

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

15 17 23 33 45
Meganumber: 15
Jackpot: \$17 Million

FANTASY 5

2 8 13 23 33

DAILY 3

Daytime: 9 9 5
Evening: 0 4 0

DAILY DERBY

1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 04 Big Ben

RACE TIME: 1:42.64

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Sales recently passed 1.8 million units for German inventor Alex Benkhardt's "WC Ghost," a toilet voice alarm, activated when the seat is lifted, which scolds a man who tries to urinate while standing up. It is a difficult sell for some Germans, though, in that a slang word for "wimp" (sitzpinkler) is, literally, a man who sits to urinate. The scolding German voice resembles Chancellor Gerhard Schroder's, and the planned British version might use a voice resembling the queen's. And in The Netherlands, artist Leonard van Munster outfitted toilets in an Amsterdam cafe with more versatile sensors, able not only to admonish stand-up urinators but to offer, for example, anti-smoking messages if it detects that the user is lighting up.

TODAY IN HISTORY

ONE YEAR AGO: A rocket attack on the Al Rasheed Hotel in Baghdad, where U.S. officials were residing, killed an American colonel, wounded 18 other people and sent the visiting U.S. deputy defense secretary, Paul Wolfowitz, scurrying for safety. Thirteen deaths in Southern California were reported as wildfires fed by hot Santa Ana winds flared into gigantic waves of flame that devoured entire neighborhoods.

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Weller's story disputed as trial begins



Pool Photo

Russell Weller, 87, listens to testimony Monday morning, the first day of his preliminary criminal trial. Weller, whose walking cane bore a sticker that read 'PAPA,' is not expected to return to court for the remainder of the trial. He faces up to 18 years in prison for his role in the July 16, 2003, farmers' market crash.

Elderly driver braked just before he accelerated into farmers' market, witness testifies

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

LAX COURTHOUSE — Prosecutors began to lay out their case against Russell Weller on Monday, putting eyewitnesses on the stand who testified the elderly driver was fleeing from an accident when he sped through a downtown farmers' market in July 2003.

Weller, 87, faces one count of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence for each of the 10 victims killed in the accident. If convicted, he faces up to 18 years in prison.

A 914-page police report released last December indicated Weller mistakenly hit the gas pedal instead of the brake, causing his 1992 Buick LeSabre to continue accelerating as it headed west on Arizona Avenue and smashed through a sawhorse separating vehicle traffic from the market.

That version of events was contradicted on Monday by eyewitness Tricia Robbins, who said Weller was fleeing from an accident after rear-ending a car at Fourth Street and Arizona Avenue. Robbins said Weller looked up

Fourth Street before accelerating across the intersection, then veered slightly to the left and to the right, braked briefly and then sped straight into the market.

"I saw the car break the sawhorse-like barricade and I saw him just go into the market," said Robbins, who was crossing Fourth Street on foot when the accident happened. She shouted out Weller's license plate number to another pedestrian.

"I heard the screams travel through the market like when you're at Dodger Stadium and you see the wave go through the crowd," said Robbins.

Eyewitness Christopher Crain, who watched the accident from his third-floor office above Fourth Street, said after Weller rear-ended the other car he reversed his Buick slowly, paused and made a wide and deliberate turn around the other car, straightening his vehicle before he accelerated sharply. Crain testified he heard a loud crash and screams as Weller sped through the market.

See **WELLER**, page 4

Tall and short of it

CAMPAIGN 2004

By Daily Press staff

CITY AT LARGE — Over the next four years, elected leaders will be largely responsible for shaping how Santa Monica will be developed in the next two decades.

Not only will the City Council approve a citywide development plan that will dictate what kind of building will occur in the next 20 years, but several large-scale proposals already are in the works for downtown Santa Monica.

Macerich Co., which owns Santa Monica Place, is considering building skyscraper-style apartment and retail buildings at the south end of the Promenade. The concept is to create an open-air mall on the ground floor that would extend the Third Street Promenade through to Colorado Avenue. That would then connect to a planned multi-million dollar Civic Center that includes tall apartment buildings, open space, public amenities and a future light rail station. The entire development would be designed to allow pedestrians to walk from Wilshire Boulevard to Main Street. Because City Hall owns part of the property where the mall sits,

officials are considering a joint powers agreement with Macerich. Representatives from Macerich have met with several City Council candidates and council members individually to show them preliminary plans.

In addition, a new hotel at the Fairmont Miramar has been discussed for the past year and a half. Preliminary renderings show it to be a high-rise tower that will exceed any other downtown building, with the exception of the 100 Wilshire structure.

There also has been discussions amongst city officials to revamp the movie theaters on the Promenade, and possibly even move them elsewhere downtown.

In light of these plans, development has been a key issue for City Council candidates.

On pages 8 and 9, those seeking four open seats on the council have answered this question:

"Santa Monica is nearly built-out, and developers are pushing to rebuild and build up. How high should the buildings in Santa Monica be and what should the downtown district look like? Please address profits to the city's tax base related to future development."

See **RESPONSES**, pages 8-9

Tonight's \$500K special: Hydrogen cars, office digs

(Editor's note: This is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures which appear on the upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agenda. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.)

By Daily Press staff

CITY HALL — Elected officials here are expected to spend nearly a half million dollars on everything from office space to improving streets and the airport runway to purchasing five new hydrogen sedans.

The biggest ticket on tonight's agenda is \$148,000 for improvements to sidewalks, streets and the airport runway.

The \$148,000 is an addition to a \$5.8 million two-year project for street resurfacing, new curb ramps and bus pads, as well as repairs to curbs, gutters and sidewalks. The

project also included runway sealing and restriping at the Santa Monica Airport.

Between the time of the original contract — approved in 2003 — and construction, additional damage had occurred to sidewalks, curbs and gutters from tree root incursion and other causes, according to city staff. The construction of an additional concrete intersection on Wilshire Boulevard at 17th Street was added to the contract with Security Paving Company Inc., as well as improvements at the airport.

See **CONSENT**, page 5

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Let your mind relax, Aries

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

*****-Dynamic ****-Positive ***-Average **-So-so *-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
*** Early in the day, discuss funds that involve security, a domestic matter or a real estate issue. Clear the air. You discover that someone could be volatile or angry and directing his or her energy toward you. Take the high road, and don't become triggered. Tonight: Let your mind relax.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
** What you don't say might be more important than what you do say. Others will slowly open up if you don't pressure them. But, what you learn needs to be kept hush-hush right now. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
***** Aim for exactly what you want. Understand that it will not drop in your lap without some of your ingenuity and creativity. A child or a loved one feels left out and lets you know it. Make it OK to spread yourself thin. You scarcely have a choice. Tonight: Socialize away.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
** Keep your opinions to yourself, even when a difficult boss or associate pushes you beyond your limit. This person might be having an unusually hard time and cannot control his or her anger. Look the other way. Tonight: Race on home and turn on your answering machine.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
**** Look past the obvious and read between the lines. Your intuition could be a bit off, but your abilities to dig up the facts, make inquiries and find experts peak. Dynamic thinking opens many doors. State your case once you are sure of the facts. Tonight: Treat yourself to some mind candy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
**** You might want to curb your spending, even if others are encouraging you to go for it. You alone are responsible for your spending. A talk with a family member helps renew your perspective. Eye the long-term. Tonight: Let another treat.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
**** Others run with the ball, but you still cannot resist putting in your two cents. Could you be overreacting? Let others reveal their ideas and feelings. Discussions open up understanding. Brainstorm away. Tonight: Go along with plans.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
*** Holding in anger could backfire and make you a bit accident-prone. The issue for you is to express your feelings in a fashion that someone else can hear. Take a second look at your financial situation. Consider putting in overtime. Tonight: Play it low key.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
**** Keep your mind active, and you'll come up with unusual answers. You have that extra pow that makes the difference in the responses of others. Another's objection needs to be listened to. Make your plans or a project as good as possible. Tonight: So naughty and so nice.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
*** You find a boss a bit touchy or difficult. Do your best to pacify this person. You might need to rethink your plans and your approach. Realize that what you think is right might not be in sync with someone else. Tonight: Veg.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
***** Pick up the phone. You hear news that might force a change of plans. In fact, you might need to take off at the last minute. Friends and associates pitch in and help you get past an immediate problem. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news over a drink and munchies.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
*** Cut spending until you get a better handle on your budget, especially if you are attached. You might need to know what the left hand is doing. Check out insurance and taxes. You want to know where you stand. Tonight: Think "money."

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Fight cancer and be chic

By Daily Press staff

Learn about the latest fashions and dine in Beverly Hills all while supporting a Santa Monica cancer research center.

The John Wayne Cancer Institute Auxiliary will hold its annual membership luncheon and fashion show on Thursday, Oct. 28 at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills. The reception will begin at 11 a.m., lunch at 12 p.m.

John Wayne Cancer Institute breast cancer patient Lisa Bronson will be the recipient of the 2004 Ellen Cooperman "Angel" Award. Bronson, whose cancer was discovered during a routine mammogram, allowed "Lifetime Television's Speaking of Women's Health" television series to record every phase of her care.

"I feel so strongly about doing everything I can to ensure that women schedule regular mammograms, that I allowed television cameras to record very private moment," Bronson said. "If it saves the life of just one woman, it will have been worth it."

"Speaking of Women's Health" will receive the Auxiliary's first-ever "Public Service Award" for its ongoing dedication to educating women to make informed decisions about their health, well being, and personal safety, officials said.

Actress Donna Mills will be the luncheon special guest host. Featured during the luncheon will be fashions from the spring/summer 2005 collections of Richard Tyler, St. Pucci, Hanna Harnettll, and David Tupaz Couture. Also included will be jewels by Sculpture to Wear, Moo Roo Handbags, Nicole Miller Footwear, and Richard Tyler footwear. Actor Mark McCraw, brother of Tim, will emcee the show.

The John Wayne Cancer Institute Auxiliary was founded in 1982 when two women who had been treated for breast cancer at the institute pledged to help win the fight against the disease. They asked their friends to join their campaign and from the original nucleus of 14 women, the Auxiliary has grown to more than 800 members. Proceeds raised at all events support the John Wayne Cancer Institute, one of the world's foremost cancer research centers, providing funds for research projects, equipment, and fellowships. Since inception, the Auxiliary has raised more than \$12 million.

Tickets are \$125 each, which includes annual membership dues. For information about the luncheon, call (310) 829-8324 or visit www.jwci.org.

A frightening airing of aliens

By Daily Press staff

Friday will be the day the earth stood still in Santa Monica.

The third "Halloween Technology Salon," put on by the Santa Monica College Academy of Entertainment & Technology will feature a screening the 1958 Sci-Fi classic, "The Day the Earth Stood Still," combined with live performance art and a live synthesized soundtrack to produce a spooky experience.

The free event, "The Day the Earth Stood Still: A mixed media performance to a screening of the Science Fiction Classic" will include a screening of the silent film, with subtitles.

The event features special guest Monika Frycova, a Czech performance artist, in collaboration with SMC entertainment technology professor David Javelosa, creator of the Halloween salon.

Javelosa is creating a live soundtrack for the film and performance art with digital, analogue and sampling synthesizers. The event will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29 in the screening room (room 235) at SMC's Academy of Entertainment & Technology, located at 1660 Stewart St. Parking is free. For information, call (310) 434-3763.

CORRECTION — An article in the Oct. 25 edition on campaign fundraising contained an error. As of Oct. 16, City Councilman Herb Katz had raised a total of \$58,890 to promote his re-election bid — more than \$100,000 less than the lead fundraiser, candidate Bobby Shriver.



SURF REPORT

Today, look for mostly NW wind swell to go along with small, fading SW swell. Northern LA spots work the swell mix for inconsistent knee high surf at many spots with occasional waist high sets at top spots. South Bay spots drop are down below waist high for the most part, with a few waist high sets at best NW/combo breaks. Look for light and variable to light SW wind in the morning to build out of the SW in the 5-15 knot range by the later afternoon as a new storm front pushes down the coast.

