

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

22, 9, 21, 14, 37

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 3, 5, 5
Evening picks: 6, 6, 7

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 1, Gold Rush
2nd Place: 10, Solid Gold
3rd Place: 7, Eureka
Race Time: 1:49.85



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

The Oklahoma treasurer released a list of unclaimed property that included the refundable \$100 utilities deposit paid by accused terrorist conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui when he lived in the state to attend flight school. And a delay on a London underground train was caused when an apprentice driver fainted while listening to his instructor describe vasectomy surgery that had developed complications. And Family Christian Stores, the largest Christian retail goods chain in the U.S., announced it would begin opening on Sundays.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Liberals feel unworthy of their possessions. Conservatives feel they deserve everything they have stolen."

— Mort Sahl



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Midnight finally strikes



John Wood/Daily Press

John Conroy, of West L.A., purchases the first book at the newly reopened Midnight Special Bookstore on Thursday. Conroy picked up a copy of Mike Davis' "Dead Cities" shortly after the store's doors opened at 5 p.m. at the new 1450 Second St. location. The popular, independent bookstore was forced to relocate from the Third Street Promenade in February due to rising rents. "This isn't a big deal," said owner Margie Ghiz of the reopening. "The big deal is going to be the ongoingness of it."

Mini-hotels: Filling niche or hoarding the housing?

City Hall puts a lid on short-term luxury rentals

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Jeremy Smith, a television commercial producer in his mid-thirties, is living in an oceanfront one-bedroom apartment in downtown Santa Monica for \$2,500 a month while he's on location here. However, if some city officials have their way, people like Smith won't be staying downtown much longer.

At issue is a three-year-old debate over what opponents call "mini-hotels," luxury units ranging from \$2,000 to \$6,000 a month that offer hotel-like amenities to short-term renters.

Utilized primarily by entertainment-industry executives, consultants and other freelance workers, many of the short-term properties have on-site gyms, office

"It's a ridiculous thing."

— DAVID WEISS

Local merchant

space, valet parking and maid service. The apartments are fully furnished and also typically have small kitchens.

Officials said the operations are a nuisance to their residential neighbors, and are instead pushing for more affordable housing and fewer short-time tenants. They also think renters should be required to pay the 12 percent bed tax regular downtown hotels do.

Meanwhile, tenants and landlords don't know what all the fuss is about, questioning why City Hall wants to

See HOTELS, page 7

Towers owner demands Kates buck up on rent

Real estate magnate is accused of skirting rent-control abuse law

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Real estate magnate Lawrence Kates may soon be asked to dish out nearly \$10,000 extra each month to keep his five rent-controlled apartments at the Shores towers, which he once owned.

That's because landlord Douglas Emmett & Co. wants to increase Kates' below-market rates under a new law designed to protect landlords against rent-control abuses. According to the law, only full-time residents are entitled to rent-control prices.

Kates, who officials said actually lives on two side-by-side properties in Newport Beach, pays between \$738 and \$1,087 each month for the one- and two-bedroom apartments on Santa Monica Beach south of Ocean Park Boulevard. Similar units at the Shores command as much as \$3,000 on the open market, said Mike Boge, a Douglas Emmett official who is handling the petitions against Kates.

Douglas Emmett bought the Shores from Kates in 1999 for a reported \$93 million. Neither Kates nor his Corona Del Mar-based attorney returned calls seeking comment.

Santa Monica Rent Control Board officials dismissed Douglas Emmett's petitions against Kates in August, saying the landlord didn't establish enough evidence to prove that Kates isn't living in the apartments. The matter was dropped before it ever went before a hearing official.

See RENT, page 6

A busted economy may lead to record borrowing by state

BY TOM CHORNEAU

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — To solve the state's budget problem and help pay for new school construction, California voters may face a March ballot featuring more than \$30 billion in proposed bonds — by far the largest amount ever put forward on any statewide ballot in the United States.

The record borrowing proposals already include Proposition 55, a \$12.3 billion bond issue for building schools that has qualified to go before voters. The ballot may include a deficit-financing bond that Gov.-elect

See VOTERS, page 10

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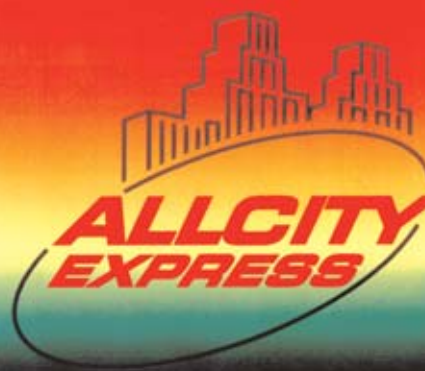
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, November 7, 2003:

You have a very special year heading your way, between work and interpersonal relationships. Events that happen might surprise you. Even if you are shocked, work with news. Others are really there for you. Remember the importance of making solid decisions and knowing what you want. Through September, events happen magically. You have that special or magical touch. If you are single, survey all your different opportunities; then make a decision. You also might find one special person you want to stay with. If you are attached, your relationship benefits from letting your partner have more of a say. TAURUS can dominate.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★ Be spontaneous, and you'll feel much better. You have a special way of communicating that others cannot help but respond to. While others run from the unexpected, you can deal with it. Trust your judgments more often. Tonight: Treat a friend. Start the weekend well!

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ Someone might give you quite a jolt in the morning, but the situation could change by afternoon. The Moon swings into your sign, adding to your sense of command and well-being. Go for what you want. All signs point to "go." Tonight: Your smile is a winner. Grin!

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★ A jolt in the arm forces you to think and consider which way to go. Your smooth handling of a personal matter surprises some, but not anyone who knows you. Aim for more of what you want. Be more philosophical. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ Aim for more of what you want. Friends who are willing to pave the way surround you. Even someone you didn't think you could count on comes through for you. Schedule key meetings for the p.m. Teamwork makes a difference. Tonight: Where the gang is.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★ Take charge, and see what might need to happen. Others respond to your inquiries, especially someone you didn't count on. Your ability to move smoothly through problems impresses many. Let go of tension midday by doing something just for you! Tonight: Enjoy being a star.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Though you deal well with one specific friend or associate, you might want to question what could be the best way to go. Detach some, and do your own research. What appears OK now might not be in the immediate future. Tonight: Follow the music.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ Think before you leap. Understanding could take you in a new direction. Investigate possibilities rather than nix them. A surprise offer could force you to sit down and do some hard thinking. Make a call to a special friend. Tonight: Opt for togetherness.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ You can change directions if you want. Consider options more carefully than in the past. A friend or loved one does the unexpected, distracting you. Allow another to take the lead. You will feel better as a result. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)
 ★★★ Pace yourself, knowing what you want. Think before you make a crazy decision, especially if it involves risk or a change of direction. Focus on work, even if it is Friday, because you don't want to leave anything trailing into your weekend. Tonight: Easy does it.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ Work with basics. A money surprise comes your way. How you feel makes a big difference in your reactions; what might look like a problem clears up by the afternoon. Count on your creativity to find the answer. Tonight: Play away.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ You might want to do something a lot differently than you anticipated. You surprise others with your spontaneity and actions. Deal with basics, not forgetting the role of security. Touch base with a family member. Tonight: The party is at your pad.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ Talk and discuss feelings. You might be surprised by some of the stuff you hear. Study your reactions before giving a response. You might be a bit off-base in how you handle a personal matter otherwise. Tonight: Make a call to hook up with a friend.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Money talks: Panel tackles future of SoCal economy

By Daily Press staff

A handful of accomplished panelists will discuss the future of Southern California's economy on Nov. 19 at UCLA.

The panel discussion on "The future of Southern California and the region's economy" is sponsored by the Ralph and Goldy Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies and the UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research. The panel will include the following members: Jack Kyser, chief economist at Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation; Ross DeVol, director of regional and demographic studies at the Milken Institute; Mark Pisano, executive director at Southern California Association of Governments; Barry Wallerstein, executive officer at South Coast Air Quality Management District; and Barbara J. Nelson, dean of the UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research, who will moderate the discussion.

The Ralph and Goldy Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies, directed by Paul Ong, a UCLA professor of urban planning, social welfare and Asian American Studies, promotes the study, understanding and solution of regional policy issues, with special reference to Southern California — including problems of the environment, urban design, housing, community and neighborhood dynamics, transportation and economic development.

The discussion will be free and open to the public, however, seating is limited. Reservations can be made by calling (310) 206-8034 or by sending an e-mail to rsvp@spps.ucla.edu.

Check-in begins at 6 p.m., followed by a reception at 6:30 p.m. The discussion begins at 7 p.m. at 1200 Rolfe Hall at UCLA.

Heritage Museum pays tribute to Phelps, Butts

By Daily Press staff

The Board of Directors and staff of the California Heritage Museum will hold its 16th annual Heritage Award dinner on Nov. 14.

Guests attending the gala fundraising event will view the Heritage Museum's current exhibition — "Santa Catalina: In All the World No Trip Like This!" — during an evening of fine cuisine hosted by the Victorian/Duck-Duck Mousse, located adjacent to the museum. A silent auction featuring hotel accommodations, dinner gift certificates from restaurants, fine art, wine, merchandise and other services will also take place. Jazz entertainment will conclude the event.

