

FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

18 22 26 38 40
Meganumber: 9
Jackpot: \$38 Million

FANTASY 5

4 21 31 32 35

DAILY 3

Daytime: 1 5 1
Evening: 6 5 9

DAILY DERBY

1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 09 Winning Spirit
3rd: 05 California Classic

RACE TIME: 1:45.74

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Most of the Japanese World War II suicide-mission dive-bombers ("kamikazes") were successful, but a few failed pilots are still alive (their missions aborted because of weather or equipment failure), according to a Los Angeles Times dispatch in September. These days, they resent being compared to extremist-Islamic suicide bombers, who, the kamikazes say, act out of hatred rather than love of country and who do not always aim at military-only targets. On the other hand, one of the survivors said that many kamikaze "volunteers" were, contrary to legend, reluctant to die but caught up in patriotic fervor.

TODAY IN HISTORY

■ In 1982, the newly finished Vietnam Veterans Memorial was opened to its first visitors in Washington, D.C.
■ Also in 1982, Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev died at age 75.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Let the world know you as you are, not as you think you should be, because sooner or later, if you are posing, you will forget the pose, and then where are you?"

FANNY BRICE

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Study: More than 1/3 of residents didn't fully vote

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Despite high voter turnout, democracy is not fully alive in Santa Monica.

More than a third of local voters didn't fully weigh in on last week's race for four open seats on the Santa Monica City Council, an analysis of election returns shows. Though some voters apparently

cared only about state and national races, others didn't cast all four votes in the local council race because doing so may have hurt their favored candidates, said Amy Connolly of Santa Monica Ranked Voting, which examined all 66 voting precincts in Santa Monica.

"What's wrong with the system that we have now is we have no assurance that the results give a fair representation for everyone," she said. "And people are compelled to vote strategically, so that they're not necessarily encouraged

to cast all of the votes allotted to them."

Connolly's group is pushing City Hall for an alternative style of voting where residents rank candidates in order of preference. The group hopes to make extinct a practice known as bullet voting, where residents pick just one candidate in order to limit the votes a competitor receives.

Bullet voting has a controversial history. Opponents say it allows sophisticated groups to manipulate elections. Proponents say it's effective and legal.

Preferential voting already is used for national races in Australia and Ireland, and local races in Cambridge, Mass., and New York City, according to Steven Hill, an analyst from the nonprofit organization Center for Voting and Democracy. Last week, San Francisco used a ranked voting system to hold an instant runoff in its board of supervisors race, thereby saving the city from its usual costly and protracted runoff process.

The Santa Monica Ranked Voting study found residents of

See BULLET VOTING, page 5

Dissin' in the wind



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Ayse Arf on Tuesday launches an insult toward out-of-towner 'Robby,' who paid her 50 cents for the abuse. Arf uses her wit to insult and compliment passersby on the Promenade.

City Hall not going down without a fight

Case against landlords headed for Supreme Court

By Daily Press staff

CITY HALL — Rebuffed twice by an appeals court, attorneys here plan to ask California's highest court to uphold a local law aimed at rooting out malicious landlords. The California Second District Court of Appeals last month ruled portions of City Hall's tenant harassment ordinance violated state law by making landlords unduly vulnerable to possible lawsuits. Days later, the City Council voted unanimously to appeal the decision to the California Supreme Court. The council was scheduled to discuss the matter further in a closed session Tuesday night.

At issue is how aggressively City Hall can pursue landlords it believes are harassing local renters. Landlords claimed it's up to the tenant to file lawsuits if they think they've been harassed. Prosecutors maintained that City Hall shares that right.

"The City Council has unanimously authorized this office to seek review in the state Supreme Court, which we will do," Deputy City Attorney Adam Radinsky said Tuesday. "We assume that the fact that the council voted unanimously on this issue reflects their long-standing commitment to preserve the tenant harassment law and to protect tenants from illegal evictions."

Filed in 2002 by the landlord group Action Apartment Association Inc., the lawsuit is being prosecuted by Rosario Perry, an outspoken critic of the tenant harassment ordinance. Perry said City Hall acts like a Mafia boss and strong-arms local landlords by sending threatening letters rather than relying on courtrooms to resolve disputes. Prosecutors have sent out 200 to 250 threatening letters, but filed suit only a handful of times, Perry added.

Those same numbers are viewed differently by prosecutors, who

See HARASS, page 5

Stemming the tide: Research measure sparks academic gold rush

BY PAUL ELIAS

AP Biotechnology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A 21st-century gold rush is on in California after the voters approved \$3 billion for human embryonic stem cell research.

At least one out-of-state biotech

company is already making plans to move to California. Stem cell start-up businesses are expected to emerge. And universities are hoping to recruit some of the field's brightest minds to take part in the biggest state-run research project in U.S. history.

The voters' 59 percent approval

of the bond measure on Election Day represents a resounding rejection of Bush administration policy, which has sharply restricted federal funding for research that involves the destruction of human embryos.

Stem cells can potentially grow into any type of human tissue.

Many scientists believe stem cells could someday be used to repair crippling spinal cord injuries and treat an array of diseases, including diabetes and Parkinson's.

Proponents and critics alike expect the new agency created under the ballot measure, the

See EASY CELL, page 6

Jacquie Banks

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An advertisement for Easton Gym Santa Monica. The ad is enclosed in a double-line border. On the left, there is a black square with a white border. Inside the square, the words "THE EASTON GYM" are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, stacked vertically. Below the text is a small white square containing a black silhouette of a person in a dynamic pose, possibly a dancer or athlete. To the right of this square, the words "EASTON GYM" are written in a very large, bold, black, sans-serif font, with "SANTA MONICA" in a slightly smaller but still large, bold, black, sans-serif font below it. A thin horizontal line separates the gym's name from the address. The address "1233 Third Street Promenade" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, followed by the phone number "310-395-4441" in a larger, bold, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the ad, a black horizontal bar contains the text "Easton Gym is your neighborhood gym." in a white, italicized, sans-serif font. Below this bar, a white horizontal bar contains the text "COMPLETE FITNESS FACILITY • FREE PARKING" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.



HOROSCOPE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Holiday fare for a cause

By Daily Press staff

More than 70 vendors, selling items ranging in price from \$5 to \$5,000, will be featured at the first-ever John Wayne Cancer Institute Auxiliary's Holiday Boutique on Sunday, Nov. 14, 2004, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Westwood's Broxton Avenue — between LeConte and Weyburn — will become an open-air gift shoppers' haven that will include everything from jewelry, designer handbags and clothing, to books, candles and toys. Shoppers are encouraged to bring along their holiday gift lists. Two-hour free parking will be available, as will gift wrapping at a nominal charge.

Twenty percent of all monies raised will support the Santa Monica-based John Wayne Cancer Institute, one of the world's foremost cancer research centers, providing funds for research projects, equipment and fellowships.

The John Wayne Cancer Institute Auxiliary was founded in 1982 when two women who had been treated for breast cancer at the institute pledged to help win the fight against the disease. They asked their friends to join their campaign, and from the original nucleus of 14 women, the auxiliary has grown to more than 800 members. Since its inception, the auxiliary has raised more than \$12 million.

For information, call (310) 829-8324, or visit www.jwci.org.

Bright idea: Professor wins prestigious Scholar Award

By Daily Press staff

English professor Karin Costello has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright Scholar award to be a lecturer at Intercollege in Nicosia, Cyprus, next January through May.

She will lead a workshop where Greek- and Turkish-Cypriot students read and write about family, culture, customs, conflict and choices to gain intercultural understanding.

Costello, who has taught at SMC since 1986, will accompany her husband Ed, an arbitrator who also will be on a Fulbright, working in the Cypriot legal community on issues of conflict resolution, and introducing arbitration and mediation as an alternative to litigation.

Costello, a Santa Monica resident, received her bachelor's degree in English from the University of California at Berkeley and her master's and doctorate degrees in English from Columbia University in New York.

Her honors include Woodrow Wilson Fellow, Phi Beta Kappa, Faculty Fellow at Columbia and Anne Sampson Honorary Scholarship at Berkeley.

Aside from SMC, she also has taught English at UCLA and UCLA Extension. From 1979 to 1985, she developed and administered UCLA extension's communications and learning skills program, as well as the writers program.

Costello is one of approximately 800 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad to some 140 countries this school year through the Fulbright Scholar Program. Established in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Senator William J. Fulbright of Arkansas, the program seeks to build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other nations.

Prominent Fulbright Scholar alumni include Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman; Rita Dove, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet; and Craig Barrett, CEO of Intel Corp.



KARIN COSTELLO

CORRECTIONS — In the Nov. 8 edition, City Councilman-elect Bobby Shriver was incorrectly credited with receiving the most votes in Santa Monica history. That distinction belongs to Ken Edwards, with 25,780 votes in 1984.

■ In the Nov. 9 edition, the proceeds of a craft sale at Santa Monica First Presbyterian Church, scheduled for this upcoming Saturday, was inaccurately stated to benefit a separate establishment.



SURF REPORT

On Wednesday, look for 2-3 ft., knee- to chest-high sets, occasionally 4 ft., and fair conditions.

Both the SW and WNW swells should come up a bit more. A slightly stronger WNW swell is possible as we move into the second half of the week. Look for a bit more consistency on Thursday with similar sized SW surf.

Today the water is:

64°

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

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	11:19	2.8	11:20	0.7	5:55	4.3	4:31	4.2
SUNDAY	11:57	2.1	11:51	0.7	6:08	4.7	5:29	4.4
MONDAY	N/A	N/A	12:33	1.4	6:25	5.1	6:18	4.5
TUESDAY	12:20	0.8	1:08	0.7	6:44	5.5	7:05	4.5
WEDNESDAY	12:49	1.0	1:45	0.0	7:08	6.0	7:51	4.5
THURSDAY	1:18	1.2	2:25	-0.6	7:35	6.4	8:39	4.4
FRIDAY	1:50	1.5	3:08	-0.9	8:06	6.7	7:51	4.5

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The Q Line

Even though the votes are in for the City Council race, there's still much debate as to what the election results really mean for Santa Monica. Voters on Nov. 2, in addition to re-electing three incumbents, overwhelmingly supported newcomer Bobby Shriver, who received votes from more than half of the Santa Monicans who turned out at the polls.