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

Today the water is:

67°



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	12:46	-0.2	1:06	1.9	7:27	5.0	6:52	5.3
SUNDAY	1:25	0.0	1:51	1.2	7:54	5.4	7:44	5.3
MONDAY	1:59	0.2	2:32	0.6	8:20	5.7	8:31	5.1
TUESDAY	2:29	0.5	3:11	0.2	8:45	6.0	9:14	4.9
WEDNESDAY	2:56	0.9	3:47	-0.1	9:10	6.1	9:55	4.6
THURSDAY	3:21	1.4	4:23	-0.2	9:34	6.2	10:37	4.3
FRIDAY	3:44	1.8	5:00	-0.2	9:58	6.1	11:21	3.9

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The QLine

With the election only days away, most people have decided on who they will vote for as president. Because California has skirted most of the campaign rhetoric that most states have seen through slanted television ads, most Santa Monicans have been spared the spin coming from both President Bush and Sen. Kerry.

It's still anybody's race. However, with the electoral college vote system, it

appears Bush might win the election, despite majorities for Kerry elsewhere

This week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do you agree with the electoral college vote system? Why or why not?"

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



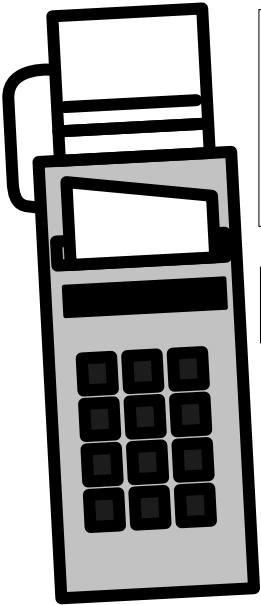
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LOCAL

Weller preliminary trial expected to take weeks

WELLER, from page 1

Monday was the first day of Weller's preliminary criminal trial, which is being heard by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Katherine Mader at the Airport Courthouse near LAX. If Judge Mader decides enough evidence exists against Weller, the case likely will go to a jury trial next year.

The preliminary trial originally was estimated to last two weeks, but testimony moved slowly on Monday, with just two of five scheduled witnesses taking the stand by midday. Prosecutors said they intend to put a total of 50 or 60 eyewitnesses and experts on the stand. Defense attorneys are expected to call another 15 people to testify, though Weller likely won't be among them.

Weller, who walked with a cane and wore a dark blazer and tie, waived his

right to be present for the rest of the preliminary trial, citing a heart condition that made it unsafe for him to be in court. He left the courthouse at a mid-morning break. To avoid news cameras waiting outside, Weller was ushered out of the building via a back route normally used for suspects being held in custody.

The criminal case against Weller is being tried by Deputy District Attorney Ann Ambrose, who was accompanied Monday by investigators from the Santa Monica Police Department and the California Highway Patrol. Four attorneys were present for Weller, including one civil attorney who sat in the courtroom taking notes. Dozens of crash victims also have filed civil lawsuits against Weller and the city of Santa Monica, which, attorneys argue, should have known such an accident could occur and could've taken measures to prevent it.

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HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

As ghosts, pirates and princesses prepare to descend on neighborhoods across America on Halloween night, the American Red Cross of Santa Monica offers parents our "lucky 13" safety tips to help prepare their children for a safe and enjoyable trick-or-treat holiday.

"Lucky 13"

Red Cross Halloween Safety Tips:

- Plan your route and share it with your family. If possible, have an adult go with you.
- Wear light-colored or reflective -type clothing so you are more visible. (And remember to put reflective tape on bikes, skateboards and brooms too!)
- Use face paint rather than masks or things that will cover your eyes.
- Cross the street only at corners.
- Look both ways before crossing the street to check for cars, trucks and low-flying brooms.
- Don't hide or cross the street between parked cars.
- Walk, slither and sneak on sidewalks; not in the street.
- Carry a flashlight to light your way.
- Visit homes that have the porch light on.
- Keep away from open fires and candles. (Keep in mind that costumes can be extremely flammable).
- Accept your treats at the door and never go into a stranger's house.
- Be cautious of strangers and animals.
- Have a grown-up inspect your treats before eating. And don't eat candy if the package is already opened. Small, hard pieces of candy are a choking hazard for young children.



LOCAL



Collecting unpaid taxes may cost over \$100K

CONSENT, from page 1

OFFICE SPACE

The City Council is expected to approve two leases for office space for the city's environmental and public works department and the water resources department.

The water resources staff leases 4,140 square feet on the third floor in a building at 1212 Fifth St. at \$2.73 a square foot and \$1,000 a month for 15 parking spaces. The lease expires on Jan. 31 and staff is proposing to renew the lease for three additional years, city documents show. However, the new rate will be \$2.80 per square foot, increasing to \$2.93 in the 19th month of the lease.

The energy and green building program staff currently occupies leased space at 1918 Main St., but that lease expires on Nov. 14. However, its staff wants to move the environmental programs division to the ground floor of the Fifth Street location. The lease would be for 36 months on the third floor and 39 months for the ground floor, with an option to renew for two years.

The environmental programs division would lease 1,819 square feet at about \$3.10 a square foot, plus \$225 per month for three parking spaces. The rate increases to \$3.20 in the 13th month and \$3.25 in the 25th month. The total amount for both spaces amounts to \$105,000.

HYDRO POWERED

Another \$100,000 will be spent if the City Council decides to participate in a five-year hydrogen vehicle demonstration with the South Coast Air Quality Management District. The project's goal is to bring five zero-emission sedans into the city's fleet in order to test their performance and reliability in everyday use. The city would use the vehicles for 60 months.

The city's sustainable city plan, adopted in 1994, included a goal to have 70 percent alternative fuel vehicles by 2000. Santa Monica has surpassed that goal, mostly through the procurement of CNG vehicles, city staff said.

With this latest program, the city will convert five hybrid Prius vehicles to hydrogen power and install a hydrogen fueling facility at the city yard. Virtually all of the costs associated with the project will be paid by the SCAQMD — about \$850,000 for the fueling facility. Santa Monica's cost will be \$100,000 for installing the fueling system, according to city staff.

The system extracts hydrogen from water through a proton exchange mem-

brane electrolysis process using electricity that is 100 percent clean and renewable, city staff said.

The cities of Burbank, Riverside, Santa Ana and Ontario also plan to participate in the project. The SCAQMD concept is to contract with a vendor who would convert fleet vehicles in each city to use hydrogen.

The SCAQMD will pay a contractor selected by the city. Santa Monica's obligation would be to provide a site at the city yard, facilitate project approvals and permitting for the facility, prepare the site with utility connections and pay for the electrical costs of the system, all of which will be overseen by city staff. It's expected that the vehicles and facility would be operational by the middle of next year.

City staff justifies the program by arguing the experience will allow Santa Monica to influence regulators, vehicle manufacturers and fuel suppliers as major policy decisions on hydrogen vehicles are made over the next several years. The project also may assist the city in successfully competing with other public agencies for alternative fuel vehicle grants and other financial resources.

CHECKING UP ON THE TAX MAN

The City Council may also spend \$85,000 in efforts to find millions more in unpaid taxes.

City staff has recommended to extend a contract with an auditing firm to track unrealized revenue generated by the utility users tax, franchise tax and the transient occupancy tax.

The city levies local taxes on the use of electricity, natural gas, telephone, cable, wastewater and water services, hotel rooms and the use of public right of ways by utility companies. But City Hall doesn't receive all of the revenue it is entitled to due to administrative errors or taxpayers fail to pay the fees. As a result, City Hall has for several years contracted with MBIA MuniServices Co. to conduct audits.

Over the last three years, the company has generated about \$3 million in additional revenue for the city, according to staff.

The contract, however, expired in May and the company has been working on a month-to-month basis. The new contract would cost \$85,000, plus the auditing company would get 25 percent of revenue recovered on the hotel tax, utility tax and franchise tax.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Good women aren't hard to find

Editor:
What a diverse group of city council candidates we have this year! And what a great chance to make our City Council more diverse.
As a commissioner of the Santa Monica Commission on the Status of Women, I've been dismayed at the lack of women represented on the City Council. Although the commission takes no position on electoral races, I personally am supporting two talented women City Council candidates: Maria Loya and Patricia Hoffman.
I've been impressed with Maria Loya's community activism in the Pico neighborhood. She has fought to keep families from being unlawfully evicted and has brought jobs to Pico youth. She is a pro-active leader, calling for a children's protection zone around schools and playgrounds in response to last month's terrifying shooting near Edison Elementary.
I hope Santa Monicans will consider the striking gender imbalance on our current City Council — where we have only one woman of seven council members —and vote for Maria Loya and Patricia Hoffman.

Kelly Hayes-Raitt
Santa Monica

(Editor's note: This letter originally ran in the Oct. 22 edition. However, dollar amounts were inaccurate due to editing errors).

SMC spending out of control

Editor:
The Daily Press puff piece on Santa Monica College (SMDP, Oct. 20, page 1) is lacking in objectivity. Don Girard's comment concerning the college raising \$160,000 for the bond campaign is just one example. The college did not "raise" the money, they "raided" the Santa Monica College Foundation, Inc. for over \$100,000. By "laundering" campaign contributions through a charitable organization, the citizens of Santa Monica cannot find out who is backing this massive development proposal. The campaign also "raided" the Associated Student Body Association funds of \$60,000. The use of ASB funds may be illegal pursuant to Education Code 76060 et seq Education Code 7054, Stanson v. Mott, 17 Cal.3d 206 (1976), and Smith V. Regents of California, 4 Cal 4th 843;. The use of charitable funds for political campaigns may also violate the Internal Revenue Service rules and regulations. Haswell v. U.S. 500 F2d 1133(1974)(16 percent of budget violates IRS rules).
It is shocking your paper totally ignored how SMC is financing their campaign. Your paper is also ignoring how more than \$235 million spent for development will impact traffic and congestion, but I'll leave that issue to another letter.

Mat Millen
Santa Monica

Education supporters get schooled

Editor:
I've read some extraordinary things in your "letters" section recently, including

Donna Block's assertions (SMDP, Oct. 21, page 4) that David Cole was instrumental in forming the school district's financial oversight committee (formed by the school board after a PTA council resolution to do so); that David formed McKinley's PTA (in 1910? David, what's your secret?); and even that David was responsible for the creation of CEPS (Community for Excellent Public Schools). As one of the founding members of CEPS five years ago, I assure you that David had nothing to do with it. As president of the PTA council from 1999-2001, I knew and liked David — who was a PTA council vice president during those two years. I just wished he would come to the meetings.
Regarding Pam O'Connor and "bullies," she writes that she "just looked up the definition of bully." About time. It was one of her favorite insults all spring for those of her constituents that she didn't agree with. She writes that CEPS "demonized" Michael Feinstein. CEPS rated Feinstein as "unreliable" due to the fact that he consistently worked to minimize support for our public schools. Feinstein did not support the city/school district funding agreement, choosing instead to join O'Connor in hurling insults at its proponents. Contrary to O'Connor's assertion that Feinstein wouldn't vote for the agreement because there "wasn't a sure revenue source," his opposition was voiced in his complaint that the city wouldn't get anything out of it. Apparently, healthy well-educated youth aren't a benefit worthy of city funds. He proposed getting district land in exchange for financial support, a proposal that fell flat — even with his colleagues. O'Connor says, "It's too bad there can't be a dialogue with the CEPS folks," when in fact CEPS dialogued with the City Council for over three years before launching the campaign for a charter amendment.

