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♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Be extremely playful and direct. Your ability to understand where others are coming from makes a significant difference in how you deal with what might be dropped on your plate. Kick back and be understanding. Then make a decision. Tonight: Be your playful self.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Stay calm, even with a lively work situation. You might not appreciate what is tossed on your plate. On the other hand, do some firm thinking about what you want. Realize more of your goals by working with others. Tonight: Move on home.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Your belief that a problem could work itself out throws a different perspective on an issue. Brainstorming easily unearths solutions. Someone backs down from a previously untenable stand. Make your best offer. Tonight: Hang at a favorite spot.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Financial matters will work out if you just relax. Sometimes when you push too hard, you manage to get others' dander up. Handle personal matters directly. Understand a work or health issue and what needs to happen. Tonight: Treat yourself to a new item.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Your smile helps you push through paperwork and get the job done. Your personality melts others' natural resistance, especially a friend's. Carefully consider your options that revolve around a friendship. Use your resourcefulness. Tonight: Share your happiness.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Listen to what someone tosses in your face. Think carefully about your long-term desires. Honor more of what you would like to do financially. Don't automatically close doors. Instead, work on opening them. Listen to suggestions. Tonight: Curl up with a good book.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ What you say goes. You don't need to push to have someone agree with you. You gain through forcefully presenting your facts. Understand someone and where he or she is coming from. Try another way of communicating. Tonight: Attend an important meeting or get-together.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Others watch your performance. You might want to assume a greater leadership position, but others test your mettle. You might want to adjust some of your views when you get a broader picture. Read between the lines with a boss or older relative. Tonight: A must performance.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Understand that you need to adapt. Not everything is always as you see it. Be open to new possibilities that come through a friend or perhaps someone at a distance. Take a risk, even if you might be a bit uncomfortable with a choice or decision. Tonight: Browse through your favorite music store.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Work with associates. Refuse to push others into doing what you want; instead, work individually with those who might be instrumental to a key project. You might have to revive your thoughts and ideas. Someone praises you. You love it. Tonight: Allow a partner to dote on you.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Allow others to come forward and share more. Your efforts to understand could be helped by key associates. Let someone else think that your idea is his or hers, as hard as that might be. Know when to back down. Look to the overall good. Tonight: Go along with another's plans.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Do your best to work with others. You don't have to agree, but you do need to come to terms with a personal or business partner. This person could be overly verbal or difficult. Know when to put a halt to a situation. Listen, but be able to say "no." Tonight: Work off stress at the gym.

CORRECTION — On Oct. 22, the Daily Press inaccurately reported the amount of the proposed parcel tax known on the Nov. 5 ballot as Measure EE. The correct amount people are asked to increase taxes on parcels is no more than \$300.

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PUBLISHER Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com EDITOR Carolyn Sackariason sack@smdp.com STAFF WRITER Andrew H. Fixmer andy@smdp.com NIGHT EDITOR Patrick McDonald PRMcDonald@aol.com PRODUCTION MANAGER Del Pastrana del@smdp.com PRODUCTION ASSISTANT Alejandro C. Cantarero alex@smdp.com CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE Angela Downen angela@smdp.com	CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE Paula Christensen paula@smdp.com MEDIA CONSULTANT William Pattnosh william@smdp.com MEDIA CONSULTANT Freida Woody freida@smdp.com MEDIA CONSULTANT Ryan Ingram ryan@smdp.com CIRCULATION MANAGER Kiutzu Cruz kiutzu@smdp.com SPECIAL PROJECTS Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com STAFF MASCOT Maya Furukawa ross@smdp.com
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LOCAL



CrimeWatch

Man robbed downtown

■ A man was recently held up at gunpoint and robbed of an undisclosed amount of cash in downtown Santa Monica.

On Oct. 15, at 2:33 p.m., the victim, on his way to the bank with a deposit, was exiting his car at the 1300 block of Fourth Street when the suspect approached him from behind, pointed a handgun and demanded his money, police said. The victim complied, and the suspect fled with the money.

The suspect is a Latino male, 18 to 25 years old, 5' 5" tall with a thin build and a shaved head. He wore a black, long-sleeved hooded jacket and khaki pants.

■ Amadeo Rodriguez, 18, was arrested on Oct. 20 for interfering with a police procedure.

At 1:40 a.m. Sunday, Santa Monica police approached several people on the 300 block of the Santa Monica Pier who were being loud and disturbing the peace. During the investigation Rodriguez tried to hit an officer who was conducting a pat-down search.

Rodriguez, a male Latino from Los Angeles, was booked into jail. Bail was set at \$1,000.

■ Gregory Lemont Watson was arrested for attempted grand theft auto on Oct. 15.

At 1:05 a.m., Santa Monica police found Watson in a car on the 1400 block of Seventh Street. A witness who was sleeping across the street said he saw Watson break the car window, enter the car and try to start it.

The car's owner told police he did not give Watson permission to enter his car. Watson, a 26-year-old male transient, was arrested. Bail set at \$20,000.

■ Santa Monica police were called to the 600 block of Santa Monica Boulevard responding to a sexual assault call on Oct. 15.

The victim said at 1:40 p.m. she was walking down the sidewalk when a man approached her from behind and grabbed her butt.

The attacker is described as a Latino male roughly 16 years old, 5'4" tall, 140 pounds.

Anyone with information about these crimes should call the Santa Monica Police Department at (310) 458-8451.

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Today we're seeing a combination of northwest wind and ground swells, both on the down swing. Some dying southwest ground swell also adds to the mix this morning.

Expect modest surf, two- and three-foot sets good consistency in the north, as well as around EL Porto.

A northwest ground swell of some size is expected Wednesday. Surf should grow moderately during the morning before filling in to give the afternoon for an easy two-foot bump in height.

A swell builds towards Thursday's peak, we'll see surf in the shoulder and head-high range at west facing exposures.



Today's Tides:

High-	5:32 a.m.	3.79'
Low-	9:49 a.m.	3.26'
High-	3:05 p.m.	4.42'
Low-	10:49 p.m.	0.29'

Location	Tuesday	Wednesday	Water Quality
County Line	2-3'/Fair	3-5'/Fair	A
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	3-5'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-2'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Topanga	1-2'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Breakwater	2-3'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	B
El Porto	2-3'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A

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MTA looking for volunteers

By Daily Press staff

Tired of how your bus service is?

The city is looking for a citizen volunteer to help assist the MTA to improve bus service, among other things.

People are asked to apply for nominations to the MTA Westside/Central Service Sector Governance Council. Nominations will be considered along with nominations from Beverly Hills, Culver City, Santa Monica, West Hollywood, Malibu and portions of the city and county of Los Angeles. The MTA board will appoint the representatives.

The council will work toward improving bus service, coordinate services and keep control locally.

Applicants must work or live in Santa Monica. Nominations will be made on Nov. 12 at the Santa Monica City Council meeting.

Additional information and application forms are available at City Hall in room 209, which is located at 1685 Main St. You may request an information sheet and an application by calling (310) 458-8301 or go to www.santa-monica.org/communication/city-forms/board_comm/mta-application.pdf.

The Q-Line

With concerns about privacy intrusions and decreased property rates, a group of Santa Monica homeowners are pushing a ballot initiative that will allow homeowners to have the final say over the city's attempt to landmark their homes.

These homeowners have raised a significant amount of money to further their cause, but some people believe the entire matter is a non-issue and not a concern of most Santa Monicans.

So this week Q-Line wants to know: "Do you really care about whether or not a homeowner can voluntarily designate his or her home a landmark? Why or why not?"

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

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STATE

Store official testifies Winona Ryder admitted to shoplifting

BY LINDA DEUTSCH

AP Special Correspondent

BEVERLY HILLS — A Saks Fifth Avenue security official testified Monday that actress Winona Ryder admitted shoplifting and told him she was doing it to prepare for a movie role.

Ken Evans, giving testimony that surprised the defense, said he encountered Ryder after security guards detained her on Dec. 12 and while Saks officials in California and New York were trying to decide whether to refer the case to police.

"She was seated and she immediately stood up and took my hand," said Evans, the asset protection manager at the Beverly Hills store. "She said, 'I'm sorry for what I did. My director directed me to shoplift for a role which I was preparing.'"

Evans was not asked whether Ryder named a director or identified the role.

Ryder, 30, faces up to three years in prison if convicted of felony grand theft, vandalism and burglary. Prosecutors allege she stole items worth \$5,560.40.

Evans, the trial's first witness, said he left the room where Ryder was held, came back and told her the case was being referred to police. He said she again spoke to him.

"She just said she was doing what her director told her to do in preparation for her role as a shoplifter," he said.

By then, he said, executives of the Saks company on both coasts had been notified.

"I explained that we have someone in custody for shoplifting and it's a high-profile person," he said.

He said he consulted with public relations people, a senior vice president, a security executive in New York and a corporate asset protection person in New York.

"They directed me not to call (police) until they made a decision," he said.

At that point in the testimony, Ryder defense attorney Mark Geragos objected that none of these comments by Evans had been disclosed to him by prosecutors.



Associated Press

Actress Winona Ryder arrives for her opening arguments at the Beverly Hills Municipal Court House on Monday. Ryder is accused of grand theft, burglary and vandalism.

Superior Court Judge Elden Fox overruled the objection.

Jurors were then shown about 45 minutes of videotape

of Ryder recorded by security cameras. The tape showed her walking around the store, her arms laden with packages and items she had taken off racks, with a hat bearing a price tag perched on her head.

The tape of her entire sojourn never showed her being approached by a salesperson as she walked the merchandise areas on three floors. At one point she began dropping things, went down on her hands and knees and placed small items inside a different hat.

When she finally entered a dressing room she was escorted by a saleswoman and within minutes a female security guard pretending to be a shopper entered the area. The prosecution intends to call witnesses to say that it was at that point Ryder was observed snipping security tags off garments.

Evans testified that Ryder was "polite but apologetic" after she left the store and was stopped by security guards who brought her back in and had her empty bags of merchandise.

Evans, who gave jurors a detailed account of Ryder's shopping on Dec. 12, said he first observed her via some of the 60 cameras that cover the store except inside dressing rooms. He said he didn't know who she was and "I could care less."

In opening statements, Ryder was depicted by Deputy District Attorney Ann Rundle as a thief with a plan to shoplift.

"You will find that all this case amounts to is a simple case of theft, nothing more or less," Rundle told the panel.

Geragos countered that Ryder was the victim of overzealous security guards who never saw her steal anything.

"This is a case about a woman who has been wronged and wronged terribly. ... This is a case about some security guards who got out of control," he said.

Her attorney dismissed the videotape.

"It doesn't show her cutting off sensor tags or that she spent \$3,700 there that day and they had her credit card," Geragos said.

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LOCAL



ALLORD, from page 1

working with people.

Favorite CD: Led Zeppelin — Houses of the Holy

Favorite movie: Steven Spielberg's Movie about Kennedy's death. Can't remember the name.

Favorite thing about living here: Pacific Ocean, climate, neighbors and friends.

Have you ever been arrested? If so, for what? N/A

Have you ever declared bankruptcy or had financial insolvency issues? N/A No

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The residents of Santa Monica. No special interests.

1. What is the single biggest issue facing Santa Monica? What do you intend to do about it, if elected? Be specific.

A lot of people say it is homeless. I agree with it and I'm known as one of the strongest fighters against the oversaturation of our city from transients but there is a few more like overcrowding, traffic problems, parking problems property rights and the quality of life in general.

2. Where is the city spending money that, in your opinion, should be used for something else?

For one, traffic calming on Wilshire, Santa Monica and 26th Street should be suspended immediately. We have to stop spending so much on our transient population. They are costing us approximately \$20 million in cash and services. We are spending \$80 million on low-income housing and virtually none of it is going to Santa Monicans. We must stop the foolish lawsuits that are costing us millions of dollars each year.

