

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Homeowners are often startled to find that, in many states, if they give someone permission to stay with them for a while, and that guest eventually overstays his welcome, the homeowner can no longer easily eject the guest, or even have a sheriff do it, but rather must go through formal and lengthy eviction procedures. This issue surfaced most recently in Potomac, Md., when a retired social worker took in a down-on-her-luck, 39-year-old woman who, after a series of testy exchanges between the two, repeatedly refused to leave, feeling immune from eviction until the law had run its course. In August, according to police, the guest, Susan L. Sachs, was charged with murdering her host.

■ (The race for U.S. Senate in Oklahoma (to succeed the retiring Don Nickles) was described in the press in September as so close that independent, former Green Party candidate Sheila Bilyeu, might take enough votes away from one or the other leading candidate as to influence the outcome. Bilyeu has gained notoriety in the last two decades by filing numerous lawsuits against the federal government (all eventually dismissed) demanding the removal of a radio-like device the military allegedly planted in her head in the 1970s. The device, she said, mostly sends her messages that are highly critical of her. She added in a later lawsuit that President Clinton had ordered her gassed and had stolen her dog.

TODAY IN HISTORY

TEN YEARS AGO: In Union, S.C., townspeople jeered as Susan Smith was led into court, a day after the 23-year-old secretary was arrested and charged with murder in the drownings of her sons, 3-year-old Michael and 14-month-old Alexander.

FIVE YEARS AGO: Aaron McKinney, who beat gay college student Matthew Shepard and left him to die on the Wyoming prairie, avoided the death penalty by agreeing to serve life in prison without parole and promising never to appeal his conviction. Some 10,000 Iranian students rallied outside the former U.S. Embassy in Tehran to mark the 20th anniversary of its seizure by Islamic militants.

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Latenight 'Bloomer'



Susan Tam/Special to the Daily Press

Shortly before celebrating his win, Mayor Richard Bloom watches closely as election returns trickle in early Wednesday morning. Bloom came in second in the council race with 14,575 votes. Voter turnout reached a high of just under 60 percent across the country. In Santa Monica, where interest in elections is typically high, voter turnout stayed flat from the 2000 election at 68 percent. Absentee ballots, however, increased from 6,139 in 2000 to 8,476 this year, according to unofficial tallies from the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder.

Police nail SM bank robber

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

Authorities have apprehended a man who allegedly robbed two banks in Santa Monica in the past month and is believed to be responsible for nearly three dozen holdups since August.

David Robinson, dubbed by the FBI the "Dreadlocks Bandit" was charged this week with 10 felony counts of robbery following his arrest Saturday by Torrance police, the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office said.

Robinson, 53, pleaded not guilty in Torrance Superior Court on Tuesday. Authorities allege Robinson robbed Encino State Bank, located at 720 Wilshire

See **HOLDUP**, page 4



Photo courtesy of the FBI

David Robinson, also known as the 'Dreadlock Bandit,' is seen here allegedly robbing California National Bank in Glendale on Sept. 15, five days before police said he robbed Encino Bank in Santa Monica.

LA judge orders Weller to stand trial

Elderly driver could spend 18 years in jail for Farmers' Market crash

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

LAX COURTHOUSE — A judge on Wednesday ordered Russell Weller of Santa Monica to stand trial for speeding through a Farmers' Market in July 2003, killing 10 people and injuring 63.

Weller, 87, who lives with his wife north of Montana Avenue, faces 10 felony counts of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence. If convicted, he could spend up to 18 years in jail.

Defense attorneys in a court hearing Wednesday argued Weller mistook the accelerator of his 1992 Buick LeSabre for the brake pedal and had no control as he careened through the downtown Santa Monica outdoor market. They asked Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Katherine Mader to dismiss the charges.

"The people had absolutely, positively no evidence that Mr. Weller acted with anything close to gross negligence," said Jim Bianco, one of Weller's several lawyers. In order to prove gross negligence, prosecutors must show the market crash was aggravated, reckless or flagrant.

Weller rear-ended a sedan at Fourth Street and Arizona Avenue before driving through the market and prosecutors during the eight-day hearing suggested Weller acted intentionally. They called to the stand more than a dozen eyewitnesses, one who said Weller deliberately reversed and turned around the car he had hit before speeding off. Another witness said Weller looked around before accelerating across Fourth Street, then braked and veered slightly left and right, as if he were con-

See **WELLER**, page 5

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Eddie Guerboian



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Follow the music, Sag

JACQUELINE BIGAR’S STARS The stars show the kind of day you’ll have:

*****-Dynamic *****-Positive ***-Average **-So-so *-Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)
***** Your sense of play adds to the office mood. Try to understand a key person by thinking about where he or she is coming from. Ideas and friends seem more confusing than beneficial. Your efforts bring forth many friends and invitations. Be with a favorite person. Tonight: Act like it is the weekend.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
*** Your efforts are returned in multiples. Be positive with co-workers. Bring some munchies into work as a thank you. Let others know how much you appreciate their efforts. Add a touch of hominess to your office. Buy a plant or something else you think will jazz up the workplace. Tonight: Love being at home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
***** You say the right words, and others tumble into your lap. Talks flourish; phone calls bring good feelings; and visits allow for bonding. Creativity flourishes no matter what you are discussing. If you are single, a flirtation could be building into more. Tonight: Meet a friend at a favorite place.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
*** Money dominates your thoughts. Apparently you would like to dote on a family member or roommate. You also might be thinking of a major purchase or remodeling your home. You want your house to be a showplace. Tonight: Do some price comparison.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
***** You have a lot going for you. Your popularity soars. You have a way of touching others with your actions and words. Examine where a personal touch is needed. Go for what you want, or ask that important question. You’re likely to get a “yes.” Tonight: You make the call. A partner is confused.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
** You might demonstrate an idealism that is unusual. You add more by writing down ideas. Don’t start a diet or an unusual health plan without checking with a medical doctor first. Take some time to yourself. Reflect and recharge. Tonight: Vanish.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
***** Aim for what you want. You are lucky and head toward the winner’s circle. Others support you in getting what you want. A friend cares more than you realize. Work with others. Be a teammate. You add much more than you are aware of. Go for what you want. Tonight: Find your friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
*** Much goes on behind the scenes. You might want to do some thinking about what you want before you take action and grab responsibility. Subtlety works. Allow others to take action; your astute coaching will go far. Listen to your inner voice. Tonight: Out and about.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
***** Get the whole story by doing your research and finding experts. Much more is going on than you realize. Be original and direct with associates. You get powerful feedback that helps everyone succeed. A meeting cheers on a project. Tonight: Follow the music.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
*** Listen to a partner who has strong opinions. With his or her support, you make quite an impression. You might want to speak or make a presentation. Others respond to your leadership. A boss or an authority figure admires you. You could be up for a promotion. Tonight: Make nice with a special person.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
*** You might be hazy and cause yourself confusion. Others seek you out. Detach and understand where others are coming from. Good news comes from a distance or from a foreigner. Be open to different ideas and solutions. Break past judgments. Tonight: Say “yes” to an invitation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
*** You’re all about work. Dig right in and get as much done as possible. A key partner helps you make the right decisions. This person’s support makes a difference. You clear out what you want and more. Say “thank you” through your actions. Tonight: Deal with another’s feelings.

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMC astronomy series out of this world

By Daily Press staff

It's a cosmic week at Santa Monica College. "Deep Impacts," a look at the dramatic effects cosmic collisions have had on Earth's history will continue at 8 p.m. on Nov. 5 as a part of SMC's astronomy series.

A guest lecture titled "Huygens: Splashdown on Titan" will take place at 8 p.m. on Nov. 19. Candy Hansen of the Jet Propulsion Lab's Cassini Mission will talk about the possibility of strange methane seas beneath the clouds of Saturn's giant moon, Titan.

