

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

10 12 30 34 39
Meganumber: 19
Jackpot: \$11 Million

FANTASY 5

13 21 25 37 39

DAILY 3

Daytime: 7 3 5
Evening: 6 4 4

DAILY DERBY

1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit

RACE TIME: 1:41.17

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

A 28-year-old motorcyclist was hospitalized in Elkhart, Ind., in August after he was unable to avoid a refrigerator that was mysteriously lying on a well-lit street in nearby Nappanee at 2:30 a.m. And a motorist was hospitalized in Madison, Wis., in July when he veered off the road slightly and accidentally rammed a dishwasher that had been left on the sidewalk. And on Interstate 295 near Westville, N.J., in August, a modular house (being transported by a truck) accidentally smacked into an abandoned SUV on the side of the road, knocking it into woods.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 295th day of 2005.
There are 70 days left in the year.

On Oct. 22, 1962, President Kennedy announced an air and naval blockade of Cuba, following the discovery of Soviet missile bases on the island.

In 1928, Republican presidential nominee Herbert Hoover spoke of the "American system of rugged individualism" in a speech at New York's Madison Square Garden.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If there is no Hell, a good many preachers are obtaining money under false pretenses."

WILLIAM A. "BILLY" SUNDAY

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Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Santa Monica Police Department SWAT team members keep an eye on an unidentified man who stationed himself atop an apartment building on Pico Boulevard for much of the day Thursday. The man eventually climbed down to safety unharmed.

Ranting man holds police at bay

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

PICO BOULEVARD — Unsure of the nature of his problem, police spent nearly 12 hours on Thursday attempting to talk a man off the roof of an apartment building.

The man, whose identity wasn't known, finally climbed to safety at 4:18 p.m., after refusing to cooperate with Santa Monica Police since about 5 a.m.

About three dozen emergency personnel, including the fire

department, the SMPD's SWAT team and crisis negotiation team, responded to the scene. Pico Boulevard was shut down between 30th and 32nd streets in both directions most of the day.

"Officers attempted to talk to him and he continuously refused," said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega. "Negotiators from the SMPD were successful in taking the suspect into custody without injury."

The man was taken to a local hospital for a psychological evaluation.

Although the SMPD received a call at 6:28 a.m. regarding a suspicious person on the roof of an apartment building in the 3100 block of Pico Boulevard, witnesses say he was there yelling from shortly after 5 a.m.

"He was yelling 'they are going to kill me. Don't leave. Call the LAPD,'" said Stewart Resmer, who works nearby at the Morgan West auto dealership, located at 3003 Pico Blvd.

See **RANTING**, page 6

STATE

Governor stakes his political capital on 'year of reform' initiatives

BY BETH FOUHY

AP Political Writer

The Nov. 8 special election called by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger remains a mystery to many California voters.

Public opinion polls show they don't understand its urgency and are turned off by its \$50 million price tag. But to Schwarzenegger, it's an essential next step to the

recall election that swept him into office in 2003. And he says its cost is a bargain when compared to the fiscal and political changes it will bring if he's successful.

The movie star-turned-governor sees the special election as simply the middle chapter of a three-part series that is needed to turn around California's moribund government.

"Recover, reform and then

rebuild" is how Schwarzenegger has cast his mission. He says drastic steps are needed to fix a political system that has frequently led the nation's most populous state into multibillion dollar budget deficits. The special election is the centerpiece of what he has labeled his "year of reform."

His agenda seeks to implement spending controls and give him authority to make midyear budget

Bracing the city for next quake

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — While Santa Monica's newest buildings should stand the test of time, not to mention a 7.0 magnitude earthquake, the city still has a long way to go in terms of taking on a temblor.

As for the city's buildings constructed more than three years ago — which total in the hundreds, maybe thousands — the majority still need to be brought up to code in order to endure a major earthquake, according to city officials.

While the 1994 Northridge earthquake presented an opportunity for City Hall to toughen up its own buildings within Santa Monica, records show there is still a long way to go before a citywide overhaul to retrofit structures is complete.

Ben Yousefi, assistant building official, explained that there are several types of buildings in Santa Monica, many of which may require varying degrees of attention before they meet City Hall's most recent seismic standards — put into effect three years ago.

Across California, the tens of

See **QUAKER STATE**, page 7

cuts, change the way legislative districts are drawn to increase competition for seats and limit political contributions from labor unions, a move that would weaken Democrats. He also wants to extend the probationary period for teachers from two years to five.

Schwarzenegger warns that unless wholesale changes are made to the state's political status quo, voters will not see the kind

See **ELECTION**, page 10

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**Register for the course at 310.458.8301 or on-line at
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Santa Monica's Leadership Series courses, offered throughout the year, cover a wide variety of city government-related topics to inform and engage Santa Monicans. Join us!



Big Blue Bus lines 5, 7 and 11 have stops two-five blocks from the Yards. On-site parking is also available at the Yards. For more information, call 310.458.8301.

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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)

★★★ Reach out for others, especially as you might be cheerier than many. You have a very optimistic attitude. As a result, you adapt to any hassle and turn it to your favor. Absorb new information carefully. Tonight: Hang out.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ How you think a key situation should be handled might be different from what a partner or associate believes. Remember, two minds work better than one. You don't have to be in control or right all the time. Tonight: Treat a friend to munchies and a drink.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Your imagination, combined with your high vitality, makes you an unstoppable force. Others won't be able to trip you up. Some people might not always agree. Don't make it a big deal; work with suggestions and tighten up an idea. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★ You might feel like you would enjoy slowing down. If you can make this a short day, do. You might realize that your fatigue could be causing a flub-up with what you are doing. Revise your plans. Tonight: Homeward bound.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You get what you want because of your flexibility, energy and creativity. You need to drop the word "impossible" from your vocabulary. You might face a challenge or two, but you'll jump right over them. Tonight: As you wish.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ You might not want to, but you might need to take charge of a key situation. Your creativity and abilities come out at work as well as within your immediate circle. A family member or real estate issue could be troublesome. Tonight: Let it go.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Distance yourself from a situation, and you will naturally make the right choices. Unlock yourself from rigid thinking, and you could easily open a new door. Let your imagination flow, and express more of your feelings. Tonight: Kick up your heels.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Investigate others' opinions. The more feedback you receive, the stronger your choices will be. Verify all information, especially if it could impact your finances and security. You have solutions to challenges; find them. Tonight: Dinner for two.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Your reversal could throw others out of kilter. If you get attitude, you will know why. Think of those around you and the implications of your acts. You might choose to act a bit differently. You don't need conflict. You can only control yourself. Tonight: Let someone else decide.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Others might be demanding, but at the same time, you could be contrary. In fact, you might think the exact opposite of whatever anyone says. Focus on clearing out tasks to liberate yourself for the weekend. Tonight: Take some thinking time.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You have the imagination and intellect to jump through hoops and make the right decisions. It might be best not to evaluate others' unusual behavior but to simply work with them. You have answers. Imagine where others are coming from. Tonight: Time to let your hair down.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ You might want to prioritize your plans for today. You will naturally focus on personal matters, but at what cost? You could get some flak from a boss, parent or someone you have to answer to. Someone is really into you. Tonight: Head home.



