FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2005

Volume 4, Issue 243

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO
5 7 21 30 34
Meganumber: 24
Jackpot: $7 Million

FANTASY 5
7 10 19 29 31

DAILY 3
Daytime: 2 1 3
Evening: 2 1 1

DAILY DERBY
1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 02 Lucky Star

RACE TIME: 1:45.69

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

The following people accidentally shot themselves recently: a Fond du Lac, Wis., man, in the abdomen, while using a screwdriver to dislodge a round from his pistol (August); a Nacogdoches, Texas, woman, in the foot while trying to kill a snake on her property (September) (and the same woman, again trying to kill a snake, shot herself in the other foot the next day); a Tennessee Highway Patrolman, in the leg as he holstered his pistol while chasing a fleeing suspect near Maryville (August); a teenage boy, in the leg while fleeing after robbing a food store in New Caney, Texas (August); a 33-year-old Milwaukee man, in the leg while fleeing after robbing a man on the street (October). And Danny Walden, Taylorsville, Ky., was shot by the rifle he had set up in his home as a booby trap to protect his 115 marijuana plants (October).

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 316th day of 2005. There are 49 days left in the year.

On Nov. 12, 1942, the World War II naval Battle of Guadalcanal began. (The Americans ended up winning a major victory over the Japanese.)
In 1985, Xavier Suarez was elected Miami's first Cuban-American mayor.

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City cuts its losses, settles for $750,000

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — City Hall is out $440,000 after a check intended for the Big Blue Bus, and worth more than $1 million, was cashed.

Nearly three years later, city officials have decided to cut their losses and settle with the banks they feel are responsible for letting $1 million in taxpayer money slip through their hands.

First National Bank of Colorado, which cashed the check; Robert W. Baird & Co., a financial management company; and Bank of America, which handles Los Angeles County's transportation account, have agreed to pay Santa Monica a collective $750,000.

Deputy City Attorney Jeanette Schachtner said city officials decided to settle the case because it was too expensive to continue in a lawsuit that would determine who is responsible.

City Hall, which hired outside

See **CUTS LOSSES**, page 8

Polar espresso

Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Franklyn Passmore III helps construct a snowman at the Santa Monica Pier on Thursday. Starbucks arranged for snow to be brought to the pier for the first time in recent years as a means of kicking off the holiday season.

Brothers gear up to honor mother's legacy

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

SANTA MONICA PIER — Brothers committed to honoring their late mother's memory braked in Santa Monica on Thursday during a Pan-American bicycle trek geared towards raising money and awareness for brain tumor research.

John and Mike Logsdon are attempting to earn $50,000 for the non-profit National Brain Tumor Foundation by pedaling 15,000 miles — from Alaska to Argentina — in honor of their mother, Jean Logsdon, who died of brain cancer in 1996.

John Logsdon, 26, and Mike Logsdon, 24, from San Francisco, began their journey on July 26 when a cargo plane dropped them off in Prudhoe Bay, located on the northern coast of Alaska. From there, they biked 4,300 miles south along the Pan-American Highway. They have raised $12,000 to date for brain tumor research.

Traveling at their current pace of 100 to 150 miles per day, the Logsdons expect to reach their destination — the southern tip of Argentina — sometime between April and June.

The Logsdons began their journey in 20-degree weather with winds reaching 45 miles per hour.

"There was definitely a moment when I thought, 'What have we gotten ourselves into?'" John Logsdon said.

From Prudhoe Bay, the brothers biked along a dirt road which serves the Alaskan oil pipeline. They didn't come across a convenience store or gas station for the first 500 miles of their trek, but did come across

Ryan Hyatt/Daily Press

LIVING STRONG: The Brothers Logsdon pause en route to southern Argentina.

some 40 bears, including a grizzly, which chased them down within the first days of the trip.

"I caught something in the corner of my eye, some movement in the Tundra," John Logsdon said. "I could see it, but I couldn't believe it."

The Logsdon brothers said they pedaled away as fast as they could, but the Grizzly gained on them quickly. Luckily, within 100 feet of them, the Grizzly stood on its hind legs, sniffed the air and stopped its pursuit.

See **LIFE CYCLE**, page 7

In remembrance

Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

The Santa Monica Police Department held a 'Dedication of the Memorial Wall' on Thursday, honoring Officer Ricardo Crocker, who was killed in Iraq.

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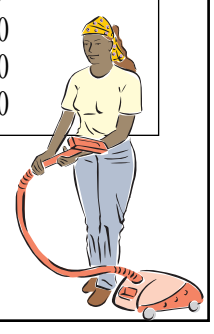

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HOROSCOPE

Rest first tonight, Libra

Santa Monica Daily Press

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You need to make adjustments, and if you do, you will find yourself in a much better position. At first you might be uncomfortable. But you will adapt and feel quite good by the end of the day. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Not everyone will always be on your side or agree with you. Remember, different opinions breed better results. Use the differences to strengthen your ideas. Aim for what you want. You express yourself well in a meeting; even a key person agrees. Tonight: Don't make it a late night.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Others give you some flak, but in the long run, you do A-OK. Your ability to understand priorities carries you far. Be willing to handle responsibilities, as many tumble on you. Tonight: It might be a while before you can relax.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You need to detach at the first sign of complications. Don't get triggered, but understand more of what the situation's dynamics are. You will find a point of agreement through neutrality. Tonight: Where there is music.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You might need to push yourself to come up with a solution. At the same time, shy away from risks. You need to be responsible and take care of yourself. A partner has many excellent suggestions. Listen rather than automatically say no. Tonight: Be with your favorite person.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Others want control. You can fuss, but to no avail. You know what needs to happen. A loved one shares much more than you might be ready to hear. He or she is changing. Focus on the positives. Tonight: You could go till the wee hours.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Separate business from pleasure. In fact, you might need to say no to someone or screen your calls. Knowing your priorities will make all the difference. Relax with others. Don't worry about a change of plans. Tonight: Rest first.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your creativity could cost you a lot. Think twice before taking any financial risks — at least for now. Romance and imagination could easily mix. Add that special flourish, even if you are already married. Tonight: How about an old-fashioned date?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Your stubborn streak could be the source of a problem. Learn to flex, and don't try to control others. You cannot prevail over anyone's will. When you let go, others find you easy to work with. Let life flow. Tonight: Head home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Refuse to say too much. You might have some personal doubts that could be impacting or even sabotaging your attitude. Investigate an opportunity more openly. Be friendly and listen to others. Tonight: Out and about.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Deal with money matters head-on. You find that others will respond. A friend might have what seems like a great idea. Give yourself time to think it through — no quick decisions. Tonight: Stick to your budget.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Your smile is that of a winner. You will get what you want if you know when to back off of a particularly demanding person. You are in control. Tap into some of your great ideas. Split town ASAP. Tonight: Do what you want to do.

CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL AUDIT PENDING

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
Phone: (310) 458-PRESS (7737) • Fax: (310) 576-9913
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LOCAL

We've been served

Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

In honor of Veterans Day, Army Sergeant Brian Miller recognizes Kiwanians for their military service on Wednesday at the Santa Monica YMCA. From right to left are: Lloyd Jacobs, Ray Carriere, Merlyn Raco and Donald Wagner.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Remembering the Holocaust

By Daily Press staff

Westside residents plan to gather this weekend for the anniversary of Kristallnacht, known as the precursor to the Holocaust.

Nearly two dozen Southern California temples will come together on Saturday, Nov. 12, to also celebrate the precious items they hold in common: Each participating synagogue is the caretaker of a Torah scroll that survived Nazi occupation in Czechoslovakia and was rescued after the Holocaust.

Beth Chayim Chadashim (BCC) served as the organizer for the event, having located through the Shoah Visual History Foundation a Holocaust survivor, Mrs. Olga Grilli, from the same hometown as the scroll that has been in their care since 1973. BCC's organizing committee discovered a groundswell of support for the event from synagogues with Czech Torahs. Congregations from as far away as Santa Maria will participate.

