

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

5 13 34 40 46
Meganumber: 6

Jackpot: \$19 Million

FANTASY 5

1 3 17 27 34

DAILY 3

Daytime: 0 7 6

Evening: 3 4 6

DAILY DERBY

1st: 09 Winning Spirit

2nd: 10 Solid Gold

3rd: 01 Gold Rush

RACE TIME: 1:42.11

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



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

From the Minneapolis Star Tribune: "(Carver County) Aug. 24: Hostility. A door-to-door salesman complained about the attitude of the people in the neighborhood in the 100 block of W. Shasta Circle." And from the Union Democrat (Sonora, Calif.): "(Tuolumne County, Oct. 13) 1:13 p.m., Sonora, A man came to the Sheriff's Department to 'find out how to legally kill' a person who was harassing him."

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 308th day of 2005.
There are 57 days left in the year.

On Nov. 4, 1979, the Iranian hostage crisis began as militants stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, seizing its occupants. For some of the hostages, it was the start of 444 days of captivity.

In 1879, humorist Will Rogers was born in Oologah, Okla.

In 1880, the first cash register was patented by James and John Ritty of Dayton, Ohio.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I could prove God statistically. Take the human body alone — the chances that all the functions of an individual would just happen is a statistical monstrosity."

GEORGE H. GALLUP
AMERICAN POLLSTER (1901-1984)

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Bummer: Road might take toll on surfing spot

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS

Associated Press Writer

SAN CLEMENTE — It's called Trestles. It means surfing.

For decades the surf break with the odd name south of San Clemente has been legend, one that wave riders say is a creation of natural interactions between land and ocean that make it one of the best — if not the best — on the nation's coast.

Now, they fear that the forces of nature that sustain the "Yosemite of Surfing" will be overwhelmed by the forces of development, a planned toll road intended to ease intense congestion on Interstate 5 between the suburban sprawl of Orange County and San Diego.

What's cast as a sensible way to uncork traffic, however, is blasphemy to surfers, who say the project will ruin Trestles by blocking sediment flows that make the surf breaks world class.

"That's where we go to feel the nature in our sport. There's no more nature left in surfing if they start screwing with Trestles," said Jericho Poppler, one of the sport's most decorated stars.

The proposal has made instant activists of many surfers, who have banded together for "paddle out protests" to protect Trestles,

See **TRESTLES**, page 12

Tank heavens



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Hugo Mendez, an employee at the Union 76 Station at the intersection of Lincoln Boulevard and Rose Avenue, changes his station's sign on Thursday, a reflection of dropping gas prices.

Three's a crowd at SMC

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE — The new top administrator at Santa Monica's local community college may be taking the reins as early as December, that is, once he or she has been selected by elected officials.

Representatives from Santa Monica College announced on Wednesday they are one step closer to finding a permanent president, having narrowed their short list down to three candidates.

Each of the finalists this month will spend a full day at SMC's main campus for interviews with the Board of Trustees. They also will appear at public forums to speak and answer questions. The forums will be held from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Monday through Wednesday (Nov. 14-16).

The three finalists are Dr. Deborah Blue, vice president of policy and research for the Accrediting Commission for Community & Junior Colleges (ACCJC) in Novato, Calif.; Dr. G.

See **SMC PRESIDENT**, page 9

Blast from the past needs a plot to squat



File photo

The 'Shotgun' house now at Santa Monica Airport is the last of its kind in the city.

Deemed the last of its kind, 'Shotgun' house in disrepair

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM AIRPORT — A turn-of-the-century "shotgun" house — so named because a blast fired through the front door would travel through each of its three rooms and directly out the back door — may be moved to the old Fisher Lumber site, where it can stay for two years.

Following that, city officials said they will likely demolish the 468-square-foot cottage if commu-

nity members can't find it a permanent home.

Quickly constructed "shotgun" houses once lined the shores of Ocean Park, in the late 1880s and early 1900s. Now, preservationists contend just one remains — it rests on blocks in a parking lot at Santa Monica Airport, locked in by a sea of new cars stored by auto dealers.

Preservationists calling themselves "The Friends of the

See **SHOTGUN HOUSE**, page 8

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Santa Monica Daily Press



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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ The Friday energy feels good as you get ready to clear your desk. A meeting or get-together, though sluggish at first, can open wide with some of your thoughts. Be willing to break your patterns. Tonight: Opt for something different.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ What had proved difficult now finally moves in the direction you would like. You still might feel that someone is not being as lucid or as clear as you would like. Sometimes you wonder if you are speaking the same language. Tonight: Follow someone else's lead.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Use your ability to organize, and get a project done. You will want to clear out of your routine patterns soon enough. Take time to network or socialize with key people in your life. Tonight: Let your imagination lead you.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ You need some downtime to clear up a problem. You feel like a money matter will work out with care. Do not let a partner put in his or her two cents. You discover that others are off or not as accurate as you. Tonight: Find your favorite chair.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ A year ago you might have been more rambunctious if the same opportunity occurred. Still, follow your knee-jerk reaction. You might hear something unusual. Someone might be more enthusiastic than you. Tonight: Accept an invitation.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ You need to take some time to think or relax by yourself. You might not want to, but that is your best choice. You might have been acting without thinking. Someone might cloud your thinking. Tonight: Decide what you would do if you could do anything you wanted.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Find time to catch up on news while chatting with others. You might be overwhelmed by calls and requests. Someone has a way of pulling the wool over your eyes. Let your imagination flow. Tonight: Munchies with friends.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Money issues could be pivotal to a decision. You might wish this situation were otherwise. Don't pretend that it is. Realism will lead to success. A family member has a secret! Tonight: Make a weekend budget before walking out the door.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You are at your peak. Although you might have a difficult time finding the right words to describe a concept or idea, others seem to get it anyway. You have a near-psychic tie with a key person. Still, use words. Tonight: As you like it.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Someone might be hard on you or less supportive than usual. Check loan or insurance papers, as there could be a snafu. Perhaps you have changed your mind about what you want. Stay on top of key financial matters, as money could slip right out of your hands. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might not be as sure as you would like to be about an idea or relationship. As a result, you will lean on others for support. Friends play an instrumental role in supporting your course of action. Tonight: Celebrate the weekend.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ You must bend for someone who has the final word. You might not be happy about this either. Curb a tendency to daydream, or you could make a mistake and have to redo a project or some work. Tonight: Try to make it an early night.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Needy kids get a shopping spree

By Daily Press staff

Christmas is coming early for a group of needy kids. Seventy-five children between the ages of 5 and 10 years old are going to Sears & Roebuck on a holiday shopping spree for new clothes and shoes on Tuesday, Nov. 15 at 7:45 a.m. Donations to the Santa Monica Salvation Army from community organizations and individuals will provide each child with \$100 for purchase of clothing. Representatives from The Salvation Army Advisory Board, service clubs, business and the community will escort and assist each child as they make their selections and purchases. Sears representatives, community leaders and the Santa Monica High School Madrigal singers will be on hand to welcome the children as the sounds of holiday music fill the air. Santa, though not shopping, plans on visiting with the children and sharing a holiday toy. Contributions are still needed. For more information or to make contributions to the Holiday Shopping Spree Fund, call Captain Eric Bradley, at the Salvation Army Corps at (310) 451-1358.

Planting the seed for a healthier future

By Daily Press staff

Help fight air pollution. Plant a tree. Come join the children and families of Pacifica Community Charter School and the Palms neighborhood along with Tree People on Nov. 5, from 9 a.m. to noon in planting up to 20 trees along Dunn Drive. Tree People is a private, nonprofit environmental organization, whose mission is to inspire and support the people of Los Angeles as they plant and care for trees. Food and beverages will be provided for all participants and all ages are encouraged to participate. Pacifica Community Charter School is located at 3754 Dunn Dr., just north of Venice Boulevard. Call (310) 845-9405 for directions and further information.

Dancers break new ground with latest step

By Daily Press staff

A Malibu-based dance company, headed by an adjunct Santa Monica College professor Rebecca Yewell-Witjas, is making history by being the first group of Americans in nearly two decades performing at the annual UNESCO World Congress of Dance held next week on a Greek island. “The U.S. hasn’t been involved with UNESCO for about 18 years.” said Yewell-Witjas. “We will be the only Americans performing artistic work there.” The World Congress is the largest gathering of dance specialists worldwide and participation is by invitation only. Last year’s congress was attended by 450 specialists from 40 countries. LA Dances is a partnership between SMC and Pepperdine University in Malibu that Yewell-Witjas, who teaches at both institutions, started last year. The group will perform at the international gathering Nov. 9-13 in Cyprus. UNESCO’S global efforts include promoting cultural diversity and promoting freedom of expression. A member of the council’s advisory board, Yewell-Witjas wanted to start a dance troupe that would reflect UNESCO’s mission. With the help of friends and colleagues, she was able to gather a group of dancers that includes SMC and Pepperdine students, officials said. The troupe consists of dancers ranging from 20 to 40 years of age, and includes both students and seasoned professionals. The group sealed its spot in the competition when it submitted a DVD audition, titled “White Light,” containing hip hop, ballet, and modern dance to the theme of Bach’s 3rd Brandenburg Concerto. An experienced choreographer, Yewell-Witjas founded two professional dance companies and choreographed for the stage, television and film. The dance troupe raised about \$60,000 from public grants and private donations to pay for travel, food and lodging.



SURF REPORT

Today, we have some SW due from the far reaches of the southern hemisphere. This will barely be felt on Friday, but increase a bit on Saturday. This swell should bring in some waist surf for south-facing breaks on Friday. NW swell should stick around for at least some waist-high sets.

