



FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

October 30-31, 2004

A newspaper with issues

Volume 3, Issue 302

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

10 14 30 38 42
Meganumber: 42
Jackpot: \$21 Million

FANTASY 5

18 22 31 33 35

DAILY 3

Daytime: 0 0 6
Evening: 1 4 9

DAILY DERBY

1st: 02 Lucky Charms
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms

RACE TIME: 1:42.01

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

University of Queensland (Australia) researchers told an entomology conference in August, after doing DNA "fingerprinting" of Nepalese and Inner Mongolian lice, that their team had disproved the apparently important general belief that body lice and head lice are separate species. And in September, Edward Cussler and Brian Gettelfinger, writing for a chemical engineering journal, showed that people swam no faster in water than in a substance twice as thick (after experiments in a pool to which "guar gum" had been added to the water to create something that, said Cussler, "looked like snot").

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing."

REDD FOX
US COMEDIAN (1922 - 1991)

INDEX

Horoscopes

Opt for difference, Libra 2

Local

LA fails beach report card 3

Surf Report

Water Temperature: 66° 3

Opinion

Feinstein gets punked 6

State

Seal Beach needs a motto 12

National

FBI investigates Halliburton 16

International

Osama's statement 21

Comics/Crossword

The Dinette Set 23

Classifieds

Raising the bar 24

Service Directory

Happy maids 27

People in the News

The dame gets naked 28

Buggin' out



Susan Tam/Special to the Daily Press

CREEPY CRAWLY: Suphatra 'Eid' Kortrakul, 49, dishes up water bugs and fried crickets Friday as part of her annual Halloween menu at Typhoon restaurant, served at the Santa Monica Airport. Daring customers this weekend also will feast on pork blood, Conger Pike mouth and throat soup, and white sea worms. Kortrakul, who is from Bangkok, Thailand, credits her father for teaching her how to prepare the dishes.

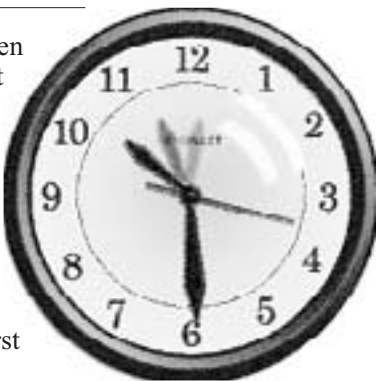
Time to fall back

By Associated Press

Autumn is in the air, Halloween ghosts are preparing to stalk and that means its time to set the clocks back.

The clocks change officially at 2 a.m. Sunday, but most will do it before going to bed Saturday night. That shifts an hour of light from evening to morning just in time for the tiny ghosts and goblins who go trick-or-treating Sunday night.

Daylight-saving time returns the first Sunday in April.



State upgrades marks for local schools

Minorities, disadvantaged students lead surge

By Daily Press staff

DISTRICT HDQTRS. — Local schools have dramatically improved their marks, according to state results released Friday.

Superintendent John Deasy said the Academic Performance Index growth results released by the Department of Education increased in each of the local school district's major subgroups, with marked improvements among Hispanics and among students impacted by poverty.

The results "clearly indicate that we are achieving our mission with respect to closing the achievement gap while achieving excellence for all students," Deasy said in a prepared statement. "The results are dramatic."

According to the "No Child Left Behind" legislation, the State of California calculates API for schools, school districts and up to eight "statistically significant" demographic groups within the schools and school districts.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District population contains five statistically significant

See **SCHOOLS**, page 5

Voters 'Propped' up for Nov. 2

But wading through the ballot jargon may be confusing

BY KATHLEEN BISHOP

Special to the Daily Press

While voters sift through the jargon and decide what to trust on this year's lengthy ballot, the debate continues as to whether the initiative process is democracy at its finest — or most flawed.

California has 16 ballot measures this election, more than any other state. An estimated \$200 million dollars has been spent on campaigning for and against the initiatives this year, with the two Indian gaming measures alone accounting for nearly half of that. Conflicting information and warring sides can leave voters at a loss as to what to believe.

Bob Stern, president of the Center for Governmental Studies, a non-profit, non-partisan organization that promotes community involvement in politics, said many resources are available to help voters clarify ballot language and propaganda. Serious voters can

See **DEBATE**, page 4

Giving all the Props their due

By Daily Press staff

Voters this November will face a relatively complicated ballot that includes a laundry list of propositions with ramifications in California and throughout the country. Here is a brief breakdown of each proposition:

Proposition 59:

This measure will provide the right of public access to meetings of government bodies and writings of government officials, and future statutes and rules that limit access must be justified. The measure would preserve constitutional rights of privacy, due process and equal protection.

Those for the proposition say all three branches of gov-

See **PROPS**, page 4

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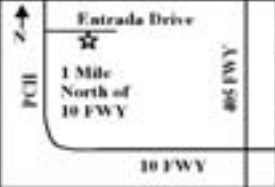
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★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult





ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Your perspective changes because of a conversation with a friend or key significant other. You realize your role in recent events. Clear the air. Visit with neighbors, call friends and make plans for a late lunch with a buddy. Tonight: You don't have to go far.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You might be shocked by what a friend does, or what the friendship could cost you. Be wise when handling your funds. Talk with someone who understands you and often is quite insightful and nurturing. Tonight: Your treat.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You cannot help yourself. You have a glitter in your eyes and a way of walking that attracts others. Add your wit and playfulness, and no one will want to say "no" to you. Do only what you love today, and you'll beam from ear to ear. Tonight: Love the one you are with.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ You might enjoy a day off at home. Refuse to pressure yourself. Get into a project only if you want to. Allow yourself to not answer the phone or the door. Make this a lazy day in your favorite spot — your home. Tonight: Play it low-key.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You cannot help but express your jovial mood and share it with others. Friends and loved ones find your happy disposition contagious. You meet people while just catching up with old friends. Make plans to watch a football game. Tonight: You are the party.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Stop in and check on an older relative you care about. You also might want to go shopping for some new outfits for a party or for work. You want to spruce yourself up and reflect the real you. Tonight: A force on the scene.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Your mind wants to wander. Why not allow your body to follow? Hop in the car and explore the fall foliage or meet a friend halfway. You make friends wherever you go. You renew your perspective because of new scenery. Tonight: Opt for something different.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ A partner wants your attention and lets you know it in no uncertain terms. Make plans to do something together that you both love. Do not invite someone else along. Get a baby sitter if need be. Share and let intimacy resurge. Tonight: Keep up the same theme. Be a duo.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Others seek you out. The more the merrier right now. Hook up with friends and introduce them to other friends. In fact, if you're not going to a party, throw one. Your happy, gregarious nature needs an outlet. Tonight: Be sensitive to those around you, even if you are painting the town red!



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Plan on an easy day at home clearing out a project. Unfortunately, some Goats will opt to go in to the office and clear out some left-over work. Do what feels good, but don't stress yourself out. Take a brisk walk with a friend or relative. Tonight: Rent a movie.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You couldn't be more desirable if you tried. You don't need to act one way or another. Just be yourself. Someone quite different could pop into your life. Go roller-blading or participate in an activity you love. Tonight: Flirt the night away.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Stay close to home. Invite your best friend or a loved one over to watch a movie and simply catch up on news. Choose someone you can really be yourself with and with whom you can relax. Closeness grows and bonds the two of you. Tonight: Do what feels comfortable.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LA fails on beach report card

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica-based nonprofit organization Heal the Bay this week released the “Beach Report Card — 2004 Summer in Review,” which provides a recap of water quality testing from Memorial Day 2004 through Labor Day 2004. This summer’s report card is based on dry weather testing of bacteria in the water, and now monitors 436 locations from Oregon to the Mexico border.

This summer, 382 out of 436 locations (88 percent) across California were rated very good-to-excellent (A or B), a slight decrease from the 397 beaches out of 448 monitored in 2003 (89 percent) that received A or B grades last summer.

Some of the worst beaches this summer were Cabrillo Beach (harborside at the lifeguard tower in San Pedro) and Avalon Beach (between the Pier and Busy Bee Restaurant in Catalina) in Los Angeles County; Campbell Cove State Park Beach in Sonoma County; Stillwater Cove (at the Beach and Tennis Club) in Monterey County; Baker Beach (at Lobos Creek) in San Francisco County; Pillar Point Harbor (at the end of Westpoint Avenue) in San Mateo County; Dana Point Harbor (Baby Beach), Poche Beach, and Newport Bay (at 38th Street Beach) in Orange County; and Pacific Beach (at Pacific Beach Point, downcoast of Linda Way) and Mission Bay (at the Visitor’s Center, a projection of Clairemont Drive) in San Diego County.

More details, as well as the full grades, are available online at www.healthebay.org.

“This summer, Los Angeles County had the worst water quality in Southern California while San Diego, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties all had excellent water quality,” said Mark Gold, executive director of Heal the Bay. “Heal the Bay is working to clean up some of California’s most polluted beaches, and if Los Angeles City Proposition O passes on November 2, the City of Los Angeles will have the means to better address our chronic pollution problems.”

Heal the Bay, founded in 1985, is dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and California coastal waters safe and healthy again for people and marine life. Heal the Bay is one of the largest nonprofit environmental organizations in Los Angeles County, with more than 10,000 members. The organization focuses on education, outreach, research and advocacy to achieve its goals.

Excellence is plane to see in Corsair staff

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College’s Corsair newspaper won a record 35 awards, including general excellence and two first-place honors, in the Journalism Association of Community Colleges’ Southern California competition.

The awards reflect achievements of the staff under spring semester editor Marie-Claude Hamel — one of just two students statewide to win a \$750 Los Angeles Times scholarship — and current editor Komfort Akyempon. The faculty advisor is Barbara Baird.

In the on-the-spot competition (from the current Corsair staff), first-place honors went to Margaret Molloy for feature photo. Second- and third-place awards and honorable mentions went to Hamel, Molloy, Deborah Carson, Andi Liu, Andrei Lucien, Jonpaul Balak, Jonathan Derby, Maliha Jafri, Sophia Silver, Alex Arpiza and Marcia Brito.

In the mail-in category (from the spring semester staff), Blair Clarkson won a first-place award for news story. Second- and third-place awards and honorable mentions went to Lucien, Molloy, Clarkson, Hamel, Marie Jauffret, Raul Vasquez, Matthew B. Wilken, Josh Hill, Mark Sandstrom, Nicholas Chen, Morgan Genser, Christoph Seitz, Devon Fleury, Julian Jenkins, Jesus Aguirre, Rachel Hadlock-Piltz, Jhosef Hern and the Corsair staff (for inside page design).

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CHECK OUT THE COMICS ON PAGE 20!

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SURF REPORT

Look for mostly NW wind swell on Saturday morning. Northern LA beaches are generally below waist high, with a few waist high sets at best breaks. South Bay spots get ankle to waist high waves off the wind while top spots are a bit more consistent on the waist high waves. New SW swell starts to fill in at the better exposed breaks by the afternoon with sets to chest high+ range by sundown at the good Northern LA breaks, but looks best on Sunday. Light winds Saturday morning turn 8-12kts by the afternoon.

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	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SA	4:06	2.2	5:40	0.0	10:23	5.9	N/A	N/A
SU	3:25	2.6	5:25	0.3	12:11	3.6	9:49	5.7
M	3:38	2.9	6:20	0.5	12:19	3.3	10:19	5.3
TU	N/A	N/A	7:32	0.8	10:54	5.0	N/A	N/A
W	N/A	N/A	8:51	0.8	11:47	4.6	N/A	N/A
TH	8:13	3.7	9:57	0.8	6:05	3.8	1:26	4.2
F	10:26	3.4	10:44	0.7	5:47	4.0	3:15	4.1

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RESPONSES ON PAGE 6.



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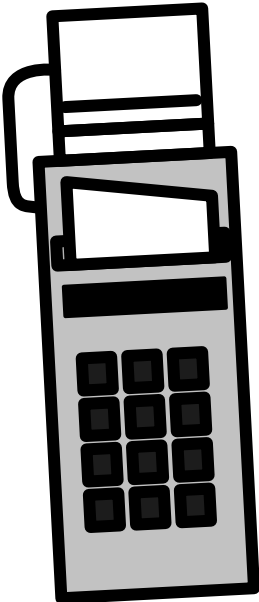


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LOCAL

Heavy Nov. 2 ballot likely to confuse most voters

DEBATE, from page 1

delve into the 165-page official ballot pamphlet. Stern also suggests voters gauge where they stand by finding out which politicians and other state leaders support the individual measures.

John Matsusaka, president of the Initiative and Referendum Institute, agreed.

“Find an interest group or a politician who you share the same values with and see what they are saying,” Matsusaka said. “These measures are very technical. They are difficult, and the arguments can be deceptive. You need somebody who you trust to tell you what they think.”

