

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

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Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: \$19 Million

FANTASY 5

2 6 14 16 25

DAILY 3

Daytime: 5 1 9
Evening: 4 5 0

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2nd: 02 Lucky Star
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RACE TIME: 1:44.28

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Paris Satine, 46, the madame of a legal brothel in Maroochydore, Australia (north of Brisbane), who was a nominee at an awards banquet for Excellence in Business (which was being held at a local hotel), was arrested for soliciting clients during the event.

■ London's Sunday Telegraph reported in July that, because of the shortage of military supplies caused by troops deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq, British Army soldiers on training exercises were ordered simply to shout "bang bang" rather than fire practice rounds.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, Nov. 3,
the 307th day of 2005.
There are 58 days left in the year.

On Nov. 3, 1900, the first automobile show in the United States opened at New York's Madison Square Garden under the auspices of the Automobile Club of America.

In 1868, Republican Ulysses S. Grant won the presidential election over Democrat Horatio Seymour.

In 1903, Panama proclaimed its independence from Colombia.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Justice is too good for some people and not good enough for the rest."

NORMAN DOUGLAS
SCOTTISH AUTHOR (1868-1952)

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Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

RALLYING CRY: Santa Monica students make their convictions known, protesting the war in Iraq and calling for President Bush's resignation during a Wednesday afternoon protest on the Third Street Promenade.

Students skip school to protest war

White House responds that expressing views is American right, but one threatened by terrorists

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

THIRD STREET — Santa Monica students who oppose President Bush, and fearful they could soon be drafted into military service, walked out of their classrooms on Wednesday to protest on the Promenade.

The 250-person demonstration, organized by a group called The World Can't Wait, began at noon on the corners of Third Street and Wilshire Boulevard. More than nine simultaneous demonstrations were staged along the Wilshire corridor, according to organizers.

Carrying signs that brandished messages such as "No more Lives for Lies" and "No WMDs," the protesters — many of them Santa Monica High School students — marched from the campus, located south of the Interstate 10 Freeway, to their permitted protest site on Third Street.

By 12:51 p.m., Rage Against the Machine's "Killing in the Name" was being blasted from a loudspeaker as protesters, shout-

ing and cheering, took turns crossing Wilshire while waving signs.

Several passing motorists honked their car horns in support.

Meanwhile, a dozen Santa Monica police officers, some on foot and others on motorcycles, kept an eye from the sidelines to ensure vehicular traffic stayed clear of students.

Among those in the crowd were Santa Monica parents, who said they withdrew their children from class to participate in the demonstration.

"I want there to be a world for my son to grow up in," said Santa Monica resident Michelle Sutter, whose son is a middle school student. "My father was a lifelong Republican, but wouldn't vote for the party after the first Iraq war, because he said all they care about is getting rich and getting their friends rich."

"For a while, we suspected there were dark forces in the White House, and now we know there are."

Fanny Ballantine, a Samohi freshman with two homosexual

"For a while, we suspected there were dark forces in the White House, and now we know there are."

— MICHELLE SUTTER
Santa Monica resident

fathers, decided to participate in the demonstration because she is against the occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq. She also considers Bush to be anti-gay.

Ballantine — who said she avoided afternoon classes to march with her fellow students — will likely have to make up for her truancy by attending school on Saturday, but she said she doesn't mind.

"There are consequences for what you do, but that's all right, if what you do is something you believe in," Ballantine said.

See **PROTEST**, page 10

Simi later: Renter's rate is out of control

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK — A residency dispute over a rent-controlled apartment unit ended unfavorably for a woman with cancer, causing her rent to double.

The Santa Monica Rent Control Board on Thursday heard from attorneys, representing landlord Sandra B. Petit and tenant Juin Desrosiers Barker, who argued whether Petit had a right to charge market rate for an apartment Barker has been using part-time since 2000.

The rent control board sided with Petit in the case, believing Barker was a "tenant not-in-occupancy." Under Santa Monica's Regulation No. 3304, a rent control law passed in 2003, landlords are able to increase rent when it's been determined a unit is not the

See **RENT CONTROL**, page 11

LOCAL

It figures! Schools eye math coordinator

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS. — For the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, it's as easy as one, two, three.

The board of education is set today to approve plans to hire a coordinator who will oversee the development of a math curriculum for the entire school district. While the district currently has a literacy coordinator to assist with developing its language arts program, district officials have been looking forward to being able to afford a similar position for math.

"We have been seeing

See **IT FIGURES**, page 12

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HOROSCOPE

Happy as a clam, Sag

Santa Monica Daily Press



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



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Finally, you feel like a breath of fresh air has hit. Catch up on calls, news and meetings. You can finally turn a project around, but you might be surprised at others' responses. Accept new technology. Tonight: Out and about.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ A financial matter finally becomes clear, though you need to ask your set of questions. Your ideas are appreciated. Do not make any changes or investments involving property right now. Let go of rigidity. Tonight: Gather your bills.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You are the king- or queenpin right now, even if one particular person tries to shake you up. Use your assets and your mind to gain your objectives. Some of you just might want to enjoy yourselves. Tonight: Happy as a clam.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★ Know that at times even you, as powerful as you are, need to step back. In fact, your inner voice might be telling you one thing while events appear to be quite different. Step back and observe. Tonight: Read a good book.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Meetings and friends support you in your long-term goals. The problem might be more financial, creating what you desire. You might be surprised at the ideas that come from a brainstorming session. Tonight: Just don't be alone.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★ You certainly have a way of adding new information or turning issues or situations upside down. A boss explains clearly what he wants or expects. Listen to what others want, or you could be in trouble. Tonight: Possibly working late.



ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You need to take an overview and detach. Events have been very intense of late. Seek out information and find experts, if possible. The more opinions you get, the better. Schedule a trip in the near future. Tonight: An insight could be uncomfortable. Still, internalize this perspective.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ A partner calms down, making it easier to relate to him or her. In fact, suddenly this person is so talkative you might be shocked. A change in plans or a difficult meeting just is what it is. You cannot change what happens. Tonight: Quality time with a special person.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Others seek you out, but they are not interested in your ideas. They simply want to talk and/or use you as a sounding board. A shakeup in the status quo or with a professional matter might stop you in your tracks. Tonight: Don't fight the inevitable.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Emphasize what you can accomplish rather than where you find problems. Learn ways to turn off your thinking. You hear surprising news, but it might not be the whole story. Tonight: Get some exercise.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You are playful and an endless resource. Be open to enjoying yourself. What you say does mean a lot. Listen more carefully to a partner. Yes, he or she is being vague, but you will find a solution. Tonight: Don't allow a partner or money matter to shake you up.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Others simply want you to conform to their plans. You, however, have other ideas, like hanging at home. If you think you are going to be left alone, think again. The phone rings. Expect the unexpected, and you won't be caught off-guard. Tonight: Order in.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Day tripping via the Big Blue

By Daily Press staff

The Big Blue Bus is going the distance for its customers.

This fall, Big Blue Bus will take travelers to a Danish village and holiday parade, to sunny Palm Springs, and end the year with the excursion to the Rose Bowl game and parade — all part of a new service called “Getaways.”

The trips are part of the community transit initiative the Big Blue Bus is developing and are designed for people who want to escape for a day-trip.

“These day trips are the perfect escape that require no planning, no fighting traffic, to parking hassles, and saves a bundle on filling up your tank,” said Big Blue Bus spokesman Dan Dawson.

People can buy tickets to the Getaways trip of their choice, ride the bus or park for free from where the buses leave and spend the rest of the day enjoying the ride and the trip.

“While all the trips are fun, the Solvang trip is one of my personal favorites,” says Monica Gonzalez, Getaways coordinator. “It’s like traveling to Denmark in a day. The village is so cute and quaint and the parade is a lot of fun to watch while eating a Danish pastry or sipping some hot chocolate from one of the many bakeries. It’s a great place to do some holiday shopping.”

This fall’s trips and dates are:

- Palm Springs & Casino, Saturday, Nov. 19 (Tickets: \$30)
- Solvang Danish village and Parade, Saturday, Dec. 3 (Tickets: \$35)
- 117th Rose Parade (grandstand seating) Monday, Jan. 2 (Tickets: \$67)
- 92nd Rose Bowl Game (transportation only) Wednesday, Jan. 4 (Tickets: \$30)

The Big Blue Bus offers Getaways once a month to festivals, towns, arts events, and historic destinations. For more information, call (310) 451-5444.

Cyclists race down canyon for \$10K

By Daily Press staff

Top cyclists from around the world are expected this week to race down La Tuna Canyon and find out who is the fastest rider at the inaugural Red Bull Road Rage, co-sponsored by Giant Bicycle and Avid Brakes.

Riders will take on a two-mile course with a 2,000-foot elevation drop, cliff-hanging berms and 120-degree turns around rock faces at speeds up to 60 mph through La Tuna Canyon in Malibu.

World class athletes will descend upon Tuna Canyon for practice on Friday, Nov. 4 from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5 will be race day. The first race will begin at 8:45 a.m.

