



Santa Monica Daily Press

October 29-30, 2005

A newspaper with issues

Volume 4, Issue 232

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

9 10 23 33 34
Meganumber: 22
Jackpot: \$16 Million

FANTASY 5

7 14 26 29 37

DAILY 3

Daytime: 2 0 9
Evening: 7 2 5

DAILY DERBY

1st: 06 Whirl Win
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 03 Hot Shot

RACE TIME: 1:44.01

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site: <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In July, police in Lawrence, Kan., gave Ezekiel Rubottom's foot back to him, convinced that, contrary to a neighbor's inquiry, it wasn't evidence of a crime. Rubottom, 21, had tried to explain that he'd had his clubbed left foot amputated and merely wanted to keep it as a memento in a bucket of formaldehyde on his front porch. A spokesman for Lawrence Memorial Hospital told the Journal-World newspaper that there have been "women that want their uterus ... people take (home) tonsils ... they take (home) appendixes." Rubottom added a porcelain horse and a can of beer to his bucket to make it what he called "a collage of myself."

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 302nd day of 2005.
There are 63 days left in the year.

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

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Celluloid heroes take town by storm

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — More than \$15 million will be spent in Santa Monica within a nine-day period, beginning next week, as the American Film Market lifts up the curtain on its 15th year here.

AFM has booked about 1,400 local hotel rooms, and restaurants and businesses are gearing up for one of their busiest weeks of the year.

By far the largest event held

during the year in Santa Monica, the AFM's success and continued growth is crucial to the city's economy. Tourism officials estimate film market brings between \$15 and \$17 million in revenue into Santa Monica, with more than 7,000 film executives eating, drinking, shopping and doing business here from Nov. 2 to Nov. 9.

"AFM has become part of the fabric of Santa Monica," said

See **FILM MARKET**, page 13



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

THE LOEWS DOWN: Hotel workers scramble to prep rooms for the AFM.

Doing lunch and then some

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN AVE. — As thousands of film industry executives arrive in town this weekend, most will congregate at Loews Hotel, which has become a makeshift conference center for the American Film Market.

For the past week, it's been a revolving door of movers at the hotel, where every single room

has been converted into an office to accommodate more than 300 film companies and their executives. While movers have been hauling out hotel furniture, teams hired by AFM have been moving in their own rented furniture, plasma television screens and other audio/visual equipment.

"Imagine a freight company trying to load in, a rental compa-

See **LOEWS**, page 14

Loud zeppelin



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

The Ameriquest Soaring Dreams Airship was spotted overhead on Friday. More than 5,000 children in afterschool programs and hospitals teamed up to create the airborne art as a symbol of hope, dreams and achievement.

Troubled tenants can't get no satisfaction

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — A Santa Monica couple that may have gotten taken by both their landlord and their apartment's previous tenant in a complicated rent scheme got little satisfaction from the city's rent control board this week.

Brian Biedul and Dawn Rosenquist were seeking payback for what they claimed to be years of overcharged rent, but commissioners ruled on Thursday their claim was unfounded.

Brian Biedul and Dawn Rosenquist were seeking payback for what they claimed to be years of overcharged rent.

Biedul and Rosenquist, who live at 2507 20th St., requested that the Santa Monica Rent Control Board award them restitution for the seven years they believed they were being overcharged in rent.

Under Santa Monica rent con-

trol law, the Rent Control Board can authorize tenants to withhold future payments to landlords when they are overcharged. Commissioners on Thursday, however, felt the agreement the couple made

See **NO PAYBACK**, page 11

LOCAL

Falling back into darkness

By Daily Press staff

The time is here once again when nearly all Americans have extra time on their hands.

With the Halloween ghosts and goblins gathering, most of the nation is preparing to set clocks back an hour with the return of standard time. As a result, nights will become longer and days will be shorter.

See **CLOCKS**, page 15

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HOROSCOPE

Time to party, Sag

Santa Monica Daily Press

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll Have:
★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ A lot might be weighing on you. Sometimes you take your responsibilities too seriously. Could this be the case now? Change plans to make yourself more comfortable. Your family and home come first. When you finally lighten up, you are nearly kidlike. Tonight: Let the wild person in you out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Nap and make the day a lazy one if you want to. You will be in fifth gear by the evening — unstoppable. Decide what you would like to do and head straight for that desire. Your charisma peaks as the sun sets. Tonight: As you like.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You might feel inordinately pressured by a child or a creative project. Even a loved one might be touchy. Know that you can only control yourself, and give others space. Get into a fun project or game. Tonight: Chill out. Not every Saturday night has to be exciting.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Make the most of the daytime. Friends might want you to join them. Why not? Whatever you decide to do naturally works, if you don't get too uptight about money. Decide to slow down by the afternoon. Tonight: Where is that special person? Why not invite him or her to join you?

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Handle personal matters that might be weighing you down right now. In fact, despite someone's pressure, you manage to do what is important to you. Put on your dancing shoes and enjoy a loved one late this afternoon. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You need to respond to the moment. Someone needs you. You are uniquely capable of handling the responsibility in question. Your visibility could draw someone much closer. If you are single, you might have a secret admirer. Tonight: Your time to party.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might be overwhelmed by calls, visits and invitations. Choose what would please you the most, but clear out an important responsibility first. You're happy to have fun company. Tonight: Light and easy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ If you have the notion to take off early, you are right-on. Decide on an adventure or day trip you have wanted to do but haven't yet. Turn off your cell phone and give yourself up to escape and relaxation. Tonight: No matter where you are, others notice you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might want to handle certain money matters during the daytime. Maybe it is time to spruce up your wardrobe or buy a special new item. You enjoy being out and about. Make plans to meet a friend or pals later this afternoon. Tonight: Don't be surprised if you visit until the wee hours.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Someone clearly needs and wants your time. You might need to excuse yourself for a few hours because you have important paperwork or a project to complete. Don't allow this person to feel left out. Tonight: Out where there is good music.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ During the daylight hours you are high-energy. Obstacles just need to be jumped over. Don't let anyone stop you from doing what you need or want to do. Postpone a purchase until later this afternoon. You need to indulge yourself. Tonight: Splurge and have a good time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Clearly others want you, and you are going to be busy. Even if in a crowd shopping, others seem to naturally chat with you. Make special plans with a person you really care about late this afternoon or tonight. Tonight: Quality attention.

Santa Monica Daily Press

AUDIT PENDING

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Master Mexican and Latin American dance

By Daily Press staff

Here's your chance to be a master in Mexican and Latin dance. The Santa Monica College Dance Department will present Susan Cashion, renowned Stanford University senior lecturer in dance, who will teach at a master class in Mexican and Latin American dance forms. The free master class, open to the public, will be at 11:15 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 3 in Gym 102, located at SMC's main campus, 1900 Pico Blvd. Cashion received her doctorate in education from Stanford, a master's in anthropology from Stanford, and a bachelor's in dance from UCLA. She has taught dance and dance anthropology courses at Stanford since 1972. She has been the recipient of two prestigious Fulbright Scholar grants, as well as an American Association of University Women fellowship. In addition, she has received recognition for contributions to Mexican culture and folklore in the U.S. Cashion is co-founder and artistic director of Grupo Folklórico Los Lupeños of San Jose and has been active in such organizations as the California Dance Educators Association and the Congress on Research in Dance. The master class is sponsored by the SMC Associates, a private organization that funds speakers and special programs at the college. For information, call (310) 434-4856.

Get back in the swing of things with new study

By Daily Press staff

If you live with back pain, a cure might be on its way. The Spine Institute at St. John's Health Center will be the site of a major research study to test the use of a new synthetic biomaterial to treat vertebral compression fractures (VCF), a common condition that causes severe back pain for thousands of people every year. In the new study, surgeons will assess the ability of CORTOSS® Synthetic Cortical Bone Void Filler to provide both pain relief and improvement in function to VCF patients by restoring strength and stability to fractured vertebra. The Spine Institute is seeking patients with pain caused by vertebral compression fractures to participate in the study. Patients enrolled in the study will be randomized to have low volumes of CORTOSS or polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA, the material used for vertebroplasty, today) injected percutaneously through the skin and directly into the fractured vertebra to stabilize and restore load-bearing capability. CORTOSS is a high-strength, biocompatible self-setting composite specifically engineered to mimic the characteristics of the human body's weight-bearing structural bone. To be eligible for this study, patients must be over 18 and have been living with localized pain caused by a compression fracture for a period of time between six and 52 weeks. To find out more about the study, call 1-866-876-9871.

