

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Signs of the times



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Some homes north of Montana, like this one, have lawns littered with many of the same signs, which may indicate voters from this neighborhood will support Measure EE and council candidate Bob Holbrook, but not the living wage measure. The signs will likely come down Wednesday, except for one, which addresses an anticipated special election on whether homes should be voluntarily designated in historic districts.

Campaigns shift into high gear as polls open

Focus is now on getting voters to the ballot box

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

With only hours left to stump for their causes, activists and candidates are making 11th hour pleas to citizens to hit the polls today.

Santa Monicans for Renters Rights activists say one last mailer was delivered to residences across the city Monday, encouraging voters to cast their ballot for the politically powerful group's endorsed candidates and measures.

Activists on both sides of Measure JJ, Santa Monica's proposed living wage ordinance, and Measure EE, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified school district's parcel tax proposal, rallied their volunteers and began the arduous process of making sure supporters make it to the polls today.

The living wage ordinance would require businesses near the coast that make more than \$5 million in annual revenue pay their employees between \$10.50 and \$12.25 an hour, depending on whether health benefits are provided.

And the school district's measure needs two-thirds approval by voters to enact a \$300 tax on each of the 32,413 parcels in Santa Monica and Malibu for the next 12 years.

"This election is a little more complex because there are so many things on the ballot," said Denny Zane, a SMRR co-chair and Measure EE campaign director. "It certainly feels like the support is there for the candidates as well as the ballot measures. But again, we have to get our people to the polls."

Recent statewide polls suggest getting voters to the polls may be an uphill battle. Voter participation in today's election is predicted to be one of the lowest in years.

See CAMPAIGN, page 4

Deceptive living wage mailer blankets Santa Monica

Flier falsely infers Democrats oppose Measure JJ

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica's congressman supports the living wage ordinance, but not according to a flier that hit mailboxes Monday.

The mailer — which even living wage opponents describe as deceptive — is designed to trick voters just before today's election into believing California Democratic candidates don't support the living wage ordinance, officials said.

A group calling themselves Democratic Voters Ballot Guide sent the flier which lists all Democrats seeking

statewide office, Rep. Henry Waxman (D-West Hollywood), Assemblywoman Fran Pavley (D-Woodland Hills) and City Councilman Bob Holbrook as opposing the living wage ordinance.

Art Torres, chairman of the California Democratic Party, and Rep. Waxman both released public statements condemning the mailer and reiterating their support for Santa Monica's living wage ordinance.

"We repudiate the malicious attempt by corporate opponents of Measure JJ to use the good name of elected Democrats to confuse voters," said Torres in a prepared statement.

The only candidate on the flier that has come out against the living wage ordinance is Holbrook. Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante, Rep. Waxman and Pavley — all of whom appear on the mailer — have

endorsed Measure JJ.

The living wage ordinance, denoted as Measure JJ on the ballot, would require businesses near the coast that make more than \$5 million in annual revenue pay their employees between \$10.50 and \$12.25 an hour, depending on whether health benefits are provided.

Officials with the No on JJ campaign denied responsibility for the mailer, and they said their campaign is not affiliated with the Democratic Voters Ballot Guide.

"We didn't pay to be on that one," said Seth Jacobsen, a No on JJ campaign spokesman. "Absolutely, I find that deceptive. I'm surprised it was done."

Officials with Santa Monicans for Responsible Tourism — or SMART, the group advocating in favor of Measure JJ, feel

the flier is deceptive but it will not likely have an effect on the outcome of the election.

"They are trying to cash in on the credibility of these candidates to push their issue which doesn't have any credibility," said Vivian Rothstein, executive director of SMART. "If they had politicians that agreed with them, then that's who should be on there, not politicians that disagree with them."

Where to go to vote in SM

By Daily Press staff

Today is Election Day so make sure you get out and vote. Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m.

The Los Angeles County Clerk and Registrar's Office is not able to provide citizens with specific information about where they are supposed to vote. Polling precinct locations change each election.

If you don't know where to vote, call 1-800-815-2666 or log onto lavote.net and select polling places. From there, type in your address and zip code. A location should appear.

Many California voters putting off decision

BY JIM WASSERMAN

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — They're the indecisive and waiters, middle-of-the-roads, inattentive, the late deciders. Just hours shy of polls opening, they're still holding their noses and up for grabs — the greatest bumper crop of disaffected voters in California memory.

At Baron's Books in Anaheim, employee Myra Veenecia, a 39-year-old Orange County Republican, says, "I haven't made up my mind on which one, only because they both seem pretty rotten. It's not going to be Simon or Davis. I'm thinking, actually, the Green Party guy, I don't know his name. That will be a first."

Pollsters say they've never seen anything like it. An estimated 25 percent of

California voters aren't committing to either major candidate. A political analyst says the race for insurance commissioner may draw more votes.

"That is, to my mind, a shocking statistic," says Stanford University political science professor Shanto Iyengar. "I think that's extraordinarily high. It's emblematic of the mud. A plague on both houses."

See VOTERS, page 5

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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Continue your playful attitude. Consider options that surround a friendship. Sometimes this person could be a bit disruptive, but on the other hand, you find him or her exciting. Screen your calls if you really want to accomplish more. Tonight: Where your friends are.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Others seek you out, perhaps interrupting a key project. To be honest, on some level you welcome the distraction. You might want to beg off the project for a while. Know what you are doing, and you will succeed. A partner pitches in. Tonight: Togetherness works.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Realize your objectives when dealing with co-workers and/or your daily life. When you decide that a situation is getting confusing, it really is. Know when to back away from a decision and when to make one. Follow your instincts right now. Tonight: Keep smiling.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Others test your solution-finding skills, which, fortunately, are unusually high. A partner or associate would really like your feedback and help. Understand more by asking questions. If you find matters more confusing than ever, step back. Tonight: Do what seems important.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Recognize when enough is enough. Go for a change of pace, if you would like. Others delight in your changeable nature, and probably will join in. Confirm key meetings and appointments right now. Listen to others and what they share. Tonight: Let your libido do the talking.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Keep your mind and door open to others. You might find associates, projects and even simple daily matters confusing, at best. Relax and enjoy some unusual news or a conversation. A lunch break could go a lot longer than the norm. Tonight: Head on home.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Realize what might be needed in order to make a point with a child or loved one. You find a situation that involves this person and something he or she wants is confusing. Take hold of your finances. Don't let anyone entice you into taking a risk. Tonight: Join a pal at your haunt.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Your positive mood could throw someone close into a bit of a tizzy. You might be interested in the hows and whys of this situation, but you cannot seem to get clarity. Worry about yourself right now. This, too, will pass! Tonight: Pick up the tab.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might not understand all that is occurring around you. It also might not be all that important. Use your strong powers of observation. The information you gather proves useful soon enough. Tonight: Others greet you as if you're a long-lost stranger.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Keep your head clear, even when the facts seem confusing. You will make your way through a problem and resolve it most successfully if you don't push. Avoid deadlines right now. Take your sweet time. A meeting demonstrates others' quandaries, as well. Tonight: Do your thing.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Take charge at work. Clear your desk or help others organize themselves. Perhaps you are more instrumental than you realize. You might not be sure what you want from a specific person and/or meeting. Flow with the energy. Tonight: Find your friends.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your perspective illuminates others. As a result, you confirm a hunch. You don't necessarily anticipate that others will agree. Go with your instincts, especially when talking to someone in charge. A discussion helps you understand. Tonight: A must appearance.

QUOTE of the DAY

"When a book and a head collide and there is a hollow sound, is it always from the book?"

— Georg Christoph Lichtenberg (1742-1799)

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Santa Monica election covered on CityTV

By Daily Press staff

CityTV will provide Santa Monica election results all night long tonight. Beginning at 8 p.m., CityTV will air election results as they are received from the Los Angeles County Registrar's Office. The results will be continuously updated and aired throughout the evening until the final semi-official results are in.

CityTV will air the Santa Monica final election results until noon on Wednesday, Nov. 6, so that those who don't stay up late can just wake up the next morning and see the results by tuning in to channel 16.

CityTV is the government cable channel for the City of Santa Monica. Seen on cable channel 16, CityTV is available to the over 24,000 households in Santa Monica that subscribe to cable television.

SMC's water polo team wins championship

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College's men's water polo team won the 2002 Western Conference Championship over the weekend at Ventura College.

Second year coach Gary O'Brien's team crushed Cuesta College 13-8 in the championship game. The men's water polo WSC championship is the first since 1987 and the first WSC championship in any sport at SMC since the 1998-99 men's basketball south division title.

The Corsairs are headed into this week's Southern California Regionals of the state tournament.

Get healthy on the Promenade

By Daily Press staff

It's all about your health on the Third Street Promenade this weekend.