Rick Gates
Santa Monica

An unintended shot in the arm for Bush

Editor:
Re: Sick over the flu shot saga (SMDP, Oct. 19, page 4) Ironically, in his effort to bash (President) Bush, Ken McCrae's letter actually proves why Bush is wise.
Ken mocks Bush's policy of not allowing drugs to be imported from Canada because Bush feels they "might not be safe." Then, Ken goes on to mention that the flu vaccines (from Britain and France) were dangerous because they were contaminated.
That is exactly what Bush was warning Kerry about in the debates. Be careful before importing drugs from other countries.

Eric Cooper
Santa Monica

Leadership lacking in City Hall

Editor:
On Nov. 2, Santa Monica has a chance to make positive, long-term changes to the City Council that will benefit all those who live, work and visit our wonderful city.
As one of the owners of a local business, I've had the opportunity to witness up

See LETTERS, page 7

State program makes criminals pay for their damage



WHAT'S THE POINT?
BY DAVID PISARRA

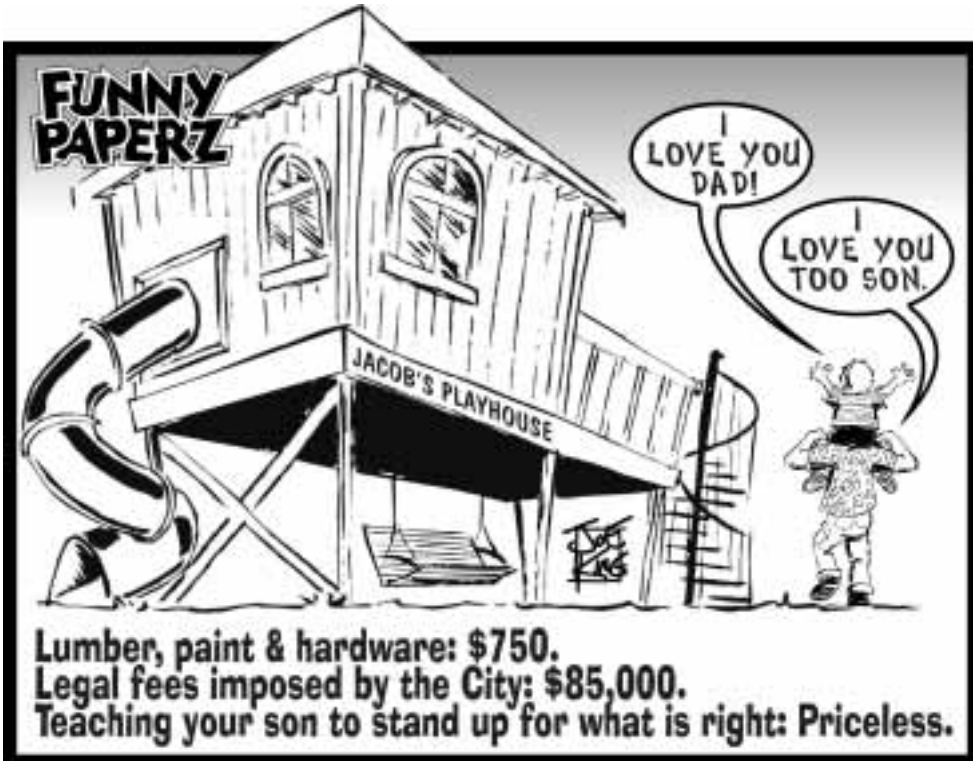
Life in this sleepy little burg of Santa Monica can sometimes turn ugly. Thanks to the large population of fresh-out-of-jail homeless, parole violators and a growing constituency of violent criminals, it happens that people get robbed, mugged, raped and assaulted in our community.
The effects of violent crime on a victim are far ranging and frequently they are not compensated. This is where the state has stepped in and for once has been helpful about the negative effects of a situation.
In California, we have a program designed to compensate the victims of violent crime who do not have the resources needed to recover from an attack. It's called the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board.
The purpose of the board is to provide victims who are aiding in the apprehen-

sion and prosecution of violent criminals with the tools necessary to recover from their attacks.
The program also provides death benefits to the beneficiaries of those who are killed. Generally, once you have become the victim of a violent crime, you are eligible for some sort of compensation. The program is actually the payer of last resort, and if you have private insurance, MediCal, a worker's compensation case, or other source of payment, they will have to pay first.
To submit a claim and get it approved, the beneficiary of the deceased victim must:
■ Have been a California resident when the crime occurred, or the crime must have occurred in California.
■ Cooperate reasonably with police and court officials to arrest and prosecute the offender.
■ Cooperate with VCP staff to verify the application.
■ Not have been involved in events leading to the crime or have participated in the crime.

■ File the application within one year of the crime, one year after the direct victim turns 18 years old, or one year from when the crime could have been discovered, whichever is later.
It's a great program — it is funded by the penalties that criminals are assessed. I have worked with the program for the past six years and I have seen it provide wheelchairs and bathroom remodels for a young man that was made a paraplegic by a gunshot wound. It has provided burial funds for young men and women who died too soon, and it has provided therapy for a woman who was assaulted by a neighbor.
The victim is entitled to all types of medical care and dental care, prosthetic devices, therapy for emotional trauma and rehabilitation for physical trauma.
As a victim, a person feels violated and abused by a system that all too frequently has more concern with the rights of the alleged criminal than the bloodied and bleeding body of an upstanding citizen. This program is designed to offset some of the trauma.
If you have been a victim and you need

to file an application, you can contact the board directly at 800-777-9229 or www.victimcompensation.ca.gov. If you need an attorney to help you, the board will pay attorney's fees. They pay 10 percent of the approved compensation, up to a maximum of \$500.
I have been mugged. I've been burglarized. I've had my car broken into countless times living in Santa Monica. From personal experience, I speak of the sense of violation and the well of anger that is created by the thoughtless selfishness of the criminal mind. The Victims Compensation Program is not perfect and it won't cover all the expenses of being attacked, mugged, raped, shot, or abused, but it does help a little.
It is one of the few government programs that I can honestly say does more good than costs, and achieves its purpose.
(David Pizarra is a Business Development partner in the Santa Monica law firm of Pizarra & Grist. He can be reached at (310) 664-9969 or by e-mail at dpizarra@pizarra.com).

OPINION



The Levy Family has asked me to thank all of their supporters!

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 6

close and personal the workings of this City Council and I can tell you, it's not a pretty sight.

We have seen many small business owners struggle to weave their way through the city bureaucracy before they can open their doors to the public. In many of these cases, small business owners have seen their life savings squandered away with unnecessary bureaucratic delays.

And while city staff keeps busy with inventing new regulations on an almost daily basis, they drain resources from a much bigger problem, the homeless. Everyone wants to see the issue of thousands of vagrants sleeping, eating and defecating all over our streets, alleys, parks and homes solved, but the current council doesn't have the leadership abilities to create innovative solutions and bring together the proper resources. Meanwhile, the problem keeps getting worse.

In addition to Herb Katz, the best solution for Santa Monica to improve upon its City Council is to bring in fresh ideas and new blood. That's why I am supporting Kathryn Morea, Matt Dinolfo and Bobby Shriver.

Selwyn Yosslowitz
Santa Monica

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

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Coping with addictions is something we all face



ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

Over the years, people have called me gum whore, yogurt fiend, and even a coke addict — Diet Coke that is. I'll be the first to admit it — I'm an addictive type of person. And I know these sound like Chuck E. Cheese's addictions versus dependency to alcohol or drugs, but sometimes it's the lesser evils you also have to worry about, or so I've come to realize.

For any addictive person, there can be warning signs of their nature all along the way. For me, take Disneyland when I was 4. It was my first time in the "Happiest Place on Earth," and what did I go on? — Small World, seven times in a row. Or third and fourth grade when I ate Dannon's vanilla yogurt every single day for lunch. Or in college, when I "couldn't" go a day without a strawberry or raspberry smoothie from our school's cafeteria. Yep, all signs point to a slightly obsessive yet quirky personality, but I never imagined addictive.

People that go to Alcoholics Anonymous for drinking or hypnotherapy for their smoking addictions are by now fairly aware of their problems. They have support groups and serious milestones to help in their recovery. But let's be honest, finding your roommate eating a blueberry muffin is not such a red flag as discovering their needles and coke stash. It's slightly repetitive, but muffins are acceptable in everyday circles.

And let's face it, caffeine, my most severe addiction, is one of the most socially acceptable conventions by far. Almost everyone I know needs a Coke or cappuccino to jump-start their day, so what can they say about my two- to three-morning Pepsis? Not much. But the thing is, while they may need only one to two a day, I drink six to eight Pepsis to keep things running smoothly.

Through research, I've learned that an addictive person is someone who has a compulsion to act in ways that family members consider detrimental to his or her interest. They conceal the extent of an addiction, create illogical arguments to rationalize the addiction, and at times feel guilty about their use. They try to cut down on whatever their addiction may be, but can be afraid to let it go. Hmm, noticing I have mild allergies to milk, but I still get frozen yogurt daily, and I feel guilty going again when the same woman is working there in the afternoon. Check, check and check.

And that's where it gets to be a problem — my habitual, repetitive nature. Caffeine has nothing terribly wrong to it in moderation. But over the years, six to

eight cans a day does irreversible damage to your liver. Not only that, but as I can attest, it leaves you chronically fatigued, dehydrated and amazingly irritable.

That's when I moved down to four, then two, then one, and now no cans of caffeine a day. At four, I didn't drink nearly as much water to compensate for being constantly dehydrated. I didn't feel that different, and this made me realize I didn't need the six to eight Cokes I thought I did to have exactly the same effect.

Two was the real change. With two Cokes a day, I had considerable less irritation with life, most obviously seen with road rage. People would cut me off in my lane, almost run into me. But instead of my normal bellicose, "how-could-you" response, my reactions were toned down to a "stop ... please ... don't ..." Rastafarian retort. It was great, but kind of scary to think that all this time I wasn't really that upset with traffic. I was just feeling the effects of caffeine in my body.

That's what gave me the impetus to move down to one Coke a day. Being a stimulant, caffeine also acts as an appetite suppressant. So the first week at one, I was hungry nearly all the time. This made it harder to quit, but I just had to switch the second bowl of Cocoa Puffs with something that wasn't 20 grams of raw sugar. Again, generally not so stressed during the day about the milder, who's-playing-guitar-in-the-alley-now irritations of life.

Well, this week I'm finally down to none. After a day and a half with no caffeine, I'm getting those infamous withdrawal headaches. Sheesh, no one's kidding around with these things. At least by day five I think I'm over the headache hump. I'm a little hungrier again in the mornings, but I'm sure this will pass as well.

Knowing my strong-willed personality, I imagine I can stay off caffeine if I really want to. I'm more worried about what really need to work on — the psychology behind the addiction. Through this exercise, I've realized I need to give more importance to people and making constant decisions than the security that comes with resorting to repeatability. I need to mellow out if things aren't perfect and deal with the pain that comes with everyday life. If I can do that, then maybe I'll be able to deal with changes better, including my daily food habits, and so say good-bye to the comfort of addiction.

If you're wondering about your own addictive personality, you can check for prominent signs at Web sites like http://www.bu.edu/fsao/html/fyi_addict.html. As always, send me a letter about whatever at anydayinla@gmail.com.

(If you noticed something strange or bizarre happen this weekend as well, e-mail Heidi at anydayinla@gmail.com).

Walking to the nearest newstand increases circulation.

Santa Monica Daily Press



LOCAL



DAVID COLE

You are absolutely right that the next four years will be pivotal to the future look of Santa Monica.

Currently, we have no plan as to how big Santa Monica is to be. It's not a priority to the folks that now control City Hall. As a councilperson, I would demand that we welcome the residents to a fast-track process that defines our city's future and just how big we want to become.

I know that the Santa Monicans For Renters Rights and Chamber of Commerce endorsed candidates will approve the plans for massive new towers downtown. They have all been shown the plans in private meetings.

I can't imagine four to five new buildings downtown that might be 20 or more stories tall.

