

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Living wage supporters vow to fight despite loss

But any new proposal may have an uphill battle

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

As polls closed election night, supporters of Santa Monica's proposed "living wage ordinance" blamed three mysterious mailings for the defeat of their measure.

But even before the last ballots were counted, leaders of the movement to enact one of the nation's most far-reaching "living wage" laws were already vowing their fight was far from over.

"Of course it's a setback, but it's not an end to the process at all," said Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown, a supporter of the measure, who won another four-year term last Tuesday. "The underlying economic issue is not going away at all until those workers are paid a better wage."

Opponents of Santa Monica's "living wage" ordinance said they were not surprised there was already talk of attempting to enact another targeted minimum wage law, and this faction has extended an olive branch and asked if the two sides can meet.

"We realize this isn't going away," said Seth Jacobsen, a spokesman for opponents of the measure. "And we are trying to reach out and bring both sides to the table so that any new measure can benefit both workers and businesses."

Last year, the Santa Monica City

Council adopted an ordinance that would have required businesses near the coast with annual revenues in excess of \$5 million to pay their workers between \$10.50 and \$12.25 an hour, depending on whether workers also received benefits.

"Of course it's a setback, but it's not an end to the process at all. The underlying economic issue is not going away at all until those workers are paid a better wage."

— KEVIN MCKEOWN
Santa Monica Mayor Pro Tem

Unlike other living wage laws across the country, Santa Monica's was the first to propose covering businesses with no direct financial connection to the city.

The measure explicitly targeted high-end hotels, restaurants and retail stores close to Santa Monica's beaches that largely profit from the tourism trade. City officials and economists said the ordinance would help lift 2,000 low-wage

See LIVING WAGE, page 5



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Above: The back side of the home that collapsed on Fourth Street Friday bulges out after it sank into the ground four feet.

Right: Jutta Gonzalez, front, and Richard Ramos haul items out of Gonzalez' home on Sunday. The home has been deemed unsafe by the city after it collapsed from the rain.



Santa Monica home collapses from rain

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A Santa Monica home collapsed Friday after the earth underneath it gave way as a result of the recent rainstorm.

At about 8:15 p.m., the duplex, on Fourth Street between Pico Boulevard and Bay Street, sank about four feet into the ground, causing the structure to buckle.

No injuries were reported, however authorities said people were inside the home when it collapsed.

Jutta Gonzalez, who had lived in the south side of the building for decades, was working at her job in the service department at Sears when she found out her home collapsed. Gonzalez' friend, Richard Ramos, was passing by the home on the bus when he saw the street blocked off with emergency vehicles at the house Friday night. He called Gonzalez at work to inform her that her house had crumbled.

Gonzalez spent Friday night at a local hotel courtesy of the American Red Cross.

"The inconvenience and enormity of this is going to take days, weeks, but I'm not dead and the family isn't dead," she said, surveying the damage outside of her home on Sunday with family and friends.

"Something good is going to come of it," she added, joking about someone offering her a plush condominium.

The longtime resident, a collector of many things, took advantage of Sunday's dry weather to begin hauling her belongings out of the home that has been deemed unsafe by the city's building and safety department.

Doors were ripped off the wall, windows had exploded from pressure and the entire mid-section of the building caved in. The Santa Monica Fire Department and city officials had to temporarily shut off the gas line in the area because the building's collapse caused a gas leak.

Gonzalez won't be returning since the building most likely will be razed. Her extensive gardens in the front and backyard will have to be transplanted elsewhere.

Partially nude Barbie doesn't infringe on Mattel, judge rules

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A British dollmaker who turned Barbie into a partly nude "Dungeon Doll," complete with rubber bondage dress and helmet, did not appear to violate the copyrights of Mattel Inc., a judge said.

U.S. District Judge Laura Taylor Swain's ruling permitted a lawsuit filed by Mattel against Susanne Pitt to go forward, but said there did not appear to be sufficient evidence for the toymaker to win.

The El Segundo, Calif., company says it wants to stop Pitt from infringing on its copyrights. The company is seeking \$10,000 in statutory damages and \$1,350 in legal fees.

"We are committed to vigorously protecting our established trademarks, which

includes Barbie," Mattel spokeswoman Lisa Marie Bongiovanni said Thursday.

Pitt's telephone number in England was not listed.

The judge, citing an advertisement describing the doll as wearing "lederhosen-style Bavarian bondage dress and helmet in rubber with PVC-mask," wrote in her Nov. 1 ruling that the doll is "quite different from that typically appearing on Mattel's products for children."

"The sale or display of 'adult' dolls does not appear to be a use Mattel would likely develop or license others to develop," she said.

The parody appears to pose no threat to sales of Barbie dolls and thus does not seem to violate the company's copyright, the judge concluded.

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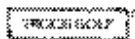
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★★-So-so ★-Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Meetings prove to be unusually significant, if you're willing to share your views. Debating different points of view doesn't necessarily have to develop into a stalemate. Focus on finding a workable solution; let creativity express itself. Tonight: Meet up with your friends.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Take your time dealing with someone in charge. You might not like the answers you receive. Consider your options carefully before deciding to go one way or the other. A boss or higher-up might ask you to put in some overtime. Tonight: Do what you must.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Take an overview when others might not be able to. You present the hard facts, but are also capable of providing solutions. Understanding where others come from could make an enormous difference. Don't push those around you to agree with you. Just state the facts. Tonight: Rent a movie on the way home.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Indulge others, within limits. You might not want to spend funds dedicated to home repair or something else involving your domicile. Learning to say "no" might be more significant than you realize. Stick to your guns! Tonight: Let a partner or friend express his or her beliefs.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Others seek you out with a lot to share and discuss. You might feel like something is too much for you. Let associates know when you have no more energy to spare on a special issue. Allow others to take charge for now. Tonight: Accept a dinner invitation.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Focus on being effective, calling on all your skills and perhaps asking for some support where you might feel as if you cannot cut it. Your ability to mobilize the best in everyone marks your work product. Take time with a money decision. Tonight: Run an errand or two.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Your drive helps you hit a home run. You jump over obstacles and skip through problems. Someone close might change his or her mind about you. Reach out for a friend. Help this person feel comfortable in a group situation. Tonight: Do what you love.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ How you appear to others might be a lot different from how you feel. You might be directing some of your anger in a way that helps you alleviate it. Only you can judge what works for you. Your family might pressure you. Tonight: Happy at home.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Speak your mind with someone you trust. You might discover that the pressure you're under could be distorting your reality. Hearing another point of view empowers you. Schedule an important meeting or get-together. Tonight: Hang with friends.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Deal with finances, especially those involving a somewhat extravagant partner. Consider what might be happening with a relationship that is very important in your life. Don't let frustration impact the quality of your work. Tonight: Start your holiday gift list.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Others seek you out for help on many different levels. You seem to cut to the chase, eliminating complications and finding the proper solution. Pressure from a boss might push you to work late. Remain confident. You can do it! Tonight: Where the action is.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★ Slow down. You're more likely to make a mistake when pressured. Partners clearly want what they want and have little patience. You also feel pulled in many different directions. Sit by yourself at lunch or take a walk. Tonight: Recycle.

CORRECTION — The Nov. 9 story regarding the missing Winona Ryder files contained an error. The Los Angeles County Probation Department has an area office at the Santa Monica Courthouse and is not part of the superior court system. Ryder's sentencing is scheduled for Dec. 6.

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LOCAL



Gavel II Gavel

From the people's court in the Byron Y. Appleton Honorary Courtroom in Santa Monica.

By John Wood

The lemon that kept on giving

Buying a 15-year-old car may seem like a risk to some people, but not to Los Angeles woman Laura Patterson.

Patterson won a \$5,000 judgment last week against Michael Marks, owner of Marina Auto Sales in Venice, because of mechanical problems with the 1986 Toyota Celica she bought in June 2001.

Though the car cost only \$3,900, Patterson sued for the maximum small claims amount of \$5,000, saying she spent over \$2,600 in repairs to the faulty car, which frequently caused her to miss work or go without wheels.

"The car was not mechanically fit to drive," Patterson told the court. "The problems went on, monthly, for at least a year."

Because of a separate lawsuit against her mechanic, Patterson already won a \$900 judgment.

Marks, who said he has sold thousands of cars in his 25 years in business, testified he fulfilled his side of the bargain.

