

FREE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2004

Volume 3, Issue 301

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

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FANTASY 5

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DAILY 3

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Christopher Lehan, 36 (an employee of the exclusive Sedgewood Golf Club in Kent, N.Y.), was arrested in September sitting in a golf cart at night with a flashlight and a 20-gauge shotgun, after he had allegedly shot three skunks that were menacing the grounds. He was charged with various hunting violations and with carrying a loaded firearm in a moving vehicle.

TODAY IN HISTORY

ON OCT. 29, 1929, "Black Tuesday" descended upon the New York Stock Exchange. Prices collapsed amid panic selling and thousands of investors were financially wiped out as America's Great Depression began.

■ **In 1682,** the founder of Pennsylvania, William Penn, landed at what is now Chester, Pennsylvania.

■ **In 1901,** President McKinley's assassin, Leon Czolgosz, was electrocuted.

■ **In 1923,** the Republic of Turkey was proclaimed.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Moral indignation is in most cases two percent moral, 48 percent indignation, and 50 percent envy."

VITTORIO DE SICA
ITALIAN MOVIE DIRECTOR (1901-1974)

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Nicky Five Aces/Five Aces Photo

A dozen of the candidates running for seats on the Santa Monica City Council field questions regarding their respective pasts and their visions for a collective future during a candidate forum Wednesday night. Approximately 100 people attended the event, breaking out in cheers when news of the Boston Red Sox' win to clinch the World Series was announced.

Candidates make their final pitches

Pointed questions stir debate at pre-election event

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY — More than a dozen residents vying for four open seats on the Santa Monica City Council took to the crowded stage of a nightclub here Wednesday night and fielded pointed questions about their candidacy.

The topics addressed ranged from homelessness and downtown development to violence in the eastside Pico neighborhood, City Hall bureaucracy and a divisive proposal to ban pet de-clawing in Santa Monica.

About 100 people turned out for the event, which was hosted by the Santa Monica Daily Press.

Editor Carolyn Sackariason began the forum by admonishing candidates not to divert from the admittedly "loaded" questions.

The candidates were often heckled, hissed at and booed while they answered questions from both the newspaper and the audience. They also received applause and whistles during parts of the three-hour forum. A wide range of residents and local leaders attended the event, including members of the local chamber of commerce, the school board, City Hall's Rent Control Board and members of the council who aren't up for re-election.

The forum became heated at one point when school board member Shane McLoud submitted a ques-

tion asking the candidates if they felt conflicted accepting donations and endorsements from police, fire and city employee unions and subsequently voting on salary packages for those same groups.

While many candidates said they would back public election financing, most also said they felt the current system was fair and ethical.

"Anybody you think can be bought for \$250, you definitely shouldn't vote for," said challenger Bobby Shriver, referencing a local law that limits campaign contributions. "Because if they can be bought, they should raise their price."

Challengers Bill Bauer and David Cole, both outspoken critics

See **SQUIRM**, page 5

Speaking their peace

By Daily Press staff

Excerpts from Wednesday night's "Squirm Night" forum for City Council candidates:

■ **Challenger Patricia Hoffman**, who is endorsed by and sits on the steering committee of the powerful Santa Monica for Renters' Rights group, on SMRR weaknesses:

"Wow, that's a tough one ... I think that where SMRR has been weakest has been on some of the development issues, actually. There's been a lot of divide among the SMRR community as to how much

See **OUTTAKES**, page 4

Study: Pollution cutting California rainfall, snow

BY DON THOMPSON

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Urban air pollution may be reducing rainfall in the Central Valley and along the heavily populated southern California coast, while trimming mountain snowfall that supplies much of the state's drinking and irrigation water and

hydroelectric power, a Stanford University professor's study released Thursday shows.

It's the first study to use a new computer program to examine airborne pollutants' effect on a regional climate. Coupled with possible reduced precipitation from global warming, the effect

could be a more limited supply of water for the state's growing population, the California Energy Commission warned Thursday.

Mark Z. Jacobson, a professor in Stanford's civil and engineering department, conducted his study for the commission's Public Interest Energy Research

Program. It is one of the preliminary studies PIER is conducting before it attempts to project California's future climate and how the state can prepare for changing conditions.

Scientists have only recently

See **POLLUTION**, page 8

Jacquie Banks

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The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★-Dynamic

★★★★-Positive

★★★-Average

★★-So-so

★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Take it nice and easy right now, especially with your funds. You could feel a bit tight about investing any more in your home or real estate. Remember, you don't have to make a decision immediately. Do your research as well as reflect. Time is on your side. Tonight: Out on the town.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Others find you inordinately serious right now. You have a lot on your mind and might not choose to share it. Being stern could help a child or loved one understand his or her limits. Return calls; don't stand on ceremony. Tonight: Stop at the library or a bookstore.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★ You wake up on the wrong side of the bed today. You could feel pushed or upset by something you need to face today. Your instincts are right-on with money and assets. Please don't jeopardize yourself by taking a risk. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You are determined to get what you want no matter what. A child or new friend could be out of sorts. Keep your eye on the big picture. A meeting proves to be instrumental. A Don't worry about this gathering turning into a Friday celebration. Tonight: Follow the gang. The action is with your friends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You tread carefully, though others appreciate your leadership and direction. You sense that something is a bit off and respond accordingly, being slightly more cautious. Work with superiors without judgment. Tonight: You loosen up later, as the midnight hour approaches.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Take an overview. You might find someone difficult. Play amateur psychologist if need be. Plan on working hard to accomplish what you want. Know that there is a way. Express determination to complete your to-do list. Tonight: Split fast. Get out of town if possible.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You might be concerned about others but have a difficult time expressing those feelings. Your work feels weighty and overwhelming. Ask for support from a trusted associate. You will clear out a project faster. Tonight: With a favorite person.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Others dominate the scene. You might not be able to find the information or the expert you need. Relax and don't worry so much. Quietly observe what might be going on with a loved one at a distance. Tonight: With the mad-dening crowds.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Someone might be very difficult, especially regarding finances. Don't keep butting your head against a wall. Focus on your work and getting as much done as possible. You will want to leave your desk clear this afternoon. Tonight: Do something ultimately relaxing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Another person might not be as full of fun as you are. In fact, this person could rain on your parade if you allow him or her to. Insulate yourself and hang with those who are more creative, open and enthusiastic. Tonight: Romp into the weekend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Fatigue could mar your day. Make an appointment for a checkup, be it with the doctor, dentist or both. In fact, if you can, take today off. You need a timeout. Your family or a roommate appreciates your attention. Tonight: Snuggle in.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You tell it like you see it, but you also might depress someone you care about. Be sensitive to others, especially those close to you. Your imagination might not be up to snuff. Brainstorm with others. Tonight: Celebrate the weekend.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Feeling bookish about Santa Monica

By Daily Press staff

Things are looking up for a former Santa Monica Canyon dweller.

Santa Monica Public Library and Barnes & Noble present a book signing and slide show presentation by author and historian Ernest Marquez on Wednesday, November 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes & Noble on the Third Street Promenade, 1201 Third Street.

In Ernest Marquez's new book Santa Monica Beach, readers learn the history of one of the world's most famous beaches through photographs and narrative. Marquez is a descendent of some of the first settlers of Santa Monica Canyon and spent his childhood there. The author's fond memories, extensive knowledge of the history of Santa Monica and personal collection of photographs come together in this literary volume.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

'Pinner & Friends' vocal in tribute to visionary

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica College Opera Theatre presents "Sue Ann Pinner & Friends — A Tribute to Walter Ducloux" on Sunday, Nov. 1.

The special benefit concert is part of SMC's yearlong celebration of its 75th anniversary and, with its special emphasis on alumni, will spotlight special guest Adam Edward Meza, an alumnus now studying at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

"I'm very excited about this program because this is an opportunity to pay homage to my mentor and teacher, Walter Ducloux, a remarkable man and arguably the most influential person in creating opera workshops in academia in this country," said Pinner, the theatre's artistic director. "It's also a thrill to be spotlighting one of our most talented alumni, Adam Edward Meza, who, indirectly, is the product of Dr. Ducloux's brilliant teaching."

On the program will be Schumann's "Widmug," which was sung at Ducloux's wedding and funeral; a variety of operatic duets featuring Pinner with baritone Meza, as well as Catherine Mann, lyric mezzo soprano; and selections from Pinner's CD "Adoremus," including Schubert's "Ave Maria," which has been nominated for three United Catholic Musicians and Video Association's 2004 Unity Awards. In addition, the program will include "Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep," which will be released on Pinner's new CD in 2005.

Other featured artists include harpist Marcia Dickstein, guitarist Joey Prather, and piano accompanist Greg Schreiner, who wrote "Do Not Stand." The program will also include SMC students and other alumni.

Ducloux was a Swiss-born conductor, stage director and teacher who died in Austin, Texas, in 1997 at the age of 83. He was assistant conductor to Arturo Toscanini and, following his war-time service in Military Intelligence, including a stint as interpreter for General George Patton, he served as head of the Czech National Opera in Prague and worked with the music programs of the Voice of America. Following the war, he moved to Los Angeles, where he built the opera program at the University of Southern California, and later moved to Austin to head the opera program at the University of Texas, where Pinner studied with him when earning her master's degree.

Ducloux has been recognized internationally for his work in opera and for his translations of operas into English. However, he is best remembered for his teaching.

Pinner is an SMC voice professor, professional opera singer and internationally renowned recording artist, who won a 2001 Emmy for the video of the SMC production of Faust, which aired on Los Angeles City Channel 36 and City TV-Channel 16 in Santa Monica. Pinner was the executive producer and lead performer. She also had leading roles in the TV opera videos of La Boheme and Dialogue of the Carmelites.

The event will be staged at 7:30 p.m. at Christ the King Catholic Church, 624 N. Rossmore, in Hollywood. Tickets are \$16. For more information, call (310) 434-3000.



SURF REPORT

Look for a mix of NW wind swell, fading, steep NW ground swell and a touch of SW Southern Hemi swell. Northern LA spots see surf in the knee high range, with occasional sets to waist high at best combo breaks on the best tides. Look for similar size surf through the South Bay. Light winds Friday morning turn 8-12kts by the afternoon. Oh yeah, and more mudsuds....

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

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The Line

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

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

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

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

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

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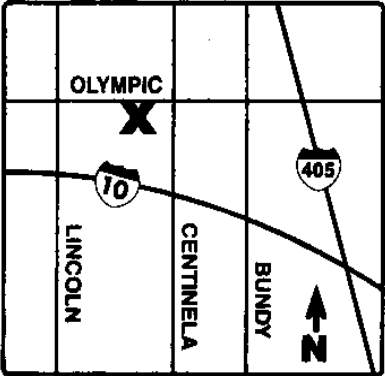
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LOCAL

Candidates take final shots before elections

OUTTAKES, from page 1

development is the right amount, how much is too much and how much is too little. So I would've rather seen more of a consensus developed and a real focus on how we move forward on the issues of development by SMRR."

■ Challenger Matt Dinolfo, a physician, on campaign donations he accepted from the CEO of Macerich Co., which has floated plans to build skyscraper apartments at Santa Monica Mall:

"As it turns out, I care for a lot of people in this city, and that was the access I had ... I care for a lot of people in the community, some of them are executives of companies in this community. They have a plan that they asked me to see."

■ Challenger Bobby Shriver, on rumors that his campaign manager has threatened to quit twice:

"I've been involved in many campaigns and, to the best of my knowledge, in every single one of them the campaign manager, the press secretary, the mail consultant and everybody else threatened to quit at least once — and in many cases people do quit, and they come back, and they quit again. It's an intense world and people get intense feelings, and, generally speaking, they sleep on it and come back in the morning."

■ Challenger David Cole, after being asked how residents could trust a candidate who doesn't fully disclose and being asked to name the company he works for:

"I'm not going to tell you. You know what, I will protect the residents of Santa Monica and I will protect the seniors and the mentally ill that I work with, to be honest with you. I don't think it's fair to have people come into where I work and (have them) asking me questions there, or calling me. A couple of weeks ago we had a (City Council candidate) forum at St. Anne's (Catholic Church). About an hour before arriving there, or two hours, I held the hand of a senior citizen as she passed away. I didn't have time for your call."

■ City Councilman Ken Genser, who's served on the council for 16 years, after being asked when the appropriate time to step down is:

"I don't support term limits. I don't know why one would want to be served by any other person who has less experience, necessarily. I think if the person isn't meeting one's needs, one would fire their doctor, their lawyer, their accountant or whatever, but if they're continuing to meet their needs I think you keep them and you draw on their experience ... One of the things that (tells a candidate) one should end it, obviously, is when voters determine that that is the case."