The feature show and lecture are both preceded by "The Night Sky Show," which recreates the night sky and provides the latest information on space exploration.

The astronomy shows are held in the John Drescher Planetarium on the second floor of Drescher Hall at 1900 Pico Blvd. The lecture is in science lecture hall, room 140.

Tickets are \$5 each or \$9 for the "double bill," with discounts for children and senior citizens. For information, call (310) 434-4223 or (310) 434-3000.

Interfaith picnic for low-income and homeless children

By Daily Press staff

Westwood Hills Congregational Church recently joined with Nashuva Jewish Faith Community to picnic with St. Joseph Center's infants, toddlers, and their families at Clover Park in Santa Monica. More than 50 men, women and children attended the festive kosher barbecue with balloons and games for the children.

The two congregations also brought art supplies, diapers, baby supplies, clothing, video games, and plants for SJC's infant toddler development center, which provides free, full-day child-care for low-income and homeless families with children under 3 years old on the westside.

"Nashuva meets at Westwood Hills Congregational Church and joins with the church in all its social action," said Rabbi Naomi Levy. "We believe our partnership is a model for how people of different faiths can come together to learn more about each other. We cannot close our eyes to the problems in our society and world. We have to see, listen, and do whatever we can to help."

St. Joseph Center provides emergency services, case management, job training, and senior services for homeless and low-income men, women, and children in Venice, Santa Monica, and West Los Angeles. For more information call (310) 396-6468 ext. 325, or visit the Web site at www.stjosephctr.org.

City TV looking for Santa Monica idol

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica high schoolers looking to be a local star now have their chance. Santa Monica City TV and the Miles Memorial Playhouse have teamed up to create a competition for high school performing artists with "Downbeat Showdown." The televised talent show is scheduled for March 2005 at the Miles Memorial Playhouse in Santa Monica.

Inspired by the wild success of the "American Idol" television series and the "Downbeat 720" high school open-mic program, a citywide competition will combine the two. Singers, poets and bands in the ninth through 12th grades can apply.



Photo Courtesy

(Left to right): Rev. Kirsten Linford-Steinfeld, Westwood Hills Congregational Church; Pauline Tranter, infant toddler staff member; Rabbi Naomi Levy, Nashuva Jewish Faith Community.



SURF REPORT

On Thursday look for an increase in NW wind and ground swell. Northern LA spots see surf in the knee-waist high range, with some chest high+ sets at top NW breaks. South Bay spots see more size with waist to occasional chest high surf at many breaks. Standout spots in the north half of the Bay see shoulder high+ and occasional bigger sets. Look for rather unstable weather with variable S wind in the 5-10 knot range for much of the day.

Today the water is:

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	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	4:06	2.2	5:40	0.0	10:23	5.9	N/A	N/A
SUNDAY	3:25	2.6	5:25	0.3	12:11	3.6	9:49	5.7
MONDAY	3:38	2.9	6:20	0.5	12:19	3.3	10:19	5.3
TUESDAY	N/A	N/A	7:32	0.8	10:54	5.0	N/A	N/A
WEDNESDAY	N/A	N/A	8:51	0.8	11:47	4.6	N/A	N/A
THURSDAY	8:13	3.7	9:57	0.8	6:05	3.8	1:26	4.2
FRIDAY	10:26	3.4	10:44	0.7	5:47	4.0	3:15	4.1

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The **Q**Line

The results of the City Council election on Nov. 2 will shape the future of Santa Monica in the coming years. Whether residents decide to vote for incumbents or local government newcomers, one thing has become clear during this election: Santa Monicans are calling for change.

So this week, Q-Line wants to

know: What do you expect from your City Council in the coming years?

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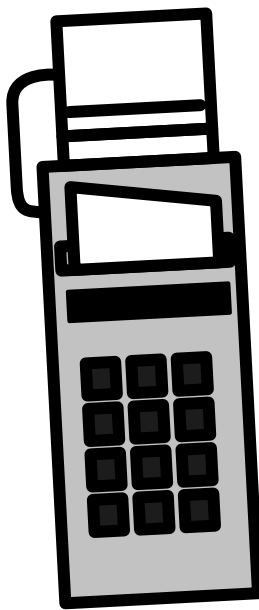
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LOCAL

More charges expected to be filed against alleged bank robber

HOLDUP, from page 1

Blvd. on Sept. 20 and Pacific Western Bank, located at 120 Wilshire Blvd. on Oct. 22. Two more counts of robbery will be filed against him this week for those robberies by the Torrance Police Department, police said.

Robinson's accomplice, Rasheeda Salaam Gaines, 29, who is believed to have allegedly robbed two banks with Robinson, was charged with two counts of robbery. She pleaded not guilty on Tuesday, said DA spokeswoman Jane Robison. Gaines is being held on \$100,000 bail.

Robinson — who was released earlier this year from federal prison after serving 14 years for robbing 30 banks during a two-year crime spree in the 1980s — is being held on \$1.5 million bail. If convicted, he faces multiple life sentences, Deputy District Attorney Craig Hum said. Both suspects will appear again in court on Nov. 17.

Robinson, described as a transient, is suspected in 26 bank holdups throughout Los Angeles County — from the South Bay to Beverly Hills, Encino, Santa Monica and Glendale — in which a total of \$70,000 was taken, authorities said. The first robbery occurred on Aug. 19 at a Cathay Bank in Los Angeles.

Robinson was arrested Saturday morning driving out of the Western Financial Bank parking lot at Carson Street and Hawthorne Boulevard in Torrance, according to police. The Western Financial Bank had been robbed the previous Monday.

More charges are expected to be filed against Robinson this week as authorities investigate robberies in their jurisdictions and file more cases with the DA's office, officials said.

Robinson is known as the "Dreadlock Bandit" because until earlier this week, he wore long braids of hair during his robberies, FBI officials said. Robinson allegedly enters the bank and presents a note to the teller demanding money. Robinson has been described as discreet when he robs a bank, alerting only the teller that a crime is taking place.

Robinson has allegedly threatened to shoot the bank employee he robs with a gun and, in at least one robbery, was seen

'Dreadlock Bandit'

Arrested last weekend, David Robinson, 53, is believed to be responsible for the following bank robberies within the past several weeks:

8/19/04	Cathay Bank	Los Angeles
8/20/04	City National	Los Angeles
8/23/04	City National	Los Angeles
8/26/04	California National	Los Angeles
8/28/04	Washington Mutual	Manhattan Beach
8/30/04	Preferred Bank	Century City
9/1/04	California National	Century City
9/7/04	Union Bank	Century City
9/8/04	City National	Los Angeles
9/10/04	Citibank	Sherman Oaks
9/15/04	California National	Glendale
9/17/04	First Credit Bank	West Hollywood
9/20/04	Encino State Bank	Santa Monica
9/25/04	World Savings Bank	Los Angeles
9/28/04	Golden Security T&L	Alhambra
9/30/04	Bank of the West	West Covina
10/1/04	First State Bank of CA	Encino
10/04/04	Citibank	Beverly Hills
10/6/04	Guaranty Bank	Los Angeles
10/12/04	Pacific Crest Bank	Beverly Hills
10/15/04	Bay Cities National	Torrance
10/16/04	Commercial Capital	Torrance
10/18/04	Citibank	Torrance
10/22/04	Pacific Western	Santa Monica
10/25/04	Western Financial	Torrance
10/27/04	Commercial Capital	Manhattan Beach

with a knife, FBI officials said. Investigators responding to the robberies have interviewed eyewitnesses who have described Robinson's demeanor as calm and friendly. Robinson was considered by authorities as armed and dangerous. They also allege he is a drug addict and that the degree of violence during his robberies could've escalated. Robinson has been seen wearing casual clothing in some of the robberies and in others, dress clothes described by witnesses as "flashy."