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1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • www.smdp.com

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com

EDITOR

Carolyn Sackariason editor@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER

Ryan Hyatt ryanh@smdp.com

SANTA MONICA PARENTING

Nina Furukawa nina@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Robbie P. Piubeni rob@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fabian Lewkowicz

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Rob Schwenker schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Stewart O'Dell stewarto@smdp.com

TRAFFIC MANAGER

Connie Sommerville connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II alex@smdp.com

NIGHT EDITOR

Lori Luechtefeld lori@smdp.com

NIGHT EDITOR

Michael Tittinger somechum@smdp.com

CLASSIFIEDS SALES MANAGER

Annie Kotok anniek@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Keith Wyatt

CIRCULATION

Glenn Bolan

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com

MASCOT

Maya Furukawa maya@smdp.com

LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMC gets \$1.4M for health care training

By Daily Press staff

The U.S. Department of Labor has awarded nearly \$1.4 million to Santa Monica College for a community-based job training grant in health care.

The grant is a portion of the \$125 million provided to 70 community colleges in 40 states competing for the president's community-based job training grants. As part of the national response to Hurricane Katrina, the department gave preference to competitive applications from Gulf Coast and Southeast colleges whose programs will be critical to rebuilding the regional economy. The grant is one of three awarded to a community college in California.

First introduced by President Bush in his 2004 State of the Union Address, the grants will support workforce training for high growth industries through the nation's community and technical colleges. Projects receiving funding cover high growth industries including healthcare, construction, advanced manufacturing and energy.

The primary purpose of the program is to build community colleges' capacity to equip workers with the skills local industries require for success. Training will prepare workers for jobs expected to experience high growth and industries where demand for qualified workers is exceeding supply.

Confused by the special election?

By Daily Press staff

Californians will be asked to decide on more than a half dozen complex ballot initiatives when they go to the polls Nov. 8. To make their job easier, the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica is offering a variety of voter education services.

Locally, the league will present a "pros and cons" discussion of the propositions at 7 p.m. on Monday, October 24 at Mt. Olive Church, 1343 Ocean Park Blvd.

During the one-hour meeting, a League speaker will present impartial analysis, as well as arguments for and against the propositions, and answer questions. Voters on both sides of the issues should come away with a better understanding of the initiatives that could affect the state for years to come, League members say.

The local chapter of the League also has joined forces with the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles for a larger pros and cons presentation from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 22 at Loyola Marymount University in Westchester.

Those who want to attend the meeting at the university's Ahmanson Auditorium should call (213) 252-4550.

In addition to speakers who can present all the ballot initiatives in an unbiased manner, the Santa Monica chapter also has other speakers who can explain the League's position on various ballot measures.

Organizations interested in either kind of a presentation or should call (310) 394-4661.

For more information on the Oct. 24 meeting at Mt. Olive Church, call (310) 452-1116.

'Halloween' star to host costume party in SM

By Daily Press staff

A star-studded costume party on Halloween weekend has been set in Santa Monica to raise millions of dollars for children who are impacted with AIDS.

The Children Affected by AIDS Foundation (CAAF) is set to hold its 12th Annual Dream Halloween fundraising event at the Barker Hangar in the Santa Monica Air Center from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 29. The event will be hosted by Jamie Lee Curtis. Actress Doris Roberts will attend and serve as honorary vice chair.

Rob Reiner will accept the CAAF Ribbon of Dreams Award in the Children's Advocate Category and Hilary Duff is this year's honorary event chair. In that capacity, Duff's likeness will be sculpted for a one-of-a-kind doll by Mattel, Inc. The doll will be presented to Duff who in turn has agreed to have it auctioned during the event. Marlee Matlin will kick off the auction, which also will feature a Mattel, Inc. designed one-of-a-kind Polly Pocket doll of both Dakota and Elle Fanning.

Each year during October, CAAF opens its doors to hundreds of families to attend Dream Halloween in-costume and trick-or-treat for toys, meet their favorite cartoon characters, play games, create arts and crafts and enjoy food from Drago, Chaya Venice, Universal Studios, Crustacean and Norman's.

"Seeing the joy in the faces of the children is the fuel that keeps me going," said founder and board chair Joe Cristina. "As our signature fundraising event, Dream Halloween is the major source of funds behind the \$20 million that we have raised to help kids in need during the past 12 years."

For tickets and information, call Luran Huff at (310) 201-5033.

CAAF was founded in Los Angeles in 1993 by Joe Cristina, a Mattel, Inc. executive whose desire to help children was inspired by the outpouring of support he received when he disclosed his own HIV+ status. CAAF is the only organization solely devoted to providing social, educational, recreational and other support programs to vulnerable children impacted by HIV/AIDS in the U.S. and other countries.



SURF REPORT

Almost all breaks are seeing waist-high sets with pluses now and then when the tide is right around standout spots to chest high. Friday is smaller than yesterday with knee-high surf almost everywhere. There may be calmer winds with some offshores, remaining calm early afternoon with late afternoon onshores around 8-12 mph.

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?"**

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your responses next weekend.

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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Upcoming special election bad for California

Editor:

The special election Gov. Schwarzenegger has called for Nov. 8 could have devastating consequences for public education, public safety and the middle class in California. Californians should be paying close attention, as the governor's so-called reform agenda will lead to more cuts to education, public services and will weaken the ability of teachers and other public employees to fight those cuts.

At the heart of the governor's agenda are three measures that directly attack teachers and schools. Proposition 74, the "Blame Teachers Act," seeks to make scapegoats of the state's 305,000 public school teachers. The governor wants to strip teachers of basic due process protections and extend the probationary period for teachers to five years. This comes on the heels of a broken promise to restore billions in funding he borrowed from our schools last year. When California needs to recruit 100,000 new teachers over the next few years, Gov. Schwarzenegger instead seems to be trying to drive teachers away. Proposition 74 will cost millions of dollars to implement and do nothing to actually improve education. The governor should instead focus on reforms that work, like smaller class sizes, up to date textbooks for every student, and quality teacher training.

Proposition 75 is an attempt to silence teachers, nurses, firefighters, and other public employees. Disguised as a measure protecting workers, its hidden agenda is really to make it much easier for the governor to cut education, health care and public safety. By requiring annual individual written consent for those groups to use any portion of their members' dues on political issues, the governor and his allies hope to stop teachers and others from getting our message out and opposing cuts to vital services. The measure unfairly targets only public unions, and lets the governor's corporate contributors continue to freely outspend unions 24 to 1. If Proposition 75 passes, who will speak out against cuts devastating to schools and other key programs? If the governor has his way, no one will.

A third measure, Proposition 76, would grant Gov. Schwarzenegger and all future governors unprecedented state budget powers. It would allow him to declare a fiscal emergency anytime he wants, and then make across the board cuts. Those cuts would further decimate our schools and increase already skyrocketing university fees. Proposition 76 would eliminate the system of checks and balances that provides California students with at least some level of protection. It would cut \$4 billion from K-12 schools every year, and the universities won't be far behind. The governor has already shown he can't be trusted on school funding issues — there is no reason to grant him even more power now.

The upcoming election is wildly unpopular. The majority of Californians believe it is wasteful and the issues being considered could wait until the next regularly scheduled election. But the danger of an unpopular special election is low voter turnout: If people don't like the election they may be less likely to show up to vote.

For teachers, nurses, firefighters, police officers and classified employees, sitting this election out is not an option. If our supporters stand with us and cast a ballot opposing Propositions 74, 75 and 76, we will send a clear message to the governor that it's time to stop attacking teachers, schools, and public employees and time to begin working with the legislature on reforms that actually work.

Harry M. Keiley

President, Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association/CTA/NEA

Burning Bush: How a presidency was sunk



HERE'S THE THING

BY LARA M. BROWN, Ph.D.

"Out West, where you vacation, the aspens will already be turning. They turn in clusters, because their roots connect them." These were the words that I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, Vice President Cheney's chief of staff, wrote in a letter late last month to New York Times reporter Judith Miller. At that time, Miller was in jail for refusing to reveal her source on the CIA leak story. What is interesting about these words is actually how prescient they are turning out to be.

