

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

11 45 22 20 8

Megamillion: 18

Jackpot: 7 Million

FANTASY 5

5 6 19 21 37

DAILY 3

Daytime: 1 5 8

Evening: 5 9 0

DAILY DERBY

1st: 08 Gorgeous George

2nd: 09 Winning Spirit

3rd: 05 California Classic

RACE TIME: 1:41.84

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Derek Leroy McSmith of Forest City, Ga., has filed 10,618 formal open-records requests to local governments in the last eight months, according to an Atlanta Journal-Constitution report. Most were, he said, to satisfy his curiosity about how government works, but one day, he asked for 490 magazines and on another day, he checked out 100 books (and soon, according to the librarian, walked outside and dropped them into the return bin). Each request must be logged in and processed, and a Forest City clerk spends almost full-time on McSmith's work. Several officials said that after they locate his documents, he only glances at them (or, if there is a cost involved, declines the documents). A local First Amendment advocate said the situation was merely "one of the downsides of a free and open society."

TODAY IN HISTORY

FORTY YEARS AGO, ON OCT. 15, 1964, it was announced that Soviet leader Nikita S. Khrushchev had been removed from office. He was succeeded as premier by Alexei N. Kosygin and as Communist Party secretary by Leonid I. Brezhnev.

■ **In 1917,** Mata Hari, a Dutch dancer who had spied for the Germans, was executed by a French firing squad outside Paris.

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Camelot hits the campaign trail

City Council candidate factors in his Kennedy ties to local race

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

Propped up by his political connections, wealth and well-known family, Santa Monica City Council candidate Bobby Shriver has dominated the headlines this election season.

That's much to the dismay of his opponents, who have watched Shriver, 50, garner national attention while they have been brushed aside. Shriver's candidacy has been covered by The New York Times, The Boston Globe, the Los Angeles Times, CNN, Fox News Channel and local news stations, to name a few.

Patricia Hoffman, a first-time council candidate, said when the LA Times recently called her regarding a story about the Santa Monica election, the question

asked of her was what she thought about Shriver.

"Bobby Shriver's entrance of the race changes the calculus ... it's no longer a small town election," Hoffman said, adding in the 25 years she's been involved in local politics, a celebrity has never run. "It's turned into a major political event."

FAMILY TIES

Shriver's candidacy also has become a major news event in recent weeks as the Kennedy family has shown up in Santa Monica to stump, precinct walk and help with his campaign. Shriver's uncle, U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy, was in town Thursday to attend a breakfast event at the restaurant Back on Broadway.

Shriver said he realized while canvassing in Santa Monica that people were confused on his party affiliation, partly because he is the brother-in-law of Republican California Gov. Arnold

See KENNEDYS, page 8



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy on Thursday stumps for City Council candidate Bobby Shriver at Back on Broadway.

Ted Kennedy swings through Santa Monica

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY — U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy stepped into a restaurant here Thursday morning, shook hands with dozens of community leaders and bolstered his nephew's bid for a seat in local government.

Bobby Shriver, brother-in-law of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and son of Eunice Kennedy and Sargent Shriver, has lived in Santa Monica for nearly two decades. He joined the race for four open seats on the City Council after a

See TED, page 8

Squirrel causes widespread power outage

BY PAM WIGHT

Special to the Daily Press

An electrocuted squirrel caused wide-spread power outages in Santa Monica Thursday.

The furry critter apparently stumbled into Southern California Edison's sub-station in Santa Monica at 10:12 a.m., which caused the power to be out six hours in some places, said Edison spokesman Paul Klein. Thursday's outage affected 3,025 Santa Monica

residents before it was corrected. Eighteen residents were still without power at 5 p.m., Klein said.

The area affected extended from the Santa Monica Pier at Colorado Avenue, east to Rose Avenue, and north from Lincoln Boulevard to an unknown area, Klein said.

The Santa Monica Courthouse avoided any security problems by evacuating the building, said court clerk Ted McDonald. It was

almost closing time when the outage occurred, so it did not have a huge effect, he said.

Power is sent via transformers from the power plant at very high voltages. The sub-stations reduce the voltage for customer use. The squirrel somehow got into the building and was electrocuted on the live wires.

"We occasionally get power outages from rodents getting into the equipment," Klein said.

And on Wednesday, Santa Monicans also went without power — this time from an underground circuit problem. The outage, which affected 3,000 people, occurred from 3:54 p.m. to 5 p.m.

At Santa Monica High School, only teachers and administrators were in the building when the power went off for a couple of hours on Wednesday, said Sue Dresler, assistant to principal Ilene Straus.

New political action committee raises legal concerns

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — A new political coalition of more than 1,000 city workers has raised concerns about electioneering on the government's dime.

The Coalition of Santa Monica City Employees political action

committee filed papers this week to officially change its address and phone number of record after concerns were raised about workers possibly campaigning while at work. Until this week, the phone number for the coalition led to a line within City Hall.

Leaders of the coalition denied any wrongdoing and said City

Hall's contact information was left on official forms due to a clerical error. It's illegal for any elected or city official to campaign using government resources or while on duty.

"We have never used city phones," said Lauralee Asch, a police department worker who heads the coalition. "We don't (campaign) on duty. Everyone is

doing their jobs and then, when they want to get politically active, they do it on their own time, on their own phone."

A spokeswoman from the City Manager's office said staffers are regularly reminded not to campaign while at work. Once offi-

See PAC CONCERNS, page 4

Jacquie Banks

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Plan on calm, Gem

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)

★★★★ Everyone's (including yours) imagination runs haywire. Try to funnel this gift and use it constructively. Work with individuals and not groups. Brainstorm. This process could go on for a while. Funny, outrageous moments just happen. Tonight: Time to direct this intensity elsewhere.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Others pop up with solutions, ideas and requests. The boss might not be as helpful as you might wish. He or she might be into dreaming up more ideas. Work with those who are willing and present with the moment. Tonight: The world is your oyster.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Dig into work. You might not have an alternative, especially if you would like to leave the office on time. A new idea or different approach works well. Your creativity shakes up others, though you might find another person playing devil's advocate. Tonight: Plan on calm.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Your imagination knows no limit. Your humor invigorates others, encouraging them to focus and find solutions. Do research. Find experts. You might start thinking about splitting and getting out of town. Tonight: Take care of your responsibilities.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ You might not want to open up like you normally do. Some Lions could opt to stay home and work. Partners mean well and could inspire you. Your comments could be a lot more sarcastic or sharp than you realize. Screen calls if possible. Tonight: Order in.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You express yourself while inspiring others at work. You might be distant in the morning; your mind might be on someone new in your life. Careful: You need to be here and now. Decide to spend some money to make some. Tonight: Celebrate the weekend at a favorite spot.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Indulge yourself. You might have been eyeing a new purchase that you really want. Just make sure you are going to get a good buy. Stop and purchase a card or token of affection for someone you care about. Tonight: Curb your possessiveness.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You are the cat's meow with the Moon in your sign, charging you with energy and magnetism. Family might be touchy. Pick and choose your words, as you really don't want the War of the Roses. Be a smart Scorp. Tonight: Your wish is another's pleasure.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Don't allow others to pressure you. By proceeding like this is a normal workday, you'll accomplish a lot. A call or compliment puts a smile on your face. Keep plans and ideas to yourself. As you mull them over, you could change your perspective. Tonight: Take some personal time.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Clear out work and add in a touch of socializing as you roll into a very social 24 hours. You might want to investigate an expenditure that could help your public appearance or professional status. Tonight: Hook up with your friends.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Getting out of work and allowing your professional responsibilities to go to the way-side will take tremendous effort. Knowing this, invite associates out for a late lunch and let what is natural unfold. Tonight: In the limelight.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Read between the lines. What others don't say might be more significant than what they do say. Detach and don't trigger. Start thinking about a fall or winter getaway. Stop and get some travel brochures. Tonight: Follow the music.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Council candidates respond to preservation questions

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Conservancy posed questions to City Council candidates concerning preservation issues. The candidates' responses are available to the public at the Conservancy's Web site at www.smconservancy.org.

"It is very encouraging to see such broad enthusiasm for preservation among the council candidates," said Joel Brand, Santa Monica Conservancy president. "A strong majority of the candidates participated in our written forum, and they unanimously supported preserving Santa Monica's unique architectural character. While candidates differed on how best to protect the city's historic fabric, they all recognized that it should be treasured. That's a level of awareness that didn't exist among candidates just a few years ago."

The preservation movement in Santa Monica dates back to the 1960s and 1970s and was a response to an increase in development resulting from the completion of the Santa Monica Freeway, reports the conservancy. In 1973, the Santa Monica Pier was saved from demolition by a group called "Save The Santa Monica Bay." The Santa Monica Landmark and Historic District Ordinance was passed in 1976. A few years ago, Proposition A, an initiative that would have required a property owner's consent before a structure could be landmarked, was defeated.

The Santa Monica Conservancy, a nonprofit, nonpartisan volunteer organization, was formed in 2002. It is dedicated to the preservation of Santa Monica's architectural, historic and cultural history through education and advocacy.

Annual festival runs this weekend

By Daily Press staff

St. Anne Catholic Church is hosting a three-day carnival starting today and running all weekend, and the entire community is invited.