One of this year's community honorees is Joe Phelps, chief executive officer of The Phelps Group. Phelps is one of the pioneering innovators of integrated marketing communications. He has succeeded in his realistic vision by abolishing agency departments and organizing the agency's specialists around their clients in cross-functional, self-directional teams.

Phelps is also a past board president of the California Heritage Museum, and currently serves on the museum's Advisory Board. He is on the Board of Directors with the Foundation for the Junior Blind, and recently authored "Pyramids are Tombs," a book that outlines a better way to organize and maximize human potential.

Award dinner guests will receive a signed and numbered, limited edition Iris print by Venice artist D.J. Hall. The print is being produced by Duganne Ateliers, located in Santa Monica. D.J. Hall is an accomplished artist who has held solo shows at the O.K. Harris gallery in New York since 1980, has work exhibited throughout the U.S., Europe and Japan, and currently teaches for the Foundation program at the Otis College of Art and Design.

James T. Butts, Jr., Santa Monica's Chief of Police, will also be honored.

Tickets to the gala event are \$300 per couple — two dinners and one print, and \$200 per single ticket — one dinner and one print. For additional information or reservations, contact the museum staff at (310) 392-853. The museum is located at 2612 Main St.

surf report

Look for a mix of WNW swell to slowly fade by the afternoon and combine with fading S swell today. Spots with good NW exposure can expect surf waist-high range with occasional bigger sets at top breaks.

OUTLOOK: The surf fades until Saturday afternoon, when a new, small SSW swell will start to build, and looks better on Sunday and even into early Monday.

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

Today the water is:

63°

Sunrise: 6:20 a.m.
Sunset: 5:07 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	9:46	3.2	10:38	0.0	5:03	4.2	3:14	4.8
SUNDAY	11:07	2.6	11:29	0.1	5:43	4.6	4:37	4.8
MONDAY	N/A	N/A	12:02	1.9	6:15	5.0	5:40	4.8
TUESDAY	12:08	0.3	12:45	1.4	6:42	5.3	6:31	4.8
WEDNESDAY	12:41	0.5	1:22	0.9	7:06	5.5	7:15	4.7
THURSDAY	1:09	0.8	1:55	0.5	7:28	5.7	7:55	4.5
FRIDAY	1:33	1.2	2:27	0.2	7:48	5.8	8:32	4.3

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OPINION

LETTERS

Positively not Ninth Street

Editor:

(This letter was originally addressed to the Santa Monica City Council).

As a resident on Ninth Street, I purchased guest parking permits. I thought that I could easily use one in the event that I couldn't use my garage. I was wrong! Recently, after I purchased a new car, I found myself with an extra car and tried to find parking near my home. I have had to park as far away as Michigan Avenue and 11th Street on some evenings. I hadn't fully realized the extent of the parking problem on Ninth Street before because I used my garage and only owned one car. Now that I constantly need to find parking I see that there truly is a problem. I don't understand why only one side of Ninth Street is covered by permit parking. I think that both sides of the street should be permit parking, 24 hours a day.

Additionally, I don't understand the concept of city planning that allows a large institution to visit their parking onto the city streets. Santa Monica High School, for example, should be required to build a parking structure or limit vehicle use among their students. The Coffee Bean and U-Haul, among others, should also be required to provide parking for their customers and staff. I note that the city of Santa Monica has provided parking structures for the Third Street Promenade, why not provide parking in other areas of the city impacted by high density parking problems?

The reports that I have seen from the parking department compare Ninth Street to Bay Street — I don't even know exactly where Bay Street is. Bay Street is obviously far from Ninth Street and on the other side of a major boulevard. I don't understand the comparison at all.

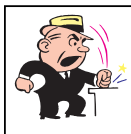
I hope you will reconsider your stand on permit parking for both sides of Ninth Street, between Michigan Avenue and Pico Boulevard.

Susan Archibald
Santa Monica



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

Good news, bad news: Pope arrives, rents go up



**MY
WRITE**
By Bill Bauer

■ Congratulations to the Santa Monica Community College District Board of Trustees who recently named Graham Pope to its board. Pope will serve out the last year of the term of Dr. Patrick Nichelson, who resigned.

Also in the running were attorneys Rob Rader and Bill Winslow; former school board member Pam Brady and former judge David Finkle. In the first round of voting, Pope received four votes. Finkle received votes from former Santa Monicans For Renters Rights co-chair Nancy Greenstein and Annette Shamey.

Observers at the scene noted that Shamey plans to run for re-election on the board next year and her vote with Greenstein for Finkle was a sop to SMRR for its continued endorsement. However, in a show of unity, both Shamey and Greenstein later changed their votes for Pope.

The terms of board members Shamey, Pope and Margaret Quinones expire next

November. It's expected all three will run again, along with at least a couple of candidates who were passed over by the trustees on Monday night.

In the meantime, Pope's appointment isn't without controversy. He was the only candidate not endorsed by the Faculty Association and Classified Employees Union.

A group calling itself "86 the Trustees — Put the Community Back in Our College," comprised of dissident students, faculty and staff, also opposed Pope's appointment.

Their spokesperson is ultra-left — "Code Pink" activist and frequent Baghdad visitor Kelly Hayes-Raitt. Hayes-Raitt, who is not affiliated with the college, is an outside political consultant and has been retained for a reported \$3,000 per month by the Faculty Association.

Controversy aside, the trustees chose wisely.

Pope is an experienced businessman, a certified public accountant and has contributed positively to SMC for many years. He should bring a solid, stable business acumen to the board — without the political idealism and mumbo-jumbo economics advocated by many of SMC's critics.

Well done and good luck..

■ Guess what fellow renters? As expected,

the city's Rent Control Board voted unanimously two weeks ago to allow landlords to pass the full cost of the Measure S school parcel tax increase to tenants.

Can you imagine? Not one of the five board members voted for "renters" on this. So tenants will see Measure S costs tacked on to rents beginning in January, 2004, and remain there for six years.

Measure S adds \$225 onto an existing (\$104 plus cost of living increases) school parcel tax. It was narrowly approved by voters in June. The measure was heavily supported by the Santa Monicans for Renters Rights leadership — many of whom actively worked on the campaign.

With all five RCB members in SMRR, it smells as if a deal was made between SMRR and landlords. If landlords supported the measure, it would cost them nothing and renters would, as usual, pay the full weight of the tax.

With SMRR supporting the tax increase and landlords bragging "we'll be allowed to pass it along," it's obvious that SMRR leaders used renters as pawns to further their political agenda with school supporters and single-home families with children in school.

The RCB has allowed landlords to pass along virtually all recent tax and bond

expense, including the Santa Monica College bond issue approved by voters last year and the original school parcel tax approved a couple of years ago.

All of this suggests that the backroom deals, hidden agendas and conspiring on a course of action out of public sight is a violation of the state's Brown Act. Maybe someone will come forward and file a complaint with the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office.

I'm for supporting the schools, despite what my critics say. I always said the city could pay and this tax increase was unnecessary. The City Council recently gave away \$7.4 million for a homeless shelter instead of coughing up a similar amount for schools. Maybe that's why someone is currently conducting a phone survey measuring public reaction to a proposed voter initiative mandating a percentage of the city's budget be spent for education.

But with city elections one year away, will Santa Monica renters continue to be victimized and swallow the drivel promulgated by the renters' rights organization and vote for another two years of lies and higher taxes? We'll see.

(Bill Bauer is a longtime Santa Monica resident and a freelance writer).



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OPINION



The Q-Line

Parking and safety on city's beaches a bigger problem than cleanliness

Here are your responses to this week's Q-Line question:

"Are Santa Monica beaches clean and safe enough to enjoy?"

■ "No, the ocean is very contaminated. I walk along the beaches and all I find are cups, cigarettes, trash and scraps. It is very, very bad. I've been in Santa Monica for 50 years and this is the way it has been for all those years."

■ "I think the beaches in Santa Monica are safe and clean, at least if you wait a day or two after it rains. What worries me about the beach is that if you are going out after dark, you take your life in your hands. The beaches should be patrolled and made safe — especially for the tourists who come to this city not knowing of the predators that lurk out there. To me, any pollution in the water pales in comparison to the danger from thieves, muggers and various other crazy people who lurk on the beach after dark."

■ "It's unfortunate that something as beautiful as rainfall can do so much damage to our beaches. The beach and ocean were riddled with garbage after the rainfall, so we should all try keep the streets and beach areas clean so that they don't become wastelands after it rains. We all need rain for its healing properties — we should welcome it as much as possible."

■ "I appreciate the efforts of our city to keep the beaches safe and clean. However, it is up to each person to contribute to this cause by not throwing

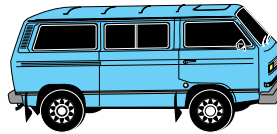
their trash all over our streets and beaches. I think the city and schools should implement a campaign reminding people not to throw trash on our streets and beaches. Providing more trash containers throughout the city and on the beaches would be a great help to keeping our city and beaches clean."