"I didn't sell a new auto," he said, indicating it had roughly 130,000 miles at the time Patterson bought it. "I sold a used auto. And I stood behind it."

Marks claimed he did more than the warranty called for and Patterson was still not satisfied.

"To me, \$2,600 (in repairs) is reasonable," Marks said, adding that used cars usually require about \$2,000 in repairs annually, versus new cars which he said normally need \$200 to \$300. "It seems like harassment to me that this case won't go away."

But Commissioner Donna Groman, who began hearing small claims cases in Santa Monica November 1, didn't agree. She awarded Patterson the full \$5,000 claim plus court costs.

The Q-Line

Last week's election results may have surprised some residents as the majority of the city's voters went status quo by electing three incumbents onto the Santa Monica City Council. Also surprising to many was the living wage law defeat, even though it appeared to have widespread community support.

Some would argue deceptive campaigning affected the outcome of the election. Others will tell you the demographics of the city are changing and there are more conservative homeowners influencing politics here than liberal renters. Election data

shows fewer renters went to the polls this year than in recent years.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know:

"Do think Santa Monica's demographics are changing? If so, is it good or bad?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less; it might help to think first about the wording of your response.

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

It was great weekend, and it was terrible weekend. We had some excellent northwest swell and overhead surf at good breaks, but the rain and wind made the water ruined Friday and Saturday. Hardcore surfers caught some great waves in spite of the sludge in the line-up.

A 72-hour rain advisory is in effect until 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, when water conditions should reach a relatively clean level.

Swell wise, we're seeing the northwest ground swell push father north, increasing the already steep angle to 300 degrees. L.A. County will still see some good surf from the northwester though, especially in the South Bay, where spots like Porto stay in the 3-5 foot range.

The peak of the swell is gone, so size can be expected to gradually decrease.

Tuesday, water conditions will be steadily improving as swell fades further.



Today's Tides:

High-	4:39 a.m.	3.93'
Low-	9:20 a.m.	3.19'
High-	2:25 p.m.	4.29'
Low-	10:11 p.m.	0.33'

Location	Monday	Tuesday	Water Quality
County Line	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	B
Zuma	3-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	B
Surfrider	1-2'/Poor	1-2'/Poor	B
Topanga	1-2'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	B
Breakwater	3-4'/Poor	2-3'/Fair	B
El Porto	3-4'/Poor	2-4'/Fair	B

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LETTERS

SMRR doesn't get it

Editor:

Political yard signs have disappeared from lawns. But, what citizens of Santa Monica can't pull up and dispose of easily is the rancor that seems to be stirred up in these local elections. In the case of Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, an undeclared political party, it literally counts on the "poisoned well" effect as a means of staying in the spotlight of power.

The most recent well poisoned has been the relationships of employers and employees, disguised in the political garb of Prop. JJ. Although JJ lost by a small margin, SMRR gained big, in a tactical victory, by creating yet another divisive entity within this small city. Business now joins the list of those inducted into class warfare; man-made confrontations which are the mother's milk of SMRR's very existence.

Other wounded members include those who are affected by their individual rights or decisions to: rent or to own; live in a home or on the street; own a historical gem or own a home to live in. In each case, SMRR has devised a socioeconomic climate rewarding certain people for the category they pick or happen to be in. These people are renters, the homeless, the historically inclined and now the low-wage earner. All others are in the twilight zone of being ignored, even ostracized.

It always puzzles me how a group, such as SMRR, can continue its reign of inequities. You would think that the voting population would catch on, see the patterns and simply say "no thanks" to all the misinformation that spews from their over-active, competitive campaigns.

Prop. II, for instance, helped tenants in financing low and moderate ownership

efforts, while Prop. KK literally took money away from such funding opportunities. It's crazy, but the proposition that helped tenants to further themselves lost, and the one that kept them in indefinite "tenant limbo" won! How did that happen? When did good assistance become bad, and stagnating assistance become good?

The SMRR sword that carved out Prop. JJ was even more unjust. It took arbitration, the right to hammer out differences between those who are personally involved, and politicized it, polarized it, spinning legitimate worker and business concerns so that only distortions and anger remained. Why reasonable people, voting on such initiatives, can't see how destructive such measures are is beyond logic. Please explain, what do workers gain when demanding such dramatic increases in wages from an unwilling employer in a targeted section of town? And how can any employer operate his business successfully without satisfied employees? Doesn't it seem pragmatic that both factions do better when they congenially agree to their contracts?

Meeting some place in the middle is a process that should be implemented by the parties involved, not from outsiders wanting to extract an outcome for a political gain. And that is exactly the role SMRR has played in this manipulated event. Repairing the rips and tears made by JJ, in the workplace, will be hard. But Renters Rights will probably not be a part of any healing process. Instead, they most likely will continue to agitate until they put another "JJ" on a future ballot. After all, discontent, alienation, borne on the wings of a post election worker/business population, is just too tempting for this must-stay-in-power-at-any-cost group to give a pass.

Jan Tousignant
Santa Monica

Quality of 'human' life should be most important



A few weeks ago, Mr. Colin Hadlow wrote letter about my column about finding a creative response to homelessness in Santa Monica. When I wrote that column I was looking for a response from the community as a whole. I was looking for a brainstorming session from top to bottom to help solve the situation of homelessness here in Santa Monica.

He said he was wide awake to the "problem" of homelessness. Well, if Hadlow was, he would know that most of the homeless who come to Santa Monica are "pushed" and "shoved" here by the same such ordinances which the city council recently passed. Passed by people with the same "let them eat cake" attitude Hadlow had. The few of those who come here, who are trying to put their lives back together again, are going to have an even harder time because of those two ordinances.

Hadlow also mentioned about my not trying to get up off the streets. My friend, I have tried numerous times to get off the streets. The times I did succeed I made errors on whom I lived with and wound up back out here again. I have also checked the room-for-rent board at Santa Monica College more than once, and found that the rent for one room is almost as much as paying for an apartment. They start at around \$500 and up with security deposits required. That's how greedy it has become since rent control was lifted here. Even the foreign students are getting gouged for

their money.

I went into a shelter in 1998, and an ex-prison guard was the program director and ran the shelter like a prison. Also, one of the guys who lived there was dealing crystal meth to some of the homeless and housed kids who hung out on the Promenade. One of these kids, who is a 21-year-old mom now, was like one of my own kids and he knew me through her. So he pulled a totally jailhouse move on me and I was kicked out because he was controlling the shelter and some of the workers like a prison yard.

These are things Hadlow is NOT aware of that go on in the world of the homeless. I know now that the director of this shelter (whom I know personally) would not allow for that type of behavior and things have changed since I was put out. But my trust in these organizations has been tainted. As has the trust of any of us who have been through similar incidents dealing with the homeless organizations anywhere. Hadlow has never went to these organizations, so he doesn't really know what it is like to have your trust betrayed by people who are supposed to help you.

Hadlow also made a remark about finding a better job. I gave my portfolio to more than a few places in the last few years for graphic design or animation, and because of I am homeless I was denied a chance. Now you might ask how they found out I was homeless. Well, my personal recovery has taught me to be honest with myself and others. I am honest with anyone who knows me about my living situation.

That's how I know that the homeless often face discrimination when looking for work. But, I find that the friends who know that I am homeless are REAL friends. And I have asked them for help and have gotten as much help as they can provide over the years.

Hadlow said that about 80 percent of homeless are addicts?

Well, he might be right, but I think he should look around his own neighborhood for a change, and see how many addicts live there as well. Where does he think the drugs come from? I have not met anyone from the Colombian drug cartels living on the street recently, has he?

No, because most of the dealers and suppliers live in homes in neighborhoods like his. And the richer the dealer, the higher a lifestyle he or she lives. Wouldn't you agree with that Mr. Hadlow?

He also mentioned Sweden's social programs. Well, my friend, these programs work in keeping that country's homeless off the streets. I know someone who comes from Sweden and she tells me that, though it has its shortcomings, it works. What is wrong with using a form of that here in Santa Monica? Or would helping a fellow country man put his life back together be too much to ask? Why, my friend, do you think that most countries in this world harbor ill towards America?

It's because we ARE the richest country in the world, and we don't even put the interest of the people above greed and power. We have become the hypocrites of the world!