The carnival runs today from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. On Saturday, the carnival is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and will feature a folk music show and karaoke. On Sunday, festivities run from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and include mariachi music.

Hourly drawings for prizes and cash will be held on Saturday and Sunday starting at noon, with a grand prize raffle on Sunday.

In addition to this, the carnival includes rides, food and games.

St. Anne is located at 2011 Colorado Ave. For more information or event times, call (310) 829-4411.

Symposium explores life and death

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica and greater Los Angeles community is invited to a free symposium, "Unlocking the mysteries of birth and death: Discussions on wellness and healing with physicians and alternative practitioners."

The symposium is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 17, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the SGI-USA Santa Monica Community Center, located at 2601 Pico Blvd.

This symposium will explore the underlying causes of the issues of health, illness, aging and death from Buddhist and non-Buddhist perspectives. Professional health practitioners and lay persons will engage in a series of five panel discussions: "The Creative Family: Raising Healthy Kids," "Spiritual Healing: Manifesting Our Inherent Power," "Victory over Illness," "Timeless Vitality" and "The Eternity of Life." Each panel begins on the hour in the order above.

The Soka Grakkai International-USA (SGI-USA) is an American Buddhist movement that works in association with SGI organizations in 190 countries and territories with more than 12 million practitioners.

For information contact Allison at (310) 674-1776 or call (310) 829-1005.

CORRECTION — A front page quote in the Oct. 14 edition regarding a lawsuit brought against the city of West Hollywood was inaccurately attributed. Defense attorney Scott Haith made the statement.



SURF REPORT

Look for a fading SW swell to mix with a touch of NW energy on Friday. Northern LA County spots have ankle- to waist-high waves, more consistent waist-high surf at best SW breaks. South Bay spots are mainly knee high while top spots in the north half of the bay see better sets. New NW swell starts to slowly build by around sunset. Winds are light in the morning and turn light onshore (W 8-12 knots) for the afternoon.

Today the water is:

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LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	1:22	0.4	1:22	2.4	8:04	4.5	7:05	5.1
SUNDAY	1:49	0.3	1:53	1.8	8:18	4.8	7:45	5.3
MONDAY	2:14	0.3	2:26	1.3	8:35	5.1	8:22	5.3
TUESDAY	2:39	0.4	3:00	0.7	8:54	5.5	9:01	5.4
WEDNESDAY	3:04	0.6	3:36	0.3	9:16	5.8	9:42	5.1
THURSDAY	3:30	0.9	4:16	-0.1	9:41	6.1	10:25	4.8
FRIDAY	3:57	1.3	5:00	-0.3	10:10	6.3	11:15	4.4

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The Q Line

Recently, there has been much discussion in the news regarding sanitation problems in the alleys of Santa Monica. City officials say they are working with local business managers to keep these areas safe and sanitary, but they also acknowledge this is a 24/7 responsibility.

So this week, Q-line wants to know, "How can City Hall, business owners and Santa Monica residents

work together to better monitor and ensure the cleanliness and safety of the city's alleyways?"

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

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LOCAL

City PAC files new contact info with clerk

PAC CONCERNS, from page 1

cials were made aware of the possible violation, they immediately instructed the coalition to make the change, she added.

"I've been here seven years, and under both city managers it's been very clear during election cycles what's allowed and what's not," spokeswoman Judy Rambeau said.

Part of the problem, Asch said, is that the Coalition of Santa Monica City Employees, a group of bargaining units for non-sworn city workers, has long accepted mail and telephone calls at City Hall. Only the group's political action committee is barred from using city resources. Asch said a separate address and phone line was set up for the group, but wasn't officially recorded.

Documents were filed with the City Clerk Wednesday listing a new mailing address on Wilshire Boulevard and a new phone number, outside of City Hall.

Whether or not there was any election wrongdoing in this case, improper campaigning occurs regularly and at all levels of government, said Elizabeth Garrett, director of the University of Southern California-CalTech Center for the Study of Law and Politics.

"It's a serious problem," Garrett said. "Elected officials and appointed officials have got to separate their official duties and their campaign duties. It is imperative that campaign duties take place off of official premises and while not on the public payroll."

Meanwhile, general concerns persist

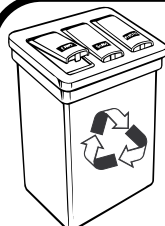
over whether city workers should be allowed to throw their weight around politically. Several groups of city workers, including the unions for local police officers and firefighters, have political power in the city.

Bill Bauer, a former newspaper columnist who's running for a City Council seat, said he has been contacted by many residents who think the influence is unfair.

"I don't know whether it's right or wrong, I'm not going to go that far, but obviously they're involved because they want something out of this," Bauer said. "And what I find kind of irritating is that they kind of mask it as this has to do with public safety ... They're bargaining units. Their concern is wages and benefits."

Mayor Richard Bloom, who was endorsed by the new political coalition along with incumbents Ken Genser and Mike Feinstein, and challenger Patricia Hoffman, said the political coalition makes it possible for leaders to communicate with city workers in a way that would otherwise be illegal because of laws against improper influence. Bloom applauded the group's work.

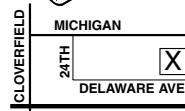
"I think that they are representing their interests and they want to see candidates elected who will make sure that their salaries and benefits do remain competitive," Bloom said. "Our negotiations with bargaining units are very sensitive, and we've been very fortunate in our community to have labor peace for a good number of years."



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STATE BRIEFS

Lawyers: Charges initiated by 'Klepto'

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The charges against seven Navy SEALs implicated in the abuse of Iraqi prisoners — including one who died at Abu Ghraib prison — were initiated by a disgraced former member of the unit who was trying to save his own career, lawyers for two of the accused said Wednesday.

One of the defense attorneys said the Iraqi who was found dead in November in a shower at Abu Ghraib was in good condition when the CIA took custody of him.

Cmdr. Jeff Bender, a spokesman for Naval Special Warfare Command in Coronado, the SEALs' headquarters, said it was inappropriate to comment in an ongoing investigation. A CIA spokeswoman declined comment.

Members of a Sea-Air-Land, or SEAL, unit known as SEAL Team-7 are facing charges including aggravated assault with intent to cause death or serious bodily harm, obstruction of justice and conduct unbecoming an officer. Members of Seal Team-7 were part of Task Force 121, a special operations-CIA unit hunting targets in Iraq, according to an Army report on Abu Ghraib.

Milt Silverman, a civilian lawyer in San Diego representing one of the accused sailors, said the accusations of prisoner abuse were made by a SEAL who earned the nickname "Klepto" for stealing a fellow SEAL's body armor in Iraq. "Klepto" made the allegations of prisoner abuse while appealing a decision to kick him out of the SEALs for the theft, Silverman said.

SEC investigates flu shot crisis

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The Securities and Exchange Commission has launched an informal inquiry into how Chiron Corp. handled the disclosure of vaccine-manufacturing problems that caused the nation's flu shot crisis, the company said Wednesday.

The company's stock slide continued, with the shares losing another 5.5 percent. They have tumbled 30 percent since Chiron disclosed that it would be unable to ship close to 48 million flu shots this year. That represents about half the nation's expected supply of flu vaccine.

Last week, Chiron announced that British regulators had temporarily revoked its license to operate its Liverpool plant because of contamination concerns. The SEC is examining the company's actions in relation to that decision, company spokesman John Gallagher said.

The SEC declined to comment.

Fighting fire with cartoons

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — Financially outgunned opponents of Proposition 64 have launched a cheap, unconventional weapon — an animated cartoon — to combat a multimillion dollar television campaign waged by businesses that want new limits on lawsuits against them.

Interest groups, outspent nearly 16-1 and aiming to defeat the corporate-backed measure, e-mailed a cartoon mocking Proposition 64 to more than 200,000 Californians on Wednesday, hoping they'll forward it to others and create an online stir.

The cartoon parody of the 1970s children's television show, "School House Rock," imitates animations by California's JibJab Media, Inc., that have found big online audiences in this year's U.S. presidential race and pioneering web cartoons launched during last year's recall campaign against Gov. Gray Davis.

But it may be a first for a California ballot initiative, signaling a continued growing role for more narrowly focused messages delivered online for free, analysts said.

"If public interest groups don't have the money for ads, they have a venue," said Jamie Court, president of the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights, a Santa Monica-based consumer group.

Pro-64 forces, who have raised nearly \$16 million to pass the initiative and recently won the endorsement of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, characterized the cartoon Wednesday as more "scare tactics" and "nothing new."

Governor thanks DeVito for staying home

By The Associated Press

ALTADENA — Facing increasing competition from states trying to raid California jobs, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Wednesday traveled to a movie set in the foothills outside Los Angeles to thank an old friend for keeping his business at home.

Standing amid cameras and cables outside a house being used in the movie, Schwarzenegger patted Danny DeVito on the back and said his new film, "Relative Strangers," was a model for how the state could win a bigger slice of entertainment jobs that now sometimes go overseas because of lower costs.

DeVito, who is acting in the film and is one of its producers, "negotiated with the crew, and the cast and with all the companies that work with the movie to come in with a deal to save enough money that he didn't have to go outside the state," the governor said.