3. The city has hired an urban design consultant for \$54,000 to tell us how the downtown area could be designed better. Do you think the downtown commercial zone needs to be redesigned and how much would you allocate toward such an endeavor?

This is exactly the problem. The last time they did this, we got the transit mall. Why can't we work with the local residents, businesses and local designers? When we let outside designers design our city, we tend to lose our local charm and character.

4. The city is facing a \$9.5 million budget shortfall this year and future budgets look just as bleak. What are the top three items in the city's budget that you would cut to ease the taxpayer's pain?

You mean \$15 million? Because of the past and current council we have never put enough away. It has been spend, spend, spend. Now, we are left with the difficult task of probably cutting the budget across the board.

5. The Santa Monica Police Department has some of the highest paid officers in the region. Do think the salaries of Santa Monica's finest are justified? Why or why not?

It is a well known fact for years the City Council always sell-out to the S.M.P.O.A and the S.M.F.A. for political endorsements and in return the council gives them whatever they want. Like a clause in their contract that says they will never be less than the second highest paid department in the state of California and this years' promise they will be given a wonderful retirement package that every resident should know about. The question is: Are they being given the tools to perform their job safely? No!

6. The Pico neighborhood hasn't had any formal representation on the city council in the history of Santa Monica. Do think the blighted neighborhood's drug dealing and gang activity is reflective of that? How would you represent this neighborhood?

1. Just because of what side on Pico Boulevard you live on doesn't mean you aren't being represented.

2. Are you trying to say if there is problems in one's neighborhood, like drugs and gangs, this would not make you a good candidate because of what your neighbors do? This is a little stereotyping, wouldn't you say?

3. As I would represent all of Santa Monica and listen to the resident's needs and then correct the problem rather than ignoring it and hope it will go away.

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OPINION

LETTERS

Measure EE opposition speaking

Editor:

While the Daily Press' effort to provide information on the upcoming local ballot measures is commendable, some corrections and clarifications to the recent article ('Cash-strapped school district looks to voters for assistance,' Oct. 22) on ballot Measure EE must be made.

Contrary to the article, there is no "phasing in" involved in EE; this is neither implied nor stated in the proposed measure. The only "gradually increasing" of this parcel tax would be the cost of living amount the tax could increase by every year. The stated figures of \$101, increasing to \$360 by 2006, have no basis in reality. If these figures were the result of a misinterpretation by the reporter, it should be noted and corrected. If the figures came from supporters of EE, it would only be the latest in a long list of misinformation they have "provided" the voters.

The article also states that "no organized campaign against the measure has materialized." The group representing the growing number of opponents to EE is represented by the Web site www.VoteNoEE.com. The lawn signs seen sprouting up in neighborhoods throughout the city are available through the Web site. It is a low budget campaign, under \$1,000 at this point.

And as to the heading: "Small group of dissenters say tax measure is flawed"? Dissenters, yes, as in the American tradition of protesting taxes that are unfair, and, in this case, particularly target our seniors, those on fixed incomes, homeowners, and owners and renters of condos.

Since the SMMUSD could raise the same amount of revenue with a tax that is fairer, and still protect our seniors, low income renters, and the poor, then count me proudly as a "dissenter."

But as for being a "small group"? Well, we'll find out Nov. 5th just how many will join me in voting NO on EE.

Mathew Millen
Santa Monica

Have some fun Louis!

Editor:

I have a few questions for our friend Louis Pastore, who went overboard using his thesaurus when he ripped the editor and writer for an article about orphan football fans in L.A. (SMDP, Letters to the editor, Oct. 23).

- 1) Do you even watch football?
- 2) Have you ever been to Philadelphia or attended a sporting event in the city of brotherly love?
- 3) Do you ever have fun?

I will assume the answer to each of these questions is no.

You are most likely cooped up in your little hole all day staring at your Ivy League degree wondering what happened to all those years and why you never made it?

Go bird-watching or play with your bocce balls or for that matter go cheer on the L.A. Sparks as they try for their third consecutive world championship.

You criticize us for acting sophomoric, slugging back beers and doing shots of whiskey

when we cheer on our team ... as if there were something wrong with that! Geez, man you should come out to the Shack and join in on the fun because you might actually enjoy yourself.

Dave Zierler
Santa Monica

Activists may hurt homeless with lawsuit

Editor:

Some time ago, a group of animal activists released about 9000 minks. Most of the animals promptly tore each other to shreds while those remaining died lingering deaths from exposure and starvation. The dogma adopted by these types of activist-zealots precludes all contrary thinking and is dangerous.

Which is why I'm not surprised that a group of homeless activists are going to make a similar mistake by suing to overturn the two recently created, and badly needed, Santa Monica laws. The activists call the measures anti-homeless, but they might be better termed anti-crime, pro-revenue or even pro-homeless.

On the most basic level, fighting this legal action will take precious funds from a cash-strapped Santa Monica and leave less money for social programs to help the homeless. Add this to a multi-million dollar shortfall in sales tax revenue, much of it due to the overwhelming homeless problem, it will become increasingly difficult to offer help to those most deserving.

But what is most irritating is that, should the activists prevail, their only accomplishment will be to vastly overwhelm the city's social services. This will ensure that the homeless, mentally impaired and substance abusers will get very little help and few or none of the homeless will be lifted out of their condition. Of course there are other motivations behind some activist's actions. Charities, though not without altruistic sentiments, are big business and depend on continued suffering for their survival. Publicity or public recognition can also be enticing.

A prime example is Mayor Feinstein who parades out his social compassion before the media at every opportunity. Even if completely sincere, the mayor has defined his public image so narrowly, that for him to even contemplate policies or solutions, no matter how promising, that do not conform to this image, would be unthinkable. If the mayor and the other homeless activists want to show true compassion, they should each take a single homeless person into their own home, feed them and help them to become self-sufficient. If they succeed, they will do far greater good than any questionable lawsuit. If they are unwilling, perhaps they're in the wrong fight.

Ed Silverstein
Santa Monica

Options exist to parcel tax

Editor:

Ms Jaffe's opinion piece on measure EE, printed in your paper, is factually incorrect about taxing. She falsely states: "According to state law, a parcel tax, requiring approval by two-thirds of the electorate, is the ONLY means available to the school board to raise

On Measure JJ, Santa Monica residents should just say no

(Editor's note: This is the last in a weekly series of columns by living wage opponent Tom Larmore. The city council passed an ordinance last July requiring businesses in the coastal zone that generate more than \$5 million in annual revenue to pay their employees up to \$12.25 an hour. Measure JJ asks voters to approve the measure on Nov. 5.)

In this space last Friday, Reverend Frederick H. Borsch, former Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, argued that Santa Monica voters have a "moral right" to demand that Santa Monica's luxury beachfront hotels pay their workers "reasonable and just compensation" and that, therefore, voters should support Measure JJ — the city's Minimum Wage Ordinance.

With all due respect to Bishop Borsch, his arguments reflect the two aspects about this debate that I most resent: the insinuation, sometimes subtle, sometimes not, that opposition to Measure JJ is immoral and the demonization of the "luxury beachfront hotels."

As I have said many times over the last several months, it is imperative to separate the need to deal with the very real problems of low-income families from the wisdom of Measure JJ — only the latter is on the ballot. After all, alcoholism was, and remains, a problem in our society and temperance was supported by religious leaders around the country. Did that mean that those who recognized Prohibition as a mistake were immoral?

In evaluating Measure JJ, voters should

ask themselves whether an intelligent and effective law designed to actually help low-wage workers and their families would have the following effects:

1. It discriminates against certain employees and employers based solely on their location and level of gross receipts. Why should a law apply to workers on one side of the street but not to those on the other? And what is fair about treating competitive businesses differently based on their levels of sales or location? (Recall that the measure covers employers with over \$5,000,000 in "gross receipts," not profits.)

2. It fails to cover employees of unionized businesses. Other than as a method to apply economic leverage to businesses which are targeted for organization by Local 814 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union, what possible purpose is served by permitting unionized businesses, including luxury union hotels like the Viceroy, to pay their employees less than the law requires of others?

3. It risks the loss of part-time and entry-level jobs for our youth. As Allan Young, President of the Santa Monica Boys & Girls Club, said in a recent letter to Santa Monica voters, major local businesses have a history of providing job opportunities for those in need but without skills or experience. At \$12-\$13 an hour, these jobs will be jeopardized by Measure JJ. Why doesn't the law

contain some recognition of this problem?

4. It Directs most of the economic benefits to tipped workers with sizable incomes. Current supporters of Measure JJ have admitted in the past that workers earning a major portion of their income from tips should be treated differently from those who don't. Even their favorite economist Robert Pollin, who prepared the economic study on which they so heavily rely, assumed that workers receiving at least one-half of their income from tips would be excluded.

Measure JJ supporters argue that California law precludes including tip income in calculating wages. While this is true for California's \$6.75 minimum wage, the argument depends upon believing that the city has the power to establish its own minimum wage which is 80% higher and apply it only to businesses of a certain size and located in a certain area but cannot treat tipped employees differently. This is absurd.

5. It diverts millions of dollars of tax dollars away from the city's ability to provide fundamental social services to its residents. Do we really think that city employees are underpaid and can afford this additional financial hit on top of its steadily declining revenues?

6. It risks yet another expensive lawsuit against the city. A few years ago, the city council was warned that its ordinance regu-

lating second units in R1 neighborhoods violated California law. The council passed the law, was sued, lost the suit and had to pay hundreds of thousands of our tax dollars in attorneys' fees. More recently, the council was warned that its regulation of ATM fees was unconstitutional. The council passed the law, was sued and lost the suit. Now we may be waiting for the other shoe to drop in the form of another major attorneys' fee award.

The council has been warned that Measure JJ is also unconstitutional based upon the failure of its discriminatory aspects to honor the constitutional guarantee of equal treatment of the laws. The city attorney has told the council to expect a lawsuit if JJ passes which, if lost, could result in another attorneys' fee award of several hundred thousand dollars, not to mention the expense to the city of defending the measure in court.

Measure JJ is nothing more than an attempt by Local 814 to use governmental power to bludgeon businesses into becoming unionized. The union exemption is the carrot and the inclusion of tipped workers is the stick. In this effort, the union is willing to risk millions of your tax dollars in order to promote its selfish ends.

For all the reasons I have spelled out over 22 weekly columns, voters should just say "no" to JJ.

Tom Larmore is a Santa Monica resident and a local property rights attorney.

**Guest
Commentary**
By Tom Larmore

OPINION



LETTERS

these funds."

School districts can levy "special taxes" such as a sales tax, ad valorem taxes, Mello-Roos taxing, developer fees and a variety of parcel tax configurations to raise funds.

Asserting that a parcel tax such as Measure EE is written is the only answer also is not correct. Parcel taxes come in many forms. Berkeley, Davis, Palo Alto, Piedmont, Albany and other school districts have written many different features into their tax measures which are widely considered to be more equitable than the proposed Measure EE.

Berkeley, for example, taxes the structures on the parcel. It has a tax of 4.5 cents per square foot tax on residential structures and a slightly higher amount on commercial structures. In Berkeley a 1000 square foot home or condo would be taxed \$45, not the \$300 per annum tax of EE. One of Santa Monica's oft vilified luxury hotels, at say 50,000 sq. ft., would pay \$2,500, not \$300 as proposed in EE.

The Albany School District differentiates residential from commercial and uses a square foot formula with a minimum tax for all.

