody give me a cheeseburger. Somebody stop the City Council from chopping down a landmark hedge that's been here forever. Doesn't anybody know you-know-what from shinola?

In Boulder, Colo., it's illegal to walk down the street carrying a lunch pail, but you didn't know that. In St. Louis, it's illegal to drive a car without having a person running ahead of the car warning the horse carriages of the impending disruption. By the way, in that same city, when there were only two registered motor vehicles, they had a head-on collision. In California today it is illegal to enter your car by first walking into the street and entering on the driver's side. There are tons of antique laws. In my opinion the focus should be on the future and canceling antiquated laws which are now ruinous.

It's illegal to have sex outside of marriage in California, it's called adultery, statutory rape, sodomy, and who knows what else. It's illegal, co-habitation, with anyone who is not your spouse, except for roommates. And to have sex with a member of your same sex, they are going to burn you at the stake. Puritans are such wonderful people — it's still illegal, having sex with anyone but your spouse. I wonder if you even knew that. Don't worry because the cops are busy writing tickets to jaywalkers at the post office and are not going to come after you. I like that the cops hide up the street — stealth is good — until it happens to you. Somebody could make a case of entrapment, but I guess we all would rather pay and be done with it as opposed to fight to live free.

To chop down a hedge because of an antiquated "law" is tantamount to what we saw the Taliban do in Afghanistan when they blew to smithereens an ancient Buddhist monument which was carved into the side of a mountain thousands of years before the current "City Slickers." Are you still with me? Probably not, you flabby losers. Walking down the street next to you I get the feeling that this town is a matrix of hypnotized zombies.

If this debate about a hedge that's been here longer than the Constitution is what is going on in our local government, if they have nothing better to address, I say to vote them all out of office and get new people who have their heads on their shoulders, instead of up their you-know-whats. To the City Council, I say wake up and get a life quick, or pack your bags. Throw those old laws overboard which do not serve us. Us, did you get the U and S in "us"? If you don't serve us and help us, we will make sure that you go back to selling used cars by voting against you as soon and as often as possible.

Now for a grain of something we all want to know about, how is the fight against rats going? Yes, rats. We are tired of seeing them in our allies and trees, even in our homes. Especially tired of them in the local restaurants. Why are there so many here? What is City Hall doing about the rats in Santa Monica? And if any politician in City Hall denies that we have them, then I say that person is either stupid, in addition to ignorance of the situation, or lying.

Brian Donovan Madden
Santa Monica

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Santa Monica Daily Press

GUEST COMMENTARY BY ROBERT GARMONG, Ph.D

Space exploration: It's not just for the government anymore

On Monday SpaceShipOne, the first privately funded manned spacecraft, captured the \$10 million X Prize by making its second trip to outer space in less than a week. In doing so, it did more than shatter the boundary of outer space: It destroyed forever the myth that space exploration can only be done by the government.

Earlier this year, a Bush Administration panel on space exploration recommended that NASA increase the role of private contractors in the push to permanently settle the moon and eventually explore Mars. But it appears that neither the administration nor anyone else has yet considered the true free-market solution for America's moribund space program: Complete privatization.

There is a contradiction at the heart of the space program: Space exploration, as the grandest of man's technological advancements, requires the kind of bold innovation possible only to minds left free to pursue the best of their thinking and judgment. Yet by placing the space program under governmental funding, we necessarily place it at the mercy of governmental whim. The results are written all over the past 20 years of NASA's history: The space program is a political animal, marked by shifting, inconsistent and ill-defined goals.

The space shuttle was built and maintained to please clashing constituencies, not to do a clearly defined job for which there was an economic and technical need. The shuttle was to launch satellites for the Department of Defense and private contractors, which could be done more cheaply by lightweight, disposable rockets. It was to carry scientific experiments, which could be done more efficiently by unmanned vehicles. But one "need" came before all technical issues: NASA's political need for showy manned vehicles. The result, as great a technical achievement as it is, was an over-sized, over-complicated, over-budget, overly dangerous vehicle that does everything poorly and nothing well.

Indeed, the space shuttle program was supposed to be phased out years ago, but the search for its replacement has been halted, largely because space contractors enjoy collecting on the over-priced shuttle without the expense and bother of researching cheaper alternatives. A private industry could have fired them — but not so in a government project, with home-district congressmen to lobby on their behalf.

There is reason to believe that the political nature of the space program might have even been directly responsible for the Columbia disaster. Fox News reported that NASA chose to stick with non-Freon-based foam insulation on the

booster rockets, despite evidence that this type of foam causes up to 11 times as much damage to thermal tiles as the older, Freon-based foam. Although NASA was exempted from the restrictions on Freon use, which environmentalists believe causes ozone depletion, and despite the fact that the amount of Freon released by NASA's rockets would have been trivial, the space agency elected to stick with the politically correct foam.

It is impossible to integrate the contradictory. To whatever extent an engineer is forced to base his decisions not on the realities of science but on the arbitrary, unpredictable and often-impossible demands of a politicized system, he is stymied. Yet this politicizing is an unavoidable consequence of governmental control over scientific research and development.

Nor would it be difficult to spur the private exploration of space — it's been happening quietly for years. The X Prize was just the tiniest hint at the incentives for private groups to break out of Earth's atmosphere. The free market works to produce whatever there is demand for, just as it now does with traditional aircraft. Commercial satellite launches are now routine and could easily be fully privatized.

But all this private exploration is hobbled by the crucial absence of a system of property rights in space. Imagine the incentive to a profit-minded business if, for instance, it were granted the right to any stellar body it reached and exploited.

We often hear that the most ambitious projects can only be undertaken by government, but in fact the opposite is true. The more ambitious a project is, the more it demands to be broken into achievable, profit-making steps — and freed from the unavoidable politicizing of government-controlled science. If space development is to be transformed from an expensive national bauble of which the central purpose is to assert national pride to a practical industry, it will only be by unleashing the creative force of free and rational minds.

We have now made the first steps toward the stars. Before us are enormous technical difficulties, the solution of which will require even more heroic determination than that which tamed the seas and the continents. To solve them, America must unleash its best engineering minds, as only the free market can do.

(Robert Garmong, Ph.D. in philosophy, is a writer for the Ayn Rand Institute (www.aynrand.org) in Irvine. The institute promotes the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead." Send comments to reaction@aynrand.org).

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.

OPINION



Voice from the past is housed but still homeless



(Editor's note: Charles Springer is a former Daily Press columnist who lived for several years on the streets of Santa Monica.)

I guess you have been wondering where I have gone. Well, I have been getting my life back in order. I went into a rehabilitation center up in Acton, Calif., to recover from the effects of living on the streets for eight years and a marijuana addiction. I was only smoking mostly at night to sleep, but it was enough for me to finally recognize it and deal with it. Now I am TOTALLY clean and sober — as I was when I became homeless.

I am now living at the U.S. Veterans-

run West Side Residence Hall, and it is exactly as I have described all the programs I have experienced in my life. I guess as long as there is homelessness, there will be places like this to house and feed them.