The semi-annual health fair will be held on Saturday, Nov. 9 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. The event is presented by the Health Festival Task Force of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Saint John's Health Center.

Throughout the years, the Health Festival has provided about 70 tables of screenings and information for the community. There will be screenings for early detection of specific ailments and diseases.

Eat pizza to support local elementary school

By Daily Press staff

John Muir Elementary School PTA will be having its annual Shakey's Pizza Fundraiser on Friday, Nov. 8, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Santa Monica Shakey's, 3033 Santa Monica Blvd. All proceeds go to supporting John Muir School.



surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

It is looking sad out there for surfers. Left over swell is getting scarce and nothing new is expected until at least Wednesday.

Most spots in L.A. County aren't exactly worth surfing today as blown out waves turn to mush.

South Bay breaks like Porto have an advantage in term of size, showing some waist-high sets, but shape is fair at best, poor on average and closed out.

Some northwest swell is predicted Wednesday.

Today's Tides:		
		
Low-	1:56 a.m.	0.70'
High-	9:00 a.m.	6.76'
Low-	2:53 p.m.	-0.91'
High-	9:07 p.m.	4.94'

Location	Tuesday	Wednesday	Water Quality
County Line	1-2'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	A
Zuma	1-2'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	A
Surfrider	0-2'/Fair	0-2'/Fair	A
Topanga	0-2'/Fair	0-2'/Fair	A
Breakwater	1-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	B
El Porto	1-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	A

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LOCAL □ STATE



Campaigns concentrate on getting supporters to polls

CAMPAIGN, from page 1

Political scientists say California voters are largely apathetic because of the lame governor's race. Gov. Gray Davis and his opponent Bill Simon, have spent more time slinging mud at each other than they have dealing with the issues, citizens say.

But local politicians believe Santa Monica voters will swarm polling places in response to the large number of high profile measures on the ballot, many of which have active "get out the vote" drives.

"I think we'll see larger turnout than the rest of the state but not as high as in past elections because the governor's race is not pulling people to the polls as it usually does," said Zane, a veteran of Santa Monica politics.

Seth Jacobsen, a spokesman for No on JJ, said his group has found that for every 10 people who were called during the weekend, about seven said they planned to cast a ballot. The No on JJ campaign is predicting an 80-85 percent voter turnout, Jacobsen said.

"The strength of local issues and Santa Monica trends differently than the rest of the state," he said. "Santa Monica has traditionally had an active population."

However, a low voter turnout could hurt liberal candidates and causes, such as the living wage measure, said Vivian Rothstein, director of Santa Monica's Allied for Responsible Tourism — the group advocating for the passage of Measure JJ.

"In low turnout elections, younger people and more liberal people don't vote as a percentage of those during presidential elections," she said. "It's really important that we're in touch with voters and let them know that we are the real living wage. They can't be fooled by any last minute nasty tactics."

City Council candidates Josefina Santiago Aranda and Matt Dinolfo walked voting precincts while challengers Chuck Allord and Pro Se held a joint press conference on Monday. Incumbents Kevin McKeown and Bob Holbrook, seeking reelection, went to work like any other day. Incumbent Pam O'Connor and candidate Abby Arnold were unavailable for comment.

"I think we'll see larger turnout than the rest of the state but not as high as in past elections because the governor's race is not pulling people to the polls as it usually does."

— DENNY ZANE

Co-chair, Santa Monica's for Renters Rights

Measure JJ supporters began their day at 6:30 a.m. at the group's campaign headquarters near the intersection of Colorado Boulevard and Sixth Street. They will make calls to supporters, offer rides to the polls, and even baby-sit for those who need it.

On the other side, Jacobsen said opponents of the living wage ordinance have agreed to call their friends and encourage them to go to the polls and vote against Measure JJ. At least two hotels are offering their employees \$26 to walk door to door in an attempt to persuade their supporters to get to the polls.

"We have last minute canvassing going on in select precincts where we have identified undecided voters," he said. "But I don't know how that will pan out because people are pretty tired of all this election stuff."

Field Poll predicts record low turnout for the election

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Despite the millions of dollars parties are spending on last-minute get-out-the-vote efforts, a Field Poll released Monday predicts a record low turnout in Tuesday's election.

Of the state's 35.8 million people and the 21.5 million who would be eligible to vote, about 8.4 million will actually vote, Field Institute analysts predicted.

That's a historic low of 39.2 percent of eligible citizens, or 55 percent of registered voters.

It's less optimistic than last week's projection by Secretary of State Bill Jones that about 58 percent of registered voters will cast ballots, a slightly higher percentage than the all-time low in November 1998. About 71 percent of residents who are eligible to vote have registered, and he expected 8.8 million of those 15.2 million would show up at the polls.

The Field Institute bases its projections on those eligible to vote rather than those who have registered because voter rolls often contain duplications or people who have died or left the state, the analysts said, though that has improved in recent years.

Ethnic and education differences are

pronounced, the analysts said.

White non-Hispanics make up 51 percent of the state's adults, but 69 percent of registered voters and 73 percent of likely voters. Latinos make up 28 percent of the adult population, but just 17 percent of registered voters and 16 percent of likely voters, the pollsters said.

About 42 percent of the state's adults have no more than a high school education, but they make up just 24 percent of registered voters. By contrast, the 28 percent of population with a college degree provides 42 percent of the likely voters.

The institute also predicts an unprecedented 28 percent of ballots will be voted absentee, continuing a steady trend over the last two decades. Absentee votes are largely coming from voters who otherwise would have voted in person, rather than attracting new voters, the institute found.

Jones based his relative optimism in part on campaigns and parties he estimated are spending an unprecedented \$15 per voter on turnout efforts.

The lowest turnout to date in a regular statewide election was in 1998, when less than 58 percent of registered voters cast ballots. More than 70 percent of registered voters went to the polls for the 2000 presidential election.

STATE



Mud-slinging campaign ends in undecided voters

VOTERS, from page 1

"I am disgusted with both candidates," explains Monika Weiler, 50, who works at a downtown San Francisco law office. "I was very unhappy with the way Davis handled the power crisis and Simon is too conservative. It truly is choosing the lesser of two evils."

Weiler usually votes for Democrats and supported Davis in 1998. Now, in a mind that California needs change, she may try Simon.

Such sentiment swells Republican hopes for an upset. But Iyengar says, "Going out on a limb, I'd be shocked if Simon won. People are risk averse. Often, I think they prefer the devil they know to what they don't."

The newest Field Poll reveals that most Protestants favor Simon while a majority of Roman Catholics likes Davis. It holds that women, union members, African-Americans and Hispanics prefer Davis, while whites in general prefer Simon.

But beyond such certainties lies mainly mystery about Tuesday. What will the 25 percent — the independents, nonpartisans, the less informed and less interested, the disaffecteds — really do in the booth? Will the 8 percent who favor third parties remember Ralph Nader's effect on the

2000 presidential race and lose their nerve? Will three percent who say they'll leave the ballots blank really do it?

What will the 14 percent who are undecided do?

Among the undecideds, Jonathon Condit, a 33-year-old San Francisco waiter, still doesn't know. Reflecting widespread sentiment reported by pollsters, he says, "The whole campaign has turned me off to the election. I couldn't get to the issues. You come away with a feeling not of the issues, but of who can sling the most mud."

Political pros acknowledge it's been that kind of campaign.

"When a candidate is calling the other a criminal and the other is calling his opponent an incompetent, there's not a lot left for most voters," says Dan Schnur, a Republican consultant and former aide to Gov. Pete Wilson.

"There's a sense from the electorate that no candidate was really talking about anything they cared about," says Democratic political consultant Gale Kaufman.

Emily Stoper, political science professor at Cal State University Hayward, says simply: "I think we just have two weak candidates."

Voters ho-humming over lackluster governor's race

BY ROBERT JABLON

Associated Press Writer

Arnold Schwarzenegger may be big at the box office, but pollsters say even he doesn't have enough star power to attract voters to the polls for an election that includes a lackluster governor's race, secession in Los Angeles and homelessness in San Francisco.

Only 58 percent of registered voters are expected to go to the polls Tuesday — a fraction of a percent better than 1998's record low for a gubernatorial race, Secretary of State officials said Monday.

Analysts say Democrat Gray Davis and GOP challenger Bill Simon have turned off their constituents with repeated allegations of corruption and incompetence. Voter after voter complained they were ignoring issues.

An estimated 25 percent of California voters didn't commit to either major candidate.

Ray Wirta, a 58-year-old lifelong Orange County Republican, said he believes Davis has done little in office but he is only voting for Simon as "the lesser of two evils."

Democrats, meanwhile, will try for their first sweep in state history. A new poll shows them with significant leads for five of seven offices, including incumbents in the races for lieutenant governor, attorney general and treasurer.

