

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

4, 26, 36, 15, 25

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 4, 4, 4

Evening picks: 3, 3, 9

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 9, Winning Spirit

2nd Place: 10, Solid Gold

3rd Place: 7, Eureka

Race Time: 1:49.60



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ A 47-year-old man was arrested for allegedly trying to steal a woman's backpack, his 177th arrest (Boulder, Colo.).

■ A 36-year-old man was captured by a SWAT team after holding off police for 10 hours in a hotel room, in an incident begun when he threatened to kill hotel workers because there was no ice (Houston).

■ Absolutely no one voted in a school board election in Mississippi County, Ark., on Sept. 16, not even Carl Miner, who was the only person on the ballot.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Every great man has his disciples, and it is always Judas who writes the biography."

— Oscar Wilde



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Extra effort



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

An 'extras' casting call for the movie 'Cellular,' starring Kim Bassinger and William H. Macy, forms a large line on the beach Tuesday. A scene from the movie was shot on the Santa Monica Pier.

Jury to decide if lawyer is entitled to his fees

Jurors to learn about 10-year-old dispute

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

A Malibu property owner has hired an attorney to fight off his former attorney, who says he owes him tens of thousands of dollars for work he has performed for almost a decade.

And now it's up to a Santa Monica jury to decide if Orlando Aliberti, 84, owes attorney Richard Grimwade any money. Grimwade claims Aliberti owes him \$146,000. When the real estate investor refused to pay him, Grimwade sued.

Grimwade and Paul Cohen, Aliberti's new lawyer, made their

opening statements Tuesday in Santa Monica Superior Court. Grimwade represented Aliberti in an insurance dispute following the fires that occurred in November of 1993 in Malibu.

Aliberti retained Grimwade to recover more than \$2 million from Allstate Insurance Co. to rebuild a six-unit apartment building Aliberti owns on Rambla Pacifica in Malibu that was destroyed in the fires.

Cohen said Grimwade took advantage of the elderly Aliberti by telling him he had a good chance of winning big.

"This has gone on and on and on," Cohen told the jury of nine women and five men, including alternates. "All the while he's

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Community Corp. to close deal on Shakey's property

Agency controls more than 1,000 units in SM

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

A local pizza parlor will become the site of 50 new affordable apartments if a nonprofit housing developer closes escrow on the land in January.

It would be the 78th property that Community Corp. of Santa Monica would own locally. The nonprofit organization owns 1,182 rental units city wide and plans to build another 179 units over the next four years.

CCSM Executive Director Joan Ling declined to say how much the 30,000-square-foot property, which

"We need affordable housing or we gentrify ourselves."

— HERB KATZ

Santa Monica City Councilman

is the site of Shakey's Pizza restaurant, at 3021 Santa Monica Blvd., is worth.

CCSM has spent more than \$150 million buying and upgrading real estate in Santa Monica since the organization was formed in 1982.

Affordable housing in Santa Monica is so in demand that CCSM

See CCSM, page 5

Local police seize \$65K worth of marijuana

By Daily Press staff

An African man was arrested by Santa Monica Police for allegedly smuggling 135 pounds of marijuana from South Africa to Southern California.

Sweet Banda was arrested by SMPD's narcotics officers on Saturday after they watched him for two days, said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega.

SMPD received a tip from the U.S. Customs Task Force that Banda was allegedly planning to smuggle several kilos of marijuana in African-carved wood products.

After two days of surveillance,

SMPD officers served a search warrant at Banda's home in Upland, located near San Bernardino. They found 56 wooden chess boards, each containing two pounds of marijuana. The total street value for the drugs is \$65,000, Fabrega said.

Banda was transported from Santa Monica Jail on Tuesday to the LAX Courthouse for his initial court appearance. He is being held on \$1 million bail, and was charged with transporting and possession of marijuana for the purpose of sale.

An SMPD narcotics officer is a member of the U.S. Task Force, which allowed SMPD to take the case.

Single women outnumber bachelors in most of state

BY JUSTIN PRITCHARD

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Go West young woman, especially if you're single and looking for love.

And if you're really playing

the game, go to Orange County or Silicon Valley — two areas with cities where, in an unusual twist, single men outnumber single women.

Call it yet another gender gap. Nationwide, there are millions

more women than men who have never married, or have divorced or been widowed, the Census Bureau reports.

That held for most of California, where there were 6.1 million single women and 5.6

million single men, according to Census 2000.

But California's ratio of 92 single men to every 100 single women was closer to parity than the national average of 86 single

See SINGLES, page 6

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, October 22, 2003:

You might be taken aback by all the ideas that float through your mind. Though you might not want to spell them out, you will discover there are other possibilities if you write these thoughts down. Timing could mean everything this year, but with your strong intuitive sense, you will know when and where. Keep a notebook, as these ideas flow out of your mind. You will do well with a yoga course or some other form of mind meditation. If you are single, there might be a clandestine quality in potential relationships. Be sure you want this in the long run. If you are attached, the two of you benefit from vacations all alone together. Splash more romance into your love life. VIRGO would make a good healer, be it doctor, dentist or therapist.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ What starts out as tense could become quite copacetic, if you let it. Information rapidly changes in the morning. By afternoon, you might be in a full celebration, be it at work, home or school. You gain a special insight into a friend. Relish the person and the moment. Tonight: Put up your feet.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You find working with a key partner difficult at best this morning. You might feel as if the impossible is occurring around a work-related matter. Stay tuned in, and you will like the end results. Tonight: Make the most out of your Wednesday night.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Get down to basics this morning. If you can get a partner to verbalize what is ailing him or her, you will gain. Reach out to someone at a distant or an expert or two. This might even involve a trip. Good news heads your way. Tonight: Happy at home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ What you say and how you say it makes a substantial difference in how others respond to you. You might be delighted by news that could impact your financial situation as well as what is going on with a work-related matter. Tonight: Share your good news.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Use more of that Leo magic. When you hit a flub-up, dig into your creativity. As a result of this process and brainstorming, you and others will come up with wonderful and workable ideas. A partner reveals something he or she has wanted to do for a long time. Tonight: Curb spending.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You find that despite someone's difficult behavior, you jump over the hurdle. Gain better understanding in what you do while understanding what needs to happen. Others, especially those around a work project, demonstrate their enthusiasm and creativity. Tonight: As you like it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★ You might want to rethink a situation before you jump up and start getting enthusiastic. You can trust, however, that the ideas that are being exchanged are worthwhile. Allow your remarkable creativity to come through. Tonight: Take your time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You might not always get others' messages as clearly as you would like. A vague idea offers enormous satisfaction, if you flow with the moment. Check out a real estate investment carefully. Someone close finally clears the air. Tonight: Join your pals.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)
★★★★ You are at the helm of the ship. Though at first you might want to veer in another direction, you discover through a friend that perhaps holding to the same course could prove to be interesting and create unusually successful waves. Tonight: Work late.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You see what few others do. Though at first you might feel it is a bad idea to present this point of view, later, as others become more open, your ideas will be appreciated. In fact, someone suggests you take the lead in this project. Tonight: Rent a fun movie.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Finally, you get to shine, even if an idea is put down in the morning. Others appreciate your unusual creativity and dynamic thinking. You make the impossible or the unthought of possible. Reach out for experts and advice. Tonight: Keep on smiling. It is your way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Though a boss could be in a sour mood, you can bypass it with some help. Sit down with a partner and brainstorm. Don't take lightly what comes up. You could be amazed by the possibilities that come from this session. Tonight: Follow a partner.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Businesses to save money and resources

By Daily Press staff

Dozens of local restaurants will get a lesson in water usage and how to conserve it, as well as reduce waste.

Over the next nine months, "Sustainable Works," a project of Community Partners and the City of Santa Monica, is currently offering free turn-key programs for 75 local restaurants and businesses in Santa Monica.

The programs are designed to save valuable resources by reducing water usage and diverting water through retrofit and recycling programs.

Called the "Santa Monica Direct Install program" it's expected to save about 130 million gallons of water city wide over the next 25 years. Participating restaurants receive a free water usage assessment, a list of recommendations that they can implement and a wide array of free water-conserving devices with little or no cost to install. The restaurants can expect an annual savings of up to \$300 in utility costs and \$150 in water and wastewater costs.

The "Santa Monica Recycling and Food Scraps" program offers local restaurants free infrastructure and the services necessary to start a comprehensive recycling program, including bins for cans, plastic, glass, food scraps, free employee training on new recycling procedures and follow-up support.

According to the California Waste Management Board, Californians throw away more than five million tons of food scraps each year. That amounts to 16 percent of all disposed materials going into already overcrowded landfills.

Sustainable Works also offers a comprehensive "Business Greening" program that looks at a business's energy, transportation and chemical use. They provide businesses with the tools needed to implement environmental policies company-wide. They also assess current policies, recommend new options, help to implement selected options, follow-up to track success and make adjustments when necessary.

If you are a restaurant or business located in Santa Monica and are interested in saving money by saving resources, contact Sustainable Works at (310) 458-8716, ext. 2.

Poetry writers to compete

By Daily Press staff

Do you write poetry and need extra cash?

If so, enter the Friendly Poets Society's latest poetry competition. There is a \$1,000 grand prize and 49 other prizes totaling nearly \$4,000.

The contest is seeking poems on any subject, using any style, with a life-affirming inspirational theme.

"We think inspirational poems can motivate people to achieve their dreams," said contest director Lavender Augulis. "We're especially looking to inspire amateur poets and we think this competition will accomplish that."

The contest is open and free to the public. To enter, send one poem 21 lines or less to Lavender Augulis, Poetry Contest, 2255 N. University Parkway, Suite 15, #196, Provo, Utah 84604; or go to www.friendlypoets.com and enter online.

The deadline for entering is Nov. 29. A winner's list will be sent to all entrants. The editors reserve the right to publish the winning poems.

Leading scientists to speak

By Daily Press staff

Leading international scientists will be in Santa Monica next month to discuss the latest in clinical research of cancer, viral and prenatal and prognosis.

In collaboration with the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Center at Johns Hopkins and the division of genetics at Tufts-New England Medical Center, the John Wayne Cancer Institute will offer a platform for cancer investigators to present and share information on the biology and functionality of circulating nucleic acids in plasma and serum.