St. Joe's moves to temporary facility

By Daily Press staff

St. Joseph Center, a social service organization helping impoverished and homeless individuals and families, welcomed 60 supporters to an open house at its temporary 400 West Pico Blvd. site on October 19. The event introduced supporters to St. Joseph Center's 7,500-square-foot interim site, which will house the center's administration, family center and food pantry program, and senior services for approximately 18 months while St. Joseph Center constructs a new main service building at its permanent 204 Hampton Dr. location.

CORRECTION — In the Oct. 27 edition, there was an error in the story regarding Meals on Wheels West. The office space the AME church offered Meals on Wheels needs \$45,000 in tenant repairs.

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SURF REPORT

On Saturday, a minor burst of southern hemi ground swell is due, nothing major, just waist- to possibly chest-high on the better set waves. NW swell is looking to be around waist-high or so. On Sunday there will be more SW swell in the waist- to chest-high range. NW drops off to knee, plus high. Note that offshore winds may get a bit stiff on Sunday in wind prone areas.

Today the
water is:

64°

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	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	1:39	0.8	2:12	1.2	8:04	5.1	8:04	4.6
SUNDAY	1:01	1.0	1:44	0.7	7:21	5.5	7:42	4.6
MONDAY	1:24	1.2	2:17	0.3	7:40	5.8	8:21	4.4
TUESDAY	1:47	1.5	2:52	-0.1	8:02	6.0	9:02	4.3
WEDNESDAY	2:11	1.8	3:30	-0.3	8:27	6.2	9:47	4.0

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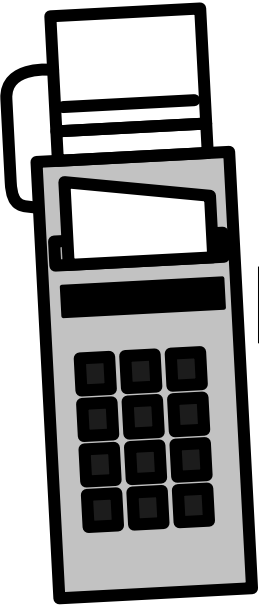
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CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE
RESPONSES ON PAGES 4-5.

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OPINION



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SEEING NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT IT

This past week, Q-line asked:
"Do you see a need for a special election?"
 Here are your responses:

☉ "All the special elections in the world isn't going to change much. The lack of caring and integrity in our political system, local and nationwide, goes on and on and this is the bottom line no matter how many special elections we have."

☉ "I do not think we need a special election because it just costs us a lot of money and this so-called governor who should be impeached, I think we should have a petition up to impeach him because he's no good. Personally, he doesn't even know what he's doing. Also, I already voted absentee ballot and I voted 'no' on every proposition. No, no, and no because I can't see anything going his way. As I said before, I don't think he knows what he's doing."

☉ "In my opinion the basis for the special election is that Governor Arnold 'The Terminator' Schwarzenegger does not want civil servants who are in the business of protecting lives to be rewarded with the high wages in the manor of motion picture actors. Is the prerequisite for a civil servant to earn high wages determined by the civil servant having the capability of inarticulately mumbling 'I'll be back?' Not likely. A civil servant's wages are earned by being on time and often putting their lives on the line to get the job done. Five star General Douglas MacArthur, a civil servant, only was making \$1,000 a month when he promised he would return to the Philippine Islands with his highly articulate statement to the Philippine people, 'I shall return.' And he did keep his promise. On the other hand, Terminator Schwarzenegger made millions with his inarticulate 'I'll be back.' He has not kept his pre-election promises. He only likes to kick butt."

☉ "Of course not. But since we are stuck with it there should be one more item on the ballot. Recall the person who forced this unnecessary election, Arnold Schwarzenegger. Hopefully, the over-

whelming 'no' vote will relay that message."

☉ "This election is a waste of time and money. Because any time some proposition passes the sore losers go to court to overturn it and in effect telling the voters, 'to heck with you, your vote doesn't matter. We do what we want, not what you want.' It's a waste of money because nobody pays attention to these ads. The only purpose of this election that would be good would be voting some of these idiots out of office such as Schwarzenegger, all of the Legislature, Congress, and that moron in the White House, Bush. He's the one that should be voted out of office."

☉ "Yes, I'm in favor of a recall election. I think we need a recall election to recall some of the problematic City Council members like Ken Genser, McKeown, and Bloom due to their inability to deal with the transient problems and traffic problems in this city and they want to further jam up the city with over development and not heed direction from the residents. I would recommend a recall election to recall everyone except Shriver."

☉ "No. I don't see any need for a special election other than if we are going to get rid of Schwarzenegger, which we shouldn't have got in there anyway."

☉ "All my family has been union members for years — my mother for 48 years and when she died she had death pension benefits and the union did not give her any death pension benefits, they gave it to candidates for running for governor. We had no say in that, never once. I've been a member of the teachers' union and I am supportive of unions but never once were we ever asked who to vote for. They just select the candidates and there are people that are on both sides, both Republican and Democrat. So anyway, the union has taken everyone's

See Q-LINE, page 5

Diss-robed: Justices don't have all answers



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

The Senate Judiciary Committee has said that Harriet Miers' answers to their questionnaire were "incomplete," "unsatisfactory," "elliptical," and just plain "incorrect." Through a leak from a source I can't name, I received a copy of what is purported to be her questionnaire. I will never reveal this source unless I'm threatened with jail or if anyone yells at me. I don't know if this document is really legitimate, but I feel it's my duty to share it with you. Perhaps you, the public, should decide if it's truly a copy of the actual questionnaire.

NAME: Harriet _____

Q: Considering your relationship with the president, under what circumstances would you recuse yourself from cases involving the administration?

A: Don't mean to be picky, but I think you made a spelling mistake. There's no such word as "recuse." You obviously meant, "accuse."

Q: As a woman on the court, would you feel a special responsibility to deal with women's issues, or do you feel that it would be your duty to concentrate equally on issues that affect everyone?

A: That is an excellent question — the kind of question I like to roll up my sleeves and take a bite out of. I am both a person and a woman, and while I do feel a certain kinship to others of my gender, I also feel I'm part of the great human family. I also consider myself a "lady," and I don't really think it would be ladylike of me to go into any more details about this issue.

Q: What are your feelings about the separation of church and state?

A: I have always felt that government should stay out of religion.

Q: At what age were you admitted to the bar?

A: 21, but I'm not much of a drinker.

Q: Even though it's not specifically stated in the Constitution, do you think it

guarantees everyone the "right of privacy?"

A: I'd love to answer that question, but to do so would invade my privacy.

Q: Without violating attorney-client privileges, was there anything that you learned from President Bush that would make it inappropriate for you to be a Justice?

A: President Bush is the smartest and coolest man I've ever met.

Q: Because of your lack of judicial experience, we'd like to know, is there any judge whom you admire and whom you might model yourself after?

A: I like Judge Judy.

Q: In what way do you think you would positively contribute to the makeup of the Supreme Court?

A: I look good in black. But not as good as Laura, of course.

Q: Are there any words of wisdom that inspire you?

A: "Don't Mess With Texas."

Q: What quality would you bring to the bench that other judges might lack?

A: Well, I'm very nonjudgmental.

Q: Since Roe Vs. Wade was decided by the Supreme Court, would you say that issue has been dealt with and therefore should remain the law of the land?

A: Another typo or spelling mistake. It's Karl Rove, not Roe.

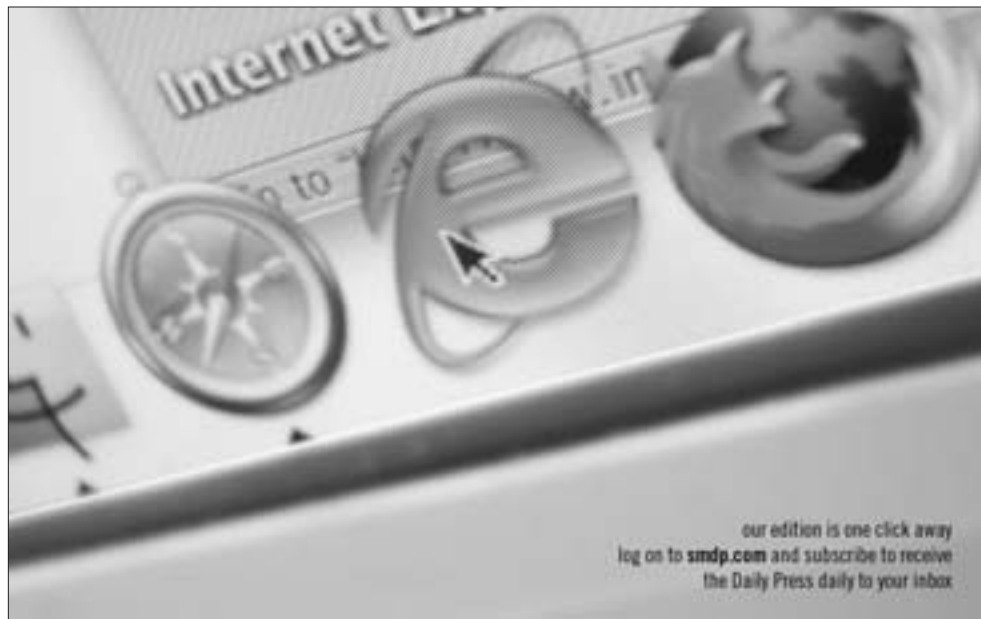
Q: Would you call yourself a "strict constructionist?"