Davis Unified taxes per dwelling unit, but lessens the tax for apartment units. If this idea were to be proposed in Santa Monica-Malibu it has the potential of raising more money than EE. There are 32,000 land parcels in our school district. BUT there are some 64,000 taxable entities if you tax per dwelling unit. Do the math - you can lower the tax, even the distribution and still come out on top.

Many school parcel taxes exempt seniors or those with low incomes. Many do not have yearly cost of living increases. Most districts have parcel taxes that last only four five or six years for better accountability.

EE will tax tenants in a wildly uneven manor. In a large luxury apartment complex such as Santa Monica Shores with 100's of units, tenants will pay cents a month, while my low income senior neighbor in a duplex will pay \$12.50 per month.

Owners should pay particular attention because EE taxes property in a wildly uneven manor. A Pico neighborhood condo pays the same as a Malibu mansion or the entire 17 acre Water Garden Office complex.

Again, it is most unfortunate that, as a main proponent of Measure EE, Ms Jaffe did not have her facts straight.

Voters should be aware that there are existing working models of school support taxation that work for the schools and work for the community.

Peter Tigler
Santa Monica

Money can't buy the truth

Editor:

I read your article on the living wage initiative (Measure JJ), aghast at the amount of money that the Anti-Living wage campaign is willing to spend (half a million this election so far and almost a million last election).

Let me tell you what it is being spent on. In addition to mailers and several knocks on my door, my house in Sunset Park has also been bombarded with phone calls (four so far) by the Anti-Living wage campaign. According to the phone callers themselves, they are working for a company in Texas.

From Texas, each caller has announced, that if JJ were implemented, hotels would be exempt from abiding with the ordinance, but charities would not be. I asked Vivian Rothstein, from the Yes on JJ campaign, if this was true and found that it was not.

According to the fine details of the ordinance, if the union employees and employer mutually agreed that the benefits would be greater by waiving the living wage ordinance, only then could the hotels be exempt.

Another fine detail in the hardship clause of this ordinance states that non-profit organizations (charities) are exempt from complying with the living wage ordinance. Thus, the anti-living wage canvassers are clearly resorting to blatant falsehoods in their desperation to prevent JJ from passing.

By the way, let us examine, the original argument in itself, which is just plain silly. Suppose that the statement is true that the ordinance did actually exempt hotels from paying their employees a living wage, as the phone callers claim. We are then meant to oppose this ordinance because it would not cover these hotels. This appears to be an argument in favor of a living wage!

Further, we are also led to believe in additional arguments that the same opponents of a living wage are also worried about discrimination!

Regardless, the half-truths and blatant lies that have been directed against the living wage in past campaigns have not succeeded in manipulating Santa Monica residents, and they will not do so again.

Lori Klaidman
Santa Monica

Santa Monica has its own syndrome

Editor:

As we come up to this election, consider that the mess that is Santa Monica is not the result of policy choice or political affiliation, homelessness or monster mansions, poverty or affluence, high or low wages, affordable housing or development, but the result of a lack of simple civility, good manners and common sense.

The root of this may be called the "Santa Monica Syndrome," where the suspicion that everyone else is dealing in bad faith is used to justify one's own operating in bad faith. That seems to be how Santa Monica works: Bad faith is assumed by all participants of all

participants, and so the cycle continues and creates a city which is overwhelmed by spite and vitriol.

This makes you a remarkably hard neighbor to have, a bit like living next door to a screamer.

Consider the following effects your actions have on your neighbors:

- You've managed to double our travel time to the 10 freeway by creating multiple transit barriers on every route between Ocean Park and Pico.

- You've essentially eliminated free public parking on your streets and in your parking lots, the time allowed on Third Street isn't long enough to see a whole movie, much less go to dinner and a movie.

- Your private jets take off over our homes, making sustained conversation difficult to impossible, and leaving us to clean up the sooty film they leave on everything from cars to children, from plants to pets.

- Your dog parks are reserved for your dogs alone, while many of your residents visit our one dog park because it is more "friendly."

In short, the fact that you can't deal with each other in good faith impacts everyone around you.

I'd like to hold out the hope that Santa Monica can overcome this, but any mental-health professional will confirm that personality disorders are incredibly hard to cure.

Chris Plourde
Venice

VERITAS' mayor a dangerous position

Editor:

Next week Santa Monicans will make a very important decision about our city government — the direct election of the mayor by the voters.

Presently, the city council elects one of its members to serve as mayor, to be the presiding officer and serve in a mostly ceremonial position. This will be drastically changed if Measure HH is approved because a very powerful position of mayor will be created.

The sponsors of this initiative — who were responsible for getting it on the ballot — used direct election of the mayor as the selling point at signature gathering spots outside the grocery stores. It is a premise that sounds good when first heard. However, when the details became known, the dangers became apparent.

Under HH, the mayor sets the agenda for the city council and then presides over all proceedings of the council, serves as the liaison of the council with the city manager, represents the city in intergovernmental matters and supervises those functions, appoints and removes the mayor pro tem (city charter amendment to read: The mayor pro tem shall serve in such capacity at the pleasure of the mayor), and has the right to vote in matters concerning the removal of the city manager or city attorney.

In addition to the powers noted above, under Measure HH, the mayor will have the power to veto ordinances adopted by the city council. Every ordinance is presented to the mayor for approval; if it is vetoed, it then is presented with the objections of the mayor at the next council meeting. The council members could attempt to override the veto, but it would take five votes to do so. This would significantly change the process for adopting ordinances, as well as drawing out the time frame for their passage. On close votes of the city council the mayor has the ability to cast the deciding vote in joining with the minority on the council to reject a vote of the majority.

All this, yet proponents claim that this new position of mayor "will have no executive power ... will have difficulty wielding even the modest power provided." In effect, under Measure HH the mayor will not only act as the chief legislative officer but he or she will also act as the chief executive officer. Thus, unlike state and federal government where there is a separation of power between the executive branch and the legislative branch, this would not occur in the city of Santa Monica with HH.

Under Measure HH the mayor serves for four years and to be eligible needs only live in the city 30 days prior to the first date for filing as a candidate. No experience is necessary to wield this enormous power. The mayor only needs to be well connected with those who are willing to spend to get him or her elected.

The direct election of a mayor with veto power and the authority to set the agenda would concentrate a lot of control in one very influential person. It would be a very desirable position and would attract a lot of special interest money. If the proponents think you need a large war chest now to get elected, they should see the amounts that will be needed in future elections! As we have seen in numerous elections at all levels of government, who elects the officials (the voters) and who the officials are accountable to (the donors) are often very different.

Cost is a factor that has been mentioned in discussions about Measure HH; costs for the system of elections, costs of campaigning. I have not heard mention of a different cost: Increasing the number of elected officials by one. The mayor is in addition to the seven city council members so additional monthly compensation will be spent. Plus the cost of the medical, dental, health and other benefits now given to our elected officials plus other costs associated with them.

Measure HH proponents have mentioned a worthy goal of "creating a more accurate and effective method for the people to communicate their will to the city government." The goal, one we can all agree with, would not be the result of this measure.

Karen Carrey
President
League of Women Voters of Santa Monica

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.



LOCAL

ARNOLD, from page 1

Favorite CD: Dire Straits, Brothers in Arms

Favorite movie: Dave

Favorite thing about living here: Clean air, great community, Pacific Ocean

Have you ever been arrested? If so, for what? No

Have you ever declared bankruptcy or had financial insolvency issues? No

Endorsed by:

Hon. Sheila Kuehl, California State Senate, Hon. Jackie Goldberg, California State Assembly, Hon. Paul Koretz, California State Assembly, Americans for Democratic Action (ADA), Committee to Protect the Living Wage, Democratic Party of Los Angeles County, 41st Assembly District Democratic Committee, Independent Committee for the Arts, Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters, National Women's Political Caucus L.A. Westside, Santa Monica Democratic Club, Santa Monica for Renters' Rights, SEIU Local 434B, SEIU Local 660, Sierra Club, Stonewall Democratic Club, UFCW Local 1442, Westside Committee on Political Education (COPE) AFL-CIO

1. What is the single biggest issue facing Santa Monica? What do you intend to do about it, if elected? Be specific.

The gentrification of Santa Monica affects families disproportionately, which has the added consequence of diminishing our city's cultural diversity. Fewer affordable apartments, especially those with enough bedrooms to accommodate larger families, means that we have fewer children, fewer people of color, and fewer people able to stay in Santa Monica when they start families. When a family is able to purchase a home, it is nearly impossible to find anything affordable in Santa Monica. I will analyze each issue for its effect on our community's diversity and accessibility to families.

2. Where is the city spending money that, in your opinion, should be used for something else?

Among the inefficiencies in the city budget that need to be addressed are an over-reliance on consultants and contractors instead of on our own staff. There are also inefficiencies in landscaping and park maintenance work; for example, the grass that is planted on the soccer fields goes dormant during autumn, when it is most heavily used, so the fields need to be replaced more often than they should be. A lot of time and money is spent on bureaucracy. I will find ways to emphasize customer service and efficiency.

3. The city has hired an urban design consultant for \$54,000 to tell us how the downtown area could be designed better. Do you think the downtown commercial zone needs to be redesigned and how much would you allocate toward such an endeavor?

I was horrified at the consultant's report on the downtown area. I worked on the Promenade back in the early 1980's and have seen its development into a thriving downtown. This is a great example of a waste of money. We spent thousands on the consultants who designed the downtown area, and now we pay others to second guess that design.

4. The city is facing a \$9.5 million budget shortfall this year and future budgets look just as bleak. What are the top three items in the city's budget that you would cut to ease the taxpayer's pain?

Just like any good organization would do, I will go through the budget and find places to save money. As treasurer of the Pier Restoration Commission, I have fought for improvements in the budget that are now being implemented. When I worked as a budget analyst for county employees, we found enough money in copier maintenance contracts to cover raises for thousands of employees.

5. The Santa Monica Police Department has some of the highest paid officers in the region. Do think the salaries of Santa Monica's finest are justified? Why or why not?

I support paying our officers well, but I am concerned about the amount of overtime that is booked. Law enforcement is highly stressful, and I think 40 hours a week is enough in police work except during the occasional time of high need. Overtime pay for high salaried employees costs a great deal of money.

6. The Pico neighborhood hasn't had any formal representation on the city council in the history of Santa Monica. Do think the blighted neighborhood's drug dealing and gang activity is reflective of that? How would you represent this neighborhood?

Crime reflects economic disparities, and the Pico neighborhood has the lowest socio-economic status in the city. I strongly support neighborhood organizations like the Pico Youth and Family Center, and I will work to find Pico neighborhood residents who can serve on our city's important commissions, building leadership for the city council. How many Pico neighborhood residents have ever served on the planning commission? That's the place to start.

O'CONNOR, from page 1

weren't what you are, what would you be? In my fantasy world, a shortstop on a professional baseball team, or, if I could carry a tune, a Broadway musical theater star (though I'd try drama, too).

Favorite CD: I'm more of a radio and TV person. So for radio, KPCC for national and regional news, KUSC for music.

Favorite movie: For TV, mysteries (i.e., Poirot, Morse, Nero Wolf) and Law and Order (anytime, any channel), and great baseball (like the Angels this year) and CNN when there's fast-breaking news.

Favorite thing about living here: All that goes with a Mediterranean climate

Have you ever been arrested? If so, for what? No

Have you ever declared bankruptcy or had financial insolvency issues? No

Endorsed by:

Santa Monica for Renters Rights, Santa Monica Police Officers Association, Santa Monica Firefighters Association, Coalition to Protect the Living Wage, Sierra Club, League of Conservation Voters, Santa Monica/Malibu Classroom Teachers Association, Santa Monica Democratic Club, National Women's Political Caucus, Stonewall Democratic Club.