Over the past several years, circulating nucleic acids have impacted research on

See BRIEFS, page 5

surf report

Those summer temperatures can't last for long. Neither can the epic waves we've had of late. But that doesn't mean it's all bad news. A new S peaks early in the morning and mixes with a touch of WNW leftovers and local windswell.

OUTLOOK: Things wind down on Thursday.

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

Today the
water is:

69°

Sunrise 7:01 a.m.
Sunset 6:14 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	10:10	3.7	11:47	0.7	7:37	3.8	3:34	4.4
SUNDAY	11:49	3.3	N/A	N/A	7:18	4.0	5:07	4.6
MONDAY	12:29	0.4	12:36	2.7	7:26	4.4	6:10	4.9
TUESDAY	1:03	0.2	1:15	2.0	7:41	4.8	7:02	5.2
WEDNESDAY	1:35	0.1	1:54	1.2	8:01	5.2	7:49	5.4
THURSDAY	2:06	0.2	2:34	0.5	8:24	5.7	8:36	5.4
FRIDAY	2:37	0.4	3:16	-0.2	8:52	6.2	9:24	5.3

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The Q Line

In response to recent violence in an eastside Santa Monica neighborhood, the City Council last week agreed to help find ways to address the problems there.

One is to give jobs created by City Hall, local schools and unions to at-risk and minority youth, as well as encourage employment opportunities within the private sector.

But some council members are concerned that creating new jobs without

re-evaluating the entire situation may not really help what some view as a societal problem.

"How should we address youth violence, and is creating jobs for them going to help?"

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



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LETTERS

Elect corporate workers to office

Editor:

Observing the playground mentality of the State Legislature and the governor's recall race over the past couple of months, I realized that my corporate co-workers are more qualified for office than the "experienced" politicians. Corporate training and employment expectations that all private, for profit workers must practice to succeed are also applicable to politicians. Here's a few that could benefit all of us.

Corporate workers get annual ethics training. Ethics training states that gifts of any kind from business partners inhibit the ability to make the best choices for corporate success. I glanced at Sen. Sheila Kueh's (D-Santa Monica) campaign finance report and was shocked by the amount of fund raising she does outside the 23rd district. Who does she represent when people outside her district pay for her campaigns? There is clearly a conflict of interest whenever a politician accepts donations from any person or organization that is not based in their own district.

Corporate workers are trained to identify and help prevent sexual harassment and racial discrimination. Publicly spreading rumors or accusations of sexual harassment without proof leads to being fired at most corporations. Rumors including sexual innuendoes and racial epithets are destructive to a healthy work environment. If a law has been violated, corporate workers join efforts with their human resource representatives to document and correct the situation discretely. Perhaps politicians should learn to check the facts and use discretion before defaming their colleagues in an attempt to undermine their reputations. Citing specific sexual harassment laws, Cruz Bustamante all but called the governor-elect a felon during the final week of the recall campaign. I would be fired for this type of behavior. I wish we could fire any elected representative who knowingly repeats lies, rumors, unsubstantiated accusations and innuendoes.

Daily work in corporations is governed by expectations of cooperation, communication, initiative and working toward the common profit. Through cooperation and communication, corporate workers are able to improve all business initiatives. Often, initiatives spearheaded by a single person or group fail. By communicating with the employees needed to implement new business initiatives, management both improves the initiative and increases the chance for success. From afar, our elected representatives appear to feel their ideas and legislative proposals are above compromise. Recently enacted flawed legislation could have been fixed. Rather than hurting business and pressuring every working Californian with higher tax and insurance rates, the compromising of sections in recent laws would have been more effective.

In a private business the overriding goal is to make a profit. In the state legislature

the goal should be to benefit all Californians. Recent changes in health care mandates, workers compensation and an employee's ability to sue their employer, appear to benefit trial lawyers more than the workers the laws were written for.

Confronted with a new governor and a shifting political landscape, our elected state representatives need to apply good corporate work habits. They should also cultivate more respect for the workers and businesses that fund all of the laws and programs they pass. If the current legislature fails to turn our state around, I'm confident that there are many corporate workers who have the skills to complete the task. Let's elect those who can get the job done.

Ed Sharrow
Santa Monica



Member: APEC, NCS, SCS, SCS, SCS

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Sometimes columnists write letters to editors, too



INCITES

By Ed Silverstein

I am pleased to say that I have been receiving more correspondence from readers of this column. Some are positive, others negative and some include helpful advice on how best to end my days in a particularly painful manner. All are appreciated. Well, except the one inviting me to Alaska to be smeared in fish guts and introduced to the Kodiak Island bears.

Like many of you, I also write letters. Two recent editorials have sufficiently irked me that I felt compelled to respond. Both were written by editors of a purportedly centrist Democratic publication, The New Republic, which is actually owned (and no doubt influenced) by a conservative.

The first editorial, written by the magazine's editor, Peter Beinart, chastised Democrats for challenging the \$87 billion that Bush requested for the war in Iraq (and Halliburton). The other, by senior editor Greg Easterbrook, appeared in the LA Times and defended Bush's record on the environment, claiming that critics are too harsh. These were my responses.

■ Peter Beinart's "Cheap Shots" column (Oct. 6) is just that. He suggests that because the Democratic candidates demanded answers from the Bush admin-

istration before endorsing a \$87 billion Iraqi occupation and reconstruction installment, they are not serious about security. This is blatantly unfair.

The Bush administration manipulated support for the war with lies and fear mongering. I was certainly taken in by this ruse, as was The New Republic. The desire for this war was likely — as is the case with much of the Bush agenda — politically rather than strategically motivated. The president then rushed into combat with a badly conceived battle plan, deploying too few ground troops. The U.S. was further deprived, due to Bush's hubris, of international support and a northern front. Because of these missteps, Iranian, Syrian and Al Qaeda operatives were able to enter Iraq and create organized opposition for which the military was ill prepared to combat due to the administration's elimination of "nation building" training. Further, the administration has yet to provide any sort of cohesive exit strategy, timeline or projected cost for this occupation. And, with the administration awarding of a potentially multi-billion no bid contract to Halliburton, a company in which the vice president maintains a financial interest, it is imperative we know how any additional reconstruction funds will be appropriated.

Certainly it should be the press pressuring the administration for explanations, but with much of the media having been commandeered by the right or intimidated into towing the party line by the administration's strong arm tactics, it falls to the Democrats to demand answers. If

anything, America is less safe due to this war and it is the Bush administration and the Republican leadership that is not serious about our security. If the Democrats are being opportunistic in pointing this out, then so be it. It may be the only chance we get.

■ In Greg Easterbrook's column (Oct. 14), he claims that President Bush's environmental record is being unfairly criticized and that the environment has gotten no worse under his administration. Even if this were true, much of the credit must go to Democrats and moderate Republicans who were able to defeat many of Bush's most onerous policies, such as allowing more arsenic in our drinking water, exempting the military from environmental regulations and drilling in the arctic wilderness.

What we can credit the president with is refusing to embrace conservation, renewable energy sources or the lowering of car and light truck emissions. Also, thanks to Bush, strip miners may continue to dump their waste into pristine mountain streams. The explosion of methane drilling in Wyoming has ranchers up in arms due to the destruction of their ranchland, trees and the pollution of their streams. Now he wants to expand such drilling to Montana and other western states. Bush removed Clinton's ban on snowmobiles in Yellowstone in exchange for a promise from manufacturers to cut emissions. They have increased over 100 percent. Giant pig factories are creating an ecological nightmare, but the president refuses to regulate them. During a devas-

tating drought farmers were permitted to draw down water from the Klamath River leading to the largest Salmon kill ever.

The administration is gutting environmental protections. They have threatened to cut funding for the EPA if they don't tow the business-friendly line and, according to the bestseller "Bushwhacked," forced the independent watchdog of the EPA in-house, thus eviscerating over 100 lawsuits against the agency on behalf of citizens and communities. But what will be the most far-reaching and enduring anti-environmental legacy of the Bush administration is the appointment of hundreds of anti-environmental federal judges. They will make it harder to stop destructive practices, protect animals, restrict development in ecologically sensitive areas, sue polluters or win sizable judgments, thus providing greater incentive for business to ignore environmental regulations. And the list goes on and on. If anything, the president's environmental record has been treated far too kindly.

ASIDE: Nathaniel Heatwole, the young man who demonstrated glaring holes in airline security by placing packages of banned items onto several airplanes, is being charged with a felony by the bullies in the Justice Department. Rather than ruining a young man's life, we should give him a job running airline security. Because it's obvious no one else is doing it.

(Ed Silverstein is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. Letters about his letters may be e-mailed to edsincites@aol.com).

LOCAL



Nearly 3,000 apply for CCSM affordable housing

CCSM, from page 1

turns away about 2,900 applicants each year. Despite that there are only 100 vacancies each year, close to 3,000 people apply to live in the apartments. Many of the applicants live outside of Santa Monica.

The people that rent CCSM apartments represent a broad swath of the community, from low-wage workers who earn less than \$14,000 a year to white-collar types with families who make up to \$67,000 a year. The rents range between \$300 to \$1,200 a month, said Ling, who said the average rent is between \$550 and \$600.

CCSM will take requests this January from people who want to apply for housing. When an apartment that matches their needs becomes available, CCSM contacts the individual or family and asks them to apply for the unit.

Because housing in Santa Monica is in constant demand and market-rate rents continue to climb, CCSM, which buys properties using state, federal and local money, has played an increasingly important role in the city over the past two decades, officials said.

"Affordable housing is important because it means people can live and work in the community," City Councilman Herb Katz said. "We need affordable housing or we gentrify ourselves. If you look around, you see that if you don't have affordable housing, you gentrify yourself, you become a one-class city."

CCSM earns nearly \$10 million each year, primarily from rent on its properties. About 45 percent of that money is spent on building repairs and improvements, 30 percent to 35 percent goes to repaying mortgages, and 15 percent is spent on administration. Another 5 percent to 10 percent is kept as a cushion for unforeseen costs and rising insurance rates, said Ling, who earns \$95,000 for managing the nonprofit.