Hadlow said I should change or die. Well, being on the street has changed me forever. It has not killed me so I must be stronger for it. He mentioned Rosa Parks not giving up her seat and sparking the civil rights movement. Or the gays and lesbians who fought for their rights. Well, he is seeing a homeless man fighting for his rights right here. For the right to have homelessness be recognized for the situation that it is and what causes it. Not to be "labeled" and swept under the rug like dirt. To let people who read all this anti-homeless sentiment know that we are liv-

ing, breathing, intelligent human beings out here.

Whether we have addiction problems, are mentally ill, handicapped or elderly, we are human and Americans and deserve more than being shuffled from city to city because some of the wealthy can't stand to see what this country has been reduced to by the greed that has permeated the rank and file since Reagan's "trickle down" economics. And that the corporate greed, which you have seen firsthand in America, which was part of the good economic times under the Clinton administration, kept up.

All I see when I read and re-read Hadlow's response to my column is someone who forgot what it was like to be out here, even if it was for six months in a car. I see someone who is afraid he might wind up out here again. He mentions his friends who are in college and working. Well, having a place to study is one up on me. I think if these people had to do it from the street, they would fail.

And, lastly, I have a new sticker on my sketch board, Mr. Hadlow, another quote by Mr. Einstein which says, "The problems we face cannot be solved by the minds that created them." How can the very same people who see money or "quality of life" as more important than the quality of a HUMAN life solve the homeless issue here in Santa Monica? I honestly think that we should think about this, sir.

Hard work is what I am about, and I continue to work hard to achieve my goals, dreams and aspirations. Even if I fail at it, I at least have the satisfaction of knowing that I gave it all I had. Thank you for your response, Mr. Hadlow. Art that gets an emotional response is truly art, don't you agree?

Charles Springer is homeless in Santa Monica.

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

LOCAL



Supporters say fliers may have swung the election

LIVING WAGE, from page 1

employees out of poverty at the expense of 170 to 220 jobs being cut because of the higher wages.

Opposition to the ordinance grew steadily from the business community, which attacked the ordinance as discriminatory since it would make employers closer to the beach pay more than those located inland.

They also argued the ordinance would create a \$3 million bureaucracy that the city could ill afford during the economic downturn, which has resulted in multi-million dollar budget deficits for Santa Monica.

The ordinance was appealed by local business interests and placed before voters on the Nov. 5 ballot as Measure JJ.

After a multi-million dollar campaign, largely duked out through direct mail pieces sent to residences across the city, the ordinance was narrowly defeated 13,930 to 12,990 — a difference of 940 votes.

The loss stunned Santa Monicans Allied for Responsible Tourism, or SMART, the group campaigning in favor of the proposed minimum wage law. That's partly because a poll of 400 likely Santa Monica voters taken on Oct. 25 showed the measure winning by a 16 percent margin. According to the poll, which was conducted by EMH Research, 51 percent of those who responded said they were either definitely or probably voting yes, while 35 percent said they were definitely or probably voting no.

Polls taken by the "No on JJ" campaign had similar results, said Jacobsen, though the margins were narrower. Opponents were so sure of their loss, they didn't bother to plan an election night celebration.

"We did not expect this result," Jacobsen said. "Everything we had showed we were going to lose."

SO WHAT CHANGED?

In the last week of the campaign, the Edward Thomas Company — which owns Shutters on the Beach and Casa Del Mar, two coastal luxury hotels — donated and loaned more than \$275,000 to the "No on JJ" campaign, according to campaign disclosure statements.

Along with payments from other hotels, restaurants and local businesses, more than \$350,000 was donated or loaned to foes of the measure in the campaign's last week.

In contrast, living wage supporters raised less than \$200,000 during their entire campaign to persuade voters to pass Measure JJ. The pro-living wage movement sent out seven mailers citywide and had a canvassing operation consisting of hundreds of volunteers — some of whom came from as far away as Boston — and about 25 paid organizers.

SMART's campaign depended heavily on media coverage, and they staged many press events to attract attention.

But in all, the "No on JJ" campaign had raised and spent more than one million dollars in the past four months to kill the living wage ordinance.

"We ran a fact-based campaign and we took our message directly to the residents," Jacobsen said.

According to campaign disclosures, most of that money paid for a "grassroots" canvassing campaign, a Texas-based phone bank operation and at least 20 mail-

ers sent citywide. A basic mailer sent to every Santa Monica address costs roughly \$20,000.

"Manpower-wise, they had the advantage," Jacobsen said of the JJ's supporters. "They could bring in all these union workers from throughout the region to work on their campaign, and we had to work hard to overcome that disadvantage."

SMART officials, however, say that

"We were not responsible for the mailers, and we are not affiliated with the groups that sent them."

— SETH JACOBSEN
Measure JJ opponent spokesman

when the "No on JJ" campaign's own polls showed they were going to lose, the group resorted to a flurry of deceptive mailers intended to trick living wage supporters into opposing the measure.

"The story of the living wage being defeated is a story of money and lies and dirty tricks," said Feingold, the SMART spokesman.

MYSTERIOUS MAILERS

JJ's supporters say three deceptive fliers were mailed to every resident in Santa Monica in the last few days of the campaign that may have swung the election. But Jacobsen denies that the "No on JJ" campaign had anything to do with the fliers, and none of the group's campaign disclosures directly link them to the mailing.

"We were not responsible for the mailers, and we are not affiliated with the groups that sent them," Jacobsen said.

The first was a piece from "The Quality Schools Coalition," which urged voters to approve education bonds under state Proposition 47, Proposition 49 and vote yes on Measure EE, a local \$300 parcel tax measure. The last line reads, "Vote No on Reduced Funding for Schools and Youth Programs: Vote No on Measure JJ."

The second was from the "Pro-Choice Voter's Committee," which advocated residents vote a Democratic statewide ticket, yes on the local school parcel tax and no on the living wage ordinance. The flier states voting no on Measure JJ would "... stop discrimination and protect vital city services including women's health services."

The last of the three fliers was from the "Democratic Voters Ballot Guide," which urged registered Democrats to vote a straight Democratic ticket, to vote yes on the school parcel tax and no on the living wage. The flier states that Measure JJ would "eliminate jobs for our young people, eliminate jobs for our poorest people (and) eliminate health and other social services for women."

Supporters of the measure say the mailers are clearly deceptive because the state Democratic Party and several local and state educators had endorsed Santa Monica's proposed living wage ordinance, which had nothing to do with education, youth or women's services.

See LIVING WAGE, page 6

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LOCAL

SMART officials remain energized for another fight

LIVING WAGE, from page 5

At the bottom of each piece, small print states the mailers are not meant to reflect the official views of any political party or to imply any endorsement by a political party or its candidates.

But the fliers would likely resonate with Santa Monica voters who lean toward Democratic candidates, support abortion rights and have often voted to support education initiatives.

Feingold said the fliers were designed to look official and that voters were likely to accept them as such because the “No on JJ” campaign was not listed as paying for them.

“If you’re a Democrat in Santa Monica and you get this piece and you see all these Democrats above a statement urging you to vote against JJ, what are you going to think?” said Feingold. “The average voter isn’t going to read the fine print; they are going to infer the Democratic Party is against the living wage.”

When the “Democratic Ballot Guide” piece hit mailboxes on the afternoon before polls opened, the state chair of the Democratic party, Art Torres, and Santa Monica’s congressman, Harry Waxman, issued statements denouncing the flier and reiterating their support for the proposed living wage ordinance.

But by then, Feingold said, the damage had been done. To get the margin of votes by which the proposal was defeated, the mailers would have to sway no more than a dozen voters in each of Santa Monica’s 66 polling precincts.

“I would argue with anyone that believed those deceptive mailers didn’t trick 12 voters in each precinct into voting against the living wage,” Feingold said.

Still, some political pundits said the outcome was not all that surprising, since it’s common for measures with a well-financed opposition to lose, and that it’s very likely the three fliers in question had an impact on the election.

“When there is a lot of money against a ballot measure it tends to go down,” said Robert Stern, president of the Center for Governmental Studies, a private think tank that analyzes ballot measures and the campaigns mounted for and against them.

“Voters go against ballot measures when they are confused,” he said. “They will vote no if they are even slightly unsure.”

