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Santa Monica Daily Press

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DAILY LOTTERY

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16 17 24 26 28

DAILY 3

Daytime: 8 4 9
Evening: 1 5 5

DAILY DERBY

1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 11 Money Bags

RACE TIME: 1:41.83

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

According to an August Washington Post profile, Maura Hall of Washington, D.C., has spent more than \$25,000 (an amount which a United Nations food program says will feed 350 Third World children for a year) for a kidney transplant and post-operative care for "Lily," her longhaired gray cat. (Among the post-op procedures: weekly, \$200 blood tests for the rest of her life.) Hall said she encounters hostility from not only those who disagree with her priorities, but also other pet owners who feel guilty that they can't afford such expensive care. (Also, an August BBC News dispatch from Brazil reported on the various cosmetic procedures available for dogs and other pets, such as wrinkle reduction, eyebrow correction and even full face-lifts, but which, fortunately, are less expensive than a kidney transplant, e.g., about US\$75 to make drooping ears un-droop.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

ON OCT. 26, 1881, the "Gunfight at the OK Corral" took place in Tombstone, Ariz., as Wyatt Earp, his two brothers and "Doc" Holliday confronted Ike Clanton's gang. Three members of Clanton's gang were killed; Earp's brothers were wounded.
■ IN 1774, the First Continental Congress adjourned in Philadelphia.
■ IN 1972, national security adviser Henry Kissinger declared, "Peace is at hand" in Vietnam.

INDEX

Horoscopes

Get extra sleep, Gem 2

Local

Frightful fashions 3

Surf Report

Water Temperature: 65° 3

Letters to the Editor

'Peeved' off 6

Opinion

Keeping the faith 7

State

Stemming the tide 10

National

Joint decision 11

Real Estate

Owning up 16

Comics/Crossword

Enter the fun zone 23

Classifieds

Ad space odyssey 24

SMC race heats up

One incumbent faces off against six newcomers

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC — No matter how residents vote on Nov. 2, one thing is certain: Change is in store for Santa Monica College.

Only one incumbent is in the race for three open seats, which means the SMC board will add at least two newcomers, possibly three. The last time more than one seat changed hands was 10 years ago.

The pending changes come at a controversial time for SMC, which has been busy rebuilding since slashing several academic programs in 2003. While faculty and campus workers applaud the opportunity to affect change through the election, administrators are deeply concerned.

"What the college needs really, to be able to succeed, is stability," said SMC President Dr. Piedad F. Robertson, who supports incumbent Margaret Quinones. "So this will be a challenge, to have new leadership."

A total of seven candidates are vying for the three open seats on the seven-member SMC board of trustees. They range from the incumbent Quinones, who also spent eight years on the local school board, to a Malibu businesswoman, an entertainment industry lawyer and a retired SMC professor.

The race is expected to be a tight one.

"What the college needs really, to be able to succeed, is stability."

— SMC PRESIDENT
Dr. Piedad F. Robertson

Candidate Doug Willis, an accountant and local Rent Control Board member, said it's time for change on the college board.

"I'm kind of disappointed. It looks like people really don't trust each other, especially faculty and administrators," he said. "The lack of collaboration. The lack of cohesiveness. I'm just surprised it goes to that level, but what can you say?"

"Maybe with fresh faces, a fresh start, more communication will take place."

Willis, along with fellow newcomers Susan Aminoff and Rob Rader, have been endorsed by several major groups, including the powerful Santa Monicans for Renters Rights group, and the college's faculty and classified employees unions. The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce broke from that mold. It supports Rader and Willis, alongside Quinones. So does SMC's Associated Students organization, which held a forum and mock election

See SMC RACE, page 4

Candidates 'squirming' at final forum tonight

The Daily Press puts candidates on the hot seat at Wilshire Blvd. club

By Daily Press staff

WILSHIRE BLVD. — The last chance to see City Council candidates in a public forum setting before the Nov. 2 election will be staged tonight at a local nightclub.

Dubbed "Squirm Night," and presented by the Santa Monica Daily Press, the forum will consist of specific questions posed to each candidate by SMDP editor Carolyn Sackariason. During the second half, candidates will field

questions from audience members.

The public will be able to submit their questions in writing to Daily Press staff, who will then pose the questions to individual candidates.

"Squirm Night" begins promptly at 6 p.m. and will finish at 9 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to arrive as much as a half hour early in order to secure seats. Cocktails and other beverages will be available.

The forum will be held at The Space, a nightclub formerly called Lush, at 2020 Wilshire Blvd., next door to the Gaslite. Free parking is available behind the building.

New school order



Susan Aminoff

Age: 56

Profession: Community college professor

Where do you live? North of Montana Avenue

Educational background: M.A., M.S.G., Ph.D.: Gerontology/-Sociology, USC



Charles Donaldson

Age:

Profession: Retired Santa Monica College professor

Where Do You Live? Southeast Santa Monica

Educational background: A.A.: Glendale College; B.A.: Cal State



Dr. Margaret R. Quinones

Age: 49

Profession: Counselor/Professor
Where do you live? Sunset Park Area

Educational background: AA: SMC; B.A.: USC; Ph.D.: UCLA, Fellow of Harvard



Rob Rader

Age: 37

Profession: Professor/Executive
Where do you live? North of Wilshire

Educational background: B.A.: Harvard College; M.A.: Stanford; J.D.: Harvard Law School



SuSanne Trimbath

Age: 49

Profession: Research economist
Where do you live? Mid-city

Educational background: Ph.D.: Economics, New York University; MBA: Management, Golden Gate University; BSBA: Marketing, California State Univ.



M. Douglas Willis

Age: 49

Profession: Staff Accountant, UCLA

Where do you live? Pico neighborhood
Educational background: B/A: Economics, UCLA

See FULL RESPONSES, pages 8-9

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

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You smile, and others grumble. What is wrong with this picture? Stay in touch with your feelings concerning difficult people, yet attempt to walk in their shoes and understand where they are coming from. Tonight: Think carefully about a financial request.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Stall a request involving work and your funds. Unexpected news heads your way that might encourage a change of view and/or plans. Don't feel cornered. Someone could become quite demanding. Tonight: It's your night to howl.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Know when to back off, though you might want to have an enlightening discussion with a key associate or partner. Work and dealing with those in charge prove to be stressful but successful, if you follow your sixth sense. Tonight: Get some extra sleep. Avoid others.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ The Lunar Eclipse will impact you, as you are ruled by the Moon. A goal appears to be in sight. Get feedback and listen to suggestions. You might be where you want to be before you know it. Avoid major actions. Tonight: Hook up with your friends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Work continues to be demanding. You find shortcuts, but you could lose your temper or be accident-prone. A child or new loved one could test his or her boundaries. Hold your position. Keep your eye on business and funds right now. Tonight: A late night out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Others are full of surprises. Keep talking, even if you are overwhelmed by all the activity around you. A trusted associate gives you important feedback that could solidify your work and money situation. Tonight: Go along with another's plans.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ A change might have you shaking your head. Adjust and flex. You will profit financially. Schedule a phone call instead of a meeting. You will accomplish a lot. Verify written agreements, especially financial ones. Better yet, postpone signing them. Tonight: Talk to a trusted friend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ The Full Moon and Eclipse in your opposite sign challenges your relationships or simply makes you more aware of them. If you are single, your status can change in a month. Don't try to nail down a free spirit in your life. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Be indulgent with friends and associates. In fact, a new attitude could help the day work better. Others feel worn out, and you might want to call it an early day. Deal with a change at home or with a family member. Tonight: Take a walk to alleviate stress.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You might be very much in demand. A child, loved one or associate "needs" you. You come up with unusual ideas, but juggling your time will take talent. The Full Moon adds to the pressure. Make no decisions right now. Tonight: Romp away. Take a midweek break.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You are in a pressure cooker, as you cannot be in two places at once. Demands come from your home life or family, while work needs your attention. Be as orderly as you can. Skip lunch and talk to a family member instead. Tonight: Slam the door shut.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might find that you cannot focus, as others keep flying into your office or work, reversing plans. Events and people test your flexibility. Confirm meetings. Talk to a boss on a one-on-one level. Tonight: Know that the unexpected will happen wherever you are.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Yoga buffs experience mind alteration

By Daily Press staff

A new kind of meditation is on the horizon and is coming to Santa Monica.

The first in a series of Mental Yoga weekend workshops entitled "Clarity" will take place from Oct. 29 to Oct. 31 at Bergamot Station in Santa Monica. The Clarity workshop trains participants in Mental Yoga, a new process for dissolving stress. The practice combines the deep-mind journey of meditation with the easy-to-follow format of an exercise program. Developed by an American for modern American minds, it uses crafted questions and cognitive exercises to illuminate problems at their source in the thinking process, making real transformation practical and accessible.

For more information on Mental Yoga, the curriculum and other event details, or to register online, visit www.mentalyoga.com or call (310) 398-8833.

Advance registration is required.

Reality check at SMC

By Daily Press staff

Reality television is coming to Santa Monica College.

Margie Friedman, a producer specializing in reality television, will talk about her career and the making of reality series at a free lecture at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 1 at the Santa Monica College Academy of Entertainment and Technology.

The lecture is the third in this fall's Mary Pickford Speakers Series, which focuses on "the story" in all its aspects.

The talk will be held in the SMC Academy of Entertainment and Technology's screening room, 1660 Stewart St.

Friedman's credits include "Popstars" (WB), "Star Search" (CBS), "Miss Universe," "Miss USA" and "Miss Teen" pageants (CBS), and the syndicated "Home Show." She also produced two successful children's shows — "The Mickey Mouse Club" (Disney Channel) and "Name Your Adventures" (NBC) — and is currently developing a reality series for VH1.

Seating is on a first-arrival basis. Call (310) 434-3777.

Frights and fringe at the mall

By Daily Press staff

Little monsters will roam free at Santa Monica on Halloween.

Continuing its tradition of commitment to children and community, Santa Monica Place will host the 13th annual "Bring Us Your Little Monsters" Halloween event on Sunday, Oct. 31 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The shopping center will serve as a safe location for kids to trick-or-treat from store to store. Parents of kids in costume receive free parking at Santa Monica Place during the event.

Santa Monica Place is located at Fourth Street and Colorado Avenue in downtown Santa Monica.

Stay in control

By Daily Press staff

Staying in control is the theme in the upcoming weeks at UCLA Medical Center.

"Diabetes: Take Control, Stay in Control" is the title of a free health lecture series for community residents to be hosted by Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center ,

See BRIEFS, page 5



Jeff Wright is this week's mystery photo winner. Wright accurately described that this photo was taken at the Marion Davies Estate on Pacific Coast Highway. Wright has won a Santa Monica Daily Press jersey. Check out Monday's edition for the next mystery photo winner.



SURF REPORT

Stormy weather and stormy surf on Wednesday with a mix of SW wind swell in the morning being joined by a steep NW ground swell in the afternoon. It's mainly blown out chest-shoulder high plus stuff with bigger waves at best combo breaks. Steady rain and stiff 15-20kt+ SW winds in the morning, showers and 10-15kt+ NW winds in the afternoon. Better weather, dropping waves on Thursday.

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

Today the water is:

65°



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 Q Line

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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Newcomers dominate SMC endorsements

SMC RACE, from page 1

Tuesday.

Quinones, who decided to run as an independent after losing SMRR backing, said there is a learning curve for new college trustees.

"It takes about a year for a new trustee to come in and learn personalities, learn the language, learn appropriate behavior — meaning we don't micro-manage the college," said Quinones, adding that some people expected her to immediately work to fire Robertson following her election in 2000.

"It takes about a year to really get the culture of it, and then you get a reality check about what are your financial restrictions," added Quinones, the first Latina elected to both the local school and college boards.

Candidate Charles Donaldson, a former newspaper reporter and retired professor who taught at SMC for more than 30 years, agreed many candidates didn't understand the complex finances of California's community college system. However, Donaldson feels change at SMC is long overdue.

"The classrooms have gone to hell," he said. "It's an attitudinal thing and I think you need change from the top. I think the board should be setting the tone and giving direction to the president, not the other way around."

Donaldson and Willis both downplayed the issue of stability on the board, Donaldson pointing to his long and involved history with the school and Willis saying he's begun regularly attending board meetings.

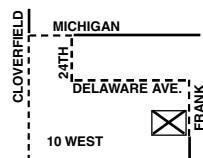
Appearing on the ballot will be: Aminoff, a community college professor; Tonja McCoy, a Malibu businesswoman; Rader, an entertainment lawyer; Susanne Trimbath, an economist; along with Donaldson, Quinones and Willis. (See related story for the candidates' political views and backgrounds.)

Meanwhile, administrators have added all seven candidates to the trustee mailing list, so that they receive regular college updates and other information. Don Girard, Robertson's executive assistant, said the mailings were necessary so that newly elected trustees will be at least partially up to speed.

"It's a big change," he added.

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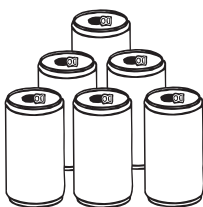
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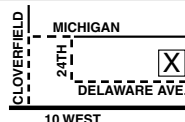
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STATE BRIEFS

Necrophilia said to be motive in murder

The Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO — A prosecutor told jurors necrophilia inspired the killing of a 16-year-old girl who was lured to a remote area and beaten to death before the teen defendant and another man had sex with the corpse.

