

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Robert Holbrook leads city council candidates in campaign fundraising

But it may not measure up to slate-backed candidates

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Councilman Robert Holbrook leads all city council candidates in the amount of money contributed to his campaign and the amount of cash on hand.

Since July, Holbrook raised \$31,905, while Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown came in second with \$25,109 — \$10,000 of which comes from a self-loan — and challenger Abby Arnold came in a close third with \$22,548, according to campaign disclosures made this week.

During that same time, council candidates Matteo "Matt" Dinolfo raised \$22,548, Josefina Aranda accumulated \$4,907, Councilwoman Pam O'Connor raised \$2,075 and Chuck Allord raised \$2,050.

Council candidates Pro Se and Jerry Rubin failed to file campaign disclosure forms as of Thursday afternoon. The deadline to submit financial contributions was Monday.

Holbrook has \$27,914 on hand, spending more than \$8,000 on mass mailers, consultants and campaign supplies. McKeown has \$23,117 in his war chest and Abby Arnold has \$15,538 in hers.

But unlike McKeown, O'Connor and Arnold — who have been endorsed by the local political powerhouse Santa Monicans for Renters Rights — Holbrook lacks a slate endorsement, which can inject needed mass mailers, signs and precinct walkers

into a candidate's campaign.

SMRR has amassed \$40,584 in contributions since July and more than \$137,000 over the year. And the organization has more than \$88,000 on hand to support its candidates. It's unknown how much of that money will be used to support its six picks for city council and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District board, but traditionally the political organization spends thousands helping endorsed candidates get their messages out.

"There is only so much you can do with so many dollars, and I can only do what I can with the money I have raised."

— ROBERT HOLBROOK
Santa Monica city councilman/candidate

And unlike previous years, Holbrook — who is running for his fourth term on the city council — was not endorsed by the Police Officers Association.

The police union, along with those unions representing the city's firefighters

See FUNDRAISING, page 4



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

Local clergy and hotel workers stand together outside Santa Monica City Hall Thursday to show their support for the living wage ballot measure.

Bishop gives living wage campaign his blessing

Top religious leaders across the region rally in front of City Hall

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Representatives of the highest ranking religious figures across Southern California joined to support Santa Monica's proposed living wage ordinance Thursday.

Bishop Gabino Zavala of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles, representing Cardinal Roger Mahoney, blessed Santa Monica's living wage campaign.

"In my conversations with (Cardinal Mahoney), he has been very supportive of living wage laws," Bishop Zavala said, adding the Catholic Church views living wage laws as an extension of the gospel's message.

"Whenever there is an issue we feel we need to shine a light on to focus the gospel message, it's something we need to be involved in," he said.

Joining the bishop were Rabbi Steven Carr Reuben, president of the Southern California Board of Rabbis; Monsignor Tim Dyer, of the Nativity and St. Columbkille Roman Catholic Church; and Rev. Richard Gillett, minister of Social Justice of the Episcopal Diocese

of Los Angeles, among others.

Standing before the flag pole in front of Santa Monica City Hall, the religious leaders read passages from the Bible, the Torah and the Koran, which they believed supported the idea that workers should be treated with dignity.

According to Rabbi Carr, Jewish tradition over the past 3,000 years has been very supportive of the rights of workers.

"And it takes a living wage to support the dignity of all human beings," he said.

The Santa Monica City Council approved an ordinance last year requiring businesses near the coast that make more than \$5 million in annual revenue to pay their employees between \$10.50 and \$12.25 an hour, depending on whether health benefits are provided. But on Nov. 5, it will be the voters who will decide if the living wage ordinance, known as Measure JJ, should be enacted.

Santa Monica's proposed living wage law has drawn national attention because it's the first of its kind to regulate salaries paid by businesses with no direct financial ties to a municipality.

Political pundits believe Santa Monica's ordinance could act as a test case for more such wage laws nationwide, and each side of the issue is expected to raise and spend millions to con-

See LIVING WAGE, page 8

President Bush signs bill expanding recreation area

By The Associated Press

MALIBU — President Bush signed a bill into law that expands the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to 3,700 acres of public and private land at no cost to taxpayers.

This "is proof that natural settings and urban environments are not mutually exclusive," said Rep. Elton Gallegly, R-Oxnard, who co-authored the bill with Rep. Brad Sherman, D-Woodland Hills. The recreational area traverses both congressmen's districts.

The bill signed Wednesday increases park land for residents and protects natural habitat for 450 species, including the golden eagle, bobcats, badgers and mountain lions. The area is visited by 33 million people annually.

It is the National Park Service's largest urban holding.

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Read between the lines when dealing with the many people in your life. Just when you thought something was solid as a rock, you get a surprise. Don't get angry or frustrated. Eye the big picture. Realize that some things cannot be fixed. Tonight: Bring others together.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Understand what makes a key friend tick. Reconsider a financial commitment that might not be working for you. Avoid fighting, even though you feel out of sorts. The less you get in the middle of the problem, the happier you'll be. Tonight: Do something ultimately relaxing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You're all action right now. Others seek you out, but you might not like some of the suggestions that head your way. You seem destined to head out on your chosen path. Refuse to take someone personally right now. Tonight: Be with your best friend.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★ Review matters that are close to your heart. Consider what might be happening within a relationship. Being reactive certainly will not help. Tempers will often flare; you find that associates are difficult. Let go of unneeded structure in your life. Tonight: Work with a change of plans.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ What might feel very exciting in the morning easily could become a problem later on. Use caution with finances. A mistake could have long-term implications. Perhaps you are not getting all the facts and figures you need. Tonight: Opt for something relaxing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Unfortunately, it will not take much to get on your bad side right now. You also might be more sensitive than you're aware of. Use your dynamic energy and creativity to find a solution. Confusion surrounds a money matter. Avoid taking a risk. Tonight: Dance or laugh today's problems away.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ This morning you're poised and sure of yourself. By the afternoon, you could be shaking your head and wondering which way to go. Join the crowd! Refuse to take a risk. Also, you could discover that your family is out of sorts. Work with changes. Tonight: Run home and turn on your answering machine. Vanish!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Deal with finances early on. A misunderstanding or problem with an associate could stomp through your interactions. Understand what is necessary here to end a problem. Communication becomes stiff if you're not careful. Tonight: Swap war stories.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Get a head start on your day before a superior pushes you, setting you off in the wrong way. You might feel inclined to forget the here and now through frivolous spending; don't. The ramifications could be long-term if you're not careful. Tonight: Don't make anything too complicated.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You're personality plus. Fatigue marks your actions. Your fiery side emerges dealing with someone at a distance. You might have had enough. Mixed messages come from those in charge. Clearly, you're calling the shots. Tonight: Do what makes you happy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Carefully listen to someone who means a lot to you. You cannot always push yourself so hard. Your temper comes out with an associate or partner. Confusion surrounds a message. Tonight: Wander home and browse through a favorite store or two.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Quickly complete what you must this morning. Flak seems to follow your footsteps by. Others might be on edge; unfortunately, this ailment appears to be contagious. What appears like confusion might have much more to it. Tonight: Find your friends.

QUOTE of the DAY

"A lady is one who never shows her underwear unintentionally."

— Lillian Day

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1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401

PUBLISHER Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com	CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE Paula Christensen paula@smdp.com
EDITOR Carolyn Sackariason sack@smdp.com	MEDIA CONSULTANT William Pattnosh william@smdp.com
STAFF WRITER Andrew H. Fixmer andy@smdp.com	MEDIA CONSULTANT Freida Woody freida@smdp.com
NIGHT EDITOR Patrick McDonald PRMcDonald@aol.com	MEDIA CONSULTANT Ryan Ingram ryan@smdp.com
PRODUCTION MANAGER Del Pastrana del@smdp.com	CIRCULATION MANAGER Kiutzu Cruz kiutzu@smdp.com
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT Alejandro Cantarero alex@smdp.com	SPECIAL PROJECTS Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com
CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE Angela Downen angela@smdp.com	STAFF MASCOT Miya Furukawa ross@smdp.com

LOCAL

The QLine

Santa Monica is a circus of fun

Last week, Q-line asked, "What's so great about living in Santa Monica?" Here are your responses:

■ "Santa Monica is great. We have such great generous people here, the way they feed their citizens and poor people. They made a survey throughout the country, and 50% of people would pay more taxes to help the poor and the homeless. With religious groups it's almost 90%. And we here in Santa Monica are so beautiful to help the poor and the homeless. Especially Herb Katz and his kittens. They are more than generous. I couldn't believe they're Republicans either. God bless Santa Monica, and God bless the generous people."

■ "The Pacific Ocean and the Santa Monica Bike Path."

■ "The greatest aspect of living in Santa Monica is the fact that we have the world's best circus. It appears with the seven most famous clowns on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at City Hall. And we get to watch it on Channel 16, cable TV and listen to it on KCRW. So we are very blessed and fortunate in the fact that we have the world's most famous circus right here in Santa Monica."

■ "I've lived in Santa Monica some 70 years. If the City of Santa Monica wants to turn my home into an outdoor museum, then they should be, by ordinance, obligated to pay me the going price for my property with or without a house on the lot."

■ "It is the best climate, it has better schools, and the circus atmosphere of our city council, which is a zoo of flocks."

■ "Without a strong rent control policy and Santa Monica Renters Rights Organization to enforce it, I would not be able to respond to your question

today. I moved here 23 years ago as a young single mother. I worked hard and continued my education to provide a quality life for my family. I am thankful for Santa Monica Renters Rights that I still live in my apartment with my daughter. If it weren't for them, we would have been evicted a long time ago. I am thankful for Santa Monica City Council and it's great Mayor Michael Feinstein and Mayor Pro Temp Kevin McKeown. Without their intelligence and caring leadership, this city would be just another tourist beach town. I love Santa Monica, and I am thankful for its governing city council and the environmental leadership that it has brought to Southern California and the awareness that industry and people and the environment can live together in harmony. I am also thankful for the Santa Monica Daily Press, that is also what's so great about living here. That we have a Santa Monica Daily Press that will reflect the average persons views and newsworthy views in the paper."