NEW LIVING WAGE HURDLES

Despite the alleged dirty tricks, SMART officials said they remain energized for another fight. Though no second campaign is officially in planning yet, supporters predict it will take less than a year to bring forward a new living wage ordinance.

However, it is far from certain that any new proposal would have a better chance. Nearly 66 percent of Santa Monica residents are renters who move in and out of the city every two years on average, which means the voters’ frame of reference on the living wage battle is constantly being eroded.

In addition, Santa Monica residents as a group are slowly becoming wealthier and more conservative. Annual polls taken by the city show that residents’ concerns about affordable housing, for example, have dropped despite the fact that few income-restricted units have been added to the city. Meanwhile, concerns about ridding the city of its homeless population have soared.

To some observers, those results indi-

cate that residents who make enough money to pay \$1,500 to \$2,000 a month for the average one-bedroom apartment in Santa Monica have different concerns than residents who lived in the city ten years ago under rent control.

“The demographics of the city are apparently changing,” said Roy Ulrich, a campaign watcher for Common Cause, a watchdog group focusing on ethics in government.

“The fact that the living wage ordinance didn’t pass indicates to me that the city is losing its working class and lower-middle class population because of gentrification.”

— ROY ULRICH
Common Cause, campaign watcher

“The fact that the living wage ordinance didn’t pass indicates to me that the city is losing its working class and lower-middle class population because of gentrification. We are seeing high-priced units being snatched up, and rent control no longer seems to be having much effect.”

Ulrich also blames local media, which he says has failed to aptly inform voters about malicious or deceptive ads. Lacking a forum for debate and a means to inform readers of what’s happening locally, Ulrich says, voters are forced to rely more on direct mail to make their decisions.

“It’s clear that without a strong local media, if you spend a lot of money you can defeat even a good ballot measure,” he said. “Especially when there’s advertising that may or may not be truthful.”

Robert Stern said he heard more discontent from Santa Monica residents he knows personally than ever before, with many saying they felt disconnected from the living wage debate.

“How many people who work in the hotels can afford to live in Santa Monica?” he asked. “It was a feel-good measure that wouldn’t affect a lot of locals.”

However, both Stern and Ulrich agreed that had the election this year been more typical in terms of voter turnout for gubernatorial elections, or had this been a presidential election year, the living wage measure would likely have passed.

“The higher the turnout in Santa Monica, the more liberal the vote,” Stern said. “Homeowners are going to vote every two years regardless of what’s at stake, and they are more conservative.”

Living wage supporters remain undaunted. They point out that regardless of Santa Monica’s shifting demographics, their polls still show widespread support.

“I don’t think this election was a referendum on the changing politics in Santa Monica,” said Feingold, reiterating his belief that SMART’s victory was snatched away by deceptive mailers. “People don’t like to be tricked and lied to, and when they find out what happened, that will only translate into more support for a living wage.”

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STATE

Pot advocates ready for next battle after election losses

BY MARTHA MENDOZA

AP National Writer

ANAHEIM — Stung by the defeat of marijuana law reform measures in three states, proponents of decriminalizing the drug are preparing for a new round of

political and legal battles.

Voters on Tuesday defeated a Nevada measure to legalize possession of up to three ounces of marijuana, an Arizona initiative that would have likened pot possession to a traffic violation, and a South Dakota initiative that would legalize

hemp farms.

Several local measures did pass, including resolutions in 19 Massachusetts districts asking state representative to support making marijuana possession a civil rather than a criminal violation.

But the "crown jewel" of marijuana reform laws was passed in San Francisco, authorizing the city to make it official policy to explore the establishment of a medical marijuana growing and distribution program, said Rob Kampia, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based Marijuana Policy Project.

It is in that city, where the mayor, top prosecutor and many voters support legalizing medical marijuana, that his group's fight will be centered.

"We in hypocrisy-filled, stinkyville Washington, D.C., want to use your beautiful city as a beachhead in the drug war," he said.

Kampia joined about 500 marijuana reform advocates in Anaheim this weekend for a three-day conference to regroup after the election and plan their next step.

All attendees agreed they have a lot of work to do.

Federal drug enforcement officials said the election marked the beginning of the end of the legalization movement.

The election was "a stunning victory of common sense over pro-drug propaganda," said federal drug czar John Walters. He said that from now on, "the tide runs our way."

The next offensive for the reform movement will take place in several different venues, said Kevin Zeese, president of Common Sense for Drug Policy.

Politically, advocates plan to press the San Francisco city government to follow through on what some considered a somewhat symbolic piece of legislation and actually start planting pot gardens and giving the drug as medicine to sick and

dying people.

That would be illegal under federal law, despite state and local laws that allow it, said Drug Enforcement Agency spokesman Richard Meyer in San Francisco.

"Whoever cultivates, possesses or distributes marijuana is breaking federal law regardless of intended use," he said. "We'll be conducting business as usual."

Zeese said such confrontations are necessary.

"Part of the process is to sharpen the conflict," he said.

Eight states have approved medical marijuana and 35 states have passed legislation recognizing marijuana's medicinal value. But federal law bans marijuana under any circumstances.

In the past year, DEA agents have raided several medical marijuana providers in California, mostly without support from local law enforcement.

Shawn Heller, national director of Students for Sensible Drug Policy, which has chapters at 200 college and high school campuses, said other local initiatives and perhaps another state proposal should be organized.

On the legal front, a federal appeals court ruled last week in San Francisco that the government cannot revoke the prescription drug licenses of doctors who recommend marijuana to sick patients.

During the next few months, federal judges in California are expected to hear several more cases involving a patient's right to use medical marijuana, and in one case to retrieve pot confiscated in a raid.

Angel McClary Raich, who uses marijuana every two hours to control pain for an array of medical problems including an inoperable brain tumor, has a case pending in U.S. District Court in Oakland.

"I'm fighting for my life, but also I'm trying to help other patients," she said.

Report on cell phone-related crashes re-examined by CHP

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A new statewide report detailing the impact of cell phones on car accidents has been delayed as the California Highway Patrol re-examines how the data was collected.

The report, which was given to Gov. Gray Davis last week, has been returned to the CHP after the agency learned the numbers may have been too low, CHP Commissioner Dwight O. "Spike" Helmick told the Los Angeles Times in an article published Sunday.

The reworked report will include data showing drivers using cell phones had been blamed for nearly seven times the number of accidents originally cited in the report, Helmick said.

"We're not changing any of our conclusions," Helmick said. "It's just adding additional data that might make it clearer for everybody."

The report, which has not been made public, was ordered last year by the Legislature to assist in a debate on whether the state should require handsfree cell phones.

The report counted only 913 accidents in 2001 in which officers statewide indicated cell phone use was to blame. Three of those accidents involved fatalities, and 423 caused injuries.

But a Times analysis of traffic accident

data showed the total would be higher if the CHP included all accidents in which the driver responsible for the crash was using a cell phone.

Helmick said officers began collecting these numbers in April 2001 at the urging of the Automobile Club of Southern California. These figures suggest at least 4,699 accidents could be blamed on drivers using cell phones. In those accidents, 31 people died and 2,786 were injured.

Because the data producing the higher figures was collected for only nine months of 2001, the number of accidents involving cell phones could be well over 6,000 for the full year, the Times said.

"Without a doubt, there's something wrong there," Helmick said. "Clearly the numbers do not look right, nor do I think they're right."

It's not clear why so many officers didn't put cell phone use down as the cause of the accident even though the driver responsible for the crash was using one at the time. The Times said officers may have been discouraged by a CHP policy that requires cell phone use to be either verified by a witness or by evidence at the scene.

The CHP report could determine the fate of a bill prohibiting California drivers from using hand-held cell phones, a bill that Assemblyman Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, said he would introduce next month.

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STATE



New shopping technology could breed discrimination

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Business Writer

MORAGA — What if a shopping cart became a computer on wheels, a sales vehicle sophisticated enough to analyze individual buying habits so it could pinpoint which shoppers got the best prices?

Safeway Inc., the nation's third-largest grocer, is quietly searching for the answer by testing a smart shopping cart. The trial reveals how retailers might capitalize on the reams of consumer information they have been stockpiling since the mid-1990s.

It is unfolding at two of Safeway's northern California stores, one in the affluent town of Moraga near San Francisco, the other in rural Cameron Park.