Some of the initiatives are values based, like those on health care or stem-cell research, but others can be harder to judge. The bombardment of information and advertising rarely ease the deciphering process.

David Stern, 49, who has no relation to Bob Stern, works in Santa Monica and lives in Los Angeles. He said he thinks the initiative process is good overall, but added it’s easy to get confused. Even thought he relies on official information, David Stern said advertisements still affect him.

“I was surprised to see (Gov. Arnold) Schwarzenegger put out ads that oppose both Indian gaming measures,” he said. “I was thinking you would support one and oppose the other. That’s one of the rea-

sons I have to go back and think about it again.”

Matsusaka said to be wary of television advertisements.

“Those ads are the low point in advertising,” he said. “They have no information in them, and they are tremendously deceptive.”

While the ballot measures can be overwhelming, initiative proponents claim their presence actually increases voter turnout, despite the frustration many ballot casters experience in trying to understand the causes. Bob Stern feels the presidential election, coupled with the important local races and the opportunity to forge important laws will help mobilize voters this year.

“California voters have an incredible opportunity to make very important policy,” he said. “It is one of the most important ballot-measure ballots I’ve seen in a long, long time.

“Thirteen of the 16 (measures) are really significant. Voters are going to have the opportunity to set policy in very important areas.”

According to Matsusaka, critics of the initiative process — journalists and the elite — contend the process has strayed from its original intention since individuals and groups with money have more resources to gather signatures and get support.

Neil Majors, 26, also works in Santa

Monica and is undecided on whether the initiative process is trustworthy. He suspects the large amounts of money involved can influence an unwitting public.

“They use issues like education and crime, that people are concerned about, to push their agenda, but it’s all private interest,” he said.

Many critics also argue that lawmaking should be left up to a more knowledgeable legislature.

“People who can’t push their agendas in the legislature can just go around it,” said Majors. “It’s a lot easier to sway the people than to sway the legislature, where there are rules and actual discussions.”

Matsusaka isn’t so sure. He questions the legislature’s superiority.

“We don’t want to put the legislature on too high of a pedestal,” he said. “They sent Schwarzenegger more than 1,200 bills in the last year. They surely did not read all those bills and he surely will not read them before he decides to sign them. They will ask advisers and experts what they think and compare it to their principles and make a decision.

“The voters will do the same thing.”

While some think the public is getting duped by big money, the Public Policy Institute of California asked about 2,000 Californians about the initiative process in August 2004, and the majority responded they were satisfied with it and thought it

was a good thing. Six in 10 of the respondents thought the public policy decisions made by voters were probably better than those made by legislators, while one in four thought legislators probably made better choices.

Adopted in California in 1911, the initial intention of the initiative process was to wrangle power away from the railroads and dirty politicians and put it back in the hands of the people.

Today, initiatives qualify for the ballot in California if enough people sign a petition within 150 days. Petitions for statutory initiatives, which introduce or change an existing law, need 5 percent of the number of votes cast to qualify for the ballot. Constitutional initiatives, which amend the state constitution, require 8 percent.

Despite disagreement on the merits of the process, few would argue against the weight the measures carry in voters’ minds. Less people voted for governor in 1978 than voted on Proposition 13, which stabilized property taxes, and many say 1994’s Proposition 187 mobilized Hispanic voters like never before. Prop 187 proposed to send illegal immigrants home.

With the high stakes involved in this year’s measures, Matsusaka urged voters to be thorough.

“Unless you’re an expert, you might miss something.”

Hundreds of millions of dollars at stake in Props

PROPS, from page 1

ernment at the state and local levels should be as forthcoming as possible with the public that provides its funding, power and trust. It would ensure officials’ accountability. Those against it say the public must have access to information, but question whether Proposition 59 goes far enough in guaranteeing that access.

Yes vote: Gives Californians a constitutional right of access to government information. A government entity would face a greater burden in justifying the classification of information.

No vote: Means access to government information would continue to be governed by existing laws.

Cost: There are potential minor annual and local government costs incurred in order to make additional information available to the public (such as hiring staff to retrieve documents; however, entities may charge for photocopying the documents).

Proposition 60:

This proposition ensures that each political party that participates in the primary election for partisan office also has the right to compete in the general election for that office. In other words, the candidates that win their party’s nomination in the primary election cannot be denied placement on the general election ballot, no matter what party they represent. This is exactly how the current primary system in California works.

Context: Two elections are held in California to elect candidates to partisan public offices. The primary election (in March) is when each party votes on a candidate to represent their party in the general election (in November). Only party members can vote for their candidate. For example, a registered Democrat cannot

help choose the Republican nominee during the primaries for the general election in the fall. In addition, the current California system allows all parties which participate in the primaries to advance their top vote-getting candidate to the general election.

Those for Prop 60 said it was placed on the ballot as a direct opposition to Prop 62, which would change California’s current primary system to allow people to vote for the nominee of another party. Those against said that it does not go far enough to protect California from Prop 62.

Yes vote: Any political party which participates in the primary election would have the right to place its nominee on the general election ballot.

No vote: The current law would remain in effect.

Cost: Since Prop 60 would require no changes to existing law, there would be no fiscal effect.

Proposition 60A:

This proposition dictates that the all proceeds from the sale of surplus state property go to repay the Proposition 57 bond debt approved in March 2004. Once the bond is repaid, then surplus property proceeds would go into the General Fund.

Presently, when the state sells off surplus property, the profits go into the General Fund for use on any state program.

Those for say it will at least reduce the cost of the bonds from Prop 57. Those against Prop 60A want the proposition to require the sale of surplus property rather than just directing where the profits should go.

Yes vote: Proceeds from surplus property sales would go to paying off the Prop

57 bond debt.

No vote: Proceeds would continue to go into the general fund.

Cost: Since interest payments would be reduced, savings could be in the low tens of millions of dollars.

Proposition 61:

Prop 61 would authorize the state to borrow \$750 million through the sale of general obligation bonds, to be repaid from the General Fund, for grants to eligible children’s hospitals for renovation, remodeling and equipment.

Eighty percent of the money would go to nonprofit hospitals, and the other 20 percent would go to the University of California children’s hospitals. The hospitals would have to apply in writing for the funds. The California Health Facilities Financing Authority (CHFFA) would develop and process applications and award grants within 60 days.

Awards would be granted based on whether they would help expand health care access to children eligible for government health care programs or who are uninsured or under-served; whether they would improve child health care outcomes; and whether the prospective hospital would promote pediatric teaching and research programs.

Those for Prop 61 insist the bonds would not raise taxes. Those against worry that California is already overstretched with the last bond measure from Prop 57, and that it does not address the problem of health care coverage.

Yes vote: State could issue \$750 million in bonds.

No vote: State could not issue new bonds.

Cost: Would depend on the repayment duration and interest rate of the bonds.

Assuming a 5.25 percent over 30 years, the cost would be about \$1.5 billion to repay the principle and the interest, or about \$50 million per year. Administrative costs are projected to be minor.

Proposition 62:

This proposition would create an “opened” primary system by allowing voters of one party to help choose the nominee of another party for any state or federal office, except the presidency or party committee.

Context: As explained above in Prop 60, California has a “closed” primary system which means that voters of one party cannot vote for candidates for another party during primary elections. For every primary election, a ballot is prepared for each political party. Voters receive a ballot for the party for which they are registered. Those with no party affiliation receive ballots with only nonpartisan offices and propositions.

In 1996 California approved Prop 198 which allowed for “blanket” primaries where voters could vote for any candidate and all parties participating in the primaries could send their top vote-getter to the general election. That proposition was ruled unconstitutional in 2000.

There are two main differences with Prop 62; only the top two vote-getters out of all candidates and parties, advance to the general election; and there is an exemption for the office of President and for political party committees.

Yes vote: Beginning in the 2006 primary election, voters can vote for any candidate, regardless of party and only the top two vote-getters of all candidates will be eligible for the general election.

LOCAL

Superintendent pledges continued growth in local school district

SCHOOLS, from page 1

cant demographic groups: African American, Asian, Hispanic/Latino, White (non-Hispanic) and socio-economically disadvantaged.

The state does not calculate a separate API score for special education and English learner populations.

'ENVY OF THE NATION'

Growth elsewhere was less robust than in Santa Monica and Malibu. Whereas the state's high schools only met 47 percent of their API growth targets, and the state's middle schools only met 55 percent of their goals, the four comprehensive secondary schools in SMMUSD met 89 percent of their API growth targets. And while state elementary schools only met 46 percent of their API growth targets, SMMUSD's elementary schools met 76 percent of theirs.

In citing these results, Deasy hailed the performance of the district's schools.

"What this says to us is that not only are our schools already performing at high levels, they continue to push forward and to grow," he said. "We are so proud of the schools of Santa Monica and Malibu, which are truly model schools, and in fact are the envy of other districts in nation."

Deasy also referenced achievements among socio-economically disadvantaged students around the district. Nine of the 14 tested schools have statistically significant socio-economically disadvantaged groups, and six of them experienced gains of 20 points or more.

"This is an incredible achievement and it is testament to the extraordinary work of a tremendous cadre of teachers and staff who do not believe that the limitations of wealth have anything to do with a student's capacity to be successful and to learn," said Deasy, who also hailed the achievements of African-American and Latino students around the district.

HIGH ACHIEVERS

At Santa Monica High School, the African American API score rose 22 points, from 570 to 592, and the Hispanic/Latino API rose 44 points from 565 to 609. At John Adams, the API for African American students rose 18 points, from 635 to 653, and the API for Hispanic/Latino students rose 44 points, from 640 to 684.

"We are proud of our significant gain in our API scores," Samohi principal Ilene Straus said. "It is a reflection of our focus on teaching and learning as well as an increased accountability for students and teachers. The growth in our subgroup scores validates the hard work of the Samohi staff and student body. We are continuing to focus on standards-based instruction, common course expectations and accountability for quality work in our classrooms."

Jose Escarce, chairman of the local

school board and a professor of medicine, echoed Straus's comments and added the increases are across the district.

"It's tremendously gratifying to see the hard work and dedication of our teachers, administrators and staff pay off," Escarce said. "Raising achievement for all students while closing the achievement gap' are not just words in our mission statement, we're actually beginning to get it done. Now we need to stay the course and redouble our efforts."

THE ELEMENTARY ELEMENT

Growth also was widespread at the elementary level. The API scores for socio-economically disadvantaged students increased by 10 or more points in four of the five elementary schools with a statistically significant population. And five elementary schools now have subgroups scoring in the 900s, at the very top of the API continuum.

Al Friedenberg, principal of Grant Elementary School, saw his API score for Hispanic/Latino students increase 26 points, from 734 to 760, and his API score for SES students increase 36 points, from 703 to 739.

"Each demographic group at Grant has experienced a significant increase in its achievement rates over the last five years, and to me it confirms that we have an incredibly talented staff and a very supportive parent community," he said. "Being such a diverse school, we have been able to meet the academic needs of our students while performing at an exceptionally high level. Our focus is intense. Our teachers care. We have found a way to teach creatively while emphasizing the standards set forth by the state. Numbers don't always tell the entire story, but continuous improvement validates our commitment to our kids."

Jerry Harris, principal of Roosevelt Elementary School, also mentioned the high caliber of instruction that pervades his school.

"At Roosevelt we have created an environment where each student feels respected and empowered," he said. "When given the tools and support, our students can take agency over their learning. The adults in the Roosevelt community have truly taken to heart and acted upon their responsibilities and their role in the success of each child. We believe that every child can learn."

Deasy added that despite the work that's been done, there is much more work still to be done in the local school district.

"We must now assiduously work to ensure that every student and every group shares in this tremendous success and we will not rest until that happens," he said. "We take a moment now to celebrate this milestone, and tomorrow we roll our sleeves up and continue to make dramatic gains. Our kids deserve nothing less."



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CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2!



OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Last-minute mailers slur Feinstein

Editor:

I write in hopes that Santa Monica voters will see this letter before they cast their ballot next Tuesday. It concerns a false, defamatory and legally actionable ‘hit’ mailer that is being sent anonymously to voters containing slanderous lies about my client, City Council candidate Michael Feinstein.

This mailer alleges that Mr. Feinstein had personal financial records “seized for a police investigation” and that “the District Attorney found he violated state law” in regards to a recent internal Green Party accounting dispute.

In fact, Mr. Feinstein made the desired documents available without being asked. Indeed after a thorough investigation of the matter, the district attorney declined to pursue any charges against Michael as there was no evidence of any wrongdoing. And, contrary to this mailer’s scurrilous claims, my client has never deposited any campaign funds in a personal bank account and always has been in complete compliance with all federal, state and local campaign finance, election and tax laws and regulations.

Who would stoop so low to spread slanderous dirt? We don’t know — they won’t identify themselves. Could it be big developers who find Michael’s leadership in securing parks and open space a threat to their aggressive building schemes? Is it one of many groups who are out to punish Mr. Feinstein for having been an open-minded, independent councilmember who put a common sense test to their special interest agenda?