Los Angeles residents will be asked whether to split Hollywood and the sprawling San Fernando Valley into separate cities. Supporters say LA's downtown government has short-shrifted the regions on services while critics say the resulting new cities wouldn't do any better.

"Secession is by far the foremost issue," said Dan Biers, a 45-year-old Valley resident who planned to vote against the measure. "There's very little way I could affect the national issues. There is no president in

this election, no senators."

A raft of state initiatives and local measures take aim at untamed growth and the sickly California economy.

With California facing a \$15 billion budget deficit, voters are being asked to put the state further into debt by approving more than \$18 billion in bond measures for education, water and housing projects.

Proposition 49, championed by Schwarzenegger, would allocate as much as \$550 million in existing school money to before- and after-school programs.

A Los Angeles County measure seeks a new tax to save the county trauma system from financial collapse.

A proposed \$3.3 billion bond, the largest local bond in California history, would build 120 new schools and create 115,000 new classroom seats in the Los Angeles Unified School District, the nation's second-largest.

Oakland, trying to reverse a rising murder rate, wants to raise \$63.5 million in taxes over five years to hire more police.

Twenty-five growth-related measures also are on local ballots as communities try to curb sprawl, prevent traffic snarls and deal with a statewide housing crisis.

In San Francisco County, voters will be asked to set aside \$250 million to provide low- and moderate-income housing.

In Riverside County, the state's fastest growing, voters will decide a \$5 billion transportation bond, with much of the money aimed at expanding crowded freeways.

In San Francisco, the first ballot measure of its kind in the United States would make it official city policy to explore the establishment of a marijuana growing-and-distribution program.

And Berkeley voters will be asked to pass a law requiring brewed coffee sellers to use beans certified as organic, shade-grown or fair trade — or face a possible jail sentence.

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Santa Monica election results all night long on CityTV

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CityTV. Watch. Decide. Vote.

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LETTERS

Duped into signing anti-living wage**Editor:**

Recently my name appeared in a list of people who endorsed a no vote on Measure JJ. Let me be clear, my VOTE IS YES ON MEASURE JJ. I have, along with the Santa Monica Interfaith Council members, worked consistently for the passage of the living wage measure because it is the only just solution for the Santa Monica hotel workers.

I signed a card while rushing out of a grocery store thinking that I was signing in favor of the hotel workers.

If I can be fooled into making the wrong choice, so can you!

The hotels are running a very slick campaign and they have hired people to make you and me think that voting against Measure JJ is a vote for justice. IT IS NOT!

You have received mailings and been persuaded by hired people that you will hurt this community by voting for Measure JJ. The information seems confusing, but it is really meant to deceive you. Measure JJ is FOR the City of Santa Monica and FOR those whose hard work needs to be justly compensated.

Please join me and VOTE YES for Measure JJ on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Rev. Janet Bregar
Santa Monica

Don't be fooled**Editor:**

As a Santa Monica resident and voter I am disgusted by the hundreds of thousands of dollars spent by local hotels and the Chamber of Commerce to defeat the city's living wage law. If that money had been put to good use and been given to hard-working employees or local charities I would applaud the hotels. But instead they have used it to spread fear and misinformation trying to hoodwink voters and influence the political process.

Thank God Santa Monica voters are too smart for this kind of big money deception. I am proud of Santa Monica and of the values we have nurtured here and I'll be proud when Measure JJ passes on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Barbara Osborn
Santa Monica

Doubletree pays its workers a fair wage**Editor:**

In response to Father Mike Gutierrez' commentary of Nov. 4 titled "2000 reasons to support Measure JJ, the living wage." He wrote, "Flora earns so little that she must live in government-subsidized housing. The Doubletree does not provide health benefits." Both of these statements are outright falsehoods, shamelessly thrown about to garner public support. Like the union organizers who think nothing about lying to sell their dues paying membership, Gutierrez seeks to exploit voter sympathy for "poor" people.

Here are the facts:

1. Flora Andrade is a six-year Doubletree employee.
2. Her salary is more than \$10 an hour, in fact, it is within 35 cents of what she will be granted by the living wage ordinance.
3. She has received at least two weeks of paid vacation time every year. Since 2001 she gets three weeks in addition to seven holidays and sick time.
4. Doubletree offers insurance to its employees. Andrade dropped her insurance coverage last year but signed up for Cigna HMO starting Jan. 1, 2003. Her cost for this coverage will be \$72 biweekly.

I suppose the fact Gutierrez is a priest is supposed to add some credibility to the debate. This is unfortunate. I am assuming Gutierrez simply didn't have all the facts (which he didn't bother to research).

The fact is Flora will receive a slight increase if JJ passes. That increase represents around \$500 gross a year, or a net of \$350. Are you expecting a "Miracle" with \$350? Would this be enough to get her out of poverty and hunger according to pro JJ campaign fliers?

Did you tell Flora that if we discontinued our benefits package and gave the

employees the \$1.75 an hour instead, she would no longer afford to buy insurance. For example Cigna HMO for family coverage runs around \$550 per month, if Flora works a full 160 hours a month she will receive \$280! This is just medical, no dental and no vision. Are you really helping them, Father Mike? With all due respect Mike, what happened to "Telling the truth"?

In the Daily Bruin last week, the UCLA newspaper, a student by the name of Mike Hansen wrote: "Maria is a housekeeper at the Doubletree and makes \$9.94 an hour. If she is lucky and because of Measure JJ, she will be making \$13.50 for cleaning hotel rooms."

Is that fair? Consider a current job posting for a full time position as a microbiologist for Amphaster Pharmaceuticals Inc. The job qualifications are Bachelor of Science in Microbiology, Biology or Chemistry. Lab Experience required. Must have a good GPA and work ethic. What would a UCLA graduate with a high GPA make as a Microbiologist? A whopping \$11.50 to \$14.00 an hour."

This shows the disproportionate nature of JJ. The city is going to tell certain private businesses how much they should pay just because they are located in a certain area. Ridiculous.

All our employees work very hard, Father Mike, it is not a matter that they do not deserve an increase but you and the union are trying to write a new book on the economy, for the benefit of few and the detriment of many. This didn't work with the dot-com mentality and it won't work here. Admit it, you are using these employees as a pawn to increase public emotions and distrust of some companies, while working for an organization like the union (an organization that will never represent the employees at area hotels because of its shameless tactics).

Francois Khoury, GM
Doubletree Guest Suites Santa Monica

Don't cry for me, Santa Monica**Editor:**

So Yolanda Orejel risked everything to come to America 20 years ago. And now, after having two children, she finds that she can't make ends meet on her \$200 dollar a week salary.

I assume that a woman as intelligent and hard working as Ms. Orejel had a well paying job prior to her giving birth to her two sons. And that her husband made a good salary as well. Right?

I assume that she must have lost that job and husband, and fell on hard times. Right? I assume this because I know it cannot be that Ms. Orejel is so irresponsible as to have had, not one, but two children that she cannot afford to feed, clothe and educate. Right?

Or, is it the fact that after 20 years of living in America that Ms. Orejel has done nothing to improve her lot in life?

Ms. Orejel claims that in other areas of [Los Angeles County], housekeepers are not required to clean as many rooms and that they are paid better. Well, if working for the Santa Monica hotels is so bad, you obviously have other employment choices. Don't you?

Ms. Orejel asks why [businesses that would be affected by the living wage] pay their workers so little when they make so much money? Because like you, they risked everything. And now you want them to "pay" for their success and your failure.

Here's a little tip, Ms. Orejel:

Maybe if you had spent the last six months let alone the past 20 years going to ESL classes instead of wasting your time campaigning for a measure whose consequences you obviously know nothing about or don't care to know, you might actually be in a position to manage the people who do the very job for which you claim to be underpaid.

This is how you would make more money to support your family, Ms. Orejel, not by city mandated wage increases.

Oh, and I'm sure the workers that may lose their jobs as a result of this measure passing are comforted by your kind words of solace, "I don't know what I would say to them." That's just great.

Tony Street
Santa Monica

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OPINION



The living wage will not bring about Armageddon

Santa Monica has been under attack for the last four years by a well armed and lavishly financed special interest that wants to end our local democracy. A handful of mega-rich, multinational corporations are upset because they cannot rule our city like Sacramento or Washington D.C.

In those cities, those with the most money get to write the law. These corporations, and their lawyers and lobbyists, cannot believe that our local officials would really put the public interest above their bottom line. So now that our officials have shown that they cannot be bought, the corporate money is betting on slick pre-packaged campaigns to pull one over on the voters.

Four years ago, seeing that our city was studying raising the minimum wage, these corporations banded together and spent over \$1 million pushing a law, Measure KK that would have prevented the city from increasing the minimum wage forever. In the last week of that campaign, when their polls showed that the voters saw through their deceptive campaign, the proponents switched gears and diverted their money to trying to get a slate of candidates elected to the city council to try and kill a higher minimum wage law before it was even enacted. Despite the last minute infusion of tens of thousands of dollars of hotel industry money, Robert Holbrook and Herb Katz were the only ones from this anti-living wage slate to get elected.