You might say, "Well you should be grateful for what you have: food, shelter, clothes." You might say this until you have to come to places like this. I am not saying it does not do good for people; I am saying that there should not be any need for places like this in this country at all. Especially for those of us who served and are serving our country.

This is the richest and most powerful country in the world, yet there are approximately 2 million or more people unemployed, 1 million or more homeless. And that is a "conservative" estimate. This is not counting the thousand who are coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan who are messed up and slowly winding up homeless, with drug addictions and combat-related psychological and physical problems.

Can anyone say Vietnam? Meanwhile, our most "benevolent"

ruler is throwing hundreds of billions of dollars to Iraq through Halliburton to rebuild another country. I wonder how many people who are reading this want to see another four years of this kind of sapping of their money and resources to rebuild Iraq? How many of you want to see our jobs go to other countries "for the sake of democracy and freedom"?

I have been looking for a job for about one month now and have close to or more than 100 resumes out there in the field of graphic design, animation and/or any related field I can think of in which to get a job. And I have to settle for a \$7 per hour position as a dog sitter. Many of you might say I should be grateful for that, I have to settle for it to be in this program. I was told to "be humble" and "take anything" by people who are working in their chosen professions.

I feel there is a fine line between humility and humiliation, between letting go of ego and losing your self esteem and self worth for the sake of getting a job.

I wonder if Mr. Bush had ever settled for "anything." And if he had, would he or

any of our leaders be where they are today if they had done this? Hell, we can't even see if our "fearless" leader's military career is real or not. Maybe Mr. Cheney would trade jobs with me to "become humble" or Mr. Bush would trade jobs with me to "let go of ego." Maybe Mr. Rumsfeld would like to have a \$7 per hour position to show his support for the president's wonderful economic plans for our nation and the "good jobs" he has created since he came to office.

Yes, I am back and still giving you a first-hand perspective on homelessness as I document my climb to success, if any such thing exists any more in this country for the average American citizen and those who have served his or her country. I am back to give you my perspective on what is happening in the world at large from a homeless point of view.

(Charles Springer is now housed but still considered homeless. He is still a freelance artist and writer. He can be reached at chaz_59@yahoo.com).

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STATE

Simulated infernos helping wildland firefighters

BY JEREMIAH MARQUEZ
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — A cigarette tossed carelessly along Interstate 5 on a hot, blustery fall day could spell devastation for the wealthy suburb of Mount Soledad.

In 15 minutes, a small blaze could explode into a fast-moving wildfire that threatens scores of homes as twisting, narrow canyon roads slow firefighters and more blazes spring up downwind.

That grim forecast is just one of many generated by powerful computer simulation programs for suburban and back-

country areas of San Diego County since last October's catastrophic wildfires in Southern California.

The blazes killed 24 people while scorching 750,000 acres and destroying more than 3,670 homes and businesses. With drought conditions unchanged, fire officials fear this could be another brutal fire season.

To prepare, fire officials have spent much of the past year traipsing around subdivisions and wooded areas, gathering information on terrain and brush to plug into the computer simulations.

The resulting forecasts can predict the path, size and speed of flames as they chew through communities and forests.

"It's like having a battle plan," said Bill Clayton, a division chief with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. "We're getting ready to attack the enemy."

The modeling programs — some powered by everyday personal computing systems, others by supercomputers — have proven vital in fighting major fires throughout the country.

Last year, as the 150,000-acre Old fire roared through the San Bernardino Mountains, crews cut new fire lines after a simulation showed flames eventually hitting the populated areas of Yucaipa and Big Bear Lake. Rains doused the blaze before that could happen.

Last August, computer forecasts helped persuade Montana officials to redeploy firefighters and equipment after learning that blazes burning near Glacier National Park could leap across a major reservoir.

"Any fire you can think of, they have used (computer software) to model the conditions," said Colin Hardy, a researcher at the Forest Service Fire Sciences Laboratory in Missoula, Mont.

The study of fire behavior has been around for decades but surged after World War II, when massive blazes were unleashed by the U.S. military to level German and Japanese cities.

"There was concern that the next war might be a fire war," said Steve Pyne, a historian and author of "Fire in America." "So what you see is the Forest Service has a convergence of interests with the military."

The federal government opened several labs around the country to study the dynamics of fire. Breakthroughs in mathematical formulas regarding fires led to one of the first computer modeling programs in 1974 — a crude system of computer punch cards developed at the lab in Montana.

Now, the most powerful programs let analysts "burn" virtual blazes across colorful three-dimensional maps. The accuracy of the forecasts depends heavily on measurements of temperatures, wind and terrain — factors that are themselves complex and difficult to predict.

Rich Wagoner of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo., has called computer simulations "an extremely valuable tool for lessons learned that can be applied to future fires" but cautioned against considering them as operational models.

Simulations can still bog down on the details that really determine a fire's behavior, such as whether a mountain slope is cool and facing north or warm and facing south. Or, whether the 60 mph winds are gusty or constant. Or finer details, such as the dimensions of leaves and needles on specific plants.

There is also the speed issue. The most detailed simulations are run on supercomputers that operate at trillions of calculations per second, but they still can't keep pace with wildfires.

"It takes several days to run a model to get an hour or two of forecast," Wagoner said.

To improve forecasts, researchers have embarked on a five-year, \$40 million effort to map vegetation and fire fuels around the country through field investigation and satellite imaging.

The work is intended to help authorities compile computer grids — known as geographical information systems overlays — to detail an area's vegetation in high-resolution, 30-square-meter blocks.

Researchers are also working to create a national database of weather measurements to aid the modeling of fires under continuous, real-time conditions, said Larry Van Bussum, national fire weather operations coordinator for National Weather Service.

In San Diego County, the forecast generated by Clayton for Mount Soledad predicts that a fire could reach a speed of 6.7 mph while charring up to 500 acres. Flames could climb 51 feet into the air, creating a 77 percent chance of nearby blazes being sparked by drifting embers.

Until recently, many areas of the county had no formal forecasts because new subdivisions sprouted faster than firefighters could put plans together, officials said.

Now, priority has been given to doing forecasts for the backcountry and suburbs along its borders, but completing maps for the remaining hundreds of thousands of acres could take another year.

On a recent afternoon, Clayton scouted a subdivision north of Escondido, where more than 450 single-story homes were tucked between a road off Interstate 15 and a hillside thick with chamise and buckwheat — ideal kindling.

He said learning the lay of the land was critical.

"You don't have all day to think this out when fires start," he said. "That's why you do all these mental and computer exercises and developing of plans beforehand."



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STATE



Hunter pleads not guilty to starting wildfire

BY SETH HETTENA

Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — A man accused of starting the largest wildfire in state history pleaded not guilty Thursday to charges of setting timber afire and making a false statement to officials.

Sergio Martinez, 34, was arraigned in federal court then released on a \$100,000 bond after his parents pledged their West Covina home of 30 years as collateral.

Martinez said little in court but did answer "not guilty" when asked by federal Magistrate James Stiven for his plea to the felony charges.

Martinez is accused of intentionally

setting the Cedar Fire last Oct. 25 when he got lost on a deer hunt in the Cleveland National Forest east of San Diego. The 273,000-acre blaze killed 15 people and destroyed more than 2,000 homes.