■ "My wife has put it so simply over the last fifteen years we've been in Ocean Park: We live where people want to vacation. It's a beautiful, wonderful place Santa Monica, with a great set of resources almost on every level. I have a two-year-old boy, and we have such a great neighborhood. I am in the Third Street historic district and it's a wonderful place to live."

■ "What's the best thing about living in Santa Monica? The climate! The weather!"

■ "The Pacific Ocean is what's great about living in Santa Monica!"

■ "Thank you for the opportunity to say what I like about Santa Monica. One, the weather is great. You can walk



surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

The weekend will see a mix of swell for decent, fun surf at southwest and west facing breaks. Southwest ground swell is expected to fill in better today and carry over into Saturday.

Northwest wind swell helps size and shape at west facing spots.

Expect knee-to-waist-high surf at the majority of breaks, some chest level sets at standouts.

Conditions will be on the decline Sunday as ground swell fades. We should see a drop in size and consistency until Monday when a new swell is expected.

Today's Tides:		
High-	2:39 a.m.	3.50'
Low-	6:48 a.m.	2.84'
High-	1:16 p.m.	5.42'
Low-	9:15 p.m.	0.26'

Location	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Water Quality
County Line	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-2'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	A
Topanga	1-2'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	A
Breakwater	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	B
El Porto	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A

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or ride the bus anywhere you desire in town, you are close to whatever you may want to participate in such as entertainment, good restaurants, sports and so forth. Even though the homeless problem has gotten larger and we are a city really not able to cope with it, because it is more than just a local problem. It is bigger than Santa Monica, just as the living wage proposal is bigger than Santa Monica. We all must start thinking bigger and work for the change to be made more on a state and

federal level."

■ "It's like hell living in downtown Santa Monica. Even the weather stinks the last two years. It was once the best climate in the world before then. Expensive isn't the word. It's a disgrace. The cold weather is probably due to all the useless driving that is encouraged by all the stupid events put on and the hundreds of thousands of idiots lured down here for no good reason. No sensible, useful stores exist in Santa Monica. Thank you."

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LOCAL

District raises huge sums for parcel tax measure

FUNDRAISING, from page 1

and teachers, opted to endorse McKeown, Dinolfo and O'Connor.

The most recent campaign disclosure information from the POA, which is a registered state political action committee, was not available Thursday on the California Secretary of State's Web site. However, as of July, the group had raised \$85,154.

Holbrook acknowledges he cannot match the money raised by SMRR and the POA, which will be spent solely on their three endorsed candidates.

"I am concerned," he said. "There is only so much you can do with so many dollars, and I can only do what I can with the money I have raised."

In the race for three open seats on the school board, candidates also have been busy raising money for their campaigns.

School board member Brenda Gottfried led the pack with \$10,000, which she loaned to herself for the campaign. Her husband, Hugh Gottfried, said his wife is telling campaign contributors to write their checks to the "Yes on Measure EE" campaign.

Measure EE would raise parcel taxes to more than \$300 to give the school district badly needed funds to make up for a precipitous decline in state funding.

School board candidate Oscar de la Torre raised \$6,936 over the past three months, and he has spent under \$3,000, leaving him with \$3,963 on hand.

Emily Bloomfield raised \$5,595 since July for her school board campaign, bringing the total amount raised by her over the year to \$11,240.

Over the past three months, school board president Julia Brownley raised more than \$4,000 for her campaign, and she still has a little under \$2,000 left.

Shane McLoud, who loaned himself \$1,400, has raised \$4,000 for his campaign and he has more than \$3,000 remaining.

Bloomfield, Brownley and de la Torre have all been endorsed by SMRR.

The Committee for Excellence in Education, which is running the "Yes on Measure EE" campaign, has raised in excess of \$63,000, and the group still has more than \$27,474 on hand.

The campaign faces no organized opposition, but supporters fear the measure may not get the needed two-thirds margin of victory required to raise taxes because many residents are facing economic hardships.

Because of that, supporters say the school district will have to run a very aggressive campaign to convince voters to tax themselves.

CityTV Taping Brief Schedule

By Daily Press staff

Due to accessibility concerns, the venue for CityTV's taping of five Santa Monica ballot measure programs, moderated by the Center for Governmental Studies, on Sunday, October 13 beginning at 1:00 p.m. has been changed from the Powerhouse Theater to the Ken Edwards Center, 1527 Fourth Street.

The public is invited to attend the tapings and be a part of the studio audience. Program schedules are available at Santa Monica libraries and at the web site smvote.org. The following schedule of program tapings and speakers has not changed:

SHOW #1 — TAPING AT 1 P.M.

Measure FF (Rent Control Evictions) and Measure GG (Rent Control Board compensation)

MEASURE FF RENT CONTROL EVICTIONS

■ VOTE YES ON FF
Andrew Zanger, tenant attorney

■ VOTE NO ON FF
Mr. Rosario Perry, fellow tenant

MEASURE GG RENT CONTROL BOARD COMPENSATION

■ VOTE YES ON GG
Dennis Zane, founder/co-chair
Santa Monicans for Renters Rights
and former mayor

■ VOTE NO ON GG
Mr. James L. Jacobson
Tenant/property management consultant

SHOW #2 — TAPING AT 2:30 P.M.

Measure II (Convert Rental to Condominiums) and Measure KK (TORCA)

MEASURE II RENTAL PROPERTY CONVERSION

■ VOTE YES ON II
Tom Farmer
Santa Monica resident protection and homeownership charter amendment (SMRPH)

■ VOTE NO ON II
Santa Monica Councilmember Ken Genser
MEASURE KK — TORCA

■ VOTE YES ON KK
Santa Monica Councilmember Ken Genser

■ VOTE NO ON KK
Carl Lambert, housing provider

SHOW #3 — TAPING AT 4 P.M.

MEASURE EE (PARCEL TAX)

■ VOTE YES ON EE
Ralph Mechur
President, Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation

■ VOTE NO ON EE
Don Gray, Santa Monica resident

SHOW #4 — TAPING AT 5:30 P.M.

MEASURE JJ (LIVING WAGE)

■ VOTE YES ON JJ
Rabbi Neil Comess-Daniels
President, Santa Monica Bay Interfaith Council

■ VOTE NO ON JJ
Mr. Tom Larmore
Board Member, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce

SHOW #5: — TAPING AT 7 P.M.

MEASURE HH (VERITAS)

■ VOTE YES ON HH
Paul DeSantis, attorney/affordable housing advocate

■ VOTE NO ON HH
Santa Monica Mayor Michael Feinstein

ENTERTAINMENT



Actor Dennis Hopper's got plenty going on late in life

BY SEAN DALY

Special to the Daily Press

WEST HOLLYWOOD — Dennis Hopper is in a surprisingly happy mood for someone who has been up since 5:30 a.m. His day began with a pre-dawn outing to Venice Beach, where 12-year-old son Henry likes to ride a few waves before heading off to school. Eleven hours later, the silver-haired and famously reclusive 66-year-old star of "Easy Rider," "Speed" and "Apocalypse Now" is relaxing in a private dining room at Maggiano's Italian Restaurant and joking about what would happen if he directed a remake of his 1995 box office bomb "Water World."

"I'd do it all on land," he laughs, fanning away the smoke from a freshly lit cigar.

Credit Hopper's high spirits to a double shot of good news from the homefront: "I am having my first grandchild in the next few days," he beams. "And my wife is due (with Hopper's fourth child, their first together) in April."

Victoria Duffy is Hopper's fifth bride. The couple married at Boston's Old South Church in December 1995.

"The new baby is certainly going to fulfill my wife," he says. "She is much younger than I am (35, to be exact) and she has been an incredible stepmother to my son since he was one year old."

Henry's mother is ballet dancer Katherine La Nasa, Hopper's fourth wife. The actor also was married to author Brooke Hayward, therapist and former actress Daria Halpern and singer Michelle Phillips of The Mamas & The Papas.

Hopper admits that his free-spirited, counter-culture lifestyle in the 60s and 70s cost him a close relationship with his older children: Marin, 41, and Ruthanna, 28.

"My daughters were taken away from me, so I didn't really get to see them for a great deal of time while they were growing up," he remembers. "My oldest daughter was eight when I was divorced from her mother. And my younger daughter was three when I was divorced from her mother. This will be a wonderful experience because I will be with my wife."

But will the new additions to Hopper's family take a toll on his somewhat frantic movie making schedule?

"I sure hope not ... I've got to feed them some way," he quips.

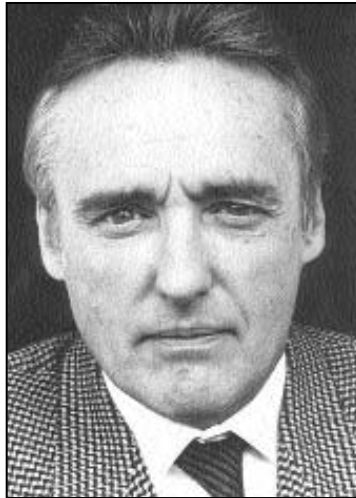
Since making his big screen debut in "Rebel Without A Cause," Hopper has appeared in more than 150 feature films and television shows. The latest to arrive in theaters is "Knockaround Guys," a mob comedy about a group of New York City gangsters (Barry Pepper, Andrew Davoli, Vin Diesel) who flex their muscles in small town America in hopes of recovering a missing bag of cash.

"In a weird way this is as much a western as it is a gangster film," says writer-director Brian Koppelman. "I mean, these guys end up in the American West. And there is a long tall sheriff in this small town in Montana with whom they wind up in a showdown. So it's really a cross pollination of genres."

The film was completed more than two years ago and temporarily shelved by U.S. distributor New Line Cinema.

"I guess they were waiting for Vin Diesel to become a star," Hopper says.