A: No, I'm an Evangelical.

Q: Are there things you still want to accomplish in your life that serving on the Supreme Court might prevent you from doing?

A: I'll just do them after I finish on the Supreme Court. It's not like it's for life.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He also has read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's opinion page and a weekly column for SportsLine.com. He can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.)



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OPINION



The QLine

Q-LINE, from page 4

death pension benefits, including veteran workers who worked as grocery checkers at the local 770 the united retail clerks union who were working a long time and then they were drafted. One fellow was killed and the store had to take up a collection because they wouldn't give him his death pension benefits, they had already given them to a candidate of their choice to run for political office and it's just not fair. It really isn't fair when a person works 48 years, pays their dues, and dies and doesn't even have enough money to carry their burial expenses which is in the contract that they give them this money, but you can't get it from local 770 the united retail clerks union which is the largest retail clerks union in the state and my mother was the one that helped to start that. You can't get anything. They tell you who to vote for, they tell you where your money goes. The membership should at least have an opportunity to express who they want the money to go to if they want to have a consensus of an entire vote. But it just isn't fair to do that to people, to take your pension money, to take your death pension money, and to give it to candidates. Lt. Gov. Cruz got \$3 million from local 770 and after it was discovered he apologized but he never returned it. He was to run for governor. And that was all union money, the local 770 and the workers work their butts off and they should have a say in where their membership money goes."

② "As a long-term Republican voter I think if Arnold Schwarzenegger had done things properly we wouldn't have the need for the special election, which is just costing people a lot of time and money. And I am a true Republican but then I like to do what is right."

③ "We need this special election. I am a Democrat and I'm going to vote and I voted for Arnold Schwarzenegger. I'm going to vote for all the propositions with the exception of 73, I'm voting against that. Especially the one about the accountability of the teachers. I think a lot of the radical leftists made much of the colleges into brainwashing politically correct center. Also the unions are dinosaurs, especially the current unions and they need to be held accountable too. People should not have to put money in when they don't agree with them and that's how I feel about that. Also, the Legislature is not doing its job so I'm going to support the one about the judges. I'd rather it be somebody other than the judges but that's how I feel."

④ "I'm not much for special elections. Why can't they get it right the first time? However, here in Santa Monica, a special election is long over due to oust this current city administration. All of them, with all of their blatant failures like the homeless programs, overbuilding, horrific traffic and

parking problems and the very dangerous health threatening design to fluoridate our water. Wonder what kind of kickback they are getting on this little horror."

⑤ "No, we definitely did not need a special election. But I will show up to it since we are paying for it through the nose. And it's just an arrogant act on the part of Governor Schwarzenegger to snap his fingers. Anyway, we will turn out and we will vote no on all his initiatives. What a waste."

⑥ "Yes, California is a train wreck that has already happened — 30 years of tax and spend liberalism has helped destroy this state. At least Bush got half of it right. We have few leaders in this state. Mr. Schwarzenegger makes a stand for fiscal responsibility and for people to be accountable and progressives around California get nosebleeds as if the altitude that these ideas represent was damaging to the liberal spending sensitivities. What happened to us? We have become fat and lazy. Look at our children. Many things are just given to us. We lack the stamina to make tough decisions. Where's the generation that struggled through the depression? Where are the people that stormed the beaches at Normandy and rid the world of the evil of fascism? The new evil is socialism. It lets someone else pay, it lets you have everything now. Our new leaders are stupid hip-hop rappers, sports idiots, and moronic actresses telling us to love everything. They are not correct role models. We need to live within our means. A good leader provides an environment which lets people rise to the level of their own competence."

⑦ "There is a need for the special election. The previous tandem in power in Sacramento — Gray Davis and Cruz Bustamante — were awful. They absolutely destroyed the state financially. Now we have a knight coming, charging forward with a game plan to cap spending and to pay as we go. In other words, if we don't have the money, we don't spend it. And this will be a breath of fresh air for all Californians. Go Arnold."

⑧ "We do not need this special election but we have it so please do not sit it out. Those who want to give Arnold more power and give people more restrictions will show up at the polls. So those of us who want to restrict an ego-driven, power grabber better show up as well."

⑨ "We need a special election to remove the governor from office. By the way, I think we could use a special election here in Santa Monica to remove the majority of the council members who do what they want and don't listen to what the residents want."

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Beef-eaters be proud, but work for rewards

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT!

BY THADDEUS REICHLEY

I discovered the recipe for the perfect burger. The ingredients are pretty simple but the prep time is substantial so you might want to save this one for a long weekend. This is also a recipe that will only appeal to a select palate, so you probably won't be serving it at your next family reunion.

First of all, you are going to need to get up early so that you can get started and make use of maximum daylight hours. You will probably want to be up by 6 a.m. at the latest so you can get a good breakfast to last you through the day. Once you get involved in this one you might find it hard to eat much, and you will need the energy to carry you through.

After a hearty breakfast, you will need to make sure that you have all of the appropriate equipment. You are probably going to want something with full suspension to save some of the wear and tear on your body. It can be done without it, but it is not always successful. You are also going to need some basic ingredients that I have listed below:

- 2 spare inner tubes with a patch kit and pump
- 1 nutritional bar per 2 hours (or roughly 6)
- half a dozen gel shots
- 2 large water bottles, or a camel back (full)
- electrolyte tablets
- duct tape
- comfortable shorts
- 100 miles of mountain bike trails
- 7 of your dumbest friends
- 1 can of Pringles (this is key!)

Once you have all of your ingredients gathered you want to get started by 7 a.m. at the latest. I know it seems early to start making preparations for a burger, but you will be glad that you did. When everyone is ready and has all of their ingredients in order you can roll out. Your instinct will be to let the excitement take over and rush into it, but if you want to end up with the perfect burger, you need to be patient. Otherwise you risk ruining the whole thing. I have seen many burgers burn up because people tried to rush it.

Along with being patient, you will need to take breaks throughout the process. This can be a fine balance because you want to have enough time to rest and keep the group together, but you also need to

keep things moving so that you can be finished by dinner. It is best to set break points along the way and try not to stop in between.

Depending on the terrain you choose to cover, and the speed of your crew, you should find yourself at the halfway point after about five hours of steady work. If you are much beyond this, you might want to seriously consider holding off until another day. Some people take several tries before they ever get the burger just right, and some never get it at all.

When you are at the halfway point you will be tired. In fact, you might be near exhaustion. Your body will be achy, you will probably be feeling weak, and your butt will definitely be really sore. This is the time when you really need to think about how bad you want that burger, and what you are willing to sacrifice to get it. You might need the support of your crew at this point to remind you how close you are. The most important thing at this point is to stay together. There is power in numbers, and this is definitely a case where there is no such thing as "too many cooks."

Through the last few hours you are bound to run into some mechanical problems with your equipment, and possibly your body. Utilize your ingredients list to deal with these as best you can, realizing that sometimes not even duct tape can help.

With a little luck and a lot of sweat you should find yourself sometime after hour 10 near your local watering hole with most of your crew still intact. At this point, you are almost done. After piling up your bikes in front of the chosen establishment, gather around a table and get as comfortable as your tired bodies will allow. Don't bother changing, the dirt and sweat add to the experience.

At this point, find the biggest burger on the menu and order enough for everyone. Make sure to get fries on the side and a few pitchers of beer to wash it all down. When the food arrives, I promise it will be the best burger you have ever eaten. As you eat, enjoy the memories of a hard day's work, swap stories with your crew, and start thinking of how you are going to make your next burger.

(Thaddeus Reichley is an endurance junkie living and working in Santa Monica. This recipe comes from his latest adventure into the Santa Monica Mountains, and could never have been completed without the efforts of several other local mountain bikers and burger enthusiasts. Send comments to thadsthoughts@yahoo.com.)

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Human trafficking poses elusive problem

BY DAVID CRARY

AP National Writer

LOS ANGELES — Florencia Molina's personal hellhole was a dressmaking shop on the outskirts of Los Angeles. She worked there up to 17 hours a day, seven days a week, and lived there, too, without the option of showering or washing her clothes.