1. What is the single biggest issue facing Santa Monica? What do you intend to do about it, if elected? Be specific.

Economic uncertainties are having an impact on the budget. How we manage the downturn is critical. We face tough choices and I bring knowledge and experience with the city budget to the table as we face the unknown economic future. I will maintain a solid foundation (adequate reserves, not funding ongoing programs with one-time monies, maintaining AAA rating). I'll also maintain core services such as police, fire, and paramedic protection at their highest level to ensure a safe and secure community.

2. Where is the city spending money that, in your opinion, should be used for something else?

To develop a city budget that supports a range of services for residents who expect, and deserve, quality services, requires balance and compromise. During my time on the council the community has been involved in developing spending priorities — and the budget has usually been adopted unanimously. Of course, there are areas where I would shift amounts, but currently there is not a need for structural changes. Declining revenues will challenge us as a council and community to make choices. I've noted my priorities above.

3. The city has hired an urban design consultant for \$54,000 to tell us how the downtown area could be designed better. Do you think the downtown commercial zone needs to be redesigned and how much would you allocate toward such an endeavor?

The work of the consultant is to build on what is downtown with a focus on keeping a mix of retail, restaurants and services downtown. It's been 13 years since the Promenade was renovated and it's time for adjustments. The process involves community (a workshop in November) and suggestions for improvements — both short and longer term will be developed. City staff developed a defined scope of work and prepared an estimate of what reasonable costs for professional services are currently in the market.

4. The city is facing a \$9.5 million budget shortfall this year and future budgets look just as bleak. What are the top three items in the city's budget that you would cut to ease the taxpayer's pain?

This isn't about "taxpayers." It's about our community's decisions as to how (and how much) we are going to fund shared services, like maintenance of streets, parks and libraries. And children are not taxpayers, but they need to grow up in a safe, clean environment to thrive. I'm not going to dictate what should be cut; rather I'll work with the community to determine priorities and maintain core services at a high level.

5. The Santa Monica Police Department has some of the highest paid officers in the region. Do think the salaries of Santa Monica's finest are justified? Why or why not?

Running any type of organization requires a range of personnel. Police officers require special skills and much is asked of them. In a moment's notice they may be asked to put their life on the line. As a nation we experienced that unwavering commitment on 9/11. Our challenge is to fairly compensate our officers so we can retain officers and high quality service in a competitive market, and not lose them to safer occupations.

6. The Pico neighborhood hasn't had any formal representation on the city council in the history of Santa Monica. Do think the blighted neighborhood's drug dealing and gang activity is reflective of that? How would you represent this neighborhood?

I'm sure historical analysis would show similar patterns in the evolution of the U.S. over the past century. I think it's unfair to call the neighborhood "blighted." Generations of families who have contributed to our community live there. During the first part of the 20th Century the neighborhood did not receive its fair share of resources. That has changed but it will take ongoing aggressive reinvestment to catch-up. I am and have been committed to this.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn. Editor:
1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 Santa Monica • 90401 • sack@smdp.com

LOCAL



HOLBROOK, from page 1

firefighter; higher pay and better hours!

Favorite CD: Music from Notting Hill

Favorite movie: Captain from Castile

Favorite thing about living here: View from Palisades Park.

Have you ever been arrested? If so, for what? No.

Have you ever declared bankruptcy or had financial insolvency issues? No

Endorsed by:

Santa Monica Pier Leesees
24th Street Porch Committee

1. What is the single biggest issue facing Santa Monica? What do you intend to do about it, if elected? Be specific.

INCREASE OF THE TRANSIENT POPULATION. According to a city poll of Santa Monica residents, the excess homeless/transient/vagrant population in our city is the No. 1 issue. I agree. In 1994, I spearheaded the Public Safety Initiative which addressed the homeless problem with several ordinances including one prohibiting sleeping in the parks from 11 p.m. to dawn. A new city report shows a substantial increase in violations of the "no camping" ordinances. In 2000 there were 195 violations, in 2001 there were 298, and in the first nine months of 2002 there have been 476 violations, with 202 in July 2002 ... and we still have three months to go.

It now has gotten worse with the increased number of feeding programs in the parks by outside groups. This has resulted in Santa Monica having the reputation of being the "Homeless Capital" of Southern California. Santa Monica cannot cure homelessness in America or even homelessness in the Western region of Los Angeles County. Santa Monica spends \$22 per resident on homeless services compared to 13 cents per resident in LA.

The most pressing issue now is how to reduce the large numbers of homeless in our community, to help the ones that want help, and to encourage our neighboring communities to do their share.

On Oct. 8 at the city council meeting, I voted to require feeding groups to obtain a health permit and to limit the number of times a large group can use the parks. I also voted to outlaw sleeping in doorways in the downtown and Main Street commercial areas and to instruct the staff to find ways for groups to have feeding programs indoors and linked to social services, which are the only ones that have been successful in returning the individuals to a productive life.

One problem which may occur from banning sleeping in doorways in these commercial areas is that the homeless will find other places to sleep. This may be doorways outside of the prohibited commercial areas, parking structures, and even the residential areas, in carports, etc. If that happens, new ordinances may have to be drafted and enforced in order to address this situation. But it all boils down to, the transient population must be reduced. Other communities, the county, etc. must participate in addressing this problem. Santa Monica cannot solve this regional and national problem.

2. Where is the city spending money that, in your opinion, should be used for something else?

Consultants — We're spending too much money on consultants — hundreds of thousands of dollars a year and often times the reports confirm what we already know. We are often doing Environmental Impact Reports which are repetitive. Often the same kind of work, just different places in the city. Perhaps we should have people on staff to do this.

3. The city has hired an urban design consultant for \$54,000 to tell us how the downtown area could be designed better. Do you think the downtown commercial zone needs to be redesigned and how much would you allocate toward such an endeavor?

I think that this is a good idea especially since we are evaluating whether Santa Monica Place should be redesigned to connect the Promenade to the Civic Center area.

4. The city is facing a \$9.5 million budget shortfall this year and future budgets look just as bleak. What are the top three items in the city budget that you would cut to ease the taxpayer's pain?

The top three items that I would cut are:

- Place all the capital improvement projects on hold (e.g., repaving)
- Hiring freeze on non-public safety personnel — save dollars by not filling positions
- Zoning enforcement officers

5. The Santa Monica Police Department has some of the highest paid officers in the region. Do think the salaries of Santa Monica's finest are justified? Why or why not?

The salaries are justified because it allows us to recruit the cream of the crop from other police departments and hire the finest rookies.

6. The Pico neighborhood hasn't had any formal representation on the City Council in the history of Santa Monica. Do think the blighted neighborhood's drug dealing and gang activity is reflective of that? How would you represent this neighborhood?

I don't think that it is result of not having elected somebody but I think that the situation could be improved if Veritas (Prop HH) passes and it guarantees a representative from the Pico neighborhood on the council. I have made the violent crime in the Pico neighborhood as a major focus of my campaign and I want to do whatever is necessary to make the Pico neighborhood as safe as any neighborhood in the city.

I have lived in the Ocean Park, Wilshire-Montana and North of Montana areas of the city. Although I have never resided in the Pico neighborhood, I have great concern for their

residents. I believe that the Pico neighborhood needs special attention because of the violent crime, drug and gang activity that has occurred there. I think that the council must have regular meetings with the leaders in the Pico neighborhood and the police department and agree to a strategy to rectify the criminal activity occurring there. The council needs to make the necessary resources available to meet this need including increasing the police resources at the Virginia Avenue Substation so that the neighborhood can be covered for longer hours. Obviously if there was a council member from the neighborhood, the council would have first-hand information about any serious situation. That is one of the reasons that Veritas (Prop HH) is more important to this neighborhood than perhaps any neighborhood in the city.

DINOLFO, from page 1

Favorite Movie: The Godfather

Favorite thing about living here: Spending time with my family.

Have you ever been arrested: No

Have you ever declared bankruptcy or had financial insolvency issues: No

Endorsed by:

Santa Monica Police Officers' Association
Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers' Association
Santa Monica Firefighters' Association
41st Assembly District, Democratic Central Committee
For a complete list, go to <http://www.matteodinolfo.com>

1. What is the single biggest issue facing Santa Monica? What do you intend to do about it, if elected? Be specific.

I believe the biggest issue concerning our citizens is homelessness. If elected, I would aggressively advocate for the development of a regional homeless task force. The task force would include representatives from other communities in the region and will have a three-fold mission: To establish regional policies on homelessness; to develop regional solutions; and to form partnerships with charities and social service agencies throughout the region to more evenly distribute services, care, and financial responsibility.

2. Where is the city spending money, that, in your opinion, can be used for something else?

I would not burden the city with the development of further bureaucracy. I would endeavor to avoid costly litigation and would strive to resolve disputes in an expeditious manner through mediation. I would examine the budget in extensive detail with an eye to redirecting monies to support the schools, including early childhood development programs. I would be in favor of slowing capital development, with the exception of continuing work on our libraries and public safety facilities.

3. The city has hired an urban design consultant for \$54,000 to tell us how the downtown area could be designed better. Do you think the downtown commercial zone needs to be redesigned and how much would you allocate toward such an endeavor?

I believe that a comprehensive review of the entire business corridor, extending from Main Street, the Pier, Santa Monica Place and the Third Street Promenade, should be undertaken. I believe that support of these business areas is imperative to increase sales and business tax revenues. However, some creativity should be used to decrease the costs incurred. To that end I would consider seeking private funds and/or forming partnerships with the business community to fund this endeavor.

4. The city is facing a \$9.5 million budget shortfall this year and future budgets look just as bleak. What are the top three items in the city's budget that you would cut to ease the taxpayer's pain?

At a recent city council meeting, city finance director Mike Dennis stated that the budget gaps are primarily expenditure-driven. The city will be required to fund the decline of the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) investment portfolios. I would put a freeze on new capital development, until city staff has an opportunity to assess the impact to the city as a whole. I would also freeze property acquisition. Thirdly, freezing these programs would necessitate evaluation of staffing needs.

5. The Santa Monica Police Department has some of the highest paid officers in the region. Do you think the salaries of Santa Monica's finest are justified? Why or why not?

I believe the salaries are justified. Police officers are in a hazardous occupation that demands courage, professionalism, and loyalty. Our public safety is of paramount concern. Salaries for those who bear responsibility for it should be a priority. By ensuring that our officers are well compensated, we have as a community given them our vote of confidence and our respect. In addition to salaries, I would advocate for the most advanced training and technology available.

6. The Pico neighborhood hasn't any formal representation on the City Council in the history of Santa Monica. Do you think the blighted neighborhood's drug dealing and gang activity is reflective of that? How would you represent this neighborhood?

I believe the issue that has the greatest negative impact is not a lack of representation but rather the performance gap in education. That is why I am campaigning for increased city financial support of our schools. Ensuring that all children have an excellent education, including early childhood development programs, is the single greatest deterrent to gang and criminal activity. In addition, I would support social programs to assist children and provide alternatives to the gang culture.



LOCAL

McKEOWN, from page 1

Profession: Educational technology consultant for our Santa Monica public schools. I work with our teachers and our kids, so every day I see the future of our city in those kids' faces.

Alternative career: If you weren't what you are, what would you be? Probably what I studied to be at Yale, an astrophysicist; or I could go back into radio. I came to Santa Monica as general manager of KROQ, and once owned and operated a radio recording studio on Main Street.

Favorite CD: I've run rock and roll radio stations and could name dozens of favorite CDs (and vinyl albums ... remember those?). My favorite Beatle was John. Wait, is this for the "Daily Press" or for "Tiger Beat?"