"There are so many people that are out of work in Hollywood," Schwarzenegger added. "People want jobs."

Schwarzenegger's appearance promoting the state's film industry came on the same day that Nevada officials were in Los Angeles announcing their latest advertising campaign to snatch jobs from their neighbor.



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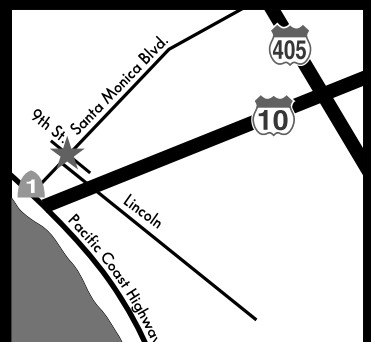
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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Leadership needed behind the ideas

Editor:

As a 14-year Santa Monica resident and active leader in the community, I know how the homeless problem drains the city's resources.

A national radio show refers to Santa Monica as "Home of the Homeless." It's a joke to outsiders, but it's a serious problem for those of us who work and live here, and it's getting worse. Parking, crime, traffic and other issues don't receive necessary resources. These misplaced priorities decrease our quality of life in Santa Monica.

The "go-it-alone" demeanor of most members of the current City Council isn't getting the job done. A City Council's first responsibility is to ensure the public's safety and provide essential basic services — not soak up time, energy and funds that could be used for real needs. We need strong, pragmatic leaders like Bobby Shriver and Herb Katz who will cooperate with others and reach out to the county, other cities and the state to help address the homeless problem.

Herb Katz and Bobby Shriver have displayed years of local, state, national and international leadership. Herb Katz is an architect and long-time public servant and community volunteer. Bobby Shriver currently serves as chair of the State Recreation and Parks Commission, and is a prominent civic and philanthropic leader.

An effective, common-sense solution to the homeless situation needs to be a top priority of the next City Council. Bobby Shriver and Herb Katz have distinguished themselves though their dedication to public service and are committed to making sure the City Council establishes and pursues sensible priorities to benefit everyone who lives and works in Santa Monica. They deserve your vote. Thank you.

Tom Viscount
Santa Monica

Confused bigotry

Editor:

In response to some of your confused writers and the local anti-Christian bigot, Ed Silverstein, and his lap dogs, I read with amusement your paper's recent "Israel blogs" (SMDP, Oct. 13, page 6).

Here comes the tidal wave of the nation's confused 1.3 percent Judeo-American

population and of that population the ones that consider themselves liberal. For it is many of those writers attacking Mr. Marciano (who gave another point of view of the current state of American and Israeli positions) who want it both ways. Oh yes, they want a liberal American administration that observes human rights around the world giving a voice in Washington that espouses the American-Judeo 70 percent Democratic voting block, but at the same time, they absolutely want a secure, safe and free Israel.

But wait, they hate President Bush who is a staunch supporter of Sharon and his policies, defends Israel's absolute right to exist and be safe, goes after those "nasty Muslims" who would hurt Israel al. la. Iraq, and is protecting this country from attack while appropriating US \$3 billion annually (more under the Wye agreement) to Israel. Oh, but they attack the president for his defense spending and their claims of his refusal to garner the support of the U.N. before invading. Isn't that the same U.N. that considers Israel a rouge nation and compares its wall to Apartheid?

You see, confused bigots like "Mr. Ed," "Dr. Ivan" and their ilk condemn the current Republican administration for its policies on the war on terror which could, in and of itself, be a justified argument, but simply break down because at the end of the day, when they say they want a safe and secure Israel, they really mean, a safe and secure American Israel by their way of thinking. That is a lot to ask from an extremely small but vocal percentage of the U.S. population.

Maria Bell
Santa Monica, U.S.A?

Look in the mirror

Editor:

My instant response to your letter to the editor (SMDP, Sept. 30, page 4): What again? A self hating Jew goes to bat for Silverstein. I wonder how many anti-"Gentile" remarks you have made since yesterday. We self-loving Jews and "Goyim" have a bigger concern out there. I suggest, know thy enemy — and maybe it is you.

Pate La Pearl
Santa Monica

See **LETTERS**, page 7

Propaganda and politics play across partying lines



POLITIGIRL
BY BETH SOLOMON

D.W. Griffith's controversial landmark silent 1915 feature "The Birth of a Nation" sparked a major censorship battle due to its vicious depiction of African Americans and favorable treatment of the Ku Klux Klan.

Now the author who wrote the film's notorious source material, Thomas Dixon, is the subject of a book himself, "American Racist," by historian Anthony Slide, who argues that Dixon was a complicated and influential force on American culture.

Slide launched a promotional tour last week over a lavish spread at the famous Lasky-DeMille Barn in Hollywood, where students of politics and cinema compared notes on an election season that has as much suspense as a Hollywood thriller.

In a season of political books and documentaries, a certain question was inevitable: Should director Michael Moore be considered a propagandist like Griffith and Dixon?

"There is no question 'Fahrenheit 911' is a case of the motion picture being used as propaganda," said Slide, author of many books on film, including "Silent Players." "Michael Moore is very clever — I totally agree with his depiction of President Bush and what is happening with the war in Iraq, by the way — but he does change some of the facts, or ignores them."

"Birth of a Nation" was one of the biggest box-office money-makers in history, partly due to its exorbitant charge of \$2 per ticket — unheard of at the time. It made \$18 million by the start of the talkies.

Although "Fahrenheit 911" won't break those kinds of records, it will go down as the most profitable documentary in history, sure to launch a raft of new film propagandists, er, documentarians. But there's still hope for fiction: Celebrity author Mollie Gregory, who wrote the

seminal "Women Who Run the Show," was spotted at the party for Slide, talking about her new novel on women in the movie business. Stay tuned.

TOWER OF BABS

Barbra Streisand might be 3,000 miles away, but that's never stopped the producer, director and actress from influencing Washington. If the Tony-winning star of "Funny Girl" and "Yentl" has anything to do with it, President Bush will soon be thinking about his presidency like Babs' 1973 hit movie, "The Way We Were."

In a section of her Web site called "Statements," Streisand offers running commentary on the presidential election, including reviews of debates. "There's no debating who's the better candidate," she wrote recently.

Streisand calls Bush "arrogant, awkward and unintelligent," whereas Sen. John Kerry, she says, is "elegant, articulate and experienced."

According to Streisand, the media is just too overwhelmed by the Bush admin-

istration's hypocrisy to get it all into print. Her take on CBS News' recent fake document fiasco is that the discredited report actually did include some true facts.

But Streisand's influence in Washington isn't limited to politics. The National Symphony Orchestra celebrated the multiple Oscar and Grammy winner's career recently as part of the NSO's Pops series.

It coincides with a promotion at the Kennedy Center of new programming and new menus, including a devilish array of irresistible desserts.

The combination is perfect. "Yentl," or the election activist she's become, would want voters to sample all the choices. How can an activist win in November if he doesn't eat?

"American Racist" is available at bookstores and at www.amazon.com. Barbra Streisand's political analysis can be found at www.barbrastreisand.com.

(Beth Solomon can be reached at bethsolomon@earthlink.com).



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OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 6

Western civilization didn't begin...

Editor:

I read with utter disbelief your guest commentary by Thomas Bowden equating Columbus Day celebrations with victory over "Islamic totalitarianism." (SMDP, Oct. 9-10, page 5). His essay is strewn with arrogant and Eurocentric racist remarks, despite his proclaimed standard of objectivity. How could Columbus have "discovered" a land that was already inhabited? The "spread of Western civilization ... which flourished in the New World ... served by highways, power plants, computers, and thousands of other life enhancing products" came at the hands of centuries of genocide of the native peoples, theft of their lands and resources and attempts to destroy their cultures. To say that the New World was "an inhospitable wilderness populated by frightened savages" is painfully offensive. The wilderness sustained life for those who understood it. Native peoples were and are members of diverse cultures whose wisdom and courage could help see our dominant culture through the many crises we are experiencing, if only we could listen.

Ishi, a California Yahi Indian who lived most of his life without European-American contact, said "The white man is clever, but not wise." How true. Does industrial civilization engineering coupled with manifest destiny philosophy justify our greedy consumption of most of the world's resources, including oil from Islamic countries, and reckless contribution to global warming? All the wealth and creature comforts we are accumulating will mean nothing when the planet is dead.

Benjamin Franklin, one of our "founding fathers," spent time with the Iroquois confederation and returned home with the concept of a democratic society. Our staples of corn, beans and squash, among other foods, came from indigenous peoples. Gratitude and respect are owed native peoples, not the denigration espoused by Mr. Bowden. This same violent crusader mindset that would have us "prevail against the religious totalitarians" would also validate the desecration of native sacred sites and cemeteries in the name of "progress." Failing to see other humans as just that is not the hallmark of an enlightened society.

Mr. Bowden, who claims that our reasoned civilization has shown mankind how to overcome war, argues in a contradictory fashion that we need to use force to prevail to defend our values of "individual rights and capitalism ... and selfish pursuit of individual happiness." He is morally and utterly certain of this. In light of recent corporate scandals and WTO abuses, it seems this is a recipe for immoral robber baron behavior instead.