"What you will hear may seem very disturbing. There's violence of the worst kind," Deputy District Attorney Lewis Cope told the jury during opening statements Monday in Joshua Curnutte's murder trial.

Curnutte, 17, and Jonathan Stephens, 21, formed a gang they called North Side Necrophiliacs and on April 2, 2002, they and Luke Miller, 16, lured Christy McKendall to Little Sand Canyon on the pretense of looking at a marijuana garden allegedly planted by Stephens, Cope said.

At the mouth of the canyon, Curnutte and Miller held down the Highland girl's arms and legs while Stephens choked her into unconsciousness, the prosecutor said.

"It was not enough that Jonathan Stephens would squeeze the life out of Christy McKendall," said Cope, noting Stephens allegedly picked up a eucalyptus log and struck the victim. "With that log in his hands, he brought it down on her face again, and again, and again, and again."

Stephens and Curnutte then had sex with her body, Cope said.

Curnutte attorney Julian Ducre told jurors his client and Miller were surprised by Stephens' actions and had no idea he planned to kill the girl. After Stephens had sex with the corpse, Curnutte did the same out of fear of getting hurt, Ducre said.

Ducre said the evidence will show that Miller refused to go along with the necrophilia.

Retired judge reaches benchmark

The Associated Press

NORWALK — A retired Orange County Superior Court judge was ordered to trial on two felony drunken driving charges stemming from a collision that nearly killed a motorcyclist.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge John Torribio ruled Monday there was enough evidence to order trial for Theodore E. Millard, who retired from the bench in 1999 after 20 years as a jurist. Millard, 65, will return to the Norwalk court on Nov. 17.

Prosecutors said Millard was driving a Ford Explorer on Dec. 5, 2003, when it collided with the motorcycle, seriously injuring the rider. Prosecutors allege that Millard's blood-alcohol level was over the legal limit of 0.08.

If convicted, he faces a maximum of six years in prison. He is free on his own recognizance.

William Payne, 53, was seriously hurt when the sports utility vehicle struck his Honda Nighthawk motorcycle in Orange. Payne, who testified during the preliminary hearing, reached an out-of-court civil settlement with Millard in May.

Millard's civil attorney, Michael Maguire, said the case was resolved before Payne filed his threatened lawsuit. The case settled for the policy limits of Millard's State Farm auto insurance, the attorney said.

State prosecutors are handling the case because Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas, a former judge, served on the bench at the same time as Millard. The two also worked in the prosecutor's office as deputy district attorneys.

County watches investment go up in smoke

The Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO — The county lost \$4 million on its wood burning venture.

The county invested about \$1 million in the Burnt Flats Wood Waste Processing Facility last year after the Heaps Peak Transfer Station, a dump site near Running Springs, filled up with trees that had been infested with bark beetles.

"At the time, it seemed like a no-brainer because of the overwhelming amount of wood and associated debris. At this point, it's costing the county more money to keep and maintain the facility than is called for," said Brad Mitzelfelt, spokesman for Supervisor Bill Postmus.

The San Bernardino National Forest incineration facility opened last year and burned about 500 tons of wood daily at no cost to the haulers. It cost the county about \$4 million before the county decided to start charging to dump or burn wood.

Incinerator business began to drop off sharply, due to the fees and private industry solutions to deal with the deluge of wood. They turned it into pallets, railroad ties, colored chips for landscaping and other products.

The Solid Waste Management Division closed the burn facility in September.

Fox trot could prove lethal

The Associated Press

VENTURA — Twenty-three endangered island foxes will be released in coming weeks at San Miguel and Santa Rosa islands, part of the protected Channel Islands National Park.

The foxes have been raised at captive-rearing facilities on the islands. They will be released over the next three weeks — 10 on San Miguel and 13 on Santa Rosa, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service said Monday.

If three or more of the foxes on San Miguel or five or more on Santa Rosa are killed or injured by golden eagles, the survivors will be returned to captivity.

There will be no releases from captivity on Santa Cruz Island this year.

Since 1999, 35 golden eagles have been removed from Santa Cruz and two from Santa Rosa.

STATE



With Props on the ropes, governor goes stumping

BY BETH FOUHY

AP Political Writer

MENLO PARK — Venturing into the heavily Democratic San Francisco Bay area, Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger campaigned this week with GOP Assembly candidate Steve Poizner, a Silicon Valley billionaire whom Schwarzenegger called an independent outsider immune to “special interest” pressure.

“What a terrific reception! You guys must think I have the flu vaccine with me or something!” Schwarzenegger said to an enthusiastic crowd of about 200 people near the campus of Stanford University.

The Poizner campaign rally marked the beginning of Schwarzenegger’s final political push before the Nov. 2 election.

For the last several weeks, he has focused most of his energies on defeating Propositions 68 and 70, two ballot measures that could vastly expand the scope of casino gambling in the state. With polls showing both measures likely to lose decisively, he has begun focusing on legislative candidates and ballot issues. After the Poizner event he headed to San Francisco to promote Proposition 1A, which is aimed at limiting the times the states can borrow tax money from local governments.

Schwarzenegger’s splashiest campaign appearance will be in the presidential battleground of Ohio, where he is expected to appear alongside President Bush later in the week. Early on, Schwarzenegger said he would not leave the state to campaign for Bush but later said he would consider limited appearances elsewhere.

But at the Proposition 1A event, he signaled he could still change his mind about campaigning for Bush, whom polls show is all but certain to lose in California.

“I’m going out of state — maybe — for one trip. We haven’t really made up our mind yet,” Schwarzenegger said. “I believe I should help the president and so I will do my share to help the president.”

In California, he’s also made several stops for Republican legislative candidates locked in tight races and is expected to make more in the coming days. One of these is Poizner, who made a fortune

building and selling telecom companies and who’s spent \$5 million of his own money against Redwood City Councilman Ira Ruskin in a district with a heavy Democratic registration advantage.

The district is also one of only a handful in the state to vote against Schwarzenegger in last year’s recall election, and Ruskin’s spokesman said the governor’s visit would have little effect.

“A Republican endorsing a Republican — it’s election season,” Ruskin spokesman Jim Evans said. “Like Mr. Poizner, the governor is wrong on a lot of issues people care about in this district.”

At the rally, Schwarzenegger praised Poizner as a like-minded political newcomer who wants to set aside his own financial interests for the good of the state.

“To leave all the money behind — I can relate to that. That’s another thing we share,” Schwarzenegger said. “I had the choice to sign up for the next Terminator Four movie and make \$30 million or go work for free and work for the people. I’ve worked enough for myself. I’ve thought about myself enough.”

And he repeated the mantra that he invoked often about himself during the recall election — that wealthy men “cannot be bought” with campaign contributions.

“He’s like me, he can laugh at the special interests who want to give him \$25,000 for your campaign and in return you do this or that for me,” Schwarzenegger said. “He can laugh at them like I have laughed for the last year, because I will never do anything in return for money and he will never do anything for the money.”

Since the recall election, Schwarzenegger has raised about \$25 million in three different campaign committees, much of it from companies or donors with business before the state.

Always a joker, Schwarzenegger gently zinged Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry and poked fun at the weight problem of his own uncle-by-marriage, Ted Kennedy, who is Kerry’s Senate colleague from Massachusetts. Schwarzenegger’s wife, Maria Shriver, is Kennedy’s niece.

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INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2!

BRIEFS, from page 3

beginning Friday, Oct. 22.

Deborah Norman, a certified diabetes educator at the medical center, will present the four-part series on Fridays, from noon to 1:30 p.m., in conference room 723 at Santa Monica-UCLA, 1250 16th St.

Topics to be covered include home monitoring of blood-glucose levels, the importance of nutrition and exercise, and developing a game plan for insulin-resistance syndrome.

For reservations or more information, call (800) 516-5323.

Celebrate Halloween with jazz barbecue

By Daily Press staff

AFLAC and New Directions will host a Halloween jazz barbecue on Friday, Oct. 29, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with Latin jazz/salsa musician The Ricardo Estrada Ensemble. It will be a culinary celebration of autumn and jazz with a homestyle barbecue, coleslaw, potato salad and cornbread. Priced from \$4.50 to \$6.50, each entrée is served with a free Halloween dessert.

Sponsored by the Long Beach Regional Office of AFLAC, the Halloween jazz barbecue will be held at the Veteran’s Village Diner, located on the VA campus at 11303 Wilshire Blvd., building 306. For more information contact Erin Liestico at (310) 914-4045 ext. 125.

New Directions, Inc., recently named recipient of the 2004 Sustainable Quality Award by the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce and the city of Santa Monica, is a long-term drug and alcohol treatment program providing housing, food, clothing, counseling, job training and psychiatric services for more than 800 homeless veterans a year. The agency operates four residential rehabilitation facilities, including the 156-bed regional opportunity center, the 43-bed New Directions North for homeless veterans with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders, and two homes in Mar Vista for homeless women veterans.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SMC trustee sets record straight

Editor:

Recently, like all residents, I have received an abundance of political mailers. However, I am writing about two specific mailers to date from Margaret Quinones. There may be more sent out.

One mailer implies my endorsement by naming me in alphabetical order under the phrase "The entire SMC Board of Trustees agree" to her reelection. The other mailer specifically uses the word "endorsement" by "The entire SMC Board of Trustees." I can only speak for myself. Margaret Quinones' campaign either intentionally or inadvertently has misled the voters. I have not endorsed, nor do I intend to endorse Margaret Quinones for reelection to the college board.

One's name can be a powerful tool in an election and should not be used without specific permission. I want to set the record straight because it is important to me that the voters in Santa Monica and Malibu have complete and accurate information regarding the candidates.

Annette Shamey
Trustee, Santa Monica College

Show your colors on election day

Editor:

As a young African American, I have a different perspective on the City Council election and what it means to my community. My family has lived in Santa Monica's Pico neighborhood for more than 33 years. Slowly, but surely, African American families are being pushed out of Santa Monica. The African American population is a mere 3.5 percent of Santa Monica's total population, but our numbers are decreasing at an increasing rate.

According to a RAND study the black population decreased 17 percent from 1990 to 2000. The numbers dropped more dramatically for young black men and women. From 1990 to 2000, black men and women between the ages of 15 to 25 dropped 54 percent. With the loss of our ethnic and economic diversity, one can only expect that the city of Santa Monica will become less vibrant and culturally homogenous. Cultural celebrations, music, political movements, the arts — everything that makes life wonderful will suffer as a result of losing our city's diversity.

That is why this election is so important for our city's black community. Our cultural survival is at stake and we need to support candidates who will fight for social and economic justice. Santa Monicans For Renters Rights is the only political entity that I know that specifically states in its platform that "protecting the ethnic and economic diversity of our city is a priority." Also, SMRR is the only political organization that has endorsed an African American candidate, Doug Willis, to serve on the SMC Board of Trustees. SMRR has also endorsed Ana Jara for school board and Maria Loya for City Council. If Loya, Willis and Jara win, it will be the first time in

history that the Pico neighborhood is represented in the halls of power within our city.

Without a doubt, the SMRR slate is the most diverse slate in the history of Santa Monica politics. Hopefully, now the issues of community/police relations, youth violence prevention, services for older youth, affordable housing, equity in public education and the need for good paying jobs for Pico neighborhood residents will be addressed. Most of these issues have been ignored in the past and our youth have paid the price with their lives. Since 1989 more than 29 youth of color have been murdered on the streets of the Pico neighborhood. All of them have been victims of the poverty that results from local inequality, social neglect, segregation and marginalization.

While some of our wealthiest residents complain about "hedges" many of our poorest families suffer from gun violence. I have seen televised political forums focus so much attention on the traffic that development produces but very little is said about the need for workforce development in our working class neighborhoods. I recently received a mailer from one SMC Board of Trustee incumbent talking about "keeping the doors of SMC open" but she voted to eliminate many vocational training programs that are a gateway to good paying jobs for local youth.

A lot is at stake in this election, even more so for African American residents. In order to sustain our ethnic and economic diversity we need to support Maria Loya for City Council, Ana Jara for school board and Doug Willis for SMC Board of Trustees. These Pico neighborhood leaders have a proven track record of advancing the plight of working class families in Santa Monica. By electing progressive leaders of color we can show the country that we are truly an inclusive community that celebrates the cultural diversity that makes us a vibrant city.

Michael Jackson
Santa Monica

'Pet peeves' becoming city policy?

Editor:

In his answers to Saturday's SMDP City Council candidate questionnaire (Oct. 23-24), Richard Bloom listed "billboard vehicles (trucks with no purpose other than totting billboards around, wasting gas and adding to congestion)" as one of his pet peeves.

"I intend to introduce an ordinance prohibiting them in Santa Monica," Bloom declared.

I wish I could legislate my pet peeves away. It's good to be Richard Bloom.

All I can do is list mine:

■ City council members who pass ordinances banning ATM fees and, possibly, billboard trucks that are destined to crash and burn in the courts. Billboard truck owners have First Amendment rights, too, Richard. Please review the Bill of Rights section in your constitutional law textbook.