Favorite Movie: Michelangelo Antonioni's "Blow-Up" and Francois Truffaut's "Day for Night" had tremendous impact on my impressionable young mind.

Favorite thing about living here: Riding my bike along the beach bike path, walking out to the berm above the surf line, relaxing in the sun, feeling the breeze, listening to the waves and watching dolphins frolic ... while knowing our incredibly vital and diverse city sits right behind me.

Have you ever been arrested? If so, for what? No. I did all the classic '60s and '70s anti-war protest actions like putting a flower in the barrel of a National Guard rifle, but was never arrested for my beliefs.

Have you ever declared bankruptcy or had financial insolvency issues? No, although I've had my layoffs and tough times like most of us. I know well the insecurities of being a working person who's temporarily not working, and of being a renter one check away from the street.

Endorsed by:

Santa Monica Police Officers' Association, Santa Monica Firefighters' Association, Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers' Association, Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, Coalition to Protect the Living Wage, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor AFL-CIO, Southern California Americans for Democratic Action, Westside Greens, Sierra Club, Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters, Santa Monica Independent Committee for the Arts

1. What is the single biggest issue facing Santa Monica? What do you intend to do about it, if elected? Be specific.

The issue is quality of life. Overdevelopment threatens the character, livability and affordability of our city. We're challenged to accommodate growth without losing our community's soul. I'll continue to side with residents against the speculators, and make sure our progress has a heart. Quality of life also depends on excellent schools, and I'll stand close as a willing partner on mutually beneficial projects like our new school parks and the city-funded school energy efficiency program.

2. Where is the city spending money that, in your opinion, should be used for something else?

Last June in our budget I "found" an overlooked \$70,000. I suggested restoring half the cuts we'd had to make in social services to youth and seniors. Over my protests, that money instead was diverted to fancy up a new visitors' center for tourists. I support promoting tourism after 9/11, but this expenditure won't bring travelers to our city. Tourism enhancements should benefit our residents as well, like the beachfront improvements near the big hotels.

3. The city has hired an urban design consultant for \$54,000 to tell us how the downtown area could be designed better. Do you think the downtown commercial zone needs to be redesigned and how much would you allocate toward such an endeavor?

A world-class downtown is a laudable goal, but for a consultant to earn a fee it first and foremost must be OUR downtown. Phenomenal economic growth introduced unexpected competition for lucrative space, costing us the loss of beloved locally-owned resident-serving businesses. Unacceptable traffic and parking congestion have made our downtown a difficult destination. The economic engine of unrestrained "market forces" clearly conflicts with our own goals of sustainable development and a superior quality of life.

4. The city is facing a \$9.5 million budget shortfall this year and future budgets look just as bleak. What are the top three items in the city's budget that you would cut to ease the taxpayer's pain?

Clearly we'll defer city infrastructure in the next few years, which actually may be a relief to those of us weary of construction. Speculating further on budget cuts the week of an election is disingenuous. We'll put the options before the community and let the folks who pay the bills share the choices. Virtually everything goes on the table except public safety. I'll certainly argue for increased efficiencies and enhanced revenues before cutting needed services.

5. The Santa Monica Police Department has some of the highest paid officers in the region. Do think the salaries of Santa Monica's finest are justified? Why or why not?

With all the vitality and activity and diversity of Santa Monica, we're a challenging environment for law enforcement. We provide our officers with the tools they need to protect us and our loved ones, including extensive training. We compensate them well, to attract the best and keep the experienced. Getting great police personnel is very competitive among area communities, and we best serve our residents by protecting our investment in highly trained and dedicated officers.

6. The Pico neighborhood hasn't had any formal representation on the city council in the history of Santa Monica. Do think the blighted neighborhood's drug dealing and gang activity is reflective of that? How would you represent this neighborhood?

In a small town like Santa Monica, good council members serve our entire community. I've helped expand Virginia Avenue Park, supported Pico Boulevard small businesses, opposed a college traffic plan ignoring Pico neighborhood streets, and voted to fund the Pico Youth and Family Center. A Pico neighborhood native is on the ballot this election. Divisive districting and restricted voting (with each resident cut from seven council votes to just one) wouldn't solve Pico's problems or anyone's.

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DID YOU KNOW?: Duelling is legal in Paraguay as long as both parties are registered blood donors.

LOCAL



RUBIN, from page 1

Favorite movie: Gandhi

Favorite thing about living here: I like the peace table on the Promenade

Have you ever been arrested? Yes. For peace and environmental non-violent protests.

Have you ever declared bankruptcy or had financial insolvency issues? No, not really.

Endorsed by:

Celebrity activists such as Martin Sheen, Edward Asner, Michelle Phillips, Alexandra Paul, Ron Kovic, and Casey Kasem. Also, numerous peace, environmental and other local and national activist group leaders.

1. What is the single biggest issue facing Santa Monica? What do you intend to do about it, if elected? Be specific.

The single biggest problem is the continuing spread of "finger pointing sickness." Which means that good people are pointing fingers and blaming other good people for all of our problems, including the homeless, parking and traffic, etc., etc. The solution? More all-inclusive task forces and increasing a focus on mediative "win-win" solutions.

2. Where is the city spending money that, in your opinion, should be used for something else?

Too much money for consultants when we can get expert feedback from our own commissions and general population of informed residents, workers and business owners. Also, wasted money on "non-solutions" such as the tens of thousands spent to move the fences around the dinosaur gardens. Supposedly to "fix" the problem of homeless and transients gathering there when the money

could be used by social service agencies to help them more.

3. The city has hired an urban design consultant for \$54,000 to tell us how the downtown area could be designed better. Do you think the downtown commercial zone needs to be redesigned and how much would you allocate toward such an endeavor?

The downtown area is designed fine, looks fine and is clean, thank you very much. It's not the design that's the problem; it is not creating enough new and on-going artistic or cultural events and activities. \$54,000? I would have been the consultant for half that amount! Perhaps redesigning the Promenade so some of the upscale shops can disappear and some of the mom and pop businesses can reappear would be really nice.

4. The city is facing a \$9.5 million budget shortfall this year and future budgets look just as bleak. What are the top three items in the city's budget that you would cut to ease the taxpayer's pain?

Cutting city advertising in the newspapers? Only kidding! Wasting police and court costs on minor offenders such as street performers, artists and free-speech "violators" would be a real money saver. I would appeal to the business community to contribute more so the budget could be cut less.

5. The Santa Monica Police Department has some of the highest paid officers in the region. Do think the salaries of Santa Monica's finest are justified? Why or why not?

Sure they are, but why not help our hard working hotel workers get a decent "living wage" also? I know I wouldn't have the courage to be a police officer. They should be getting more money. I know also that I wouldn't have the stamina to do the tedious job that the maids and other hotel

workers do. They should be getting more also.

6. The Pico neighborhood hasn't had any formal representation on the city council in the history of Santa Monica. Do you think the blighted neighborhood's drug dealing and gang activity is reflective of that? How would you represent this neighborhood?

I think much more attention should be given to the Pico neighborhood. (Citywide attention, not Prop. HH — VERITAS, neighborhood-weakening attention) What's really needed is a strengthening of neighborhood groups and improved community networking with SMC College, religious leaders, youth groups, etc. The blight, drugs and gang activity are reflective more of a general "money first, people second" atmosphere. A qualified "people first" candidate from the Pico neighborhood would be fine, but qualified "people first" candidates filling all seven council seats from wherever they happen to live in Santa Monica is the real goal.

ARANDA, from page 1

Favorite CD: Sade

Favorite movie: LoversRock

Favorite thing about living here: The beach.

Have you ever been arrested? If so, for what? No

Have you ever declared bankruptcy or had financial insolvency issues? No

Endorsed by:

Sierra Club, Mayor Mike Feinstein, Tom Hayden, Democrat California State Assembly Majority Leader Marco Firebaugh, Westside Greens, National Women's Political Caucus, Neil Carrey (SM Parks and Recreation Board), Margaret Quinones (Santa Monica Board of Trustees).

1. What is the single biggest issue facing Santa Monica? What do you intend to do about it, if elected? Be specific.

Our quality of life, which includes a balance between office space and affordable housing. I support inclusionary zoning that ensures the socio-economic diversity of families living downtown and creates incentives for on-site affordability. It is for this reason that I believe we must work towards increasing public transit and a sufficient parking supply.

Downtown must be returned to Santa Monicans. With more housing anchored in the downtown area, locally serving businesses will thrive to stimulate economic growth and lead to more job creation.

Finally, public safety, I believe the police should be about promoting harmony in the community and engage stakeholders in an oversight manner.

2. Where's the city spending money that, in your opinion, should be used for something else?

I am an avid supporter of the arts, yet would have to explore further the allocation of city funds into a summer concert series that includes local talent and reduces costs.

3. The city has hired an urban design consultant for \$54,000 to tell us how the downtown area could be designed better. Do you think the downtown commercial zone needs to be redesigned and how much would

you allocate toward such an endeavor?

I believe every downtown commercial area has a 10 to 20 year life span. If we want Santa Monica to thrive then we need to commit adequate resources into a participatory urban design process. I would welcome a new and better design that would include more local use resources for Santa Monica residents, such as open space, more parking, and housing.

4. The city is facing a \$9.5 million budget shortfall this year and future budgets look just as bleak. What are the top three items in the city's budget that you would cut to ease the taxpayer's pain?

I would trim across the board from all areas so that to ensure not one sole department faces a demise.

5. The Santa Monica Police Department has some of the highest paid officers in the region. Do think the salaries of Santa Monica's finest are justified? Why or why not?

Santa Monica officers like that of our Santa Monica teachers are highly qualified individuals. Having the highest paid officers translates to our expectation of receiving the highest quality of service.

6. The Pico neighborhood hasn't had any formal representation on the city council in the history of Santa Monica. Do you think the blighted neighborhood's drug dealing and gang activity is reflective of that? How would you represent this neighborhood?

I am a product of the Pico neighborhood, and understand the multi-faceted challenges facing the Pico neighborhood vis a vis our city — having already worked toward finding tangible policy solutions to social ills such as youth violence and substance abuse. I will take strong leadership to tackle urban blight and arrive at a pro-active community based solution such as taking a public health and preventive approach to public safety. I am confident to possess the unique balance of first-hand experiential knowledge and a proven track record of public service.



briefs

WESTSIDE/METRO

New GM Adds Bus Service

After just one week on the job, Metro Westside Central Control Manager Terry Daly learned from his operators that improved service was needed on the Metro Rapid Westside line. She took action quickly and more buses were added to the line.

See AFI Fest 2002 On Metro

Catch Metro Rail to the Hollywood/Vine Station when the AFI Fest 2002 train runs around the world. AFI Fest 2002 is being held November 7-17 at the Ahmanson Theatre in Hollywood.

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LOCAL □ NATIONAL

Low funds turns Aranda to a grass roots campaign

FUNDRAISING, from page 1

the year to \$30,411 with nearly \$16,000 still remaining. O'Connor raised \$13,885 during the same time period, bringing her campaign total to \$15,960, and she has more than \$9,000 left over.

Zane said he is not overly concerned that Holbrook and Dinolfo lead in fundraising over the SMRR-backed candidates.

"It certainly would be an advantage for (SMRR-backed candidates) if they raised more money but the SMRR campaign support has historically been significant in elections and I expect it will be this year as well," he said.

Green Party candidate Josefina Santiago Aranda raised \$3,374.52 since Oct. 1 bringing her total for the year to \$8,282.16 with more than \$4,500 still on hand.

To combat those candidates with greater financial resources, Aranda said her campaign has depended less on the traditional approach of direct mail. She has focused on walking door-to-door and reaching out to those who don't traditionally get involved politically.