■ City Councilman Mike Feinstein, a Green Party leader, on the political fallout over a \$10,000 campaign contribution he deposited into a personal bank account that the donor intended for the Green Party of Los Angeles County:

"I took all of my records and I gave them to the Green Party state attorney, and the attorney looked at everything, and he went to the state Green Party and said, 'You know what? Everything is tied up neat like a little bow and leave it alone and be done with it.' I think at a certain point what is an internal political matter in a political party doesn't belong out in the public sphere. And when people make the joke about the left having a firing squad in a circle, well that's what kind of happened here. It's unfortunate, but I at a certain point don't really believe that internal Green Party business is anybody's business, if it doesn't have anything to do with illegality, and there's nothing illegal about anything that I've done ... Everybody who's involved in the Green Party knows that the money that we raised here was used to have an office that we all used."

■ Challenger Bill Bauer, a former Daily Press columnist, after being asked how he could work effectively with the same city officials he attacked in his columns:

"Writing a political opinion column and working on City Council is two totally different things. I have a little bit of different set of standards than the news guys do. They have to go out and check stories and get both sides of an issue. If I have an opinion and I'm writing a column, then I can go out with my opinion ... On the same hand, sitting on the City Council dais is a little different situation. Working together to benefit the community, to get things done, is very important and is a totally different thing."

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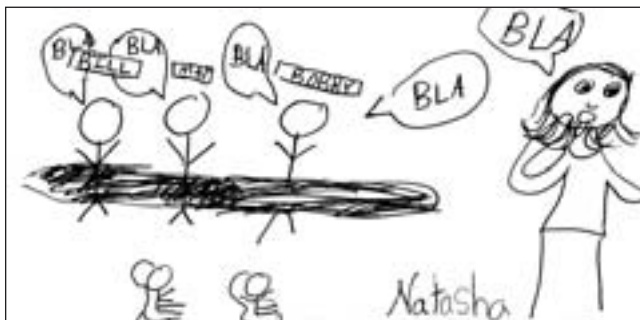


Nicky Five Aces/Five Aces Photo

Council trio: Challenger Bobby Shriver, center, answers a question at a City Council forum Wednesday night, while incumbents Michael Feinstein (left) and Richard Bloom listen. A total of 14 people are running for four open council seats on Nov. 2.

Sketch courtesy

Another vantage point: Seven-year-old Santa Monica resident Natasha's take of the 'Squirm Night' candidate forum. Drawn, from right to left, are moderator Carolyn Sackariason and candidates Bobby Shriver, Matt Dinolfo and Bill Bauer.



Feinstein blasts current council at public forum

SQUIRM, from page 1

of the current administration, pointed out the special interest groups don't just donate \$250, they often also solicit their own donations and spend tens of thousands of dollars on canvassing and mailers touting their chosen candidates.

"The thing is, they really handicap the race," said Bauer, referring to the police, fire and city employee unions. "They're trying to pick winners, because the people they pick are the ones that are going to vote them the pay raises and the benefits. And it's not about public safety, it's about pay raises and benefits, and the Santa Monica Police Department is the second-highest paid of eight high-paid agencies in Southern California ... Let's face the facts of life."

Added Cole: "People don't put up money just so people get to know who you are. They put up money because they want something in return. That's the way it works, and it's not just \$250. This year, it's going to be over half a million dollars of special interest money. It may approach \$1 million when it's all said and done."

A total of 14 residents with diverse backgrounds are running for four seats on the seven-member City Council. Included among the candidates are a homeless rights activist, flight attendant, land use consultant, several neighborhood activists, two lawyers and an architect. All were present for the SMDP forum except Challenger Kathryn Morea, due to a family emergency.

When asked who they endorse, most candidates sidestepped the question and said they'd work with any make-up of can-

didates. Not so for the slate backed by the powerful tenant group Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights. That foursome took several opportunities to tout SMRR and its slate, which consists of challengers Patricia Hoffman and Maria Loya, and incumbents Richard Bloom and Ken Genser.

City Councilman Mike Feinstein, who was dropped by SMRR this year after eight years of support, had a slightly different message.

"I'm not going to insult you by telling you who to vote for, but I am also going to say that our council is stagnant and we are underachieving, and I do think the residents are going to change things this year," he said.

"Am I going to be part of the new council? We'll see where it all goes," Feinstein added. "There's something in the air this year."

Challenger Linda Armstrong, a data entry operator, had yet another take. She prompted laughter by suggesting nearly everyone on the dais be able to join the council, saying seats ought to be added to accommodate them.

Those elected on Tuesday will serve four-year terms, and receive full health benefits, along with travel funds and a salary of more than \$10,000. The City Council meets bi-monthly and is the lead governing body for Santa Monica's City Hall.

Dubbed "Squirm Night" and held at The Space on Wilshire Boulevard, Wednesday's event was the last known local forum before the Nov. 2 election. The final installment of candidate questionnaires will be printed in the Daily Press on Monday, Nov. 1.

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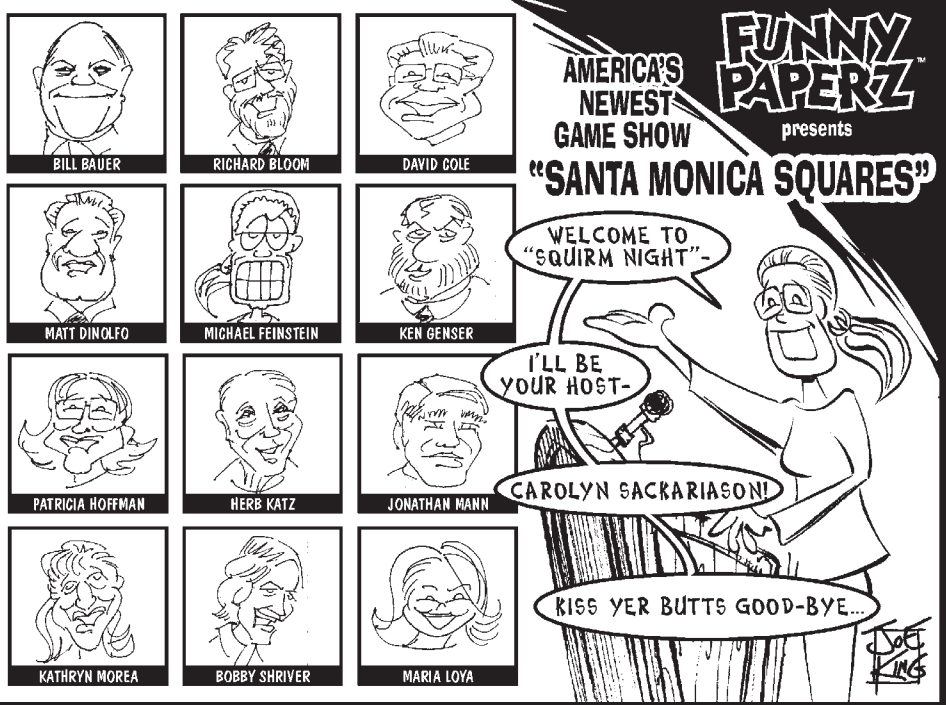
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For more information on José, visit: www.smartvoter.org/vote/escarce

OPINION



I'LL TAKE PAUL LYNDE TO BLOCK!

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Morea is more appealing

Editor:

I agree wholeheartedly with Kelly Hayes-Raitt (SMDP, Oct. 26, page 6): We need more women on the Santa Monica City Council. But she talks about the diversity of candidates and then only mentions the two women on the Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights slate. One of them, Patricia Hoffman, defended SMRR to the skies at a recent forum. She said people keep voting for SMRR because SMRR keeps giving us what we want. Baloney.

We renters used to buy the SMRR mantra that our rent control was safe only if SMRR controlled the City. We are smarter than that now. We know that rent control can only be changed by a vote of the people, and that renters comprise 70 percent of Santa Monica's population.

The truth is, SMRR has given us what we don't want: Vagrants in our front yards, garages and laundry rooms, not to mention taking over our parks and the Promenade; gridlocked traffic; city officials who pretty much thumb their noses at residents.

Kathryn Morea is the only woman candidate who has a chance to win, even though she is not controlled by SMRR. She will help turn this city around.

Esther Moosebrugger
Santa Monica

Thanks for making them 'squirm'

Editor:

It was a privilege to be able to attend the candidates' forum sponsored by the Daily Press on Wednesday evening. (Editor Carolyn Sackariason's) efforts as moderator were admirable and welcome. She was almost able to suppress her glee when asking candidate Bill Bauer of the working relationship that he might expect if elected to join the body that formed the topic of so many of the columns penned by him for the Daily Press. The barely muted chuckles from throughout the audience, and from the candidate, prove that the query had occurred to others, too.

Fair is fair. Councilman Mike Feinstein squarely addressed a question that I and others had long, and publicly, accused him of ducking. Feinstein provided his take on the dispute over the use of a \$10,000 contribution to the LA County Green Party. As he noted, there is no official allegation of impropriety, and any further inquiry is an internal party matter. This voter appreciated the candor.

Again, I am grateful to the SMDP for sponsoring the forum. One of the main functions of a local paper is to keep an eye on the City Council, and you do it well.

Bob Abernethy
Santa Monica

An incumbent with energy to spare

Editor:

Mike Feinstein is an energetic advocate for tenants and workers. He supports increasing parks and open space and revitalizing 415 PCH. He's supported reasonable controls on development and he supports our local homegrown businesses in words and deeds. He's been consistent in his support for affordable housing, social services and, especially, civil liberties. His actions in these areas have been meaningful and effective. He's a smart, analytical and an independent voice on the City Council. As a longtime SMRR member, I continue to support Michael Feinstein for these reasons.

Linda Sullivan
Santa Monica

See LETTERS, page 7

Constitution still fits the bill 200 years later

PISTACHIO PERSPECTIVE

BY SUSAN ANN CONNOR



Four days before the elections — the fever's high, the temperatures rising. November 2nd may see a huge elevation in blood pressure, so please stay away from the salt. Occasional muting of the TV on Tuesday evening is recommended for those faint of heart ... or at the very least, take leisurely trips to the fridge for a cool drink (and maybe a slice of bologna). In some areas, an overwhelming poll epidemic is predicted. Experts agree the best way to combat this contagious outbreak is to join it and exercise your own right to vote.

With record-high rhetoric inundating us, I've been madly searching for more of an authentic fare ... like real corn instead of creamed corn. One particular nonpartisan Web site I've found healthy and helpful is smartvoter.org.

Due to this blistering political climate, I've also felt compelled to get back to basics. Mrs. Snell's 11th grade U. S. History class was the last time I read through the entire Constitution. And it was time to do it again. Many of us have never read it, or it's been a long time. So after getting nice and cozy, I snuggled up with the document and devoured it.

Moved by the words of our founders' ideals, I've decided to include them in this week's column. As inspiring as it may be, the Constitution is still verbose and wouldn't fit within the confines of this patriotic Pistachio Perspective. However, the Bill of Rights would. The Constitution, written in 1787, officially added these first ten amendments in 1791.

The Bill of Rights

I: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

II: A well regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed.

III: No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but

in a manner to be prescribed by law.

IV: The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

V: No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

VI: In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

VII: In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

VIII: Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

IX: The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

X: The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Thank you forefathers ... and foremothers. Lalalala...

Please vote on November 2nd.

(Susan Ann Connor can be reached at pistachiocolumn@aol.com)



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OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 6

It stands to reason it's time for change

Editor:

Amid the deluge of recent political mailings I received, I was particularly struck by two. The first was a SMRR (Santa Monicans for Renters Rights) piece whose main theme was support for our schools. The basic premise was that it was the SMRR leaders of City Council that were instrumental in helping craft an agreement that resulted in \$6 million in additional annual funding for our local schools. While it is true that certain (non-Council) individuals who were true advocates for education and happened to be SMRR members were an integral part of making the CEPS (Committee for Excellent Public Schools) agreement a reality, it is totally untrue that the SMRR-dominated City Council promoted the CEPS agreement. To say that the Council endorsement was an 11th-hour decision is a gross understatement. Their conversion came at gunpoint. They were given three years to negotiate in good faith and make themselves legitimate heroes in the process and not just education advocates in name only. How dramatic would it have been for one of them to have broken ranks and fully embraced the CEPS initiative? Instead, it was delay, maneuver, posture and obfuscate. It was only when 15,000 bona fide signatures were looming over their collective heads that they miraculously saw the light. They knew full well that had they not signed a compromise agreement and had the initiative gone onto the ballot in November, then they would have faced the wrath of an irate electorate, which truly cares for the educational welfare of its children. Political retribution would have been swift and devastating. Was an agreement finally reached? Yes. Was it a result of a SMRR Council's magnanimity? No.