So this week Q-Line wants to know, "What do you think these results mean?"

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

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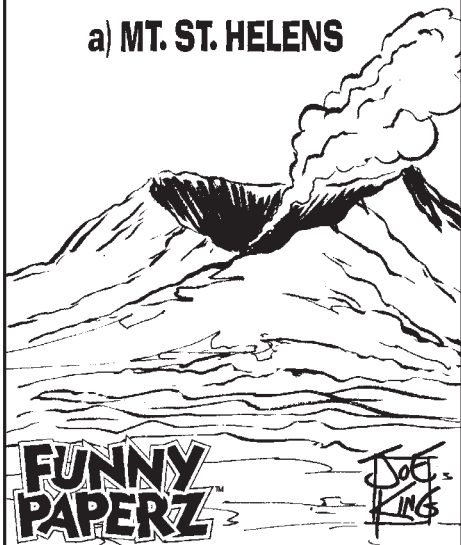
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OPINION

WHICH CLOUD WILL ATTRACT
MORE MEDIA ATTENTION?

a) MT. ST. HELENS



b) NORTH KOREA



"I'VE LOOKED AT CLOUDS FROM BOTH SIDES NOW..."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How quickly they forget

Editor:

The Daily Press (SMDP, Nov. 8, page 1) informed us about the great victory of future councilman Bobby Shriver, and on page 8 your newspaper has a quote from Shriver:

"They clearly want something," he said. "They want something that they think I am going to get them."

Strange statement, for sure, if I remember correctly, future councilman Shriver said that he will take care of the homeless. Now he tells us that "clearly we want something?" How about "giving us" what his brochures stated he would "give," or better do, for the city of Santa Monica if he was elected? How fast one forgets when one is elected.

Maria Sirotti
Santa Monica

Dumb and dumber

Editor:

Well, we're stuck with Bush for four more years. It's going to be hell. The Bush people were very clever at deceiving the American people and their smear campaign against Kerry, plus their anti-gay propositions in several states seemed to have gotten a lot of people to vote against their best interests. Many of these people are working for lousy wages or don't even have a job, but they're happy because they're stopping gays from getting married.

Most of these fools who voted for Bush signed death certificates for their loved ones because Bush is clueless about how to succeed in foreign affairs. A draft is inevitable in order for Bush to "save" the world from "evil doers."

But thank God Sen. John Kerry lost. He, like Bush, argued for "staying the course" in Iraq. But most experts say that we can't win an occupation of Iraq.

So a bad situation likely will get worse and be blamed on Bush by most Americans. At the moment of their greatest victory, I see the seeds being sown for the demise of the Republican party and the inevitable persecution of fundamentalists of all religious persuasions. Ironically, these dumb animals are being led to the slaughter by people who are only nominally conservative and religious.

John Wisdom Dancer
Canoga Park

**GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?
SOUND OFF IN THE DAILY PRESS!**

PLEASE SEND LETTERS TO:

Santa Monica Daily Press: Attn. Editor
1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202
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Or email: sack@smdp.com

Just do it: Homeless need to be eradicated



INCITES

BY ED SILVERSTEIN

A man stands in front of the entrance to Vons raising money for a local church. Without warning, a deranged homeless man races up behind and punches him repeatedly in the face. The victim is slammed to the ground, but his attacker continues to kick him in the head until store employees and customers pull him away. The attack is totally unprovoked. It could have been my wife. It could have been your child.

DO SOMETHING

A disturbed homeless woman bursts into Lincoln Elementary School and races about screaming and threatening the occupants of the classroom until police haul her away. This time, it was at night. This time, the frightened victims are not children, but seniors, members of the Santa Monica College Emeritus Band. What about next time?

DO SOMETHING

A transient arrives from Burbank seeking friendlier streets, making them less so for the rest of us. Already on probation for weapons violations and grand theft auto, he is picked up for the Santa Monica high crime of smoking a cigarette in a public park. Oh, and by the way, he's carrying a loaded semi-automatic pistol and drugs packaged for sale.

DO SOMETHING

A little girl hugs her mother lovingly, beaming for all the world. In the next instant, the smile is gone, her innocent features crumbled in shock as a nearby homeless man bellows obscenities and bigotry, words that would be censored by this paper, but are daily fare on our streets. A few days later the scene is repeated with a young boy and his father. And again this weekend, when a tiny girl covers her ears against a verbal barrage while her father watches helplessly.

DO SOMETHING

I take my 5-year-old nephew to practice soccer in Reed Park. The entire lawn is littered with reeking, drunken bodies on filthy blankets surrounded by garbage. There is no place for a child to play — this is no place for a child to play.

DO SOMETHING

The latest election has left us with a City Council little changed, but now they must change. Excuses can no longer be accepted. Nor can we continue to delay by conjuring up the utopia of a regional solution. The City Council must ...

DO SOMETHING ... NOW

Overwhelmed police and social services are no longer able to identify and provide real care for those in temporary

economic need, fleeing abusive relationships, the mentally ill and substance abusers seeking a cure. The homeless population must be reduced to a manageable level — less than half the current level — and the criminal element eliminated. And other solutions should be found to deal with the chronic homeless who suck up resources, but are beyond, or do not desire, help.

Such a reduction will require draconian measures, societal triage and visionary leaders. The streets must become less welcoming, less tolerant of anti-social behavior. Social services need to be accountable. If they refuse to track the success of their programs or provide information on who is using their services, stop funding them.

It is ludicrous to spend millions building a shelter with 50 beds on some of the most expensive real estate in the world, when we could band together with other local communities to build hundreds of units of permanent single room occupancy housing in less desirable outlying areas. Or, as incoming City Councilman Bobby Shriver has suggested, use the vacant VA buildings for shelters and feedings.

Nuisance crimes, public intoxication, public urination or defecation, and disorderly conduct such as yelling obscenities around children, should be prosecuted. Even the mentally ill are capable of restraint if boundaries are well defined and maintained. And put an end to the policy of allowing an unproven claim of a medical condition to act as a get out of jail free card. Increased liability will be offset by a reduction in arrests and prosecutions of these chronic offenders.

Santa Monica should toughen and aggressively enforce our existing laws concerning sleeping in doorways. And large outdoor feedings should be ended unless they are attached to services.

Work programs should be required for receiving state or local financial aid. Let the homeless clean up litter and graffiti. Or consider leasing acreage and teaching them farming. The crops could be sold at our local farmers' markets and the profits used to fund other programs.

Solutions will require out of-the-box thinking. To stop transients from setting up camp in our parks, erect fences and close the parks at night. If lawsuits paralyze the city's efforts to regulate public spaces, then lease public places, such as the Promenade, to private groups. If our laws are repeatedly challenged in court, then use poison pill strategies such as taking all legal costs associated with defending these laws directly from the social services budget.

If these measures seem harsh, if it seems that people in Santa Monica have lost their compassion, it is because we have been relentlessly assaulted by far more than our fair share of this crushing blight. If we are to regain our humanity, our desire to help these often pitiful and desperate souls, then it is up to the City Council to ...

DO SOMETHING.

(Send comments or requests for copies of this column to incites@incites.net)

LOCAL



Voting system will get test run in next election

BULLET VOTING, from page 1

two local neighborhoods consistently undervoted more than elsewhere. Citywide, 37 percent of residents undervoted, but in the Pico and Wilshire-Montana neighborhoods, that number jumped to 40 percent and 42 percent, respectively.

In one Pico neighborhood precinct, that number jumped even higher, to 51 percent. That precinct was one of a handful not carried by City Councilman-elect Bobby Shriver. It was taken instead by Maria Loya, a Pico neighborhood activist who last summer was bullet-voted onto a slate backed by Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, a powerful tenant group with deep ties to City Hall.

The percentages were calculated by comparing the number of ballots cast with the total number of possible votes. The figures are not exactly accurate, as it's not immediately clear if a voter skipped the council section completely or if partial voters picked one, two or three candidates. Still, Connolly said at a bare minimum nearly a quarter of Santa Monica residents undervoted, and likely many more. The percentages cited were a best estimate that took into account all the various factors, she added.

Under the preferential voting model, candidates could rank each candidate on the ballot. Once it had been determined if the voter's first-choice candidate either would be elected or didn't have a chance of garnering enough votes, the second-choice candidate would be considered.

While the model would nullify the power of a bullet vote, it also could confuse voters, said Robert Stern of the non-profit Center for Governmental Studies.

"Most people would not cast a ballot all the way down," said Stern, a former 15-year resident of Santa Monica who still follows local politics. "It would slow things down and voters would not be happy about that. It's hard enough choosing the four you have to vote for. Can you imagine trying to decide whether to rank a

Undervoted

Percentages of voters who didn't cast all four of their votes in last week's City Council race, by neighborhood:

North of Montana	30.7%
Ocean Park	35.1%
Pico neighborhood	39.7%
Sunset Park	31.7%
Wilshire/Montana	41.7%

(Source: An analysis of election returns performed by Santa Monica Ranked Voting.)

candidate 15th or 16th? Who cares at that point?

"I think for Santa Monica, the way they run the election now, citywide and you vote for four, it's much shorter. I'm not sure it would change things or provide that much more of an advantage to the system."

Hill countered that voters would not have to rank every candidate on the ballot. Voters could rank only four and be sure that their second-, third- and fourth-choice candidates wouldn't undermine their first choice. However, Hill admits the biggest challenge would be educating voters on how to use the system.

As a result, Connolly said the group aims to give preferential voting an unofficial test run in the next local election, alongside the traditional system. Sometime in the next few months, Santa Monica Ranked Voting plans to ask the City Council to study the matter further. Some 33 residents, including some elected leaders, are on the group's mailing list and many meet for monthly meetings.

"We're hoping that maybe the council will vote to put the issue on the ballot eventually," Connolly said. "We're very encouraged that Santa Monica should be ready to consider choice voting in the next couple of years."

Harassment suit headed to state's highest court

HARASS, from page 1

said the low number of lawsuits proves the system is working and tenants are being protected from unruly landlords looking to profit off of vacancy decontrol. Radinsky said City Hall receives about 100 complaints each year under the tenant harassment ordinance, but has pressed charges only about 15 times.

City Hall's tenant harassment ordinance has been challenged three times before and each time the city has prevailed, according to Radinsky.