Some have criticized the nonprofit for concentrating too many of its developments in certain areas of Santa Monica, such as the eastside Pico neighborhood. But Ling said despite appearances, the affordable units are spread evenly throughout the city.

"It's kind of misleading for people to say we dump all of our affordable housing in the Pico neighborhood," she said,

adding that although there are more structures in Ocean Park and the Pico neighborhoods, the average number of units per building is less. Ling also said CCSM can only build in multi-family neighborhoods and not where there are single-family homes exclusively, such as north of Montana Avenue or in Sunset Park.

But Don Gray, a neighborhood activist and former chairman of the Pico Neighborhood Association board, said the sheer number of projects has upset many residents.

"As much as anything, it's the type of projects," he said. "Whenever it involves seniors, it always goes elsewhere. The type of housing that goes into this neighborhood is strictly this multi-family, low-income type. I don't know how you can talk about diversity when there's so little diversity in the public housing that has gone into this neighborhood."

There are about 24 properties in the Pico neighborhood, which accounts for more than 30 percent of CCSM's inventory.

Thirty-eight percent of the units CCSM owns have one bedroom; 25 percent have two bedrooms; 14 percent have three bedrooms and less than 1 percent have four bedrooms. Another 23 percent are studio apartments, according to CCSM documents.

Ling said the demand for the larger units is intense, partly because once families are allowed into the units they rarely leave. But putting more large units on the market is difficult because most of the properties CCSM buys are made up of smaller units.

That's why building new projects is so important, Ling said. She added that there are three properties in Santa Monica that have been bought by CCSM in recent years and most of them are scheduled to open in 2006.

Those properties include a 44-unit building at Santa Monica Boulevard and 26th Street, a 41-unit building at Broadway and 16th Street, and a 44-unit building at Main and Pacific streets.

Some have questioned whether CCSM actually serves people in the community. But Ling said the organization gives preference to locals.

"When you mosh it all together, when there's a unit open, there's about a 50-50 chance the person moving in is a Santa Monica resident or worker," she said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

the diagnosis of prenatal diseases and genetic analysis.

In application to the field of cancer, proteomic oncology is the analysis of protein changes in body fluids and tissues of patients. Cells have unique, identifiable protein signatures. When a normal cell turns cancerous, so does its signatures. Dr. Dave S.B. Hoon, PhD., director of molecular oncology, and other researchers at the institute, have begun researching whether or not those changes can be detected before a tumor is large enough to be seen or felt.

In preliminary studies, Dr. Hoon said proteomic oncology has shown a potential to help researchers create diagnostic tests that may one day more effectively monitor and diagnose patients in the early stages of disease progression. As a result, the tests will improve disease management and ultimately the patients' chance for survival.

The discussions will be held at Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel at 1700 Ocean Ave. from Nov. 9 until Nov. 11.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

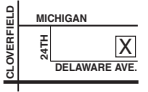


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LOCAL □ STATE



Lawyer fees reach \$150K

FEES, from page 1

telling my client this is a great case. This is money in the bank. This is a slam dunk."

But Grimwade painted a different scene, describing Aliberti as a real estate magnate who refused generous settlement offers by Allstate and pushed for a trial.

"I gave Mr. Aliberti the trial he wanted," Grimwade told the jury, in the near-empty courtroom of Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Valerie Baker. "Unfortunately, he didn't win."

With Grimwade's help, Aliberti a WWII veteran and former middle school teacher, recovered more than \$2 million in a separate claim against Allstate to rebuild his charred home, which sits uphill from the apartment building.

But because he had a "limited liability" clause in the insurance policy covering the apartment building, Aliberti was given only \$450,000 by Allstate to rebuild. Unsatisfied, Aliberti sued Allstate. The case was first tossed out of court on the grounds that Aliberti waited too long to file it. Grimwade appealed that ruling and won, but when it finally went to court, after prolonged negotiations and other behind-the-scenes legal wrangling, a jury ruled that Allstate didn't owe any additional money.

Aliberti wanted Grimwade to represent him in an appeal. But because he said he was due an outstanding payment of \$146,000, Grimwade refused and dropped the case. Grimwade said he was only paid about \$5,000 for settling the insurance

payment relating to the house and about \$4,000 in separate payments.

"I gave Mr. Aliberti the trial he wanted. Unfortunately, he didn't win."

— RICHARD GRIMWADE
Attorney

But it gets more complicated. Throughout the proceedings, Aliberti renegotiated his contract with Grimwade at least once and maybe twice, depending on which side one listens to. Though he was originally hired at \$250 an hour, Grimwade's fee was later set at \$125 an hour with him also receiving 20 percent of any possible settlement.

Grimwade said he later offered to take 40 percent of any settlement without an hourly charge, but he said he never heard back from Aliberti so he revoked the offer.

Cohen said the pair agreed on the 40 percent contingency with no hourly rate.

"Based on the result of the case, any reasonable fee would be no fee at all," Cohen told jurors at the close of his opening statements.

Grimwade took the stand as a witness immediately after opening statements. Testimony from witnesses is expected to continue today.

Paradise: A purgatory for single men on the prowl

SINGLES, from page 1

men for every 100 single women.

And California had half of the nation's top 10 places with more than 100,000 people where single men outnumbered single women, according to the census.

Topping California's list was Sunnyvale, where the census reported 113 men for every 100 women. But in the suburb noted for male-heavy technology firms, dating can fall victim to a culture where working into the night may be favored over a night on the make.

Rik Wehbring, 33, rode the dot-com roller coaster as a hardware engineer and suggested simple numbers partly explained the imbalance — one startup company he helped found had 50 employees and only one woman.

And there was another factor.

"There was a sort of a married mindset, so even though there were single people, they wouldn't would say 'Let's meet at a bar,'" said Wehbring, who after retiring from Silicon Valley moved to livelier San Francisco.

Even eligible men who hit the bars face problems.

"I've almost given up in Sunnyvale, and I can't get anyone to even come down and visit me here anymore," said Jim Oddson, 28, a telephone line repairman who one night took out-of-town friends to three local bars but found not a single woman — single or otherwise.

The relative dearth of Silicon Valley single women has been the subject of everything from academic papers at nearby Stanford University to bachelors' plaintive wails.

But Sunnyvale is not alone.

The other four California cities were immigrant magnets — Santa Ana, Salinas, Oxnard and Costa Mesa — which naturally attract male laborers, many of them single, foreign-born Hispanics.

Cynthia Centeno, 22, lives in the Orange County suburb of Santa Ana and said she has no problem meeting single men.

"It's easy to meet people," Centeno said. "Everywhere you turn, there are people out."

The dating prospects were far less attractive, she said, in nearby Irvine or Newport Beach.

Two other places among the national top-10 were around Las Vegas, including the unincorporated area of Paradise, which might seem more like purgatory for men on the prowl. With 118 single men for every 100 single women, it had the greatest gap in the United States.

Overall, Nevada had 103 single men for every 100 single women.

That closer-to-even ratio was reflected in many Western states, most of which had a closer gender balance than the national average, according to census data.

Back in Silicon Valley, some suggest the women were out there — but the men were still learning how to find them.

Courtney Johnson of the San Francisco-based social networking company Emode, which launched an online dating service in the spring, recently gave a public talk on meeting your match. Just 10 men sat among 40 women.

"They're saying, I moved here because I know there's all these geeky guys who are waiting for the right person, but they can't find anybody," Johnson said. "People are too busy."

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STATE



CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Two rock climbers die in fall

By The Associated Press

IDYLLWILD — Two rock climbers fell to their deaths in the San Jacinto Wilderness after a safety device failed on a sheer rock face, authorities said.

Kelly Tufo, 32, of Anza and David Kellogg, 41, of San Diego, died after falling 200 feet from Tahquitz Rock in Humber Park, according to Riverside County sheriff's officials.

A sheriff's helicopter flew the bodies out of the area Monday after strong winds and darkness prevented an earlier evacuation late Sunday.

A preliminary investigation indicated the climbing anchor used by the hikers failed, said sheriff's Sgt. David Pike. The anchor is a metal device climbers put into a rock face to prevent them from falling.

Tufo's father, Robert, said his son, a building contractor, had recently started rock climbing.

"Kelly always loved the outdoors," his father said. "Since he was a boy, he loved to hike and camp."

City builds ballparks to attract visitors, revenue

By The Associated Press

SAN CLEMENTE — If you build it, they will come.

That's what city officials are hoping as they move to build three ballparks resembling major-league stadiums.

The city plans to turn Steed Memorial Park into an entertainment attraction where softball leagues would pay a premium to play at diamonds with big-league ambiance.

The strategy has proved successful in Chino Hills, where ballplayers are lured to replicas of Yankee Stadium in New York, Wrigley Field in Chicago, and Fenway Park in Boston.

"It's the greatest place I've ever played," said Paul Burkel, 26, of Victorville. "It makes you feel like you're somebody, like a big-leaguer."

The San Clemente City Council is currently negotiating with Big League Dreams, a company that has built three similar complexes in the Inland Empire, to renovate the facility by spring 2005.

The city would spend up to \$4.5 million for the renovation then turn over operations to Big League Dreams, which would provide umpires, security and maintenance as well as operate the restaurant.

Union to peg judges with lavish expense accounts

By The Associated Press

SANTA ANA — A labor union is fighting to obtain travel expense records for judges, claiming the documents will show lavish spending in a time of belt-tightening.

The Orange County Employees Association is pursuing a court appeal to obtain unedited documents after being offered records with the names of judges removed.

Records provided to the Los Angeles Times show judges traveled domestically and to Ireland, Hawaii and Canada for conferences and meetings.

Judges paid their own airfare for travel abroad, but the county picked up the tab for hotels and meals.

The records show three judges attended a conference in Maui last September, with hotel rooms, meals and incidentals exceeding \$4,100.

In another instance, the courts paid more than \$2,000 to cover expenses other than airfare for two judges attending a conference in Ireland last year.

The court's chief executive officer, Alan Slater, said \$2.3 million has been spent on employee travel and training in the past five years. He defended the expenditures as necessary costs.

Nick Berardino, assistant general manager of the union, said Monday the expenses are an embarrassment during a budget crunch that has seen reduced hours, no raises and a hiring freeze.