A re-vamped equitable foreign policy based on fair trade should supplant Mr. Bowden's promotion of military victory. Bowden ends his piece with the statement that "Western civilization is good according to an objective standard: Man's life." Which man's life? Certainly not an indigenous man's life, whose expectancy in many parts of the U.S. is about 49 years. Probably not a man or a woman in the Middle East or in a third world country, either. Exploitation of workers and resources in other countries surely does not enhance their quality of life. Going beyond "man's life," we also need to assess planetary health in any objective measure of our civilization. On that count, we may want to subjectively and humbly invoke the creator to forgive our destructively arrogant ways.

Linda Piera-Avila
Santa Monica

Religious right is political

Editor:

In response to Mathew Huemor's letter defending the Bush administration (SMDP, Oct. 7, page 6), he asked, "How has the religious beliefs of the president or his administration ever translated into policy or passed legislation?"

1) President Bush has withheld \$25 million in family funding from the United Nations this month. The funding could prevent 1.5 million unwanted pregnancies.

2) President Bush has stifled government support for stem cell use effectively curtailing research that perhaps could find cures for many serious medical afflictions.

Both of these critical issues undoubtedly were politically motivated to satisfy the goals of the fundamental Christian right wing.

Edmund Wianeki
Venice

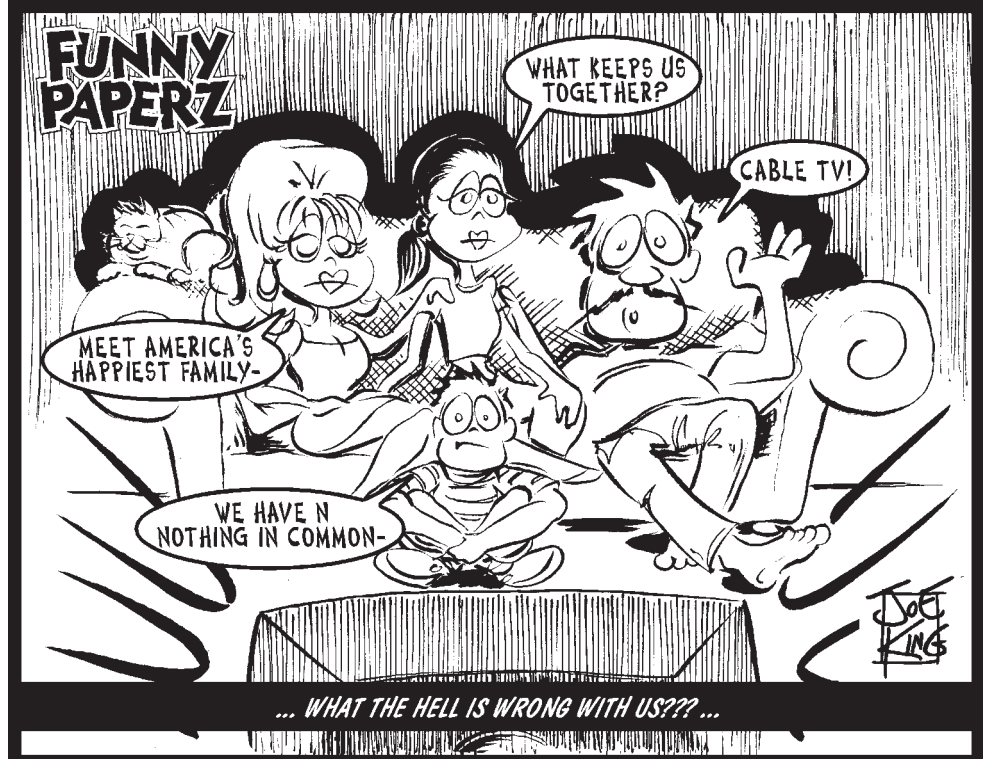
A stretch of the truth

Editor:

SMRR (Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights) in their latest mailer have chosen to credit Councilman Ken Genser with the title "architect."

This appellation is reserved by the State of California for those who have earned it and are duly licensed to practice our profession. I am sure that Mr. Genser will be upset by this slip of their copy writers, but it does show that the SMRR leadership is willing to stretch the truth on even a matter as insignificant as this.

James Mount, AIA Emeritus
Santa Monica



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Contemplating life's chance encounters, meaning of it all



PISTACHIO PERSPECTIVE
BY SUSAN ANN CONNOR

Merrily I rolled along the busy boulevard, focused on driving, cell phone free. The traffic light turned red, and naturally I stopped. I was minding my own business and listening to a smooth sound on the radio when suddenly the fella behind me put the pedal to the metal a little ahead of schedule.

The jolt scared me. I was a bit dazed and not sure what caused the surprising impact. Once my breath reappeared, I turned around and saw a dark pick-up truck with an angry man standing outside of it. Ouch! I knew right away someone's vehicle had a boo boo.

Before I got two feet on the ground, he quickly explained that my car was fine but his was "bleeped." Listening to his auto grief, I felt real sympathy for him — one more thing for him to have to deal with. I got it, but I was still shaken from the jarring I had just experienced.

As if regretful that he hadn't inquired about my condition first, he asked if I was OK. I told him I was and hoped he was, too. For a brief moment, due to our mutual mishap, bonding occurred. It was a short swift meeting of the eyes, then we separated and returned to our respective cars and lives.

More than an hour later, four miles away, I stopped at the grocery store for a bit of this and that. Heading down aisle five, I spotted him. I certainly wasn't looking for him, but nevertheless, there he was ... the guy on the boulevard. I knew it was him — very distinct looking, slim build with a shaved head. "How bizarre," I thought. Hmmm ... I smiled at him and said, "Hey."

"Hey," he smiled back, both of us shaking our heads in rather curious disbelief.

"You OK?"

"Yeah, you?"

"Yes," I answered, continuing to walk in the opposite direction. Unable to resist,

I swiveled my head back and said, "Isn't it odd that we should run into each other again?"

"Sure is," he agreed, somewhat bewildered.

We just kind of looked at each other for an extra moment, then separated again ... he toward the frozen food section, me toward the spices.

Thinking how weird it was that he would be here now, I walked back to my car. I never saw him before in my life. The accident happened several miles away. I didn't follow him. I assume he didn't follow me. And yet, he was at my local supermarket exactly when I decided to make a last-minute stop.

I actually started to think I was a character in the film "I Heart Huckabees." 'Cause Whoa! Co-in-ci-dence. In this very entertaining movie, which explored with great humor the meaning and meaninglessness of life, the protagonist ran into the same stranger three different times in three different places. To sort out its significance, he retained a pair of "existential detectives," played by Lily Tomlin and Dustin Hoffman. And though my stranger and I only had two encounters, I couldn't help but wish I could hire them for my own metaphysical investigation.

What does it all mean? Does it mean anything? Is it cause for further contemplation? Or is it just something to busy my mind when I don't have umpteen other things to do or think about?

If one elephant is stampeding next to another elephant, does he need to hasten his step to catch up with yet another elephant, because he is meant to be side by side with that particular elephant at that particular time? And why? And how does the elephant know which elephant to stampede with? Intuition? Choice? It just happens? Or are we all just one big elephant, and it really doesn't matter? What would Einstein say?

So many questions. So few definitive answers.

Oh well. I guess I'll just have to be content with the mystery of it all. Lalalala ...

(Susan Ann Connor can be reached at pistachiocolumn@aol.com).

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.

Shriver candidacy adds new wrinkle for local race

KENNEDYS, from page 1

Schwarzenegger.

“I walked around, and people were asking if I was a Democrat because of Arnold ... like we must have drank Arnold Kool-Aid or something,” he said, adding his uncle’s presence locally will hopefully clear up that misnomer. “I think having Sen. Kennedy say I’m a Democrat helps.”

That kind of exposure no doubt hurts Shriver’s opponents, even though his candidacy draws attention to local issues and the election.

“I’m not upset he’s getting exposure,” said City Councilman Herb Katz, who is running for reelection. “Yes, I would like to be the center of attention, and if I could call uncle Teddy I would, but I don’t have an uncle Teddy.”

Other opponents have referred to Shriver’s staged press events and meet-and-greets with residents as the “Bobby Show.” Many of them are growing tired of the coverage, but apparently the citizens of Santa Monica aren’t.

“He’s the heavyweight in town, the 10-ton elephant ... and suppose if he were doing very poorly — if he couldn’t string a sentence together — it wouldn’t work, but the point is that he’s doing fine,” said Bob Stern, president of the West LA-based Center for Governmental Studies. “A wealthy person and a well-known person have an advantage. Bobby Shriver gets the prize because he is both.

“I think it’s unfair (Shriver’s getting more press), but I’m sure your readers are more interested in him,” Stern added.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
City Council candidate Bobby Shriver and his uncle U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy pose for a photo.

“Life is unfair.”

Shriver has provided plenty of fodder for journalists in the hope that they will pick up on what he stands for in his campaign.

A little more than two weeks ago, Robert Kennedy Jr. was in Santa Monica stumping for one of his closest cousins at a luncheon at Lares Restaurant on Pico Boulevard. There, Bobby Kennedy promoted Shriver’s commitment to the environment, among other things.

