

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

8 30 39 42 46

Meganumber: 8

Jackpot: \$9 Million

FANTASY 5

11 14 24 28 29

DAILY 3

Daytime: 0 1 5

Evening: 9 3 9

DAILY DERBY

1st: 09 Winning Spirit

2nd: 11 Money Bags

3rd: 01 Gold Rush

RACE TIME: 1:40.57

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site: <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ No-sweat and no-odor clothes have hit the market recently, the products of several competing technologies. Britain's Ministry of Defense announced that it would equip soldiers in Afghanistan with heat-resistant, germ-fighting underwear. And the U.S. sports-gear manufacturer Brooks, which originally set out to design heat-dissipating clothes, found that its silver-ion technology also "electrocuted" bacteria, allowing (it claims) as many as 10 stink-free workouts between washings.

■ University of California, Merced, professor Christopher Viney collects and studies hippopotamus sweat, according to an August Fresno Bee report, hypothesizing that the ingredients can help develop sunscreens, bug repellents, and skin-infection protections for humans.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 292nd day of 2005.
There are 73 days left in the year.

On Oct. 19, 1781, British troops under Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, Va., as the American Revolution neared its end.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Courage is the price that life exacts for granting peace."

AMELIA EARTHART
AMERICAN AVIATOR (1898-1937?)

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Lodge murder suspect is nabbed

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES

Authorities have arrested a man believed to be responsible for the murders of both Jonathan Hernandez and Hector Bonilla, two Santa Monica residents shot multiple times in March at a birthday party held at the Moose Lodge.

The FBI and the Los Angeles

Police Department last Thursday arrested William Vasquez, 25, one of three suspects accused of killing Hernandez and Bonilla.

In July, the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office filed felony charges and issued arrest warrants for Jose Mojarro, 21, Ector Hugo Sanchez, 20, and Vasquez. Sanchez is the only remaining suspect at-large.

The LAPD and FBI's Fugitive

Task Force had been looking for Vasquez for the past 18 months for allegedly murdering a 22-year-old Los Angeles man in 2002. Vasquez was arrested on the 500 block of Westlake Street in LA.

Mojarro, also known as "Peanut," Sanchez, also known as "Enemy," and Vasquez, also known as "Crook" and "Ugly Cuz," are all believed to be gang members from Los Angeles,

according to the DA's office.

Guests at the party held on March 5 at the Moose Lodge, 1600 Ocean Park Boulevard, said more than a dozen shots were fired by the suspects after an altercation with Hernandez and Bonilla.

Bonilla, 25, was shot multiple times in his torso and head, while Hernandez, 19, suffered more

See **MURDER SUSPECT**, page 6

Come on, it's all ballbearings these days



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

A skateboarder makes his way down a deserted stretch of beach on Tuesday as persistent clouds kept many away.

Rosendahl doesn't feel bus barn swap so rad

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

VENICE BUS BARN — A private developer wants to turn the Venice Metro bus facility into a gated residential community, but elected officials insist several steps must be taken before the project can move forward.

In September, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's board of directors approved an agreement with RAD Jefferson, LLC, on plans to exchange MTA's bus yard property at 100 Sunset Ave. and Main Street in Venice for construction of a new transportation center on Jefferson Boulevard in West Los Angeles.

Santa Monica Mayor Pam O'Connor, who sits on the MTA's board of directors, said that since the MTA approved the land swap agreement, any development that is to occur on the Sunset property would be handled through the city of Los Angeles' planning department.

Meanwhile, Los Angeles 11th District Councilman Bill Rosendahl said he will not support the project, which is to be built within his jurisdiction, unless RAD makes a better effort to build consensus among residents, namely through the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council (GRVNC), which has newly-elected board

See **VENICE BUS**, page 6

INTERNATIONAL

Aphrodesiac or just a midnight snack?

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE

AP Medical Writer

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — As their waistlines ballooned, Carlene Wellington and her husband found that their sex life was deflating.

Both were a healthy weight when they were married 42 years ago, until she started to cook massive amounts of food. She and her husband, Gary, grew to 237 and 355 pounds, respectively. Intimacy grew difficult.

See **ESCHEWING THE FAT**, page 15

Kidnapping goes awry

SM man allegedly tried to force teen-age girl into car

By Daily Press staff

A Santa Monica man was arrested this past weekend for attempted kidnapping after he allegedly tried to force a 13-year-old girl into his car on Friday.

Fredrick David Trotter, 63, was arrested by Santa Monica Police on Saturday at 3 a.m. at his residence in the 1900 block of Cloverfield Boulevard. Trotter allegedly grabbed the girl's arm and attempted to force her into his vehicle in a parking lot at Pico Boulevard and Stewart Avenue at 5:30 p.m. on Friday.

Two witnesses intervened and the victim was able to escape, police said. The victim was not injured and she was taken home.

When officers spoke to the victim, she indicated that she and her mother knew Trotter, who used to be a neighbor. Officers were able to identify Trotter, determined where he lived and went to his home. Trotter came out of his apartment and was arrested. Investigators obtained a search warrant and recovered additional evidence.

See **KIDNAPPING**, page 7

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HOROSCOPE

Wind down, Taurus

Santa Monica Daily Press

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll Have:
★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You are far more in control than you think you are or might like to be. Sometimes blowing your fuse feels good, but it ultimately might cause a bigger problem. Keep it together, Aries. By the evening, you will be able to talk about this problem. Tonight: Breeze around.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You might charge like a Bull today, but it might not be because you are seeing red. You simply have a lot to do and the energy to do it. Be aware that not everyone has your power or strength. Think carefully before deciding about a money venture. Tonight: Wind down.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You are holding back a lot of strong feelings. How you choose to express them might be important, as you could be causing yourself unusual distress by holding them in. Talks late in the day allow you to reveal some of these emotions. Tonight: Keep smiling.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ If you want something or need to talk through a problem, there will be no stopping that process today. Your smile wins over many friends. You could find an associate to be pushy. Don't get offended. Listen to this person's message. Tonight: Early to bed.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You might be hard-pressed to perform to your highest ability. Someone could give you flak, but you need to clear out some important tasks. Don't question your judgment mid-way. It isn't the right time. Tonight: Work, then join a friend or two.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Push to get more information. The more facts and opinions you receive, the better the choice you can make. Don't worry if a situation seems complex. If you detach yourself, it won't be. Break past normal thought patterns. Tonight: Explore different possibilities.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You can count on a partner to sort through different options. In fact, you can lie back and just listen. You could be delighted by news or a new perspective. Let go and see what happens. Tonight: Togetherness.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Others might be too direct for your taste. You don't have to absorb what they say. It might be their perspective or their view. Think through what you hear, but don't respond. Why bother? Tonight: Make time for a chat with your best friend.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Your get-up-and-go could intimidate others. Realize that you are a whirling dervish right now, while others can barely clear out their work or projects. Help by pitching in when you can. Tonight: Slow down, please. Let others catch up to you.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You seem to be a fountain of ideas and creativity. Others might seek you out as a result. You might be put off by a difficult or testy loved one or child. Don't be. Let this person express his or her feelings without personalizing your thoughts. Tonight: Let your imagination choose.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Rather than get into a mini-rumble with a family member, try rearranging the furniture or getting into a home project. At this time of year, be wise and get your heating checked. Be efficient. Tonight: Home is your castle.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might be more abrupt than you realize. You have a way of saying things or a general impatience that others pick up on. Guard against clumsiness. Please slow down and be careful. Tonight: Laugh with friends.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Can do: Salvation Army hosts weekend harvest

By Daily Press staff

It's harvest time for the Santa Monica Salvation Army. From 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 22, the Santa Monica Salvation Army will host their annual Harvest Festival. All ages are welcome to enjoy food, treats, games, prizes and face painting. The cost is \$2 and a canned food donation. The Santa Monica Salvation Army is located at 1533 Fourth St. in downtown Santa Monica. For more information, call (310) 451-1358.

Do you know jack? Pumpkin-carving on tap

By Daily Press staff

To celebrate the arrival of fall, Starbucks is hosting a Pumpkin Patch experience at Third Street Promenade on Saturday. Members of the community are invited to visit the pumpkin patch and enjoy a caricaturist, local musicians, free pumpkins to decorate and pumpkin carving demonstrations. The country-style event also will feature complimentary samples of Starbucks' pumpkin spice latte and pumpkin crème. There will be 300-pound carved pumpkin, pumpkin decorating with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica, pumpkin carving demonstrations, a caricaturist and live banjo music. From 6 a.m. to 7 a.m., the 300-pound pumpkin arrives at Third Street Promenade. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the pumpkin patch will be open to public.

Car-tunes: When animation meets musician

By Daily Press staff

Combining some of the earliest animated shorts ever produced with a live acoustic chamber quartet, the Santa Monica College Academy of Entertainment & Technology continues its tradition of presenting a unique alternative to the usual Halloween experience. The special free event — "Silent Animation, Live Musicians: Vintage Silent Cartoons with a Live Classical Chamber Ensemble" — will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28 in room 235 at the college's Academy of Entertainment & Technology, located at 1660 Stewart St. Parking is free. This is the fourth year in a row the academy has held its "Halloween Technology Salon." The event will feature vintage original silent animated shorts from 1912 to 1930, curated by entertainment technology professor Jim Keeshan. The selection will highlight some of the earliest pioneers in the art form. Accompanying the silent films will be a live acoustic chamber quartet, arranged and directed by interactive media professor David Javelosa. The ensemble will include Peter Ludwig on cello; Evelyn Mann on flute; Jill Flomenthoff on harp, and entertainment technology adjunct professor Jeannie Novak on piano. The music will feature several movements of structured improvisations, each based on the visual themes of the animation and focusing on each of the musical instruments as a soloist. For information, call (310) 434-3763.