Don’t be fooled by this low-brow, demeaning political attack. If you don’t vote for my client please make sure it is because you have studied what he does stand for and disagree with it — not because he is being victimized by powers that won’t even crawl out from under the rock they operate under.

Of course, when they do my client will see them in court ... and we encourage you to show them where you stand — at the ballot box.

Sharon Gilpin
Santa Monica

An unpleasant surprise

(Editor’s note: This letter was originally addressed to the 14 candidates running for City Council.)

Editor:

A homeless person with a bloody stool defecated on my property today in the alleyway.

What do you each of you intend to do about that!

Dee Quinn
Santa Monica

Dismayed by SMDP

Editor:

As you probably know, the Santa Monica Daily Press is my favorite newspaper and I read it religiously every day.

I was very dismayed that the SMDP endorsed Bill Bauer (SMDP, Oct. 28, page 6). Are you aware that Bill Bauer and David Cole stole or paid for (obtained through a person who copied the chamber email lists from the chamber directory) the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce email list and badmouthed Matt Dinolfo and Herb Katz to the entire membership? He told outright lies about Dinolfo and Katz. Bill Bauer is a mean-spirited person and certainly not someone I would like to represent

See LETTERS, page 7

The Q Line

READERS SPLIT OVER THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

This past week, Q-line asked:

“Do you agree with the electoral college vote system? Why or why not?”

Here are your responses:

Ⓢ “Today, Americans all have access to Internet, all the information, they can all get the same information, so the electoral college is an anachronism. Even if Bush had won every vote in Florida that he’d claimed he did, he’d still lost the popular vote by over half a million people, so you’re telling those half a million people they don’t mean a dang thing. So it would be a wonderfully ironic if Kerry wins the electoral vote and Bush wins the popular vote. Only then would you see those hypocrite Republicans trying to abolish the electoral college system. As it is, we have a defective president, because we have a defective system.”

Ⓢ “I agree with the electoral college vote system. It was ingeniously designed by our country’s founders who were much wiser men than our current leaders today. To compel presidential candidates to consider the interests of each of our United States separately, rather than to cater to the preferences of a nation’s citizenry en masse. This device serves a similar, important function to that which accords each state regardless of population size, two senators in congress. We are the United States of America, not the United Voters of America, and our president is the President of the United States of America.”

Ⓢ “I do not agree with the electoral college vote system. It just serves the few who can’t obtain the majority of the votes from the American people. If this system had been terminated years ago, we would not be in the present mess. Bush, our mentally-retarded president, and Cheney, our foul-mouthed vice president, would still be checking their oil wells. All the oil in Iraq is not worth the life of one American soldier. And now we have lost over 1,000 soldiers because of these two fools. I was asked recently why I don’t watch the president on TV, for a different perspective. I told the gentleman, as the old saying goes, ‘You can watch a thief, but you can’t watch a liar,’ so I never watch either one of them.”

Ⓢ “Unfortunately, I have to agree with it. Because, if the electoral college vote system were abolished, and we went to a straight popular vote across the country, it would seem that the Democratic Party and particularly in California, would have the upper hand in national elections. For those who would be considered for the presidency of this country. By simply the plurality of the Democrats who are registered in California, the same thing could hold true in some other states that may be popular states, and it seems that the Republicans would never hold office again on a national level — the presidency, that is — if the electoral college vote system were abolished.”

Ⓢ “We should have gotten rid of the electoral college after the sad events in

the year 2000. I think it should be the popular vote, period. The people of this country are informed, and they know who they want to vote for. And I don’t know who these electoral college people are, I mean, it’s ridiculous. It should be popular vote, period.”

Ⓢ “In the presidential elections of 1824, 1876, 1888 and 2000, the candidates with the most votes were denied office due to the electoral college voting system. That doesn’t make sense if you believe in fair representative elections where one man, one vote, rules.”

Ⓢ “I do not agree with the electoral college vote system. My first point is, I don’t even think most Americans even understand the electoral college vote system. I think when it was first enacted by the founding fathers, it was due to a lack of education by the citizens of this country, I think since then we’ve come a long way, and I think most people are smart enough to understand what’s going on in our political system, so, it’s a system that should be abolished. And my final point is that I don’t agree that Bush will win the electoral college, I actually think it’s going to be the other way around, I think Bush will win the popular vote, and Kerry will win the electoral college and hopefully be the next president of the United States.”

Ⓢ “We should end the electoral college. Why? Because the electoral college was put in (during) a time when basically women and minorities could not vote, it’s a very dated, elitist procedure, Hillary Clinton agrees with it that it should (be abolished). I think she was working on something to get rid of it, one of the reasons we had the big problem in the 2000 election was because of the electoral college, and we had a person, Gore, who had half a million more votes than Bush, and he was not elected, it’s happened before in our past. And we would have a more democratic election if we did that, so I think that we should end the electoral college and the only reason we should have electoral college is if we ever had a tie vote, it could be a tie-breaker. But other than that we should do it strictly popular vote, rank voting.”

Ⓢ “The electoral college vote and the popular vote are much the same due to the largest states having both the majority of popular vote and electoral college vote. Still the small states’ electoral college votes are needed for the majority of 270 college votes. In the elections of 1876, 1888 and 2000, the candidate with the most popular vote did not win due to not carrying the states which they needed 270 college votes. The electoral college is a good system and gives each state, regardless of size, a say in the election.”

See Q-LINE, page 11

OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 6

the community of Santa Monica. Bauer's constant negativity is very discouraging especially when we need positive solutions.

You quote that Matt Dinolfo has been "conspicuously absent" during the past two years. In fact, Matt Dinolfo has been working hard during the past two years to improve funding for the school district. He has two children in public schools in Santa Monica and he and his wife, Melissa, are very active with these schools. I don't consider this "conspicuously absent." This work in addition to his promotion of health in the community of Santa Monica during the past two years certainly shows an ongoing commitment to the community. Coupled with the above and his drive to seek a seat on the City Council and maintain a very busy medical practice should certainly win him your endorsement.

Other than the above — keep up the good work? I look forward to reading your newspaper every morning.

Jean McNeil Wyner
Santa Monica

Homeowner 101

Editor:

Todd Flora is a seven-year renter-turned-homeowner, and unfortunately, it seems he's delusional either way (SMDP, Oct. 27, page 7). His commentary is a laughable piece of propaganda. Comparing the concerned residents in Santa Monica who have the courage to tell it like it is around here to the swift-boat veterans? Give me a break! His allegiance to his beloved local political party has obviously precluded him from seeing the facts objectively. By his reasoning, we should just accept the fact that Santa Monica has major problems, and do nothing to fix them, because other cities have problems too. A vote for the SMRR-endorsed candidates is a vote for business as usual here, a vote to change nothing.

Maybe Todd can't say what SMRR really is because he is a member of this group that is big on ideology but lacking any real life, common sense solutions. The residents of this city need to wake up and see SMRR for what it really is — a political machine that has, and will continue to, whore our city out for whatever money and political power they can gobble up. Saying that SMRR cares about the renters here is like saying President Bush cares about the environment. I think that S.M.R.R. needs to change it's acronym to S.M.B.R., to represent who they truly care about (Santa Monicans for Bum's rights).

As a lifelong resident of Santa Monica, I want this to be a city where I can take my kids to the park and not have to worry about getting accosted by a transient. A city where one can walk downtown without being overwhelmed by the smell of urine and human feces. A city where you can get a cup of coffee without being pan-handled. SMRR's "reliable record of accomplishment" has made none of these things possible. This is one of the many reasons I'm voting for anyone who is not remotely associated with this political brainchild of Denny Zane's that should have been aborted 25 years ago. This is why I'm voting for the independent thinkers running for city council: Cole, Bauer, Morea and Shriver.

Jeff Bender
Santa Monica

On optimism

Editor:

Excuse me. You didn't endorse Patricia Hoffman because she is an optimist? She is not interested in the quality of life issues that our community is interested in? Look at the facts! Affordable housing? She is on the Board of Directors of Community Corp., an organization that builds and maintains affordable housing for working people and their families and for the disabled and for senior citizens. The Promenade? She is vice-president of the Bayside District Corporation Board. They have the tough job of making sure that the downtown remains vibrant for the people of Santa Monica as well as our guests. Local education? She served on the Board of Education for eight years, was president twice, and continues to serve on the Intercultural Committee and the Financial Oversight Committee. Are affordable housing, the downtown area and the Promenade or the school system not concerned with the essence of quality of life issues? Or am I being cynical?

Have you not attended the many community forums this election season and heard her passionate and articulate comments regarding problems in our City and how she thinks they should be addressed, e.g., the homeless, traffic congestion and development issues? And finally, quality of life issues, including public safety, are also of primary concern in our all of our neighborhoods. She has worked effectively in this community both while on the School Board and since. The Santa Monica Police Officers Association has endorsed her along with education community leaders and too many residents and business owners to list.

She has earned these endorsements because she has been so effective. But she knows that there is much work ahead of her. And because of her success in the past, she knows that by serving on the City Council she can move this city and our neighborhoods in the directions they seek. It is sad that such a combination of accomplishments and outlook on life, not to mention her strength as a political woman, was the reason for your oversight, rather than your endorsement.

Jerry Manpearl
Santa Monica

See **LETTERS**, page 9

What a long, strange campaign it's been



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

I can't be the only person who feels this presidential campaign is the longest one in history. When it started, George W. Bush probably talked like the Eastern-establishment, Connecticut-born, Yale graduate that he is, while John Kerry was probably short with a round, boyish face.

But astoundingly, The Undecideds wish the campaign would go on even longer.

Apparently, they feel they haven't heard enough speeches, seen enough commercials, listened to enough lies to make up their minds about the candidates. How is this possible? I know more about these two guys than I do most of my cousins. What more do The Undecideds need to hear? What are they waiting for to help make up their minds? Do they think Kerry is finally going to say, "All right, I admit it. I've been all over the place on that issue?"

Do they think Bush is going to say, "We made a big mistake, but I'd like to try to fix it?" Forget it. These guys aren't going to say those things. Do they think the war is suddenly going to end tomorrow? Are they waiting to see if the Social Security problems will be solved in the next few days? Do they think the rest of the world's going to love us as they once did by the end of the weekend?

I have a different take on The Undecideds than most of the experts. I don't think they're going to have an effect on the election at all. That's because I don't think they'll be able to get it together enough to vote. If they haven't been able to make up their minds yet about this election, don't you have a feeling that they probably have a hard time making up their minds about everything else? How are they going to decide what to wear on Election Day? Will they choose what to have for breakfast by dinnertime? When Tuesday rolls around, do you honestly think they'll be capable of deciding what time they should vote? No, I have the feeling that they'll be stuck at home all day, deciding whether to open their front doors with their right hand or their left.

I hope I'm wrong. I hope they all vote. I hope everybody who's eligible votes. It seems especially important today when we're telling the world that our form of government isn't perfect, but it's the best thing out there. How can we say that if so many of us don't even participate in the process?

Obviously, you have the right to refrain from voting. But if you don't vote, all of your friends have the right to tell you to shut up every time you complain about anything during the next four years.

Maybe sometimes when you're watching a big game, a fight or a close election, you feel bad that somebody has to lose. I don't think you have to feel that way in this election.

My guess is that if Kerry loses, he'll probably be feeling something like this: "Obviously, I'm disappointed that I didn't prevail, but there's no dishonor in an honorable defeat. In some ways, I didn't really want to win, not if winning meant losing idealism or principles. But then again, winning might not mean that. On the other hand, it's quite possible that I may be able to better contribute to the nation — and receive more in return — by serving this great republic in some other way."

And if Bush loses, he'll never admit it, and he'll just keep going to the White House every day.

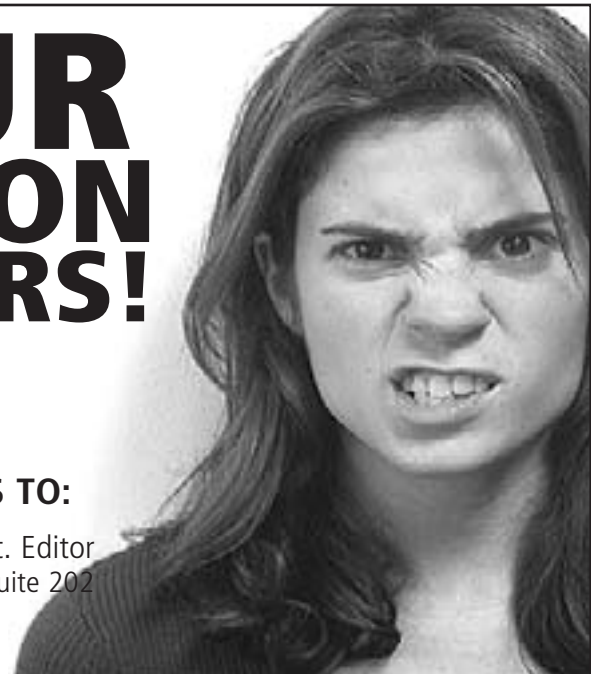
A FINAL PREDICTION — Beginning one week from today, we'll be talking about the disputed election, that big mistake the television networks are bound to make and the stupidity of the Electoral College.