These super-rich corporations would not be deterred by past failures, so they passed their hat and raised millions more. This time they decided to fight the living wage on two fronts. First they sponsored and came up with the VERITAS initiative, Measure HH. This little gem would split the city into different districts thereby consolidating most renters into one district

so their voices would be muted.

And then to virtually silence them, this initiative would strip all of us of our right to vote for all seven members of the city council. Instead we would be limited to voting for only one council member and a mayor, who would have veto power over the city council. This way our super rich friends can spend a few thousand per district to stack the city council and prevent any future bothersome laws like a reasonable wage for employees from ever being enacted.

Of course they have also devoted another million to fight the real living wage law, Measure JJ. Before I get to their false and dishonest claims, let's review what the living wage proposition will actually do.

If a business is located on the boardwalk or in the downtown zone, and that business makes over \$5 million per year, they must pay their employees a minimum wage of \$10.50. If a business is not in that zone or does not make that much per year, the law does not apply to them.

Even if a business makes over \$5 million a year, there is an exemption if the higher wage would cause a financial hardship. The law does not affect charities, nonprofits, the Boys and Girls club or even small businesses.

This living wage mostly applies to the billion-dollar multinational corporations that own the luxury hotels on the beach and their 2000 employees. The bus boys, waiters, and maids who clean the toilets in the \$6,000 per night luxury suites at places like the Loew's Hotel would get a raise of about \$150 per week.

So let's go through some of the arguments they raise in their letters and brochures and see if their arguments can

withstand a common sense analysis.

Discriminatory application: This word is used five times in the letter with the city logo that was mailed by Herb Katz to my house. Only by reading the fine print do you discover that it was actually paid for by the hotel industry's political action committee — the same PAC that brought us the old bogus Measure KK, VERITAS, and Herb Katz.

His claim is that it discriminates by requiring some businesses to pay this wage but not all businesses. Time to use a little common sense. Of course, it would be nice if all businesses paid a living

wage but the little dry cleaner that hires a teenager to stack laundry cannot afford it because they do not make as much money as Loew's Hotel. But the dry

cleaner will not have to pay a higher wage. Is it too much to ask for a super rich business to pay more than a little business? Should a janitor pay the same in taxes as Bill Gates? The law is fair and reasonable because it distinguishes between those businesses that can afford to pay more, from those that cannot.

As for as the difference in pay scale based on location, the city has spent millions each year to develop and maintain the Promenade and the boardwalk. These corporations are lawfully taking advantage of these improvements and their location to charge higher rates to the tourists who come to stay in these prime spots. Last time I checked, the motel on Ocean Park and 20th does not have anyone paying \$6,000 per night for a suite like the Loew's Hotel. The businesses are not equally situated and any first year law student can tell you that is why it is not discriminatory.

The winner in the chutzpah award, of course, goes to the argument in the fliers and Mr. Katz's letter that the city will have to spend millions defending this law in court. Well, I have a simple response to Mr. Katz and the businesses that hired him. If you are really concerned about saving the city money, then don't sue if the law gets enacted! This argument is nothing more than blackmail and while it may be legal, it sure is not moral or honest.

There are a hodgepodge of other arguments that have been posted lately in your paper by letter writers or in the mailers. The city will lose jobs. Loew's is not going to hire anyone to clean the toilets in their rooms because thousand-dollar-per-night-guests don't demand clean rooms and linens. We will hire less people and the city will lose jobs. As if Ocean Avenue Seafood has dozens of people standing around getting paid who do nothing.

I am voting for Proposition JJ because companies which reap the benefits of city expenditures that make this a world class tourist destination spot, should be required to pay the woman cleaning the toilets in the luxury suite a wage that is above the poverty line. Likewise, I am voting against Proposition HH because I do not want my city council to be taken over by the same kind of special interest lobbyists that control the term-limited Sacramento legislators. And for good measure I will always vote against Herb Katz and Robert Holbrook for any office, and it will be a cold day in hell before I patronize Ocean Avenue Seafood, Loew's, or Shutters on the Beach.

It's time that for us to protect the public interest from the special interest money.

Joel C. Koury is a Santa Monica resident.

Guest Commentary

By Joel C. Koury

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STATE

2.2 million in Calif. struggle to put food on the table

BY KATE BERRY
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — More than 2.2 million low-income Californians cannot always put food on the table, and one in three have experienced hunger, a new survey has found.

The California Health Information Survey, conducted by researchers at the University of California, Los Angeles, found 28 percent of families of four who make more than \$36,000 a year — about twice the poverty level — have struggled to put food on the table.

The survey, which was released Sunday, also found hunger and food shortages were often the result of job layoffs or illness and can pose serious health risks. The situation has been so dire that many families have been forced to delay paying their rent, utilities and medical care in order to eat.

"This groundbreaking survey shows that hard work is no guarantee against hard choices between food and housing," said Paul Ash, executive director of the San Francisco Food Bank. "Even families making more than \$30,000 are having trouble affording the food they need due to the high cost of living."

Researchers said the telephone survey of 55,428 households, is the largest ever conducted within a single state. The interviews, which were conducted in six different languages, were held between November 2000 and September 2001.

In Los Angeles, about 777,000 people, or 30 percent of low-income households, reported living on the verge of hunger. In

San Francisco, San Bernardino and Sonoma counties, 28 percent of households struggled to buy groceries.

The hardest-hit counties in the state included Tulare, Shasta and Fresno. Other counties with high rates of hunger were Sonoma, Solano, Marin and Napa.

The survey also found poverty and hunger hit the most vulnerable populations, including pregnant women, the elderly, undocumented residents and single-parent families. American Indians and

natives of Alaska had the highest rates of hunger, followed by blacks and Hispanics.

The survey reported low enrollment in two federal programs designed to aid those in need: the federal Food Stamp welfare program and the Women, Infants and Children Special Supplemental Nutrition Program, which gives low-income pregnant women and their children access to food and prenatal care.

In California, 4.9 million low-income families were eligible for food stamps, but

only 10 percent, or 496,000 people, received them. Another 358,000 adults, or nearly 80 percent of those who live below poverty, were not enrolled in the Food Stamp program.

The researchers made several policy recommendations to eliminate hunger including: streamlining enrollment in federal programs and eliminating the practice of fingerprinting applicants in California, which some believe is deterring eligible people from applying.

Teamsters plan to shut down Stones concerts

BY KIM CURTIS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Teamsters pledged Monday to shut down two Rolling Stones concerts this weekend at Pacific Bell Park if the promoter, Clear Channel Communications, does not agree to use union workers.

"We've been having trouble with Clear Channel for years," said William Cromartie, president of Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 85. "They want to bring in kids to work for \$6 or \$7 an hour and give them a T-shirt."

About 50 Teamsters picketed Monday outside Pac Bell Park, home of the San Francisco Giants, as tractor-trailers began arriving to deliver equipment for the Friday and Saturday shows. At least three trucks turned around without making deliveries after Teamsters talked to the drivers.

The Teamsters say they should be

unloading those trucks and unionized stagehands should be setting up the stage and the lights. Instead, Bill Graham Presents, San Francisco's largest concert promoter and a subsidiary of Clear Channel, will use its own nonunion workers.

Cromartie said that means union members will miss out on about 100 jobs during the next eight days.

Calls placed to San Antonio-based Clear Channel were not immediately returned.

Bill Graham Presents said it's never had a relationship with the Teamsters.

"We have the expertise developed to do those jobs," said spokeswoman Sherry Wasserman. "They are using this high-profile show to strongarm us."

Wasserman said the San Francisco concert promoter does have a relationship with the stagehands' union. But if they refuse to work, nonunion workers will be hired to replace them.

"Some of their work starts today,"

Wasserman said. "If they decide to honor this strike for union reasons, we will have a crew ready and we will have a show."

Giants Enterprises, which organizes non-baseball events at the stadium, uses union workers to sell concessions, to serve food and beverages and to clean the park.

But when they sign contracts with concert promoters, "we don't provide the service that they need for their staging equipment," said spokeswoman Shana Daum. "We don't dictate who they can and can't use."

Mark Fabris, a trade show foreman picketing on Monday, also spent \$608 for two 18th row tickets for Friday's show. He said Teamster bylaws prohibit him from crossing any picket line.

"I'm a big fan. I've never seen them before," he said. "But I've been a Teamster for almost 20 years and I'm not going to go if this is still going on."



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STATE □ NATIONAL



Groups add \$2.2 million into late efforts in key legislative races

BY STEVE LAWRENCE
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Skirting campaign contribution limits, groups representing real estate agents, prison guards, dentists and others pumped more than \$2.2 million into last-minute independent campaigns for California legislative candidates.