■ "Santa Monica's beaches are clean enough and safe enough for us to enjoy. As a matter of fact, they are world-class beaches. The only hang-up that I can see is the parking problem for those visiting the Santa Monica beaches. It seems to me that if the City Council would provide more parking, it would alleviate a lot of problems because we have a lot of non-resident beach visitors who have to park in the same spaces that the shoppers do, creating over-crowded lots."

■ "I do not believe that the Santa Monica beaches are clean and safe enough to enjoy and they haven't been for years, starting with the Reagan administration and the government deregulation allowing industries to pollute and throw their trash into our ocean. On a smaller scale, I think that if the City of Santa Monica took some of the money for downtown beautification and put grids on the storm drains, people would not be able to throw trash down them, which flows to the ocean."

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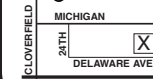
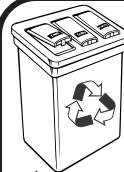
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LOCAL

Landlord demanding extra \$10,000 per month in rent

RENT, from page 1

cer. Even though Kates is accused of holding onto five units, which is more than anyone else targeted under the new law, Douglas Emmett officials didn't provide any evidence that Kates actually lives elsewhere.

Because Kates listed himself, his wife and their four daughters on all of the leases, the simple fact that he rents five apartments and owns two properties elsewhere is not enough, Rent Control Board officials said.

The dismissal by the rent board notes that, "The only evidence presented regarding the Newport Beach addresses is deeds for those properties which show they are owned by Hillside Balboa LLC, of which Lawrence Kates is a member or manager.

"No evidence was presented to show the Kateses do not occupy the subject units. The petitions allege only that the tenants rent more than one apartment at (the Shores), and the number of occupants is less than the number of bedrooms in the combined apartments ..."

One of Kates' daughters rents a sixth apartment at the Shores that officials will not seek to raise the rent on. Boge said it's undisputed that she actually lives there, but the other five units are used only as storage or for office space.

While Douglas Emmett considers filing an appeal, some have criticized the law, which was adopted this past March, for being too weak.

Prominent landlord attorney Rosario Perry said when the board first came out with the law, there were high hopes for it. Renters would have access to apartments that for years had been hoarded at low rates and landlords would be able to turn a profit on units that were being used as vacation homes or for storage space, proponents of the law said.

But in recent months, Perry said it's once again status quo at the Rent Control Board, which has ruled in favor of tenants in two of the three appeals it's heard.

Under the law, landlords are required to notify their tenants if they plan to file a

petition in City Hall for a rent increase. Once filed, the petitions are reviewed to determine if a basic argument, called a "prima facie" case, is made against the tenant. If a prima facie case is made, the tenants are notified. If the tenants object to the rent hike, a rent control board officer will hold a hearing and make a ruling. Those rulings can then be appealed to the Rent Control Board itself.

**The law was passed by
the rent board under
pressure that lawmakers
in Sacramento would
approve a law even
friendlier to landlords.**

To date, 119 cases have been filed with the rent board. A total of 30 have been dismissed for not making a prima facie case, 17 rent hikes have been immediately granted because the tenants didn't object, six cases have been withdrawn by owners and a total of 33 decisions have been handed down, said Tracy Condon, a spokeswoman for the rent control board.

The rest of the cases are waiting to go to a hearing officer.

Of the decisions that have been handed down, 22 were for the owner and 11 were for the tenant. A total of 16 appeals have been filed to the rent board, which upheld the hearing officer's findings in each of three instances it's heard. Another 13 appeals are waiting to go before the board — eight from landlords and five from tenants, Condon said.

The law was passed by the rent board under pressure that lawmakers in Sacramento would approve a law even friendlier to landlords. At first, there was a great deal of concern among residents that landlords would be overzealous in targeting tenants. Those fears were quickly neutralized when landlord petitions dropped off sharply after the first few months.



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LOCAL



Officials taking on mini-hotels

HOTELS, from page 1

charge them for what they contend is essentially sub-letting.

The debate over the short-term rentals became such an issue that in May of 2001 the City Council imposed an interim ordinance preventing the formulation of any new "mini-hotels." With the restriction set to expire early next year, staffers at City Hall are gathering information on how to formalize the law and ban any new short-term rentals from opening in Santa Monica once and for all.

"The council's been very concerned that it displaces affordable rentals, competes unfairly with normal hotels, and creates all the impacts that hotel uses do — of people coming and going — without generating a (hotel bed) tax," said City Councilman Kevin McKeown.

The Planning Commission in September considered the issue and sent city staffers back to gather more information. Once it drafts the desired language, the commission will forward the issue to the City Council, probably early next year, associate planner Tony Kim said.

Kim didn't know how many short-term rentals there are in the city, but said that's one of the things his group is researching. Also on the to-do list: A survey of properties that could potentially be converted to short-term rentals, a review of any possible concerns of the Rent Control Board and a consideration of whether a maximum stay should apply to existing operations.

Without a maximum stay, Kim said some corporate clients will take out a unit in their name and give it to different employees on a nightly or weekly basis, creating a revolving door effect.

While officials consider how to limit the business, some landlords said they don't understand what all the fuss is about. They said the units are used for an average of six months.

"I'm just providing month-to-month apartments that are furnished," said Mike Zaroudny, 31, owner of 107 Luxury Suites, a collection of 12 units in the building at Ocean Avenue and Broadway. "I'm mom-and-pop. I don't know what would make me any different from somebody who would rent a single room under sublet.com or through a newspaper."

David Weiss, owner of Lone Wolf Cigars on Broadway and the previous owner of 107 Luxury Suites, said he sold the business because profits dipped when the economy worsened. Weiss blamed City Hall for making business difficult for short-term rental providers.

"It's a ridiculous thing," Weiss said. "Don't we get taxes from property taxes? Leave the people alone, they're helping the city."

Meanwhile, many of the short-term renters are unaware of the controversy surrounding them. Smith's unit was arranged for by Venice-based Blink USA Inc., a production company that works on commercials and music videos. They are paying for the unit at 107 Luxury Apartments while Smith is in town.

"It's just so much more convenient than trying to find someone a house or apartment," said Liz Jarvis, a Blink USA worker. "It's almost like staying in a hotel. It's so much easier."

"The council's been very concerned that it displaces affordable rentals, competes unfairly with normal hotels, and creates all the impacts that hotel uses do — of people coming and going — without generating a (hotel bed) tax."

— KEVIN MCKEOWN
City Councilman

Another local short-term rental provider is Citrus Suites. Originally built by downtown developer Howard Jacobs, Citrus Suites caters to high-end clientele and runs an extensive marketing campaign for its three locations and 90-plus units. The monthly cost to live in a Citrus Suites unit can be as little as \$2,000 for a studio and as much as \$6,000 for a two-bedroom suite.

Kathleen Rawson, executive director for the Bayside District Corp., the non-profit that runs downtown, said it's a problem that City Hall doesn't collect a bed tax on the units. But Rawson added that the developments have a positive impact on downtown.

"Any place where we can increase our pedestrian base — whether that's with residential or that's with the transient visitor market — that's good for downtown," she said. "We like to see those rooms filled."

And residents said having the short-term units have simplified their lives.

"I think it's awesome," said one tenant, 30, a former actress who asked not to be named. "I've been doing it forever. It's easy. It's non-committal."

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Entertainment

Ferrell giftwraps a holiday classic for moviegoers

Review

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

"Elf" is an instant holiday classic that establishes its star — Will Ferrell — as one of the very best comedic actors working

'Glass' performances prove to be rock solid

Review

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

Writer/director Billy Ray has referred to his captivating film "Shattered Glass" as the cinematic equivalent of good reporting. And while the movie does, like the exhaustively researched Vanity Fair article that inspired it, meticulously connect the dots of the real events surrounding New Republic writer Stephen Glass' incredible fall from grace, "Shattered Glass" also serves as a compelling cautionary tale about the dangers inherent to a cult of personality and how the pressure to perform in the modern workplace can exact a catastrophic toll.

Hayden Christensen and Peter Sarsgaard deliver a pair of award-caliber performances. Christensen stars as Glass, the young scribe who wowed readers and colleagues in the late 1990s with a string of fantastic features in several high-profile publications. Sarsgaard plays Chuck Lane, the New Republic editor who fired Glass in 1998, after discovering his published articles were littered with fabrications. Known as "the in-flight magazine of Air Force One," the New Republic was considered the breeding ground for the best and brightest in political reporting circles, and Glass was its most luminescent star.

By all accounts, he was maniacally driven, and equally adept at projecting an air of supreme self-confidence and woeful insecurity. Christensen, who never met Glass, just flat-out nails the enigma. We know this guy is an expert at deception, yet we can't help but get sucked in, just like his colleagues. Sarsgaard, as the moral center of the film, is a refreshing change of pace from the kung-fu-fighting, heavily armed killing machines that pass as heroes in most Hollywood blockbusters. Chuck Lane conquers not with physical might, but by the strength of his conviction that integrity and honor matter above all else.

It's a lesson Stephen Glass learned the hard way, and one that elevates this film to impressive heights.

(Rated PG-13. Running time: 103 minutes)

today. Yep, folks, it's that good, and director Jon Favreau and writer David Berenbaum deserve major kudos for providing Ferrell with all the material (and room) he needed to deliver a fantastic early Christmas present for moviegoers of all ages.