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

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OPINION

GUEST COMMENTARY **BY SHANE MCLOUD**

This regime smells

(An open letter to the citizens of Santa Monica, from Shane McCloud, Santa Monica-Malibu school board member and public school teacher.)

Dear Santa Monicans:

As a public school teacher, I evaluate student performance every day. Grades indicate a student's level of knowledge, skill and improvement. Unfortunately, politicians aren't really graded by citizens. We vote for them every four years, but we usually walk away from the polls wishing we had better choices and desiring more accurate and balanced information on the candidates and issues to base our decisions. As the only elected official in Santa Monica who is a public school teacher, I'm offering this Candidate Report Card to help you decide who will best represent our interests in city government. My evaluation considers three criteria: ideas, experience and political courage. I hope you find it useful.

The grading process of the Candidate Report Card used the question: How effective were the incumbents in addressing ten quality of life challenges and problems in Santa Monica? For the challengers, how effective are their proposals, positions, and experience in addressing eleven quality of life challenges and problems in Santa Monica?

Issues include reducing homelessness and vagrancy; supporting public schools; reducing crime and gang violence, especially in the Pico neighborhood; offering hope and successful opportunities to at-risk youth through creating jobs, counseling, services, arts, sports, quality schooling and academic intervention opportunities; expanding parks and safe public spaces; improving traffic flow, resident parking and public transportation; simplifying and speeding up the planning and building permit process; supporting a balanced approach to low- and mid- income housing needs and rent control; having the political courage to stand up to the demands of the city employee unions and single issue/special interest groups; creating public policy that benefits all those who live, work and visit Santa Monica; and, for challengers only, experience and participation in solving community problems.

As far as I'm concerned, the most important criterion is political courage. Why? Because so many politicians have the skills to improve government, but they lose their courage when tough issues arise and think only of their own political survival. I call it Spinal-Absentitus. Their backbone disappears and they become more interested retaining support from special interest groups than doing what's best for all of us. I have seen this phenomenon in the LA school district as a teacher for the past eight years, and I see it throughout Santa Monica government as a Santa Monica-Malibu school board member.

Why should you give consideration to my evaluation? One, I am not beholden to any special interest groups other than students — the most important yet least politically powerful group in the city; two, I understand and represent the average citizen's interests and concerns;

GRADING THE CANDIDATES

Herb Katz: A-
 Matt Dinolfo: B+
 Bobby Shriver: B
 Bill Bauer: B
 Kathryn Morea: B
 David Cole: B-
 Maria Loya: C
 Patricia Hoffman: D+
 Richard Bloom: D+
 Michael Feinstein: D+
 Ken Genser: D+

three, I am more concerned with "doing the right thing" than getting re-elected in two years. I want to improve the way our government serves and represents us.

I am sure you share the disgust that I have for most politicians. Throughout California, we see waste, bureaucracy, inefficiency and incompetent public employees who can't be fired (including teachers and principals). We see politicians cave to special interest groups rather than fight.

In Santa Monica, we see a majority of our City Council members who have forced homeowners to limit the heights of their hedges, threaten them with \$25,000 fines for non-compliance, and then claim to be "responsive" when they suspended the ordinance for further study. We see our city become a magnet for homeless and vagrants over the past 20 years, but our council majority still believes it's better to give the fish and not the fishing pole. We see our council majority attempt to tell banks how much they can charge customers in ATM fees, only to be dragged to court, spending hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars to lose and take official city positions against the war in Iraq and whether cat owners can de-claw their cats.

As a school board member, I see dozens of school district employees making salaries for moderately skilled positions that are higher than most teaching salaries, like eight employees of various roles (carpenter, electrician, painter, mechanic, locksmith and maintenance employee) making over \$50,000 salaries. I see a painter, plumber and metal worker all making over \$60,000 per year. We pay nine administrative assistants over \$50,000 per year and two over \$60,000 per year. At the same time, class sizes average over 30 students per class in our middle and high schools. We're told we can't afford to hire more teachers to reduce class sizes, or more counselors, or offer more intervention and summer school classes. We receive millions per year from the city's budget and parcel taxes, but we still can't afford to provide a more intimate learning environment. When employee layoffs occur, including teachers, we are obligated to do layoffs by seniority. Our system assumes that all employees are equal in value and performance. Though this layoff procedure is a state civil servant law, if the Governor were ever able change this, I don't think we could get four votes to change our contracts and have our managers and principals make these impor-

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LOCAL



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 7

A laughing matter

Editor:

I had to laugh at the letter written by Michael Gruning to the Daily Press (SMDP, Oct. 29, page 4.)

While Gruning waxes enthusiastically about how "business interests" have supported CEPS (Committee for Excellent Public Schools) in their efforts to gain permanent funding for Santa Monica-Malibu public schools from the City of Santa Monica, he omits some facts.

Last year, the business interests threatened school supporters with a vigorous anti-parcel tax advertising campaign if their proposal included an escalating tax scale based on improvements to properties. The Measures "S" committee caved and now hundred-million dollar properties such as Santa Monica Place and the Water Garden pay the same \$225 unfair and regressive parcel tax as a small Pico neighborhood condo owner. Our children were denied millions in tax revenues. Gruning doesn't want you to know about that.

Gruning also complained about a Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights mailer that said that "homelessness is a top priority that needs to be addressed and yet, the problem gets worse." How does he explain his Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee's endorsement of two candidates that advocate for more homeless services?

City Councilman Herb Katz advocates homeless encampments on the city owned beach parking lots, potable toilets in the allies and a detox center for drunks and drug addicts "in the heart of downtown." Chamber supported candidate Matteo Dinolfo wants portable toilets throughout the downtown area and city-paid health screenings for transients.

It seems that Gruning, who is a member of the Chamber PAC and former chamber president is contradicting himself and has a double standard when it comes to being up front. But what would you expect? Gruning and the Chamber have their own team they want to be elected and they'll say just about anything to make that happen. The question is, does that make them any better than SMRR who they accuse of being less than forthright?

Mathew Millen
Santa Monica

The Wisnicki way

Editor:

Kathy Wisnicki is devoted to improving our schools to make sure that all Santa Monica and Malibu public school children receive the best education possible.

Kathy Wisnicki is a dedicated parent of two Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District students who has been an active PTA member for many years and a key leader in several education-related bond measures. Her current service on the school district's financial oversight committee is providing her the background that will allow her to have an immediate impact on critical district issues.

Our schools need someone with Kathy's experience in bringing people together and technical expertise in solving problems. Please join me in supporting Kathy Wisnicki for School Board. Our children deserve it.

Ralph Mechur
Santa Monica

Kudos to CEPS

Editor:

Having followed the work of the Committee for Excellence in Public Schools during the past year, I believe that CEPS has provided much-needed information on education issues in our community. The members of CEPS are clearly committed to supporting education, to bettering educational opportunities for all students, and, most recently, to finding ways to support the financial needs of our school district. Certainly, most people did not like the process — I doubt that CEPS members did either — but I appreciate the fact that CEPS took an active role in addressing the financial crisis in our school district.

We are all experiencing the untoward outcomes of California's tax policies: declining support for such needs as public schools, mental health and emergency medical care, infrastructure, and fire and police protection. It remains to be seen whether we Californians will move to overhaul policies that clearly threaten our own wellbeing. Meanwhile, CEPS' actions remind us that we still have the ability to act locally.

Rebecca Novelli
Santa Monica

CEPS mailer misses the mark

Editor:

I recently read about the Committee for Excellent Public Schools candidate interviews. At the time, I was surprised to learn that longtime schools supporter and City Council candidate David Cole had failed to win the approval of the CEPS organization.

I was surprised because, while David and I may come from different ends of the

See LETTERS, page 11



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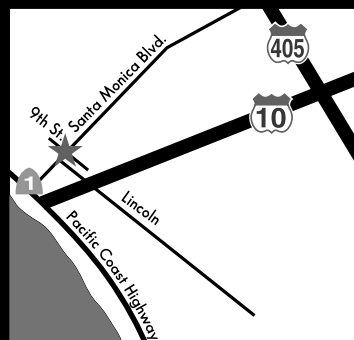
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SCHOOLS, from page 4

No vote: Keeps the current system in place.

Cost: No significant cost.

Proposition 63:

This proposition raises money to expand and develop a variety of mental health programs by imposing a one percent tax on the personal income of people making more than \$1 million. The state is also prohibited from decreasing funding for mental health services below current levels.

Historically, counties have been the primary providers of care for the mentally ill who lack private insurance coverage. Services such as hospitalization, counseling, substance abuse treatment and more have been paid for by federal, state and local funds.

Those for Prop 63 point to prisons as places where the mentally ill are housed rather than receiving the treatment they need. Those against Prop 63 claim the funding is not stable and continues to fund programs at current levels whose effectiveness and efficiency has not been proven. They say that the plan will also drive away the millionaires which the plan depends on.

Cost: An increase in annual state revenue to \$800 million by 2006-2007. At the same time, the decrease in the need for other government services by the mentally ill, will amount to annual state and local savings of into the low hundreds of millions of dollars.

Proposition 64:

This would amend California's unfair business laws in the following ways:

Restrict the right to individual lawsuits or class action lawsuits to those who have been actually injured or suffered financial or property loss.

Require those suing on behalf of others to meet class action lawsuit requirements.

Use civil penalty revenue for consumer protection enforcement.

Yes vote: Would amend the unfair business laws.

No vote: Would leave the current laws in place.

Cost: Unknown. It depends upon number of cases of unfair business practices.

Proposition 65:

Would amend the California Constitution to require a vote of the people before the Legislature could make changes to local governments' revenue from sales tax, property tax and vehicle license fees. Also, local agencies could choose not to comply with state unfunded mandates.

Yes vote: California Constitution would be amended to require voter approval for any shift in taxes away from local government.

No vote: Leave the current system in place.

Cost: Since this proposition would make significant changes to state authority over local finances, possibly billions of dollars annually in local revenue would be gained.

Proposition 66:

Would amend California's Three Strikes Law so that only violent or serious felonies count for the third strike, and therefore a longer sentence. It would also increase the punishment for specific sex crimes against children.

Yes vote: Would amend the three strikes law to only count violent or serious crimes as a third strike.

No vote: Would leave the law as it is.

Cost: The state could save several hundreds of millions of dollars from a reduction in prison population. Local government could experience an increase of tens of millions of dollars for courts and county jails.

Proposition 67:

Under state and federal law, anyone seeking emergency medical care must be given the care whether or not he or she can pay for it. As a result, hospitals and physicians who provide emergency and trauma care are often not fully compensated for the services they provide. This proposition would supplement that money by adding another 3 percent surcharge to phone bills, some tobacco taxes and criminal and traffic penalties. The surcharge is limited to 50 cents per month, but the limit does not apply to cell phones or business lines.

Those for it say the proposition would make emergency medical care more available, as ERs are closing and medical personnel overwhelmed. Those against it say it is a tax on talking, and there is no cap on cell phone or business lines. More than a million seniors will be affected, and 90 percent of the money goes to large health care corporations and special interests.

Yes vote: Would give the state a 3 percent emergency telephone surcharge, added to the existing surcharge, on bills for telephone services for in-state calls. This money would be used to provide additional funds to reimburse physicians and hospitals that have undercompensated emergency and trauma care, as well as to fund other specified programs.

No vote: Would keep the emergency telephone number surcharge at .75 percent on bills for telephone services for in-state calls. Additional funding to reimburse physicians and hospitals would depend largely on action by the Legislature and Governor.

Cost: State revenues will increase about \$500 million annually to fund doctors and hospitals for their emergency medical services. At present, \$32 million a year is being spent in state funding for physicians and clinics for uncompensated medical care.

Proposition 68:

Note: Backers of Proposition 68 have dropped their campaign after concluding they would lose at the polls. Supporters of this proposition are concentrating their efforts on opposing Proposition 70 and preventing Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger from signing new gambling agreements with tribes. Proposition 68 will still appear on the ballot.

This proposition would authorize the governor to negotiate tribal compact amendments requiring that Indian tribes pay 25 percent of slot machine and gaming devices to revenues to the government.

Those for the proposition say California's profitable Indian casinos should pay their fair share to support local services. Those against it say the fair share claim is a scam and that its backers operate casinos themselves throughout California near freeways and schools, creating more traffic and crime.

Yes vote: Allows slot machines at 16 specific racetracks and card rooms, unless all Indian tribes with existing tribal-state gambling compacts agree to certain terms within 90 days.