"We are doing a lot of grassroots organizing," Aranda said. "It's really been about getting to know the people you want to represent."

Council candidate Chuck Allord did not declare any new funds leaving his total at \$2,050. City council candidates Pro Se and Jerry Rubin have declared they will spend less than a \$1,000 on their campaigns, making filing campaign disclosures unnecessary, officials said.

In the race for the three openings up for election on the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified school board, Emily Bloomfield has raised the most money of the six candidates. Since Oct. 1, her campaign has raised \$2,425, bringing her total for the year to \$14,315. She has nearly \$4,000 remaining, according to disclosure forms.

School board president Julia Brownley raised \$2,100 during the same period, raising her total to \$6,193 with more than \$2,500 remaining.

Oscar de la Torre added \$1,015 in donations, bringing his total to \$7,951 for the year. He has nearly \$2,000 still on hand.

"It certainly would be an advantage for (SMRR-backed candidates) if they raised more money but the SMRR campaign support has historically been significant in elections and I expect it will be this year as well."

— DENNY ZANE
SMRR co-chair

Bloomfield, Brownley and de la Torre have all been endorsed by SMRR and they will receive added support from the group.

Shane McLoud raised \$5,075 during the past few weeks, bringing his total to \$11,669.99, with more than \$5,000 on hand.

School board member Brenda Gottfried, who is largely financing her own campaign with a \$10,000 self-loan, raised \$350. Gottfried said she asked her supporters to give their donations to a group trying to convince residents to vote for raising the parcel tax to fund local education programs.

Anne Cochran has declared she will spend less than \$1,000 on her campaign, obviating the need for campaign disclosures.

Amish buggy crash kills two children in New York

By The Associated Press

LEON, N.Y. — A horse pulling an Amish buggy apparently got spooked, sending the buggy into a pond and drowning two children. In central Pennsylvania, a van hit a horse and buggy, injuring seven family members.

The Miller family — two parents and seven children — were traveling in the town of Leon, about 40 miles south of Buffalo, on Sunday. Their horse apparently was spooked and the buggy went off the roadway and into a pond.

Twelve-year-old Jacob and 4-month-old Veronica drowned, Cattaraugus County sheriff's deputies said.

Six of the other seven family members were examined and released. The mother, Barbara Miller, was admitted to a hospital in fair condition.

At Holtwood, Pa., a van plowed into a

horse and buggy on a two-lane bridge over the Susquehanna River late Sunday, critically injuring six members of an Amish family, including five children, and seriously injuring a seventh.

All seven were thrown from the buggy and the horse was killed, state police said Monday.

Authorities identified the injured as Ben Ebersol Sr. and Annie Ebersol, 35, and children Andrew, 11, Daniel, 9, John, 7, Sarah, 4, and Ben Jr., 3, all of Airville.

Authorities would not say how the victims were related.

The children remained in critical condition Monday at Hershey Medical Center, while Ben Ebersol Sr., whose age was not available, was in critical condition and Annie Ebersol in serious condition at Lancaster General Hospital, according to hospital officials.

The driver of the van was not injured.

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Santa Monica Daily Press



NATIONAL



FBI finds crimes up for first time in a decade

BY CURT ANDERSON

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Murder, rape and every other violent criminal act except aggravated assault rose last year, the FBI said Monday in reporting the first year-to-year increase in overall crime in a decade.

The number of murders increased for the second straight year, following several years of decline, according to the FBI, which compiles its annual survey from crimes reported by 17,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide.

The 15,980 murders represented a 2.5 percent increase over 2000, while forcible rapes were up less than 1 percent and robberies rose 3.7 percent. Aggravated assaults fell by a half-percentage point, reaching its lowest level since 1987.

The FBI did not include the Sept. 11 deaths at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and the plane crash in Pennsylvania. These deaths, the FBI said, "are different from the day-to-day crimes committed in this country."

The report listed the total number of Sept. 11 murder victims reported by law enforcement agencies as 3,047. Of those, 2,823 occurred at the World Trade Center, 184 at the Pentagon and 40 in Somerset County, Pa., the FBI reported.

The total number of crimes rose 2.1 percent last year, the first increase from year to year since 1991, the FBI said. But overall crime still is down 10 percent compared with 1997, according to the report.

Property crimes such as burglary, larceny and arson, with no threat of violence, rose 2.3 percent, to 10.4 million cases. The total value of stolen property was pegged at \$17.1 billion, with motor vehicles and jewelry accounting for the most money. About a third of stolen property was recovered.

The FBI report differs from a survey done earlier this year by the Justice Department, which identified a drop in all violent crimes except murder in 2001, based on interviews with victims. Murder

is not included in that survey, and the FBI cautions against comparing the two reports.

Despite the increase in murders, the FBI said the overall number still is down nearly 33 percent from 1992. Murder accounts for only about 1.1 percent of the nation's violent crime, with aggravated assault making up about two-thirds of the cases and robbery another 29 percent.

The 15,980 murders represented a 2.5 percent increase over 2000, while forcible rapes were up less than 1 percent and robberies rose 3.7 percent. Aggravated assaults fell by a half-percentage point, reaching its lowest level since 1987

There were 6,750 white murder victims, 6,446 who were black, with the remainder a mix of other or unknown races. Men were far more likely than women to be murdered.

Firearms accounted for 8,719 slayings, or about two-thirds, followed by knives, "personal" weapons such as fists and feet, blunt objects and such methods as drugs, strangulation and drowning. There were 10 murders-by-poison in the United States last year, according to the FBI.

Police were able to make arrests in about 20 percent of all cases. They did better with violent crimes, solving 46 percent, including two-thirds of all murders. Burglaries remain the toughest cases to crack, with just 13 percent of offenses resulting in arrests.

There were more than 2.3 million arrests for crimes tracked by the FBI in 2001, down less than 1 percent from the year before.

Movie about Giuliani to be filmed in Montreal

BY AMY WESTFELDT

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Filmmakers are going to Canada to make a movie about former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, angering industry officials who say the film belongs in Giuliani's hometown.

"Rudy!" — based on an unauthorized biography of the man known as America's mayor — is set to begin filming Nov. 7 in Montreal. James Woods stars as the Brooklyn-born former mayor and Penelope Ann Miller plays ex-wife Donna Hanover in the film, which intersperses flashbacks from Giuliani's childhood and political career with his performance on Sept. 11, 2001.

Carlton America is producing the film for the USA Networks cable channel, which has scheduled a release for next year. Like the book "Rudy!" it was made without Giuliani's cooperation.

Giuliani spokeswoman Sunny Mindel declined comment on the film Monday.

Spokesmen for Carlton America and USA Networks declined comment on the decision to shoot the movie in Canada. Carlton America spokesman Les Eisner said a few scenes may be shot in New York.

The decision means less work for union members and comes at a time when New York's film industry is struggling, said Pamm Fair, national deputy director of the Screen Actors Guild.

"They have very little right now," she said. "Runaway production is a huge problem in this country."

The Mayor's Office of Film, Theater and Broadcasting said business was "average" in New York for the fall season. Films in production now include "Angels in America," an HBO project starring Al Pacino and Meryl Streep, and "Mona Lisa's Smile," starring Julia Roberts.

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INTERNATIONAL

U.S. diplomat assassinated outside his Jordan home

BY PAUL GEITNER

Associated Press Writer

AMMAN, Jordan — An American diplomat was assassinated Monday in front of his house, gunned down by eight pistol shots in the first such targeted attack on a U.S. diplomat in decades. The killing appeared aimed at undermining a key ally increasingly under pressure as Washington prepares for a showdown with Iraq.

Laurence Foley, a 60-year-old administrator at the U.S. Agency for International Development, was walking to his car when a single gunman opened fire, police said. The gunman — and likely accomplices — escaped.

U.S. and Jordanian officials said it was too early to tell whether the attack was terrorist-related. There were no suspects and no one claimed responsibility.

A Jordanian police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the killing appeared to have been carried out by professionals who had been following Foley for some time to determine his schedule.

The killing stunned the estimated 3,000-strong American community in Jordan, which generally considers Amman safe, despite occasional warnings of security threats.

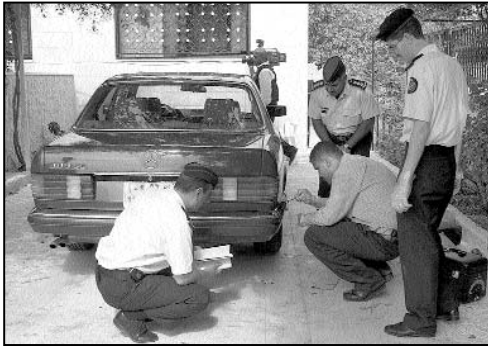
Security was immediately increased at embassies and diplomatic missions. In an unusual scene for Amman, red beret-clad special forces riding jeeps mounted with machine-guns escorted diplomatic vehicles through the city.

The U.S. Embassy warned Americans to "remain vigilant."

At a news conference, U.S. Ambassador Edward Gnehm condemned the shooting as a "cowardly, criminal act" but refused to call it terrorist-related.

Foley, recently honored for 37 years of "superior" service, had been working on projects to deliver clean drinking water and health care to poor Jordanians and provide loans to small businesses.

His voice breaking several times, Gnehm described the former Peace Corps volunteer as "a man who dedicated his life to improving the lives of others." He said Foley's wife, Virginia, recalled him telling her the night before he died: "I'm where I want to be doing what I want to do."



Jamal Nasrallah/Associated Press

A Jordan forensic expert surrounded by police officers dusts for finger prints on the car of U.S. diplomat, Laurence Foley, who was shot outside his home in Amman on Monday. Foley, who worked for the U.S. Agency for International Development, was killed by gunmen as he headed for his car parked in front of his house in the Jordanian capital.

Foley, a native of Boston and father of three, worked for the Peace Corps in India and the Philippines and carried out USAID assignments in Bolivia, Peru, Zimbabwe and Jordan.

Gnehm said there had been no threats or warnings and denied that security had been lax outside the fortress-like walls of the sprawling embassy compound.

Neighbors told The Associated Press that locally employed embassy guards usually parked overnight outside Foley's villa and left in the mornings. It was unclear if they were there at the time of the shooting.

The killing of an American official shocked Jordan's pro-Western government, which has maintained close ties to Washington despite rising public anger over U.S. support for Israel and preparations for war against neighboring Iraq.

Anti-American demonstrations are less common and

smaller here than in other Arab capitals, and usually tied to protests against Israel.

Nevertheless, more than half of Jordan's 5 million people are of Palestinian origin, some with close ties to Palestinian extremist groups. Jordan and Iraq maintain close commercial links, and there is considerable traffic between the two countries.

Jordan's foreign minister, Marwan Muasher, went to the U.S. Embassy to express condolences and promised swift action to catch the shooter. Gnehm said U.S. authorities were "working closely" with Jordanian investigators.

Jordan's information minister, Mohammed Affash Adwan, promised to "deal seriously with this horrible crime," which he called "an aggression on Jordan and its national security."

The country's largest political opposition group, the Islamic Action Front, also condemned the killing. "Killing civilians is unacceptable," said Abdul-Latif Arabiat, president of the front's governing council.

Although Americans and Europeans regard Amman as generally safe, an Israeli businessman was shot and killed last year in the same neighborhood as Foley, and two Israeli diplomats were wounded by gunshots in 2000.

Foley was shot with a 7 mm pistol at about 7:30 a.m., and died instantly, according to a senior Jordanian security official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Doctors who performed the autopsy said he had been shot eight times in the head, chest and abdomen. They recovered six bullets — all the same type — from the body.

Jordanian security officials said Foley's wife called police after the attack.