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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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shedding light on China trek

Editor:

Your article (SMDP, Nov. 1, page 1) implies that the City Council's use of \$1,000 in discretionary funds for a matching grant to support my participation in the People to People Ambassador Program's Social Studies Delegation to China this December might be an inappropriate city government expenditure.

All City Council members were mailed and faxed information regarding the program. The People to People U.S. delegation will discuss with our Chinese counterparts:

- Globalization and its impact on education.
- The development of nationalism in the midst of globalization.
- Modern Chinese culture and education.
- The impact of media and technology in education.
- The role of schools in preparing students for citizenship.
- Decision-making process for curriculum and assessment.

The People to People Ambassador Program, founded by president Dwight D. Eisenhower, will include 30 hours of meetings in an effort to promote strong professional discourse and understanding. President John F. Kennedy through President George W. Bush all served as honorary chairmen of People to People International.

I want to thank the City Council, the John Adams PTSA and the SMMCTA for providing an opportunity to participate in a program that fosters positive international connections. Mary Eisenhower, president and CEO of People to People International, states, "The ideas and understanding created by face to face encounters with people of different backgrounds will be the foundation of a lasting world peace."

Linda Kovaric
Santa Monica

Pico in a predicament

Editor:

Matt Millen's letter (SMDP, Oct. 13, page 4) misquoted me as saying that the city intentionally segregates "minority" residents in the Pico neighborhood. In fact, lower-income people of all ethnicities are facing serious displacement from the Pico neighborhood due to rising home prices. A loss of culture and history is imminent unless we act progressively to protect the diversity that makes our city a vibrant community. We need more affordable housing throughout the city to counteract market forces that force low-income families out.

Oscar de la Torre
Santa Monica-Malibu School Board member

Well grounded: Waxman is good for the earth

Editor:

Fortunately, we can consistently count on environmental heroes like Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Santa Monica.) We commend Rep. Waxman for recently voting against an energy bill that gives new hand-outs to oil companies, while leaving citizens twisting in the wind. In the name of hurricane relief, the House of Representatives passed the bill passed by a two-vote margin, but only after the House leadership held a five-minute vote open for nearly an hour to browbeat members into changing their votes.

The bill does nothing to solve America's energy problems. Rather, it doles out more than \$3 billion in taxpayer money to the oil industry — even as oil companies rake in record profits — and weakens important health and environmental protections.

Rep. Waxman will have another opportunity to show his leadership by voting against the federal budget — which contains a provision to allow drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge — when it comes before the House of Representatives this November. Now more than ever, we need every single champion like Waxman to stand up for the environment.

Moira Chapin
Federal field organizer, Environment California



OPINION

EDITORIAL

Fighting for the vets



War veterans are getting a raw deal right in our own backyard. The fact that we have hundreds of acres of land just a few miles away dedicated solely to war veterans — with many of them sleeping in, around or under empty buildings on the property — shows the depths of just how dysfunctional our federal government can be.

It also shows how ineffective our local, county and state officials are in affecting any change at the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration site, currently being considered for a commercial development that would vastly alter the face of the VA property.

The VA property's ultimate fate rests squarely in the hands of VA Secretary R. James Nicholson in Washington D.C., who is part of an administration that has shown little interest in taking care of the country's soldiers returning home from war — a frightening reality, considering we are at war and soldiers are returning home daily with physical, mental and emotional wounds that need immediate attention.

The VA is re-evaluating the use of its facilities nationwide in order to modernize its health care system, according to officials. As a result, its leadership in Washington may be tempted by developer dollars and put portions of the West L.A. grounds on the auction block, in attempts to create a revenue source for the VA's struggling health care system.

And struggling it is. There are countless nightmare stories of vets who have unsuccessfully tried to tap into the VA system to receive the health care and benefits they were promised, and absolutely deserve. The bureaucracy and inattentive government have kept them at bay, and oftentimes, on the streets, including those in Santa Monica.

Few people have voiced support for a recent report issued by the VA's consultant, PricewaterhouseCoopers, which suggests that several "abandoned" and "underutilized" buildings on the site may be liquidated to create private medical research facilities, high-rise condos and retail stores.

The West LA grounds is among the largest health care campuses in the VA system, with nearly 400 acres and 91 structures totaling 2,807,039 in building gross square feet. It was deeded in 1888 from John P. Jones and Arcadia B. de Baker, specifically granting the land as an Old Soldiers Home by adopting the principle that in perpetuity the land must be maintained for the direct benefit of veterans.

Five years ago, the site was being considered for a major sports complex. Residents in the area and local veterans alike cried foul, and that proposal was eventually taken off the table.

Anything other than increased services for veterans on the property shouldn't even be considered for a nanosecond.

Thankfully, dozens of local elected leaders, including Santa Monica City Councilman Bobby Shriver, Congressman Henry Waxman and Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky have all indicated they are against any proposal that would consider private development. And they are rallying support from higher ups in D.C., like Sens. Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer.

So have a group called the Citizens for Veterans Rights, which is tapping into the growing neighborhood opposition against the potential development. The group is asking that the property be enhanced for veterans, and that a needs assessment be done to determine what's needed to serve the thousands of war veterans in Los Angeles.

The only way to apply pressure on the powers that be in Washington D.C. and convince Secretary Nicholson to abandon the development proposal is to let your voice be heard. Contact your representatives in D.C. and sign the card the Citizens for Veteran Rights are distributing. The cards will be sent to Nicholson via Waxman's office.

People wishing to fill out the card asking for the VA site to remain intact can contact Citizens for Veterans Rights c/o Frank Juarez AMVETS Post 2, 310 795-7051. Cards can also be picked up on Sundays at either the West Los Angeles Farmers' Market on Purdue and Santa Monica boulevards, or the Brentwood Farmers' Market.

Tell Santa Monica what you think!

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Santa Monica Daily Press

OPINION



Beltway train wreck is biggest show in town

HERE'S THE THING

BY LARA M. BROWN, Ph.D



Even though it's only a few days before a California special election and the political battles are heating up between the public employee unions (teachers, firefighters, police, etc.) and the self-proclaimed "reform" governor, I could care less. It's not that the eight initiatives, which have qualified for next Tuesday's ballot are not worthy of discussion. In fact, I've argued before that the redistricting initiative, Proposition 77, while not ideal, is a giant leap forward in terms of Californians being represented again.

The reason I'm distracted is simple: I can't take my eyes off the power plays in Washington. Here's a recap:

Last Thursday, Oct. 27, President Bush announced that his nominee to replace Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Harriet Miers, was withdrawing her nomination. This happened to be one day before the special prosecutor on the CIA leak case, Patrick Fitzgerald, was set to announce whether he would be bringing indictments against top White House aides. Washington had buzzed all week, trying to anticipate Fitzgerald, but with one swift move, Bush stopped the talk and turned everyone's attention to who would replace Miers. Not only did Bush change the story, but he won back his conservative base in the process.

Last Friday, Oct. 28, Fitzgerald held an hour-long press conference to explain his indictments of I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, Vice President Dick Cheney's now-former chief of staff, and to describe his ongoing investigation. As many have said, Fitzgerald appeared to be a reincarnated Elliot Ness, standing before the cameras waxing philosophic about truth and its role in our system of justice amidst the Washington swamp.

The political fallout, however, was mixed. Fitzgerald's press conference gave ammunition to both sides. For the Republicans, he only indicted one person, which meant that this is limited to one, bad apple. Also, Fitzgerald had said that his investigations were not about the Iraq War. For the Democrats, he indicted "Cheney's Cheney," as Libby has been called, and many believe that Cheney will eventually be held culpable for the role he played in the drama. Moreover, Fitzgerald asserted that there had been harm done to the entire nation because the people who work at the CIA must be able to trust that their fellow government employees will

protect them, or they will not work there. The weekend talk went back and forth with no clear winners.

Monday, Oct. 31, President Bush nominated Judge Samuel A. Alito, a widely-known conservative, to the Supreme Court. This once again shifted the talk from the CIA leak case and the faulty intelligence in the lead-up to the Iraq War to the Supreme Court. It also forced the Democrats into a corner: Either they could fight the nominee or they could make hay on Iraq, but as every politician knows, the media cannot follow two stories at once. Again, a cagey move orchestrated by the White House.

Tuesday, Nov. 1, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid invoked executive session, forcing the Senate to literally shut its doors to outside business and spectators, demanding that the Republicans take up their long-delayed investigation into the White House's failures in Iraq. Reid's deft move accomplished four things, it took Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist by surprise; served as payback to the White House for not consulting him on the Alito nomination; served as a warning shot to the Republicans in the Senate that the Democrats were in no mood to "play nice" this session; and it changed the story back to Iraq, which then once again, raised questions about the CIA leak case.

Wednesday, Nov. 2, CBS released a poll with the lowest approval ratings for President Bush during his entire term — 35 percent approve of the way he is doing his job. Since we've been measuring, only Nixon has fared so low in public approval. Democrats sense their opportunity to win elections next year, if they can put forward a positive agenda for the country.

Here's the Thing:

The politics in Washington haven't been so chaotic since Clinton's first two years in office, when Newt Gingrich rose to power amid several Democratic scandals, Hillary's health care plan sunk like an anchor, and "gays in the military" created pandemonium both inside and outside the armed forces. The power struggle is far from settled, but the two parties are fighting hard — Republicans are desperately trying not to cede power and the Democrats are grasping for it with everything they've got. We won't know which party will survive this contest until a year from now, but one thing is certain, it's going to be tough to take your eyes off the two trains speeding towards each other at 100 mph.