No vote: Means slot machines would not be authorized at racetracks and card rooms, and Indian tribes would continue to be subject to tribal-state gambling compacts. Local governments would not receive new gambling revenues.

Proposition 69:

This proposition will require DNA samples to be collected from all felons and certain other criminals. It allows local law enforcement labs to work for the state database and maintain a local database, and it specifies procedures to protect confidentiality.

Those for it say requiring arrestees for rape and murder to submit DNA would help solve crime, stop serial rapes and killings, and prevent false imprisonment. California law would join 34 other states with existing laws. Those against it say the proposition could trap your DNA in criminal databases, treats innocent residents like guilty ones and violates privacy.

Yes vote: Means the state would expand the collection of DNA samples to include all convicted felons, some convicted non-felons, and those who have been arrested for certain offenses. Criminal penalties would increase to fund this expansion.

No vote: Means that DNA samples would continue to be required only from those convicted of serious felony offenses.

Cost: State costs to process DNA samples could be as much as \$20 million annually. Local costs will most likely be offset by revenues with additional money available for other DNA-related activities.

Proposition 70:

If a federally-recognized Indian tribe requests it, the governor must execute a renewable 99-year gaming contract. This grants exclusive tribal gaming rights with no limit on the number of machines, facilities or types of games on Indian land. The tribes would then give part of their income to the state and the contributions are in lieu of other fees and taxes. It requires off-reservation impact assessments, and public notice opportunities before expansion or construction of facilities.

Those for it say it will provide billions of dollars to the state and restrict tribal gambling to Indian reservations. Those against it say the governor's existing agreements with tribes guarantee they pay their fair share and the new proposition would destroy these agreements.

Yes vote: Means tribes entering a new or amended tribal-state gambling compact would pay the state based on their gambling income. The compacts last 99 years and do not limit the type or number of casino games.

No vote: Means tribes would still be subject to existing compacts that require various types of payments to the state. Existing compacts will last up to 26 more years and place some limits on the types and number of casino games.

Cost: Analysts do not know how the proposition would affect payments from the tribes to the state. The potential increase or decrease could be anywhere from tens of millions up to \$100 million annually.

Proposition 71:

Stem cell research may provide information on human development, drug safety and the possibility of a source of cells and tissues to treat Parkinson's Disease, Alzheimer's, heart disease, diabetes or spinal cord injuries. Stem cells are cells that have not become specific cells, such as heart cells or blood cells. They can be transformed into cells with specialized functions. Stem cells can also reproduce themselves over a period of time. Embryonic stem cells come from an embryo that is five to seven days old. They are usually taken from extra embryos that have been donated for

research by parents who tried to conceive a child at fertility clinics. Adult stem cells are taken from many organs like the brain, bone marrow, blood vessels and the liver, but are limited to becoming the kind of cell type of where it came from.

Those for it say the research can find cures for serious conditions, save millions of lives and cut health care costs by billions. Those against it say it adds \$3 billion of bond debt to California's debt load, the money would fund a bureaucracy to promote human embryo cloning, and there are few controls on how the money is spent.

Yes vote: Would allow the state to establish a new state medical research institute called the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine. It authorizes the state to issue \$3 billion in state general obligation bonds to fund stem cell research and its facilities in California. It would also prohibit the institute's funding of human reproductive cloning research.

No vote: Means funding for stem cell research in California would depend on the Legislature and governor and anyone else that provides research funding.

Cost: It will cost the state about \$6 billion over 30 years to pay off the principal \$3 billion and \$3 billion interest on the bonds. This averages to \$200 million a year of state payments.

Proposition 72:

This law would provide individual and dependent health care coverage for employees working for large and medium employers. It will require that employers pay at least 80 percent of coverage cost and a maximum of 20 percent of employee contribution. It also requires employers to pay for health coverage or pay a fee to medical insurance board that buys mainly private health coverage. This applies to employers with at least 200 employees starting Jan. 1, 2006, and employers with 50 to 199 employees beginning Jan. 1, 2007. It applies to employers with 20-49 employees if tax credit is enacted.

Those for it say it would keep private health coverage within reach of working families. Those against it say it creates a government-run health care scheme funded by an estimated \$7 billion in new taxes on employers and workers by 2007 and be forced from your existing plan into a government system.

Yes vote: Means certain employers would be required to provide health coverage for their employees and some dependents through either paying a fee to a new state program or arranging directly with providers for health care coverage. The state would also establish a new program to help lower-income employees pay their share of health care premiums.

No vote: Means the state would continue to allow employers to choose if they will provide health insurance for their employees and dependents. The state would not establish a new program to help low-income employees in paying premiums for health care coverage at work.

Cost: A "significant expenditure" would be fully offset by employer fees for a state program. Significant county health program savings and significant public employer health coverage costs. Significant net state revenue losses. Overall unknown net state and local savings or costs.

(Information compiled by Daily Press interns Susan Tam and Pam Wight.)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 9

political spectrum, I have known him for 10 years and know him to be a dedicated and hardworking supporter of our children and our public schools.

Today I received a mailer from CEPS which rated the City Council candidates and which stated that David is not a “reliable school supporter.” While I strongly support and appreciate the work CEPS is doing in our community, I am concerned about the fairness of its candidate rating process.

David Cole may not be the pick of SMRR or the Chamber of Commerce, he may be outspoken and ruffle some people’s feathers, but when it comes to supporting our schools his record of service is long and distinguished.

He served as PTA president at McKinley, PTA vice president at Lincoln, and was vice president of the Santa Monica-Malibu PTA Council. He was also an active member of the SMMUSD childcare taskforce, and the district’s Prop ES oversight committee.

In addition to all of this, he co-founded “Save our Playgrounds,” an organization which succeeded in keeping playgrounds open for children when the district introduced a wrong-headed program that kicked kids off the playgrounds after school and charged parents \$100 a month for one hour a day of after-school play.

He also co-founded “Citizens for School District Reform” a group which spearheaded the move for positive changes in the district and which helped pave the way for the arrival of Superintendent John Deasy and the election of new school board members. And to top it all off, he is on record as being in support of increased city funding for schools.

Yet somehow he has been given a “no” rating by CEPS.

Just to point out how absurd this is, take a look at how CEPS treated Chamber of Commerce backed Candidate Kathryn Morea. She is a person who, in addition to having no history of support for our schools, publicly refused to sign the CEPS pledge and walked out of the CEPS candidate meeting. Yet according to the CEPS mailer she gets a “yes” rating as a reliable supporter of public schools while David Cole does not.

It just doesn’t add up. If you look at the facts it becomes clear that CEPS was wrong to give David a “no” rating and unfairly tarnish his reputation. And I’m sure many of their members know it.

It is my sincere hope that, in the future, CEPS will take the high road and assess candidates based solely on their support for public schools instead of allowing personal animosities or other political considerations to come into play.

If they do, school supporters like David Cole will always get the thumbs up they deserve.

John Petz
Santa Monica

Water under the bridge

Editor:

I want to thank the Daily Press for doing a great job on “Squirm Night.” The question of “forced” fluoridation/medication has finally been asked of every candidate. If voters don’t want to be medicated without their consent with a toxic fluoridation substance containing arsenic and lead, then vote for the following candidates who believe the government has no right to add a hazardous substance to their water: Anderson, Armstrong, Cole, Feinstein, Mann, Genser and Morea.

The other candidates will and have forced fluoridation on all residents.

Paulette Revere
Santa Monica

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Q-LINE, from page 6

© “I do not agree with the electoral college vote system. We should have a popular vote, because we got this so-called president, and I say again, so-called president, who was never elected as president, and he didn’t get all the popular votes which Gore got, so we have to be with this man who should have been impeached two years ago, and we still have to have this man who’s killing all these children and people in Iraq and

we’ve got to get rid of him.”

© “I don’t think the electoral college is right because it was invented 200 years ago and people weren’t educated, but on the other hand, the way the election is right now, it’s not right either because some guy can win 10 states with more votes than a guy that wins 40 states with ... so the guy with more states should be president, but then the guy with more votes should be president, so maybe what

SMRR leadership has failed SM

GUEST COMMENTARY, from page 8

tant decisions.

Tuesday’s election is quite simple. We either continue with the SMRR status quo, allowing government to over-regulate and overstep their role, or we elect a new slate of candidates who have a more balanced approach to government. Again, it’s the fish or the fishing pole choice: do we encourage people to take care of themselves, or do we continue to give them free fish and continue their dependence on government’s heavy hand?

The choice became even more clear to me when I heard SMRR candidate Patricia Hoffman answer this question at a recent candidate forum.

The question (paraphrased): How should children handle being approached by a homeless person begging for money?

Her response (paraphrased): Homeless people should not approach children. Though my children have seen me give homeless people money since they were little, I don’t want the homeless approaching children.

It’s sad that she thinks she is helping homeless people by giving them money. I never give money because I know most people use it to continue their drug and alcohol habits, no matter how much I wish that weren’t the truth. I sometimes buy a banana and some milk for someone if approached outside a store, because I know this will help them get through the day. But I realize, as most citizens do, that giving money only perpetuates the problem. Homeless people don’t need money nor do they need free meals in the park every day. They need a “fishing pole” so that they can regain an independent life, counseling, medical and psychological attention if they aren’t capable of taking care of themselves, and a reminder that Santa Monica is not a mecca to a life of hand-outs. This handout-not-hand-up philosophy has dominated our City Council for the past 25 years. Either we change it now, or continue to hand out fish and suffer the stench that goes with it.

Most people don’t understand the SMRR machine. SMRR endorsed elected officials have created some good policies and programs in Santa Monica — they

have limited development and ensured that owners can’t harass renters. But these same elected officials also created the hedge police, allowed our parks to have more homeless people than residents, taken on battles well beyond their scope of work, and made it next to impossible to remodel your house. They have controlled the City Council, the school board, the college board, and the rent control board for 25 years, using scare tactics to threaten people that rent control will be yanked away unless the SMRR candidates win.

In fact, all major challengers in this year’s race have publicly supported the continuation of rent control. But here is the kicker: SMRR’s founder and co-chair, Denny Zane, uses SMRR’s \$90,000 plus election budget to elect candidates through threatening mailers and providing dozens of door-to-door walkers, and then gets hired as a political consultant by the school board and college board for projects. He personally has earned over \$100,000 in the past three years as a political consultant on Measure EE, Measure S, and as the SM College’s political consultant for their new Madison Theatre Project.

This is an enormous conflict of interest. Everyone who is anyone in Santa Monica knows of this cozy situation for Denny, but none have had the courage to say that it doesn’t pass the smell test. It stinks and it’s time to unplug the machine.

It’s time for a change. We need to put into office people who work for their customers rather than their contributors. We need leaders who have a balanced approach to representing the interests of all Santa Monica residents and businesses.

Please join me in supporting the following candidates for City Council: Herb Katz, Matt Dinolfo, Bobby Shriver and Bill Bauer.

Please also join me in supporting Jose Escarce, Maria Leon Vazquez, and Kathy Wisnicki for School Board — all of whom represent the best opportunity to improve our schools.

Shane McLoud
School Board Member, SMMUSD
Public School Teacher, Camino Nuevo Charter Academy, LAUSD

(McLoud’s full report can be read at www.shane4schools.com/reportcard.)

they need to do in a case like that where one guy has more popular votes and one guy has more states that voted for him, is share power, two years for one guy, two years for the other guy. But something has got to be done because we cannot go through what we did last time in Florida.”

© “I don’t think anyone in California still approves of the electoral college. It’s a completely arbitrary and undemocratic way of nullifying the popular vote.”

© “Our founding fathers were brilliant. They established many checks and balances in our government’s structure to protect our freedom and individual rights. The electoral college vote system is one

of them. It prevents majority rule, also known as mob rule, which historically, has always led to anarchy and dictatorship. Once allowed in our elections, it’s an easy slide down the slippery slope and to our congress where our individual rights can be erased by a single vote. A good example is the French Revolution. Check it out.”

© “I believe the electoral college is necessary to ensure that each states’ population is represented and in deciding who will become president, not just the most popular cities and states, period. The founding fathers set up the college in our constitution to protect all voters.”

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STATE BRIEFS

Seal Beach wants a motto

The Associated Press

SEAL BEACH — The city is in search of an identity.

Seal Beach has an ocean, pier, shops and a stash of naval weapons, but it's never had a motto. Residents have been brainstorming to come up with a slogan, and contest entrants so far include "Pier Pleasure," "Hidden Treasure" and "Sun Fun."

There are also irreverent suggestions: "Blue Hair Heaven," "Sludge City," "Our Pumps Don't Work," "More Nail Salons Per Capita" and "You Missed the Long Beach Exit."

Friends of the Library sponsored the slogan contest for the city's 90th birthday next year. The winner, selected next month, gets a \$100 gift certificate.

LaNay Locher likes "Mayberry by the Sea," while 40-year resident Phil Burdick suggests "Casual Surrounded by Chaos." Former Mayor Tom Blackman said the Seal Beach slogan should capture the city's "good, clean lifestyle."