Neighbors said they did not hear any gunshots, raising questions about whether a silencer was used. The Jordanian security official said only that the attack was apparently "well-organized and well-planned."

Large numbers of police searched the shooting scene for fingerprints and other evidence.

"We are all sad for his killing because he and his wife were a nice couple and everybody liked them in the neighborhood," said one veiled woman, who gave her name only as Um-Ayman.

Four Taliban held at Guantanamo Bay return home

BY TODD PITMAN

Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan — The United States has released four al-Qaida and Taliban suspects from Guantanamo Bay, the first detainees to leave the island prison because they no longer pose a threat, officials said Monday.

Three Afghan detainees were handed over Sunday to Afghan officials at Bagram Air Base, Red Cross and U.S. officials said. The fourth detainee, a Pakistani, was flown on to Pakistan.

"We're confirming that four were transferred for release," said Pentagon spokeswoman Lt. Cmdr. Barbara Burfeind.

Even with the departures, the number of detainees at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo rose above 600 with the arrival of a planeload of about 30 prisoners from an undisclosed location. Burfeind said the new total is "approximately 625."

The three Afghans arrived Sunday at Bagram, the U.S. military headquarters in Afghanistan, and were transferred to the custody of Afghan officials there in the presence of delegates from the International Committee of the Red Cross, said Red Cross spokeswoman Caroline Douilliez.

"They are still in the hands of the authorities and it is up to them what happens next," Douilliez told The Associated Press.

Pakistani officials said they would hold the Pakistani citizen for "some time" and debrief him. He was identified as Mohammed Saghir, 60, from North West Frontier Province, which borders Afghanistan.

Little information was disclosed about the Afghans, but Kabul Police Chief Basir

Salangi said, "They're very old. They look very sick." He said they were taken to a Red Cross hospital in Kabul.

Afghanistan state-run television said the three were Taliban.

Interior Minister Taj Mohammed Wardak said the Kabul government had received a letter informing them about the impending release, but heard nothing else.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld disclosed last week that the Pentagon was planning to release some prisoners after it was determined they were not candidates for prosecution, held no intelligence value and were not a threat to the United States and its allies.

The former detainees had been moved to Cuba by U.S. officials and held for months after their arrest in Afghanistan following the fall of the Taliban.

The Pentagon declined to go into detail about the former Guantanamo detainees, but Burfeind said the decision to return them to their countries was based on "the nature of the continuing threat they may pose."

"Senior leadership of the Department of Defense, in consultation with other U.S. government officials, determined that these four detainees no longer posed a threat to U.S. security," said Pentagon spokeswoman Virginia Clarke.

She said various factors were considered, including intelligence, law enforcement and medical considerations. More releases were planned, she said, though she would not give details.

White House envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, who was visiting Kabul, said the United States was sending back "people who have been discovered not to pose a security risk, that were not involved in al-Qaida

terrorist programs and who did not have any more useful information in terms of what we need to know."

One of the primary reasons for detaining the Guantanamo prisoners had been "to find out what we can about future plans, to be able to stop, disrupt those activities," he said.

Until this week's release and new arrivals, the United States had been holding 598 men from 43 countries, calling them

enemy combatants and saying it may legally hold them until the end of hostilities.

Thomas Wilner, a lawyer who has been pressing Washington to release 12 Kuwaiti prisoners at Guantanamo, expressed disappointment that none of them were among the first to be let out.

But, Wilner said, "we are encouraged by this first step and hope the Kuwaitis will be released soon. The process of releasing innocent people has begun."

Kidnappers release last of Thalia's two sisters being held

By The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Kidnappers have released a sister-in-law of Sony Music Chairman Tommy Mottola after more than a month in captivity, officials said Monday.

Ernestina Sodi was freed Saturday, said Genaro Garcia, director of the Federal Agency of Investigations. She was kidnapped along with her sister Laura Zapata on Sept. 22. Zapata was released Oct. 10. Both women are sisters of Latin Grammy performer Thalia, who is married to Mottola.

The family has refused to speak to reporters or file an official report on the disappearance of the two sisters. Family members hired a private team to carry out negotiations with the kidnappers, and asked police to stay out of the case, officials said.

No arrests have been made.

Police found Zapata's car abandoned on a Mexico City road after the two sisters

left a play in which Zapata had a starring role. Media reports quoted unidentified witnesses as saying the two were followed and ambushed at a stop light, but police would not confirm the reports.

Shanik Berman, a journalist and friend of Zapata's, had said kidnappers demanded a ransom of \$1 million for the release of the two sisters. It was unclear if any ransom was paid.

Thalia was in Mexico after the kidnappings, but did not want to talk to police or the media.

Kidnappings are common in Mexico but many go unreported, partly because family members fear police may be involved or the victim could be killed during a botched rescue attempt.

President Vicente Fox's government has tried to crack down on crime, and Mexico City recently hired Rudolph Giuliani to help clean up the problem like he did for New York City during his two terms as mayor.

A large graphic with the text "NO ON JJ" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The text is set against a solid blue rectangular background. The word "ON" is smaller and positioned between "NO" and "JJ".

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SPORTS

Lakers-Kings fight ends in suspension for Fox, Christie

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK — Rick Fox was suspended for six games, Doug Christie was banished for two, and every member of the Sacramento Kings who left the bench during a fight with the Los Angeles Lakers got off scot-free.

In a surprising ruling Monday by NBA vice president Stu Jackson, the Sacramento Kings were not punished as badly as they may have expected for their part in a bench-clearing brawl during the first quarter of an exhibition game at Los Angeles last Friday.

Jackson ruled that because the players left the bench to join a fracas in a hallway underneath the stands, rather than on the court, they would not receive the customary one-game suspension for that offense.

"This is not a new precedent at all," Jackson said in a conference call with reporters. "In the end we felt this case was very unusual, a special case."

Fox and Christie will miss their season openers Tuesday, although Fox will be allowed to attend the Lakers' ring ceremony prior to their game against San Antonio.

Fox is not eligible to return until the Lakers' game at Washington on Nov. 8.

"Six seemed excessive," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said, "but they wanted to send a message that this is action they can't have happen."

The fight broke out just over two minutes into Friday's game. Christie, a

Sacramento guard, threw the ball at Fox, who hit him with an open hand. Christie then punched the Lakers forward in the jaw. After the players were separated and left the court, Fox rushed down a hallway under the stands and confronted Christie again.

"Fox leaving the floor and racing down the back hallway to meet Christie at the other end was a very egregious act, something we took very seriously, and the penalty reflects that," Stu Jackson said.

When the fight resumed beneath the stands, several Sacramento players left the bench area and raced down a tunnel leading to the locker rooms.

Stu Jackson noted that when the fight first broke out on the court, none of the Kings players left the bench. He also said that the Kings players likely did not know exactly what was happening under the stands when they rushed off the court to intervene.

"I don't think anybody on the benches fully knew what was going on out of sight of the bench areas," Jackson said.

The NBA enforced a much tighter interpretation of the leaving-the-bench rule several years ago when fights broke out during playoff games between the Miami Heat and New York Knicks. In 1998, Chris Mills of the Knicks was suspended for a playoff game after walking just a few steps onto the court during a fight between Alonzo Mourning and Larry Johnson.

In 1997, Johnson, Patrick Ewing, Allan

Houston and John Starks were suspended one game apiece for leaving the bench during a fight between P.J. Brown and Charlie Ward. The four suspended Knicks filed suit in federal court to have their suspensions overturned, arguing that they were acting as peacemakers, but a judge dismissed their claim.

Previous suspensions for leaving the bench were made in accordance with an NBA rule that states: "During an altercation, all players not taking part in the game must remain in the immediate vicinity

of the bench. Violators will be suspended without pay for a minimum of one game and fined up to \$20,000."

Stu Jackson said any players who leave the bench during an on-court altercation will continue to be suspended for one game.

The Kings, who were relieved by the ruling, will have only nine players available for their opener against Cleveland as Mike Bibby, Lawrence Funderburke and Christie will be sidelined.

"I was glad the commissioner saw fit to understand, not just react," Christie said.

O'Neal, Madsen on injured list

By The Associated Press

EL SEGUNDO — As expected, the three-time defending NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers placed center Shaquille O'Neal and forward Mark Madsen on the injured list Monday.

O'Neal, recovering from surgery on his arthritic right big toe, and Madsen, who has a strained left hamstring, must miss a minimum of five games.

It's likely O'Neal, the MVP of the last three NBA Finals, will miss more than five games. He's eligible to make his season debut Nov. 7 at Boston, and the Lakers play at Washington the following night before returning home to play Atlanta on Nov. 12 and Golden State on Nov. 15.

The Lakers will open the season Tuesday night against San Antonio with an active roster of Kobe Bryant, Derek Fisher, Rick Fox, Devean George, Robert Horry, Slava Medvedenko, Tracy Murray, rookies Jannero Pargo and Kareem Rush, Soumaila Samake, Brian Shaw and Samaki Walker.

They'll only have 11 players in uniform since Fox was suspended for six games Monday for his role in a bench-clearing brawl during an exhibition game Friday night against Sacramento. Kings guard Doug Christie was suspended for two games.

The Lakers will be presented their championship rings before facing the Spurs.

Baseball's offseason opens with 70 players as free agents

BY RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

ANAHEIM — Tom Glavine, Jim Thome and Ivan Rodriguez were among 70 players who filed for free agency Monday as baseball's offseason began.

Frank Thomas of the Chicago White

Sox, who is under contract, also opted to explore the market, his right because the team exercised a provision in his deal that would defer most of his salary without interest.

Meanwhile, Atlanta Braves catcher Javy Lopez decided against free agency, deciding to exercise his \$7 million option

for 2003.

Greg Maddux, Roger Clemens, Andy Pettitte, Jeff Kent, Robb Nen and Cliff Floyd are among the 184 players potentially eligible to file for free agency by the Nov. 12 deadline.

Clemens is expected to decline his \$10.3 million option with the Yankees, because his deal also includes a \$10.3 million buyout. New York has an \$11.5 million option on Pettitte.

Shawon Dunston and Bill Mueller filed Monday from the NL champion San Francisco Giants, who lost Game 7 of the World Series 4-1 to Anaheim on Sunday night. No Angels filed.

San Francisco has two key players who are eligible but didn't file Monday: Kent, the 2000 NL MVP, and closer Nen, who must decide whether to exercise a player option for 2003.

Thomas, a two-time AL MVP, has until Dec. 7 to sign with another club or keep his contract with the White Sox, which calls for annual salaries in the next four seasons of \$250,000 plus \$10,125,000 deferred over 10 years without interest.

His contract had contained annual salaries of \$9,927,000, including \$3,827,000 deferred with interest, but the White Sox exercised a clause that allowed the team to change the salary because he didn't make the All-Star team and isn't going to finish among the top 10 in MVP

voting or win a Silver Slugger this season.

Chicago general manager Kenny Williams and Thomas' agent, Arn Tellem, said they will continue negotiations.

"Although we are not surprised that Frank exercised his right to shop his services on the open market, and we understand there is a risk that he might find a more attractive offer elsewhere, we remain hopeful that we can reach some sort of agreement that would keep Frank with the White Sox," Williams said.

Chicago notified Thomas on Oct. 6 it was invoking the clause.

"We have had some very positive conversations over the past two weeks," Tellem said. "The White Sox have expressed their interest in retaining Frank, and we will continue to hold discussions with the Sox even while we are evaluating other options for Frank."

Thome and his agent, Pat Rooney, are to meet Thursday with Indians owner Larry Dolan and general manager Mark Shapiro at Jacobs Field. The club will make a formal proposal to its career home run leader.