Local landlord Doreen Dennis is co-plaintiff in Action's lawsuit against City Hall, a suit tossed out twice at the trial court level before being passed onto the

appellate court, where it was considered twice. Perry said Dennis signed onto the lawsuit when City Hall threatened to pursue her criminally after she tried to evict a tenant in her building on Maple Street in Sunset Park. Dennis wanted to oust the tenant so her daughter could move into the four-unit building, Perry added.

In order to keep its tenant harassment law intact, City Hall will have to convince the Supreme Court that the contested portion of the law, which prohibits landlords from maliciously taking action to evict a tenant, is fair to landlords. The appellate court ruled that part of the ordinance jeopardized free access to the courts.

— John Wood

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CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2!



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STATE

State to create agency to dole out \$300M annually

EASY CELL, from page 1

California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, to serve as a state version of the National Institutes of Health.

But myriad questions remain to be resolved as election night euphoria gives way to the hard work of creating an agency that can dole out \$300 million a year in grants for 10 years.

No one is sure when the first dollar will be allocated or where the agency will be located, though biotechnology booster groups from San Diego to the San Francisco Bay Area are working on their sales pitches.

University of California officials said the measure will help them attract top stem cell researchers to the state and encourage talented undergraduates to enter the field.

"California will be the epicenter of stem cell research in the future," said Dr.

Edward Holmes, medical school dean at UC-San Diego. "Many people were reticent to move into this field, but this will attract some of the best and brightest young minds."

Worcester, Mass.-based Advanced Cell Technology, said it will soon open a California laboratory so it can apply for grants. Its chief executive has already moved to the San Francisco Bay area, and the company is trying to line up financing from California investors.

"It's a very favorable environment, and this could serve as a wake-up call for the rest of the country," said Dr. Robert Lanza, Advanced Cell's research chief.

Lanza also said he has been approached by California venture capitalists and other investors to launch a stem cell start-up company. He said he declined the offer.

Proposition 71 foes worry that long before any useful therapies are discovered, most of the benefits will go to ven-

ture capitalists and others with ties to the biotechnology industry, who contributed \$28 million to get the measure approved.

"Many questions remain unanswered about conflicts of interest among the scientist-entrepreneurs promoting Proposition 71, about the high cost of any treatments that are eventually developed, and about health risks to women from whom eggs for research cloning will be obtained," said Marcy Darnovsky of the Center for Genetics and Society in Oakland, which opposed the measure.

The newly created institute can employ no more than 50 people and will be managed by a 29-member board to be appointed over the next 40 days. The board will name the agency's chairman and a vice chairman, key appointments that could devolve into political fighting.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, a Republican who broke ranks with his own party to endorse the measure, gets to

appoint five people to the board. Other appointments will be made by UC's five medical schools, the lieutenant governor, the treasurer, the controller and the leaders of the Assembly and Senate.

Schwarzenegger's office said it was premature to speculate about any of his appointments.

On Friday, state Controller Steve Westly made Stanford University medical school dean Phil Pizzo the board's first appointee.

Robert Klein II, a Palo Alto real estate developer who contributed \$3 million to the cause and served as the campaign's chairman, has said he may lobby to lead the stem cell board. He is a major Democratic donor and has made large contributions to the lieutenant governor, treasurer and controller. Klein's son has diabetes.

Once the board is in place, it will appoint two key committees — one responsible for doling out research grants, the other for funding laboratory construction.

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Spread the news: Killer grass invades the San Francisco Bay

BY TERENCE CHEA

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — An exotic marsh grass is spreading throughout San Francisco Bay more rapidly than anticipated, threatening native plants and birds and prompting an urgent search for ways to eradicate it.

Spartina alterniflora, also known as Atlantic cordgrass, has expanded from 470 acres in 2000 to an estimated 2,000 acres in 2003, according to the California Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Estuary Invasive Spartina Project. Those 2,000 acres are distributed over 69,000 acres of tidal marsh and mudflats throughout the bay.

"We're at the beginning of an explosive expansion of this plant," said Peggy Olofson, the project's director.

Spartina experts from around the world are meeting in San Francisco this week to discuss ways to eradicate the foreign invader and its hybrid offspring.

Atlantic cordgrass is a fast-growing weed that can grow up to 7 feet tall and cover mudflats in dense meadows that can have a profound impact on an ecosystem. Some countries import the weed to convert marsh into solid land.

Atlantic cordgrass was introduced in

San Francisco Bay three decades ago to combat erosion and has since become the most dangerous nonnative species to take root there. It grows faster, denser and taller than its native counterpart, Spartina foliosa, which forms critical habitat for an assortment of shorebirds, fish and other wildlife.

Even more distressing, the East Coast cordgrass has mixed with native species and spawned hybrids that grow faster and stronger than their parents.

If left alone, the invader could destroy thousands of acres of bird and wildlife habitat, extinguish native plant species and clog tidal creeks and flood control channels. Researchers are worried about the impact on migratory birds because San Francisco Bay is considered the West Coast's most important estuary for such birds.

The advancing cordgrass invasion also threatens efforts to restore thousands of acres of wetlands around San Francisco Bay. The intruder has infested all 33 marshes where restoration work is currently underway, Olofson said.

"It's a huge headache, and it's still in its relative infancy," said Peter Alexander, a spartina control manager at the East Bay Regional Park District. "It's absolutely a battle. It's a battle against time because it's doubling every year."

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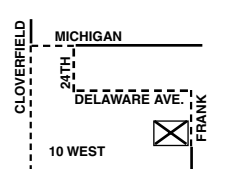
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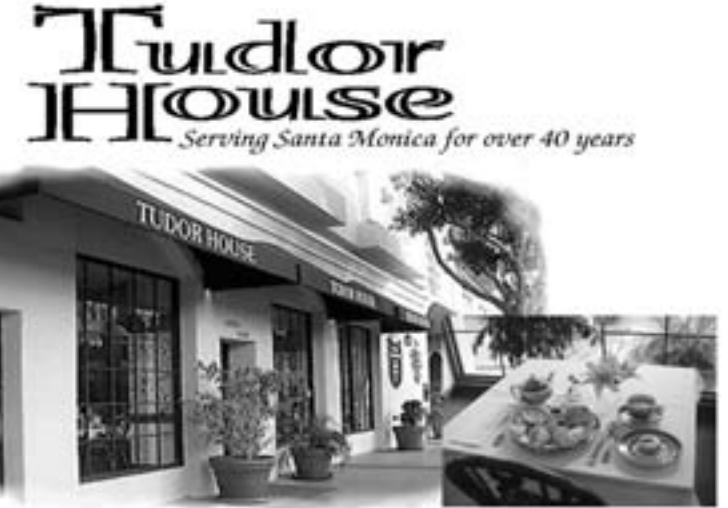
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STATE



Disney aims to capture the elusive boys market

BY GARY GENTILE

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — While little girls gleefully wear Cinderella's gown, don Jasmine's slippers or otherwise play with toys from the panoply of Disney Princess characters, little boys are not clamoring for Prince Charming merchandise.

"Boys don't seem that enamored of princes," said Robert Iger, president of The Walt Disney Co.

That gender divide is a problem for Disney, which did score a hit with boys with the "Toy Story" movies of the 1990s but which has faltered in recent years with action adventure films such as the animated "Atlantis: The Lost Empire" and "Treasure Planet." Its Princess line of tiaras, flouncy gowns, toys, books and videos, meanwhile, is a worldwide business generating sales of more than \$2 billion annually for Disney and its licensees.

Disney is hoping for a turnaround in this trend with the testosterone-driven "The Incredibles," the fourth film from its five-picture deal with Pixar Animation Studio. "The Incredibles" debuted this weekend to a whopping \$70.7 million and is supported by one of the largest marketing campaigns ever for an animated film and with a line of action figures, remote control cars and video games aimed at boys.

Next year's "Cars," also a Disney-Pixar product, is expected to be even more appealing to boys. By then, Disney will have switched its master toy contract for feature films from Hasbro Inc. to Mattel Inc., which is planning to use its Hot Wheels car line to market the film.

"I think Michael (Disney CEO Michael Eisner) looked at those last two movies, and we certainly looked at them from the consumer products side, and said, 'These are right in the sweet spot of what boys do,'" Disney Consumer Products chairman Andy Mooney said. "These are the first ones that we've seen that are very distinctively boy, even more, I think, than 'Toy Story' was."

Characters from "Toy Story" and "Toy Story 2," including Woody and Buzz Lightyear, have been perennial boy favorites since the first movie debuted in 1995.

But Woody and Buzz are an exception. Disney's cupboards are filled with characters that appeal to girls, including Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck. The Winnie the Pooh characters are skewed heavily to girls. The girls market for toys, books, videos and other products is at least twice the size as that for boys, especially products closely associated with a character, such as Snow White or Belle from "Beauty and the Beast."

Boys are more elusive, in part because they outgrow particular characters more quickly as their attention shifts to sports and other interests. Boys also don't respond as much as girls do to products based on a single movie — not even films such as "The Hulk" or "Harry Potter."

With "Toy Story," Disney kept the franchise alive with direct-to-video sequels and a TV show, essential elements to building long-term revenue from characters. It is planning at least two more sequels.

Disney also had success with boys when it translated its 2002 animated fea-

ture "Lilo & Stitch" into a TV show centered on the mischievous "Stitch" character.

The company's approach to character marketing and licensing has changed since it hired Mooney, a Nike marketing veteran, in 2000. While Snow White, Ariel and similar characters had been around for years, no one had thought of marketing them under one umbrella; now they're all part of the Princess line.

Disney didn't have the same option given its dearth of boy-oriented characters and, in fact, failed to develop a battalion of toys, costumes, games and other items geared to last year's surprise smash hit, "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl."

It doesn't intend to repeat the mistake.

"Given the fact that we have sequels in the works, we have an opportunity to create a pirates franchise as we did with princesses," Iger said. "What I would love is to have any boy in the world who thinks of pirates to think of ... Disney pirates."

Iger established a regular monthly meeting of department heads to focus on the company's character franchises and to develop movies, TV shows, books, toys and other ways to expand market share. One meeting focused exclusively on boys.

"We don't have the strength in terms of core set of character assets to just snap or fingers and end up with an umbrella over the boys category," Iger said.

Disney is in the process of either creating or buying boy-friendly franchises and characters.

