

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Urban design 101: Promenade needs help

Consultants tell officials what's right and wrong with downtown Santa Monica

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

The city's downtown district is in a state of disconnect, a consultant said Monday.

Fred Kent, president of Project for Public Spaces, a New York City-based consulting firm, has released preliminary findings of a study to the Third Street Promenade Uses Task Force that indicate downtown Santa Monica needs a transformation.

The city hired the firm for \$54,000 to assess the downtown's "public spaces."

What the consultants found was many of the downtown's spaces don't work, including the Promenade's center court between Arizona Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard. It's dominated by transients, who use the public benches to sit on all day long, the consultants reported.

Kent suggested that could be changed with a new urban design.

"It's very easy to sit on the two sides and in the middle because the traffic doesn't flow through there," said Mayor Mike Feinstein. But the consultant suggested if the area was changed to stadium seating that faced east and west, it would open the courtyard for everyone to use.

Kent also said the Promenade doesn't maximize its outdoor ambiance enough, which could be done with more outdoor restaurant seating. He suggested that the dinosaurs on the outdoor mall be removed and more seating be put in.

What's more, Santa Monica Place Mall needs serious help, consultants say.

"There's a real need to look at how the mall is designed and even how it's managed," Kent said from his office in New York City on Monday. He was in town last week to present recommendations to the Promenade Uses Task Force.

"Santa Monica Place needs to be redone ... All around it, the access points just look awful," he said. "If you want to grow your town, you have to access south, north, east and west."

"And the parallel streets (to the Promenade) are really traffic streets. How do you turn it into a neighbor-



File photo/Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

(Left) During the day, center court on the Promenade is dominated by young adults. (Right) At night, the area clears out. City-paid urban design consultants suggest removing the dinosaurs and reconfiguring the seating so more people can sit in a prime location of the outdoor mall.

hood?," he added.

That will be the question for the task force, and ultimately the entire community to answer in upcoming months.

While the task force was created earlier this year to figure out what's the proper mix of retail and restaurant space on the Promenade, it has taken a much broader

view of the downtown area.

"They are taking one giant step backwards and trying to look at the whole district and many different aspects," said Kathleen Rawson, executive director of Bayside District Corp. The city of Santa Monica and Bayside manage the

See PROMENADE, page 6

Voters asked if they want to own their apartments

Opponents say it's a get-rich-quick scheme for landlords

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica voters will be asked to decide in the upcoming election whether renters should be able to buy their apartments and turn them into condominiums.

Bright yellow signs proclaiming "Own your apartment" are springing up in front lawns across the city,

advertising the Santa Monica Resident Protection and Home ownership Charter Amendment, or SMRPH.

The proposal, known as Measure II on the Nov. 5 ballot, would allow a landlord to convert an apartment complex into condominiums if two-thirds of the tenants vote to buy their units for a pre-negotiated price. Residents who don't want to buy, would be given a 99-year lease with full rent control protections.

The measure also would guarantee that homeowners could rebuild their homes after a disaster such as fire, flood or earthquake, regardless of any recent zoning code changes prohibiting it.

SMRPH supporters say the measure will help reinforce a sense of community in Santa Monica, where the majority of residents rent and stay for only two years, on average.

"Santa Monica has very few ownership opportunities for middle-income residents and two-thirds of the units are rental properties," said Paul DeSantis, a local real estate attorney who helped write the referendum. "If you have conversion, it's going to allow for more people to make their homes here."

Opponents of the measure say it's nothing more than a

See SMRPH, page 6

Sewage spills out into ocean

By The Associated Press

CALABASAS — A ruptured sewer pipe in the Santa Monica Mountains sent 10,000 gallons of effluent into Las Virgenes and Malibu creeks.

The break was reported Sunday morning and the torrent of sludge oozed into a Las Virgenes Road culvert and into mountain creeks that flow into Malibu and the sea.

"It's actually a worst-case scenario," said Hayden Sohm of the State Parks Department. "The big deal is this: Whatever is in the sewage discharged into the water course may have viruses,

bacteria and who knows what else."

Steelhead trout, bass, frogs and wildfowl may have been affected by the discharge, he said.

The pipe, owned by the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, transports sludge from the district's Tapia Water Reclamation Facility to the Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility.

It took water district cleanup crews an hour to respond to a report about the leak and between three to four hours to dam the culvert and vacuum up the sludge, Sohm said.

The water district supplies water to the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills and Westlake Village.

Bill Simon says he's sorry

BY ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Bill Simon is sorry. He finally said so Monday morning, badgered into the admission by a talk radio host.

The Republican candidate for governor spent the past week parsing his words carefully, saying he "regretted" wrongly accusing Gov. Gray Davis of illegal fundraising, but never saying he was sorry.

Simon last week accused Davis of illegally accepting a campaign check in the state Capitol. A day later he was forced to acknowledge the 1998 photographs he was using as evidence were taken in a

Santa Monica home. It was an honest mistake, he said.

Simon's aides insisted Davis owed Simon an apology for distorting his record in attack ads, not the other way around. They said Simon would never apologize to Davis. Maybe he still hasn't.

He didn't say Davis' name, but Simon broke down and did say the "s" word under nagging from KGO-AM host Ronn Owens, who insisted that a wife stood up by her husband on her anniversary wouldn't accept "regret."

"To me regret and sorry are the same thing, Ronn," Simon said.

See SIMON, page 8

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Mars enters your sign, energizing you in an unprecedented manner. Understand why someone close might be creating more of an uproar than you're comfortable with. You might ask what unnerved him or her. You might have neglected something important. Tonight: Romp away.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ You could discover that your fuse is much shorter than in the past. Family and/or a personal friend surprises you. Your reaction could be much different than anticipated. Consider what might be going on with you. Tonight: At home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Unexpected developments head your way. You will be able to use the moment to mobilize a key goal or desire. Listen to a child or loved one more carefully. This person has an odd way of expressing his or her concerns, but has your best interests in mind. Tonight: Stay in your neighborhood.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Your bosses could make demands that impact you in many different ways during the next few weeks. You sometimes lose your temper. Buckle your seat belt. You have some ways of handling this problem. Trust yourself. Tonight: Go for frivolous fun.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Make an effort to reach out for someone at a distance. A short class or seminar might help you understand those in your life or add to your savoir-faire in your profession. Step up to new information and learning. Tonight: Be your happy self.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ A partner could become far more difficult in the next few weeks. Take in this side of this person, because it really is part of him or her. You can no longer walk away from the obvious. Take a hard look at what might be going on. Tonight: Work on mutuality.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Others could become much more testy in the next few weeks, with your ruler in your opposite sign. If you ever had a problem or someone had a beef with you, you're going to hear about it now, whether you want to or not. Spontaneity marks a meeting. Tonight: Where the gang is.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Bosses want what they want. Expect to hustle in the next few weeks and months. You will have the energy and drive to make what needs to happen possible. Others act in an unpredictable manner. Express your concerns. Tonight: Up late.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You intuitively take the right action and do the right thing. Your creativity peaks as you take in a different perspective. Recognize what others seek and your own limits. Surprising news from a distance greets you. Don't hesitate to ask for what you want as well. Tonight: Buy concert tickets.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Your family could be more in the mood for an uproar in the next few weeks. How a situation ends up could be a lot different. Realize what you need to do. Unexpected developments knock on your door. Deal with a partner directly. Discuss options. Tonight: Manage your budget.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Take a far more active role in dealing with others in the near future. Recognize that not everyone feels exactly the same way you do about an unpredictable friend or loved one. Keeping this person under control might be a lot of work. Why not let go? Tonight: And away you go.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Be careful with impulse spending in the next few weeks. Ask for more of what you need from an associate or friend. You understand much more than you choose to let others know. You could become downright unpredictable right now. Tonight: Ask for a back rub.

QUOTE of the DAY

“Religion is what keeps us poor from murdering the rich.”

— Napoleon (1769-1821)

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Upward Bound House to hold annual dinner

By Daily Press staff

June Lockhart, known for her roles in "Lost in Space" and "Lassie" will host the Upward Bound House 6th Annual dinner and silent auction on Oct. 17 at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica.

The fundraiser will honor Venice Family Clinic and its founder Dr. Phillip Rossman for the contributions the clinic provides for the community and specifically, the free medical care it has provided for the families at Upward Bound House.

The silent auction starts at 6 p.m. and the dinner begins at 7:45 p.m.

Tickets are \$200 and can be purchased at the door or by calling UBH at (310) 458-7779.



June Lockhart

Incorporated in 1991, Upward Bound House was developed by the congregation of the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica as a mission to its community. Now operating as a separate nonprofit, all of Upward Bound House's services are non-denominational, including Santa Monica's only transitional housing facility — Family Place — which will take in approximately 33 homeless families this year, and Senior Villa, which provides 90 low-income seniors with affordable housing and links to social services.