If you interpret Libby's meaning along the lines of "if you turn, I'll turn, and all the other leaves that are connected will turn (against each other) and the whole forest, by winter, will soon be bare," then he was spot on. Because ever since Miller's piece in the New York Times on Sunday where she revealed their communication turning has seemed as natural as the season in Washington, D.C.

First there was Miller's article itself, which revealed that she let special prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald know that she felt that Libby's letter, if not blatantly criminal was an inelegant attempt to try to influence her as a witness. In response to the portion of the letter where Libby wrote that, "The public report of every other reporter's testimony makes clear that they did not discuss Ms. Plame's name or identity with me," she wrote that she told Fitzgerald that she had been surprised by Libby's words because her notes show that they had discussed Valerie Plame's job. One leaf turned.

Then there was a report on Tuesday, which said that a "high level White House official or a former high level White House official" had turned on the administration and was now working closely with Fitzgerald helping him understand the inner workings of the White House. Another leaf turned.

On Wednesday, a report in the Financial Times detailed former Secretary of State Colin Powell's chief of staff, Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson's accusations of "a cabal between the vice president of the United States, Richard Cheney, and the secretary of defense, Donald Rumsfeld, on critical issues that made decisions that the bureaucracy did not know were being made." A third leaf turned.

And on Thursday, the Washington Post

reported that Karl Rove, deputy chief of staff to the president, had testified to the grand jury that Mr. Libby may have been the one to have told him "that CIA operative Valerie Plame worked for the intelligence agency before her identity was revealed." Looks like the aspens are changing color.

Why is this important? Because the Bush White House is all about loyalty. It's been all about towing the party line, or else. Individuals who didn't were not only castigated from the party, they were punished and attacked as traitors. Former Treasury secretary Paul O'Neill and former White House terrorism czar, Richard Clarke are two individuals who know what it means to have incurred the wrath of the Bush administration.

And let's face it: The Bush administration also is about loyalty on the other side of the coin as well. Margaret Spellings, Condoleezza Rice, and Alberto Gonzales each were promoted to cabinet level positions in the second term because of their loyalty to the president (see SMDP column from Dec. 2, 2004).

Here's the Thing:

This investigation is sinking Bush's presidency and it's not going away anytime soon. For those of you who don't believe it, then either you're ignoring the facts of the case or you're simply in denial about the magnitude of the issues involved.

At base, this scandal is about hypocrisy and dishonesty. It's about the false premise that was promoted as a reason for the Iraq war (weapons of mass of destruction and the nuclear threat posed by Saddam). It's about Bush's "straight-shooter" image and his 2000 campaign promise to bring a new moral standard to Washington. It's about how the Bush administration talked up national security and then failed to protect our country by outing a CIA agent. It's about how the Bush administration successfully manipulated and controlled both the media and the message for nearly six years in this country, making a joke of the First Amendment.

While it may be troubling to see the chaos in the upper echelons of our government, take heart in the knowledge that our Constitution is strong and that the presidency is not about the man, it's about the office.

(Lara M. Brown, Ph.D., is a political scientist from Los Angeles, and teaches at California State University, Channel Islands. She can be reached at larambrown@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 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.

Bitch! Whine! Complain!

Check Out the Question of the Week on Page 3 and let us hear what you have to say

The Q Line

LOCAL



CRIME WATCH

By Daily Press staff

For God's sake: Transient caught with pants down

At 10:45 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 10, the Santa Monica police responded to the 1600 block of Ocean Front Walk regarding a sexual battery. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the victim, who said they were with a church group and were handing out Bibles, clothing and food to the homeless. Apparently, the suspect grabbed the victim's buttock and gave her a hug. Afterward, the suspect pulled down his pants and proceeded to masturbate. The victim called the police. Aaron James Taylor, 37, transient, was arrested for indecent exposure, sexual battery, and possession of methamphetamine. Bail was set at \$20,500.

At 10:08 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 9, the Santa Monica police responded to a radio call at V Food Liquor on Pico Boulevard regarding a vandalism. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the store clerk, who said the suspect entered the store and pushed over the display, causing damage. The store was not desirous of prosecution, but pointed in the last direction of travel the suspect headed. Shawn Lomant Taylor, 50, of Santa Monica, was stopped at 10th and Pico Boulevard and arrested for public intoxication and an outstanding warrant. Bail was set at \$26,250.

At 5:36 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 11, the Santa Monica police responded to the Mercedes Benz dealership on the 1600 block of Wilshire Boulevard regarding a theft suspect in custody. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the dealership employee, who said he was on the phone in his office when he heard someone running down the hallway from the stock room. The employee looked and saw the individual running and chased him. The employee stopped another employee who was carrying a box inside the stock room. The suspect apparently had stolen seven Mercedes Benz safety belts valued at \$301.40 each, for a total value of \$2,109.80. Alexander Quevedo, of Culver City, was booked for commercial burglary. Bail was set at \$20,000.

At 9:01 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 13, the Santa Monica police responded to the 1000 block of 11th Street regarding a threats investigation. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the victim, who said the suspect for unknown reason began making verbal threats that he was going to kill him. The victim said the suspect was armed with a hammer and screwdriver. Elkadmiri Bendaqui Kareem, 39, of Santa Monica, was later arrested for threats and vandalism. Bail was set for \$50,000.

At 6:50 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 13, the Santa Monica police responded to the area of Federal and La Grange streets in West Los Angeles regarding an assault with a deadly weapon. Apparently, the incident occurred in the area of Exposition Boulevard and Delaware in Santa Monica. Apparently, the suspect claimed the victim was following him, and in order to stop the victim from following the suspect he displayed a handgun and fired one round into the victim's vehicle. The vehicle fled into West L.A. where the driver flagged LAPD officers and directed them to the suspect. When Santa Monica officers arrived at Federal and La Grange, the suspect was being arrested by the LAPD. A weapon was found in the suspect's vehicle. Timothy Cantwell, 34, was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon.

At 4:25 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 16, the Santa Monica police responded to the 1300 block of Santa Monica Boulevard regarding an attempted armed robbery. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the store employee, who said the suspect entered the store and threatened the vehicle with a carjacking and demanding money. No money was exchanged and the suspect, David Scott Henriquez, 23, of Los Angeles, was booked for attempted armed robbery and parole violation. No bail was set.

At 4:45 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 16, the Santa Monica police responded to Yankee Doodles on the 1400 block of Third Street regarding a defrauding investigation. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the employee who said the suspect entered the restaurant and ordered \$44.20 in food and drink and didn't have any money to pay for his meal. Mark Andrew Crowther, 33, transient, was arrested for defrauding an innkeeper. Bail was set at \$500.

This arrest report was prepared by Daily Press staff writer Ryan Hyatt.



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Santa Monica Daily Press





LOCAL

Crisis negotiators try to maintain the peace

RANTING, from page 1

Resmer said he was returning from breakfast at Rae's diner a few blocks away when he noticed two police cars in the road and then the man on the roof.

"He had his hands over his head and was dressed in black," Resmer said. "He was totally agitated."

Within a couple of hours, the area was teaming with dozens of police and fire personnel. A ladder truck was placed near the building so the man could climb down, which he eventually did, but not before crawling halfway down and taking a seat.

At about noon, the man took off his sweatshirt and started to show signs of fatigue.

That's when witnesses began to wonder how long he would remain on the roof.

"I thought, 'gee, how long are they going to do this?'" Resmer said, adding that officers initially had weapons pointed at the suspect, that is until negotiators showed up. "I really felt it was time to do something else."

By 9 a.m., the SWAT team had shown up. An hour later, the SMPD's crisis negotiation team took over the situation and tried to reason with the suspect, Resmer said.