(Lara M. Brown, Ph.D., is a political scientist from Los Angeles, and teaches at California State University, Channel Islands. She can be reached at larambrown@aol.com.)



John McGrail, C.Ht.

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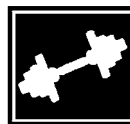


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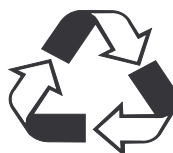
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Santa Monica Daily Press



COMMENTARY

Old hat? Love has a way of resurfacing



PISTACHIO PERSPECTIVE
BY SUSAN ANN CONNOR

Antsy universe. Hellllloooooo? In a hurry much? Could you not have given me some time to respond before throwing this cadlike creature on my doorstep?

I couldn't believe it. I just stared at him incredulously. Never mind what the universe was thinking. It deserves an obedient curtsy, I suppose. But what was he thinking? The ultimate bazoobies of it all.

Smiling, he tilted his head to the right, lifting one eyebrow. Hmmmmm. The tilt and lift adjustment was his way of investigating his approval rating. Not so fast buster. You got some work to do. Settle in. This is gonna be a bumpy ride.

There'd been a five-year absence since I'd last heard from this cheater-cheater-pumpkin-eater. And I wasn't about to make it easy on him.

Irksome as he was, he still charmed me. Dang it. But I wasn't going to let him know that.

At least not right away.

Colin, whose jet black hair had turned shades of gray, started walking toward the car, holding long-stem callillies as a truce tool.

"Hi babe," he said. No answer from me.

"Is it OK if I still call you babe?" Still no answer.

"You look great." Oh brother.

"Babe??" He offered the flowers.

"I do not look great, Colin." I wanted to call him Tail-Twirler, but refrained. "My hair's underwashed, my dark circles are overexposed, and I have revealing chocolate at the corners of my mouth."

"No, you look great. You look ah ... you look like you." I could only sigh.

"Well now that you're here. Would you like to come in?" I asked without encouragement.

"Love to," he joyfully replied, still holding out my favorite flowers, that I refused to accept. So far.

"I'm sorry," he said sincerely, as we uncomfortably entered my place. "I was anxious to see you."

He was so close behind me that I felt a little claustrophobic. His big feet took this extra step and removed the heel of my right shoe in the process. This, for whatever reason, made me itch. And sneeze. Then I remembered I was allergic to his soap.

"Oh. Sorry, babe," he apologized.

I reached down to recover the loss of my tennis shoe and tried to breathe. "Could you give me a moment, please?" I demanded, hobbling off to my bathroom.

"OK, but you look great," I heard from a distance.

Reluctantly, I looked in the mirror and let out a silent scream. Not just at the reflection, but at my current predicament. No time for processing. Only solution was muscle up and confront. So, I pulled my hair into a ponytail, brushed my teeth and feasted my face with cover-up.

When I returned, Colin was standing in the same spot. However, he was now holding two bouquets of callillies. "There was a knock at your door. Delivery guy. Got something goin' babe?"

"Maybe I do. Maybe I don't." I said, amusing myself, thinking of Strawberry.

He laughed. So did I. And a thaw began. Colin probed no further about the possible other admirer, but I could tell he was wildly curious. And I was OK with that.

Taking both bouquets from Colin, I put them in separate, but equal, vases. He watched me. Then he began to talk. And talk. And talk. It was a heartfelt, verbal vomit of extraordinary proportions. Perhaps he'd sought advice from Clementia, Roman Goddess of forgiveness and mercy. Whoever he chatted with, there were more tender apologies than a girl could ever dream of.

Finally, he dribbled out a courageous last plea for absolution and softly said, "That's a wrap, babe."

Long pause. He was waiting.

"I don't know what to say. It's so unexpected. I need to absorb this."

"I understand," he said respectfully. He came over, took my hand and whispered, "Maybe you'd have dinner with me? Casual."

Oh, Colin. "All right, but just because I'll dine with you, doesn't mean I've forgiven you."

"Yeah, but you're thinking about it." He did that tilt and lift thing again, and away he went.

I knew I could forgive this repentant tail-twirler I was once in love with. But truthfully, I didn't know how to trust him again. Trust. It's a very good thing. Lalalala ...

(Susan Ann Connor can be reached at pistachiocolumn@aol.com. Follow her Strawberry stories on the first Fridays of each month. Names have been changed to protect the innocent ... and the guilty.)

Bitch!

Whine!

Complain!

Check Out the Question of the Week on Page 3 and let us hear what you have to say



LOCAL



CRIME WATCH

By Daily Press staff

Barfly hero not all he was cracked up to be

At 1:31 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 23, the Santa Monica police responded to the 1800 block of Ocean Avenue, the Viceroy Hotel, regarding a subject using a fraudulent credit card. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the employee, who said the suspect was at the bar and bought a round of drinks for everyone and attempted to pay using a fraudulent credit card. The bar tab was \$138.56. Prior to booking, officers recovered small quantities of cocaine in the subject's possession and an additional charge was added. Matthew Thomas Frederick, 21, of Marina del Rey, was booked for possession of a fraudulent credit card and narcotics. Bail was set at \$20,000.

At 4:10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 22, the Santa Monica police responded to the 600 block of Wilshire Boulevard, a 7-Eleven, regarding a strong arm robbery investigation. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the employee, who said the suspect entered the store, stole some items and when he was confronted, he pushed the employee and fled. Raymond Cole, 55, a transient, was booked for strong arm robbery and transported to Santa Monica Jail. There was no bail due to probation violations.

At 9:16 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 23, the Santa Monica police responded to the 1400 block of Ocean Front Walk regarding a strong arm robbery investigation. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the victim who said he was approached by four suspects and when one suspect placed his hand in the victim's pocket and took his property, the additional suspects assisted. The suspects took a set of car keys and U.S. currency valued at \$125. They fled and were detained in the 1100 block of Ocean Front Walk after a field show-up was conducted. Alton Deshawn Goss, 18, of LA, Timmy Laquinn Paulk, 21, of LA, and Khristopher Delon London, 22, of Los Angeles, and a 17-year-old juvenile suspect, were booked for strong arm robbery and transported to Santa Monica Jail. Bail was set at \$50,000 for the adult suspects. The juvenile had no bail. The victims were not injured.

At 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 26, the Santa Monica police responded to the 1400 block of Princeton Street, regarding an assault investigation. They spoke to the victim, who said the suspect attempted to throw parts of a stove at the victim, injuring his right hand. Apparently this was regarding a dispute about a stove that didn't work. Libby Warren, 65, of Santa Monica, was arrested for assault.

At 5:36 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 28, the Santa Monica police responded to the 1300 block of Third Street, the GAP store, regarding a theft suspect in custody. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the security guard, who said the suspect entered the store with a stroller and two children and as she walked, she took \$568 in clothing and failed to pay for it. Tisha Smith, 30, of Santa Monica, was placed under arrest for grand theft. The children were brought to the station and the Department of Child Services was notified. Bail was set at \$25,000.

This police report was prepared by Daily Press Staff Writer Ryan Hyatt.

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ANNA'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT-Celebrating its 36th anniversary, Anna's has become a landmark in West LA with its famous pastas, pizza, veal, prime beef, chicken, seafood, appetizers and salads all at surprisingly reasonable prices. A must try is the minestrone soup, considered the best around. Owners Andy and Tony are always on hand and many of their friendly staff have been with them since their opening in 1969. Come and experience the best in Roman cuisine (Southern & Northern Italian). Full selection of beer, wine and cocktails. Lunch: Monday-Friday 11:30-4pm, Dinner: 4:30pm nightly. 10929 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles. (310) 474-0102.

BENIHANA-For more than 40 years Benihana chefs have been cooking up a feast on the hibachi grill. Steak, chicken, seafood and vegetables are all prepared teppan-style "right before your eyes". Start your meal with a sushi appetizer, then relax and enjoy the show while sipping exotic cocktails served in collectible ceramic mugs. Open every day for lunch and dinner, valet parking nightly at the corner of 4th and Broadway. 1447 4th St., between Broadway and Santa Monica Blvd. (310) 260-1423.

BIG DEAN'S CAFE-Where the 'locals' meet and the 'fun-loving' tourists always return! Come enjoy our highly acclaimed beach fare, beer, and wine at the best people watching place on the beach. Music, satellite sports, 2 outdoor patios, and smoking allowed. This nostalgic eatery has been here since 1902! The prices are reasonable and children are welcome. Now serving breakfast. Also serving lunch and dinner. 1615 Ocean Front, Santa Monica. (310) 393-2666.

BRITANNIA PUB-This English pub has a traditional charm with a Californian flair. Traditional British breakfast is served all day along with all your American favorites. Fish & Chips (our biggest seller) is a must try along with Bangers & Mash and Shepherds Pie or go American with our assortment of appetizers, burgers, salads, soups and sandwiches. We also serve our own hand cut fries. Join us after the restaurant closes for Quiz night, Karaoke, and DJ nights. We now have a late night menu available 10pm-1:30am. Outdoor patio, pool table, full bar, Gold Award from Guinness. Hours: 11am-10pm Monday-Friday, 9:30am-10pm Saturday and Sunday. 318 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica. (310) 458-5350.

BUCCA di BEPPO-gets to the heart of Southern Italian cooking with authentic, family-style recipes like Chicken Parmigiana, Shrimp Scampi, and Tortelloni. Dishes are available in Buca Small portions for 2 or more people, and Buca Large for 4 or more. The full menu is available for curb-side take out; we'll deliver your order right to your car! Located one block off the Promenade at 1422 2nd St, Santa Monica. Call 310-587-EATS for reservations and take out.