The race will consist of two formats:

1. Time trials: Individuals race against the clock.
2. Pack race: The top 16 from the time trials will race boardercross-style, in four-person heats. The top two in each heat will advance and after three times down the hill, the fastest one in the pack will be crowned.

A speed trap will record the fastest speed throughout the day on Tuna Canyon’s longest straight-away. The original \$5,000 prize purse has been doubled thanks to Avid Brakes involvement, and winners will now share a \$10,000 prize purse.

Mars front and center at SMC

By Daily Press staff

There is something out of this world at Santa Monica College.

Mars is the star of the SMC Friday night astronomy series in November, with a feature show and guest lecture both centered on the Red Planet.

The feature show, continued from October, is “Mars Returns,” a look at the planet as it returns to our skies closer than at any time in the last two years. “Mars Returns” is Friday, Nov. 4.

See BRIEFS, page 10



SURF REPORT

Size should be more in the waist- to chest-high range for west-facing spots. South-facing breaks will likely see waist-high sets at best. The tide is a problem as we’re in the midst of a fairly significant tidal swing due to a new moon that will occur later today. This is swinging highs well above six feet during early- to mid-morning sessions, and lows dipping negative in the afternoon. These extremes will continue into the weekend.

Today the water is:

62°

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



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
MONDAY	1:24	1.2	2:17	0.3	7:40	5.8	8:21	4.4
TUESDAY	1:47	1.5	2:52	-0.1	8:02	6.0	9:02	4.3
WEDNESDAY	2:11	1.8	3:30	-0.3	8:27	6.2	9:47	4.0
THURSDAY	2:36	2.1	4:13	-0.4	8:56	6.3	10:39	3.7
FRIDAY	3:03	2.4	5:02	-0.4	9:30	6.3	11:43	3.4

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The Q Line

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Coastal areas around Los Angeles County last week received some of the worst statewide grades for water quality from nonprofit environmental group Heal the Bay. Environmental officials ascribed the county’s low scores to a lack of enforcement of new environmental regulations.

So, this week, Q-Line wants to know, “**What can local and county government agencies do to improve water quality and regulation compliance in Los Angeles County?**”

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

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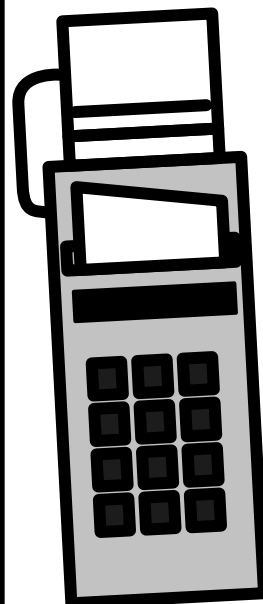


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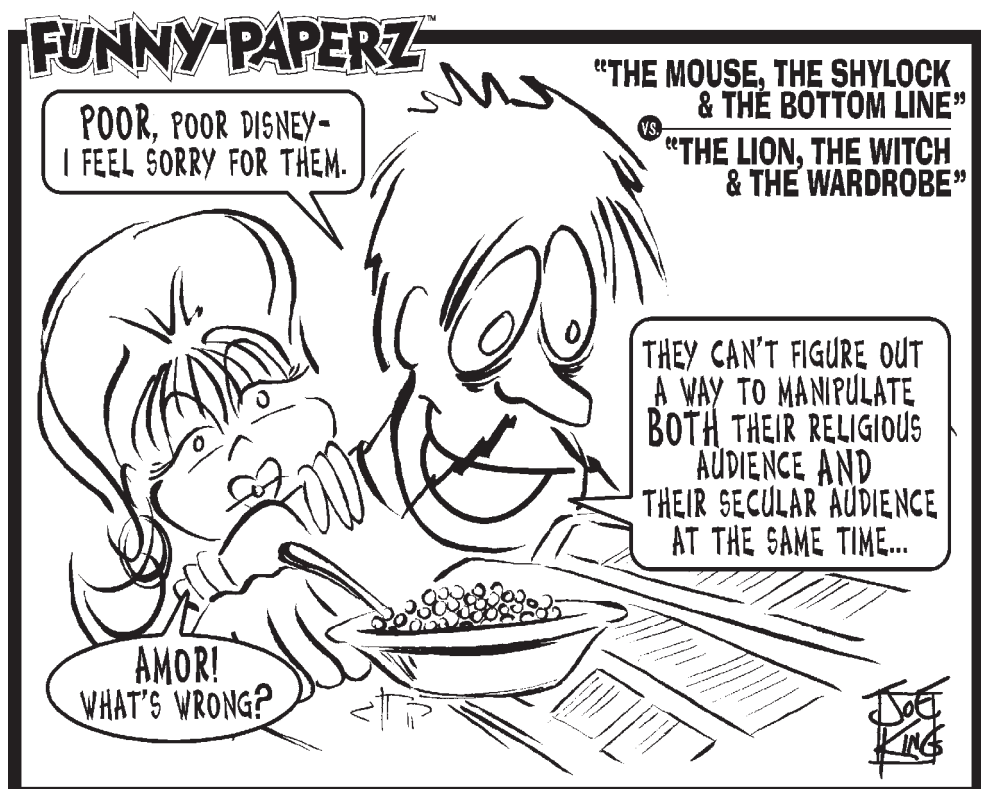
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OPINION



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Churches should have to adhere to laws

Editor:

The Planning Commission approved the expansion of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church at Arizona Avenue and 18th Street without on-site parking. The neighbors have filed an appeal which will go before the City Council on Nov. 22.

Everyone that develops property is required to provide adequate on-site parking and this church has no parking for anyone attending the many activities at the church. This is just an unacceptable burden to our already overparked situation. Our neighborhood has the car dealerships, the hospitals and retail and now we have a Planning Commission that does not live here and does not care about our parking crisis.

We will see how the City Council feels about our terrible situation on Nov. 22. I hope they are on the side of the residents.

Cathy Milliken
Santa Monica

Malibu government is the disaster

Editor:

TRI-PAC National Health and Wellness Advocacy on behalf of its Southern California membership, is compelled to express objection to "Don't Try to Surf a Tsunami," by Los Angeles Times Staff Writer Hector Becerra, Oct. 28.

This misguided exercise by the city of Malibu is ambiguity and hyperbole at best. It is not in the best interests of residents of and numerous visitors to Malibu. It is a "wipe out" crashing on the rocks.

For the record, Professor Victor S. Dorodny has been offering Malibu city leaders and residents since 2003 numerous and unique quality solutions (on a volunteer and uncompensated basis) after hours and emergency urgent care solutions positioning Malibu as one of the most disaster prepared communities in the nation.

Thanks to Malibu city leaders, residents and visitors can "wave" good-bye due to an inept and out-of-touch City Council and aggressively incompetent city staff.

For the record, Ms. Katie Lichtig, city manager and Mr. Brad Davis, emergency preparedness coordinator, do not have a personal interest in the matter given that they do not reside in Malibu, resulting in credibility and objectivity bias.

The city of Malibu leadership was recently found by a court to be in violation of the Brown Act and is using city funds to appeal the matter.

We propose and urge that these funds be redirected to recruit and elect candidates to replace realtor Andrew Stern and Councilmember Sharon Barovsky.

We challenge the city of Malibu to initiate real discussion and inclusive debate on the pitiful and substandard state of emergency medical services and disaster preparedness in the city of Malibu.

Robert Donin, MPA
President, TRI-PAC Health and Wellness Advocacy

Spent on Bush

Editor:

In his news conference after winning the 2004 election, President Bush stated, "I earned capital in the campaign, political capital, and now I intend to spend it."

He's spent it.

David Stoughton
Santa Monica

Beating 'round the Bush just like picking berries

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



Ms. Marie Runyon, 90, blind, was arrested in Times Square in October. She was forcibly carted off to jail along with 17 other "Grandmothers Against the War" who sat down in front of the recruiting station there, offering to enlist for the cause.

"I don't know what they were afraid of. Maybe they don't know how to deal with a bunch of grannies," said Joan Wile, 74, from the inside, frail hands barely able to grasp iron bars restraining her from further menacing a decent society.

Maybe they don't know how to deal with a bunch of things, Joan.

Remember that blood-curdling rebel yell from Howard Dean after he lost Iowa in the primaries last year? Yes, it was just last year, though it seems like forever ago. My, how time crawls when you're not having fun. I think we all know now where that shriek came from. Dean was reacting to the spine-tingling prospect of four more years of abject Bushamerican horror. Whooooaaogghuughhhh. Howard Dean was put up to public ridicule for it, but many scream that scream now.

If you think you had a bad week, consider that of your president.

How about 27 more soldiers under his command killed this week, 2,025 confirmed dead in a war that never had to happen? How many more not on the official tally sheet, how many at home torn limb from limb, and how many innocent Iraqis dead? Does anybody know?