To purchase tickets, donate silent auction items, make a donation or to volunteer, contact Tim Alexander at Upward Bound House at (310) 458-7779 or Talexander@upwardboundhouse.org.

School district filling committee seats

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education is now accepting applications for Fall appointments to District Advisory Committees.

The application deadline is Friday, Oct. 25. Parents and community members are invited to apply.

The basic purpose of District Advisory Committees is to advise the Board of Education regarding school district needs and issues in areas of child care and development, community health and safety, fine arts, instructional technology, intercultural, special education, sports and physical education and Title IX Gender Equity. Appointments will be made at a regularly scheduled board meeting in November.

For further information or to pick up an application form, contact any district school or Paddie Harris in the superintendent's office, (310) 450-8338, ext. 240.

Library to shut its doors in December

By Daily Press staff

The main library on Sixth Street will close its doors in December for two years while a new one is being built.

A temporary location at 1324 Fifth Street will open in January.

While the library relocates, service will be available at the branch libraries, on the internet and by e-mail. The online catalog and a host of databases also will be available from home, work or school.

About one-third the size of the existing facility, the temporary site will house new library materials and selections from these collections: nonfiction, fiction and genre, paperbacks, current newspapers and magazines, videos, DVDs, CDs, audio books, language learning materials, and reference materials (including microfilm of the Evening Outlook and other California resources), and young adult materials.

The main library children's collection will be largely relocated to the Ocean Park Branch, which will temporarily extend its hours to include Friday from noon to 5:30 p.m. Large print book collections will be expanded at the Montana Avenue Branch Library and will be made available at the Ken Edwards Center and the Senior Center. The rest of the library's collections, including bound magazines, international language books, and government documents, will be stored off site and will not be available until the new library is completed in 2005.

The temporary library hours will be 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday; and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Parking will be available at the nearby structure. For up-to-date information, check www.smpl.org/construction <<http://www.smpl.org/construction>>.

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Minor southwest swell will peak today, staying small at most spots in L.A. County. It's a good angle for local beaches, 210-220 degrees, so we should see some decent sets from it.

Most well-exposed spots see waist-high surf. Better breaks promise inconsistent chest-high sets.

Extended forecasts are showing a bigger southwest swell that we should start to see Thursday.

Today's Tides:		
Low-	1:20 a.m.	-0.01'
High-	7:55 a.m.	4.27'
Low-	1:08 p.m.	2.29'
High-	6:54 p.m.	5.45'

Location	Tuesday	Wednesday	Water Quality
County Line	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
Zuma	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	A
Topanga	1-2'/Poor	1-2'/Fair	A
Breakwater	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
El Porto	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A

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The Q Line

The Santa Monica City Council has passed an ordinance that has created a "zone" downtown to prevent homeless men and women from sleeping in the doorways of businesses.

While some people say it is an important law in terms of public health and safety concerns, others claim the homeless will only find new doorways to use as shelter in other parts of the city, and it is merely a Band-Aid for a larger problem.

So this week Q-Line wants to know: "Do you think the zone will be effective in dealing with the homeless problem downtown? Or will it just create headaches somewhere else in Santa Monica?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print it in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less; it might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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OPINION

LETTERS

Going for a Republican enema

Editor:

I'm originally from the valley and have lived once in Hollywood. I was out of state for the last 10 years and have just moved to Santa Monica. And I have to tell you that I fully agree with Tony Street, Bill Bauer and others who have written of the bum (or homeless) problem here. What a shock it is. I always remember seeing a lot of bums in Palisades Park, but what an in your face shock it is to see it everywhere.

I'm a lifelong Democrat and really despise the Republican Party. I would never vote Republican on a national level for reasons from their being anti-abortion, anti-environment, pro-school (Christian prayer), etc. But I have to say, when it comes to local politics in Santa Monica, I'm voting Republican down the line. Sad to say, what this town needs is a mean, Republican mayor to give the town the enema it deserves. If you saw New York before Giuliani arrived you will know what I am talking about. I have nothing against bums (homeless), but who the heck made Santa Monica the dumping ground for L.A.? The guilty limousine liberals who have made too much money acting? Do all the town's homeless and mentally ill have to have a luxurious ocean view? What about Panorama City, or Sylmar? This is just my initial reaction after moving here. Maybe my views will soften, who knows.

PS. I really can't stand to see my garbage examined by 15 different homeless people each week. It's just garbage, but I kind of like to know that it's still private until it hits the incinerator.

Ken Waterson
Santa Monica

The league's disservice

Editor:

How can we trust the League of Women Voters' opinions, such as those offered in Joanne Leavitt's Oct. 9 letter to the editor, when the due diligence required to obtain accurate facts is clearly missing? In August 2001, Leavitt and other members of the League's board took the unprecedented step of opposing the Veritas (Measure HH) Charter Reform BEFORE it qualified for the ballot. The board did not follow the league's motto "first study and then act." It acted hastily without adequate study, with-

out even allowing Veritas supporters the courtesy to appear and speak, and without the approval of the League's membership, many of whom support Veritas (Measure HH).

The board then issued astonishingly inept press releases riddled with factual errors. One release stated that Veritas would reduce the residency requirement for mayor and council candidates from two years to 30 days, thus "newcomers to Santa Monica could run for office or be appointed to the council with very little knowledge of the city."

For 27 YEARS, the California residency requirement has been 30 DAYS. Surely Leavitt or one of the other board members should have known such a well known fact. If not, the board should have "first studied, then acted" rather than issuing press releases with the ridiculous claim that Veritas changed the requirement when the 30 days residency has been the law for more than a generation of voters.

The press releases also erroneously charged that Veritas violated California's one-subject rule. Again, how can people who hold themselves out as voting experts not know, or take the time to find the facts? The California Supreme Court states: "It is enough that the various provisions are reasonably related to a common theme or purpose."

Moreover, the board's hastily written press releases were inconsistent with the League's California and national policies. The California League voted to "Support election systems for executive offices, both at the state and local levels, that require the winner to receive a majority of the votes." Surely, the board members who are supposed to be experts on elections knew that in two decades, not one Santa Monica Council member was elected by a majority vote! Did the board understand Veritas' run-off system which will assure election by a majority vote of the mayor and the council members?

The national league voted to "Promote the election of the president and vice-president by direct popular vote and work to abolish the electoral college." Why does the board oppose Veritas' direct election of the mayor in Santa Monica?

Perhaps the board would also like to explain an apparent conflict of interest. Why did the board hold "in cooperation with the City of Santa Monica" a meeting on "Alternative Voting Systems" which specifically excluded any discussion of neighborhood based districts? The board knew that the Veritas district initiative, signed by more than 9,000 voters, was an important alternative voting system worthy of serious

LETTERS, on next page

Measure JJ: A law of, by and for the union

Last week I answered four myths used by supporters of Measure JJ: The city has poured millions of tax dollars into the coastal zone (it hasn't); the large beach hotels must be forced to pay wages at the level required by JJ (they are already doing so); JJ affects only the largest and most profitable employers (it is much broader); and JJ is a proven method for addressing the needs of low-wage workers (it isn't).

Despite the inaccuracy of these claims, they are still being, and will no doubt continue to be, used in the campaign to pass JJ. In fact, Julie Lopez Dad employed at least two of them in her column in the Santa Monica Daily Press last Friday.

Supporters of JJ like to pretend that the only employers who will be "forced" to pay a minimum wage of \$12.25 (soon to be at least \$13) are the large beach hotels and that these hotels can easily afford to do so. So let's look at some of the sub-myths involved in this argument.

First, the large beach hotels already pay wages at or above the level required by the law, except for bellmen, waiters and waitresses, and bartenders, all of whom make substantial tip income. Both Hotel Casa del Mar and Loews Hotel have calculated that over 90 percent of the additional dollars the law would require them to pay would go to workers already making at least \$50,000 annually.

Second, wage levels at the second tier hotels, such as Four Points Sheraton and the Doubletree, are almost as high. However, by including tipped employees in the mix, the cost increases for these hotels will be so significant that major changes in labor practices will necessarily follow, such as reductions in work hours

and increased productivity expectations.

Third-tier hotels, such as The Georgian and Holiday Inn, long-time businesses in our community, will be hurt the worst because by not being luxury hotels, they cannot command the high room rates found at the Miramar just up the street. As a result, the cost impact to them will be disastrous, again bolstered by the irrational inclusion of tipped employees. How will they cope?

Supporters of JJ never talk about the impacted restaurants other than to vastly understate the number affected. (The current number is probably around 10-12, all of whom compete with neighboring restaurants not required to comply with the law.) There is no doubt about the fact that restaurants cannot pay wages at the required levels and remain in business, particularly when tipped employees are included. What will they do?