"Our first duty is to make sure that he is not a danger to the public and to himself, and also to bring the incident to a peaceful resolution," Fabrega said. "If need be, we would have waited him out."

"Time is always on our side," he added. "Sooner or later, they'll get tired and they want to go to sleep."

Police determined that the man's state of mind was not normal, based on what he was saying and his verbal outbursts. When officers approach a suspect, they operate as if he is armed, which is why weapons were initially drawn, police said.

"In the beginning, there were a few moments when no one knew which way it was going to go," Resmer said. "I can't really fault the police, but maybe the guns needed to be put down."

Still, Resmer, who said he watched nearly all of the events unfold from his office, said the incident was well executed by the SMPD.

"Hats off to the police for waiting it out," he said, adding between 30 and 35 officers and firefighters were at the scene.

"But some of us were getting impatient because there was a huge amount of resources here."

The Los Angeles Police Department arrived on the scene, but despite the suspect's requests for LAPD to come, he wouldn't talk to officers, Resmer said.

Resmer said an officer told him that a private security officer from Bel Air Patrol saw the man driving on the wrong side of Interstate 10 and flashed his lights to warn him. The suspect reportedly exited at Centinela Avenue, got out of his car and fled on foot.

Fabrega said it's unclear how the man ended up on the roof or why he stayed up there for as long as he did. He added that the SMPD appreciated the patience of those disrupted by the incident.

"We appreciate their cooperation due to the street closures," Fabrega said.

EMOTIONS RUN HIGH

There are only a handful of Santa Monica police officers trained in crisis negotiation, which is a highly specialized area of law enforcement used in situations that go beyond what routine patrol officers may be able to handle.

Negotiators are specially trained to utilize verbal skills to save lives. SMPD realizes that in most domestic crisis incidents, emotions run high. The emotion-based solution the individual chooses to resolve his or her problem can be changed given the right verbal or tactical strategy, police said.

Crisis negotiators are brought in when distraught or despondent individuals barricade themselves, exhibit threatening behavior to themselves or the public, or take hostages.

When they respond to a call, negotiators are immediately faced with the heavy burden that if they are not successful, the consequences could be fatal. Not only is there a high level of stress involved, but it's emotionally draining for both sides.

That's why it takes a certain type of individual to deal with such intense circumstances. Negotiators must have an enormous amount of patience and empathy, and have the ability to engage distraught individuals into a conversation, police said.

When negotiators first approach the



Walter Shirk/Special to the Daily Press

A man who police eventually convinced to come down from an apartment building rooftop, then spent a considerable amount of time on a Santa Monica Fire Department ladder before climbing down.

individual or situation, they try to strike up a conversation with him or her and build a rapport.

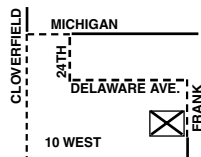
Negotiators must build trust with the individual so he or she feels like someone does care about them, which can take

hours. The goal is to let the person vent long enough about his problems and then reason with him.

Crisis negotiators work closely with SMPD's SWAT team when needed, like in Thursday's incident.

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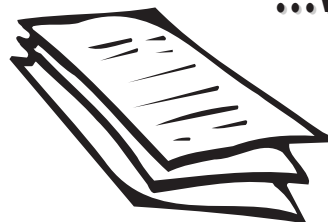
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LOCAL



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Residents in the Shores apartments in Ocean Park fear their buildings won't be able to withstand a massive earthquake.

Apartment residents quaking in their shoes

QUAKER STATE, from page 1

thousands of aging concrete buildings represent the state's largest remaining risk of serious damage in a major earthquake, seismic safety officials said in a recent report. Constructed as department stores, schools, parking structures and office buildings from the 1930s through the early 1970s, these buildings typically consist of large, open lower stories held by non-reinforced or poorly reinforced concrete pillars, experts say.

Many seismic experts say these structures — known as non-ductile concrete buildings — need to be brought up to current standards.

Yousefi said there are perhaps 50 to 60 such buildings in Santa Monica, only a handful of which have been retrofitted to the latest standards.

City Hall has been most effective at retrofitting soft-story apartment buildings.

Of even greater safety concern, according to Yousefi, are steel moment frame buildings, which consist of beams and columns of steel welded together. During the 1994 quake, as many as 100 such structures suffered the most damage. They were a popular form of construction during the 1980s boom in office buildings and many still need to be brought up to code.

Another problem are tilt-up buildings, Yousefi said. These are generally one- or two-story commercial or industrial warehouses that have concrete around the perimeter and have been popular since the 1970s.

"The main problem with those is in the connection of roof framing," Yousefi said. "It was not strong enough in the old code and a lot of these buildings suffered substantial damage in Northridge."

Yousefi said there could be more than 100 of these buildings in Santa Monica, many of which still need to be retrofitted.

Although there is a mechanism in place for City Hall to begin greater enforcement of its seismic standards, Yousefi said city

officials have relented due to the enormous costs for property owners to be associated with the improvements. Instead, the most recent standards are generally grandfathered in, so only major renovation to buildings or their replacements require the latest seismic retrofitting, he said.

City Hall has been most effective at retrofitting soft-story apartment buildings. Following the '94 quake, three quarters of them were brought up to the standards of the day.

SOME WONDER ABOUT ROOF OVER HEAD

Residents attending a Tuesday tenants' association meeting at the Shores — two high-rise luxury apartment towers built in the 1970s and located at 2700 Neilson Way — began debating the safety of their buildings in the event of a major earthquake during a presentation by Paul Weinberg, City Hall's emergency services coordinator. While some residents at the meeting were concerned the buildings they occupy may have trouble holding up after a major shaker, others felt such concerns were exaggerated.

Jack Neworth, a 30-year Shores' tenant, said the debate has flared up from time to time since the 1994 Northridge Earthquake. During that shaker, Neworth said he braced himself against a chin-up bar inside his apartment. Afterward, there was a loud creaking sound that occurred for several minutes throughout the building. It made Neworth and others question the stability of their towers' home, he said.

Concerned Shores' tenants raised money to hire an engineer to determine the seismic safety of the buildings. Their efforts were thwarted, however, by then-owner Larry Kates, according to Neworth. When tenants sought to obtain copies of blueprints from City Hall for their engineer to review, Kates refused to grant the tenants' permission to obtain the copies.

Yousefi didn't know the details about the Shores site, but said it's true the law is such tenants need owner permission before accessing blueprints at City Hall.

As a result, some tenants on Tuesday said they still wonder if the Shores are built to withstand a major quake.

At the same time, some residents at

See QUAKER STATE, page 10



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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BUCCA di BEPPO-gets to the heart of Southern Italian cooking with authentic, family-style recipes like Chicken Parmigiana, Shrimp Scampi, and Tortelloni. Dishes are available in Buca Small portions for 2 or more people, and Buca Large for 4 or more. The full menu is available for curb-side take out; we'll deliver your order right to your car! Located one block off the Promenade at 1422 2nd St, Santa Monica. Call 310-587-EATS for reservations and take out.

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PANINI GARDEN-This authentic European eatery serves traditional Italian and French style food. Panin style sandwiches grilled on a cast-iron panini grill that seals all the savory flavors inside a bread envelope of your choice, from very soft and thin like the tramezzini, soft and crispy for the al forno and crusty for the rustico. A large selection of meats and cheeses, organic produce, fresh and healthy combinations of menu items to enjoy everyday have made PANINI GARDEN the local's favorite. In addition, delicious crepes are served all day, for breakfast or just dessert, it is always a treat. The setting is quiet in the lavender garden with the bubbling fountain. Hours: 8am-9pm Sunday-Thursday, 8am-10:30pm Friday and Saturday. 2715 Main Street, Santa Monica. (310) 399-9939.