Other victims of American-style human trafficking have had very different venues for ordeals as bad or worse — brothels and bars in New Jersey, slave-labor farms in Florida, a small-town tree-cutting business owned by a New Hampshire couple.

Trafficking is a stubborn problem and a staggering one worldwide, affecting an estimated 600,000 to 800,000 victims a year. Federal officials say 14,500 to 17,500 of them are trafficked to the United States, where the myriad forms of modern-day slavery present an elusive target for those trying to eradicate it.

Victims have come from at least 50 countries in almost every part of the world, and are trafficked to virtually every state — to clandestine factories, restaurants, massage parlors, even private homes where women and girls are kept in servitude.

"Human trafficking is so hidden you don't know who you're fighting — the victims are so scared, they're not going to tell you what's happening to them," said Given Kachepa, a former victim of a scam which exploited Zambian orphans touring the United States in a boys' choir.

Aligned against the traffickers is an array of federal, state and local government agencies, teamed up with an odd coalition of private groups that include Christian conservatives and left-of-center immigrant-rights advocates. The result is perhaps the most far-reaching anti-trafficking campaign of any nation, yet some victim-support groups question its effectiveness.

They contend that federal criteria offering assistance to victims only if they help prosecute their traffickers deters some people from seeking help. Others say the government has placed too much emphasis on sex trafficking and too little on workplace abuses at sweatshops and farms.

"We see sex cases being prioritized (by federal prosecutors), but other cases we're having a hard time getting looked at," said Elissa Steglich, an attorney for the Chicago-based Midwest Immigrant and Human Rights Center. "Whatever type of slavery you're dealing with, they're horrors all the same."

Molina was the beneficiary of one case in which the anti-trafficking campaign worked as intended. Her helpers — as she escaped from the dress shop, learned English and gained legal U.S. residence — included the FBI and the Los Angeles-based Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking, which provides victims with shelter, legal aid and other services.

Now a cashier at a discount store, Molina was enticed to California by a woman back home in Mexico's Puebla state who promised a job and free housing.

"I came to the United States with lots of dreams, but when I got here, my dreams were stolen," said Molina, 33, who left three children behind in Mexico. On Jan. 1, 2002, she worked her first

shift at the dressmaker's, sewing roughly 200 party dresses over 12 hours.

Later, the shifts stretched to 17 hours. Molina was locked into the shop at night — sleeping in a small storage room. The shop manager confiscated her identify documents.

"For me, it was completely dark, without money, without English, no papers," Molina said. "The owner told me, 'You can try to do whatever you want. Dogs in this country have more rights than you.'"

After 40 days, Molina summoned up the nerve to flee, and soon encountered FBI agents who were investigating the dress shop. They sought her cooperation in prosecuting the owner, and Molina — after difficult deliberations — agreed to help.

"The owner had always told me I would pay the consequences — or my family in Mexico would suffer — if I went to the authorities," she said. "But I thought to myself, 'I don't want one more person to be in the situation I was in.'"

By cooperating, Molina received a T-visa, a status created by Congress in 2000 that allows trafficking victims who assist prosecutors to stay in the United States for three years and then apply for permanent residence. Molina's three children have received permission to join her in California.

Though Congress authorized up to 5,000 T-visas annually, less than 700 had been issued overall as of September. Some victim-support experts say the modest numbers result from overly strict criteria, notably the requirement that victims assist prosecutors.

"It can be a very difficult decision to come forward ... when a victim has every reason to believe a trafficker can make good on a threat against family members," said Steglich, the Chicago attorney.

Federal officials defend the rules as necessary to separate fraudulent claims from genuine ones and to put traffickers out of business.

"These traffickers are extraordinarily evil," said Bradley Schlozman, the acting assistant attorney general for civil rights. "If a victim doesn't come forward, that trafficker is going to turn around and exploit other individuals."

Wade Horn, assistant secretary for children and families with the Department of Health and Human Services, said reaching victims is a key goal of a new federal program. Regional task forces have been formed; a national hot line is being advertised in ethnic newspapers.

"The problem is the traffickers are very good at controlling their victims," Horn said. "Getting the message directly to the victims is difficult."

Some people are abducted by criminals and brought to the United States, but many come willingly, swayed by promises of good jobs or marriage that prove false.

Maria Suarez went from Mexico to Los Angeles legally in 1976, a 16-year-old with sixth-grade education and no English. She was offered a housecleaning job at the home of a 68-year-old man who instead converted her into a virtual slave — threatening her if she told any one of the rapes and beatings that ensued.

In 1981, the man was killed by a neighbor; Suarez agreed to hide the weapon, was

See **TRAFFICKING**, page 8

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Many trafficking victims are still under age of 18

TRAFFICKING, from page 7

convicted of conspiracy to commit murder and sentenced to 25 years to life. Officials later confirmed Suarez's claim of being battered; she was paroled in 2003 and certified as a trafficking victim eligible for a T-visa.

Now 45, Suarez attends Pasadena City College, hoping to gain U.S. citizenship and become a social worker. She urges authorities to be understanding of sex-trafficking victims.

"It was a disgrace," she said. "How was I going to confront my family and tell them what was happening to me?"

Prior to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, no comprehensive federal law existed to prosecute traffickers. Since 2001, the Justice Department says it has prosecuted 277 traffickers and obtained convictions in every case.

Schlozman said the department is intent on combatting all types of trafficking, but estimated that 75 percent of the prosecutions involved sex trafficking. Some victims' advocates say the government stresses sex cases because they generate more news coverage or because they are a priority of conservative Christian groups loyal to the Bush administration.

"Christian evangelicals see this as an important mission — rescuing women from

sex trafficking," said New York University law professor Michael Wishnie. "There's a risk of distracting attention from much more common situations (in sweatshops) that many more people find themselves in."

Among the groups campaigning against slave labor is the Florida-based Coalition of Immokalee Workers. One of its leaders, Laura Germino, said the government could undermine trafficking by cracking down on all types of abusive workplace practices.

"You can't view trafficking in a vacuum," Germino said. "If you bring an end to sweatshops, you would curb trafficking."

An estimated 40 percent of trafficking victims are under 18; Given Kachepa was among them.

As an 11-year-old orphan in Zambia, he was recruited into a boys choir that toured the United States for 18 months. Promises of education and money proved false, and the boys — constantly threatened by their handlers — endured an arduous concert schedule until authorities finally intervened.

Kachepa was taken in by a Texas couple who became his guardians. Now 19, he obtained a T-visa and entered college in August.

"The most important thing is constant educating of people," he said. "There's help out there — but victims don't know it."

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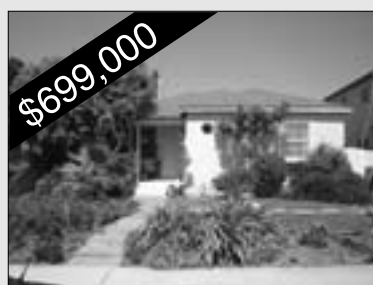
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Notice of Public Hearing

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

City Council meeting starts at 6:45 p.m.

Annual Review of the City's Coordinated Plan for Homeless Services

As required by Municipal Code Section 2.69.030, the City Council will hold a Public Hearing on the Annual Review of the City's Coordinated Plan for Homeless Services to gain public input on:

- the impact of the City's homeless population on other residents of the City;
- the effectiveness of the delivery of services to the homeless by the City and various social service agencies;
- the cost of those services; and
- the changes which should be made in the plan in order to carry out its primary goals and objectives.

Copies of the report will be available to the public on November 3, 2005. To obtain a copy of the report, please contact the Human Services Division, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401, at (310) 458-8701 or online at smgov.net. Written comments can be submitted to Gigi Decavalles-Hughes at the above address by noon on November 8, 2005 and will be presented to the City Council that evening, or you may present your comments in person at the City Council public hearing.

For more information, call (310) 458-8701, TTY (310) 458-8696; Fax (310) 458-3380; Email: human-services@santa-monica.org. City Hall and the Council Chambers are wheelchair accessible. If you have disability-related accommodation requests or language interpretation, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211; TTY (310) 458-8696 at least 3 days prior to the scheduled meeting. This flier is available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Blue Bus Lines #2, #3, and #8 serve City Hall. Limited parking.



STATE □ NATIONAL



House committee OKs splitting the 9th circuit

BY ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Two circuit courts serving the western United States would be better than one, according to the House Judiciary Committee, which voted 22-12 in favor of dividing the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

"The 9th circuit is too large, too cumbersome," Rep. Dan Lungren, R-Calif., a former California attorney general, said after Thursday's vote.

Opponents said the move was based partly on Republican opposition to some of the court's rulings, among them the 2002 opinion that declared the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional when recited in public schools.