The case is being investigated jointly by the Los Angeles Police Department, Alhambra Police Department, Beverly Hills Police Department, Manhattan Beach Police Department, Santa Monica Police Department, Torrance Police Department, West Covina Police Department, West Hollywood Sheriff's Station and the FBI.

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LOCAL

Weller remains secluded in north of Montana Ave. home

WELLER, from page 1

sidering an alternative escape route before gassing into the market.

Bianco and Weller defense attorney Mark Overland also put more than a dozen eyewitnesses on the stand in their attempt to show Weller wasn't in control of his car at the time of the crash. Both sides called a handful of expert witnesses, and defense attorneys pointed to a 914-page police report released last December that determined the crash likely was caused by Weller confusing the accelerator with the brake pedal.

In the end, Judge Mader decided the case should proceed. Preliminary hearings allow both sides to lay out their cases before a judge, who then decides if enough evidence exists for the charges.

Overland said the judge's decision was disappointing, but not a major setback.

"We were hoping that the judge would put an end to the prosecution, but the burden of proof is so slight for the prosecution that it's always a long shot getting something dismissed at this stage," said Overland, adding lawyers likely will file a motion to dismiss the case after Weller is formally arraigned and before the case is given to Los Angeles Superior Court Keith Schwartz, who is expected to oversee the jury trial.

Though he attended the first half day of his preliminary hearing last Monday, Weller was excused due to a heart condition that defense attorneys said likely contributed to the accident. Overland on Wednesday afternoon said Weller continues to struggle with guilt from the carnage he caused last summer.

"He's devastated by this whole thing," Overland said, adding Weller for the most part has remained secluded in his home since the fatal crash last summer. "He's been devastated since the beginning and that's unchanged. He'll be devastated by this until the day he dies. There's no change in terms of his spirits."

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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We need hope, not fear

Editor:

As a resident, local teacher and union president, I was dismayed by Shane McLoud’s mean spirited guest commentary (SMDP, Oct. 30, page 8).

What was McLoud thinking when he spoke of the “disgust” he has for most politicians? There was a time in our history when public officials were respected and public service was considered honorable. The politicians I know are hard working and caring public servants, even those with whom I disagree.

What was school board member McLoud thinking when he attacked school employees for earning a living wage? Thanks to the bus drivers, electricians, custodians, librarians, secretaries, counselors, teachers and other employees, SMMUSD is one of America’s premiere school districts. If we were to follow McLoud’s logic, the district would outsource jobs to the lowest bidder, eliminate hundreds of middle class jobs and drive families into poverty. What McLoud fails to mention is that there are far too many classified employees working without health benefits and earning less than a living wage. In addition, he fails to mention that classified employees earning more than \$50,000 annually are our most veteran and loyal workers — 20 or more years in the district.

What was McLoud thinking when he stated, “most people don’t understand the SMRR machine?” Without the leadership of SMRR, thousands of Santa Monicans would live in fear of being evicted from their homes. If we were to follow McLoud’s logic, apartments in our city would be rented to the highest bidder, resulting in the eviction of thousands of poor- and middle-class residents, including many teachers and other public workers.

In addition to protecting renter rights, the SMRR majority has significantly increased the city’s support for our local public schools. Under the leadership of Mayor Richard Bloom and Councilman Ken Genser, the city’s support of our public schools exceeds \$6 million annually.

In recent years, the SMRR majority has fought to improve the wages of local workers, many of whom live below the federal poverty level.

Employees that work hard and play by the rules should not live in poverty. Fortunately, the SMRR majority believes this and is willing to work to improve the quality of life of Santa Monica workers.

Yes, homelessness remains a major concern for the residents and businesses in our city. However, to cast blame for this national crisis on the SMRR majority is misguided. If we are to solve this complicated crisis, we will need real solutions not simple slogans, such as “teach them to fish.”

For more than two decades, Patricia Hoffman and Denny Zane have made a difference in the lives of thousands of Santa Monicans. Both as elected officials and private citizens, Hoffman and Zane have been fighting for renter rights, students, the rights of women, environmental protections, the working class and the poor. Rather than demonizing Patricia and Denny, we should be grateful to them for their years of service to the residents of our city.

Political leaders should speak of hope, not fear. They should be uniters not dividers. They should offer real solutions not cast blame. Unfortunately, McLoud’s commentary was divisive, fear based and offered no real solutions for the people of our great city.

Harry M. Keiley

President, Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association

Three decades of hard work

Editor:

How dare you, Mr. McLoud. How dare you speak about the most dedicated and loyal employees of the entire school district the way you do (SMDP, Oct. 30, page 8). I happen to be one of the “overpaid” administrative assistants that you refer to in your article. It has taken 32 years of dedication and hard work for me to reach the “high paying” salary that I am now receiving. In my position I am holding down two full time jobs. I don’t complain, I just do my job.

Classified are underpaid, understaffed and yet we continue to serve; to serve the teachers, the administrators and the children of this school district. We work in overcrowded offices, some in great disrepair. Positions are not being filled, so employees are asked to put more work on their shoulders. Our schools are expected to be clean and in good working order, but you keep cutting positions or not filling those that are vacant.

Our jobs have nothing to do with class sizes — that is your responsibility, you and the other members of the board.

Have you ever visited the district offices? Have you ever walked around the building and said “hello” or how are you? I haven’t seen you — or for a matter of fact any of the board members visit — just to visit.

Your letter is very demeaning to all of us. What a blow to our morale.

Maggie Hanson

Administrative assistant, SMMUSD

More on morale

Editor:

I am writing in reference to a recent guest commentary published in the Santa Monica Daily Press by SMMUSD board member Shane McLoud in which he attacked the classified employees in the district (SMDP, Oct. 30, page 8).

See LETTERS, page 7

Divided we stand, with the ‘consequential presidency’

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



Be careful what you wish for, America, it just might come true. As a matter of fact, it just did.

But, hey, power to the people, the people have spoken, loud and clear. Ohio, oh why O? Sorry, this thing has reduced me to bad quipping.

Look at that red-states-blue-states electoral map, take a good look at that thing. Is America’s neck really that big and red? Just kidding to all my friends out there in the heartland. Actually it’s more like a big red pot-belly that continues to eat Bush up.

The Democratic states form a thin blue line starting at Maryland, that swoops up and around the nation, a semi-circle that ends right here in California, broken only by the Idaho-Montana gap that might more accurately be colored lily-white. Which reminds us, however painfully, of what may lay beneath the surface of this red-blue division of America. The blue states are the urban states, populated by minorities in numbers the red states cannot yet fathom.

As has been written here before, what’s not to like about the notion of that sliver of blue states seceding and forming a new union? A union founded on peace and tolerance. We get Springsteen and Ludakris, they get Toby Keith and O’Reilley. We get Kerry, they get Bush. Everybody’s happy. Of course the red states might say, “You’re not seceding, we’re kicking you out.” Ouch.

After all, the right radio gang that gives powerful, unrelenting and hateful voice to those red states has openly and gleefully declared America to be in the midst of a new Civil War, and don’t underestimate for a second the influence that voice has had over this election. They would have you believe that the United Nations, the Middle East, Europe, Asia, Africa — you name it — are nuisances if not outright enemies, standing in the way of a divine mission, to bestow our way upon those around the globe in a twisted, modern-day variation of manifest destiny.

One of those nationally-syndicated talk-show hosts opened his show an hour after Kerry officially conceded defeat. “It’s all I can do to keep myself from weeping,” whispered Dennis Prager, perhaps the most stalwart of the new American Civil Warriors. His voice cracked with emotion as he proudly gushed, “America just gave the finger to the world.”