Hopper plays Mob boss Benny Chains, a character he assures "certainly wasn't influ-



Dennis Hopper

enced by 'The Sopranos.'" He is, however, a big fan of the cable TV series and its star James Gandolfini. The two actors starred together in the 1993 action flick "True Romance." "He's the one that cuts my hand and pours whiskey in it," Hopper recalls. "He's the one that beats up Christian Slater."

"True Romance" was one of only a handful of major studio movies for Hopper, who was once blacklisted in Hollywood after a falling out with Louis B. Mayer, head of MGM studios.

"I've had a tough time keeping (my career) alive," he admits. "I've had to work outside the industry and mainly do independent movies. If I hadn't directed 'Easy Rider' and gotten that kind of notoriety, I'd be in really big trouble."

The way Hopper explains it: "Stars are as good as a bank note. You go to the bank with a star and you get your money. (Studios) are not gonna get their money going to the bank with me."

But advertisers are. In fact, Hopper is cleaning up on Madison Avenue thanks to high-profile commercial spots for Broadway, Diners Club and The Gap. But his recent "Easy Rider" theme spots for Lincoln Mercury have some of Hopper's fans calling him a "sell out."

His reaction? "I drive a very nice car, my family lives well ... otherwise I wouldn't be doing it."

An only child, Hopper was born in Dodge City, Kan., in May, 1937. As a child, he was told that his father, Jay, was killed in a munitions accident while training for World War II. Years later he learned that that was only a cover for his father's intelligence work in China during the war. Reunited, his family moved to San Diego in 1950, where Hopper got his show business start playing an urchin in a stage production of "A Christmas Carol."

"My life is really about creating," he says. "If I can't act or direct a movie, I'll take a photograph or I'll paint a painting. That's what I do."

And there is one other thing he is passionate about: Golf.

"It gets me out of the house a couple of times each week," he admits. "I started playing when I got sober 20 years ago. I never took any lessons. I'm really a hack. I shoot between 87 and 92 on a regular basis, which is OK ... But I was with Jack Nicholson one day when he shot a 64."

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OPINION

LETTERS

VERITAS is representative government

Editor:

I found it interesting that Joanne Leavitt, of the League of Women Voters, Santa Monica, would describe the VERITAS initiative as bogus. She goes on to basically criticize one provision within VERITAS — term limits — and states that the National League of Women Voters historically has said term limits are bad. OK. “Bad” I understand, but bogus? That’s an overly charged word connoting something fraudulent, illegal, a sham, which it’s not. Term limits have been a traditional piece of reformist legislation since George Washington first brought it up. Bogus, indeed.

Welcome to the beginning of the VERITAS-bashing rhetoric that will be coming down the pike from the powers that be. You see, the VERITAS proposition is the only issue or person on the November ballot that’s a threat to the incumbents and the SMRR policy we’ve lived under for over 20 years. Maybe VERITAS isn’t perfect, but at least it’s a way to start to revitalize our stagnating city government dominated by a one-party political machine.

Let’s face it. What makes democracy work is representational government and checks and balances among its three levels; legislative, executive, judicial. This city has none of that. We elect our city council people at large. That means our diverse neighborhoods are not guaranteed to have an individual voice. VERITAS provides for district-wide elected representation. That means council people would have to live within one of the seven districts of Santa Monica. Would it be bad for north of Montana to have a city council person and neighbor whom they could turn to in their fight to stop historic designations?

Would it be bad for south of Pico to have a city council person/ally with to discuss racial profiling in the schools? Would it be bad for the downtown business interests to have a dedicated voice to air their frustration about urban blight? Would it be a bogus thing for us to have an executive branch of government, namely the chance to elect a real mayor rather than have the city council appoint one of their own?

Hey, even Berkeley has district-wide representation and elects its own mayor. They still have rent control. They haven’t sold out.

Mark my words, in the coming weeks you will see more letters like Ms. Leavitt’s. They will say VERITAS is bogus. District representation balkanizes the city. They will claim electing a mayor will be obstructionary to getting council business done. They will brand every VERITAS supporter as an elitist, a developer, a conservative, an evildoer. But they’re not. They’re just Santa Monicans who want a change in city government. And those already in power will use any words they can to stop this machine-busting proposition.

And if term limits are wrong as Ms. Leavitt claims, with checks and balance in effect we can reform that element of VERITAS in another proposition down the road. That’s what America does best — change. I urge you all to vote YES on VERITAS. Even those in the League of Women Voters. Or is that venerable, reformist organization also AGAINST representational government?

Larry Mollin
Santa Monica

The good times are over

Editor:

Let’s just stop it. Please!

No more pretense. No more beating around the bush. No more political correctness. Let’s just get it out there for everyone to hear: The people who deserve to live in Santa Monica because they either own their own ridiculously overpriced priced condo or house, or because they are paying a ridiculously overpriced rental rate DON’T WANT TO BE SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT EARNED THE RIGHT TO LIVE IN SUCH AN EXPENSIVE AREA.

They don’t want to live in million-dollar plus condos and homes that are situated next to run down, 70s-era eyesores filled with people whose idea of work is to dig through their neighbor’s garbage and then turn around and sell it at their weekly garage sale. They don’t want to come home to their market-rate-rented apartment after working a 60-hour week to find their neighbor’s “rent-control-made-it-possible” 2002 Porsche parked in their parking space (because there is no parking to be found on the streets). And, they don’t want to walk, run, nor bike through the gauntlet of homeless people as they move throughout their community.

There. The dirty little secret is out.

The truth is that there is nothing cathartic about forcing (yes, forcing) different classes of people to live side by side. It simply heightens (via proximity) the resentments that already exist. The reason why most people move to the westside and choose not to live in South Central, East L.A. or any number of other “high crime” areas is because THEY DON’T HAVE TO. They want to live alongside people with similar goals, values, social manners and can afford to do so. Is there really anything wrong with that?

Whether you like it or not, Santa Monica, you’re going to have to deal with it. The demographics are changing rapidly. The boomers are here. The hardworking, upper-middle class are here. Their kids are here. Their mortgages are here. Their cars are here (check that, one car and two SUVs). And, they are not going anywhere anytime soon. Sure, you could continue to bring in more homeless, more subsidized housing projects, more regulations on property owners, in order to scare them away. But, it’s not likely to work since these people are growing in numbers, have large financial interests at stakes and will eventually say, via their votes, “I’m mad as hell and I’m not going to take it anymore!”

Oh, a heads up for those of you who have lived in a Santa Monica apartment for any part of the past 30, rent-controlled years — time is up, the party’s over. Go back to school, get a better paying job, marry someone with money, whatever. But realize that unless you join the ranks of the upper-middle class, you will not be welcome to live here anymore. It’s nothing personal mind you. Besides, I hear Culver City is very nice.

I know the truth hurts. I feel your pain, Santa Monica, but the 60s are over. You won some battles, but you are going to lose the war!

Tony Street
Santa Monica

Commit the crime, do time? Not in L.A. County



AS I SEE IT

By Bill Bauer

In Santa Monica — as in all of L.A. County — the old adage “commit the crime, do the time” doesn’t apply anymore.

Scofflaws and lawbreakers are receiving a “gold” pass from L.A. County Sheriff Lee Baca, who oversees county jail facilities, to keep them out of jail.

Baca’s unwillingness to incarcerate even chronic misdemeanor lawbreakers has caused a crisis in law enforcement all over the county. Only felony suspects go to jail under current county policy. Other offenders walk free.

In the case of Santa Monica’s vagrants and transients, it explains the arrogance of some of our street people. They know they can act with impunity and tell both us and the police to “go f*** ourselves.”

Minor infractions of the law (misdemeanors) such as possession of an open alcohol container in public, possession of a “stolen” shopping cart, sleeping in closed

public parks, public intoxication, public urination and even minor traffic violations usually result in a citation, or ticket, issued to the offender by a sworn police officer.

The citation requires payment of a nominal bail and promise of a court appearance. However, most transients blow off the citation because they neither post bail or appear. As a result, a bench warrant is issued and bail increases to \$278 or more.

The warrant also notifies law enforcement that a person did not show in court and, if encountered, bail must be posted or the person can be held in jail until the next court (business) day to insure his/her court appearance. If a person has multiple warrants or has failed to appear previously, bails of \$5,000, \$10,000 or more may be required. But, it still doesn’t make any difference.

The L.A. County Jail system (Santa Monica’s jail is only a temporary lockup) will not take in persons with misdemeanor charges that have gone to warrant — no matter the amount of bail due or number of warrants issued. So drunks, trespassers or other violators can collect numerous citations, not pay them and never go to jail.

They stay on the streets knowing that they can keep doing whatever they want without penalty.

Compounding the problem is real or faked illnesses. Because of liability issues, jails will not take in a misdemeanor offenders who claim illness. Police officers routinely ask lawbreakers they encounter on the street if they have medical problems. If the person states he or she has a disease or medical condition, police usually cut them loose on the spot, even if they’re chronic offenders with warrants.

Misdemeanor lawbreakers avoid incarceration and never have their day in court. Consequently, they’re also excluded from governmental programs that might aid in their recovery.

Most transients suffer from mental and physical conditions as a result of their self-abuse. So, because access to help is severely curtailed, the downward spiral continues, unabated — and this is a tragedy.

Vagrants and misdemeanor lawbreakers all over Los Angeles County know that. “I have a medical condition” is an easy ticket to stay on the streets and avoid responsibility for their actions, as well as treatment options.

All of this applies to traffic scofflaws, too. Those who ignore traffic citations also are most likely to be unlicensed. Irresponsible and unconcerned about penalties, these driv-

ers break the law until they cause an accident or are arrested for a felony. Then, their day of reckoning finally comes.

Our law and order system is breaking down and for this we should all be afraid. L.A. County is on the verge of anarchy and the County Board of Supervisors act as if everything is hunky-dory — which speaks volumes about how badly this county malfunctions.