See LETTERS, page 7

Campaign 2004: Ignorance is bliss, er, Bush



INCITES

BY ED SILVERSTEIN

We are down to the wire. There is less than a week to go before the presidential election. And despite the colossal fiasco that is the war in Iraq, record deficits, skyrocketing health costs, fewer jobs, less pay, more poor, fewer insured, a tanking stock market, a faltering economic recovery, and being loathed by the rest of the world, most polls still show President Bush leading the race by several percentage points.

Who, I wondered, in their right mind, or even out of their mind, would want this man to continue as our leader? I wracked my brain trying to understand this phenomenon. And then I got it: Bush supporters virtually fall into three categories.

Bush's principle support, 43 percent in fact, comes from those who have deep religious faith. Most attend Church regularly. The core of this group is evangelical and fundamentalist Christians, and hard-line conservative Catholics. There are some orthodox Jewish supporters, but they more properly belong with the next group.

These uber-Christian Bushies believe, with the same absolute certainty that Bush has about the war in Iraq, that the Bible, despite its many inconsistencies, is literally God's word and we must adhere strictly

to its edicts. They exploit biblical verse to condemn abortion, doctor-assisted suicide, stem cell research, homosexuality, divorce, contraception, sex and, to a lesser extent, all other religions. Yet, thanks to an open Internet letter to Dr. Laura, we know that they inexplicably chose to ignore God's biblical stamp of approval on owning slaves, his prohibition against those with bad eyesight approaching the altar and His decree that we must stone to death any person guilty of planting two crops in the same field or wearing clothing of two different kinds of thread.

But even beyond the Christian right's absolute — albeit cherry picked — biblical dogma, what epitomizes this extremist group is their belief that it is their divine privilege, or rather duty, to shove their narrow, often deadly, beliefs down the throats of the rest of us. And in George W. Bush the likes of Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson have found their willing, if somewhat clandestine, co-conspirator in this religious coup. Nevermind that, should they prevail, America will become little different from the historical Europe, with its religious persecution, that our forefathers fled.

Another base of Bush support comes from people who are ignorant. This group will rely on faulty intelligence, often their own, to determine who to vote for. Of course, the problem with the ignorant is that they don't know they're ignorant. So the following is a simple test to determine if you are a member of this category.

■ Do you believe that Iraq represented an imminent threat, that Iraq had WMD's, that Saddam had anything to do with 9/11 or that the war has made us safer?

■ Do you believe that deficits don't matter, that the tax cut benefited mainly middle class families or that the economy has recovered?

■ Do you believe that "No Child Left Behind" leaves fewer children behind?

■ Do you believe that the clear skies, healthy forests and the clean water initiatives are environmental policies?

■ Do you believe that the Medicare prescription drug program mainly benefits seniors?

■ Do you believe that Bush fulfilled his National Guard service and that Kerry did not deserve his medals?

■ Do you believe that Bush is less a flip-flopper than Kerry or has stronger character?

■ Do you watch FOX News?

If you answered yes to any question, then you are ignorant.

Finally, there are those who support Bush out of pure selfishness. Their only concern is keeping their tax cuts. They are invariably well-to-do, because anyone in the middle class voting for Bush because of tax cuts belongs in the previous category. Most have created elaborate, often altruistic, justifications for their Bush (tax cut) support, but in truth their philosophy can be boiled down to: "Show me the money."

They have little concern over veterans benefits being cut, education being short

changed, that 45 million people have no health insurance, that Medicare and Social Security are going bankrupt and that terrorism isn't being properly fought. What is important to them is the new Hummer/Porsche/Lexus, eight-bedroom home/ski house/beach house/Italian villa, their spa treatments/ hair transplants/-breast implants/facelifts, dinners at Bastide/Melisse/Patina/Spago, their Manolo Blahniks/Jimmy Choos/Armanis/Versaces/Donna Karens and all the other essential items that make up their core values. Until that changes, they see no reason to change course.

Of course, selfish people are also religious. They worship money. And if they think that runaway deficits aren't going to ultimately affect them, they're ignorant as well. And speaking of the ignorant, they selfishly saddle us with their uninformed vote because they prefer to maintain their deep faith in deceptive 30-second sound bites. And any person who believes with absolute certainty that their religion is the one and only religion in the universe is ignorant. And if they deem it their right to impose their beliefs on everyone else, then they are profoundly selfish.

So, as you can plainly see, anyone who plans to vote for George W. Bush is devoutly ignorant and selfish. Or at least that's the way I see it.

(Comments or requests for copies of this column may be addressed to incites@incites.net).

OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 6

■ City council members who fritter away their time on “issues” like “toxic” henna tattoo artists, the humane disposition of “dangerous” ground squirrels, and now, “gas wasting” billboard trucks.

■ City council members who have the outrageous hypocrisy to condemn billboard trucks for “wasting gas and adding to congestion” after presiding over the construction of traffic calming medians and curb extensions specifically intended to make driving in this city as congested and miserable as possible. Backed-up, idling traffic wastes a lot of gas.

■ City council members who remain in a willful state of denial about the havoc their planning department bureaucrats wreak upon peoples’ lives.

In Saturday’s questionnaire, Bloom said the hedge height issue “was brought to us at the behest of numerous members of the community.” He left out one important detail — the whole controversy was set in motion by a fine-brandishing vendetta his planning department inflicted upon hedge-growing residents. One resident told the council he was speaking on behalf of his elderly mother who was afraid the planning department would threaten her about her hedge if she faced the council herself.

■ City council members who use phrases like “regional solutions to homelessness” as Santa Monicans For Renters Rights code for, “We’re not going to lean hard on the homeless right now and anger my very close personal friend John Maceri, who contributed to my campaign as payback for the \$7 million city “loan” I spearheaded to build a shelter for his Ocean Park Community Center.”

Bloom presided over a multi-month delay in the enforcement of the doorway-sleeping ban and park-feeding ordinances so the homeless “community” could be “educated” about them. In contrast, the residents embroiled in “The Great Hedge Crusade” were ordered to trim them down by the end of Thanksgiving weekend or pay up.

If he succeeds in banning his latest pet peeve, would Bloom allow environmentally menacing billboard truck drivers a few months to get used to the idea? Or would he give them a long holiday weekend to get out of town or face the consequences?

I don’t want to find out. There’s one more thing I can do with my pet peeves — vote for Bobby Shriver, Kathryn Morea, Matt Dinolfo and Herb Katz.

Bob Bowman
Santa Monica

Loya and Shriver: Two ends of the spectrum

Editor:

The enthusiasm for Maria Loya’s candidacy was high last week at a fundraiser at Patricia Correa’s Bergamont Station gallery. Poets and performance artists made constant reference to Loya’s agenda: working class/female/Latina representation, the livable wage, education and youth issues, and the conservation of Santa Monica’s character. Many of us know her for her advocacy on behalf of families through Mothers For Justice. Crowd responses were heartfelt. The event likely drew a few thousand dollars, and the commitment of many to get physically involved in this year’s campaign.

Then Bobby Shriver had a photo op with his uncle Ted Kennedy and revealed that he’s raised \$162,000 for his campaign — this is \$100,000 more than any other candidate. His motive for getting into politics is the city’s control over his front yard. His agenda is ambiguous at best. Antagonistic towards rent control, Shriver announced to some that his politics — not Santa Monicans For Renters Rights — are “the future of Santa Monica.”

Loya and Shriver represent the two poles of this year’s candidates. Organic leaders from the Pico neighborhood will never compete financially with north of Montana’s hedge-liberators. That’s a fact. We rely on all we can muster organizationally, and the conscience of Santa Monicans outside of the Pico corridor. Santa Monica’s own battle ground voters need to decide if moneyed individuals with famous relatives will represent us, or people we know. Personally, I hope voters can make history and elect the first Latina from our varrio to the City Council.

Elias Serna
Professor, Cal-State Northridge

GUEST COMMENTARY **BY TODD FLORA**

Renter-turned-owner keeps SMRR allegiance

A funny thing happened to me this year. I went from being a seven-year Santa Monica renter to a new Santa Monica homeowner. As a member of Santa Monicans for Renters Rights (SMRR), I was concerned. Would I proceed to grow more conservative about local issues and start to resent renter activists and all of their crazy talk about “sustainable neighborhoods,” “preservation” and “reasonable, responsible development?” Thankfully, it just hasn’t happened.

As a homeowner, I still have the same concerns I held as a renter — and for renters. I want as economically and ethnically diverse a city as we can create. Affordable rents and — just as important, renter protections — help us preserve that Santa Monica. I still want reasonably quiet neighborhoods and a city that reduces its “environmental footprint” on the region by “growing smart” and “thinking green.” I want other cities in our region to pay their fair share of the homeless burden, not a Rudy Giuliani-esque solution that calls for sweeping the problem under the rug without actually solving it.

Was this “hedge issue” a mess? Yes, and it’s an indicative sign that some board(s), bodies, or department(s) may be out of touch and in serious need of decaf. Could city government perform better? Of course, we’re a city, and cities have problems, folks. But something you’ll never learn from letters to the editor in this paper is that most cities have far more problems than Santa Monica does.

Let’s take a look at the SMRR endorsed slate for City Council. I believe the SMRR slate still fights for the Santa Monica we love. These are the good folks about which Santa Monica’s versions of the Swift Boat Veterans would have you believe are out to destroy our quality of life ... and your family dog:

■ Mayor Richard Bloom: A bridge builder with a welcome practice of civility in our political discourse. He has proven instrumental in securing the city’s commitment to public education and park space.

■ Councilman Ken Genser: The “Dean” of the City Council, Genser is always thinking three steps ahead, is detailed focused and asks the tough questions. I overheard someone at a recent meeting say, “I can’t imagine a

council without Ken Genser.” Neither can I.

■ Patricia Hoffman: A former school board president, Patricia knows this city and its operations like the back of her hand. I’m amazed every time I listen to her. She’s smart, funny and quick on her feet. She’s principled and won’t cave to anyone who would degrade the integrity of our city or its charm.

■ Maria Loya: This exciting policy advocate would make history as the first council member from the Pico neighborhood, and bring the body much needed diversity. Woman. Young. Latina. She’s poised and personable, and she won’t ever back down in the fight for middle and working class families (who live here too). She’ll keep Santa Monica progressive, and a city committed to economic and social justice while always looking for practical solutions.

There are other terrific people running for the City Council. Matt Dinolfo is a stand-up guy with a genuine intellectual curiosity I admire. I know and respect local leaders who are supporting Bobby Shriver, and they would not do so if he were not the real deal. But I hope he proves that there is nothing to read into about his choice to bypass seeking a SMRR endorsement while happily accepting one from the Chamber of Commerce. Mike Feinstein genuinely loves the practice of public policy, and is admirably “green” in his approach to resource and sustainability issues.

But at the end of the day, you have to look at a reliable record of accomplishment as a good thing, not the scandalous liability it’s made out to be by SMRR’s detractors. I’m voting for a team of four people I can absolutely trust to fight for affordable rents, renter protections, smart and sustainable growth, and a feeling of genuine community within our city, Bloom, Genser, Hoffman and Loya. I’m a homeowner now. And I still want that Santa Monica.

(Todd Flora is a seven-year resident of Santa Monica, and has been a member of SMRR and active with Heal the Bay for much of that time. Todd and his fiancé proudly support the “Shop Santa Monica” effort and are even getting married at the Victorian on Main Street next year. E-mail him at reformadvocate@yahoo.com).

FED UP WITH PICO VIOLENCE? YOUR OPINION MATTERS

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Endorsed by: Santa Monica College Faculty Association , Santa Monica College CSEA Chapter 30, Santa Monica-Malibu K-12 Classroom Teachers Association, Los Angeles College Faculty Guild, Los Angeles College Staff Guild, Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, Assemblymember Fran Pavley, Los Angeles County Democratic Party, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor

CHARLES DONALDSON

Question #1: In 100 words or less, what about your background makes you a qualified Santa Monica College Trustee? I taught English and journalism at SMC, retiring last June. I worked directly with the trustees in 1986-87 and in 1999-2001 as Academic Senate president. Over time, I chaired each senate committee. I advised the campus newspaper, The Corsair, for 19 years and always was a student club adviser.

I now chair the board of directors of the Pico Improvement Organization, a city-created business improvement district. I belong to the American Institute of Parliamentarians.

Question #2: In 300 words or less, do you agree with the way the SMC administration dealt with last

Endorsed by: Malibu Democratic Club, Santa Monica Police Officers Assoc., Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce , National Women Political Caucus, Entire Malibu City Council, Individuals ranging from local politicians to SMC and Santa Monica-Malibu School Board members.

Question #1: In 100 words or less, what about your background makes you a qualified Santa Monica College Trustee? I am a product of the California community college. I am an alumnus of SMC and both of my children graduated from SMC. My professional career has been as a tenure faculty member, former Dean and the current SMC Board President. I also serve as a member of the Board of Governors for all California community colleges. As you can see, I

year's budget shortfall (i.e., the elimination of several academic programs)? What would you have done differently? Is it wise for the college and students to bring back those programs? The automotive faculty showed how their program could be cutback leaving just one full-time instructor to maintain a feasible offering until full restoration was possible. That plan was ignored. Respiratory therapy, police and fire science, tourism, and architecture programs also were ordered eliminated.

Oddly, for years the administration has said it needed to hire a massive number of part-time, non-tenured faculty in case staff reduction became necessary. As for tenured faculty, reduction in force policies exist. But vocational classes that gave students valuable job skills were destroyed as a first choice.