I confess, I had a tear in my eye too, Tuesday afternoon, as the first polls back east closed down and exit polling showed Kerry to be in position to capture nearly every one of the battleground states and

308 electoral votes. I thought for a moment, this generation of mine has finally awakened, just in time. Joining forces with the youngest generation of voters in a sort of Woodstock Nation/Hip Hop Nation coalition, it appeared for a fleeting moment there, that it might be enough to put an end to the Bush era.

Of course, it turned out to be a cruel tease, but even as I contemplated the Kerry win, this thought crept in, and nagged me throughout the rest of the evening: Does Kerry really deserve to be thrown out there on top of that junk heap, with the task of cleaning up the historic mess this administration has created? Perhaps the true justice of this whole thing would be best achieved by letting Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld and the rest, stay right there and deal with it for four more years. Like Colin Powell warned the president before the ill-fated rush to war, “If you break it, you own it.” He was talking about Iraq of course, but it might also apply to the entirety of the Bush horror story. Ghastly national debt, grisly health-care crisis, macabre unemployment, terrifying environmental degradation, gruesome numbers of poor, horrific gasoline prices. The list goes on but there are only so many horror-story adjectives in the thesaurus. The point is, you broke it, you own it. Now fix it.

Cheney, ever the grim reaper, made a most blood-curdling statement when he introduced his underling at the victory celebration. “This has been a consequential presidency,” he said, without, however, identifying the consequences. He went on to promise more consequences, saying, “The nation has responded by giving us a clear mandate.” Are you thinking uh oh, like I’m thinking uh oh?

The president ended the victory party by repeating what he said in his final campaign speech Monday night, “I see a great day coming for America.” Isn’t that what the challenger says? How many times does the incumbent get to say that? After four years at the helm shouldn’t the incumbent be able to speak in the present, not the future tense, about great days for America?

As great days go, I cannot in all good conscience add myself to the long list of those who somehow are certain that’s what Tuesday was. In no uncertain terms, let me declare Tuesday to have been a missed opportunity of tragic proportions for us to turn this thing around and truly “see a great day coming for America.”

But like mom always said, there’s lemonade to be made from any old lemon. And there’s a column to be made from any old bad news. Except this time, the lemonade may better be the hard kind. Bushamerica for four more years? To borrow from the great Robbie Robertson, “it’s a drunkard’s dream if I ever did see one.”

(Ron Scott Smith can be reached at edgeofthewest@aol.com. To read past columns go to archives at www.smdp.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 sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author’s name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 6

I am one of the administrative assistants of which he speaks. I have been employed for over 35 years in the secretarial field and have worked for the district for "only" 15 years. I hold a secretarial science degree in order to provide my "moderate skills."

Mr. McCloud's contempt of classified employees in the Santa Monica-Malibu district is unbelievable. Where would our district's 12,555 students be without the support that these "highly paid" carpenters, electricians, administrative assistant, etc. provide? What part does electricity play in education he asks? We have two electricians — one who is almost 100 percent devoted to the alarm systems in our schools. And, how about that plumber (we have one) he spoke of — we don't need working facilities at the school sites? Most, if not all, of the positions you speak of are employees who have spent many years of dedicated service — some in excess of 30 years. Our one locksmith maintains all of the locks in all of the facilities in our district. Our metal worker (one) provides the support for all of the lockers at our middle schools and high schools. Not to mention security for our children provided by the electrician (alarms), locksmith (locks) and metal worker (fencing).

These "moderately skilled" employees maintain our 18 school sites, all of our child care facilities and the city of Santa Monica's CREST program. All in all, our classified employees do a great job in support of our schools and our administrators.

Morale is already low in the district due to cuts and vacant positions not being filled. Mr. McCloud's lack of support lowers it more.

Cheryl Ayers

Senior administrative assistant, SMMUSD

McCloud should apologize

Editor:

I am writing and asking for a public apology from SMMUSD board member Shane McCloud for his offensive letter published in the Santa Monica Daily Press in which he targeted a small percentage of classified employees because of the salary they earn (SMDP, Oct. 30, page 8). I am one of those administrative assistants to whom he refers and it has taken me 24 years in this district, and a total of 32 years working in education to earn a salary that allows me to support two children, pay bills and put a roof over my head. We are not "moderately skilled" workers as he intimates. We are carpenters, electricians, painters, mechanics, locksmiths, administrative assistants and maintenance employees, who are highly skilled and educated individuals who are valued employees of our district. I can be sure that my fellow skilled co-workers to whom Mr. McCloud refers, have also served the district and the children of our communities for 20 or 30 plus years.

It is unconscionable that Shane McCloud chooses the media to display his arrogance, ignorance, prejudice and complete lack of understanding of the employees he has chosen to lead and the jobs for which they are responsible. It is well known that teachers cannot teach in their classrooms unless there are employees who will clean the classrooms, cook and serve the food the children eat, repair the toilets, sinks, automobiles and trucks, maintain the facilities, assist staff, parents and the community and give of their time in many ways often not acknowledged. Yes, we work with our hands as well as our minds. We do all this to provide an environment in which all of our children can learn and succeed. Because we truly care about this school district and all of the children entrusted in our care, we deserve accolades and praise, not condemnation.

I truly believe a public apology is due to every one of the classified employees who work tirelessly to make sure our students get the educational opportunities they deserve.

Jeanne Wells

Senior administrative assistant, SMMUSD

Time for a Democratic reassessment, voters



HERE'S THE THING

BY LARA M. BROWN, Ph.D.

It's 4:41 a.m., Central Standard Time, Nov. 3, 2004, and White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card is currently speaking on CNN. He's describing the election, explaining that President Bush, once all the votes in Ohio, Iowa, and New Mexico have been counted is likely to be declared the winner with 286 Electoral College votes.

A few hours earlier, Sen. John Edwards, came before a group of supporters, reassuring them that "every vote would be counted" in this election. While the country waits for this outcome, there are some other results that came in that should give higher-ups in the Democratic Party pause.

Most significantly, Republicans defeated nearly every Senate candidate the Democrats put up, even those who were conservative and well-suited to represent their states. Additionally, the pre-election scandals even fell on the Republican side of the aisle, yet the GOP still picked up four seats.

What does it mean when the Democratic Party cannot successfully run a conservative candidate against a candidate of questionable repute in areas outside of the Northeast and the West Coast?

The party has lost touch with the country.

The only two Senate candidates who were successful in picking up seats for the Democrats were Barack Obama from Illinois and Ken Salazar from Colorado. Their biographies tell the story, and if the party listens, they could be the face of the new Democrats.

They are men from humble origins. Ken Salazar is a fifth generation Coloradan, and according to his biography, "he and his family have been ranchers and farmers in the San Luis Valley since before Colorado was a state." Salazar went to college and law school, and decided to practice natural resources law in Colorado.

Barack Obama's mother is from Kansas. On the campaign trail, he talked about how he understands well the pulse of small town life. He campaigned hard in southern Illinois — the rural part of the state — and he won it by large margins. He, too, went to college and law school outside of Illinois, but came back to work and fought for civil rights, education and health care for the poor.

Both of these men are the best of what America offers. They have led honest, hard-working lives. They come from modest backgrounds, and through their own efforts, they have risen to heights that

would inspire even the most jaded of people. That is why they got elected to the U.S. Senate. As candidates, they were able to cut through most people's cynicism about politics, and they stand as shining examples that not everything in this country goes to those who know people.

This is exactly what the Democratic Party needs to learn from them in terms of shaping its ideological values going forward — if the party wants to become a majority party again. The Democrats must be seen as a party that represents American values — opportunity, responsibility and individual merit. Over the last 30 years, many of the fights the Democrats have waged have led to it being "branded" as the party of "special favors."