Ferrell stars as Buddy, an orphan raised by elves at the North Pole, who, after learning he's human, sets out to find the father he never knew in New York City. Life in the Big Apple can be challenging, especially for a lumbering naïf clad in green and yellow elvish garb. But Buddy's got a heart the size of Manhattan, and remains blissfully unaware that he's as much of an outsider there as he is in Santa's Workshop. Fish-out-of-water comedy is certainly nothing new, but Ferrell exudes such a limitless capacity to have fun as Buddy that we get swept up in the joy he finds in the mundane, such as riding a department store escalator or enjoying the "world's best cup of coffee" at a greasy spoon. And while "Elf" is PG-rated, family-friendly fare, there's an edge to Ferrell's performance that suggests he hasn't strayed too far from his "Old School" pedigree.

And speaking of old school, Ferrell isn't the only one having a jolly good time. Several seasoned thespians get in on the action as well. Bob Newhart is deadpan-funny as ever as the elf who raised Buddy. His boss, Santa, is played with aplomb by lovable codger, Ed Asner. James Caan is spot-on as Walter Hobbs,



Will Ferrell and Peter Billingsley in "Elf."

Buddy's frosty, workaholic father who doesn't have time for his loving wife Emily (Mary Steenburgen, perfectly cast) or 10-year-old son Michael (Daniel Tay), let alone an oaf in an elf suit.

At Emily's insistence, Buddy moves in to their Upper East Side apartment, and with childlike innocence proceeds to remind the Hobbs family and, ultimately,

the rest of New York City of the true meaning of Christmas. Sounds hokey, right? Well, sure it is, but it just feels so good and makes you laugh so hard that even the most Scrooge-like among us will find it hard to pooh-pooh "Elf."

(Rated PG for some mild rude humor and language. Running time: 95 minutes)

Ferrell accelerating towards superstardom

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

You probably already know that Will Ferrell is a very funny man, but what you may not know is that the former "Saturday Night Live" standout and newly-minted movie star has a serious side. "My left side has always been very austere," Ferrell joked at a recent press gathering to promote his new holiday comedy, "Elf." And the witty repartee didn't end there. Like Jim Carrey, the mega-star whose career Ferrell seems most likely to emulate, Ferrell is always "on," whether talking to reporters or mingling with his growing legion of fans. He's also following Carrey's lead by tackling a dramatic role, in the upcoming "Winter Passing." But this winter it's all about the laughs, and "Elf" is full of them.

Highlights of a recent interview follow. Bear in mind Ferrell was mostly talking out of the right side of his mouth.

QUESTION: What are your favorite memories of Christmas?

WILL FERRELL: I couldn't tell you because we weren't allowed to celebrate Christmas in my house. My parents never spoke to me, so it was joyless. A joyless existence.

Q: Your character is basically an over-



Will Ferrell as "Buddy" in the movie "Elf."

sized kid who wanders the streets of New York City dressed in bright tights and pointy shoes. Were you self-conscious at all about getting into the outfit and becoming Buddy?

WF: It was very easy because he is of

the purest intentions. It's always fun to play someone who is completely earnest, whether it's someone who's joyful or boring or mean. To play it straight is the way I like to do it. One of the things that drew me to the script was the chance to play a character without any preconceived notions of the way things should be or how he should act. Kids don't edit themselves, and neither does Buddy. If he sees something he likes, he gets excited, and if he sees something scary, he gets scared.

Q: Do you have a favorite Christmas movie?

WF: Yeah, I do actually. Probably my favorite Christmas movie is "Days of Thunder" with Tom Cruise and Robert Duvall — the NASCAR movie — because I love the message (it conveys) about trying to drive as fast as you can in a circle, which is really very symbolic. So I watch that every Christmas morning.

Q: Speaking of regular viewing habits, do you still watch "Saturday Night Live"?

WF: I think I watched every show last year, out of curiosity, and also the fact that I'm still friends with all the cast members. After you've worked at a place for seven years, it's kind of natural to want to know what it's like actually watching it on Saturday, as opposed to being a part of it.

ENTERTAINMENT



Hugh Grant and Martine McCutcheon in "Love Actually."

'Love' is actually a dizzying affair

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

In his directorial debut, "Love Actually," veteran romantic-comedy scribe Richard Curtis ("Bridget Jones's Diary," "Notting Hill," "Four Weddings and A Funeral") weaves a dizzying array of love affairs into a pretty comforter that, even though it's got a few holes in it, should provide plenty of warmth this holiday season. As Hugh Grant observes during the film's opening sequence, in Curtis' snuggled-down idyll "Love actually is all around."

Boy, is it ever.

The love lines include: Grant, Curtis' go-to guy in this ensemble cast, as Britain's charming new Prime Minister who falls for a member of his staff (Martine McCutcheon); Liam Neeson plays a widowed stepfather trying to connect with the young son he hardly knows; Emma Thompson is expectedly excellent as a housewife who suspects her husband (Alan Rickman) is straying; Colin Firth's a lovelorn writer who finds romance where he least expects it; and "It Girl"

Keira Knightley unwittingly holds the keys to a pair of best friends' hearts.

There are three other stories going on as well, but only one — about an aging pop star (a hilarious Bill Nighy) on an unlikely comeback trail — merits our attention.

And pay attention we must, because there is a lot going on in "Love Actually." Too much, actually, which is why this film — while likable — will soon be forgotten. Ten different storylines running concurrently is too hard to follow, especially when only half of them are interesting. The usually superb Laura Linney is in this picture, but in a part so dreadfully underwritten, it's a wonder she agreed to do it. Same goes for Knightley — blink, and you might miss her. And since we're quibbling, it should be noted that, with the exception of Nighy and Grant, Curtis — normally a very generous jokester — fails to provide his key players with the level of witticisms we've come to expect. Maybe all the love made him dizzy.

(Rated R for sexuality, nudity and language. Running time: 135 minutes)

Homeowners can look to add an eclectic touch at Arts Fair

By Daily Press staff

Discover an eclectic mix of exquisite antiques, contemporary art and more at the second annual Los Angeles Decorative Arts Fair in the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium this weekend.

By combining collected antiques with modern objects from a wide variety of cultures and time periods, the show addresses a growing trend of eclecticism in California homes. More than 60 international dealers representing art, antique and design will exhibit at the event. Everything from Mapplethorpe photographs and antique majorica tureens to Victorian figurative napkin rings and French farmtables will be on display. The show provides an opportunity for guests to purchase quality home accessories from many geographic regions and time periods.

Art show producer Caskey & Lees has expanded upon last year's show to include a wider array of exhibitors catering to California's tastes in the arts and design. This year, the show is geared for homeowners, private collectors and holiday shoppers, as well as those who enjoy to browse the galleries.

Among the art featured at the show

will be photographs from the G. Ray Hawkins Gallery. The gallery will include photography by Abbot, Adams, Arbus, Coleman, Cunningham, Eisenstaedt, Metzner, Steiglitz and many others.

There will also be a wide selection of tableware this year. These items will be divided into ceramics, porcelains and china, but also will include glassware and decorative items.

Quimper pottery will also be available. Quimper, located in northwestern France, has been a pottery town since the days when the area was part of the Roman Empire. The current history of Quimper pottery begins in 1690 with the arrival of Jean-Baptiste Bousquet. Bousquet started his factory in the section of Quimper known as Loc-Maria. He specialized in the production of utilitarian pottery such as tablewares and clay pipes for smoking tobacco. Quimper pottery will be available from the Meadows Collection.

The fair will be held today and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Sunday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person. For more information, call (310) 455-2886 or visit www.caskeylees.com. The Santa Monica Civic Auditorium is located at 1855 Main St.

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STATE

Mammoth bond issue could stop the bleeding

VOTERS, from page 1

Arnold Schwarzenegger is considering that could be in the \$20 billion-to-\$25 billion range.

While supporters say the state can support the borrowing, lawmakers and interested observers are worried about the political and economic ramifications of the mammoth bond measures.

"I've got concerns about borrowing," said Sen. Chuck Poochigian, R-Fresno. "I had concerns about the amount of borrowing in this last budget. It's reasonable to wonder about anything of this magnitude."

Although Schwarzenegger hasn't endorsed the deficit bonds, advisers said there is growing consensus the mammoth bond issue may be the best way to solve California's fiscal crisis without raising taxes.

As the proposal is being developed, about \$12 billion from the issue would pay off existing debt generated over the past three years. Another \$4.2 billion would offset the revenue lost to cities and counties when Schwarzenegger repeals an increase in the car tax, which he promised to do his first day in office.

The rest of the money, insiders said, would plug holes in various programs until the new administration reorganizes and cuts programs to bring state spending in line with income. The independent Legislative Analyst has said the state faces a deficit of \$8 billion next year because of the spending imbalance.

The plan developed by Schwarzenegger's team would be to put the multibillion-dollar bond on the March ballot coupled with a proposed spending cap. The plan is central to the new administration's budget planning and may be unveiled in the special legislative session later this month.

Lawmakers may worry the huge bond issue would crowd out other financing measures from other jurisdictions, Poochigian said. Others said they are not convinced lawmakers will automatically put the measure on the ballot.