Martinez denied setting the fire, insisting that a bullet ricochet provided the spark, prosecutor Michael Lasater said in court. However, a forensic investigation determined that was impossible, Lasater said.

Martinez's canteen was found next to the fire's point of origin, the prosecutor added.

"We believe that these charges accurately reflect what happened and his legal culpability," Lasater said.

The U.S. Forest Service had issued Martinez a misdemeanor citation on the night of the blaze alleging he set an unauthorized fire. He was released with a warning that he could face felony charges if people were injured or homes destroyed.

Martinez told paramedics then that he was worried authorities would find marijuana in his vehicle, Lasater said. On Thursday, the magistrate ordered him not to use any illegal drugs during his release and to submit to pretrial drug testing.

Martinez, wearing a purple shirt and dark blue corduroy jacket, kept his hands

stuffed in his pockets throughout the hearing. He was taken away by U.S. marshals to be photographed and fingerprinted before his release.

Defense attorneys Jose Martinez and W. Phillip Higgins declined to discuss the case or their client except to say they would defend Martinez vigorously.

The Cedar Fire, driven by hot Santa Ana winds, swept through tinder-dry brush and trees last fall.

It was the worst fire in an onslaught of blazes that killed a total of 23 people and destroyed 3,650 homes in six Southern California counties.

In Orange County, there's nowhere to build but up

BY BEN FOX

Associated Press Writer

IRVINE — A retiree likes the idea of being closer to her neighbors. A couple from Ohio won't have to cut the grass anymore. A lawyer looks forward to being able to walk to work.

Their reasons vary, but all are buying units in a luxury, 18-story condominium rising alongside office buildings and a fashionable shopping center in Orange County, a place where people typically live at sea level and rely on their cars to get everywhere.

When it opens next year, the Marquee Park Place in Irvine will be the tallest residential building in the county and the first in a series of high-rise projects in a region where sprawl has chewed up nearly all the open land and made what is left increasingly expensive.

"There's nowhere to go but up," said Sarah Catz, a 47-year-old lawyer who, like others moving into the Marquee, will not miss her daily battles against Southern California's worst-in-the-nation traffic.

The county that was shaped by postwar urban sprawl appears to be in the vanguard of a much different trend: Instead of building cookie-cutter homes in tidy subdivisions, it is hoping to create traditional downtowns from scratch.

Orange County has long been considered a bedroom community of its giant neighbor to the north, Los Angeles. It began to boom in the 1950s as developers rushed to knock down orange groves and build subdivisions in the rolling hills and along the coast.

Today, the county is a densely populated region of more than 3 million people that is much less dependent on Los Angeles for jobs, entertainment and its

identity.

The median price of a single-family home in the county has doubled in four years to about \$500,000.

Development of high-rise housing "is a symbol of the maturation of the county," said Ray Young, an urban planning professor at California State University, Fullerton, who has lived in the area for nearly 30 years.

Currently, the tallest residential building in Irvine is just four stories. Because of height restrictions involving nearby John Wayne Airport, the new high-rises will not be taller than 18 stories.

The demand for the units appears strong.

The Marquee's developer, Bosa Development Corp. of Canada, has sold all 232 units at prices ranging from \$650,000 to \$1.8 million and has decided to build four more towers.

"You're going to see a lot of high-rises going up there in the next few years," said President Nat Bosa. "It doesn't matter how fast you approve them, you won't exhaust the market in 15 years."

Other projects in the works include The Plaza Irvine, two 15-story towers a mile south of the Marquee where prices for some units will reach \$3 million. More than 2,000 people have put their names on an interest list, according to the developers.

Developers are also proposing high-rise residential projects across the street from the Marquee and in the nearby city of Santa Ana.

Who's moving in? Bosa Development said about 40 percent are professionals like Catz, who will be moving from a two-story, 2,900-square-foot house to a two-bedroom, 2,000-square-foot unit on the 15th floor of the Marquee.



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

The Q-Line™

Entertainment

WHAT'S PLAYING ...

I HEART HUCKABEES
Inspired casting, a retro-European production design and the director's smart incorporation/exploration of several conflicting existential philosophies combine to make this one of the most interesting comedies in recent memory.
Starring: Jude Law, Naomi Watts, Dustin Hoffman, Lily Tomlin

LADDER 49
A well-intentioned but somewhat overly indulgent encomium to the brave firemen who run into burning buildings for a living.
Starring: John Travolta, Joaquin Phoenix

SHARK TALE
In sending up classic mob films such as "The Godfather" and "Scarface," the filmmakers seem to have lost sight of an important detail: Little kids don't know those movies. As movies about marauding deep-sea predators go, this bites.
Starring: Will Smith, Jack Black, Renee Zellweger, Robert DeNiro

THE FORGOTTEN
The truth is out there: This movie is a dud. Has the tenor of a long-lost episode of "The X-Files" that should have remained missing.
Starring: Julianne Moore, Dominic West

FIRST DAUGHTER
A lackluster but harmless tween flick about the famous daughter of a President, whose greatest desire is to be normal.
Starring: Katie Holmes, Marc Blucas

THE LAST SHOT
A very clever comedy about dreams, and the extraordinary lengths to which people will sometimes go to realize them. Baldwin and Broderick make for a great team.
Starring: Alec Baldwin, Matthew Broderick

SHAUN OF THE DEAD
The cast is spot-on, and the film boasts several riotously funny set-pieces.
Starring: Simon Pegg, Nick Frost

A DIRTY SHAME
It's pretty boring, which is something that isn't often said about John Waters' work.
Starring: Tracey Ullman, Johnny Knoxville

THE MOTORCYCLE DIARIES
This story of personal enlightenment is powerful and touching.
Starring: Gael Garcia Bernal, Rodrigo de la Serna

MR. 3000
Mac squeezes an extra base out of a slow roller in this chalk talk about the value of teamwork, modesty and accurate scorekeeping.
Starring: Bernie Mac, Angela Bassett

HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
Even the most obliging tissue-toters will likely be put off by the film's conspicuous lack of originality and the absence of chemistry between the romantic leads.
Starring: Charlize Theron, Stuart Townsend

WIMBLEDON
Dunst looks great on the movie poster, but this movie belongs to Bettany. His performance alone is reason enough to recommend this romantic comedy. The exceedingly realistic tennis action isn't bad either.
Starring: Paul Bettany, Kirsten Dunst

SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMORROW
Has the soft glow of a colorized black and white 30s noir but with the scale, speed and wit of today's better, character-driven, sci-fi, CGI spectacles.
Starring: Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow

Fallon happily shares his cab with the ladies

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Best known for his work on "Saturday Night Live," Jimmy Fallon is the latest Not-Ready-for-Prime-Time Player to leave the seminal late-night show to pursue a full-time film career. The 30-year-old Brooklyn native's first starring role is in "Taxi," as an inept cop who teams with a cabbie played by Queen Latifah to try and thwart a crew of shapely criminals led by model Giselle Bundchen.