The spending focused on a handful of races that could possibly tip to one party or the other and foreshadowed a likely explosion in independent campaigns after contribution limits for statewide races kick in for 2004 elections.

"Obviously much more of the money in the gubernatorial campaigns will go through the parties and independent expenditures," Jim Knox, executive director of California Common Cause, a political reform group, said Monday.

Proposition 34, a ballot measure approved by California voters in 2000, put a \$3,000-per-election limit on donations to legislative candidates from most sources.

So-called small contributor committees — groups of at least 100 people who each chip in no more than \$200 a year — can give up to \$6,000 per candidate per election.

There's no limit on how much political parties can give and there's no limit on independent expenditures — campaign spending for or against a candidate that isn't coordinated with a candidate.

A few groups, notably the California Correctional Peace Officers Association, used independent expenditures before Proposition 34, but independent spending seemed to jump significantly once the measure's legislative limits took effect in 2001.

Groups representing attorneys, prison guards, dentists, businesses, nurses and others spent at least \$5 million on their own campaigns to convince voters to nominate certain legislative candidates in last March's primaries.

In almost every case the spending far exceeded the amounts the groups would have been able to give directly to candidates.

Limits for statewide races take effect after Tuesday's election and will put a \$20,000 cap on donations to gubernatorial candidates from most sources.

The limits for other statewide offices will be \$5,000 from most sources and \$10,000 from small contributor committees.

Again, contributions from political parties and independent spending won't be limited.

Independent spending in the last couple of weeks has focused on a few legislative races near Sacramento and at the extreme southern end of the state, particularly the 15th Assembly District, where Contra Costa County Supervisor Donna Gerber, a Democrat, and former Dublin Mayor Guy Houston, a Republican, were in a tight race.

Houston drew support from dentists, real estate agents and business groups, Gerber from environmentalists and labor.

There was also heavy independent spending in the San Diego area's 78th Assembly District and in the 80th Assembly District, which covers Imperial County and eastern Riverside County.

In an odd twist, the CCPOA and an allied group, the Native Americans & Peace Officers Independent Expenditure Committee, spent more than \$197,000 on phone banks supporting David Eaton, the Libertarian Party candidate in the 12th Senate District, which stretches from the Sierra Nevada almost to Monterey Bay.

Young voter turnout lower than expected with pot on Nevada ballot

BY RYAN PEARSON
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — Teenagers with spiked, green-dyed hair visited Clark County Registrar Larry Lomax's office last summer and grabbed handfuls of voter registration forms to sign up their friends.

Marijuana was officially on the Nevada ballot.

Lomax prepared his office for a rush of other young, new voters, expecting Question 9 — legalizing possession of up to 3 ounces of pot — to spur a flurry of political action from teens and 20-somethings.

It never came.

"A lot of people had thought that this was going to bring out a certain kind of voter," Lomax said. "It really hasn't come to pass."

Aside from an e-mail sent to some 2,000 attendees of the Burning Man counterculture festival in northern Nevada, there have been few efforts to organize young people on the issue.

Turnout for early voting was slightly down among young people in Las Vegas and surrounding Clark County. About 13 percent of early voters were younger than 35, compared with 16 percent in the 2000 general election.

Meanwhile, people 55 and older — targeted by opponents of the measure — cast roughly half the early ballots in the county, compared with 42 percent two years ago.

Question 9 backers trying to put a positive spin on the numbers say they targeted first-time voters, not

necessarily young people, in their \$1.7 million campaign.

"Our supporters range in age from 18 to as high as it goes," said Billy Rogers, who heads Nevadans for Responsible Law Enforcement.

Groups pushing marijuana initiatives in other states say middle-aged voters — children of the freewheeling 1960s — have been key to their past success.

"There's a U-shaped curve in which the very young and the very old take the more conservative positions," said Bill Zimmerman of Campaign for New Drug Policies, a Washington-based group that favors the Nevada measure.

Zimmerman said older voters are comfortable with current law and less likely to have tried marijuana. He says people from 18 to 30 "have not yet really examined the public policy ramifications of current drug laws, and have a more knee-jerk reaction."

Erin Breen, battling the measure through a public safety group called Safe Communities, said: "I think that kids reflect their parents' beliefs more than we think."

Nevadans Against Legalized Marijuana, a coalition of law enforcement and anti-drunken driving groups, targeted elderly groups.

About half of the 100,000 fliers the group distributed went to retirees and seniors, spokeswoman Sandy Heverly said.

"They're more likely to vote, and given the wisdom that they have, we

knew they would be able to see how ludicrous this initiative is," Heverly said.

Question 9 is the boldest of several state marijuana initiatives being considered by voters Tuesday. It would allow people older than 21 to have and smoke marijuana in their homes but not in public places or cars. Pot would be sold in state-licensed smoke shops and taxed like cigarettes.

Whether it could take effect is unclear. Voters would have to approve the measure again in 2004 to amend the state constitution. State lawmakers would then craft regulations on the growth, sale, and taxation of the herb. But federal law bans marijuana possession.

Polls show support for the measure had been slipping since summer, and it now appears headed for defeat.

John Boyle of Las Vegas said he would vote against the measure because he was not interested in experimenting with marijuana. "Never have been," the 71-year-old grandfather said. "In the neighborhood I grew up in — the South Bronx — drugs were unheard of."

Campaign leaders on both sides say voters will likely draw on any personal experiences when casting their ballots, and those younger than 26 are far more likely to have tried marijuana.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that, by the time they complete high school, 47 percent of teenagers have smoked marijuana.

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NATIONAL

Doctors test drugs to halt mental decline after heart surgery

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON — Call it brain fog, that loss of memory and thinking ability that strikes tens of thousands of patients after open-heart surgery, and sometimes other big operations, every year.

Now doctors are studying if giving patients certain drugs just before a heart

bypass could prevent this mental decline by essentially protecting the patients' brain cells from the rigors of surgery.

The clinical trials mark a turning point: For decades, doctors didn't know what to make of patient complaints that in getting their hearts fixed, something hurt their brains.

Today, few doubt it's a real problem that affects not just heart patients but

those undergoing other major surgeries, too, such as hip or knee replacements. Often, patients recover. But one study found 42 percent of heart-bypass patients suffer significant drops in mental sharpness that can last not just months but years. Other research suggests 10 percent of hip-replacement patients suffer similar mental decline.

In some ways this "postoperative cognitive dysfunction" is a byproduct of the modern operating room. As surgery — particularly the half-million heart bypasses performed every year — has become increasingly successful, aftershocks such as a muddled brain draw more concern.

"It's a big quality of life issue," says Dr. James Cottrell, president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists.

No one knows yet what's to blame. It may be that only certain people are at high risk, such as those whose brain blood vessels are starting to clog and something about surgery speeds up the disease.

For now, suspects range from the heart-lung machine that circulates bypass patients' blood — it can dislodge tiny bits of fat, blood clots or air bubbles that flow to the brain — to the inflammation and post-surgery fever that are a risk after any major operation.

Surgery's stresses spark inflammation and other reactions that "in some ways is the body's way of healing itself," explains Dr. Mark Newman, anesthesiology chairman at Duke University and a leading expert on post-surgery mental decline. "But the question is if it goes beyond a certain level, do you end up with problems?"

That's where much of the prevention

research centers: If surgery even temporarily blocks oxygen in part of the brain or sparks severe inflammation, the body reacts with a chemical cascade that injures or kills brain cells.

Newman and other scientists are studying if injecting patients with one of three different medications before a bypass could block that chain reaction and spare brain cells.

■ Two small studies suggest lidocaine, normally used for irregular heartbeat, can prevent bypass patients' brain fog. Duke now is testing 250 bypass patients, half given lidocaine and half not, to see who has better brain function a year after surgery. Newman says lidocaine might work by blocking a pathway that lets toxic doses of calcium flood into oxygen-deprived brain cells.

■ Certain levels of magnesium seem to block that toxicity, too, as well as lessen cell damage from inflammation. So, using federal money, Duke is enrolling 400 bypass patients into a study to see if magnesium might block brain fog.

■ Initial testing of an experimental drug called pexelizumab, thought to block an inflammation-causing immune system protein, showed bypass patients who received the drug had slightly less mental decline. Duke and several other hospitals are participating in a 3,000-patient study of pexelizumab, sponsored by the drug makers Alexion Pharmaceuticals and Procter & Gamble.

Some companies also are testing if filters put onto heart-lung machines can help by keeping debris from flowing to the brain.

Rallying voters



Charlie Neibergall/Associated Press

President Bush speaks during a pre-election day rally as Iowa Republican gubernatorial candidate Doug Gross, left, looks on, Monday, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



Santa Monica Police Officers & Firefighters ask you to say NO to political thieves, VOTE NO on HH.