"It's a safe city, and that's also a plus," Blackman said, adding it's "a nice place to live."

But that slogan won't work. "A Nice Place to Live" is the motto of Fountain Valley.

Ventura man sentenced for elder abuse

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — A pharmacist was sentenced to a year in jail for taking \$400,000 from elderly customers in an investment scheme.

John Peter Hajducko, 55, of Thousand Oaks was also placed on 10 years' probation and barred from trading in securities and from soliciting funds for business ventures for a decade. The judge also ordered counseling for gambling addiction.

Hajducko, who pleaded guilty Sept. 29 to 12 felony counts of elder abuse and grand theft, was the pharmacist at a Sav-On drug store in Ventura, where he persuaded 13 customers to invest in a pharmaceutical distribution company he claimed he was forming.

Prosecutors said Hajducko promised high returns.

Deputy District Attorney Shirley Hayton said after Thursday's sentencing hearing that the judge granted her request to seize Hajducko's assets, including his \$935,000 home, to pay restitution to his victims.

Riverside County to change area codes

By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE — A chunk of western Riverside County sheds the 909 telephone area code on Saturday and switches to area code 951.

The 909 area code now belongs exclusively to western San Bernardino County and slivers of Los Angeles County.

Callers to Riverside, Corona and other communities with the new area code will hear a recorded message if they dial 909. They'll be told of the change and will have to redial the number with the correct area code, said Steven Smith, spokesman for SBC California.

The California Public Utilities Commission voted in November to create the new area code because the area was running out of numbers.

The area code change actually began in July, but SBC California gave customers a three-month grace period to become accustomed to the change. During that time, callers who dialed 909 were still put through.

Cities keeping the 909 area code include Ontario, San Bernardino, Rancho Cucamonga, Big Bear Lake and Claremont.

The 760 area code in the eastern portions of Riverside and San Bernardino counties isn't affected.

WANT TO TICKLE YOUR FUNNY BONE?
CHECK OUT THE COMICS ON PAGE 20!



MATT CRABBS



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STATE



Independent groups pour money into races

BY STEVE LAWRENCE
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Mike Gordon is facing an extra opponent in his campaign for the state Assembly. There are the three other candidates on the ballot in his Los Angeles area coastal district, then there's JOBS PAC.

The political action committee, a campaign arm of the California Chamber of Commerce and California Manufacturers Association, is one of about 30 groups that have poured more than \$6.3 million into a dozen battleground legislative races in the form of independent expenditures.

Independent expenditures are campaign expenses that are supposedly not coordinated with a candidate, although Democrats have accused JOBS PAC of coordinating the timing of its television advertising campaigns with two Republican candidates for the Assembly.

Todd Harris, a JOBS PAC spokesman, says the accusations are "baseless."

Courts have barred limits on how much these campaign committees can spend, and use of independent expenditures has exploded in recent years since California voters imposed limits on the size of most donations made directly to candidates.

JOBS PAC has spent more than \$568,000 to try to defeat Gordon, a self-described "pro-business Democrat" and the former mayor of El Segundo, and elect Republican Greg Hill, the mayor of Redondo Beach.

"It's forced us to change strategy because we've had to defend against false charges," said Steve Barkan, Gordon's campaign manager. "We've had to spend a fair amount of resources pointing out who JOBS PAC is and who their funders are."

JOBS PAC's contributors include auto dealers, apartment owners, ChevronTexaco, real estate agents, developers, insurers and mortgage companies.

While Gordon criticizes JOBS PAC's involvement in his race, he's also been helped by independent expenditure committees. Groups representing police, prison guards, labor, moderate Democrats and real estate agents, among others, have spent more than \$333,500 to support his candidacy or oppose Hill.

Throughout the state, groups representing doctors, dentists, credit unions, farmers, teachers, developers, firefighters and

state engineers have also made significant use of independent expenditures.

And Opportunity PAC, an independent expenditure group that has drawn money from several labor unions, has spent heavily on behalf of several Democratic candidates.

The Democratic and Republican parties have also spent \$17.9 million since July 1 in the two state Senate races and 10 Assembly battles that are considered the most likely to go either way on Tuesday, according to the California Target Book, which tracks, analyzes and handicaps legislative and congressional campaigns.

There's no limit on how much a political party can give to a candidate, although there's a \$26,600 cap on how much the parties can take from each donor to spend on candidates. Party donations for other purposes — voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives, for example — are unlimited.

Major Republican contributors include developers, Indian tribes, insurance, mortgage and oil companies and Philip Morris. Big Democratic donors include Indians, labor unions, insurers, utilities and real estate agents.

The names of most independent expenditure committees give an indication who's behind the groups, but that's not the case with two shadowy campaign organizations that have spent money to help some Democratic candidates — Californians United and Californians for a Better Future.

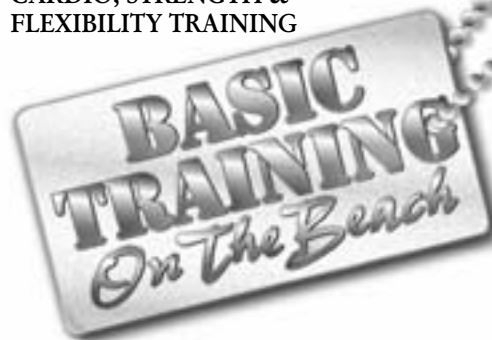
Californians United, which had some ties to former Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson, D-Los Angeles, has gotten money from Indians, dentists, real estate agents, Southern California Edison Co. and Philip Morris, among other donors.

Californians for a Better Future's donors include card parlors, tobacco companies, Indians and unions.

The heavy use of independent expenditures has raised questions about the effectiveness of campaign contribution limits.

Allan Hoffenblum, publisher and coeditor of the California Target Book and a former political director of the California Republican Party, says the imposition of donation limits and the rise in independent expenditures have "corrupted the process even more" and made it "extremely difficult for a candidate to control his or her own campaign."

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STATE

Economy grows at 3.7% in third quarter of year

BY JEANNINE AVERSA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The economy grew at a 3.7 percent annual rate in the third quarter — a pace slightly better than in the spring but not as strong as many analysts expected. Friday's government report was the last broad snapshot of economic activity before Election Day and provided political ammunition for both sides.

The July-to-September reading on gross domestic product followed a 3.3 percent growth rate in the prior quarter, the Commerce Department reported.

Analysts were predicting that the economy, which Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan had said hit a "soft patch" in the late spring, would gain traction and expand at a more brisk 4.3 percent rate in the third quarter.

GDP measures the value of all goods and services produced within the United States.

"The economy right now is running in the middle lane. We're not in the fast lane but we're not on the shoulder or in the break down lane," said Richard Yamarone, economist with Argus Research Corp.

Wall Street investors were a bit disappointed in the GDP figure with the Dow Jones industrial average up by just 6 points in late morning trading.

Although the third quarter's performance fell short of analysts' expectations, it still marked the best growth seen since the first three months of this year.

Consumers snapped out of a funk in the third quarter and boosted spending at the fastest pace in a year. Businesses also increased spending on equipment and software, but they didn't invest as aggressively on building inventories. The bloated trade deficit also weighed on economic activity.

President Bush and his Democratic rival, John Kerry, have divergent views about how the economy and the nation's job market are faring. Bush says his tax cuts helped the economy rebound from the 2001 recession and fostered payroll growth. Kerry contends that the tax cuts mainly helped the wealthy and thrust the government's balance sheets deeper in red ink.

The GDP report gave each camp something to seize upon.

Treasury Secretary John Snow said the administration was "encouraged by the ongoing strong performance of the American economy." The Kerry cam-

paign countered that "the economic performance was disappointing for middle class families and below expectations."

Employers saw costs for workers' wages and benefits grow by 0.9 percent in the third quarter, the same increase posted in the second quarter, the Labor Department said.

Even though the economy is expanding, the recovery in the job market has been uneven. Employers have added more than a million jobs in the past year, but since Bush took office in January 2001, the economy has lost a net 821,000 jobs.

The Federal Reserve, meanwhile, probably will boost short-term interest rates for a fourth time this year when its meet next on Nov. 10. With the economy out of crisis mode, Fed policy-makers want to continue to move rates from extraordinarily low levels to more normal levels to make sure that inflation doesn't become a threat to the economy down the road.

An inflation gauge tied to the GDP report and closely watched by Fed policy-makers showed that prices rose at an annual rate of 0.7 percent in the third quarter, down from 1.7 percent rate of increase in the previous quarter.

From an economic point of view, inflation is still under control even through oil prices have been surging. Oil prices, which recently hit new record territory of just more than \$55 a barrel, moderated on Thursday to \$50.92 a barrel.

High energy prices pose a risk to the economy, analysts say. Economists believe that the impact of soaring energy prices could slow economic activity in the final quarter of this year.

In the third quarter, consumers seemed to be in the mood to treat themselves despite high energy prices. They increased spending at a 4.6 percent rate, up from a lackluster 1.6 percent pace in the prior quarter and the biggest increase since the third quarter of 2003.

Spending on big-ticket goods such as automobiles led the way. Consumer spending on such items went up at a whopping 16.8 percent pace in the third quarter, compared with a 0.3 percent rate of decline in the second quarter.

Business investment on equipment and software rose at a 14.9 percent rate in the third quarter, up from a 14.2 percent growth rate in the second quarter

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SPORTS



Goodbye curse, hello marketing dilemma

BY MARK JEWELL

AP Business Writer

BOSTON — Unbelievable as it may seem, not everyone in New England is thrilled about the Red Sox winning the World Series.

Retailers of everything from T-shirts to ice cream and cookies had been making money off the team's championship drought for years. When the Red Sox finished off a World Series sweep of the St. Louis Cardinals on Wednesday to win their first title since 1918, the long-reliable marketing strategy fell apart.

But the retailers aren't surrendering to history; they're just modifying their message. An ice cream company is staging a contest to rename its "Reverse the Curse" flavor, and apparel makers are trying gimmicks like printing the word "curse" backward to signify its reversal.

"This is a challenge for creative thinking," said Stephen A. Greyser, a Harvard Business School professor and marketing expert.

No matter what new slogans emerge, retailers admit it will be tough to top "The Curse of the Bambino," named because of Boston owner Harry Frazee's decision to sell Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees.

"I think it's naive to think it won't tail off some," said Chuck Green, president and chief executive of Brigham's Ice Cream, the company behind the flavor renaming contest. "But a lot of people said, 'Just because we won, don't stop making this stuff.' We think it has a little more legs to it than what I would call 'hula hoops' items."

Brigham's, which sells its ice cream at its 26 Boston-area shops and at supermarkets, introduced the Reverse the Curse flavor in May. A pair of spiritualists blessed the first batch produced at the Arlington factory as a hired Babe Ruth-lookalike took off a Yankees jersey to display a Red Sox shirt underneath.

The flavor — vanilla with chocolate, fudge, caramel and peanuts — became the fastest-selling new flavor in the chain's 90-year history.

At a downtown store on Thursday, the line of customers extended out onto the

street, and owner Vinnie Jankord placed special orders to keep the flavor in stock.

Green credits the flavor for a nearly 10 percent sales increase in his company's 16-flavor line over the baseball season.

Brigham's plans to announce a winner of its renaming contest on Sunday. The company is making good on the promise it made in the spring, when Brigham's counted itself among the Sox optimists expecting 2004 to be the year the curse was broken.

Hundreds of suggestions from customers — including some unprintable references to the hated Yankees — have been narrowed down to four finalists: Curse Reversed, Believe It, Sox Rock and Fenway Faithfuls.

Greyser said getting customers hooked on the flavor, rather than its name, is the key to its survival. Non-edible curse-themed products like shirts, hats and posters may be doomed, however.

That hasn't stopped retailers from rushing out gear this week carrying phrases such as "From cursed to first," "Now I can die in peace" and "It happened in my lifetime."

Moments after Wednesday night's game ended at 11:40 p.m. EDT, LogoSportswear.com began offering T-shirts and caps bearing the word "curse" in reverse text. The shirts feature an image of a gravestone reading "RIP 1918-2004."

Dozens of orders were coming in every hour on Thursday, and the shirt was out-selling more conventional "Boston Red Sox 2004 World Series Champions" shirts 10-to-1, said Frank Nevins, owner and president of the Cheshire, Conn.-based business.

"I think there's a certain kind of spiritual effect that this Red Sox victory has had for the fans," he said.

The curse legend has been chronicled in books, including Boston Globe sports columnist Dan Shaughnessy's "The Curse of the Bambino," which has had more than 20 printings since 1990 and been updated three times to add a total of 41 pages.

But Shaughnessy suspects the book's popularity is past.