A KENNEDY AT YOUR DOOR

Shriver’s mother, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of Sen. Kennedy, has been in town on and off since her son’s campaign began. She attended Shriver’s campaign kick-off event at his campaign headquarters on Santa Monica Boulevard in September. She also has been walking precincts with him.

When Eunice Kennedy Shriver, 83, knocks on Santa Monicans’ doors, a look of disbelief comes over them almost immediately. “Hi, my name is Eunice Kennedy Shriver, and my son Bobby is running for City Council. May we expect your vote?” is her rehearsed line. Residents obediently nod their heads, and then the follow-up question comes: “May we put a lawn sign on your yard?” Another nod comes, “Yes, ma’am.” Shriver, hammering signs into the ground, follows behind his mother.

During the first day of precinct walking, Shriver attempted to give his mother some pointers before knocking on doors. She interrupted him and reminded Shriver that she has canvassed before, particularly for her brother, John F. Kennedy. She commented that it was the only thing they let women do then, said Shriver’s finance, Malissa Feruzzi.

Shriver’s sister, Maria Shriver, first lady of California, also attended her brother’s campaign kick-off party and has walked precincts with her daughters.

ON THE ISSUES

But Kennedy family members aren’t the only ones canvassing for Shriver — about 25 homeless veterans regularly hit the streets and man the phones for Shriver. His down-and-out supporters

Kennedy sibs stump for Shriver in Santa Monica

TED, from page 1

contentious run-in with City Hall over the height of his hedges.

Sen. Kennedy told the invited group of more than 30 people that Shriver was in touch with the most important issues facing Santa Monica, including homelessness, transportation and education. He said Shriver’s energy and eagerness to work with Sacramento and Washington would benefit the community.

“There’ll be nobody who’ll work harder,” Sen. Kennedy said, pointing out the work Shriver has done with U2 singer Bono for AIDS victims in Africa. “He’s a very hard worker.”

Standing on a chair in the middle of the Back on Broadway dining room, Shriver introduced his uncle by retelling a story he said Sen. Kennedy often used to tell. It went like this: Sen. Kennedy had gone to Texas to accept an award from the Bush Library for his work on education. On an elevator there, a man started up a casual conversation with the senator and asked him if he was visiting from out of town.

After a brief pause in their exchange, the man turned to Sen. Kennedy and said, “Do people ever tell you that you look like Ted Kennedy?” Sen. Kennedy replied that yes, he had been told he looked like Ted Kennedy, and the man in the elevator then turned to him and said, “You must hate that.”

Eunice Kennedy Shriver, a campaign volunteer who planned to spend Thursday afternoon canvassing for Shriver, also was on hand for her brother’s visit to Santa Monica. Sen. Kennedy took the chance to compliment his sister before turning his attention to Shriver’s bid for a City Council seat.

“We’re proud of you, Euni,” he said. “She’s been electing Kennedy men for 55 years.”

Attending the event were a number of local education leaders, including schools superintendent John Deasy, leaders of the Community for Excellent Public Schools and professors from Santa Monica College. Also at the event were a number of homeless rights activists, local and regional union leaders, firefighters and local priests.

Sen. Kennedy was in the Los Angeles area to campaign for Sens. John Kerry and Barbara Boxer, as well as to do campaign work for the senatorial campaign committee. He also was scheduled to speak at the Armand Hammer Museum of Art in honor of former Sen. John Tunney.

Criticized the night before by President George Bush during a debate with Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, Sen. Kennedy used his appearance to take a potshot at Bush and urge residents to vote for Kerry on Nov. 2. Progress will be assured, he said, with the combination of Kerry in office at the national level, California’s Democratic senators at the state level and energetic leaders like Shriver at the local level.

“It starts at the top,” Sen. Kennedy added, “with people who care.”

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LOCAL



Shriver points to past as proof of his leadership

KENNEDYS, from page 8

come from New Directions, a long-term drug and alcohol treatment program that provides housing, job training and a host of other services. Shriver recently met them when he visited the VA property in West LA to investigate whether the three empty buildings and 550 acres there could be used for more organizations like New Directions.

"I'm going to work on the homeless issue," Shriver said, adding surrounding cities can help pay for facilities in West LA. "I'm going to get those VA buildings ... I don't know how I'm going to do it, but I'm going to."

SHRIVER'S STANCE

Shriver's challenge has been to get past his family name and effectively tell Santa Monica citizens what he stands for — beyond his widely publicized tumultuous relationship with City Hall over his hedges. Shriver and hundreds of other residents last year were threatened with letters from City Hall that said they would be fined thousands of dollars if they didn't trim their shrubbery. The bureaucracy of City Hall and the current administration's handling of the situation propelled Shriver into running for local office.

Since then, Shriver has thrown himself into local politics. He doesn't apologize for not being as knowledgeable on the intricacies of local issues as his opponents, some of whom have been involved in Santa Monica politics for decades.

"I've learned a lot in three months," Shriver said, adding he's relying heavily on a broad cross section of community members to help educate him. This includes both sides of the city's contentious political landscape — business interests and Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, a liberal group that has dominated the City Council for decades.

His supporters include educators, school supporters, SMRR members, local employee unions, homeless veterans and the chamber of commerce, to name a few.

But some have criticized Shriver for acting "elitist" during candidate forums, such as when he told a group of citizens concerned about jet pollution and noise at the airport that he knew many of the people flying in and out of Santa Monica. His solution was to ask them to simply fly to Burbank.

Shriver said if one looks at the past 20 years of his life, it proves that he can build consensus and get things done. Shriver co-founded and serves as chairman of DATA, a foundation to alleviate AIDS and poverty in Africa. Shriver also chairs the California Recreation and Parks Commission, and serves as director of the Crossroads at Antigua Foundation, a drug and alcohol treatment center. Shriver has raised more than \$60 million for the Special Olympics through his "Very Special Christmas" albums.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Eunice Kennedy Shriver and Santa Monica City Councilman Bob Holbrook attend a campaign event for Bobby Shriver.



Photo Courtesy
A couple weeks ago, Robert Kennedy Jr. was in Santa Monica stumping for Shriver at a luncheon at Lares Restaurant on Pico Boulevard.

"What I've done in the past 20 years is what I can do for Santa Monica," he said.

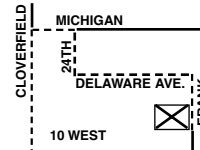
But how his past accomplishments translate into solving local problems is unclear, some opponents say.

"He really didn't have defined opinions on the most important issues facing the city, and I'm troubled by the fact that he is only coming to his opinions ... recently," said Mayor Richard Bloom, who is running for reelection. Bloom added that if Shriver's frustrated that his campaign platform is being glossed over, it's up to him to change that.

"Having the relatives fly in may be the wrong approach," Bloom joked. "But me doth protest too much."

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Wednesday, October 27

- 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm
- UCLA, Kerckhoff Hall,
Student Union
(use Lines 1, 2, 3, 8, 12,
Super 12)

Thursday, October 28

- 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- Vera Davis McClendon
Youth & Family Center
610 California Avenue,
Venice (use Line 2)

Saturday, October 30

- 10:30 am – 12:00 noon
- Ken Edwards Center,
1527 4th Street,
Santa Monica
(use Lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7,
Super 7, 8, 9, 10)



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Entertainment

WHAT'S PLAYING

TAXI
Unless your destination is Dudsville, this is one “Taxi” you should certainly avoid hailing.
Starring: Queen Latifah, Jimmy Fallon

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS
One of the most entertaining sports films ever made.
Starring: Billy Bob Thornton, Derek Luke

RAISE YOUR VOICE
Pop princess’s latest offering is another bowl of sugar-coated pap that will have little girls everywhere asking for bigger spoons.
Starring: Hilary Duff, Rita Wilson

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heading into the spotlight and onto the campaign trail

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Beautiful. Controversial. Opinionated. Brilliant. All apropos adjectives with which to describe Susan Sarandon, the celebrated leading lady who commands attention on and offscreen. Her filmography is awash with titles forever etched into the cultural ledger: “The Rocky Horror Picture Show,” “Bull Durham,” and “Thelma & Louise,” to name a few. Her latest picture, “Shall We Dance?” opens Friday.

QUESTION: There’s a scene in the film in which your character, Beverly, delivers a long monologue excoriating marriage. Is that an accurate reflection of your own feelings about the institution?

SUSAN SARANDON: That was one of the reasons I wanted to do the movie, because I really liked that scene. I do try to figure out why people would ever want to get married.

Q: You and actor Tim Robbins have been living together for nearly two decades. Do you ever consider making the union “legal?”

SS: Never say never. I don’t know. At the moment, I don’t feel the need to and somehow I’m always afraid we’d take each other for granted if we did a “signed, sealed, delivered, I’m yours” kind of thing. Maybe someday we’ll change and want to make a statement that’s different from the one we’ve been living for 17 years, which in Hollywood years (equals) about 45, right? We haven’t talked about it for at least a decade though.

Q: In the upcoming release “Alfie,” you portray a woman who is every bit the player Jude Law’s notorious playboy is. What’s life like for a mature, serial seductress?