A comparison of Orange County to other courts in the state is difficult because each jurisdiction defines expenses differently and keeps its own records.

Attorney resigns over scandal

By The Associated Press

CARSON — A partner at the law firm representing the city of Carson has resigned after being linked to attorney Robert Pryce, the accused middleman in a cash-for-votes scandal that ended the careers of the mayor and two council members.

David Aleshire of the firm Aleshire and Wynder confirmed Monday that attorney Julia Sylva had resigned from the firm and said no one knew she had previously worked with Pryce.

Letters obtained by the Torrance Daily Breeze show that Pryce, the personal lawyer for Mayor Daryl Sweeney, paid Sylva about \$22,000 in mid-2001 for what was labeled "legal services/the city of Carson." Sylva had earlier denied to the newspaper any relationship with Pryce.

The newspaper also uncovered a March 28, 2001 letter to Pryce in which Sylva wrote: "It is with great pleasure that I present to you my resume for consideration to serve as your co-counsel or of counsel, as you deem appropriate."

Sylva said she never denied working for Pryce but rather told the paper when interviewed for an Oct. 13 article that she had no present relationship with him.

Ten people, including city officials and executives at two trash-hauling firms, have been charged in the Carson corruption case and all pleaded guilty. Pryce pleaded guilty in August to 49 federal criminal counts and faces six to eight years in prison.

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Real Estate

How the 'Governator' could change real estate market



DAYS ON THE MARKET

By Jodi Summers

The state economy is down the tubes. Prices in some parts of Silicon Valley have dropped as much as 45 percent, thanks to the technology crash. Everyone in Southern California keeps wondering when real estate prices are going to plateau or drop. Because inquiring minds want to know where the local real estate market is going, we're going to pull out the crystal ball and give you some insight into the dynamics that influence housing prices.

Factor one: Supply and demand — on a local level — determine housing prices. Let's talk about where our coastal economy is headed.

Sure, the state has issues. California — supposedly the sixth richest economy in the world — has an awful state credit rating and a budget deficit that has been estimated between \$6-\$20 billion, according

to our governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger. The upside is that some experts believe that California's problem is less of an economic one than a budgetary or political one.

Of course, we here at the beach live in our own economic bubble, driven by and large, by entertainment and tourism. (Did you know that Venice Beach is the second most popular tourist destination in Southern California?) Us westsiders should benefit by having the "Governator" in power. The Schwarzeneggers live locally. Arnold's campaign headquarters were in downtown Santa Monica, and he owns property throughout Santa Monica, Venice and Brentwood. Surely, he wants to see economic strength in his neighborhood.

In his inaugural speech, the Governor declared, "I've been speaking out about the needs of bringing back fiscal responsibility to this state, bringing back the positive business atmosphere, bringing back businesses, bringing back jobs and bringing back our education."

Bringing back jobs: Think the Governor might take steps to return of some of the entertainment industry projects that have run off to Canada? It would certainly behoove the Governor's post-

political career, which has been closely tied with local businesses like Digital Domain, Universal, Sony and MTV. Expect to see more high paying positions open up on the westside as movie development comes back to SoCal. Which ties right back into that old real estate cliché, "homes are where the jobs go at night."

So more high-end jobs are coming into the area and the individuals who fill those positions are going to want to live somewhere near where they work.

Factor two: There is an ample supply of houses on the market.

You know local real estate. Any desirable property that comes on the market sells in days, often times over the asking price. There is more demand than there is supply in this area.

Now let's bring in the Hollywood factor. Step aside O.J., there will be even more local TV coverage coming our way, and this time it should be positive.

The Governor has ownership and intimate involvement with our neighborhood, including the naming of Santa Monica College President Piedad Robertson to his transition committee. With our celebrity governor, and our local media moguls, the whole country is going

to see how pretty Santa Monica is on a regular basis. Think that might increase demand?

According to a May 2003 report from the state department of finance, last year 591,000 people moved to California. Our state population now totals nearly 36 million. The median home price is expected to climb 13 percent to \$414,000 next year. The minimum income needed to buy that home is \$93,490.

State and federal projections show relentless population growth for California, even though anti-sprawl and environmental concerns have slowed new housing construction.

Time is on the side of sellers. The demand for new homes is there. The supply is not. As long as the need is there, prices will continue to rise. Perhaps when the sun stops shining and the waves stop crashing on the beach, we have the next set of disasters and TV shows stop filming here, people will lose interest in living by the California coast.

(If you would like to more information of interest to property owners, e-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call at (310) 309-4219.)

SANTA MONICA RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

SOLD	530 15TH ST SANTA MONICA 90402	SOLD	3015 BENTLEY CT SANTA MONICA 90405	SOLD	2022 DELAWARE AVE #2 SANTA MONICA 90404
Date Sold 10/14/2003	SqFt: 4,748 List Price: \$2,395,000 Bed: 5 Sold Price: \$2,496,815 Pool Bath: 5	Date Sold 10/15/2003	SqFt: 1,035 List Price: \$565,000 Bed: 2 Lot Size: 2,117 Sold Price: \$550,000 Bath: 1.5	Date Sold 10/17/2003	SqFt: 1,452 List Price: \$439,000 Bed: 3 HOD: \$150 Sold Price: \$427,000 Bath: 2.5
SOLD	1273 PALISADES BEACH RD SANTA MONICA 90401	SOLD	1007 OCEAN AVE #404 SANTA MONICA 90403	SOLD	222 7TH ST #108 SANTA MONICA 90402
Date Sold 10/17/2003	SqFt: 3,243 List Price: \$2,195,000 Bed: 3 Lot Size: 2,500 Sold Price: \$2,100,000 Bath: 3.5	Date Sold 10/17/2003	SqFt: 2,010 List Price: \$1,039,000 Bed: 3 HOD: \$840 Sold Price: \$1,059,000 Pool Bath: 2.5	Date Sold 10/14/2003	SqFt: 759 List Price: \$415,000 Bed: 1 HOD: \$300 Sold Price: \$415,000 Bath: 1
SOLD	366 22ND ST SANTA MONICA 90402	SOLD	1013 10TH ST #5 SANTA MONICA 90403	SOLD	441 RAYMOND AVE #7 SANTA MONICA 90405
Date Sold 10/17/2003	SqFt: N/A List Price: \$1,895,000 Bed: 5 Lot Size: 7,550 Sold Price: \$1,800,000 Pool Bath: 4.5	Date Sold 10/14/2003	SqFt: 1,650 List Price: \$699,000 Bed: 2 HOD: \$270 Sold Price: \$715,000 Bath: 2.5	Date Sold 10/17/2003	SqFt: 999 List Price: \$399,000 Bed: 2 HOD: \$204 Sold Price: \$408,000 Bath: 2
SOLD	443 W RUSTIC RD SANTA MONICA 90402	SOLD	2543 6TH ST SANTA MONICA 90405	SOLD	1325 WASHINGTON AVE #A SANTA MONICA 90403
Date Sold 10/14/2003	SqFt: 0 List Price: \$1,415,000 Bed: 4 Lot Size: 0 Sold Price: \$1,390,000 Pool Bath: 3	Date Sold 10/14/2003	SqFt: 1,272 List Price: \$659,000 Bed: 2 HOD: \$195 Sold Price: \$661,000 Bath: 2.5	Date Sold 10/16/2003	SqFt: 620 List Price: \$349,000 Bed: 1 HOD: \$127 Sold Price: \$345,000 Bath: 1
SOLD	2202 YORKSHIRE AVE SANTA MONICA 90404	SOLD	912 17TH ST #5 SANTA MONICA 90403	SOLD	1512 BERKELEY ST SANTA MONICA 90404
Date Sold 10/16/2003	SqFt: 1,483 List Price: \$580,000 Bed: 4 Lot Size: 5,832 Sold Price: \$569,000 Bath: 2	Date Sold 10/15/2003	SqFt: 1,086 List Price: \$459,000 Bed: 3 HOD: \$200 Sold Price: \$478,000	Date Sold 10/16/2003	SqFt: 2,664 List Price: \$845,000 #Units: 4 Lot Size: 8,123 Sold Price: \$8,450,000 GRM: 0.00

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REAL ESTATE



How important is Prop. 13 to California's economy?



IN YOUR SPACE

By Christina S. Porter

With the scramble to find money to offset California's tremendous budget crisis and the 25-year anniversary of Proposition 13's approval, the tax restrictions imposed by its approval are in the spotlight once again.

In this volatile economic climate, it seems that the tax restrictions mandated by Prop. 13 are at least partially responsible for the relative stability and predictability found in the residential and commercial real estate markets. The need for that stability and predictability are clearly a dynamic factor in investors' voracious, sometimes even unreasonable, appetite for real estate.

It is clear by all accounts that the business climate in California is considered to be hostile and is getting worse (worker's comp, etc.). Leaving the amount of what property taxes will be up to the uncertainty of not only the real estate market but economic conditions in general would be counter productive.

As any investor knows when evaluating the return on an investment, there is a good amount of speculation involved and the bottom line is that you cannot predict

what your final return will be until you actually liquidate that asset.

Property taxes, along with fixed rate loans, seem to be the only constants in the equations formulated for investing. The impact of Prop. 13 may be just the ingredient to counter balance at least a portion of the perceived hostility in the California business climate. It has been said that total property tax revenues to local governments in the state have increased at a rate exceeding inflation and virtually all other economic indicators.

When considering an investment in either residential or commercial real estate, one certainty is that your property taxes will not be any more than 1 percent of the purchase price and that they cannot be increased more than 2 percent annually. In a world of capricious economic conditions, Prop. 13 is a breath of fresh air.

The way people invest or don't invest their money is ultimately a barometer of the economic/emotional health of our society. It's clear to me that stability is very attractive in our fast moving, unpredictable world and the predictability inherent in Prop. 13 creates a much-needed stabilizer for our economy while at the same time producing an increasing flow of tax dollars.

(Christina S. Porter is a senior associate at NAI Capital Commercial Real Estate, specializing in leasing, and selling office and industrial buildings.)