The second piece was from the POA (Police Officers Association). The POA has endorsed four candidates for City Council, three of whom are longtime SMRR members and two of whom are current SMRR Council members. To quote the piece: "All believe that the homeless issue is a top priority and needs to be addressed." What is one to make of that? If homelessness in Santa Monica is worse now than it has ever been (and successive City surveys say that residents think it is), what does that say of the last 20 years of SMRR leadership? How can homelessness be a priority when the SMRR majority has had 20 years to make a difference and has not? City Council's homeless policies are ineffectual and even when ordinances are passed to limit feeding in the parks and prevent sleeping in doorways, there is no enforcement. Twenty years is more than enough time to have shown leadership. It's time for a change.

Join me in voting for common sense and reason for a change. Vote for Herb Katz, Bobby Shriver, Matt Dinolfo and Kathryn Morea. Your vote will count.

P.S. — On a curious note, the POA piece ends with the tagline: "Vote for Public Safety." As much as I like and respect every officer whom I've met in the Santa Monica Police Department, I can't help but be amused by that line. Are we to assume that if a non-SMRR majority is elected to City Council, that we will somehow be less safe?

Dr. Michael Gruning
Santa Monica

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Santa Monica Daily Press

GUEST COMMENTARY BY ALEX EPSTEIN

Right to vote intended to maintain freedoms

On Election Day remember that it is freedom, not voting, which makes America great

Every Election Day politicians, intellectuals and activists propagate a seemingly patriotic but utterly un-American idea: The notion that our most important right — and the source of America's greatness — is the right to vote. According to former President Bill Clinton, the right to vote is "the most fundamental right of citizenship." It is "the heart and soul of our democracy," says Sen. John McCain.

Such statements are regarded as uncontroversial — but consider their implications. If voting is truly our most fundamental right, then all other rights — including free speech, property, even life — are contingent on and revocable by the whims of the voting public, or their elected officials. America, on this view, is a society based not on individual rights, but on unlimited majority rule — like Ancient Athens, where the populace, exercising "the most fundamental right of citizenship," elected to kill Socrates for voicing unpopular ideas — or modern-day Zimbabwe, where the democratically elected Robert Mugabe has seized the property of the nation's white farmers and brought the nation to the verge of starvation — or Germany in 1932, when the people democratically elected the Nazi Party, including future Chancellor Adolph Hitler. Would anyone dare claim that America is thus fundamentally similar to these regimes, and that it is perfectly acceptable to kill controversial philosophers or to exterminate 6 million Jews, so long as it is done by popular vote?

Contrary to popular rhetoric, America was founded, not as a "democracy," but as a constitutional republic — a political structure under which the government is bound by a written constitution to the task of protecting individual rights. "Democracy" does not mean a system that holds public elections for government officials. It means a system in which a majority vote rules everything and everyone, and in which the individual thus has no rights. In a democracy, observed James Madison in *The Federalist Papers*, "there is nothing to check the inducements to sacrifice the weaker party or an obnoxious individual. Hence it is that such democracies have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention (and) have ever been found incompatible with personal security or the rights of property."

The right to vote derives from the

recognition of man as an autonomous, rational being, who is responsible for his own life and who should therefore freely choose the people he authorizes to represent him in the government of his country. That autonomy is contradicted if a majority of voters is allowed to do whatever it wishes to the individual citizen. The right to vote is not a sanction for a gang to deprive other individuals of their freedom. Rather, because a free society requires a certain type of government, it is a means of installing the officials who will safeguard the individual rights of each citizen.

What makes America unique is not that it has elections — even dictatorships hold elections — but that its elections take place in a country limited by the absolute principle of individual freedom. From our Declaration of Independence, which upholds the "unalienable rights" of every individual, among which are "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," to our Constitution, whose Bill of Rights protects freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and the freedom of private property, respect for individual liberty is the essence of America — and the root of her greatness.

Unfortunately, with each passing Election Day, too many Americans view elections less as a means to protect freedom, and more as a means to win some government favor or handout at the expense of the liberty and property of other Americans. Our politicians promise, not to protect the basic rights spelled out in the Declaration and the Constitution, but to violate the rights of some people in order to benefit others. Today's politicians want subsidies for farmers — by forcing non-farmers to pay for them; prescription drugs for the elderly — by forcing the non-elderly to pay for them; housing for the homeless — by forcing the non-homeless to pay for it. The more "democratic" our government becomes, the more we cannibalize our liberty, ultimately to the detriment of all.

This Election Day, therefore, we should reject those who wish to reduce our republic to mob rule. Instead, we should vote for those, to whatever extent they can be found, who are defenders of the essence of America: Individual freedom.

(Alex Epstein is a writer for the Ayn Rand Institute (<http://www.aynrand.org/>) in Irvine. The Institute promotes the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead").

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Wednesday, October 27

- 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm
- UCLA, Kerckhoff Hall,
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Saturday, October 30

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



STATE

Been a long strange trip to Election Day for state

BY JIM WASSERMAN

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — In April, thousands of electronic voting machines were decertified. By July, the secretary of state stumbled into deepening scandals. Now, days before voting, the Department of Motor Vehicles has found more than 300 unsent voter registrations at state headquarters — and apologized.

In a state where the presidential outcome remains largely certain, experts say this was supposed to be an easier election. Instead, however, it's been a long, strange trip to Tuesday's vote, a period marked by months of mudslinging between the state and voting machine makers, power struggles between elected officials and shortcomings among those who conduct California's vote, including the DMV.

"It's been a lot of stress and a lot of uncertainty, really, starting with February," said Stephen Weir, clerk and registrar of voters in Contra Costa County.

Piling on in recent days, California's previous secretary of state, Bill Jones, trailing in his campaign to unseat U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer, tried to rally voter support his way by calling on his successor, Democrat Kevin Shelley, to resign. Jones cited "a growing crescendo of failures" in Shelley's office, adding that Shelley lacks the confidence of the public and political parties to certify a close election.

For months, such political infighting, allegations of scandal and incompetence, and antagonism between Shelley and county registrars has largely remained off the radar screen of most voters. But it means 2 million of them won't be using touch-screen voting machines they used last March, and that some will turn up at the polls on election day finding they

aren't actually registered. Millions more may find themselves caught in struggles between Shelley, his anti-electronic voting allies and county registrars over how aggressively counties must offer paper ballots to voters. Add long lines and record registrations and many say 2004's trail of trouble may spill over into Tuesday.

"Things happen, and the expectation of perfection in an election cannot be delivered," said Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters Conny McCormack, who presides over an estimated 4 million California voters and has been a formidable opponent of Shelley on electronic voting issues. "There's just opportunities in these things."

Among them, the DMV discovered last week that it misplaced 309 voter registration forms handled through the department's "motor voter" program. Spokesman Bill Branch said Wednesday the registrations, some dating as far back as May, were mistakenly sent to state headquarters with records to be micro-filmed and sat unnoticed.

"The inadvertent misrouting should not have happened," Branch said. "DMV apologizes for any inconvenience to those 309 voters." Branch and state elections officials said the registrations are valid and were immediately sent to their counties of origin across the state.

But most will probably have to cast provisional ballots Tuesday, a special procedure that holds the ballot registration can be verified after the election.

Other voters are discovering similar problems after registering to vote through the DMV. Groups such as the League of Women Voters and both major political parties said they've fielded calls — though fewer than in previous years — from DMV registrants who say they aren't now registered.

It's getting hot in here: Global patterns erratic

POLLUTION, from page 1

begun reaching conclusions about the role of airborne particles in climate change.

Carbon specks on snow, for instance, speeds the melting of snow each spring and cuts ice fields' ability to reflect sunlight away from the earth. Carbon flecks suspended in the air may absorb sunlight, heating the atmosphere but blocking sunlight from reaching the earth. Other particles reflect sunlight away from the earth's atmosphere entirely.

Researchers at University of Nevada's Desert Research Institute reported findings similar to Jacobson's conclusions earlier this year by measuring snow from actual winter storms in the Rocky Mountains. Pollution-contaminated clouds produced half as much snow, and what fell contained 25 percent less water and had as little as half the mass of its pristine counterpart, the study found.

A scientist at Israel's Hebrew University used satellite photos to show decreased snow and rain in pollution-contaminated clouds around the world in 2000, and a study this year found a similar pattern in California.

Jacobson's computer modeling shows suspended pollutants can cut Sierra snowfall by

disturbing air pressure systems and thus disrupting cloud and wind patterns. In addition, more moisture-attracting particles means fewer of the resulting cloud droplets may grow heavy enough to fall to the ground as rain.

He checked the model's results against extensive actual measurements from weather in February and August of 1999.

The model showed reduced precipitation and ground-level air temperatures in February in the Sierra Nevada mountains, Central Valley, and Southern California. Air temperatures increased slightly in August along the Southern California coast, while sunlight reaching the ground decreased, meaning a possible reduction in crop yields, Jacobson found.

Clouds were as much as twice as visually dense and were longer-lasting. They contained more liquid water concentrated around the suspended particles — but less of it turned to ice because the sooty clouds absorbed more heat, the model showed.

Higher concentrations of airborne pollutants means more contamination of ground and surface water from the resulting rainfall, the study found.

Ultraviolet radiation reaching the earth was diminished, but the health benefits from less damaging radiation were offset by higher levels of harmful pollution.

STATE



ELECTION BRIEFS

Mailer aims to confuse Democrats

By The Associated Press

SALINAS — Voters in Monterey County better read the fine print.

An election mailer labeled "Voter Information Guide for Democrats" urges casting ballots for top-of-the-ticket Democrats such as John Kerry and Barbara Boxer.

"Use this guide when you vote," reads the mailer, with also recommends votes for Rep. Sam Farr and state Assemblyman Simon Salinas, also Democrats.

But for Monterey County supervisor, the guide lists Republican candidate Jerry Smith.

It turns out the mailer isn't from the Democratic Party. Los Angeles-based Voter Information Guide put it out on behalf of Smith.

"It's advertising," Smith campaign manager Brian Pratt said.

There's an asterisk by Smith's name, and anyone who reads the fine print on the front of the mailer will learn "Appearance is paid for and authorized by each candidate ... designated by an (asterisk)."

The Democratic Central Committee of Monterey County has endorsed Smith opponent Jane Parker, a Democrat.

"It's immoral, it's wrong, it's unethical," committee chairman Carl Pohlhammer, said, adding that such misleading mailers have turned up in previous campaigns.

"(Smith) doesn't want to tell the truth about what party he belongs to," Parker said. "I guess we'd all like to be Democrats. Some of us are and some of us aren't. You sort of have to make up your mind."

Monterey County Republican Party executive director Robb McFadden said when he gets voter guides in the mail, he always looks for the fine print.

"Voters just have to be cautious," McFadden said.

'Later' to paper at OC polling sites

By The Associated Press

SANTA ANA — The Orange County elections office got the OK from California Secretary of State Kevin Shelley to keep quiet about the availability of paper ballots at polling places.

All counties using electronic voting are required by Shelley to also provide paper ballots as an alternative to voters who request them. Shelley's office said in a memorandum Tuesday to elections offices that they "must educate voters" about the availability of paper ballots.

But Orange County was allowed to proceed with plans to offer no signs or vocal notification alerting voters about the availability of paper ballots, Shelley's office said Wednesday.

By discussing the issue with the Board of Supervisors and the media, Orange County Registrar of Voters Steve Rodermund had met the education requirement, the state said.

"It sounds like Steve Rodermund has done the minimum that is required," said Tony Miller, special counsel to Shelley. "He has let it be known publicly."

Registrars in Orange and at least three other counties have directed poll workers not to provide information about the availability of a paper ballot unless asked about it, saying they want to encourage the use of electronic voting.

Mortal syntax: Voter guide translation 'horrific'

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The county Registrar of Voters office recalled thousands of Spanish language voter guides because of errors in grammar, syntax, spelling and translation that translators call "horrific."

Between 8,000 and 12,000 of the guides were distributed at public buildings throughout San Diego County this year with sentences that include, "People that are registered 29 and 15 days before an election will be commanded a brochure."

Three bilingual county employees discovered the incorrect verb translations and omitted words and accent marks in the one-page guides, county spokesman Mike Workman said.

The voter guides were translated by county employees in 1999, and 25,000 copies were printed for the 2000 election, Workman said.

Since then, the guides have been updated with new election dates.

The voter guides will not be corrected for the Nov. 2 election, but the county has contracted out for translating services for subsequent versions of the guides, Workman said.