Shoppers are greeted by the "Magellan" — a shopping cart with a book-sized computer on the front handle. A side slot lets shoppers swipe their Safeway "club" cards — the identification most major grocers now require for discounts on certain items.

Reading the club card enables the shopping cart's computer to tap into the buying histories Safeway has compiled on most customers. The cart can then display four grocery items offered at sales prices unavailable to anyone else.

The computer also provides a guide to each consumer's most frequently purchased items and monitors the shopper's steps through the aisles, flashing ads to promote nearby merchandise.

Safeway and other grocers experimenting with similar technology believe the tools will make it easier to reward their best customers and increase sales.

Keeping these customers happy is becoming even more important to supermarkets as they face increased competition from the likes of retail powerhouse Wal-Mart Inc.

The grocers also believe customers will embrace the cart's other bells and whistles, such as store maps.

Consumer advocates fear the smart carts will cultivate a caste system in which grocers cater to big spenders by offering deep discounts unavailable to poorer consumers.

"I am concerned that some people are going to be left behind by this technology," said John Vanderlippe, associate director for Consumers Against Supermarket Privacy Invasion and Numbering, a watchdog group.

Even certain demographic groups, such as unmarried shoppers, might get the short end.

The computer, for instance, could conclude that a single man generates relatively little profit compared to a mother buying groceries for her husband and two kids.

There's a powerful incentive for supermarkets to be more discriminating about their prices.

Industry data show 30 percent of supermarket shoppers generate 75 percent of a store's sales. Analysts say it makes sense for grocers to pamper the big-spending customers to make sure they keep coming back.

But "the best customers at supermarkets often get some of the worst treatment," said Arthur Middleton Hughes, a vice president for CSC Advanced Database Solutions, a database-building company in Schaumburg, Ill.

As an example, supermarket customers buying the most groceries are routinely

stuck in the longest checkout lines while shoppers with just a few items use express lanes, Hughes said. "Giving greater discounts to the best customers could be just one way to reward them for standing in longer lines."

But the technology also might work against big spenders. For instance, the smart cart might determine that a mother buys peanut butter for her kids every week, no matter the price, and conclude there's no reason to ever offer that shopper a discount.

Safeway won't discuss its long-term plans for the computerized carts. The Pleasanton-based grocer wouldn't even let The Associated Press photograph the carts.

Although the consumer response during the trials so far has been "fairly good," Safeway doesn't have any current plans to introduce the smart-cart system in all 1,650 stores nationwide, spokesman Brian Dowling said.

"I am concerned that some people are going to be left behind by this technology."

— JOHN VANDERLIPPE

Consumers Against Supermarket Privacy Invasion and Numbering

"We think this could be a unique way to deliver more offers to our customers," Dowling said. "It would be a bad assumption to conclude all the offers will only go to high-income individuals."

During the AP's recent hour-long visit at Safeway's Moraga store, only three shoppers used computerized carts, despite brochures and a display promoting the technology. Dozens of other consumers grabbed the conventional shopping carts still parked outside the store.

Helen Rosenberg of Moraga swipes her card through the computerized cart to get more good deals, but she doesn't like the system.

"It's horrible. It's totally like Big Brother is watching you," Rosenberg said. "Safeway should just stop spending its money on things like this and lower its prices for everyone."

Safeway isn't the first grocer to experiment with smart shopping carts. Last year, Iowa-based Hy-Vee Inc. tested similar technology that used infrared tracking devices and video screens to make special offers at some Kansas City, Mo. stores.

The company that developed that system, Salt Lake City-based Klever Marketing Inc., has been trying to sell its smart carts to toy stores, warehouse stores and other discount merchants, according to regulatory filings. Klever Marketing officials didn't return calls seeking further comment.

Safeway wouldn't reveal the company behind its technology.

Smart-cart critics, meanwhile, hope the technology fails.

"This idea could backfire," Vanderlippe said. "It could help people realize just how much information they are sharing about themselves every time they let supermarkets swipe those club cards through the register."

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Burials at veterans cemetery realize loss of generation

Associated Press Writer

"Sometimes it gets to you," says Al Williams, 74, a veteran of World War II and the Korean War whose honor guard does as many as five funerals a day. "I've lost a lot



Phelan M. Ebenhack/Associated Press

of friends.”

The constant activity at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs cemetery is a grim reminder of just how fast an entire generation is disappearing. And because so many veterans spend their retirements in Florida, the cemetery in Bushnell is filling up rapidly with the familiar white grave markers.

Of the 37 services held Friday, 19 were for World War II veterans. About half of Tuesday's burials will be, too. The cemetery will take a break Monday for its annual Veterans Day program.

Associated Press Writer

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INTERNATIONAL



Gaps, discrepancies cloud Iraqi nuclear assessments

BY CHARLES J. HANLEY
AP Special Correspondent

In tens of thousands of words, many of them "may," "could" and "probably," intelligence agencies and private analysts have sketched out a portrait in uncertain-

ty and called it the Iraqi quest for doomsday weapons.

A close review of recent in-depth reports shows that at times U.S. and British intelligence organizations and other specialists contradict or fail to support each other's assertions on Iraq and

nuclear weapons, assertions that are often unsubstantiated.

A key passage in the U.S. intelligence report, for example, says Iraq "may" have acquired technology to substantially speed production of atomic bomb material. But no concrete evidence is offered, and the British intelligence report suggests the opposite — that U.N. sanctions have kept such equipment out of Iraqi hands.

The British, for their part, refer vaguely to "African" uranium sought by Iraq. But they don't say in which decade this might have happened, and no other report mentions it.

What isn't in the documents can be as significant as what is: In early September, President Bush declared that satellite photographs proved Iraq had revived its nuclear weapons program. In their subsequent reports, however, neither the U.S. nor British government agencies even mention those photos.

The Baghdad government has further obscured the reality with its own detailed rebuttal, in which it doesn't acknowledge its past obstruction of searches by U.N. weapons inspectors or that it has barred inspection teams for four years.

This nuclear fog over Iraq clouds public debate at a critical moment.

The ambiguities led Washington's two newspapers to headline starkly different conclusions from one major assessment, by London's private International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS). "Iraq Lacks Material for Nuclear Bomb, Study Says," reported The Washington Post, while The Washington Times headlined, "Report: Iraq Close to Nuclear Reality."

The U.N. inspectors may return to Baghdad soon to resume investigating whether Iraq is trying to make nuclear, chemical or biological weapons in defiance of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

They may take months to reach conclusions, however, and until then — while the world ponders war against Iraq — the reports by the U.S. and British agencies and the prestigious IISS; the Iraqi rebuttal; and follow-up analyses by specialists at such organizations as Washington's Carnegie Endowment for International Peace will remain the most thorough public look at the question.

It's a look that, time and again, is conflicting and confusing. Iraq's "aluminum tubes" are a case in point.

The Iraqis reportedly sought to buy thousands of high-strength aluminum tubes in the past two years. The 25-page CIA summary of Oct. 4 says the tubes are banned and adds that "most intelligence specialists" believe they were intended as core cylinders of centrifuges to enrich uranium for bombs.

But the 50-page intelligence dossier released by British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Sept. 24 said "there is no definitive intelligence" that the tubes were intended for a nuclear program. Moreover, buying such tubes is not banned under anti-Iraq sanctions, but is subject to U.N. approval and monitoring because the tubes have dual uses — both non-nuclear and nuclear.

The Iraqi government scoffs at the tubes issue in its 6,000-word rebuttal, saying such centrifuges don't use aluminum. Primitive designs do, in fact, but Iraq was already using more advanced materials as it tried to master centrifuges before the 1990-91 Gulf War, after which inspectors dismantled what they found of Iraq's nuclear program.

Physicist David Albright, a former

U.N. inspector, is not convinced the tubes were meant for centrifuges. "The Iraqis could do much better," he said.

In a detailed analysis, Albright's Washington research group, the Institute for Science and International Security, notes that Iraq has long imported such tubing for non-nuclear uses. He says experts are more worried about centrifuge components that are more sophisticated and harder to get than cylinders.

It was the Iraqis' former centrifuge site — and photos of new construction there — that Bush said showed the nuclear bomb program had been resurrected.

The reconnaissance photos give no clue to the new building's function, however. Dozens of foreign journalists later visited the site, al-Furat, under Iraqi escort and did not report seeing centrifuges, and the photos were notably absent from the U.S. and British intelligence reports.