On television, the company has created the Jetix brand to group its slate of boys shows, including "Power Rangers," which it acquired as part of its purchase of Fox Family Worldwide in 2001. Jetix appears on the ABC Family cable channel as well as Toon Disney.

"We wanted a complementary brand that gave us more freedom to reach boys through action adventure and outrageous comedy," said Rich Ross, president of Disney Channel Worldwide.

While the Disney cable channel is skewed 60/40 in favor of girls with such shows as "Lizzie McGuire" and "Kim Possible," the goal is to have the Jetix shows skew 70/30 to boys, Ross said.

The channel recently launched a new series, "Super Robot Monkey Team," drawn in a Japanese anime style popular with boys.

From a merchandising standpoint, Disney knows it would be hard to replicate with boys' toys the magnitude of the success it has had with the Princess line. Mooney is shooting for a few smaller successful boy franchises that will add up over the next five years.

"Given the scale of our business, I'm always looking for franchises that can be \$1 billion," in retail sales Mooney said.

Mooney, with his experience marketing athletic equipment, says he understands the play patterns of boys.

"We're pretty simple animals — let's build things up, tear things down, fight and race and play sports," Mooney says with a laugh. "There's not much else we really get into."

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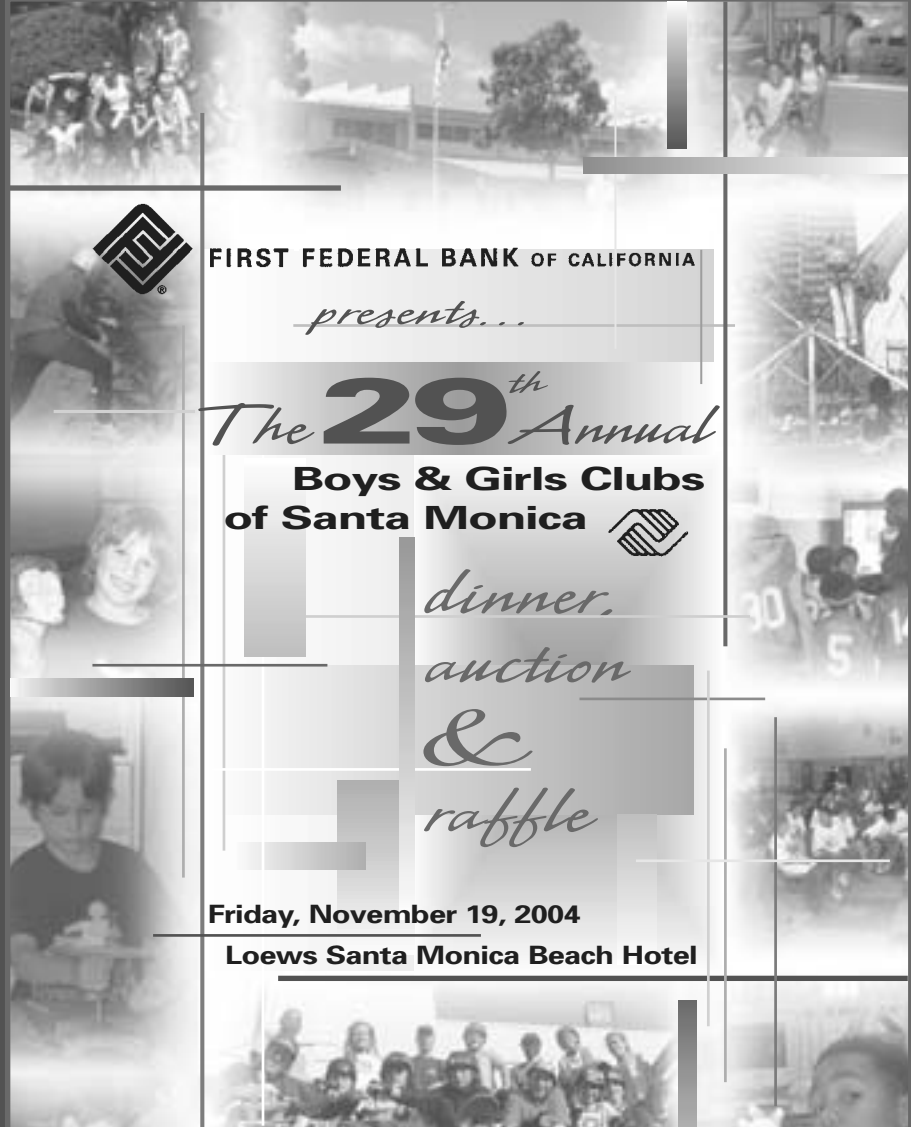


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STATE

STATE BRIEFS

Marine defends himself in treatment of prisoner

By The Associated Press

CAMP PENDLETON — A Marine major implicated in the death of an Iraqi prisoner testified this week at his own court-martial that he believed the prisoner was uncooperative and faking illness, but that he never intended to harm the man.

Maj. Clarke Paulus of New Hope, Pa., is accused of ordering a subordinate to drag the Iraqi, Nagem Hatab, by the neck out of a holding cell in southern Iraq last year. The Iraqi died a few hours later at the Marine detention facility known as Camp Whitehorse.

Paulus' testimony before a jury of eight Marine Corps officers, ranging in rank from major to colonel, came on the first day of the defense's presentation of its case. The prosecution rested on Friday and the military judge, Col. Robert Chester, reduced the most serious charge against Paulus from aggravated assault to assault and battery.

A military forensics examiner found Hatab suffered a broken bone in his neck, causing him to suffocate. But the judge barred all medical evidence from the trial because some of Hatab's body parts, which were key pieces of evidence, have been lost.

Before the judge's ruling, Paulus had been facing up to four and a half years in prison. He now faces a maximum of one and a half years.

Kobe accuser eyes the Golden State

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The woman who accused Kobe Bryant of rape may file a lawsuit against him in Orange County because California does not limit the amount of financial damages a person can recover, her lawyer said.

The 20-year-old woman sued Bryant in federal court in Denver last August, three weeks before prosecutors dropped their criminal case against the basketball star after she declined to testify at his trial. If she continues with her civil suit in that state the most she can hope to receive is about \$2.5 million if a jury finds in her favor.

"The limits in Colorado are onerous and unfair," her attorney Lin Wood told the Los Angeles Times on Sunday. "I'm not sure my client could achieve justice. There is a night and day difference in terms of compensation."

The woman said Bryant raped her on June 30, 2003, in his room at a Vail-area resort where she worked. The Los Angeles Lakers star has said the two engaged in consensual sex.

Ousted Schwab CEO still cashing in

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Cost-cutting stock brokerage Charles Schwab Corp. is keeping its recently ousted chief executive David Pottruck on its payroll under a \$10 million contract that also contains potentially lucrative stock awards.

The San Francisco-based company outlined its arrangement with Pottruck in a quarterly report filed Monday, nearly four months after Schwab's dissatisfied board demanded his resignation.

Pottruck helped build Schwab into one of the nation's best-known brokerages, but a prolonged financial funk marked by steadily declining revenue, a crumbling stock price and thousands of employee layoffs culminated in his abrupt departure in late July.

Less than two weeks after Pottruck stepped down as CEO, Schwab drew up a new 30-month contract requiring him to perform an unspecified set of duties to be defined by his replacement, company founder Charles Schwab.

The deal included a lump sum payment of \$6.2 million and a raise from the \$1 million salary that Pottruck received as Schwab's CEO. Effective Oct. 1, the new contract raised Pottruck's monthly salary to \$135,714, or \$1.63 million annually. The deal runs through January 2007.

Meanwhile, Schwab continues to jettison other employees in a purge that began in 2001. The company ended September with 14,800 employees, down from 26,300 workers at the end of 2000. Schwab expects to eliminate an additional 400 to 500 jobs by year's end.

Share and share unlike

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A disparate group made up of dozens of state attorneys general, labor unions, retailers, professional sports leagues and others urged the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday to hear a claim brought by the recording and film industries against two Internet file-sharing firms.

In several legal briefs filed with the court, the petitioners stressed the justices should take the entertainment companies' case and finally resolve conflicting lower court rulings on file-sharing, said Steven Marks, general counsel for the Recording Industry Association of America.

The filings are designed to support a petition made last month by a coalition of major recording companies and Hollywood movie studios who asked the court to reverse lower court decisions clearing Grokster Ltd. and StreamCast Networks Inc. of liability for their customers' online swapping of movies and music.

Grokster distributes file-sharing software of the same name; StreamCast distributes a program called Morpheus.

In August, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco upheld a Los Angeles federal judge's ruling in a copyright lawsuit brought by the entertainment industry against Grokster Ltd. and StreamCast Networks Inc.

STATE



LA couple seeks same religious tax write-offs as Scientologists

BY PAUL CHAVEZ

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — A lawyer for an Orthodox Jewish couple claimed this week that the Internal Revenue Service has violated the First Amendment by refusing to allow tax deductions for their children's religious schooling.

The IRS should allow the deductions because it permits members of the Church of Scientology to write off the cost of spiritual counseling sessions, attorney Jeffrey Zuckerman said during the first day of a non-jury trial in U.S. Tax Court before Judge John O. Colvin.

The First Amendment prohibits the IRS from discriminating on the basis of religion, Zuckerman said.

Michael and Marla Sklar of Los Angeles brought the lawsuit after the IRS ruled their deductions were invalid because Jewish school tuition was considered payment for a service, not a charitable contribution.

Louis B. Jack, an attorney for the IRS, said during his opening statement that a ruling in the Sklars' favor would lead "millions of Americans to start deducting religious school tuition."

"Existing case law is clear, deduction for religious school tuition is illegal, period," Jack said.

Michael Sklar, an accountant, testified that he amended his 1991 tax return in 1993 to claim a portion of his children's tuition as a charitable contribution.

"I believed it was a valid deduction," he said. "The same benefit is given to a particular sect, Scientologists, and there's no reason it shouldn't be applied to someone else."

A telephone call Monday to Monique Yingling, attorney for the Church of Scientology International, was not immediately returned. The church, which was founded in 1954 by science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard, is not a

party to the lawsuit.

Sklar amended his return after the IRS in 1993 reached a private agreement with the Church of Scientology giving it tax-exempt status. The agreement marked the end of a decades-long dispute characterized by Scientologists as a "war" against the IRS.