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SOLD/LEASED

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10/09/04	12400 Wilshire Blvd	\$2.35 FS	3,878
9/25/03	1201 Electric Avenue	\$2.15 NNN	2,171



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STATE

Political rhetoric heats up ahead of Justice Brown's confirmation hearings

BY DAVID KRAVETS
AP Legal Affairs Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The rhetoric heated up as Justice Janice Rogers Brown prepared to appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee as President Bush's nominee to a federal appeals court judgeship.

It's not clear whether Brown, a conservative and the only black member of the California Supreme Court, will get confirmed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia or become embroiled in political gridlock that has scuttled other Bush nominations.

Civil rights, abortion, gay, minority and women's groups went on the offensive Monday, holding news conferences in Los Angeles and San Francisco urging Brown's defeat.

"She might be nice to have lunch with, but that doesn't mean I want her on the Supreme Court or the D.C. Court of Appeals," said Gillian Small, president of the California Association of Black Lawyers.

Martha Swiller, acting chief executive officer of Planned Parenthood in Los Angeles, criticized Brown's stances on abortion.

"Let's not be fooled by Janice Brown's gender," Swiller said. "Her record proves this is just the latest example of President Bush's war on women."

After the news conferences, the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, came out in support of Brown, as did the Institute for Justice, a libertarian public-interest law firm.

"Justice Brown is an incredibly gifted jurist," said Todd Gaziano, the foundation's legal studies director. "The administration is lucky to have talked her into considering this position."

Clint Bolick, vice president of the Institute for Justice, said, "Justice Brown is among the most distinguished judges in the country and passionately supports civil liberties across the board."

Brown's fate may rest with Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a California Democrat and member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which will hear Brown's case Wednesday.

"She has not taken a position yet," Feinstein spokesman Scott Gerber said. "In these cases of controversial appointees, she waits until after the hearing to take a position."

Senate Democrats have not announced

whether they will filibuster Brown. They are filibustering three judicial nominees and have forced one, Miguel Estrada, to withdraw his nomination.

A Christian black woman from the segregated South, Brown supports limits on abortion rights and corporate liability, routinely upholds the death penalty and opposes affirmative action.

Brown, 54, has two children and lives in Sacramento with her husband, jazz musician Dewey Parker.

Brown caught the attention of conservatives and the Bush administration with her majority opinion in 2000 that struck down a San Jose ordinance requiring government contractors to solicit bids from companies owned by women and minorities.

Her conclusion was based on California voters' decision to outlaw race- and gender-based hiring practices by approving Proposition 209: all people should be treated equally, regardless of race. Instead of affirmative action, she said, "equality of individual opportunity" is what the constitution demands.

Then-Gov. Pete Wilson nominated her to the California Supreme Court. She was confirmed in 1996 over the concerns of the state's judicial vetting committee, which rated her "not qualified" because of her limited judicial experience.

Brown's rulings, however, have shown sympathy at times to the plight of minorities.

Last year, the state Supreme Court upheld the conviction of a black bicyclist who was stopped by police for riding his bicycle the wrong way on a one-way street. Police searched Conrad McKay and found methamphetamine.

The majority, in upholding the conviction, left it to the "judgment of the arresting officer" on whether to arrest or follow a "cite-and-release procedure." Brown, in a lone dissent, said the decision left open the door to racial profiling.

But when it comes to the death penalty, Brown wrote two years ago that "murderers do not deserve a fate better than that inflicted on their victims."

On the abortion front, Brown wrote a scathing dissent in 1997 to a ruling that struck down a parental consent law, calling her colleagues on the court "philosopher kings."

And when it comes to corporate liability, she wrote three years ago that companies should be shielded from paying exorbitant civil damages, a move endorsed by the U.S. Supreme Court this year.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

STATE



Disney Hall raises profile of L.A. arts community

BY GARY GENTILE
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Despite being home to a world-class symphony, a thriving theater community and top museums, Los Angeles has long suffered an inferiority complex in the arts.

That should change Thursday with the opening concert at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, which also is expected to serve as a catalyst for urban renewal and an architectural center of gravity.

"When people think of Los Angeles, they think of the entertainment industry. They don't think of culture," said John Emerson, chairman and chief executive officer of the Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County. "They think of new fads and they think of sprawl and a place that doesn't have a core."

The Disney Hall's 3.6 acres of stainless steel and glass already has become a city landmark, resembling a ship with billowing sails or a flower with unfolding petals. The \$274 million building, designed by renowned architect Frank Gehry, will be the new home of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Los Angeles Master Choral.

"This will have a huge impact on the perception of Los Angeles as a cultural environment," said the philharmonic's conductor, Esa-Pekka Salonen, who described the hall's design as "very West Coast."

"It's serious and unique at the same time," he said.

The concert hall was conceived by Walt Disney's widow, Lillian, who donated \$75 million in its early stages. While it was inspired by her husband's love of classical music, its shape and much of its decorations are a tribute to Lillian's love of flowers.

"I showed her a bowl of white roses and I said, 'I'm going to make a flower for you,'" Gehry said during the hall's dedication Monday. "And she didn't quite get it. She thought I was putting her on. But I think, as you drive around the city, it's kind of a flower. I hope it is, for her."

The Disney Hall is the latest significant piece of architecture built in the city in recent years.

The \$1 billion Getty Center Museum opened in 1997 in the Santa Monica Mountains, on clear days commanding a view of the Pacific Ocean on one side and the downtown skyline on the other. A year ago, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles opened its new cathedral, the \$200 million Our Lady of the Angels, just blocks from the new concert hall.

But where the cathedral has been maligned for its imposing, prison-like appearance, the concert hall has been embraced as the centerpiece of a renewed urban center.

Located near the Music Center, the Disney Concert Hall is hoped to be the centerpiece of a plan to rejuvenate the downtown of a city where most of the nightlife takes place in Hollywood, Westwood, Fairfax or other neighborhoods that ring the downtown business district like distant satellites.

The city has announced a \$1.2 billion plan to create a 16-acre downtown park, linking the Disney Hall and the cathedral at one end with the recently refurbished Central Library at the other. The promenade will include sidewalk dining, shop-

ping and outdoor performance spaces.

The goal is to encourage a nightlife in a downtown where commuters normally flee by 6 p.m.

The Disney Concert Hall was designed to connect immediately with the public, even those who don't have concert tickets. During the day, jurors called to downtown courtrooms will park in the garage under the hall and take elevators up into the grand lobby before heading to the nearby courthouses. Restaurants inside the hall will be open for lunch and a garden will be open to the public.

It's already been a hit with the musicians and singers whose job it will be to add life to the building.

The Los Angeles Master Choral recently took the hall "for a test drive," in the words of choral director Grant Gershon.

"This hall rewards good singing," he said as acappella notes rose up the gently sloped terraced seats into the balconies.

The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, home to the Los Angeles Philharmonic for 39 years, swallowed much of the sound, forcing musicians to play harder just to be heard.

"A velvet haze hung over the sound over there," Gershon said. "It took off all the edges, good bad or indifferent."

The acoustics for the Disney Hall were designed by Yasuhisa Toyota, who also worked on the Suntory Hall in Tokyo and with Gehry on the Bard College Performing Arts Center in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York.

The design will give longtime concertgoers an experience that has been reserved for those privileged enough to hear the Los Angeles Philharmonic play in better halls around the world.

"Some members of our audience have traveled with us and heard the orchestra in acoustically more favorable environments," Salonen said. "In the new hall, a normal Los Angeles music lover will have the first opportunity to hear what the orchestra really sounds like, and I think they will be pretty astonished."

Adjustable bowed strips of wood and curved surfaces produce a crisper sound without as much effort. The 2,265 seats, which surround the stage, are cradled in swooping panels of Douglas fir, creating a warm, intimate sound.

A pipe organ, which will be completed next year, sits in the back of the hall, its square wooden pipes askew, like pencils tossed into a coffee cup.

The hall becomes the fourth venue for the downtown Music Center, which includes the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the Ahmanson Theater and the Mark Taper Forum.

Los Angeles already is home to an opera company headed by tenor Plácido Domingo and a thriving theater scene that has incubated its share of Broadway-bound plays.

"This is a very vibrant artistic and intellectual community here that simply gets no credit," said Deborah Borda, who left her post as executive director of the New York Philharmonic in 1999 to become president of the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Emerson, of the Performing Arts Center, foresees the Disney Hall as a prime tourist attraction.

"When people think of Los Angeles," he said, "the first image that pops into their mind won't be just the Hollywood sign."

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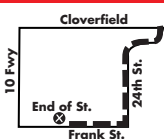
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Doctor makes house calls for Botox injections

BY ROBERT WELLER
 Associated Press Writer

DENVER—Beauty is Dr. Phil Nguyen's business. Convenience is his specialty.

The Denver doctor is one of the few in the nation making house calls to give Botox injections. He'll even drive to Aspen and Vail, mountain haunts of celebrity haute couture, to give local plastic surgeons a little competition with the anti-wrinkle treatments.

"We can perform it in the comfort of their own home and they don't have to wait in traffic, the doctor's office or be embarrassed by being seen in the doctor's office," said Nguyen, who uses an unmarked car.

Dr. Andrew Klapper, a plastic surgeon who began offering a similar service in New York City last summer, added: "For a busy professional getting to the doctor becomes a mission to the moon."

Botox is short for botulinum toxin, which is lethal. A tiny, purified amount injected into people's faces temporarily paralyzes muscles beneath the skin, eliminating wrinkles. Botox also is used to treat nerve disorders.

Botox manufacturer Allergan insists the injections are safe, though spokesman Jeff Richardson declined to endorse the

mobile treatments.

"This is a prescription product that needs to be treated with the utmost safety procedures in the proper medical setting by a physician," he said.

"I don't have to sit in a waiting room ..."

— JACK GREENWOOD
 Customer

Nguyen, who left Vietnam for the United States with his family in 1978, insists he is not some sort of vacuum cleaner salesman. He said many medical services send nurses to homes to give injections.

"That is all this is, an injection," said Nguyen (pronounced win).

Jack Greenwood, a 40-year-old Denver resident, is one of the satisfied customers. He has had two injections from Nguyen, who charges \$200 per injection plus a \$50 travel fee for Denver house calls (\$75 for customers in Aspen or Vail).