They also never talk about the impact on retailers, such as Macy's (which already lost money last year), Sears (which has advised the Council that it may well close if the law becomes effective), Robinsons-May and The Gap (which has stores both within and outside the coastal zone) or on senior citizen homes, such as Ocean House. How will these businesses adjust to the law?

The typical response is to refer to the hardship exemption in the law and say that any business that can establish its inability to survive will have a chance of obtaining

an exemption. This provision seems to have been intended to include at least Pacific Park on the pier; however, no one has any idea how it will work because no procedures or standards have been discussed.

Maybe all restaurants will be exempted; if they aren't, they will certainly take steps to keep their revenues below \$5 million so that the law will not apply to them. This tactic will, of course, result in a loss of jobs as the level of business declines. Maybe large retailers, such as Macy's and Sears, will be exempted, but don't bet on it.

The whole concept is bizarre, sort of like attempting to cure traffic problems by prohibiting anyone from driving and then

granting hardship exemptions to those who can show a need to drive.

Why do we have a law that includes tipped workers at The Lobster already making \$30 an hour on tips

alone? Or forcing employers to pay salaries to youth and other part-time workers so high that it makes no sense to hire them? (Some believe there is an exemption for youth workers — there isn't.) Or forcing the city to pay many of its workers, again primarily part-time and "as needed," at this high level when no one believes city workers are underpaid?

The bottom line is that JJ has been drafted, enacted and supported primarily for the benefit of Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union Local 814. Maybe all businesses will be exempted except those the union wants to organize.

Then the exemption for unionized businesses can be used to exempt them.

Has anyone ever stopped and wondered why a progressive city like Santa Monica does not have a typical living wage law, like 80 or so other jurisdictions? The obvious answer is that such a law fails to address the needs of Local 814. In order to use the power of local government to assist it in broadening its reach, Local 814 needed a law that established an unrealistic minimum wage for most businesses coupled with an exclusion for unionized employees.

This reality is clear by looking at the treatment of tipped workers. Supporters of JJ early in its history publicly, and frequently, agreed that tipped workers required special treatment. And the economic study conducted by the city assumed that they would be excluded from the law. However, when it became clear that wage levels for non-tipped employees at most hotels were at or above the law's levels, suddenly tipped employees were included. And it is now this factor which causes the major economic impact on most hotels and restaurants.

The fact is that JJ is, at best, an extremely blunt instrument to reach the problem of low-wage workers. If we are to address this issue, and I believe we must, we can do much better than to enact a measure which is of, by and for the union. When you read literature supporting JJ, just remember who's paying for it and who it will actually benefit. Just say "No."

(Tom Larmore is a Santa Monica resident and a local property rights attorney.)

Guest Commentary

By Tom Larmore

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



LETTERS

LETTERS, from previous page

discussion. But the board also knew that the entrenched City Council majority feels very threatened by these election reforms. The council majority authorized taxpayer dollars to pay for the League activities and authorized the use of a city facility for the League's event. Was removal of Veritas from the discussion of possible alternative voting systems related to the Council majority's financial support?

One might excuse the board's ignorance of basic election facts, its unexplainable failure to "study" an important ballot issue before acting, and its shockingly inaccurate press releases. We all make mistakes. What is inexcusable is that over a year after these errors were called to the board's attention, it lacked the integrity to admit the errors. The board chose to live in denial, to pretend that it never makes mistakes, and to ignore the harm it has caused to the voters, our campaign, and to its own reputation. This lack of honesty and refusal to admit factual errors fuels suspicion that there is a conflict of interest behind the board's hasty opposition to Veritas where personal political views were more important than facts.

At a time when we urgently need impartial, mature leadership, the Santa Monica League of Women Voters has fallen from grace. Opinions, especially League opinions, must be supported by adequate and impartial study. Leavitt and the other board members have performed a terrible disservice to our community and to the noble traditions of fairness and unbiased analysis we used to associate with the League.

Paul DeSantis
Santa Monica

Quality of candidate marred

Editor:

The recent media coverage has served to raise doubts in the minds of some regarding Oscar de la Torre's eligibility to run for the Santa Monica-Malibu School Board. I hope your readers realize the effort to disqualify him is not about meeting deadlines. People who endeavor to hold school officials accountable and people who ask tough questions are not always welcome at the table. Those leading the effort to disqualify him are doing a major disservice to the very community they know needs representation. As recently reported, the fact is that Mr. de la Torre is an eligible and viable candidate for the School Board.

As a Santa Monica resident and the parent of a Santa Monica school student, I recognize the serious need to have a representative on the School Board that will understand and advocate for the interests of Santa Monica's poor and disenfranchised children. I believe, as do many others, that Mr. de la Torre has the personal experience, education, commitment and passion that it takes to break down barriers and ensure that Santa Monica's low-achieving children are not left behind.

If people take the time to learn about him, they will find that Mr. de la Torre's commitment to Santa Monica schools is unquestionable and his qualifications and experience are especially suited for a seat on the School Board.

Mr. de la Torre grew up in the heart of the Pico neighborhood. He lived in a two-bedroom apartment with his mother, father and seven brothers and sisters. The community he grew up in was plagued with gangs and drugs. In the midst of all this, Mr. de la Torre managed to stay focused on his education and graduated from Santa Monica public schools. At Samohi, he served as student body president and co-captain of the football team. He went on to Chico State, where he served as student body president, and then to the University of Texas where he received his master's in public administration. While in Texas, he worked as an education policy analyst for a Democratic state senator. Along the way, Mr. de la Torre has continuously been on the front lines fighting for civil rights, equal opportunities and quality education for all. He returned to Samohi to work as an outreach specialist and has since served on a number of committees and SMMUSD task forces including the task force on race and discipline and the committee on equity and quality in education. He is currently the founder and director of the Pico Youth and Family Center.

I hope that when the dust settles, people will realize that what's really important is Mr. de la Torre's genuine concern for our community and his commitment to making schools work for ALL of Santa Monica's children. I urge Santa Monica voters to keep this in mind when they vote on Nov. 5.

Gloria Curiel-Parker
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LOCAL

Santa Monica downtown redesign on the horizon

PROMENADE, from page 1

downtown district, which is bounded by the Santa Monica Freeway to north of Wilshire Boulevard, from Ocean Avenue to Seventh Street.

"They (the consultants) are looking at the problems the district has with a fresh perspective," Rawson said.

But the real goal is to consider the future of the downtown district — its changing demographics, the types of storefronts and how it all relates to each other.

"It's a means to trigger thinking and a generation of ideas," said Mark Richter, the city's economic development manager. "They are looking at what our weaknesses are, what our strengths are and what to do to keep us sustainable."

While Kent believes the Promenade is a vital street, it doesn't invite people in and the surrounding streets aren't maximized to their fullest potential.

Kent said the key to making a public space thrive is having of all its elements look and feel connected.

Santa Monica's downtown lacks any useful connection between Palisades Park and the Promenade, he added. The street corners are dominated by retail stores and don't attract pedestrian traffic, Kent said.

Task force members already have played the "place game," where they stand in 20 different places downtown and observe what is going on at each location. The public will be asked to play the same game in November when a public meeting is held on the potential redesign of downtown.

"It gives us all clues about how a place works," Kent said. "This is really about how each space works."

Other clues about what people think of the Promenade was revealed by on-the-spot interviews recently conducted of 50 people on the mall. More than half of them said what bothered them most about the area was its high number of transients roaming around. They also commented

**"It's about what makes
a public space good
and what makes it
not so good."**

— MARK RICHTER
Manager of economic development

that the alleys are dirty and smell.

Although it's not scientific, it provides a "flavor of what people are thinking about in the downtown," Rawson said.

Task force members also were shown a photo montage of other cities around the world that are pedestrian orientated to illustrate how Santa Monica measures up.

All of this information will be used so the task force can make a recommendation to city officials in the next three months regarding changes to the Promenade and its surrounding areas, Richter said.

"It's about what makes a public space good and what makes it not so good," he said.

Home ownership would give tenants tax breaks

SMRPH, from page 1

get-rich-quick scheme for landlords. They say the measure was written behind closed doors by realtors — who would largely profit from the measure passing — with no input from tenants.

Councilman Ken Genser said the measure tricks tenants into believing they would be protected under a provision giving them a 99-year lease on their apartment if they choose not to buy.

However, that protection would not become available until the property is approved to be converted into condominiums, which Genser said takes roughly two years to complete. During that time, landlords could harass tenants into leaving so they could later sell those units at a greater profit, he said.

"It's full of land mines for tenants," Genser said.

He also points out that Santa Monica allowed property owners to completely restore their properties to their original state after the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, and said it's likely the city would do the same after future disasters.

DeSantis admits there is a strong profit motive for landlords to convert their apartments into condos, but there is also just as strong a motive for renters to buy their units. Tenants could take advantage of special home ownership tax breaks and benefit as their property values accrue.

"Nobody is going to be in business unless they can make money," he said. "Under the conversion, both sides are going to make money."