The guides are a supplement to the voter guide issued by the California secretary of state.

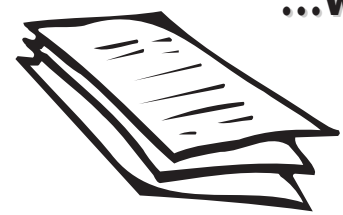
The county is under a U.S. Justice Department mandate established in June to better serve voters with limited English skills, which includes providing translation services to Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese voters.

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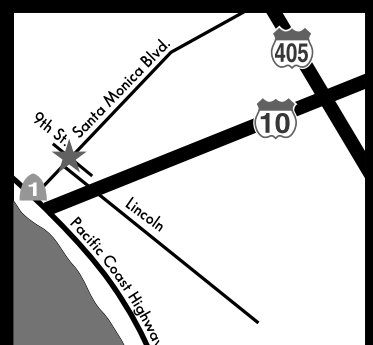
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Left out voters heading for battleground states

BY PAUL CHAVEZ

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — In the 1960s, law student Paul Crost volunteered in Little Rock, Ark., to help enforce the new Voting Rights Act.

Tuesday, he will once again station himself at a polling place to make sure people can cast their ballots.

The 61-year-old Los Angeles labor lawyer is among hundreds of volunteers from California who are paying their own way to monitor polling places in presidential battleground states.

They'll watch for voter intimidation, broken voting machines, precincts that run out of ballots, and any other irregularities that interfere with the democratic process.

"Unfortunately, I feel in the year 2004, 40 years later, the issues that are confronting our country in regard to the right to vote are as critical, if not more important, than what we faced in 1965," Crost said.

The effort to mobilize thousands of election monitors stems from the contested 2000 presidential election, which revived the word "disenfranchisement" in the election lexicon.

The problems were centered in Florida, where a near tie at the ballot box confounded attempts to call the race and led to a recount.

Half-perforated punch ballots with "hanging chads" and allegations of voter intimidation muddled the process. Civil rights leaders claimed black votes were disproportionately tossed out.

The U.S. Supreme Court halted the recount after 36 days and handed a 537-vote victory to President Bush over Democrat Al Gore. The ruling gave Bush a 271-266 victory in the U.S. Electoral College and the presidency, even though Gore had a half-million more popular votes nationwide.

"I think everyone is pretty clearly focused on the fact that what happened last time seemed to be unfair and people didn't get to vote who were actually registered and should've gotten to vote," said Fran Schreiber, an Oakland labor attorney who has trained California lawyers to act as monitors in Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and other western states.

"If they are going to have an election, they might as well do it fairly," Schreiber said.

In addition to the volunteers, 1,000 federal poll watchers will be sent to monitor elections in 25 states to assure compliance with voting laws, the Justice Department said. The number is more than triple the 317 dispatched for the 2000

presidential election.

The volunteer effort is being coordinated by the nonpartisan Election Protection Coalition, which includes the NAACP, People for the American Way Foundation, League of Women Voters and dozens of other groups.

The coalition is dispatching about 25,000 poll monitors, including 5,000 lawyers and law students, to act as sentinels at more than 3,500 predominantly black and Hispanic precincts in at least 17 states.

It will also offer a toll-free number, 1-866-OUR-VOTE, to provide free, multi-lingual information on voting rights.

The duties of the monitors will vary by state. In Nevada, for example, rules allow monitors inside polling places but contact with voters and the use of cell phones are banned.

Two monitors will be stationed outside each precinct to watch for everything from voter intimidation to long lines. They'll be expected to cooperate with local election officials.

Though most of the groups in the coalition are left-leaning, monitors are being told to stick to their nonpartisan mission and not try to influence voters.

Reports of voting problems will be directed to the coalition's "nerve center" in Washington, D.C. In some cases, lawyers will be dispatched to trouble spots.

Ann Summa, a 54-year-old photographer who lives in the Echo Park area of Los Angeles, will return to her native Missouri to monitor elections in St. Louis.

"I'm really, really worried about these swing states and people not getting their vote counted," she said.

Crost will monitor a precinct in Nevada — four decades after he volunteered with the Law Students Civil Rights Research Council in the tumultuous South after adoption of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Crost worked with John Walker, one of the first black civil rights attorneys in Little Rock and remembered housesitting for Walker one night when rocks came flying through the windows and a fence was set on fire.

Crost also investigated a discrimination case in Mississippi, where three civil rights workers were murdered in 1964. One night he was followed by men in a pickup truck with shotguns mounted on a rack.

"Hopefully, it's a less dangerous environment than I saw in 1965 as a 22-year-old law student," Crost said of the upcoming election. "All of us here hope that we're totally bored and nothing happens and no one sees the inside of a courtroom. That would be the ideal situation."



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STATE



Cassini craft takes close-up look at Saturn's moon Titan

BY JOHN ANTCHAK

Associated Press Writer

PASADENA — The international Cassini spacecraft began unveiling Saturn's mysterious sidekick Titan with a stream of increasingly sharp pictures of the surface taken during a flyby within 745 miles of the hazy moon.

Distinct dark and bright surface areas were apparent in pictures arriving at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory late Tuesday. Scientists were thrilled, but admitted they could only speculate about what they were seeing. They could not say whether there is any liquid on the surface or whether the moon has distinct topography or is flat.

"We are still mystified, and we are not quite sure what we are looking at," imaging scientist Carolyn Porco told a news conference Wednesday.

The images and instrument data were nonetheless the best look at Titan yet.

Cassini's previous flyby was at a distance of more than 200,000 miles.

Scientists hoped the pictures and instrument data would show whether the hazy hydrocarbon skies of Titan have been concealing oceans or lakes of methane and ethane, which theories say could rain out of its skies.

Mission officials also hoped instruments would reveal new details of its atmospheric density, which would be useful when Cassini launches the European Space Agency's Huygens probe for a descent to Titan's surface in January.

The spacecraft made its closest approach to Titan at 9:45 a.m. PDT Tuesday and began transmitting pictures back to Earth about nine hours later.

"It's going to be a night of surprises," JPL director Charles Elachi predicted at the outset. As leader of the Cassini imaging team, he said he hoped to see features that would indicate drainage as well as geysers.

Pictures were to be followed by radar data, which can be processed to show highly detailed surface images resembling black-and-white photographs. Radar imaging findings were expected to be released Thursday.

Initial fuzzy pictures were from thousands of miles away, but the images improved as Cassini hurtled closer and closer to Titan, the only moon in the solar system known to have an atmosphere.

Titan, however, seemed to be only more puzzling. Scientists peering at newly arrived images could not say, for example, whether there was liquid on the surface or whether some of the bright areas were methane clouds in the atmosphere.

Unlike many other bodies in the solar system, Titan did not show any initial evidence of clearly circular features that might be impact craters, such as those that can be easily seen on Earth's moon, Porco said.

"It could be that if there were impact

structures they might have been buried in the material that is falling out of the atmosphere and coating the surface," she said.

The \$3.3 billion spacecraft's first flyby on July 2 of Titan was at a distance of some 200,000 miles and proved disappointing.

Scientists struggled to discern surface features through what was described as an "organic goo," a hydrocarbon haze likened to smog over Los Angeles.

This time, Cassini was programmed to also use its imaging radar to generate topographical maps and determine whether Titan has a liquid or solid surface.

Cassini was launched in 1997 and flew 2.2 billion miles on a roundabout route to Saturn. NASA said it has worked flawlessly since soaring through a gap in Saturn's shimmering rings to enter orbit.

The mission was funded by NASA, the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency.

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

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

— **SM-MALIBU COUNCIL OF PTAS**

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

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

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

— **MAGGIE HALL, DIRECTOR, EMERITUS COLLEGE**

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

— **SANTA MONICA COLLEGE WEEKLY CORSAIR**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— **SANTA MONICA MIRROR EDITORIAL BOARD**

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

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

"I endorse Measure S!"

— **SANTA MONICA POLICE CHIEF JAMES BUTTS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We support Measure S!"

— **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA MONICA**

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

Vote: November 2, 2004 ☒ Yes on S!

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STATE BRIEFS

Heavy rains take care of problem pile

By The Associated Press

ALTADENA — The drenching October storms ended years of wrangling about clearing away the Rubio Canyon rock pile.

Heavy rains blasted away tons of boulders at the top of the Angeles National Forest canyon. The rocks filling that area of Rubio Canyon were rubble left in 1998 when a water pipeline project that went awry.

Last week’s deluge dropped 10.5 inches of rain, turning the 80-foot rock pile into a giant dam that broke during the storm. Rushing water tossed thousands of granite rocks from the narrow gorge and distributed them across the canyon floor.

Five waterfalls and a portion of the historic Mount Lowe Railway previously covered by the rocks are now visible.

“It must have been an amazing event when it happened. Happily, no one was there when it happened or we’d probably find them next spring,” said Paul Ayers, a Glendale lawyer who has spent years battling to get the rock pile cleaned up.

The pipeline contractors, Forest Service officials, the water company and federal officials have wrangled about how to clean up the mess for years.

Sex offender convicted, sentenced

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — A convicted sex offender who attempted to kidnap and molest a 5-year-old girl was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Randy Scott Davis, 45, of Ventura pleaded guilty earlier to a felony count in a deal with prosecutors that allowed him to escape a sentence of life in prison. Davis was convicted in the 1980s of kidnapping and molesting a child in San Jose.

After sentencing Wednesday, Deputy District Attorney Doug Ridley said the sentence was a significant accomplishment for prosecutors and investigators who handled the case.

Police arrested Davis in September 2002 after he approached a 5-year-old girl outside his Ventura apartment and asked her to “help me find my dog,” Ridley said. The girl ran home and told her mother, who notified police.

Davis’ attempt to talk with the girl, coupled with his past, left little doubt about his intent, Ridley said.

“This was someone who was an extremely dangerous child molester,” Ridley said. “Because of that smart little girl who was able to tell what happened, we were able to arrest him and get him off the street before he could hurt another child.”

Penned up: Gang member gets 220 years

By The Associated Press

LANCASTER — A teenage gang member convicted of attempted murder for firing a weapon into a crowded desert home and wounding two people, was sentenced to 11 consecutive life prison terms — plus 220 years for using a firearm during a crime.

Juan Marshall Rayford, 18, of Lancaster was found guilty of shooting into the home on Jan. 3.

Deputy District Attorney Michael Blake said Wednesday that judicial guidelines allow life sentencing even though no one died because the jury found the suspects’ actions were premeditated and deliberate.

Co-defendant Dupree Glass was also convicted of 11 counts of attempted murder for opening fire on a family of mostly women and children under 19. Blake said he will likely be sentenced to 11 consecutive life terms and 220 additional years.

Rayford, Glass and a third man went to the home to confront a man they had fought with earlier. The man’s mother and family were sleeping, along with 12 other people, when the shooting began. The man they were looking for wasn’t there.

MTA offers \$1 million token of appreciation

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Metropolitan Transportation Authority wants to give the Orange Line busway contractor a \$1 million bonus if the \$330 million San Fernando Valley busway is completed by its original August 2005 deadline.

Busway construction is currently five months behind schedule. The bonus is part of a \$7.9 million schedule-recovery package being considered by the MTA board.

“This provides a huge incentive for him to make that date,” MTA construction chief Rick Thorpe said Wednesday. “It’s less impact to the community — less construction impact, less business impact, less community impact — and the patrons get the advantage of riding the bus sooner.”

Orange Line opponents said the MTA shouldn’t be hurrying completion because there’s uncertainty over the status of the busway’s environmental impact report. Under court order, the MTA completed a new EIR but it hasn’t been approved.

“How can they keep on building? How can they possibly authorize approval for a project for which they have no approval?” asked Diana Lipari, chairwoman of Citizens Organized for Smart Transit, which has been trying to halt busway construction.

Under the incentive plan, the MTA would authorize \$6.9 million for overtime pay, plus a \$1 million bonus if crews complete the busway by next August. If the deadline is missed, the joint-venture of Shimmick Construction Co. Inc./Obayashi Corp. would lose the \$1 million bonus and have to pay a \$1 million penalty.

STATE



Replanting plan sews new seeds in wartorn lands

BY MICHELLE LOCKE

Associated Press Writer

RUTHERFORD — Heidi Kuhn stands in a Napa Valley vineyard with sunlight grazing her head and death in her hands.

No need to worry, the land mines she's brought to the upscale Grgich Hills winery have been disarmed. But in other parts of the world, huge tracts of land that once were as fertile as these have been seeded with the menacing devices that can keep a tank at bay during war — and blow the legs off an 8-year-old long after the peace.