How about Hurricane Wilma howling through Florida where even under the watchful eye of little brother Jeb, she joins Katrina and Rita to complete the terrible trio of natural disasters empowered beyond their wildest gusts by botched management. Wasn't Jeb going to show those Louisiana ne'erdo wells how to do this thing?

How about the right-hand man falling on the sword for the left-handed shenanigans of his boss? Scooter Libby, Dick Cheney's Chief of Staff is busted and faces up to 30 years in jail for fronting the bogus rationale for unnecessary war that is now very close to being officially heralded as the most disastrous undertaking in the history of a once-great nation. And now the news breaks that Saddam Hussein accepted a last-minute offer to leave Iraq that would have spared his and our nation the hell and fury of the great needless war. Was his agreement to leave conveniently ignored by the merchants of war who wanted the conflict so badly they were willing to lie to the world on a large enough scale to get at least one of them arrested?

How about Harriet Miers, the Bush personal attorney, hand-picked by him for the Supreme Court, turning out to be so incompetent and underqualified for job that even the lock-stepping right-wing wack-jobs, led by Rush Limbaugh and Bill Bennett, couldn't stand behind her?

How about Bennett, the solid conservative pillar of virtue, suggesting on his radio show that America's crime rate would plummet if all African-American fetuses were aborted?

How about Tom DeLay, the Bush front man in Congress — fingerprinted with mug shot in front of the whole world, formally booked on corruption charges?

How about Bush and DeLay's oil buddies, Exxon Mobil Corp. based in Irving, Texas — reporting profits of \$9.9 billion for the third quarter of the fiscal year — the most ever by any company anywhere for a quarter, while the price of gas at the pumps hovers around the \$3 mark because they cry production is down? Now nine-point-nine billion is a lot more than the loneliest number, one.

"One U.S. soldier was killed today in a roadside bombing in Iraq," was the solitary reference to the war on the Tuesday night radio news. Do your dots connect that one soldier to the \$9.9 billion, or is it just my dots?

After a week like that, you'd think enough might just about be enough, right? Wrong. How about All Bush All the Time?

In June, House Judiciary Chairman James Sensenbrenner Jr. (R-Wis.) sponsored legislation to amend the constitution by repealing the 22nd amendment that confines any president to two terms. And it's not dead yet. That's right, they want to clear the 22nd amendment out of the way of the brush-clearing president so he may rule in perpetuity. What was it again that Howard Dean was saying? Whooooaaogghuughhhh. Are you feeling him yet?

True, Bush for Life strikes dread into the hearts of many, but hold on a minute. By repealing that part of the constitution, this unwitting bunch would clear the way for their very own worst nightmare to creep back into their restful sleep — one William Jefferson Clinton. If Bush is your Malevolent Midnight Cowboy, friends, Clinton is their Freddy Kreuger, knives-for-fingers fully sharpened.

So let's have at it. The Bush-Clinton Super Bowl everybody's longing for. The elder Bush was no match for the randy young Clinton back in 1992, and hell hath no fury like a son avenging a father's humiliation. Let's find out what we're all about.

The shriek you'd hear coming from red America if Freddy were to stalk back into town and put one of those horrific hands on an inauguration bible would make the Dean shriek sound like a lullaby that would put even a 90-year old blind lady to sleep.

(Ron Scott Smith can be reached at edgeofthewest@aol.com.)

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

STATE



Genetically modified foods may get grounded

BY JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer

SANTA ROSA — The tomatoes, basil and apples that Shelley Arrowsmith grows on her modest 2.5-acre farm in Sonoma County are produced without chemical fertilizers or pesticides.

Flowers surrounding her vegetable garden attract what she calls "good bugs" that eat the troublesome ones. In her beehives, grease pads draw mites away from the hives and are later eaten by ants.

While she has a choice about whether to use chemicals, she worries about a possible change in the county's agricultural industry that may leave her without a choice: the use of genetically altered crops.

Fear of having her produce contaminated by such crops prompted her to support a local measure on the Nov. 8 ballot. Measure M would ban the planting or cultivating of any genetically altered crops in Sonoma County, a region best known for its pastoral vineyards and lush orchards.

"The bees have no boundaries. They can go wherever they want," Arrowsmith said.

Voters have approved similar bans in Mendocino and Marin counties, while in Trinity County the board of supervisors imposed a ban last year. Voters have rejected bans on bioengineered crops in Humboldt, San Luis Obispo and Butte counties.

Opponents of genetically modified crops have lobbied for outright bans in Hawaii and Vermont, but California remains the only state in the nation where voters have banned such crops locally.

In Sonoma County, farmers have lined up on both sides. Supporters and opponents have spent \$850,000 total on the campaign, approaching the most ever spent on a Sonoma County ballot fight.

The county farm bureau opposes the ban. It has raised money from area farmers and wineries but has avoided taking money from biotech companies.

About three-quarters of the funding for the campaign supporting the ban has come from the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, a local organic farm and education center.

Opponents of genetically modified crops said there has been insufficient research on the health effects of eating contaminated food. Arrowsmith, 54, worries that they will migrate to her farm from nearby fields, perhaps through pollinating bees.

Such fears are unfounded, said Lex McCorvey, executive director of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau. He said different species of apples or tomatoes can be planted next to each other and not become contaminated. The risk of cross-pollination is very low for crops such as

corn, he added.

Many foods commonly found in grocery stores also are the result of genetic tinkering, he said.

"We've been dealing with all these risks in agriculture since the beginning of time," McCorvey said.

He said the proposed 10-year ban on genetically modified crops could hurt Sonoma County farmers in the multibillion-dollar international agricultural industry. In the United States, most packaged foods have some genetically modified component. Europe, however, has imposed restrictions on genetically modified crop imports.

Biotech agriculture already is helping feed millions of people, reduce the use of pesticides, cure diseases and improve nutrition, said Martina Newell-McGloughlin, director of the University of California's biotechnology program. She said federal standards already strictly govern the industry.

"These are seriously well-regulated. Any of these crops before they're commercially approved go through seven to 10 years of review, and there's at least nine layers of study in there," said Newell-McGloughlin, a professor at UC Davis.

Art Lafranchi believes the 45 acres of genetically modified feed corn on his 255-acre Sonoma County dairy farm is much cleaner than the conventional corn he had before.

Over six years, he said the amount and strength of the pesticides his workers have had to apply to the weed-resistant crop has dropped each year.

"We're using less chemicals, we're using chemicals that have far less impact, and it costs less and it does a much better job," he said. "What they (supporters of a ban) want flies in the face of what environmentalists want — having an environment that's less toxic to us."

McCorvey said the farm bureau wasn't concerned with genetic engineering until supporters of a ban drafted their ballot measure. The board spent a year researching it and decided the proposed ban would hurt farmers more than it would help, he said.

Steve Dutton, a fifth generation farmer near Sebastopol, works 1,300 acres of wine grapes and apples, including 75 acres certified as organic. He said he would jump at the chance to plant a disease-resistant grape vine. One hasn't been invented yet and is probably years off.

"We should have a right to farm what we want to farm as long as the U.S. government says it's OK," said Dutton, 38, who also is a member of the farm board.

If the ban is approved by voters, the county would be responsible for enforcing it. Fines would be up to \$1,000 for each violation.

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STATE BRIEFS

Police scoop ring of armed ice cream vendors

By The Associated Press

OXNARD — Six ice cream truck vendors selling BB guns to minors for \$5 each were cited during an undercover police sting that led to confiscation of about 70 BB guns and imitation weapons. State law bans the sale of BB guns to minors.

Resident complaints that children were buying imitation firearms and BB guns from ice cream vendors led to the police investigation, Senior Officer Andrew Salinas said.

“It has gone to the point where all the kids know what type of product they sell,” Salinas said. Most of the weapons seized had real functioning lasers, slides that lock and magazines the pop out to reload the BBs, he said.

“If you stick that in front of your pants, display it or exhibit it, there’s no way that the average person would know it wasn’t a firearm,” he said.

The vendors could be sentenced to jail and fined if convicted.

Knee jerk: Thief swipes girl's prosthetic leg

By The Associated Press

TEMPLE CITY — A thief walked off with 16-year-old Melissa Huff’s prosthetic leg. The Arcadia High School sophomore’s prosthetic leg was taken from the family home at about 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, her father David Huff said. School fund-raising scrip worth about \$1,500, video games and other items were also taken.

“It’s not something you can just sell on the street. Something like that, it’s just cruel,” said Los Angeles County sheriff’s Sgt. Tim Phillips.

Melissa’s right leg had to be amputated below the knee two years ago after she was struck by a car.

The stolen leg is a special shock-absorbent “sports leg” with a flexible foot that allows Melissa to play softball. She has other prosthetic legs, including the one she was wearing the day of the burglary.

Trio of teens charged for day of terror

By The Associated Press

GARDENA — Three teenagers were charged with what was described as an “amazing crime wave” targeting people in front of homes in the Gardena, Torrance and Harbor Gateway areas last month.

During a two-hour period on Oct. 22, the youths were allegedly responsible for a dozen robberies of people on the street, one after another, investigators said. They used intimidation and a handgun to steal cash, jewelry and cellular telephones.