"There are all kinds of bogus arguments about judicial efficiency," said Rep. Howard Berman, D-Calif. "It masks the real reason, which is the right wing doesn't like some of the 9th circuit's decisions."

The 9th Circuit covers nine states with about 54 million people, and has 28 judgeships. The circuit with the next-largest number of judges is the New Orleans-based 5th Circuit, with 17.

The legislation by Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., would create a 9th Circuit covering California, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands, and a new 12th Circuit covering Alaska,

Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Nevada and Arizona.

A bill making the same division has been introduced in the Senate by Sens. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, and John Ensign, R-Nev. It got a hearing Wednesday before a Senate Judiciary subcommittee.

Unlike the Senate bill, the House bill also would create dozens of new judgeships throughout the country, something with wide support in Congress. Democrats contended supporters were jeopardizing the new judgeships by attaching them to the controversial 9th circuit split that would be unlikely to make it through the Senate.

The GOP-led House passed a 9th circuit split measure last year, also adding it to a bill creating more judgeships, but it didn't get a Senate vote.

This time around, the House Judiciary Committee is trying to make the bill part of a budget-reduction package that would not be subject to Senate filibuster. Although the bill creates new costs by adding judges, in combination with another House Judiciary measure to raise fees on visas, it meets the committee's \$300 million spending-reduction goal.

Prospects for that move were uncertain. The Senate Judiciary Committee's budget-reduction bill does not include the 9th circuit and judgeship provisions, and the differences would have to be resolved.

Talks over Grand Canyon flights unlikely to bring resolution soon

BY ARTHUR H. ROTSTEIN

Associated Press Writer

Air tour operators, government officials and others who have long clashed over how many flights should be allowed over the Grand Canyon appear hopeful that new discussions can resolve their disputes without more lawsuits, but resolution is unlikely before 2008, said an Interior Department official.

That's more than 20 years after Congress ordered officials to substantially restore natural quiet over the canyon.

A working group including representatives from Grand Canyon National Park, the Federal Aviation Administration, tour operators, environmental organizations and the Hualapai, Navajo and Hopi tribes met Wednesday and Thursday in Tusayan, just outside the park.

"There's no outcome yet," said Paul Hoffman, Interior Department deputy assistant secretary for fish, wildlife and parks.

"This is going to be a long-term process. It's not one-two meetings and out pops a solution to the question of restoration of natural quiet."

The working group itself was developed through an agreement reached more than two years ago by various factions in hopes of complying with Congress' order and staying out of court.

The group has agreed to look at possible solutions and revisit, if necessary, previously made decisions about the amount of noise allowed and other issues, said Hoffman, who is not a member of the working group but whose department

oversees the national park.

Congress passed the National Parks Overflights Act in 1987, a year after a midair collision killed 25 tourists. The act requires that natural quiet be substantially restored to the park.

Congress didn't, however, define what decibel natural quiet would be or what "substantial" meant. That left others to decipher — and disagree — on a host of definitions that would help set standards for the number and way flights could be done over the popular landmark.

The number of flights allowed at the canyon has been capped, but air tour operators continue to contend they are too low. The cap is 90,260 per year; there were 83,000 flights over the canyon in 2003.

Still, Hoffman thinks the working group meetings may serve to finally resolve the fights because "both sides have sued and both sides have gone home and licked their sides after the process, and the fatigue factor has set in."

A call to the spokesman for the U.S. Air Tour Association, which has challenged overflight limitations and other rules, was not returned immediately Thursday.

All the parties have a common interest, Hoffman said — to enable everyone who comes to the Grand Canyon to experience the park without hurting the environment and without undue visitor conflict.

"We need to value the hiker's desire to have a quiet experience in the park, the river rafter's desire to have a certain type of experience in the park ... the visitor's experience who never touches the park, but sees it by air."



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LOCAL



Renters waited too long to make case

NO PAYBACK, from page 1

with then-landlord Mary Deckert didn't qualify them for reconstitution.

"This sounds so beyond a normal business arrangement," Rent Control Board chair Alan Toy told Rosenquist. "This

sounds like a corrupt sublease arrangement.

"The bottom line is, you were took, and you had to sit on it for seven years by people who, unfortunately, are not present to answer in this dispute."

In February of 1998, Biedul and

Rosenquist moved into the two-bedroom unit after the complex manager, George Elian, and his wife, Beth, moved out. The Elians were tenants at the property since 1979. After moving in, Rosenquist put the utilities in her name, and she and her husband believed they were the proper occupants of the unit, according to city records.

The couple agreed to pay the Elians \$728 in monthly rent. Then, at the beginning of 1999, the couple began paying the property owner directly at an increased rent of \$1,000 per month. The couple had no contact with Deckert until they began making checks payable to her at the increased rent rate in 1999, according to city records.

The couple had continued to pay the increased rent since 1999. Dana Menck, the current landlord, purchased the property in July of 2002. According to city records, Menck was in compliance with Rent Control Board regulations when he purchased the property. Therefore, he can't be held liable for any alleged excess rent paid to the prior owner.

After years of annual adjustments, the maximum rent for the unit is now \$1,157 per month. Biedul and Rosenquist contend they became leasees of the unit when they moved in. As such, they believed the increased rent they were required to pay a year after moving in was inappropriate.

Commissioner Jeffrey Sklar said that when the Elians moved out of the unit, it

"This sounds so beyond a normal business arrangement."

— ALAN TOY
Rent Control Board chair

may have benefited both them and Deckert. The Elians, long-term renters, may have been pocketing some of the \$728 monthly rent money that Rosenquist and Biedul paid during 1998, Sklar suggested.

At the same time, Deckert also may have benefited from the arrangement, Sklar said. Within a year of the Elians' move, the rent was brought up to market rate and Deckert received more income from the unit as a result.

Toy indicated that because the couple agreed to pay the higher rent starting in 1999, they were in fact subtenants who became the rightful tenants at that time.

Toy also said, had the couple believed they had been duped by terms of the arrangement, they would have fared better in the dispute had they presented their case to the Rent Control Board in 1999, when the rent increased to \$1,000 per month.

"The fact this happened more than six years ago is a long time to be going after your just desserts," Toy said.

Dressing the part



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Children line up to be judged during last year's Halloween costume contest at PALoween, a free event put on by the Santa Monica Police Department's Police Activities League. This year's fete is being staged on Monday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Barker Hanger at the Santa Monica Airport. Costume contest begins at 6 p.m.

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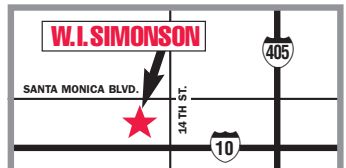
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LOCAL



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

ANOTHER BANNER YEAR: Loews workers prep the hotel on Friday for the throngs of American Film Market participants that will take over the entire hotel for the duration of the festival.

Film deal with city runs until '08

FILM MARKET, from page 1

Misti Kerns, president and CEO of the Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau. "We do everything we can to roll out the red carpet for visitors."

Loews Hotel, the headquarters of the AFM, has been transformed into a virtual office building, with all 342 rooms converted into offices for industry types to make deals. (See related story.)

A record 540 films are confirmed to screen at 31 different locations, including all the theaters in town, plus purpose-built digital screening rooms at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel and Le Merigot. In total, the theater screens will accommodate about 850 screenings.

A record 382 market premieres will be debuted, as well as a record 410 exhibitors taking part in the 2005 AFM, making it the largest market in the event's history. Exhibitors will come from 33 countries, also a record. The exhibitors represent a 15-percent increase from the 356 companies that exhibited at the November 2004 AFM, officials said. The increase is across-the-board, with 70 countries represented and 35 languages are featured in the films.

The AFM is the world's largest motion picture trade event, a global marketplace where more than \$500 million in motion picture and television production and distribution deals are closed annually. Each year, more than 7,000 industry professionals converge in Santa Monica for nine days of deal-making, screenings, seminars, networking and hospitality. Participants include leaders in motion picture and television production and distribution, directors, agents, writers, lawyers, bankers, festival directors, film commissioners and trade groups.

The market has come a long way since it came to Santa Monica in 1991. Then, between 275 and 300 films were shown. And AFM only used a few floors of Loews for offices.

"There is a lot more activity," said Jonathan Wolf, executive vice president of Independent Film & Television Alliance and managing director of AFM. He added that while the number of attendees has held steady at about 7,000, there are more films being distributed and more business is being done.

"Our trade show has not been that

volatile," Wolf said. "We are at about our target."

What makes Santa Monica appealing to AFM officials is that it's in a condensed area along the ocean, is able to accommodate 160,000 net square feet of exhibit space with two dozen movie theaters.

"You are able to walk everywhere within 15 minutes and that's important to our international visitors," Wolf said. "Santa Monica really offers us that mix and there aren't many places in Southern California that offer that."