Kuhn happens to have a small boy herself. That's one of the many reasons she founded Roots of Peace, an organization that is working to de-mine and revive former farmland in countries from Cambodia to Croatia, an effort that has drawn the support of several prominent Napa Valley vintners.

For Kuhn, removing a land mine is one "small victory in the war on terrorism. Because a land mine is a seed of terror. Whether the boot of a soldier or the sandal of a child, it's an indiscriminate weapon of destruction."

In the past seven years, Roots of Peace, which Kuhn runs with her husband, Gary — her four children also help out — has funded de-mining efforts that have removed hundreds of thousands of land mines and unexploded ordnance in four countries.

The organization has been involved in developing grape vineyards in Afghanistan, replanting former mine fields with rice in Cambodia, restoring vineyards and orchards in Croatia and sowing wheat in Iraq.

This summer, Roots of Peace received \$10 million through the U.S. Agency for International Development to work with a consortium of partners, including the University of California, Davis, on a new project of restoring grape and raisin vineyards in Afghanistan. (No wine grapes are being planted in the Muslim country.)

Converting mines to vines is more than a catchy slogan, say those involved in the work. It's a way to knit together tattered communities.

Roots of Peace, one of a number of groups working to remove land mines, collects money that is used to hire local de-mining companies to do the work, often using modified tractors that can absorb explosions.

Once the land is free of explosives, farmers and other area leaders move in.

"It's not just about de-mining for de-mining's sake," says Liz Bernstein, coordinator for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. "It's about returning the land to the community."

There are still an estimated 50 million to 60 million land mines in 80 countries, but progress is being made, Bernstein says. There were about 54 land mine manufacturers a decade ago; now there are a dozen, she says.

A 1997 treaty to ban the devices has been ratified or supported by more than 140 countries and a conference is scheduled later this fall in Nairobi, Kenya, to review progress made since then.

So far, the ban has not been agreed to by the United States. The Bush administration announced in February that it

would not sign but would only use "smart" mines timed to self-destruct so they don't pose a peacetime threat. Human rights groups contend it would be better to ban mines outright.

Kuhn, who lives in Marin County just north of San Francisco and has a background in TV journalism, founded Roots of Peace after a series of disparate but life-changing events.

Moving to Alaska with her husband, an executive at IBM, in 1988 had put her in the middle of the Exxon Valdez disaster and the thawing of relations between the former Soviet Union and the United States.

She started a TV news service and began covering the stories.

Then, she discovered that she had cervical cancer and suddenly she was looking at life through a different prism. "I realized that each day was a gift."

Work was put on hold in 1995 when, against medical odds, Kuhn got pregnant. Back home in Marin County, she thought her working days were over. But in 1997, a few days after the death of Princess Diana, who made abolishing land mines a personal crusade, Kuhn was asked to host a reception for a group working on land mine removal.

She wanted to give her guests something uniquely Northern Californian and asked director-turned-winemaker Francis Ford Coppola to send over some wine for a toast.

"That night, I just lifted my glass and said, 'May the world go from mines to vines.' And it just went quiet in the room and everyone said, 'What did you say?'"

Kuhn recalls. "They said, 'You need to take this out of your living room.'"

The next day, Kuhn started calling California vintners.

Among those supporting Roots of Peace is Silverado Vineyards owner Diane Disney Miller, daughter of Walt Disney, who says she "jumped at the chance," to tackle a fixable problem in a world awash with intractable issues.

"A concrete thing you can do is to support the removal of land mines," Miller says. "By doing that you're making the land safe and welcome again for anything that the people want to do."

Other supporters include Croatian immigrant Mike Grgich, founder of the Grgich Hills Cellar winery, and his nephew, winemaker Ivo Jeramaz.

Jeramaz, who came to the United States in 1986, wasn't in the war but he lost friends in the conflict and went back in 1993 to see "everywhere signs of war. I witnessed what happened during war and then I witnessed for many years to come the psychological effects of war on my friends."

Knowing that destruction may still be a step away is "an awful thing," says Jeramaz, who with his uncle has helped Kuhn locate mined areas that have the potential to be prime vineyards.

In 2002, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines estimated that between 15,000 and 20,000 new casualties were occurring annually. Children particularly are at risk because they are smaller. Sometimes, they pick up mines out of curiosity, with disastrous results.

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SANTA MONICA POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

Vote For Those Who Share Our Commitment For Public Safety



✓ YES

Richard Bloom, Current Mayor and 24 year resident of Santa Monica is a dedicated volunteer. Mayor Bloom is Past President of Friends of Sunset Park and has worked on the Commission on Older Americans, the Santa Monica School District and College Committee and American Red Cross.



✓ YES

Ken Genser is a proven leader. Current Councilmember, Past Mayor and Past Mayor Pro-Tem, Ken has worked tirelessly for many years on the City Council to improve the quality of life for our city. He served on the Council when improvements were approved for many important projects including the 3rd Street Promenade, Palisades Park, Civic Center Plan, Public Safety Facility, Christine Reed (formerly Lincoln) Park and Chelsa Park.



✓ YES

Patricia Hoffman is a 25 year resident of Santa Monica and a wife and mother. She spent two years as president and 6 years total on the Santa Monica Board of Education prioritizing and balancing budgets. Patricia served as PTA Council Vice-President and AYSO commissioner. She is committed to making the City General Land Use Plan fit the needs of all residents.



✓ YES

Bobby Shriver, the Current Chairman of the California Park and Recreation Commission is a 17 year resident of Santa Monica. Bobby is an attorney with long time family and business connections in both Washington D.C. and Sacramento. He will ensure that Santa Monica gets its fair share of revenues. He has proven successes in maneuvering difficult bureaucratic obstacles to accomplish goals. Bobby Shriver is a man who can get things done.

Bloom, Genser, Hoffman and Shriver

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- * All support our schools, libraries and other programs that enrich our community.

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Entertainment

Weekly Film Capsules ...

THE GRUDGE
Americanized version of a commercially successful, albeit humdrum, Japanese horror flick is silly rather than chilling.
Starring: Sarah Michelle Gellar

SURVIVING CHRISTMAS
It's entirely likely star Ben Affleck will come to rue this wreck even more than last year's notorious flop, "Gigli."
Starring: Ben Affleck, James Gandolfini

SIDEWAYS
A fantastic movie from Alexander Payne, who may very well be America's most provocative cinematic storyteller.
Starring: Paul Giamatti, Virginia Madsen

UNDERTOW
The cast imbues every scene with genuine emotion, working within the confines of a rich, intense narrative.
Starring: Dermot Mulroney, Jamie Bell

SHALL WE DANCE?
It's pure pabulum, set to Rodgers and Hammerstein numbers. Better to sit this one out.
Starring: Richard Gere, Susan Sarandon

TEAM AMERICA: WORLD POLICE
Isn't as consistently smart or amusing as the irreverent creators' TV series, "South Park," or their previous forays into feature film-dom.
Starring: Trey Parker, Matt Stone

P.S.
Credulity is stretched to the limits, and despite the solid work from an excellent cast, the film fails to fully engage.
Starring: Laura Linney, Tophér Grace

TAXI
Unless your destination is Dudsville, this is one "Taxi" you should certainly avoid hailing.
Starring: Queen Latifah, Jimmy Fallon

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS
One of the most entertaining sports films ever made.
Starring: Billy Bob Thornton, Derek Luke

RAISE YOUR VOICE
Pop princess's latest offering is another bowl of sugar-coated pap that will have little girls everywhere asking for bigger spoons.
Starring: Hilary Duff, Rita Wilson

I HEART HUCKABEES
Inspired casting, a retro-European production design and the director's smart incorporation/exploration of several conflicting existential philosophies combine to make this one of the most interesting comedies in recent memory.
Starring: Jude Law, Naomi Watts, Dustin Hoffman, Lily Tomlin

LADDER 49
A well-intentioned, but somewhat overly indulgent encomium to the brave firemen who run into burning buildings for a living.
Starring: John Travolta, Joaquin Phoenix

SHARK TALE
In sending up classic mob films such as "The Godfather" and "Scarface," the filmmakers seem to have lost sight of an important detail: Little kids don't know those movies. As movies about marauding deep-sea predators go, this bites.
Starring: Will Smith, Jack Black, Renee Zellweger, Robert DeNiro

THE FORGOTTEN
The truth is out there: This movie is a dud. Has the tenor of a long-lost episode of "The X-Files" that should have remained missing.
Starring: Julianne Moore, Dominic West

FIRST DAUGHTER
A lackluster, but harmless 'tween flick about the famous daughter of a President, whose greatest desire is to be normal.
Starring: Katie Holmes, Marc Blucas

THE LAST SHOT
A very clever comedy about dreams, and the extraordinary lengths to which people will sometimes go to realize them. Baldwin and Broderick make for a great team.
Starring: Alec Baldwin, Matthew Broderick

SHAUN OF THE DEAD
The cast is spot-on, and the film boasts several riotously funny set-pieces.
Starring: Simon Pegg, Nick Frost

A DIRTY SHAME
It's pretty boring, which is something that isn't often said about John Waters' work.
Starring: Tracey Ullman, Johnny Knoxville

THE MOTORCYCLE DIARIES
This story of personal enlightenment is powerful and touching.
Starring: Gael García Bernal, Rodrigo de la Serna

HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
Even the most obliging tissue-toters will likely be put off by the film's conspicuous lack of originality and the absence of chemistry between the romantic leads.
Starring: Charlize Theron, Stuart Townsend

WIMBLEDON
Dunst looks great on the movie poster, but this movie belongs to Bettany. His performance alone is reason enough to recommend this romantic comedy. The exceedingly realistic tennis action isn't bad either.
Starring: Paul Bettany, Kirsten Dunst

SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMORROW
Has the soft glow of a colorized black and white 30's noir, but with the scale, speed and wit of today's better, character-driven, sci-fi, CGI spectacles.
Starring: Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow

Foxx has keys for superstardom

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

Like fellow "In Living Color" alum Jim Carrey, Jamie Foxx's first film was a screwball comedy. Though their hilarious turns in "Ace Ventura" and "Booty Call" won't soon be forgotten, both actors have since ventured into more meaningful territory with the sort of weighty roles in dramatic films that transformed their forebear Robin Williams from small-screen jokester into an Academy Award-winner. Oscar has thus far eluded Carrey, but if the buzz is to be believed, Foxx could take home the gold for his stirring performance as legendary soul man Ray Charles in the biopic, "Ray." So convincing is Foxx, an accomplished pianist in his own right, that just before his death last June, Charles told an interviewer he "Can't believe how good Jamie is" — proof positive that seeing isn't always believing.

QUESTION: What has it meant to you to portray Ray Charles?

JAMIE FOXX: It means a lot more now than it did when we first started. Obviously, with Ray (recently) passing, we wanted to make sure that the movie was eloquent. I really know now that it was necessary to do this film.

Q: What was it like working so closely with Ray?
JF: It was incredible. You meet a person whose career spans over 50 years, and he's still young. He was youthful and ready to play. When he met me, he grabbed my fingers and said, "Oh yeah, those are strong fingers." And we started playing (piano), and it was amazing to see how much he still had it. Right up until he left us, he was on the road all the time performing. To see that energy and enthusiasm still there gave me more energy.

Q: What has Ray Charles left us?
JF: He left us everything. When they say "genius" about Ray Charles, he really is, because he took chances. When I was 13 years old, I got caught dancing. I did the "moonwalk," and this lady was driving by in her car and (she stopped) and said, "Boy, I know you ain't dancing!" Then she told the preacher, and I had to explain why I was dancing. So to go from that and all the way back to where Ray Charles took gospel music and switched it to R&B, people thought he was going to hell.

Q: Luckily for us, he kept the faith.
JF: He said, "I believe that God gave me this talent to sing about my love, to sing about my courage, to sing about my demons." If he didn't take those chances, you never know where music would be right now.

Q: How was Ray able to overcome the forces of racism and become such a universally beloved figure?
JF: He connects with the music. Everybody loves Ray Charles's voice, and that's how he brought us together. And when they asked how he felt about black and white he said, "I can't see any of that."

Q: What events in his life do you think had the greatest impact on Ray?
JF: He would always say it was his mother and brother passing away. One of the last things he was able to see (before he went blind at age 6) was his brother passing away, so those images were burned into his mind. He lived with demons, thinking he had something to do with his brother passing away. Then his mother passed away at a young age. That's what made him write. That's what made him get up and go. He knew he had to be successful at this, because he wanted to get rid of those demons and those burdens.