QUESTION: "Taxi" may be the first film in history in which the villains are Brazilian supermodels. Could this be the beginning of a trend?

JIMMY FALLON: The media tries to downplay the news, but 75 to 80 percent of all bank robberies are committed by Brazilian supermodels. It's a huge problem in America. I'm trying to get Michael Moore to do a documentary about it, but he hasn't returned my calls.

Q: What aspect of your "Taxi" experience made the most lasting impression on you?

JF: Working with Ann-Margret (who plays Fallon's mother in the film). Ann-Margret knocked it out of the park. I met her, and I couldn't believe they cast Ann-Margret. She's Ann-Marg-rock, if you're a "Flintstones" fan. She did "Viva Las Vegas." She didn't say anything about Elvis, in case you're going to ask that.

Q: She's a seasoned veteran, and you're a movie neophyte. What was your relationship like on set?

JF: We hit it off. We made each other laugh. There were a couple of moments of improv during shooting, where we were both laughing to the point of crying. No one else was, just me and Ann-Margret.

Q: You worked with several lovely ladies on this movie. Can you tell us about some of the others?

JF: (Queen Latifah) is awesome to work with. Her facial expressions are great — she just sells everything. I really learned a lot from her. She was very generous to me. And Gisele was great casting. She played a Brazilian badass so well. Of course, she's very easy to look at. Almost too easy — it was distracting when we were doing scenes.

Q: Being a New Yorker, you must have your share of funny cab stories.

JF: Well, right after 9-11, I think Osama Bin Laden drove me somewhere. Not really him, but his name was Osama Bin something. I thought I was being "Punk'd." That was really weird.

'Taxi' is one cab flick you'll want to miss

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Unless your destination is Dudsville, this is one "Taxi" you should certainly avoid hailing. Exhaustingly insipid in his debut descent into big

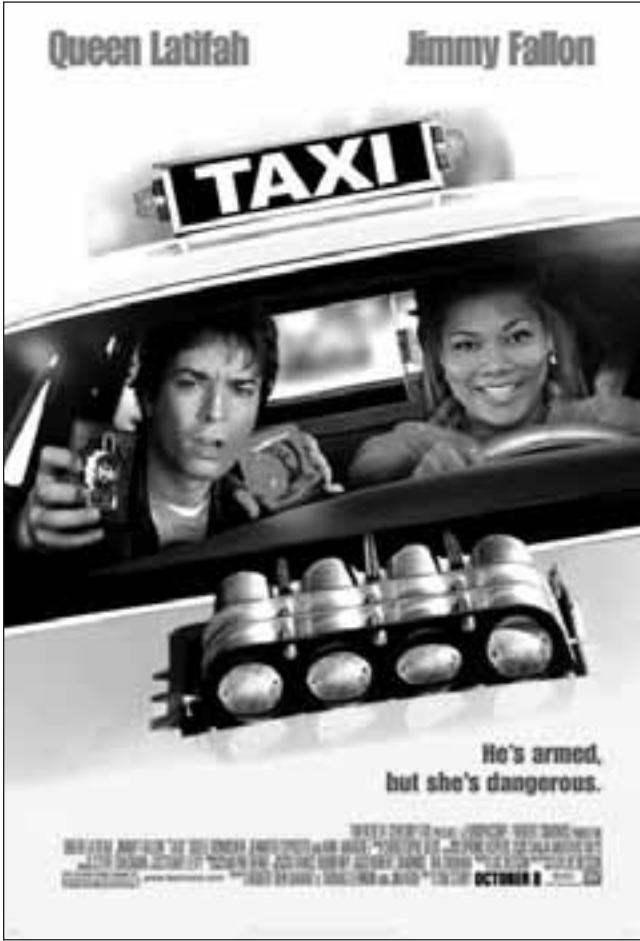
Review

screen leading man-hood, former "Saturday Night Live" regular Jimmy Fallon reinforces the notion that for every Will Ferrell or Eddie Murphy there's a host of not-ready-for-box-office players destined for a "Where are they now?" segment on VH-1.

But don't shed a tear for the Fallons and Jim Breuers of the world. Instead wring your hands for Queen Latifah, who — "Barbershop 2" aside — has appeared in some god-awful flicks since her Academy Award-nominated turn in "Chicago."

Here, in this Americanized take on the 1998 French film of same name, Latifah plays Belle Williams, a speed demon New York City hack who dreams of someday ruling the NASCAR circuit. When Fallon's Andy Washburn, an impossibly inept cop whose poor driving skills cost him his license, commandeers her cab for purposes of nabbing a team of leggy bankrobbers led by supermodel Gisele Bundchen, a bromidic buddy flick is born. Fallon and Latifah make for one undynamic duo — he's not the least bit funny, and she's unconvincing in her efforts to appear amused by him. Fallon, whose popularity on SNL was rooted primarily in his inability to keep a straight face in sketches, manages to make it through the entire film without busting up. Problem is, so will most moviegoers. There's plenty to cringe at, though — Bundchen's play-time performance, Jennifer Esposito's grating police lieutenant and, worst of all, the venerable Ann-Margret's embarrassing cameo as Andy's margarita-addicted mom. Strapped for laughs, director Tim Story ("Barbershop") instead tries to dazzle with car chases and wanton peeps up Bundchen's miniskirts, and it still doesn't make this ride any more enjoyable.

(Rated PG-13 for language, sensuality and brief violence. Running time: 89 minutes)



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Peter Berg scores big with 'Friday Night Lights'

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Based on Pulitzer Prize-winning author Buzz Bissinger's riveting account of a season spent in a West Texas town obsessed with its high school football team, "Friday Night Lights," adapted for the big screen by director Peter Berg ("The Rundown," "Very Bad Things"), is one of the most entertaining sports films ever made.

Everything about the movie is intensely real, from the action out on the blood-stained gridiron to the battles being fought inside the minds and hearts of the coaches, players and

Review

fans of the Permian High School Panthers of Odessa, Tex. — one of the nation's most storied and winning programs. The game sequences, which account for nearly a third of the movie's

running time, are eye-popping spectacles shot by veteran NFL Films' camera man Thom Owens under the direction of Hollywood's preeminent pigskin choreographer, Allan Graf. Watching a team of gutsy kids perform such a violent ballet to the full-throated delight of huge crowds, it's impossible not to get caught up in the hysteria that is football in Texas.

Billy Bob Thornton delivers an appropriately measured performance as no-nonsense coach Gary Gaines, upon whose shoulders rest the championship hopes of an entire region. Gaines is charged with guiding a team that includes an insecure quarterback (Lucas Black), a tailback (Garrett Hedlund) constantly at odds with his overbearing, alcoholic father (country crooner Tim McGraw making a stellar acting debut), and a preening star rusher (Derek Luke) whose season — and pro aspirations — disappear with a snap of a ligament. As the team stumbles along the path to glory and the pressure intensifies, imperfections that were hidden behind the façade of invincibility are exposed, and the psychological toll of the "winning is everything" mantra is brought into clear focus. Gaines and his wife discuss, only half-jokingly, relocating to Alaska should the team fail to win a state championship. Luke's Boobie Miles defies doctor's orders and jeopardizes his future by suiting up with a bum wheel. McGraw's menacing behavior toward his son escalates, and the boy begins to crumble. Knowing that what's transpiring really happened — and is happening right now in communities all across the country — adds weight to an already robust story. In the end, "Friday Night Lights" succeeds at being both a cautionary tale and an inspiration — and that's a score we don't see very often.