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THE SLICE-A true neighborhood pizzeria serving authentic New York pizza & buffalo wings. We also offer a selection of hot & cold subs, pastas and salads. You can also create your own calzone. Eat in, take out, or delivery. Catering is available. Hours: open daily 11am-9pm. Visit one of our three locations: 915 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica (310) 451-7542, 1622 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica (310) 399-4060, 13151 Fountain Park Drive, Playa Vista (310) 437-7499.

VIOLET-At Violet restaurant the atmosphere is casual, comfortable, and, like its cuisine, is uncluttered. Chef Jared Simons' flavorful small plate fare has something to suit everyone, from light eaters to those with a taste for a more robust fare. The Braised Short Ribs with Shallot Potatoes (\$14.50) melt apart while the Multi-Colored Beet Salad with Eel delights with Kumquat and Ginger Vinaigrette (\$9) and the favorite among the regulars is the Baked Macaroni and Gruyere Cheese with Serrano Ham (\$7.50). Unique selection of new and old world wines by the bottle, glass or flight as well as an impressive list of domestic & imported artisan beers. Hours: Lunch: Tuesday-Friday, 11:30am-2pm. Dinner: Tuesday-Friday, 6pm-10pm & Saturday and Sunday, 5:30pm-10pm. 3221 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. www.violetrestaurant.com (310) 453-9113.

Entertainment

Do ‘Rae’ Me: Theron stirs pot

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

The year is 1989 and Josey Aimes (Charlize Theron) is a battered woman who escapes to the tightly-knit, hardscrabble Northern Minnesota mining town where she was born, determined to raise her two children on her own. To that end, she takes a job at the iron mine that is the lifeblood of the community; a place where, thanks to a locally unpopular Supreme Court decision, women have been forcibly integrated into the dwindling workforce. The men are none too happy about what they see as an outright invasion of their turf, and some of them express their displeasure with very unseemly behavior (sex toys left in lunch pails, obscenities scrawled with feces on walls, and much worse). The constant harassment eventually gets the better of Josie and she decides, a la “Norma Rae,” to take on her abusers and, in effect, an entire community and its culture.

The very talented Niki Caro (“Whale Rider”) ably directs from a script by Michael Seitzman based on the book “Class Action: The Landmark Case that Changed Sexual Harassment Law.” On the surface, this is a classic underdog story about the struggle for equality and human dignity, and a very good one at that. Caro and her team also layer in several other very compelling dynamics including Josey’s problematic relationship with her father (an excellent Richard Jenkins, “Six Feet Under”), and her young son’s struggle to cope with the uncertainty of lineage along with his



mother’s rapidly deteriorating reputation.

Powerhouse performances abound. Theron is a shoe-in for another Oscar nomination, and it can be argued she’s better here than she was in “Monster.” Jenkins is a revelation as the traditionalist father torn between his commitment to his fellow miners and his love for a

daughter he feels has disappointed him at every turn. Sean Bean (“The Lord of the Rings” trilogy) makes the most of a reprieve from playing cookie-cutter villains, and the always-rock-steady Frances McDormand delivers as the film’s touchstone. The ending is Hollywood-hokey, the story derivative of “Erin Brockovich” and “Silkwood”

among others, yet it’s so well-executed that “North Country” rates as one of the year’s best studio pictures.

(Rated R for sequences involving sexual harassment including violence and dialogue, and for language. Running time: 123 minutes)

Nonsense was never so much fun as ‘Bang Bang’

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

You know how a lot of Beck songs are exceedingly cool, even though it’s difficult to follow what he’s singing about? Well this movie is just like one of those Beck songs — confusing as hell, but it’s got a retro LA vibe going on, it’s clever, kooky, it’s ... it’s ... it’s got a Devil’s Haircut in its mind, or something along those lines. “Kiss Kiss Bang Bang” is about as much fun as you can have watching total nonsense, which is precisely what writer-director Shane Black (“Lethal Weapon,” “The Long Kiss Goodnight”) has wrought in this frenetic pulpy murder-

mystery, buddy flick, action-thriller, true romance, film noir parody. It’s illogical yet smart and sexy, pure escapism flavored with snappy dialogue, improbable plot twists, hip tunes, and standout performances by Robert Downey Jr. and Val Kilmer, along with rising young starlet Michelle Monaghan (the upcoming “North Country”).

Harry Lockhart (Downey Jr.) is a pretty good guy trapped in a lowlife petty thief’s lifestyle who gets by (barely) on assured self-delusion and waggish charm, a combination that really showcases Downey’s considerable strengths. His tongue-in-cheek narration also is a highlight. After a toy store heist in New York

goes bad, Harry stumbles into a Hollywood audition for a detective flick and miraculously winds up in Los Angeles for a screen test. At a party in the Hollywood Hills, he meets a gay gumshoe named Perry van Shrike (Kilmer, the best he’s been since “Tombstone”) who’s been hired by the producers to prep Harry for his role as a private detective. He also reunites with a childhood crush, former classmate Harmony Faith Lane (Monaghan), an aspiring actress who has the decency not to point out that Harry looks at least 10 years her senior (Monaghan’s damn good, but an actress closer to her leading man’s age might have been more convincing). Shortly

thereafter, bodies begin piling up, and Harry reluctantly shifts from play-sleuthing to the real thing with an eye on bedding the increasingly unstable femme fatale Harmony. Events unfold rapidly and with hard-to-discern connection to each other, but as we careen toward the climax Black and his main players manage to hold things together with some wickedly comical set pieces and plenty of irreverent attitude.

(Rated R for language, violence and sexuality/nudity. Running time: 102 minutes)

‘Shopgirl’ scores good performances, but bad score

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

Steve Martin impresses as both star and scripter of this adaptation of his wry, dysthymic 2000 novella, but director Anand Tucker (“Hilary and Jackie”) makes a few dubious choices that gum up what otherwise might have been this year’s equivalent of “Lost in Translation.” Perhaps foremost among the foibles that blunt “Shopgirl” is Barrington Pheloung’s militantly rapturous score, which swells up and intrudes

upon practically every scene in the movie with all the subtlety of a hound dog baying in a library. Not to put too fine a point on it, but in repeatedly trying to convey a range of emotions through blaring music rather relying a bit more on, say, the actors and their actions, Tucker and his musical director instead deliver something that borders on parody. Thankfully, Martin and his co-stars, Clare Danes and Jason Schwartzman, give it their all and in the process nearly redeem the sins of the production team.

Mirabelle (Danes) is sweet girl from

Vermont who moved to Los Angeles to find success (she’s an artist), but instead finds herself trapped in lonely isolation, working a dead-end job behind the glove counter at Saks Fifth Avenue in Beverly Hills. Mirabelle is Bohemian enough to ensure her work will be hanging in a gallery by film’s end (it always happens that way, doesn’t it?), but not so outré that she doesn’t long for traditional romance. Two suitors enter the picture almost simultaneously, though neither of them can fully provide what she’s after. First up is Jeremy (Schwartzman), an

inarticulate, impoverished would-be music mogul whose idea of a great first date is to sit at an outdoor mall and stare at the neon lights. Ray Porter (Martin) is Jeremy’s antithesis, a wealthy entrepreneur who will spare no expense to woo Mirabelle, despite a professed aversion to maintaining a long-term relationship with her. Martin and Schwartzman inhabit their roles quite convincingly, but Danes is the film’s center, and a luminous one at that.