SS: I didn’t want to be apologetic about her lifestyle, and I think she’s pretty happy. Sure, she probably has her days, on New Years Eve or whatever, where she’s not totally together. But I didn’t want her to be tragic or desperate. I think she was simply exercising a prerogative that is available to a lot of men. If you can live a life that way and you’re happy, that’s your choice.

Q: Do you believe lasting happiness can be achieved solo?

SS: One of the major challenges of being a human being is deciding whether or not you’re ever going to be truly intimate with another person. (Whether) you ever really decide to be intimate is a much more pertinent question than whether you get married or have a house in the country.

Q: You’re an inspiration to many younger actresses not only because of the quality of your work, but also your career longevity. What does commanding that sort of respect mean to you?

SS: I did (a Revlon ad campaign) and I was working with these gorgeous actresses — Eva Mendez, Halle Berry, Julianne Moore and Kate Bosworth — and we all did a one-day shoot with (Robert) Altman, which was really fun. But when I talk to these women I feel like Helen Hayes or something. It’s so strange to me, because I don’t see myself that way. I think if you just manage to survive you get points towards icon status. It’s a hard business to survive in and not be bitter or insane or addicted or whatever. So I hear about it, but I don’t really relate to it.

Q: Your progressive views are well-documented. How are you feeling about the upcoming election?

SS: I’m really optimistic. There’s been record-breaking voter registration, and more people than ever are going to go to the polls. That’s a really good thing however (the election) turns out. I see a lot more young people getting involved, and that’s really, really good. A lot of people who considered themselves liberal or progressive were asleep at the switch, and are now finally starting to understand how critical this election is. The largest party in this country is the 50 percent of the country that doesn’t vote, and that has to change.

‘Team America’ funny, even with its F-bombs

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

I’ll say this much for “Team America: World Police,” it’s the funniest all-marionette film this critic has ever seen. The disappointing news is, this ambitious offering from “South Park” creators Matt Stone and Trey Parker isn’t as consistently smart or amus-

ing as the irreverent duo’s

TV series or their previous forays into feature film-dom, “Orgazmo” and “South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut.” The satire is surprisingly bland — even misdirected — and the humor so blunt that even Cartman, Stan and crew might find it too base ... maybe. Parker, who directed, takes a great deal of pleasure in what amounts to an orgy of puppet destruction — and, yes, that’s as funny as it sounds — but the verbal gags are almost always dropped with so many F-bombs that the jokes blow themselves up.

Team America is a macho international police force that trots the globe battling evildoers such as Kim Jong Il, whose puppet likeness repeatedly voices his intention to rule the entire world. To infiltrate the terrorist network, Team America enlists Broadway star Gary Johnston to go undercover, using his acting gifts for a higher cause. Others, real actors, aren’t featured in nearly as good a light, as thespians Alec Baldwin, Sean Penn and Susan Sarandon are gleefully skewered here for their outspoken antiwar views. The filmmakers’ apparent intent is to take the piss out of Hollywood stars who take themselves too seriously, but I can’t help but feel that in the process they’re taking the Iraq war, and its very real human cost, too lightly.

(Rated R for graphic, crude and sexual humor, violent images and strong language; all involving puppets. Running time: 98 minutes)

‘Stage Beauty’ a potential award winner

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

In “Stage Beauty,” director Richard Eyre and writer Jeffrey Hatcher take what little is known about a cross-dressing 17th century British actor named Ned Kynaston and run with it, exploring ideas about sexual identity and artistic integrity while taking more than a few liberties with political and theatrical history. The film reminds of “Shakespeare in Love,” from the costumes to the set designs to the plot, and boasts several

jolly-good performances — most notably Billy Crudup as Kynaston, Rupert Everett as a womanizing King Charles II, and newcomer Zoe Tapper as the king’s spunky mistress. It’s safe to assume those who loved the aforementioned Best Picture winner will enjoy this movie.

In 1660s Restoration England, women are forbidden to appear onstage, leaving men to handle the great female roles such as Desdemona from “Othello.” Most prominent among the gender-bending thespians is Kynaston, a scene-stealer whose years-long intense tutoring in the art of portraying femininity and subsequent stardom has blurred his sense of self and left him emotionally alienated. When Charles abruptly decrees — at the urging of his mistress — that not only shall women play women, but that men are forbidden to do so, Kynaston watches helplessly as his once-adoring dresser Maria (Claire Danes) steals his spotlight. Danes and Crudup, who are romantically involved offscreen, generate plenty of heat in several emotionally charged scenes. The former, however, struggles at times with her British accent and is consistently overshadowed by a co-star who gives as good as he ever has. It’ll be interesting to see whether or not the oft-overlooked Crudup gets his due come award-nomination time.

(Rated R for sexual content and language. Running time: 105 minutes)



'P.S.' fails to fully engage

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

The thesis put forth by writer-director Dylan Kidd ("Roger Dodger") in his wistful, somewhat torpid romantic drama "P.S." is that absent any material obstacles to love, human beings intrinsically will create some. Such is the case with Louise Harrington, a 39-year-old admissions officer at Columbia University's School of Fine Arts.

Review

Delicately portrayed by the gifted Laura Linney, Louise seemingly possesses the pieces to build a happy life, yet she cannot put them together. Mired in a sexless co-dependent relationship with her ex-husband Peter (Gabriel Byrne), she watches young lovers nuzzle from her office window and longs for a passion that died long ago with a boyfriend named Scott Feinstadt who was killed in a car accident. Then one day a grad school application comes across her desk from one F. Scott Feinstadt (Topher Grace), a 24-year-old painter who turns out to be a live ringer for her dead ex. F. Scott walks, talks, paints and screws like his namesake, presumably for the purpose of literally allowing Louise to make the same mistakes all over again. Grace proves he's ready to graduate from "That 70s Show" to 21st century movie stardom with a performance that combines youthful exuberance with "old soul" sensibility that suggests maybe there's really something to this reincarnation business. Still, credulity is stretched to the limits, and despite the solid work from an excellent cast the film fails to fully engage us. The relationship between Linney and Grace's characters isn't developed beyond that of student-mentor or spinster-boy-toy, and there's an almost irritating avoidance of one of the film's central questions: Why has Louise been locked into place for so long? Without that knowledge, the dubious doppelganger device doesn't wash.

(Rated R for language and sexuality. Running time: 97 minutes)



Better plan to sit this one out for 'Shall We Dance'

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Shall we dance? Depends on whether you find appealing the prospect of two hours spent watching Richard Gere's bored, workaholic lawyer rediscover — in true Hollywood by the numbers fashion — the joy of suburban married life through the wonders of ballroom dancing. John Clark (Gere) appears to have it all — the high-paying job, the beautiful wife (Susan Sarandon) and a house straight out of the American Dream catalog. Ahh, but something's missing, of course, and that something turns out to be Jennifer Lopez, a spicy young thing of a Chicago dance instructor who John first spies from the window of a passing train. No, really, that's how it happens. Next thing we know, he's spending all his time in dance class and the wife has hired a private detective because she's convinced he's having an affair. After some nicely choreographed but decidedly cool twirls across the dance floor with Paulina (Lopez), John rekindles what was presumably his old exciting self, and in the process manages to warm his too-serious teacher's chilly heart. It's pure pablum, set to Rodgers and Hammerstein numbers. So, shall we dance? Better to sit this one out.

(Rated PG-13 for some sexual references and brief language. Running time: 106 minutes)



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Three-strikes measure might free thousands more prisoners

BY DAVID KRAVETS

AP Legal Affairs Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Ambiguity in the text of a ballot measure that would soften the nation's toughest three-strikes law might free thousands more California prisoners than supporters have advertised.

Proposition 66 would limit "strikes" to violent and serious felonies — a change that also retroactively reduces the sentences of about 4,000 prisoners now serving mandatory life terms after nonviolent or less-serious third strikes.

The measure has the support of nearly two-thirds of likely voters in California, with solid backing from both conservatives and liberals, according to a Field Poll released Wednesday.

But what many voters might not realize is that a single phrase in the reform measure could lead to the release of 26,000 prisoners overall — almost 16 percent of the inmate population.

Supporters of the proposition say a more widespread prisoner release was not their intention — but some public defenders are already plotting to exploit the language to get their clients out of prison if the measure passes Nov. 2.

The phrase in question, appearing deep inside the 20-page measure, says sentence reductions are "not limited to" third strikers serving life terms for an offense that would no longer be considered a strike under the proposed changes.

Some legal scholars, prosecutors and defense attorneys agree that the phrase could lead to reduced sentences for more than five times as many inmates as the proponents intended.

"There's obviously ambiguity here," said Erwin Chemerinsky, a Duke University legal scholar who unsuccessfully argued to the U.S. Supreme Court that the 1994 three-strikes law produced unconstitutionally cruel and unusual sentences.

The 1994 law mandated 25-to-life sentences in most cases for offenders with two previous convictions for serious or violent felonies, even when the third felony is nonviolent or relatively minor, such as shoplifting.

The law also doubled sentences for "strike two" felonies, no matter how serious, for people with a previous serious or violent felony conviction.

California's largest group of defense attorneys — the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office — is quietly planning to argue in court that the change also applies to second-strike convictions.

If voters approve Proposition 66, all "strikes" must be serious or violent felonies, like rape, murder, kidnapping, robbery and a number of other major crimes.