(Rated PG-13 for thematic issues, sexual content, language, some teen drinking and rough sports action. Running time: 117 minutes)



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One year later, Schwarzenegger faces new political tests

BY BETH FOUHY
 AP Political Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Armed with high voter approval ratings and millions of dollars in campaign cash, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is observing the one-year anniversary of the recall election that swept him into office by going back on the campaign trail, hoping to “terminate” two ballot initiatives that would expand casino gambling across the state.

Exactly a year after he was swept into office on a wave of voter anger that ousted his unpopular predecessor, Democrat Gray Davis, the rookie governor has already racked up a remarkable string of political victories — from persuading voters to approve a \$15 billion bond deal to pay down the state’s debt to cutting a budget deal with Democrats who control the Legislature. He has also raised about \$20 million for various campaign committees since he took office to promote issues and candidates throughout the state.

But now, as he tries to knock off some Democratic legislators as well as ballot issues he doesn’t like, whether he can influence the outcome of other races may prove the ultimate test of his clout, analysts said.

“He has shown that when he campaigns for himself or for an idea that is his, he is terrific at it,” said Bill Whalen, a Republican strategist at Stanford University’s Hoover Institution. “The question is whether the magic is transferable.”

Sex, lies, murder focus of Vegas casino executive slaying retrial

BY CHRISTINA ALMEIDA
 Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — Even in this city of sin, the tawdry trial of a former stripper and her secret lover accused of murdering former casino executive Ted Binion was a decadent distraction until guilty verdicts brought the case to a sensational close in May 2000.

But on Monday another chapter in this Vegas-style tale of buried treasure, missing panties, a striking blonde and her Montana man will unfold, set in motion by a Nevada Supreme Court decision that overturned the convictions of Sandy Murphy and Rick Tabish.

Las Vegas is bracing for the spotlight the second trial will shine on the titillating case of sex, lies and murder as 12 jurors attempt to answer the question of how Binion — a rich, mob-connected heroin addict — died.

“When you look at the picture of the gold-digger Sandy Murphy and the guy-on-the-make Rick Tabish ... it’s a pretty unseemly group,” said John L. Smith, author and Las Vegas Review-Journal columnist who covered the first trial. “It’s almost like a Vegas cartoon.”

The tale began with Binion, who fell for the much-younger Murphy after spotting her at a local strip club. He came from a prominent family that owned the famed downtown Binion’s Horseshoe Hotel & Casino, where inexpensive steak dinners and high-stakes gambling were the norm.

Murphy moved in and lived as his girlfriend until one day police were called to Binion’s Las Vegas home, where they found the 55-year-old’s body next to a bottle of antidepressants. An autopsy showed he had lethal levels of Xanax and heroin in his system.

Murphy, now 32, always has claimed Binion’s death in

So far, it’s not working at the top of the ticket in California. Schwarzenegger supports President Bush and Republican Senate candidate Bill Jones, but both are trailing their Democratic opponents, John Kerry and Sen. Barbara Boxer, by wide margins. And almost no one thinks Schwarzenegger can help Republicans wrest control of the Legislature from Democrats, who enjoy a large majority in both the assembly and senate.

“A year ago, there was talk — ‘Arnold won! The state is in play!’ But California today is not in play,” said longtime Democratic strategist Kam Kuwata. “So at some point, there is going to be the question — what did he really accomplish in the 2004 general election?”

Also, Schwarzenegger’s first targets, the two gambling initiatives on the Nov. 2 ballot, are easy targets. The propositions, which would both expand casino gambling in exchange for providing more money to the state or local governments, are trailing in statewide polls.

Having already struck deals with several tribes to return about \$200 million in revenue annually in exchange for some casino expansion, Schwarzenegger will campaign across the state warning that the two initiatives would undermine those agreements and allow Las Vegas-style gambling in major urban areas of the state.

Since both are trailing badly, Schwarzenegger could easily step up his involvement in legislative races, the U.S. Senate race or even help President Bush, who polls show is unpopular in the state.

September 1998 was an accidental overdose. Police say it was a calculated killing orchestrated with the help of Tabish, a 39-year-old contractor from Missoula, Mont., who was a friend of Binion — and Murphy’s lover.

The motive? A piece of Binion’s \$55 million estate and a cache of silver buried deep in the desert for safe-keeping.

“This case had all the different elements that appealed to the public’s curiosity,” said District Attorney David Roger. “It had sex, violence, deceit and buried treasure.”

The courtroom antics were just as riveting. At one point, District Judge Joseph Bonaventure threw Murphy in jail for her “cavalier attitude.” A flippant Murphy once spray-painted her ankle-monitoring device to match her outfit and complained her panties were stolen from jail.

The trial spanned six weeks and detailed the not-so-pretty lives of the Binions, a clan plagued by family infighting and Ted Binion’s drug problems. Jurors heard about Murphy’s high-dollar lifestyle and a tryst with Tabish at a Beverly Hills hotel.

In the end, the jury didn’t buy the defense’s version of what happened the night Binion died and convicted the pair. Murphy and Tabish headed off to prison, destined to fade into the background of Las Vegas lore.

But the Nevada Supreme Court resurrected the case, ruling last July that the judge made a mistake in not forcing prosecutors to try an extortion case against Tabish separately. Justices said the extortion evidence unfairly prejudiced the jury, and threw out the convictions.

Murphy’s appeal was assisted by Harvard Law professor Alan Dershowitz, who worked on the O.J. Simpson case. Dershowitz is still aiding Murphy’s defense and is expected to be in court off-and-on during the second trial.

Prosecutors say not much has changed from their perspective; the theory of the crime remains the same. Two new faces will handle the case. Robert Daskas and Christopher Lalli have replaced Roger, who was elected to the top job after the Binion conviction, and David

Because Schwarzenegger’s own popularity in Democrat-leaning California is based in large part on his image as a nonpartisan reformer, some observers believe he may want to refrain from throwing too sharp an elbow in many races.

“The truth is, what we’re seeing is his reluctance to jump into full partisan warfare,” said Democratic strategist Bill Carrick. “The rewards are kind of minimal, so is it worth it to him for the acrimony he’d create?”

Schwarzenegger spokesman Rob Stutzman disputes that, saying the governor will begin stumping for Republicans around the state once he is assured that the two gaming initiatives are on their way to certain defeat.

“He’s become convinced that to move ahead with what he wants to do in California and create a better economic environment, more Republicans in the Legislature will help do that,” Stutzman said, adding that Schwarzenegger will also work actively with Democrats at the local level to help defeat the gaming initiatives and to beat back another ballot measure challenging the state’s tough three-strikes crime law.