"These photos provide weak support for any military action," said Albright.

The CIA report, after speculating the Iraqis "may have acquired uranium enrichment capabilities" to speed bomb production, says that since December 1999 they have engaged in more than 100 deals to buy dual-use items that would be useful for nuclear or other weapons programs.

But the report doesn't go on to explain that such contracts are under close U.N. scrutiny, approved or disapproved by inspectors who often mandate follow-up checks to ensure the items aren't used for nuclear purposes in violation of U.N. sanctions. Those checks are carried out by some of the 158 U.N. observers currently in Iraq.

The British report takes a tack opposite to the Americans', saying London's Joint Intelligence Committee "assessed that U.N. sanctions on Iraq were hindering the import of crucial goods for the production of (nuclear) material."

In their key conclusions, the British, U.S. and IISS reports all find that Iraq is unlikely to be able to produce bomb-grade uranium for five or more years. But each also points to what the IISS calls a "nuclear wild card" — that Iraq might fashion a bomb sooner if it somehow obtains enough highly enriched uranium on the black market.

Their time frames vary. The IISS and a Carnegie Endowment report suggest this could be done in mere months; British intelligence forecasts it might take two years.

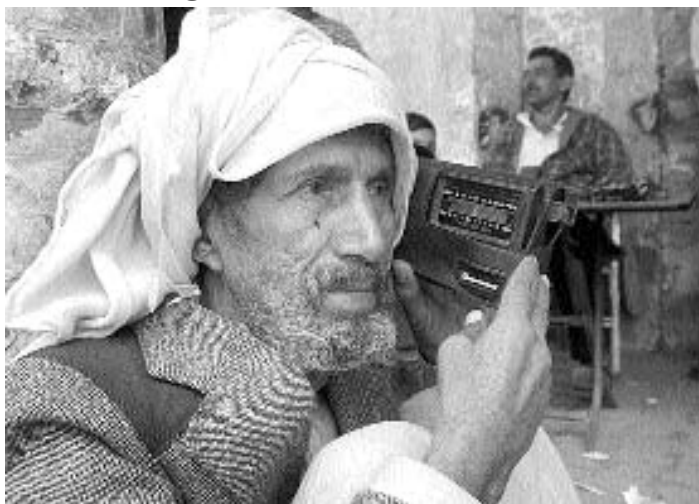
None, however, ties this wild card to what experts know: Even if the Iraqis managed to get hold of the 50 to 100 pounds of bomb-grade uranium needed, they would take much longer to develop a warhead-and-missile combination that could deliver such a nuclear strike effectively beyond their borders.

The Iraqis are forbidden by U.N. resolutions to possess missiles with greater than a 90-mile range. But the IISS, British and U.S. reports suggest they retain some old, inaccurate Scud missiles, with ranges up to 400 miles — "about a dozen," "up to 20" or "a few dozen," the various reports say.

However, these reports fail to note that U.N. inspectors said in 1997 that all but two of 819 such missiles had been used by Iraq or destroyed — an accounting previously acknowledged in CIA reports.

Iraq is also developing prohibited longer-range missiles, contend the U.S. and British intelligence dossiers. Among other things, they cite reconnaissance photos showing a new, larger test stand at a site where liquid-propellant engines have been tested.

Radio Baghdad



Hussein Malla/Associated Press

An Iraqi listens to his radio in Baghdad on Saturday. Iraq is expected to respond within the next few days to the U.N. Security Council resolution requiring it to disarm or face serious consequences, the official Iraqi News Agency said Saturday.

Ramadan cannon no longer booms on gloomy holiday

BY JASON KEYSER
Associated Press Writer

NABLUS, West Bank — One gun has fallen silent in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: the century-old cannon that used to signal the end of the day's fast during Ramadan.

Since the Muslim holy month got under way last week, the gun's thunderous boom has been silenced by the fire chief of this Palestinian city because he doesn't want to spook already jittery residents, and he can't get gunpowder anyway.

Across the West Bank, Ramadan is a somber affair this year, with Israeli military curfews keeping many residents confined to their homes, unable to visit relatives for large, festive evening meals at the end of the daytime fast.

"I lost my feeling for Ramadan," said Dalal Sobieh. "I just feel hungry."

Sobieh filled her small kitchen with the smells of spices and sweets, but no one came; her family is from a village separated from Nablus by dangerous roads and military checkpoints.

Her husband and two little girls, 8-month-old Waad and Shahad, 10, sat around a small table spread with soup, rice, salad and bread on a yellow plastic tablecloth.

Without the cannon, the call to break the fast comes over crackling radios in an old man's voice: "God is great."

Ramadan is the holiest time of year for Muslims. It marks God's revelation of the holy book, the Quran, to the Prophet Mohammed 1,400 years ago. During the day, the faithful go without food, drink, cigarettes and sex in acts of sacrifice and

purification.

The fast ends at dusk with a meal that includes warm dishes, as well as dates, juice, soup and syrupy sweets. Normally, it's as much a social custom as a religious one, with extended families gathering and lingering in conversation until late in the evening.

But after two years of Israeli-Palestinian fighting, Ramadan brings only memories of happier times in Nablus, which once drew thousands of visitors in search of the town's famous knafi, sweets of cheese and wheat soaked with syrup.

The memories are especially vivid for the 53-year-old fire chief, Yousef Al Jabi, who used to light the century-old cannon, a leftover from Turkish rule, with a gush of fire and smoke to the squeals of delighted children — a tradition that dates back to the 10th century.

"We lost a lot of Ramadan symbols," Al Jabi said, looking over the cannon, which sits silent behind the firehouse in a lot heaped with cars, junked engines and metal.

Two Israeli tanks divide Nablus in half, with soldiers enforcing a round-the-clock curfew in the eastern part. In western Nablus, shoppers hurried to buy food before nightfall, when they too would be shut indoors.

In western Nablus, where the curfew is imposed only at night, some people went to mosques to pray during the day, knowing they'd have to pray at home at night.

Men who prayed together in an apartment building stairwell the night before felt safe enough to venture to a mosque just down the street. In front of one window, a family played cards.



SPORTS

USC's confidence sky high as season winds down

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

AP Sports Writer

STANFORD — Southern California is sure it would be a fine representative of the Pac-10 Conference in the Rose Bowl.

There's just one problem: for now, Washington State is in the way.

Being selected for a Bowl Championship Series game would be an acceptable alternative for the Trojans if that's the way it must be.

Yet, until USC is officially eliminated from winning the conference, the team is still aiming to be in Pasadena on New Year's Day.

The Trojans routed Stanford 49-17 on Saturday to maintain slim conference title hopes. One more victory by first-place Washington State or one loss by USC (7-2 overall, 5-1 Pac-10) would eliminate

the Trojans.

Coach Pete Carroll refuses to think about where his team will play in the post-season. He sure likes what the Trojans are doing on the field, though.

"We're poised to do something good here," Carroll said.

USC moved up two spots in The Associated Press poll to No. 8 with the victory Saturday. That still leaves the Trojans five spots behind the third-ranked Cougars, who beat Oregon at home to move up five places in the rankings.

"It doesn't matter," USC receiver Keary Colbert said. "At the end of the month it will matter. We can't control (Washington State's) games. We can control our games."

The Trojans, coming off a bye week, made some mistakes early in Saturday's game. Stanford had won the previous

three meetings by a combined 11 points.

USC was determined to stay on the roll it started last month with wins over California and Washington at home, and at Oregon. The Trojans' only conference loss was by three points in overtime at Washington State on Oct. 5.

"We're very happy," linebacker Matt Grootegeod said. "We have to keep on not giving up anything. Step by step, our goals are going to be met."

The Trojans finish the season with three difficult games — home against Arizona State, at UCLA and at home against Notre Dame.

"Each game in the last four games has to have a story," Carroll said. "We've played about as tough a schedule as you can play. (The bowl scenario) is not, in my mind, anything to talk about yet until

we're finished. But our style, we're getting more difficult to deal with."

Quarterback Carson Palmer insists he must play even better in the stretch run. And that's coming from a player who's already performing superbly.

Palmer threw four touchdown passes in the win over the Cardinal, giving him 13 in his past three games. His four TD passes broke a school career record, giving him 61 to surpass the mark of 58 set by Rob Johnson.