“That was the day if you heard the radio, it was just one crime after another,” police Lt. Chuck Balo said.

Charges were filed Tuesday in nine of the crimes. More charges were expected soon in three others.

William Arthur Gibson, 18, of Compton; Maurice Eugene Stewart, 18, of San Bernardino; and a 17-year-old Carson youth were charged with nine counts of robbery, with five of them alleging a gun was used. Prosecutors will ask that the 17-year-old be tried as an adult, Balo said.

It may be harder to say good-bye to the O.C.

By The Associated Press

SANTA ANA — Departing passengers at John Wayne Airport may soon be paying a \$4.50 charge to help pay for airport expansion.

Airport Director Alan Murphy told the Orange County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday the departure fee would help raise a portion of an estimated \$440 million needed for a third terminal and six new passenger gates. There are now 14 gates in two terminals.

The expansion project would also include parking and a Customs office, allowing the airport to add two to four daily international flights to destinations such as Canada and Mexico, Murphy said.

John Wayne Airport is one of only six large commercial airports nationwide that don’t have a departure fee. Calling it a passenger facility charge, Los Angeles International Airport charges \$4.50 and Ontario International \$3.

The Orange County airport was built to handle 8.4 million passengers a year. It now handles more than 9 million annually.

D.A. labels donation law as ‘flawed’

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — District Attorney Steve Cooley said the county’s law limiting political donations to top officials has “fundamental flaws” and is “nearly impossible” to enforce.

In a letter to the county Board of Supervisors released Tuesday, Cooley recommended a series of changes to strengthen the voter-approved law — passed nine years ago — so he can prosecute offenders. Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky was frustrated that enforcement of the initiative, which he wrote, has proved so difficult.

“It’s ridiculous,” Yaroslavsky said. “Every other jurisdiction that has a campaign finance law has an enforcement capability. If the district attorney can’t do it, tell us who can.”

In 1996, voters imposed limits on campaign contributions to the five supervisors, district attorney, sheriff and assessor. Donations from registered lobbyists were banned. But an investigation by the Los Angeles Times found no candidate or donor had been fined or prosecuted for violating the law.

STATE



Poll: Voters turned off by governor's message

BY TOM CHORNEAU

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — California voters are inclined to oppose all four ballot measures supported by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who is viewed in an increasingly negative light by Democrats and independents, according to a special election poll released Tuesday.

The Field Poll is the second in a week to show momentum moving against Schwarzenegger and his four "year of reform" ballot propositions on the Nov. 8 ballot.

"The story is not a good one for the governor," Field Poll Director Mark DiCamillo said. "There seems to be a common thread across all the propositions: If Arnold Schwarzenegger has endorsed it, Democrats and nonpartisans are reacting negatively. And by turning off those two groups, it has made things very difficult for the governor."

Schwarzenegger told a San Diego radio audience Tuesday that he wasn't concerned with the polls and simply urged voters to turn out next week.

"I wouldn't pay that much attention to all that negative news that is going on," the governor told listeners of KFMB. "What is important is what happens on Election Day."

The governor's private polling shows a far closer race on the initiatives and that Schwarzenegger remains a persuasive force, said Todd Harris, spokesman for Schwarzenegger's California Recovery Team.

"Our internal data paints a very different picture," Harris said. "We also continue to believe that Governor Schwarzenegger is our best messenger for the reform message, evidenced by the fact that we have him ... on TV ads."

A poll released last week from the Public Policy Institute of California showed similar findings as the Field Poll. The Public Policy poll found none of his four measures had support of a majority of voters while two were opposed by wide margins.

Noting the intense media campaign by both sides, DiCamillo said pollsters took special care to isolate any shift in voter attitudes during the closing days. The Field Poll conducted two separate surveys, one Oct. 18-24 and a second Oct. 25-30.

The findings showed a general trend against the governor's agenda.

Proposition 74, for instance, which would lengthen the probationary term of teachers, was supported by 44 percent of likely voters in the first survey with 47 percent opposed and 9 percent undecided. In the second poll, support remained the same while opposition had grown to 50 percent, with 6 percent undecided.

The same was true for Proposition 75, which would restrict the use of union dues for political purposes. In the first poll, 44 percent of voters supported the measure, while 45 percent were opposed and 11 percent undecided. A week later, support had fallen to 40 percent, with 50 percent opposed and 10 percent undecided.

Opposition also increased against Proposition 77, which would strip the Legislature of its authority for drawing congressional and legislative districts. In the first poll, 38 percent favored the idea, while 41 percent opposed it and 21 percent were undecided. By the second week, support had fallen to 35 percent, with 51 percent opposed and 14 percent undecided.

Both polls found a sizable majority opposed Proposition 76, which would impose a cap on state spending and give the governor powers to cut funding without legislative approval. Thirty-two percent supported it, while 60 percent were opposed and 8 percent were undecided in the most recent survey.

Most voters also opposed Proposition 80, which would re-regulate energy producers: 24 percent were in favor, with 48 percent opposed and 28 percent undecided in the latest survey.

DiCamillo said pollsters also asked likely voters if they were more inclined to vote yes or inclined to vote no on a measure that had been endorsed by the governor. They found 69 percent of Democrats and 46 percent of nonpartisans said they would vote no on a measure endorsed by Schwarzenegger.

Turnout will be key to the outcome next Tuesday. Schwarzenegger's campaign increasingly has targeted Republican voters, hoping to motivate enough of them to overcome the expected no votes from other voters.

The two polls were based on random telephone interviews with 300 likely voters. They each had a margin of error of plus or minus 6 percentage points.

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Business

The Roth 401(k) on the way in '06

MARKET MATTERS

BY BRIAN HEPP



As an investor, you know that there are many retirement plans available to help you to save for the future. Now, there is a new retirement plan feature on the horizon. In 2006, the Roth 401(k) arrives as another vehicle for investors to build their retirement nest eggs.

If you are currently participating in a 401(k) plan and have always wanted to contribute to a Roth IRA but couldn't because of income limitations, this plan may be of interest to you. Many investors cannot contribute to a Roth IRA because of the adjusted gross income limits on this type of plan, meaning if your adjusted gross income is too high, you do not qualify for a Roth IRA. While the new Roth 401(k) is set to arrive in 2006, the IRS is still working on the details.

This new investment feature is a cross between a Roth IRA and a 401(k) plan. As with a 401(k), your contributions will be taken out of your paycheck and deposited into your selected investment alternatives. And, as with a Roth IRA, you'll contribute after-tax dollars to the plan — which means you'll pay taxes on the contributions. Your withdrawals in retirement will be tax-free if taken after age 59, and after at least five years from the date of the first contribution. However, unlike a Roth IRA, there will be required mandatory withdrawals beginning at age 70, such as you would incur with a 401(k) plan or a traditional IRA.

It's important to note that if employers wish to offer the Roth 401(k) plan to employees, the employers must amend their existing retirement plans. While the government is still ironing out the details, many employers seem to be taking a wait-and-see approach to the Roth 401(k), which means your employer may not offer it immediately but you should be aware of

what may come. If your employer opts to offer a Roth 401(k), you'll be able to contribute up to \$15,000 in 2006, plus a \$5,000 catch-up contribution if you are aged 50 or older. Keep in mind that this contribution limit applies to Roth 401(k)s and traditional salary deferral 401(k) contributions in any combination. So you won't be able to contribute \$15,000 to each of these plans — this limit would apply to your combined contribution to both plans.

In addition, if your employer elects to offer the Roth 401(k) feature, you'll need to assess the benefits of this feature to your particular situation. You may find that making after-tax contributions and potentially tax-free withdrawals works for your situation. However, there may be some investors who find it to be beneficial to take advantage of reducing their taxable income now, even though future withdrawals will be taxed, but perhaps at a lower tax rate. This is a consideration you should carefully discuss with your financial consultant and tax advisor.

As previously mentioned, final rules have not been issued yet for this investment vehicle, therefore the rules could potentially change. You should be aware of this new plan and get yourself acquainted with these general rules as they currently stand. Your financial consultant can help you understand any further developments as final regulations are released. As with any retirement plan, the most important thing is to start early and contribute consistently in order to take advantage of compounding. It's never too early to begin funding your nest egg.

(Brian Hepp is a financial consultant for Santa Monica-based A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. Member SIPC. He can be reached at (310) 453-0077 or at brian.hepp@agedwards.com. A.G. Edwards is a full-service retail brokerage firm that offers a complete spectrum of financial products and services, including stocks, bonds and mutual funds, financial retirement planning and tax-advantage investments.)

GUEST COMMENTARY BY MARY MASSAD

Taking time to make merry

Holidays are a time for family get-togethers and vacation getaways, but they can also cause workplace headaches unless your company has a clear plan for scheduling employee time off during this peak vacation crunch.

The end of the year is one of the most predictable things in business. But even a holiday-shunning Grinch would grimace at the way many companies wait until the last minute to decide who's getting time off and then just barely eke by with remaining staff.