(Rated R. Running time: 106 minutes)



'Easy' does it: Hopper takes TV gig

BY EMILY CHRISTIANSON

Special to the Daily Press

Fifty years ago, Dennis Hopper believed starring in a television series would ruin his film career. He now admits "I was totally wrong about that."

Catch the 69-year-old in his first series, "E-Ring" as Colonel McNulty in special ops at the Pentagon every Wednesday at 8 p.m. on NBC.

He recently talked about his television experience and his career.

QUESTION: You play a good guy in "E-Ring". Do you prefer playing a good guy or a bad guy?

ANSWER: "Right now, I'm loving playing Col. McNulty. He's quite a character; a colorful character ... His back story is in the Green Berets in Vietnam with four years as a prisoner of war. He comes back out and retires and goes into real estate in Florida and becomes a multi-millionaire ... The young major that was below him in Vietnam is now Secretary of State for Special Ops. Joe Morgan plays him, wonderful actor. And he asks me to come back into the Pentagon out of retirement."

Q: How did you get involved with "E-Ring"?

A: "Taylor Hatford directed the pilot, that's how I got involved. He directed Ray and was nominated for an Academy Award. I was at the Academy Award party and ... he said 'You ever thought about doing episodic television?' I said 'absolutely not' He said 'that's too bad because I have this great part for you. That's the good news; the bad news is it starts in two days.' So I read it the next morning and he was right, it was a wonderful part."

Q: Why was your initial reaction no?

A: "I (I) started out at Warner Bros. when I was 18 years old and at that time we were doing Cheyenne and Sugarfoot, Maverick, Wagon Train and all those television shows and they tried to put me in a series of my own and I kept fighting them and saying I didn't want to do it. I didn't think anyone would come out of a television series as a regular and have a film career, but I was totally wrong about that"

Q: Do you think people find it ironic

that you are in a military show with a certain political aspect?

A: "It's probably ironic to everyone but me because I am a news buff. I watch CNN and the Fox Channel. I watch the news all day long."

Q: What is the biggest misconception about you?

A: "I've played so many bad guys I think they expect an extroverted guy, which I've played a lot of extroverted bad guys, but I'm really an introvert, I'm not an extrovert."

Q: Who influenced you the most in your life?

A: "The first one is James Dean who died very young. I did two films with him when I was 18 and 19, Rebel Without a Cause and Giant and then he died. That influenced me. My present wife I've been with for 12 years and we have a little two and a half year old daughter and 15-year-old son ... my current wife Victoria has certainly given me a comforting and wonderful life."

Q: Why James Dean?

A: "He had something no other actor had. He studied dance a lot and he expressed himself better with his body than probably any actor that I've ever seen. I think of him as an expressionist. He had this great inner life going on, pretty emotional capacities and inner life, but then he expressed himself so well physically ... when he hit the oil and the way he danced in the oil (in Giant). Just his hand movements, his gestures were just remarkable."

Q: Can you think of any contemporary actors with his skill?

A: "I can't really put anybody into that space. We have some wonderful actors, I mean I think Sean Penn is doing such great emotional work, he's terrific."

Q: What was your favorite role over the past 50 years?

A: "Writing and directing Easy Rider ... That was probably the highlight of my life."

Q: Do you hang out with Jack Nicholson?

A: "I see him all the time. As a matter of fact Jack Nicholson just had his first golf tournament down at Donald Trump's."



THE IMBIBER

BY DAN DUNN

Whipping boy made simple: Book is wife's best friend

Not sure why, but The Imbiber frequently receives advance copies of books accompanied by notes from PR flaks beseeching me to "consider for review." Out of professional courtesy I generally do take these tomes under consideration, but alas I've yet to find one that tastes good in a cocktail. However, I did come across some useful information in "How to Iron Your Own Damn Shirt: The Perfect Husband Handbook" (\$12, Three Rivers Press) by Craig Boreth — a guidebook filled with tidbits designed to help men navigate those sometimes stormy spousal seas.

Under the heading "How to Become a Martini Guy," Boreth points out that when garnishing your wife's martini, Sicilian tradition dictates you use an odd number of olives ("Alla Salute!") instead of an even number ("You broke my heart, Fredo!"), while in "How to Wait Patiently Until She's Ready to Leave" he encour-

ages heavy drinking as a means for men to get over our ridiculous fixation with actually being on time. Boreth also offers advice on ordering wine, making Cosmopolitans, dancing at weddings and — my favorite — getting rid of gas (there's such a thing as antifatulence underwear ... is that awesome or what?)

But for as satisfying a read as it is — Howard Stern even gave it his stamp of approval — I found the book to be somewhat lacking in certain areas. For instance, it'd be very beneficial to learn "How to Make Beer Bellies Sexy" or, better yet, "How to Make Her Stop Reminding You How Much You've had to Drink Already." Surely there must be a way "How to Convince Her 'Irish Car Bombs' are Good for You," and, like so many men out there, I've often wondered "How to Broach the Subject of a Ménage a Trois with the Hot Waitress Who Works at Our Favorite Nightclub." I've got an e-mail out to Boreth in the hopes of getting his two cents, but I'd really like to hear your thoughts on these and other pertinent questions. If you've got some, shoot me an e-mail at ddunn@metro.us. I'll publish some of the best responses in an upcoming column.

(For more on Craig Boreth's book, visit www.perfecthusband.com. Thirsty for more Imbiber? Pull up a barstool at www.TheImbiber.com)

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

'The Mitchells' extended for another show this weekend

By Daily Press staff

The Ruskin Group Theatre, in association with Playwrights 6, has announced that it's extending the workshop production of G. Bruce Smith's award-winning new comedy, "The Mitchells."

Another performance will be held on Oct. 23 at Ruskin Group Theatre, 3000 Airport Avenue at Santa Monica Airport. "The Mitchells" launched Ruskin's "Something New @ 2" Series, which features new works.

"This series presents us exciting prospects to discover new theatrical jewels," said Mike Myers, Ruskin managing director.

"The Mitchells" tells the story of a young man who is confronted with having to disclose to his ostensibly conservative parents that he is gay — before he is "outed" on a national Diane Sawyer television special.

The full-length play is based on Smith's "Christmas with the Mitchells," a one-act that was part of Playwrights 6's "Christmastime is Queer," staged in 2002 at the Celebration Theatre in Hollywood. The critically acclaimed one-act was a finalist in the 2003 GLAAD L.A. Outstanding Theatre Awards.

The full-length "Mitchells" was named a finalist in the 2005 New Play Contest at Theatre Conspiracy in Fort Myers, Fla. and a semi-finalist in the 2004 Ashland (Ore.) New Plays Festival.

"The Mitchells" is directed by Jonathan Levit, who also directed "Christmas with the Mitchells." In the cast are Larrs Jackson, Morris Nash, Lisa Robert, Peter James Smith, Amy Tofte, Jamie Virostko and Greg Wolf.

Tickets for The Mitchells are \$10. Call (310) 397-3244 or go to <http://www.ruskingrouptheatre.com>.

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Governor: Election is recall of broken system

ELECTION, from page 1

of fundamental political reform they demanded when they tossed Democrat Gray Davis out of office two years ago.

"It's a broken system," Schwarzenegger said Wednesday during a campaign stop in Anaheim. "And this will be the recall of a broken system."

Convincing voters of that urgency is his challenge between now and Election Day, when turnout is expected to be low. How his reform initiatives fare also could determine the strength of his candidacy as he prepares to seek a second term in 2006.

In large part, his agenda is designed to curb the power of Democratic lawmakers and public employee unions, particularly the powerful California Teachers Association. He has complained that the Legislature's Democratic majority is beholden to unions, making it virtually impossible to achieve lasting political reform.