Where will everyone park? And what about the new traffic that will be generated? We're all going to be sold out again for more money in the city coffers.

I won't approve this type of development. It's not that I'm against all development, but we need to consider residents first — something that has not been done in years.

I personally would like to see Santa Monica not grow any bigger, for any future buildings to incorporate historic building elements and keep us small and friendly.

Let our neighboring cities absorb the massive projects developers want to build. I have a goal of solving our traffic and parking problems, slowing commercial development and going back to a time of a city with an architectural character we can be proud of.

I hope the community joins me in this goal and elects for change here in Santa Monica. Maybe we can ignore the slew of glossy mailers from people that really don't care about us and just want their buddies up on the dais so they can approve their big projects.



MIKE FEINSTEIN

Any change in allowable heights should be considered as part of the public process through the city's general plan update.

Our primary goal should be to protect the scale and character of our existing residential neighborhoods, as well as neighborhood commercial districts like Main Street, Ocean Park, Pico and Montana.

Downtown, we currently have an irregular set of allowable heights from one block to another that have little to do with view corridors (other than protecting remaining ocean views from Second Street, which I support.)

If we change these standards, we must take into consideration the effect on light and shadows at street level. We must also ensure that scale and massing does not overwhelm the pedestrian. That means combining design standards — including set-backs and step-backs — with height standards, to achieve a positive result.

Regarding the Fairmont Miramar, I opposed their proposal to create a "twin tower" that would "mirror" 100 Wilshire. Instead, I advocated a lower scale, three-story presence along Wilshire, with which

they now agree. Any additional height proposed is for the middle of their property, next to their current higher-rise rooms. That is what the public will respond to when it comes before City Council.

Santa Monica Place is considering tearing down their entire block, putting parking underground, creating a more urban fabric, and extending the Promenade to the Civic Center — an important connection I support.

How much height we will allow on top for their proposed residential housing is for the community to decide.

In terms of future tax revenue, I support a qualitative approach that creates more passageways between the Promenade, Civic Center, Pier and the new light rail station destined for Fourth and Colorado. The more we open up the "arteries" of the downtown, the healthier our local economy will be.



BOBBY SHRIVER

Future downtown buildings should not be taller than what is allowed now. No more office or condo towers. We already have too many towers and massive buildings along

Ocean Avenue, blocking the ocean view and breeze. During the public review process for any proposed towers, I hope Santa Monica residents will make themselves clear: No more skyscrapers.

In the center of downtown, buildings can be six stories instead of five if they contain affordable housing. Parking requirements are also relaxed. Are these provisions still a good idea? Residents and visitors will stop shopping at downtown stores if they get stuck in traffic or cannot park whenever they come to downtown Santa Monica. Sales tax revenue to the city may decrease.

To answer the concern that less development will erode our city's tax base:

1. Santa Monica's beauty and charm are worth much more than money.
2. Renewal and redevelopment of existing buildings will continue. That will generate increased tax revenue. More parking can be added, which benefits the whole area.
3. Increased development is not free to the city: It creates costs for additional services, police and fire protection, and wear on our infrastructure.
4. Santa Monica's general fund is much larger per capita than other cities. If reduced development does cause a reduction of revenue, the city can handle it.



MARIA LOYA

I am not in support of converting Santa Monica into a South Beach, Miami, by creating massive high rises along our coastline. I want to ensure that Santa Monica downtown district is welcoming to its residents as well as its visitors. In order to achieve this goal, we must actively engage our residents to developing a collective vision of what we want our downtown district to look like. Decisions regarding future development need to involve all Santa Monicans and not be left to the Planning Department.

Every development in Santa Monica must demonstrate a benefit for both the local economy and our residents alike. It is important to implement a balanced approach that will contribute to our economic base while maintaining our character and charm as a community. We must employ a cost-benefit analysis in every development that takes into account not only the economic and environmental impact that the development will have on our city, but a social impact that looks at how the development can benefit or hurt its surrounding residents.



KEN GENSER

The future of Santa Monica will be decided in the upcoming election. In the next year or two, the city will adopt a new general plan and zoning code. These documents will determine

whether Santa Monica will become a West Coast Miami Beach, or if it will remain the predominantly lower-scale coastal town that most of us love.

Some developers are proposing new high rise towers. If it is up to me, they will not be approved. In my view, development in most of Santa Monica should be limited to two or three stories.

In our downtown and Civic Center, we might consider a few taller structures, but not over five or six stories. For example, most people don't object to the older brick portion of the Miramar Hotel at the corner of California Avenue and Second Street. If we do permit additional buildings of this height, we must also adopt standards that protect public views and provide additional, publicly accessible open space. We must also assure that buildings are stepped back and have varied setbacks so we won't "canyonize" our downtown.

Some might argue that tax revenues are worth having high-rise towers. My response is that nothing is worth destroying the charm of Santa Monica.

The developers are investing heavily in this campaign — through the Chamber of Commerce and through new, anonymous organizations. I pledge to make it clear to them that Santa Monica is not for sale.



MATT DINOLFO

Santa Monica has a unique charm and sophistication, due in part to the diversity of its citizens, its beautiful coastline, and its cosmopolitan atmosphere as a major international

tourist destination.

The continuation of that charm will be contingent on development that will address the critical need for housing and at the same time not lead to "canyonization" along our major east-west corridors and Ocean Avenue. In addition, competition for available land should have as a primary objective an increase of park and recreational areas.

To accomplish this objective, I favor mixed-use development which addresses both critical housing needs and supports small business growth. Another benefit will be to enhance our property and business tax base.

Mixed-use development will have some

degree of increased density, but in the long run will reduce traffic if people are able to live and work in a city that offers convenient, affordable housing and increased employment opportunities. Further, this type of development will decrease the use of automobiles, promoting public health through a more active lifestyle, and also, by extension, reducing pollution.

I do not anticipate, nor do I support, new high-rise development along Ocean Avenue, as this would have a deleterious effect on the charm and openness of our coastline. If we attract world-class architecture by streamlining our planning and architectural review, smart growth should be able to be accomplished in heights of no more than four to five stories.

Santa Monica Place has become antiquated and needs to be renewed. This offers a unique opportunity for the city to partner with a private developer to enhance our open space, increase parking options and housing, and expand the thoroughfare from the Third Street Promenade to the pier and Main Street.

Another major concern of any development is to preserve the openness of our avenues and parks, and provide safe and appealing pedestrian walkways.



JON MANN

We have already surpassed the height limit for hotels and commercial properties. The plans for another city-wide development plan around the Civic Center, the Promenade and

Santa Monica Place are outrageous and corrupt, as is building a new hotel at the Fairmont Miramar. The city is running out of space and attempting to increase density by building up.

I have been consistently against development from the onset. No more growth, and curtail future plans already in process. I do advocate allowing homeowners to remodel their homes, within reason, and cease putting them through unnecessary delay and expense. I had to sell my 800-square-foot house in Sunset Park because of all the obstacles impeding the permit process.

This City Council and most of the candidates, especially those with their slick mailers, big-name endorsements and financial inducements, have sold out the residents of this city to special interests. I exclude Bobby Shriver, who represents many who are fed up with the arrogance and incompetence of this council. They have forgotten the voters' revolt over rent gouging in the late '70s, but now the Santa Monicans For Renters' Rights is compromised and supporting candidates who are also endorsed by city employees and other outside interests. SMRR members, sitting and past council persons, and their friends are profiting from development and city contracts to public agencies. The Bayside Board has done little to solve downtown blight and is even exacerbating the problem.

We all know how badly the schools are fiscally mismanaged and the problems with the former superintendent, Neal Schmidt, and now a board member wants to continue that incompetence on the council.

We all know about the incompetence on the Planning Commission and other commissions, and the conflict of interest involv-

Because newscasters don't live next door.

Santa Monica Daily Press

LOCAL



ing the Architecture Review Board. What does that say when we have architects and development consultants on the council?

Car dealers along Santa Monica Boulevard have had their expansion approved and are plastered with signs for the husband of the woman who works for one of them. Certain people on the council received sweetheart deals on their new cars. What else are the auto dealers getting?

So it goes.



HERB KATZ

In creating a new long-term city-wide development plan for Santa Monica, the City Council has a vital responsibility to consider that build-

ing height has important impacts on shade, shadow and the city environment. To raise allowable height, particularly along view corridors, would require a different concept and could only be considered in very specific and limited specific situations, depending upon location. Such height might be allowable in those specific situations if it is granted on condition that overall exterior open space be greatly expanded, thereby giving Santa Monica greater open space and even a park-like setting. This approach will need careful study in our new general plan and zoning and major public input.

As for the Miramar-Fairmont, I don't believe this project meets the standards I've just outlined. This is the last wonderful view of our ocean from Wilshire. The opposite side of the street was ruined by the Lawrence Welk building and we do not want that to happen again in any way.

The most significant factors that must be considered as we approach long-range planning are the need to protect and improve our quality of life in Santa Monica, maintaining our city's character and meeting the needs and wishes of the community. Projects which do not meet these standards — because of height or for other reasons — are not appropriate.



BILL BAUER

Three major projects are already on the boards that we should be concerned about. Expansion of the Fairmont-Miramar Hotel between

Ocean Avenue and Second Street along Wilshire Boulevard (plus a "bonus" multi-story low income housing project on Second Street, nearby) might include a high-rise tower from 12 to 16 floors tall.

Santa Monica Place's remodel which, according to a select few "heavies" who received a special "preview," is rumored to feature two high rise towers between nine and 25 floors tall. Then, there are the two eight-floor apartment towers slated

for the Civic Center near the present Rand buildings. Who knows what else might come along in the next decade or two?

All of these projects are too massive and tall for a downtown already choked with traffic. New developments should be restricted to no more than five floors. I'd like to see a formula similar to the present codes that requires setbacks, and other requirements to reduce height and mass and create a more human scale to our downtown area.

The current City Council has approved removal of a number of commercial and retail properties from commercial streets and the tax rolls in order to build low income housing. Recent examples include housing projects at Santa Monica Boulevard at 26th Street and at Berkeley Street, as well as at Main Street and Pacific Avenue and on the 1300 block of Broadway — already under or near construction.

If the city is concerned about revenues and its tax base, why remove income-generating and job-producing retail properties from commercial streets for housing projects? Removing retail from our commercial streets is just bad planning. This shouldn't be compensated for by allowing high-rise development anywhere in the city, whether it be downtown or in the new Civic Center.

RICHARD BLOOM



Under no circumstances should our zoning laws be changed to allow higher buildings as a right. Santa Monica has had strict height limits in place for many

years. They have worked well for our community.

Exceptions to the height limit are currently under consideration in our downtown. These exceptions are part of development agreements. Development agreements provide the opportunity to "trade-off" things like added height in exchange for public benefits. For example, a higher building might be offset by public open space.

Two projects asking to exceed the height limit are the Fairmont Miramar Hotel and Santa Monica Place. Each project presents opportunities and challenges. The Fairmont proposal was reviewed by the City Council about a year ago. Many comments were received from the council and the hotel is now revising its proposal.

Santa Monica Place is preparing a proposal to tear down its current facility, including the city-owned parking structures. All parking would be replaced underground. The project would include an outdoor mall that would connect the Civic Center (itself undergoing significant revision) with the existing Promenade. The proposal includes a large number of apartments and condominiums. These are proposed to be in buildings that exceed our

height limit.

All of these would be significant changes to downtown Santa Monica.

It will be the responsibility of the next City Council to make certain that each agreement work to the benefit, and not the detriment, of the entire community. Revenue to the city is certainly one consideration; a successful economy is essential to the future of our city. However, revenue cannot and need not be the main consideration.

If our community does not derive significant benefit or if the detriment to the community is too great, then the proposals must be rejected.