"I know many tenants who have made

tons of money buying their units," he added. "And there's nothing wrong with that. God bless them."

Santa Monica adopted a program in 1984 called the Tenant Ownership Rights Charter Amendment — also known as TORCA — which allowed landlords to sell their properties to tenant groups. Occupants of the apartments were given an option of either buying the unit or remaining a renter.

But some elected officials found the program fraught with abuses. They said many tenants were kicked out of their apartments, which were then sold off at a huge profit by their landlords. The program ended in 1996.

Under SMRPH, the main difference is that tenants would be able to begin negotiations for the property, unlike TORCA which only allowed the owner to begin negotiations, DeSantis said.

"Under TORCA, it was extremely difficult for tenants to buy their building because many owners wouldn't sign the TORCA application," DeSantis said. "Under SMRPH, the tenants, if they are in a binding contract to buy the building, can proceed without the owner's signatures."

But Genser said SMRPH stacks negotiating power in the corner of landlords, who can fill units with their friends to ensure a building is converted, or leave units empty to make it easier to achieve a two-thirds vote.

"Under TORCA, tenants had leverage to negotiate a deal that was fair," Genser said. "In this there is no way for tenants to negotiate a fair deal."

STATE



Entertainment industry: Secession will harm business

BY EUGENE TONG
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Actors, cinematographers, costumers and others from the entertainment industry said Monday it would be harder to film in the Los Angeles area if Hollywood and the San Fernando Valley secede from the city.

On Nov. 5, voters throughout Los Angeles will cast votes on secession measures involving the San Fernando Valley and Hollywood. To secede, the initiatives must win a majority of votes in the proposed new cities and also must be endorsed by a majority of voters citywide.

Supporters of the breakup want more control and say the city as it stands is too large to deal with issues such as overcrowded schools, traffic congestion and rising crime.

Representatives from the American

"A united L.A. is a working L.A. It will be a terrible disaster for the working people of Hollywood to take apart Los Angeles."

— JOHN CONNOLLY
AFTRA President

Federation of Television and Radio Artists, the International Cinematographers Guild and the costumers union hosted a rally in Studio City on Monday to fight the secession movement. About 24 people attended.

Guild officials said splitting up the nation's second-largest city would make the permit process for shooting in public locations more complicated, which could

drive away television and movie work.

"A united L.A. is a working L.A.," said AFTRA President John Connolly. "It will be a terrible disaster for the working people of Hollywood to take apart Los Angeles."

"We have so much runaway production already," said actress Bonnie Bartlett, who spoke at the rally opposing secession with her husband, actor William Daniels.

"We don't want people to run away from the valley."

If secessionists succeed, a production that wants to film in Los Angeles may have to deal with three separate municipalities with their own permitting fees and agencies, instead of just one under the current city system, according to Bruce Doering, national executive director of the cinematographers guild.

About six supporters of secession attended the street corner rally and shouted slogans during the speechmaking. They dismissed the Hollywood unions' remarks as useless "scare tactics."

"What you have here today are union leaders and downtown business interests who want to keep the Valley's money going downtown," said Jeff Brain, president of the Valley secession movement.

Lawyers seek additional plaintiffs in case against Polo

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Lawyers for a Polo Ralph Lauren employee suing the fashion giant are broadening efforts to attract more plaintiffs to the class action suit, a spokesman said Monday.

"It's important as this case moves forward that there be more people named as plaintiffs," said Jon Greer, a spokesman for attorney Patrick Kitchin, who is representing Toni Young in her suit against Polo.

A Web site explaining the lawsuit was posted to help spread the word to other potential plaintiffs, Greer said.

Young's suit filed last month in U.S. District Court in San Francisco said sales associates at Polo stores are forced to spend up to a third of their annual income on Ralph Lauren fashions to keep their jobs.

The complaint was filed Sept. 19 by Young on behalf of other unnamed plaintiffs. It claims Ralph Lauren's Polo stores require sales representatives to purchase and

"It's important as this case moves forward that there be more people named as plaintiffs."

— JOHN GREER
Spokesman for attorney Patrick Kitchin

wear the retailer's latest clothing lines.

Calling the employees "captive customers," Kitchin earlier said Young spent more than \$35,000 over five years on Polo clothing to meet the retailer's uniform requirement.

Young, a sales associate with Polo's San Francisco

store since 1997, makes approximately \$22,000 a year, Kitchin said. Of that, she spends between \$8,000 and \$10,000 on Polo fashions. Although Polo employees are given a 65 percent discount on clothing, that is only a small fraction of the cost, said Greer.

"When you have to buy a \$3,000 dress, that discount only brings it down to about \$1,000," he said.

A spokeswoman for Polo Ralph Lauren in New York said the company does not comment on pending litigation.

Polo employs about 7,500 people in the 34 states where it has retail outlets, Greer said.

The suit is just the latest legal difficulty for the apparel designer and retailer. Earlier this year, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission accused the company of racial discrimination. And last year, the U.S. Polo Association sued Polo Ralph Lauren for trademark infringements.

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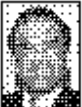
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STATE

States consider election day voter registration

BY COLLEEN SLEVIN
Associated Press Writer

DENVER — An expansion of democracy, or an invitation to fraud?

Those are the competing arguments as voters in Colorado and California consider questions on the Nov. 5 ballot that would allow people to register to vote literally at the last minute — at polling places on Election Day.

Six other states already have taken that step. They have reported relatively high voter turnouts and no serious problems with fraud.

Supporters of the two proposals — Colorado's Amendment 30 and California's Proposition 52 — say the measures will produce similar results in their states, helping the many newcomers who often forget to register in advance.

Registration now ends 15 days before Election Day in California and 29 days in advance in Colorado. The result, said pro-amendment spokesman Dave Minshall in Colorado, is to disenfranchise hundreds of thousands of voters.

Critics, including the secretaries of state and other elections officials in both states, say the changes could open the door to fraud by allowing criminals and non-citizens to vote. They say it would be nearly impossible to investigate whether a person voted illegally.

"This isn't Iowa. This is California, and the idea that a polling worker would know that voter is supposed to vote there is a quaint idea," said Dave Gilliard, director of Citizens & Law Enforcement

Against Election Fraud in Sacramento.

Maine and Minnesota began allowing same-day registration in 1973; Idaho, New Hampshire, Wisconsin and Wyoming have followed. North Dakota doesn't require voters to register at all; they simply need to show a valid ID if asked.

Minnesota Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer supports the same-day system but wants stronger safeguards, such as requiring a photo identification or Social Security number. Minnesotans now can vote merely by having a pre-registered voter vouch for their residency.

Minnesota had a 69 percent voter turnout in 2000, the highest in the nation and well above the national turnout of 51 percent. However, Kiffmeyer said Minnesota's turnout usually was higher than average even before same-day registration.

The lead backer of Colorado's measure is Jared Polis, a 27-year-old Internet millionaire elected to the state education board two years ago by a 90-vote margin. The initiative would require residents to present a driver's license or state-issued ID card to register.

California's measure also has a wealthy patron — Rob McKay, an heir to the Taco Bell fortune. It would increase fines for voting fraud, and would allow voters who lack a driver's license to register by showing two other documents, such as a utility bill or bank statement.

Colorado Secretary of State Donetta Davidson worries that election judges, fearing lawsuits, would be wary of questioning people about whether documents are valid.

Radio host forces apology from candidate Bill Simon

SIMON, from page 1

"Well if they're the same thing then say I'm sorry," Owens said.

"I'm sorry," Simon said, sounding more frustrated than contrite.

"There you go. You apologize to the governor," Owens said.

"There you go," Simon said.

Even after Simon said he was sorry one caller wasn't satisfied.

"My 7-year-old knows when you do something wrong you say you're sorry. ... If your son heard you hemming and hawing I regret this and all that, you know

what, I'm ashamed of that," the caller said.

"OK, well I respect your viewpoint," Simon said.

"Then let's say it really clearly as we say goodbye. Just say I'm sorry for the picture and then we'll move on," Owens said.

"I'm sorry for the picture," Simon said.

"Thank you for saying it," Owens said.

"I still haven't heard him apologize directly to the governor for accusing him of a crime," said Davis campaign press secretary Roger Salazar. "I'm sure he's sorry that this whole incident has been a devastating blow to his campaign."

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NATIONAL



Woman shot in front of Virginia Home Depot

Authorities determining if sniper strikes again

BY MATTHEW BARAKAT
Associated Press Writer

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — A woman was killed outside a Home Depot store Monday night, and police were trying to determine whether the shooting was related to the sniper spree responsible for eight deaths in the region in the past 12 days. "A female has been shot and killed," said Fairfax County Police Lt. Amy Lubas. The woman was felled by a single shot at about 9:30 p.m., authorities. All the other deaths were also caused by one shot.