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INTERNATIONAL

Palestinian suicide attacker blows himself up in Israel

BY GREG MYRE
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — A Palestinian suicide attacker blew himself up Monday while grappling with an Israeli security guard at a shopping mall in a Tel Aviv suburb, killing the guard and another civilian and wounding 12 other people, including two infants.

The bombing — the 81st by Palestinian militants in two years — marked a first test for Israel's new defense minister, Shaul Mofaz, who was sworn in Monday. Mofaz, known for his hawkish views, advocates the expulsion of Yasser Arafat and tough military action against the Palestinians.

Israel there no immediate indication of any Israeli action, but it has retaliated militarily for previous suicide bombings.

Against the backdrop of violence, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government fended off three no-confidence votes. Sharon rejected calls for early elections and was searching for partners to stabilize his coalition. Sharon lost his majority last week when the moderate Labor Party quit.

In the Monday evening bombing, the assailant, identified as Nabil Sawalha, 20, from the Balata refugee camp next to the West Bank city of Nablus, blew himself up in a shopping mall in Kfar Saba, a town northeast of Tel Aviv just across from the West Bank Palestinian town of Qalqiliya.

Palestinian militants linked to Arafat's Fatah movement in Nablus claimed responsibility for the attack, contradicting an earlier report ascribing the blast to Islamic Jihad.

Police said one of the Israeli dead was a security guard who struggled with the bomber, stopping him from entering a crowded appliance store and thereby

averting more casualties. The bomber blew himself up as he wrestled with the guard, police said.

"The alertness of the security force here prevented the terrorist from entering the shop, which would have caused a great disaster," national police chief Shlomo Aharonishki told Israel TV.

The other victim's body was so badly mutilated that officials were unable to immediately determine the gender or identity.

Lorin Michael, 17, was helping care for two children in an apartment across the street when she heard the blast. As their mother scooped up the tots and hustled them inside, Michael rushed onto the balcony.

"I saw dust and smoke and pieces of bodies," Michael said. "Everything was black."

A row of refrigerators and white washing machines lay tipped over inside the store. Bits of the shredded roof of a shopfront walkway overhang littered the sidewalk.

David Baker, an official in Sharon's office, said the attack was "proof that Palestinian terror knows no limits, specializes in cruelty and specifically targets the innocent."

In Washington, State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher reminded Americans of travel notices advising caution in the Middle East in the wake of the latest bombing.

"We obviously condemn these kinds of activities in the strongest possible terms," Boucher said.

Earlier Monday, two Palestinians were killed, one of them a militant from the Hamas movement on Israel's wanted list, when their car exploded and burst into flames in the middle of a Nablus street.

Palestinians blamed the blast on Israel, which has carried out dozens of killings of



Gary Abramovich/Associated Press

A woman is rushed from the scene for treatment after a Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up at a shopping mall in the town of Kfar Saba, north of Tel Aviv, Monday. The attacker killed two Israeli civilians and wounded 12. The bombing, the 81st by Palestinian militants in two years, marked a first test for Israel's new defense minister, Shaul Mofaz, who was sworn in Monday.

suspected militants. It appeared the Suzuki car was booby-trapped and the bomb was detonated by remote control, said Moeen Sakaran, chief of Palestinian intelligence in Nablus. The Israeli military declined to comment.

Hamad Sadder, a member of the Hamas military wing who was being sought by Israel, was killed, Palestinians said. They said his nephew who carried out a suicide attack last week in a West Bank settlement that killed three Israeli soldiers.

In Israel's parliament, Sharon's weakened government withstood three no-confidence votes brought by opposition parties seeking to force new elections.

Sharon said he opposed early elections, but he also insisted he would not change government policies to accommodate a far-right party whose support he needs to restore his majority.

"Taking the nation to immediate elections would be irresponsible," Sharon told

legislators from his right-wing Likud party. "I hope everyone acts responsibly and doesn't try to make it difficult for a stable government to function."

That indicated he would not accept a demand by Benjamin Netanyahu, the former prime minister. Sharon has offered Netanyahu the post of foreign minister in the hope it would firm up his government. But Netanyahu said he would accept only on condition that Sharon agreed to elections in the coming months.

However, Sharon did not announce any decision about Netanyahu.

After the moderate Labor Party quit the coalition last week, Sharon has the support of only 55 of the 120 legislators.

Sharon may have a temporary safety net from a far-right grouping whose seven lawmakers seem ready to prop up the government long enough to pass the 2003 state budget in coming weeks, but after that may favor forcing early elections.

France's Vivendi Universal to cooperate in U.S. probes

BY ANGELA DOLAND
Associated Press Writer

PARIS — Vivendi Universal acknowledged Monday that it is being investigated by U.S. authorities, a disclosure that comes a week after prosecutors in France announced they were examining whether the company deliberately misled investors.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York opened a preliminary criminal investigation, Vivendi said. The company also said the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's Miami office is conducting an informal inquiry and coordinating its activities with the U.S. Attorney.

In a terse statement, Vivendi promised to cooperate fully with investigators, but a spokesman did not return several calls seeking details about the scope of the inquiries. Marvin Smilon, spokesman at the U.S. Attorney's Office, declined to comment on the case, and the SEC's Miami office did not return a call seeking more information.

However, Vivendi has faced complaints in France and the United States from shareholders who assert the company, under former chairman Jean-Marie Messier, deliberately misled investors into buying or holding Vivendi's stock.

Prosecutors in Paris opened an investigation Oct. 29 into whether the company

falsified financial reports to buttress shares and attract investors.

The company was already being scrutinized by France's market watchdog. This summer, the Commission of Stock Market Operations said it was studying financial information that Vivendi has released since January 2001.

Denying any wrongdoing, Vivendi said in September that PricewaterhouseCoopers had studied its accounts and hadn't found any misleading information.

The investigations were the latest example of how Vivendi is finding it hard to move past the problems left behind by its former chairman, Messier.

The new chairman, Jean-Rene Fourtou, is working to chip away at the \$16.9 billion debt racked up as his predecessor transformed the former French utilities company into a vast media and entertainment giant.

As part of its sell-off, Vivendi last week announced plans to sell U.S. publisher Houghton Mifflin to a group of financiers, including the Blackstone Group, a private U.S. investment group.

Vivendi valued the deal at an estimated \$1.73 billion, including debt.

Now Vivendi has turned its sights to taking control of Cegetel, the telecommunications group in which it already owns a 44 percent stake. Some investors have frowned on Vivendi's intentions, saying it needs to focus on paring down, not buying.

5 arrested for alleged plot to kidnap Spice Girl, Beckham

BY JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press Writer

LONDON — Five men arrested on suspicion of plotting to kidnap Spice Girl Victoria Beckham were charged Monday with theft and conspiracy to rob Sotheby's auction house, police said.

Scotland Yard said inquiries were continuing into the alleged plan to kidnap Victoria, known in the band as Posh Spice and the wife of England soccer captain David Beckham. They reportedly planned to seek a ransom of about \$7.7 million.

Seven men and two women were arrested late Saturday and early Sunday after the News of the World informed police that its reporters had discovered the kidnap plot.

Kosovo-born Azem Krifsha, 30; London-born Joseph Rivas, 24; and Rusu Sorin, 31, originally from Romania, were charged with theft of a jeweled turban worth \$93,000 belonging to Sotheby's.

Two other Romanian men — Adrian Razvan Pasareanu, 28, and Alin Turcu, 18 — were charged with conspiracy to rob an employee of Sotheby's.

The five, all from London, appeared at Horseferry Road Magistrates Court and were ordered held in custody until their next court appearance Nov. 11.

The tabloid said its reporters had infiltrated a gang of Romanian and Albanian kidnappers who planned to ambush the singer in front of her home north of London and use a chemical spray to sedate her and her sons, Brooklyn and Romeo, if necessary.

One of the women arrested was released without being charged while two men and a woman were released on bail on unrelated charges.

David Beckham, who plays for England's national soccer team and Manchester United, is one of Britain's biggest sports stars and the Beckhams are among the country's most popular celebrities.

The newspaper quoted Victoria Beckham as saying she was stunned by the allegations.

"It's clear these people were serious and that, of course, has scared the life out of me. ... I'm in absolute and total shock."



SPORTS

Farve leads Packers to victory over Dolphins

BY ARNIE STAPLETON
AP Sports Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Brett Favre had a much better return than Cris Carter.

Favre didn't seem bothered much by his sprained left knee as he guided Green Bay to a 24-10 victory over the Miami Dolphins on Monday night.

Favre, who was knocked out of his last start, extended his NFL record for consecutive regular season starts by a quarterback to 165. He overcame an early interception in the end zone to lead the Packers to their sixth straight victory.