In the absence of any firm policy, employees often feel they are entitled to take time off whenever they want, especially if their company has a "use it or lose it" policy. After all, nobody said they couldn't.

If you don't have a written vacation policy, it's time to start a new holiday tradition, and now is as good a time as any. So in the name of holiday cheer, Administaff, which serves as a full-service human resources department for thousands of small and medium-sized businesses, has compiled a list of field-tested time-off planning tips.

■ Communication is key. You've heard it before, but everyone needs boundaries. By putting the rules in writing up front and publishing periodic reminders (every six months) before peak vacation-request times, you can avoid sticky judgment calls later.

■ Address holiday time off as a specific line item. We recommend that all holiday time-off requests be submitted at least a month in advance. That gives you time to work out any conflicts.

■ Specify minimum coverage requirements by work group. This prevents the "holiday hero" syndrome, where one employee bravely takes on more than he or she can handle to accommodate the vacation plans of others. Although this may seem like a great solution to those who get to take the vacation, it can lead to burnout and sick time for the employee who carried the load.

■ Specify blackout dates. The hard truth is that there are some businesses, particularly in the retail sector, whose

employees have to work while others are home with their families. Again, conflict can usually be avoided by communicating such issues at the time of hiring and providing regular reminders.

■ Plan for conflict. It is inevitable that conflicts will arise if the number of employees requesting vacation exceeds the minimum coverage threshold. To avoid hurt feelings, it is important that you establish an equitable process for resolving such matters.

■ Seniority is perhaps the most prevalent method, although it is certainly not the most equitable.

■ Drawing straws or picking names from a hat gives everyone a chance.

■ Consider shift work. If your business allows it, you may consider using some creative scheduling to create a little extra free time.

■ Send them all home. If you can spare it, particularly if most of your clients tend to clear out at year's end, you might want to consider closing for a week. Chances are your clients won't miss you.

■ Respect diversity. Although Christmas tends to get the most attention, most religions have some form of year-end celebration. Your vacation policies should accommodate diverse beliefs.

■ Be flexible. Recognize that when you are dealing with people there are no absolutes. Your time-off policy should allow for some manager discretion.

■ Keep it upbeat. It is important that you take a positive approach whenever discussing the time-off policy with employees. Emphasize the consideration that went into establishing a system that is both fair and functional.

And finally, although it is not a "time-off" tip, remember that the end of a year is a chance for companies to show their appreciation. Recognizing the efforts of those who stayed to work can go a long way toward winning the goodwill of your employees.

(Mary Massad is director of corporate recruiting services for Administaff. Log onto www.administaff.com.)

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste



THE WEEKLY RECKONING

BY BILL BONNER

Remember that there is a fool on every corner and a sucker born every minute. Be on good terms with all of them. Speak your truth quietly and clearly. Listen to others, even the dull and ignorant, for they too have money to spend.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain

or bitter — especially if you check out their balance sheets — for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Ask not what you can do for your country, but what your country can do for you — before it goes broke. Keep interested in your career, however humble. You'll likely need the money.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the

world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is: Many persons strive for high ideals, though everywhere life is full of private heroism, as well as public humbug.

Be yourself, but only if you can't do better than that. Especially, do not feign affection, for what is the point? Neither be cynical about love, for in the face of all aridity and disen-

chantment, it is perennial as the grass, or at least as cyclical as presidential elections.

Take kindly the counsel of years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth — the old codgers might know something. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. Misfortune is practically guaranteed, especially after 18 years of Alan Greenspan at the Fed. But do not distress yourself with imaginings, there is no need. Things are worse than you could ever imagine anyway. Beyond a wholesome disciple, be gentle with yourself. But do not forget to kick a man

when he is down. He would do the same to you.

You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees, the stars, and bathtub rings. You have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should, whether you like it or not.

Therefore, be at peace with God and on even terms with bookies and barkeeps. With all its shame, drudgery, claptrap and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world.

(For more insight and analysis, visit www.dailyreckoning.com.)

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Denver airport proclaims its tarnished image history

BY SANDY SHORE

AP Business Writer

DENVER — What a difference a decade makes.

Denver International Airport, with its white-peaked roof visible over miles of rolling prairie, opened in 1995, more than a year late, after racking up hefty budget overruns. It was criticized for high operating costs — and ridiculed because of an automated baggage system that chewed up bags rather than delivering them.

Fast-forward to October 2005 as low-cost giant Southwest Airlines — which has the reputation of boosting traffic and revenue for airports — said it would start service here Jan. 3 after repeatedly refusing to fly out of DIA.

It was the icing on a years-long effort to turn DIA into one of the most efficient airports in the world.

"I don't think back to those dark days," DIA co-manager Vicki Braunagel said. "I actually feel privileged to have been a part of it from the beginning."

Aviation industry analysts credit DIA for cutting costs by about half in the past 10 years, and note its expansive layout is easy to maneuver in for pilots and travelers.

"It's probably one of the best-managed airports in the country," acknowledged analyst Mike Boyd of The Boyd Group, long an outspoken DIA critic. "They understand they are in business to service the public."

"I will argue it was bad policy to build it, but that is kind of a moot point right now," he said.

City planners began thinking about a new airport 30 years ago when they realized Stapleton International Airport was congested, its cramped runway system vulnerable to winter storms that forced delays. Critics said it was too small for a regional hub and expansion possibilities were limited.

Planners settled on 53 square miles some 25 miles northeast of downtown for the new airport. The largest public works project in Colorado history was billed as a way to pull the Rockies region out of an economic slump brought on by the oil and gas bust of the 1980s.

Voters approved a referendum in 1989 for a \$2 billion facility and ground was broken that year with an opening scheduled in October 1993.

The problems quickly began to mount.

Four opening dates came and went, first because of construction delays and then because the highly touted automated baggage system malfunctioned, tossing bags in the air and gnawing on others in

videotaped footage shown nationwide. Continental Airlines sought bankruptcy and cut its commitment to DIA; plans were scaled back to 84 gates, fewer than Stapleton. Bond rating agencies downgraded DIA revenue bonds to a step above noninvestment grade.

In 1994, the project was almost three times over budget, with delays costing about \$1 million a day in interest payments on bonds.

State and federal investigations were launched into just about everything from allegations of misleading information on bonds to potential misdeeds in land acquisitions.

The city spent long hours attempting to reassure the investment community that the airport would eventually open, Braunagel said.

"I consider that entire year we didn't open a pretty dark year," she said. "Everybody with initials investigated us. They were all dismissed. Every single one of them was closed."

The fifth opening date of Feb. 28, 1995, proved the charm and today DIA is the fifth-busiest airport in the United States, serving an estimated 42 million passengers a year. Typically, it ranks in the top five in the nation for on-time arrivals.

Airport officials have cut costs by reducing operating expenses, leveling off debt and increasing passenger traffic. In addition, revenue from such services as parking and concessions increased from \$6.88 per passenger in 1995 to an estimated \$9.29 this year.

Braunagel said refinancing and restructuring have helped save about \$1 billion in costs. Today, the airport has about \$4 billion in debt. Officials have kept about 140 jobs open to save money, and employees have operated within budgets to keep costs low.

In 1986, Southwest Airlines had 10-15 flights at Stapleton, but pulled out because of its congested operations. When DIA opened, Southwest looked at the operating costs and concentrated instead on building California operations.

"It was way off of our radar," Southwest Chief Executive Officer Gary Kelly recalled. It's the lower costs that primarily have brought the Dallas-based carrier back, Kelly said.

DIA will expand in coming years by reconfiguring space as needed for new technology, such as the self-service kiosks and larger aircraft, and by adding gates or building new concourses.

Braunagel expects traffic to increase to more than 45 million passengers next year with the addition of Southwest.

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LOCAL

Lessons in democracy: Students cut class to protest

PROTEST, from page 1

“Besides, a Saturday in school won’t be so bad with this crowd.”

Michael D. Matthews, assistant schools superintendent, said the purpose of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is to educate students. As such, the district doesn’t condone truancy.

Matthews said the district has a policy which allows parents to excuse their students, if requested. Making such a request prevents disciplinary action against the student, Matthews said.

However, students who leave campus without a parental request could be subject to disciplinary action, depending on the school’s policies, Matthews explained. Such disciplinary action could include an in-school suspension.

“When I used to be the principal at Malibu High School, I used to tell students how much (protesting) is worth it to them and base their decision on that,” Matthews said.

According to The World Can’t Wait’s Web site, demonstrations on Wednesday were planned in cities across the country, including Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco.

Ken Lisaius, a White House spokesman, said the White House press office was quiet on Wednesday, and he wasn’t aware of many demonstrations that had taken place.

Lisaius said the ability to express views publicly was an American right which probably wouldn’t be the case if the terrorist agenda dominated world leadership.



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Santa Monica students, many of whom skipped classes on Wednesday, attend a planned protest of the war and President Bush on Third Street.