Whether the issue is affirmative action, gay rights, pro-choice, or union wages, many Americans, especially those who live in rural communities and small towns who do not relate to either big government or urban life, feel that Democrats fight for group privileges, not for Americans as a whole.

Whether this is an accurate perception or not — because let's face it — minorities, women, homosexuals, and low-wage earners are often harmed the most if certain issues are not fought for independently from other issues because of the history of discrimination in this country, the perception itself is hurting Democrats among those who do not have much education.

In the national exit poll numbers, President Bush received 49 percent of the vote of those do not have a high school education — a 10 percentage point increase over what he received from this same group in 2000. President Bush also enjoyed a 2 percent point increase among those who have a high school diploma: He won that group 51 percent to 48 percent over Kerry. The only educational group where Kerry beat President Bush was in the group of people who say they have engaged in post-graduate study — 55 percent to 43 percent, respectively.

Here's The Thing:

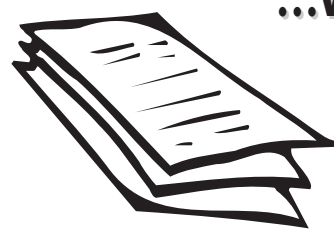
If Democrats want to become relevant again, they have to be willing to get out of their elitist institutions — be they ivory towers, skyscrapers, or Hollywood studios. They need to read David Brooks' "Bobos In Paradise" and they need to realize how captive they have become to their own social constructs.

Once they stop derisively talking about the "fly-over" states, they might actually be able to win one.

(Lara M. Brown, Ph.D., is a political scientist from Los Angeles, and is teaching this semester in Arkansas, at Hendrix College and UALR. She can be reached at larambrown@aol.com).

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Business

Promoting your family's values through trusts



MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS

BY COREY K. QUINN, BRETT A. BROWN

Is a trust able to monitor your family's values? Maybe, maybe not, but there is currently a new trend among wealthy individuals to establish "family incentive trusts" for other family members, with the

aim of fostering responsibility and social consciousness among their offspring.

Incentive trusts are not new but have recently become more popular. These irrevocable trusts typically include a

series of goals or accomplishments that a child or young adult must achieve before benefiting from his or her family's wealth. These identified goals and the resulting trust benefits are often based on academic, financial, professional or philanthropic accomplishments that are to be achieved by the young person over time.

For example, an incentive trust may require that the trust's beneficiary receive funds only after graduating from college with a certain grade point average. Or, the trust may be set up to distribute funds as part of a matching formula based on earnings from employment. The trust could stipulate that no funds are to be paid from the trust if the young person is involved in drugs or other illegal activities. Other requirements might include community activity or involvement with certain charitable organizations. Some family incentive trusts even require that the beneficiary be devoted to raising a family.

Critics of family incentive trusts suggest that this is a way for wealthy individuals to "rule from the grave" or to improperly "bribe" children into a certain mode of behavior or lifestyle.

Despite the criticisms, family incentive trusts are flourishing among high-net-worth individuals. When carefully written and disclosed to family members, this kind of trust can provide an incentive for children to live goal-oriented, productive lives. However, it is important that the trust document be carefully set up to

include broad language that covers emergencies, as well as legitimate mistakes a young person may make.

Selecting a trustee is an important decision in setting up any trust. You may choose a family member or close friend as trustee, but this person might not be objective or could be too removed from family decision-making to see that the trust's required goals are met. An impartial, experienced professional trustee can make the most sense to help ensure that provisions drawn up in the trust document are strictly carried out.

Your financial advisor can provide more information about family incentive and other types of trusts, as well as help you decide which strategies may work best for your individual needs and goals. Be sure to consult your tax and legal advisors, though, before making any tax or legally related investment decisions.

(Consult your tax or legal advisor before making any tax- or legally related investment decisions. This article is published for informational purposes only and is not an offer or solicitation to sell or buy any securities or commodities. Any investment should be analyzed based on its terms and risks as they relate to your individual circumstances and objectives. Investments and services are offered through Morgan Stanley DW Inc., member SIPC. You can reach Corey K. Quinn and Brett A. Brown at their Santa Monica office at (310) 319-5210).



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NATIONAL



Lawyers analyze Arizona immigration measure to determine impact

BY ANANDA SHOREY
Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano said Wednesday that lawyers are analyzing a newly approved measure that aims to keep illegal immigrants from voting and obtaining some government services to determine how it will affect state agencies.

Arizona voters approved Proposition 200 on Tuesday, 56 percent to 44 percent.

The initiative, which could result in jail time for government workers who don't report illegal immigrants trying to obtain some services, doesn't specify which public benefits it includes, leaving questions regarding the potential impact.

"The voters have spoken, and even though I disagree ... we've got to accept the result," Napolitano said at a news conference Wednesday.

The governor, along with many other political leaders, including Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., opposed the measure.

Napolitano plans to issue a proclamation declaring that Proposition 200 is law after a statewide election canvass Nov. 22.

Meanwhile, lawyers will be analyzing its language and intent to determine how state agencies will be effected and then advise them on implementing the provisions, Napolitano said. "We will do that to the best of our ability," she said.

The governor also is checking to see whether state agencies have money to cover the cost of the initiative. She didn't say whether she will ask the Legislature for extra money to cover the provisions.

Napolitano said she doesn't know how Proposition 200, which also requires residents to provide proof of citizenship to register to vote, will affect voter registration efforts.

After she signs the proclamation, the U.S. Justice Department has to clear the

election provisions under the Voting Rights Act.

The provisions need to be approved to ensure minority voters have access to the ballots, said Ashley Adams-Feldman, district elections officer for the U.S. attorney's office.

If the provisions are approved, the measure is still expected to face a flurry of challenges.

"It is definitely going to be tied up in the courts," said Bruce Merrill, a political pollster who followed the proposition. "A lot of people feel how you define public services is pretty vague."

State Rep. Steve Gallardo, a Phoenix Democrat, said government workers will be responsible for determining the definition of public benefits.

"At the end of the day, the folks who are going to get arrested are government employees," Gallardo said. "Those are the folks who are going to suffer."

Gallardo said court challenges will keep the measure from becoming law soon.

"The bottom line is, we have an immigration problem in the state," Gallardo said. "This initiative makes matters even worse."

Arizona is the busiest illegal entry point along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, a nonprofit organization that promotes the rights of Hispanics, plans to challenge the measure before it takes effect, said Thomas Saenz, the group's vice president of litigation.

"We are carefully reviewing the poorly written initiative to see how we can challenge it on behalf of those who would be affected," Saenz said.

Opponents have already tried to defeat the measure in court several times. Most recently, they sought an injunction that would have thrown out votes in the race. A judge dismissed that challenge last week, saying it came too late.