The event will commemorate the 67th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the Nazis' infamous "Night of Broken Glass" in 1938 and precursor of the Holocaust, with a rare public screening of "The Power of Good," an Emmy award-winning HBO documentary about Sir Nicholas Winton, who was responsible for rescuing nearly 700 children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia on Kindertransports.

Grilli of Poughkeepsie, New York, originally from Chotebor, Czechoslovakia and brought to England by Winton on a Kindertransport at age 11, will be present for the event. BCC's Torah scroll is from Chotebor.

The event will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Leo Baeck Temple, 1300 N. Sepulveda in Bel Air, directly across from the entrance to the Getty Center.

For more information, visit www.bcc-la.org, or call (323) 931-7023.

SMC presidential hopefuls meet the public

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College has announced that it has scheduled public forums for

See **BRIEFS**, page 8

SURF REPORT

Friday — Veteran's Day — is looking small, but a slight burst of NW is due with waist-high sets possible. Westerly winds will likely increase by early to mid morning as well. Then things pick up for the weekend as an offshore condition builds.

Today the water is:

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TUESDAY	7:37	3:45	9:33	0.0	4:14	3.8	1:38	5.0
WEDNESDAY	9:43	3.0	10:29	0.1	4:52	4.2	3:16	4.8
THURSDAY	11:01	2.3	11:15	0.2	5:24	4.7	4:38	4.8
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The Q Line

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After years of preparation, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. opened this past weekend on the Santa Monica Pier. City officials say the restaurant will enhance the family atmosphere of the pier and bring in more revenue for City Hall. Opponents say that allowing a chain restaurant to become established on the pier goes against guidelines that give preference to locally owned businesses.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, **"What impact, if any, do you think the opening of Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. on the pier will have?"**

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

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Heard you the first time

Santa Monica city government prides itself on the opportunities it gives to citizens for public discourse. Residents are encouraged to be involved in local issues and over the years, they have taken advantage of their ability to be engaged in public debate — almost to a fault.

One only needs to look at the most recent City Council meeting to realize that citizens here are lacking common sense when it comes to speaking their minds. Hours of public testimony on one issue is commonplace in City Council chambers, where dozens of people line up to say the same thing over and over again just to ensure their point got across.

The result is that the rest of the public is stuck listening to the same argument being made time and time again. And after awhile, people stop listening, including the City Council. Meanwhile, those who show up for other issues on the City Council agenda are left waiting — sometimes well into the early morning hours — to engage themselves in local government.

This week, several important items were postponed as a result of nearly four hours of discussion over parking issues at Santa Monica College's airport campus, an issue that has been going on since this summer and at this point, should be hashed out between staff on both sides.

In eight hours, the City Council only hit upon five topics. The biggest agenda item gone from Tuesday's meeting was the annual report from city staff on how effective its homeless social services have been this past year. Shelving the homelessness issue, which has been residents' No. 1 concern for the past several years, doesn't make us feel confident that elected leaders are listening to their constituents.

The City Council needs to start listening more and not talking to just hear themselves speak, for which most of its members are notorious. And a lot more of the public's business would get done if residents kept their comments relevant and not redundant.

What good is public discussion if it doesn't lead to something that is actionable?

Then there are the gadflies who show up to every public meeting to opine about whatever is on the agenda. We respect their thoughts and interest in local government, but oftentimes they too are speaking publicly just to hear themselves speak. People stopped listening to them a long time ago.

We value public debate, but only if it is done thoughtfully. Call it mindful citizenship. People who want to speak in front of the City Council on a particular issue ought to get together beforehand and plan who will make their various points, thus reducing redundancy.

If citizens can't edit themselves, then the City Council should limit the number of speakers for each issue.

Ceremonies are being staged across the country today in honor of our war veterans — men and women who gave up their comfortable lives in the U.S. to fight for freedom around the world.

We are forever indebted to their sacrifices. But our appreciation is not enough — especially considering there are tens of thousands of vets sleeping on the streets every night in Los Angeles County.

Many of them suffer from physical and mental challenges, and a result, many are chemically dependent on drugs and alcohol.

It's most likely not the life they envisioned when our government told them to go off to war and it would take care of them when they returned. Instead, our government has ignored our vets, turned its back on them. That's certainly the case at the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration property, where the majority of the land and facilities sit empty.

One local politician — Bobby Shriver — is trying to answer the needs of our down-and-out vets. Shriver is calling for the VA campus to be redeveloped into a long-term therapeutic supportive housing facility for American servicemen and women who are without shelter.

The project would accommodate as many as 300 to 500 chronically homeless veterans, as well as those with other needs, such as those dealing with mental illness or are suffering from substance abuse. The new housing would give veterans access to the many successful rehabilitative programs the VA already has in place on the West LA campus, Shriver said.

We couldn't agree more when Shriver said, "In the lobby of the West LA VA hospital, a sign reads, 'The cost of war is visible here.' The cost of war is also visible on our city streets."

City has learned little from belted 'Big Easy'

OUR TOWN
BY TED WINTERER

When I was a young lad growing up in Brooklyn, my family rented the top two floors of a four-story brownstone owned by a woman I will call Mrs. H, not to preserve her anonymity but to protect me from the wrath of her heirs.

Mrs. H was a shrill harpy, perpetually attired in a housecoat, with an ever-present cigarette in her mouth and her hair usually in curlers. Conjure up an image of Bette Davis in "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?" and you'll have a pretty accurate picture of Mrs. H.

She occupied the bottom half of the building with her family. I don't recall a Mr. H, since either he kept to himself, sort of like Margaret Thatcher's husband Dennis, or was buried in the back yard.

I do, however, vividly recall Mrs. H's son Paul, as he was older than I and the neighborhood bully, the type who makes the "Reservoir Dogs" gang look like the cast of "Peanuts."

One day as I sat perched on my tricycle on the top of the stoop which led to our apartment, Paul decided it would be hilarious to push me down the stairs on my three-wheeler. The resulting wreck caused scrapes and bruises which soon healed, but I no doubt still bear the mental scars of Paul H's brutish streak.

So ever since I've been sensitive about bullying and often, while it may not be apparent, pull my punches in this column. Thus, I am loathe to further assault City Hall's Planning and Community Development Department, as I've criticized it more than once in the past.

However, I was too troubled by the Oct. 28 article in the Daily Press ("Leaders shaken by earthquake report") to not opine about its significance.

Three years ago our City Council adopted new seismic standards for buildings, as part of a statewide reexamination of building safety based on new studies gleaned from the consequences of the 1994 Northridge earthquake. The City Council instructed city staff to enforce the updated seismic code and to require retrofitting of structures deemed unsafe.

Apparently city staff decided not to send out notices to all buildings in need of earthquake upgrades. Instead, relenting to the concerns of property owners wary of the retrofitting costs, City Hall has only insisted upon these seismic improvements during major renovation or replacement of buildings.

It seems the lessons of Hurricane Katrina and the failed levees in New Orleans aren't being heeded here. While engineers and other experts are adamant that changes are needed to protect public safety, they aren't being effected.

Instead, in the sort of cold-hearted cost-benefit analysis which led to Ford Pintos and their exploding gas tanks to be sold to unwary drivers, the expense to property owners of safety overhauls was deemed of greater consequence than the risk to life and limb posed by the Big One.

Our City Council deserves accolades for attempting to protect the public's well being through new seismic standards. But when the City Council's directive to staff to enforce this code is ignored, it begs the question: Who's in charge, the City Council or city staff?

Remarkably, these sorts of shenanigans happen all the time: The City Council takes action in a public forum and then behind closed doors the bureaucrats huddle and decide our elected leaders, the extension of the people's will, either didn't get it right or didn't really mean what they said. For instance, a City Council instruction to staff to hire a code compliance officer to enforce our noise ordinance was ignored for almost two years. Likewise, a staff report on the implementation of reforms of the planning department, due in November 2004, has yet to be submitted to the City Council.

Who suffers in all this? You and me. Maybe that non-ductile concrete office building won't crush us tomorrow. But we certainly have little recourse if a bar's amplified music keeps us awake and must still suffer the inefficiencies of our Planning Department.

What surprises me is that our City Council isn't up in arms about these issues and seeking to both reassert its powers and to extend them, through means such as reforms to exact greater accountability in our next City Manager, the one person who holds some sway over our municipal employees.