Sklar was allowed to claim the deduction for several years, but after an audit of his 1994 return, the IRS disallowed the deduction.

The Sklars sued in 1997 and the case ended up in tax court where Sklar represented himself and lost. He appealed the ruling, but a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the tax court ruling.

Sklar argued that the tuition was a charitable contribution and could be deducted because his children received an "intangible religious benefit."

The current lawsuit before Colvin was filed in 2001 over a 1995 tax return in which the Sklars claimed about \$15,000 in religious deductions for four of their children. The couple would have saved about \$3,200 in actual taxes if the IRS had granted the deductions.

Zuckerman said that during the trial he would show the similarities between Scientology's religious instruction and the religious instruction received by the Sklar children.

"Every practitioner of every religion has the right to deduct religious instruction, if the Church of Scientology is allowed to do that," Zuckerman said.

Colvin will not allow testimony in the case from the Church of Scientology, Zuckerman said.

The secret agreement between the IRS and Scientology also may or may not be admitted as evidence. Zuckerman submitted a copy of the agreement, which had been leaked to the Wall Street Journal, but Jack objected.

The judge said he would consider if it could be admitted into the court record.

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NATIONAL



A bolstered Bush looks anew at refuge drilling

BY H. JOSEF HEBERT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Republican gains in the Senate could give President Bush his best chance yet to achieve his No. 1 energy priority — opening an oil-rich but environmentally sensitive Alaska wildlife refuge to drilling.

If he is successful, it would be a stinging defeat for environmentalists and an energy triumph that eluded Bush his first four years in the White House. A broader agenda that includes reviving nuclear power, preventing blackouts and expanding oil and gas drilling in the Rockies will be more difficult to enact.

Republicans in the House and Senate said this week they plan to push for Alaska refuge drilling legislation early next year, and they predict success, given the 55-44-1 GOP Senate majority in the next Congress. Democrats and some environmental activists say continued protection of the refuge has never been as much in doubt.

"It's probably the best chance we've had," Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Calif., chairman of the House Resources Committee and a vocal drilling advocate, said in an interview.

Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, said he will press to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) as part of the government's budget deliberations early in 2005. That would enable drilling proponents to skirt an otherwise certain Democratic-led filibuster that would be difficult to overcome.

"With oil trading at nearly \$50 a barrel, the case for

ANWR is more compelling than ever," said Domenici. "We have the technology to develop oil without harming the environment and wildlife."

Bush is also expected in his second term to renew his call for action by Congress on a broader, largely pro-production, energy agenda — from easing rules for oil and gas drilling on federal land in the Rocky Mountains to expanding clean-coal technology and improving the reliability of the electricity grid.

New tax incentives to spur construction of next-generation nuclear power plants also will be back on the table after Democrats and some moderate Republicans scuttled it last year. Greater use of corn-based ethanol in gasoline also has wide support at the White House and in Congress.

Drilling in the Alaska refuge has been all but dismissed as unachievable since drilling opponents two years ago beat back a pro-development measure by a 52-48 vote. Bush did not make an issue of the refuge during the presidential campaign.

But with four new GOP senators expected to support ANWR drilling and the loss of a Republican moderate who opposed it, drilling advocates believe they now have at least 52 votes in the Senate, enough to get the measure through Congress as part of the budget process. By Senate rules, opponents of drilling cannot filibuster a budget measure. ANWR qualifies as a budget measure because it will generate income for the government from oil companies.

Environmentalists already are gearing up to wage an intense lobbying campaign to keep oil rigs out of the refuge's coastal plain, a breeding ground for caribou, home to polar bears and musk oxen and site of an annu-

al influx of millions of migratory birds.

"This is as serious a threat to the refuge as any that has come before," said Jim Waltman of the National Wildlife Federation. "But the facts haven't changed. This is still a magnificent area and it can still be damaged by oil drilling."

But geologists believe 11 billion barrels of oil lie beneath the refuge's tundra and ice, and drilling supporters contend they can be tapped without damage to the environment or wildlife.

Regardless the outcome in the Alaska refuge dispute, the path to getting a comprehensive energy bill is likely to be full of potholes. Twice in the last four years lawmakers have agreed on 85 percent or more of an energy package only to see final action derailed over narrow, although intensely contentious, issues.

Some lawmakers, including Sen. Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico, senior Democrat on the Energy Committee, which will write the legislation, argue that lawmakers should focus instead on passing separate bills on the most urgent and widely supported measures.

Some of that already has occurred, such as the recently approved loan guarantees for a proposed \$20 billion natural gas pipeline from Alaska to the lower 48 states.

Despite the GOP's new strength, Senate Democrats can still put the brakes on energy measures they strongly oppose through filibusters such as the one that blocked an energy bill in 2003. The issue then in dispute was liability protection for makers of the MTBE gasoline additives, which have been found to contaminate water systems.

However, given the stronger GOP majority, sustaining such filibusters may be more difficult.

Mount Rainier shakes with quake under crater

BY ERIN VAN BRONKHORST

Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE — Mount Rainier shook with a 3.2-magnitude earthquake under the volcanic crater, but scientists said Tuesday that the quake is not related to activity at Mount St. Helens and does not signal an eruption soon.

The small quake at 11:23 a.m. Sunday was centered one mile below the surface of Rainier's volcanic crater, said Bill Steele, coordinator of the Pacific Northwest Seismograph Network at the University of Washington.

"Directly under the volcano, that's a significant size," Steele said. One other 3.2-magnitude quake has been recorded at the mountain in the past 30 years: on Feb. 19, 2002.

Sunday's quake occurred within a cluster of 17 to 18 shallow temblors, most of which occurred over several hours, he said.

"This doesn't mean there's an increased chance of eruption, but we will watch it carefully," he said.

Steele said quake activity at Rainier has increased over normal levels in recent weeks. Five quakes greater than magnitude 2.0 were recorded Oct. 25-31, he said.

But Mount Rainier calmed down Monday and has been "blessedly quiet" since, he said.

Scientists are watching for continuing earthquakes near the volcano's surface and a particular type of seismic activity that results from fluid moving through rocks. Those clues might signal an eruption, Steele said.

"Mount Rainier has been quiet for a long time and it would take a lot of pounding away from magma (molten rock) to work its way up toward the summit," he said.

Rainier is considered the most hazardous of all Cascade Range volcanoes because debris flows could affect thousands of people living in nearby communities, he said.

"We hope to have weeks to months of warning, and

perhaps even a year, but volcanoes can move pretty quickly and so we're always keeping an eye out," Steele said.

Mount Rainier, which has been volcanically active for between a million and a half years, last erupted about 150 years ago and scientists say it's likely to erupt again at some point.

The quakes are not related to activity at Mount St. Helens, 50 miles south of Rainier, said seismologist Seth Moran at the U.S. Geological Survey's Cascades Volcano Observatory in Vancouver, Wash.

St. Helens continued Tuesday to build its lava dome, with molten rock reaching the surface at the rate of 7 to 8 cubic meters — about one large dump-truck load — per second.

"It's certainly tempting to think there might be connection," Moran told the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. "But there's no evidence of any link between the two. ... They have completely separate plumbing systems."

The magma originates in the same place, deep below the surface.

West of the Cascade volcanoes, the Juan de Fuca plate is sliding southeast and underneath the North America continental plate. As one plate dives beneath the edge of another, friction and pressure melt rock along the crumbly edges, called subduction zones. Sticky, gassy molten material gets superheated to 1,600 degrees Fahrenheit and tries to shoot up through cracks in the crust.

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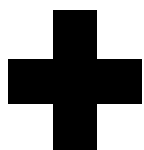
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**BUYING
AND SELLING**
BY BRENT PARSONS

Home appraisals are predominately used for determining the value of a home for several different purposes, including homeowner's insurance, mortgages and property taxes.

However, they also can be used for estate planning, divorce settlements, and determining the best home improvements. It is important to note that the relationship between the appraiser and the client is confidential. If a lending institution hires an appraiser to provide the value of your home for a mortgage, the appraiser does not share this information with other entities, including the tax collector.

The preparation for the appraisal involves research into the market area, including both historic and comparable sales data, current offers, pending sales and proposed improvements. An inspection of the property is conducted, and depending on what the appraisal is for, the appraiser may conduct a drive-by appraisal or a full appraisal with interior inspection. Then, using their knowledge, experience and professional judgment, the appraiser analyses the information gathered and completes their valuation. Please note that the appraisal can be handled differently depending on what it is for. For instance, the appraiser might weigh different factors more heavily for an insurance valuation than for a market valuation and different items could be included.

It is important to note that the appraisal is the opinion of the appraiser. So, different appraisers will provide different values for your property.

Appraisers compile their data from the Multiple Listing Service (MLS), local real estate professionals, county records, private data vendors, interviews with owners, and his or her personal knowledge. It is helpful to use an appraiser familiar with the neighborhood, who may have conducted other appraisals in the area. That way, they will have personal knowledge of the community that can help you during the appraisal.

The appraisal is not the home inspection. Although there are some appraisers who also offer home inspections, sort of a 2-for-1 deal. Although the appraiser documents the home's condition, they do not supply as much detail in their report as a home inspection would.

The improvements that add the most value to your home are those that are deemed valuable by the neighbors in your area. For instance, in Arizona adding a pool to your home can significantly increase the value, however, the same pool in Santa Monica, a beach community, would not add the same value. In order to find out the wants and needs of your neighborhood, contact a local appraiser. They can help you figure out the best home-improvement value.

When you are looking to purchase a home, for either your primary residence or as investment property, one thing you look for is if the property will hold or increase in value. For this reason, it is a good idea to pick the neighborhood over the style of the home. Good neighborhoods hold or increase their

value over less desirable neighborhoods. Also, well-located homes typically sell faster and for more money in both up and down markets. Location is something you can't change about the home, appearance is.

Oftentimes, you will be referred to an appraiser by your lender or real estate agent. Even if you aren't looking at refinancing or selling your home, you might want to contact the local real estate office for a recommendation anyway. They would be happy to offer this information to you.

Some of the qualities that you will want to know if the appraiser possesses are:

- Do they hold state certifications and/or licenses?
- Do they have any professional designations? These are not a requirement for an appraiser to operate, however, it does show their commitment to continuing education and keeping current on the changes in the market.
- Do they have experience (how many years)?
- Does their experience match your type of home?
- Are they familiar with your neighborhood?
- What types of clients have they served (homeowners, lenders, insurance companies, etc.)