While Sheriff Baca hosts “homeless summits” in downtown Los Angeles for show, his policies wreak havoc with law enforcement county-wide. Creative solutions to jail overcrowding and budget restrictions such as the “tent city” created by an Arizona sheriff to house nonviolent offenders is apparently beyond Baca’s grasp.

How about our own political leadership? I’m willing to bet that not one employee or politician (excluding police brass) in City Hall has demanded the county fund and reinstitute the means to make all lawbreakers and scofflaws accountable. In our war to end homelessness, this should be priority number one.

Bill Bauer is a 25-year Santa Monica resident and a freelance writer.

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



Big money won't stop the living wage campaign

(Editor's note: The city council passed an ordinance last July requiring businesses in the coastal zone that generate more than \$5 million in annual revenue to pay their employees up to \$12.25 an hour. Measure JJ asks voters to approve the measure on Nov. 5. The Daily Press welcomes opinion submissions on both sides of the issue.)

Rina Cortez can't rely on \$50,000 campaign checks to help her secure a living wage.

Cortez — a housekeeper at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel who earns \$8.25 an hour after 12 years on the job, with no vacation, no sick leave and no vacation — is counting on a massive community effort to protect the living wage law she needs to pull her family out of poverty.

That effort is now underway, testing once again whether the city's tradition of grassroots activism can hold out against corporate attempts to dominate local politics.

This week's campaign finance statements confirm what many people in Santa Monica already know — the hotel industry is spending a lot of money to stop Measure JJ, the living wage ordinance. Since July, opponents of the living wage have raised more than 10 times as much as supporters, with more than 90

percent coming from the hotel industry.

Over the last three months, beach hotels have contributed nearly \$250,000 to the No on JJ campaign. All told, the hotel industry has now spent a staggering \$1.8 million opposing the living wage.

Among the major contributors this quarter was the Radisson Huntley Hotel, where room attendants earn \$8.75 an hour and dishwashers are paid \$7.50, both without family health benefits. Radisson room attendants in San Francisco make 50 percent more, and in New York City their wages are 100 percent higher — even though room prices in all three cities are comparable.

Also among the large donors was the Hilton Corporation, which operates Doubletree Guest Suites, where longtime employees such as housekeeper Flora Andrade go without health insurance for themselves or their kids. If she worked for a Hilton Hotel in San Francisco or New York, Flora would have free family health benefits and a wage that would keep her and her children out of poverty.

Where is all the hotel money going? Most is being spent on negative mail pieces. These mailers say a lot of things, but they have only one goal: To make

sure that the large beach hotels won't have to pay their workers a living wage. That's the bottom line.

Yet the beach hotels can well afford to pay a fair wage — a fact confirmed by the city-commissioned living wage study. If there was any doubt, it should be put to rest by an endorsement letter for Measure JJ released this week. The letter was signed by 119 economists from top universities in the U.S. as well as Europe after they reviewed the study and the provisions of the living wage law.

In offering their endorsement, the economists note that Measure JJ strives to minimize any negative impact by limiting its application to large businesses and including a hardship exemption.

They also emphasize the effectiveness of living wage laws in fighting poverty. "As economists, we believe that living wage legislation is an important tool for improving the living standards of working Americans," says the letter. "Research has shown that these laws can reduce poverty by providing higher pay to the working poor."

Another group made its voice heard this week as well — the religious community. Southern California's top

Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders joined with local clergy in endorsing Measure JJ.

In a letter signed by Los Angeles Roman Catholic Bishop Gabino Zavala, Southern California Board of Rabbis President Steven Carr Reuben and Los Angeles Episcopal Bishop Jon J. Bruno, among others, the leaders state, "In this historic moment in which 43 percent of working families in Los Angeles County cannot meet basic expenses, we believe that this kind of legislation is a necessary response to a true crisis."

Economists, religious leaders, educators, elected officials, community groups all agree that Measure JJ is a good law that balances the interests of workers and business.

Of course, that's not what you'll read on the anti-living wage mailers that keep coming to your home. Just remember who's paying for them.

And on Nov. 5, remember to vote for the people who really need your support — the hard-working women and men who have helped make Santa Monica a world-class tourism destination.

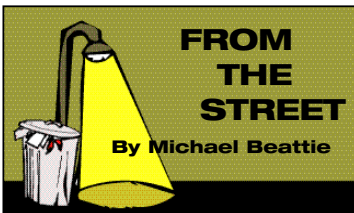
Vote yes on Measure JJ.

Julie Lopez Dad is president of the Santa Monica Democratic Club.

Guest Commentary

By Julie Lopez Dad

Homelessness could be solved by community willingness



What is the price of a human soul? What price do we put on compassion towards our fellow man? How much money do we need to make before we are willing to help those less fortunate than ourselves? Is it true, as the saying goes, "The true measure of a society can be judged on how they treat their poor?"

Poverty in the world today takes many forms and wears many guises. Frequently while watching the television or reading the paper, we see images and hear many stories about the poor people in other countries. While watching these ads on TV, I can't help but feel bad for those who are in that situation.

While the images and stories may bring about a sense of compassion in some, it is often fleeting, and as soon as they are not right in front of our face, we soon forget about them just as fast as we can click the remote. That is not to say that everyone falls into this category. Some of us truly care and are willing to do something about it.

Part of the problem lies in being led to believe that this only happens in poor, third world countries that may be nothing

more to us than places we learned about in grade school geography. We are unwilling or unable to admit or believe that this could ever happen in a rich and powerful country like America.

Wake up people! This is going on right outside your front door (literally in some of your cases)! Homelessness in America is happening at an alarming rate and as the economy declines, it is only going to get worse not better.

The decision that the Santa Monica City Council made on Oct. 8 answers that question. They decided that business and money take precedence over the basic human rights of poor people. Ironically, the people who will be most affected by these ordinances will be the homeowners and renters outside of the demilitarized zone of Wilshire to Pico and from Ocean to Lincoln. Where do you think that people are going to sleep? Let me put it to you this way; make sure you check behind your car before you leave for your tax-paying job in the morning!

While Mayor Mike Feinstein was brought to tears and had to pause during his turn, my respect for him grew by the minute. He called this draconian ordinance what it really is. While his fellow council members pretended that it was a needed health issue to protect the poor who eat there, he pointed out that there was no evidence to support that claim because no one was getting sick at these food lines. And because it was purposely done right before election time, it was just a disguised plan to rid this city of poor people. The mayor looked ashamed and

disgusted to be sitting with the rest of the city council, with the exception of Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown.

Never in my wildest imagination did I ever think this or any other city would make it a criminal offense punishable by up to six months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine for feeding poor people or sleeping in a doorway in front of a closed business. This is just absurd.

Don't misunderstand me; I believe that the Bayside District and others do have legitimate complaints and that these problems need to be addressed. I just do not think attacking the food sources of poor people is the answer. Food and sleep are basic needs of human beings. To regulate that is criminal.

Arguing about who's right and who's wrong solves nothing. The business community has a power that no social service agency does. They have the power to create JOBS! In my own experience, there is nothing more important than helping someone feel better about themselves and to become a productive, taxpaying, dignified member of society...to be self-sufficient.

Put your money where your mouth is. Instead of saying that nothing works and there's nothing we can do, this is our last hope to suppress the behavior of a few individuals who may or may not even be homeless. Consider a partnership with the Santa Monica Homeless Shelter (SAMOSHEL). The facility is full of people that have taken the first step towards self-sufficiency by deciding to change their lives. We are drug- and alcohol-free, have a variety of job skills and, most

important, the willingness to work.

Business leaders could hire a few people from the shelter every six months, provide them with the necessary skills to do the job while paying them a low wage. After six months, the business could pay them more if they are getting good results. If this is approached in the right manner, the Workers Investment Act (WIA) could even be applied to further save your business money and increase profits by compensating you for up to half the salary for up to six months while in training.

The benefits to you and the rest of the community would be economic growth, less drug and alcohol abuse, rental property would increase and there may be less poor and homeless people hanging around your doorsteps. All it takes is you to be willing to give someone a chance. Who knows? You might even have an epiphany and come to understand how hard it can really be to dig yourselves out of a situation that is easy to lose hope in.

The only way things are going to get accomplished is by cooperation not subjugation. Call the new executive director of SAMOSHEL, Mr. Theodore Dues (310) 581-9825. Take a tour, meet some of the clients and find out what's really going on. All it takes is willingness to try.

(Note to City Council: That will be \$40,000. You no longer need to waste any more money on studies about what you can do to help poor people become self-sufficient!)

Michael Beattie is homeless and living at SAMOSHEL.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

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NATIONAL



Drug czar calls marijuana initiative 'stupid, insulting'

BY SANDY YANG
Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — The federal drug czar on Wednesday denounced a proposition on Arizona's Nov. 5 ballot that would decriminalize possession of small amounts of marijuana, calling it a "stupid, insulting con."

John P. Walters joined Democratic gubernatorial candidate Janet Napolitano and GOP gubernatorial candidate Matt Salmon at a town hall meeting to discuss the harmful effects of drug legalization.

"You've got to ask yourself, 'Is the community better off with more drugs?'" Walters, head of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, told a group of about 150 senior citizens and children.

"We know that marijuana is the single largest source of dependency," he said. "We know that it is responsible for 20 percent of accidents on the road today. How many billions of dollars in liability is Arizona opening itself up to down the line?"

If passed, Proposition 203 would decriminalize the possession of up to two ounces of marijuana for personal use. Anyone caught with that amount would be fined \$250 for each of the first and second offenses, \$750 for a third or subsequent offense within two years.

"We know that it is responsible for 20 percent of accidents on the road today. How many billions of dollars in liability is Arizona opening itself up to down the line?"

— JOHN P. WALTERS
Office of National Drug Control Policy, director

Proposition 203 would also require the Department of Public Safety to provide free marijuana to people with a written recommendation from a physician. The marijuana would be provided from confiscated contraband.