Believe the buzz: Actor's 'Ray' performance sings

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

Believe the hype: Jamie Foxx is as good as advertised in this highly entertaining biopic about the late, great Ray Charles. With one virtuoso performance befitting the virtuoso he's channeling, the former "In Living Color" sketch player becomes a big-time movie star and Academy Award favorite. There isn't a moment in the entire picture in which we're not convinced Foxx is Ray Charles, no small feat given the physical challenges of the role (during shooting, Foxx spent upwards of 14 hours each day sightless). "Ray" is worth the price of admission for the soundtrack alone, featuring some of the most original, soul-stirring songs of the last century — "I Got a Woman," "What'd I Say" and "Georgia On My Mind" to name a few. But there are so many other elements that make this film a winner, first and foremost among them Charles' inspirational story, which truly is a triumph of the human spirit.

Taylor Hackford ("The Devil's Advocate," "An Officer and a Gentleman") directs with an appropriate level of respect for his subject, while never turning a blind eye to the fact that like so many other musical geniuses, Charles was a highly flawed man — a heroin addict and serial adulterer who nearly lost everything before turning his life around. Foxx gets some fantastic support from his co-stars, most notably Kerry Washington ("The Human Stain") as Ray's long-suffering wife Della, and Regina King ("Jerry Maguire") playing his backup singer and mistress. The story spans the 1930s to the 1970s and production designer Stephen Altman infuses each era with authentic realism. When you go — and you should go right now — wear comfortable shoes, because the musical numbers are so scintillating that you'll surely feel like dancing in the aisles. "Ray" is an instant inductee into the pantheon of great biographic movies.

(Rated PG-13 for depiction of drug addiction, sexuality and some thematic elements. Running time: 152 minutes)



Most recent incarnation of Kidman’s is a winner

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Nicole Kidman bolsters her reputation as the most gifted top-of-the-marquee actress in the business with a powerhouse performance in Jonathan Glazer’s arresting meta-physical love story, “Birth.” Glazer, who made a tremendous feature debut with “Sexy Beast,” follows through on that promise with a Kubrick-esque offering that combines mystery, romance and very intriguing, somewhat disquieting ideas about the transcendental nature of love.

“Birth” opens with a mesmerizing tracking shot of a man jogging through snowy Central Park accompanied only by composer Alexandre Desplat’s haunting score. As he reaches a tunnel beneath a stone bridge, the man collapses and Glazer flashcuts to an infant being born, thus establishing the film’s reincarnation motif. Fast forward 10 years to the jogger’s widow Anna (Kidman), who is set to remarry — this time to the genteel Joseph (Danny Huston). At an engagement party at the posh Park Avenue digs she shares with her mother (Lauren Bacall), a 10-year-old boy named Sean (a very impressive Cameron Bright) shows up unannounced and informs Anna that he is the second coming of her dead hubby. She’s more than willing to believe the lad — perhaps, implausibly so — and next thing we know, they’re taking a bath together. Fret not, however, for “Birth” isn’t a child molestation movie. Despite the controversy it’s generated, the tub scene is presented delicately enough to not offend. Anna’s world, on the other hand, is thrown into a state of utter chaos.

The ever-graceful Kidman evinces her anguish, confusion and longing so effectively that even a mildly disappointing third act twist cannot mitigate the intensity of “Birth,” which ranks among the year’s best.

(Rated R for sexuality. Running time: 100 minutes)

‘Saw’ should have stayed on cutting floor

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

“Three” seems a more appropriate title for this grisly offering from first-time director James Wan, because it isn’t half the movie “Seven” is. Doing his best to mimic David Fincher’s unsettling 1995 hit, Wan goes all out with shaky camera shots and stygian sets while delivering half-baked, blood-soaked sermons on a morally bankrupt society with all the subtlety of a chainsaw through a stick of butter. Problem is, atmospherics and gore alone do not a compelling serial killer thriller make. “Saw” is gratuitously violent, unoriginal and entirely too loud. Hey, is it too much to ask that every horror movie not sound like it was scored by a pimply-faced white kid with a Korn fixation?

Worst of all, this movie is hampered with a weak cast that includes Cary Elwes and Danny Glover delivering two of the most unintentionally hilarious performances in recent memory. When we meet Elwes’ nebbishy Dr. Lawrence Gordon, he’s chained up in one of those decrepit windowless chambers that are all the rage among postmodern celluloid sickos. On the opposite side of the room is another captive, a young man named Adam (Leigh Whannell, who co-wrote the script). Between them lies a dead man who appears to have blown his brains out rather than spend two hours enduring Elwes sorry act. A tape left by their mysterious abductor provides the set-up for the game of cat and mouse to follow.

Through a series of flashbacks we come to know Tapp (Glover), a homicide detective obsessed with tracking down a psychopath known as “Jigsaw.” As the body count rises and Tapp begins to emotionally unravel, Glover goes for it with all the hysteria of a drunken “Real World” cast member. This is the biggest dog of a cop performance since “Turner & Hooch.” Here’s hoping Danny turns things around in the inevitable next “Lethal Weapon” flick and saves face with anyone unfortunate enough to see “Saw.”

(Rated R for strong grisly violence and language. Running time: 100 minutes)

‘About Love’ is all about Vinterberg’s selling out

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Back in 1995, Danish directors Thomas Vinterberg and Lars Von Triers founded a movement called Dogme 95 that eschewed conventional filmmaking tools such as A-list actors, artificial light, makeup and special effects. For Vinterberg, this naturalistic approach yielded 1998’s “Festen (The Celebration)” — one of the more critically acclaimed films that nobody saw that year.

With an eye on commercial success perhaps (critical acclaim doesn’t pay the rent), Vinterberg has done a complete about face in his latest film, “It’s All About Love,” which features Joaquin Phoenix and Claire Danes embracing all the trappings of big-budget excess.

Why the change of heart? According to Vinterberg, Dogme is all about innovation, and in rejecting the tenets of his own movement he is, in essence, innovating. Hey, the “do the opposite” trick worked for George Costanza on “Seinfeld” right? It doesn’t work here, though. Vinterberg admits that the deliriously disjointed plot exists merely as a means of translating his thoughts on everything from shifting weather patterns to fatal heartache. As the designated interpreters of the director’s scattershot musings, Phoenix and Danes are as hopelessly lost as you might expect. Sean Penn appears briefly in a head-scratching cameo as a guy who lives — literally — on airplanes, where he passes the time smoking cigarettes and pondering the meaning of life. Not sure what that’s all about.

(Rated R for a scene of strong violence, some language and sexuality. Running time: 104 minutes)



Despite the controversy it’s generated, the tub scene is presented delicately enough to not offend. Anna’s world, on the other hand, is thrown into a state of utter chaos.

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Some Western states hardly notice the campaigns take place

BY ANGIE WAGNER

Associated Press Writer

ST. GEORGE, Utah — Drive down the main drag here and the only presidential campaign sign is outside the Republican office. The Democrats don't even have a party office here, but a congressional candidate has one.

"He-llooo," Democratic volunteer Sherma Bishop said, as if she hadn't seen anyone in days. Don't bother asking her for a John Kerry yard sign or bumper sticker; the national campaign didn't send any.

"We don't see any of them," Bishop, 78, said of the presidential and vice presidential candidates.

A few blocks away at the Republican campaign office, a huge cardboard cutout of President Bush is as close as Utahns will get to him this campaign. Worker Stuart Bowler said people often come in to get their picture taken with cardboard Bush.

That's the way it goes in Utah, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana — states with too few electoral votes and too few undecided voters. Campaigns figure they know which way these states will vote — for Bush. In 2000, Bush got 58 percent of the vote in Montana, 67 percent in Idaho and Utah, and 69 percent in Wyoming.

The four states also have only 15 electoral votes among them. By comparison, California has 55, and is expected to be an easy win for Kerry this year. It's relatively quiet in California on the presidential level, too.

"There's no point" in campaigning, said Jerry Calvert, a political science professor at Montana State University in Bozeman. "If you have so much money, you're going to spend it where you can do the most good."

For other Western states, it's candidate overload. Bush, Kerry or vice presidential candidates Dick Cheney and John Edwards seemed to pop up weekly in the battleground states of Nevada, New Mexico, Colorado, Oregon and Washington.

The four candidates have visited New Mexico 24 times this year. They traveled to Colorado 19 times.

Montana? Zip. Utah? Nada.

Spokeswomen for both campaigns said Bush and Kerry concentrate their money on battleground states, and rely on grass-roots campaigning in other states.

Despite the lack of attention, Western states have a lot at stake.

Huge expanses of the western states are owned by the

federal government, affecting local tax revenues, jobs and business and recreational opportunities. In states such as Montana, Wyoming and Utah, the oil and gas industry wants access to areas that conservationists believe should be preserved in their natural state.

The West has 92 national forests, and the next president will decide what happens to their remaining pristine areas. Bush wants to require governors to petition the federal government to preserve them; Kerry supports the Clinton administration's protections for roadless areas.

"The future of the proper protection of Utah's wild public lands will be in large part determined by who wins the election," said Dave Alberswerth, public lands director for The Wilderness Society.

Brian Hawthorne, public lands director for The BlueRibbon Coalition, an Idaho-based group that defends motorized access to public lands, worries that if Kerry is elected he will eliminate snowmobile use in Yellowstone National Park.

Hawthorne, who dubs Idaho "fly-over country" for the candidates, said he wishes Bush and Kerry would visit and discuss public lands.

"Sadly, we are not on the whistle stop," he said.

Kerry did visit Idaho twice this year — but it was to his vacation home in Ketchum. He met briefly with supporters in August. But he was a no-show in March at a Ketchum gathering for volunteers. Campaign spokesmen said then it was unclear whether he'd received an invitation.

Living in the forgotten West does have its benefits. Unless they're watching national cable television, residents don't see campaign ads. While the Western states are electing governors, congressmen and legislators along with the rest of the country, it's hard to tell in some areas that a national election is even happening.

"Fed up with the rest of the country? Come to Wyoming," said Ken Wolfe, a chef at Cafe Wyoming in isolated Dubois, Wyo.

Wolfe catches glimpses of Cheney's airplane when the vice president visits his home in Jackson.

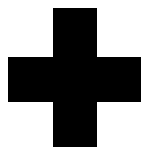
"It'd be nice to be recognized a little bit more, but it's also nice that people don't even know Wyoming is a state half the time," Wolfe said.

In St. George, Clauson Atkin, a 22-year-old food server, hopes Utah does something odd this election.

"I'd like to see us vote Democrat — just to throw 'em all for a loop," he said.

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NATIONAL



Bush, Kerry exchange some long-distance jabs

BY CALVIN WOODWARD

Associated Press Writer

TOLEDO, Ohio — In a stinging exchange, President Bush criticized Democratic challenger John Kerry as “the wrong man for the wrong job at the wrong time” on Thursday while the Massachusetts senator accused his rival of constantly ducking responsibility for his own actions.

For the fourth consecutive day, Kerry assailed Bush over the disclosure that nearly 400 tons of explosives were missing in Iraq, and said the Republican president’s attempt to compare himself to John F. Kennedy was off the mark.

“When the Bay of Pigs went sour, John Kennedy had the courage to look America in the eye and say, ‘I take responsibility, it’s my fault,’” Kerry said, referring to a bungled invasion of Cuba in 1961. “John Kennedy knew how to take responsibility for the mistakes he made and Mr. President, it’s long since time for you to start taking responsibility for the mistakes you made.”

The two men raced from one Midwestern state to another in the closing days of their close, contentious campaign for the White House. The polls, ubiquitous as they were, were of little use in forecasting the outcome of the election. Over and over, they made the race out to be a statistical tie, and battleground states too close to call.

Bush began his day in Saginaw, Mich., with an unstinting attack on Kerry.

“A president cannot blow in the wind,” he said of Kerry.

“Senator Kerry has taken a lot of different positions, but he’s rarely taken a stand,” Bush said. “Consistency is not the senator’s strong suit.”

Kerry campaigned first in Ohio, arguably the key to victory next Tuesday.

A Red Sox cap perched on his head, he recalled that last year when his campaign was struggling, a caller to a

radio program said, “John Kerry won’t be president until the Red Sox win the World Series.”

“Well, we’re on our way,” he said to cheers.

Bush had his own World Series tie-in. Interviewed on ABC, Boston pitcher Curt Schilling urged viewers to vote for the president.

Kerry’s crowd was raucous, so noisy that at one point he said, “I hope George Bush can hear that — that is the rumble of change comin’ at him.”

Kerry has turned the issue of missing explosives into a major focus of his campaign this week, and his running mate joined in.

“They had a responsibility to secure this material,” Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina said on NBC’s “Today” on Thursday. “It was important for securing Iraq, it was important for the safety of our troops, it was important for keeping that material out of the hands of terrorists. And what we know is, they didn’t do it.”