Instead, our elected leaders seem to be allowing themselves to be pushed down a stoop on their tricycles by the Paul H's in City Hall.

And I was the one worried about acting like a bully?

(Ted Winterer is a writer who lives in Ocean Park. He can be reached at ourtownsmdp@aol.com.)

COMMENTARY

GUEST COMMENTARY **BY JOHN MEDLIN**

A war gone wrong; a day to remember

In November 1982 on the Sunday before Veterans Day and the official unveiling of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington I was reading the Sunday paper in Atlanta about the upcoming dedication ceremony. I had not paid much attention to the memorial or the incredible efforts Jan Scruggs had made to get public recognition for Vietnam veterans. For the first time I became aware of all the controversy around the memorial. There was the design by Maya Ying Lin, the young Asian female architect. Many considered her design a disgrace — "a jagged scar in the earth." Even the funding for the memorial was being questioned by Ross Perot as fraudulent, etc. As I got to the end of the full-page article it gave a number to contact a Ron Miller to find out more about attending. I called Ron. He told me if I wanted to go it would cost $90 round-trip for a plane leaving early Saturday morning and returning that same night.

"That's an incredibly cheap price, Ron."

"John, the entire flight crew of the Delta Airlines jumbo jet is doing it for free. They are all volunteers. It's their thanks to us."

With that I broke down on the phone. That expression of gratitude from the people of Delta Airlines was the first time anyone had ever publicly thanked me for my service in Vietnam. It was the first time I had felt acknowledged and appreciated for trying to save "the little people bleeding in Vietnam."

When Saturday came, Peggy took me to the airport where I saw a large group of Vietnam Vets milling around the boarding gate. The tension and anxiety were high throughout the group. I was still feeling a little numb as I left Peggy and boarded the plane. Once on the plane, the tension was even higher with almost 300 men from different backgrounds and races jammed on board. Some men were in suits, some in camouflage uniforms, most in casual clothes. No one was drinking. The man sitting next to me told me how two vets had flashbacks while attending the Marine Corps' annual birthday party in Atlanta a few days before. They freaked out and had to be rushed to the emergency room of a nearby hospital. We all knew something similar could happen on our plane at 30,000 feet.

We arrived in Washington without incident and were bused to the memorial for the dedication. It was filled with Vietnam veterans from groups throughout the United States. Most were dressed the same as us and many were wearing the jungle fatigues worn in 'Nam. A few wore the stylized camouflage "tiger uniforms," popular with special ops units in 'Nam. It was a diverse group, definitely representative of those who served in 'Nam. I found it interesting that there were anti-war demonstrators also present. I thought it appropriate they were there just as they had been present during the war. They were only a few and not very active. The thing that really pissed me off was the mounted police.

A couple of hundred yards to the east of the memorial, just below a small rise in the ground were 12 to 24 policemen mounted on horses and armed with large night stick clubs, etc. I wasn't sure if they were District of Columbia police or from the National Park Service. What I did know was if those police came at the vets in the event of a disturbance, they would be killed, and killed savagely. Those police officers had no idea of the depth of the feelings of anger and betrayal many Vietnam veterans felt toward the government. It would have been a very violent and very bloody confrontation.

As the dedication ceremony proceeded, I noticed only one official present who had been elected at the national level, either Congress or the Executive Branch. That one official was Sen. John Warner, a Republican from Virginia. While I was not a Republican, I later wrote a letter of thanks to Sen. Warner with a small check and offered to do anything I could to assist him in the future. On that November Saturday there was a stigma still attached to being associated with Vietnam veterans, especially at the national level. President Reagan attended the following year's dedication — after it became "safe and acceptable."

The dedication went well and was completed without incident. We boarded buses for our return to the airport and the flight home to Atlanta. After we got on the plane and lifted off, the mood was entirely different. The tension and anxiety were gone and the alcohol and laughter flowed freely. Several vets took turns speaking on the public address system.

"I left for Vietnam in 1965 as an 18-year-old," began a large black man. "Today is the first day I returned home."

A well-dressed man took the microphone. "I'm a judge in Atlanta and I thought I was over Vietnam. After today, I realize how much my fellow veterans mean to me. If I can ever help, let me know."

"My brother served in Vietnam and never came home," a female flight attendant began. "When I heard of this flight, it was the least I could do to honor him." With her voice cracking, she finished, "Thank you. Welcome home."

Tears and cheers erupted throughout the plane. We were finally coming home.

(From "Turning 60 & Vietnam — the long road home" by John Medlin, www.tetrahedron.biz.)

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CRIME WATCH

By Daily Press staff

Guest checked in, but wouldn't check out

At 12:33 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 29, the Santa Monica police responded to the 500 block of Colorado Avenue regarding a disturbing the peace call. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the witness who said she called a friend to have a person removed from the apartment. The person, who became the suspect, was a guest refusing to leave. The friend that came over became the victim. The victim asked the suspect to leave the apartment and they became involved in an argument and then the suspect punched the victim in the back of his head and caused him to fall to the ground. The suspect then walked to the kitchen and picked up a knife and told the victim that he would kill him. The police arrived and arrested William Henry Hayes, 61, transient, for terror threats and brandishing a weapon. No bail was set.

At 10:50 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 29, the Santa Monica police responded to the 100 block of Broadway regarding a fight. When officers arrived at the scene they spoke to the victim, who said he became involved in a fight with the suspect and while he was on the ground four additional suspects began to kick him in the upper body and head area with their feet. The police were notified and Pare Herman Ben, 28, of Las Vegas, Lasi Junior, 34, of Las Vegas, Leonardo Salcedo, 28, of Las Vegas, and Asterio Roger Paglinawan, 50, of Las Vegas, were booked for assault with a deadly weapon. Bail was set at $30,000.

At 6:31 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 30, the Santa Monica police responded to the 300 block of Pico Boulevard regarding a defrauding an innkeeper investigation. When officers arrived at the scene they spoke to the employee who said the suspect entered the restaurant and ordered $38.40 in food and drink and when presented the bill, he aid he didn't have the money to pay. Jaime Mata Garcia, 45, of Santa Monica, was placed under arrest for defrauding an innkeeper and probation violation. Bail was set at $10,000.

At 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 1, the Santa Monica police responded to the 1300 block of Fourth Street, Wells Fargo, regarding a threat investigation. When officers arrived at the scene, they saw the suspect at the teller window yelling loud threats to the teller and the branch manager. Approximately 10 to 15 minutes after the suspect continued to yell threats, she calmed down and the officers spoke to her. After speaking with officers, the suspect left the bank. From a pay phone, she called the bank and made additional threats to the employee. Deborah Denise Cleveland, 43, of Santa Monica, was placed under arrest for making criminal threats and was transported to the Santa Monica jail. She also had a traffic warrant. Bail was set at $50,369.

At 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 2, the Santa Monica police responded to the 300 block of Colorado Avenue, the Macy's store, regarding two theft suspects in custody. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to security guards, who said the suspects walked throughout the store and took merchandise valued at $986.38. The suspects took clothing into the dressing room and removed the security tags with tools they brought. Ollie Anna Clark, 18, of Los Angeles, Latyiesha Rebecca Reggans, 18, of Los Angeles, was booked for commercial burglary. Bail was set at $20,000.

At 6:25 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 3, the Santa Monica police responded to the 500 block of Olympic Boulevard regarding an assault investigation. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the victim, who said the suspect approached him while he talked to a friend and challenged him to fight. The victim told the suspect to go away. However, the suspect continued to yell at the victim. The victim walked away and the suspect attempted to stab him in the chest with a knife he produced from his pocket. The victim sustained a minor abrasion during the fight and the suspect was later arrested at Fourth Street and Arizona Avenue. Lawrence Alvin Powell, 50, transient, was booked for assault with deadly weapon. Bail was set at $30,000.

This police report was prepared by Daily Press staff writer Ryan Hyatt.

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LOCAL

Brothers have raised $12K

LIFE CYCLE, from page 1

"It must have realized we were people, not caribou," John Logsdon said.