PATRICIA HOFFMAN

There is a trade-off when considering the size of a building. Do we want it to be a big box that covers more of the

lot or do we want a smaller footprint with a taller building? This is a question that must be answered by the people in a public process. Some people will answer that we want neither, but the zoning code allows people to build on their property.

Office space appears to have the highest impact with the lowest tax base of all commercial buildings. We may need more small offices for local businesses but I don't believe that we need hundreds of thousands of square feet of new commercial development. Housing in the downtown, within the existing envelope is OK since it enlivens the downtown area without demanding too much from the infrastructure of the city. This is especially so if the services that the residents will use are also located in the downtown.

We need a vibrant downtown to support the city's tax base. This does not mean that any given property owner be exempt from the public review process. This is especially true if the developer wants to bend the rules through a development agreement.

**NO
PHOTO
AVAILABLE**

LETICIA ANDERSON

The city of Santa Monica is already "built out," especially since no provisional considerations were placed on developers to relieve impacts — such as parking, open space and public use facilities.

My suggestion would be to limit new growth, re-build from former structures limiting the height to four stories, and mitigate proactively with developers to include parking structures, open-space dining areas, and attractive storefronts.

Built into any agreements must be joint powers shared with various other agencies and auditing to control expenses.

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STATE

Sex appeal: Steamy talk may boost popularity of SF mayor, governor

BY BETH FOUHY

AP Political Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Californians learned last week that the state's two most glamorous politicians — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom — have something in common: glamorous wives who wield power over their men through sex.

At a panel discussion Monday hosted by former Clinton chief of staff Leon Panetta, Schwarzenegger cracked up the audience by saying his wife, Democrat Maria Shriver, had exacted some below-the-belt revenge for his red-meat speech at the Republican National Convention.

"There was no sex for 14 days," Schwarzenegger confessed to the crowd of 1,000.

A few days earlier, addressing a gay rights gala in New York, the mayor's wife praised her husband's anatomy in graphic terms. Kimberly Guilfoyle Newsom even acted out a provocative pantomime, suggesting that her own talents in the bedroom have kept the mayor in the heterosexual camp.

The speech landed the TV commentator and former Victoria's Secret underwear model in tabloid gossip columns and had political bloggers calling her "Potty Mouth," but the mayor's spokesman wasn't making any apologies.

"We believe in transparent and open government and for full disclosure for elected officials," Peter Ragone said, in a statement best described as arch.

The sex talk may not faze Californians, who like to think of themselves as an open-minded and cutting edge bunch, but it's hard to imagine such language from other prominent politicians and their spouses. It's safe to say that first lady Laura Bush and even Sen. John Kerry's exotic and outspoken wife, Teresa Heinz Kerry, have never uttered anything quite so provocative in public as Guilfoyle Newsom's salty spiel.

Still, Schwarzenegger and Newsom represent a provocative blend in California, a state with a history of sexy stars and generally boring politicians.

Both couples share razor-sharp political minds and big agendas — and both episodes may say more about ambition than sex.

Schwarzenegger has always milked a

lot of laugh lines out of his marriage to Shriver — she of the famously Democratic Kennedy family, whose smarts and strong will make her the perfect foil to her boisterous husband. In Democrat-leaning California, Shriver provides a reassuring presence; her support for her husband during the recall election (even through the notorious groping allegations) helped ease voters' concerns about electing a Republican bad-boy body builder to lead the state.

A year later, Schwarzenegger is acutely aware that he must maintain the support of Democrats and Independents to remain effective, so in the closing weeks of the high-stakes presidential contest, his crack about Shriver's Lysistrata-style sex strike provides a lot of cover — most importantly as he campaigns for Bush, whom most Californians (including Shriver, in all likelihood) would love to send packing.

"He's making some self-deprecating girlie-man quips to show people he knows they're not comfortable with his support of Bush," said Marty Kaplan, a political analyst at the University of Southern California. "Can you really imagine Maria Shriver not reading that convention speech? What he said was definitely damage control."

As for Newsom, City Hall insiders were said to be wondering this week whether his wife's candid comments would doom any hopes of a political career beyond libertine San Francisco. Others say Newsom, who blasted onto the national stage year by launching the city's gay marriage spree, may have other things to prove.

"In the case of the mayor, his wife was adjusting his image based on what people might infer because of his stand on gay marriage," Kaplan said. "It sounds like a pre-emptive strike on that front — to establish or re-establish the nature of his sexuality."

And for now, with no backlash from political opponents of either men and only a minor bit of backpedaling by Guilfoyle Newsom (she told a reporter her hand gestures were not what they appeared to be) one could argue that a politician's image is improved by the occasional spicy mention of sex — the married kind, at least.

Still, what's next? The president and first lady doing Viagra ads?

ELECTION BRIEFS

High school board race proves quite costly

By The Associated Press

CHULA VISTA — Donations from firms doing business with a high school district have helped make the race for a seat on the board of the fast-growing suburban district one of the most expensive in San Diego County.

More than \$120,000 has flowed into the campaigns for Seat No. 2 on the Sweetwater Union High School District board, The San Diego Union-Tribune reported.

Retired Sweetwater Principal Stan Canaris and school board President Pearl Quinones are competing for the post, which pays \$787 a month.

The two have raised more money than the candidates in any other school board race in the county this year, except for one race for a seat on the larger San Diego Unified School District.

Quinones' support includes a \$5,000 donation from Rudolph and Sletten, a construction company that has received \$13.3 million from the district in the past three fiscal years, the newspaper said.

Harris & Associates, a district contractor that did \$1.75 million in work with Sweetwater last year, has donated \$750 to Quinones.

The biggest vendor donation came through the Bahia Del Sur political action committee, whose treasurer is married to a Sweetwater trustee and whose leader is Joseph Martinez, a principal in the architectural firm Martinez & Cutri, which has done \$3.3 million in business with Sweetwater in the past three years.

The firm on Oct. 12 donated \$15,000 to Bahia Del Sur, and two days later the committee gave the Quinones campaign \$7,000, in addition to the \$3,000 it gave in June.

Two firms that have done a combined business of \$848,511 in the past three years have donated a total of \$650 to Canaris. The day after the Union-Tribune asked about the donations, the Canaris campaign said it was returning the money to the firms.

"There's way too much money in the race," Canaris said. "I think the danger is you begin to get tied to big contractors, and the danger is that a big favor is owed, and I don't want to owe anybody anything."

Quinones said her donors contribute based on past performance, not expected future gains.

"When people have donated money to me, it's because they believe in me and they know I'm doing a good job," she said.

Will county put its money where its mouth is?

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — The county's antigrowth reputation will be tested Nov. 2 when voters decide whether to boost the sales tax a quarter-cent to buy undeveloped land for preservation.

Two-thirds vote is needed to increase the sales tax to 7.5 percent.

The estimated \$25 million raised each year under Measure A would preserve farms, beaches, rivers, pastures and ridges.

Proponents said it could begin an era in Ventura County to permanently halt the kind of sprawl that transformed once semi-rural Los Angeles and Orange counties into crowded urban landscapes. Measure A has no organized opposition.

"If we fail, we need only look to the San Fernando Valley and the Los Angeles basin to glimpse our and our children's future," Measure A's campaign literature warns.

In the 1990s, Ventura County passed tough Save Open Space and Agricultural Resources growth control laws. The measures drew lines around cities and banned any development outside of them without first consulting voters.

But the laws expire after 20 years and there will be pressure to build, Measure A spokesman Jim Engel said.

"SOAR is really only temporary and open to the winds of political pressure," Engel said. "This initiative permanently protects the most important open spaces by working with willing landowners."

State primary fits Torrance to a 'T'

By The Associated Press

TORRANCE — The union representing city workers wants voters to approve election consolidation Measure T, which would hitch Torrance elections to the same ballot as the statewide primary.

The local chapter of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, which represents about 500 city employees, has spent nearly \$12,000 on the pro-Measure T campaign. The money paid for postcards urging support of Measure T.

At least a dozen union members also plan to take a vacation day Monday to knock on doors in support of the measure, union president Alan Lee said.

Proponents of Measure T claim it will save the city money and encourage more people to vote in local elections. Lee said the money saved could be used to enhance benefits for union members.

Measure T would rewrite Torrance's charter to set its general elections to the same day as the statewide primary, in the hopes of sharing the state's ballot. It would mean moving the city's elections from March to June.

Opponents of the measure question whether it will save the city any money, and they argue interest in local races would get lost in the much-larger state primary contests.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Homelessness

A REGIONAL SOLUTION



"Reducing the number of people living on our streets will be my highest priority as your Councilmember."

– Bobby Shriver, Candidate for City Council

My plan for public safety and homelessness:

Santa Monica residents feel concern both for the homeless people and for the public safety and health problems associated with people living in public areas.

- WE NEED A REGIONAL SOLUTION. Our city of 83,000 does not have the resources to deal with all the homeless people from neighboring cities. *I will work with these cities to develop an effective homeless plan and lead a coalition of Southern California cities that goes to Washington, D.C., to convince federal officials to allocate the necessary resources.*
- WE NEED A NEW STRATEGY TO HANDLE CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS. Current City programs do help many homeless people – but only those who are physically and mentally able to follow the programs' rules. We have no program for the chronic homeless – most of whom are addicted, mentally ill, or both. They need the most help, use the most resources, and cause residents to avoid certain areas of the city.
- A "HOUSING FIRST" APPROACH. From San Francisco to New York, cities are realizing that their costly shelter programs only provide a temporary respite for some – not a solution. Pilot programs have shown that a small, but stable and secure, living space connected to medical, nutritional, occupational, and social services can be much more successful. *I will work to establish a permanent supportive housing facility for the chronic homeless in vacant buildings such as those at the VA Hospital in West Los Angeles.*
- WE SHOULD DISCOURAGE ANY PROGRAM THAT PLAYS THE ROLE OF ENABLER TO ADDICTED PEOPLE LIVING ON THE STREETS. Every dollar allocated to homelessness must be spent to support our goal of permanently moving people into housing.
- WE MUST TAKE ADVICE FROM OUR POLICE AND PARAMEDICS. We rely on their firsthand knowledge to increase public safety and reduce frightening behaviors such as public inebriation, sleeping in doorways and in parks, and aggressive panhandling.

I recommend these immediate steps:

- A "SOBER-UP" FACILITY IN THE NEW PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING. Rather than repeatedly jailing and hospitalizing chronic homeless inebriants, police can take them to this facility not only to sober up, but also to receive access to substance abuse, mental health, and housing placement services.

Vote Shriver
City Council ■ November 2nd

"Santa Monica needs to move in a new direction – one that results in a solution. I will work with residents, business people, service providers, police and paramedics to develop a more effective approach to homelessness."

– **BOBBY SHRIVER**

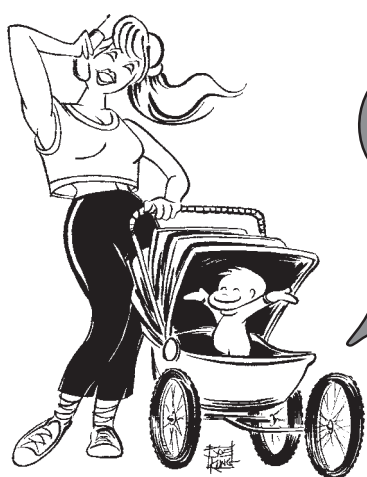
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Bobby Shriver
Santa Monica City Council

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Santa Monica

A weekly look at events and programs for



DEAR DORIE

When to say 'no-no' to the 'nunu'

Dear Dorie,

My daughter is 2 years, 2 months old and I am still breastfeeding. I had planned from the beginning to let breastfeeding play out naturally, letting her wean herself when she was ready, if possible. She is still very much interested in the "nunu" and usually wants her free hand all over the free breast — this is getting annoying and uncomfortable for me. I can usually work it out, but I just thought that by now, she would be a little less attached to my breasts. What's going on with her? Lately I have sometimes been able to direct her toward food or another activity fairly easily if she asks to nurse during a time that is not appropriate. She is independent, very social and active, and otherwise seems to have a healthy attachment to me. Thanks for your help.