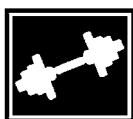
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SURF REPORT

Rain has been falling in many areas, flushing out all the crud from storm drains, and increasing runoff. Bacteria levels will inevitably be higher for a few days as a result, and water contact is not recommended. As a reminder, there is a risk of increased bacteria levels at least 72-hours following the end of rain.

Today the water is:

64°

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



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
MONDAY	3:15	0.7	4:03	-0.3	9:27	6.4	10:15	4.9
TUESDAY	3:45	1.2	4:48	-0.4	9:58	6.5	11:04	4.4
WEDNESDAY	4:14	1.8	5:34	-0.3	10:28	6.3	N/A	N/A
THURSDAY	4:41	2.3	6:25	-0.1	12:00	3.9	11:00	6.1
FRIDAY	5:15	1.7	7:20	0.0	12:42	3.1	11:25	5.7

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The Q Line

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City Council, by a 4-3 vote, approved an amendment which significantly raises developer "in lieu" fees, the mandated contribution to the city's affordable housing effort. In May, the city was found to have not kept its promises to voters that it would be consistent in the number of affordable housing units it produced.

Still, some feel it unfair to pass the costs on to developers, who will be required to pay quadruple, in some cases, what they previously had, and may dissuade them from doing business in the city.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know: "Was City Council correct in their assertion that higher developer fees will equal more affordable housing, or was the hike an unnecessary passing of the buck?"

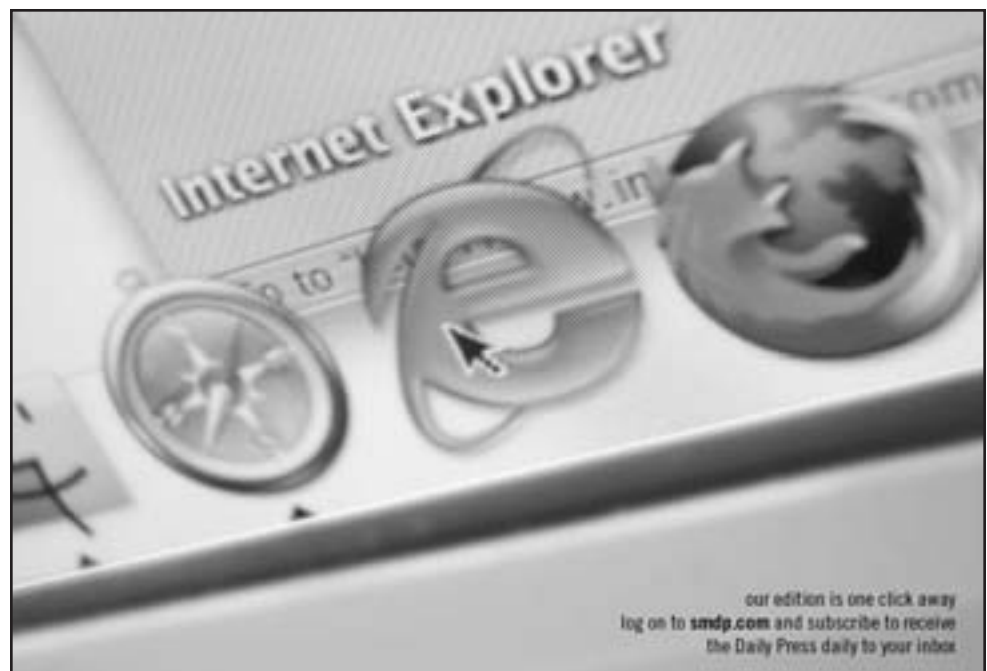
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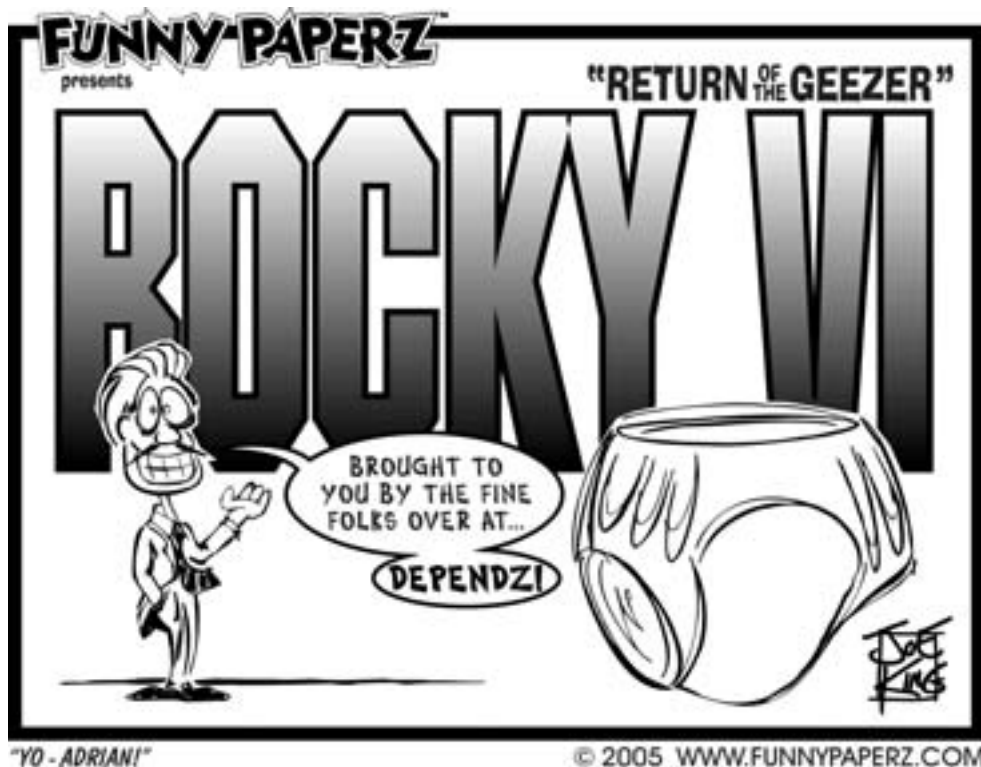
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OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hair they are: Give credit where it's due

Editor:

I am writing to tell you how disenchanted I was after reading your article (SMDP, Oct. 12, page 1) titled "Makeovers part of moving on from domestic violence."

I have absolutely nothing to gain by writing you, however I think you should know the truth about Sojourn's day of beauty. I no doubt believe that make-up artist Lucienne Zamit and stylist Philip Carreon worked on a woman or two from Sojourn Domestic Violence Shelter in Santa Monica. But Mr. Carreon did not style the women's hair, that you have him pictured with in the article. Hairstylist Monika Widmer of Hair Cafe did her hair, and I know this because I was standing there watching when Ms. Widmer was working on the woman's hair. I, being a regular customer at Hair Cafe on Fifth Street in Santa Monica, was a witness to the fact that Hair Cafe should be getting the recognition for beautifying these women. When I walked in for my hair appointment on Oct. 11, there were at least seven women from the shelter getting their hair and make-up done. The stylists, some of whom don't even work on the day the event took place, and Philippe Schaedler, the owner of Hair Cafe, were all there kicking their butts to make this day happen for those women. They had all kinds of fruit platters, and pastries and coffee. I sat in awe watching these women admiring themselves in the mirror after their transformations were done.

So, the point is that I think Hair Cafe deserves at least a small article in your next paper, recognizing them for the outstanding job that they all did. It just upsets me to read an article that is so not the real or entire truth. Ms. Zamit and Mr. Carreon might have worked on a woman or two, but Hair cafe opened their doors to work on at least seven.

Erica Murray
Santa Monica

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 editor@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.

Got News?

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Don't make your point by sitting out election



GUEST COMMENTARY
BY JOHN DEASY, Ph.D.

A major set of decisions face the California voter on Nov. 8 — not the least of which is the decision to vote in this special election. I have become seriously concerned with the frequency with which people tell me that they are sick and tired of special elections, and that they will sit this one out "and that will show them." I implore you to vote in this election. The voice of every person is critical if you care about the future of California. For what is at stake in this election is a very real decision about our economic future as a state.

There are a number of propositions on the ballot, and many of them are bounded together as reform for a fiscally ailing state. I am not going to comment on all of the rhetoric or the myriad of campaign advertisements facing the electorate. I am going to simply call out what I feel is a landmark situation before all of us with respect to public education. There are two specific propositions related to public education: Prop. 74 deals with extending the waiting period for permanent teaching status, and Prop. 76 deals with state spending and school funding limits.

My comments on Prop. 74 are short and simple. This is not a critical issue. I do not believe that extending or shortening the waiting period for permanent status for teachers will affect the quality of education in this state one iota.

A high quality evaluation system for employees will do this, and only a high quality evaluation system coupled with deep investments in professional development for the teaching force can improve the education system of California's public schools. The proposition will extend the time for teachers to receive permanent status from the current two years to five consecutive years.