That means some third-strike prisoners will get out of jail immediately. The question supporters didn't anticipate is whether it does the same for second-strikers

already serving extra time.

"You know that's going to be the focal point of the argument if and when this thing passes," said John Vacca, Los Angeles County's assistant public defender. "I think there are a variety of reasons we can and would make the argument that it applies to a second-strike case."

Based on Corrections Department data, about 4,000 third-strikers serving life terms for shoplifting, petty drug offenses, burglaries, bad-check writing and other nonviolent third strikes would be released or have their terms dramatically reduced.

Supporters say that is not the case for second-strikers already serving enhanced terms — and that anyone who claims it does is employing scare tactics.

Jim Benson, who spearheaded the drive to get Proposition 66 on the ballot, said the "not limited to" language was simply meant to ensure that when judges consider sentence reductions for third-strikers, the measure's text didn't omit any felony that would no longer count as a strike.

"If you start making all-inclusive lists, you may miss something," he said. "In a state full of lawyers, there's going to be litigation no matter what you do."

Sandy Harrison, a spokesman for the Fix Three Strikes campaign, which has raised more than \$2 million to promote the measure, said the conflict is bogus and involves "boilerplate language."

"They'll lose if they challenge it," he said.

But some legal scholars see a real problem.

"Certainly, a judge is going to be troubled by blue- penciling out 'not limited to.' The words are there for a purpose, to expand the list," said Douglas Kmiec, a Pepperdine University School of Law legal scholar. "The big question is to expand the list to what?"

Proposition 66's main opponent, Attorney General Bill Lockyer, says the language clearly means Proposition 66 "affects second strikers."

"They're able to get their terms reduced," Locker said. He also said as much in California's official voter information guide, warning that 26,000 inmates are eligible for resentencing.

Would Lockyer, the state's top prosecutor, allow that to happen?

"I'm not going to talk about what argument we are going to make two years from now," he said.

The state's top sentencing expert, Chuck Nickel, a San Diego County prosecutor who writes sentencing manuals for the California District Attorney's Association, also said it applies to second strike defendants.

"I don't know a persuasive argument on the other side," he said. "I believe that two strikers and three strikers will be equally included."

The state's nonpartisan offices of the Legislative Analyst and Legislative Counsel, however, dispute that.

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STATE



States' medical marijuana laws

By The Associated Press

A snapshot of medical marijuana rules in various states:

Alaska: Patients (or their primary caregivers) may legally possess up to 1 ounce of usable marijuana and may grow up to six plants. There is a confidential state-run patient registry.

Arizona: Doctors are allowed to prescribe marijuana to unspecified “seriously ill” patients. Medical leaders, however, say physicians aren’t prescribing the drug because, in part, they fear doing it would put their federal licenses to prescribe drugs at risk. The Arizona Department of Public Safety contends that federal law trumps state law and it remains illegal to grow or distribute pot.

California: People can posses no more than 8 ounces and six mature or 12 immature marijuana plants. Counties and cities are free to permit greater quantities and a larger amount if it is required for the patient’s “medical needs.” Two dozen cities and counties have various guidelines, with the high end permitting 99 pot plants and several pounds of processed pot. Patients must have an oral or written recommendation from a physician — who cannot be punished for having made such a recommendation — and must have a serious illness such as AIDS, glaucoma or arthritis. However, unspecified other illnesses are permitted if pot provides relief. The law also will set up a voluntary state-run identification card system for users.

Colorado: Patients must have written documentation from a doctor that they suffer from a debilitating condition that marijuana may help. It lists several of them, including cancer, AIDS and chronic nausea, with state health officials authorized to approve others. The law establishes a state-run registry program. The legal limit is 2 ounces of usable marijuana and six plants.

Hawaii: Requires signed statement from a physician and specifies the illnesses covered, including Crohn’s disease and epilepsy, with others subject to state approval. Sets up a mandatory state-run patient ID program. Possession limits are 1 ounce of usable marijuana and seven plants.

Maine: Patients must have an oral or written “professional opinion” from their physician that he or she “might benefit from the medical use of marijuana.” Names the illnesses. Legal limit per patient or caregiver is 2 1/2 ounces of usable marijuana and six marijuana plants.

Maryland: Allows patients arrested for marijuana-related crimes to argue in court that they need it medically. If the judge agrees there is a medical necessity, the maximum penalty allowed by law would be a \$100 fine.

Nevada: Patients need a written document from a physician. Lists various permitted illnesses, with others subject to state approval. The legal limit is 1 ounce of usable marijuana and seven marijuana plants. Sets up a state-run ID card program. Patients who do not join the registry or who possess greater amounts of marijuana than allowed by law may argue the “affirmative defense of medical necessity,” if they are arrested.

Oregon: Patients must have a signed physician’s recommendation and the illnesses covered are listed, including Alzheimer’s disease, with other conditions subject to state approval. The limit is 3 ounces of usable marijuana and seven plants. If a patient is arrested, he or she must have been diagnosed by their physicians at least 12 months before the arrest to present a medical marijuana defense. Law enforcement agencies that do seize marijuana plants aren’t required to keep them alive.

Vermont: Limit of 2 ounces of usable marijuana and three marijuana plants. Certain illnesses are specified. The law also sets up a state-run registry.

Washington: Patients or their primary caregivers can possess or cultivate no more than a 60-day supply of marijuana. Patients must possess “valid documentation” from their physician. Lists specific illnesses, with others to be approved by the state. Physicians cannot legally prescribe marijuana; they only can advise. Marijuana cannot be legally purchased and there is no identified legal way to distribute it.

California’s landmark pot law leaves state dazed and confused

BY ROBERT JABLON

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Enforcement of California’s first-in-the-nation medical marijuana law is all over the map — literally.

A patient in one place may be arrested next door. In Berkeley, for instance, a doctor’s note lets you carry 2 1/2 pounds of marijuana. Drive to neighboring Emeryville, however, and you could be called a dealer.

Eight years after its passage, the law remains unevenly applied around the state. Recent changes designed to protect legitimate users from arrest also run up against federal law, which says pot is an illegal drug, not medicine.

Police in the inland town of Chowchilla will seize any medical marijuana and have arrested people carrying more an officer believes they can personally use.

Although state law was amended this year to specify that police can’t bust a registered user who carries a half-pound of dried pot, the state registration system isn’t running yet.

The state’s own force, the California Highway Patrol, confiscates marijuana even from people who contend they are complying with state law.

While many coastal communities and the San Francisco Bay area allow up to 3 pounds and hundreds of plants, inland farming and desert communities hold a harsher line.

Chowchilla, for instance, enforces federal law and distrusts the whole idea of medical marijuana.

“That is a very bad word around here,” said Chowchilla Sgt. Kevin Weaver. “These are guys that just like to smoke dope.”

California’s bewildering maze of policies was built on the proposition voters passed in November 1996 that

failed to spell out how much medical marijuana is legal, who qualifies to use it and how they can get a supply.

Most of the 10 other states that have since passed medical marijuana laws tried to avoid those mistakes.

California’s law is “the least restrictive and has created the most amount of legal confusion,” said Allen St. Pierre, executive director of the pro-marijuana NORML Foundation. “It was done by an amalgam of maybe 20 or 30 individuals and almost reads as much.”

The loose writing has kept courts busy. Medical marijuana users are involved in court cases involving everything from workers compensation to child custody, and the U.S. Supreme Court is looking into whether federal authorities can prosecute medical pot suppliers.

Medical marijuana advocates say it’s impossible to count how many medical marijuana users are being arrested and authorities don’t track the numbers. However, a recent report by the medical marijuana group Americans for Safe Access cited a “culture of resistance” within law enforcement that led to arrests or seizures in at least 36 of California’s 58 counties this year.

One medical marijuana user whose own stash Long Beach police once confiscated now attends trials to support other users. He has carried his stash into court over 30 times and said he regularly cites state law to court security guards who question him.

“Usually they discover my pipe and ask ‘What’s this?’ I say, ‘That’s my medicine and my medical delivery device,’” said Bill Britt, 45, an epileptic who uses marijuana to relieve pain from his arthritis and scoliosis. “Every single time, they’ve given it back.”

To give police direction and prevent arrests, a law that went into force in January sets up a voluntary state-run

See MEDICAL MARIJUANA, page 14

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Moore tells Nevada students to stand up for their freedoms

BY MARTIN GRIFFITH

Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. — Filmmaker Michael Moore brought his anti-Bush Slacker Uprising Tour to Reno to try to fire up apathetic students to vote next month in the battleground state of Nevada. He stirred up more than just “slackers,” though.

After failing in a bid to get his speech canceled, a group of alumni and businessmen offered \$100,000 to the university’s student government to have Moore debate a conservative spokesman instead — a move rejected by both student and university leaders.

The university’s College Republicans staged a protest over the use of public funds to bring Moore to campus. The speech also prompted threats from some alumni to discontinue donations to the university.

Despite the opposition, the “Fahrenheit 9/11” director was greeted by a standing ovation from a sell-out crowd of nearly 10,000 on campus Wednesday night. Moore shot back at the businessmen and alumni, and praised student and university leaders for standing up to them.