A police spokesman said roads were being closed in the area, about 10 miles west of Washington, D.C. The Maryland task force investigating the sniper attacks was conferring with Fairfax authorities to see if Monday's victim was the sniper's ninth.

Virginia State Police said they were on the lookout for a white Chevrolet Astro van, last seen traveling east on Route 50 from Falls Church. Interstates 66 and I-95 are nearby. Witnesses at some of the earlier shootings said a white van or truck left the scene.

The Home Depot is in the Seven Corners Shopping Center, a 450-thousand-square-foot strip shopping center with a parking garage. The center also has a grocery store, an electronics retailer and a pet supply retailer.

The body of the victim lay under a sheet in the parking lot in front of the Home Depot, on the first floor of a two-story structure, 30 yards from the store entrance.

Kristin Reed, a supervisor at the Barnes & Noble bookstore in the sprawling strip mall, said six employees were locked inside the store with an FBI agent.

"Cops and cops and more cops," Reed said of the scene outside. "There's a lot of people walking around."

Reed said no one heard the shot inside her store. But "a customer had just walked outside, then came back in and said 'I think I heard a shot.'"

The federal agent in the bookstore "hasn't said anything to us. He was on the phone with someone," she said.

Earlier Monday, the longest lull yet in the Washington sniper's killing spree brought little relief as jittery residents flooded police with calls upon hearing car backfire, firecrackers or breaking glass.

"Everyone is edgy," said Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose, who is heading the investigation. "People are hearing things that may normally be overlooked."

President Bush said the "cold-blooded" attacks have made him sick to his stomach. "I weep for those who have lost their loved ones," he said. "The idea of moms taking their kids to school and sheltering them from a potential sniper attack is not the America that I know."

Four police squad cars rushed to a Silver Spring car dealership Monday after the window of a customer's BMW shattered when he closed the door. The man dialed 911, thinking a bullet broke the glass.

"He had no idea what happened — he was just freaked out," said David Earhardt, the dealership's service manager.

"People hear a noise, they're going to call — they want to put an end to this just like we do," said Prince William County, Va., Detective Dennis Mangan, whose department brought in a helicopter to search the woods before determining a reported gunshot was just a car backfiring.

Authorities in Baltimore, meanwhile, seized a white van and found an assault

rifle, sniper manual and ammunition similar to the .223 bullets used in attacks that have killed eight people and wounded two others, WBAL-TV reported.

MSNBC reported that a tarot card was found in the van and a sign on the dashboard read "Gihad in America." A tarot card was also found at one of the shootings.

The van's owner was being questioned by police Monday night.

"At this time, the task force believes this is not related to our sniper incidents," said Louise Marthens, a Montgomery County police spokeswoman.

Monday marked the sniper's longest break — two days and counting — since the killing spree began on Oct. 2. The sniper has shot 10 people in all. The eighth and latest killing came Friday morning when a 53-year-old Philadelphia man was gunned down in Spotsylvania County, Va., as he pumped gas. The killer has now gone two straight weekends without an attack.

Profilers say the long break could suggest the sniper is trying to outsmart police and change routine.

"Falling into a pattern is falling into a trap," said Robert K. Ressler, a former FBI profiler who helped investigators track killers such as Jeffrey Dahmer. "People this deep into aberrant behavior aren't just going to hang it up and call it quits. A week may go by now before they strike again, but I believe there are going to be more killings."

Monday was Columbus Day, a holiday for the many federal workers in the Washington area. By midday, none of the thousands of calls received by police were related to the sniper attacks. But as people went about their daily errands, many felt it was only a matter of time.

"He's luring people into being confident again," said Betty Charlton, who shopped with a friend at a Rockville shopping center.

With a new regional task force operating in the Washington area, authorities can immediately shut down roads and highways at the slightest possibility of a sniper shooting.

A 17-mile section of the Capital Beltway in Maryland was closed over the weekend after a woman was shot by an unidentified attacker. State troopers kept a vigil at the Woodrow Wilson Bridge over the Potomac River until it was determined the shooting was unrelated.

Many schools remained under lockdown Monday, meaning outdoor recess and physical education classes were canceled, and students were kept indoors all day.

In Fredericksburg, Va., a field hockey game was canceled at James Monroe High School. Monday night's rescheduled homecoming game was still on, but moved to a nearby rural county where there have been no shootings.

"I'm looking around for every white van I see," said Richard Spears, who was mowing grass at the school. "It makes you a little leery."

Composite drawings of the white box truck that the killer is believed to be using have "yielded good results," Moose said.

Also, Moose said people can now write as well as call with their tips. He gave an address: P.O. Box 7875, Gaithersburg, Md., 20898-7875.

Federal and local investigators refuse to discuss any details of the manhunt. But they have logged some consistencies: the killer favors suburban gas stations; takes down each victim with a single bullet; and, judging from the tarot card left at one of the shootings, appears to enjoy taunting police. It read: "Dear Policeman, I am God."

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NATIONAL

U.S. quietly adds thousands of forces to Gulf

BY ROBERT BURNS

AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is preparing and positioning U.S. forces in ways that suggest they soon will be able to move swiftly against the Iraqi regime, although President Bush says war is neither imminent nor inevitable.

Two aircraft carrier battle groups, each with about 10,000 sailors and marines, are within striking distance of Iraq and two more could join them by year's end. The Navy has accelerated training schedules for other warships.

The USS Lincoln arrived last month in the Gulf, and the USS George Washington, which had been on Gulf patrol, has shifted to the Mediterranean. The Lincoln has on board the first F/A-18 Super Hornet fighters jets to be deployed abroad. They have longer range and newer arms than the older F/A-18 Hornets.

The USS Harry S. Truman, based in Norfolk, Va., is due to begin a six-month deployment in early December, relieving the George Washington, and the San Diego-based USS Constellation is due to deploy near year's end.

One of the most significant signs of preparation is the decision by Gen. Tommy Franks, who would run any war with Iraq, to move his battle staff in November to a newly outfitted command post in Qatar, in the central Persian Gulf.

In addition, the battle staffs of the Army's V Corps and the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force are being moved to Kuwait, officials disclosed this weekend. They would coordinate the ground element of an invasion.

The Navy already has its 5th Fleet headquarters in the Persian Gulf and the Air Force has warplanes and a command post in Saudi Arabia, although it is problematic whether the Saudis will allow their use in an invasion of Iraq.

The United States also has warplanes and troops in Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Turkey and in Central Asia, but, like Saudi Arabia, it's not clear whether the Pentagon has completed arrangements for using bases in those countries for an offensive.

"This just happens to be a very good time, a very good place and a very good way to do the exercise."

— **TOMMY FRANKS**
United States Navy

Most of the recent movement of U.S. land forces to the Persian Gulf area has been for routine training exercises, but they could shift to a war footing on short notice if Bush decides to attack Iraq.

Franks has said the shift next month to Qatar is simply a test of Central Command's ability to move the battle staff to al-Udeid air base and to command a simulated war from a new set of deployable headquarters buildings. In a recent AP interview, he said it was uncertain whether he and the battle staff will move back to Central Command's permanent headquarters in Florida when the exercise is completed in December.

"This just happens to be a very good time, a very good place and a very good way to do the exercise," he said.

The timing coincides with other exercises. For example, about 1,400 U.S. special operations forces began an exercise, dubbed Early Victor '02, in Jordan on Oct. 6. They are training with Jordanian, Omani and Kuwait troops in the kind of unconventional warfare techniques — such as operating behind enemy lines — that likely would be important in any war against Iraq.

The Pentagon has not announced the exercise in Jordan, which may be more sensitive than similar sessions held over the past decade because of news reports that Pentagon war

planners have considered Jordan a potential launch point for a U.S. invasion force. Jordan's public position is that it does not want to become involved in a war against Iraq and has pressed Iraq to accept U.N. weapons inspections.

More than 1,000 Marines from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit have finished an exercise, dubbed "Eager Mace '02," in Kuwait. One Marine was killed and another wounded last week when two men identified by the Kuwaiti government as Kuwaiti civilians opened fire; other Marines then shot and killed the assailants.

The Army has kept a contingent of 2,000 soldiers in a permanent rotation at Camp Doha in Kuwait since the early 1990s, and it has added several thousand more over the past year. U.S. Air Force planes also are based in Kuwait, and the Air Force is considering moving B-2 stealth bombers to Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

If the Pentagon began a full-scale buildup in preparation for war, it would need to mobilize many more forces than it has moved thus far, plus it likely would be compelled to call up tens of thousands of reservists. The Army also likely would send Patriot air defense weapons to countries in the region such as Turkey.

The Pentagon is accelerating vaccinations of troops against anthrax — an infectious, often fatal disease. And Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld is expected to order limited troop vaccinations against smallpox.

The Navy has long maintained a prominent presence in the Gulf. Its 5th Fleet headquarters is based in Bahrain, off the coast of Saudi Arabia. Carrier-based fighters have helped enforce a "no fly" zone over southern Iraq.