Passage of Prop. 74 may well hurt California because it may dissuade new faculty from entering the teaching profession in this state, as we will now be only one of three states in the country to have a five-year waiting period before tenure.

A cursory examination of state achievement data points to the fact that an extended waiting period for tenure status for the teachers in these two states did little to improve the quality of education and student achievement. One can look to the type of evaluation and professional development systems that the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified schools have put in place if the voter (or public) wants an example of how to improve the quality of instruction and student achievement. Those pieces of data speak loudly for themselves. Collaboratively developed rigorous systems to assure quality teaching performance is what California needs, not a red herring nestled inside another special election.

As for Prop 76, my comments are direct, explicit and serious. If Prop. 76 is passed there is not a single component of the new law that will help public school education. The proposition will give the governor unprecedented power to cut school budgets at her/his determination in mid-fis-

cal cycle. The act will alter the state's constitution with respect to school funding in ways never seen before by this state.

While any additional cuts to K-12 funding bring us closer to a third-world status of fiscal support for education, if there must be a cut then it must be planned for in advance of the current fiscal cycle. Since schools do not generate revenues — like businesses — they can only absorb cuts if planned for, not in the middle of a school year. We simply can't shut a school or end courses in February.

The passage of Prop. 76 will allow for such misdirected fiscal decision-making. The dramatic changes to previously approved voter propositions 98 and 111 will be permanently altered to lower the constitutional school-funding guarantee provided for in Prop. 98.

Please recall the recently released RAND Corp. study that examined how California's public schools were doing. The report was solemn and bleak. We fund our schools at nearly the bottom of the 50 states, and last with respect to the large industrial states. Our schools are at the top of comparison with respect to overcrowded classrooms and achievement is dead last when accounting for conditions of the students as compared to like students across the country. The direct effect of diminishing funding for public education in California since the passage of Prop. 13 was clearly pointed out as the single largest contributing factor to the decline of what was once the nation's finest public school system and the model for most of the world.

It is true that there are systems like Santa Monica-Malibu that dramatically buck the trend. But they are few in number, and have required unique and special communities that are willing to stand up and say education is a priority, and essential for the health and welfare of a community and a state. But even these systems will be gravely harmed by the passage of Prop. 76.

California turns out the largest number of new members of the nation's workforce annually. I pose this question: Do you want a well-trained individual to put in your IV needle, to drill your tooth, to adjust the hydraulic breaking system on your airplane, to operate your regional nuclear reactor, and to maintain your vehicle? I, for one, want all Californians to participate in the American Dream of home ownership and an opportunity economy? I believe we all want this and expect it. This requires a high quality public education system that is well funded. Prop. 76 will clearly not permit this.

As the legislative analyst points out "the net impact over time will be to lower the minimum guarantee for K-12 education." I must ask myself, and you, one question: How do you get lower than last place? Implicit in the decision to approve or not approve Prop. 76 is a moral question about the future and future opportunity of those whose voice is not heard. We are voting on a measure that will affect our children. I think we need to ask them what part of the diminishing American Dream do they want to give up permanently?

I suggest and request that you remain a well-informed and active voter on Nov. 8.

(John Deasy is the Superintendent of Schools for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.)

COMMENTARY



Over 'The Hill': Rice gets boost from book



THE WITNESS STAND

BY CLIFF NICHOLS

The new book by Dick Morris and his wife, Eileen McGann, entitled: "Condi vs. Hillary: The Next Great Presidential Race" asserts there is only one force on Earth capable of preventing Sen. Hillary Clinton from winning the White House in 2008 — Condoleezza Rice.

This book is merely another effort to further the efforts of the "First Officially Unauthorized Condoleezza Campaign Exploratory Committee" formed by me and my radio show listeners on Nov. 3, 2004, the day after the 2004 elections were concluded. The following are material excerpts from the press release I issued to accompany that announcement.

"Condi in '08 — Press Release — Nov. 3, 2004: In order to take advantage of the temporary lull in the political momentum of the nation's "progressives" (previously known to many as liberals, such as Michael Moore, Barbra Streisand, Bruce Springsteen, Robert Reich and, although mentioned last perhaps most importantly, the Hillary) as they lick their wounds received consequent to the most heated election many of us have ever experienced in our lifetimes, certain loyal listeners of The Cliff Nichols Show are pleased to announce that they, together with the assistance of the host, will as of this day, Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2004, collectively gather periodically to form, and further the purposes of, the first officially unauthorized campaign exploratory committee in the United States to promote the candidacy of Condoleezza Rice for office of President of the United States in 2008 (henceforth referred to as the 'Committee')."

"The Committee's formation at this early date has been prompted in part by the 'concession' speeches of Sens. Kerry and Edwards. Taken together, these speeches have been interpreted by some enlightened listeners as a liberal call-to-arms; effectively urging progressives to unite even more effectively in the future to upturn the results of this year's elections and frustrate, if not reverse, what many are calling the 'mandate' that would appear to have been bestowed by the nation upon President Bush ... The momentum afforded by the president's re-election to those among us that desire for our children and all future generations a national culture founded upon character, integrity and a commonly shared set of moral principles must be maintained.

"In turn, this caused some to look forward to 2008, it being thought imperative to address now the question of who can be identified to be entrusted to carry the torch lit by the president upon his eventual departure from office. A question perhaps made especially poignant by the much anticipated candidacy of The Hillary, who has been described in the past by assuredly un-biased progressives in the media as 'The Most Intelligent Woman In The World' (it is much to our regret that this necessarily has placed the Ellen Goodmans, Helen Thomases and Jane Fondas of this world in the second-rate

category of 'also-rans'). And, the answer to the question was not immediately obvious until the collective genius of the listening audience kicked in and we received a call from an individual who offered up 'The Condoleezza'.

"Yes, we are aware that others may aspire to the position being considered. But really people, let's be serious. First, if The Hillary is in fact the opponent in 2008, can either of these men seriously be considered to represent a political candle from which would emanate a light much brighter than that which was cast by Bob Dole when he ran against The Hillary's husband? And, secondly, have the personal lives of either of these two politicians been indicative of a moral stability consonant with that now represented by our sitting president? Predictably, the answer to both of these questions is a resounding no. Thus, we are caused to return to serious consideration of The Condoleezza as a viable candidate.

"Anyone with information about The Condoleezza or who may wish to share with the Committee their analysis as to how The Condoleezza's background and experience compares with that of 'The Most Intelligent Woman in the World' is hereby invited by the Committee to submit it to us post haste. In return, you will receive advance notice of anticipated events in connection with the campaign for 'Condi in '08,' which just may include, among other things, the following:

■ The Committee's official request that the York Peppermint Patty Company produce 'Condi-Mints' that may be distributed at official campaign functions.

■ The Committee's official request that the Reverend Jesse Jackson and his Rainbow Coalition, as well as Al Sharpton, endorse The Condoleezza's candidacy or to put in writing why not.

■ The Committee's official request to the National Organization for Women that they endorse The Condoleezza's candidacy (if for no other reason than the fact that her gender orientation as a woman has never been questioned) or to put in writing why not.

■ The Committee's official request to the National Education Association that they endorse The Condoleezza's candidacy based on her educational background and her extensive association with numerous institutions of higher learning or to put in writing why not.

■ The Committee's official request to the United Nations that they endorse The Condoleezza's candidacy based on her extensive foreign policy experience or to put in writing why not.

■ The Committee's official request that Helen Thomas, Ellen Goodman and Jane Fonda officially concede that they are dumber than The Hillary or to put in writing why not.

■ The Committee's official request that The Hillary officially concede that she may not be smarter than The Condoleezza or to put in writing why not.

"The Committee extends its thanks to you in advance for your anticipated participation and contributions."

In light of the foregoing, all that remains to be said to Mr. and Mrs. Morris for the insights their book may add to this important effort is, "Thanks for the assist."

(Contact Cliff Nichols at (310) 917-1083 or www.cliffnicholslaw.com.)



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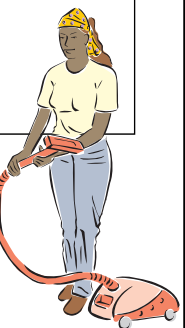
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LOCAL

Please join us for Community Open Houses regarding The Mid-City/Westside Transit Corridor Study

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) has released the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report (FEIS/EIR) for the Mid-City/Exposition LRT Project. This proposed new light rail line would run south from 7th/Metro Center station in Downtown Los Angeles and continue to Culver City along the Exposition right-of-way. The project will include eight or nine new stations and upgrades to three existing stations.

The FEIS/EIR is available online at metro.net/expo and at libraries along the proposed alignment (a list is also available at metro.net/expo). Interested individuals, organizations and public agencies are invited to learn more about the project at three community open houses listed below.

■ **Wednesday, November 2, 2005 - 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Rotunda Room
4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230

■ **Thursday, November 3, 2005 - 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

West Angeles Church, Crystal Room, North Campus
3045 Crenshaw Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90016

■ **Wednesday, November 9, 2005 - 5:00- 8:00 p.m.**

Exposition Park, Muses Room, Wallis Annenberg Building
700 State Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90037

■ **Project Hotline: 310-366-6443**

Please send any written comments
on the FEIS/EIR
(accepted until Nov. 28, 2005) to:

■ **Anthony Loui, Project Manager**

Metro, One Gateway Plaza,
Mail Stop 99-22-5
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Fax: 213-922-3060
Email: loui@metro.net



WANT TO TICKLE YOUR FUNNY BONE?
CHECK OUT THE COMICS ON PAGE 16!