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OVERUNDER SPORTS GRILL-Located on the corner of 14th Street and Santa Monica Blvd., OVERUNDER features 12 draft beers and a fine selection of wine making it a great place to watch any and all of your favorite teams. The house specialty is the Philadelphia cheese steak. OVERUNDER also offers great burgers, salads, Mexican food and more. OVERUNDER is the viewing home for the Cleveland Browns and strongly supports the Lakers, Clippers, Dodgers, and Kings. Frequent food and beer specials are also offered at OVERUNDER Sports Grill. All football, baseball, and basketball games are televised via satellite for every team. 1348 14th Street, Santa Monica. (310) 576-9913.

PANINI GARDEN-This authentic European eatery serves traditional Italian and French style food. Panin style sandwiches grilled on a cast-iron panini grill that seals all the savory flavors inside a bread envelope of your choice, from very soft and thin like the tramezzini, soft and crispy for the al forno and crusty for the rustico. A large selection of meats and cheeses, organic produce, fresh and healthy combinations of menu items to enjoy everyday have made PANINI GARDEN the local's favorite. In addition, delicious crepes are served all day, for breakfast or just dessert, it is always a treat. The setting is quiet in the lavender garden with the bubbling fountain. Hours: 8am-9pm Sunday-Thursday, 8am-10:30pm Friday and Saturday. 2715 Main Street, Santa Monica. (310) 399-9939.

THE GALLEY-Rediscover Service - Rediscover The Galley. Visit Captain Ron at what Zagat Guide refers to as the place to go for "marvelous" steaks and "stiff drinks". NOW OPEN FOR LUNCH ON THE WEEKENDS AT NOON featuring 1/4 lb. Kosher hot dogs with fries served at the bar for \$2.00 until July 31st. GREAT PATIO DINING. All fresh fish from Santa Monica Seafood and the best tuna salad sandwiches you will ever get at any restaurant! Capt. Ron will walk the plank if you don't agree! Hours: 5pm-until Capt. Ron gets tired Monday-Friday, noon until the party stops Saturday and Sunday. 2442 Main Street, Santa Monica. (310) 452-1934.

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THE SLICE-A true neighborhood pizzeria serving authentic New York pizza & buffalo wings. We also offer a selection of hot & cold subs, pastas and salads. You can also create your own calzone. Eat in, take out, or delivery. Catering is available. Hours: open daily 11am-9pm. Visit one of our three locations: 915 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica (310) 451-7542, 1622 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica (310) 399-4060, 13151 Fountain Park Drive, Playa Vista (310) 437-7499.

VIOLET-At Violet restaurant the atmosphere is casual, comfortable, and, like its cuisine, is uncluttered. Chef Jared Simons' flavorful small plate fare has something to suit everyone, from light eaters to those with a taste for a more robust fare. The Braised Short Ribs with Shallot Potatoes (\$14.50) melt apart while the Multi-Colored Beet Salad with Eel delights with Kumquat and Ginger Vinaigrette (\$9) and the favorite among the regulars is the Baked Macaroni and Gruyere Cheese with Serrano Ham (\$7.50). Unique selection of new and old world wines by the bottle, glass or flight as well as an impressive list of domestic & imported artisan beers. Hours: Lunch: Tuesday-Friday, 11:30am-2pm. Dinner: Tuesday-Friday, 6pm-10pm & Saturday and Sunday, 5:30pm-10pm. 3221 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. www.violetrestaurant.com (310) 453-9113.



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Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Santa Monica Police Officers Rubish Phillbo (right) and Rob Dawson put 11th grade student John Pimentel through a field sobriety test at Olympic High School on Thursday. Pimentel wore retrofitted goggles that impaired his vision, likening it to being intoxicated. The demonstration was part of a grant provided Law Enforcement Against Drunk Driving and the Office of Transportation Safety.

Staring down the barrel in efforts to save house

SHOTGUN HOUSE, from page 1

Shotgun House” told the City Council last week that they can raise the \$7,000 to move the house to the Fisher Lumber site, or wherever the city can provide temporary storage.

Once relocated, the group will have two years to raise money to move it to a permanent site and renovate it at an estimated cost of \$450,000.

The group hopes to find a site, possibly on city property, which would allow them to turn it into a museum, said Sherrill Kushner, who’s spearheading the “Friends” effort.

“We want it to have a public benefit as a shotgun house museum, or be used in some fashion so the public has access to it,” Kushner said. “We’re not going to get that on a private site.”

Finding a public place for the home may not be easy, however, since some city councilmembers, including Mayor Pam O’Connor, indicated that they do not want the house on city grounds. City Councilman Bob Holbrook — who will succeed O’Connor as mayor in December — said resistance has to do with the fact City Hall has little experience managing museums, and it may not be its place to do so.

Regardless, if it’s not be destroyed, move the house must.

It currently sits on borrowed space at the site of the new Airport Park, set to

begin construction next week.

The shotgun house was taken there by preservationists in July of 2002 to avoid demolition. Some of those involved in wheeling it across town are hoping to raise enough money to bring it back to Ocean Park, specifically, to a small community garden on the north end of Main Street. For the 80,000 citizens of Santa Monica, there is half an acre of open land reserved for community gardens. A proposal in March to limit garden plot leasing terms and remove plots to install the historical building at the gardens was met with fierce opposition from community members.

City officials suspect the house’s most recent owner — a group called the Ocean Park Community Organization (OPCO) — is defunct, having not met in more than two years. OPCO’s former chair, Rick Laudati, declined to discuss the group’s status at a recent City Council meeting. However, OPCO’s timeline to provide proof of ownership of the building is believed to have passed this week. Laudati also told the City Council he would not interfere with the fate of the shotgun house.

Holbrook said the arrangement the council made will provide “Friends” an opportunity to raise money to rehabilitate the house and permanently locate it at no expense to the city.

“It’s in horrible condition, an enormous undertaking, but if the people who want to do it can do it, I say all the power to them,” Holbrook said.

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SMC's top post commands an annual salary of \$200K

SMC PRESIDENT, from page 1

Jeremiah Ryan, president of Raritan Valley Community College in New Jersey; and Dr. Chui Tsang, president of San Jose City College.

None of the candidates were available for comment.

WHAT GOOGLE HAS TO SAY

According to a biographical profile, Blue assumed her position doing policy and research work in January of 2004 at the ACCJC, an organization which accredits two-year public and private higher learning programs. Before that, she was the president at Laney College in the Peralta Community College District in Oakland, Calif.

Blue holds a doctorate from the University of Illinois, Champagne-Urbana in speech and hearing science. She has served as an administrator for several California community colleges. Her work with accreditation includes development of campus self studies, service on many evaluation teams, as well as serving as chair.

According to his biographical profile, G. Jeremiah "Jerry" Ryan has been the president of Raritan Valley Community College since March 2000. He supervises all of the academic and administrative enterprises of that institution.

Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) serves more than 30,000 students each year, and has a \$32 million operating budget. It offers programs on its 240-acre main campus in North Branch, New Jersey, at a higher education center in Franklin, and at 11 satellite centers. RVCC is considered a comprehensive community college offering degrees, certificates and employee development training.

Ryan is an honors graduate of Hamilton College with a bachelor's degree in government and speech. He earned a master of

arts degree from Stanford University in organizational development and a master of science degree from the State University of New York at Albany in education administration. His doctorate is in higher education administration from Nova Southeastern University. Ryan has had post doctoral fellowships with the League for Innovation in the Community College and the American Association of Community Colleges.

According to a biographical profile, Tsang was born and raised in China. He came to the United States in 1971 at the age of 19. He received his start in education as a student at Contra Costa Community College in San Pablo. After graduating with a bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley, Tsang earned his doctorate in linguistics at Stanford University, where he taught for several years.

Dr. Tsang soon left his teaching career behind to work full-time as the director of the Career Resources Development Center in San Francisco, specializing in providing job training to refugees, immigrants and the unemployed. He also served as dean of the School of Applied Science and Technology at City College of San Francisco for five years.

He became president of San José City College in 1997. In May 2004, Tsang was honored as a "Local Hero" by the Asian Pacific American Heritage for his commitment and contributions to the Bay Area through business, community activism, education and social services.

ABOUT THE SEARCH

SMC's Presidential Search Committee — comprised of SMC employees, students and Santa Monica community members — screened applications and interviewed semi-finalists for the position.

The committee forwarded to SMC's Board of Trustees the names of three can-

Nightie and day



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Santa Monica residents protest Thursday outside of the Victoria's Secret store on the Third Street Promenade, as the store manager looks on. Protesters took issue with the company's alleged use of paper from the Canadian Boreal forest for its catalogs. The protest was part of more than 100 demonstrations staged nationwide. The group called on the retailer to instead use post-consumer recycled content in its catalogs. Limited Brands, which owns Victoria's Secret, countered that it was proud of its environmental achievements, claiming Victoria's Secret Clearance catalogs — some 24 million — are now printed on 100 percent recycled paper, 80 percent of which is post-consumer.

didates for consideration as finalists for the college president position.

SMC undertook a national search that included mailings, use of e-mail lists, and advertising in a variety of publications, including the Chronicle of Higher Education, Women in Higher Education, Asian Week, Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education and Black Careers.

"I want to thank the committee for its hard and conscientious work and for the many hours devoted to this important task," said Carole Currey, board chair.