The brothers have been lugging 100 pounds of food and equipment — including a tent, sleeping bags, stove, biking and street clothes — all of which was donated to them.

"You find out what your essentials are quickly," Mike Logsdon said.

Another notable encounter happened in British Columbia, when the brothers came across a Native Canadian tribe.

Mike Logsdon — who has lost 30 pounds during the ride — said he had been stung by a wasp and was in need of medical attention. His neck was swelling up. The wife of the tribe's chief provided him with an herbal medicine that cured him.

"We've seen a lot of wilderness and a lot of people, and it has all been wonderful," Mike Logsdon said.

The brothers have camped throughout much of their journey, except when they had friends and family to stay with. Both are hearty travelers, a characteristic encouraged by their mother, they said.

"My mother used to say, 'There's only so much you can learn in the classroom,'" John Logsdon said. "She said she'd never buy us a car, but if we wanted to travel, she'd help in any way she can."

Conceived on the island of Java, born in Australia, and raised in Morocco and New York City, Jean Logsdon's travels began at an early age, according to her sons. When she was 8 years old, she crossed the Sahara Desert by Jeep with her mother. As a young woman, her wandering ways brought her across Europe and Asia, before she settled in San Francisco.

In 1995 while riding her bicycle, the Logsdon brothers said her mother returned home from a bike ride and said her arm felt weak. She had glioblastoma, a malignant brain tumor.

Following their mother's death in 1996, the brothers went their separate ways for several years. Mike Logsdon went south to Mexico, where he built homes for needy families. John Logsdon criss-crossed Europe and the United States during his summer breaks at Yale.

Eventually, both brothers embarked on long cycling journeys. John Logsdon once led a bike trip across the U.S. with Habitat for Humanity, and Mike Logsdon rode solo across Ireland.

The National Brain Tumor Research Foundation raises funds for research and provides support and information to patients and families. Each year, approximately 190,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with a brain tumor, according to the foundation. Only 31 percent of patients survive five years.

John Logsdon believes it's important passionate people try to raise funds for medical research to fight cancer and other diseases. He said people like his mother who have suffered from brain tumors often don't know where to turn after they are diagnosed.

"This is a great way to remember our mother, while letting people know about the need for more research and the incredible resource the foundation is for people with brain tumors," John Logsdon said.

For more information:
www.spinningsouthward.com
www.braintumor.org

COUNCIL COUNTDOWN

The following is a summation of what went on in Santa Monica City Council chambers during the City Council's Nov. 8 meeting, including a timeline, notable public comments and excerpts taken.

The Santa Monica City Council meeting began at 5:45 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance and roll call.

5:50 p.m.: The council approves items listed on the consent agenda then withdraws to a closed session to discuss four lawsuits, as well as possible litigation involving Santa Monica College regarding access issues at its Bundy Campus site.
7:40 p.m.: The council meeting resumes with a unanimous decision to settle three legal cases, which amount to more than $1 million.
7:51 p.m.: The council quickly reviews and approves (4-3) the second reading and adoption of an ordinance intended to increase developer "in-lieu" fees.
7:55 p.m.: The council hears seven members of the public speak about an ordinance intended to regulate downtown design standards. After hearing public comment, the council makes suggestions to improve the language of the ordinance and asks city staff to bring it back for further review and approval.
8:42 p.m.: After hearing a staff report and more than 35 members of the public, the council decides (7-0) after three hours and 43 minutes of discussion to support a temporary tri-party agreement that would allow SMC students limited access from its Bundy campus onto Airport Avenue. During the discussion, Councilman Bobby Shriver, restless, takes a seat among the crowd. He laughs when his stepdaughter shows him a picture of the council and members of the public saying 'Blah, blah, blah' to each other.
12:25 a.m.: Resident Melvyn Klein requests that the council consider opening up an investigation into criminal activities he believes are being perpetuated by the tenant association where he lives and provided the council with documentation for its review. The council declines to pursue the topic further.
12:31 a.m.: The council hears from more than eight members of the public and a report from staff regarding allegations of retaliatory practices by the Promenade's new vending cart program operator, Provenzano Resources, Inc. The council asks staff to continue its investigation, as well as consider alternatives to getting out of its contract with the new cart operator, including buying out the contract.
1:31 a.m.: One member of the public speaks about the city's hand in facilitating the new vending cart program. Then the meeting is adjourned.

BY THE NUMBERS

Time spent on the top three issues facing Santa Monicans based on city surveys:
Homelessness: 1 minute
Traffic: 3 hours, 43 minutes
Parking: 5 minutes

Public comment: 3 hours and 57 minutes
City Council/staff discussion: 3 hours and 43 minutes
Time spent discussing:
Policy: 4 hours
Land use: 3 hours, 43 minutes
Resident initiated concerns: 9 minutes

LET'S TALK CHIT

"Chits" (Public addressing City Council)

"We had more students, but they had to go study."

— Belinda Phillips
Santa Monica student trustee, after asking students who support Bundy access to stand.

"Shoppers and tourists can come to Santa Monica, but not students? Is there a law against discriminating against students? Let's not find out."

Louise Jaffee
Regarding Santa Monica College Bundy campus access issues.

QUOTE OF NOTE

"We need to figure out how to make a decision and get on with homelessness."

— Bobby Shriver, frustrated by hours of debate regarding SMC Bundy campus access issues.

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

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

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

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

CASA ESCOBAR-This family owned institution in Santa Monica has been serving excellent food since 1965. A friendly bar and dinner house frequented by the "locals" and tourists alike. We feature the best Mexican dishes in town. Among the favorites are the crispy beef tacos, spinach enchiladas and our house-cut NY Strip steaks on the grill. Our full bar is home of the famous Casa Escobar Margarita-a winner! While at the bar, enjoy our classic piano bar along with cable TV. Valet Parking available. All major credit cards. Open lunch and dinner. 2500 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. (310) 828-1315.

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JOHNNIES-The Best Little Neighborhood Italian Restaurant. Come in to our new location and enjoy Traditional or Stuffed pastas, Mile High Salads, Grinders, Roman Style Sandwiches, Hearty Calzones, and New York Style Thin Crust Pizza, in a relaxing neighborhood setting. When you're looking for a reasonably priced, traditional Italian meal with authentic New York attitude, Johnnies delivers. Hours: Sunday-Thursday 11am-10pm and Friday and Saturday 11am-11pm. Dine In, Take Out and Delivery. 1456 Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica. (310) 395-9062.

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

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

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

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

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

Checking out: City opts to settle for $750K

CUTS LOSSES, from page 1

legal counsel, has racked up $190,000 in attorneys' fees over the last few years to fight its case.

According to Schachtner, settlement was an appropriate course of action considering the uphill nature of the battle.

"The problem is that the banks are out of the money because the proceeds were sent offshore, and the banks don't want to assume responsibility, and Santa Monica doesn't believe it should because we rely on the banks to protect us from theft and stolen checks," Schachtner said. "But it was costing all sides a lot of money, the case was being hotly litigated, and we didn't have a trial date until next year.

"It was beneficial to all sides to resolve it."

Los Angeles County collects sales taxes earmarked for mass transportation and divides them among all the bus and rail operators throughout the county. Those checks, which tend to be six and seven figures, are routinely sent first-class through the postal system.

When city officials noticed the money missing in 2001, they immediately went after the banks.

That prompted a lawsuit filed in early 2002 by First National Bank of Colorado, which cashed the check. First National Bank sued Denver-based Robert W. Baird & Co., which issued the check for the Big Blue Bus. Bank of America also was sued because it handled the Los Angeles County's account. The intent of the lawsuit was to determine who was liable for cashing the check, and therefore, responsible for paying City Hall back. In August of 2002, attorneys with Santa Monica and Los Angeles County successfully entered into the lawsuit between the banks.

Santa Monica first noticed the money was missing when it conducted a routine audit at the end of the 2001 budget. The same audit shows that two other checks totaling $67,000 from the MTA are also missing and presumed stolen.

Postal inspector Mike McCarthy, who initially handled the case, felt the theft of the $1 million check may be the work of an international ring that pays for unendorsed checks. The person unconnected to the ring steals the check and is given either a percentage of the check's amount or a flat fee. Then, the criminal network finds a way to cash the check.