Although his support has been minimal so far, Schwarzenegger can also be expected to campaign for Jones, Stutzman, and “there is a very real possibility” he will campaign for Bush, most likely in Ohio, where Schwarzenegger conducts his annual Arnold Fitness Weekend in Columbus. Earlier this year, Schwarzenegger vowed he would not campaign for Bush outside California, but later said he was open to the idea.

Wall, now a district judge.

The lawyers at the defense table also have changed — repeatedly — providing a sideshow of sorts as attorneys have been hired only to quickly depart.

High-profile Houston defense lawyer Dick DeGuerin was the first to quit Murphy’s defense team for the second trial. DeGuerin, who most recently won an acquittal for New York real estate heir Robert Durst, withdrew over the summer, saying people were trying to exert control over his defense strategy.

Two months later lawyer Herb Sachs did the same, saying he was tired of outside interference. That led some to question the involvement of Murphy’s elderly benefactor William Fuller, a mining executive who posted Murphy’s \$250,000 bail and is funding her defense.

When opening arguments begin, local lawyer Michael Cristalli will be heading up Murphy’s defense and Tabish will be represented by J. Tony Serra of San Francisco.

Cristalli says Murphy’s defense will be built around how much she loved and helped Binion, who was distraught over losing his gambling license for associating with reputed mob figures.

“When he lost his gaming license, the only other thing he loved was heroin,” Cristalli said. “We know that Ted was completely dependent on her. (Murphy) was the one who dressed him, who bathed him, who would clean him up.”

Cristalli says Murphy’s relationship with Tabish developed shortly before Binion’s death and was the result of Tabish being friends with Binion.

“Ted started to become despondent and didn’t have a relationship with anybody but heroin,” Cristalli said. “I think Sandy was looking for some comfort.”

Local media outlets are staking out their space at the courthouse and “Dateline NBC” and ABC’s “20/20” have expressed interest in following the case.

“Everybody knows the story,” said Jeff German, Las Vegas Sun columnist and author of a book about Binion. “It’s not going to be as suspenseful this time around, other than seeing what the verdict is going to be.”

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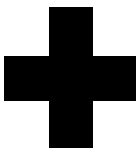
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NATIONAL



Smuggling crackdown helps bring down crime

BY JACQUES BILLEAUD

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — Violence linked to illegal immigration boiled over late last year in Arizona when a group of migrant smugglers driving on an interstate fatally shot four people as retaliation against a rival gang that had stolen its customers.

The government had already realized by that point that its efforts to reduce smuggling related murders, kidnappings and extortion around Phoenix weren't doing the trick.

So a year ago, immigration officials developed a plan to strike back in Phoenix, the nation's hub for transporting illegal workers throughout the United States.

Unlike past crackdowns, the new approach was to give Phoenix more permanent immigration agents and target top smuggling bosses by zeroing in on the tools of the lucrative trade.

While the sustained pressure caused many smugglers to move to other cities, it's also credited with helping to reduce violence in Phoenix.

The heavy flow of illegal immigrants that has dogged Arizona in recent years came after the government tightened enforcement in El Paso, Texas, and San Diego during the mid-1990s, pushing border crossers to try new routes.

The U.S. Border Patrol caught about 600,000 illegal immigrants coming into Arizona in the last year, a sharp increase attributed mostly to a buildup of agents and equipment along the state's boundary with Mexico.

Phoenix offers smugglers neighborhoods that make it easy to hide their operations and plenty of transportation routes for sending customers to other regions.

The high profits and low overhead of the illicit busi-

ness were so attractive that smugglers started kidnapping rival smugglers' customers so their families in Mexico, Central America or elsewhere could be extorted.

A major frustration for local police had been not having enough federal immigration agents to handle the immigrants who were found hidden in hundreds of homes in metropolitan Phoenix.

At times, Phoenix police said they had no choice but to release immigrants into neighborhoods, without sorting the criminals from would-be workers, because local law enforcement didn't have the people or jurisdiction to tackle the problem.

"There were times we called for help and our calls weren't returned," said Phoenix Detective Tony Morales. "That's a thing of the past."

A more consistent response in Phoenix has led to the arrests of 282 people, many of whom were front-line workers for smuggling groups that ran such hiding places, also known as drop houses.

Authorities also are going after higher-ranking smugglers by trying to disrupt their transportation networks and monitor the huge sums of money wired to them.

Nearly two dozen used-car-lot workers were indicted recently on state charges that they helped sell vehicles to smugglers who ferried immigrants into Arizona.

In a related case, seven people identified as top managers in one of Arizona's largest smuggling groups also were indicted on federal smuggling charges.

The crackdown in Phoenix doesn't necessarily target people who are brought into the country, though they will still be sent back home if they are apprehended in busts, said Mike Turner, interim special agent in charge of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Phoenix office.

Officials hope that immigrants will have fewer smuggling options if the people who control the business are caught.

"The more impact that I can have on them — arresting them, taking them out of action — the more impact I am having as a secondary impact," Turner said.

Some smugglers still use Phoenix as a base of operations, but the crackdown has pushed others to move elsewhere, including Los Angeles, Houston, Las Vegas and rural communities in Arizona.

Advocates for comprehensive change in American immigration policy said the new approach, while effective in Phoenix, doesn't confront the larger problems.

"It's going to be a short-lived celebration because you will start to see the manifestation of the broken system in other places," said Angela Kelley, deputy director of the pro-immigrant National Immigration Forum.

The government wants to use the lessons of the Arizona crackdown in other cities.

Houston, long a hub for illegal immigration, has recently experienced home invasions in which smugglers try to steal their rival's customers.

"You aren't seeing the level of violence (in Houston) that you see in Arizona, but we do have a level of violence," said Luisa Aquino-Deason, a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security's office in Houston.

A key fault with past crackdowns in Phoenix was that the pressure on smugglers wasn't sustained, so the criminals resumed business once the heat became less intense.

But immigration officials encouraged by the new permanent employees given to Phoenix said they are confident the government will continue applying pressure to smugglers here.

U.S. wildlife refuges face threats from people, development

BY ARTHUR H. ROTSTEIN

Associated Press Writer

TUCSON, Ariz. — The Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, a sweeping desert preserve abutting the border with Mexico, is among the nation's most endangered, a conservation group says.

The refuge in southwestern Arizona is home to the endangered Sonoran pronghorn. But drug and illegal immigrant traffic and Border Patrol operations are taking a heavy toll on the refuge, the nation's largest outside of Alaska, says the Defenders of Wildlife.

Human presence has damaged the fragile wilderness, threatening wildlife and habitat, according to a report being released Friday by the conservation organization. The report calls for construction of a costly vehicle barrier on the southern edge of the refuge along the Mexican border.

"We're trying to highlight the fact how special this place is, but it's also at a crossroads," said Noah Matson, a Defenders of Wildlife director in Washington who wrote "Refuges at Risk: America's Ten Most Endangered National Wildlife Refuges 2004."

The nation has 540 wildlife refuges encompassing nearly 100 million acres. The 10 cited Friday included five in the West. The other four were Nevada's Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex; Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge in California; Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges in Oregon and California and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.