People with such recommendations would be entitled to possess up to 2 ounces of marijuana.

Phoenix resident Carolyn Barker, 60, attended the meeting because she was angered at comments that Walters made on the radio earlier in the day.

"I had a friend with cancer and it helped him eat," Barker said. "He got marijuana illegally and he could have gotten caught."

Walters, who coordinates federal drug programs and spending, said no scientific data proves marijuana is effective as medicine. He compared the drug's healing potential to snake oil and cigarettes.

"I wish it were medicine," Walters said. "But my responsibility is to tell the truth. And that truth is based on science, not sick people's experiences, which, however sincere, does not prove medical efficaciousness."

Salmon said that opposing Proposition 203 would protect Arizona's children.

"I have four children," he said. "I don't want to open the door and send the message that using marijuana is OK."

Napolitano, Arizona's attorney general, also said she opposes the initiative and cited increased homicides linked to drug trafficking.

"To say this is a benign issue with no great social consequences doesn't match the reality," she said.

Airlines getting record guarantees to serve Colorado towns

By The Associated Press

CRESTED BUTTE, Colo. — Airlines are getting record amounts of cash guarantees this season to serve ski towns in the nation's No. 1 ski state.

If seats aren't filled, the flight sponsors pay up.

Much of the money, which used to come entirely from resorts, now is being provided by communities and local businesses.

"We've got a whole pile of pledges, some are \$100 and some are \$1,000. Everyone is at the table and pitching in," said Ralph Butts, head of the Gunnison Valley Economic Development Corp.

The group spent the summer knocking on Gunnison County doors to raise \$425,000 of the \$650,000 needed to assure daily flights into the airport, which serves Crested Butte.

The idea of subsidizing airline flights was hatched by Crested Butte Mountain Resort founder Ralph Walton, whose 1985 deal with American Airlines ended last sea-

son. The first two seasons, before the airport expanded to accommodate larger jets, cost Walton \$1.2 million.

Beginning in mid-December, United Airlines will offer five daily flights out of Denver - for a guarantee of \$150,000 - and Continental Airlines is offering daily flights out of Houston - for a guarantee of \$500,000.

In the communities around Telluride, contributions from governments and businesses have skyrocketed. The city of Montrose is tripling last year's contribution with a promise of \$150,000. The towns of Telluride and Mountain Village are pledging \$240,000 each. Real estate agents in Telluride have promised almost \$25,000.

"The perception has become clear that it takes more of a partnership to have a healthy airline program, which in turn, benefits everyone in the community," said Michelle Gottlieb, executive director of the Montrose Chamber of Commerce.

"To ensure a strong economic future in our city, we must be easily accessed," said Erica Lewis, Montrose city councilwoman.

Telluride ski resort is pledging 25 percent of the total airline guarantee.

This season, the airports in Telluride and Montrose, which can handle jets, will host 117 flights a week, down from 121 last season. That includes daily flights from Dallas and Houston, Saturday flights from Chicago and Newark, N.J., daily flights from Denver and daily service from Phoenix.

In Steamboat, local municipalities and businesses are pledging \$850,000 of a \$2.1 million guarantee program. Last season, the Steamboat community guaranteed \$2.25 million but paid only \$1.6 million.

Vail Resorts is guaranteeing \$10 million - same as last season - for flights going into Eagle County Airport.

Aspen is the only destination resort that has not had to pay flight guarantees.

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NATIONAL

Iraq resolution passed

BY TOM RAUM

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The House voted 296-133 Thursday to give President Bush the broad authority he sought to use military force against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein — with or without U.N. support. The Senate was poised to do the same and to deliver Bush a major national security policy victory.

"The House of Representatives has spoken clearly to the world and to the United Nations Security Council: The gathering threat of Iraq must be confronted fully and finally," Bush said immediately after the vote.

While Bush hailed the strong showing, a majority of House Democrats voted against the resolution — even though their leader, Dick Gephardt of Missouri, was one of its authors.

"The issue is how to best protect America. And I believe this resolution does that," Gephardt said.

The Senate was working on the same resolution, voting 75-25 to choke off delaying tactics and move toward a final vote — expected late Thursday. It voted down a series of efforts to weaken or block the resolution, as did the House. Senate leaders of both parties predicted easy passage.

The administration got a big boost when Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle announced he was putting aside his misgivings to support the president.

"I believe it is important for America to speak with one voice," said Daschle, D-S.D. "It is neither a Democratic resolution nor a Republican resolution. It is now a statement of American resolve and values."

But some influential Democrats remained opposed.

"The power to declare war is the most solemn responsibility given to Congress by the Constitution," said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass. "We must not delegate that responsibility to the president in advance."

The resolution gives the president wide latitude in defending the United States against the "continuing threat" posed by Baghdad. In a concession to Democrats, it encourages that all diplomatic means be exhausted before force is used, and requires reports to Congress every 60 days once action is taken.

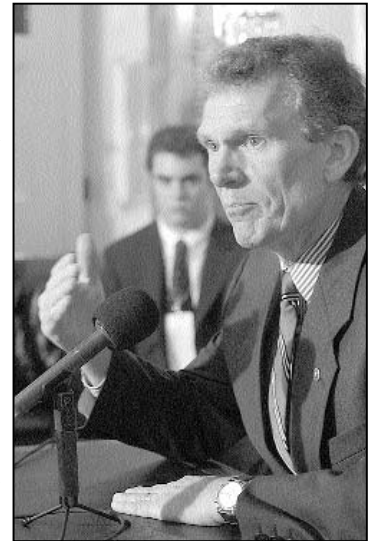
Bush has said he hopes to work with the United Nations, but wanted congressional authority to act independently if necessary. The strong congressional backing he was receiving could bolster U.S. efforts before the U.N. Security Council.

At the State Department, spokesman Richard Boucher said "talks are progressing" at the Security Council on wording of a strong new resolution to disarm Iraq that all five-veto holding permanent members can support. The United States and Britain continues to encounter resistance from France, Russia and China.

The president telephoned Gephardt and House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., to thank them for the vote, then told reporters at a hastily arranged news conference:

"Today's vote ... sends a clear message to the Iraqi regime: You must disarm and comply with all existing U.N. resolutions or (you) will be forced to comply. There are no other options for the Iraqi regime. There can be no negotiations. The days of Iraq acting as an outlaw state are coming to an end," the president said.

The war resolution comes nearly 11 years after Congress voted to give Bush's



Dennis Cook/Associated Press

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., talks to reporters on Capitol Hill Thursday after announcing he will support President Bush on a resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq.

father similar powers to confront Saddam. In the earlier instance, however, an international coalition was already in place to drive Iraqi invaders out of Kuwait. The current Bush administration has faced resistance from allies in its efforts to form a similar international coalition.

In the House, 126 of the chamber's 208 Democrats voted against the war resolution.

Still, that was stronger support than the first President Bush received in 1991 when the House voted 250-183 to authorize force against Iraq.

House Democrats urged the president to work closely with the United Nations before going it alone against Iraq. "Completely bypassing the U.N. would set a dangerous precedent that would undoubtedly be used by other countries in the future to our and the world's detriment," said Gephardt.

The House earlier rejected, by 270-155, the main challenge to the White House-backed resolution, a proposal backed by a majority of Democrats that obliged the president to return to Congress for a second vote on the use of American force against Iraq after he decides that cooperative efforts with the United Nations are futile.

Rep. John Spratt, D-S.C., said that without a multilateral approach, "this will be the United States versus Iraq and in some quarters the U.S. versus the Arab and the Muslim world."

The Senate also turned aside efforts to put more checks on the president's war-making authority. It rejected, 75-24, a proposal by Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin, D-Mich., that was similar to the Spratt proposal in the House.

On the key 75-25 Senate vote to draw debate to a close, 28 Democrats joined 47 Republicans in voting for the measure. Only two Republicans voted against it: Lincoln Chaffee of Rhode Island and Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania.

Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., a former majority leader, continued to wage what he conceded was a losing battle to block the resolution, which he called "a blank check that we're giving the president."

INTERNATIONAL



New Al-Qaida message focuses on war with Iraq

BY DAFNA LINZER

Associated Press Writer

After a summer of silence, al-Qaida leaders are back on the Mideast air waves, framing their latest anti-American message around a possible war with Iraq.

Experts say the terrorist network is on a renewed public relations campaign aimed at keeping itself in the public eye and associated with events which could turn the Arab public against the United States.

U.S. counterterrorism officials believe the tapes — coinciding with the one-year anniversary of the war in Afghanistan — are a sign of al-Qaida's leadership asserting it is still viable to its rank-and-file followers.

The recent taped statements prompted the FBI to issue a new warning to state and local law enforcement agencies that a new al-Qaida attack on the United States has been approved by the terror network's leadership. But the agency said it did not have any specific information detailing where and when an attack may occur.

Last month, the al-Jazeera network aired voice recordings of Osama bin Laden and top al-Qaida operatives. The CIA authenticated bin Laden's voice, but officials said the recordings probably weren't made recently.

U.S. officials have not verified bin Laden's whereabouts this year and say a previously aired videotape of him having dinner with his associates in early November in Afghanistan is the last absolutely certain sign he was alive.

Those thought to be alive because of their recent recordings include bin Laden's No. 2, Ayman al-Zawahri, and his spokesman Sulaiman Abu Ghaith.

A U.S. official said this week that a recent recording from al-Zawahri appears to be genuine and made in the last few weeks.

The recording, obtained by Associated Press Television News, was produced by a shadowy production company behind previous al-Qaida videotape. But the format of the al-Zawahri recording is entirely different from the videos released in April which were crude, 30-minute compilations of violent images strung together with Quranic verses and old footage of bin Laden.

The latest disc features snapshots of al-Zawahri and news footage of anti-

American protests while he is heard answering an interviewer's questions about America's aims in the region and its future.

The interview runs for a brief five minutes and ends abruptly with the juxtaposition of two images: the collapse of the World Trade Center and Israeli bulldozers destroying a Palestinian home.