Cops search for third Moose Lodge suspect

MURDER SUSPECT, from page 1

extensive wounds to his torso, head and buttocks, according to the Los Angeles County Department of Coroner.

"I'm glad to hear they may have found one of the killers of my son," said Natalie Preciado, the mother of Hernandez. "It brightened my spirits to hear that he had been captured."

"Thank God, justice will prevail."

Relating to the Moose Lodge killings, each faces two counts of murder, with special allegations of gang enhancements and use of firearms during a gang crime, and a third count of assault with a deadly weapon. If convicted, the three men each face life sentences without parole or the death penalty.

On Tuesday, Vasquez plead not guilty to the charges during his arraignment in Los Angeles Superior Court.

In addition to the Moose Lodge murders, Vasquez has been charged for one count of murder for allegedly killing Alex Haro, according to the DA's office. Vasquez allegedly shot Haro at a party in the Jefferson Park area on Jan. 27, 2002, according to LAPD Detective Don Richards. Vasquez also faces one count of attempted murder for allegedly trying to kill another man, Brandon Harrison, close to the Haro shooting, according to the DA's office.

"(Haro) was an innocent victim of a

cowardly act," Richards said. "(Vasquez) is bad, but he's a coward."

Vasquez on Oct. 13 was booked at the LAPD's Parker Center Jail Division. He is currently in the custody of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department at Men's Central Jail. He has no bail relating to the Moose Lodge killings and has a \$2 million bail for the 2002 murder.

Authorities have been reluctant to talk about the case due to witness intimidation and relocation problems. However, the LAPD is scheduled to have a press conference at the police department's 77th and Broadway station at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 20, to announce Vasquez's arrest.

Prior to his arrest, Vasquez was last seen by authorities after checking in for a parole progress report on May 2, 2001, regarding a carjacking for which he had been convicted. He was supposed to return to court for another progress report on Oct. 29, 2001, but never showed, according to court records.

Mojarro has been in custody since July 5 for a parole violation related to a battery on emergency personnel, for which he served one and a half years of a two year-term in the Department of Corrections. Mojarro also is in the process of being deported, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Santa Monica Police Lt. Frank Fabrega said local law enforcement is actively pursuing Sanchez' whereabouts.

Proposed West L.A. barn to handle 150 'green' buses

VENICE BUS, from page 1

members and hopes to become a revitalized community group during Rosendahl's term.

"I'm holding my position until people in the community are able to vent and have an opportunity to weigh in," Rosendahl said. "Right now, the developer has a lot more homework to do."

In a letter sent to the Los Angeles city planning department, Rosendahl indicated he has heard an outcry from constituents who oppose the RAD development.

Rosendahl has issues with exemptions the developer seeks for height, density and design. Rosendahl said he would only be supportive of such exemptions if the project provided a clear and strong community benefit.

"So far, this project, as currently proposed, fails to meet that test," Rosendahl wrote in his letter.

Also, Rosendahl is disturbed with a gate the developer intends to place around the housing project.

"Such an insular, unfriendly design is the antithesis of the spirit of Venice," Rosendahl wrote in his letter.

Calls to the developer were not returned.

Under the exchange agreement, MTA will swap its 3.13 acre facility, located in Venice, for a 4.66 acre site, currently vacant, located on Jefferson Boulevard between Rodeo Drive and National

Boulevard in West Los Angeles.

The Venice bus division accommodates 77 buses and cannot handle clean-air natural gas (CNG) fueling. Before the swap occurs, RAD Jefferson is to build MTA's new facility, which will include CNG fueling, according to the agreement. The new West L.A. facility will handle 150 buses — all of which will operate on CNG — according to John Catoe, MTA deputy CEO.

The Venice Sunset property is valued at \$12.9 million, and the agreement calls for MTA to kick in \$8 million to make up the difference in the cost of the new transportation center, according to a press release.

Catoe said the Venice property has been in use by transit agencies for more than 100 years. However, it's inefficient, costing \$5 million a year in wasted drive time — the distance in miles a transit bus must travel before entering a revenue-generating area.

Rosendahl suggests RAD should continue to meet with the GRNVC in order to come up with a proposal to better meet community concerns. RAD is scheduled to make a presentation regarding its proposed project to the GRNVC's land use and planning committee, set to meet from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 19, at the Westminster elementary school auditorium. Public comment is to begin at 7 p.m.

A public hearing is also set to be held at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 27, at Los Angeles City Hall, 200 N. Spring St., 10th floor.

DID YOU KNOW?

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STATE BRIEFS

Police pretender gets 17 years in prison

By The Associated Press

RANCHO CUCAMONGA — A Chino man who impersonated a policeman to lure and rape a 12-year-old girl was sentenced to 17 1/2 years to life in prison.

Larry Neal Huscher, 60, pleaded guilty to two counts of attempted kidnapping and rape, with a special allegation, in a plea deal reached as trial was starting Sept. 27. If convicted by a jury, he faced up to 80 years in prison.

"I talked to her mother this morning and one of her sisters, and they're very pleased," Deputy District Attorney Jason Anderson said after sentencing on Monday. "I think basically when you analyze it, the likelihood of him getting out is so slim."

Huscher allegedly preyed on middle school children in the Ontario area before he was arrested by police in March 2004. The rape victim was waiting for a parent in front of DeAnza Middle School when Huscher drove up on Feb. 26, 2004, and flashed a badge.

Police said Huscher told the girl there was a problem near her home and she got into his car. Huscher drove away and pulled a knife before raping her, investigators said.

When duffers attack: Deputy shot a bogey

By The Associated Press

CHINO — An Orange County sheriff's reserve deputy was ordered to trial for allegedly pulling a gun on two slow-playing golfers and threatening them at Los Serranos Golf & Country Club.

Witnesses said Raymond Yi, 44, pointed a gun at the golfers and flashed his sheriff's badge during the July incident.

"When I saw him cock his gun, something fell out and my mouth dropped. I couldn't believe this was happening on a golf course," said golfer Marcelo Bautista, 35, a Los Angeles teacher who was playing on the course with his uncle Gustavo Resendiz.

Bautista said Yi had hit two balls toward the men and at the 14th hole Bautista hit Yi's ball back toward him. According to Bautista, Yi confronted him, left the fairway and returned with a badge and pointed a gun to his head.

Bautista and Resendez continued playing but Yi followed them, pushed Resendiz and then cocked his gun.

"I really thought I was gonna be killed right then and there," said Resendiz, 61.

At the end of Monday's preliminary hearing, Superior Court Judge Raymond Youngquist said there was enough evidence to order trial. Yi is charged with two counts of assault with a firearm and two counts of making criminal threats. He will be arraigned Nov. 1.

Off-road restrictions have some home cooking

By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE — Off-roaders could soon face more restrictions in rural Riverside County.

Under a proposed off-road ordinance, county planners would allow property owners to ride motocross bikes if they live on more than two acres. But the proposal will prevent seven-time Supercross champ Jeremy McGrath from training on his 980-acre ranch.

The Planning Commission has struggled to balance the demands of off-roaders who claim a right to ride in rural areas and residents who complain noisy off-roaders destroy the quality of life.

Affected areas include Aguanga, De Luz, Temecula's wine country and back-country areas of Banning, Jurupa and Murrieta.

The latest draft being considered Oct. 26 by the commission allow people to ride on their own property between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. as long as they live on the premises and it is at least two acres. All bikes must also have quiet exhaust and spark arrests, which prevent against wildfires.

McGrath, 34, of Encinitas has been a major opponent of the ordinance because it won't allow him to train or ride for recreation on the ranch he bought in the Aguanga area, about 25 miles east of Temecula. The problem is he doesn't live on the ranch.

"Some don't reside in the area so they come there, tear up the environment, create problems for the neighbors and then leave," planning commission director Mark Balys said.

Kidnapping suspect has molesting record

KIDNAPPING, from page 1

Trotter, who has a prior conviction for child molesting, was booked at the Santa Monica Jail and his bail set at \$100,000. Trotter was convicted in 1965 in Los Angeles municipal court for performing a

lewd act on a child, which was a misdemeanor, according to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

The DA's office on Tuesday filed one count of attempted kidnapping and one count of child annoying with a prior conviction.

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STATE

Lawyers file suit, demand visas for immigrants

BY LAURA WIDES

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Lawyers for undocumented immigrants who've been victims of violent crimes filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday against the Department of Homeland Security for failing to issue protective visas Congress created five years ago.

The 2000 law approved visas for victims of violent crimes who cooperate with law enforcement investigations or prosecution of crimes. The visas allowed them to remain in the United States and apply for permanent residency after three years. But regulations detailing how to apply for the U-visa were never published, and no visas have ever been issued.

"Congress enacted the law with the dual goal of making communities safer ... and as a humane gesture to those immigrants who cooperate with law enforcement agents," said Peter Schey of the L.A.-based Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law, one of three groups that filed the suit here. "How can the gov-

ernment expect immigrants to comply with the law when it is not complying with its own laws?"

The suit was filed on behalf of nine immigrants from California, Texas and Arizona, including several children. Attorneys in the case are seeking class action status.

Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which issues visas, declined to comment on the suit.