The Packers, who have the NFL's best record at 7-1, also recorded four more takeaways to increase their league-leading total

to 27 and held Miami running back Ricky Williams to 47 yards on 14 carries.

Favre was 16-of-25 for 187 yards with one touchdown pass. When he was replaced by backup Doug Pederson in the middle of a series in the fourth quarter, the crowd serenaded him with chants of "MVP! MVP! MVP!"

The Dolphins (5-3) had hoped Carter would provide a similar spark as he came out of retirement in hopes of helping them to a championship.

But Carter fumbled away his first reception, leading to Green Bay's first touchdown, and he was the intended target on an interception by Nate Wayne in the second half. He finished with three inconsequential catches for 31 yards.

Darren Sharper stepped in front of a pass by Ray Lucas and returned it 89 yards for a touchdown as the third quarter expired, giving Green Bay a 24-0 lead.

Olindo Mare kicked a 46-yard field goal in the fourth quarter and Miami finally got into the end zone on Lucas' 1-yard keeper with 1:31 left — the first TD in eight quarters against Green Bay's defense.

Ahman Green rushed 19 times for 72 yards and caught six passes for 71 yards. He accounted for all but 18 of the

yards in the first half, when his 23-yard TD reception and 1-yard scoring run gave Green Bay a 14-0 halftime lead.

Lucas, starting for the injured Jay Fiedler, was replaced briefly by Sage Rosenfels when he sustained what was described as a "burner" on a hard hit by Ronnie Holliday late in the first half.

Favre threw an interception in the end zone on the Packers' first possession and nearly did it again in the second quarter before Green rumbled in from a yard out.

Favre rolled right and tried to force a fastball in traffic into Bubba Franks' hands, but Morlon Greenwood broke it up.

The score was set up by a fumble at midfield by Carter, who was playing for the first time since ending his retirement.

Favre sprained his left knee in the Packers' last game, Oct. 20 against Washington. Green Bay was idle last week and Favre returned to practice Wednesday, progressively increasing his workload all week.

The crowd at Lambeau Field gasped in the second quarter when former Packers special teams star Scott McGarrahan sacked Favre for an 11-yard loss. McGarrahan grabbed Favre by the ankles and twisted him down.

But Favre popped right up

and jogged off the field as the punting team came on.

Favre's streak, which is 181 counting playoff games, is the longest by any active player at any position.

Ryan Longwell kicked a 27-yard field goal in the third quarter for a 17-0 lead following Donald Driver's 30-yard reception and Patrick Surtain's 15-yard face-mask foul on the play that put the Packers on the Dolphins 17.

Carter, who spent most of his 15 pro seasons in Minnesota, was working as an analyst for HBO's "Inside the NFL" when the Dolphins lured him back following a season-ending injury to starter Oronde Gadsden.

Entering the game, Carter trailed only Jerry Rice in career receptions (1,093) and touchdown catches (129).

Carter started after just two weeks of practice following his nine-month layoff and was clearly rusty.

On the first play of the second quarter, Carter caught an 11-yard pass but as he passed the first-down marker, Wayne stripped the ball and recovered it at the Green Bay 48.

Carter was the intended target in the third quarter when Tyrone Williams hit him as the ball arrived and Wayne grabbed the interception at midfield.

Hole in one



Erik S. Lesser/Associated Press

Vijay Singh hits from the tee on the first hole during the final round of the Tour Championship at East Lake Golf Club on Sunday in Atlanta.

Baker's contract up Wednesday

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Manager Dusty Baker's future should be much more clear within days.

Baker's agent, Jeff Moorad, has spoken with San Francisco Giants general manager Brian Sabean to discuss whether Baker will remain with the organization, a team official said Monday, speaking on condition of anonymity. Now the Giants are waiting to hear back from Moorad.

Baker's contract expires Wednesday, 10 days after the Giants lost Game 7 of the World Series to the Anaheim Angels.

Sabeen agreed to a new multiyear deal with the Giants last week, and one of his first priorities is hiring a manager.

Before Game 7 of the World Series, Baker made it sound as if he was on his way out. He said he had not been convinced the Giants wanted him to return.

When asked what he would need to hear from Giants owner Peter Magowan to stick around, Baker said, "If somebody wanted me back, a lot of times they wouldn't wait until the last minute to tell them."

The 53-year-old Baker, who just completed his 10th year with the Giants, said when the

playoffs began that he did not intend to "break the bank" — meaning the \$6 million a year Joe Torre got from the Yankees — "but I want to be near the bank."

Neither Baker nor Sabean could immediately be reached for comment.

Baker's name has been mentioned for the vacant managerial jobs in Seattle and with the Chicago Cubs — two attractive openings that have yet to be filled after many clubs have already made their hires.

While the Cubs haven't expressed interest in Baker publicly, their search for a new manager is on hold until he resolves his situation.

General manager Jim Hendry hasn't interviewed anyone new, and is in Arizona for the team's organizational meetings.

Mariners general manager Pat Gillick has been careful not to call Baker a candidate, saying he didn't want to comment when Baker was still under contract. But Seattle, which has been openly naming its candidates, has said it has a "mystery candidate" in the mix.

Baker has had his differences with Magowan, mainly on who deserves the most credit for the franchise's success.

Baker apparently feels slighted because Magowan

always points out everybody else's contributions when reporters ask Magowan what he thinks of Baker's role in their success. Baker also became angry when Magowan predicted in spring training that this was the best team the Giants had fielded in his 10 years of ownership. Baker thought that put too much pressure on the players.

When the World Series ended, Magowan wouldn't say whether he wanted Baker back, but he did congratulate the manager for a fine season.

"He'll hear what he'll hear," Magowan said when asked about Baker's desire to hear that he's wanted.

"Dusty did a great job this year. He outmanaged two good managers in Tony La Russa and Bobby Cox. But the final analysis of what happens will depend on what Dusty wants to happen."

Baker, who would be deeply missed by the fans and many of his players, said he would give the decision plenty of thought.

"I'm not worried about jobs being taken or filled up because maybe those weren't the jobs for me in the first place," he said during the World Series. "Who knows, maybe I'm supposed to stay where I am. Maybe I'm supposed to go to what's left."

Dodgers sign Prokopec to minor league contract

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Luke Prokopec has returned to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The 24-year-old Australian right-hander, traded by Los Angeles to the Toronto Blue Jays last Nov. 3, agreed Monday to a two-year, minor league contract with the Dodgers.

The Dodgers traded Prokopec and right-handed pitcher Chad Ricketts for right-handed reliever Paul Quantrill and shortstop Cesar Izturis.

Prokopec was 2-9 with a 6.78 ERA in 22 games for the Blue Jays, 12 of them starts, before surgery on his right shoulder Sept. 14.

Before being traded, Prokopec was 9-8 with a 4.63 ERA in 34 games for the Dodgers in the 2000 and 2001 seasons. In 88 minor league appearances in the Dodgers' system, he was 30-21 with a 3.59 ERA.

Prokopec was invited to attend spring training with the Dodgers, but it's uncertain when he'll be able to pitch.

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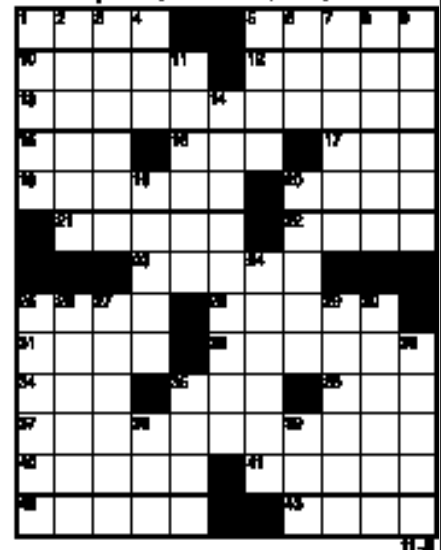
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- 1 Eastern monk
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 - 10 Stunted type, for short
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 - 9 Tin and tungsten



Yesterday's answer

- 11 Bloer
- 14 Failed
- 19 Bank offerings
- 20 "is human ..."
- 24 TV serial
- 25 Stable divisions
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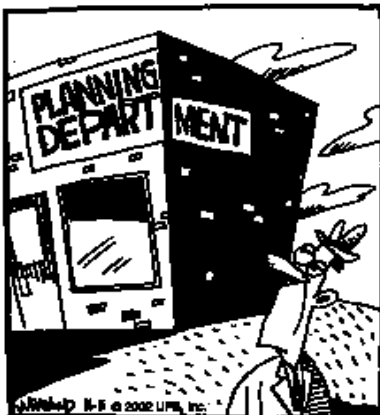


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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Man's lips fall off in fight, reattached

- Surgeons reattached a man's upper lip after friends found it on a street after it had been severed in a fight (Wellington, New Zealand).
- Montana's Libertarian U.S. Senate candidate Stan Jones said the reason that his skin is blue, probably permanently, is because he had been drinking a homemade silver solution favored by some libertarians to guard against illness.
- Canadian Football League running back Ron Williams and six teammates made a group "fair catch" of a woman who jumped from the fourth floor of a burning building (Edmonton, Alberta).