“The president understands and believes the right to peaceful protest and making one’s opinion known in a democracy that is not available to some societies,

such as Afghanistan when the Taliban was in control,” Lisaius said.

However, Lisaius warned that just because there are some whose views differ from President Bush, the fact remains terrorists are arbitrary in how they choose their victims and target those regardless of their political position.

“The images of suffering we see on the news are random acts by terrorists simply because someone walked in the wrong building,” Lisaius said. “The enemy we face are cold-hearted killers who choose their victims indiscriminately and operate on a set of beliefs and goals that are evil.”

In regards to a future draft, Lisaius said President Bush was against such a man-

date.

“He has spoken extensively about the draft and his support of the fact that we have an all-volunteer military,” Lisaius said.

Santa Monica resident Felicia Prather, who was walking westbound on Wilshire Boulevard during the demonstration, said she is glad the teenagers skipped class for a day for a cause they believe in.

“I say everything in moderation,” Prather said. “I think it’s good to see the younger generation is becoming active.”

“I’d rather see another ’60s revolution than World War III, which I think could happen if they don’t start speaking up.”

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

The guest lecture will be “The next Mission to Mars!” Richard Zurek, Jet Propulsion Lab project scientist for Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, will talk about the mission that will map Mars in unprecedented detail to better aid future explorations. The guest lecture will be Friday, Nov. 18.

The feature show and guest lecture are at 8 p.m. Each is preceded by “The Night Sky Show”, which re-creates the night sky, at 7 p.m. The astronomy shows are held in the John Drescher Planetarium, located in Drescher Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. Tickets are \$5 each. For information, call (310) 434-4223 or (310) 434-3000.

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LOCAL



Ruling hikes longtime renter's rate fourfold

RENT CONTROL, from page 1

tenant's primary residence. The law was designed to weed out renters who use their units as second homes, or for office or storage space, according to city records.

Barker faces a rental increase from \$671 to \$1,300 per month to retain the unit, after rent control board members decided her primary home is in Simi Valley.

According to a staff report, Barker began renting her one-bedroom apartment at 305 Strand St. in 1987, when she moved in with her now-deceased husband. The Barkers had a law practice based in Santa Monica.

The couple had a son, Samuel, in 1990, and the three family members resided together in the apartment.

Barker's husband died a year later. Following his death, Barker's residency and daily life gradually shifted away from her Santa Monica unit to Simi Valley, where she grew up, according to city records. Barker testified she moved there because of long-time contacts she had in the Simi Valley community which might further her business. Her parents also lived there, and it was believed they could help her raise Samuel.

Barker's father fell ill and died in 1994. Following his death, Barker and her mother raised Samuel and enrolled him in school in Simi Valley. In the mid-1990s, Barker's mother was diagnosed with emphysema. Barker became her primary caregiver, which further required her to live in Simi Valley, according to city records.

By 2000, Petit testified there was a pattern of occupancy in the apartment whereby Barker, her son and her mother would arrive on Friday night and leave Monday morning. The remainder of the week the unit was vacant, and it was presumed Barker lived in Simi Valley, Petit said.

In April 2004, Barker was diagnosed with cancer and has since had surgery, according to city records. She's undergoing chemotherapy. Due to her illness, Barker has been unable to drive, and so she continued to mostly reside in Simi Valley, where she and her mother could assist each other.

In July 2004, Barker's mother died. Barker, still recovering, continues to mostly reside in the five-bedroom Simi Valley home, which she testified has likely been entrusted to her and another family member.

Barker's attorney, Andrew Karlin, indicated in the arguments he provided to the rent control board that between 1987 to early 2004, Barker and her son "regularly and consistently carried on basic living activities (at the apartment) for at least three days per week and, except for rare vacations, were never absent from it for more than a few days."

Karlin said Regulation No. 3304 does-

n't prevent a tenant who regularly uses a rent-controlled unit as a residence from also using another unit as a residence. In addition, Karlin indicated that the reason Barker spent as much time as she did in Simi Valley was due to factors outside her control, like the fact she had a system of support available to her there following her husband's death. Then, Barker was obligated to spend more time in Simi Valley due to her mother's illness, and later, due to her own health.

Had circumstances been different, Barker would have spent more time in Santa Monica, Karlin said.

As a result, Karlin said Barker occupied the Santa Monica apartment half the time, and if it weren't for factors outside her control, it would have been her primary residence.

"The point is, until she became ill, Ms. Barker occupied the unit 50 percent of the time," Karlin said. "She would have spent more time there if she had the choice."

Petit's attorney, Cary Reisman, submitted to the rent control board a series of facts he believed indicated the opposite. He noted that Barker's driver's license, voter registration, and income tax returns are listed at the Simi Valley address, strong indicators it's her "primary place of return," city records show.

Also, Barker's son, now a high school student, has always been enrolled in the Simi Valley school system, another indicator Simi Valley was in fact Barker's permanent home.

"It's a long case with a lot of facts, but when the dust settles, it's not much of a dispute," said Alan Toy, rent control board chair. "There is a preponderance of evidence which says she's from Simi Valley."

In July, City Hall won a legal battle against Robert Bisno, a millionaire with holdings throughout Los Angeles and California. The court ordered him to pay nearly quadruple rent for his beachside penthouse apartment after it ruled in favor of a rent control board decision which deemed his Neilson Way unit was not his primary residence, and therefore qualified for a rental increase. The 16th floor apartment rented for \$900 in 1996 and now commands \$4,045 a month.

Tracy Condon, rent-control spokeswoman, said Regulation No. 3304 took effect in March 2003. While the law has been active, 166 cases have been filed by landlords. Of those, 41 have been dismissed by a committee because there was not enough evidence to support a hearing; 26 were granted administratively because the tenant didn't contest the rent increase; and 22 were withdrawn by the landlord.

So far, hearings have been held in 71 cases, 47 of which ultimately sided with the landlord and 24 sided with the tenant, Condon said.

Six cases are pending.



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Santa Monica Daily Press



Math coordinator’s salary could add up to \$110,000

IT FIGURES, from page 1

increases in scores for both reading and math, but it has been less for math,” said Emily Bloomfield, board president. “The overview and coordination of math for K-12 would be a big part of the job, and we would expect to see improvement in scores across the schools.”

According to the job description, the math coordinator would be responsible for developing the math curriculum instruction and assessment at all grade levels. The coordinator also will work closely with principals and teachers to determine appropriate intervention and support for students struggling to master mathematics standards.

The position would likely command a salary and benefits package worth between \$100,000 and \$110,000, said Michael D. Matthews, SMMUSD assistant superintendent.

Matthews didn’t discuss the financial details of how the district intended to pay for the position, except to say the district has a balanced budget and its needed 3-percent reserves.

John Deasy, superintendent, was unavailable for comment. However, Deasy has previously indicated that despite an ongoing budget crisis, the district has managed to place itself in its strongest financial position since he assumed his position more than four years ago.

In Santa Monica, students’ overall math skills hover around 50 percent proficiency or above for elementary school students, according to the most recent results of the California Standards Test (CST), which is used to evaluate student performance in language arts and mathematics statewide.

There were no district math statistics provided after eighth grade.

It becomes difficult to interpret the statistics for middle school math students, Deasy has said, where students begin to differentiate between the kinds of math they are able to perform.

In particular, 600 of approximately 1,000 Santa Monica eighth graders took the algebra CST, 50 percent of whom scored at the proficient or advanced levels.

Seventy-two eighth graders took the geometry CST, of whom 96 percent scored at or above the proficient level.

More than 300 eighth graders took the general mathematics CST, and just over 20 percent of them scored at a proficiency level.

More than half of the eighth graders who are economically disadvantaged took the algebra CST. Of those 122 students, 39 percent scored at or above the proficiency level.

Focussing on elementary schools, math results for black students show general improvement, peaking at fourth grade, performing at 55 percent proficiency.

More than 300 eighth graders took the general mathematics CST, and just over 20 percent of them scored at a proficiency level.

After that, there is a significant drop in proficiency, by as much as 20 percent in fifth grade. However, fifth, sixth and seventh grade students are seeing improvement within all of their grade levels. The most significant are the sixth graders, who went from 15 percent math proficiency in 2003-04 to 30 percent last year.

Focusing on elementary schools, math results for Latino students peak in second grade, where last year students were 55 percent proficient. There is a negligible change in performance from third to fifth grade. Then in sixth grade, there is a noticeable drop, a change in 20 percentage points. That picks up in seventh grade, while not returning to previous plateau levels. Last year, Latino seventh grade students achieved 32 percent math proficiency.

Focusing on elementary schools, whites continue to have higher proficiency as compared to other groups. Their tendency is toward decline between second and seventh grade. In second grade, white students peak, at 82 percent proficiency. By seventh grade, their proficiency decreases to 68 percent proficiency.

However, whites at all grade levels average nearly 20 percent in improvement from the prior year.

Special education students peak in second grade proficiency, at nearly 50 percent. By eighth grade, their proficiency is negligible. Their biggest improvement is in second grade. Last year, they were 50 percent proficient, an improvement of 10 percentage points from 2003-04.