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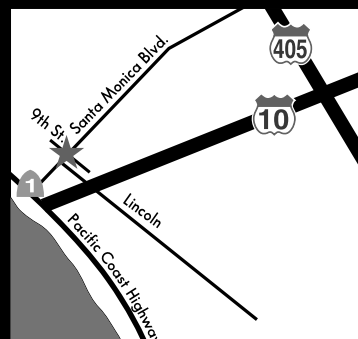
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NATIONAL

Montana voters approve of medical marijuana

BY SUSAN GALLAGHER
Associated Press Writer

HELENA, Mont. — Montana voters by a wide margin approved a medical marijuana law Tuesday, allowing the cultivation, possession and use of the drug for medical purposes. The initiative shields patients, their doctors and caregivers from arrest and prosecution. With 99 percent of precincts reporting, the vote was 62 percent in favor to 38 percent opposed. Passage was “just common sense,” said Paul Befumo

of Missoula, a leader in the campaign for the measure. “I’m really thankful to Montana,” Befumo said. “I think we did something good for ourselves, our neighbors and relatives who are sick.” Befumo said his father’s suffering from fatal lung cancer two years ago may have been eased had marijuana been an option. Activists from the Marijuana Policy Project of Montana gathered more than 26,000 signatures to place I-148 on the ballot, making the state one of two to put medical marijuana-related issues before voters. Oregon rejected a measure that would have dramati-

cally expanded its existing medical marijuana program. Alaska, which also has an existing medical marijuana law, rejected a measure to decriminalize the drug. Supporters of the Montana measure said marijuana is an underused remedy for pain, nausea and other symptoms associated with AIDS, cancer, multiple sclerosis, glaucoma and other chronic illnesses. Some have said it can be an ailing patient’s last chance at relief. Opponents called I-148 the first step toward legalizing pot completely and pointed to possible problems with abuse and enforcement.

Cyanide restriction sticks in Montana, voters decide

BY SUSAN GALLAGHER
Associated Press Writer

HELENA, Mont. — Reaffirming a decision they made six years ago, Montana voters have refused to relax a ban on use of cyanide to recover gold from ore, a ban the industry said symbolized hostility toward mining at a time when the state needs its well-paying jobs. Supporters of the ban, passed by voters in 1998, argued successfully that the

law is a shield against catastrophic water poisoning by leaked cyanide. With 99 percent of precincts reporting, voters rejected Initiative 147 by 58 percent to 42 percent. “It’s a sad day for the American mining industry and the future economy of Montana,” said Tim Smith, manager of a Helena-area gold mine and member of a campaign committee that backed I-147. “The environmentalists did it again, using scare tactics.” But Paul Roos of Ovando, treasurer of a group that fought I-147, said voters made “the right decision for clean drinking water and our rivers, and for our economy.” Use of cyanide to separate gold and silver from rock may be “all right in a state where there’s no water,” Roos

said. “It’s proven that it doesn’t work here.” Supporters of I-147 touted it as a way to tell the North American mining industry Montana is open for business. Opponents said the industry’s suggestion of economic gain for the state clearly was offset by the possibility of environmental harm. The few places where I-147 drew substantial approval included Butte-Silver Bow and Jefferson counties, both with operating mines. But I-147 saw a major defeat in Billings, the state’s largest city, where the Yellowstone County vote was nearly 2 to 1 against the measure. The margin of defeat was even greater in Missoula County: nearly 3 to 1 against. The mining process at issue involves rinsing piles of crushed rock with diluted cyanide, a potent chemical that percolates through the rock and draws out small deposits of gold or silver.

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NATIONAL



Glitz and glamour, but no rush to judgment

BY FRAZIER MOORE

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Viewers could choose a vast video wall displaying the vote for President Bush and John Kerry. Or they could opt for an electoral map stretched across an ice-skating rink.

In delivering election results Tuesday night, TV networks put plenty of razzle-dazzle into the show. But at the same time, they exercised restraint not to screw up their predictions for the winner, as they did four years ago.

"We're gonna err on the side of caution," pledged CNN's Wolf Blitzer at the beginning of the night, in words that echoed those heard on all the networks. "There'll be no rush to judgment."

Another common theme: Exclamations about the heavy voter turnout, and how it was great for democracy.

"The pride and passion of this election on both sides has been obvious to everyone watching," rhapsodized Chris Matthews on MSNBC, before his observation seemed to take on a life of its own: "Today, voters from the oldest to the youngest filled the polls to the brim with their presence and their emotions."

As expected, NBC claimed an easy victory for the most epic production, transforming Rockefeller Plaza into Democracy Plaza.

In those stately surroundings were anchor booths, a stadium-sized video screen and dozens of American flags flapping in the mild autumn night. The towering G.E. Building became the backdrop for red and blue streamer bar charts gauging the candidates' electoral winnings.

And on the famous ice-skating rink was an enormous U.S. map whose puzzle pieces of each state were laid in place, colored red or blue, as Bush or Kerry claimed

them. (After this bruising race, a demolition derby track or a dueling ground might have been more apt.)

As a display of excess, it was a bit over the top. Literally. A blimp hovered overhead to get dramatic aerial shots of the map and the rest of the layout.

(Was all this designed, in part, as farewell pageantry for Tom Brokaw, who after two decades will step down from the anchor spot at the end of the month?)

Sharing the facilities was NBC sibling MSNBC, where anchor Matthews and his panel of commentators were seated outdoors, with noisy, sign-waving spectators behind them. This is a Matthews habit, carried over from his convention and debate coverage — settle in the thick of things, where noise and distraction are at a maximum. It makes a strong argument for a soundproof studio.

A few blocks away, CNN rented out the Nasdaq headquarters' studio in Times Square, with its room-length TV wall, looking like the "Jeopardy!" game board on steroids.

"We can put all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, behind us on these screens, and see this array of everything that's going on," said Blitzer, showing it off for viewers.

It was perhaps the best of all the networks' visual aids. Blitzer and Jeff Greenfield could stride back and forth, manipulating numbers and graphics, seeming to climb inside an election-night video game.

On Fox News Channel, Brit Hume anchored, while Shepard Smith handled separate coverage on the Fox broadcast network.

Peter Jennings was at the anchor desk at ABC.

On CBS, the third of network news' age-old triumvirate, Dan Rather did a dutiful job after a tough few weeks that found him fighting for his career after a botched "60

Minutes" story in September that turned out apparently to have been based on forged memos about Bush's National Guard service.

Maybe it was strain. Maybe it was caution. But Rather seemed more sedate, with few of his folksy "Ratherisms" — even fewer that made sense.

"We're having a 3,000-calorie attack about every half-hour, as close as this race is," he said at one point. The contest, he said later, "is coming along like Ray Charles."

Much funnier was "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," a show that, though always clearly labeled as "fake news," has played a notable role in the race with its satirical take on the candidates.

Tuesday night, the Comedy Central series had a special one-hour live edition, archly titled "Prelude to a Recount."

Reflecting on the likely-to-be-drawn-out-and-disputed vote count, phony anchor Stewart cracked, "I imagine in Iraq tonight, they're going, 'You invaded us to bring us THIS?'"



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Armijo New Head Of Metro Westside

David Armijo is the new general manager of the Metro Westside/Central Service Sector heading bus operations in Venice, West Hollywood and East Los Angeles. Armijo previously served as general manager for the San Fernando Valley.

Exposition Rail Line On Track

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NATIONAL

Election results from the west

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ALASKA:

PRESIDENT — Bush easily took a state that has gone Republican for the last 40 years.

SENATE — Republican Lisa Murkowski led former Gov. Tony Knowles, despite resentment from many voters that her father, Frank Murkowski, appointed her to his old job when he became governor in 2002.

HOUSE — Remains: 1R. Incumbent Don Young, who calls himself the “congressman for all Alaskans,” won a 17th term.

PROPOSITIONS — Alaskans rejected a measure to legalize and tax the sales of marijuana. Another measure fueled by the Murkowski controversy to eliminate appointments to fill Senate vacancies was trailing in the polls.

EXIT POLL — A quarter of voters said they had served in the military. They voted for Bush by nearly 3 to 1.

ARIZONA:

PRESIDENT — Bush racked up double-digit win.

SENATE — Popular Republican Sen. John McCain, seeking a fourth term, drew broad support across political and demographic lines; he edged out Stuart Starky among Democrats and grabbed a majority of support from independents.

HOUSE — 6R, 2D. Incumbent Republican Congressman Rick Renzi soundly defeated Democrat Paul Babbitt, brother of former Interior Secretary and ex-Gov. Bruce Babbitt, for a seat targeted by both parties in expensive, nasty campaign. Party breakdown remains the same.