"Having two bond measures on a statewide ballot that could total nearly \$35 billion is extraordinary," said Assemblyman Keith Richman, R-Chatsworth. "I've heard a number of concerns raised. I think everyone wants to see

how this fits into the entire budget before they will support it."

Kam Kuwata, campaign manager for the Yes of Proposition 55 committee, said they are not worried about the deficit financing bond being on the same ballot. "From out point of view, all signs are go. The public is committed to fixing schools."

The school bonds are aimed at improving overcrowding in public schools from kindergarten to state universities.

Still, the size of the two bonds are unprecedented. The single biggest bond measure to go before voters anywhere in the United States was the \$13.5 billion school construction bond approved by voters last November — according to the California Taxpayers Association.

"I've got concerns about borrowing,"

— **CHUCK POOCHIGIAN**
California Senator

The same ballot had \$5 billion more in borrowing for housing and water programs — also approved by the voters.

David Blair, a bond analyst at Nuveen Investments, said the market for California IOUs remains good but investors want to see a more stabilized financial picture.

"What people will want to see is a sense that there is going to be an improving and stable credit picture," Blair said, adding that the bond issue's size will temporarily flood the market and make it harder and more expensive for other government jurisdictions in the state to borrow money.

Also, Blair said, if the deficit bonds are repaid over 30 years as proposed, the overall cost of the loan will drive up the state's debt costs.

Richman, who along with Democratic Assemblyman Joe Canciamilla of Pittsburg, proposed a balanced budget last year that included billions of dollars in spending cuts as well as higher taxes. He said he is not convinced the same approach isn't still the best.

Hispanic seniors crying foul over access to preventive care

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — California's Hispanic seniors report that they are less healthy and have less access to basic preventive health care than whites in their age group, according to a UCLA study.

Nearly 45 percent of the Hispanics surveyed said they were in poor or fair health, while nearly 50 percent had never been screened for colon cancer and 45 percent hadn't had a flu shot in the past year. The study covered people 65 or older.

Asians and blacks also reported receiving less preventive care than whites in

their age group. About four in 10 respondents in the black and Asian categories said they were in poor or fair health.

In contrast, only one-quarter of white seniors considered themselves unhealthy and two-thirds reported receiving flu shots and colon cancer screening.

The study used 10,000 responses from the 2001 California Health Interview Survey and 2000 U.S. Census data to compile information about the health practices of older Californians, broken down by race, economic status and amount of insurance coverage.

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STATE



State's financial privacy law looks vulnerable to revision

ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — California's two Democratic senators failed in an attempt this week to protect the state's tough, new financial privacy legislation from the risk of getting largely nullified by federal law.

Gov. Gray Davis signed a law in August that would allow California consumers to block financial companies from selling their personal financial information. The measure, set to take effect in July, was heralded by consumer advocates as the nation's farthest-reaching financial privacy legislation.

But versions of the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act passed by the House in September and under consideration Tuesday in the Senate stop far short of California's law — and would largely preempt it. Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer introduced an amendment seeking to bring the federal legislation in line with California's law, but it failed, losing on a 70-24 vote.

At issue is consumer information that financial institutions share with affiliated companies. Federal law already allows consumers to opt out of having financial institutions share their information with nonaffiliated companies.

But some large companies have hundreds and hundreds of affiliates with which they can share consumer information without consumers having the chance to say no.

The California law would have required companies to give customers the opportunity to block this affiliate information sharing.

"Businesses buy other businesses just to share a consumer's data and the consumer has no control over their personal data. That is wrong," Feinstein said on the Senate floor.

"If my amendment is workable for California, why shouldn't it be the national standard?" she said.

Boxer told a press conference that "what California did was the right thing."

Banking groups objected that it would be better to have a national standard and unworkable to have different affiliate information sharing standards in different states.

The Senate was preparing to vote on reauthorizing and making permanent the full Fair Credit Reporting Act later Tuesday or Wednesday. The legislation,

which created a national credit reporting standard and banned states from setting their own rules on how businesses use, share and report data on consumers, would expire at the end of the year without congressional action.

The Senate version would require affiliates of banks and securities and insurance companies to tell consumers when they share their data for solicitation and marketing purposes and give them the option to block or limit such sharing. Boxer and Feinstein objected that the provision was limited to soliciting and marketing purposes; companies could still share information for consumer research, credit checks and other purposes.

"I truly believe there's a privacy revolution in this country."

— JACKIE SPEIER
California Senator

The House version of the legislation did not add any affiliate information sharing rules. A similar attempt by California representatives in the House to bring the federal legislation in line with California's law was voted down when the legislation passed the House in September.

California state Sen. Jackie Speier, D-Daly City, who sponsored California's law and sought its passage for several years, said she was disappointed by the failure of the Feinstein-Boxer amendment. But she said significant portions of California's law would remain intact.

She cited a provision that bars companies from sharing information on California consumers with nonaffiliated companies unless consumers give their permission — essentially requiring consumers to "opt in" to information sharing among nonaffiliated companies, rather than forcing companies to give them a chance to "opt out."

"I truly believe there's a privacy revolution in this country. It took my colleagues in the Legislature three years to get it but they finally did. It's going to take Congress a little while, but people are really angry," she said.

Farmers suffer serious hit as 3,000 acres burn in fires

By The Associated Press

VALLEY CENTER — Stepping under the bare, blackened branches still drooping with the shriveled fruit that would have been his biggest crop ever, avocado farmer Chris Banner shakes his head with frustration.

"You should have seen this grove," said Banner, who watched wildfires consume three of the five avocado groves he manages in the rolling hills north of San Diego. "It was so green, so loaded with fruit. Now it's just gone."

Devastating wildfires that swept across more than 743,000 acres in five Southern California counties did heavy damage to the agriculture industry, hitting farmers especially hard in San Diego and Ventura counties.

Lush avocado groves, apple trees, vineyards, and nursery crops were swallowed up as the most destructive series of fires in state history raced through the region, leaving behind a landscape of ashes and bare rock.

Ventura County officials said losses for area farms were at an estimated \$11.9 million and climbing. Some 3,051 acres of farmland were damaged — not enough to translate into higher prices at the supermarket, but a devastating cost to many families who live off the land.

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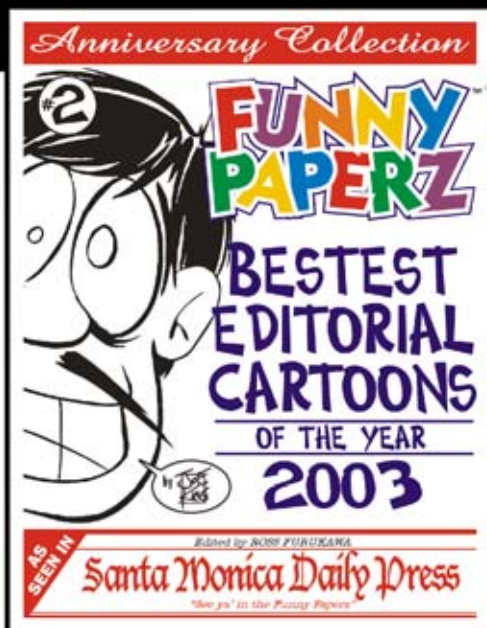
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STATE

'Flatlanders' learn lesson about fire's role in nature

BY SETH HETTENA

Associated Press Writer

JULIAN — In this fire-ravaged mountain town, they call them "flatlanders" — urban escapees who've headed for the hills.

Barbee Skinner has seen them move into the backcountry of San Diego County, where she's lived for nearly 40 years. Skinner, a 70-something widow who refused to give her exact age, is the sort to haul her own firewood and bristle at newcomers who call for city conveniences such as streetlights and leash laws.

"We always said one good, hard winter and we'll get rid of those flatlanders," said Skinner. "They want to bring the city out to the country."

The recent wildfires, which destroyed Skinner's home as well as more than 3,000 others across Southern California, have renewed debate about the rush of urban refugees lured by a Western lifestyle seemingly removed from traffic, crime and smog. When it comes to fire — a peril of life in the backcountry — they can show a dangerous lack of understanding.

Ed Robison, a retired Los Angeles police officer, moved to the hills east of San Diego to escape city crime and cut nearby brush only when an insurance company threatened to cancel his policy.

"I don't know chaparral from a palm tree," Robison said. "I just let it grow."

His perception is common among newcomers. Less than three months before the 281,000-acre Cedar fire broke out near Julian — killing 14 people and destroying 2,232 homes — a report on the region's wildfire threat warned that many ex-urbanites were unaware that they were in harm's way.

"As people migrate from cities to rural areas, they bring with them expectations of city-type infrastructure and support services," the report said. "Many do not realize the role of fire in the natural ecosystem around them and the increased need for personal responsibility. They often do not understand that their homes and possibly their lives are at stake."

Fire has always been a part of life in California. The chaparral adapted to it. Indian tribes commonly set fires to enhance crop yields, control insects or force game into the hunter's path. Spanish settlers burned to create farmland from brush. For the past half-century an average of 250,000 acres burned each year in California.

While the risk of fire hasn't changed, the number of people threatened by it has risen dramatically. The unincorporated areas of San Diego County — home to more than 440,000 residents or 16 percent of the total population — are expected to add a quarter of a million new residents and develop an equal number of acres by 2030.