Carrier battle groups include not only a variety of aircraft — fighter-bombers, electronic jammers, reconnaissance, search-and-rescue and others — but also surface ships and submarines armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles.

"For the first time in a number of years we have the capability to surge a significant portion of our force," Vice Adm. Charles Moore, the Navy's chief of fleet readiness, said last week.



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INTERNATIONAL



al-Qaida blamed for bomb, U.S. citizens urged to flee

BY MICHAEL CASEY
Associated Press Writer

BALI, Indonesia — Indonesia's government, reeling from a bomb attack that killed at least 180 people, acknowledged for the first time Monday that al-Qaida is active on its soil — setting the stage for a possible crackdown on extremists.

Stocks plummeted in the capital Jakarta, and markets sank elsewhere in Southeast Asia as tourists fled the country, already one of the region's most fragile economies.

But many Americans said they were planning to stay, contrary to State Department advice and despite warnings U.S. interests could be the next targets.

The car bomb Saturday at a nightclub packed with foreigners on this resort island is likely to harm more than just the economy and tourism. Since the Sept. 11 attacks, and despite U.S. pressure and the discovery of an al-Qaida-linked terror network in neighboring Singapore and Malaysia, Indonesia has insisted there is no threat of violent extremism on its soil.

The turnaround came after a Cabinet meeting in Jakarta Monday, when Defense Minister Matori Abdul Djilal said: "We are sure al-Qaida is here."

"The Bali bomb blast is linked to al-Qaida with the cooperation of local terrorists," he said.

President Megawati Sukarnoputri is likely to face growing demands to arrest high-profile suspects whose continued freedom has astounded law enforcement officials in other countries. Whether she can do so without provoking extremists — and possible further attacks — is an open question.

In Washington, President Bush had strong words for the Indonesian leader, saying he planned to talk to her about the need to crack down on terrorism.

"I hope I hear the resolve of a leader who recognizes that any time terrorists take hold in a country it's going to weaken the country itself," Bush said.

"And there has to be a firm and deliberate desire to find out — find the killers before they kill somebody else," he said.

Security Minister Bambang Susilo Yudoyono said there were signs terrorists were planning attacks against industrial sites, including ExxonMobil's Arun liquefied natural gas plant in Aceh and the Caltex refinery in Sumatra.

"We will increase the security alert in those areas," Yudoyono said.

On Bali, there was no visible evidence of a higher security presence or stricter controls at the airport, though police insisted an elite unit had been deployed.

The FBI and Australian detectives joined the hunt for the killers. Investigators from Scotland Yard were on the way, and Germany said it might send experts.

Bali police said 27 witnesses had been questioned.

Suspicion has fallen on Jemaah Islamiyah, a group that Singapore says is based in Indonesia and is linked to Osama bin Laden's terror network. But the group's leader denied involvement.

"All the allegations against me are groundless. I challenge them to prove anything," Abu Bakar Bashir said. "I suspect that the bombing was engineered by the United States and its allies to justify allegations that Indonesia is a base for terrorists."

Indonesia has refused to arrest Bashir, saying he has committed no crimes and that an anti-terrorism law has not been passed by Parliament.

Underlying the reluctance is a fear that arresting Bashir could provoke a backlash against the nascent democracy in the world's most populous Muslim nation, and that providing the military wider powers to deal with terrorism could herald a return of human rights abuses.

Malaysia and Singapore have jailed scores of suspected Jemaah Islamiyah members accused of plotting to bomb the U.S. Embassy and other Western targets. The group has carried out bombings in the Philippines.

Jemaah Islamiyah is believed to have four tons of ammonium nitrate, a chemical used to make the Oklahoma City truck bomb, purchased by a suspected Malaysian member who the Malaysian government says allowed two of the Sept. 11 hijackers to use his apartment in 2000.

The U.S. Embassy ordered all nonessential staff and dependents to leave Indonesia, and said other Americans in Indonesia should consider leaving. Up to 20,000 Americans are believed to be in Indonesia, although few are permanent residents. Many are employees of U.S. energy companies, which have extensive interests in the resource-rich nation.

Foreign countries compiled rising tolls of their citizens killed in the bomb-



Associated Press

Indonesian paramedics and rescue workers stand near a line of body bags of the bombing victims, with ice put on it to slow down the decomposing process, as they continue the identification effort at a hospital in Denpasar, Bali, on Monday. More than 180 people were killed and hundreds injured in the bomb attack on Saturday night.

ings, while volunteers at a hospital-turned-morgue piled ice on bodies and loaded others into refrigerated containers to slow decomposition in the tropical heat.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer, whose countrymen are believed to top the death list, arrived on Bali on Monday. The bombings may be the work of al-Qaida and its allies, he said, but he stopped short of calling for Bashir's arrest.

"We want the investigation to be concluded successfully ... rather than getting into personal details of groups like Jemaah Islamiyah," Downer said.

A pair of explosions, one from a car bomb, tore through a maze of bars, restaurants and nightclubs Saturday night at Kuta Beach, a haunt for surfers and young vacationers. The open-air Sari Club was turned into an inferno. Little remained of it Monday except a huge hole.

Government officials said 181 people died, although hospital workers put the total at 190. More than 300 people were injured.

Hundreds of wounded Australians were flown home Monday but two died en route.

Balinese officials said that only 39 positive identifications had been made — 15

Australians, eight Britons, five Singaporeans, six Indonesians, one German, one French citizen, one Dutch citizen, one New Zealander and one Ecuadorian.

Two Americans were killed and four injured, the U.S. State Department said. In London, the government said that at least 30 Britons died. Switzerland believed two of its citizens were among the dead.

Bali's international airport was filled with stunned vacationers desperately looking for flights home.

But planes also brought people to Bali, including relatives coming to console heartbroken family members and friends and to join the agonizing wait for missing loved ones to be identified.

"It's been hell," said David Byron, an Australian. His 14-year-old daughter, Chloe, was with schoolmates when the Sari Club exploded in flames. "But I'm taking her home. I don't care what is left."

The normally crowded beaches were largely empty Monday. At sunset, about 300 people, mostly longtime foreign residents, gathered on the beach for a religious ceremony, joined their hands in a circle and prayed.

Statement attributed to bin Laden hails attack in Kuwait

BY NADIA ABOU EL-MAGD
Associated Press Writer

CAIRO, Egypt — A signed statement allegedly from Osama bin Laden claimed Monday that recent attacks in Yemen and Kuwait were designed to coincide with the anniversary of the war in Afghanistan and to send a "clear and strong message" to the world that his al-Qaida organization is still active.

The statement, which was faxed to the Al-Jazeera network and posted on an Islamic Web site, appeared to have been written on a computer, using a cursive Arabic font that looks like handwriting. The signature at the bottom is similar to bin Laden's distinctive style, with a loop at the end.

Still, there was no way to authenticate the statement. Bin Laden's whereabouts are unknown and President Bush said Monday: "We don't know whether bin Laden is alive or dead."

"We do know that al-Qaida's still dangerous, and while we've made good progress, there is a lot more work to do," Bush said.

Monday's statement accused the United States of occupying Afghanistan and planning a war in Iraq in

order to conquer the Muslim world. It praised two Kuwaitis who opened fire on U.S. Marines as brothers-in-arms with the Sept. 11 hijackers.

"The heroic Kuwait operation proved the extent of the danger that confronts American troops wherever they go in the Islamic world," the statement read.

"America is getting ready for a new round of its crusade against the Islamic world, this time ... against the Muslim Iraqi people, aiming at completing its plan to divide the Islamic nation and tear it apart, looting its wealth, and preparing for establishing the state of greater Israel after expelling the Palestinians."

A copy faxed to Al-Jazeera on Monday was nearly identical to one posted on an Islamic Web site. It was addressed to "the Islamic nation, on the one-year anniversary of the beginning of the American new crusade war."

It was signed: "Your brother, Osama bin Mohammed bin Laden."

Vince Cannistraro, a former counterterrorism chief, believes the signature is real, but it could have been duplicated from earlier statements. In that case, it wouldn't be a definite confirmation bin Laden is alive. "It could be 'cut-and-paste,'" he said.

On Oct. 6, a French tanker was damaged in an explosion in Yemen. The explosion is being investigated as a terror attack and Yemeni officials said they were looking at the possibility the blast was caused by a small boat laden with explosives. The USS Cole was attacked in a similar fashion in Yemen in October 2000 in an act blamed on bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

The U.S.-led bombing campaign in Afghanistan began Oct. 7, 2001, three weeks after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

"By exploding the oil tanker in Yemen, the holy warriors hit the umbilical cord and lifeline of the crusader community, reminding the enemy of the heavy cost of blood and the gravity of losses they will pay as a price for their continued aggression on our community and looting of our wealth."