"We're looking at taking our time to ensure that the final regulations we put out are concise and clear and complete," said USCIS spokesman Chris Bentley.

Regulations for a similar visa created under the same law, which allows victims of human trafficking to remain in the United States, were issued in 2002. Schey said there's no excuse for the government to take this long on the U-visa.

Gail Pendleton, a Boston-based immigration attorney and co-chair of National Network to End Violence Against Immigrant Women, said she believes the delay is emblematic of the nation's

ambivalence over immigration.

"Undocumented immigrants are being blamed for all the ills of our society, so there is a lot of pressure on the agency on the enforcement side," she said. "But you also have a Congress that understands the overarching need to help victims of crimes and help the criminal system to get at the perpetrators."

Jorge Rodriguez Ruiz, 20, of Oaxaca, Mexico, is among the plaintiffs in the case. In April, he and six others say they were attacked by a man who held them at gunpoint for half an hour at a rest stop in Maricopa County, Ariz., before authorities intervened.

Rodriguez and the others gave sworn statements to police and received department certificates confirming their cooperation, though the man was never prosecuted. Rodriguez is now facing deportation.

"I am here representing not only myself, but also my companions who were detained at gunpoint with me, and all other immigrant victims of crime in the United States who have helped the

police," he said in Spanish at a press conference Tuesday.

People who apply for the U-Visa can obtain "deferred action" status, which offers some protection and allows them to work. But they cannot leave the country, and it's not clear whether time under the deferred status will count toward permanent residency.

As of Tuesday, 3,011 people had requested the deferred action status, including family members of victims, and 2,132 requests were granted, Bentley said.

Still, a significant number of immigrants who are already in deportation proceedings are not receiving the deferred action, Pendleton said.

And USCIS has done little to publicize the visas, meaning many immigrants don't know they can apply.

"Many police officers and Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers are also unaware because there are no forms, no information," Schey said. "Immigrants come in to report a case and then they're driven right over to ICE."

Feinstein meets Miers, says others should wait for hearings to judge

BY ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Sen. Dianne Feinstein met privately with Supreme Court nominee Harriet Miers on Monday, emerging to describe Miers as unusually soft-spoken and to defend her against what the senator has called sexist attacks.

"She's a very, basically, I think rather shy person, and has a very soft manner. It's very pleasant, but it's a very soft manner," Feinstein said after the hour-long meeting in her Senate office. "It's not like a lot of us — try to make your point hard. And she doesn't do that. She just says what she thinks."

Feinstein, D-Calif., is the only woman on the Senate Judiciary Committee that will hold hearings and vote on whether to send Miers' nomination to the full Senate. Last month, she voted against confirming John Roberts as chief justice, though she praised his qualifications after they met one-on-one.

In contrast, Miers, who has served as a corporate lawyer in Dallas and as President Bush's White House counsel, has never been a judge and has been criticized as insufficiently qualified. But Feinstein indicated she was not concerned about Miers' professional background.

"I can't be a Californian and believe that every member of the Supreme Court has to come out of Harvard," Feinstein said. Miers graduated from Southern

Methodist University.

"I think it's refreshing to have different points of views, and I agree with those who say that not everybody has to have had the judicial experience. Others have not and have been good justices," Feinstein said. "I think the mix is healthy for America so I am not at all put off by any of that."

During a CNN interview Sunday, Feinstein said the criticism of Miers by conservatives was "sexist," adding, "I do not believe they would do that to a man."

Asked Monday about the sexism issue Feinstein said: "This is a woman, after all, who's been head of a very large bar association in a large state and the head of a large corporate law practice, and worked in positions of trust for the president of the United States, and I think she should be treated with due deference."

Feinstein, 72, also said she felt sympathy for Miers, 60, because the two had similar personal experiences as women seeking to advance in the mid-20th century.

"I think people don't remember the '50s and even the '60s to some extent, but particularly in the '50s, when it was really women need not apply, a man was worth much more," Feinstein said.

Feinstein has said repeatedly that it would be very difficult for her to support a nominee she thought would overturn the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion. Miers' stance on Roe is unclear, and Feinstein didn't say whether they discussed it.

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STATE



California wine grape harvest turns out bigger than expected

BY MICHELLE LOCKE

Associated Press Writer

NAPA, Calif. — Grapes from the 2005 harvest are starting their journey to the bottle, tumbling onto conveyor belts up and down California in a shining blur of vivid green and rich purple.

This year, the harvest is bigger than expected, causing a few headaches but bringing tentative predictions this will be a vintage year for the multibillion-dollar industry.

"The good news is we have a lot of grapes. The bad news is — we have a lot of grapes," joked Steve Devitt, winemaker for Darioush in the Napa Valley.

Or as Randy Ullom, wine master for Sonoma County-based Kendall-Jackson put it, "We're going to hand out life preservers pretty soon because of all the grapes and the juice."

State officials estimate this year's crop will be 3.2 million tons, up 15 percent from last year's 2.78 million tons.

The larger-than-expected crop could cause some short-term surpluses, but industry observers don't expect the kind of glut that forced some growers to rip out vines in the early 2000s.

Still, some growers had extra grapes on their hands because most winemakers contract in advance for fruit and don't have the need or capacity for more.

"I've had to scramble around to try to get homes for some of my fruit that was additional," said Temecula-area grower Ben Drake, chairman of the board of the California Association of Winegrape Growers.

Winemaker Devitt was surprised by the bounty. "The berry weight is so much more than we anticipated. Some of it doesn't make viticultural sense," he said.

The harvest was expected to be finished by early November, with workers bringing in tubs and bins to wineries all over the state.

At Darioush, a winery known for its signature cabernet sauvignon and for a distinctive design modeled after the Persian city of Persepolis, incoming grapes get a thorough going over. Workers monitor the fruit as it rumbles along conveyor belts, flicking out leaves, debris and any grapes that don't look right.

After that the berries are pumped into tanks where fruit is gently crushed under its own weight.

In some areas, the growing season started early this year and then turned cool and wet, giving grapes time to develop fuller flavors without reaching the high sugar levels that result in high alcohol levels.

Some were hoping for a vintage on par with or perhaps even better than 1997, a "huge year with great quality," Ullom said.

"Everyone's just jazzed beyond belief," Ullom said. "This is going to set the tone for this decade."

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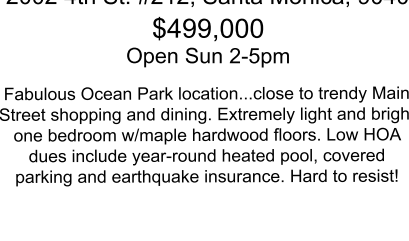
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DAYS ON THE MARKET
BY JODI SUMMERS

Fires. Hurricanes. Earthquakes. Tsunamis. The earth is angry. Everyone should be aware of the life-sustaining, as well as socially-relevant documents they should have at hand in case of a disaster. Sure, we usually write about real estate, but this is important to your health and your net worth.

The American Red Cross, the George Washington University Homeland Security Policy Institute, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Council for Excellence In Government convened "Public Preparedness — A National Imperative," when it was announced by Red Cross President and CEO Marty Evans that, "The public continues to underestimate the need for preparedness."

The people polled seemed to feel that it is necessary to be ready for lifestyle challenging emergencies, as well as possible terrorist atrocities, but 82 percent admitted that they needed to be better informed about what they had to do.

We are here to get you better informed. We'll spend two weeks sharing tips on getting your household disaster-ready. Then we will talk about how to keep your business in order.

"Whether we are responding to a natural disaster or a dirty bomb, the basic human needs remain the same," Evans stated, noting that the Red Cross expects that, "... All our plans rely on individuals — our neighbors, our co-workers, our families ..."

This first stage will require three blocks of time for putting keepsakes and documents together. The second stage of disaster preparedness and maintenance will require one day a month to check on everything. Being proactive now may be a blessing later.

TIME ONE: THE PLAN

Basic steps: "My No. 1 tip is to make a plan," said Keith Robertory, a preparedness expert with the American Red Cross. "If you've thought about it, you'll be that much better prepared to act." His suggestion — gather your household together to talk about these three questions. Put your answers on paper.

■ What types of emergencies could occur? Consider residential fires, as well as natural and man-made disasters.

■ Where would you go? The Red Cross says that residential fires are the most common disaster. Choose a meeting place outside and practice two evacuation routes from each room. Map the possible routes out of the neighborhood, and think about where you and your pets would stay if you had to leave your home. Most emergency shelters do not accept pets. Ask your veterinarian for suggestions.

Next consider a "shelter-in-place" plan should a plague or an earthquake confine you to home. What supplies would you need and, depending on the emergency, which rooms would be safest?

• Who would you contact? What would happen if an emergency occurred while you were at work or school? Agree on a preferred meeting place and identify two people to call if you can't reach one another: One local contact and one out-of-state contact (long distance lines may be more free in times of crisis.) Everyone in your household should keep these names and phone numbers handy — like in your cell phone and wallet.

Additional steps: Every six months, review and update your plan, and conduct an evacuation drill.

TIME TWO: SURVIVAL KIT

Basic steps: A basic survival kit should include enough nonperishable food and water for three days, a battery-operated radio and flashlight, and first-aid supplies. Remember to include personal items (e.g., cash, prescription medications, diapers ...) (If you would like a Survival Kit checklist, e-mail me at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com.) Choose a container like a backpack or a box that's easy to carry.