Speaking about Iraq, he accused Washington of seeking to subjugate the Arab world on behalf of Israel — America's strongest supporter in the region.

"The campaign against Iraq has aims that go beyond Iraq into the Arab Islamic world," al-Zawahri is heard saying. "Its first aim is to destroy any effective military force in the proximity of Israel. Its second aim is to consolidate the supremacy of Israel."

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the United States continued to receive "credible indications that extremist groups and individuals are planning additional terrorist attacks against U.S. interests."

Of the latest recording, Boucher said: "There is always concern about the potential for attacks, and particularly when al-Qaida puts out statements one has to make sure that we're appropriately vigilant, not only here but also at our missions overseas."

Mohammed Salah, an Egyptian journalist who covers militant movements for the respected Arab daily Al-Hayat, said the tape was an attempt to piggyback on to world events and drive them in the direction of holy war.

"They are trying to convince people that they're cause also includes fighting for the Iraqis and that this is the only way to keep Americans out of the region."

At the same time, Salah said, the organization "is trying to tell the world that they are still strong, that they are a network that is everywhere, not an army that can be conquered."

Al-Zawahri used his time in the interview to assure followers that both bin Laden and Mullah Omar, the former Taliban ruler, were alive and in good health. The Egyptian doctor, who has been bin Laden's spiritual adviser, also warned of future attacks against the U.S. economy and America's allies.

The last series of al-Qaida messages

Another bomber in Israel



Barak Pachter/Associated Press

A woman talking on her mobile phone is evacuated by medics after she was wounded when a suicide bomber detonated his explosives belt at a bus stop in Tel Aviv Thursday killing himself, an elderly woman and wounding four others. An Israeli bus driver and a paramedic pinned the bomber to the ground after spotting his bomb belt, but then fled the scene, along with other bystanders.

were publicly released in April, focusing primarily on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at time when it had reached a boiling point and the death toll was soaring.

A lone audiotape surfaced in June when Al-Jazeera aired a recording of bin Laden's spokesman, who said the al-Qaida leader and al-Zawahri were alive and that the organization was responsible for a deadly explosion at a synagogue in Tunisia two months earlier.

Michael Swetnam, a counterterrorism specialist at the Washington-based Potomac Institute for Policy Studies and the author of a book on al-Qaida, said the organization is feeling pressed to keep its image alive even while senior operatives are forced to lay low as the intelligence community cracks down on terror suspects in the United States and Europe.

After a brief lull, Swetnam said, al-Zawahri and others are eager to communicate with senior leaders and entice new recruits with fresh rhetoric.

"This was a message to the cells in Europe that the leadership knows they've been under great pressure but they're still there for them. By issuing these types of releases, (al-Qaida) can send messages that the leadership is still strong, the war is still on."

But U.S. counterterrorism officials note that while audio recordings are easier to make, they may not have the same impact on followers as video tapes.

Some have speculated that the lack of recent video recordings could mean that al-Zawahri is injured, has significantly altered his appearance, or is in a vulnerable location that could be given away in a video appearance.

A senior al-Qaida fugitive wanted in the Sept. 11 attacks was captured days after Al-Jazeera aired an audio interview with him.

But Swetnam said the silence and mystery were part of what al-Qaida is all about.

"Their modus operandi is to plan major events quietly in the background for several years and I think that's what they're up to."

Mass human exodus from Ivory Coast's second city

BY ALEXANDRA ZAVIS

Associated Press Writer

BOUAKE, Ivory Coast — The killers were young and armed, bearing guns, machetes and clubs. They roamed the streets of Ivory Coast's second city, chasing victims. Some, they burned alive.

Frightened residents of Bouake — fleeing by the thousands during a lull in fighting that has raged for days — spoke Thursday of how the three-week-old rebellion let loose deadly ethnic rivalries in the this rebel-held, central city of 500,000.

After a government offensive failed to dislodge the insurgents this week, young ethnic Dioulas armed by the rebels hunted down fleeing members of the government-supported Baoule tribe, residents said.

They chased them through the streets, stealing their belongings and burning their homes. On Wednesday, Dioula youths raided a Baoule neighborhood and burned residents there alive.

The attacks appeared to be in retaliation for killings carried out earlier by government supporters.

The Dioulas and Baoules have complex political, eco-

nomie, religious rivalries that date back centuries.

From witness' accounts, the numbers of people burned alive appeared small. But the brutality horrified residents already shaken by three days of shooting and explosions.

"The mutineers, who never used to bother us, are now searching for loyalists," said one resident, too afraid of retaliation to be identified. "We are afraid of a civil war."

Taking advantage of a lull in the fighting, a tide of people balancing bundles of clothes and cooking pots on their heads streamed Thursday from Bouake, seeking safety in nearby villages, or south in the commercial capital, Abidjan. Most fled on foot, but a few rode in cars on pedaled bicycles.

Aid workers estimate that approximately 150,000 Bouake residents have been displaced by the uprising — the once-stable West African country's bloodiest ever. The rebels, centered around 750 to 800 former soldiers who want reinstatement in the army, have held Bouake since a bloody Sept. 19 coup attempt.

The rebels have won support from mostly Muslim northerners who complained of discrimination by the largely Christian southern-based government.

"This kind of thing has never happened before," said evangelist Sylvain Agniza, who carried a Bible under his

arm and a small plastic bag of belongings, as he fled in the sweltering heat. "We were all lying on the floor. The house was shaking because of the cannon fire."

Cut off from the rest of the country since the uprising began, Bouake residents said food supplies were dwindling, money was running out and water scarce.

French military officials said they have seen as many as 1,000 people fleeing down the main eastern road from Bouake daily since they took up position in a missionary school on the edge of the city to evacuate foreign nationals. The steady stream of refugees has developed into an exodus since Ivory Coast's government launched its offensive to reclaim the rebel-held north.

France has about 1,000 troops in Ivory Coast, a former colony, to protect French and other foreign nationals, and to provide logistical support to government forces. Working with U.S. troops, the French have evacuated some 2,500 foreigners from rebel-held areas. Their presence has indirectly helped secure an exit route for Bouake's terrified residents.

The city, which was rocked by heavy explosions and gunfire earlier in the week, appeared quiet Thursday. French officials said rebels were in control.



SPORTS

SF Giants lead series, 2-0

BY BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

ST. LOUIS — Rich Aurilia, Jason Schmidt and the San Francisco Giants set down the Cardinals without much of a fight.

Aurilia homered twice, Schmidt pitched shutout ball into the eighth inning and the Giants shut down St. Louis 4-1 Thursday night for a 2-0 lead in the NL championship series.

A day after the teams nearly came to blows in a noisy opener at Busch Stadium, there were no hostilities. Barry Bonds was quiet aside from overrunning a fly ball in left field, but the Giants didn't need their slugger as — for the first time in franchise history — they opened a postseason series with consecutive road victories.

Aurilia kept up his power surge with his fourth homer of this year's playoffs, connecting on Woody Williams' fourth pitch of the game. Schmidt made the lead stand up, helped by another key play from Kenny Lofton.

Lofton, in the middle of Game 1's skirmish and booed because of it, caught a fly ball in short center field and threw out J.D. Drew at the plate to end the third inning.

The Cardinals finally scored on a pinch-hit homer by Eduardo Perez with two outs in the eighth. Robb Nen got four outs for his second save of the series.

Ramon Martinez, who replaced Aurilia at shortstop in a double switch, had a suicide-squeeze bunt in the ninth for insurance.

This Busch-whacking complete, the Giants headed home to Pacific Bell Park for Game 3 Saturday. Russ Ortiz will start for San Francisco against Chuck Finley.

All was calm at the ballpark following Wednesday night's fracas. Managers Tony La Russa and Dusty Baker were each fined \$500, and non-roster players — many of whom left the dugout to join the pushing and shoving — were banned from the bench.

Umpire crew chief Randy Marsh, after talking with commissioner Bud Selig and other baseball officials, decided not to issue a warning to the clubs about inside pitches. There were no problems, either,

dispelling thoughts that the rivals had become Arch Enemies.

Schmidt didn't need to buzz anyone to silence St. Louis. He gave up four hits and struck out eight, reaching 98 mph with his fastball. It was fine redemption for him, having lost to Atlanta this month in his only other playoff start.

Aurilia's big night was even more unexpected.

After hitting 37 home runs in 2001, he dipped down to 15 this season. Batting at the top of the lineup and mainly ahead of Bonds, his dropoff hurt the Giants.

But Aurilia homered twice as San Francisco beat the Braves to win the opening round, and broke loose against Williams for his first two-homer game of the year.

The crowd of 52,195 got right into the spirit, jeering Lofton when he walked to the plate to lead off the game and cheering even louder when he fled out.

Lofton scored three times in Game 1, and the way he twisted out of reliever Mike Crudale's high-and-tight fastball in the fifth inning triggered the craziness. To Cardinals fans, his display made him Public Enemy No. 1 — coincidentally, the number he wears for the Giants.

Aurilia was up next, and he quickly hushed the fans when he followed by hitting a high drive over the left-field fence.

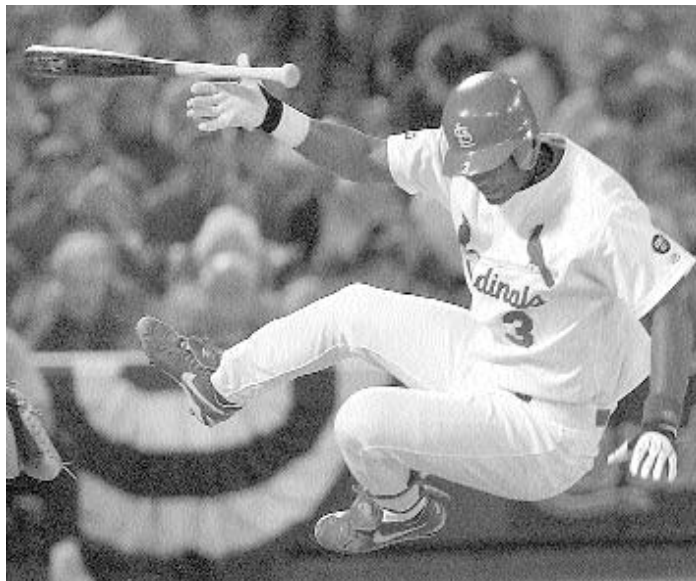
Aurilia struck again in the fifth for a two-run homer with two outs. After Lofton struck out looking for the second time, Aurilia reached out — too far, it looked on contact — and still managed to loft a fly ball over the wall in left-center.