Bin Laden has often referred to Westerners as "crusaders" and to Americans and Jews as "the enemy." Such statements have appeared periodically on Islamic fundamentalist Web sites that cloak the identity of those who run them and espouse anti-Western ideology.

Monday's statement also praised "holy warriors" in Chechnya, Afghanistan, Philippines, Indonesia and Kashmir. It made no reference to a deadly bomb attack Saturday in Bali, Indonesia.



SPORTS

It's all set: Giants vs. Angels in World Series

BY JOSH DUBOW

AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Baseball will have another wild-card champion.

The San Francisco Giants won the NL pennant on Monday night, setting up a World Series matchup of second-place teams when they play the AL champion Anaheim Angels.

Game 1 is Saturday night at Edison Field, with Barry Bonds hoping to succeed in his first trip onto baseball's biggest stage against the Angels, who have never been to the Series and don't have any players who have, either.

"To be with this organization as long as I have, and to feel the emptiness of the fans all these years, and the pain and frustration, it's like we're paving a new road here," said Anaheim's Tim Lincecum, who waited 11 years for this trip.

Neither team has much World Series experience, but they do have some head-to-head matchups to look back on.

For those who thought Francisco Rodriguez's first win in a major league uniform came against the Yankees in the division series, think again.

On March 13 at Scottsdale Stadium in Arizona, Rodriguez pitched a scoreless inning to get the win in an 11-10 spring training game against the Giants.

Barry Bonds and Jeff Kent didn't play in the game and even fewer regulars were around to face Rodriguez in the ninth inning.

Anaheim won all three Cactus League matchups this year. But the Giants hold an 11-5 edge in the regular season with Bonds homering five times in those games.

None of that matters now.

Bonds has waited his entire career for this moment. He was so close in 1991 and '92, when he fell one game short with Pittsburgh.

After struggling in his first five trips to the postseason, Bonds has shined this year with four homers and 10 RBIs to put himself in position for the title that would punctuate his sparkling career.

Bonds can ask five of his teammates what the Series is like. Livan Hernandez and Robb Nen, who were on the only other wild-card champion with Florida in 1997, when Hernandez won the MVP. Reggie Sanders, Kenny Lofton and Jay Witasick have also been to the Series.

This year's playoffs have shown that second place truly was best.

In the first seven years of the wild card, only two second-place teams made it to the Series, with Florida winning it in 1997 and the New York Mets losing two years ago.

The Angels won a franchise-record 99 games in the regular season but still finished four games behind Oakland in the AL West. But Anaheim knocked off the four-time defending AL champion Yankees in the first round and blew away AL Central champ Minnesota in the ALCS.

The Giants (95-66) couldn't catch defending World Series champion Arizona in the regular season, finishing 2 1/2 games back in the NL West.

But San Francisco beat NL East winner Atlanta in the first round, and knocked off Central champion St. Louis in the NLCS.

San Francisco won its third pennant since leaving New York after the 1957 season — losing in 1962 to the Yankees and 1989 to Oakland. The Giants last won it all in 1954.

This will be the first all-California matchup since the Bay Bridge Series 13 years ago and the fourth ever.

"A World Series in California. That's crazy," Hernandez said.

Bonds is the Giants' biggest star, but it's been the lesser-known players like Benito Santiago and Rich Aurilia who have come through with the clutch hits.

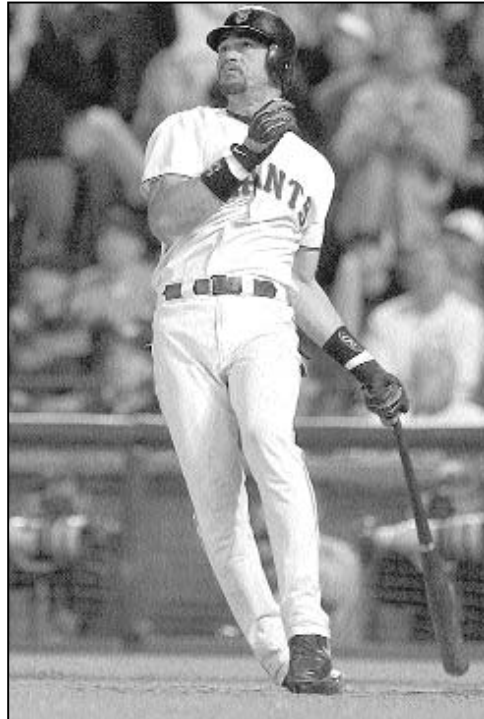
The Giants have a deep rotation, led by hard-throwing Jason Schmidt and Russ Ortiz and a strong bullpen anchored by Felix Rodriguez and Nen.

The Angels advanced to the Series behind a lethal lineup and an electric bullpen.

Anaheim has a .320 batting average in the postseason with 60 runs in nine games. The Angels have gotten contributions up and down the lineup, from pesky leadoff man David Eckstein, to clutch-hitting Troy Glaus, to Adam Kennedy, who hit three homers in the ALCS clincher.

"The Angels are a team that doesn't quit," said Giants manager Dusty Baker, a former teammate of Angels skipper Mike Scioscia. "They can score a lot of runs. They don't strike out. They can put the ball in play."

And when the game is close late, Francisco Rodriguez



Amy Sancetta/Associated Press
San Francisco Giants' Benito Santiago watches his two-run homer against the St. Louis Cardinals during the eighth inning of game four of the NLCS in San Francisco. The Giants won 4-3.

and closer Troy Percival take over.

Francisco Rodriguez, who made his major league debut on Sept. 18, is 4-0 with a 1.80 ERA in seven postseason relief appearances, with 15 strikeouts in 10 innings.

San Francisco 49ers take Seahawks by touchdown

BY DAVE GOLDBERG

AP Football Writer

SEATTLE — Terrell Owens demonstrated to the Seattle Seahawks why the San Francisco 49ers so often have owned the NFC West.

The All-Pro receiver, held in check for most of the game, caught a 37-yard touchdown pass from Jeff Garcia midway through the fourth quarter to give the 49ers a 28-21 victory over the division's team Monday night. He capped the play with a characteristic flourish by taking a pen from his sock and autographing the ball.

Seattle (1-4) led 21-20 and was driving for another score when Ahmad Plummer intercepted an ill-advised pass by Trent Dilfer at the San Francisco 32 with 10

minutes left in the game. The 49ers moved from there to the Seattle 37, where Garcia found Owens deep down the left side, where he took the ball over Shawn Springs for the score.

He then signed the ball for a friend to whom he had promised the ball. The friend, ironically, was sitting in Springs' suite.

The win kept the 49ers (4-1) one game ahead of Arizona in the division that they won 14 times between 1981 and 1997, the last year they won it. With St. Louis' demise this season, they are a heavy favorite to win it again this season.

San Francisco took a 10-0 lead on Jose Cortez's 37-yard field goal and Garcia's 8-yard TD pass to Owens, who finished with six catches for 84 yards.

The field goal came on a 73-yard drive

off the opening kickoff.

Then Zack Bronson, who later left the game with a broken foot, intercepted a pass by Dilfer on Seattle's first possession. The 49ers took six plays to complete the drive when Garcia rolled right and found Owens all alone on the goal line and he stepped into the end zone — no autograph on that one.

Seattle retaliated immediately, going 69 yards in 10 plays to score on Dilfer's 5-yard touchdown pass to Mack Strong with 1:45 left in the first quarter. Dilfer had two critical third-and-long completions to Bobby Engram to keep the drive alive.

Then Engram struck again. He took Jason Baker's punt at his 39, broke a tackle by long snapper Brian Jennings and was free, weaving his way 61 yards to

give Seattle a 14-10 lead with 5:41 left until halftime.

Cortez' 29-yard field goal on the next drive made it 14-13 and that's the way the half ended.

The 49ers' first possession of the second half was their best — a 12-play, 99-yard drive primarily on the ground capped by Kevan Barlow's 6-yard run off left tackle for a 20-14 lead.

Back came Seattle. Shaun Alexander went 42 yards on the first play from scrimmage, then capped the 76-yard drive with a 1-yard run with 1:11 left in the third quarter to make it 21-20.

But in the end, it wasn't enough to hold down Owens — and his pen.

Brees, Chargers lead AFC West, with Raiders looming

BY BERNIE WILSON

AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO — The San Diego Chargers still can't believe they got away with their latest win.

Then again, they've got a calm, cool quarterback in Drew Brees, which is the main reason why they're atop the AFC West and sharing the NFL's best record with four other teams.

The Chargers (5-1) were alternately shaking their heads and smiling Monday, a day after they survived five turnovers and a blocked punt to beat division rival Kansas City 35-34.

The victory makes Sunday's road game against the hated Raiders even bigger than normal, because Oakland

(4-1) is one-half game behind San Diego after losing for the first time Sunday, to the previously winless St. Louis Rams.