Additional steps: Every six months, re-evaluate your kit and update items. Be prepared — keep a kit in your car and at your workplace. Prepare a brief list — or even a box — of valuable or sentimental items you would grab if there were time.

TIME THREE: REVIEW YOUR INSURANCE

Basic steps: Read your insurance policies. Talk about potential emergencies with your insurance agent to make sure you understand what's covered. You might need additional insurance. Typical homeowners or renter's insurance policies don't cover every calamity. For example, most policies in California don't cover landslides, earthquakes or floods.

HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT TO BE INSURED FOR?

What do you own? Take inventory of the items in your home. This will help you calculate how much coverage you might need for your personal possessions. Additionally, it will serve as a record should you file a claim. Try a room-by-room approach: For each item of value, note its brand, model, approximate date acquired, and estimated purchase and replacement costs. Videotape your contents and put the tape in your safe deposit box. A home inventory form is available at www.aaa-calif.com/inventory <outbind://491/inventory>.) Attach copies of receipts and other documents. This will keep you very busy.

(If you would like a survival kit checklist, e-mail jodis@boardwalkrealty.com. Jodi Summers is director of the investment division at Boardwalk Realty Santa Monica. Contact her at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call (310) 309-4219. Visit her community history Web site at www.santamonicalandmarks.com.)

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Schweitzer: States must think regionally

BY SARAH COOKE

Associated Press Writer

BOZEMAN, Mont. — States must take a regional approach and work with industry officials if they hope to help solve the nation's energy crisis, Gov. Brian Schweitzer said Monday in kicking off his two-day Western energy conference here.

The federal energy bill passed by Congress this summer does little to ease the country's dependence on foreign oil and gas, and contains few conservation proposals or long-term solutions, he said.

"There's no vision in that energy bill," Schweitzer said. "There's no future."

He urged the more than 750 energy leaders, analysts, environmentalists, Western governors and local officials gathered in Bozeman for "The Montana Symposium: Energy Future of the West" conference to "think big" and stop the pattern.

"If Washington, D.C., is not going to think big, if they're not going bring us any grand new ideas on energy independence and security, then it falls on the shoulders of the states and the private industry, and that is what we are doing here in these coming days," Schweitzer said.

Suede Kelly, a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission member from New Mexico, affirmed that the West is in the best position to ease skyrocketing energy prices through its vast supply of coal, natural gas, wind and other resources. But she disputed Schweitzer's assertion that the federal government had left states behind.

Kelly said the federal energy bill contains many incen-

tives and loan guarantees for clean energy technology, and promotes conservation through tax credits and subsidies for hybrid vehicles, wind energy and other alternative fuels.

"The timing of your efforts to develop an energy policy could not be better, because America's need for your energy resources could not be greater," she said.

Stephen Wright, administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration, said problems with electricity production, supply and transmission must also be addressed.

Electricity costs have quadrupled in some areas since 2002, largely due to increased oil and gas costs but also because "supply is not keeping up with demand in the West," he said.

More transmission is needed to get electricity to growing markets in southern California and elsewhere. Wind energy, an abundant resource in the wide-open West, must continue to be developed, as well as solar and hydrogen fuel cells and other alternate resources, Wright said.

Montana opened its first major wind farm last week, and earlier this year mandated that 10 percent of its electricity come from wind power by 2010, with a 15 percent generation rate by 2015.

"We need to encourage policies that recognize that being a little long in electricity is much better for consumers than being a little short," Wright said.

Schweitzer's two-day conference is largely funded by energy companies. It was expected to draw governors from at least four Western states and West Virginia, a major coal producer.

Not all on board with plans to build along the Salton Sea

By The Associated Press

SALTON CITY, Calif. — The agency that manages the Salton Sea wants to build up to 200,000 homes around the state's largest lake, including some on a former atomic weapons testing site.

Under the plan, the agency would sell the shuttered Salton Sea Test Base to developers and use the proceeds and property tax revenue from the new homes to clean and restore the polluted lake about 90 miles northeast of San Diego.

The plan could entail moving to the east the boundaries of the Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, which is a key stopover on the Pacific Flyway for more than 100,000 migrating birds.

"All we want to do is create the opportunity for development to occur to create a revenue stream for our plan," said Imperial County Supervisor Gary Wyatt, chairman of the Salton Sea Authority board. "You create a lake that has good, clean water."

Critics worry that development could eliminate resting and nesting places for more than 400 species of birds. They also fear the 7,800-acre former military base is polluted, possibly with depleted uranium from some of the 1,100 mock bombs that were tested there until 1961.

"So would you like to put your house on that test base?" said Dale Hoffman-Floerke, chief of the Colorado River and Salton Sea office for the state Department of Water Resources. "Unequivocally, no, I wouldn't put my house there."

The 370-square-mile sea was created in 1905 when floodwaters broke through a Colorado River irrigation canal. It is fed mostly by agricultural runoff.

Citigroup Inc. is conditionally prepared to underwrite more than \$600 million in bonds to finance the proposed development. The authority's board is scheduled to vote Oct. 27 on the plan, which also must be approved by federal and state agencies.

Homes would be built over 30 to 40 years. The plan would include an eight-mile dam across the sea, creating a large north lake, and a smaller lake and wetlands in the south.

Salton Sea Authority Director Ron Enzweiler said there was no record of nuclear activities or material on the former base. Additional tests would be done before houses were built, he said.

Restoration of the lake is mandated under federal and state legislation allowing half of its water to be transferred to urban areas for up to 75 years beginning in 2017.

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NATIONAL



Environmental studies waived for drilling

BY JOHN HEILPRIN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — In an aggressive push by the Bush administration to open more public land to oil and gas production, the Interior Department has quit conducting environmental reviews and seeking comment from local residents every time drilling companies propose new wells.

Field officials have been told to begin looking at issuing permits based on past studies of an entire project, even though some of those assessments may be outdated. The instructions are in a directive from the department's Bureau of Land Management expected to cover hundreds of anticipated new drilling applications.

President Bush and Congress authorized the streamlining as part of a 1,724-page energy bill signed into law in August. BLM officials, saying the need for energy supplies is immediate, showed unusual speed implementing it. Kathleen Clarke, the agency's director, sent out the new guidance Sept. 30.

"Yes, it is a priority of the White House," BLM Deputy Director Jim Hughes said in an interview. "We are moving expeditiously to implement the

law. We think all these items will increase the supply this winter. However, everyone is saying it won't be enough to wipe out the impact of the hurricanes and all that."

The energy bill created new "categorical exclusions" under the 1970 National Environmental Policy Act for allowing new oil, gas and geothermal wells without first conducting environmental studies or soliciting public comment on them.

The exclusions from normal permit requirements cover instances when less than 150 acres and no more than five acres in any one spot are disturbed and where nearby drilling has occurred in the past five years.

"We don't think there will be any environmental degradation," Hughes said. "It's basically going into areas where you've already got stuff happening, where you've got existing NEPA work that had been completed. We think in many cases this is just duplicative work."

Energy producers would still be required to comply with other environmental laws, such as those intended to protect endangered species, air and water quality and cultural artifacts.

So far, no new permits have been issued under the new guidance. But Interior officials expect it to spur more

drilling on open ranges and the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Those include Powder River Basin of Wyoming, the Uintah Basin of Utah and the San Juan Basin of New Mexico and Colorado, all areas where drilling is already booming.

Other areas ripe for the expedited permits are near parkland, such as Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, though not within national parks or wilderness areas.

Last year, the bureau approved 6,052 drilling permits from about 7,000 applications submitted — a 60 percent jump in new permits over those issued in 2003. This year, BLM expects it will approve 7,000 of the 8,000 new applications, Hughes said.

Environmentalists say they will continue to insist that environmental reviews are up-to-date.

"They have to have a fairly recent analysis of the impacts before they can apply these categorical exclusions," said Dave Alberswerth, public lands director for The Wilderness Society. "If they're planning to improperly apply these exemptions ... in places where there are old land use plans that are out of date, then they are asking for legal trouble."

The government had 55,385 square

miles of public lands leased out for oil and natural gas production last year, but only a third of it — 18,236 square miles — was involved in actual energy production. Nearly all the leases BLM considered non-producing have never had an exploratory well drilled, or even a single application for a permit to drill filed with BLM.

"If you look at the actual facts on the ground, they have thousands of more drilling permits in their pockets than they can even drill on," Alberswerth said. "So why is Congress or the administration always looking for ways to exempt the wealthiest companies in the world from their environmental responsibilities?"

Lee Fuller, a spokesman for the Independent Petroleum Association of America, said environmental groups have misused the law to delay drilling permits. But Fuller also said the administration's hoped-for boost in energy production might not occur until later.

"It's hard to judge anything in terms of what might happen this winter," he said. "I don't think anybody has a clear sense of things. But whether it happens this winter, or it's available next spring or summer when there's also a demand for it, you have to be ready."

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Chertoff and Chao promote guest worker program

BY JIM ABRAMS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Beefing up border patrols alone won't stem the flow of illegal immigrants into the country, administration officials said Tuesday in promoting President Bush's proposal to set up a temporary worker program for foreign nationals.

"We're going to need more than just brute enforcement," Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff told the Senate Judiciary Committee. "We're going to need a temporary worker program as well."