Officials wouldn't comment as to whether or not the U.S. Postal Service still believes an international ring may be responsible.

In the case of Big Blue Bus' check, the thieves did all of their banking electronically. The account set up at Robert W. Baird & Co. was in the name of "Big Blue Bus Tours" and the signature card on file is the forged signature of John Catoe, the Big Blue Bus' former director.

Robert W. Baird & Co. had asked the lawsuit be delayed until U.S. Postal Inspectors completed their investigation and found the culprits. However, the culprits were never found and the judge felt the result of the investigation would not change the liability of cashing an unendorsed check.

Thomas M. Tyrell, the LA County attorney handling the case, said the banks would have had difficulty in court trying to prove the money belongs with them. They would have had to show the county or the city were directly at fault for the check being cashed. According to Tyrell, the evidence didn't suggest that.

Renee Focht, public information officer for the U.S. Postal Service's Los Angeles investigation division, said no suspects have been identified in the case, which remains open.

McCarthy advised when sending large sums of money through the postal system to send it via registered mail. Though it may take a little longer to arrive at its destination, anyone who handles the envelope has to sign for it.

And while the county maintains sending large checks through the mail is completely safe, they have begun depositing large sums electronically for the Big Blue Bus.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

each of the finalists for the college president position from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Monday through Wednesday, Nov. 14-16.

Appearing Monday will be Dr. Deborah Blue, vice president of policy and research for the Accrediting Commission for Community & Junior Colleges (ACCJC) in Novato; Tuesday will feature Dr. Chui Tsang, president of San Jose City College; and on Wednesday it will be Dr. G. Jeremiah Ryan, president of Raritan Valley Community College in New Jersey.

Each of the finalists will spend a full day on campus to appear at the forums and for interviews with the board.

The forums will be moderated by Dr. Narcisa Polonio, vice president of the national Association of Community College Trustees, which has served as SMC's presidential search consultant. The forum will include opening and closing statements by the candidates and a question and answer session, with questions prepared in advance by representatives of each of SMC's five constituency groups — students, faculty, classified (non-teaching) employees, managers and community members.

The forums also will be aired, back-to-back, from noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16 and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17 on SMC-TV Channel 28, which is available to Adelphia subscribers in Santa Monica. The forums will be held in SMC's pavilion, located at 1900 Pico Blvd. Parking is free.

Videotapes of the forums also will be available in the SMC Library and Malibu Public Library.

Those who attend the forums, see them on television or view tapes may provide feedback to the SMC Board of Trustees by filling out an online finalist assessment form at http://www.smc.edu/supt_president_search/feedback1.htm

Last week, the SMC Presidential Search Committee — made up of SMC employees, students and Santa Monica community members — forwarded to the Board of Trustees the names of the three candidates for consideration as finalists for the college president position. The recommendations came after an exhaustive nationwide search.

A new president could be named as early as Dec. 5.

The search for a new president began early this year after Dr. Piedad F. Robertson left the chief executive position in January to take the presidency of Denver-based Education Commission of the States. Dr. Thomas J. Donner, former SMC executive vice president, has served as interim president since Jan. 1.

ENTERTAINMENT

Got Gospel? Hamilton looks to inspire at Mt. Olive

By Daily Press staff

Hear a voice of inspiration next weekend through gospel.

The Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Santa Monica and the LA Gospel Jubilee have announced the performance of Rev. Alexander Hamilton and The Voices Of Inspiration with the Immanuel Gospel Community Choir at this month's LA Gospel Jubilee. The free concert will be presented Sunday, Nov. 20 at 5 p.m. at the Mount Olive Lutheran Church.

REV. HAMILTON

Hamilton was born and raised in Los Angeles, singing full recitals in churches by 3 years old, and at 4 years old, began his piano studies in the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music & Arts. As a paid professional musician since the age of 9, Hamilton has played, conducted and arranged for artists such as Gladys Knight & The Pips, Bill Cosby, Lou Rawls, the Staple Singers, Solomon Burke, Sammy Davis Jr., Liza Minelli, Natalie Cole, Etta James and many others.

He arranged and conducted Aretha Franklin's Grammy-Award winning "Amazing Grace" gospel album, co-wrote the gospel hit "He's A Miracle Worker" with Eddie Kendrix and has appeared in many recordings, television shows and concerts across America.

Since 1973, Hamilton has served as director of The Voices Of Inspiration, a Christian community choir based in Compton.

Music festival benefits candidate

By Daily Press staff

World-renowned musicians and comedians will celebrate Mediterranean and Indian cultures at the World Beat for Peace Music Festival to benefit Santa Monica resident Kelly Hayes-Raitt, candidate for State Assembly, on Sunday, Nov. 13 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the estate of Jan Goodman and Jerry Manpearl, located at 939 San Vicente Blvd.

Adult admission is $50 and children are admitted free to the event, which will feature performances by:

- Stephen Day, joined by Katharina Day on the Indian violin.
- Marti Walker, Latin jazz flautist and vocalist and recording artist.
- Larissa Stow, winner of LA Music Awards' Songwriter of the Year.
- Hani Naser, a virtuoso percussionist and Oud player, who has recorded with Jackson Browne, Bonnie Raitt, Steve Miller, and several others.
- Aldo Shllaku, Albanian-born composer of music for feature films & television.
- Billionaires for Bush, satirical comedy performed by rapper, Will B and Clifford Tasner
- Culture jamming comedy from Peter the Persian.

This exciting program will be emceed by Jordan Elgrably, writer and co-founder of the Levantine Cultural Center which is dedicated to exploring arts and cultures of the Middle East and the Mediterranean.

Assembly candidate Kelly Hayes-Raitt is a leader and advocate for consumer rights, environmental protection, healthcare, working families, seniors and civil liberties. A well-known activist, she traveled to Iraq to see the effects of the war on the Iraqi people. Her pre- and post-war photos will be on display.

For information or tickets, call (310) 392-8715.

See **ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS**, page 12

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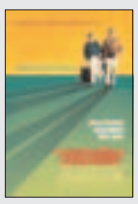
MOVIE PREVIEW

Film critic Dan Dunn previews upcoming holiday films

THE MOVIE: King Kong (Dec. 14)
THE STARS: Naomi Watts, Jack Black, Adrien Brody
THE DIRECTOR: Peter Jackson
THE SKINNY: A remake of the 1933 classic from the guy who made "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy.
THE DRAW: Comparing the cuddliness factor of Jack Black versus the ape.
THE VERDICT: Though remaking "Kong" seems a bit unnecessary, the enormously talented Jackson has earned the benefit of the doubt.

THE MOVIE: Fun with Dick and Jane (Dec. 21)
THE STARTS: Jim Carrey, Tea Leoni
THE DIRECTOR: Dean Parisot
THE SKINNY: White collar couple Carrey and Leoni fall on hard times and turn to a life of crime.
THE DRAW: Director Parisot makes his cinematic debut after an impressive television career ("Monk," "The Job," "Curb Your Enthusiasm")
THE VERDICT: We know what we're getting with Carrey. The wild card here is Leoni, whose past performances have been hit ("Flirting with Disaster") or egregious miss ("Spanglish").



THE MOVIE: The Matador (Dec. 23)
THE STARS: Pierce Brosnan, Greg Kinnear, Hope Davis
THE DIRECTOR: Richard Shepard
THE SKINNY: Black comedy about an unlikely friendship between a globetrotting contract killer and a down-on-his-luck Denver businessman.
THE DRAW: Brosnan delivers one of the best performances of his career. The hipness quotient is high.
THE VERDICT: If you don't see this one, you deserve to get whacked.

THE MOVIE: Munich (Dec. 23)
THE STARS Eric Bana, Daniel Craig, Geoffrey Rush
THE DIRECTOR: Steven Spielberg
THE SKINNY: Dramatization of events surrounding Palestinian terrorist attack at the 1972 Olympic games.
THE DRAW: Spielberg, you may have heard, knows his way around a movie set, and is particularly good with historic dramas (see "Schindler's List," "Saving Private Ryan")
THE VERDICT: The Buzz has this one pegged as the year's Best Picture favorite.