The search for a new president began early this year after Dr. Piedad F.

Robertson left the chief executive position in January to take the presidency of Denver-based Education Commission of the States.

Dr. Thomas J. Donner, former SMC executive vice president, has served as interim president since Jan. 1.

The new position is expected to pay approximately \$200,000 — Robertson's salary — according to Bruce Smith, an SMC spokesman. During the recruitment process, SMC has covered the cost of plane tickets and hotel stays for interviewing candidates.

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HOLIDAY PREVIEW

Film critic Dan Dunn previews upcoming holiday films



THE MOVIE: Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (Nov.18)

THE STARS: Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Ron Weasley, Michael Gambon, Rupert Grint

THE DIRECTOR: Mike Newell

THE SKINNY: The universe's most celebrated orphan wizard is back and poised to square off again against the evil Lord Voldemort. In what many industry observers and diehard fans of the series have deemed a big gamble, Warner Brothers has entrusted this installment of its magical cash cow to director Mike Newell of "Mona Lisa Smile" and "Four Weddings and a Funeral" fame.

THE DRAW: Alfonso Cuaron, who directed last year's "Prisoner of Azkaban," was also considered a risky choice, and it paid off handsomely, Hogwarts and all. Plus, there's no quitting on Harry now.

THE VERDICT: The studio is praying the fourth time will be a charm for this struggling franchise ... OK, kidding! If anything, the Warner Bees hope there are no injuries when a gazillion Potter loyalists stampede the box office on opening weekend.



THE MOVIE: The Ice Harvest (Nov. 23)

THE STARS: John Cusack, Billy Bob Thornton, Connie Nielsen, Randy Quaid, Oliver Platt

THE DIRECTOR: Harold Ramis

THE SKINNY: Cusack and Billy Bob star as a couple of sleazy lawyers from

Wichita who rip off a mob boss played by Quaid in the year's first (and only) Christmas heist movie.

THE DRAW: The cast is first rate, and a friend of a friend who knows a guy whose cousin worked on the movie told me this may be the best thing Ramis has wrought since his criminally underrated "Groundhog Day."

THE VERDICT: In a holiday season filled with the usual assortment of overly earnest Oscar contenders, this black comedy may have the last laugh.



THE MOVIE: Syriana (Nov. 25)

THE STARS: George Clooney, Matt Damon, Amanda Peet

THE DIRECTOR: Stephen Gaghan

THE SKINNY: Based on events involving real-life CIA spook Robert Baer's (Clooney) dogged pursuit of terrorists in the Middle East, and the bureaucratic mischief in Washington that threatened the operation.

THE DRAW: Be the first person on your block to see an overly earnest Oscar contender. Plus, we had a look at the script and there's plenty of politician-hatin' going on in there ... and who doesn't enjoy bashing pols these days?

THE VERDICT: Gaghan penned the Academy Award-winning script for "Traffic," so this is clearly his area of expertise. Clooney is said to be in Best Actor form here.

See PREVIEWS, page 11

Entertainment

Sky is falling on Disney

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

No, Chicken Little, the sky isn't really falling. Too bad the same can't be said for Disney's station in the animation world. The former undisputed heavyweight champ of colorful kid flicks hasn't been putting up much of a fight against hungry young contenders in recent years, and this latest effort from the

Mouse is as weak and puny as its diminutive title character. Everything about "Chicken Little" appears to have been pilfered from earlier, more accomplished efforts — "Finding Nemo" "The Incredibles" and "Shrek" among them — and the resulting hodgepodge suffers greatly for its creators' failure to establish an original identity. The writing is sloppy, the story littered with lame gags and overbearing pop culture references sure to fly right over the heads of the tykes the film is supposedly geared toward (I was in a theater FILLED with little ones, and the eerie silence throughout the film's 83 minutes does

not bode well for the Chick's box office prospects beyond opening weekend).

Chicken Little (voiced by Zach Braff of "Scrubs" and "Garden State") becomes the pariah of his pastoral hamlet and an embarrassment to his pop Buck Cluck (Garry Marshall, his Bronx patois conspicuously out-of-place) after coaxing everyone into a tizzy with his famous ill-advised distress signal. At the urging of gal-pal the Ugly Duckling (Joan Cusack), Little tries to get back into single dad's good graces (dead mothers are a morbid staple in Disney flicks) by joining the school baseball team, which he improbably leads to the pennant. Midway through the second act, aliens attack. Not kidding. Aliens attack — a riff on "War of the Worlds" that appears out of nowhere and winds up there too. The film's technical achievements are impressive, though not nearly eye-popping enough to compensate for the narrative shortcomings outlined above. "Chicken Little" will be showing in 3-D in select venues, which might enhance the experience.

(Rated G. Running time: 83 minutes)



Jamie Foxx gives an understated performance as Sgt. Sykes in the Gulf War film "Jarhead."

Uncomfortably numb: 'Jarhead' relates tour in Gulf all too well

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

In "Jarhead," a stylish but somewhat erratic conflation of sex and violence based on the best-selling memoir of same name by Gulf War veteran Anthony Swofford, director Sam Mendes ("American Beauty," "The Road to Perdition") and screenwriter William Broyles, Jr. ("Apollo 13") adeptly illustrate, as

numerous movies of this ilk have previously done, how wars shape the lives of the impressionable young men who fight them. The catch here is that the Holden Caulfield-esque Swofford (Jake Gyllenhaal) and his pumped-up fellow marines (Peter Sarsgaard and Lucas Black among them), are dispatched to Kuwait with the promise of ground combat that never materializes. So they wait and they sweat and they masturbate, alternately fantasizing about the women they left behind and that prized first kill. As air strikes wipe out the Iraqis with remarkable efficiency, it becomes apparent that the ground campaign will amount to nothing but a big tease

with no hope for release. This doesn't sit well at all with the frenzied soldiers, 20-year-old trained killers rendered here as the brutish precursors to the Abu Ghraib malefactors.

Stuck in a bleached-out-looking desert bivouac under the always watchful eye of star-spangled Staff Sergeant Sykes (Jamie Foxx in an effectively understated turn), a combination of unfulfilled bloodlust, extreme heat, doubts about their mission, and a shared loathing of women give rise to internal conflicts that basic training didn't prepare them for. Though a number of meaningful themes are explored within, there are some glitches in "Jarhead" as well. Foremost among them are distracting fluctuations in tone that seem to be a direct result of Mendes' curious decision to avoid addressing the politics relevant to the Gulf War and the unpopular sequel playing out in the same theater at this very moment. As for the sustained tedium that bedevils Swoff and his mates, well, to the detriment of his movie, Mendes all too effectively relates the numbness of the experience to his audience.

(Rated R. Running time: 123 minutes)

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Bergamot a draw for helping kids

By Daily Press staff

It's an art sale for the kids.

On Sunday, Nov. 20, the art of seven Los Angeles artists will be featured at a special exhibition at Bergamot Station Arts Center in Santa Monica, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. The center is located at 2525 Michigan Ave., E1 building.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Childrens Hospital Los Angeles New Hospital Building Fund.

Original work by local artists will be featured, including the "Difficulties of Being a Woman," paintings and collage by Ira Stein; "Goddess of the Clay," sculpture by Lisabeth Shatner; "Reflections," photography by Katherine Keck; "Elemental Jaunt," paintings by Nasreen Haroon; jewelry by Bridget Gless Designs; "Wall of Fame," paintings by Etta Duboff; and "Bloom," paintings by Marlena Chumo.

Admission is free and open to the public. Visitors will receive a coupon for a free T-Mobile Blackberry or Sidekick 2. For more information, call (310) 575-6667.



Zadran Wali/Special to the Daily Press
Jason Alexander at Edgemar Center's third annual gala fundraiser. Proceeds go towards children's outreach programs.

Edgemar Center raises the bar

By Daily Press staff

Edgemar Center for the Arts' third annual gala fundraiser was a lively evening of comedy, music and dance, including the opening of Lyndie Benson's "Portraits" and highlights from the award-winning French cabaret "The Night of the Black Cat," with a special performance by Jason Alexander.

Proceeds from the event will benefit Edgemar Center for the Art's Children's Outreach Programs as well as their theatres.

The evening began with a VIP dinner at Rockenwagner, followed by a cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception. At 8:15 p.m., Alexander joined the cast of Edgemar Center for the Arts to perform highlights from "Black Cat". The festivities continued with an after-show celebration.

Last year's fundraiser was led by Alexander in a reading of Brecht's "The Irresistible Rise of Arturo Ui." The previous year was a star-studded ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by Steven Spielberg and Kate Capshaw.

Edgemar Center for the Arts, located in Frank Gehry's architectural landmark building, is host to theatre productions, jazz and cabaret shows, revolving art exhibitions, film festivals and public arts programs serving underprivileged children in the Westside community.

To learn more about Edgemar Center for the Arts visit www.edgemarcenter.org.

HOLIDAY PREVIEW

PREVIEWS, from page 10



THE MOVIE: Aeon Flux (Dec. 2)

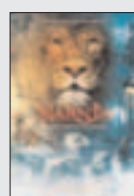
THE STARS: Charlize Theron, Frances McDormand, Marton Csokas, Sophie Okonedo, Jonny Lee Miller

THE DIRECTOR: Karyn Kusama

THE SKINNY: Theron and McDormand play a pair of intrepid Minnesota mine workers who take on the misogynistic establishment ... wait, that's "North Country." Here, they dress up in curve-hugging bodysuits and catch flies with their eyelashes in an adaptation of MTV's bizarro cartoon.