When the inning ended, Aurilia stood up in the dugout and got ready to go onto the field. Lofton came by and, with a big smile on his face, playfully pushed Aurilia on the upper chest with his right hand.

Earlier, Lofton made the biggest defensive play of the game.

Drew opened the third by beating Schmidt to the bag for an infield hit, Mike Matheny singled and Williams sacrificed. Fernando Vina followed with a fly to shallow to left-center that Lofton caught, and his one-hop throw home beat Drew.

Ouch!



David J. Phillip/Associated Press

St. Louis Cardinals' Edgar Renteria gets hit by a pitch from San Francisco Giants' Kirk Rueter in the first inning of Game 1 of the National League Championship Series game Wednesday in St. Louis.

A survival game for Denver

BY DAVE GOLDBERG

AP Football Writer

The Dolphins played a nearly perfect game last Sunday against New England. That was in Miami, however.

Sunday night will be a different story: The Dolphins are at Denver, where the Broncos hardly ever lose.

Denver is a 3 1/2-point favorite, and the Broncos should be. They would lead any other division at 4-1, but they're in the AFC West, where they trail the NFL's only unbeaten team, Oakland, and are tied with San Diego after beating the Chargers in Denver last Sunday.

One interesting matchup will be the Denver defense, which has surpassed everyone's expectations, against the Miami offense, in which Ricky Williams has made Jay Fiedler into a far better quarterback than in past seasons.

"It would be amazing the success people could have in whatever profession they're in if they could deal with things like Jay Fiedler does," coach Dave Wannstedt said.

The Broncos need the game more, it's in Denver and it's on Sunday night, meaning the home crowd gives the Broncos an even bigger edge.

BRONCOS, 20-13

Green Bay (plus 4 1/2) at New England
Short week for the Packers. New England shouldn't be bad enough to lose three straight, and Tom Brady can pick on a bruised secondary.
PATRIOTS, 30-24

Baltimore (plus 6 1/2) at Indianapolis
Brian Billick might be a genius, but Ray Lewis' shoulder hurts.
COLTS, 27-17

New Orleans (minus 1) at Washington
Patrick Ramsey played his college ball in New Orleans. More important, the Saints have tape on him, which should lessen his efficiency.
SAINTS, 27-18

San Francisco (minus 3) at Seattle (Monday night)
Does Mike Holmgren wish he was on the

other side?

SEAHAWKS 24-23

Pittsburgh (minus 6 1/2) at Cincinnati
As badly as they've played, the Steelers could be tied for the division lead if they win.
STEELERS, 31-13

Jacksonville (minus 1 1/2) at Tennessee
Two teams that typify the NFL: They're in exactly the opposite places they were supposed to be.
JAGUARS, 22-20

Cleveland (off) at Tampa Bay
Tim Couch has been cleared to play after a concussion. Only Josh Booty is behind him.
BUCS, 25-2

Carolina (plus 2) at Dallas
Two straight painful losses for the Panthers. They're finding their level.
COWBOYS, 13-10

Kansas City (plus 3) at San Diego
The Chiefs can score. Will the Chargers let them?
CHARGERS, 24-20

Atlanta (off) at New York Giants
Off the board because Michael Vick probably won't play. Add that to the Giants' 11-2 record before bye weeks, and ...
GIANTS, 23-13

Buffalo (minus 7 1/2) at Houston
The Bills are averaging 33 points a game and allowing 36.
BILLS 33-20

Oakland (minus 7) at St. Louis
At one point, this might have been a Super Bowl preview. Even if Charlie Garner doesn't play ...
RAIDERS, 42-3

Detroit (plus 4) at Minnesota
Can the Lions extend their one-game winning streak?
VIKINGS, 20-19

LAST WEEK: 9-5 (spread), 9-5 (Straight up)
SEASON: 35-38-1 (spread) 44-30 (straight up)

Weekend pro-sports schedule

SATURDAY

MAJOR LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

- St. Louis at San Francisco, 4:17 p.m.
- Minnesota at Anaheim, 7:50 p.m.

TOP 25 FOOTBALL

- No. 1 Miami vs. No. 9 Florida State, Noon
- No. 2 Oklahoma at No. 3 Texas at Dallas, 3:30 p.m.
- No. 5 Ohio State vs. San Jose State, Noon
- No. 6 Georgia vs. No. 10 Tennessee, 3:30 p.m.
- No. 7 Oregon at UCLA, 3:30 p.m.
- No. 8 Notre Dame vs. Pittsburgh, 2:30 p.m.
- No. 11 Iowa State vs. Texas Tech, 7 p.m.
- No. 12 Washington State at Stanford, 5 p.m.
- No. 13 Michigan vs. No. 15 Penn State, 3:30 p.m.
- No. 14 North Carolina State at North Carolina, Noon
- No. 16 Florida vs. No. 18 LSU, 7:45 p.m.
- No. 17 Iowa vs. Michigan State, Noon
- No. 19 Kansas State vs. Oklahoma State, 2 p.m.
- No. 20 Southern California vs. California, 6:30 p.m.
- No. 21 Air Force vs. Brigham Young, 10 p.m.
- No. 22 Washington vs. Arizona, 3:30 p.m.
- No. 23 Wisconsin at Indiana, Noon
- No. 24 Auburn vs. Arkansas, 12:30 p.m.
- No. 25 Mississippi vs. Arkansas State, 2 p.m.

NBA PRESEASON

- Orlando vs. Miami at Estero, Fla., 7:30 p.m.
- Phoenix at New York, 7:30 p.m.
- Atlanta at Indiana, 8 p.m.
- Denver vs. L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City, 8:30 p.m.
- San Antonio vs. New Orleans at Biloxi, Miss., 8:30 p.m.
- Golden State at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

SUNDAY

MAJOR LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

- Minnesota at Anaheim, 4:30 p.m.
- St. Louis at San Francisco, 7:55 p.m.

NFL

- Buffalo at Houston, 1 p.m.
- Carolina at Dallas, 1 p.m.
- Atlanta at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
- Baltimore at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
- New Orleans at Washington, 1 p.m.
- Green Bay at New England, 1 p.m.
- Detroit at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
- Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
- Cleveland at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
- Oakland at St. Louis, 4:15 p.m.
- Jacksonville at Tennessee, 4:15 p.m.
- Kansas City at San Diego, 4:15 p.m.
- Miami at Denver, 8:30 p.m.

NBA PRESEASON

- Philadelphia at Toronto, 6 p.m.
- Memphis at L.A. Clippers, 9 p.m.

NHL

- Buffalo at Chicago, 8 p.m.
- Detroit at Anaheim, 9 p.m.

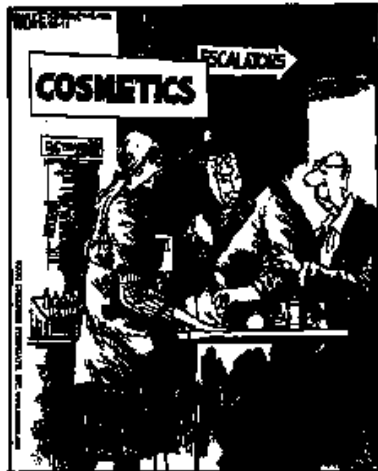
COMICS



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



"Do you have any of that pretty they use on dead people?"

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

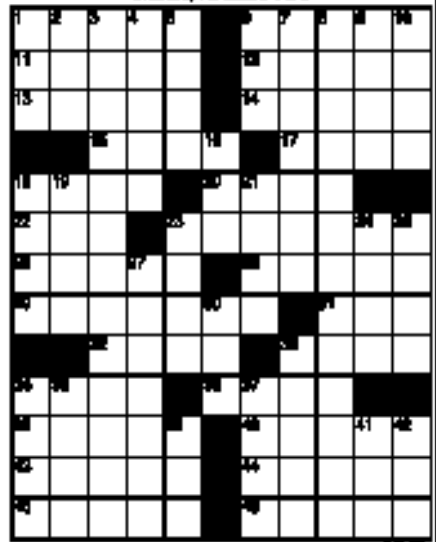
- ACROSS**
- 1 Car count
 - 6 Era
 - 11 Advice
 - 12 Bat
 - 13 Devil of "Stuart Little"
 - 14 Concert getting
 - 16 Ship of 1492
 - 17 Terminated
 - 18 King of comedy
 - 20 Buggy
 - 22 Went ahead
 - 23 Spanish dances
 - 26 Deadly snake
 - 29 Japanese cartoons
 - 29 Haunted house residents
 - 31 "Oh, wow"
 - 32 Missile container
 - 33 Hospital area
 - 34 Optimum
 - 35 Skating group
 - 36 Inventor House
 - 40 Puffy filler
 - 42 Soothing
 - 44 Perfect
 - 46 Mario's dad
 - 48 Inflexible
- DOWN**
- 1 Escalate

COPS	TOTTED
ABLE	ADHERE
POUR	GEREAL
PETERHOSE	
ONE	GANDS
MAKED	ATEUP
ELI	PER
AMUSE	FATTY
LAMAR	EMU
	TAPDANCE
PRAISE	HILE
TURRET	DUAL
ANGERS	AMPS

Yesterday's answer

- 28 Free money?
- 24 Eggs or Sheriff
- 25 Transmit home
- 27 Blair's
- 30 Pinnacle
- 33 "An Ideal Husband" writer
- 34 Abacus unit
- 35 Eddie Iola
- 37 Some-what
- 38 Cunning
- 41 Porch
- 42 Tissue layer

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

People get shot in the funniest places

Among those who accidentally shot themselves recently: Police Lt. Walter Warot (carried gun in waistband, shot in buttocks) (Woonsocket, R.I., August); a 43-year-old man (gun in waistband, shot fatally) (Ventura, Calif., September); a 43-year-old man (carjack-er, carried gun in his pants) (Detroit, September); and an 18-year-old man (shot in the hand) (Artesia, N.M., September). Also, three Montanans were on the list: Undersheriff Mike Dominick (gun caught in holster) (Missoula, August); a 19-year-old gang-member suspect (gun in waistband) (Great Falls, April); and a 22-year-old man (gun in waistband, shot off right testicle) (Great Falls, May).