The canceled programs should be restored. These classes met community needs, as well provided an

Not long ago college trustees voted nearly \$1 million in taxpayer dollars to build an accessway off Bundy to the parking lot of the 10-acre property purchased near the airport. Trustees were told the new access was needed because the city had padlocked the lot's Airport

Question #4: In 300 words or less, there have been tensions between faculty and college administrators in recent years. Why do

Faculty leaders believe Title 5 has been repeatedly ignored by the administration and board.

In community college, it is the classroom, the counselor's office, and the library where the rubber meets the road. At Santa Monica College, the trustees at the steering wheel seem happy to run on bald tires as long as the wax job shines.

Endorsed by: Malibu Democratic Club, Santa Monica Police Officers Assoc., Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce , National Women Political Caucus, Entire Malibu City Council, Individuals ranging from local politicians to SMC and Santa Monica-Malibu School Board members.

Question #1: In 100 words or less, what about your background makes you a qualified Santa Monica College Trustee? I am a product of the California community college. I am an alumnus of SMC and both of my children graduated from SMC. My professional career has been as a tenure faculty member, former Dean and the current SMC Board President. I also serve as a member of the Board of Governors for all California community colleges. As you can see, I

Question #2: In 300 words or less, do you agree with the way the SMC administration dealt with last year's budget shortfall (i.e., the elimination of several academic programs)? What would you have done differently? Is it wise for the college and students to bring back those programs? Yes, I do agree with the way the Board and the administration dealt with the budgetary shortfall. As a member of the Board, I was forced to do the reduction because the state of California cut our budget by 25 percent. It was very painful to make these cuts, however, it is my responsibility to balance the SMC budget. There were many, many

As a Board, it was our responsibility to be fiscally sound and

Question #3: In 300 words or less, why do you think the city of Santa Monica and SMC have had a strained relationship for years? How would you bridge that gap? I believe that the strained relationship is due to communication. There is a great need for better communication. However, there can be common ground, the first being that there is a need for a united commitment to all Santa Monica College students and the college as a whole. Our students are a reflection of the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu. The state and the nation looks at the quality of our students, and give credit to the commitment of the residents for contributing to the higher education of our students. I believe this a high honor for our cities. A strong bridge (puente) is built on trust and a commitment for the college and

Question #4: In 300 words or less, there have been tensions between faculty and college administrators in recent years. Why do you think the faculty is upset and what's the first step toward addressing their concerns? What I have learned in the past four years is that everyone has a sense of what the "truth" is. The SMC on-campus community and our president, Dr. Piedad Robertson, have a strong sense of

Our college will always be successful as long as our number-one priority is students.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

LOCAL



Rob Rader

Endorsed by: Santa Monicans for Renters’ Rights, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, California School Employees Association, Chapter 36 at Santa Monica College, LA County Democratic Party, Santa Monica Democratic Club, Pepperdine Young Democrats, Santa Monica College Faculty Association, Santa Monica-Malibu Education Team, The Santa Monica Mirror, More than 50 individuals ranging from local politicians to college educators to activists.

Question #1: In 100 words or less, what about your background makes you a qualified Santa Monica College Trustee? As an executive for MGM Studios, I negotiate for a living. As Chair of the Wilshire/Montana Neighborhood Coalition — Santa Monica’s largest neighborhood group — I have resolved many disputes between businesses and residents. As Finance Committee Chair of the Bayside District Corporation (Third Street Promenade), I help our businesses prosper. As a law professor at Pepperdine, I am sensitive to the needs of Malibu. I am a member of SMC’s General Advisory Board and SMC Associates. I, therefore, bring a wide variety of public service and business experience to help Santa Monica

College serve its students and our community even better.

Question #2: In 300 words or less, do you agree with the way the SMC administration dealt with last year’s budget shortfall (i.e., the elimination of several academic programs)? What would you have done differently? Is it wise for the college and students to bring back those programs? Criticizing prior boards is not the way to move forward productively. Let’s be tough on the problems, not on the participants. I will not begin a working relationship with fellow Board members by second-guessing their prior decisions.

The College needs to do a needs-based study to determine what programs can serve the community. This requires market research to find out what jobs there will be for graduates. All vocational programs must lead to jobs for their students. Otherwise, they are merely vanity programs. The recent Accreditation Study of SMC made it clear that we must measure student learning outcomes. The College does a fantastic job of transferring students to the University of California and Cal State systems; we need to measure just as rigorously what the outcomes are for vocational programs.

The College must reach out to local businesses. A vocational program without business support and

involvement is always destined for mediocrity for three reasons: (1) local businesses can keep the curriculum geared toward useful technical skills; (2) local businesses will hire students from programs they are involved in; (3) during times of budget crisis, local businesses will protect those programs from cuts.

Finally, all programs must have understandable financial numbers. As someone who reviews audits, I believe SMC needs greater transparency on a department-by-department basis, so we can easily view how much each department costs.

Thus, I believe that SMC needs to: (1) Study what vocational programs are viable in our community, (2) get local businesses involved in those vocational programs, and (3) make the operational costs of those programs transparent to the community. I believe we can bring back Automotive Technology using this process. It may not look exactly like the previous program, but it will be even stronger and more integrated into our community’s needs.

Question #3: In 300 words or less, why do you think the city of Santa Monica and SMC have had a strained relationship for years? How would you bridge that gap? The College is in a difficult position because its funding is derived from the number of students it serves. Thus, it is forced to con-

stantly increase its enrollment. The City appropriately wants to protect residents, especially in the Sunset Park and Pico neighborhoods, from the effects of that growth.

As Chair of the Wilshire/-Montana Neighborhood Coalition, I too have tried to curtail growth and to reduce the negative effects on our quality of life. So, I start off with a sympathetic ear to neighborhood concerns. I have effectively conveyed to the College the concerns of the Friends of Sunset Park and the Pico Neighborhood Association to restrict further growth into their residential areas. In the past, I have personally assisted Sunset Park residents in obtaining parking. I would set up standing committees at the College that would solicit neighborhood concerns on an ongoing basis and I would make sure that all development issues get a fair public hearing with neighborhood input.

I would continue the policy of funneling growth to the satellite campuses: Madison, the Academy of Entertainment Technology on Stewart, the Emeritus College, the Airport campus and (in the near future) the Bundy campus. If the bond proposal passes, I would want to break ground on a Malibu campus to further reduce strain in Santa Monica and to share the benefits of the College.

In the long run, I want to lobby

to change the way the state funds community colleges so that the pressure to grow is reduced, which will benefit colleges like SMC that are in built-out areas.

Finally, having been endorsed by a majority of the Santa Monica and Malibu City Council members, I know I can work with them to make the College and our cities even better communities, for residents and for students.

Question #4: In 300 words or less, there have been tensions between faculty and college administrators in recent years. Why do you think the faculty is upset and what’s the first step toward addressing their concerns? There are three reasons for the strained relationship: (1) lack of agreement on budget numbers; (2) lack of opportunities for all stakeholders to have meaningful input; and (3) the budget crisis that forced more severe budget cuts.

I am a negotiator for a living for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios and I deal with extremely difficult parties’ interests conflict. My job is to make sure a deal gets done. I teach my students at Pepperdine the skills I’ve learned on “getting to yes.”

I have brought these same skills to bear as Chair of the Wilshire/Montana Neighborhood Coalition and as Finance Committee Chair of the Bayside District Corporation (Third Street

Promenade). In these groups, I show respect to all sides and listen to all positions. I have repeatedly fought for residents to have meaningful input in Santa Monica affairs and I urge all readers to go to www.wilmont.org and check the correspondence, all written by me, invariably requesting greater input into public process.

As a Trustee, I would bring this same ethic to the Board. All parties must be given a chance to participate in shared governance and must feel that their participation had an effect on the outcome. The College has made great strides in its Working Groups on Shared Governance, but more needs to be done. Public process is not mere window dressing and I will not treat it as such.

Regarding budget transparency, I have overseen the audits by the Bayside District Corporation as well as audits at MGM. I, therefore, have the necessary business and public finance skills to make SMC’s numbers more comprehensible to all parties.

For these reasons, I know I can improve relations on the campus between the faculty, the workers and the administration.

SuSanne Trim bath

Endorsed by: Beholden to none.

Responsible to all

Question #1: In 100 words or less, what about your background makes you a qualified Santa Monica College Trustee?

My business experience combined with advanced education makes me uniquely qualified for the position. I worked in finance in both large and small firms, profit and non-profit, throughout my career. I earned both my bachelor and master degrees while working full time. I’m a lifelong learner who returned to school after nearly 20 years in business to attain my Ph.D. I’ve taught classes at business and vocational schools. I will understand the perspective of the community, students, faculty, and staff because I’ve already walked a mile in their shoes.

Question #2: In 300 words or less, do you agree with the way the SMC administration dealt with last year’s budget shortfall (i.e., the

elimination of several academic programs)? What would you have done differently? Is it wise for the college and students to bring back those programs? You must have been living in a cave to not have anticipated that the state would not be able to maintain its level of funding for community colleges after 2000. So why didn’t SMC have a plan? The college got into serious financial trouble and they did not have a plan to manage the changing budget level and they don’t have a plan to solve the problem going forward.

Here’s just one example of the problems yet to come. The cost of servicing the bonds issued after the 1992 election will rise nearly five-fold in 2009 and stay there for more than a decade. Debt payments on that debt alone will rise from about \$1.7 million this year to \$8.4 million, where it will remain for 14 years. If you didn’t know this already, take a close look at the 2003 audit. SMC has not presented a plan to manage these increased debt payments.

SMC’s 2003 audit also includes a warning and expresses the belief that it is “extremely critical” for management to “to protect the financial solvency of the district.” This statement calls into question not just the “budget shortfall” but the ability of the college to avoid bankruptcy (remain solvent). Furthermore, questions remained outstanding for five years running without receiving responses that would satisfy the concerns of outside auditors. Adding to the insult, meetings required for some state funding (EOPS) were not held between 2001 and 2003. We need to seriously address the concerns expressed by the auditors. They monitor the finances of SMC and should not be ignored.

Sadly, classes and vocational training programs have been the scapegoat. Instead, we could capitalize on business relationships to help SMC bring back the training for the labor pool that regional employers will need during the coming economic expansion.

Question #3: In 300 words or

less, why do you think the city of Santa Monica and SMC have had a strained relationship for years? How would you bridge that gap? In a recent meeting with Mario Cuomo, the former governor of New York, I got some advice on why Santa Monica and SMC should work together. He calls it “exercises in mutuality.” It’s in everyone’s best interest to support the presence of the most important regional college and it’s in the college’s best interest to garner support from the community. Remember, the “city” is not some entity that exists without the residents. Both the college and the city depend on the community for financing.

Understanding that the strain in the relationship between the college and the city is really a strain in the relationship between the college and the neighborhoods. We can see that we are at a critical juncture. There is no “community college” without a “community” to support it. Perhaps the time for dialogue is over. Perhaps the times has

come for SMC to listen. I invite anyone living in the neighborhood of an SMC facility to contact me with their issues so that, win or lose, I can use my candidacy to promote the issues important to the neighborhoods. These issues need to be brought to the forefront in a way that forces SMC to listen to the needs of the community. When SMC is really listening, they will be responsive in a way that is not defensive — responsive in a way that actually incorporates what the community is saying into the plans and operations of SMC.

The core problem seems to be growth of the college both in the number of students and in the expanses of land owned and occupied by the college. Mayor Bloom recently pointed out (in a candidates’ forum shown on CityTV) that elements of state funding are tied to the rate of increase in enrollment. This is a well-defined, addressable issue.

Question #4: In 300 words or less, there have been tensions between faculty and college admin-

istrators in recent years. Why do you think the faculty is upset and what’s the first step toward addressing their concerns? I got quite an earful when I first talked to people about the possibility of running for election to the board of trustees. One faculty member even said to me, “Why would you want to be part of that mess?” Several people only agreed to sign the petition to put my name on the ballot after I assured them that I did not know any current members of the City Council or the college administration. If the tensions were the result of simple personality clashes, I don’t think that strangers at the farmers’ market would be telling me about the problems that they see.

These are serious issues that I can only address as a member of the board of trustees. The first step to resolving these tensions is to bring in a fresh pair of eyes. I promise not only to stand up for what is right. I promise to stand up against what is wrong.

M. Douglas Willis

Endorsed by: Santa Monica Faculty Association, CSEA, Chapter 36 (Santa Monica College Classified Staff), Santa Monica for Renters’ Rights, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, Santa Monica Democratic Club, County Federation of Labor, The K-12 Classroom Teachers , The Coalition to Protect the Living Wage, along with many other individuals.

Question #1: In 100 words or less, what about your background makes you a qualified Santa Monica College Trustee?

My 27 years as a resident and 25 years of community involvement in Santa Monica coupled with 27 years of employment in accounting at UCLA has prepared me to bring a wealth of skills, experience and knowledge to function as a trustee. My community service includes eight years as an elected official: Santa Monica Rent Control Board (1998 and 2001 chair); neighborhood board (PNA); 16 years on Community Corporation of Santa Monica (an affordable housing provider); Commissioner: Charter Review and Housing; presidents of Family Services of Santa Monica and

Santa Monica/Venice NAACP and Santa Monica/Malibu Unified School District Bond Oversight Committee member (ES) and tutor.