Bush sought to turn the controversy to his own advantage. He said his rival was showing a “complete disregard for the facts. Senator Kerry will say anything to get elected,” the president said.

Bush’s campaign surrogates rallied to his defense.

Former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, said the troops in Iraq, not the president, bore the responsibility for searching for the explosives, and he said no one knows if any mistakes were made.

“John Kerry wants to pretend we do know what happened,” Giuliani told “Today.” “We don’t know what happened. The best possibility is that those explosives were gone even before the troops got there ... at least it’s an equal possibility. John Kerry hasn’t admitted that. Instead, John Kerry became an attack dog.”

Bush was stumping in Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania, in the reverse order of a Pennsylvania-Ohio-Michigan swing Wednesday that was capped by an

early evening crowd of close to 20,000 at the Pontiac, Mich., Silverdome, one of the best turnouts of his campaign. Kerry was focusing on Ohio and Wisconsin before swinging south to spend Friday in Florida.

Kerry was keeping up his drumbeat of criticism over the circumstances surrounding the explosives in Iraq.

“The missing explosives could very likely be in the hands of terrorists and insurgents, who are actually attacking our forces now 80 times a day on average,” he said in Iowa on Wednesday.

The president struck back by saying the senator simply did not know what happened there.

“A political candidate who jumps to conclusions without knowing the facts is not a person you want as your commander in chief,” Bush told supporters Wednesday.

Kerry retorted on Thursday, “Mr. President, I agree with you.” He then recited a list of times he said Bush had been guilty of just that.

Polls suggest Bush and Kerry are running even not only in Iowa and Michigan, but in an improbable variety of other battleground states and nationally as well. Bush pressed hard for crossover votes.

“If you’re a Democrat, and your dreams and goals are not found in the far left wing of the Democrat party, I’d be honored to have your vote,” he said at several appearances.

In Iraq, U.S. military maneuvers including stepped-up air strikes raised the prospect of a decisive showdown with insurgents in Fallujah and neighboring Ramadi. The goal would be to restore government control for the Iraqi national elections by the end of January.

Vice President Dick Cheney said Wednesday night in Wisconsin that the terrorists and insurgents “know once those elections are held, they’re out of business. They’ve said as much” in “communications that we’ve captured between Zarqawi and the bin Laden crowd.” Cheney was referring to terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

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NATIONAL

Whaling tribes from two continents toast history

By The Associated Press

NEAH BAY, Wash. — Sharing song, dance, salmon and a culture of hunting whales of the North Pacific, the Makah Tribe and guests from the isolated Russian province of Chukotka gathered for what they hope will be many meetings to strengthen ties between the two native tribes.

“I think it’s great. It showed that two countries can come together like that. Natives coming together like that ... that’s history in itself,” Makah Tribal Chairman Ben Johnson Jr. told The Associated Press this week.

Normally separated by 2,000 miles, about 300 Makah and 20 Chukotka — a dance troupe called Ergyron — gathered Monday evening at the high school gym here in a culture exchange that included honoring the gray whale.

Following a salmon feast, Makah and Chukotka dancers, singers and drummers told of the gray whales’ importance through songs and dances that included harpoon throwing and demonstrations of using nets to hunt.

The two tribes have been sharing whale populations for centuries. The gray whales winter in Mexican calving

grounds, then head up the North American coast before crossing the Bering Strait to feed each summer in Chukotka coastal waters.

“We are people united by a great Pacific Ocean, we are alike,” Vasily Kevkey, a member of the Chukotka tribe’s Ergyron Chukotka Dance Troupe, said through an interpreter to the Peninsula Daily News of Port Angeles.

Makah whaling rights are guaranteed by their 1855 treaty with the United States. The tribe, at the tip of Washington’s Olympic Peninsula, moved to resume whaling after gray whales were removed from the Endangered Species List in 1994.

The Chukotka natives helped the Makah’s whaling effort when they ceded a share of their gray-whale quota in 1997 at the Monte Carlo meeting of the International Whaling Commission.

“If it wasn’t for them, we wouldn’t be where we are today with whaling,” Johnson told the Port Angeles paper.

The agreement allows the Makahs to take as many as 20 gray whales over five years.

On May 17, 1999, the Makahs — using a high-powered rifle — killed their first gray whale in more than 70 years.

The hunt drew lawsuits from animal-rights advocates, eventually reaching the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of

Appeals. The hunts are on hold pending an environmental assessment by the National Marine Fisheries Service. An exception to the Marine Mammal Protection Act also must be granted before whaling can resume.

The review likely will take several years, but tribal officials are determined to move forward.

“Whaling is an important part of our culture and our treaty rights, no different than when we started this whole effort,” Keith Johnson of the Makah Whaling Commission told The Seattle Times.

“We would like to be able to see the United States honor the treaty rights,” said Tom Eagle, a federal fisheries biologist. “But we have to do that with the conservation standards we now have in place. And we don’t see that as mutually exclusive.”

Makah hunters, elders and dancers plan to travel to Russia next summer to observe the Chukotka hunts and learn more about whaling. Another Makah hunter may participate in a spring hunt for a bowhead whale with the Inupiat of Alaska.

The Chukotka dance troupe, founded in 1968, represents several Russian native cultures, including the Chukchi, who largely dwell inland and herd reindeer, and the Yup’ik, who live in coastal villages and hunt whales, walrus and other sea life.

Firm aims to silence ‘dinner bells’ for orcas on longline fishing vessels

BY MARGARET BAUMAN
Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A small fisheries technology firm armed with computers and hydrophones is trying to locate and silence the dinner bell that attracts pods of killer whales to longline vessels fishing in the Bering Sea.

“The problem is the killer whales are eating turbot and black cod right off the line,” said Pat Simpson of Scientific Fishery Systems Inc., whose staff has been studying the orcas under a \$50,000 grant from the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation.

“It is not clear what is attracting them or how they are locating the longliners,” he said. “The problem is we’re conditioning a generation of whales to subsist off of longline fisheries.”

Orcas are eating the fish before the fish can be harvested. After 10 months of research, Simpson and his staff think the culprit could be the longline itself, acting as an underwater transducer, telling the whales the fish are there, ready to eat.

All it takes then is for one orca to alert the rest of the pod, and three dozen or so toothy orcas, weighing 8,000 to 12,000 pounds apiece, converge on the longline and gobble up the catch before it can be pulled on board.

Full-grown orcas eat about 550 pounds of food a day.

“We have not yet found the acoustic sounds — the dinner bell — that we can correlate with the whale activity,” Simpson said. “It is a work in progress. If we can locate that sound or series of sounds, the next effort would be to eliminate that attraction. It is one of our more interesting projects.”

The bulk of data analysis is being handled by Alex Kulinchenko, a SciFish employee who designed and tested the data collection systems, and Parisa Nahavandi, an intern who is studying for a degree in engineering at the University of California, San Diego.

“We are trying to find any collaboration between fishing activities and the presence of the orcas,” Kulinchenko said.

To that end, Kulinchenko designed the system for recording the sounds of the whales in the area of freezer processors and also around buoys marking the longlines in the Bering Sea.

The acoustics equipment was installed on the bow and on deck of the longline ship Prowler while it was in dry dock in Oregon in June. Prowler owner John Winther fishes for black cod and turbot in the Bering Sea.

“At one point, the Prowler had 10 killer whales eating

fish off the longline,” Simpson said. “We noticed you would find one whale would locate the boat. We would hear some vocalizations and other whales would appear. When there were several whales in the area, they would vocalize more. One of the whales would locate the boat and call the other whales over.”

“We think they come when the ships come to get the fish,” Kulinchenko said. “It’s almost like they are waiting for the bell.”

Kulinchenko and Nahavandi note that orcas apparently are not attracted to fish hooked on the lines beneath the buoys until fishermen attempt to pull the harvest into the vessel.

The longliners fish in very deep water, 800 to 900 feet, so it is simply easier for the orcas, who can dive to about 100 feet, to wait for harvesters to bring the fish to them, they said.

They hypothesize that the tension in the fishing line is causing low frequency vibrations which travel quickly through the water, alerting the scout for a pod of killer whales. When they pull up the line there is a very clear humming sound, Nahavandi said.

“At the beginning, I listened to every single sound file,” said Nahavandi, who half jokingly talks of learning to speak whale.

“I got used to listening to different sounds. I listened for certain whale sounds, their whistles and clicks.”

The longlines being pulled onto the decks of the processor “sound like the plucking of a very large guitar string,” she said.

Since orcas appear to prey on certain longliners, one of the next steps would be collection and analysis of more acoustical data, comparing acoustics of vessels attracting orcas with those that do not. Researchers also need to acquire additional acoustic data at deeper depths to decrease boat equipment noise recorded, they said.

SciFish will make its recommendations to the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation on Nov. 11, Simpson said. If further research shows that the acoustics of the vessels themselves are attracting the orcas, the problem might be resolved with a bubble mask under the vessel, Simpson said.

If, on the other hand, vibrations from certain longlines are ringing the dinner bell, “we would have to get more clever at confusing them,” Simpson said.

The use of a bubble cloud, injecting air through small holes down the keel of a ship, is a technique used to quiet the passage of military vessels. While sound doesn’t penetrate through the bubbles, the production of the bubbles themselves makes sound, so there is no free lunch, Simpson said.

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NATIONAL



Gang violence puts Idaho farming town on edge

BY BOB FICK

Associated Press Writer

CALDWELL, Idaho — Gunfire and gang violence are alarming people in this farm town where the usual background noise is the reassuring chug of field machinery.

Since July, police have received more than 100 reports of shots fired in Caldwell, a town of 30,000 halfway between Boise and the Oregon line. Two young men have been killed and several more wounded in drive-by shootings. Police believe most of the violence is gang-related.

Authorities are increasing patrols, and for the first time, neighborhood watches are springing up in Caldwell, a community that for decades has typified small-town conservatism and the farmland work ethic. Many are asking themselves how big-city gang problems reached their quiet

corner of the West.

"I can't let my kids go outside," said Maria Salenes. "I don't know what to do anymore, I'm so scared."

Gunfire has plagued Salenes' neighborhood in the past, but the trouble came too close on Oct. 11 when the 37-year-old mother of four heard a midday thump on her door. When she opened it, a man she did not know fell into her living room, mortally wounded in a drive-by.

"He was breathing real hard," she recalled. "He tried to tell me something, but it was his throat. He couldn't talk at all. I feel like nothing is safe."

Two men have been charged in the slaying of Sigmund Goode, 21. The shooting was the fourth in a week in the mostly Hispanic neighborhood of working-class homes and tree-lined streets where many people go home for lunch. It also follows the slaying of 22-year-old

Carlos Chavez in August. No arrest has been made in that slaying.

For more than a century, Caldwell has been a hub for one of the most agriculturally productive counties in the nation. Hops, onions, potatoes, beans, sugar beets and hybrid sweet-corn are grown here.

Thanks to a booming state economy, Caldwell's population has jumped 16 percent in the past four years after growing 41 percent in the 1990s. The area has a long history of Hispanic farmworkers migrating here every year to work the summer crops. But since the 1990s, more and more of the families have been settling here.

Police said gang activity, involving both young Hispanics and whites, has grown with the population.

"Poverty in some places is part of it, the lack of parental control, both parents working to keep their heads afloat," said Canyon County prosecutor Dave Young.

Police Capt. Chris Allgood said he has spent most of his 41 years in Caldwell and watched as the town slowly changed. "Fifteen or 20 years ago, we used to have a homicide every three or four years, and now we have three or four every year," he said.

More than 150 people turned out for a recent community meeting at the Hispanic Cultural Center.

"I want to make it an area where my children can go outside and play in the yard and not worry about getting shot," said Jennifer Bennett, 33. "We want to take back our neighborhood."

Police said their efforts have been hindered by witnesses and victims who are afraid to cooperate.

"People in the neighborhoods are the key to solving these cases," Young said. "By not stopping it, you're enabling it. The frustration's just not from them. It's both sides. We're frustrated, too."



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NATIONAL

Immigration initiative challenge is dismissed

BY ANANDA SHOREY

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — A judge dismissed a challenge Thursday aimed at killing an initiative that would restrict government services provided to illegal immigrants.

Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Margaret Downie said the effort to nullify votes cast on the measure came too late.

Opponents of Proposition 200 filed a lawsuit Oct. 22 requesting an injunction that would have prevented county officials and the Arizona Secretary of State's Office from approving vote results as fair and accurate.

The lawsuit alleged that thousands of signatures on petitions to place the measure on the ballot were attached to a version of the initiative that was different from the measure that ended up on Tuesday's ballot.