(It is important to find an appraiser who will bring knowledge, experience, impartiality and trust to your door. In doing so, they help you make sound decisions about your real estate investments. Call Brent Parsons at (310) 770-6600 or Thomas Khammar at (310) 863-7643 for more information).

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Sold	236 W CHANNEL RD	SANTA MONICA 90402	
Santa Monica	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$1,995,000	Bed: 2
11/01/2004	Lot Size: 0	Sold Price: \$1,960,000	Bath: 3.00
Sold	716 11TH ST	SANTA MONICA 90402	
Santa Monica	SqFt: 1,668	List Price: \$1,495,000	Bed: 3
11/04/2004	Lot Size: 7,500	Sold Price: \$1,460,000	Bath: 1.75
Sold	2201 MARINE ST	SANTA MONICA 90405	
Santa Monica	SqFt: 2,553	List Price: \$1,695,000	Bed: 4
11/04/2004	Lot Size: 7,000	Sold Price: \$1,575,000	Bath: 2.00
Sold	2721 WASHINGTON AVE	SANTA MONICA 90403	
Santa Monica	SqFt: 1,207	List Price: \$1,249,000	Bed: 2
11/02/2004	Lot Size: 7,050	Sold Price: \$1,249,000	Bath: 1.25
Sold	702 14TH ST	SANTA MONICA 90402	
Santa Monica	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$2,595,000	Bed: 4
11/05/2004	Lot Size: 7,500	Sold Price: \$2,500,000	Bath: 4.50
Sold	1020 OCEAN PARK BL #6	SANTA MONICA 90405	
Santa Monica	SqFt: 1,234	List Price: \$529,000	Bed: 2
11/03/2004	HOD: \$325	Sold Price: \$589,000	Bath: 2.50
Sold	110 OCEAN PARK BL #304	SANTA MONICA 90405	
Santa Monica	SqFt: 1,146	List Price: \$799,000	Bed: 1
11/03/2004	HOD: \$585	Sold Price: \$791,000	Bath: 1.50
Sold	1314 16TH ST #E	SANTA MONICA 90404	
Santa Monica	SqFt: 1,278	List Price: \$599,000	Bed: 3
11/08/2004	HOD: \$250	Sold Price: \$660,000	Bath: 2.50
Sold	1222 PRINCETON ST #11	SANTA MONICA 90404	
Santa Monica	SqFt: 635	List Price: \$349,000	Bed: 1
11/05/2004	HOD: \$178	Sold Price: \$350,000	Bath: 1.00
Sold	1930 WASHINGTON AVE	SANTA MONICA 90403	
Santa Monica	SqFt: 1,536	List Price: \$749,000	Bed: 3
11/04/2004	HOD: \$250	Sold Price: \$747,000	Bath: 2.50
Sold	2249 20TH ST #6	SANTA MONICA 90405	
Santa Monica	SqFt: 1,099	List Price: \$448,000	Bed: 2
11/05/2004	HOD: \$228	Sold Price: \$448,000	Bath: 1.75
Sold	2221 OCEAN AVE #104	SANTA MONICA 90405	
Santa Monica	SqFt: 655	List Price: \$595,000	Bed: 1
11/01/2004	HOD: \$243	Sold Price: \$575,000	Bath: 1.00
Sold	1504 PRINCETON ST	SANTA MONICA 90404	
Santa Monica	SqFt: 1,489	List Price: \$665,000	Bed: 2
11/02/2004	HOD: \$200	Sold Price: \$620,000	Bath: 2.50
Sold	401 CALIFORNIA AVE #4	SANTA MONICA 90403	
Santa Monica	SqFt: 1,889	List Price: \$1,199,000	Bed: 3
11/08/2004	HOD: \$525	Sold Price: \$1,075,000	Bath: 2.50
Sold	1035 19TH ST	SANTA MONICA 90403	
Santa Monica	SqFt: 2,091	List Price: \$1,550,000	GI: \$0
11/04/2004	Lot Size: 7,998	Sold Price: \$1,512,000	GRM: 0.00
Sold	1806 9TH ST	SANTA MONICA 90404	
Santa Monica	SqFt: 2,210	List Price: \$839,000	GI: \$45,407
11/01/2004	Lot Size: 4,796	Sold Price: \$835,000	GRM: 12.92

THOMAS KHAMMAR AT PACIFIC OCEAN PROPERTIES:

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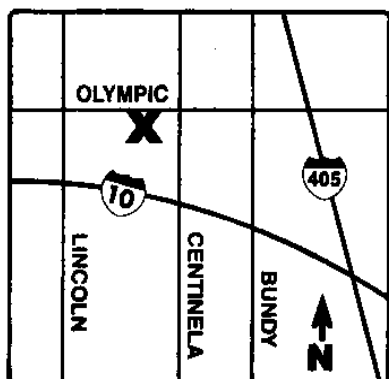
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DAYS ON THE MARKET

BY JODI SUMMERS

Ninety-odd years ago, when bungalow courts began springing up around Southern California, the concept was designed for certain growing segments of the urban population — particularly single women.

Office employment and other professional opportunities attracted increasing numbers of young, single women to the city. Bungalow courts were advertised as an ideal place for women who were not ready to invest in a single-family home but who might not like a large, impersonal apartment building either.

In 1913, an article in Ladies Home Journal concluded that "Very few persons, particularly women, can be happy outside of a pleasant home. An apartment in a great box-like building is frequently the solution, as a house to one's self is apt to be not only lonely, but expensive as well. In California, the court apartment has solved the problem in a practical and economical way."

Nearly a century later, little has changed other than the fact that condos and townhomes are now replacing bungalows as the property of choice. Unmarried women accounted for 30 percent of the growth in homeowners from 1994 to 2002. According to the National Association of Realtors, single women are now the second-largest segment of the home-buying market. In 2003, women accounted for 21 percent of home purchases, whereas single men accounted for 11 percent of home buyers and married couples captured 59 percent of the market.

Collectively, women earn more than \$1 trillion annually and influence \$2.4 trillion — 80 percent — of the \$3 trillion in annual consumer sales, according to the Women's Mortgage Industry Network.

"We're beyond the generation when women dreamt that they'd meet a man who would buy them a house," observed Carol Brown, a divorced studio executive and Santa Monica property owner. "Today's women feels as empowered as a man — we are having kids on our own. We're not waiting for Prince Charming to come riding into town on a white stallion."

Research shows that woman are buying homes in record numbers because of low interest rates, increased earning power and sharpened investment strate-

gies. Most female buyers purchase with the concept of moving up if and when they find a life partner.

A female's real estate needs tend to be different from their single male counterpart. Men want property and space. Women tend to be drawn to properties that facilitate their lifestyle.

"Women are buying attached units such as condos or single-family homes in high-density areas clustered close to other detached units, which share common landscaping," observed Janet Kemmerer, a spokesperson for Centex Homes.

Studies show that women select communities that emphasize social interaction and convenience, enabling them to simultaneously nurture and multi-task, observed a spokesman for the Urban Land Institute.

A real estate educational session titled, "What Women Really Want in Neighborhoods, Homes and Community Life," noted that the top four criteria women use to make a home purchase decision include access to good grocery stores, great parks, choices in transportation and quality of landscape design.

Additionally, women appreciate a safe environment, access to services and employment, the ability to work in their homes, and access to family-oriented recreational activities.

"Women are all about saving time, and they need amenities that enable them to do this," said Melinda Masson, president and chief executive officer of The Merit Companies. "They want to live in places that give them more choices in how to spend time with their family. They want communities where they feel like they are part of what is going on, but they don't want to have to bear the entire burden of making things happen ... They want (living environments that enable them) to meet people, so their kids can walk down the street and see familiar faces."

Since 1950, households headed by women have grown four-fold, largely due to the stepped-up divorce rate, delayed marriage decisions and a longer life expectancy for women.

A disarming side of these statistics is that 8 million single mothers in the U.S. spend more than half of their income on housing, and about 21 percent of all unmarried women spend at least 50 percent of their income on housing, compared with about 11 percent of unmarried men. Additionally, homeownership among unmarried women with children still lags far behind their wealthier male counterparts.

(For your real estate needs, e-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call (310) 309-4219).

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

The Q-Line



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Office space is drying up, getting more expensive

IN YOUR SPACE

BY CHRISTINA S. PORTER

(Editor's note: This is the first installment in a two-part series examining demand for commercial space in Los Angeles. The Nov. 17 edition will focus on factors that may influence future prices).

Demand from investors for real estate in the Los Angeles Basin has been intense, and is supply limited, which drives up prices.

Since bottoming in 1995, prices for all property types in the Los Angeles Basin have more than doubled. For apartments, they have nearly tripled. Average cap rates have fallen to 5.7 percent for apartments, 6.9 percent for retail, 7.4 percent for industrial and 7.7 percent for office — near historic lows. The magnitude and speed of the increase in prices and drop in cap rates has concerned a number of investors that a correction is likely, particularly if interest rates should rise over the next couple of

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2308 Broadway	Office	11/2/2004	21,000	Negotiable *
3015 Main St	Office	11/2/2004	1,581	\$2.75/fs
429 Santa Monica Blvd	Office	11/3/2004	1,227	\$2.60/fs
2001 Wilshire Blvd	Office	10/27/2004	4,000	\$2.00/fs *
3130 Wilshire Blvd	Office	11/4/2004	2,320	\$2.25/fs

The information above is deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Lease rates quoted are the asking rates and may not reflect the actual lease rate.

years. This concern has also led approximately a fourth of brokers surveyed to project that a modest correction in prices will take place over the next 12 months. Let's examine price and cap-rate trends in more detail. The outlook, as usual, depends upon the perspective taken.

* * *

Short-term perspective: prices up very sharply. Median prices per square foot for industrial have increased 122 percent since 1995. For apartments, they have increased 185 percent. For office 115 percent and 118 percent for retail. This is far and above inflation during the time period. One reason for the sudden increase was a correction to the underpricing in 1995 — a time following a severe local recession and capital shortage for real estate, as well as earthquakes and riots. Another reason was disenchantment with alternative forms of investment in recent years and an increased desire among institutions to diversify their portfolios, and to increase their allocation in real estate. Also factors are expectations that the Los Angeles economy will be relatively strong in coming years and expectations that market conditions will remain tight or will tighten in coming years.