FUNNY PAPERZ

"LOOK FOR THE UNION LABEL"

Q

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A

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Joe King



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VENICE BEACH \$850.00 to \$895.00 2 Large singles available in charming building. 1 block to beach. 1 year lease, no pets. Paid parking available. (310)396-4443.

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VENICE BEACHFRONT Condo \$4750.00 3brdm/3.5bath in newer luxury building with amazing ocean and mountain views, 2 car gated parking, Gourmet kitchen, spa style bathroom and much more. Must see to appreciate. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)466-9778.

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Houses For Rent

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SANTA MONICA \$850.00 Cozy Gst Hse, stove, hrwd flrs, frpce, yard, close to beach. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

Houses For Rent

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PRO SE of Neighborhood Project needs volunteers for events that honor our heroes. (310) 899-3888 pro.se@adelphia.net.

VOTE FOR Pro Se Santa Monica City Council Our Residents, Businesses, Schools must come first!

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ADVERTISE FOR A DOLLAR A DAY!

Santa Monica Daily Press 310.458.7737

Calendar

Friday, October 11, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
Knockaround Guys (R) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15, Welcome to Collinwood (R) 11:45, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:30. The Rules of Attraction (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45. The Tuxedo (PG-13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00.

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
Sweet Home Alabama (PG-13) 11:30, 12:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20. Below (R) 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00, 12:15. My Big Fat Greek Wedding (PG) 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10. Punch Drunk Love (R) 11:00, 12:00, 1:40, 2:40, 4:15, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:30, 12:00. The Transporter (PG-13) 11:20, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50, 12:10.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Red Dragon (R) 12:45, 3:45, 4:45, 7:00, 7:45, 10:05, 10:40. Tucker Everlasting (PG) 12:30, 2:45, 5:05, 7:25, 9:50. The Banger Sisters (R) 2:15. Barbershop (PG-13) 2:05, 4:35, 7:20, 9:45. Jonah: A Veggie Tales Movie (G) 12:15, 2:00, 4:05, 6:05. White Oleander (PG-13) 1:05, 4:00, 7:10, 8:05, 10:00, 10:45.

Landmark Nu-Wilshire
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Moonlight Mile (PG-13) 11:00, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45. Swept Away (R) 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00.

Laemmle Monica
1332 2nd St.
Heaven (R) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:25, 9:50. The Man from Elysian Fields (R) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:15. Secretary (R) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:35, 10:05. Spirited Away (PG) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00.

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
The Good Girl (R) 5:30, 7:30, 9:30.

Today

Community

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Santa Monica Strutters, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

Music / Entertainment

LUSH 2020 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Three bars, plenty of booths, sofas, leopard-print carpet and a sunken dance floor. Mexican grill serves dinner after 5 p.m. Full bar. Over

21. Cover \$5 - Free. (310)829-1933.

The Joint, 8771 W. Pico Blvd., W. LA. One of the most exotic rooms in the local rock-facility pantheon. Pizza. Cover \$10 - \$5. Full bar. Over 21. (310)275-2619.

14 Below, 1348 14th St., Santa Monica. If the band stinks, take advantage of commodious booths, pool tables, and fireplace. Full Bar. Over 21. (310)451-5040.

Rusty's Surf Ranch, 256 Santa Monica Pier. Walls and ceilings are lined with one of the area's largest collections of pre-1970's surfboards. Cover varies. Full bar. All ages. (310)393-7386.

Saturday

Theater/Arts

The Empty State Theater at 2372 Veteran Ave. in W. Los Angeles proudly presents: "The Fortune Room Lounge Show" A musical improv show featuring the "Stella Ray Trio" and "The Lucky Players". Every

Saturday night at 10:00 p.m. Admission is \$10.00, drinks included w/admission. Lots of parking! For information or reservations please call (310)470-3560.

ROMANTIC IMPRESSIONISM & SERIALISM . A group show featuring: John Newman, Laren Littlefield, Jr. & others at: Blah Blah Gallery, 1453 Lincoln Blvd., 2nd Floor. FREE RECEPTION OPENING 7-10pm. (310) 305-8138

Classes / Readings

Santa Monica Children's Theatre Co. presents a newly forming musical theatre company for children. Every Saturday from 10:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Quest Studios, 19th & Broadway in Santa Monica. Tuition is \$325 per month - covers cost of all classes and productions. Contact Janet Stegman at (310)995-9636.

Weekly Storytime, 11:00 a.m. Come to Barnes & Noble for Saturday readings with the kids! Call 310-260-9110 for more information.

Music/ Entertainment

Childbloom Program. Special Open day at Santa Monica Music Center. Today from 1-3pm. Guitar Giveaway and free mini lessons. For more information call (310) 600-0284

Music Showcase. UnUrban Coffee House Presents:
7:00pm - Aaron Nicholson
8:00pm - Benjamin Bundt
9:00pm - Deep Blue Three
10:00pm - Lea Herman & Jamie Settlov
11:00pm - Marshall & Kerry
3301 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica, CA (310) 315-0056

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Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to todaypaper@smdp.com for consideration. Calendar events are limited by space, and will be run at the discretion of the Calendar Editor. The Daily Press cannot be held responsible for errors.

KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

Promote your event in the Santa Monica Daily Press Calendar section. Fax all information to our Calendar Editor:

Attention Angela @ 310.576.9913



BACK PAGE



Taco tuition

By The Associated Press

LACROSSE — How many tacos can \$3,200 buy?

That's what some parents of University of Wisconsin-La Crosse students may have been wondering after tuition payments were erroneously listed as charges to Taco Bell on some credit card statements.

"I know some of our students eat at Taco Bell, but I never knew they racked up that big of bill," joked Student Association President Adam Mueller.

The money was routed into UW-La Crosse's account, but the vendor's software listed the wrong name for the charge on the statements, said Ron Lostetter, vice chancellor for administration and finance.

Lostetter said he did not know how many students had the erroneous bills, but said several students have called to be sure their \$3,200 in room, board and tuition was paid.

Happenin' headlines

By The Associated Press

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — Some Tennessee journalism students tried out the "real, current and relevant" lingo advocated by a CNN Headlines News executive to capture a younger audience.

The result? "We sounded like old people to ourselves, trying to sound cool," said Angela Gardenhire, a

senior broadcast journalism major at Middle Tennessee State University.

In an internal e-mail, CNN Headline News general manager Rolando Santos told all the "homeys and honeys" to "add a new flava" to the graphics on the Headline News screen. The list of phrases he suggested included "fly," meaning sexually attractive.

Bob Pondillo, journalism professor at Middle Tennessee State, saw a perfect assignment in the flap over the e-mail. But after writing headlines using words like "dude" and "capped," students decided the language was loaded.

"We decided that in very real ways this kind of writing is unethical, based on the news conventions that have been followed for almost 170 years," he said.

Santos said his e-mail was designed to point out resources that might help headline writers, not to be used as "a policy or directive from me."

A blank ballot

By The Associated Press

JACKSON, Tenn. — In the small town of Guys, it certainly wasn't politics as usual.

In Saturday's alderman election, voters were faced with blank ballots because no candidate filed the paperwork in time. Two at-large alderman seats were filled with write-in candidates.

L.B. "Pete" Rinehart, one of the incumbent aldermen elected, said the July 18 qualifying deadline "passed without me even knowing it."

Rinehart got 50 votes, not a bad showing from the 140 voters who turned out in the town of about 500 people.

The blank ballots in the small town 85 miles east of Memphis caught comedian Jay Leno's attention for his "Tonight Show" monologue.

"Finally," he cracked, "an election even the people of Florida couldn't screw up."

Mayor endorses gin

By The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — What's a better job than mayor of Las Vegas? How about getting paid to drink martinis?

Mayor Oscar Goodman, who boasts publicly about his drinking, has sealed a \$100,000 contract to endorse Bombay Sapphire gin.

Goodman is inviting Robin Leach, Charo and former Motley Crue frontman Vince Neil to sip martinis with him at a party Friday celebrating the endorsement.

He plans to donate his earnings to charity. "I hope this gets the message out that Las Vegas is a fun place. We're very unconventional," Goodman said.

Friday's "happy hour" is only the most high profile of five evening drinking sessions Goodman has hosted. The city dubs the alcohol-filled meetings with Las Vegas residents "Martinis with the Mayor."

Bombay will now be the gin of choice at such events, a preference the mayor says will last "as long as we're having a good time together."

While Goodman said he doesn't want his endorsement to be seen as support for irresponsible drinking, some have cautioned that the events could be sending the wrong message and put drunken drivers on Las Vegas streets.

"Our concern is that these kinds of events turn into drunkfests, and that puts the rest of us who are on the roadways at risk," said Sandy Heverly, director of a local anti-drunk driving group.

The mayor's endorsement came after a bidding war between Bombay and two other gin brands, said Larry Nuvo of Southern Nevada Wine and Spirits, who helped arrange the endorsement.

What put the blue-bottled gin on top?

"He liked the taste of Bombay. He had previous experience with it," Nuvo said.



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