Dear mom,

First, congratulations. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all infants be breastfed for a year or more while the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) recommend continuation for two years or more. Not all women can do this. You did. Well done.

Second, your daughter's behavior and attachment to your "nunu" is completely appropriate for her age and breastfeeding history. She is self-soothing in a very natural and normal manner. In fact, her relaxed arm reaching for you while feeding is a sign of comfort and confidence. She will wean on her own pace, especially if her eating habits are healthy. It is quite common for 2-year-olds, including my second born, to appear as if they're going to be "nunu" to kindergarten and then, all at once, lose interest and be done.

What I can't tell from your letter is, what's going on with you? Breastfeeding is extremely demanding — physically and emotionally. Weaning, therefore, is inher-

See NUNU, page 16



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GUEST COMMENTARY

BY DENISE SUR, M.D.

Women should take their shots

Daily news reports about the severe shortage of flu vaccines in the United States this year may have you wondering if you should even bother trying to get a flu shot. If you're pregnant, the answer is a definite yes.

For years, pregnant women were told they should not get a flu shot because of concerns it may harm the fetus. However, both the American Academy of Family Physicians and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now recommend that all pregnant women at all stages of pregnancy get vaccinated. There are two reasons for this change in thinking:

■ The vaccine is very safe for pregnant women with no documented adverse effects to the unborn child.

■ Pregnancy has been found to be a high-risk period for influenza complications, including pneumonia requiring hospitalization.

With only half of the nation's vaccine supply available this year, the CDC has requested that flu vaccines be used to protect those considered at greatest risk for serious complications from influenza. People in this priority group are:

- Anyone 65 years of age or older.
- Children ages 6 months to 23 months.
- Adults and children 2 years or older with chronic lung or heart disorders, including heart disease and asthma.

PREGNANT WOMEN

- Adults and children 2 years or older with chronic

metabolic diseases — including diabetes — kidney diseases, blood disorders or weakened immune systems, including persons with HIV/AIDS.

■ Children and teenagers, 6 months to 18 years of age, who take aspirin daily.

■ Residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities.

■ Household members and out-of-home caregivers of infants under age 6 months — children under 6 months cannot be vaccinated.

■ Healthcare workers who provide direct, hands-on patient care.

Healthy people ages 2 to 64 are asked to forego a vaccination this year so that the limited supply will be available to people in the priority group. FluMist, the nasal-spray flu vaccine, is an option for healthy individuals ages 5 to 49. However, it cannot be given to pregnant women.

Besides getting the vaccine, there are other things you can do to prevent the spread of flu. That includes frequent hand washing, using disposable tissues, avoiding people who are sick and staying home from school or work when ill.

Still unsure about getting a flu shot? Check with your doctor or health-care provider.

(Dr. Denise Sur is a family physician at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and faculty member in the UCLA Department of Family Medicine).

Start feeding your baby fruits and vegetables now

BY DONA RICHWINE, M.S., RD

America's children are gaining weight at an alarming rate.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 9 million kids ages 6 to 19 are overweight. That's about three times as many as in 1980. The CDC also predicts that because of the many chronic diseases associated with overweight children in the 21st Century children may not live as long as their parents.

It's never too soon to start teaching your baby eating habits that will help him/her make healthy food choices later in life. Developing a habit of eating generous amounts of fruits and vegetables will lead to eating more fruits and vegetables later in life. Sticking with this healthy way of eating can help reduce the risk of obesity, diabetes, heart disease and cancer.

The Feeding Infants and Toddlers Study sponsored by Gerber Foods showed that 18 percent to 33 percent of infants and toddlers between the ages of 7 and 24 months

old ate no vegetables and 23 percent to 33 percent ate no fruits. French fries were one of the three most common vegetables eaten by infants 9 to 11 months old. By 15 to 18 months, French fries were the most common vegetable.

The first two years may be the most important years to begin teaching your baby healthy eating habits. How do you do this?

1. Eat five servings of fruits and vegetables a day yourself. What you and your family eat is what your baby will eat.

2. Once your baby has started cereal and is ready to add more foods, introduce one variety of pureed fruits or veggies at a time. Remember, a baby's stomach is small and it fills up quickly. A serving could be no more than a tablespoon.

3. Offer her a fruit or vegetable with every meal and snack.

4. When she is ready to try a new fruit or veggie, mix

See VEGGIES, page 16

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Fall Session Begins October 25th

- ◆ Kid's Night Out - November 5, 6 pm
- ◆ Stretching Your Limits - November 6, 2 pm
- ◆ Kid's Peace Circle - November 13
- ◆ Kids' Musical Yoga - November 14



◆ 1814 14th Street, Santa Monica ♦ (310) 260-2736 ♦ yogaforkids@hotmail.com ◆

Santa Monica Mom

for Santa Monica mothers and mothers to be

SPECIAL EVENTS - HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY, OCT. 30th
SANTA MONICA PIER – 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 Little goblins playing Pirate's Pier Mini-Golf will take home a free pumpkin; plus face-painting and balloon artists.
 1:00 p.m. – Children's Costume Contest; 1:30 p.m. Pumpkin Pie Eating contest for Dads.

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL, FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 2400 Montana Ave., 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Featuring games and a silent auction.

SANTA MONICA MOMS CLUB ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY
 Everyone welcome! A Kid's Place, 12306 Venice Blvd., 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., \$12 per child, \$20 for two. Join the SM Moms Club for an afternoon of Halloween fun, crafts, snacks, a costume parade and contest. RSVP to 422-0031.

VOICES from the DARKNESS: A HALLOWEEN CABARET
 Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Songs, scenes and stories to delight all ages. Come in costume and receive a two-for-one coupon for any regularly scheduled family theatre performance through Halloween 2005. Call 394-9779 for ticket info or visit www.santamonicaplayhouse.com.

HALLOWEEN ENCHANTMENT at WESTSIDE WALDORF SCHOOL
 1229 4th St., 5:00 – 9:00 p.m., \$14 ages 2 and up. Everyone welcome! Call 576-0788 or visit www.wswaldorf.org for ticket info.

KIDTRIBE DANCE PARTY 3rd ANNUAL MONSTER MASH HALLOWEEN BASH
 Santa Monica Place Mall Community Room, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., ages 5 – 11, \$18 per child, \$32 for two. Costume party with games and dancing. Call 455-0580 for more info.

SUNDAY, OCT. 31st – HAPPY HALLOWEEN!
PALloween CARNIVAL! 5:00 – 9:00 p.m., Barker Hangar, 3021 Airport Ave.
 Join the Santa Monica Police Activities League for this annual bash featuring fun for the whole family. Games \$.25, Fun House \$1.00, Picture Booth \$1.00; Costume Contest begins at 6:00 p.m. FREE ADMISSION! No game tickets sold after 8:15 p.m. Call 458-8988 for more info.

SANTA MONICA PLACE MALL
 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Traditional store-to-store trick-or-treating starting at Center Court on Level 1. Kids can show off their costumes and enjoy free treats in a safe environment.

HARVEST FESTIVAL at GOOD SHEPHERD BAPTIST CHURCH
 1520 Pearl St., 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Featuring games, candy and bounce houses. Call 452-1056 for more info.

WEDNESDAY – SUNDAY, OCT. 27th – 31st – SESAME STREET LIVE!
 All of your favorite Sesame Street characters singing and dancing live on stage. Oct. 27 – 31 at the Grove of Anaheim;

Nov. 5 – 7 at Arlington Theatre in Santa Barbara. Visit www.sesamestreetlive.com for details or call Ticketmaster at 213-480-3232.

Special Note – Mommy Care classes at the Dance Factory have moved to 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood. Please see the calendar listings for schedule updates.

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms!
 Oct. 26th – "Collateral" starring Tom Cruise, Jamie Foxx and Jada Pinkett Smith. Suspense/Crime Drama; Rated "R."
 11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms for details.

October 26th
What's so Funny About Halloween? – 3:30 and 4:30 p.m., 2601 Main Street. Stories and puppet show at the Ocean Park Branch Library. Ages 3 – 7. Tickets are free but must be picked up day of show after 12:00 noon.
Halloween Tales – 3:30 p.m., 1704 Montana Ave. Spooky stories and crafts for ages 4 and up at the Montana Branch Library.

Storytelling

Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.
Toddler Storytime; 10:00 & 10:30 a.m. For 2 year olds with adult.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds with adult. Next session Nov. 2 – Dec. 7.
Lap Time – 11:00 a.m., six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Programs. Next session Nov. 2 – Dec. 7.
Twilight Story Time -7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.
Terrific Tuesdays – 3:30 p.m., every other Tuesday, Oct. 26, Nov. 9 & 23. Stories and crafts for ages 5 – 9.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 24-36 month olds.
Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis
 For ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, www.storyopolis.com
Barnes and Noble at the Grove
 Storytime for ages 2 – 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years) – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Infant & Me, Transitional Group (7 – 14 mos.) – 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.; Infant & Me (0-12 mos.) – 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.; classes in partnership with the Infant and Family Support Program. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA
 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Thursday nights 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter.
 Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling
The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge – 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052
 10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4 at this neighborhood coffee shop.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult. Next session Nov. 3 – Dec. 8
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Lap Time – 10:00 & 10:30 a.m., for ages 0-2.
Toddler Story Time – 11:15 a.m., for 2 year olds.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. –392-3804.
Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144
Border's, Westwood – 11am – 310-475-3444.

Classes

Rhythm Child Parent & Me Rhythms, Santa Monica Studios, 3025 Olympic Blvd., 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Children explore rhythms through drum play. Ages 6 mos. – 3.5 years; \$15 per session. Call 204-5466 or visit www.rhythminchild.net for more info.
YWCA – A Place for Parents – Parent Support (3 – 5 years) – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Infant Plus (0-12 mos.) – 10:30 a.m. – noon; Parents of Adolescents Support Group – 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Step Aerobics, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter.

Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Other

Puppetolio – 1:00 p.m., 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

THURSDAY

Storytelling

Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590
 10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.
Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.
Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m.; for 2 year olds with adult.
Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Toddler Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; for ages 2 –3. Next session Nov. 4 – Dec. 16.
La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., for 2 year olds.
Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m.; for 3-5 year olds.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Lap Time – 9:20 & 10:20 a.m., 6-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Program. Next session Nov. 4 – Dec. 16.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years) – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. and 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.; classes in partnership with the Infant and Family Support Program.
Parent Support (3 – 5 years) – 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

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Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA
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Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter.
 Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista – meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call 310-390-2529 for info.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years) – 9:20 – 10:20 a.m.; Parent Support (1-3 years) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
Mommy and Me Dance– celebrate the

wonderful world of imagination Fridays at the Electric Lodge. 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. ages 14 – 24 months; 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. ages 2 – 4.
 6 classes for \$75 or \$14 per class. First class free! 1416 Electric Ave, Venice, 306-1854.

Yoga & Exercise

Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Indoor Cycling, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.
Prenatal Breath and Movement – a Continuum Movement and Yoga-based program designed to support women through various sound and movement explorations that celebrate pregnancy and labor as powerful rites of passage. 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. With Deborah Raoult at the Continuum Studio, 1629 18th St., #7. For more info call 625-3739, www.openskymovement.com. \$108 for a six-week session.

Baby Attuned - Fridays, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., A new program promoting sensitive parenting and developmental awareness. Learn about and keep a record of your baby's unique development, ages 3 to 60 months. Parent-completed developmental screening, with review and feedback from a licensed clinical developmental psychologist and experienced pediatric nurse practitioner, Eileen Escarce, PhD, MSN. (PSY 18819). Introductory fee: \$15 per screening with feedback. 1137 2nd Ave, Suite 213. By appointment only 310-367-1155.