Democrats and public employee unions have cast the governor's agenda as a throwback to previous attempts by Republicans to widen their influence in a Democrat-leaning state. Teachers also are concerned that his spending cap proposal will undo Proposition 98, a 1988 voter initiative

that set a minimum funding guarantee for public schools.

"These measures are all about a power grab by Governor Schwarzenegger that hurts our children, our schools and our teachers," Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., said Wednesday during a news conference in Washington.

She called on voters to oppose propositions 74, 75 and 76, dealing with teacher tenure, union dues and the budget.

Leading Democrats in the state Legislature say Schwarzenegger made no effort to work with them to develop a bipartisan reform agenda. Instead, he surprised them with his plans and the threat of a special election during his State of the State address last January.

"I almost feel as though the governor picked up a grenade and sort of threw it at the Legislature and ran away," said Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles.

Schwarzenegger has staked his political capital on his four initiatives, even though the latest public opinion polls show him with an uphill battle.

The efforts to redraw legislative districts and cap state spending are running well behind, and the teacher tenure initiative has yet to gain majority support. The measure requiring unions to get their members' permission before dues could be used for political purposes appears to have the strongest support, even gaining favor among many rank-and-file union members.

The measures have prompted an aggressive backlash from Democrats and labor unions, who have spent nearly \$100 million on a televised campaign to discredit them. Labor activists frame the campaign as a contest between a plutocrat governor and ordinary public servants such as nurses, teachers and firefighters whose

voices will be silenced if Schwarzenegger is successful.

The governor's popularity has plummeted since the attacks began last spring. He also has struggled to raise his stated goal of \$50 million to promote the initiatives, with some business interests reluctant to cross the state's powerful unions.

Schwarzenegger aides said the campaign's internal polling shows the measures are in much better shape but acknowledge they are running to catch up. The governor remains upbeat about his prospects, despite the public opinion polls.

"It's just the way it is in politics. I've always said, 'Let them beat up on me' because I don't care. The bottom line is I'm fighting for something much bigger than me, which is to improve the state of California and reform a broken system that is supposed to last for years and years and years," he told reporters Wednesday.

"There's some things that are worth fighting for, and California is one of those things."

Several other initiatives also appear on the ballot: Proposition 73, sponsored by anti-abortion activists, would require doctors to notify the parents or guardians of underage girls seeking an abortion; Propositions 78 and 79 are dueling prescription drug measures — the former sponsored by pharmaceutical companies, the latter by consumer groups — to ease the cost of prescriptions on low-income residents; and Proposition 80 would reregulate the state's electric service providers, after the 2001 energy crisis that many analysts blamed on deregulation of the state's utilities.

Both sides say voter turnout will be key to the election. Republicans are hoping to mobilize conservatives, in part by rallying around the abortion measure.

Schools keep children on solid ground

QUAKER STATE, from page 7

Tuesday's meeting felt the suspicions were unfounded, that the towers have since changed hands and the new owner, Douglas Emmett, would have had to exercise due diligence in showing city officials the structure was up to code at the time of the purchase.

Neworth said Shores tenants haven't made any formal request for the blueprints under the new ownership. However, he believes such a request should be honored if it were made.

"If this building has asbestos, we'd have the right to know about it," Neworth said. "Residents should be able to know what the owner knows about the building, since we live here."

Calls to Douglas Emmett — a real estate management company based in Santa Monica — were not returned.

CITY, SCHOOLS NOT ON SHAKY GROUND

Dave Britton, city engineer, said Santa Monica has retrofitted several public buildings since the Northridge quake. In doing so, the city has opted to re-build most of them in order to be more cost effective. The new retrofit-

ted city structures include the public safety building, the new main library and Fire Station No. 2.

According to Britton, City Hall used local taxpayer money to replace the buildings. Damage to other buildings which were not replaced, such as the Civic Auditorium, was paid for using federal emergency funds.

Britton said City Hall has long-term plans to retrofit the auditorium, but it's not yet certain if there will be federal money to help pay for the project. Parking structures No. 5, 7 and 8 have already been seismically retrofitted.

Parking structures No. 2 and 4 are scheduled for retrofitting next year, and it still hasn't been determined whether No. 1, 3 and 6 will be upgraded or re-built entirely, Britton said, in part because sources to fund those projects have yet to be determined.

John Deasy, superintendent of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, said previous bond measures have helped to ensure all local public school facilities have been seismically retrofitted. Deasy said the district, currently developing a master facilities plan to be used for the next 20 years, would also ensure that all new buildings to be constructed in the foreseeable future are seismically retrofitted.

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Southwest to land in competitors' backyards

BY SANDY SHORE

AP Business Writer

DENVER — Low-cost carrier Southwest Airlines said Thursday it will begin flying to Denver early next year, going head-to-head with United Airlines as it emerges from bankruptcy and with Frontier Airlines, a Denver-based low-fare carrier.

Southwest said it would release schedules and fares next week. It did not disclose how many gates it will lease at

Denver International Airport.

"Denver's growing community is one we have studied and intended to serve for quite some time, and we look forward to also serving the people of the entire state," Southwest Chief Executive Officer Gary Kelly said in a statement.

Dallas-based Southwest has stayed out of Denver International Airport, citing high airport-associated costs, but airline spokeswoman Whitney Eichinger said those costs have become more competitive.

She said Southwest was able to accelerate its schedule for starting in Denver because aircraft became available when the airline reduced service due to hurricane damage along the Gulf Coast.

United is the dominant carrier in Denver, followed by Frontier.

Frontier spokesman Joe Hodas said the airline competes against Southwest at other U.S. cities and is awaiting details about Southwest's plans for Denver.

"Much of our research would indicate

that we're very competitive," he said.

Southwest served Denver between 1983 and 1986 at Stapleton International Airport before it closed and was replaced by DIA.

Aviation analyst Mike Boyd said Southwest's decision to return to Denver is a necessary one for the carrier, which is battling high costs.

"It kind of validates what we see happening with low-cost carriers, which is they're running out of places to fly," Boyd said.

Wilma roars toward Cancun, Florida; thousands evacuated

BY WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press Writer

CANCUN, Mexico — Hurricane Wilma's outer edge battered Cancun's white-sand beaches Thursday as officials ordered hotel guests to evacuate, tourists jockeyed for spots on the last flights out, and tens of thousands of people fled from Honduras to the Florida Keys.

Wilma weakened slightly as it roared toward Mexico's Yucatan peninsula and south Florida, with forecasters calling it an "extremely dangerous" storm that already has killed 13 people. It was expected to reach Cancun early Friday, the second hurricane to hit the resort this year, following Hurricane Emily in July, before turning northeast toward Florida.

It briefly grew into a Category 5 storm before weakening to a Category 4 with maximum sustained winds of 145 mph.

"This is still a very, very powerful hurricane," said Max Mayfield, director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

Tourists were ordered out of the Florida Keys and the island of Isla Mujeres near Cancun, and authorities were poised to move out thousands of others from low-lying areas in a 600-mile swath covering Cuba, Mexico, Belize, Honduras, Jamaica, Haiti and the Cayman Islands.

In the Florida Keys, officials put off a mandatory evacuation of residents until Friday.

With rain and rough surf already pounding Cancun, officials ordered 20,000 tourists to leave the high-rise hotels that line the famous beachfront, although some ballrooms would be turned into shelters, Mayor Francisco Antonio Alor said.

He said the city was chartering flights to evacuate tourists before the airport closed. All but emergency officials had been evacuated from the nearby islands of

Isla Mujeres and Holbox.

Some of the estimated 70,000 tourists still in Cancun and surrounding areas were taking the warnings more seriously than others. The Senor Frog's restaurant in Cancun sponsored a "Hurricane Wilma" party, but it was far from full.