PROPOSITIONS — Ignoring opposition from state officials, voters passed measure requiring proof of citizenship for voter registration, and proof of legal immigration to obtain certain government services.

EXIT POLL — Two in five Kerry supporters characterized their votes as anti-Bush; four in five ignored McCain’s support for Bush in making their choice.

CALIFORNIA:

PRESIDENT — John Kerry claimed the nation’s largest haul of electoral votes.

SENATE — Democrat Barbara Boxer sailed to a third term, easily outpolling Republican challenger Bill Jones.

HOUSE — 33D, 20R. California’s heavily Democratic congressional delegation was set to return to Washington with two new faces among its 53 members. Republican Dan Lungren won a Sacramento-area seat, and Democrat Jim Costa will fill the seat now held by retiring Democratic Rep. Cal Dooley.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters rejected two expensive casino gambling initiatives, but approved sale of \$3 billion in bonds to pay for embryonic stem cell research. Measure to roll back “three strikes” sentencing law was too close to call.

EXIT POLL — Four in 10 voters earning more than \$150,000 chose Kerry, despite his promises to roll back a tax cut.

COLORADO:

PRESIDENT — Bush enjoyed a comfortable margin of victory despite late visits by John Kerry to the state where he was born.

SENATE — State Attorney General Ken Salazar gave Democrats a pickup in a solidly Republican state, sliding by Republican beer executive Peter Coors in a tight race. Salazar becomes the first Hispanic senator in more than a quarter-century.

HOUSE — 4R, 2D with a final race outstanding. Salazar’s brother, Democrat John Salazar, was neck-in-neck with Republican Greg Walcher in the one race for

an open seat. All six incumbents — four Republicans and two Democrats — won easily.

PROPOSITIONS — The closely watched referendum over whether to split Colorado’s electoral votes based on the popular vote was soundly rejected. Voters approved a 64-cent state cigarette tax to fund health and education programs.

EXIT POLL — Women in Colorado were split evenly between Kerry and Bush; nationally, women overwhelmingly supported Kerry.

HAWAII:

PRESIDENT — Tight race at the end, but Kerry pulled off victory in a state that’s gone Democratic in every election but two since gaining statehood. Islands briefly became battleground at campaign’s end after polls showed tight race.

SENATE — Veteran Sen. Daniel Inouye, 80, won a lopsided race against Republican Cam Cavasso, a former state legislator.

HOUSE — 2D. Reps. Neil Abercrombie and Ed Case breezed to re-election.

PROPOSITIONS — Four constitutional amendments on ballot, all relating to crime and criminal prosecution, won approval. State attorney general and the Honolulu prosecutor backed them; opponents had said they would infringe on civil rights.

EXIT POLL — One in four voters strongly approved the U.S. decision to go to war with Iraq and nearly all of them voted for the incumbent. Of the 35 percent of voters who strongly disapproved of the decision, nearly all went to Kerry.

IDAHO:

PRESIDENT — Bush won nearly 70 percent of the vote, one of the highest totals in the heavily Republican state’s history.

SENATE — GOP incumbent Michael Crapo raised \$2 million — and spent over a third of it — to fend off an anemic write-in challenge. Crapo got more than 99 percent of the vote.

HOUSE — Remains 2R. Underfunded Democrats offered little resistance to Michael Simpson and Butch Otter, who plans a bid for governor in two years.

EXIT POLL — Eight in 10 Idaho voters made up their minds about the presidential race a month or more before the polls opened, and seven of 10 had settled on Bush.

MONTANA:

PRESIDENT — Bush an easy winner.

GOVERNOR — Democrat Brian Schweitzer, who campaigned as an outsider promising bipartisan rule, scored a firm victory over Republican Secretary of State Bob Brown for office GOP has held for 16 years. Schweitzer made history by running with a Republican lieutenant governor.

HOUSE — 1R. Rep. Denny Rehberg by a mile over Democratic challenger Tracy Velazquez.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters turned down mining industry-backed initiative to overturn a ban on using cyanide in mining operations. Voters approved a constitutional ban on gay marriage and legalized medical marijuana.

EXIT POLL — Schweitzer, who supports importing less-expensive prescription drugs from Canada, received nearly two-thirds of the vote among those ages 60 and over.

NEVADA:

PRESIDENT — Defying early exit polls showing slight Kerry lead, Bush won by a 50-48 margin. Bush won the state by 3.5 percent in 2000.

SENATE — Democratic Sen. Harry Reid, the Senate minority whip, was an easy winner over Republican challenger Richard Ziser.

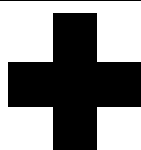
HOUSE — Remains 2R, 1D. First-term Republican Rep. Jon Porter withstood a challenge from former casino executive Tom Gallagher.

PROPOSITIONS — Nevadans voted to raise the minimum wage and to give more protections to doctors from medical malpractice lawsuits. They also made education a top state budget priority.

EXIT POLLS — Exit polls showed Kerry leading by a narrow margin. Kerry got a large share of first-time vot-

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See ELECTION RESULTS, page 13

NATIONAL



Cheney's home state delivers for Bush '04

ELECTION RESULTS, from page 12

ers and led in Las Vegas, but trailed in Republican-heavy Reno and more conservative rural areas.

NEW MEXICO:

PRESIDENT — Bush and Kerry were locked in an extremely tight race with Bush about 3,600 votes ahead. Nearly 30,000 absentee and provisional ballots remained uncounted.

HOUSE — Remains 2R, 1D. Closest race was a repeat of 2002, with Republican Rep. Heather Wilson retaining her seat by withstanding a challenge from Democrat Richard Romero.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters agreed to allow runoffs in city elections where no candidate wins a majority or some other threshold percentage of the balloting.

EXIT POLL — Bush gained more Hispanic votes than he did in 2000, with about two in five Hispanics supported him. Other minorities, including American Indians, backed Kerry 2 to 1.

OREGON:

PRESIDENT — Kerry prevailed in state's all-mail balloting system.

SENATE — Heavily favored Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden easily won re-election, defeating little-known Republican newcomer Al King.

HOUSE — 4D, 1R. Rep. David Wu trounced Republican Goli Ameri, who attacked Wu in television ads, citing an October newspaper report that Wu tried to force a girlfriend to have sex in the 1970s.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters overwhelmingly adopted a constitutional amendment that bans gay marriage.

EXIT POLL — Nearly two of every three women surveyed cast their ballots for Kerry. Hispanics supported the Democratic candidate by a 4-to-1 margin.

UTAH:

PRESIDENT — Bush's win was a foregone conclusion.

SENATE — Another safe win for the GOP: two-term incumbent Bob Bennett coasted to a huge victory over Democrat Paul Van Dam, a former attorney general.

GOVERNOR — In a battle of household names, Republican Jon Huntsman Jr., trade official under President Bush and heir to a chemical fortune, defeated Scott Matheson, son of Utah's last Democratic governor.

HOUSE — Remains 2R, 1D. Matheson's brother, Rep. Jim Matheson,

held onto his seat despite a barrage of negative 11th hour campaigning by his opponent, John Swallow. The race was a rematch of 2002.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

OTHER — Democrat Peter Corroon barely won the Salt Lake City mayor race, beating a replacement candidate for who only got on the Republican ballot when incumbent Nancy Workman quit amid felony charges of misusing public money.

EXIT POLL — Eight out of 10 Mormons went for Bush.

WASHINGTON:

PRESIDENT — Kerry claimed a comfortable triumph in a state that no Republican has won in 20 years.

SENATE — Democratic Sen. Patty Murray thrashed GOP challenger George Nethercutt after divisive, expensive campaign.