THE DRAW: Theron's wardrobe. From the looks of the trailer, this could be the best action flick of the year.

THE VERDICT: Kusama was at the helm of "Girlfight," and that movie kicked tuchis. We're betting this one does too.



THE MOVIE: The Chronicles of Narnia: the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Dec. 9)

THE STARS: Tilda Swinton, Georgie Henley, Peter Pevenie

THE DIRECTOR: Andrew Adamson

("Shrek II")

THE SKINNY: Based on C.S. Lewis's classic novel about four World War II Brit kids who are transported to a fantastical land populated by witches and deities and cute talking animals.

THE DRAW: The title is very cool, isn't it? Sounds sophisticated and stuff. Tilda Swinton should make for a fine White Witch, and the mega-budgeted film promises to be a technical marvel.

THE VERDICT: If the hype is to be believed, "Narnia" could be a bigger box office draw than young Mr. Potter.



THE MOVIE: Memoirs of a Geisha (Dec. 9)

THE STARS: Ziyi Zhang, Ken Watanabe, Michelle Yeoh, Li Gong

THE DIRECTOR: Rob Marshall

THE SKINNY: Based on Arthur Golden's international bestseller about a World War II era girl from a poor fishing village who grows up to become Japan's most renowned geisha.

THE DRAW: It's director Rob Marshall's first film since his 2002 hit debut, "Chicago." The female leads are spectacular. No subtitles.

THE VERDICT: At this time of year, great book usually equals darn good movie.

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STATE

Metropolitan Water District chief Underwood, 60, succumbs to cancer

By The Associated Press

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, Calif. — Dennis B. Underwood, a Western water expert and former U.S. Bureau of Reclamation commissioner who last year took over as general manager of the giant Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, has died. He was 60.

Underwood, who was selected last April to lead the water district, died Wednesday at his Alta Loma home after battling cancer, MWD spokesman Bob Muir said Thursday.

The Metropolitan Water District is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving 18 million people in six Southern California counties. It imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies.

“The water world has lost one of its most accomplished and humble leaders,” district board Chairman Wes Bannister said in a statement. “The underlying theme of Dennis’ entire career was to balance needs with grace.”

“That meant that every cause and every project he was involved in was tempered by clear, well-negotiated and respectful interaction with everyone on both sides of the table.”

Underwood became the district’s general manager and chief executive officer after playing a key role in a crucial effort regarding California’s share of Colorado River supplies as well as negotiating one of the nation’s largest

habitat conservation programs.

The program covered 27 species along more than 450 miles of the lower Colorado. The 50-year program protects the storage, release and diversion of Colorado River water from Lake Mead to the Mexico border from interruptions because of endangered species issues.

“As a former commissioner of Interior’s Bureau of Reclamation and a major architect of the Lower Colorado River Multispecies Conservation Plan, Dennis was a creative and dynamic force in improving the management of Western water and promoting environmental protection and enhancement,” Interior Secretary Gale Norton said in a statement.

Bannister said the Metropolitan Water District will have to “work hard to maintain the spirit of his career and to honor him by moving forward thoughtfully and with purpose, being mindful of our role as a steward for the public and the environment.”

Underwood took a medical leave of absence in late October and designated Debra C. Man as acting chief executive and general manager. She will continue in that role while the board considers Underwood’s successor, the district said.

Underwood is survived by his wife, Carmen; daughter and son-in-law Michelle and Ryan Dejournett of California; five brothers, Russell and Lawrence of Massachusetts, Rory of Vermont, Kevin of Maine, and Jeffrey of New Hampshire; and two grandsons.

Funeral arrangements were incomplete, Muir said.

Legend of Trestles faces wipe-out

TRESTLES, from page 1

the only World Championship Tour stop in the continental United States.

Officials with the agency that finances and builds Orange County’s toll roads say finishing the project is necessary. The road, which could stretch up to 16 miles, would be the last piece of a 67-mile county toll network started in 1993 that currently serves 300,000 drivers daily.

Projections show traffic between Orange and San Diego counties will increase by 60 percent in the next 20 years, mostly because of the addition of nearly 50,000 homes and 98,000 jobs in southern Orange County. By 2025, officials predict that if nothing is done the interstate will be gridlocked for up to eight hours a day as it passes through some of the county’s most famous beach cities.

“Every study that we’ve done shows that the vast majority of people want to see Foothill South built,” said Clare Climaco, spokeswoman for the Transportation Corridor Agencies. “They’ll take a tollway option because they know it will save them time.”

Surfers and environmentalists, however, say the road will block sandy runoff from the San Mateo Creek watershed. The sand and cobbles from the watershed are what make the wave breaks at Trestles so good, they say.

The 3 1/2-mile-long beach has several separate breaks — each with its own name — that have distinct characteristics, said Mark Rauscher, assistant environmental director for the Surfrider Foundation. Trestles itself is

named after an old railroad bridge near the beach.

“The surf has been created by that river, by that creek,” he said. “When you get the heavy rains, all the sand and cobbles get pushed out and it gets nicely shaped so that the wave peels just beautifully.”

Three of the six alignments proposed for the toll road would punch through the 2,100-acre San Onofre State Beach, which sits just south of the Orange County-San Diego County border and contains Trestles. The plans would affect about 400 acres of the inland section of the park, said Climaco.

Those proposals show the road rejoining Interstate 5 in the park, which draws more than 2 1/2 million visitors a year. The sketches put the interchange about a half-mile from the beach, over the footpath surfers use to access Trestles, Rauscher said.

Climaco, the toll agencies spokeswoman, pointed out that the interstate has passed near Trestles for decades with no ill effects. She said the new road would affect less than one-half of 1 percent of the San Mateo Creek watershed and was proposed to pass through the park to avoid San Clemente and the southern portion of the Marine Corps’ Camp Pendleton.

“It is one of the big misunderstandings out there, that the road cuts through the beach. It doesn’t,” she said. “We feel very strongly about our environmental track record.”

Agency officials will choose one of the alignment alternatives by January, Climaco said. The project must still pass a number of federal hurdles but could be completed as early as 2010, she said.

STATE BRIEFS

Casting call for non-citizens

By The Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO — County elections officials don’t know how many non-U.S. citizens vote because no one checks registration forms for proof of citizenship, Chief Deputy Registrar Donna Manning said.

When filling out the voter registration form, a declaration is signed stating that under penalty of a felony conviction the applicant is a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age or older and not in prison or on parole.

But the citizenship information is only checked randomly. Once a year the registrar “bumps” its registration files up against the jury service forms filled out by people called for jury duty, Manning said. The two forms are compared for citizenship discrepancies.

“Out of a thousand forms, you get a very small percentage — one or two — about a handful a year that don’t match,” Manning said.

Tips from citizens most often lead to discovery of non-citizens who vote, she said.

Assemblyman Mark Wyland, R-Escondido, introduced a bill in the past legislative session to require voters to provide proof of citizenship when registering to vote. Assembly Bill 934 failed to pass in the 2005 Legislative session but is expected to come up again in the upcoming session.

Ex-councilman pleads not guilty

By The Associated Press

PASADENA — Former Alhambra Councilman John Parker Williams and business partner Frank Liu pleaded not guilty to bribery, conspiracy and money laundering.

Williams, 68, were arrested after a Los Angeles County district attorney’s office undercover operation allegedly determined Williams had attempted to give \$25,000 to former Vice Mayor Daniel Arguello.

Prosecutors said Williams was using the money to obtain Arguello’s vote for a proposed senior housing project. Liu, 72, was the alleged source of the money, according to the prosecutor.

After Tuesday’s pleas, Superior Court Judge Teri Schwartz set Jan. 10 for a pretrial hearing. The defendants, who remain free on bail, face up to four years in prison if convicted.

During an Oct. 11 preliminary hearing, district attorney’s Investigator Dave Maro said Arguello, now an Alhambra councilman, contacted him in August 2004 and said Williams had attempted to bribe him two months earlier.

Maro had Arguello set up a lunch meeting with Williams and, in the parking lot afterward, Williams handed Arguello an envelope containing \$25,000, testimony showed.

Liu attorney Donald Re said there is insufficient evidence to connect his client with the crime.

Condo developers have high hopes

By The Associated Press

PORT HUENEME — The City Council gave preliminary approval to developer proposals for an ocean-view hotel and condominium tower up to 19 stories high.

Developers Harvey Champlin and Ray Mulokas will now hold a series of resident meetings to gauge public sentiment. They will then return to the city with a detailed proposal for the Surfside Drive property owned by the city.

Only an outline of their plan has been submitted so far. It calls for one or more high-rises with a 250-room hotel and up to 200 condominiums.

The City Council voted 4-0 on Wednesday night to allow the developers to proceed with their plans. Councilman Jonathan Sharkey didn’t vote because he owns property near the proposed development.

A preliminary sketch shows towers of up to 19 stories. The hotel would be an upscale chain such as a Westin, Hyatt or Hilton, and the condominiums would be priced competitively with other homes in the area, Champlin said.



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NATIONAL



Love thy neighbor, but build fence: Congressman wants border barrier

BY ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A leading House Republican wants to build a fence along the entire 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border, a plan that could cost billions of dollars and that critics say would do little to stop illegal immigration.

Rep. Duncan Hunter of San Diego, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, planned to announce legislation Thursday to create a two-layer reinforced fence with lighting and sensors from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico, a 100-yard border zone to the north of the barriers, and 25 new ports of entry.

Currently, most of the westernmost 14-mile stretch of the border is lined with parallel fencing and there's secure fencing at other vulnerable points, but long stretches of the border are protected only by patchy barbed wire or nothing at all.