Question #2: In 300 words or less, do you agree with the way the SMC administration dealt with last year’s budget shortfall (i.e., the elimination of several academic programs)? What would you have done differently? Is it wise for the college and students to bring back those programs? Let’s be fair: Santa Monica is a great community college. You have students bypassing other neighboring community colleges to attend SMC. We are also “Monday morning quarterbacking” this question as well. Today, more than ever, community colleges are a necessity for employment through vocational training and transfer courses to four-year colleges. Community colleges are very important in the big picture. According to the evaluation report from “The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association for Schools and Colleges” on page 41, “The institution is hampered in its fiscal planning efforts by a financial accounting system recently acquired by the Los Angeles County Office of Education. The county office is responsible for the

computerized accounting and payroll functions for the college. This new software system segregates human resources data from payroll data and both from the fiscal database. The lack of interface among the databases and the untimely reports from the county office is a serious impediment to financial monitoring and planning.” On page 42, the report states “Internally, however, the fiscal management system does not produce timely or even accurate information for sound decision making. The undependable and inconsistent financial reports have contributed to the atmosphere of discontent and disagreement that permeates the college. With the information the administration had, my reaction would have suggested “scaled back” programs until the college budget was more definite. Students would have been allowed to complete their programs. It is wise to bring back programs if there is a demand. For certain vocation programs, the college could partner with the business community under “Service Learning” when faculty permits students to go out to businesses to learn and receive credit. It is a win-win situation as potential employers/employees can pre-screen each other.

Question #3: In 300 words or

less, why do you think the city of Santa Monica and SMC have had a strained relationship for years? How would you bridge that gap? That is the \$64,000 question. Many residents and business community leaders I spoken to feel SMC operate in isolation. Santa Monica councilmembers desire improved collaboration, communication and true partnership with the Santa Monica College Board of Trustees and administration. There are ample opportunities where it can work. The state-of-the-art “swimming pool” is an excellent example where the city and college can work cooperatively. I know there were attempts to work collaboratively with the upcoming bond measure. Some councilmembers and city staff felt there was not enough time from the bond measure introduction presented in June to the board of trustees. The deadline to vote by trustees to appear on the November ballot was in early August and it was simply not enough time for sufficient discussion by the community. I am supporting Measure S. Also, I can recall after the 1994 earthquake there was problems in addressing how much the SMC should be reimbursed from FEMA funds from the city. As an elected official in Santa Monica and my 27 years in

Santa Monica, I have nurtured relationships with all councilmembers as well as council hopefuls, and have established relationships with current board of trustees and hopefuls. I feel we can start “fresh” and forged collaboration, communication and cooperative with the city.

Question #4: In 300 words or less, there have been tensions between faculty and college administrators in recent years. Why do you think the faculty is upset and what’s the first step toward addressing their concerns? The faculty/staff feel their concerns/-suggestions were disregarded by the administration during the state budget crisis and the elimination of programs. Once again I quote from the evaluation report prepared by “The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.” Page 47, states “The problems stemmed from the perception of the faculty, staff and students that the ideas generated by these groups to address the crisis were not considered in the final decision. The lack of a more formal governance structure with written procedures and guidelines contributed to this perception. Also on page 47, on the report it states “The team found a general concern among faculty and staff regarding communication.

Many shared with the team that they believe information has not been shared in a open, timely manner to allow them to participate effectively in the decision-making process. One example given is the claim that the board agenda is published and distributed on a Friday afternoon prior to a Monday meeting. This process meets the requirements of state law regarding the publication of agendas for the benefit of the public being served. If there is an item of concern to anyone of the constituent groups on the agenda and this item has not been previously discussed to the extent that a recommendation has been reached and communicated to the faculty, staff and student leadership, the leaders of the group have little time to react and must work over the weekend to prepare to address the issue at the board meeting.”

Improved communication will assist in creating a culture that welcomes broad input and increased opportunities for participation in the planning process in an environment characterized by collegiality and mutual respect. Eleven members of the Collegewide Coordinating Council should fully inform their constituent groups of procedures and actions affecting constituent members.

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Malibu businesswoman Tonja McCoy did not respond to the Daily Press questionnaire.

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- MOCA (Downtown L.A.)
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(use Line 10)

Tuesday, October 26

- 5:00 – 6:30 pm
- Santa Monica
Community College,
Board Conference Room
B-11, 1900 Pico Blvd (use
Lines 7, Super 7, 8, 11)

Wednesday, October 27

- 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm
- UCLA, Kerckhoff Hall,
Student Union
(use Lines 1, 2, 3, 6, 12,
Super 12)

Thursday, October 28

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

Saturday, October 30

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



STATE

Biotech shares surge ahead of stem cell vote

BY PAUL ELIAS

AP Biotechnology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Investors appeared optimistic Monday that November's election will benefit companies working with human embryonic stem cells, trading heavily in usually lightly traded biotech firms and driving share prices past 52 week highs.

Sen. John Kerry promises if elected to quadruple the \$25 million in annual federal funding President Bush has made available for the controversial research. In California, voters will decide Nov. 2 if the state will borrow \$3 billion to fund work with human embryonic stem cells over the next 10 years when they consider Proposition 71.

The stock run up of the few companies involved with stem cells began on Oct. 18 when Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger endorsed the measure. The buying peaked Monday, even as an opposition campaign decried the proposition as "corporate welfare" and complained about a public subsidy benefiting biotechnology interests.

California stem cell researchers, including corporate scientists, would be eligible to receive part of the nearly \$300 million that would be doled out annually over the next 10 years.

Analysts expect the proposition to make California the world's leading stem cell center and prompt talented scientists to move to the state. The privately held stem cell company Advanced Cell Technology in Worcester, Mass., said it's making plans for a California presence if the proposition passes.

Meanwhile shares of two publicly traded California biotechnology companies surged.

Shares of Menlo Park-based Geron Corp., the leading commercial human embryonic stem cell company, surged 16 percent Monday to close at \$7.75 a share on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

"I think the main impact will probably lower their burn rate ever so slightly. It should offset some expenses," said analyst Ren Benjamin of Rodman and Renshaw Inc. "It's a good thing for the company."

Geron chief executive Thomas Okarma said the company planned to "get in line with everyone else" to apply for grants if Proposition 71 is passed. He also said the entire field will benefit by training more scientists to work with human embryonic stem cells.

Okarma said the company plans to begin testing human embryonic stem cells in paralyzed patients sometime in 2006, which would probably make it the first research team to use the technology on people.

But Okarma said the company has not participated in the Yes on 71 campaign that has raised close to \$25 million and has tried to keep its distance from the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry. The Yes on 71 has returned a \$50,000 contribution made by generic drug maker Agvar Chemicals Inc.

Nevertheless, the campaign has accepted millions of dollars from venture capitalists and others with ties to the biotechnology industry. Major contributors include William Bowes Jr., a founder of Amgen Inc., the world's largest biotechnology company.

"The financial windfall is apparent and there are huge stock plays to be made," said Wayne Johnson, a consultant to the No on 71 campaign, which has raised a little more than \$200,000. Many social conservatives, including the Roman Catholic Church, oppose human embryonic stem cell research because days-old embryos are destroyed in the process.

Last week, Johnson called on the Yes on 71 campaign to disclose all of Stanford University professor Irving Weissman's financial holdings.

Weissman stars in a television ad supporting Proposition 71 and is outspoken proponent of the research. He is also board member, paid consultant and stock holder of Stem Cells Inc., a Palo Alto-based company he helped launch.

Stem Cells Inc. doesn't currently work with human embryonic stem cells, working instead with so-called "adult" stem cells. Still, the company is expected to apply for grants if Proposition 71 passes.

The company's shares reached a new 52-week high, rising 51 percent to close at \$4.09 in trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market. Some 57 million shares were traded in company with an average volume of 1.5 million shares exchanged. The company only has 54 million publicly traded shares available.

Weissman said in an e-mail response Monday that his corporate interests are well known.

"I always make the same disclosures, and made them to the Prop 71 initiative backers," said Weissman, who owns 1.7 million shares and options. "Every time I speak to a scientific or medical audience, I also disclose up front my commercial associations in the context of the talk."

Stem Cell Inc. chief executive Martin McGlynn didn't return telephone calls.

A Public Policy Institute of California poll released Thursday found that 50 percent of likely voters support the measure, with 39 percent opposed and 11 percent undecided. The poll had a sampling of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

NATIONAL



Joint decision: Alaskans voting to legalize toking

BY DAN JOLING
Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Tim Hinterberger teaches neural anatomy to future doctors and physiology to future nurses at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

On the side, he hopes to foment change in America's marijuana policy.

Hinterberger, 48, is a sponsor of Ballot Measure 2, which would make Alaska the first state to completely decriminalize marijuana.

America's laws on marijuana are unjust, expensive and unsuccessful, he contends.

"Why would you prohibit marijuana in a society where you allow the consumption of things such as alcohol and tobacco?" he asked.

The government commissions studies, assembles panels of experts and ignores their conclusions, he said. The studies conclude that the harm caused by prohibiting marijuana outweighs the harmful effects of the drug, Hinterberger contends.

The measure would allow people 21 and older to use, grow, sell or give away pot. The measure proposes trading prohibition for state regulation, much as the state regulates alcohol — banning marijuana use by minors, perhaps capping the amount an individual can grow, jailing people who drive impaired — and taxing its sales.

It's a logical alternative to expensive, unsuccessful enforcement of current marijuana laws, Hinterberger said.

His argument has not swayed Wev Shea, a former U.S. attorney for Alaska and a veteran of the state's drug policy battles.

"We don't need another harmful hallucinogenic drug legalized," Shea said.

Shea contends that many Alaskans, including children, would experiment with marijuana and take on its risks if it were not illegal.

"It's something that should never be socially acceptable by any society that cares about the children," he said.

Alaskans have a long history with marijuana. In 1975, a state Supreme Court decision made it legal to possess small quantities in the privacy of a home.

In 1990, voters chose to make possession a crime, a law that stayed in place until last year when the state Court of Appeals ruled that Alaskans had the right to possess up to four ounces of pot in their homes for personal use.

Marijuana advocates in 1998 used the initiative process to win passage of a medical marijuana law.

Advocates of the current ballot measure had to sue Lt. Gov. Loren Leman to accept required signatures on their

petitions. They sued him again this month after it was revealed that his chief of staff had written the opposition statement in the state's Official Election Pamphlet.

On Monday, an Anchorage Superior Court judge ruled that Leman's staff wrongly drafted the statement of opposition, but no further action was warranted because, in part, a physician had taken authorship of the statement.

Matthew Fagnani, chairman of Alaskans Against the Legalization of Marijuana and Hemp, calls the measure a "smoke and mirrors" initiative. Sponsors have not said how Alaska could regulate marijuana potency or a distribution system. He doubts the state could and suggests it should be regulated at the federal level.

The measure gives people a false sense of security, he said.

Fagnani is president of WorkSafe Inc., a company that administers drug tests. Passing the ballot measure would be good for his business but harmful to most others, he said.

"This initiative wreaks havoc on Alaska employers' liability if it passes," he said. It would force employers to come up with programs and policies for employees who show up impaired, he said.

How is that different from an employee showing up drunk?

"The difference is that currently the employer has policy and rules about that and we have levels that declare impairment," Fagnani said. "How are you going to do that with marijuana?"

Hinterberger said marijuana is irrationally stigmatized.

"Nobody feels ashamed to say they have a glass of beer when they get home," he said, and few people can now fathom the country's experiment with alcohol prohibition last century.

"Prohibitions just don't fit in a free society," he said. "Maybe in a police state, but not in a free democratic society."

An economic analysis paid for by Alaskans for Rights and Revenues, one of the groups pushing the ballot measure, concluded that prohibiting pot costs Alaska more than \$28 million annually for law enforcement, court time and jail expenses. A disproportionate number of minority Alaskans are prosecuted, according to the study by Boreal Economic Analysis & Research of Fairbanks.

The study concludes that prohibition does not significantly curb consumption, and when it does, there's often a substitution of other substances.

Marijuana critics point to large numbers of Alaska high school students who have experimented with marijuana. The 2003 Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicated 23.9 percent of Alaska high school students said they had used marijuana in the previous 30 days, down from 28.7

percent in 1995. The same survey showed use of pot before age 13 rose from 11.8 percent in 1985 to 13.1 percent in 2003.

Supporters quote the same numbers to argue that fewer children would try marijuana with state oversight.

"Legal sellers of alcohol go to a lot of trouble to avoid selling to kids," Hinterberger said.

"If I were a parent, I would much rather have my kid trying to get it illegally from the 7-Eleven than driving all over town in the middle of the night trying to get it from some guy who has a box under his sofa that probably has some crack in it, and maybe he's got an Uzi under the sofa too," Hinterberger said.

Hinterberger and other proponents are especially critical of Alaska's administration of the medical marijuana law, approved by voters in 1998.

Alaskans with debilitating conditions can obtain registration cards and, in theory, possess marijuana to help them. But there is no provision for acquiring marijuana.

"It's a felony for anyone to transfer cannabis for medical purposes," said Peter Gordon of Fairbanks, who holds a registry card.