Board of education member Oscar de la Torre said he is optimistic the math coordinator will help.

“Math is critical for success in almost every area of the economy and we trail behind many other industrialized nations in mathematics achievement, so this position is a good idea,” de la Torre said. “I’m always concerned about being administrator top-heavy in our district, but this is one position essential to the success of our program.”

De la Torre said one aspect missing from the job description is that the coordinator needs to be familiar with the latest technology which will enable students to learn math outside the classroom.



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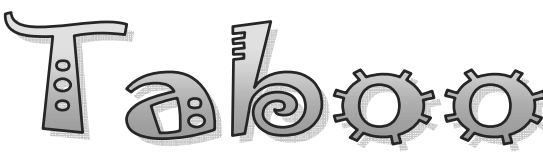
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Garden Rules

As always, rule number one is forget the rules and grow what you like. Having said that, if you'd like some suggestions on how to best use your garden space, here are some vegetables that offer a very good yield...

- Tomatoes offer a good crop yield for the space allotted. Staking the plants conserves space and makes picking easy.
- Green onions pack a lot of crop and flavor into a small space.
- Leaf lettuce and spinach are cool-season crops that produce early in the spring. Plant them again in late summer for a second, fall picking.
- Turnips are another cool-weather crop that offers a double return — you get to enjoy the greens and the roots.
- Squash and zucchini vines cover a lot of ground, but supply lots of produce in return.
- Pole beans do best grown vertically. Bush beans also produce very good yield for the space.
- Herbs in general are also a great investment. Fresh herbs in the market can be expensive and often you must buy more than you really need.
- Carrots require deep, loose soil, but are fun to grow, especially for children.
- Radishes are one of the fastest-growing veggies, some varieties mature in 30 days or less.
- Cucumbers, especially trellised, produce a lot of food for the space.
- Peppers of all types can also be expensive at the supermarket. In addition to providing food, peppers are attractive additions to the home garden.



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NATIONAL



‘Rock snot’ threatens waterway ecosystems

BY KIM MCGUIRE

Associated Press Writer

DENVER — The brown slime blanketing the rocks in Middle St. Vrain Creek looks to the casual observer like — well, slime.

But to biologist Sarah Spaulding, the algae, officially *Didymosphenia geminata*, look like big trouble.

“Didymo,” aka “rock snot,” is spreading to streams across the country, growing so thick it forms mats that look like toilet paper.

“Many of the people who see didymo actually think someone has dumped raw sewage into the river,” said Spaulding, a U.S. Geological Survey researcher.

“And that’s never the case, as didymo usually occurs in what we think of as clean waters,” Spaulding said.

Didymo has been found smothering the bottoms of streams in the Western states, including Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Montana and Nevada.

It is the prime suspect in the decline of brown trout in South Dakota, where biologists think the organism has grown so thick it’s choking out the flies the fish feed upon.

“We think every angler out there should be paying attention to this one,” said Kajsa Stromberg, conservation coordinator for the Federation of Fly Fishers.

The rise of didymo is a mystery.

Species such as kudzu in the South and zebra mussels in the Great Lakes have spread and become pests because they are exotics brought into the United States from abroad.

But didymo has probably always lived in the high mountain, pristine lakes of the West. In Colorado, it was first described in the Fryingpan River in 1975.

Didymo is microscopic diatom, a once rare organism with cell walls made of silica, giving it a rough feel despite its slimy appearance.

In recent years, something has trig-

gered the diatom to explode in numbers and in places beyond its historical range, such as Arkansas and Tennessee.

“Clearly, conditions are stacking up somehow to make this one fat, happy organism,” Spaulding said.

“At first, I thought there had been some kind of mutation, but that’s not the case,” she said.

Its discovery last year in New Zealand created a panic, leading the government to restrict access at some rivers and to consider dousing the algae in bleach or draining waterways.

In Colorado, there have been didymo blooms at about 40 sites, including Boulder Creek, the east fork of the Eagle River and Bowen Gulch in Rocky Mountain National Park.

The organism floats through a waterway and attaches itself to a rock by a stalk. It forms a thick, brown mat — which smothers rocks, submerged plants and other materials — and then breaks off and moves downstream.

Scientists suspect people — probably fishermen — play a role in spreading the tiny plant.

In Montana, where didymo has been found in the Kootenai River, conservation groups are trying to educate anglers on how to identify the organism and how to avoid it.

“Clearly there’s a lot at stake when it shows up in a popular fisher,” Stromberg said.

Travis Schmidt, a Colorado State University graduate student, is collecting data on how didymo is affecting aquatic life in the state.

The preliminary results seem to show didymo edging out stoneflies and caddis flies, essential food for fish, Schmidt said.

Spaulding also hopes to collect enough data to determine how many Western stream miles are covered by didymo.

“People generally don’t care much about algae,” she said. “But this is a case where they probably should.”

Washington ski resorts hopeful amid early mountain snowfalls

BY ELIZABETH M. GILLESPIE

Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE — A year after a warm, dry winter doomed most of the ski season throughout the Pacific Northwest, a hefty dose of mid-fall snow has some Washington resorts gearing up to open earlier than they have in years.

“I cannot even see five feet out my window, it’s snowing so hard! There’s really no sign of it letting up anytime soon,” Crystal Mountain spokeswoman Tiana Enger said gleefully Tuesday, as the resort announced it will become the first in the state to open its slopes, on Friday.

That will make it the earliest opening in a decade at the resort east of Mount Rainier. The season started on Nov. 5 in 1994.

To the north, Mount Baker said it plans to open next Tuesday. It had about 3 feet of snow near the summit and 2 feet at the base — slightly more than Crystal was reporting. Mount Baker spokeswoman Gwyn Howat said the ski area east of

Bellingham was expecting another 3 to 4 feet to fall by opening day.

They are not the earliest openings in the West, however. Loveland Ski Area in Colorado opened the season Oct. 14.

November is typically one of Washington’s wettest months of the year, said Gary Schneider, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service’s Seattle office. The seasonal forecast calls for a “neutral year.”

“Historically, neutral years tend to be more active than not,” Schneider said. “In other words, you get more weather — not less. Around here, more weather means wetter.”

Nevertheless, it will be a while before hydrologists will be able to tell if the state’s water supply is officially on the rebound.

“Things are looking better,” Hart said. “We’ve gotten snow, but last year we got snow, too, and then we got all that rain in January,” washing away much of the snowpack. “That’s what we’re hoping doesn’t happen again this year.”



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NATIONAL

Bush administration reveals its super-flu strategies

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON — Sustained person-to-person spread of the bird flu or any other super-influenza strain anywhere in the world could prompt the United States to implement travel restrictions or other steps to block a brewing pandemic, say federal plans released Wednesday.

If a super-flu begins spreading here, states and cities will have to ration scarce medications and triage panicked patients to prevent them from overwhelming hospitals and spreading infection inside emer-

gency rooms, the plan says.

It provides long-awaited guidance to the front-line local officials urging them to figure out now how they would prevent that.

Pandemics, or worldwide outbreaks, strike when the easy-to-mutate influenza virus shifts to a strain that people have never experienced before, something that happened three times in the last century.

It's impossible to predict the toll of the next pandemic, but a bad one could infect up to a third of the population and, depending on its virulence, kill anywhere from 209,000 to 1.9 million Americans, say the Bush administration's new

Pandemic Influenza Plan.

The illness will spread fastest among school-aged children, infecting about 40 percent of them, and decline with age, the plan estimates. It puts the health costs alone, not counting disruption to the economy, at \$181 billion for even a moderately bad pandemic.

It's also impossible to predict when the next pandemic will strike. But concern is rising that the Asian bird flu, called the H5N1 strain, might trigger the next one if it eventually becomes easily spread from person-to-person.

With a public increasingly jittery about the H5N1 spread among birds and a drumbeat of criticism that the nation is woefully unprepared, President Bush on Tuesday outlined a \$7.1 billion strategy to get ready for the next pandemic. Topping his list is improving systems to detect and contain the next super-flu before it reaches the United States — and overhauling the vaccine industry so that eventually, scientists could quickly brew enough for everyone within months of a pandemic's appearance.

That vaccine improvement will take years to implement.

Stockpiled drugs "are not the equivalent of preparedness," Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt told a Senate subcommittee Wednesday as he unveiled the details.

The plan stresses that if a pandemic begins, Americans should limit visits to doctors and hospitals unless absolutely necessary and hospitals should triage those seeking care so that suspected

The illness will spread fastest among school-aged children, infecting about 40 percent of them, and decline with age, the plan estimates.

super-flu cases have limited contact with other patients, the plan says.

Critics battered Bush's plan for the federal government to stockpile enough of the anti-flu drugs Tamiflu and Relenza to treat 44 million people and make states buy another 31 million treatment courses, mostly with their own money, to cover the rest of the anticipated need.

"States are extremely nervous about what's going to be required of them," Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., told Leavitt.

And Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., said he doesn't trust the administration's assessment of the nation's health care needs and demanded that Leavitt provide more information about its response to the evolving bird flu.

"Could we have acted sooner to avoid the situation we are in now, in effect running for cover?" he said. "We need a better way of finding out what the hell is going on."

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NATIONAL



A show of force after al-Qaida leader escapes

BY DANIEL COONEY

Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan — Security has been tightened at the U.S. military prison in Afghanistan following the escape of a suspected al-Qaida leader, a U.S. official said Wednesday, as Indonesian terror officials accused Washington of failing to inform them of the breakout.

Omar al-Farouq, born in Kuwait to Iraqi parents, was considered one of Osama bin Laden's top lieutenants in Southeast Asia until Indonesian authorities captured him in 2002 and turned him over to the United States.

He was one of four suspected Arab terrorists to escape in July from the detention facility at Bagram, the main U.S. base in Afghanistan. It was not clear how long he had been held in Afghanistan.

Although the escape was widely reported at the time, al-Farouq was identified by an alias and the U.S. military only confirmed Tuesday that he was among those who fled.

A video the four men made of themselves after they escaped from Bagram was broadcast recently on Dubai-based television station Al-Arabiya, according to its Islamabad bureau chief, Bakar Atyani. He declined to give other details, including how the station received the video.

An Indonesian anti-terror official, Maj. Gen. Ansyad Mbai, on Wednesday sharply criticized the U.S. government for failing to inform him that al-Farouq was no longer behind bars.

"We know nothing about the escape of Omar al-Farouq," he said. "He is a dangerous terrorist for us, his escape will increase the threat of terrorism in Indonesia."

"We need to coordinate security here as soon as possible to anticipate his return," he said. "The escape of al-Farouq could bring fresh wind to the operation of terrorism and could energize the new movement of terrorist actors in Southeast Asia and the world."

But a top security consultant in Jakarta played down concerns that al-Farouq would make his way back to Southeast Asia and rejoin Jemaah Islamiyah, the regional terrorist group linked to al-Qaida.

"He's Iraqi after all. If he's not hiding out (in Afghanistan or Pakistan), he's probably headed to Iraq to join the fight there," said Ken Conboy, who recently published a book on Jemaah Islamiyah.

Al-Farouq was recruited into al-Qaida in the early 1990s and went to the Khaldan training camp in Afghanistan from

1992 and 1995, Conboy wrote in his book "Intel."

In 1995, he was sent to the Philippines, originally to enroll in a flight school so he could become proficient enough to commandeer a passenger plane on a suicide mission. He failed to gain entry and instead went to a camp in the traditional Muslim homeland of Mindanao, where he trained in jungle warfare tactics along with other Jemaah Islamiyah trainees, the book says.

From there, Al-Farouq traveled by sea to neighboring Indonesia, where in 2000 he set up training camps for radicals engaged in sectarian clashes with the nation's Christian minority. He was also reported to be planning a series of attacks on U.S. embassies and other Western interests throughout Southeast Asia, the book says.

In 2002, al-Farouq was captured in a town south of Jakarta. Indonesian security officials turned him over to the United States and he was eventually transferred to Bagram.

Yuri Thamrin, Indonesia's Foreign Ministry spokesman, said he had heard nothing about al-Farouq's escape, but conceded that Washington may have directly informed security officials in Jakarta.

"We have to check and make sure whether the U.S. has given the information to Indonesia or not," Thamrin said.

Military officials have declined to elaborate on how the men escaped from the heavily fortified jail, the only detainees they say have managed to do so. But a spokesman said Wednesday that an investigation into the breakout had turned up weaknesses in security and that these have been corrected.

"Physical security upgrades include improvements to an external door and holding cells," Lt. Col. Jerry O'Hara said, reading from a statement.

More than 500 suspected militants are held in the prison, a plain-looking building of about three stories in the heart of Bagram, next to the runways and the command center.

Several razor-wire fences surround the base and areas outside the perimeter remain mined from Afghanistan's civil war and Soviet occupation. Military teams patrol constantly, and the main entrance is a series of heavily guarded checkpoints.

A U.S. military statement issued in August about the breakout said an inquiry had found that "the guards and supervisors did not follow standard operating procedures" on the night it occurred.

"These failures led to the escape of the four detainees on 10 July," it said, adding that "action has either been taken or is in the process of being taken" to fix the problems.

The military conducted a massive manhunt after the breakout. U.S. troops, backed by Afghan police and soldiers, searched houses, manned roadblocks and zigzagged in helicopters across a dusty plain around the base.

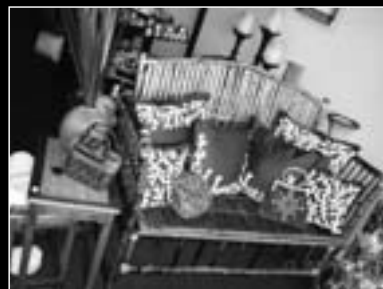
Kabir Ahmed, the government leader in the area, said the American investigators had found where the men escaped from the base and fled through a field of wild grapevines.

"The soldiers found the escapees' footprints still in the mud," he said. "It was an amazing breakout. How they did it exactly I still don't know."

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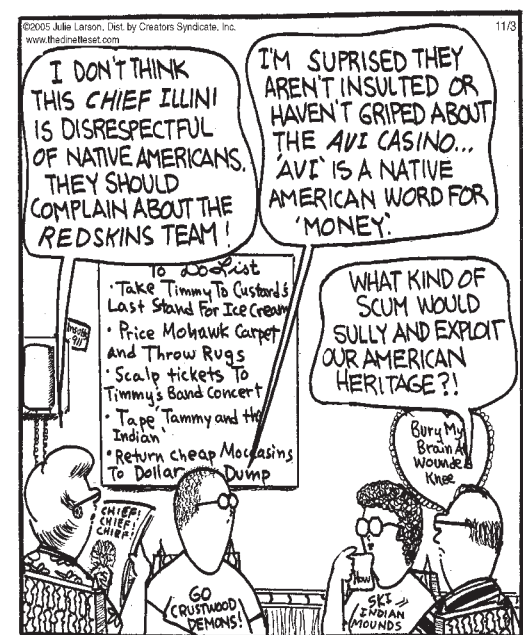
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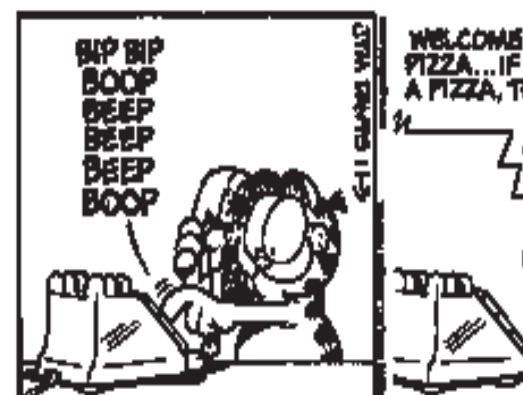


COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



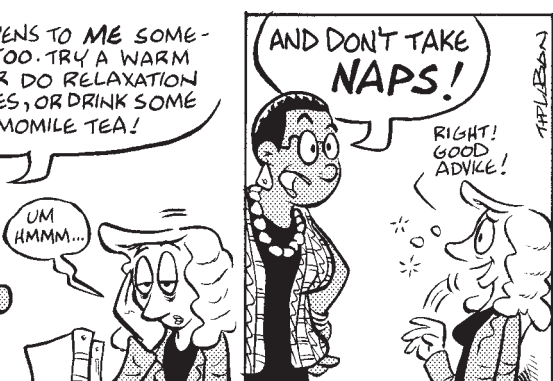
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 - 25 Heckler's cry
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 - 30 Prepares cookies
 - 32 Rubber source
 - 33 Pindar piece
 - 34 100-1, say
 - 38 General greeting
 - 41 Muddy up
 - 42 Maine park
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 - 44 Sense
 - 45 Footprint
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 - 2 Silly song
 - 3 Stopped working
 - 4 Tempt
 - 5 Barbecue part
 - 6 Badger
 - 7 Arch
 - 8 Hold up
 - 9 "Evil Woman" group, for short
 - 10 Fixed
 - 16 Lawn material
 - 19 Stupefied
 - 20 Fencing weapon
 - 21 Makes togs
 - 22 First murder victim
 - 23 Smidgen
 - 28 Mislead
 - 29 Strangely wondrous
 - 30 Marsh
 - 31 Loves to pieces
 - 35 Like Felix
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20 Fencing weapon
21 Makes togs
22 First murder victim
23 Smidgen
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L.E. PERRY, REAL ESTATE, 117 Ketch Mall, Marina
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is/are : Larry E. Perry, 117 Ketch Mall, Marina Del
Rey, CA 90292 This Business is being conducted
by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet
begun to transact business under the fictitious
name or names listed herein.. /s/: Larry E. Perry
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of
LOS ANGELES County on 9/22/05. NOTICE: THIS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES
FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED
PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement
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