Officials have noticed that over the years, more attendees have chosen to stay in Santa Monica, as well as shop and dine here. They're also staying longer.

"Our attendees rarely go east of Lincoln," Wolf said. "And it's over \$1 million in business for hotels."

AFM has contracted with the city of Santa Monica and Loews through 2008. While it's unknown whether the market will continue here, it's been a good fit thus far and the relationships continue to grow stronger, officials said.

"We are the perfect destination for it," Kerns said. "Could it go somewhere else? Eventually, sure it could, we hope it won't."

"People take for granted that the American Film Market will always come back," she added. "We worked hard to rebook that piece of business."

"I would say, please don't take this piece of business for granted because if one hotel decides it doesn't want to play ball, we would have a problem," Kerns added. "There are a certain number of rooms and if we don't meet that need, then we'll start losing out to the Marina. That is my job to make sure that doesn't happen."

Wolf said he's routinely courted by other communities to host the trade show, but so far nothing has been able to measure up to Santa Monica.

"I've seen a lot of red carpets, but none that I've wanted to walk down," he said.

Santa Monica's hospitality business jumped 20 points in occupancy and rates in November 2004 from the year prior, mostly due to the AFM, which a couple of years ago moved from holding the trade show in February to November.

"I think moving dates was extremely beneficial for us," Kerns said. "It was phenomenal last November and I really think we are going to be close to it again."



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Long haul: Hotel reconfigures itself for AFM

LOEWS, from page 1

ny hauling furniture in and, at the same time, a hotel moving out,” said Dave Romano, director of catering and conference management at Loews Santa Monica Hotel, who is overseeing the conversion. “It’s a like a well-orchestrated ballet.

“You have to stay with a schedule and stick to it,” Romano added. “Everybody is on each other’s heels.”

The former hotel rooms will serve as private screening rooms and a place where film executives can buy and sell movies not yet distributed.

“This is the place where people are given green lights,” Romano said. “They’ll create custom walls in the rooms and trick out the sets.

“It really becomes a tradeshow because you’re in a boutique hotel with beautiful surroundings to come sell your film.”

The movers began hauling out hotel beds earlier this week, starting with the second and third floors. The eighth and final floor was being cleaned out on Friday.

“We start progressing day by day,” said Romano, whose been in charge of the move for 10 years. “As soon as the guests check out, we start moving beds.”

When the film market ends on Nov. 9, Loews will go back into the hotel business.

“The hotel tries to get everything back together and we’ll try to get guests in by the 11th,” Romano said. “We’ve definitely got more efficient in how fast we convert it.”

Loews has been the headquarters for the



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Gerry Ruedia and Augustine Gonzales load a Loews Hotel couch onto a truck on Friday in order to make room for the American Film Market.

AFM since it arrived in Santa Monica in 1991, mostly because it has the most rooms of any hotel in town — 342. What’s more, the city doesn’t have a conference center. And while it might seem like a lot of work,

it’s worth it, Romano said, estimating that the AFM brings in more than \$1 million in revenue for Loews.

As the AFM has grown over the years, it has taken more space at the hotel. In the

beginning years, the market only used half of the floors.

“The length of stay is important to us,” Romano said. “It’s the whole package that makes it worthwhile for the hotel.”



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STATE BRIEFS

City enthused about lack of energy

By The Associated Press

PALM DESERT, Calif. — The city has embarked on an ambitious course: Cut energy use by 30 percent in five years.

The City Council voted 4-1 on Thursday night to participate in a groundbreaking demonstration project, partnering with Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Co. and the California Public Utilities Commission.

A new Office of Energy Management will be formed to analyze energy use by residents, businesses and city government and look at ways to conserve and use energy more efficiently.

Possibilities include “green” building codes that would ensure all new construction uses the most energy-efficient technology and set up community loan programs to allow homeowners to upgrade air conditioning systems, said Ted Flanigan of the nonprofit Energy Coalition, which is working with the city on the project.

“It’s a good start,” Councilman Robert Spiegel said. “We are telling Edison and the gas company we will support it if they will.”

City officials travel to San Francisco next week to ask the state Public Utilities Commission for about \$250,000 in seed money to set up the Office of Energy Management. Palm Desert will provide an equal amount.

Drunk driver gets 17 years for fatal accident

By The Associated Press

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, Calif. — A man was sentenced to 17 years in prison after pleading guilty to four counts of gross vehicular manslaughter and one count of leaving the scene of an accident in a drunken driving crash that killed four people.

Alberto Vallejos, 35, had a blood-alcohol level nearly twice the 0.08 legal limit when he rear-ended a Chevrolet Suburban carrying the victims near the Mountain Avenue freeway exit of Interstate 10 in Montclair.

The Suburban flipped and caught fire, killing Norma Ochoa, 11, Socorro Ochoa, 18, Ramona Ochoa, 20, and Maria Gabriela Ochoa, 22.

Francisco Ochoa, whose three sisters and young daughter died in the Sept. 4, 2004, crash, said the sentence — worked out as part of a plea deal — was too lenient.

“Four people died,” Ochoa said during Vallejos’ sentencing hearing Thursday. “He should have been given a life sentence.”

But Superior Court Judge Joan Borba had little choice but to sentence Vallejos under the plea bargain arrangement worked out with prosecutors. Deputy District Attorney Courtney Pilchman said the sentence was near the maximum he could have received if convicted at trial.

Daylight-savings back in April

CLOCKS, from page 1

The clocks change officially at 2 a.m. Sunday. Most people will make the change before going to bed Saturday night.

Daylight-saving time returns April 2.

The change does not affect Arizona, Hawaii or the portions of Indiana in the Eastern time zone, which do not observe daylight time. Congress has voted to change the dates for daylight-saving time, but that doesn’t take effect until 2007.

The Santa Monica Fire Department suggests that when you do set your clock back on Sunday, you also change the bat-

tery in your smoke detector.

Far too many communities across the United States experience the tragedy of home fire fatalities each year, said Walter Shirk, SMFD’s division chief of training.

Approximately 1,000 children under the age of 20 die annually in house fires — an average of nearly three children each day. A working smoke detector can dramatically reduce that number, Shirk added.

Although smoke alarms are present in 95 percent of American homes, 20 percent do not work due to worn or missing batteries, meaning nearly 19 million homes are at needless risk, Shirk said.

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Trick-or-Treating at Santa Monica Place Mall, Monday, October 31 from 4 to 7 p.m.
and PAL-loween! the Police Activities League's Carnival Barker Hanger, October 31, 5 to 9 p.m.

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NATIONAL

Libby indicted in CIA leak case on 5 counts, quits post as aide

BY JOHN SOLOMON
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The vice president's chief of staff, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby Jr., was indicted Friday on charges of obstruction of justice, perjury and making false statements in the CIA leak investigation, a politically charged case that could cast a harsh light on President Bush's push to war.

Libby, 55, resigned and left the White House. Karl Rove, Bush's closest adviser, escaped indictment Friday but remained under investigation, his legal status shadowing a White House already in trouble. The U.S. military death toll in Iraq exceeded 2,000 this week, and the president's approval ratings are at the lowest point since he took office in 2001.

Bush praised Libby's service and said he is "presumed innocent and entitled to due process."

Friday's charges stemmed from a two-year investigation by special counsel Patrick Fitzgerald into whether Rove, Libby or any other administration officials knowingly revealed the identity of CIA officer Valerie Plame or misled investigators about their involvement.

In the end, Fitzgerald accused Libby of a cover-up — lying about his conversations with reporters. He was not charged with outing a spy.

"Mr. Libby's story that he was at the tail end of a chain of phone calls, passing on from one reporter what he heard from another, was not true. It was false," the prosecutor said. "He was at the beginning of the chain of the phone calls, the first official to disclose this information outside the government to a reporter. And he lied about it afterward, under oath, repeatedly."

Libby's indictment is a political embarrassment for the president, paving the way for a possible trial renewing the focus on the administration's faulty rationale for going to war against Iraq — the erroneous assertion that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction.

It could also mean that Vice President Dick Cheney, who prizes secrecy, will be called upon as a witness to explain why the administration launched a campaign against Plame's husband, diplomat Joseph Wilson, a critic of the war who questioned Bush's assertion that Iraq had sought nuclear material.

The indictment said the vice president advised Libby that Wilson's wife worked at the CIA but the vice president was not the first administration official to tell him about it.

At a news conference, Fitzgerald said the inquiry was substantially complete, though he added ominously, "It's not over." He declined to comment about Rove's involvement. Asked about Cheney, he said: "I'm not making allegations about anyone not charged in the indictment."