Long-term perspective: Prices are back to where they were in 1990, taking inflation into consideration.

If prices are adjusted for inflation, current prices are approximately equal to where they were in 1990. This suggests that the long-term run-up in prices has been less than widely thought. However, to some, it implies that the markets are as poised today for a correction as they were in

1990. However, the differences between the situation today and in 1990 are significant, including:

- Very tight market conditions today for apartments, retail and industrial, and tightening conditions for office. In 1990, market conditions were considerably softer, and softening.

- Diminished current construction activity. In 1990, almost all markets were in the midst of a construction boom. Today, construction is much more restrained.

- Moderately strong projected economic growth for 2005 and 2006. In 1990, most projections also called for moderately strong growth in the coming years, but as we now know, it was not to be. Current projections could turn out to be faulty once again, but at this point, it appears unlikely. In 1990, they were 80 percent higher — 8.5 percent.

- Opportunities currently offered by low interest rates explain much of the increase in prices in recent years, and, when taken into account, reduce the risk associated with the current investment. In fact, the spread between rates on current 10-year T-Bills and cap rates on most property types is significantly greater than it was in 1990. This implies a reduced risk of a correction. The exception is apartments, where the spread is dropping toward 1990's levels.

The most likely scenario appears to be a moderation in price appreciation over the next two years, or perhaps a very mild correction.

(The above is an excerpt from NAI Capital's third annual broker survey. Christina S. Porter is in the business of leasing and selling office and industrial buildings. You can reach her at (310) 806-6104 or e-mail at cporter@naicapital.com)



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NATIONAL



Powell, Fox set to talk about migrants' status

BY GEORGE GEDDA

Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY — Secretary of State Colin Powell said Tuesday that President Bush will place a high priority in his second term on granting legal status to millions of migrants who live illegally in the United States.

Powell spoke at the inaugural session of the U.S.-Mexican Bi-National Commission, which annually brings together top officials from both sides to discuss a range of cross-border issues. Powell was joined here by five other members of Bush's Cabinet.

"The president is committed to comprehensive immigration reform as a high priority in his second term, and he will work closely with our Congress to achieve this goal," Powell said, with delegations from both sides in attendance at a Foreign Ministry auditorium.

In separate remarks, Mexican Foreign Secretary Luis Ernesto Derbez made no specific reference to the migration issue but praised the "high level of confidence and understanding between the two countries."

Mexico is the primary source of the 10 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States. Persuading the United States to push ahead with migration reform is a major goal of President Vicente Fox's administration.

Last January, in an apparent bid for the votes of Hispanics and segments of the U.S. business community, Bush unveiled an ambitious immigration reform proposal whose key feature would provide temporary legal status to illegal migrants provided they are employed.

In the 10 months since Bush spelled out the proposal, it has failed to make any headway.

Powell told reporters Monday night while flying here that with the end of the election season in the United States and with substantial progress in shoring up security along the border, "there could be a more favorable environment" for immigration reform legislation.

He acknowledged, however, that it is not yet clear how the new Congress taking office in January will deal with the issue. Many in Congress oppose granting legal status to undocumented migrants because, they say, that would reward people who broke the law when they crossed the border.

Fox said the time is ripe for a migration accord. "We have done all the analysis, diagnostics and problem solving possible," Fox said in a radio interview Monday. "There's no reason to lose much time."

Earlier, Derbez praised the Bush administration's support for Mexico's efforts to promote consular identification cards that help Mexicans living abroad open bank accounts or apply for a driver's license in some parts of the United States.

Mexico believes immigration reform is sorely needed because of the precarious situation that many undocumented Mexicans in the United States face despite their significant contributions to the U.S. economy. Last week, Mexican Interior Secretary Santiago Creel called U.S. migration policy "absurd."

Bush and Fox first broached the subject of immigration reform less than a month after Bush took office in 2001. Fox said last week he believes that 2005 may finally be the year when significant progress may be possible.

"Neither of our countries will be in elections next year," Fox observed. But Creel warned against "raising expectations beyond what is politically viable and really possible."

Since the September 11 terrorist attacks, migration reform has taken a back seat to enhancing security along the border. U.S. officials say Mexican cooperation has been exemplary in addressing U.S. concerns about terrorists using the border as a transit point for attacks on U.S. soil.

On hemispheric relations, Powell acknowledged Monday night there has been a shift to the left in several South American countries but said he is "not deeply troubled by it at all. I want to work with whoever the people elect in those countries."

He said it wasn't shocking that people in the region are beginning to make different choices when they go to the polls if they haven't seen the kind of progress they were expecting.

As an example of the leftist trend, he cited the election two years ago of Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, but he said Silva "has been acting quite responsibly with respect to economic and fiscal policy."

Powell reserved judgment on the implications of the election last week of a leftist coalition in Uruguay.

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NATIONAL

Perennially parched: Drought should linger

By The Associated Press

DENVER — A government climate researcher is predicting that the five-year Western drought could linger for several more years and more frequent droughts are likely.

"It could continue for several more years, and it's something we need to be aware of," Gregory McCabe of the U.S. Geological Survey said. "I think people should be on their guard."

Drought in the West often is linked to periods when the northern Atlantic Ocean is warmer than normal, periods that tend to last nine to 23 years, McCabe said.

The northern Atlantic switched into a warm phase nine years ago, and it shows no signs of fading, McCabe said Monday at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America.

Colorado River flows at Lee's Ferry were lower between 2000 and 2004 than in any other five-year period since record keeping began in 1931, McCabe said. Lee's Ferry is near the Arizona-Utah line downstream from Glen Canyon Dam, which created Lake Powell.

At the end of September, Lake Powell was at 38 percent capacity and still falling. It hasn't been this low since 1970, when the lake was first filling. McCabe said tree ring studies show the 20th century was unusually wet in the upper Colorado River Basin.

"Maybe the 20th century was the anomaly and this drought isn't the anomaly," McCabe said. "That's the scary part."

Shaun McGrath of the Western Governors' Association said the United States needs a national policy so it can respond to drought in a swift, coordinated fashion.

"Right now we're woefully unprepared for droughts when they occur," McGrath said at Monday afternoon's drought session. "Our national policy for drought now is to pray for rain."

Polly Hays, a water program manager with the Forest Service, said the multiyear drought has fueled insect outbreaks and wildfires unprecedented in severity and scope. In 2002, Colorado, Arizona and Oregon all saw the biggest fires in their histories.

"We expect to continue to see this trend of intensity and severity of wildfires in coming years," Hays said.

Grand Canyon may get flooded later this month

By The Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — A new controlled flood at the Grand Canyon could occur later this month.

The Bureau of Reclamation wants to release extra water from Glen Canyon Dam beginning Nov. 21. If approved, the extra flow would run for 90 hours, stirring up an estimated 800,000 metric tons of sediment.

Officials first flooded the canyon in 1996 with an 18-day water release, designed to return some of the natural sediment along the Colorado River within the canyon.

Because of Glen Canyon Dam, the silt that normally occurs in the ecosystem is not deposited, affecting the natural environment, scientists say. Before the addition of dams, which help secure the West's water supply, torrential floods would have shaped the river's ecosystem.

Barry Wirth, a spokesman for BOR, said the right amount of sediment is available in the system to do the water release now. Two major October storms pushed silt and debris down the Paria River, a tributary to the Colorado.

BOR officials hope the simulated flood caused by the dam release will aid river species including an endangered fish, the humpback chub.

Nikolai Ramsey of the Flagstaff-based Grand Canyon Trust said flooding helps the environment.

"It's about everything related to sediment, which benefits everything within the Grand Canyon," he said.

Native vegetation does better in flooding, and the waters can create habitat for spawning and rearing native fish.

"We're mimicking what happened naturally before the dam was there," Ramsey said.

The flood tentatively scheduled for Nov. 21 will be shorter than the one done in 1996, because scientists learned that the longer release wasn't necessary, Wirth said.

The release from Glen Canyon Dam will not affect the total water in Lake Powell because the flood flow will be offset by lower flows during other periods.

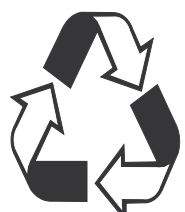
BOR is required to release 8.3 million acre feet a year from Lake Powell.

The increased flow is not expected to have much effect on canyon recreation either, national park officials said.

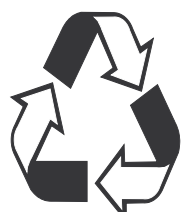
November is not a prime time for river rafters, and park officials will notify those that are running trips, said Leah McGinnis, management assistant at Grand Canyon National Park.

"We'll get the word out to them so that they'll be aware of it," she said.

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Santa Monica Daily Press



NATIONAL



Small-time foresters band together to go green

BY ELIZABETH M. GILLESPIE

Associated Press Writer

OAKVILLE, Wash. — John Henrikson logs his own land, downing the worst wood first and letting the best stuff keep growing.

There are tall, thick alders and gargantuan maples that could line his pockets handsomely, but he leaves most of them standing — chopping down only the ones nearing the end of their life span.

"I'm not going to touch this," he said, admiring one of the red alders on his 100 acres in this tiny town south of the Capitol Forest. "This is an unbelievably healthy tree."

Like many small forest owners who want to treat their land well, he's thought about trying to get "green certification" through the environmentally strict Forest Stewardship Council.

But he can't afford it. It can cost thousands of dollars just to get a tract of land checked out.

Soon, though, Henrikson and several other Western Washington forest owners will band together to get certified as a group. At most a five-year contract will cost him \$1,000, and he won't have to worry about the hardest part: marketing his eco-friendly wood to mills.

"This is a good opportunity for me," Henrikson said. "The alternative prior to this was doing it on my own, which would be too expensive and a difficult process trying to figure out by myself."

Richard Pine, part owner of a Salem, Ore.-based timber company, decided to go it alone and get his 2,200 acres in Lewis and Thurston counties green-certified in 1999. It has cost him close to \$11,000. But as a charter member of the nonprofit Northwest Natural Resource Group, Pine expects to pay about half that over the next five years.