That's not good enough for the perfectionist Palmer, who expects his team to score on every offensive series.

"I just want to be perfect," he said. "I expect to be perfect every time. I expect to be undefeated. I expect to lead this team to victory every time. But as long as we're winning, I'm happy."

It will not be an all-sister final at WTA Championships

BY TOM A. McFERSON

Special to the Daily Press

A strained left leg muscle forced Venus Williams to retire from her semi-final match against Kim Clijsters at the Home Depot WTA Championships Sunday at Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles.

The injury also derailed what had seemed inevitable all week: a Williams versus Williams final.

In the second semi-final, Serena Williams struggled but outlasted Jennifer Capriati 2-6, 6-4, 6-4. She will face Clijsters in tomorrow's final.

Venus Williams, with her left leg heavily bandaged, limped noticeably during warm-ups and the early stages of the match. After quickly falling behind 0-5 in the first set, Williams spoke with the trainer and then informed the chair umpire that she could not continue. She shook hands with Clijsters and quickly left the court, fighting back tears.

Diagnosed as a lower leg strain, the injury occurred during her quarter-final win over Monica Seles. Williams didn't realize the severity until last night in bed.

"I was just sitting in bed and I realized

my leg is hurting," Williams said. The leg didn't improve overnight, but that didn't change Williams' intention of playing.

"I just wanted to try to see what I could do. This is a championship that I've never won or been to the finals."

It was another blow to tournament organizers, who have been battling poor attendance and lackluster matches all week. An all-Williams final could have been the shot in the arm the tournament needed.

It was a bittersweet win for Clijsters, who believed she had a legitimate shot at beating Venus Williams. She noticed something was wrong with her opponent right from the first point.

"I saw she wasn't moving as well as she normally does. Normally she's a great mover," Clijsters said.

"I just decided to focus on my serves and to try to make her move," said Clijsters, who has lost only six games so far in the tournament.

For a while, it looked like it could be a Williams-less final, with Serena dropping the first set to Capriati 6-2. She regained the momentum in the second set and won 6-4, then held on to win the third set 6-4. It

was the fifth time this year the two women have played, with Serena winning all five.

Serena will now play fifth seed Kim Clijsters in the final. Serena has seemed erratic and uncomfortable her last two matches. She has also started slowly, barely winning the first set against Jelena Dokic, and losing the first set Sunday to Capriati.

Clijsters, though, appears fresh and has

been hitting the ball well, but she hasn't really been tested. She posted an easy win over weary fourth seed Justine Henin, and only had to win five games before Venus Williams retired. It's possible there could be an upset in the making, but Clijsters will have to play extremely well to pull it off.

The final begins tonight at 7 p.m. at Staples Center.

Denver Broncos have towels ready for Romanowski's return

BY JOHN MARSHALL

AP Sports Writer

DENVER — The Denver Broncos will have their towels ready for Bill Romanowski's return Monday night.

After watching Romanowski taunt, poke, spear and even spit at opponents during his six years in Denver, the Broncos know better than any other team what to expect when they face him and his new team, the Oakland Raiders.

"If you expect that from Romo, then I don't know the Romo you know," Denver linebacker Ian Gold said when asked whether Romanowski would be well-behaved. "Let's just hope he doesn't spit on anybody."

The reputation Romanowski built over 15 years in the league — the first six with San Francisco and two with Philadelphia before he came to Denver — is one of a nasty player, the type who will say or do just about anything to break opponents' concentration. He has been known to rattle younger players with venomous insults and irritate veterans with late hits or by

pulling on their jerseys and face masks.

He even spat in the face of 49ers receiver J.J. Stokes during a game in 1998.

Romanowski's tactics are appreciated by teammates but despised by opponents. For that reason, he isn't likely to get a real warm welcome from the Broncos or their fans when he plays at Mile High for the first time as a Raider.

"Romo is a guy that was pretty much to himself. I think that's the way he wanted it. He didn't want to get close to anyone; he didn't want anyone to get close to him," said Broncos tight end Shannon Sharpe, a teammate of Romanowski's in Denver from 1996-99.

Romanowski didn't help matters during the preseason, when he predicted that the Raiders would win the AFC West and criticized the training methods of Denver coach Mike Shanahan.

Though he toned down the rhetoric this past week — perhaps because the Raiders have lost four straight and still must play the Broncos once more, on Dec. 22 — Romanowski still isn't sure what to expect when he steps on the field wearing

Charging the recovery



James A. Finley/Associated Press

St. Louis Rams Marshall Faulk (28) watches as the football bounces on the turf during his fumble in the second period against the San Diego Chargers during their NFL game in St. Louis, Sunday. The Chargers recovered the fumble, but lost the game, 28-24.

silver and black.

"I helped the team win two Super Bowls. I have a lot of great memories, and the fans were great to me," he said. "Every stadium I go in, other than Oakland right now, I get booed, so chances are they could boo me. That's not going to affect how I play."

Romanowski was the emotional leader of a Denver defense that won consecutive titles from 1998-99, but at 36 he became expendable with the emergence of Gold, who's 12 years younger.

Unwilling to accept a lesser role with the Broncos, Romanowski asked to be released and signed with the Raiders.

"I don't have any hard feelings toward Mike Shanahan and what he had to do," Romanowski said. "He had to make a decision for what he thought was best for the team. He gave me the option to stay, and I decided that it was time for me to move on."

It's worked out well for both sides. The Raiders' outlaw image suits Romanowski perfectly. The 6-foot-4, 245-pound player still finds ways to irritate the other team, and he's kept himself in such great shape that he still can make plays.

The Broncos get to show how far they've come against Romanowski, who isn't likely to let up against his former teammates.

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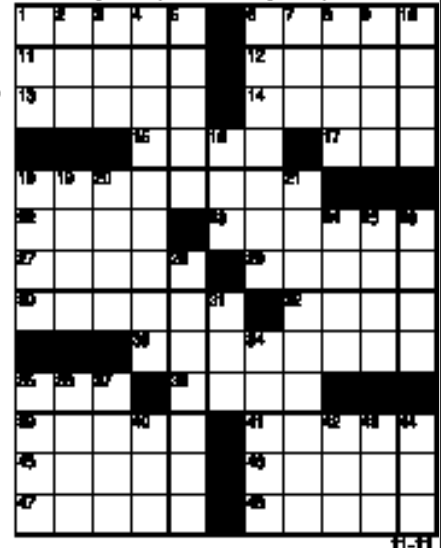
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- 1 Around (Lat.)
 - 6 West Point student
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 - 12 Dwelling
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 - 15 Venetian magistrate
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 - 27 Start of a Caesar quote
 - 29 Instructing
 - 30 Least common
 - 32 How Boone carved his name
 - 33 Kind of car
 - 35 Had lunch
 - 38 Sailing
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 - 41 Traffic light color
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 - 2 Hotel
 - 3 Stephen of "The Crying Game"
 - 4 Bridge and poker
 - 5 Dole out
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 - 7 Presidential nickname
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 - 9 Border
 - 10 Young person
 - 16 Spider
 - 18 Dan
 - 19 Killer whale
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 - 26 Depend
 - 28 Valuable homes
 - 31 McCourt book
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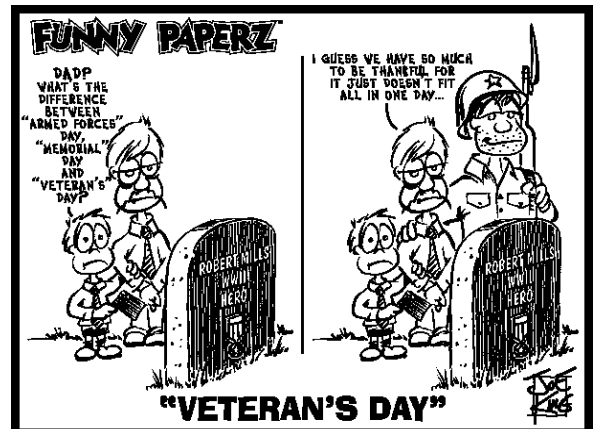
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Man run over by rig in drunken stupor

Josephine Bailey filed a wrongful-death lawsuit in August, two years after her 22-year-old son staggered out of Rick's Pub in Hurricane, W.Va., after a night of drinking and, according to police, collapsed under an idling 18-wheeler across the street, shortly after which he was run over and killed when the driver pulled away without noticing him. Ms. Bailey, who is suing Rick's owner and the trucking company, had said earlier that she couldn't believe her son would do such a foolish thing: "He'd never put himself in that kind of predicament."