THE MOVIE: The Ringer (Dec. 23)
THE STARS: Johnny Knoxville, Katherine Heigl, Brian Cox
THE DIRECTOR: Barry W. Blaustein
THE SKINNY: Two guys conspire to fix the Special Olympics by having one of them enter the competition.
THE DRAW: See political correctness take a serious ass-whupping.
THE VERDICT: Pretending to be mentally-challenged is right up the former "Jackass" star's alley. The Farrelly Brothers oversaw the production.

THE MOVIE: Casanova (Dec. 25)
THE STARS: Heath Ledger, Sienna Miller
THE DIRECTOR: Lasse Hallstrom
THE SKINNY: The famous lover (Ledger) meets his match (Miller).
THE DRAW: Is there really anything to the rumors of an off-camera romance between the two leads?
THE VERDICT: Sienna really should dump Jude.

'Derailed' casts doubt

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

REVIEW

THE MOVIE: Derailed
THE DIRECTOR: Mikael Hafstrom
THE STARS: Jennifer Aniston, Clive Owen, Vincent Cassel, RZA, Xzibit

In Hollywood thrillers, looks are often intentionally deceiving. In the case of "Derailed," which appears to have all the elements in place to be a first-class nail-biter, the deception is downright disappointing. The movie stars that populate Swedish director Mikael Hafstrom's American debut sure have been plenty of fun to watch in previous films, but here they get derailed by a script (by "Collateral" scribe Stuart Beattie) that would make Samuel Morse happy (he invented the TELEGRAPH … get it?). Plus, there's a manifest shortage of chemistry for which the blame should be placed squarely on the shoulders of the casting director.

A gender-reversed take on "Unfaithful," Hafstrom's movie explores the dire repercussions of schlubby Chicago ad exec Charles Schine's (Clive Owen) infatuation with sexpot money manager Lucinda Harris (Jennifer Aniston). After they meet on the morning train, flirtation quickly leads to a hotel room where foreplay is rudely interrupted by a gun-toting Gallic stranger named LaRoche (Vincent Cassel of "Irreversible"), who whups up on Charles, rapes Lucinda and steals their belongings. Fearing their spouses will discover the truth, Lucinda convinces Charles not to involve the police. Shortly thereafter, LaRoche contacts Charles and demands hush money. Connect the dots from there.

■ Jennifer Anniston, Clive Owen

Now about the casting … it's hard to tell what is less believable: Dashing leading man Owen as a lily-livered cur, rom-com "Friends"-ster Aniston vamping it up, or a pretty boy like Cassel playing the angry baggage handler to Owen's defenseless piece of luggage. One thing's certain: The mix simply does not work. Hip-hop icons RZA and Xzibit get stuck with stereotypical thug roles that seem conspicuously out of place in this setting, and the suspicion is that they were included with the intention of appealing to a wider audience. Diversity is always welcome, but blatant exploitation is something else altogether. Perhaps we're supposed to feel better about it because they made the main villain French.

(RATED R. RUNNING TIME: 107 MINUTES)

Latest Austen adaptation is jolly good

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

REVIEW

THE MOVIE: Pride and Prejudice
THE DIRECTOR: Joe Wright
THE STARS: Keira Knightley, Donald Sutherland, Brenda Blethyn, Matthew Macfadyen

Between high school English class and the numerous television and film adaptations of Jane Austen's beloved novel, it's safe to assume many of you have at least a passing knowledge of the conceit of "Pride & Prejudice." With that in mind, we'll skip the exposition in lieu of some thoughts jotted down during a screening of young Brit director Joe Wright's mighty impressive rendering of the oft-rendered lit classic … blurbs, some or all of which may be coming to a newspaper ad near you soon:

"Who knew a period piece could feel so fresh, hip and, dare I say, universally accessible? A macho man is as likely to dig this movie as men who know all the words and dance steps to 'Macho Man.'"

"The cast is beyond fantastic ... it's beyantastic!"

"Make room Ms. Kidman and Mrs. Coldplay … as the fiercely independent and breathtaking Elizabeth Bennet, 20-year-old Keira Knightley becomes the favorite for the Best Actress Academy Award."

"The 18th Century English countryside has never looked more enchanting, nor the grand costumes of the day so authentic. Since we're freely handing out Oscar nods in this review, let's nominate director of photography Roman Osin, production designer Sarah Greenwood and wardrobe wizard Jacqueline Durran."

"Hell, let's go crazy … congrats on your Best Supporting Actor nomination, Donald Sutherland."

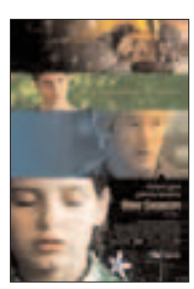
"The best adaptation of a Jane Austen novel I've ever seen. If you see just one adaptation of a Jane Austen novel this year, make it this one."

"If Jane Austen weren't so dead, she'd be very, very happy with this film. And she'd certainly smell better, too."

(RATED PG. RUNNING TIME: 128 MINUTES)

Gere film is just 'Bee'-wildering

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press



REVIEW

THE MOVIE: Bee Season
THE DIRECTORS: Scott McGehee and David Siegel
THE STARS: Richard Gere, Juliette Binoche, Flora Cross, Max Minghella

For as cold and unpleasant as this movie is, the filmmakers might as well have dubbed it "Flu Season." An adaptation of Myla Goldberg's 2000 best-selling novel about a young spelling genius whose winning ways precipitate a meltdown of an upper crust Northern California family (the book actually sets the story near Philadelphia), "Bee Season" gets bogged down by too much BS about a half-baked correlation between spelling contests and the mystical practices of Kabbalah as offered up by Richard Gere's grating, narcissistic academic, Saul Naumann.

Newcomer Flora Cross exhibits tremendous range and emotional depth as 11-year-old Eliza, whose sudden savant-like ability to spell is interpreted by dad Saul as the illumination of a direct path to God. And you thought the ABC's were simple. Meanwhile, Eliza's older brother Aaron (Max Minghella, son of director Anthony) inexplicably rebels against his father's withdrawal of affection by joining the Hare Krishnas after being wooed by a comely devotee played by Kate Bosworth. Mom Miriam (Juliette Binoche) literally stumbles through the movie, her mental state increasingly imperiled by haunting memories of her long-dead parents and her loveless marriage. Miriam eventually winds up in a mental institution after being arrested for grand larceny. At least they have a TV so she can watch Eliza compete in the National Spelling Bee. The word is "bewildering" and it's spelled "B-E-E-S-E-A-S-O-N."

(RATED PG-13. RUNNING TIME: 104 MINUTES)

Silverman stands up to PC police in 'Jesus'

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

REVIEW

THE MOVIE: Jesus is Magic
THE DIRECTOR: Liam Lynch
THE STAR: Sarah Silverman

Depending on the configuration of your personal Offense-O-Meter, Sarah Silverman is either one of the funniest, most intrepid stand-up comedians working today, or a foul-mouthed punk and serial violator of all that is sacred in this world. "When God gives you AIDS – and God does give you AIDS, by the way – make LemonAIDS," she tells a sold-out crowd at North Hollywood's El Portal Theater, where the concert footage that makes up most of "Jesus is Magic" was shot (the movie also contains a few so-so skits and some irreverent music videos). LemonAIDS is about as PC as Silverman gets in a comedic repertoire that includes riffs on race ("The best time to have a baby is when you're a black teenager"), her own sexuality ("I was raped by a doctor, which is a bittersweet experience for a Jewish girl") to role models ("Strippers … if only for the fact that they wax their (butts)"). At times laugh out loud funny, occasionally cringe-inducing, "Jesus is Magic" is a bold statement from a woman unafraid to emulate the example of controversial forebears such as Lenny Bruce and Richard Pryor.