Downie did not rule on the merits of the opponents' claims Thursday. Her dismissal was based on the last-minute nature of the challenge.

"The effect of this ruling is not altogether satisfactory. If true, plaintiffs' allegations are serious and cast doubt on the validity and integrity of the petition circulation process. It is regrettable that the issue was not discovered sooner," she said in her ruling.

Charles Blanchard, an attorney for the plaintiffs which include the No on 200 campaign, said they had not decided immediately whether to appeal the case to the Arizona Supreme Court.

Blanchard said he was disappointed with the ruling but pleased to hear Downie found their allegations to be serious.

The challenge focused on minor differences in the language on copies of the initiative submitted with the petitions needed to put the measure on the ballot.

Blanchard said the changes mean the difference between an initiative that affects welfare benefits and one that affects a wide variety of services, such as fire and police services.

The initiative would require people to produce proof of citizenship when registering to vote and proof of immigration status when obtaining government services. Also, government workers would face a fine and jail time for failing to report people who illegally apply for aid.

This was the third time opponents of Proposition 200 tried to challenge the measure in court.

"Our opponents have tried to litigate democracy to death," said Kathy McKee, chairwoman of Protect Arizona Now, one of the defendants in the case. "It is just heartwarming to see justice prevail."

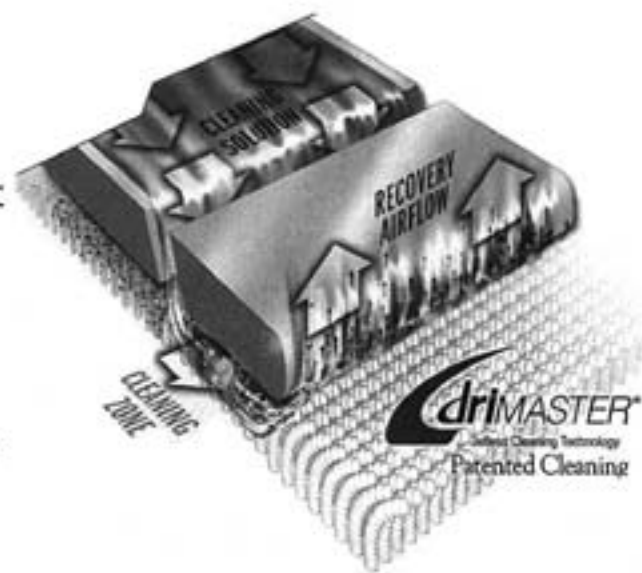
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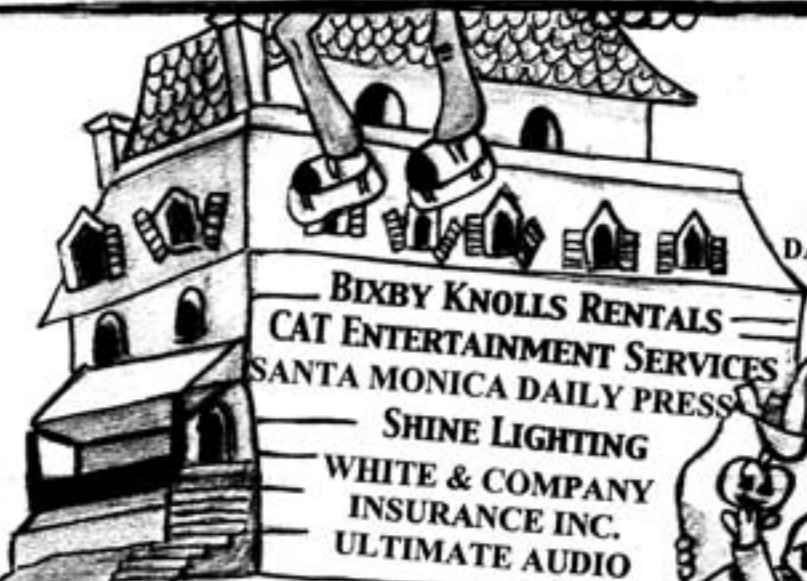
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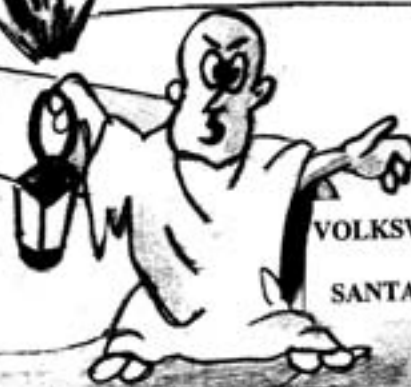
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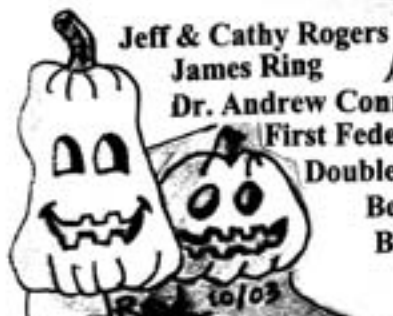
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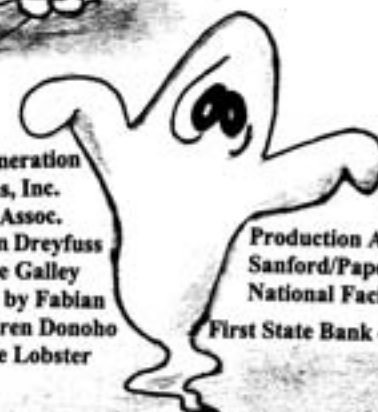


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HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

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

"Lucky 13" Red Cross Halloween Safety Tips:

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



INTERNATIONAL

Militants kill 11 troops, take a woman hostage

BY RAWYA RAGEH

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A grisly video released Thursday showed militants killing 11 Iraqi troops held hostage for days, beheading one, then shooting the others execution-style. Another group released a video of a kidnapped Polish woman, demanding Warsaw pull its troops from Iraq.

The latest kidnapping dramas came as the deadline wound down for a Japanese hostage who was shown in a video aired Tuesday. His captors — said to be the al-Qaida-linked militant group of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi — threatened to behead him in 48 hours unless Japan withdraws its troops — a demand rejected by Tokyo.

CARE International announced Thursday it has closed its operations in Iraq, in an appeal for the release of its kidnapped director there. Margaret Hassan, 59, a citizen of Britain, Ireland and Iraq, was abducted Oct. 19.

In new violence Thursday, a car bomb exploded Thursday in southern Baghdad, killing a U.S. soldier and at least one Iraqi civilian and wounding two other American soldiers, the U.S. military said. Another U.S. soldier was killed when insurgents attacked his patrol south of Balad, about 40 miles north of Baghdad, the military said.

At least 1,110 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

The killings of the 11 Iraqi National Guardsmen were claimed by a group called the Ansar al-Sunnah Army.

In the video posted on the group's Web site, each man is seen reading out his name and his unit. One man was then forced to the floor, and a militant pulled his head by the hair and cut off his head. A gunman then shot the others one by one as they knelt on the ground, their arms bound. Some of the men cringed as they heard the shots. The gunman then emptied a full clip into the bodies.

Insurgents have regularly targeted Iraqi security forces, blaming them for working with Americans. On Saturday, insurgents ambushed and killed 50 unarmed Iraqi soldiers as they headed home from a U.S. training camp northeast of Baghdad.

A voiceover on Thursday's video — identified as that of the "Emir al-Jamaa," or head of the group — addressed all members of Iraq's security forces. "Repent to God. ... Abandon your weapons and go home and beware of supporting the apostate Crusaders or their followers, the Iraqi government, or else you will only find death," it said.

A statement on the Web site said: "We will not forget about the blood of our elderly, women and children that are shed daily in Fallujah, Samarra, Ramadi and elsewhere on your hands and the hands of those you work with."

It said the 11 slain men were "responsi-

ble for guarding the Crusader American troops in the Radwaniya area" in Baghdad.

The Ansar al-Sunnah Army announced Tuesday that it had captured the men, showing their photos on its Web site. The movement has claimed responsibility for a number of attacks and hostage takings, including the slaying of 12 Nepalese hostages.

The unidentified Pole was the latest foreign woman to be abducted in Iraq. Hassan, the head of CARE International in Iraq, was snatched from her car last week and in a video aired Wednesday night was seen pleading for the withdrawal of British troops and the release of Iraq women prisoners.

The video Thursday of the Polish hostage, aired on Al-Jazeera television, showed a middle-aged woman with gray hair and dressed in a polka-dotted blouse sitting in front of two masked gunmen, one of whom was pointing a pistol at her head.

The kidnappers, who called themselves the Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Fundamentalist Brigades, said the woman, who was not identified by name, was a Polish citizen working with U.S. troops in Iraq.

Interior Ministry spokesman Col. Adnan Abdul-Rahman said the woman, a longtime resident with Iraqi citizenship, was believed to have been abducted Wednesday night from her home in Baghdad.

In Warsaw, Foreign Minister Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz said the woman was a Polish citizen who is married to an Iraqi and who worked at the Polish Embassy in Baghdad in the 1990s.

The woman's voice was not audible on the tape, but Al-Jazeera said she urged Polish troops to leave the country and for U.S. and Iraqi authorities to release all female detainees from the Abu Ghraib prison. Ahmed al-Sheikh, Al-Jazeera's editor-in-chief, said the kidnappers did not mention a specific death threat or give a deadline.

President Aleksander Kwasniewski said Poland would not surrender "to the dictate of terrorists" by meeting the demands. Poland commands some 6,000 troops from 15 nations in the Babil, Karbala and Wasit provinces south of Baghdad.

The woman is the third Pole to be taken hostage in Iraq. A Polish engineer was held for about a week in June, along with three Italians, before being freed. A Polish co-worker taken at the same time escaped moments after capture.

Several groups of hostage-takers have demanded the release of women prisoners in Iraq.

Al-Zarqawi's group, Al-Qaida in Iraq, said it was holding Shosei Koda, a 24-year-old Japanese tourist who appeared in a video Tuesday saying he would be beheaded in 48 hours unless Japan pulled out of Iraq. No specific time for the deadline's end Thursday was given.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who has rejected the demand, said his government was "calling on other countries and those who sympathetic to Japan, and the Iraqi people" to help.

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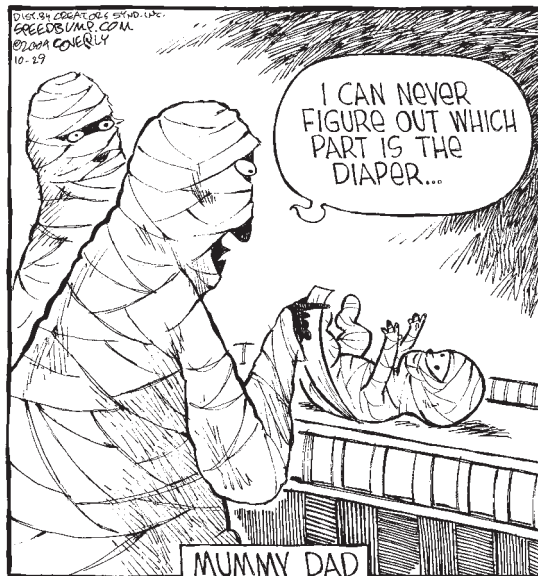
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By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Boxing ring border
- 6 Fancy dos
- 11 Even a little
- 12 Left, at sea
- 13 "Uncle Miltie"
- 14 Stylishly quaint
- 15 Sort
- 16 Neither follower
- 18 Mint container
- 19 New Haven student
- 20 Calendar box
- 21 Apple sampler
- 22 Poem type
- 24 Metal sources
- 25 Ham-burger's home
- 27 Despise
- 29 On cloud nine
- 32 Boxing great
- 33 Ewe said it
- 34 "— little teapot ..."
- 35 "Today" carrier
- 36 Shade tree

DOWN

- 37 EMT's forte
- 38 Water holders
- 40 Writer Stanley
- 42 Sluggish
- 43 Plow pioneer
- 44 Margin writings
- 45 Paid for a hand
- 1 Mad dog's disease
- 2 Verdi opera
- 3 Expired meter result
- 4 Pipe angle
- 5 Thin
- 6 Cartoonist Trudeau
- 7 Big galoot
- 8 Optimist's investment
- 9 Come in
- 10 Lapidary subjects
- 17 Hot breakfast
- 23 Born
- 24 — dare

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Yesterday's answer

- 26 City near Oakland
- 27 Submit
- 28 White rat, e.g.
- 30 Realm
- 31 Fixed socks
- 33 Defeats
- 39 Before, poetically
- 41 Writer Deighton

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11:00am ~ 3:00pm
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