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Calendar

Monday, November 11, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
Comedian (R) 12:45, 3:05, 5:25,
7:45, 10:25. *Femme Fatale* (R)
11:15, 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 10:10.
Jackass: The Movie (R) 12:30,
2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:55. *The Truth*
About Charlie (PG-13) 1:10,
1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40.

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

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Red Dragon (R) 1:15, 4:25,
7:35, 10:30. *8 Mile* (R) 12:15,
1:00, 3:15, 4:00, 6:15, 7:00,
9:15, 10:00. *Santa Clause 2* (G)
11:45, 1:35, 2:30, 4:10, 5:10,
7:45, 10:10. *White Oleander*
(PG-13) 7:25, 9:55. *I Spy* (PG-
13) 11:55, 12:30, 2:20, 3:00,
4:45, 5:30, 7:15, 7:50, 9:45,
10:05.

Landmark Nu-Wilshire
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Bowling for Columbine (R)
1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00. *Far*
From Heaven (PG-13) 11:30,
2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30.

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

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
Rules of Attraction 5:00, 7:30,
10:00.

Today

Community

Toddler Time, 10 a.m. Barnes & Noble at the Promenade and Wilshire. (310)260-9110.

Y Canned Fitness Week! November 4 thru 19. Just bring in ten cans of food per visit and you can participate in any one of our fitness classes, fitness center & lap swim for FREE! SM Family YMCA is located at 1332 Sixth Street. For more information please call (310)393-2721 ext. 118.

Santa Monica Strutters, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA

Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Venice United Methodist Church will host it's third Coffee House Teach-In Project to stop the war! 7pm to 10pm, Mani's Bakery, 2507 Main St. in Ocean Park. The teach-in is FREE, but requires RSVP at (310)203-1542. Seating is limited.

Conversations with God study group in Santa Monica every Monday night 7-8:30 pm, sequentially exploring and implementing the concepts of the "with God" books authored by Neale Donald Walsch. Meets in an ocean front condominium, donation \$5. For further information call Grant at (310) 399-8982.

Unurban Coffee House presents Hot Topics Night hosted by Ali every Monday evening. Signup is at 8pm. Open panel discussion and open forum. 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

Harvelle's Blues Club present Sports Happy Hour, 5pm to 8pm. 100 inch movie screen with high definition LCD projector, JBL surround sound, drink specials, \$3.00 Happy Hour Buffet.

1432 4th Street. Between Broadway and Santa Monica Blvd. (310)395-1676

Tuesday

Community

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

California Retired Teacher's Association (SM Bay Area Chapter) will meet at the United Methodist Church, 1008 Eleventh Street, SM. State Assembly woman Fran M. Pauley will speak about educational legislation. Social hour begins at 11:30am. Lunch served at 12 noon. Cost is \$7.50. Reservations are appreciated by calling (310)828-2674.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS AT SMC'S EMERITUS COLLEGE. Santa Monica College offers free bereavement support

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

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

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

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

Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to todaypaper@smcp.com for consideration. Calendar events are limited by space, and will be run at the discretion of the Calendar Editor.

KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

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



BACK PAGE

Anti-obesity crusader appeals for restraint in land of plenty

BY MATT CRENSON

AP National Writer

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — All Kelly Brownell wants is a breakfast that won't kill him.

In this diner on the outskirts of New Haven, Conn., that requires some difficult negotiations.

He has just ordered a bowl of oatmeal, with skim milk. Now he asks the waitress: "Do you have any fresh fruit? Cut up bananas or something? Fruit salad, maybe?"

No, no and no.

"The closest thing we have is blueberry pie filling," the waitress tells him apologetically. "You know, in a can."

"I'll live with the oatmeal then," Brownell says, sighing, not happy, but trying to be pleasant about it.

The waitress walks away.

"No fruit," Brownell says, shaking his head in disgust.

It's no wonder America is in the throes of a raging obesity epidemic, he says. Childhood obesity has tripled in the past 20 years. Adult obesity has doubled in the same amount of time. Now one child in six and nearly one adult in three is obese.

Only one thing can account for such a rapid change over the past 20 years, Brownell says, and if people would just open their eyes they would see it all around them.

The waitress comes back with his oatmeal, and Brownell asks her why they don't have any fruit in the place. Is it because nobody orders it?

Pretty much, she responds.

"We have one old guy, brings his own banana."

The waitress has no way of knowing it, but she is talking to a man who has been on a crusade for much of the last decade against the proliferation of junk food in America. Director of the Yale Center for Eating and Weight Disorders, Brownell believes the nation is plagued by a "toxic food environment."

Sodas, snacks and fast food have taken over America's culinary landscape, Brownell laments, much the way mini-malls and office parks have scarred the nation's scenery. It has become about as hard to get a decent, healthy meal of reasonable proportions in this country as it is to locate a thriving five-and-dime. Worst of all, few people seem to have noticed.

"Oh my God. I didn't even see that," Brownell exclaims.

He's in this Walgreen's drugstore to point out some of the tricks corporate marketing savants use to entice people into buying food they otherwise wouldn't. After a stroll down the aisle leading to the pharmacy department (mostly candy), Brownell stands before it like a man who has just had a cold drink tossed in his face.

There on the prescription counter, right where people go for medicine that's supposed to make them better, is a cardboard display hawking cookies and Kit Kat bars.

"So this," Brownell pronounces in an ironic tone, "is a DRUGstore."

He turns to walk out, only to find himself having to negotiate a shelf of Fiddle Faddle.

Humans are biologically designed to hoard calories. The gift protected the species from extinction during prehistory, when long periods of starvation were the

rule. But now that we live lives of relative ease in a land of abundance, the gift has become a curse.

You don't have to give in, of course. Many of Brownell's critics argue that people get obese because they lack self-control, not because sinister corporations force them to eat.

The public appears to agree. A 2001 poll by Princeton University researchers found that most people consider obesity a problem of individual willpower, not the increased availability of unhealthy food.

But people shouldn't have to struggle to maintain a healthy weight, Brownell insists. Forced to live in an environment that is specifically designed to lead them into temptation many, if not most, will succumb.

Brownell himself is an example. He sports a good-sized paunch thanks, he says, to a book project that has kept him relatively sedentary and snack-prone for the last year or so. In photographs taken a few years back, he looks much trimmer.

It is 10:15 a.m. The cafeteria of the public high school in Branford, Conn., a wealthy New Haven suburb, is buzzing with students on study hall. They are milling, chatting, reading, posing, laughing — but most notable to Brownell they are munching on snacks purchased at the school's 13 soda and snack machines.

"This is awful," Brownell moans.

Soda and snack companies pay for the right to put machines in schools. In an era of shrinking budgets, schools use the money for band uniforms, sports equipment, sometimes even textbooks.

To corporate marketing executives, putting vending machines in public

schools amounts to sheer brilliance. Not only does it sell snacks, it develops brand loyalty in a lucrative demographic.

To Brownell, the practice is a menace to public health. All around him, kids are gulping sodas, quaffing sports drinks, nibbling candy bars. The tables are littered with crumbs and wrappers.

"This is America," Brownell says.

In 1994, Brownell wrote an op-ed column in the New York Times suggesting that a junk food tax might help alleviate the obesity problem.

"Fatty foods would be judged on their nutritive value per calorie or gram of fat; the least healthy would be given the highest tax rate," he wrote. "Consumption of high-fat food would drop, and the revenue could be used for public exercise facilities — bike paths and running tracks — or nutrition education in schools."

The government taxes alcohol and tobacco, Brownell argued, two notorious scourges of public health. Obesity is beginning to rival smoking as a public health hazard. Why not slap a tax on the foods that cause it?

Food industry lobbyists and conservative pundits soon lambasted the idea as another meddlesome intrusion on personal liberty. They called it the "Twinkie tax."

Brownell was lambasted by Rush Limbaugh, the Wall Street Journal editorial page and even supermarket tabloid columnist Ed Anger of the Weekly World News.

"The high-fat Gestapo is trying to follow in the footsteps of the smoking Gestapo, in an effort to force the American people to act in the 'proper' way," Limbaugh complained on his radio show.

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