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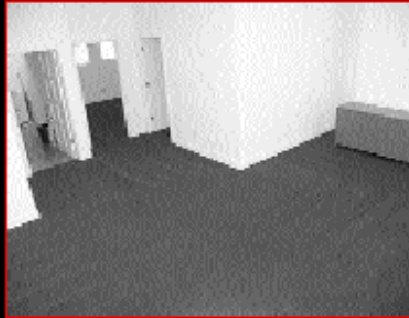
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Calendar

Tuesday, November 5, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
Comedian (R) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15,
7:45, 10:15, Jackass (R) 11:45,
12:45, 2:00, 3:15, 4:30, 5:45,
7:00, 8:15, 9:30, 10:45. The
Truth About Charlie (PG-13)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00.

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
The Ring (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00,
7:00, 10:00, 12:40. Sweet
Home Alabama (PG-13) 11:30,
2:10, 5:05, 7:55, 10:35. My Big
Fat Greek Wedding (PG) 11:20,
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:05. Punch-
Drunk Love (R) 11:15, 1:45,
4:20, 7:10, 9:45, 12:15. The
Transporter (PG-13) 11:45,
2:15, 4:45, 7:40, 10:15.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Red Dragon (R) 12:45, 4:00,
7:20, 10:15. Santa Clause 2 (G)
11:00, 11:50, 1:40, 2:30, 4:20,
5:10, 7:00, 7:50, 9:40, 10:25.
White Oleander (PG-13) 1:00,
4:10, 7:30, 10:00. I Spy (PG-13)
11:35, 12:30, 2:10, 3:00, 4:40,
5:30, 7:15, 8:05, 9:50, 10:35.

Landmark Nu-Wilshire
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Bowling for Columbine (R)
1:30, 2:30, 4:15, 5:15, 7:00,
8:00, 9:45, 10:30.

Laemmle Monica
1332 2nd St.
Auto Focus (R) 12:00, 2:30,
5:05, 7:45, 10:20. Real Women
Have Curves (PG-13) 12:15,
2:30, 4:50, 7:25, 9:45.
Secretary (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15,
9:50. Spirited Away (PG) 1:00,
4:00, 7:00, 10:00.

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
It's A Wonderful Life
11:00am

The Weight of Water (R)
2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Today

Community

The Westside Walkers, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Westside Walkers meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., at Westside Pavilion, Pico Blvd. Between Overland Ave. and Westwood Blvd. In West LA. For more information about the program, call (800)516-5323.

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in, So, What Are You Going to Do With the Rest of your Life? Tuesdays, 10:00 to 11:30am. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

Y Canned Fitness Week! November 4 thru 19. Just bring in ten cans of food per visit and you can participate

in any one of our fitness classes, fitness center & lap swim for FREE! SM Family YMCA is located at 1332 Sixth Street. For more information please call (310)393-2721 ext. 118.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS AT SMC'S EMERITUS COLLEGE. Santa Monica College offers free bereavement support groups in the summer session through it's Emeritus College, a widely praised program designed for older adults. Two support groups will meet Tuesdays on an ongoing basis. One group will meet from noon to 1:50 p.m. and the other from 7 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. For information and registration, call Emeritus College at (310) 434-4306.

Crossroads School in Santa Monica invites local musicians (grades 3-7) to join orchestra rehearsals. Rehearsals are ongoing and are held each Tuesday of the school year, from 3:15 to 4:15. Students may join at anytime. Cost is free, students must bring their own instruments. 1714 21st Street, SM. For more information please call (310)829-7391.

Wednesday

Community

The Westside Walkers, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Westside Walkers meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., at Westside Pavilion, Pico Blvd. Between Overland Ave. and Westwood Blvd. In West LA. For more information about the program, call (800)516-5323.

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Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Unurban Coffee House presents 'Stitch 'n' Bitch' every Tuesday evening. Chicks, yarn, coffee & chat. 7:30pm to 9:30pm. 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056.

KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

Promote your event in the Santa Monica Daily Press Calendar section. Fax all information to our Calendar Editor: Attention Angela @ 310.576.9913

Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to todaypaper@smdp.com for consideration. Calendar events are limited by space, and will be run at the discretion of the Calendar Editor. The Daily Press cannot be held responsible for errors.



BACK PAGE

In Greenwich, Conn., even teens need power naps

BY JOHN CHRISTOFFERSEN
Associated Press Writer

GREENWICH, Conn. — Three boys are sprawled out on the classroom floor, their heads resting on their backpacks. Nap time in kindergarten? No, a meeting of the Power Nap Club at Greenwich High School in this wealthy community of high achievers.

The club was started by a teacher who figured that with all the pressure to succeed, some teenagers could use a little you-time.

Once considered a joke, the Power Nap Club has grown to about 20 members who meet on Mondays after school. The club even has T-shirts, a logo of a cardinal (the school mascot) wearing a nightcap, and a Latin motto: "Veni vidi dormivi — I came, I saw, I slept."

At meetings of the Power Nap Club, members are encouraged to nod off in the classroom, and there's no making fun of those who snore.

In Greenwich, one of America's richest communities, with lots of lawyers, doctors and investment bankers, students are expected to get top scores on the SATs and apply early to Ivy League colleges. Extracurricular activities such as sports are a must to enhance the resume.

"You have to be the best athletically, intellectually, wear the best clothing, go to the best schools," said Anton Anderson, a 58-year-old English teacher who started the club in 1998. "I think they buy into it. But it also means their lives are difficult and they need a little time for themselves."

Thomas Murphy, spokesman for the Connecticut Education Department, said he is not aware of any other nap clubs in schools.

"But that doesn't mean it is not an area to explore," Murphy said, wistfully recalling nap time when he was a child. "As a 51-year-old male, I believe naps have been very underrated in this world."

At 2,450-student Greenwich High, the Power Nap Club began to grow in popularity about two years ago when students Jenna Goldstein and Kelly Hannigan became enthusiastic supporters.

Goldstein and Hannigan, now seniors and co-presidents of the club, laughed at the idea at first. But they said they gradually came to appreciate the club, which also teaches relaxation techniques, for helping them manage their busy lives and focus better.

In Greenwich, "you have to do everything perfectly," said Goldstein, who plays varsity basketball, works with two autistic children and has a job as a party planner.

Those expectations fade for a fleeting few moments on Mondays.

On a recent Monday, Anderson's compact disc player was not working. He didn't get stressed, though; he just loosened his tie and instructed the students on breathing and relaxing.

"You've been holding your head up all day trying to pay attention in class," Anderson said, prompting a few boys to laugh. "As you breathe out, let all the tension flow away from your body."

After about 20 minutes, Anderson gently awakened the students.

Female lizard wins battle of the sexes

BY PAUL RECER
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — In the eternal war between the sexes, the lady side-blotched lizard wins it all: She selects her many mates, decides where they'll live and even determines if they will have sons or daughters.

Virtually every element of the mating and reproducing cycle of the small American lizard is controlled by choices made by the female, said Ryan Calsbeek, a biologist at the Institute of Environment at UCLA.

"This is the ultimate example of a female having her cake and eating it too," said Calsbeek, the first author of a study appearing Tuesday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. "It would be like a human female who marries a short, dumpy rich guy and then has an affair with a muscular 20-year-

old to have a handsome son who grows up in a mansion and goes to the best schools."

The side-blotched lizard is the most common lizard in the American West. It lives among rocks west of the Rocky Mountains from Canada to the Baja Peninsula in Mexico. The animal is small — with the male reaching about 2.3 inches and the female about half that — but it has a complex mating and reproduction system, said Calsbeek.

Generally, the female picks the mate she'll live with. Calsbeek said he and his co-author observed that the female generally prefers a big male who lives on a big rock in the best location.

To see if the female was selecting the choice living site or the choice male, the researchers moved the rocks around, putting the big males on poor rocks and the little males on the best rocks in the finest neighborhoods.

The female lizards seemed to prize comfort over all else, choosing small males with the fancy rocks as the first mate and live-in partner.

But that's not the end of her choices.

Calsbeek said the female is "incredibly promiscuous," commonly mating with five or six males per reproductive cycle.

To see which male lizards are siring the female's young, the researchers did molecular tests for paternity and found the lady lizard was very clever, indeed.

The female collected the sperm from many partners in a special body cavity, called the spermatheca, before it was allowed to fertilize her eggs, Calsbeek said. Then, somehow, the female caused the sperm from big males to make sons, while the sperm from the small males was used to make daughters.

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