The grand jury indictment charged Libby with one

count of obstruction of justice, two of perjury and two of making false statements. If convicted on all five, he could face as much as 30 years in prison and \$1.25 million in fines.

Democrats suggested the indictment was just the tip of the iceberg. Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said the case was "about how the Bush White House manufactured and manipulated intelligence in order to bolster its case for the war in Iraq and to discredit anyone who dared to challenge the president."

Cheney and several other officials were mentioned by title in the 22-page indictment, but no one besides Libby was charged.

Libby is considered Cheney's alter ego, a chief architect of the war with Iraq. A trial would give the public a rare glimpse into Cheney's influential role in the West Wing and his behind-the-scenes lobbying for war.

Bush ordered U.S. troops to war in March 2003, saying Saddam's weapons of mass destruction program posed a grave and immediate threat to the United States. No such weapons were found.

After the indictment was announced, Libby submitted his resignation to White House chief of staff Andy Card. It was accepted and Libby left the grounds. Card notified Bush.

Cheney issued a statement saying he had accepted Libby's resignation "with deep regret." He added that Libby was entitled to a presumption of innocence in the case and praised his longtime aide as "one of the most capable and talented individuals I have ever known."

Rove's lawyer said he was told by special prosecutor Fitzgerald's office that investigators would continue their probe into the aide's conduct.

The lack of an indictment against Rove was a mixed outcome for the administration. It keeps in place the president's top adviser, the architect of his political machine whose fingerprints can be found on virtually every policy that emerges from the White House.

But leaving Rove in legal jeopardy keeps Bush and his team working on problems like the Iraq war, a Supreme Court vacancy and slumping poll ratings beneath a dark cloud of uncertainty.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., said the indictment marked a "signifying a new low since Watergate in terms of openness and honesty in our government." Sen. John Kerry, who ran unsuccessfully against Bush last year, called the case "evidence of White House corruption at the very highest levels."

Hoping to contain the damage, Republicans distanced themselves from Libby. Several welcomed his resignation. Others said the legal system should run its course.

"It's time to stop the leaks and spin and turn Washington into one big recovery meeting where people say what they mean and mean what they say," said Rep. Jim Ramstad, R-Minn.

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NATIONAL



Bush pulls Supreme scramble as search for nominee continues

BY DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush, eager to put a bruising brawl within his own party behind him, is expected to announce his new pick for the Supreme Court within days.

Bush has offered no hint about his thinking on a new nominee, but he isn't starting from scratch. The president already has vetted and interviewed several candidates, and White House officials wouldn't rule out the possibility that an announcement could be made as early as Friday.

Bush said Miers, the White House counsel, was the most qualified candidate to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. But for three weeks, his fellow conservatives criticized the Texas lawyer and loyal Bush confidante for having thin credentials on constitutional law and no proven record as a judicial conservative.

That could point Bush back to a slate of federal appellate judges often mentioned as top contenders. That list includes Samuel Alito, J. Michael Luttig, J. Harvie Wilkinson, Alice Batchelder, Priscilla Owen and Karen Williams as well as Michigan Supreme Court Justice Maura Corrigan.

Miers' lack of judicial experience was not the key reason the president's supporters opposed her.

Bush had trumpeted his decision to pick someone outside the "judicial monastery" and boasted Miers would offer a "fresh approach" to the court. Instead, Miers' critics complained there was no clear record to suggest how she would interpret the Constitution — something that is expected to be more evident with his next nominee.

Bush might also turn to a current or past senator, such as Republican John Cornyn of Texas, because the Senate would be more likely to embrace one of its own.

Other prospective candidates who are not judges include Maureen Mahoney, a frequent litigator before the high court. She sometimes is referred to as the "female version" of John Roberts — Bush's choice for chief justice, who was confirmed by the Senate 78-22.

Still another is PepsiCo attorney Larry Thompson. Bush likes and trusts Thompson, who as deputy attorney general was the highest-ranking black law enforcement officer in Bush's first term. Thompson, however, might be tagged like Miers as someone beholden to the White House.

Bush, who leaves on a trip to Argentina, Brazil and Panama on Thursday, has said he'll make his next nomi-

nation in a "timely manner." Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist said he expected an announcement within days, with confirmation hearings perhaps before Christmas.

Brad Berenson, a former staff member of the White House counsel's office in the Bush administration, said he thinks the president is likely to return to a short list of candidates that both the left and right agree are the most qualified.

"My own view is that we probably will not get any of the individuals who are the very top of the Democrats' hit list," Berenson said. "I think he's going to try to repeat his experience with John Roberts — someone who can be confirmed without touching off battle royale."

The White House said it was not the firestorm of opposition from Bush's right flank, but the Senate's demand for documents covered by attorney-client and executive privileges that forced Miers' withdrawal. Both these reasons might make Bush wary of choosing Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, a longtime ally.

As with Miers, senators would seek documents Gonzales handled in his previous post as White House counsel, and the White House again would claim executive privilege to deny their release.

Nominating Gonzales also would re-ignite the very opposition Bush is trying to dampen on the Republican right, which doesn't think Gonzales is a reliable conservative vote on abortion and affirmative action.

Fearing that Bush's next pick will be a darling of the right, Ralph Neas, president of the liberal People For the American Way, urged Bush to resist calls for an ultra-conservative and pick someone with a mainstream legal philosophy.

"The president must not let the extreme right dictate his next choice, but instead choose a nominee who can bring us together and maintain a fair and independent balance on the Supreme Court," Neas said.

With his job approval rating the lowest of his presidency, Bush may feel it is necessary to appease his base, especially with the possibility that members of the White House staff may be indicted in the CIA leak investigation.

"They are clearing the decks," said Hamilton College government professor Philip Klinkner, who believes the White House would have trouble responding to indictments and defending Miers at the same time. "This means that the Miers withdrawal becomes a page two story, limiting its political damage. Finally, they can nominate someone who will rally their base, rather than divide it."

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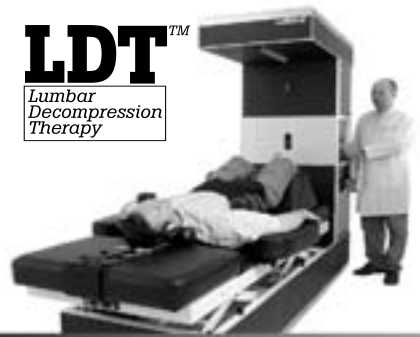


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NATIONAL

Filmmakers see Utah as wholesome Hollywood

BY DEBBIE HUMMEL

Associated Press Writer

OREM, Utah — After almost five years of making movies for Mormons, the group of filmmakers who were part of the genre's most prolific production studio are branching out with projects that leave the church jokes behind with the hopes of engaging a broader audience.

And they want to do it in their own backyard. Could Utah become a "Mollywood" of sorts — a family-focused, film-making Mecca that still caters to Molly Mormons, the nickname given to those who embrace the faith's clean-cut morality?

If filmmaker Richard Dutcher started it all with "God's Army," his 2000 film about missionaries for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Los Angeles, Dave Hunter and Kurt Hale perfected it. The two formed Halestorm Entertainment in 2001 and went

on to release a string of movies over the last four years, mostly comedies, aimed exclusively at a Mormon audience.

Members of the LDS church are discouraged from watching R-rated films.

Halestorm's films are made with small budgets that are easily reclaimed by screening in states such as Utah, Arizona and Idaho, where a significant number of the population belongs to the Mormon church. DVD sales of the movies are where they make their money, they said.

While Hale says the niche possibilities are endless — "there are three or four great stories on my desk right now ... a Mormon horror comedy, a Mormon musical" — Hunter and Hale are ready to develop a broader, commercial base and maybe turn Utah into a wholesome Hollywood along the way.

Their company has gotten the attention of motion picture industry insiders by shooting films for \$400,000 to \$500,000 and making double or triple that back. But that seems to be the ceiling.

The company also has been an incubator for other filmmakers, including Jared Hess, who had a breakaway hit in "Napoleon Dynamite" last year.

"We're done engaging the Mormon audience," Hunter said. Added Hale: "There's just not enough Mormons."

Early next year, Halestorm plans to move into a \$5 million production studio with 46,000 square feet of space that will house all of its offices, production and distribution, as well as two large sound stages.

"We'll be able to do a film from beginning to end in the studio," Hunter said.

They hope the studio, combined with Utah's unique geography, will draw one big outside production each year. Within an hour of the studio, a crew could be filming on desolate salt flats, sand dunes, mountains or dense forests, and just a three-hour drive away is Utah's red rock country.

While Halestorm will remain true to its family-friendly ethic, it won't monitor what other film producers want to do.

"To have a censor board to read scripts and approve productions that would not only be damaging to us, it would be damaging to the state of Utah," Hunter said.