Labor Secretary Elaine Chao provided a general outline of the plan Bush introduced last year, emphasizing that undocumented workers accepted into the program would receive no advantages over immigrants in the country legally and that they would be required to return home after their work period ends.

"Those who come forward will not be offered an automatic pass to citizenship and should be expected to pay a substantial fine or penalty to participate in the temporary program," she said.

Under the president's plan, she said,

guest workers would be able to extend a three-year work visa for another three years, but would then have to leave the country for a year to apply for a new work permit.

She said they would be issued biometric, tamper-resistant cards that would allow them to cross U.S. borders during their stay.

GOP leaders in both the House and Senate have suggested that Congress should first take up the enforcement issue, putting off debate on the more complex issues of undocumented workers and the demand for low-skilled labor in this country.

But Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa., said his panel, currently occupied with the Harriet Miers' Supreme Court nomination, would address comprehensive immigration reform. "It is a matter of very, very substantial urgency."

He cited one recent report that there are now more illegal immigrants in the country, often estimated at around 11 million, than legal immigrants.

Several members of the committee are sponsoring legislation that, in addition to strengthening border security and workplace enforcement, would set up guest

worker programs.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., with Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., has a bill that would provide visas for up to six years, after which the worker must either leave the country or be in the pipeline for a green card.

Sens. John Cornyn, R-Texas, and Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., have a rival bill that would require illegal aliens to return to their home country to apply for the temporary worker program.

Speaking at a Chamber of Commerce forum on illegal immigration Tuesday, McCain said any plan centered on sending illegal immigrants home ignores that businesses rely on immigrant labor and that many immigrants have children born in the United States, who are citizens.

"Somebody is going to have to explain how that is workable," he said of the idea of deporting illegal workers.

Chertoff also pledged to end the "catch and release" policy that has allowed tens of thousands of non-Mexican illegal aliens to disappear within the United States.

"Return every single illegal entrant — no exceptions," Chertoff said in prepared testimony to the committee.

Chertoff said that the nearly 900,000 Mexicans who are caught entering United States every year are returned immediately to Mexico, "but other parts of the system have nearly collapsed under the weight of numbers."

Chertoff said that in the just-concluded budget year 120,000 of the 160,000 non-Mexican nationals apprehended by the Border Patrol were released, often on their own recognizance, because there is no place to hold them. "That is unacceptable and we are going to change that immediately."

Chertoff said it is should be possible to achieve significant progress in reversing that policy in less than a year, noting that his department's budget for fiscal 2006 includes \$90 million in new money to add hundreds of beds. He said his agency also plans to expand use of an expedited removal program that could cut the average time in detention from 90 to 45 days.

The Cabinet officials emphasized that the president strongly opposed an amnesty for illegal aliens, and Chertoff agreed with Kennedy that trying to deport all illegal immigrants would not be possible. "It would take billions and billions and billions of dollars to do it," Chertoff said.

Iraq's election commission checking ballots for irregularities

BY SAMEER N. YACOB

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The first bags containing sheets of vote counts from Iraq's provinces arrived in Baghdad for tabulation, but delays from other areas mean a final result in the landmark referendum may not be known until the end of the week, election officials said Tuesday.

Complicating the count is the need to audit results that have raised eyebrows because they show an unexpectedly high number of "yes" votes, triggering questions of irregularities. Two crucial provinces that could determine the outcome are apparently among the regions that need investigation.

The audit comes as Sunni Arab leaders who oppose the charter claimed that voting was fixed in the two key provinces — Ninevah and Diyala — and elsewhere to swing them to a "yes."

Both provinces are believed to have slight Sunni Arab majorities that likely voted "no" in large numbers Saturday, along with significant Shiite and Kurdish communities that largely cast "yes" ballots. But initial results from election officials in Ninevah and Diyala indicated around 70 percent of voters supported the charter and only 20 percent rejected.

The questions about the count further raised tensions over a referendum that has polarized Iraqis. Sunni Arabs largely reject the draft constitution, saying it will split Iraq and leave their community powerless. Shiites and Kurds eagerly support it, in part because it will enable them to form powerful mini-states in the oil-rich south and north.

Insurgent attacks began to heat up again after being nearly silent on referendum day when polling stations were heav-

ily protected across the country.

Militants killed at least eight Iraqis on Tuesday in shootings and a mortar attack in Baghdad and elsewhere, including an adviser to the industry minister, one of the country's top Sunni Arab officials, police said. The handcuffed and mutilated bodies of six Shiites were found dumped in a pond north of Baghdad, and three other bodies were discovered elsewhere in the capital.

A U.S. soldier was shot and killed in Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad, early Tuesday, the military said. In fighting in western Iraq, two U.S. Marines and four militants were killed Monday near the town of Rutba, not far from the Jordanian border, the military said. At least 1,979 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the war in 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

A sandstorm that had closed Baghdad's airport cleared Tuesday, allowing vote counts from three provinces — Anbar, Karbala and Babil — to be flown in for the final tally.

The head of the Electoral Commission, Ezzeddin Mohammed, said material from 14 others were likely to be flown in Wednesday. The 250 workers at Baghdad's central counting center will then take two days to go through them to produce a final count — meaning Friday.

The audit of the unusual numbers could further delay matters, Mohammed said. The electoral commission must send representatives along with United Nations officials to the concerned provinces to carry out the review.

Mohammed could not say whether that would push announcement of the final results into next week.

The material being brought to Baghdad

is individual count sheets from every single ballot box in the country, sent from the main counting center in each province's capital. They are flown to Baghdad in sealed, transparent sacks that are cut open, and each sheet is logged into computers. Other copies of the sheets are kept in the provinces.

Initial reports from election officials in each province immediately following the vote indicated that the Sunni Arabs' attempt to veto the constitution had failed and that the charter had passed.

Doubts over those reports raised the possibility of irregularities. The Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq said Monday it would have to conduct the audit after "unusually high" "yes" counts were reported by most of Iraq's 18 provinces.

Adil al-Lami, the commission's executive secretary, insisted the body would ensure the final count was fair and accurate, saying it was "a neutral body" acting "as a referee."

"If we suspect that the numbers are higher or lower than we expected, we have to double-check them, and this audit means it might be several more days before we announce the final outcome," he said. "We are not concerned whether the outcome is 'yes' or 'no.' We are only interested in making the process technically a success."

Al-Lami said the unexpectedly high "yes" votes came only from the nine Shiite provinces in the south and the three Kurdish ones in the north, most of which saw approval rates of above 90 percent.

Those areas were expected to see high "yes" counts and would not likely affect the final outcome.

An official with knowledge of the counting process said the unusual figures

were not only seen in those 12 provinces.

Asked if Ninevah and Diyala were among the provinces being reviewed, the official said the audit was taking place everywhere. He spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the count.

Allegations of fraud in those areas could throw into question the final outcome.

The Electoral Commission made no mention of fraud, and the official cautioned that it was too early to say whether the unusual numbers were incorrect or if they would affect the outcome.

Sunni opponents needed to win over either Diyala or Ninevah to veto the constitution. Sunnis had to get a two-thirds "no" vote in any three of Iraq's 18 provinces to defeat the charter, and they appeared to have gotten it in western Anbar and central Salahuddin, both heavily Sunni.

Questions of whether the reported strong "yes" vote in Diyala and Ninevah is unusual are complicated by the fact that Iraq has not had a proper census in some 15 years, meaning the sectarian balance is not firmly known.

In Tuesday violence, insurgents shot and killed Ayed Abdul Ghani, an adviser to Osama al-Najafi, Iraq's industry minister and one of the country's top Sunni Arabs. The shooting occurred in an eastern section of the capital, as Ghani was driving to work, said police Maj. Falah Al-Mohammedawi.

Before the referendum, al-Najafi had predicted voters would reject the constitution because it favors Kurds and majority Shiites over the Sunni minority.

Others killed Tuesday included three policemen or soldiers, two intelligence officers and two civilians, police said.

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INTERNATIONAL



Rumsfeld: China's military intent suspicious

BY ROBERT BURNS

AP Military Writer

BEIJING — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld on Tuesday accused China of understating the scope of its defense spending, and he said this is sowing suspicion about how China intends to use its growing military might.

Rumsfeld arrived in the Chinese capital for his first visit since he became President Bush's defense chief in 2001. He was scheduled to meet Wednesday with President Hu Jintao, who also is chairman of the Central Military Commission, which runs the Chinese military.

In an interview aboard his plane en route from Washington, Rumsfeld questioned China's motives in underreporting its defense spending. He mentioned no figures, but the Pentagon said last summer that China may be spending \$90 billion on defense this year — three times the announced total.

"I think it's interesting that other countries wonder why they would be increasing their defense effort at the pace they are and yet not acknowledging it," Rumsfeld said. "That is as interesting as the fact that it's increasing at the pace it is."

Asked about Rumsfeld's comments, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said Beijing hopes the visit can "increase mutual understanding and trust" between the two sides.

"We hope Rumsfeld's visit to China ... will increase his understanding of China's policy of firmly taking a peaceful road," he said.

Rumsfeld said the U.S. government welcomes China's emergence as an economic power, but he said that development has created "somewhat of a tension" for its communist leaders as they attempt to cope with new influences and ideas that inevitably enter the country along with foreign investment.

"China is an important country in the region; it's a country that's increasingly important in the world," he said.