SATURDAY

Storytelling – Featuring Halloween Tales this weekend!
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144.
Children's Book World, 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., 310-559-B00K.
 Village Books, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m. – 454-4063.

Yoga & Exercise

Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. 1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonicaayoga.com
Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.(babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Other

Snowwhite and Mary-Mary Quite Contrary at the Santa Monica Playhouse
 Alternating Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru Dec. 19th , \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magiopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime
 Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.

Breastfeeding

Working Mother's Support Group
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd. - 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., \$12 fee, led by Ilka Sternberger, certified lactation educator. Call 826-5774 for more info.

SUNDAY

Snowwhite and Mary-Mary Quite Contrary at the Santa Monica Playhouse
 Alternating Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru Dec. 19th , \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com
Main Street Farmer's Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magiopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Family Fundays at the Will Geer Theatreum Botanicum
 Ages 4 and up, 11:00 a.m., \$8, 1419 N. Topanga Blvd., Topanga Canyon, 310-455-3723.

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 9:30 a.m. A series for babies up to two years old.
"Family Connections" - 10:00 a.m. Joslyn Park, Craft Room.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804.
"Spanish for Little Ones"; 11:15 a.m. Next session Nov. 8 – Dec. 16.
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

MOMS Club of Santa Monica – New Mother Group – for new moms with babies ages 0-6 months. Meet for conversation, support and playtime. All new Moms welcome! Call Clare at 395-7422 for time, location and more info.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years) – 9:20 – 10:20 a.m.; Parent Support (1-3 years) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter.
 Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
 Yoga Garden, - Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal – 6:30 p.m., 310-450-0133.
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STATE

Google taps its creativity to find programmers

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Business Writer

MOUNTAIN VIEW — Google Inc. finds almost anything on the Internet within seconds, but finding the sharp-minded computer engineers who program the company's lightning-quick search engine takes more time — and a quirky bit of ingenuity.

As its rapidly growing business creates hundreds of new jobs, Google is trying to lure premier programming talent with off-beat measures, including a computer-coding competition and a brain-twisting aptitude test that mixes geek humor with a daunting mathematical workout.

"Hiring the most talented and most creative computer scientists in the world requires a great deal of creativity," said Alan Eustace, Google's vice president of engineering research and systems.

Plenty of people want to work at Mountain View-based Google — a company that takes great pride in an employee-friendly culture that offers free meals and generous helpings of lucrative stock options.

But Google remains picky about whom it hires, even as its payroll has ballooned from just under 700 employees at the end of 2002 to about 2,700 workers today.

In its quest to identify the programming elite, Google recently inserted an unusual aptitude test in erudite magazines like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Technology Review, the Linux Journal, Mensa, Dr. Dobbs and

Physics Today.

The 21-question test includes brain twisters like, "How many different ways can you color an icosahedron with one of three colors on each face?" and "On an infinite, two-dimensional rectangular lattice of 1-ohm resistors, what is the resistance between two nodes that are a knight's move away?"

The test also includes more subjective, tongue-in-cheek requests like "Write a haiku describing possible methods for predicting search traffic seasonality" and "What is the most beautiful math equation ever derived?"

Google has received an enthusiastic response to the test, Eustace said, although many of the people sending in their answers are economists, professors and other intellectuals more interested in a mental challenge than getting a new job.

The aptitude test is similar to another nerdy recruiting tool that Google deployed during the summer.

Without mentioning its name, Google placed billboards in Silicon Valley and Harvard Square that read: (first 10-digit prime found in consecutive digits of e).com. Anyone who figured out the correct answer wound up at a Web site that posed another puzzle that, if solved, led to a Google-branded site seeking resumes.

Google isn't always so subtle.

During the last two years, Google has offered cash prizes to computer engineers who compete against each other to solve complex coding problems.

The programming battles are becoming an increasingly popular way to recruit skilled programmers away from a number of high-tech companies, including two of Google's biggest rivals, Yahoo Inc. and Microsoft Corp.

The companies stage the events in conjunction with Glastonbury, Conn.-based TopCoder, which has developed an automated system for scoring the competitions.

TopCoder, formed in 1991, now boasts 43,000 members who enter the competitions looking for extra cash, bragging rights and a little more cachet on their resumes, said TopCoder President Rob Hughes.

"These are people who generally aren't into self-promotion and feel a little intimidated going to formal job interviews," Hughes said. "If they do well in a code jamming competition, they don't have to put on their Sunday best and they have more credibility before they even walk in through the door."

Google's latest competition, completed earlier this month, attracted 7,500 entrants — a field that was whittled down to 50 finalists through a series of elimination rounds. The company gave away \$50,000 to the finalists who also received to an all expenses-paid trip to Google's headquarters — a cluster of rather unremarkable buildings that nevertheless has become a high-tech Mecca.

The headquarters, also known as the Googleplex, is staffed by hundreds of millionaires who have struck it rich on the

company's high-flying stock. Google's 31-year-old co-founders, Larry Page and Sergey Brin, have gone from pedestrian computer science graduate students to Silicon Valley moguls with personal fortunes worth more than \$6 billion apiece.

Although Google touts its coding competition an "annual celebration of the art of computer science," the company's motives aren't entirely altruistic.

"When you can get together 50 of the most talented computer scientists in the world, there's a chance that you are going to hire some of them," Eustace said.

This year's \$10,000 first-place prize was won by Sergio Sancho, who already has a programming job in his native Argentina. Nevertheless, Sancho, 30, said he might consider working at Google. "It seems like a very computer-friendly place," Sancho said.

After finishing 14th place in last year's competition, Bartholomew Furrow landed a summer internship at Google and helped the company develop programs that improved the technology used to search the text of books.

Furrow, 20, recently returned to the University of British Columbia to pursue a doctorate in physics — a degree he never considered using in computer programming until he spent some time at Google. "I have always planned on becoming a college professor, but (Google) has kind of opened my eyes to other opportunities," Furrow said.

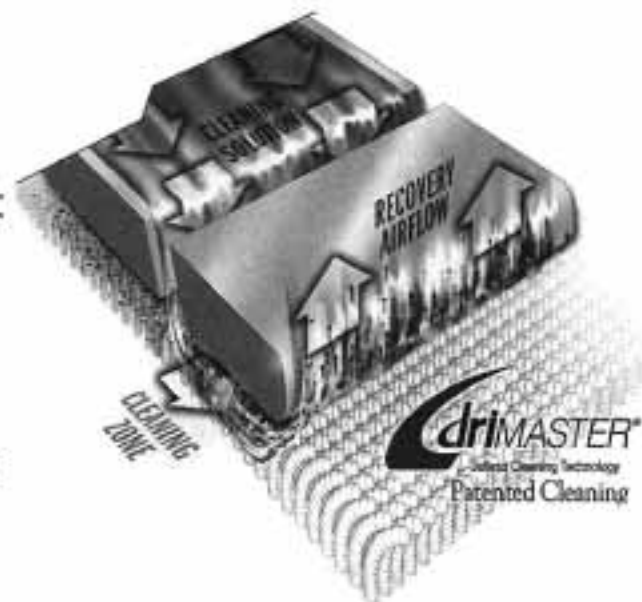
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Santa Monica Mom

VEGGIES, from page 12

it with one she already likes this will make her more likely to eat the new food.

5. When your child is ready to feed herself, use cooked or soft-textured pieces of fruits and vegetables as finger foods.

6. Don't give up. Research shows acceptance of a new food may take up to 10 tries.

7. Exposing your baby to a variety of flavors actually improves her acceptance of new foods. If she is used to eating green beans and carrots she is more likely to eat spinach.

Some ideas for introducing more fruits

NUNU, from page 12

ently difficult. It is a personal choice and completely subjective. You are allowed to say, "I can't take it any more" Or "I can't stop." When you know it is time to quit, use honesty and respect with a toddler. A common phrase is, "Mommy's body needs to stop making milk now." Above all, allow your daughter to talk about the "nunu" in real dialogue, stories or dramatic play. You'll both work it out together.

and vegetables into your toddler's diet are to serve cheese on apple slices, stir spinach into spaghetti sauce, mix diced veggies into macaroni and cheese, stir diced peaches into hot cereal and top a baked potato with pureed vegetables.

Developing healthy eating habits during the first two years which includes eating five fruits and vegetables a day could make the difference in whether or not your child lives a long, healthy, happy life.

(Dona Richwine, M.S., RD is a nutrition specialist for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District).

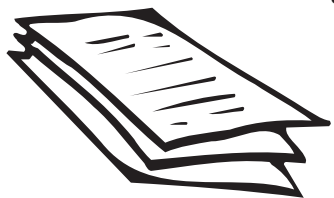
Good luck.

(Dorie Meek is director of the Infant & Family Support Program, provided by Saint John's Health Center in partnership with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Meek answers questions concerning children ages birth to 5 years old. Submit your questions to "Dear Dorie" at meek@smmusd.org, or call (310) 452-6132; fax (310) 452-6392).

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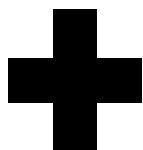
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STATE BRIEFS

Justice ponders presidential precedent

By The Associated Press

STANFORD — U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer said this week that he wasn't sure he was being truly impartial when the court was asked to settle the disputed 2000 presidential vote in Florida.

Breyer, who was named to the court by Democratic president Bill Clinton, was one of the dissenting votes in the 5-4 decision that canceled a controversial recount in Florida, sending George W. Bush to the White House instead of Democrat Al Gore.

"I had to ask myself would I vote the same way if the names were reversed," said Breyer at a panel discussion at Stanford University Law School. "I said 'yes.' But I'll never know for sure — because people are great self-kidders — if I reached the truthful answer."

Breyer also said that his colleague, Sandra Day O'Connor, believed the high court's current relationship with Congress was "the worst she'd ever seen" in her 23 years as a justice.

Breyer, a 1959 Stanford graduate, made the comments at a seminar on judicial activism with two other Stanford alumni — California Chief Justice Ronald George and U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Pamela Rymer.

The three said most jurists depend on the rule of law and legal precedent to make decisions, but acknowledged that those are guidelines subject to interpretation.

"Precedent and rule of law. They don't answer everything but they do give us a clue," Breyer said. "Judges whom I've met by and large try to find the answer. They come to different conclusions but they try."

Transgender candidate looks to prove he's a cut above

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — If Robert Haaland wins a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors Nov. 2, he will be make history as the nation's first transgender elected official.

An activist who once sued city police for groping him to determine his gender identity, the 40-year old Haaland was born and raised as a female in Austin, MN. He declared himself a lesbian at age 20 and began to identify as a man after attending the University of California, Berkeley and Hastings Law School.

While transgender candidates have run for office in San Francisco and never won, Haaland is considered a front-running Democrat in the race to represent the city's Haight Ashbury district. He's won the backing of several of the city's top elected officials, including District Attorney Kamala Harris and Supervisor Tom Ammiano. Mayor Gavin Newsom is supporting a more moderate Democrat.

A win would be historic "and a little scary," Halland said.

"When you put yourself out there, it's a little nerve-racking. But it's definitely something I'm comfortable with," he said.

Internationally, a member of the New Zealand parliament is believed to be the only current transgender officeholder.

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NATIONAL



Scientists feeling heat, need money for studies

By The Associated Press

VANCOUVER, Wash. — For lack of funds, more than a third of the nation's "truly dangerous" volcanos lack even a seismometer for detecting signs of an impending eruption, scientists say.

Mount St. Helens, where lava began oozing into the crater this month after a few steam bursts, is one of the dozens of volcanos monitored by the U.S. Geological Survey in Alaska, Washington, Oregon and California.

Even at St. Helens, the most active volcano in the lower 48 states over the past 4,500 years and the most thoroughly wired mountain in the Cascade Range, scientists have scrambled to install equipment, recharge batteries and repair damaged gear.