The medical marijuana system clearly is not working — fewer than 300 people are on the registry, he said.

"There are clearly more than 300 patients in Alaska who would choose to benefit from the use of cannabis," he said.

Gordon, 36, was climbing bookshelves in his grandmother's garage 10 years ago when he fell about 6 feet and severely damaged two vertebrae at the base of his spine.

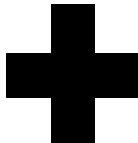
He finds it all but impossible to sit and he cannot lie down without extreme pain. Despite two surgeries and prescription drugs, he spends most of his waking hours standing up.

Mindful of the law, he chose his words carefully.

"I cannot confirm or deny that I use cannabis," Gordon said. "I can say that cannabis does give relief. ... It allows a person to ignore his pain."

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NATIONAL

Oregonians vote at a fast clip

BY CHARLES E. BEGGS
 Associated Press Writer

SALEM, Ore. — Oregon voters are casting their mail ballots at a faster clip than they did in the 2000 presidential election, suggesting the effectiveness of get-out-the-vote campaigns.

Counties had received ballots from 24 percent of voters — 498,000 ballots — through the weekend, compared with a bit less than 18 percent at the same point before the November 2000 election.

Oregon is the only state in which people vote entirely by mail, and the rate of ballot returns seems to indicate the success of Democrats' and Republicans' efforts.

"Both parties have been pushing voters to cast ballots early," said Anne Martens, spokeswoman for Secretary of State Bill Bradbury.

She said many voters might be trying to get their ballots in quickly to stop phone calls and visits from workers for the candidates' and parties.

Marion County Elections Director Sharon Ricks said some voters "just don't want to be called by any of the entities on the ballot."

Megan Hassen, a Salem office manager, said she usually waits until the last day to vote. But this year is different.

"This is a really important election," said Hassen, 35, as she drove her SUV up to a Marion County election worker who was accepting ballots. "I don't want to see Bush re-elected."

Scott Ballo, Oregon spokesman for America Coming Together, a pro-John Kerry group but independent from the Democratic Party, said the organization monitors county records daily to determine who has voted.

"We try to update our list as often as possible to get people on the 'do not call or do not knock' lists," Ballo said.

He said the group for two weeks had been urging voters to cast their ballots

early "and it seems to be paying off quite well.

"We want people to get ballots in as early as possible to give counties time to process them to make sure every vote gets counted," he said.

Douglas County led the voting pace with ballots received from two-thirds of its registered voters by the end of the weekend. Return rates ranged from 20-30 percent in most other counties.

A record 2.1 million Oregon voters registered by the deadline for the Nov. 2 election, up from the 1.94 million registered for the November 2000 general election.

A total of 80 percent of registered voters cast ballots in the 2000 election in which Democrat Al Gore barely defeated Republican George Bush for the state's seven electoral votes.

The first ballots were mailed on Oct. 15. Voters have until 8 p.m. on Nov. 2 to return them, but postmarks don't count. All counties have drop sites.

Boffo ballot
 response hailed

By The Associated Press

VOTING PACE: Counties had received mail ballots from 24 percent of voters by the end of the weekend, compared with less than 18 percent at the same time in the 2000 election.

WHY FASTER? The Democratic and Republican parties and some other groups mounted major efforts urging voters to cast ballots early.

VOTER ADVANTAGE: Campaign workers monitor records of who has voted and stop calling or visiting people once they cast their ballots.

'Monster' remix takes jabs
 at Bush environmental policy

BY MATTHEW DALY
 Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Just in time for Halloween comes a new version of the 1960s hit "Monster Mash" — this time as an Internet critique of the Bush Administration's environmental policies.

The new version, a flash video called "Monster Slash," features the original singer, Bobby "Boris" Pickett, taking President Bush to task for policies to promote logging and mining.

"He and his friends cut the forest down," Pickett sings as animated figures of Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and other administration officials dance with a chain saw, hatchet and scythe.

"He did the slash," Pickett continues in a reworking of the familiar chorus. "They did the forest slash. ... It was brutally brash."

In less than a week since its release, the song has already generated more than 100,000 unique visitors to a special Web site, www.monsterslash.org, according to

its sponsors, the Campaign to Protect America's Lands and Defenders of Wildlife Action Fund.

"At the same time that people have some fun, they get a serious message and an opportunity to take action about something that truly is scary: The Bush administration's plan to turn over millions of acres of federal forest land (to) timber and mining companies," said Peter Altman, director of the Campaign to Protect America's Lands.

Pickett, who hit Number 1 with "Monster Mash" in 1962, said he agreed to record the new version "because, like millions of people, I think this president has the worst environmental record in the history of our great nation."

Agriculture Undersecretary Mark Rey, the Bush's administration's point man on forest policy, took the video in good humor.

"My only comment is that I'm not that good a dancer," Rey said.

Do you have community news?
 Submit news releases
 Email to: sack@smdp.com or fax 310.576.9913

Measure S. For a Better Santa Monica College Today and Tomorrow.

"SMC is among the top community colleges in the nation. This past Spring, SMC was rated 'outstanding' and earned the highest accreditation possible from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Vote 'YES' on Measure S."

– **SHEILA JAMES KUEHL,
CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR**

"Measure S will acquire new ball fields in Santa Monica, which is severely deficient in field space. All fields will be available for public use."

– **NEIL CARREY, SANTA MONICA RECREATION
& PARKS COMMISSIONER**

"Today's economy includes new careers in emerging technologies. Measure S will fund a Career Opportunity Center to support such career programs as advanced transportation, healthcare, environmental technology, logistics (transport of goods), and biotechnology."

– **LOUISE JAFFE & SHARI DAVIS,
CO-CHAIRS, COMMUNITY FOR
EXCELLENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS (CEPS)**

"No money can be used to pay administrators' or other salaries. Independent audits will be conducted annually. An independent oversight committee of local citizens will monitor all expenditures to ensure funds are spent properly."

– **DR. MARGARET QUIÑONES, CHAIR, SANTA
MONICA COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

"We unanimously support Measure S for Santa Monica College."

– **SM-MALIBU COUNCIL OF PTAS**

"We support Measure S!"

– **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
SANTA MONICA**

"Santa Monica College is recognized as one of the best managed community colleges in the nation, providing exceptional programs in transfer, job training, and basic skills. SMC serves about 8,000 residents annually and two out of three families in Santa Monica and Malibu report attending classes at the College in the last five years."

– **ROBERT HOLBROOK, SANTA MONICA CITY
COUNCILMEMBER**

"Yes on Measure S. Measure S is the final step in the College's Facility Master Plan drafted in 1998. It will help fund the new Madison Performing Arts Center, a new Career Opportunity Center (a modernization of the vocational programs lost), new athletic fields and a Childcare and Early Childhood Development Lab School. All great stuff and worthy of community support."

– **SANTA MONICA MIRROR
EDITORIAL BOARD**

"Many of the good-paying occupations in today's world were little more than science fiction when Santa Monica College was built. Measure S will build a new career opportunity center in emerging technologies to teach jobs skills and provide counseling services to help students prepare for the jobs of the future."

– **FRANK STIEFEL, PRESIDENT, SANTA MONICA
COLLEGE FOUNDATION**

"I endorse Measure S!"

– **SANTA MONICA POLICE CHIEF JAMES BUTTS**

"SMC is the major teaching institution for local early childhood educators. A lab school that combines childcare with teacher training will meet community priorities."

– **IRENE B. ZIVI, SANTA MONICA
CHILDCARE TASK FORCE**

"All funds raised by Measure S will stay in our community. All projects funded by this measure will be available for public and student use."

– **JEFF SKLAR, CHAIR, SANTA MONICA RENT
CONTROL BOARD**

"Measure S will directly benefit seniors and Emeritus College, with new opportunities in Malibu, use of the new Performing Arts Complex here in Santa Monica, and improved health facilities at the College appropriate for all ages."

– **MAGGIE HALL, DIRECTOR,
EMERITUS COLLEGE**

"SMC is severely deficient in facilities to support transfer programs in the arts. West LA, East LA, Compton, and Irvine Colleges have already secured public funding for performing arts complexes. Measure S will help SMC meet new admission standards in performing arts now required by the University of California and will support specialized training needed in the Applied Music program."

– **DR. JAMES SMITH, CHAIR,
SMC MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

"The Corsair supports Measure S. Measure S will enable SMC to replace obsolete buildings...[and] is a wonderful opportunity for the entire community to benefit from new projects designed to enhance learning."

– **SANTA MONICA COLLEGE
WEEKLY CORSAIR**

"Santa Monica College is the number one job trainer for our community. Yet SMC lacks many of the specialized facilities available to other communities that today's training requires."

– **DR. JOSÉ J. ESCARCE, PRESIDENT,
SMMUSD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

SANTA MONICA SAYS "YES ON S" Endorsed by Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, Santa Monica-Malibu Council of PTAs, League of Women Voters of Santa Monica, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education, Community for Excellent Public Schools, Santa Monica College Board of Trustees, Santa Monica Childcare Task Force, SMC Academic Senate, SMC Faculty Association, Santa Monica Rent Control Board, and more than 1,000 individuals.

Yes on S

Vote November 2, 2004

Real Estate

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How to choose a real estate agent



**BUYING
AND SELLING**
BY BRENT PARSONS

When you decide to sell your home, the most immediate need that you should fulfill is finding the right agent to represent you. When you are looking for this agent, focus on them and not on your home.

Many sellers will make the mistake of choosing the agent who offers to list their home at the highest price. While selling your home for the highest price may be your ultimate objective, you need to find the right agent before your decide on your home's price. And remember, although the seller sets the price, the buyer determines the value.

Where do you begin? To start out, you will have to do some investigating to decide which agents you will meet with. A good rule of thumb is to select three after speaking with about 10. In order to find three, ask for referrals from friends, family and coworkers. Talk to the agents that leave their marketing materials on your doorstep and look into agencies with offices close to your home.

Once you have a list of 10 or so agents to call, you will need to ask them the questions that are important to you.

There are a lot of new real estate agents getting into the business every year. They will have more transactions under their belt,

more knowledge from things that they have learned along the way, and more resources to sell your home. Things you may want to ask about include:

1. Are you a full-time real estate agent?
2. How long have you been in the business?
3. How many homes have you sold in the past year/career?
4. Are you a member of the MLS, multiple listing service, that covers my neighborhood?
5. What does your real estate education consist of?
6. Do you have any references?

Make sure that they specialize in your needs. If you want a condo, see someone that sells condos. If you want a single-family home, see someone that sells single-family homes. You can understand that an agency that specializes in luxury homes might not understand all of the ins and outs of condos and vice versa.

1. How many homes have you sold in this price range?
2. What type of homes do you typically sell?
3. What is the average number of days that your listings are on the market before they sell?
4. How will you market my home? Can I see your marketing plan?

Based on their answers to these questions, narrow your selection down to about three agents that you would like to meet in person. During your in-person interview, you should talk more in-depth about the agent's experience and how they will market your home.

The last thing you should talk about is setting the price for the home.

Things to think about during your meeting with the agents

1. Is this someone you trust?
2. Is this someone that knows your neighborhood?
3. Is this someone that is going to put your interests above everyone else's, including their own?

When you find the right agent, stay with that agent. Most buyers don't realize that it is their agent's job to call and follow up on homes for them. When you are out and about and see a property that you like, make a note of the listing agent and address. Then, provide this information to your agent so that they can obtain all of the details for you. Many buyers will call the number on the sign out front, bypassing their agent, and their agent gets left out of the deal. Your agent is your real estate professional. They are there to protect your interest. The agent listing the home is only looking out for the interest of the seller. Beware of that when you consider dialing that number.

Good luck out there. This is a seller's market still and there is a lot of opportunity to sell your home for a great price.