"I don't have to go across town. I don't have to sit in a waiting room, and for those people who are nervous it may be easier doing it at home," he said Tuesday. "Doctors used to do house calls. What goes around comes around."

Sandbagging under way in Washington state as rivers rise following record rainfall

BY JIM COUR
 Associated Press Writer

MOUNT VERNON, Wash. — Volunteers stacked sandbags as the Skagit River rose toward an expected major flood crest Tuesday night, following the second torrential rainstorm in the Pacific Northwest in less than a week.

"I've never seen it like this," said Handy Booth, a building inspector in the farm town of Mount Vernon, as he prepared to help build a mile-long wall of sandbags 6 feet high and 6 feet deep on Main Street, between the river and downtown.

Flood warnings were posted along eight rivers in western Washington Tuesday, down from 11 on Monday, when record rains fell on ground already saturated by a storm last Thursday blamed for one death.

Rainfall eased considerably Tuesday, following Monday's deluge in which Seattle-Tacoma International Airport recorded a record for the date of 5.02 inches. Records elsewhere included 7.2 inches at Shelton and 5.39 at Hoquiam.

Running thick with mud, logs and debris, the Skagit was forecast to crest in Mount Vernon, 55 miles north of Seattle, at 38 feet — 10 feet above flood stage and about half a foot higher than the town's record set in 1990. Twenty rivers flooded in western Washington in 1990, displacing thousands of people and doing \$160 million in damage.

Upstream near Concrete, the river crested early Tuesday at 42.2 feet — 14.2 feet above flood stage. The night before, residents of low-lying areas near Concrete and Marblemount were evacuated, said

spokesman Ric Boge with the county Public Works Department.

"I'm scared. I'm worried about what's going to happen."

— RICK MORELAND
 Business owner

East of Concrete in Hamilton, Judy Alkire and her husband were among about 120 residents who moved their recreational vehicles to higher ground in a church parking lot. "It's only the second time in four days," she said cheerfully. "If you want to live in God's country, you've got to do what you've got to do."

In Mount Vernon, residents also scrambled to sandbag the courthouse, shops and the barriers that protect against high water on the Skagit.

"I used to be a meat wrapper, and I thought I was in good shape, but I guess not," Donna Nelson, 48, a college student said, taking a quick break.

Rick Moreland, owner of Rick's Just-a-Bite restaurant, grew so frustrated hearing all the flood news he turned off his radio. "I'm scared. I'm worried about what's going to happen," he said. "But I feel we've done everything we can. It's out of our hands."

Moreland, 42, moved four refrigerators, an ice machine and food into friends' homes and planned to wait out the flooding at his trailer home in Burlington, which also was threatened.

NATIONAL



British Columbia opens first legal place to shoot up

BY JEREMY HAINSWORTH

Associated Press Writer

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — David Lands walked into the upscale office building, checked in with the receptionist and headed inside — to shoot heroin and cocaine into his veins.

The frail Lands was one of the first addicts to use North America's only government-sponsored safe injection site, which opened in September as a trial project in a seamy downtown neighborhood known for junkies and prostitutes.

"They should have more places like this," Lands said, holding two peanut butter and jelly sandwiches provided by the staff at the Insite clinic as he recovered from his heroin and cocaine speedball. "You'd find less people in the alleys that have overdosed."

Critics disagree, predicting that the provision of a legal place for addicts to shoot up will only lead to more drug use. John P. Walters, chief of the U.S.-anti drug effort, called Insite "state-sponsored suicide."

Those who are using the clinic believe the opposite.

Lands, a 32-year-old who has been addicted to heroin since 1997, said junkies can end up injured or dead from robbers or overdosing when they use drugs in alleys and other out-of-the-way spots.

"If you overdose, they help you here," he said. "Not in the alleys. They don't care."

A 39-year-old construction worker, who would identify himself only as Joe, agreed that Insite is safer.

"I was in an alley shooting up and two guys stuck a knife in my throat," he said, describing a robbery of his drugs. "They would have killed me if I hadn't given it up."

Similar clinics operate in Zurich, Switzerland; Frankfurt, Germany; and Sydney, Australia. Canada's federal government has committed \$1.2 million for research during the one-year pilot project at Insite, while British Columbia is paying \$2.4 million in costs.

Mayor Larry Campbell, a former police officer and

coroner, won election last year pledging to establish safe injection sites in Vancouver as part of a "four pillar" drug policy involving treatment, prevention, harm reduction and enforcement.

He says Insite is a vital part of efforts to reduce overdose deaths and the spread of AIDS and hepatitis C and to provide primary health care to drug users.

The World Health Organization has singled out Vancouver for a high HIV infection rate in a wealthy, Western city. According to the British Columbia Center for Disease Control, more than 30 percent of the area's addicts are infected with HIV or have full-blown AIDS, and the city already was handing out needles to addicts in an anti-infection program.

Joanne Csete, a spokesman for Human Rights Watch, praised the opening of Insite as essential to helping users avoid overdoses and infection while exposing them to help toward kicking the habit.

"It's certainly a step forward," she said. "We hope they will continue to respect this as a part of essential humane services for drug users."

The clinic is exempt from Canadian drug laws, allowing the addicts to possess heroin and cocaine inside. Such an exemption can be made for medical or scientific rea-

sons, or if in the public interest.

Lands and Joe said Insite requires addicts to bring their own drugs. The clinic provides a bowl containing a needle, a "cooker" and matches to heat up the drugs, and an antiseptic swab.

Junkies using Insite's facilities have their backs to nurses when shooting up, but they are monitored by mirrors in the 12 injection booths, the two men said. Nurses show those who ask how to inject safely, but otherwise have no direct role in the process, they said.

After injecting, users are monitored in a "chill-out room" — where Lands got his sandwiches — before leaving. They also can get help if they want to kick their habits.

Vivianna Zanocco of the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, which runs the clinic with a local advocacy group, said smoking marijuana or crack cocaine inside is prohibited.

She added that worries about drug dealers congregating around the site have proved unfounded.

Police officers maintain a low profile outside, permitting addicts to enter the clinic with their drugs.

"It is not the police intention to intervene or interfere with anyone entering the site, unless there is a lawful reason to do so," Police Chief Jamie Graham said.

Former port of entry director pleads guilty

By The Associated Press

PHOENIX — The former immigration director of the San Luis port of entry faces up to 15 years in prison after pleading guilty to falsifying immigration documents.

Mark Reeves, an assistant U.S. Attorney in Yuma, said Lisa Stubbs, 36, pleaded guilty as part of a plea

agreement reached on Oct. 14.

Reeves said that as part of the agreement, Stubbs acknowledged that she traded immigration papers for vials of the morphine-based drug Temgesic on at least 25 occasions.

Last October, FBI agents placed Stubbs under surveillance based on a tip. Authorities said that on Oct. 24, 2002, agents witnessed the woman

exchange immigration paperwork with Juan Ortiz-Herrera, of Mexico, a co-defendant in the case.

Reeves said that three sets of documents were exchanged for about \$585 of the drug Temgesic in that instance.

Besides the prison term, Stubbs faces a maximum fine of \$250,000 when she is sentenced on Jan. 15.

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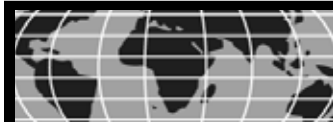
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WORLD BRIEFLY

The list is long for pope successors

By The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — His health failing, Pope John Paul II added 30 names to the list of his possible successors Tuesday, installing a diverse collection of cardinals in a consistory some say may be his last.

In a ritual-filled ceremony on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica, the 83-year-old pope was giving the new "princes of the church" their red hats and declaring them members of the elite band of churchmen who will elect the next pope.

"We don't know whether that will be in one month or five years," said Scottish Archbishop Keith O'Brien, one of the new cardinals. "But that's really the priority for cardinals."

The pope's increasing frailty, on display during a rigorous week of ceremonies surrounding his 25th anniversary, added poignancy to Tuesday's consistory.

As a result, the current roster of cardinals is considered to be the list of possible popes, since cardinals largely choose from among themselves for the top job in the Roman Catholic Church.

Teacher's strike over

By The Associated Press

EVERETT, Wash. — Striking teachers in Marysville voted to obey a judge's order and go back to work, ending the longest teachers' strike in state history.

The vote Monday night was 420-181 to begin teaching classes Wednesday, the first of this school year for the district's 11,000 students, said Rich Wood, a Washington Education Association spokesman.

"It is time for all the adults to grow up and start looking at their obligations to these children," Snohomish County Superior Court Judge Linda C. Krese said earlier Monday, upset that four days of court-ordered negotiations failed to yield a contract.

Had teachers decided to violate the order, they could have faced fines of \$250 a day.

"Marysville teachers will return to the classrooms and our students," said Elaine Hanson, president of the Marysville Education Association, "but our fight doesn't end tonight."

Hanson said teachers support a change in school board membership, and will continue to seek "a fair and reasonable contract" through negotiations.

A college education costs more

By The Associated Press

The average cost of tuition and fees at the nation's four-year colleges and universities is more than 40 percent higher now than it was 10 years ago, a new study says.

The College Board, which owns the SAT, released its annual Trends in College Pricing report Tuesday, documenting cost increases that have been particularly steep in recent years because of big cuts in state funding.

"Higher education is often the first area to be cut," said William Truitt, the chairman of the American Council on Education and president of Rhodes College in Memphis. He was unsurprised by the findings.

Using inflation-adjusted dollars, the average cost of tuition and fees at state-supported four-year schools is now 47 percent higher than it was a decade ago, the study said. The average cost of tuition and fees at private colleges and universities, also adjusted for inflation, has grown by 42 percent over the same period.

Deficit climbs, but we're OK

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New Bush administration figures that show a record \$374.2 billion deficit for the federal budget year that just ended prove that the president's economic policies have shoved the country in the wrong direction, Democrats say.

White House officials and their Republican congressional allies counter that the numbers show just the opposite: The economy is on the mend, even as deficit still has further up to go.

The political fencing, barely a year before the next presidential and congressional elections, came as the White House's Office of Management and Budget announced the final 2003 deficit figure Monday.

Because the figures were lower than the White House's July projection of \$455 billion, administration officials cited it as evidence that their attempts to fortify the weak economy were working.