"Illegal aliens continue to funnel directly into many of our local communities and adversely impact our way of life by overwhelming our schools, inundating our health care system and, most concerning, threatening our safety," said Hunter, who was introducing the bill with Rep. Virgil Goode, R-Va. He said building a fence and enforcing immigration laws could reverse the trends.

A conservative group called Let Freedom Ring that is promoting a border fence estimates it would cost about

\$8 billion.

The plan is controversial. Republican Gov. Bill Owens of Colorado recently announced his support, but Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, has said he doesn't think a fence would stop illegal immigration.

Groups including National Council of La Raza, the largest U.S.-based Hispanic advocacy group, oppose a fence.

"It doesn't really deal with why people are migrating or why our economy is so dependent on their labor," said Cecilia Munoz, the group's vice president of policy. "The resourcefulness of people on both sides of the border is likely to be greater than a fence."

Dan Stein, president of the Federation for American Immigration Reform, planned to join Hunter at his news conference Thursday to support the idea.

"The U.S. and Mexico, if they're going to remain friends they're going to need good fences," Stein said.

Hunter's bill contains other immigration reforms including authorizing 10,000 new Border Patrol officers, empowering local police to enforce immigration laws and increasing penalties for hiring illegal immigrants.

Hunter is a leading opponent of illegal immigration who earlier this year pushed the Bush administration to commit to fortifying the westernmost 3 1/2 miles of the border, over the objections of environmentalists, the California Coastal Commission and the local Democratic congressman.

Nuclear material moved from Los Alamos

BY MATT MYGATT

Associated Press Writer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The federal government has finished moving its most sensitive weapons-grade nuclear material from a Los Alamos National Laboratory technical area to more secure sites.

The weapons-grade plutonium and highly enriched uranium is no longer within Technical Area 18 at the lab, which has been rocked by fiscal and security lapses in recent years.

The move was driven by changing threats following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the East Coast and efforts to save money, Kevin Roark, a lab spokesman, said Thursday.

"Over the years it's become increasingly more expensive to have secure areas," he said.

The material has been moved to the Nevada Test Site, the Y-12 National Security Complex at Oak Ridge, Tenn., and the lab's Technical Area 55, the National Nuclear Security Administration said.

"It increases our comfort level for security margins," Roark said.

The material taken to Technical Area 55 eventually will be moved to the Nevada Test Site, said Bryan Wilkes, NNSA director of public affairs in Washington, D.C.

The material taken to Y-12 is considered surplus highly enriched uranium and will remain at that site, he said.

Similar bomb-grade material is at other sites, including Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Northern California and the Pantex facility at Amarillo, Texas, Wilkes said.

The project to move the material from Technical Area 18 began in September 2004 and was completed almost on time despite a seven-month stand-down at the lab, the NNSA said.

The lab was virtually shut down in July 2004 after

"There's still very important work at TA-18 in nonproliferation, in training of nuclear inspectors and nuclear safety work continues."

KEVIN ROARK

Lab spokesman

reports that two classified computer disks had disappeared. An investigation later determined they never existed. Some of the lab's formal activities did not resume until February.

The project to move the nuclear material was targeted for completion on Sept. 30 and was wrapped up Oct. 26, said Roark and NNSA officials.

The Project on Government Oversight — a nonpartisan government watchdog group based in Washington, D.C. — praised the move but questioned why it took so long.

"They're getting the job done five years after the secretary of energy ordered it to be done," said Beth Daley, the group's director of communications.

The Los Alamos lab was founded during World War II's Manhattan Project to develop the first atomic bomb, and Technical Area 18 dates back to that time.

The area originally was used to conduct criticality experiments — "basically figuring out how much nuclear material you need to reach critical mass, and reaching critical mass is essential to triggering a nuclear detonation," Roark said.

"There's still very important work at TA-18 in nonproliferation, in training of nuclear inspectors and nuclear safety work continues," he said.



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NATIONAL

Alito watchers doubt he'd overturn Roe

BY HOPE YEN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Judges who have served with Samuel Alito say he's unquestionably a conservative who would push the Supreme Court to the right, likely favoring new abortion restrictions that retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor would not.

Five current or former judges on the Philadelphia-based 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals interviewed by The Associated Press described Alito as thoughtful, intelligent and fair. They said he has great respect for precedent-setting decisions and none of them offered that he would be likely to vote to overturn the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

O'Connor, whom Alito was tapped to replace by President Bush, has provided the fifth vote on a closely

divided court to limit government power to restrict abortions.

"There's no question he's going to move the Supreme Court to the right because he is conservative," said former Judge Timothy Lewis, an appointee of the first President Bush who typically voted with liberal members when he served on the 3rd Circuit from 1992 to 1999.

"But in tens of thousands of cases that came before us, he faithfully showed a deference and deep respect for precedent," Lewis said. "From private caucus meetings and on the bench, I know he is an intellectually honest man and doesn't have personal predilections to foist upon the American people."

Senior Judge Leonard Garth, a Nixon appointee for whom Alito served as law clerk from 1976-77 before they became colleagues in 1990, said Alito supports tighter abortion restrictions, such as parental and spousal

consent, but would stop there.

"Sam is not going to overturn Roe v. Wade," said Garth, a moderate conservative who signed on to a 2000 abortion-rights decision involving a procedure foes call "partial-birth" abortion that Alito criticized as too expansive.

The judges spoke in separate interviews. They disputed assertions by both liberal and conservative interest groups that the former Reagan administration lawyer is a right-wing ideologue in the mold of Justice Antonin Scalia. Supporters and detractors sometimes refer to Alito as "Scalito."

Senior Judge Edward Becker, who has served with Alito for 15 years, called the moniker misleading. Becker described Alito as much more reserved than the caustic and sometimes divisive Scalia, who often seeks to dominate questioning from the bench.

"I found him to be very open-minded," Becker said. "He's very principled, very analytical, never decides more than he has to in a case. He does believe in judicial restraint in the way he writes opinions, with no ideological overtones."

One area in which Alito and Scalia are similar is their broad interpretation of free speech rights.

Scalia, for instance, has disappointed conservatives by voting to uphold flag-burning. Alito has written opinions that outlawed a school anti-harassment policy barring demeaning comments about race, religion or gender as overly broad; and struck down a state law barring companies from buying alcohol ads in college newspapers.

"He's very sympathetic to First Amendment rights," Becker said.

The 3rd Circuit, which handles cases from Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and the Virgin Islands, has emerged in recent years as a foothold for liberal decisions involving some civil liberties and employment discrimination, setting noteworthy precedents involving privacy rights as well as free expression on the Internet.

Alito, 55, has been the lone dissenter on a number of cases, including a 1991 decision striking down a Pennsylvania spousal notification law for abortions. He also has sought greater states' rights, fewer death penalty appeals and limits on employment discrimination suits.

The 14-member court has long been regarded by law professors as more moderate and fact-driven, in contrast to strident ideology found on bitterly divided courts such as the Richmond-based 4th Circuit and San Francisco-based 9th Circuit.

Some of Alito's colleagues say one reason is the modesty and collegiality of Alito.

"The entire court is thrilled with the appointment," said Chief Judge Anthony Scirica, a Reagan appointee. "Whatever quality you think a judge ought to have, whether it's scholarship or an ability to deliberate or fairness or temperance, Sam has each of these to a highest degree."

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INTERNATIONAL



Battle looms over free trade at Americas Summit

BY ALAN CLENDENNING

Associated Press Writer

MAR DEL PLATA, Argentina — A showdown over free trade loomed as leaders from across the Americas headed to Argentina on Thursday to end Latin America's chronic poverty, with Washington promoting liberalized trade and opponents fearful that it will allow corporations to dominate the poor.

Thousands of protesters were arriving at this seaside resort, seizing the chance to criticize President Bush over his push for unfettered free trade and a new trade zone stretching from Alaska to Argentina.

Bush was to arrive late Thursday in Mar del Plata for the fourth Summit of the Americas, a two-day gathering with 31 fellow leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean.

The focus of the summit Friday and Saturday is how to create jobs for a region where unemployment and underemployment has been a prime concern for decades.

Bush also wants to re-ignite talks stalled for years over the creation of a Free Trade Area of the Americas that would overtake the European Union as the world's largest trade zone.

On Wednesday, however, government officials at the summit site were still bickering over whether the event's final declaration would include key language on when high-level FTAA negotiations might resume.

Victor Hugo Varsky, an Argentine negotiator, said negotiators were "advancing very slowly" as they decide what priority the FTAA should have in that statement.

"Some countries don't want any mention," he said. "Others want to progress toward a trade accord."

Demonstrators at the People's Summit — and Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and top Cuban government officials — say Bush is bent on opening up Latin America even more to corporations that will end up enslaving already poor workers.

"Latin America remains the region of most inequalities in the world," Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque told The Associated Press in Havana as a Cuban delegation gathered at a "People's Summit" to counter the Americas Summit. "The FTAA is just more of the same neo-liberal policies."

Communist-run Cuba, an adversary of the United States for more than four

decades, is the only country in the hemisphere that was not invited to the summit hosted by the regional Organization of American States.

In response to the criticism, a top Bush administration official countered that the president has made solid proposals recently to address Latin American concerns over U.S. farm subsidies considered lavish by developing countries, and that free trade is the best way to lift people around the world out of poverty.

"The big opportunity to enhance prosperity in the region, of course, is the trade agenda," National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley said Wednesday in Washington. "Because, as you know, through free trade and private investment the leverage you get in terms of economic growth and enhancing prosperity really dwarfs the impact of specific aid programs."