Henrikson, Pine and other landowners aren't expect-

ing to make a quick buck because most mills aren't yet clamoring for more green-certified wood. They see green certification as more of a rewarding seal of approval for the extra care they take logging their land than any sure economic bet.

"Making forestry profitable is a lot tougher than it used to be, but this program gives landowners a new opportunity to connect with consumers that value their work," said Ian Hanna, who will run the group certification program when it launches early next year.

Green certification is an emerging market that's gaining the most ground in cities and states like Seattle and Washington that encourage environmentally sound building techniques for big public projects.

Major retailers including Home Depot and Lowe's have buying policies that favor certified wood. Most of the flooring Starbucks now buys is green certified, and do-it-yourself furniture retailer IKEA is a big buyer, said Michael Washburn, vice president of forestry and marketing for the U.S. chapter of FSC, a global nonprofit based in Bonn, Germany.

If you're a homeowner looking to build a deck, though, you're not likely to find a neat stack of certified 2-by-4s at the local lumber yard. In most cases, customers have to special-order the wood. Sometimes it doesn't cost any more than noncertified wood, but most often it's around 10 percent more expensive, industry experts say.

Most consumers aren't willing to both wait and pay more just for a guarantee that trees were cut in ways that don't pollute streams or degrade wildlife habitat, said Ron Jarvis, Home Depot's merchandising vice president.

"The average consumer's a pocketbook environmentalist," Jarvis said. "They want to do the right thing until it hits their pocketbook."

Kirk Hanson, a tree farmer who grows Douglas firs on 40 acres in Oakville, joined the board of the Port

Angeles, Wash.-based Northwest Natural Resource Group a few years ago and will be one of seven pilot members in the group certification program. Collectively, they own 2,900 acres.

The goal is to have 50 or 60 members with some 80,000 certified acres by the end of 2006, Hanna said. That would nearly triple the number of FSC-certified acres in Washington, which has about 45,000 green-certified acres, mostly on Fort Lewis, an Army base south of Tacoma.

Tom Doak heads up a group certification program in Maine that's seen its membership rise from about 20 to 60 in the past 18 months. They pay less each year than the members of the Washington group will, because getting certified through the American Tree Farm System's program is cheaper than going through the Forest Stewardship Council.

It costs mills extra time and money to process FSC-certified wood, because one of the standards requires that wood can be traced from the stump to the store. That means certified logs have to be kept in a separate stack, and a mill's machinery has to be wiped clean before the "green" wood can be milled.

Eric Fritch, a mill owner in Snohomish, has been buying and selling certified wood for about three years. Sometimes he gets more orders than he can fill. Other times there's hardly any demand for it. Either way, he sees certified wood as a promising product — especially in a region as eco-friendly as the Pacific Northwest.

He's already told the Northwest Natural Resource Group he's eager to buy more certified wood and will pay an extra \$25 for every 1,000 board feet over what he pays for noncertified wood. As long as he breaks even, he said he's willing to give the market time to mature.

"I don't have the luxury of doing it from a standpoint of charity for very long," Fritch said. "You could lose money doing this in a hurry if you tried."

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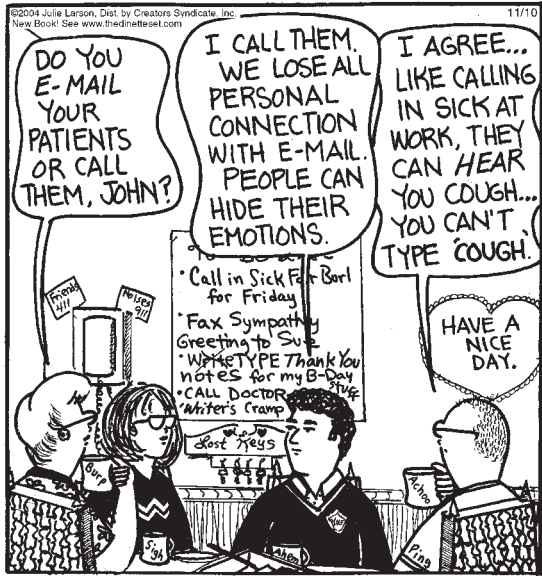


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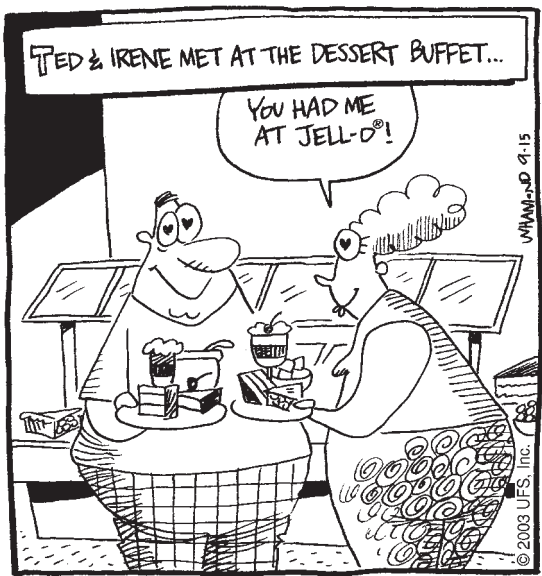
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- 11 Malice
- 12 Find cute as a button
- 13 Clear
- 14 Clock numeral
- 15 Registers
- 17 Wigs out
- 19 Finish
- 20 Laundry problem
- 21 Hole in one
- 22 Amber, originally
- 24 Driving aid
- 26 Overture
- 29 Crony
- 30 Tries to date
- 32 Smart
- 34 Take advantage of
- 35 Part of some games
- 36 Corrodes
- 38 Queen — lace
- 39 Trap-shooting
- 40 Put down
- 41 Whirlpool

DOWN

- 1 Hiking route
- 2 Ham needs
- 3 Orchestra member
- 4 NNW, e.g.
- 5 Make coffee
- 6 Shortly
- 7 Trig function
- 8 Change the
- 10 Scottish beast
- 11 Let off steam
- 16 "It's my treat!"

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Pitt takes Bono-fide interest in AIDS in Africa

By The Associated Press

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — Brad Pitt spent four days in Ethiopia to learn more about AIDS in Africa as part of a fund-raising campaign to combat the disease on the world's poorest continent.

The trip was organized by DATA, a Washington-based lobby group co-founded by rock star Bono that campaigns on Third World trade, debt and HIV/AIDS. Pitt began his first visit to Ethiopia Friday and left late Monday night.

"It was a listening and learning visit," DATA spokesman Jamie Drummond said Tuesday. He declined requests for comment from Pitt, star of the film "Troy."

While in Ethiopia, Pitt visited local projects fighting the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. The 40-year-old actor also met with eight top Ethiopian singers who have collaborated on songs to educate people about HIV and to raise money for AIDS programs.

Tsedenia Gebremarkos, who has just released a hit album in Ethiopia, said Pitt was keen to know how AIDS had affected the nation, where the average annual income is \$100.

"He was very humble and really interested in the situation here," Tsedenia said. "We hope his popularity can raise awareness in the same way we are trying to. We need the support of people like him."

In Africa, 29.4 million people are living with the virus, which has left 25 million children orphaned, according to United Nations figures. Bono has traveled the world spreading the message that more than 6,500 Africans die every day from AIDS, while 8,000 new people are infected daily.

Only about 50,000 Africans get potentially life-saving drugs, known as anti-retrovirals, while at least 4 million people need the drugs, which cost more than most Africans earn.

LOS ANGELES — A light rain couldn't dampen spirits as dozens of Hollywood celebrities attended the second annual Louis Vuitton United Cancer Front gala, hosted by Sarah Jessica Parker, Dustin Hoffman and Jamie Foxx.

Underwritten by fashion designer Louis Vuitton, all proceeds from Monday night's event will go to UCF, the brainchild of Lilly Tartikoff. Her husband, TV executive Brandon Tartikoff, died in 1997 of Hodgkin's disease.

Tartikoff said she expected the gala to raise about \$1.5 million.

"Our intention is to move science forward," she told AP Television News. "And because these celebrities came out, and because Hollywood's gotten involved, and the town of Los Angeles, we've been able to deliver the first-ever nontoxic treatment for breast cancer."

Tennis star Serena Williams, her sister Venus Williams, singer Jewel, and actresses Kristin Davis, Lauren Graham and Kate Bosworth were among those in attendance.

Graham said she had a family member battling breast cancer.

"What a sadness it is for women in the world. It just feels that there's so much attention paid (to the disease), that we have to be close to (a cure)."

LOS ANGELES — Pedro Almodovar has been down the red carpet before, but the director said it felt like the first time at the Hollywood premiere of his new film, "Bad Education."

"For me, premieres are like when you fall in love," Almodovar explained, speaking in Spanish. "It's like the first time in that it's going to last forever. So, in that sense, this premiere is like the first time I've premiered the movie, and that's the way I'm celebrating it."

The movie has been shown at film festivals in Moscow, Toronto, New York and Telluride, Colo.

"Bad Education" teams Gael Garcia Bernal and Fele Martinez in an often gritty examination on the effect of Franco-era religious schooling and sexual abuse on the lives of two longtime friends.

Hollywood isn't just talking about the 26-year-old Bernal, who also stars in Walter Salles' "The Motorcycle Diaries," they're saying good things.

"Really? Is that true?" Bernal asked at Sunday night's premiere. "I don't get to know that. I've been doing too many interviews to realize what goes on in the outside world."

Almodovar said he's not surprised that Bernal has been embraced by Tinseltown.

"Really, he's amazing. I think I give him very good luck," the director told AP Television News with a laugh. "No, truly, he deserves it. He's working very hard and very courageous and with risk, and I'm very glad that he's becoming so big here."

ROME — The singer once known as Cat Stevens will receive a peace prize from a foundation headed by former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Yusuf Islam is expected to attend Wednesday's ceremony in Rome, where he'll receive the Man for Peace award from Gorbachev and Mayor Walter Veltroni, said Enzo Cursio, a spokesman for the Gorbachev Foundation.

In September, the British musician was expelled from the United States after authorities diverted his London-to-Washington flight to Maine to remove him, saying he was suspected of ties to terrorism.

He says he was a victim of an "unjust and arbitrary system," and that he has denounced terrorism.

Islam will receive the award "for his dedication to promote peace, the reconciliation of people and to condemn terrorism."

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