Rumsfeld was also scheduled to meet Wednesday with the Chinese minister of defense, Gen. Cao Gangchuan, and to speak at the Central Party School, the Communist Party's top training center for mid-career members and its main ideological think tank. Hu was the school's president before he became the Communist Party general secretary.

Among the other topics expected to arise during Rumsfeld's visit: tensions over Taiwan, the self-governing island that China insists on reuniting with the mainland, and U.S. encouragement for China to use its influence with North Korea in six-party negotiations to end North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

Bush administration suspicions about Chinese military motives were spelled out

in a report to Congress in July. In it, the Pentagon asserted that China is assembling considerable military might.

"Analysis of Chinese military acquisitions also suggests the PLA (People's Liberation Army) is generating military capabilities that go beyond a Taiwan scenario," the report said.

In his remarks to reporters traveling with him from Washington, Rumsfeld said he would not have waited so long to accept China's repeated invitations to visit if not for the April 2001 collision of a Chinese fighter jet and a Navy EP-3 surveillance plane over international waters. The incident infuriated Rumsfeld, who responded by breaking off U.S. military contacts with China for a time.

The Chinese pilot died, and the Navy plane was so badly damaged that it made an emergency landing on China's Hainan Island. The U.S. crew of 24 was detained for 11 days. China refused to allow U.S. officials to fix the Navy plane and fly it off the island; eventually it was shipped home in pieces.

Rumsfeld said he looked forward to his Beijing meetings to learn more about Chinese leaders' vision of the future, particularly with regard to their military expansion and their willingness to share information.

China agreed to allow Rumsfeld to visit the headquarters of the strategic rocket forces at Qinghe, making him the

first U.S. official ever to see the complex, according to Pentagon officials.

The Chinese, however, denied Rumsfeld's request to visit the Western Hills command center, an underground facility that serves as a national military command post. No foreigner is believed to have been inside Western Hills.

Rumsfeld told reporters on Monday that he was not disappointed that he would not see Western Hills. Of his hosts' decision not to permit the visit, he said, "It tells something about them."

Rumsfeld's visit, only the third by a U.S. defense secretary in the past decade and the first since 2000, is intended in part as a precursor to a trip that Bush is planning for November.

The second stop on Rumsfeld's Asia tour will be South Korea, where there are signs of trouble in an alliance that has kept thousands of U.S. troops stationed on the Korean Peninsula for decades. Rumsfeld made clear in his remarks to reporters that he favors a readjustment of roles and responsibilities.

"It's been 50-plus years since the war ended," he said, referring to the 1950-53 Korean War in which the United States fought on the side of the south and China intervened to support the north.

"It is time for the Republic of Korea to assume a larger role and responsibility" for its own defense, he said.

Eschewing the fat: Losing weight can bump up the libido

ESCHEWING THE FAT, from page 1

"We had about 600 pounds in our bed," she said.

Both decided to battle their bulges over a decade ago. She now weighs 153 pounds, and her tall husband a trim 235 pounds. In their loss, something improved: their sex life.

"It's just like being married to a different person, or going back 25 years," said Carlene Wellington, 62.

Their experience seems to back up a study that shows shedding even a few pounds can improve things in the bedroom by making people feel better about their bodies.

"You reap a lot of benefit from a moderate weight loss of 10 percent," said Duke University psychologist Martin Binks, who presented the study Monday at a meeting of The Obesity Society. "It's a wonderful message. You don't have to reach some ideal weight to be healthy and happy."

It is one of the few studies to examine the mental and emotional problems that obesity can cause for intimacy, not just the physical troubles such as hormone imbalances or impotence.

"There has not been a lot of research in this area," said Dr. Susan Yanovski, director of obesity research at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. Improving your sex life "would be another good reason to lose weight if you're obese."

The study involved 161 women and 26 men, average age 45, with an average body mass index of 41. (A score of 30 or above on this height-and-weight formula is considered obese).

All were enrolled in a diet program at the Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis and had lost 17.5 percent of their body weight after one year and 13 percent after two years. (They regained some of the pounds they initially shed).

They answered questions about the quality of their sex lives when the study

began and every three months thereafter. The most striking improvement in attitudes was seen at three months, when they had lost about 12 percent of their initial weight.

At the outset, 68 percent of women said they felt sexually unattractive. One year into the diet, only 26 percent did. About 63 percent originally did not want to be seen undressed, but only 34 percent felt that way a year later.

Initially, 21 percent of women said they were not enjoying sex; only 11 percent said so after one year.

"The number of males in the study does limit what we can say about men," but feelings of unattractiveness and unwillingness to be seen naked also applied to them, Binks said. Even when many of them wanted to have sex, the excess weight made it an ordeal.

"They'll tell us about simple mechanical difficulty," Binks said.

The Wellingtons, who lost a combined 200 pounds and found their sex life

improved, are leaders in their local chapter of TOPS, or Take Off Pounds Sensibly, an international support group that had a display at the obesity conference in Vancouver.

The prospect of a better sex life could motivate some overweight people to shed pounds, said Dr. Ahmed Kissebah, an obesity expert at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and medical adviser to TOPS.

In overweight young women in particular, "We see some form of frigidity. They're afraid of interacting" physically, Kissebah said.

Binks said: "We are encouraging health care providers to open the atmosphere and encourage conversations" about these issues.

Gary Wellington, 63, said such openness would help.

"The term 'love is blind' is true," he said. But now that he and his wife have both lost weight, "things work better," and sex is again a joy, he said.

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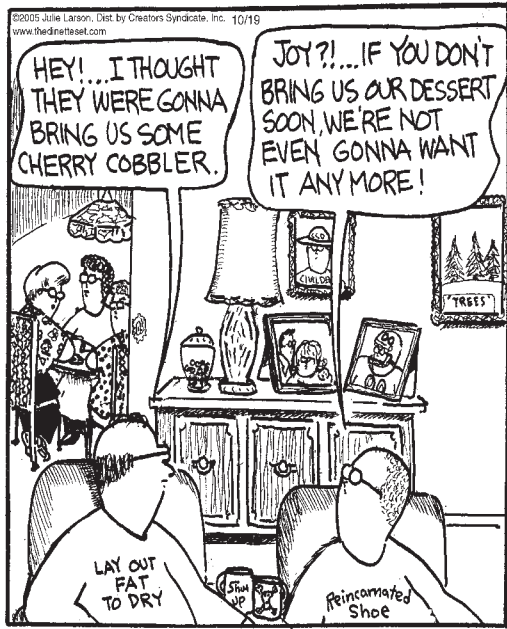
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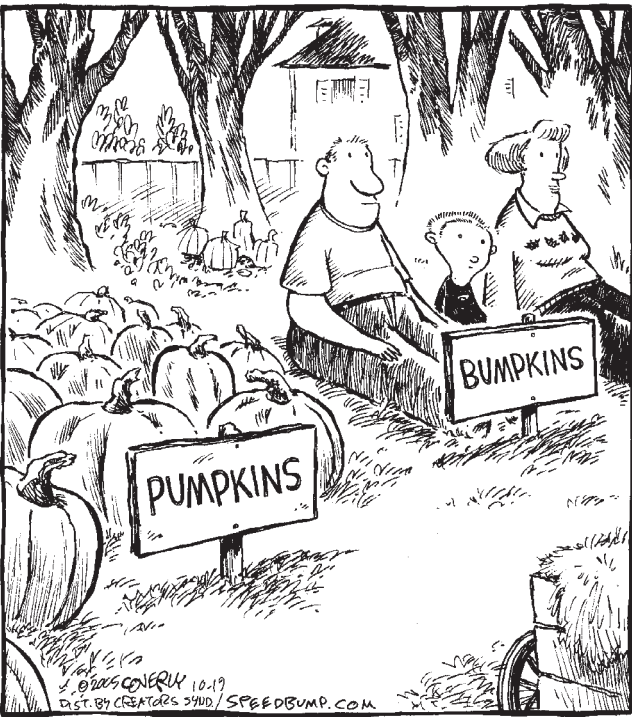
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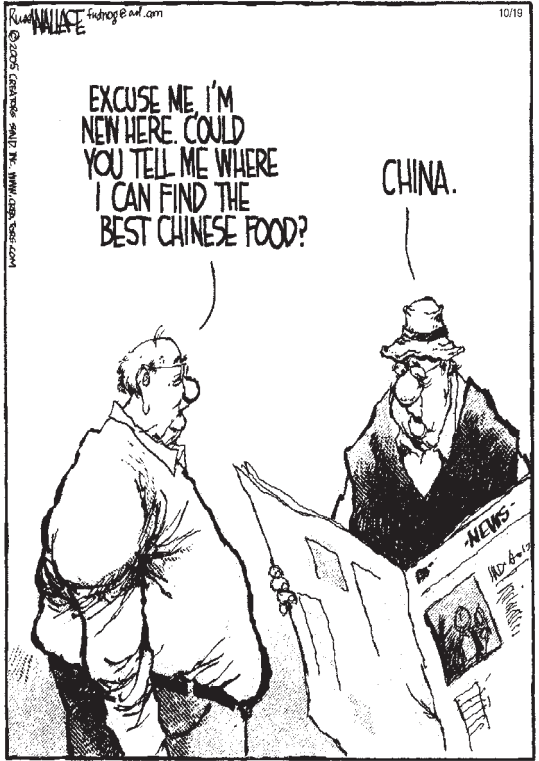


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