"There are people who come from urban areas to the backcountry and they have no clue what they're getting into," said San Diego County Supervisor Dianne Jacob, whose district covers most of the rural area burned by the Cedar fire. "It's a completely different environment."

The lesson isn't new to California. Recent wildfires in Colorado and Arizona had similar impacts on the forest homes of urban refugees, and brought similar warnings and recriminations. But the sheer numbers affected in California put it in a different class. Nearly 3.2 million homes in California are threatened by potential wild-

fires, according to a report by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

And "it's not just the West. It's all over," said Stephen Pyne, a fire historian at Arizona State University.

Even a blaze as massive as the Cedar fire — the biggest single fire in modern California history — is unlikely to stop backcountry development, officials say. The state Department of Forestry estimates that over the next 40 years, development will overtake private forests and rangelands in an area the size of Ohio.

**"We always said
one good, hard winter
and we'll get rid of those
flatlanders."**

— BARBEE SKINNER
Resident

Worse, if history is any guide, the Cedar fire's lessons are likely to be forgotten. A study that compared the response to two California wildfires 47 years apart found that the lists of recommendations were virtually identical.

"We've found that people only remember this for about five years," said Bill Stewart, who analyzes rural development for the California Department of Forestry.

In Julian, where 300 homes were lost last week, firebreaks — long swaths of cleared land — built in the 1960s to protect the former mining town were lost to development and a lack of financial commitment.

Growth in the backcountry has changed the way firefighters battle blazes. Instead of concentrating on corralling a blaze to prevent it from spreading, fire commanders now must commit precious manpower and resources to save homes. With homes around, fire can't be fought with fire, one of the best ways to contain blazes by depriving them of fuel.

Development also fuels fires. The wood-shake roofs that dot western mountainsides not only burn easily, but fly loose and turn into windborne embers that spread fire. When wood-frame homes are closer to each other, they can catch fire and radiate so much heat that fire simply jumps from house to house.

"You've got little bombs waiting to be exploded throughout the landscape," said Tim Duane, a University of California, Berkeley associate professor of environmental planning.

While experts agree almost nothing can be done to stop a fire from starting when the Santa Ana winds rake across Southern California every year, they insist that much can be done to minimize the damage they cause. But protecting the homes of urban escapees moving into the backcountry from wildfires is proving to be an increasing challenge.

"This is really a stupid problem to have," Pyne said. "It can be fixed."

Many fire experts believe the best solution lies in land planning and regulations. Stewart said initial results from the inquiry into the Cedar fire suggest that improvements in home construction and new buildings have made homes more fireproof.

"Houses are surviving this time that the same fire five or six years ago would have

See FLATLANDERS, page 13

STATE

Most Pacific Coast waters to close for bottom fishing

BY TERENCE CHEA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Federal regulators have decided to close a large swath of Pacific Coast waters to bottom fishing for the rest of the year due to concerns about overfishing, California state officials said Thursday.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council, which sets limits on West Coast fishing, voted Wednesday to restrict catches of bottom-dwelling fish off the coasts of California, Oregon and Washington.

The council, meeting this week in Del Mar, Calif., recommended a suspension of commercial fishing in shallow coastal waters, extending from the shore to depths of up to 1,200 feet. The closure would also apply to recreational fishing, except in certain areas where the depleted species won't be affected.

The council's decision came after recent assessments found that harvest limits had been reached or exceeded for lingcod and canary rockfish, which are designated as "overfished" species. Council members were concerned that continued fishing near the shore would further deplete stocks of the two species.

The council will recommend the closure to the National Marine Fisheries Service, which will likely adopt the measure in mid- to late November, just before the holiday season, when demand for seafood rises and large numbers of anglers head to the ocean to fish, officials said.

"For fishermen who have small boats and can't fish in deeper water, it's a tremendously big deal because they won't be fishing for the rest of the year," said Rod Moore, executive director of the West Coast Seafood Processors Association, who attended the meeting. He said some processors will see less business.

"If anyone was paying attention, they knew these restrictions were in place."

— ZEKE GRADER

Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations

In 2001, 11,400 metric tons of groundfish, generating \$16.7 million in sales, were caught off the California coast. About 1,600 commercial vessels catch and sell groundfish in the state, according to state Department of Fish and Game figures.

California plans to adjust fishing limits in state waters, which extend three miles offshore, to conform to the council's decision and help boost recovery efforts for the depleted species, state officials said.

In October, state officials closed fisheries for two other groundfish species — cabezon and greenlings — for the rest of the year after harvest limits were reached. The state will now suspend fishing of five additional groundfish species: nearshore rockfish, shelf rockfish, California scorpionfish, lingcod and California sheephead.

"We have to take a conservative route to make sure there are fish that remain the following year and the year after," DFG

spokeswoman Chamois Andersen said. "We have to balance the needs of the public with the needs of the resource."

This year's groundfish fishing season previously was shortened to six months starting in July to allow depleted species to recover. Fishermen caught large harvests early in the season, which partially explains why annual quotas were met with about two months left in the fishing season, Andersen said.

Most fishermen had been expecting the early closure, said Zeke Grader, executive director of Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations.

"If anyone was paying attention, they knew these restrictions were in place," Grader said. "This is based on what science we have. How good the science is is debatable, but we have to base it on something."

Urban values can be costly in backcountry

FLATLANDERS, from page 12

burned up," he said. "A lot of firefighters were impressed."

Too often, however, backcountry residents don't uphold their end of the bargain by clearing brush from around their homes, increasing the fire risk and complicating efforts to protect them.

Firefighters battling the Cedar fire often had to chop away at brush from homes as flames closed in. While clearing brush is something rural residents grow up doing, the newcomers often don't realize its importance.

"They're people with urban values, urban expectations, urban aesthetics," Pyne said. Instead of living on the land, he said, "this urban outmigration is leaving it alone."

A study of wildfire danger in San Diego County found the call to remove brush was often ignored for a variety of reasons: Some didn't want to touch native plants for environmental or aesthetic reasons. Others didn't have the time or money.

In some places, it meant the difference between life and death. Stephen Hamilton, 43, survived the Cedar fire parked in his sport-utility vehicle on his 3-acre "dirt pad" that had been graded and cleared of brush. Four of his neighbors who tried to drive off were killed.

Environmentalists believe the best way to stop backcountry development is to severely restrict it. Duncan McFetridge, a rancher, is sponsoring an initiative to prevent what he calls the "Los Angelization" of San Diego County. The measure would curb development

by severely restricting the numbers of homes that can be built on a parcel of land. It also would require voter approval before wildlands are developed for urban uses. McFetridge says halting sprawl will prevent future blazes from doing even more damage.

"What we have to do is build properly — not to put homes in harm's way," he said.

Keith Hansen, who has spent most of his life in small towns, seethes at "tree huggers" trying to change a way of life.

"It's easy for people who live in the city to sit and judge and say this is what we'll do in the backcountry, if they don't live up here," said Hansen, owner and publisher of the Ramona Sentinel, a weekly paper in the rural town of Ramona. "What gives anybody the right to do that?"

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NATIONAL

Arizona opening new section of cavern wonders

BY ARTHUR H. ROTSTEIN

Associated Press Writer

KARTCHNER CAVERNS STATE PARK, Ariz. — The colors are breathtaking, the formations wondrous. But then, the water that fashioned intricate crystalline structures inside Kartchner Caverns took its time doing its handiwork: about 500,000 years.

And its work continues, as a tour through the Big Room complex in the caverns' lower regions proved Thursday, the formal kickoff for opening of the new area to public viewing.

The Big Room complex, consisting of five structures, is about twice as large as the upper chambers that have been viewed by nearly three-quarters of a million visitors since late 1999.

Making up the just-finished new complex are the Cul-de-Sac, Echo Passage, Tarantula Room, Strawberry Room and Big Room.

Despite its name, the Big Room has a more intimate feel than the upper complex, with its lower ceilings giving visitors the sensation of being right among the formations.

"You're more intimate and you get an appreciation for the delicacy all around you," said Arizona State Parks Director Ken Travous. "So it's not just these massive

"It's not just these massive rock features. It's more like going room after room in a museum, where over here is a Picasso, and over here is a Renoir."

— **KEN TRAVOUS**
Arizona State Parks Director

rock features. It's more like going room after room in a museum, where over here is a Picasso, and over here is a Renoir."

Starting Tuesday, when public tours begin, visitors will be able to view a variety of stalagmites, stalactites and other stunning formations in vivid hues in most of the Big Room complex.

The formations range from delicate and dainty lacy-looking helictites, growing sideways from ceiling rocks, to larger formations resembling pearls, popcorn, cotton and turnips — all in an array of pinks, reds, oranges and cream.

In developing the Big Room complex, parks workers built more than 1,200 feet of high-curbed concrete trail and installed pumps to drain off water from construction and used to hose down trails to remove skin cells, hair or lint that could promote algae growth.

"They have done just a fabulous job. The Big Room is phenomenal. With lights on, I am seeing things I've never seen,"

said Gary Tenen, one of two cavers who discovered Kartchner Caverns.