The Indians' offer is expected to include some attendance-based incentives similar to the ones St. Louis gave Mark McGwire.

Cleveland has also talked about renaming a portion of Jacobs Field "Thome Terrace" as part of its package.

NFL declines comment on Los Angeles Super Bowl report

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The NFL is reportedly studying a proposal to award a future Super Bowl to the Los Angeles area whether there is a league franchise in the city or not.

The Los Angeles Times, quoting an unidentified NFL source, reported Monday that the league's Super Bowl committee approved a proposal to schedule a Super Bowl in the area, possibly in 2008.

The league declined to comment specifically on that report.

"The Super Bowl policy committee will lead discussion on a number of Super Bowl matters at this week's league meeting," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said from New York.

No date for a Los Angeles Super Bowl will be proposed, the Times reported, and there will be no formal vote on the proposal until next year, after officials from Los Angeles have submitted a bid for the game.

The Rose Bowl in Pasadena would be the probable site if no new stadium is built in the area before the Super Bowl comes to town.

The committee was scheduled to present its recommendations to the league team owners at their regular fall meeting, on Wednesday and Thursday in New York.

DID YOU KNOW?: If you could count the number of times a cricket chirps in one minute, divide by 2, add 9 and divide by 2 again, you would have the correct temperature in celsius degrees.

COMICS



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson

by Julie Larson

**Natural Selection®**

By Russ Wallace



"Well, Doc ... after that you may as well start calling me Fred and drop the 'Mr. Williams' formally."

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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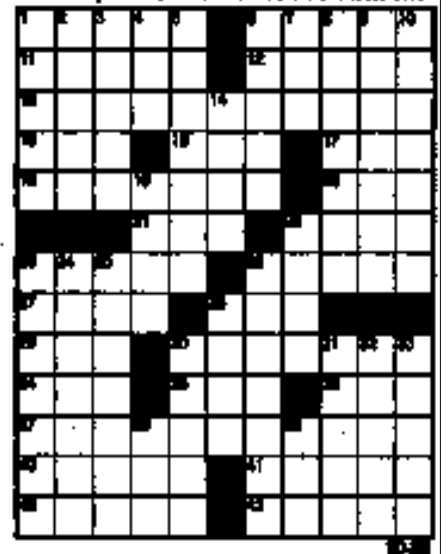
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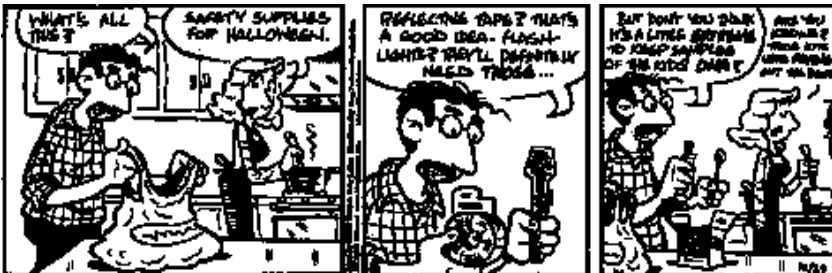
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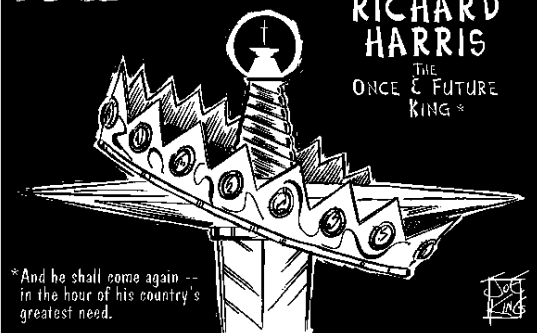
by Chuck Shepard

Hissing roaches make lousy pets

Thailand's public health minister issued a warning in August against the growing fad of keeping as pets the large Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches, which are being widely sold for about \$1.20 each. According to her, their bacteria- and virus-laden, 2-1/2-inch-long bodies, and very quick breeding ability, make them somewhat unsuitable as pets.

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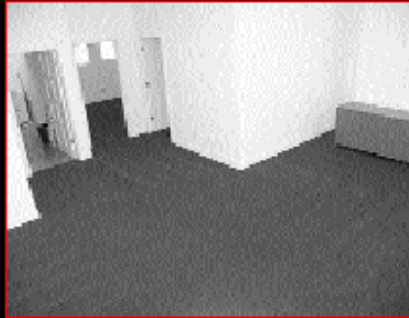
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Tuesday, October 29, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
Jackass: The Movie (R) 12:00, 1:00, 2:15, 3:15, 4:30, 5:30, 6:45, 7:45, 9:00, 10:00, The Truth About Charlie (PG-13) 11:30, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15, The Tuxedo (PG-13) 11:00, 1:30, 9:15.

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
The Ring (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00, Sweet Home Alabama (PG-13) 11:30, 2:10, 5:05, 7:55, 10:35, My Big Fat Greek Wedding (PG) 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:05, Punch-Drunk Love (R) 11:15, 1:45, 4:20, 7:10, 9:45, The Transporter (PG-13) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:40, 10:15.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Red Dragon (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00, Tuck Everlasting (PG) 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, White Oleander (PG-13) 2:00, 4:40, 7:25, 9:55, Abandon (PG-13) 1:50, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30, Brown Sugar (PG-13) 2:25, 9:40, Formula 51 (R) 5:00, 7:45, 10:00.

Landmark Nu-Wilshire
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Bowling for Columbine (R) 1:30, 2:30, 4:15, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45, 10:30.

Laemmle Monica
1332 2nd St.
Auto Focus (R) 12:00, 2:30, 5:05, 7:45, 10:20, Real Women Have Curves (PG-13) 12:15, 2:30, 4:50, 7:25, 9:45, Secretary (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50, Spirited Away (PG) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00.

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
Addams Family Values 5:30, 7:30, 9:30.

Today

Community

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in, So, What Are You Going to Do With the Rest of your Life? Tuesdays, 10:00 to 11:30am. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

Crossroads School in Santa Monica invites local musicians (grades 3-7) to join orchestra rehearsals. Rehearsals are ongoing and are held each Tuesday of the school year, from 3:15 to 4:15. Students may join at anytime. Cost is free, students must bring their own instruments. 1714 21st Street, SM. For more information please call (310)829-7391.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

OPEN AUDITIONS for A Reader's

Theatre Staged Production of Charles Dickens' A CHRISTMAS CAROL. All parts available (male and female). Auditions to be held today, 10/29 at 7 p.m. at The Christian Institute Church, SW Corner of 2nd and Arizona, Santa Monica, CA. For further info, telephone (310) 394-4178 or Bob Ryan at (310) 441-2158.

The Westside Walkers, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Westside Walkers meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Westside Pavilion, Pico Blvd. Between Overland Ave. and Westwood Blvd. In West LA. For more information about the program, call (800)516-5323.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS AT SMC'S EMERITUS COLLEGE. Santa Monica College offers free bereavement support groups in the summer session through it's Emeritus College, a widely praised program designed for older adults. Two support groups will meet Tuesdays on an ongoing basis. One group will meet from noon to 1:50 p.m. and the other from 7 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. For information and registration, call Emeritus College at (310) 434-4306.

Unurban Coffee House presents Stitch 'n' Bitch every Tuesday evening. Chicks, yarn, coffee & chat. 7:30pm to 9:30pm. 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

Wednesday

Community

Santa Monica Strutters, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in Parents of Adult Children. Wednesdays 2:00 to 3:30. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at

Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Entertainment

Puppetolio! presented by the Santa Monica Puppet & Magic Center. All ages, 3 and up. This musical revue features marionettes, ventriloquism, magic and more. Shows are always followed by a demonstration, Q & A, and a tour of the Puppet workshop and Museum. Saturdays and Sundays at 1pm and 3pm. Wednesdays and Holidays at 1pm. Seats are \$6.50. 1255 2nd Street in Santa Monica. Reservations/Information (310)656-0483. www.puppetmagic.com

Save the Aero! the Aero will be having a Halloween Party and showing the movie "Ghostbusters". Doors will open at 6pm for arts and crafts for the children. Movie starts at 7pm, tickets are \$10, 1328 Montana Ave. (310)395-4990. www.aertheatre.com

Unurban Coffee House presents Poetry and Spoken Word every Wednesday evening. Hosted by Tony Perez. 8pm, 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to todayspaper@smdp.com for consideration. Calendar events are limited by space, and will be run at the discretion of the Calendar Editor. The Daily Press cannot be held responsible for errors.

KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

Promote your event in the Santa Monica Daily Press Calendar section. Fax all information to our Calendar Editor: Attention Angela @ 310.576.9913



BACK PAGE



Slow chase ends at police station

By The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Police officers probably wish all car chases were this easy.

A 22-year-old Green Bay man led police on a chase that often moved as slowly as 20 mph and ended in the Brown County Jail's parking lot. The man parked his pickup in the lot, smoked a cigarette, got out of the truck and lay face-down on the ground to be arrested, police said.

He allegedly told the officers he knew he was drunk and was going to be sent to jail, so he just drove himself there.

The man was arrested for drunken driving, cocaine possession and an outstanding warrant for a hit-and-run accident.

The chase began around 1 a.m. when an officer spotted the truck ignoring signs and going the wrong way on a one-way street.

The officer chased the pickup, which often traveled

as slowly as 20 mph. A 21-year-old female passenger tried to get out of the vehicle several times and eventually bailed out near an intersection. She was not injured.

Putting Got Milk, Calif. on the map

By The Associated Press

BIGGS, Calif. — The folks behind the Got Milk? advertising campaign are looking to rename a small town.

Last week, the California Milk Processor Board sent out milk cartons stuffed with a Got Milk? T-shirt and a letter to the mayors of 20 small towns, asking them to consider changing their communities' names to Got Milk, Calif.

In return, the board offered to help boost tourism by building a Got Milk? museum and to make "a meaningful contribution" to local schools.

Only one town — Biggs, population 1,793 — has responded.

"I thought it was a joke," said Mayor Sharleta Callaway. "I called and he was serious."

Jeff Manning, executive director of the milk board, dreamed up the proposal while walking his dog.

He sent letters to communities that have populations under 10,000.

"We didn't think Fresno, for example, would consider it," Manning said. Callaway said Biggs' city council will consider the notion next month because it's her civic duty to bring any offers to the public.

"The chances of it changing to Got Milk? I think are very slim," Callaway said.

Fisherman reels in record fish

By The Associated Press

MEDFORD, Ore. — Grant Martinsen's fish tale is a whopper.

The accidental fisherman reeled in a chinook salmon that weighed 71 1/2 pounds, a full 8 1/2 pounds more than the all-time record for fly-fishers.

"Golly, this is all quite a bit more than I expected," said Martinsen, a retired biology teacher and Grants Pass High School football coach.

A longtime fly-fisher of trout and steelhead but a rookie at salmon, Martinsen drove to the lower Rogue River last Monday for a day of fishing cohos only because a friend was too sick to go hunting as planned.

Since cohos generally weigh up to 15 pounds, Martinsen used an 8-weight rod, small flies and a net suitable for cohos. Then, after spying a few chinook, he tied on a chinook fly and started casting for the bigger fish. Ten minutes later, he felt a strike.

"It rattled my rod and shook its head," he said. "I thought, 'This is a good fish.'" Martinsen pulled his two small anchors into the boat and let the fish tow him around. Then the chinook breached more like a whale than a salmon.

"He jumped halfway out of the water with his face pointed toward me," Martinsen said. "You see something like that and it scares you."

He plans to have the salmon mounted and displayed at the Rogue Outdoor Store in Gold Beach.

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Printed for by Matteo Dinolfo for City Council