The Chargers beat the Chiefs because Brees, with no timeouts left, led them 71 yards for the winning score, a 2-yard pass to rookie Reche Caldwell with 14 seconds left.

"When you look at Drew, there are certain qualities about him that really don't have anything to do with even playing football," coach Marty Schottenheimer said Monday. "There's this kind of demeanor he has. At the half I walked up to him before we got ready to go and I said, 'You OK?' And he looked at me and he said, 'I'm fine.' And then he smiles at me."

"You've heard me reference some of these young players, you look them in the eyes and you see the back of their head. Did you see him in the fourth quarter as

we're driving? I mean, that's a quality that no coach coaches him to be that way. It's just the way he is."

Brees was intercepted once in the first half and again early in the third quarter. Even with the miscues, the Chargers never got further than 10 points behind. Once they held onto the ball, they scored touchdowns on their last four possessions, three in the fourth quarter.

The Chargers' winning drive started with 2:24 to play. "I like those situations because I feel like I can get in a rhythm, get in a groove and you're just so focused on the moment and what's going on, what you need to do," said Brees, who finished with 319 yards and two touchdown passes.

And now they'll get the Raiders coming off their disappointing 28-13 loss at St. Louis.

COMICS



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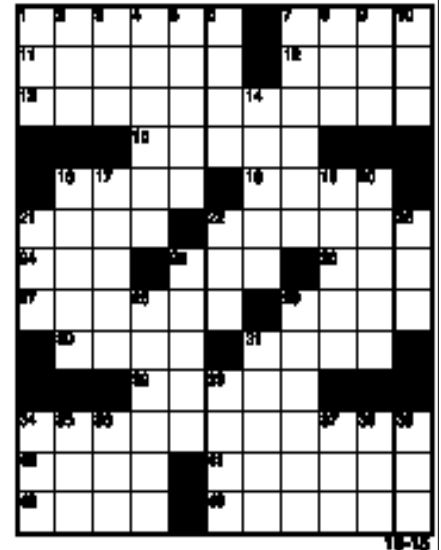
- ACROSS**
- 1 Damsel
 - 7 New Zealander
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 - 15 — pork (Chinese)
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 - 7 Hawaiian witch doctor
 - 8 — Jima
 - 9 Court
 - 10 Under the weather
 - 14 Canary sound
 - 16 Light lunch
 - 17 "An Ideal Husband" playwright
 - 18 Night vision?
 - 20 Big trucks
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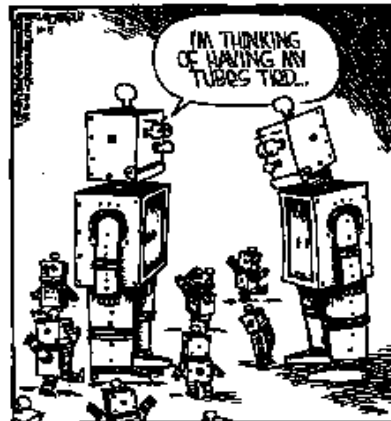
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Workers sinking teeth into food processing

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SANTA MONICA House w/yard. \$2650.00 Completely renovated, Pergo floors, large kitchen, old fashion bathroom. Close to beach and shopping, next to new park. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102

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THE BEST solution to low cost advertising. Fill your appointment book by running your ad in the Daily Press. Only a buck a day, call (310)458-7737 to place your ad today.	VOTE FOR Pro Se Santa Monica City Council! Our Residents, Businesses, Schools must come first!				

ADVERTISE FOR A DOLLAR A DAY!

Santa Monica Daily Press 310.458.7737

Calendar

Tuesday, October 15, 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. Tuck 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

Childbloom Program. Special Open day at Santa Monica Music Center. This coming Sat. Oct. 19, 1-3pm. Guitar Giveaway and free mini lessons. For more information call (310) 600-0284

Come and join storyteller Mr. Jesse, and his puppet pals for a hilarious program and lots of fun. This program is for ages 3-7. Tuesday, October 15th, from 3:30pm to 4:15pm, Ocean Park Library, 2601 Main Street, Santa Monica, (310) 392-3804.

The Westside Walkers, 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 Westside Walkers meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Westside Pavilion, Pico Blvd. Between Overland Ave. and Westwood Blvd. In West LA. For more

information about the program, call (800)516-5323.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS AT SMC'S EMERITUS COLLEGE. Santa Monica College offers free bereavement support groups in the summer session through it's Emeritus College, a widely praised program designed for older adults. Two support groups will meet Tuesdays on an ongoing basis. One group will meet from noon to 1:50 p.m. and the other from 7 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. For information and registration, call Emeritus College at (310) 434-4306.

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.

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.

Wednesday

Community

The Westside Walkers, 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 Westside Walkers meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Westside Pavilion, Pico Blvd. Between Overland Ave. and Westwood Blvd. In West LA. For more information about the program, call (800)516-5323.

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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

Innovative Thai artist putting his talent to waste

BY VIJAY JOSHI
Associated Press Writer

BANGKOK, Thailand — The latest work of a veteran Thai artist is a load of waste. Mounds of elephant waste, in fact.

A compulsive experimenter, 74-year-old Boonthueng Ridthikert recently exhibited about 100 landscapes painted with artificially colored elephant dung. He painted them on a special canvas made from — what else — elephant dung.

"It's a very easy medium to work with. It sticks easily on the paper and has a nice texture," Boonthueng said in an interview at the gallery that showed his paintings of Thai and American countryside.

Having spent several years in the United States, Boonthueng saw similarities in the landscapes of the two countries and produced the show titled "Inspiration from Thailand to USA."

Boonthueng's favorite piece is the captivating "Reed Tree" with its swaying rushes drooping over water lilies and red flowers on the shore of Khoe Juk lake in northeastern Thailand.

Viewed from 10 feet away, it appears to be an oil painting. A closer look reveals the relief formed by the thick dung paint plastered over the canvas.

Boonthueng is not the first painter using elephant dung, but his work did not cause the fuss that a dung-dotted Virgin Mary portrait by Nigerian-born Chris Ofili did at a New York museum in 1999. The painting so incensed then-Mayor Rudolph Giuliani that he cut a \$7.2 million city subsidy to the museum; a judge

"Is it gimmicky or kitschy? There is no right or wrong when an artist uses different kind of strategies to create attention for himself or his art. Art is all about experimentation."

— ZU CHENG
Bangkok art critic

later restored it.

In Thailand, art critics have praised Boonthueng's work.

"I am kind of intrigued by how he uses elephant dung as a medium," said Cheng Zu, a leading Bangkok-based critic.

"Is it gimmicky or kitschy? There is no right or wrong when an artist uses different kind of strategies to create attention for himself or his art," said Cheng. "Art is all about experimentation."

Boonthueng, a four-time national award winner for his more traditional oil and water color works, is no stranger to experimentation.

In his late 20s, he was the star of a popular live TV show, "Look Through the Brush," on which he painted pictures to accompany the singing of folk songs. Each song lasted five to six minutes, and he created six paintings every show in a frenzied display of speed and dexterity with air brushes and acrylic paint.

A U.S. Embassy cultural attache who saw the program arranged for him to tour the United States in 1959. A four-month, 28-state swing saw him produce hundreds of paintings to go with a Thai dancer's performance.

"It was a lot of fun. I made a lot of money under the table," selling the paintings without permission from the organizers, he said, his ruddy face splitting into a grin.

He lived in the United States for three years in the 1980s and now travels to California frequently to visit a son.

In 1986, he began experimenting with new materials, creating paintings with strips of colored cloth, human hair and twigs.

Boonthueng says the idea of using elephant dung as a medium came to him during the 1997 Asian economic crisis when he found imported materials unaffordable. One day while driving in the beach city of

Pattaya he had to slow down behind an ambling elephant.

"I saw the elephant drop a load of dung. Boom! Something flashed in my mind," said Boonthueng.

He bought a sack, scooped up the dung and rushed home. He bought three more sacks of dung from an elephant stable and set about experimenting, overruling his family's protests about the unpleasant odor.

Initially, he made drawing paper of the dung, but found water colors ran and oil paints wouldn't stick. So he decided to make dung paint, too.

The dung was soaked in water for two days with chlorine to bleach it, purify it and remove the odor. He created colors by mixing dung paste with natural dyes made from crushed rocks and various types of mud.

To make paper, dung paste is mixed with tapioca skin and banana leaves, which gives it form. The mixture is flattened over a wooden frame. Upon drying, the sheet is peeled off.

Boonthueng, who did his first dung painting six years ago, said he has been successful with the medium and plans to donate part of his earnings to elephant conservation efforts in Thailand.

He said his first sale was to former Finance Minister Tarin Nimaheminda, for thousands of dollars, and his second was to a professor he met during a trip to California. Boonthueng said he was about to ask \$300 for the work when the professor offered \$3,500.

"I was so taken aback, but I took the money," he said.

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