The report says the 10 face some common threats, ranging from human presence to nearby development, pollution or invasive species. Escalating industrial and corporate development close to and even inside refuges is the most pervasive threat today, the report said; about three dozen refuges have more than 1,800 active oil and gas wells.

A systemwide fund shortage for refuge operations exacerbates the problems, the conservation group said.

Matson said the Cabeza Prieta is a prime example

"The reason it's on the map is increased border traffic and Border Patrol operations," he said. "The Cabeza has become Ground Zero."

In recent years, Arizona has become the nation's busiest entry point for illegal immigrants from Mexico, and clampdowns in populated areas funneled many immigrants and their smugglers into the state's western deserts, including the Cabeza Prieta.

High-speed off-road chases, abandoned vehicles, numerous deaths and damage to fragile desert landscapes have resulted.

"In an attempt to curb illegal border crossings and prevent further deaths, border officials have established permanent camps in the refuge, incongruous with this once-pristine and remote place, but reflecting the intensity of

the problem," the report said.

The increased traffic threatens the already slim chance the endangered Sonoran pronghorn has of survival, the report said. Refuge officials now estimate the population at 30 to 40 animals at most.

Refuge manager Roger Di Rosa said the report is right about the threat to Cabeza Prieta.

"The border issue is convoluted, and very complex," he said. "The solution to the border problems is not on the border; it's in Washington, D.C., and Mexico City. So we're just putting a Band-Aid on the wound to stanch the blood. It's a difficult situation."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which oversees the refuge, and the Border Patrol are trying to accomplish their missions without degrading the border, Di Rosa said.

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Official warns terrorists might come through Mexico

BY E. EDUARDO CASTILLO

Associated Press Writer

CANCUN, Mexico — A high-ranking U.S. official told The Associated Press he sees a risk that terrorists might try to use smugglers in Mexico to slip people into the United States, but no evidence that any have tried to do so.

The comments by Michael Garcia, assistant secretary of homeland security, came amid concerns that international terrorists might be trying to infiltrate organized crime in Mexico and Central America.

"I personally don't know ... (of an) al-Qaida known terrorist trying to come through Mexico into the United States," Garcia said. "What I do know is that obviously there are smuggling organizations very active along the border, and they present a risk."

Garcia spoke to The Associated Press on Wednesday during a convention of the global police agency Interpol. In addition to serving as Interpol's vice president for the Americas, he is assistant secretary for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Garcia said that drug and people trafficking networks were dangerous because "they will move people for money."

"If a terrorist shows up, has enough money, finds the right organization ... (he) could get across the border," he said. "That's a risk."

On Wednesday, Interpol's chief for Central America, Saul Hernandez, knocked down reports that al-Qaida terrorists had been spotted in Central America.

He said there was no evidence that overseas terrorists have tried to contact Central American gangs, as some local officials have suggested.

He also said investigators had been unable to confirm the presence in Central America of a suspected al-Qaida member, Adnan Gushair El Shukrijumah of Saudi Arabia, despite earlier Honduran government reports he had been spotted in that country.

"We do not have information that effectively confirms that this person was there," said Hernandez, who is also El Salvador's police commissioner.

U.S. officials have placed Shukrijumah on a watch list and have said that he was implicated in an al-Qaida plot to fill apartment buildings with natural gas and blow them up.

There have been several recent events that have raised concerns of terrorism in the region.

In August, Security Minister Oscar Alvarez said his country has received intelligence that al-Qaida was trying to recruit Hondurans to attack the embassies of the United States, Britain, Spain and El Salvador.

Terrorist groups have also posted Internet threats against El Salvador for the country's continuing military support of the U.S.-led effort in Iraq.

In July, a woman was arrested at the McAllen, Texas, airport with a mutilated South African passport and soggy jeans in her luggage after she apparently waded across the Rio Grande from Mexico.

Her illegal entry into the United States raised questions about her activities, but officials haven't said if she is being investigated for links to terrorists. She pleaded not guilty Aug. 20 to three immigration violations.

Garcia said that authorities should be "very aggressive" against traffickers exploiting vulnerabilities on the border to slip drugs, people and contraband into the United States.

He said Mexican officials have been cooperative, recognizing that the gangs are "a risk to both our countries."

But he said that didn't mean "we're seeing terrorists come across our border."

Aryan leader charged in Reno threats has HIV

BY SCOTT SONNER

Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. — A white supremacist accused of making threats to two newspapers told a federal judge Thursday he has the virus that causes AIDs.

Steven Holten, 40, Reno, the self-proclaimed leader of Aryan Nations chapters in Nevada and California, pleaded not guilty to a felony charge of transmitting a threat in interstate commerce.

During a brief appearance before U.S. Magistrate Robert McQuaid Jr., he said he was taking medication for HIV.

His court-appointed federal defender, Fredilyn Sison, told reporters afterward that she had no comment on the case and does not know how Holten contracted HIV.

Holten, who has neo-Nazi SS lightning bolts tattooed on the right side of his neck, was ordered to stand trial Nov. 30 in U.S. District Court in Reno.

Wearing shackles on his ankles but no handcuffs, he smiled and talked with Sison before the arraignment began.

A federal grand jury indicted Holten on Wednesday for allegedly sending threatening e-mails to newspapers in Reno and San Francisco. If convicted, he faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. He's being held without bail in the Washoe County Jail.

Investigators said Holten sent a mass e-mail Sept. 20 to the Reno Gazette-Journal and the San Francisco Chronicle targeting them as an "enemy of Aryan nation," which he said opposes Jews, minorities, homosexuals,

federal and local law enforcement officials, drug dealers, members of the media and anyone against white supremacy.

"As Aryan Nations of Nevada-Reno and San Francisco Aryan Nations Chapter State Leader, I need to inform all of you that Aryan Nations has designated the Reno Gazette and S.F. Chronicle and others, and anyone associated with, as an Enemy of Aryan Nations," Holten's e-mail said.

"This statement by Aryan Nations IS intended as A Threat and simply to put all of you on notice that Aryan Nations of Reno and San Francisco are angry and will take necessary violent action," he wrote.

Holten said specific individuals had been targeted in the two cities and that violence would proceed in the two weeks after Sept. 20.

"Our violent terrorist actions will be a shock to the citizens of Reno and San Francisco. It will be gruesome and something that has never been seen in the two cities," the e-mail said.

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

In his complaint, FBI Special Agent Edward D. Duffer wrote that in a Sept. 22 interview, Holten said he sent the threatening e-mail, had recently bought a .38-caliber handgun and that his apartment served as the meeting place for the Nevada Aryan nations chapter.

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INTERNATIONAL



Afghan government blames drug smugglers

BY PAUL HAVEN

Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Afghan government on Thursday blamed drug smugglers — not Taliban or al-Qaida fighters — for a bomb attack on interim leader Hamid Karzai's vice presidential running mate, saying the country's landmark elections are a threat to their business.

The attack Wednesday in the mountainous northeastern poppy-growing region of Badakhshan killed one person and wounded at least five others — including the former governor. Karzai's running mate, Ahmed Zia Massood, was unharmed.