Muhammad defends himself in court

By The Associated Press

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — Cleared to defend himself against capital murder charges, John Allen Muhammad fired his lawyers and told jurors he had "nothing to do with" last year's Washington-area sniper attacks, surprising legal experts and raising the possibility that he could cross-examine shooting survivors and his alleged accomplice.

In a rambling but adamant 20-minute opening statement Monday, Muhammad, wearing a suit and tie, told the jury the evidence "will all show I had nothing to do with these crimes."

He asked jurors to pay close attention to the facts because "my life and my son's life is on the line," a reference to 18-year-old Lee Boyd Malvo, who is to go on trial next month in the shootings. The two are not related, but have referred to each other as father and son.

Muhammad is accused of shooting 53-year-old Dean Myers, the seventh victim in a three-week shooting spree last October that left 10 people dead in the Washington, D.C. area.

Circuit Judge LeRoy F. Millette Jr. granted Muhammad's request to represent himself after directly questioning Muhammad during a bench conference.

It was not clear why Muhammad decided to fire his court-appointed lawyers, who declined to comment and are serving as standby counsel and would assist Muhammad if he asks.

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INTERNATIONAL



Police make raid, 32 arrested in holy city of Karbala

BY ROBERT H. REID

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Coalition troops and Iraqi police arrested 32 people Tuesday in raids in the Shiite Muslim holy city Karbala, and U.S. troops fired in the air to disperse a crowd at the Oil Ministry after a woman objected to a search by a sniffer dog.

In Fallujah, troops of the 82nd Airborne Division were back on the streets Tuesday, one day after one paratrooper was killed and six wounded in an ambush. Two civilians, including a Syrian truck driver, were also killed.

A full 24 hours after the deaths in Fallujah, the U.S. command in Baghdad said it still had no comment on an allegation by the family of one of the dead civilians that he was killed by American troops after they detained him.

Polish military spokesman Capt. Andrzej Wiatrowski said the raid in Karbala, 50 miles south of Baghdad, took place before dawn against a group which seized an Iraqi official last week in a dispute over a bus, triggering armed clashes between rival Shiite factions.

An undetermined quantity of weapons and ammunition were also seized, the spokesman said. Troops and police later searched the home of a Shiite cleric, Khalid al-Kazemi. Three men and two women were detained for questioning, he said.

U.S. officials said only that the targets were "criminal elements" in the city, where an American lieutenant colonel and two other U.S. soldiers were killed last week. Polish authorities said more than 30 suspects in the killing of Lt. Col. Kim Orlando were detained Sunday.

A Polish military convoy traveling from Baghdad to Camp Babilon near Karbala was attacked with grenades but

"We don't want the Americans to search us. We want the Iraqi police to do the job. We don't want any Americans in the building of our ministry. We want them to leave."

— MUHAID AL-HAYANI
Oil Ministry employee

no one was injured, Polish officials said.

Tensions rose in Karbala last week after a transport official seized a bus owned by followers of radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and held him in the al-Mukayam mosque, where one of al-Sadr's offices are located.

That led to clashes between rival Shiite groups in which and several people were killed or injured. The clash appeared to be part of a power struggle in the majority Shiite community between forces of al-Sadr, a strong opponent of the U.S. military occupation, and followers of religious leaders who have taken a more moderate stand toward the Americans.

Last week, al-Sadr called on U.S. forces to announce a timetable for their "imminent departure from Iraq" and in the interim "they should not interfere at all with the Iraqi people."

The shooting at the Oil Ministry, which produced no casualties, illustrated the cultural chasm that divides the U.S. occupation from ordinary Iraqis. At one point, fists and rifle butts flew between U.S. soldiers and ministry employees. No serious injuries were immediately reported.

The confrontation began when 28-year-old Amal Karim showed up for work Tuesday morning and faced a routine search at the ministry entrance by U.S.

soldiers, who have tightly guarded the building since the end of the U.S.-Iraq war last April.

When the Americans told her to submit her bag to a sniff-search by a dog, she refused, saying the bag held a copy of the Quran, Iraqi witnesses later reported.

Devout Iraqis often carry Islam's holy book with them, and Muslims consider dogs to be dirty, disease-spreading animals.

"When she refused, the American soldiers took the Quran out of her bag and threw it to the ground," said one woman, Zaineb Rahim. "Then the American soldiers handcuffed Amal."

Pushing and punching followed between soldiers and Iraqis, Americans struck out with rifle butts, and soon about 100 Iraqis had gathered in angry protest outside the huge, modern building on Baghdad's northern edge, leading the Americans to fire shots in the air, the witnesses said.

As the protesters hoisted an Iraqi flag, officers of the tiny, newly formed Iraqi army appeared, trying to ease tensions.

"We don't want the Americans to search us," said employee Muhaid al-Hayani. "We want the Iraqi police to do the job. We don't want any Americans in the building of our ministry. We want them to leave."

Karim was eventually released and was summoned to the oil minister's office, colleagues reported.

The incident Monday in Fallujah began when insurgents attacked a dismounted patrol from the 82nd Airborne Division with a homemade bomb and small-arms fire.

Reporters and Iraqi witnesses said the paratroopers raked the area with return fire, then raided a mosque and houses looking for the attackers. They detained at least nine Iraqis, including a woman, residents said.

The bodies of the two civilians killed in the Monday attack — an Iraqi and a Syrian truck driver — were taken to Fallujah General Hospital. The Associated Press saw that one of them, Iraqi Nazem Baji, had a gunshot wound in the back of his head and his hands were tied in front of him with plastic bands similar to those used by the U.S. military when they arrest suspects.

"They (Americans) raided the house, shot him first in the leg, tied his hands and then shot him in the head," said the victim's brother, Dira'a Baji. Baji said his brother was the only male in the house when the Americans came but that several women relatives were present and described what happened. None of the women was at the hospital.

The U.S. military press office in Baghdad said it had no information on the allegation and referred AP to the 82nd Airborne press office. An e-mail request for comment was forwarded but no reply was received.

Police Lt. Mahmoud al-Falahi said the truck driver was killed in the crossfire. The trailer was lying on its side on a bridge, and the cab's windshield was pocked with bullet holes.

Bush seeking more help from Asia in war on terrorism

BY TOM RAUM

Associated Press Writer

SINGAPORE — President Bush pressed for closer Asian partnerships in the war on terror, carrying his appeal Tuesday to free-trade partner Singapore and planning for a visit to Bali, Indonesia, under unusually tight security precautions.

The president arrived here from an economic summit in Bangkok, Thailand, where regional leaders pledged to intensify their crackdown on terror groups and to curb the spread of unconventional weapons.

Bush failed to win explicit endorsement by the 21-nation Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum for a new U.S.-led diplomatic initiative to end a yearlong nuclear standoff with North Korea. And North Korea's firing of a short-range missile appeared to undercut progress toward an agreement.

The leaders called for resumption of international negotiations to resolve the North Korean impasse. The call was made by Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who chaired the annual APEC summit, and he spoke with the other leaders flanking him.

Bush came up empty in getting Asian allies to back U.S. efforts to persuade China to end an exchange-rate policy that U.S. manufacturers and politicians of both parties claim is costing American jobs.

First on Bush's agenda in Singapore Tuesday was a meeting with President S.R. Nathan and Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong. Though Bush and Goh said little of substance afterward, they issued a joint statement that called for tougher steps against terrorism.

"The prime minister is a wise man and understands Southeast Asia very well," Bush said in a picture-taking session. "A lot of our discussion was how we can continue to foster our intent, which is one of peace and freedom as well as prosperity."

The statement welcomed the recent arrest of Riduan Isamuddin Hambali, leader of the al-Qaida linked Southeast Asia terror group Jemaah Islamiyah, and a key figure in last October's hotel bombings in Bali.

The two leaders "recognized that much headway had been made in disrupting terrorist networks but agreed that more needed to be done and that the campaign against terrorism required a sustained long-term effort," it said.

Bush and Goh also discussed Iraq, the statement said, and Bush expressed thanks for Singapore's contributions toward Iraq's reconstruction, including training the Iraqi police to protect critical installations.

Bush's trip was his first to Singapore, and just the second by a U.S. president. Bush's father met Goh here in January 1992.

Singapore has been one of America's staunchest allies in Southeast Asia in the war on terror, arresting more than 30 suspected Islamic militants since 2001 for investigation of plotting to blow up the U.S. Embassy and other Western targets here.

"I'm very happy with the government of Singapore's response to terrorism. They are strong and they are resolute," Bush said in an interview last week with Channel News Asia. "They understand the task at hand. And they understand the dangers."

Bush was spending the night in the city-state before heading on Wednesday to Bali, Indonesia, site of nightclub bombings last Oct. 12, which killed 202 people. Indonesia's security minister, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, warned on Monday that "the threat of terrorist attacks is imminent."

A senior administration official said Bush intended with his Indonesia visit to show solidarity with President Megawati Sukarnoputri's vigorous pursuit of those involved in the Bali bombings and other terror activities.

Bush will also salute the emergence of Indonesia's

democracy, and suggest that Indonesia's success "is crucial to stability in Southeast Asia," the official told reporters traveling with Bush on Air Force One.

With warships patrolling the seas off Bali and armored vehicles taking up positions near the island's airport, the official said Bush was not concerned about terror threats. "I don't think the president has any worries about his personal safety," the official said on condition of anonymity.

Bush last month signed a free-trade agreement with Singapore — the first such accord between the United States and an Asian country.

Earlier, in Bangkok, Bush also announced his administration was launching free-trade negotiations with Thailand. The United States already has free-trade pacts with Chile, Israel, Jordan, Canada and Mexico.

Bush has said that free trade "is vital to the creation of jobs." Critics say the agreements could cost U.S. jobs by giving companies an incentive to move to cheaper labor markets.

Singapore is America's 12th-largest trading partner with two-way transactions worth about \$40 billion annually.

Relations turned chilly in 1994, when Singapore authorities, over objections from then-President Bill Clinton, caned American teenager Michael Fay for spray-painting cars. But they have warmed since.

Goh said before Bush's visit that terrorism in Asia cannot be stopped unless countries prevent extremist Islamic teachers from producing new militants.

Before flying to Singapore, Bush helped close the APEC forum.