(For all your real estate needs contact Brent Parsons at Pacific Ocean Real Estate at (310) 392-9223 or email him at bparsons@pacificoceanrealestate.com)

SANTA MONICA RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS: SINGLE FAMILY HOMES, CONDOS AND INCOME HOMES

Sold Santa Monica 10/18/2004	2230 24TH ST SqFt: 1,147 Lot Size: 7,497	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$849,000 Sold Price: \$840,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.00
Sold Santa Monica 10/21/2004	537 ALTA AVE SqFt: 4,665 Lot Size: 16,796	SANTA MONICA 90402 List Price: \$4,999,925 Sold Price: \$0	Bed: 5 Bath: 5.50
Sold Santa Monica 10/19/2004	1636 OAK ST SqFt: 1,686 Lot Size: 7,050	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$899,998 Sold Price: \$967,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.00
Sold Santa Monica 10/22/2004	1334 HILL ST SqFt: 1,378 Lot Size: 6,440	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$899,000 Sold Price: \$0	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.75
Sold Santa Monica 10/25/2004	1316 PEARL ST SqFt: N/A Lot Size: 6,350	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$1,090,000 Sold Price: \$1,600,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.00
Sold Santa Monica 10/25/2004	408 SYCAMORE RD SqFt: 1,407 Lot Size: 4,650	SANTA MONICA 90402 List Price: \$1,595,000 Sold Price: \$1,600,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.00
Sold Santa Monica 10/21/2004	133 FRASER AVE SqFt: N/A Lot Size: 3,415	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$2,500,000 Sold Price: \$2,500,000	Bed: 3 Bath: 2.75
Sold Santa Monica 10/19/2004	814 18TH ST #F SqFt: 1,500 HOD: \$250	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$700,000 Sold Price: \$700,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 3.00
Sold Santa Monica 10/21/2004	2222 NEILSON WAY #102 SqFt: 1,850 HOD: \$450	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$839,000 Sold Price: \$839,500	Bed: 2 Bath: 3.00
Sold Santa Monica 10/18/2004	1253 11TH ST #3 SqFt: 1,951 HOD: \$318	SANTA MONICA 90401 List Price: \$835,000 Sold Price: \$800,000	Bed: 3a Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 10/19/2004	2624 KANSAS AVE #11 SqFt: 949 HOD: \$196	SANTA MONICA 90404 List Price: \$399,000 Sold Price: \$432,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.50
Sold Santa Monica 10/19/2004	1127 10TH ST #303 SqFt: 1,079 HOD: \$215	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$529,000 Sold Price: \$531,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.75
Sold Santa Monica 10/19/2004	123 GEORGINA AVE #1 SqFt: 3,100 HOD: \$474	SANTA MONICA 90402 List Price: \$1,995,000 Sold Price: \$1,995,000	Bed: 5 Bath: 3.50
Sold Santa Monica 10/22/2004	2663 CENTINELA AVE #105 SqFt: 1,366 HOD: \$265	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$539,000 Sold Price: \$539,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 3.00
Sold Santa Monica 10/22/2004	1236 CHELSEA AVE #1 SqFt: 1,404 HOD: \$275	SANTA MONICA 90404 List Price: \$649,000 Sold Price: \$647,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 10/19/2004	1329 YALE ST #7 SqFt: 1,091 HOD: \$229	SANTA MONICA 90404 List Price: \$489,000 Sold Price: \$496,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.00
Sold Santa Monica 10/21/2004	126 MONTANA AVE SqFt: N/A HOD: \$252	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$1,099,000 Sold Price: \$1,023,750	Bed: 3 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 10/20/2004	1107 19TH ST #D SqFt: 1,213 HOD: \$260	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$689,000 Sold Price: \$680,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 10/17/2004	2020 6TH Street ST #4 SqFt: 1,669 HOD: \$300	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$850,000 Sold Price: \$835,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 3.00
Sold Santa Monica 10/20/2004	1511 16TH ST #303 SqFt: 1,007 HOD: \$312	SANTA MONICA 90404 List Price: \$489,000 Sold Price: \$479,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.00
Sold Santa Monica 10/22/2004	1508 12TH ST #7 SqFt: 1,102 HOD: \$247	SANTA MONICA 90401 List Price: \$489,000 Sold Price: \$475,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.00
Sold Santa Monica 10/21/2004	1125 PICO BL #103 SqFt: 848 HOD: \$225	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$399,000 Sold Price: \$386,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.50
Sold Santa Monica 10/20/2004	515 S OCEAN AVE #604S SqFt: 1,490 HOD: \$759	SANTA MONICA 90402 List Price: \$1,125,000 Sold Price: \$1,075,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.00

THOMAS KHAMMAR AT PACIFIC OCEAN PROPERTIES:
(310) 863-7643 tkhammar@pacificoceanrealestate.com
Information received as per the MLS on 10/04/04. Not all transactions may have been represented by Pacific Ocean Properties.

(310) 392-9223 PACIFIC OCEAN PROPERTIES INFORMATION OF THE WEEK

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15111 FREEMAN, LAWDALE
UNIT #40



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\$519,000



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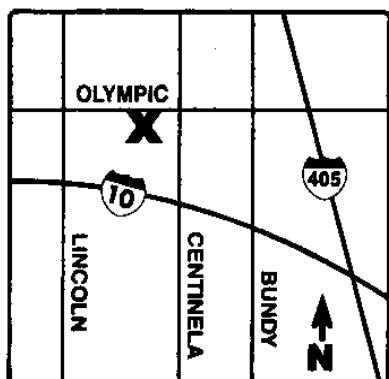
Well-kept 5 units consisting of two buildings. Front is 3 units and 4 single garages. Rear is 2 units. Unit D to be delivered vacant projected income \$1550 p/mo. Copper plumbing, new electric service, laundry room.

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Good news for owners, bad news for renters



DAYS ON THE MARKET

BY JODI SUMMERS

New research shows that Southern California's astonishing home prices and marginal supply of new apartments will lead to "substantial rent increases" and low vacancy rates. This news comes courtesy of a recently released forecast from the Richard S. Ziman Center for Real Estate at the University of California, Los Angeles, Anderson School of Management.

As of September, approximately 17 percent of Los Angeles residents could afford to purchase a median-priced single-family home — a figure that holds constant from 2003. The current home ownership rate in the Los Angeles area is about 40 percent, compared to the national average of about 70 percent.

"These statistics show that the market will inevitably sustain a high demand for apartments," noted Dr. Stephen D. Cauley, associate director of research for the Ziman Center.

Los Angeles County has had a rental shortfall of 25,000 units per year for the past four years, according to University of Southern California's Lusk Center for Real Estate. Their research states that the "same dynamic of strong demand and insufficient new supply is expected to continue."

In Los Angeles County, apartment occupancy rates have by and large remained above 95 percent since 2000, according to a Casden Real Estate Economics Forecast titled "Southern California Multi-Family Report 2004." Rental rates jumped 10 percent in 2003 and nearly 30 percent since 2000. The report states monthly rental rates in Los Angeles County average \$1,300 per month and larger units are in particular demand. Since 2000 "Rents per square foot have grown nearly twice as fast for three-bedroom units than for other types of units," according to the report.

The continuing arrival of new residents to Southern California is expected to keep the rental market strong. (Rumor has it 50,000 people decide to move to California every January after watching the Rose Bowl Parade.) Studies are projecting rental increases of 2 percent to 3 percent above inflation on available units.

Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies "2004 State of the Nation's Housing" concluded that in 2001, an estimated 29.6 percent of the

106.4 million U.S. households spent 30 percent or more of their total income on housing, compared with about 28.2 percent of households in 1997; and 13.4 percent of U.S. households spent at least half of their income on housing in 2001 compared with 12.8 percent in 1997.

Thus, renters on the move will find their living scenario continually more challenging, while landlords will see growing profits.

"Our analysis strongly suggests that increases in long-term interest rates will be followed by corresponding increases in cap rates, although they will lag somewhat," said Dr. Cauley. "If increases in interest rates occur at historical levels over the next three to four years, declines in apartment values and market disruptions should be relatively small. If, however, interest rates should escalate quickly due to such events as increased inflation or major oil disruptions, the impact on the markets could be significant with substantial declines from the current record highs in the real value of apartments."

The Real Estate Research Corp. notes that investors are looking for an average 10 percent internal rate of return on multifamily rental properties, but have been settling on going-in capitalization rates averaging 7.8 percent with multifamily rental properties.

"The population of the United States has doubled in the last 50 years, and is now growing by 2.5 million people each year," said real estate columnist Lou Barnes. "Our land inventory is the same as it was, and will be. There is no new San Francisco Bay lying undiscovered somewhere in the Midwest; and as each hurricane makes landfall, it is painfully clear that there is no undeveloped reserve of coastline. We can develop increasingly remote or undesirable tracts, but our most attractive land is rising disproportionately in value."

San Diego County is expected to be the strongest apartment market in Southern California, due to increases in young, highly educated professionals drawn to the area by the biotech and defense industries, according to the UCLA forecast.

It's predicted that Orange County and parts of northern Los Angeles County also will benefit from the employment and demographic trend. The Inland Empire will be the only area to see the development of a considerable number of "moderate-income apartments" that will be built without any subsidies. Rapid growth and elastic supply are expected to limit rent growth in the area.

(For your real estate needs, e-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call (310) 309-4219)

**Bitch!
Whine!
Complain!**

Check out next week's Q-Line Question only on page 3!

The Q-Line™



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\$ 250,000 – LOS ANGELES

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\$260,000 – COMPTON

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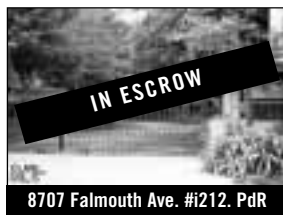


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IN YOUR SPACE

BY CHRISTINA S. PORTER

Alternative dispute resolution can be a superior way to solve contractual disagreements by avoiding the bureaucracy of our court system, and very often saving valuable time and money.

Generally, the first step in alternative dispute resolution is to mediate. Mediation is a non-binding negotiation between two parties led by a neutral party with expertise in the subject of the dispute but with no power to order a settlement. The mediator meets with each party separately to discuss their side of the dispute and then attempts to facilitate a mutually satisfying resolution. If no resolution can be reached, then binding arbitration is in order.

Arbitration is "purely a creature of contract between parties" and the provision included in a contract "amounts to a mutual waiver of the right to a civil trial," according to John A. Sherril, JD.

An arbitration hearing is more formal than mediation and less formal than a court hearing. I have personally attended a mediation that was held in my attorney's office and an arbitration hearing which was held in the conference room of the American Arbitration Association, both much less formal and stressful than a court room. An arbitration hearing is usu-

ally overseen by one arbitrator, or a panel of arbitrators who also has (have) expertise in the subject. After hearing arguments from both sides that person will make a binding decision on how the dispute will be resolved.

There are several good reasons to choose alternative dispute resolution instead of litigation but the most significant seems to be the ability to write a provision into a contract outlining how a possible future dispute will be handled, customizing it for each party's needs, or as Sherril puts it, "the freedom to specify the rules of engagement may be alternative dispute resolution's most appealing aspect."

Mediation has an extra benefit in that a mediator can solve a dispute in a non-monetary or monetary way when, generally, a court's or an arbitrator's decision is dealt with from a monetary standpoint. Bernard Alexander, a principal in the law firm Alexander & Yong in Sherman Oaks said that an alternative dispute resolution can be advantageous because "a jury trial may be problematic in that you have a group of people who, most likely, have no expertise in the subject of the dispute with the potential to be unpredictable, risking an unreasonable decision, whereas a judge is more likely to view the dispute conservatively as a breach of contract issue with limited damages." An alternative dispute resolution gives parties to the contract the ability to focus strictly on the subject at hand and not be detoured by the bureaucracy of our court system which, among other things, may require the extra time and expense of educating a jury.

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On the flip side, there are difficulties with an alternative dispute resolution. Litigation involves counsel, requiring compliance with some kind of "quality assurance" regarding the credentials of the "professionals" involved in the proceedings, not allowing an inexperienced and reckless individual to represent a party. That's unlike an dispute resolution proceeding, which requires a person's qualifications be specified in the original contract in order to assure a qualified individual is chosen. Additionally, not having to pay an attorney may encourage frivolous claims.

According to Mark A. Senn, an expert in the negotiation and preparation of commercial real estate leases, some landlords discourage tenants from commencing unfounded arbitration by requiring that the arbitration be non-monetary — or an escrow of a disputed amount — as a condition to a tenant's commencement of an arbitration or, set a cap on the amount that is arbitrable. For example: \$50,000. Another point made by Senn is that if one of the parties refuses to arbitrate, you may end up in court after all, creating the very thing being avoided, and incurring delay and additional cost. You can get around

this by stating in the original contract the consequences of non compliance, possibly giving power to the arbitrator to render an award should one party choose not to cooperate with the arbitration.

Time and money can be saved by using an alternative dispute resolution but the risks must be analyzed carefully prior to agreeing to waive your right to a civil trial. Dispute resolution rules for discovery are limited, saving time in requiring the disclosure of any applicable evidence. But this can also allow for a decision being made without all the facts being considered.

This article covers the main points of a dispute resolution but merely scratches the surface of the information available on this subject. As always, it is very important to speak to a qualified attorney when drafting or agreeing to an alternative dispute resolution provision in a lease or any other contract.

(Christina S. Porter is in the business of leasing and selling office and industrial buildings, you can contact her at 310-806-6104 or email: cporter@naicapital.com)



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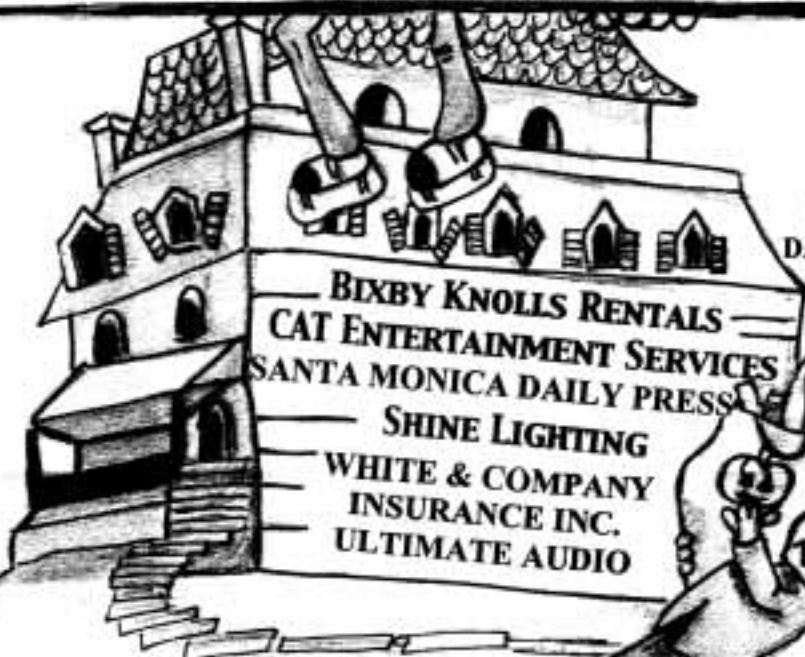


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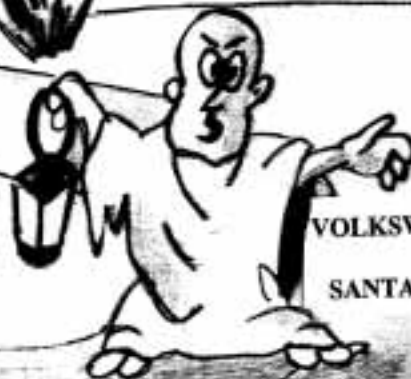
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NATIONAL

In tight race, a tied precinct at odds once again

BY DEBORAH BAKER

Associated Press Writer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Precinct 412 is a tiny dot on Albuquerque's election map, a half-dozen short streets tucked up against Interstate 40 and bordered by the elementary school where neighbors vote.