Chavez — a key Castro ally — planned to visit the People's Summit but was not expected to accept an invitation to take part in a protest against Bush on Friday in Mar del Plata.

Before flying to Argentina, he said Venezuela would object to any attempt by the U.S. to revive its proposal for a hemisphere-wide free trade zone.

Chavez, who often spars with the United States, claimed the American delegation is trying to "to revive the FTAA."

"They aren't going to revive it even if they produce a 100,000-page document," he told the Caracas-based television channel Telesur.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez on Wednesday lobbied in favor of FTAA, telling business leaders in Buenos Aires that it's the best way to create wealth and improve living standards in Latin America.

Washington is not alone in support of FTAA talks. Mexican President Vicente Fox wants the summit partners to set a date for resuming FTAA negotiations, Mexican official Yanerit Morgan Sotomayor said in Mexico City.

Previous FTAA deadlines have not been successful. A January 2005 deadline for wrapping up the talks has already come and gone.

All 34 nations except for Panama and Honduras were to be represented by heads of state at the summit.

Other differences over the summit's declaration have also emerged. Venezuela wanted the declaration to state that 37 million people lived in poverty in the United States — a clause Washington rejected.

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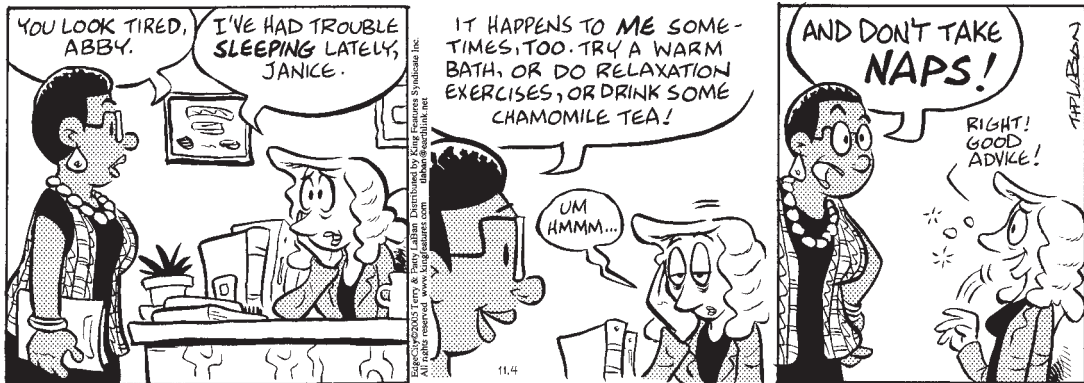


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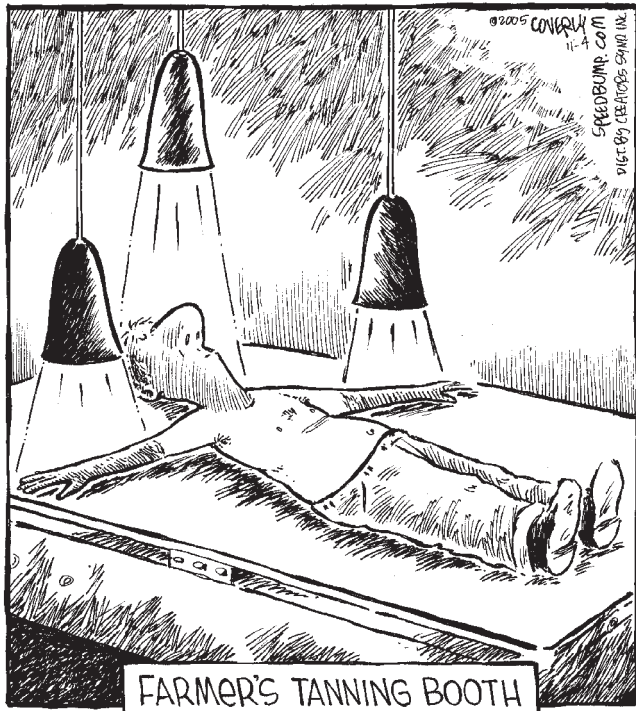
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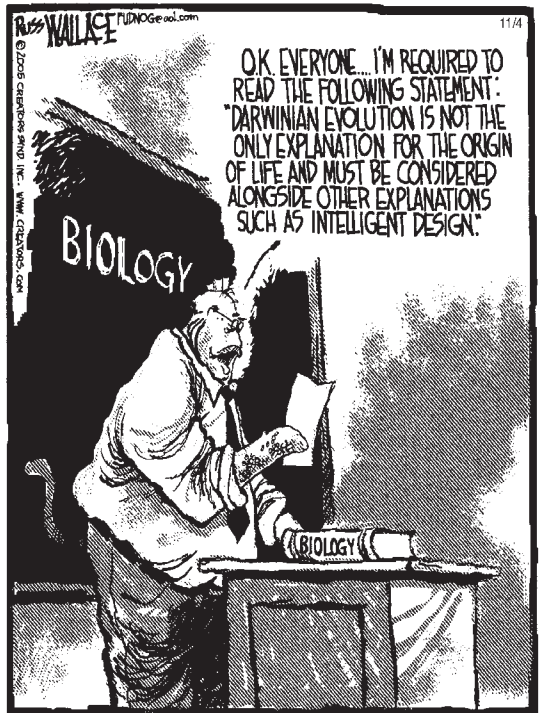


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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Message Cent: 50 doesn't care about Kanye West

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Rap feuds aren't usually about differing opinions on President Bush. However, that appears to be the case with 50 Cent and Kanye West.

50 says he disagrees with West's remark that "George Bush doesn't care about black people," proclaimed during a September telethon for Hurricane Katrina victims.

"I think people responded to it the best way they can," 50 told ContactMusic.com. "What Kanye West was saying, I don't know where that came from."

Instead, 50 said, "The New Orleans disaster was meant to happen. It was an act of God."

In a September interview with MTV, 50 Cent, whose real name is Curtis Jackson — while otherwise complimentary of the popular "Gold Digger" rapper — said: "I feel like Kanye West is successful because of me."

"After 50 Cent, (hip-hop fans) was looking for something non-confrontational, and they went after (the) first thing that came along. That was Kanye West, and his record took off."

West's second album, "Late Registration," has remained near the top of the charts since debuting Aug. 30.

50 stars in the film "Get Rich or Die Tryin," a biopic of the rapper that is set to open Nov. 9.

LOS ANGELES — Former Denver Broncos star Terrell Davis is suing the operator of a bar in the famed Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, saying he was roughed up at an Emmy Awards after-show party.

Davis, who is black, said the trouble started when the Tropicana Bar's owner, Amanda Scheer-Demme, told his friend to stop talking with a white waitress.

When Davis attempted to speak to Scheer-Demme, he received "the same condescending attitude," according to the lawsuit, filed Friday in Los Angeles Superior Court.

Neither Scheer-Demme nor her lawyer returned calls for comment placed Monday and Tuesday by The Associated Press.

According to Davis, the waitress stepped between him and Scheer-Demme and put her hand on his chest to push him aside, then made a derogatory remark when he asked her to move her hand.

At that point, according to the lawsuit, Davis walked away and began to socialize with other people when two bouncers approached and demanded he leave.

One of the bouncers choked him while the other wrestled him to the floor, according to the lawsuit filed by the retired running back.

Davis, who was the MVP of the 1998 Super Bowl, says he suffered a bruised neck and damage to a surgically repaired hip. His lawsuit seeks unspecified compensatory and punitive damages.

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — George Clooney will receive the 2006 Modern Master Award during the upcoming Santa Barbara International Film Festival.

"The Modern Master Award is about somebody who has shown versatility — someone who has worn more than just one hat," Roger Durling, the festival's executive director, said Tuesday. "He is definitely overqualified."

Clooney directed, co-wrote and co-stars in "Good Night, and Good Luck." The movie, now in theaters, is based on the battle between TV journalist Edward R. Murrow and Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

Clooney, 44, starred in the NBC medical drama "ER." His screen credits include roles in the remake of

"Ocean's Eleven" and its sequel, "Ocean's Twelve," "Three Kings" and "O Brother, Where Art Thou?"

He made his directorial debut in 2002 with "Confessions of a Dangerous Mind."

The tribute to Clooney will be held Feb. 3 and will feature clips from his films and an onstage interview, Durling said.

The 21st annual Santa Barbara Film Festival begins Feb. 2 and will run 11 days.

IRVING, Texas — Sheryl Crow will perform at halftime of the Thanksgiving game between Denver and Dallas in support of The Salvation Army's Red Kettle Christmas campaign.

"I look forward to continuing the wonderful tradition established between The Salvation Army and the Dallas Cowboys," the 43-year-old rocker said Tuesday.

"Both organizations help the needy in countless ways, and together, we can raise funds to offer hope to our neighbors in need during the Christmas season and year-round."

The Red Kettle campaign, started in San Francisco in 1891, traditionally has been The Salvation Army's most prominent fund-raiser. In 2004, the campaign raised over \$100 million in communities nationwide, with the nickels, dimes, quarters and dollars all remaining in the towns where the money was deposited into the kettles.

Past halftime performers at Cowboys games include Toby Keith, LeAnn Rimes, Destiny's Child, Jessica Simpson, Billy Gilman, Clint Black and Reba McEntire.

"Sheryl Crow is one of the most popular entertainment artists today and we are excited about the opportunity to have her with us on Thanksgiving Day," said Cowboys owner Jerry Jones.

CBS will televise the game at Texas Stadium.

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