"I don't want to name anybody, but the evidence shows that it was the work of drug smugglers, because this process (the election) is against their interests," said Interior Minister Ali Ahmad Jalali.

Afghanistan holds its first-ever direct presidential election on Saturday.

Karzai is widely expected to emerge the winner from a large field of candidates. On Wednesday, the last day of campaigning, two minor candidates dropped out and threw their support behind the president. Still, with 16 people left in the race, it remains to be seen whether Karzai will be able to reach the 50 percent majority necessary to avoid a runoff.

Karzai on Thursday praised his people for embracing the elections, despite continued violence against election workers and ordinary citizens. He acknowledged problems of rebel violence and warlord intimidation — even some being carried out in his name — but said Afghanistan could not wait forever to hold its vote.

"No election in the world is free of tension ... we all know that," Karzai said in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corp. "Afghanistan will not be an exception."

Karzai has made it a point in his recent campaign rallies to tell people to vote for him because they want to, not because someone has told them to.

The revelation of drug ties to the attack on Massood was illustrative of what might prove a time of transition in Afghanistan, from a largely rebel and al-Qaida-based threat, to one marked by the

threat of ever-more violent drug interests.

Heroin and opium production has boomed in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban regime, which had been surprisingly successful at enforcing a ban on cultivation. Officials say they believe the Taliban — now a rebel group — is benefiting from the drug trade, but warlords allied to the government are also heavily involved.

There has been speculation that drug traffickers might have had some hand in an August 28 car bombing outside a private U.S. security firm in Kabul, which killed 10 people — three of them American. The Americans were helping train anti-narcotics police. Taliban or al-Qaida militants also prime suspects in the blast.

U.N. surveys estimate Afghanistan accounted for three-quarters of the world's opium last year, and the trade brought in \$2.3 billion, more than half of the nation's gross domestic product.

New surveys suggest even more has been planted this year.

Northeastern Badakhshan, bordering Tajikistan, China and Pakistan, is far from the Taliban strongholds of southern and eastern Afghanistan. Its rugged terrain is covered by poppy fields, and the government has been unable to do much to curb production.

The attack was the third against Karzai and his political allies since campaigning began on Sept. 7. The president survived a rocket assault on his helicopter on Sept. 16 in the eastern city of Gardez, and one of his four current vice presidents survived a bomb attack four days later. The Taliban was suspected in those attacks.

The Taliban has kept up a drumbeat of violence, but so far has not succeeded in launching a high-impact assault that could derail the vote.

Jalali said Afghan forces had thwarted at least 20 attacks and arrested more than 100 people since the start of the campaign, but that the rebels had managed more than 60 rocket or bomb attacks during the period, most in the provinces.

He put the death toll at more than 60 — including 15 civilians, 19 security forces and 30 suspected rebels. In addition, six Afghan troops were taken hostage.

Turkey's future EU status sparks mixed reactions

By The Associated Press

STRASBOURG, France — The European Union has recommended Turkey be put on the path to full membership, a historic move that could push Europe's borders to the Middle East and stoked fears among Europeans wary of bringing a poor Muslim country into the prosperous bloc.

Reflecting widespread misgivings, the 30-member EU executive commission on Wednesday set tough conditions to prevent Turkey from backtracking on sweeping democratic and human rights reforms, prompting a sharp response from Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

"If the European Union declares itself to be a Christian club we should know this

clearly," he said.

In Brussels, European Commission President Romano Prodi said the recommendation to start entry talks was a "qualified yes" to Turkey, which has long sought to join the EU. "Our position is a positive one, but also a prudent, cautious one," he said.

French President Jacques Chirac said talks with Turkey could last 10-15 years "at a minimum."

It is now up to the EU's 25 leaders to approve the recommendation at a Dec. 17-18 summit in Brussels, paving the way for the start of entry talks with the overwhelmingly Muslim country of 71 million people as early as next year.

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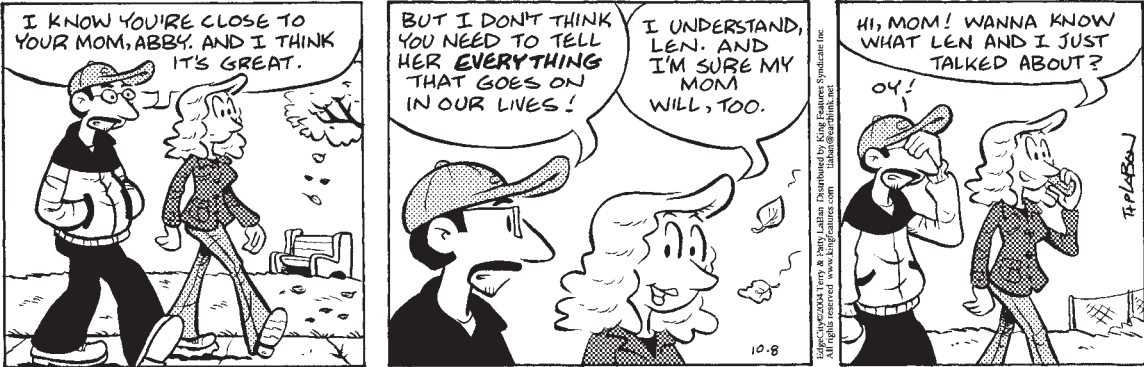


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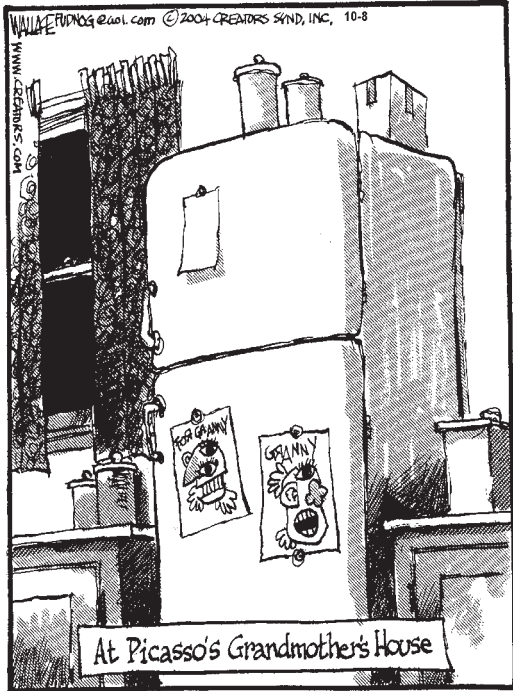
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- 46 John of "The Addams Family"

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- 19 "There ought to be —"
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- 25 Food fish
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- 35 Norse god
- 37 Movie pooch
- 39 Essay
- 41 Yale student
- 42 Bad review

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Lost & Found

\$1000.00 REWARD! for black DELL notebook computer. No questions asked. Lost 9/14 26th/Wilshire (310) 617-9641.

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 042205047 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Tsulutions, 13739 Valley Vista Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Brady Tsurutani, 13739 Valley Vista Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)8/26/2004. /s/ Brydy Tsurutani This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 8/26/2004. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq. Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 9/24/2004, 10/1/2004, 10/8/2004, 10/15/2004

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