"We think it's serious," said Jim Quick, coordinator of the USGS volcano hazards program in Reston, Va., told The Columbian of Vancouver.

"The problem is you're playing catch-up on the volcano then," Quick said. "You've greatly shortened the response time the community has to react. You're also putting my people at risk."

Rep. Brian Baird, D-Wash., whose district includes St. Helens, says the payoff in public safety would be well worth the cost.

"It's not just abstract intellectual data collection," Baird said. "This is about predicting an event that could cost a number of lives if we don't predict accurately."

According to the Smithsonian Institution, 172 U.S. volcanos have been active within the past 10,000 years and many have erupted within the past 200 years, sometimes repeatedly, Quick said.

"About 70, we feel, are truly dangerous volcanos, which means they would pose a threat to people or property on the ground or aircraft in the air," Quick said.

The 25 without any monitoring equipment are in remote areas of Alaska and the U.S.-affiliated Mariana Islands in the South Pacific, posing little threat to buildings or people on the ground but sitting below major airline flight paths, he said.

Gritty volcanic ash can clog aircraft engines. On Dec. 15, 1989, a jumbo jet nearly crashed after all four engines stalled as it passed through what looked like a normal cloud over Mount Redoubt in Alaska.

The silica-rich ash melted, then solidified inside the engine compartments. The flight crew managed to restart the engines and landed in Anchorage.

"The more you have monitored, the less the chance of that bad case of a pilot ending up in a (volcanic) cloud without realizing it," said Steve Malone, a professor of earth and space sciences at the University of Washington.

"It's this balancing act," Malone said. "You're working on a combination of being good and being lucky."

"If you have instruments by chance or design where problems occur, then you can look good. If something takes place where you don't have any monitoring equipment at all, then problems can escalate very quickly."

The volcano hazard program includes five observatories, employs about 130 people and was last budgeted at \$19.7 million. President Bush has proposed \$18.5 million for the next fiscal year, and "we hope to offer a few million into that," Baird said.

He said the money at stake represents "almost rounding errors" in the total \$2.4 trillion federal budget.

Installing equipment and assigning staff to each unmonitored volcano would cost about \$1 million to \$2 million, more than doubling the volcano hazard program's annual budget, Quick said.

Another \$1 million to \$2 million each would be needed to fully wire all 12 of the principal Cascade volcanos, some of which now have only one quake detector, Quick said.

In Washington state, for example, solo seismometer volcanos include Glacier Peak, which exploded as recently as the 18th century, and Mount Baker, which released steam in the mid-1970s.

"The Cascade volcanos should be monitored more heavily because of their proximity to population," Quick said.

He said it would be more logical to bolster the monitoring network in stages, starting with the most hazardous volcanos, because USGS lacks the staff to install all the gear at once.

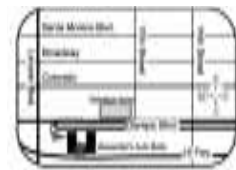
"Even if Bill Gates gave us all that money tomorrow, we couldn't do it," Quick said.

Monitoring volcanos is different from recording tectonic earthquakes, which occur along fault lines and usually are intense enough to be detected by seismometers many miles away.

At St. Helens, scientists detected a swarm of thousands of earthquakes as magma began pushing upward last month, but practically none of the tremors was strong enough to be felt at the surface, even on the crater floor.

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NATIONAL

Southwest Hispanics can wield political clout

BY CHRISTINA ALMEIDA

Associated Press Writer

NORTH LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Amid garage-sale piles of used clothes, old appliances and worn shoes, Margarita Saldana stood in her driveway and contemplated the reasons why she may not vote Election Day.

Saldana, who looks around her community and sees poor-paying jobs and discrimination against workers who don't speak English, said she believes President Bush and Democratic rival John Kerry are the same.

"They don't think of Latinos," Saldana said in Spanish. "They don't do what they say."

Saldana, a 57-year-old homemaker from Mexico, is part of a flood of immigrants who have transformed the voter landscape in Nevada and could help determine this year's presidential election — if only she votes.

"The cohesiveness of the Latino electorate ... can be the bump that a candidate needs to do well enough to win the election," said Louis DeSipio, a political science professor at University of California, Irvine, who specializes in Hispanic politics.

Nationwide, Hispanics are the largest minority and the fastest-growing segment of the electorate. In the four battleground states of Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado, 3.6 million Hispanics represent 26 percent of the states' total population.

Although a potentially powerful voting bloc, the Hispanic community has not voted in numbers equal to its size. Census data shows Hispanic voter turnout declined from 1998 to 2002 while the number of Hispanics living in the United States grew by 27 percent to nearly 38.5 million. The U.S. Hispanic population has since increased to about 40 million.

"Hispanics need to realize that if they continue to remain absent on Election Day, we can't hope to make significant changes in the Hispanic agenda," said White House legal counsel Alberto Gonzalez. "Because politicians pay attention to whether or not Hispanics participate in the political process."

In this year's close presidential election, Hispanics are receiving unprecedented attention from groups sponsoring voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives.

Both presidential campaigns have established coalitions of Hispanic supporters — "Unidos con Kerry" and "Viva Bush" — and millions have been spent on Spanish-language ads by the campaigns, both parties and outside interest groups. The Las Vegas Latin Chamber of Commerce alone has spent about \$80,000 on ads encouraging Hispanics to vote.

Gonzalez, who was in Las Vegas as part of the "Nos Conocemos" (We Know Each Other) tour on behalf of Bush, said both parties have an obligation to make their case to the Hispanic community.

"We shouldn't expect Hispanics just to vote for us," Gonzalez said. "We have to fight for it."

Getting Hispanics to vote has been difficult historically. Immigration issues, language barriers and a lack of voter information have kept Hispanics away from the polls.

On paper, the 491,376 Hispanics living in Nevada appears to be a much larger political group than it is in the state of 2.2 million residents. Estimates show only about 128,500 Hispanics are eligible to register to vote because of age and citizenship qualifications.

"We have gone sometimes where we have talked to over 600 people in a row and not one of them is eligible to register to vote," said Andres Ramirez with Voices for Working Families, a national nonpartisan group that hopes to boost voting among minority groups in seven states including Nevada.

As a result, the organization has partnered with other groups, including the powerful Culinary Workers Union Local 226, to help Hispanics become citizens.

"It's going to be a lengthy process of getting Hispanics to participate in the political process," Ramirez said. "First getting citizenship status. Second, getting them registered. And then getting them educated about the political process."

Part of the problem is tied to immigrant experiences in their native countries.

Adriana Martinez, chair of the Nevada Democratic Party, said she has heard immigrants tell stories of corruption and voter intimidation.

"For the most part, Hispanics who have come from different countries feel that their vote won't make a difference," Martinez said. "I hate to hear stories like that because I know ... they can make a difference."

Historically aligned with Democrats, Hispanics are also being aggressively courted this year by Republicans, who hope to build on the 35 percent of the Hispanic vote that Bush received in 2000.

A recent poll by The Washington Post shows Kerry receiving 54 percent of likely Hispanic voters to Bush's 37 percent nationwide.

In 2000, Bush ran strong in the Southwest, winning Nevada, Arizona and Colorado and losing in New Mexico.

Those four battleground states, representing a combined 29 electoral votes, have experienced tremendous growth in the past four years, and political analysts say Hispanics have boosted Democratic numbers and helped erode GOP advantages, particularly in Arizona and Colorado.

Nevada grew by nearly 91,000 Hispanics from 2000 to 2003. Voter registration in the state is nearly even, with Republicans holding a slim 3,948-voter edge over Democrats heading into Election Day.



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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Reflux redux: Simpson's dad blames heartburn

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — If Ashlee Simpson's stomach was upset Saturday night, imagine how she's feeling now.

Busted for a "Saturday Night Live" lip-synch gone awry, her manager-father said Monday his 19-year-old daughter used the extra help because acid reflux disease had made her voice hoarse.

"Just like any artist in America, she has a backing track that she pushes so you don't have to hear her croak through a song on national television," Joe Simpson told Ryan Seacrest on Los Angeles radio station KIIS-FM. "No one wants to hear that."

He insisted it would be Ashlee's live voice alone during her appearance on NBC's "Radio Music Awards" Monday night.

And he said she's never used the extra help onstage before.

"The whole situation was a bummer," Ashlee Simpson said in an interview on MTV's "Total Request Live."

Simpson had performed her hit single "Pieces of Me" without incident earlier on "SNL." When she came back a second time, her band started playing and the first lines of her singing "Pieces of Me" could be heard again.

She was holding her microphone at her waist at the time. Simpson looked momentarily confused as the band plowed ahead with the song and the vocal was quickly silenced.

A flustered Simpson made some exaggerated hopping dance moves, then walked off the stage.

She told "TRL" that she and her band didn't know what to do. "I think all of us went into a state of shock," she said.

The incident exposed what many consider an obvious secret: that some singers who appear onstage aren't singing live at all, or at least have their voices augment-

ed by backing tracks. And it's happened before on "Saturday Night Live," too, executive producer Lorne Michaels told the Associated Press.

"She was mortified and in her dressing room, but (producer) Marci (Klein) got her to come out for good-nights and explained that it wasn't the end of the world. It wasn't her fault," Michaels told AP Radio.

"Every artist that I know in this business has had vocal problems at some time — from Celine on down," said Joe Simpson, also father of Jessica Simpson. "So you've got to do what you've got to do."

He said it was his decision to use the tapes when it became apparent that acid reflux disease had swollen Ashlee's vocal cords. After consulting Wayne Newton's doctor, she received a cortisone shot to get her ready for the "Radio Music Awards," he said.

It was the band's drummer who pushed the wrong button onstage, he said.

Michaels corroborated that, adding: "If she were a more seasoned performer then I think that she would've taken charge and said, 'No, let's start this over again.'"

To add to Ashlee's indignity Monday, eBay.com was auctioning off her private cell phone number, which it said had been inadvertently, and briefly, posted on her Web site.

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Brazilian singer Gilberto Gil and German romance singer Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau were named the 2005 winners of the Polar Music Prize for their contributions to music.

The award was founded in 1989 by Stig Anderson, manager of Swedish pop group ABBA, through a donation to The Royal Swedish Academy of Music. Announcement of the winners was made Monday.

Gil, who also is Brazil's culture minister, and Fischer-Dieskau will each receive \$137,043. They are expected to travel to Sweden to collect the award on May 23 from King Carl XVI Gustaf.

The academy cited Gilberto, 62, for his "unflinching creative engagement in bringing to the world the heart and soul of the rich music of Brazil," and called him a "unique composer powered by immense talent and curiosity. A unique musical ambassador powered by firm cultural conviction."

Fischer-Dieskau, 79, is considered the premiere master of German lieder, or arts song, and his opera singing is regarded as some of the best worldwide. He was cited for "his unique artistry in every area of classical singing and for his unparalleled achievements as a penetrating and innovative interpreter of art songs in the German language."

The prize is typically split between pop artists and classical musicians. Previous winners include Paul McCartney, Isaac Stern, Bruce Springsteen, Pierre Boulez and Quincy Jones.

INDIANAPOLIS — "Love's Brother," a romantic drama directed by Jan Sardi, won the \$50,000 grand prize at the Heartland Film Festival.

Sardi and actor Adam Garcia accepted the prize during a gala Saturday night at Conesco Fieldhouse. The festival honors filmmakers who create movies that portray positive, life-affirming messages.

"What I am always looking for as a writer and filmmaker is time to do the sort of stories that are important to me, and those stories aren't always the sort of no-brainers that studios want to develop and throw money at," said Sardi.

Garcia and Giovanni Ribisi portray two Italian immigrant brothers struggling to build new lives in post-World War II Australia, and one will not marry his girlfriend until the other finds a mail-order bride.

"It's really sweet and, for me, it's a very sedate and staid performance," Garcia said. "More importantly, it inspired me to the world of independent films."

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