Marketing to the Mormon niche has boomed recently, providing the devout with ample entertainment focused on their faith, including "The Work and the Glory" trilogy bankrolled in part by Utah Jazz owner Larry Miller. Its second installment had a nationwide release last weekend.

A sampling of plots from Halestorm movies include a romantic comedy set in a singles' congregation of the church, the trials and tribulations of a young man back from his two-year proselytizing mission and a spoof about a fictional Mormon boy band.

Halestorm begins its foray into the mainstream with the upcoming release "Church Ball," a farce about how viciously competitive Mormon church basketball leagues can be. It has a more recognizable cast, including Fred Willard and Gary Coleman, and the religious denomination of the church players is obscured.

Halestorm deserves a lot of credit for finding and developing a niche market, said Jason E. Squire, an instructor of cinema practice at the University of Southern California's School of Cinema-Television.

He said such films as "Napoleon Dynamite" and "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" are examples of how to break out of that niche while trying to maintain a certain ethic.

"It doesn't matter what kind of movie it is. What matters is capturing the audience's imagination," he said.

Other filmmakers who have ties to Halestorm, and like Hale and Hunter were in the film program at church-owned Brigham Young University, have gone on to their own successes outside of strictly Mormon plot lines.

Hess's "Napoleon Dynamite" charmed audiences and garnered a multimillion-dollar deal at the 2004 Sundance Film festival.

"He pitched us on it," Hale said. "We thought it was the worst thing we'd ever heard."

The character-driven comedy was inspired by Hess's hometown of Preston, Idaho, a 5,000-population berg just north of the Utah line. Though none of the characters was obviously Mormon, locals recognize the film's Mormon country feel and Napoleon's familiar inoffensive style of cussing.

Ryan Little was a director of photography for many of the Halestorm movies and struck out on his own to direct "Saints and Soldiers" in 2003. The film about a band of World War II soldiers during the Battle of the Bulge had some critical success, including awards at some small film festivals and being nominated for an Independent Spirit award.

One of the movie's characters is a member of the LDS church who served a mission in Germany before the war. The character, though important to some of the film's themes, blends into the larger plot — making it a movie that appealed to Mormon and non-Mormon audiences alike, Little said.

"If you were Mormon you would pick up on the LDS themes," Little said, but as they screened the movie at film festivals around the country "it was really kind of eye opening that you could make a film that could do both," he said.

The movie was embraced as a film by a Mormon filmmaker and as a war movie so true to its genre it initially received an R rating. A few cuts were made and the film was released as PG-13.

Little wants to make movies that he believes in morally and ethically, but he doesn't think that means exclusively Mormon material. He's currently filming an adventure film called "The Outlaw Trail." The movie follows a young boy who has inherited a belt buckle that belonged to Butch Cassidy.

His goals are to make movies families can enjoy together and help build the film community in the state, he said.

While Utah has lured filmmakers to its scenic vistas since the days of the spaghetti western, it's never fully capitalized on its proximity to Los Angeles, less than two hours away by plane.

Utah lawmakers are considering increasing incentives to entice more production companies.

Mormon-genre films have made their mark on the Utah Film Commission's revenues, bringing in \$500,000 in 2001 and more than \$2 million last year, said commission director Aaron Syrett. But that's still a fraction of the more than \$60 million the commission sees annually from filming in the state.

Mark DeCarlo, the host of the Travel Channel's "Taste of America" program and the star of Halestorm's current release "Mobsters and Mormons," said he enjoyed working in Utah and was charmed by the "good, honest people" he met on the set. But to lure more productions, local filmmakers need to have a more Hollywood-like professionalism, he said.

"They use a lot of friends and favors," DeCarlo said. "In order for it to really compete with Hollywood you need a professional class of person both in front of and behind the scenes."

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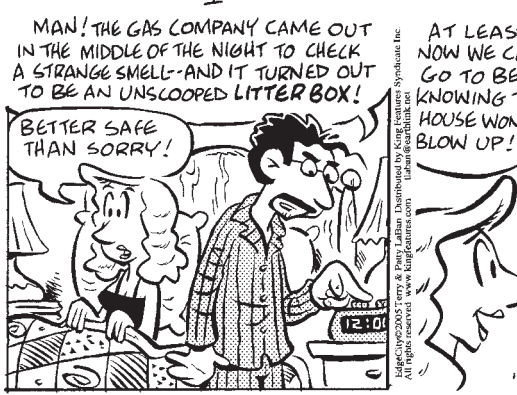
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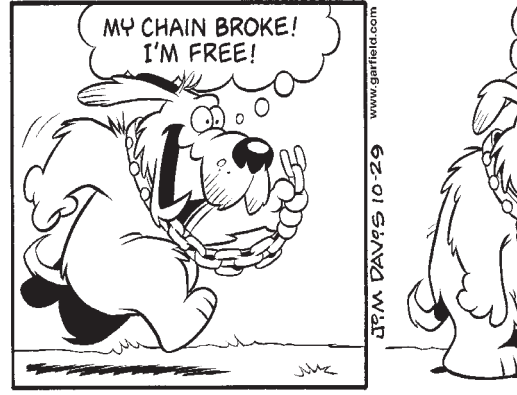
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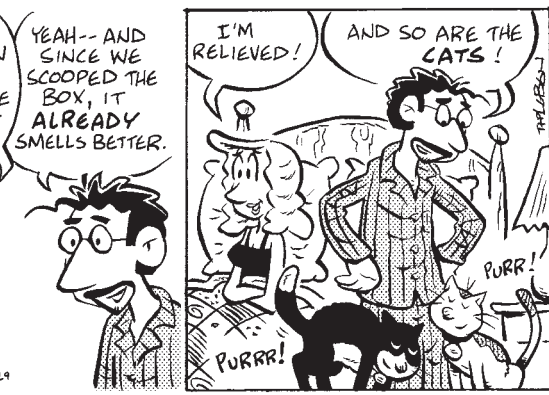
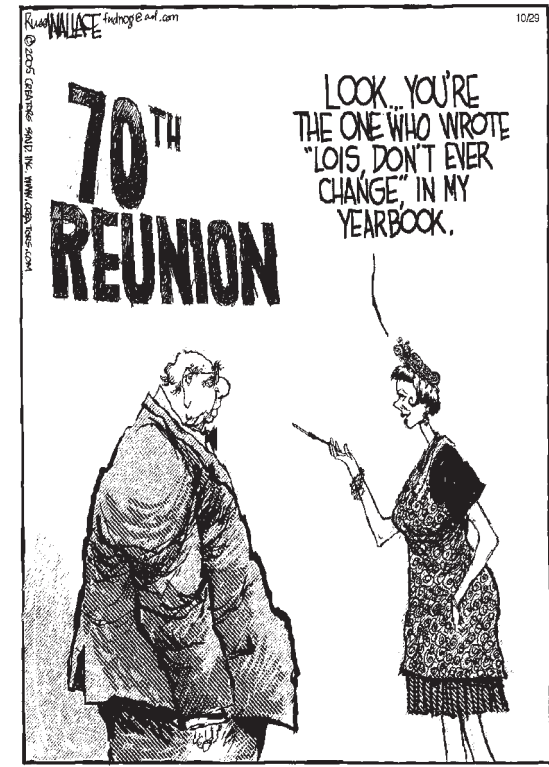


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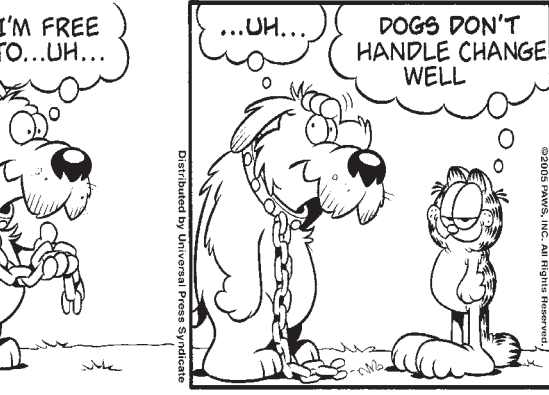


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Blvd., #D295, Los Angeles, CA 90025. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Larry Tollin Enterprises, LLC, CALIFORNIA, 11704 Wilshire Blvd., #D295, Los Angeles, CA 90025 This Business is being conducted by, a limited liability. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)4/28/2005. /s/ Larry Tollin Enterprises, LLC, Member, Larry Tollin
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 9/8/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 10/8/2005, 10/15/2005, 10/22/2005, 10/29/2005

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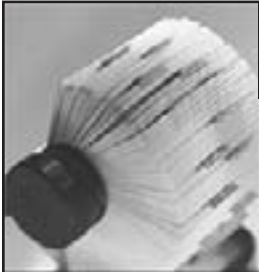


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