(NOT RATED. RUNNING TIME: 72 MINUTES)

'Parker' a blast from past

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

REVIEW

THE MOVIE: Ellie Parker
THE DIRECTOR: Scott Coffey
THE STARS: Naomi Watts, Scott Coffey, Chevy Chase

Five years ago, actor/director Scott Coffey bought a consumer-grade digital video camera and in three days' time shot a 16-minute short about a bottom-of-the-Hollywood-chain actress named Ellie Parker whose life is a whirlwind of humiliating auditions, overwrought therapy sessions and romantic turmoil. The star of Coffey's short was a then-unknown Australian actress named Naomi Watts who has since become, as anyone paying even the slightest attention is surely aware, a Hollywood A-lister. The expanded "Ellie Parker" was made on the cheap and it shows, with little to offer in the way of a cohesive storyline. Still, it's worth the price of admission just to watch Watts turn in one of the liveliest performances of the year doing a hilarious study in self-imposed human bondage. Chevy Chase also fares well in a cameo as Ellie's agent.

(NOT RATED. RUNNING TIME: 94 MINUTES)

Taunting taboos, comedian goes with her gut

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Comedian Sarah Silverman's one-woman show "Jesus is Magic" arrives in theaters Friday. The film, comprised of irreverent music videos and sketches interwoven with stand-up material, showcases the rapier-like wit that has helped make Silverman one of the hottest names in comedy and drawn comparisons to the likes of Lenny Bruce. She sat down recently in Hollywood for a one on one chat about her new movie and burgeoning career.

QUESTION: In the press notes for "Jesus is Magic," you're described as being a "comedic dynamo."

SARAH SILVERMAN: Yeah, I wrote that (laughs). It's so embarrassing; I can't even look at it. It's so queer.

Q: There's an old saying that the quickest way to kill a joke is to talk about it. The author of a recent profile in "The New Yorker" offered a very detailed analysis of your humor. Does it suck having your jokes dissected in print?

A: It is interesting to read, but there's a danger in seeing it broken down so much. It could cause some sort of identity crisis. It's like when someone says, "It's so cute when you do that thing with your mouth," and you're, like, "What thing with my mouth?" They point it out, and then you can never do that again without feeling self-conscious about it.

Q: Do you ever feel guilty about jokes that pop into your head in the immediate aftermath of a tragedy?

A: I'm not Catholic, so I don't feel bad about the things I'm thinking, although sometimes I disgust myself.

Q: Is there any subject you consider comedic taboo? Anything you simply will not joke about?

A: There's nothing I wouldn't joke about if it's funny enough. Of course, that's subjective, but (for me) it has to be more funny than it is upsetting. I think it's a misconception people have about me, but I don't like to be mean or to go after specific people.

Q: You've shied away from taking shots at government leaders. Do politics interest you?

A: It's making fun of something that is already so absurd. What could I possibly say? I'm more interested in social politics, and just stupid funny stuff as well.

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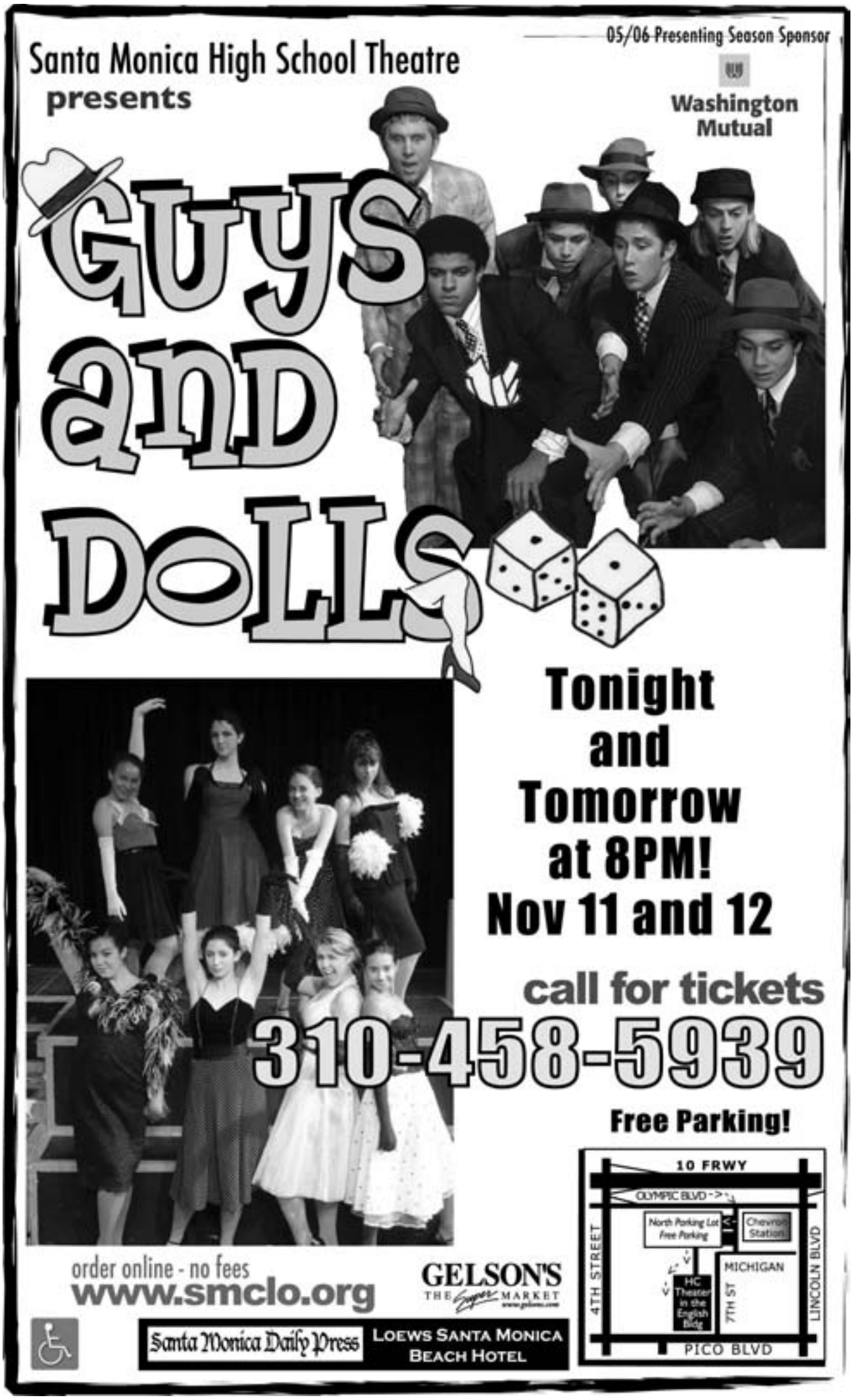

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS, from page 9

Experience opera, even on a budget

By Daily Press staff

Opera will resonate throughout Santa Monica next weekend.

The Verdi Chorus, a Southern California tradition for opera at affordable prices since 1983, will present its 22nd annual fall concert on Nov. 19 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 20 at 4:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, located at 1008 11th St. in Santa Monica.

The program will feature choruses from "I Lombardi" by Giuseppe Verdi, "Dido and Aeneas" by Henry Purcell, "Mefistofele" by Arigo Boito, "Lakme" by Leo Delibes and "The Merry Widow" by Franz Lehar. Suzan Hanson, Diana Tash, Gregorio Gonzalez and Cedric Berry will perform with the chorus, singing operatic favorites.

Anne Marie Ketchum, associate professor of music at Pasadena City College, is the chorus director and Laraine Stivers-Madden, assistant professor of music at PCC is the group's accompanist.

The church is located two blocks north of Wilshire Boulevard and free parking is available across from the church. A reception is held after each concert where refreshments will be served and audience members may meet the performers.

Tickets are $25 for adults, $20 for seniors, $10 for children. For tickets, call (310) 826-8309.

Duking it out with Emeritus band

By Daily Press staff

In the mood for music this fall?

The Santa Monica College Emeritus College Band will present its fall concert "From Handel to Ellington" — a program of classical, jazz, Broadway tunes and more — at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13 at the Westwood United Methodist Church, located at 10497 Wilshire Blvd. Admission is free.

The 60-member concert band, part of SMC's acclaimed Emeritus College for older adults, is under the direction of Wallace Umber.