“No amount of money could buy them off. How rare is that these days?” Moore said. “Never back down to bullies who limit freedom of expression whether in Reno or the United States.”

Moore also criticized College Republicans, whose protest drew about 250 people outside the arena Wednesday night. It was the biggest faced by Moore so far as he nears the halfway point of his 60-city tour, said Moore spokeswoman Terri Hardesty.

“I think it’s pretty pathetic that they can only get 250 people,” Moore said. “I’m embarrassed and offended.”

“We brought some Army enlistment forms tonight. I’d like to see how many of those 250 College Republicans we can sign up. ... Why should other sons and daughters go to Iraq?” Moore said.

Protesters held up signs that said “No Moore Lies” and “Moore Hates America But Loves Your Money.”

They accused Moore of resorting to lies to tarnish President Bush in “Fahrenheit 9/11” and of financially benefiting from the Sept. 11 terror attacks and war in Iraq.

“He tends to claim that President Bush has profited from Sept. 11. But the No. 1 guy to profit is Michael Moore,” UNR junior Dylan Ciciliano charged, noting “Fahrenheit 9/11” has earned more than \$200 million at the box office and in DVD sales.

UNR senior Nathan Taylor said he was upset the university approved public funds to promote the political agenda of what he called “a partisan propaganda artist.”

At a news conference before his speech, Moore bristled when asked to respond to the allegations that he lied against Bush in “Fahrenheit 9/11.”

“Name one lie. That’s kind of a strong word. Did you ask them how I have lied?” Moore asked. “Most of them haven’t seen the movie ... They can’t name one lie because there’s not any.”

Moore said he has given away “large sums of money” since his first movie, “Roger and Me,” and most of the money he’s earning from the tour is going toward expenses.

His speaking fee at UNR was \$15,000, said Jeff Champagne, vice president of programming for the Associated Students of the University of Nevada.

Enforcement varies across state

MEDICAL MARIJUANA, from page 13

medical marijuana identification program. Police are supposed to respect the ID cards as proof of legal possession, but California’s estimated 75,000 medical marijuana users won’t be able to get the cards until next year.

Under the old system, some counties and medical marijuana clubs have issued their own cards — which often are recognized only in the local community.

The legislative attempt to mend the patchwork of enforcement policies is having limited effect.

Prosecutors say the new law is still befuddling because it lets counties set higher guidelines than the half-pound lawmakers allowed for unspecified medical needs.

“It doesn’t appear to us that we’re getting clarity,” said David LaBahn, executive director of the California District Attorneys Association. “That’s what folks look for from laws: Who is exempted, how much can they

have and where can they have it.”

Richard Meyer, a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration special agent in San Francisco, says local interpretations of the medical marijuana law sometimes hinder federal investigations of drug dealing.

“Some of our local police departments are not able to help us in marijuana investigations,” he said. “It’s a nuisance.”

That’s not a problem in the far northern city of Eureka, where local police confiscate any marijuana and will aid in federal probes. This despite being located in Humboldt County, where patients can — on paper — possess 3 pounds of pot and grow 100 square feet of plants.

“We have an obligation to both federal and state law ... (but) if federal folks want to take the marijuana, then they trump,” Police Chief David Douglas said. “Always.”

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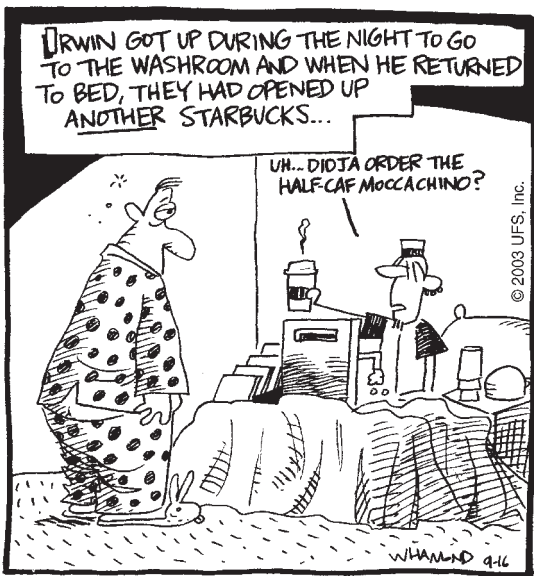
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



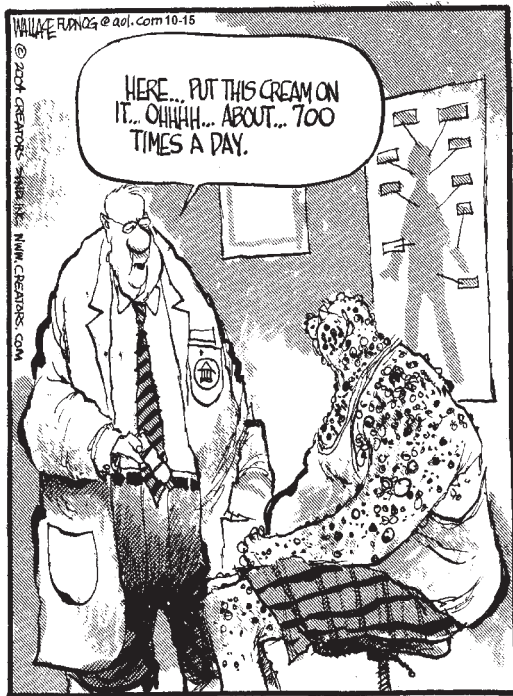
edge city by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



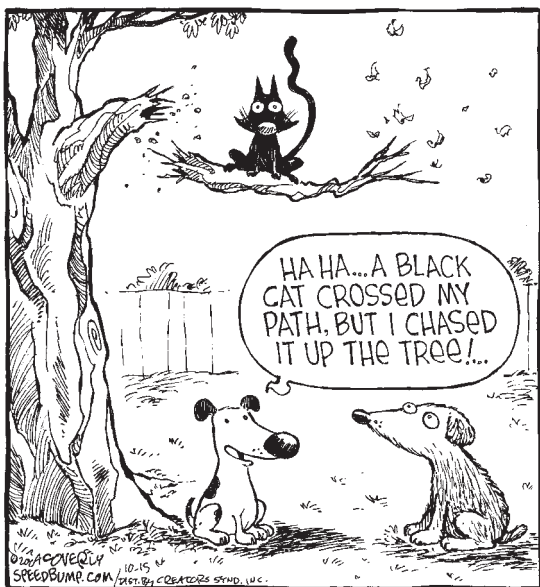
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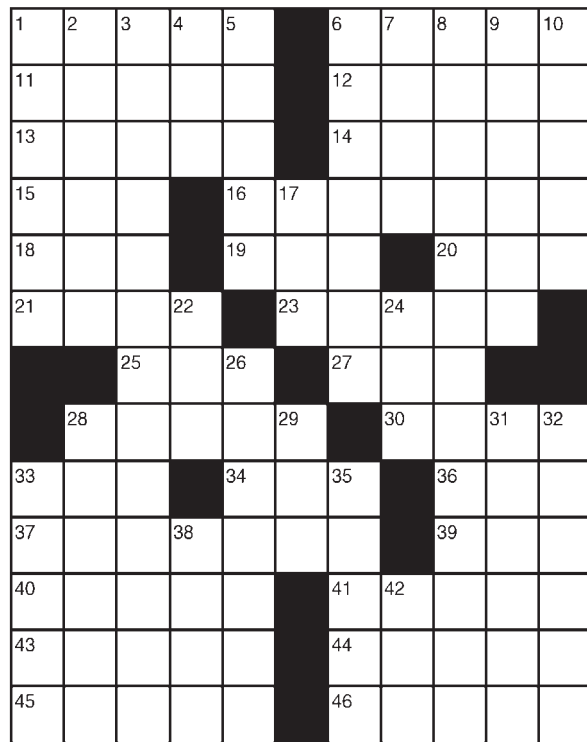
- 1 Brainy
- 6 Den group
- 11 Statue setting
- 12 Like some calls
- 13 Singer John
- 14 Loosen
- 15 Yale student
- 16 Football foul
- 18 Gun
- 19 Foul caller
- 20 Horse doc
- 21 Goblet part
- 23 Put off
- 25 Energy
- 27 "Law & Order" group
- 28 Peter of film
- 30 Latest word
- 33 Washing-ton type
- 34 Salt, to Simone
- 36 Grammys category
- 37 Marshal's quarry
- 39 Compete
- 40 Be rude, in a way
- 41 Vibrant
- 43 Bit of color

- 44 Like some carrots
- 45 Bar perch
- 46 Core feature

DOWN

- 1 Derisive looks
- 2 Cereal grass
- 3 Alaska's Mt. Wrangell, for one
- 4 P look-alike
- 5 Bocelli, for one
- 6 Raised with nothing
- 7 Millennia
- 8 Soldier's state
- 9 Corporate shark
- 10 Winter weather
- 17 Nour-ished
- 22 Russian space station
- 24 Team supporter
- 26 Diana Rigg role
- 28 Went ballistic
- 29 Shoe box letters
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- 32 Breaks the limit
- 33 Nuisances
- 35 Goes ahead
- 38 Jason's boat
- 42 Whopper

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DBAS

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

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