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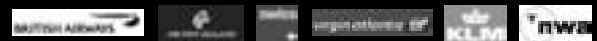
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NATIONAL

FBI investigating Cheney, Halliburton contracts

BY LARRY MARGASAK
 Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The FBI is investigating whether U.S. officials improperly awarded Vice President Dick Cheney’s former company lucrative contract work without competition, a probe that was confirmed only days after a top Army contract officer raised the issue of favoritism.

The investigation expands an existing probe of whether Halliburton Co. overcharged for fuel deliveries in Iraq. The probe now includes the no-bid work awarded the company in Iraq, including restoration of the country’s oil industry at a cost of \$2.5 billion.

The expanded investigation is converging with statements made last weekend by Bunnatine Greenhouse, the chief contracting officer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The FBI has requested an interview with Greenhouse, who said her agency unfairly awarded KBR, a Halliburton subsidiary, the Iraq work.

Cheney headed Halliburton, a Houston-based oil services conglomerate, prior to running for vice president four years ago. He has consistently denied any involvement in the contracts. His spokesman, Kevin Kellems, said in response to a question that neither Cheney

nor his aides have been contacted by investigators.

A federal law enforcement official, speaking only on condition of anonymity, said the investigation does not involve anyone in the White House, including Cheney’s office.

The FBI investigation, confirmed by several government sources who insisted on anonymity, raised the profile of a key Democratic attack issue in the final days of the presidential campaign.

“Good people came forward to tell the truth about these contracts because they — like the American people — know that the administration’s special treatment of Halliburton was wrong,” vice presidential candidate John Edwards said in a statement Thursday night.

Greenhouse’s lawyers said Thursday their client will cooperate but that she wants whistle-blower protection from Pentagon retaliation.

One of the lawyers, Stephen Kohn, said it was Greenhouse’s job to protect “the honesty and the integrity of the contracting process itself, so it’s an even playing field. Why should a large corporation with political influence get all the money?”

FBI agents recently began collecting documents from Army offices in Texas and elsewhere to examine how and why Halliburton got the no-bid work.

A Corps spokeswoman, Carol Sanders, said she could not confirm an expanded investigation.

“The Corps is absolutely cooperating with the FBI, and it has been an ongoing effort,” Sanders said. “Our role is to cooperate. It’s a public contract and public funds. We’ve been providing them information for quite a while.”

Wendy Hall, a Halliburton spokeswoman, said the company is cooperating with various investigations, but she dismissed the latest revelation as election politics. She noted Congress’ auditing arm, the Government Accountability Office, found the company’s no-bid work in Iraq was legal.

“The old allegations have once again been recycled, this time one week before the election,” Hall said. “The GAO said earlier this year that the contract was properly awarded because Halliburton was the only contractor that could do the work.

“We look forward to the end of the election, because no matter who is elected president, Halliburton is proud to serve the troops just as we have for the past 60 years for both Democrat and Republican administrations,” she said.

Sen. Frank Lautenberg, a New Jersey Democrat on the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee who has been investi-

gating Halliburton’s contracts, said his office was told the FBI recently sought documents from various government offices. The requests focused on how and why Halliburton got the Iraq contracts.

In a formal whistle-blower complaint filed last week, Greenhouse alleged the award of contracts without competition to KBR puts at risk “the integrity of the federal contracting program as it relates to a major defense contractor.” The contracts were to restore Iraq’s oil industry.

The Army last week referred Greenhouse’s allegations to the Defense Department’s inspector general. Documents show FBI agents from Quad Cities, Ill., asked Tuesday to interview Greenhouse. Her lawyers declined to discuss the contacts.

Greenhouse alleged in her complaint that after her superiors signed off on the Iraq business in February 2003, a month before the war began, and returned it for her necessary approval, she specifically asked why the work was being extended for several years.

Beside her signature Greenhouse wrote: “I caution that extending this sole-source effort beyond a one-year period could convey an invalid perception that there is not strong intent for a limited competition,” the complaint said.



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Yes on S

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NATIONAL

Economy grew in summer, but not up to expectations

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON —The economy grew at an annual rate of 3.7 percent in the summer as a big rebound in auto sales offset weakness from an exploding trade deficit, soaring oil prices and the Florida hurricanes, the government reported Friday.

The July-to-September increase in the gross domestic product — the country's total output of goods and services — was up slightly from a 3.3 percent GDP growth rate in the spring, but it was well below the 4.3 percent rate many economists had been forecasting.

The weaker-than-expected third-quarter result raised new worries over the threats posed to the economy from rising energy prices, lackluster job growth and overextended consumers.

"This is less than a stellar number," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com. "The economy is not growing fast enough to create significant new jobs and bring the unemployment rate down."

The campaigns of President Bush and challenger John Kerry both sought to use the last major economic indicator before Election Day to score political points.

Treasury Secretary John Snow, Bush's chief economic spokesman, said the administration was "encouraged by the

ongoing strong performance of the American economy," with GDP expanding above the average growth rate of the past decade.

But Gene Sperling, who was chief White House economic adviser during the Clinton administration and is now advising Kerry, called the GDP performance "disappointing for middle class families and below expectations."

After racing ahead at a 4.5 percent rate in the first three months of this year, GDP growth slowed to a 3.3 percent rate in the second quarter. The slowdown, which Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan termed a "soft patch," reflected a sharp retrenchment by consumers, who pulled back on their purchases in the face of rising energy bills.

For the third quarter, consumer spending climbed to a 4.6 percent rate of increase, the best growth in a year, up from an anemic 1.6 percent rate in the second quarter.

The rebound was led by a 16.8 percent surge in purchases of big-ticket durable goods as consumers, lured by new dealer incentives, went on an auto buying spree. Those purchases contributed nearly a full percentage point to third-quarter growth.

That helped to offset a widening of the U.S. trade deficit, which lowered GDP growth by about two-thirds of a percentage point in the third quarter. Other fac-

tors restraining growth were a slowdown in business inventory stocking and the hurricanes that battered Florida and other states, depressing construction activity, analysts said.

The 3.7 percent GDP growth rate in the third quarter is likely to be followed by a similar growth rate in the final three months of this year, analysts said. However, they worried that this forecast could turn out to be too optimistic if rising energy prices continue to rattle business and consumer confidence.

The University of Michigan's consumer confidence index dipped to 91.7 in October, down from 94.2 in September, it was reported Friday, a drop blamed on rising energy prices and worries about the sluggish pace of job growth. Payroll growth has been disappointing for a number of months.

In a third report, the Labor Department said employee's wages and benefit costs rose 0.9 percent in the July-September quarter, identical to the April-June increase.

The increase in wages and salaries in the third quarter was 0.7 percent, the fastest rate in a year, while the costs of health insurance and other benefits, which have been soaring, rose by just 1.1 percent, the slowest increase in more than two years.

Economists said the GDP needs to

grow at better than 3.5 percent to keep the unemployment rate — currently at 5.4 percent — headed lower. While they are predicting around 3.7 percent growth in the current quarter, they worry about the adverse impacts rising energy prices and falling consumer confidence might have on that forecast.

"Uncertainty is like walking into an unlit room. It causes people to freeze," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo in Minneapolis.

David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's, said he was concerned with the drop in the personal savings rate to a record low of 0.4 percent of after-tax income in the third quarter, according to the GDP report. That raises worries about whether consumer spending will stay strong with the holiday shopping season approaching.

An inflation gauge tied to the GDP and closely watched by the Federal Reserve showed that prices, excluding food and energy, rose at an annual rate of just 0.7 percent in the third quarter, down from a 1.7 percent increase in the second quarter.

The Fed is expected to raise interest rates for a fourth time this year when policy-makers next meet on Nov. 10, but some analysts believe, given the lackluster GDP and job growth, the Fed may skip a rate increase at its December meeting.



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NATIONAL



Rehnquist released from hospital after treatment

BY GINA HOLLAND

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist was sent home Friday after spending a week in the hospital for treatment of thyroid cancer.

The illness, revealed about a week before the presidential election, has prompted speculation that the Supreme Court could have a new member sooner than expected. It's been more than a decade since the last vacancy, a modern era record.

A court spokesman announced the 80-year-old Rehnquist's release from the National Naval Medical Center in suburban Bethesda, Md. The chief justice is expected back on the bench Monday when the court returns from a two-week break.

Details about the seriousness of the cancer have been kept secret. Some colleagues, however, have been upbeat about the prospects for Rehnquist, who is known as a hard-nosed taskmaster.

Justice Clarence Thomas told University of Kansas law students on Thursday that he expected the chief justice back at the court "as unforgiving as ever."

About Rehnquist's cancer, Thomas said: "I feel really badly. He's a good guy."

Even from the hospital, Rehnquist apparently was working this week. He joined with the other court members to refuse to put independent presidential candidate Ralph Nader on the ballot in the battleground state of Ohio and to let Philip Morris USA delay paying \$10.5 million in damages to a former smoker

while the company contests the amount.

The court spokesman would not say whether Rehnquist participated in a private meeting of the justices on Friday to consider the latest appeals. As chief, Rehnquist normally leads those sessions.

"He is a very resilient, robust, strong-willed man," said Washington attorney Charles Cooper, who clerked for Rehnquist. "He's dedicated to his work and his responsibilities. In keeping with that dedication, he would continue (work) unless completely prevented from it."

The type of thyroid cancer, how advanced it is and Rehnquist's prognosis have not been disclosed. Cancer of the thyroid, a gland in the neck that produces hormones to help regulate the body's use of energy, is generally treatable but can be more aggressive in older people.

He underwent a tracheotomy last

Saturday as part of his cancer treatment. Some doctors had said the tracheotomy, in which a tube is inserted into a patient's throat to relieve breathing problems, could indicate Rehnquist had an aggressive or complicated type of cancer.

Rehnquist has been on the court since 1972, chief justice since 1986. He has had other health problems including chronic back pain and a torn leg tendon that required surgery. Besides Rehnquist, three other justices have had cancer. John Paul Stevens had prostate cancer, Sandra Day O'Connor had breast cancer, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg was treated for colon cancer.

Thomas said in Kansas that justices have a tendency to work even when they're sick. "It's a place where people work as if they're paid by the hour," he said.

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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.

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NATIONAL

Woman busted for digging up past

By The Associated Press

PORTAGE, Wis. — A woman has been arrested for digging up her dead boyfriend's ashes from a cemetery more than 10 years ago and drinking the beer that was buried with him, possibly out of spite for his family, authorities say.

Karen Stolzmann, 44, was charged Tuesday with concealing stolen property, in a case Columbia County Detective Wayne Smith calls "twisted and bizarre."

Sheboygan County District Attorney Joe De Cecco said Thursday he would determine if additional charges should be filed in his county since the urn was found at Stolzmann's Sheboygan home.

Michael Hendrickson, 27, died in 1992 from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. His family contacted authorities three weeks ago when they discovered his remains had been stolen.

An exhumation revealed Hendrickson's cremated remains — along with beer and cigarettes that were buried with him — were missing from Cambria Cemetery in Cambria.

Detectives searched Stolzmann's home and found her hiding in the shower. The remains, located in her garage, had "identifiable things to make us believe they're (Hendrickson's)," Smith said.

Detective Jay Yerges said Stolzmann and Hendrickson were living together in the early 1990s, while they were both married to other people. The relationship was stormy, with a pattern of alcohol and domestic abuse, he said.

Stolzmann was present when Hendrickson shot himself in January 1992. Yerges said Hendrickson's family blamed her for his death and she was not invited to his services.

"I feel that her motive was spite," Yerges said.

Robbing graves is a felony offense, but the six-year statute of limitations has passed for prosecution. There may be a way to prosecute because the alleged theft was only recently discovered, Yerges said.

RICHLAND, Wash — Leana Beasley has faith that a dog is man's best friend.

Faith, a 4-year-old Rottweiler, phoned 911 when Beasley fell out of her wheelchair and barked

urgently into the receiver until a dispatcher sent help. Then the service dog unlocked the front door for the police officer.

"I sensed there was a problem on the other end of the 911 call," said dispatcher Jenny Buchanan. "The dog was too persistent in barking directly into the phone receiver. I knew she was trying to tell me something."

Faith is trained to summon help by pushing a speed-dial button on the phone with her nose after taking the receiver off the hook, said her owner, Beasley, 45, who suffers grand mal seizures.

Guided by experts at the Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound, Beasley helped train Faith herself.

The day of the fall, Faith "had been acting very clingy, wanting to be touching me all day long," Beasley said Thursday.

The dog, whose sensitive nose can detect changes in Beasley's body chemistry, is trained to alert her owner to impending seizures.

But that wasn't what was happening on Sept. 7, and Faith apparently wasn't sure how to communicate the problem. During Beasley's three-week hospital stay, doctors determined her liver was not properly processing her seizure medication.

VICTORIA, British Columbia — A University of Victoria English professor has stick-handled his way through academe to create what may be Canada's — or even the world's — only college course on hockey literature.