Over the ages, underground water carved Kartchner Caverns, slicing through Escabrosa limestone beneath the Whetstone Mountains, about 50 miles southeast of Tucson.

Tenen and Randy Tufts discovered the caverns in 1974, but kept their existence a secret for 14 years from everybody but the landowners' family. Development took another 11 years.

The caverns complex, including its visitor center, has cost about \$35 million to develop.

Tours through the Rotunda and Throne rooms have accommodated about 180,000 visitors annually since the park opened in November 1999, bringing in about \$3 million a year.

The park instantly became the crown jewel in Arizona's state parks system.

Visitors walk over hand-poured concrete paths, illuminated with movie the-

ater-style lights. They pass through airlocks designed to keep the cave moisture in and the desert heat out of the passages. The dry outer air could wreak havoc on the still-living complex.

Visitors also are cautioned — and watched closely by tour guides and volunteers — not to touch anything off-trail or overhead, since oil from their hands would disrupt growth of the cavern's calcite formations, which were laboriously built drop-by-drop by mineral-laden water seeping off its ceilings.

The new sections will be open only about seven months of the year since a colony of about 1,000 female myotis velifer bats uses the Big Room as a maternity ward.

Gov. Janet Napolitano, who toured the new section Thursday, was clearly excited about what she was seeing. Pointing to a delicate formation that was growing played in all directions, she asked: "Where's gravity?"

"Arizonans have a very special place they can call their own, and I hope as many Arizonans as can will come down and walk through the Big Room because it's an amazing sight," Napolitano said. "It's beautiful. Some of those formations, I'd never seen anything like them before, even in the other side of this complex."

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Frontrunner Dean apologetic about just whistling Dixie

BY RON FOURNIER

AP Political Writer

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Being a presidential candidate sometimes means having to say you're sorry.

Under pressure from friends and foes alike, Howard Dean apologized this week for urging Democrats to court Southern whites who display Confederate flags on their pickup trucks.

"Many people in the African-American community have supported what I said in the past few days because they understand what this is about," the former Vermont governor said. "But some have not, and to those I deeply regret the pain that I may have caused."

Speaking at New York's Cooper Union, Dean seemed to stop short of an outright apology and vowed not to shirk from "difficult and painful" discussions about race relations. "Feelings will be hurt," Dean said.

But later, he said he did not mean to be splitting hairs.

"That was an apology," Dean told The Associated Press. "You heard it from me. It

"It hurts him with African-American voters who find the Confederate flag offensive and it hurts him with progressive whites like myself who don't like the image he projected of the South."

— **WARING HOWE JR.**
Democratic National Committee member

was a remark that inflicted a lot of pain on people for whom the flag of the Confederacy is a painful symbol of racism and slavery."

Dean had already expressed similar sentiments in a call to presidential rival Al Sharpton, a black activist from New York. He also had talked to several party leaders, including former President Carter, during one of the most tumultuous days of his front-running campaign.

He hoped to put to rest a controversy that grew since last week, when he told a newspaper that he wanted to be "the candidate for guys with Confederate flags in their pickup trucks." Defending his moderate gun control policies, the former

Vermont governor said, "We can't beat George Bush unless we appeal to a broad cross-section of Democrats."

He refused to apologize during a Tuesday night debate, even to admit a bad choice of words. With pressure building, he said conceded Wednesday that his explanation was clumsy.

"If he didn't realize as a candidate for the nomination that his words were poorly chosen and that he should say he was wrong, what does it say about his judgment as the actual nominee?" said Waring Howe Jr., a member of the Democratic National Committee in South Carolina.

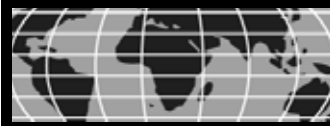
The state holds a critical Feb. 3 pri-

mary, and at least half of Democratic voters in South Carolina are black.

"It was an idiotic thing to say," said Howe, an uncommitted Democrat who has considered Dean to be one of his top three candidates. "It hurts him with African-American voters who find the Confederate flag offensive and it hurts him with progressive whites like myself who don't like the image he projected of the South."

Even as he apologized, Dean said he stood by his broader point that Democrats must court Southern whites who have voted for Republicans and received nothing in return. "My remarks were misunderstood, of course, with the help of my colleagues" in the race, he told the AP.

Despite the criticism, Dean could find reason to cheer after a trying day, with late word that he was getting a prized presidential endorsement from the AFL-CIO's largest union. The announcement was to come Thursday from the 1.6 million-member Service Employees International Union, among the most racially and ethnically diverse in the labor federation, Democratic campaign sources told the AP.



WORLD BRIEFLY

North Korea defies U.S. pullout plan

By The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said Thursday it will block U.S. efforts to remove equipment and technical data from two nuclear power plants under construction in the communist state, a news agency reported.

The United States and its allies said this week they want to suspend construction of the \$4.6 billion power plants project.

"We will never allow the transferring of equipment, facilities and technical documents out of the Kumho district unless compensations for the stopping of construction of light-water reactors are made," the North Korean spokesman told Pyongyang's state-run news agency KCNA. KCNA was monitored by South Korean news agency Yonhap.

The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization, a U.S.-led consortium based in New York, has been building two light-water reactors in Kumho, a remote village on North Korea's northeast coast, as part of a 1994 deal with Washington.

The four-member executive board of the KEDO met in New York on Monday and Tuesday and said they would make a final announcement about suspending the project before Nov. 21.

Lawmakers look to ban gay marriages

By The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — The state legislature has sent a bill defining marriage as a contract between a man and a woman to Gov. Jim Doyle, who says he opposes the measure because it is divisive and duplicates an existing law.

Supporters say the bill, approved 22-10 by the Senate late Wednesday night, would ensure that gay marriage will not be allowed or recognized in Wisconsin. The Assembly approved the bill last month 68-29, and it now goes to Doyle for his review.

"This bill is just designed to try and divide people, just try to anger people, and I don't think this is good for Wisconsin," Doyle said.

An override of a Doyle veto would require a two-thirds majority in each house, meaning 66 votes in the Assembly and 22 in the Senate — numbers that were achieved in the passage of the bill.

Wisconsin law already defines marriage as a contract between a husband and wife. But supporters claim judges could interpret that language loosely and redefine marriage to allow gay couples to wed.

Sen. Scott Fitzgerald, a Republican, said the legisla-

tion sends a clear message to Wisconsin judges that lawmakers intend marriage to be reserved for heterosexual couples.

The bill has outraged gay and lesbian groups, who say state law already makes it clear they cannot marry and the legislation is only meant to antagonize them.

Israel makes gesture of goodwill

By The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Israel went ahead with a goodwill gesture to ease some West Bank travel restrictions, but Palestinian leaders held another fruitless meeting over forming a new government.

Israeli defense officials said easing the lockdown in most West Bank towns, except Jenin and Nablus, was a goodwill gesture to Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia, who is trying to form a new Cabinet.

Israeli officials said Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz also wants to show progress to U.S. officials when he heads to Washington next week.

But Palestinians said the removal of roadblocks and other measures was largely cosmetic and did not make much difference in their lives, which have been made far more difficult after three years of the Israeli restrictions aimed at keeping out suicide bombers and other attackers.

A meeting of Yasser Arafat's Fatah Central Committee late Wednesday also failed to break the deadlock over who is to be named interior minister in charge of security forces, arguably the most important position after Qureia's. Arafat is blocking Qureia's choice, Brig. Gen. Nasser Youssef.

Swan song for Righteous Brother

By The Associated Press

KALAMAZOO, Mich. — Bobby Hatfield, who with partner Bill Medley pioneered "blue-eyed soul" as the Righteous Brothers with hits like "Unchained Melody" and "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling," died Wednesday night of undetermined causes at a hotel, his manager said. He was 63.

Hatfield's body was discovered in his bed at 7 p.m. EST, a half-hour before the duo was to perform at Miller Auditorium on the Western Michigan University campus, manager David Cohen said.

"It's a shock, a real shock," Cohen said during a telephone interview. Medley, who teamed with Hatfield 42 years ago, was "broken up. He's not even coherent," Cohen said.

The Righteous Brothers were inducted into the Rock

and Roll Hall of Fame earlier this year.

Their signature 1964 single, "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling," has been cited by numerous sources as the most-programmed song in radio history. Later 1960s hits included "Soul and Inspiration" and "Unchained Melody."

Marines to storm the desert ... again

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon's plan for rotating U.S. troops in Iraq next year includes a return of the Marine Corps and a net reduction in the total American force, officials say.

Marine Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said this week the number of U.S. troops should be cut to about 100,000 by May from the current 130,000.

The reduction contrasts with calls from some in Congress for increased force levels. The Bush administration says it can improve security and stability in Iraq with fewer U.S. forces because it is rapidly increasing the number of Iraqis trained for security missions.

Pace said the number of trained Iraqis, now about 100,000, will reach about 170,000 by May.

The Pentagon has been working for months on a troop rotation plan. It is based on a commitment to keep troops in Iraq for no more than a year at a time.

Officials said Marines will return to Iraq as part of the rotation. They played a key role in the capture of Baghdad and then left Iraq in September.