The Asia-Pacific leaders' final communique did not specifically mention North Korea's nuclear threat, although U.S. officials said North Korea was alluded to in the call for all countries to "eliminate the severe and growing danger problem posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction."

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- 26 Chiding sound
- 27 Guitar pioneer Paul

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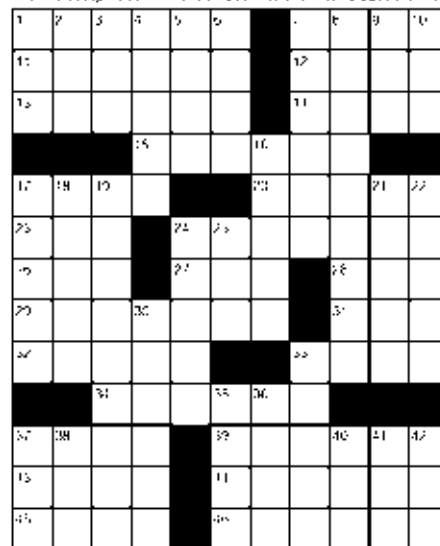
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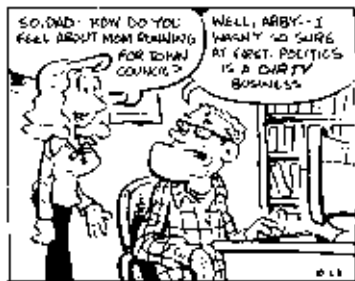
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SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2003

EVENTS

What's so funny about Halloween?

The Ocean Park Library presents "Halloween Ha Ha's," a program featuring wonderful children's stories and a funny puppet show suited for children, ages 3-7. For more information, call (310) 392-3804. 3:30-4:30 p.m. Ocean Park Library, 2601 Main St.

Free Self-Defense Workshop

Attend a free self-defense workshop for women and girls ages 16 and up from 6:30-9:30 p.m., sponsored by Find the Children. This workshop is part of the YWCA's Week Without Violence 2003, a national campaign that focuses on practical alternatives to violence, bringing to life a safer, more peaceful and healthy community. For more information, call (310) 452-3881. YWCA, 2019 14th St.

Family Holiday Bazaar

Next weekend, peruse a vast selection of gifts, jewelry, boutique items, plants, baked goods, attic treasures, stationary, clothing, children items and household goods. This bazaar will support Habitat for Humanity and is sponsored by Mission and Youth Groups. It will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25 and is open to the public. Also, there will be a Scottish Meat Pie Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. which costs \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. Free parking will be available

in the underground parking structure located on the north side of Arizona, between Ocean and Second with a validation stamp obtained at the church's Desk. First Presbyterian Church, 1220 Second St.

CULTURE

Puppetol!

Watch a puppet show at the Santa Monica Puppet and Magic Center. This is a great place to take the kids and to unwind after a long day. 1 p.m. 1255 2nd St. (310) 656-0483

Teen read week author presentation

A lecture and discussion by Cristina Garcia about her literary works and life as a writer will be held from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Admission is free and open to all teens. For more information, call (310) 450-0443. Santa Monica Library, Fairview Branch, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd.

Comedic Lectures by John Lehr

John Lehr explains what he has learned in life during this partly improvisational, partly storytelling lecture. The act is a non-stop tour of recollection from one hilarious experience to the next. 8 p.m. The Powerhouse Theatre, 3116 2nd Street 1-800-41-FUNNY

ENTERTAINMENT

Temple Bar

Here visitors can enjoy concoctions like White Chocolate Martinis, a Gingitini or a Razzmatazz. Those who are really hungry can enjoy a Chicken Tamale Plate with Fried Plantains. Temple Bar even offers vegetarian options like veggie eggrolls and burgers. But no good bar would be complete without live music. Tonight, the Temple Bar features DJ Jeremy Sole's Musicals and the following: Will Bernard and Motherbug at 9 p.m., and Robert Walters 20th Congress at 10:30 p.m. \$10. 1026 Wilshire Blvd., (310) 393-6611

Harvelle's

Established in 1931, Harvelle's is the oldest blues club on the west side. This is the kind of blues joint you'd expect to find in a dark Chicago alley; yet even if it's your first visit, it feels familiar. Tonight Harvelle's features Earl Thomas. 1432 4th St., (310) 395-1676

14 Below

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1332 2nd Street
Pray for Rock and Roll - 1:45, 4:35, 7:25, 10:05
Dirty Pretty Things - 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45
Wonderland R - 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45
Station Agent - 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd
Pieces of April - 4:30, 7:30, 10:00
Returner - 4:00, 7:00, 9:45

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1441 Third Street Promenade
Kill Bill Vol. 1 R - 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00, 2:15, 3:30, 5:00, 6:05, 7:40, 9:00, 10:30
Lost in Translation R - 10:45 a.m., 11:20 a.m., 1:10, 1:50, 3:45, 4:30, 6:10, 7:15, 8:40, 9:45
Mystic River - 12 p.m., 12:45 p.m., 3:50, 6:30, 7:15, 10:30

AMC SANTA MONICA 7

1310 Third Street Promenade
House of the Dead R - 1:05, 4:15, 7:25, 9:40
Out of Time PG-13 - 2:10, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45
School of Rock PG-13 - 1:40, 4:25, 7:00, 9:35
Intolerable Cruelty PG-13 - 2:10, 4:35, 7:10, 9:55
Under the Tuscan Sun PG-13 - 2:20, 4:50, 7:05, 9:30
The Texas Chainsaw Massacre R - 1:30, 2:30, 4:00, 5:00, 6:45, 7:35, 9:20, 10:00

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Actress Diana Rigg accepts \$48K for libelous articles

By The Associated Press

■ **LONDON** — Diana Rigg has accepted \$48,000 libel damages from the publisher of two tabloids she said portrayed her as an embittered woman who held British men in low regard.

The 65-year-old actress was at London's High Court Monday for the settlement of her libel action against Associated Newspapers.

Her lawyer, Tom Amlot, told the court that articles appeared about her in September 2002 in the Daily Mail, and the following month in both the Daily Mail and the Evening Standard.

Among other things, they said she was critical of British men and had retired to live as a recluse in France, Amlot said.

The first Daily Mail article had suggested incorrectly that she had discussed the reasons for the break up of her second marriage to businessman Archie Stirling and had discussed her first marriage to painter Menachem Gueffen, he added.

Amlot said the star of the 1960s TV series "The Avengers" also was concerned that the suggestion she was retiring would harm her professional reputation and ability to secure work.

Matt McKenzie, representing the newspapers, said they had apologized. Apart from damages, they also agreed to pay Rigg's court costs and make a donation to the Children with AIDS charity, he said.

■ **NEW YORK** — George Plimpton left the bulk of his \$5.5 million estate to his wife and children and expressed a wish for the Paris Review literary journal to continue operating out of his Manhattan apartment.

In papers filed Monday in Surrogate Court in Manhattan, Plimpton said that "it is my wish and hope that the space in my apartment ... which is currently made available rent free to the Paris Review shall continue to be made available without charge for so long as

reasonably possible."

Plimpton, who died last month at 76, helped found the journal in 1953 with an aim to emphasize literature over literary criticism. Plimpton edited the magazine until his death. No replacement has been named; in 2000, a foundation was established to ensure the magazine would continue after Plimpton.

The journal published the work of emerging authors, including Philip Roth and Jack Kerouac, and an unparalleled series of interviews in which Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner and others discussed their craft.

Plimpton left most of his \$5.5 million fortune to his second wife, Sarah, who lives in the East 72nd Street co-op with their twin daughters. He also left \$500,000 to his first wife, Freddy; a house in Bridgehampton, on Long Island, to two children from his first marriage; and established trusts for all four children.

■ **LONDON** — Indian composer A.R. Rahman and a Finnish folk troupe have been commissioned to write songs for a musical stage version of "The Lord of the Rings," the show's producer announced Tuesday.

Rahman, a veteran Bollywood songwriter who scored the Andrew Lloyd Webber-produced musical "Bombay Dreams," will collaborate with the group Varttina on the adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy trilogy, which has spawned a hit film series.

"We are recreating Middle-earth and we needed the music that goes with it to be unique," said Kevin Wallace, who's producing the West End show.

"A.R. Rahman writes brilliant melodies with an exotic quality and we know he will write something which audiences will adore."

Tolkien is thought to have drawn on the Finnish folk epic the "Kalevala" to create the world of Middle-earth and the story of a hero's quest for a magical ring. The Finnish language inspired the Elvish tongue of Tolkien's trilogy.

The "Lord of the Rings" musical is scheduled to open in London in spring 2005. Wallace has said the produc-

tion is budgeted at \$13 million, which would make it the most expensive musical in West End history.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — John O'Hurley, who played pompous clothing catalog king J. Peterman on the "Seinfeld" TV series, is getting married.

O'Hurley will wed Lisa Mesloh, an executive with The Golf Channel, publicist Liza Anderson said Monday.

The couple, both avid golf players, got engaged during a recent visit to the world famous Pebble Beach golf course, Anderson said.

O'Hurley hid the engagement ring in the cup of the 7th hole. When Mesloh approached the pin, she found the ring box in the hole, but was too focused on the competition to realize what was happening.

When O'Hurley got down on one knee and proposed, a teary Mesloh finally understood what was going on and said, "Yes."

The wedding likely will take place next year.

■ **PASADENA** — A man accused of running over a woman outside a radio station where a crowd was gathered to see singer Justin Timberlake has pleaded no contest to gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, prosecutors said.

Cameron Albert Duty, 24, changed his previous innocent plea on Monday, the day his case was to go to trial. He's expected to be sentenced Nov. 3 to 18 years in state prison, said Deputy District Attorney Shelly Torrealba.

Duty was charged in the Sept. 9, 2002, death of 21-year-old Anna White of Bellevue, Wash., who was standing on a sidewalk outside the Burbank studios of KIS-FM when a pickup truck traveling in reverse struck her.

White was pinned under the pickup and dragged for about a block, police said. The truck then struck another vehicle before police pulled the driver over about a block away. Duty, who is from Los Angeles' Sylmar section, initially was arrested for investigation of drunk driving.

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