The puck drops in January for "Hockey Literature and the Canadian Psyche," a second-year English offering by Doug Beardsley, whose previous classes have been largely in Holocaust literature and postmodern Canadian poetry.

Not every prospective student made the cut for the class, which was limited to 40 and runs three hours — appropriately divided into three periods.

"There is a national emptiness in the country" because hockey is "so much a part of us" that its absence, for Canadians, is "like losing a limb," said Beardsley, who has written two hockey books.

"Hockey represents the dark side of the Canadian spirit," he added. "The way we play the game on ice is semi-legal mayhem, which allows us to balance the psyche."

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NATIONAL



Osama bin Laden takes credit for 9-11 attacks

BY MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press Writer

CAIRO, Egypt — Osama bin Laden, addressing the American public ahead of presidential elections, said in a video aired Friday that the United States can avoid another Sept. 11 attack if it stops threatening the security of Muslims.

Reading a statement, the al-Qaida leader refrained from threats of new attacks and instead appealed to Americans.

"Your security is not in the hands of Kerry, Bush or al-Qaida. Your security is in your own hands," bin Laden said, referring to the president and his Democratic opponent. "Each state that does not mess with our security, has naturally guaranteed its own security."

Admitting for the first time that he ordered the Sept. 11 attacks, bin Laden said he did so because of injustices against the Lebanese and Palestinians by Israel and the United States.

It was the first footage in more than a year of the fugitive al-Qaida leader, thought to be hiding in the mountains along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. The video, broadcast on Al-Jazeera television, showed bin Laden with a long gray beard, wearing traditional white robes, a turban and a golden cloak, standing behind a table with papers and in front of a plain, brown curtain.

He gestured and his hands were steady as he spoke.

The FBI and Justice Department had no immediate assessment of the tape.

Officials said one part of their analysis will be to discern whether there may be hidden messages or clues about a possible future attack against the United States. But they said it was too early to know that yet.

There was no way to determine when the tape was made — but it offered evidence that bin Laden was alive and actively following events. Sen. John Kerry emerged as the Democratic candidate in the spring.

Bin Laden said he wanted to explain why he ordered the suicide airline hijackings that hit the World Trade Center and the Pentagon so Americans would know how to avoid "another disaster."

"To the U.S. people, my talk is to you about the best way to avoid another disaster," he said. "I tell you: security is an important element of human life and free people do not give up their security."

He accused President Bush of misleading Americans by saying the attack was carried out because al-Qaida "hates freedom." Bin Laden said his followers have left alone countries that do not threaten Muslims.

"We fought you because we are free ... and want to regain freedom for our nation. As you undermine our security we undermine yours," he said.

He said he was first inspired to attack the United States by the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon in which towers and buildings in Beirut were destroyed in the siege of the capital.

"While I was looking at these destroyed towers in Lebanon, it sparked in

my mind that the tyrant should be punished with the same and that we should destroy towers in America, so that it tastes what we taste and would be deterred from killing our children and women," he said.

"God knows that it had not occurred to our mind to attack the towers, but after our patience ran out and we saw the injustice and inflexibility of the American-Israeli alliance toward our people in Palestine and Lebanon, this came to my mind," he said.

Bin Laden suggested Bush was slow to react to the Sept. 11 attacks, giving the hijackers more time than they expected. At the time of the attacks, the president was listening to schoolchildren in Florida reading a book.

"It never occurred to us that the commander-in-chief of the American armed forces would leave 50,000 of his citizens in the two towers to face these horrors alone," he said, referring to the number of people who worked at the World Trade Center.

"It appeared to him (Bush) that a little girl's talk about her goat and its butting was more important than the planes and their butting of the skyscrapers. That gave us three times the required time to carry out the operations, thank God," he said.

In planning the attacks, bin Laden said he told Mohammed Atta, one of the hijackers, that the strikes had to be carried out "within 20 minutes before Bush and his administration noticed."

The image of bin Laden reading a statement was dramatically different from the few other videos of the al-Qaida

leader that have emerged since the Sept. 11 attacks.

In the last videotape, issued Sept. 10, 2003, bin Laden is seen walking through rocky terrain with his top deputy Ayman al-Zawahri, both carrying automatic rifles. In a taped message issued at the same time, bin Laden praises the "great damage to the enemy" on Sept. 11 and mentions five hijackers by name.

In December 2001, the Pentagon released a videotape in which bin Laden is shown at a dinner with associates in Afghanistan on Nov. 9, 2001, saying the destruction of the Sept. 11 attacks exceeded even his "optimistic" calculations.

But in none of his previous messages, audio or video, did bin Laden directly state that he ordered the attacks.

U.S. authorities have long said they believe bin Laden is hiding in a rugged, mountainous tribal region of Pakistan that borders Afghanistan, but there has been no firm evidence of his whereabouts for three years.

The last audiotape purportedly from bin Laden came in April. The speaker on the tape, which CIA analysts said likely was the al-Qaida leader, offered a truce to European nations if they pull troops out of Muslim countries. The tape referred to the March 22 assassination by Israel of Hamas founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin.

Al-Zawahri, bin Laden's Egyptian deputy, has spoken on three recent audiotapes that emerged on June 11, Sept. 9 and Oct. 1 this year. In the latest, he called on young Muslims to strike the United States and its allies.

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INTERNATIONAL

Nuclear chief junks accusations

By The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — U.N. nuclear chief Mohamed ElBaradei on Friday dismissed as “total junk” accusations that he timed the release of an Iraqi report on the disappearance of 377 tons of high explosives to make it an issue in the U.S. presidential election.

The missing explosives have become a flashpoint in the final week of the campaign, with Democratic nominee John Kerry accusing President Bush of “incredible incompetence” for not securing the dangerous material and saying the blunder should cost the commander in chief his job.

A number of political commentators and editorial writers have questioned the timing of the report, accusing ElBaradei of trying to boost Kerry’s chances against Bush in next Tuesday’s election.

“It’s total junk,” ElBaradei told The Associated Press when asked about accusations that the timing of the disclosure was linked to the U.S. election. “The timing probably is unfortunate, but there is a world out there other than the American election.”

ElBaradei said the timing “was driven” by a letter dated Oct. 10 that the International Atomic Energy Agency received from Iraq’s Ministry of Science and Technology. It stated that the high explosive material had disappeared from the former military installation at Al-Qaqaa after April 9, 2003 as a result of “theft and looting ... due to lack of security.”

The date the Iraqis gave was the fall of Baghdad to U.S. forces, and questions have arisen about what the United States knew about Al-Qaqaa and what it did to secure the site.

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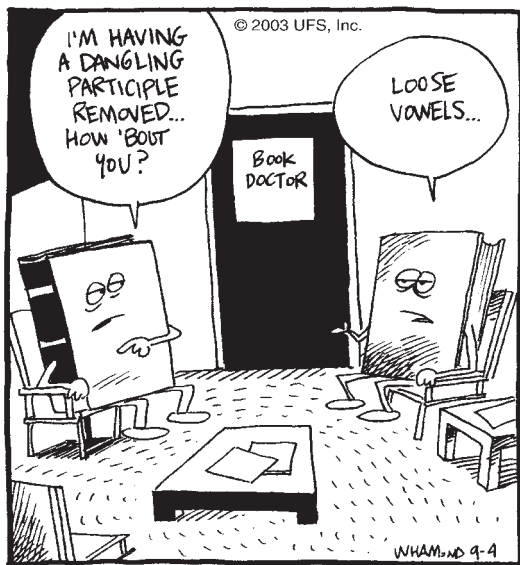
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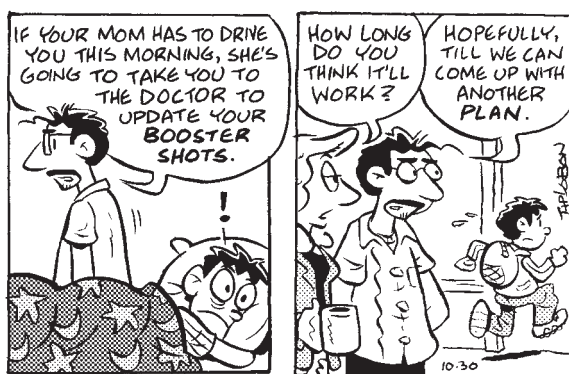
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- 17 Fast runner
- 18 Gourmet's sense
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- 25 Most Senators
- 26 Forest growth
- 27 Trite
- 29 Upper limits
- 33 Barber-shop item
- 34 Lily variety
- 35 Shortly
- 36 Duplicates
- 37 Web page feature

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- 38 Last letters
- 39 Spots
- 40 Minuscul
- 1 "Of course!"
- 2 Massenet creation
- 3 Sub system
- 4 Gunfighter's milieu
- 5 Brewers' creations
- 6 Cocoa holder
- 7 Deadly
- 8 Thieves' nemesis
- 9 Signified
- 10 Cowering
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- 18 Test show
- 20 Truman's birthplace
- 22 "Brand New Key" singer
- 23 Football spiking spot

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- 18 Test show
- 20 Truman's birthplace
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Mirren, the dame, named nudist of the year

By The Associated Press

LONDON — Helen Mirren was named naturist of the year Friday by Britain's main nudist group.

British Naturism said Mirren was selected from among "a number of well-known celebrities who have made their love of a naturist lifestyle public."

Mirren, who was named a dame — the female equivalent of a knight — by Queen Elizabeth II last year, was presented with an engraved rose bowl to commemorate the award.

"Many thanks to British Naturism for this great honor," she said. "I do believe in naturism and am my happiest on a nude beach with people of all ages and races."

British Naturism, which promotes going without clothes "as a friendly, relaxing and enjoyable way to spend your holidays and other free time," estimates there are some 2 million naturists, or nudists, in Britain.

The group's chairman, Mick Ayers, said high-profile supporters like Mirren helped dispel the image of naturism as "an eccentric activity pursued by a tiny minority."

The 59-year-old actress received Oscar nominations for 1994's "The Madness Of King George" and 2001's "Gosford Park."

LOS ANGELES — The mother of Notorious B.I.G. reportedly has dropped a wrongful-death lawsuit against a former suspect in the rap star's slaying.

Voletta Wallace had accused Amir Muhammad, aka Harry Billups, of shooting her son outside the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles after a music industry party on March 9, 1997.

Her decision to dismiss Muhammad as a defendant followed a pretrial deposition during which he denied

any connection to the rapper's death and offered to take a lie-detector test, unidentified sources close to the negotiations told the Los Angeles Times.

The confidential settlement didn't include any payments, the sources said. Wallace's attorneys refused to discuss additional details of the agreement with the newspaper.

Muhammad could not be reached for comment Friday morning, but he has long maintained his innocence and was never questioned by police in the killing of Notorious B.I.G. (real name: Christopher Wallace).

Voletta Wallace's 2002 lawsuit still names the city of Los Angeles and Muhammad's former college roommate, David A. Mack, a Los Angeles policeman now serving a 14-year federal prison sentence for bank robbery. It accused Mack of hiring Muhammad to shoot the hip-hop artist and police of failing to investigate properly after a fellow officer came under suspicion.

Though police never interrogated Muhammed, they had once investigated whether he was paid to shoot Wallace by rival rap mogul Marion "Suge" Knight and Mack.

Muhammad became part of the probe when a jailhouse informant familiar with Mack told detectives that the rapper's killer went by a "Middle East" sounding name. Muhammad had also visited Mack in prison, at the request of Mack's family.

Investigators have not found a murder weapon or witnesses linking Mack to the shooting. He has denied any involvement in the murder.

NEW YORK — The "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" franchise is becoming a little more, well, feminine.

Bravo announced Thursday the makeover show's

spin-off, "Queer Eye for the Straight Girl," is starring not a fab five but a quadruplet — and one of them is female.

She's former model Honey Labrador, who's been seen in the pages of Elle and Mademoiselle and in episodes of the sexy Showtime series "Red Shoe Diaries."

The show promises to transform heterosexual women for events such as a proposal, a 30th birthday and a wedding.

"'Queer Eye for the Straight Girl' is sure to deliver all the humor, heart and relationship building that made its older brother such a success," said Bravo President Lauren Zalaznick. "Women everywhere should feel fortunate to have gal pals like these in their corner."

"Queer Eye for the Straight Girl" will premiere in 2005.

NEW YORK — Cinderella's pregnant.

The principal dancer at the American Ballet Theatre, who has performed the leading roles in "Cinderella" and "Romeo and Juliet," will miss the company's national tour next year and its local season because she's pregnant.

Ukrainian-born Irina Dvorovento and her husband, fellow ABT dancer Maxim Beloserkovsky, are expecting their first child in March 2005, the company said Thursday.

Dvorovento will return in September.

She joined the American Ballet Theatre in 1996 and was promoted to soloist in 1997 and principal dancer in 2000. Besides Cinderella and Juliet, her repertoire with the company includes the sugar plum fairy in "The Nutcracker" and Kitri and Mercedes in "Don Quixote."

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