Benefits for fallen soldiers may double

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As the U.S. death toll rises in Iraq, Congress has approved doubling the death benefit for the families of fallen troops and more tax breaks for military personnel involved in the war against terrorism.

Wednesday's 420-0 vote in the House sends the package of enhanced military benefits to President Bush just a few days ahead of Veterans Day.

Under the bill, families of soldiers killed while on active duty would get a \$12,000 tax-free payment, up from the current \$6,000.

The increased death gratuity, meant to offset the cost of a funeral and other immediate expenses, combines with benefits already available to the survivors of soldiers killed in war. Families typically get payment from a \$250,000 life insurance policy.

Active duty and reserve personnel on standby and on their way to war would benefit from the bill's other changes, which lower taxes on military benefits and expenses.

Soldiers deployed away from home would find it easier to take advantage of tax breaks on capital gains when they sell their houses. The bill suspends a rule that requires homeowners to live in the house during two of the past five years to qualify for the tax break.

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The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



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ACROSS

- 1 Paid driver
- 6 Lessens in intensity
- 11 Cherish
- 12 Spud state
- 13 Kingly
- 14 Ham's need
- 15 River deposit
- 17 Hide
- 18 Not barefoot
- 20 Opposed to
- 22 Charged bit
- 23 Rejuvenated
- 26 Role for Dustin
- 28 Maxim
- 29 Museum show
- 31 Unruly bunch
- 32 Give off
- 33 Nuisance
- 34 Nest resident
- 36 Practice for a bout
- 38 Banish
- 40 Singer Baker
- 43 Senior
- 44 Chops up
- 45 Plow maker John

46 Looks over

DOWN

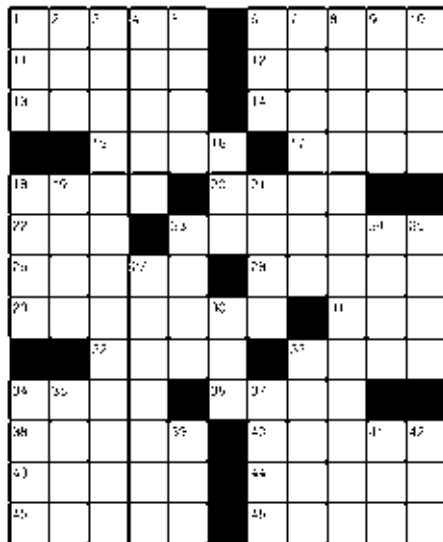
- 1 Road sight
- 2 Fuss
- 3 Whoopi Goldberg film
- 4 Make a rug
- 5 Holter
- 6 SSW, for one
- 7 Rewrote for the screen
- 8 Whoopi Goldberg film
- 9 TV doctor
- 10 Chimney grime
- 16 Road goo
- 18 Father fear
- 19 Dupe
- 21 Tidy target
- 23 Asian expanse
- 24 They may clash
- 25 Red-ink amount
- 27 Less involved
- 30 "— a girl!"

SEMI	STUPOR
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TO PER	AGO
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SPIFFY	TAPE
PAROLE	EVIL
APEXES	SEEP

Yesterday's answer

- 16 Road goo
- 18 Father fear
- 19 Dupe
- 21 Tidy target
- 23 Asian expanse
- 24 They may clash
- 25 Red-ink amount
- 27 Less involved
- 30 "— a girl!"
- 33 Irrational
- 34 Hoe
- 35 Auto part
- 37 Knee protectors
- 39 Before, in poems
- 41 Perfect rating
- 42 Dolt

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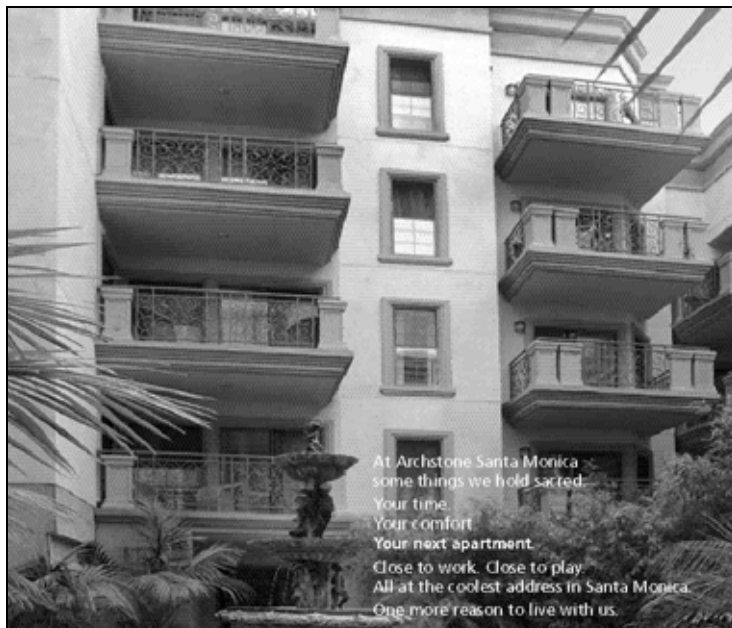
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Hope springs eternal: Airport to honor late comic

By The Associated Press

■ **BURBANK** — Burbank Airport is set to become Bob Hope Airport.

The Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority voted unanimously this week for the name change honoring the late comedian, and it could be effective before the end of the year, pending approval from the three city councils.

Council members from Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena have expressed support for the tribute to Hope, who died of pneumonia at his Toluca Lake home on July 27.

Hope told his family he would appreciate an airport in his name when Orange County officials renamed their airport after his friend John Wayne in 1979. "He was always a little jealous of John Wayne," said Hope's daughter, Linda.

She said Hope often flew in and out of the airport and kept his private jet there.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Mel Gibson is throwing his movie fame behind a television comedy.

Gibson will serve as executive producer of a comedy being developed for ABC about a blue-collar single dad raising five teenage boys on his own, Gibson's Icon Productions announced.

Icon's partner on the project is Universal Network Television.

"It's not every day that Mel Gibson comes by to pitch a television series," Universal Television Productions President David Kissinger said in a statement Wednesday.

The project is being developed as a pilot, and the earliest viewers would see the sitcom is next September. It has yet to be titled or cast.

Gibson has his own large brood of seven children but is raising them with his wife, Robyn.

Icon produced the TV movies "The Three Stooges"

and "Invincible." Its big-screen projects include the upcoming epic "The Passion of Christ," directed by Oscar-winner Gibson ("Braveheart").

The film has drawn complaints from some Jewish leaders, who say it suggests Jews were responsible for Christ's death. Conservative Catholics who have seen the film have called it a powerful rendering of the crucifixion. It opens Feb. 25.

■ **NASHVILLE, Tenn.** — Johnny Cash won the Country Music Association's album of the year, single of the year and video of the year awards Wednesday — capturing his first CMA awards since 1969 and tying Alan Jackson for most wins during the night.

Cash, who died Sept. 12 at age 71 of complications from diabetes, was nominated for four awards and won all but one: vocal event of the year.

The announcements drew a standing ovation at the CMA's 37th Annual Country Music Awards.

Jackson won three awards, including vocal event of the year for his hit duet with Jimmy Buffett, "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere." Jackson also won male vocalist of the year and entertainer of the year.

■ **NASHVILLE, Tenn.** — Police were investigating separate complaints of domestic assault filed by married country music singers Lorrie Morgan and Sammy Kershaw.

Morgan, 44, reported Monday she was assaulted by her husband during an argument in March. She also said Kershaw, 45, yelled and poked his finger into the chest of her 16-year-old son, police spokesman Don Aaron said.

Police helped Morgan get a protection order against her husband of two years, but she told detectives Monday she didn't want to prosecute him criminally.

When officers were at the home that evening to observe the removal of Morgan's tour buses from the property, Kershaw said Morgan had pushed him in the face during an argument Sunday. He filed an order of

protection against Morgan on Tuesday, Aaron said.

A judge will decide the matter at a hearing within 15 days.

Morgan's hits include "What Part of No" and "I Didn't Know My Own Strength." Kershaw has had hits such as "She Don't Know She's Beautiful" and "Love of My Life."

The two have recorded duets including "He Drinks Tequila" and "Maybe Not Tonight."

■ **COHOES, N.Y.** — A rapper and members of his group's entourage were arrested after officers reported finding marijuana, crack cocaine and an illegal handgun in two vans they were using, police said Wednesday.

Albert Johnson, 29, of the rap group Mobb Deep, was charged Saturday with third-degree criminal possession of a weapon and marijuana possession. Johnson, who goes by the stage name Prodigy, was taken to Albany County Jail with bail set at \$25,000.

Dave St. Bernard, a 46-year-old driver for the group, was charged with felony and misdemeanor counts of criminal possession of a controlled substance. He was awaiting bail to be set.

Police made the arrests after receiving a call about two suspicious vehicles parked on the side of a road. Inside the customized vans, officers found "various amounts of marijuana."

Officers said they also found a loaded .25-caliber handgun hidden in one of Johnson's boots, and ammunition and powder and crack cocaine inside a bag belonging to St. Bernard.

Seven men with Johnson and St. Bernard were charged with unlawful possession of marijuana and released without bail.

The group was in Cohoes, near Albany, for a performance.

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