Standing knee-deep in the ocean and drinking beer in Playa de Carmen, south of Cancun, Mike Goepfrich of Minneapolis said: "As long as they give me beer in the shelter, and my kids are safe, we'll be fine. We're going to ride it out here."

Nearby, fisherman Rolando Ramirez helped others pull their fishing boats from the water. "People here aren't concerned about anything," he said. "They don't know that when the hurricane comes, this will all be under water."

At 11 a.m. EDT, Wilma was centered 170 miles southeast of Mexico's Cozumel Island, and moving northwest at near 7 mph.

The storm should eventually make the sharp right turn toward Florida because it will get caught in the westerlies, the strong wind current that generally blows toward the east, forecasters said.

The White House promised to stay on top of the situation, hoping to avoid a repeat of the slow initial response to Hurricane Katrina, which devastated New Orleans and other parts of the Gulf Coast in August.

"We got a job to make sure this hurricane headed toward Florida, the federal response is prepared for it," President Bush told reporters at the White House.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency was positioning emergency materials in the Florida cities of Jacksonville, Lakeland and Homestead.

Countries across the region prepared for the worst. Much of Central America and southern Mexico was still recovering from floods and landslides unleashed by Hurricane Stan, which left more than

1,500 people dead or missing. Americans were still mourning 1,200 Gulf coast victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

In the coastal state of Quintana Roo, which includes Cancun, officials ordered the evacuation of four low-lying islands, including Isla Mujeres, and also closed the cruise ship port on the island of Cozumel.

"This is getting very powerful, very threatening," Mexican President Vicente Fox said. Hundreds of schools in Quintana Roo were closed, and many will be used as storm shelters.

Mayfield said most of Wilma's impact would be on the Florida Keys and southern half of the Florida peninsula. Florida residents were buying water, canned food and other emergency supplies.

"People have learned their lesson and know better how to prepare. We're not waiting until the last minute anymore," said Andrea Yerger, 48, of Port Charlotte, Fla.

On Wednesday, tourists packed Cancun's airport even though skies were still partly sunny, looking for flights home or to other resorts.

Mark Carara cut his family's vacation short by two days, and tried to get on a standby flight home to Colorado.

"You hear it was the biggest storm on record, and yeah, that was the clincher right there," he said. "It was time for us to go."

MTV postponed the Video Music Awards Latin America ceremony that was originally scheduled for Thursday at a seaside park south of Cancun.

Honduras escaped major damage. Power was cut Wednesday to about 20 towns, two Caribbean ports were closed, and four fishermen were reported missing at sea. On its popular Bay islands, about 500 U.S. and European tourists were moved to safety at hotels.

The head of Haiti's civil protection agency, Maria Alta Jean-Baptiste, said

that at least 12 people had died in rain and landslides there since Monday. At least 2,000 Haitian families had been forced from flooded homes.

Jamaica, where heavy rains have fallen since Sunday, closed almost all schools and 350 people were living in shelters. One man died Sunday in a rain-swollen river.

The storm was expected to dump up to 25 inches of rain in mountainous areas of Cuba through Friday, and up to up to 15 inches in the Caymans and Jamaica through Thursday.

Heavy rain in Cuba's eastern province of Granma forced the evacuations of more than 1,000 people. Cuban officials said they were canceling all sporting events, including soccer and field hockey games.

In Florida, the storm forced the cancellation of this weekend's Nationwide Tour's Miccosukee Championship golf tournament and the postponement of the college football games between Georgia Tech and sixth-ranked Miami, and No. 20 West Virginia at South Florida.

Wilma's confirmed pressure readings early Wednesday dropped to 882 millibars, the lowest minimum pressure ever measured in a hurricane in the Americas, according to the hurricane center. Lower pressure translates into higher wind speed.

The strongest Atlantic storm on record, based on pressure readings, had been Hurricane Gilbert in 1988, which registered 888 millibars.

Wilma is the record-tying 12th hurricane of the Atlantic season, the same number reached in 1969.

On Monday, Wilma became the Atlantic hurricane season's 21st named storm, tying the record set in 1933 and exhausting the list of names for this year.

The six-month hurricane season does not end until Nov. 30. Any new storms would be named with letters from the Greek alphabet, starting with Alpha.

Desecration of Taliban fighters' bodies under investigation

BY DANIEL COONEY

Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S. military and the Afghan government said Thursday they will investigate a TV report that claimed U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan burned the bodies of two Taliban fighters and taunted other Islamic militants.

The U.S. military said such abuse would be "repugnant," and the State Department said U.S. embassies around the world have been told to counter a potential backlash by telling local governments that the alleged actions do not reflect American values.

A spokesman for President Hamid Karzai said the government has launched its own inquiry.

"We strongly condemn any disrespect to human bodies regardless of whether they are those of enemies or friends," said Karzai spokesman Karim Rahimi.

Australia's SBS television network broadcast video that purportedly showed U.S. soldiers burning the bodies of the suspected Taliban fighters in the hills outside the southern village of Gonbaz, near the former Taliban stronghold of Kandahar.

The network said the video was taken by a freelance journalist, Stephen Dupont, who told The Associated Press he was embedded with the Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade earlier this month. Dupont said the burnings happened Oct. 1.

In the video, which was seen by the AP, two soldiers who spoke with

American accents later broadcast taunting messages that the SBS said targeted the village, which was believed to be harboring Taliban soldiers.

Dupont said the soldiers responsible for the loudspeaker broadcasts were part of a U.S. Army psychological operations unit.

The U.S. military said the Army Criminal Investigation Command had opened an investigation into alleged misconduct that included "the burning of dead enemy combatant bodies under inappropriate circumstances."

"This alleged action is repugnant to our common values," Maj. Gen. Jason Kamiya said in a statement from the U.S. base in Bagram, Afghanistan. "This command takes all allegations of misconduct or inappropriate behavior seriously and

has directed an investigation into circumstances surrounding this allegation."

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said the allegations against the U.S. troops are "very serious" and, if true, "very troubling."

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said that burning bodies "is not anywhere close to our standard operating procedure. It's not something that is consistent with their procedures."

Whitman said he is not aware of any other similar incidents.

He said Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, who is traveling in South Korea, has been informed, but he does not believe Rumsfeld has seen any of the video. The unit involved is still in Afghanistan, Whitman said.

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson

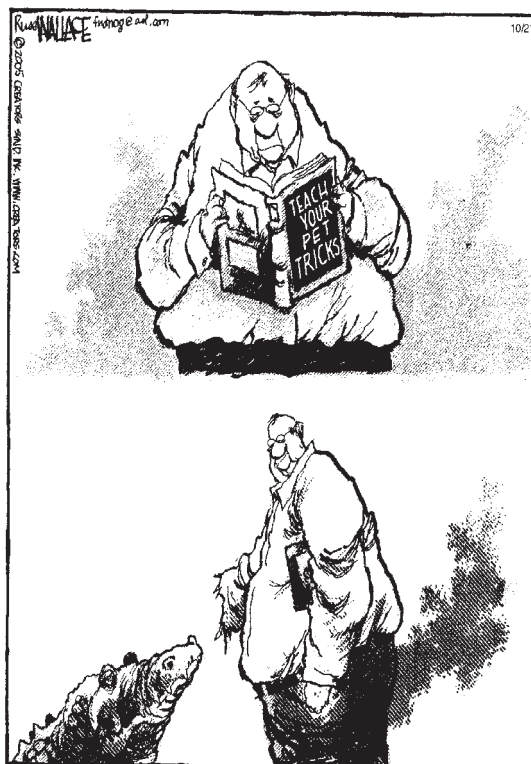
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