GOVERNOR — Attorney General Christine Gregoire led Dino Rossi, Republican businessman and former state senator, by just 32 votes at one point early Wednesday with hundreds of thousands of absentee votes outstanding in race to succeed Democratic Gov. Gary Locke.

HOUSE — 6D, 3R. In a tight race for the open 8th, Republican Dave Reichert, the sheriff who hunted down the Green River Killer, led talk radio host Dave Ross.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters adopted a Louisiana-style primary system that would send the top two vote-getters to the general election regardless of party.

EXIT POLL — Washington's wealthiest residents backed Kerry by wide margins, while nationally most people earning more than \$100,000 a year voted for Bush.

WYOMING:

PRESIDENT — Dick Cheney's home state gives Bush a landslide.

HOUSE — 1R. Republican Barbara Cubin beat political newcomer Ted Ladd for sixth term as Wyoming's lone representative.

PROPOSITIONS — Voters rejected constitutional amendment to allow Legislature to put caps on

EXIT POLL — Bush performed strongly among those who said they had a favorable opinion of Cheney, while Kerry had strong support among those who have an unfavorable opinion of Cheney. About two-thirds of Wyoming voters said they had a favorable opinion of Cheney.

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Check out next week's Q-Line Question only on page 3!

The Q-Line



INTERNATIONAL

Iraqi kidnappers seize American, four Jordanians

BY MARIAM FAM

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Gunmen abducted a Lebanese-American contractor who worked with the U.S. Army from his Baghdad home, Iraqi officials said Wednesday, while four Jordanian truck drivers were seized in a separate attack.

Radim Sadeq, a contractor with a mobile phone company, was snatched by gunmen when he answered the door of his home in Baghdad's Mansour neighborhood overnight, Lt. Col. Maan Khalaf said.

It was the second abduction this week in the upscale neighborhood, where many foreign companies are based. On Monday, gunmen stormed the two-story compound of a Saudi company, abducting six people — including an American, a Nepalese, a Filipino and three Iraqis — after a gun battle that left an Iraqi guard and one of the attackers dead.

A U.S. soldier died and another was wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near Salman Pak, about 10 miles southeast of Baghdad, the U.S. military said.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, meanwhile, urged insurgents in the western city of Fallujah to lay down their arms and participate in peaceful elections, scheduled for January.

American forces are preparing for a

major offensive against Fallujah and other Sunni militant strongholds north and west of Baghdad in hopes of curbing the insurgency ahead of the national vote.

"What we are saying to people in Fallujah is this ... Lay down your weapons, submit to the authority of that U.N.-appointed government and participate in the election and see from the election how much support you have," Blair told lawmakers in the House of Commons.

Earlier Wednesday, U.S. warplanes hit an insurgent command post in Fallujah in a precision airstrike, the U.S. military said. Late Tuesday, a known weapons cache site in the southeastern part of the city also was destroyed, according to a statement.

Hungary announced it will withdraw its 300 non-combat troops from Iraq by March 31, the country's new prime minister said Wednesday as he faced mounting opposition to the soldiers' presence.

"We are obliged to stay there until the (Iraqi) elections. To stay longer is an impossibility," Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany said.

Denmark's prime minister, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, said Wednesday his country's 501 soldiers in the southern port city of Basra "will stay there as long as needed so the Iraqis can be helped to become masters in their own homes."

In Jordan, a government spokeswoman said four Jordanian drivers have been kidnapped in Iraq and two others were shot at by unknown assailants.

Jordanian spokeswoman Asma Khader declined to provide details on the four hostages but said her government has taken up the matter with visiting Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

She said the two other Jordanians came under fire in the Ramadi area in central Iraq — a Muslim Sunni militant stronghold.

A militant Muslim group, the Ansar al-Sunnah Army, claimed Wednesday to have beheaded an Iraqi army officer whom they captured in the northern city of Mosul. The group posted a statement and showed a video on their Web site in which they decapitated a man they identified as Maj. Hussein Shanoun.

It was impossible to verify the claim's authenticity. The Iraqi military could not be reached for comment. The U.S. military said it was checking the claim.

Arabic TV station Al-Jazeera also broadcast a tape in which a previously unknown group called the Brigades of Iraq's Honorable claimed to have beheaded three Iraqi National Guards, accusing them of "spying" for U.S. troops.

The kidnappers of aid worker Margaret Hassan threatened to hand her over to a group headed by Jordanian militant Abu

Musab al-Zarqawi unless Britain agrees within 48 hours to pull its troops from Iraq.

Al-Zarqawi's followers have beheaded at least six hostages: three Americans, a Briton, a Japanese and a South Korean.

The threat to Hassan, the 59-year-old Iraq director for CARE International, was made in a videotape received by Al-Jazeera but not broadcast in its entirety because the station said it was too graphic.

Instead, it showed a soundless segment Tuesday night showing a hooded gunman as a newscaster reported the threat.

British officials declined to comment on the reported demand. Britain has 8,500 troops in Iraq, the second-largest contingent after the United States.

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern told his parliament that the full tape showed the Dublin-born Hassan pleading for her life directly to the camera before suddenly fainting.

Ahern, who had not seen the video, said a bucket of water is then thrown over Hassan's head and she is filmed lying wet and helpless on the ground before getting up and crying. Ahern described the text of the video as "distressing."

Hassan, an Irish-British-Iraqi citizen married to an Iraqi, was kidnapped last month from her car in western Baghdad. No group has claimed responsibility.

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No wedding plans for Prince Charles and his squeeze

LONDON — Prince Charles and his companion, Camilla Parker Bowles, will not attend the wedding of his godson this weekend, sparking reports in newspapers that they refused to be seated apart.

The Daily Mail, which played the story on its front page Wednesday, said Charles pulled out because Parker Bowles had been assigned a seat in Chester Cathedral several rows behind him.

The explanation from Charles' office, however, was that he was passing up the wedding of godson Edward van Cutsem and Lady Tamara Grosvenor to meet with families of the Black Watch Regiment, which was recently redeployed nearer Baghdad, Iraq.

Charles' eldest son, Prince William, reportedly will be at the wedding, serving as an usher, and Queen Elizabeth II also was expected to attend.

The couple, who celebrated their second wedding

“What married couple doesn’t?” the 24-year-old singer says. “You don’t want to marry somebody who’s just like you. So there are always going to be conflicts. That’s what compromise is all about. It means that we’re communicating.”

“There’s no bigger supporter in Jessica’s life than me,” he tells the magazine. “Her success is my success. Marriage is a team effort. Both of us share that philosophy.”

Meanwhile, Simpson, who will play Daisy Duke in the upcoming "The Dukes of Hazzard" movie, has come to the defense of her 20-year-old sister, Ashlee, who was recently busted for a "Saturday Night Live" lip-synch gone awry.

"Ashlee is an amazingly talented person," she told the "Access Hollywood" syndicated entertainment TV show. "She's already sold 3 million records, which is more than I sold in two years. She's proven herself."

The 59-year-old singer-songwriter described the honor _ conferred by Princess Anne, daughter of Queen Elizabeth II, during a ceremony Wednesday at Buckingham Palace _ as the “icing on the cake” of his career.

"I had a rebellious streak in me," he told reporters after the ceremony. "As a kid I would not have been able to accept this. I was very immature about the way I looked at that. I was against the establishment.

He was accompanied by his wife, Melia McEnergy, who is expecting the couple's third child. They have two young daughters.

Clapton, who was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire, or OBE, in 1994, first found fame in the 1960s as a member of the Yardbirds, before going on to achieve even greater international acclaim with the group Cream.

He recorded his most famous song, “Layla,” with his band Derek and the Dominos, and followed that with a string of successful solo albums through the 1970s and 1980s.

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