On a golden afternoon, its small front yards are abloom with fall flowers, fanciful Halloween decorations — and warring campaign signs.

Four years ago, 412 was the poster precinct for a state that split down the middle on the two leading presidential candidates.

On Election Day in 2000, 69 of the voters who made their way along tree-lined streets to Mark Twain Elementary School went for Democrat Al Gore, and 69 for Republican George W. Bush.

(Because its early and absentee votes were lumped together with those from other precincts for counting, there's no way to know whether the total vote from Precinct 412 also split exactly evenly.)

Statewide, Gore beat Bush by just 366 of the 598,605 votes cast.

With a close presidential contest shaping up in New Mexico again this year, the voters in this neighborhood remain divided.

"Kerry," retired secretary Delia Smith says firmly, sitting in her living room waiting for a roofer to show up. "We need a change. The war. The economy. Everything is just going downhill."

Around the corner, Lynnette Anderson, a stay-at-home mother of four, answers the front door with a big "Bush for President" button pinned to her blue T-shirt.

"He's very pro-family, pro-life. He is a Christian," she explains. "He's strong, steadfast and unwavering — just what we need in a president."

The neighborhood of modest, single-story houses — buffered from I-40 only by a wall and a narrow strip of park — was built about 50 years ago. Some of the original residents are still here.

Gordon Zahm and his wife, Edna, raised seven children in the little house they moved into in 1952. Then, the subdivision was on the city's eastern edge. Today, it abuts a busy commercial hub, with two major malls just across the interstate and the tops of tall buildings visible from the neighborhood's streets.

"We hope we spend our last days here," said Zahm, 84, sitting near a bookcase lined with family photos and a muted TV showing one political ad after another.

Zahm will vote for Kerry. He's disappointed in Bush, opposed to the Iraq war and worried about the nation's record \$413 billion budget deficit.

"I don't know how in the world we're going to get out from under it," said Zahm, who retired 22 years ago after working for Sandia National Laboratories and then for a mining venture.

He likes Kerry's promise to improve the standing of the U.S. in the world.

"Right now we have no friends anywhere. ... We've made a lot of enemies," he said.

One block over, another old-timer in the neighborhood says he doesn't believe what Kerry says.

Carl Hawk, 85, a sports car buff and airplane pilot who was a technical illustrator at Sandia Laboratories before his retirement three decades ago, is persuaded that Kerry is "a pathological liar."

To prove his point, he whipped out a copy of "Unfit for Command: Swift Boat Veterans Speak Out Against John Kerry," which accuses the Democratic nominee of distorting his Vietnam military record.

Hawk, who was a Navy mechanic on an aircraft carrier in World War II, says he can relate to the veterans who are critical of Kerry. And he says Kerry has "never really proposed anything" during his years in the U.S. Senate.

"Bush is really for the country," said Hawk, who keeps a photo of the president and First Lady Laura Bush on a table in the living room near a model of the "Spirit of St. Louis," the plane in which Charles Lindbergh made his trans-Atlantic flight. "He's paid his dues."

Kim Simmons, mother of three and secretary for a limousine company, says she'll vote for Bush despite being registered as a Democrat.

Taking a break in the driveway while her kids unloaded groceries from the family van, Simmons said there's something about Kerry "that reminds me of a snake-in-the-grass lawyer."

But Adam and Melissa Myrsiades, walking their golden retriever near the home they bought just three months ago, said it was "a pretty easy decision for us" to choose Kerry.

"It's been four years of a lot of nonsense," said Adam Myrsiades, a teacher's assistant in a high school who works with special education students. "The war is a big thing. I didn't think we even needed to go there."

And Melissa Myrsiades, a physician who is a pathology resident, said she didn't view independent candidate Ralph Nader — who got 4 percent of New Mexico's vote in 2000 — as a viable candidate. He would take votes away from Kerry, she added.

"It's so close this year," she said.

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NATIONAL



Kerry says worst of Bush's decisions still to come

BY MARY DALRYMPLE

Associated Press Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Democratic candidate John Kerry accused President Bush on Tuesday of hiding bad decisions and raised the specter of bad news still to be revealed. Bush invited Democrats to cross over to his campaign as it began its final week, arguing that their party was no longer led by men of strength and resolve.

Kerry said a stream of bad news coming out of Iraq showed the Bush administration glossing over the reality of the situation there.

"Mr. President, what else are you being silent about? What else are you keeping from the American people?" Kerry said in Green Bay.

While Kerry campaigned on the east side of Wisconsin, a state Bush barely lost to Al Gore in 2000, the president sought votes from Democrats as well as Republicans on the west side of the state.

In Onalaska, Bush said Kerry had chosen a path of "weakness and inaction," putting himself "in opposition not just to me, but to the great tradition of the Democratic Party."

"The party of Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman and John Kennedy is rightly remembered for confidence and resolve in times of war and in hours of crisis. Senator Kerry has turned his back on 'pay any price' and 'bear any burden,'" Bush said.

The president also renewed his contention that Kerry would raise taxes in a way that would cripple small businesses "to pay for all the new spending he's proposed."

The Massachusetts senator pressed his case that Bush has bungled and misled on the Iraq war and national

security crises generally.

"When the president is faced with the consequences of his own bad decisions, he doesn't confront them, he tries to hide them," Kerry said. "The truth is, President Bush isn't leveling with the American people about why we went to war, how the war is going, or what he is doing to put Iraq on track."

And Kerry broadened the attack to declare, "Just as he has been warned about his mistakes in Iraq, George Bush has been warned time and time again about the vulnerability of our homeland security."

Kerry said he would spend an additional \$60 billion over 10 years on homeland security, using the money to screen cargo for nuclear materials at ports and borders, add border patrol agents and more.

Bush, who lost Wisconsin and its 10 electoral votes by only 5,708 ballots in 2000, was focusing his efforts in Democratic-leaning reaches of the state.

Warming up for that task in his last stop Monday, in Davenport, Iowa, Bush ditched his single-focus, national security speech of earlier events in favor of a broader pitch praising the traditions of the Democratic Party, a theme he returned to on Tuesday.

In a television interview aired Tuesday, Bush said he didn't oppose civil unions for same-sex couples even though the Republican Party platform opposes them. However, he supports banning gay marriage through a constitutional amendment.

"I don't think we should deny people rights to a civil union, a legal arrangement, if that's what a state chooses to do so," Bush said on "Good Morning America" on ABC. "I view the definition of marriage different from legal arrangements that enable people to have rights."

The Republicans, meanwhile, said it was a sign of Kerry dullness that the Democrats are calling on former President Clinton, who rallied voters for Kerry on Monday after being sidelined for weeks by heart surgery.

Karl Rove, Bush's chief political adviser, spoke dismissively of Clinton's scene-stealing pairing with Kerry. Seven weeks after quadruple bypass heart surgery, Clinton joined Kerry at a Philadelphia rally that packed cheering supporters shoulder-to-shoulder along three city blocks.

"They had to roll Clinton out of the operating room and onto the campaign trail in order to basically help Kerry with the weaknesses he has among core Democratic constituencies," Rove said, taking liberties with his depiction of the former president as a near-invalid.

Tuesday was a four-state day for Kerry, traveling more than 3,000 miles from Green Bay to Las Vegas, to Albuquerque, N.M., and then Sioux City, Iowa.

Bush and Kerry are competing head-on for a distinct set of battleground states — Pennsylvania, Ohio and Florida among them — but other states are getting a second look, too, because of signs of fluidity.

Polls found a tightening race in Arkansas, which Bush won in 2000 and the Democrats had not seen as a serious prospect this time. New Hampshire, narrowly won by Bush in 2000, seemed to be moving Kerry's way in the final stretch.

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Orange you glad? Growers offer colorful options to pumpkin fans

BY JENNY PRICE

Associated Press Writer

MADISON, Wis. — For purveyors of pumpkins, there's more to life than orange.

While the standard gourd is the staple for jack 'o lanterns, pies and Thanksgiving tables, seed developers and growers have opened their minds to other colors of the rainbow when it comes to pumpkins.

More and more customers are going right along with them, snatching up pumpkins in shades of red, green, white and even grayish blue. Growers say the interest is fueled by people's desire for something new and their ambition to outdo their neighbors.

"I believe people decorating for Halloween are a little more competitive than they used to be, like it is with the Christmas lights," said Brad Peck, who owns Peck's Farm Markets, located about an hour from Madison.

Peck said his family started raising white pumpkins about 15 years ago, but "almost gave up on them" because sales weren't very strong. "The last five or six years they've really picked up again," he said.

There are more choices on the horizon, with seed companies working to develop the next big thing in pumpkins. Prices are about the same as for orange pumpkins.

Roger Rupp, owner of Rupp Seeds Inc. in Wauseon, Ohio, said the various pumpkin colors are the result of attempts to cross pollinate different varieties of the squash.

"We're amazed at what we find when we're searching through God's creation. He surprises us on many occasions," Rupp said.

Rupp said his company is a year or two away from developing pumpkins in shades of pink. "Anything new in the decorative business that's unique, they jump on it right quickly," Rupp said. "They can make profit on it when nobody's ever seen it before."

At the weekly farmers' market on the Capitol square, shopper Susan Watson bee-lined for a stand when she spotted blue pumpkins. She bought one for her sister and another to put on her dining room table.

"I have wallpaper that has this shade in it, so I love it," Watson said.

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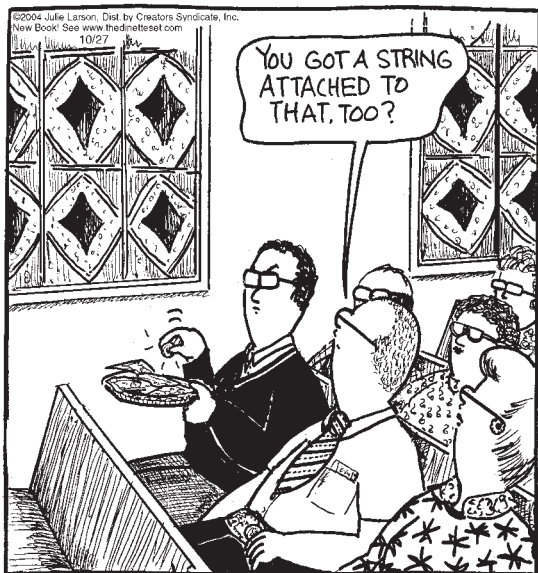
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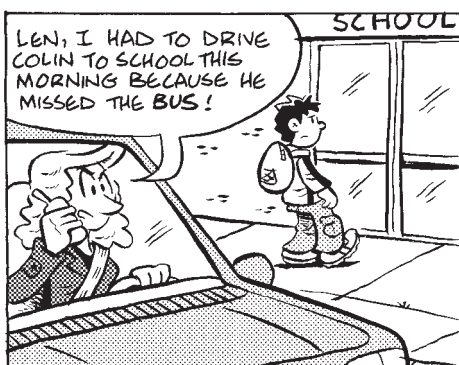
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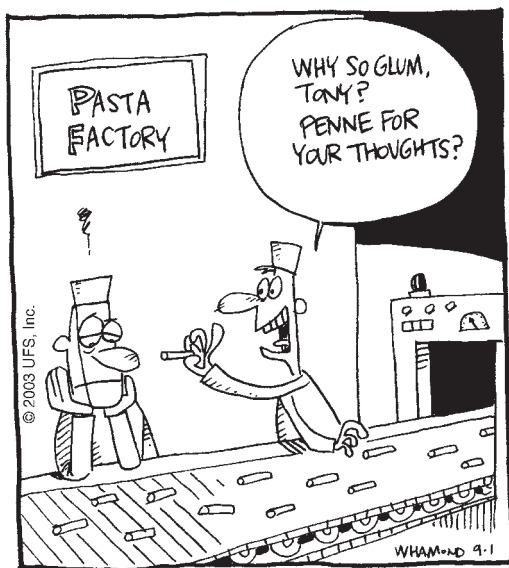
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Houses for Rent
Roommates
Commercial Lease

Real Estate
Real Estate Loans
Storage Space
Vehicles for Sale
Massage
Services
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