Highlights of the concert include:

■ John Philip Sousa's "Glory of the Yankee Navy," written in 1909 and dedicated to Admiral Robert E. Peary on his trip to the North Pole.

■ Handel's "The Royal Fireworks Music," written in 1749 to celebrate the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle.

■ Several pieces written by the legendary Duke Ellington, the bandleader and composer who brought jazz to a high standard of musical performance and popularity. His band played from 1927 to 1970 and his sophisticated melodies remain popular after more than 70 years. Also on the program will be Gershwin Broadway show tunes, a Noel Coward medley, Sousa marches and more.

For further information, call (310) 434-4306.

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Leaders seek redistricting change despite 77 loss

BY STEVE LAWRENCE
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Despite voters' rejection of Proposition 77, the Legislature's top leaders are promising to try to get a new plan on the ballot as early as next June that would strip lawmakers of the powerful job of drawing legislative and congressional districts.

"I'm more than open to a redistricting effort which takes the power to draw boundaries from the Legislature and gives it to a truly independent group," Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles, said Wednesday.

He wouldn't discuss details but said a fresh proposal would be unveiled shortly.

"We hope he's sincere about it," said Rob Stutzman, a spokesman for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. "We hope it doesn't include him maintaining control over how districts are drawn."

Proposition 77, one of four initiatives on Tuesday's special election ballot that Schwarzenegger campaigned for, lost by more than 1.2 million votes.

It would have turned redistricting duties over to a panel of retired judges and required them to try to draw new districts in time for next June's primary, a timetable election officials said would be almost impossible to meet.

Lawmakers normally redraw districts at the beginning of each decade to reflect population changes revealed by a new national census. The process can decide which party dominates the Legislature and the state's congressional delegation and determine the fate of individual lawmakers.

Schwarzenegger said Proposition 77 would have ended the conflict of interest created by having legislators draw their own districts and make lawmakers more accountable to voters.

He complained that current districts, drawn after the 2000 census, were designed to protect incumbents in both parties.

Democrats, who dominate both houses of the Legislature, said the proposition was an attempt to elect more Republicans and compared it to the mid-decade Texas redistricting that cost Democrats four congressional seats last year.

"It looked a lot like what they did in Texas," said Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, D-Oakland. "I think the voters understood the fact that it was a power grab and they weren't interested."

But he said he was committed to putting a new redistricting measure on the ballot next year "so that California can be satisfied there's not going to be self-interest governing us."

That measure could be a constitutional amendment by state Sen. Alan Lowenthal, D-Long Beach, that's awaiting a vote next year in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

In its current form, it would create a seven-member commission to draw new districts after each census, starting in 2010. The governor, the Legislature's top four leaders, the California Judicial Council and University of California president would each appoint one commission member.

It passed the Senate elections committee in July but then stalled when Democrats and Schwarzenegger couldn't work out compromises on redistricting and the other ballot measures pushed by the Republican governor.

If approved by lawmakers, it would go on the ballot next June or November.

Any deal on a redistricting measure could include an agreement that would liberalize lawmakers' term limits, which now allow senators to serve no more than 8 years, and Assembly members no more than 6 years.

Steve Poizner, the Silicon Valley millionaire who headed the Proposition 77 campaign for Schwarzenegger, said voters would have to pressure legislative leaders to be sure they follow through on their pledge to pass a new redistricting proposal.

"We have elevated the debate and set the table to pass a redistricting measure soon," he said. "The voters of California deserve no less."

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Federal agents urging illegals to report cases of being abused

By The Associated Press

BROWNSVILLE, Texas — Federal agents are urging women who entered the country illegally to report if they have become the victims of abuse, exploitation or rape.

At least 10 undocumented immigrants reported being raped in South Texas by coyotes, or paid smugglers, and others during the last three months, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The women ranged in age from 14 to 31. They told authorities the attacks happened outdoors or when they were taken to hotels or safehouses.

"It's very important that the victims bring us the information," said Alonzo Pea, special agent in charge of ICE's regional office in San Antonio. "The majority of them only report what happened after they have been captured."

Routinely, federal agents work with local law enforcement to investigate cases of exploitation and abuse of immigrants. Undocumented immigrants can be placed in shelters or protective custody. They may be eligible for visas that allow them to stay in the United States while their case is investigated or prosecuted, Pea said.

"If they are victims, we will first help them, give them medical attention, psychological services, allow them to contact their family and contact their consulate," he said.

In one case, a Mexican woman and her nephew reported being kidnapped by a taxi driver and a smuggler, who demanded more money. The woman also told Brownsville police that the smuggler raped her. One of the suspects, the taxi driver, remains in custody on two aggravated kidnapping charges, the other man remained at large.

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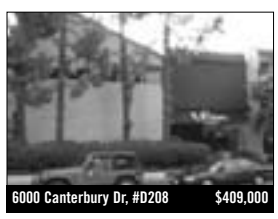
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Schwarzenegger's star dims after latest act fails

BY BETH FOUHY
AP Political Writer

LOS ANGELES — Arnold Schwarzenegger's rise to governor of the nation's most populous state two years ago made him so popular that some Republicans even hinted at a constitutional amendment that would allow him to run for president.

On Wednesday, a remarkable reversal of fortune left the former action hero fighting for his political life in a Democratic-leaning state and struggling to regain his footing before a 2006 re-election bid.

Voters a day earlier rejected all four of the government reform initiatives he had placed on a special election ballot, a resounding defeat for a governor who cast the election as a continuation of the 2003 recall election that swept him into office.

"It doesn't mean that Arnold Schwarzenegger's political career is over," said Darry Sragow, a Democratic consultant who worked with Schwarzenegger last year. "But he had a mandate to reform state government, and he no longer has that mandate. It's tragic."

Schwarzenegger stayed out of sight Wednesday as voters and analysts chewed over the election results. His first public appearance after the election debacle will be a meeting Thursday with Democratic and Republican legislative leaders in Sacramento, the first step in an effort to rehabilitate his former image as a bipartisan governor.

"There is much work to be done," Schwarzenegger told supporters Tuesday night, vowing to collaborate with lawmakers in the months ahead. "We've got to rebuild our infrastructure. We need more schools. We need more firefighters, more teachers ... Californians are sick and tired of all the fighting and all those negative TV ads."

Schwarzenegger had asked voters to approve a state spending cap and give him authority to make midyear budget cuts, change the way legislative districts are drawn, restrict the money unions could raise for political campaigns and make teachers work longer to gain tenure. None of the four prevailed, as voters appeared puzzled by the special election and angry at its price tag, estimated to be at least $50 million.

Elizabeth Garrett, an expert on California's initiative process at the University of Southern California, said Schwarzenegger had learned an important lesson about the limitations of initiatives in enacting the kind of changes he sought.

"He needs to re-establish his connection with the people and push real reform through the traditional governing process," she said. "This is the really important moment _ the pivotal moment of his political career."

Schwarzenegger spokesman Rob Stutzman insisted the defeats re-energized the governor.

"The governor very much sees the results of last night's election as an indication that the voters of this state want the problems of this state to be resolved here in Sacramento amongst its elected leaders," Stutzman said. "It was clearly a mandate for how government should work, and tomorrow he'll be here ... redoubling those efforts."

The governor's drubbing at the polls has left his political reputation in tatters, weakening his hand with the largely Democratic state Legislature and opening him to a competitive race for re-election in 2006.

Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez said that while Democrats were willing to work with Schwarzenegger, the two sides hadn't reached the "kumbaya stage" quite yet.

"We just spent $55 million of taxpayers' money that didn't prove a dang thing. I'm deeply disappointed in our governor," Nunez said.

So far, two Democrats _ state Treasurer Phil Angelides and Controller Steve Westly _ have announced plans to challenge Schwarzenegger next year. Both campaigned actively against Schwarzenegger's initiatives but have failed to ignite passion among voters or fellow Democrats.

Despite Schwarzenegger's weakened state, analysts say he enters the race with some important advantages.

"His base is still united and firmly behind him," said Bill Whalen, a Republican consultant and scholar at Stanford University's Hoover Institution.

"And if you talk to smart Democrats, most will tell you they would love nothing more than to see another candidate in the primary who would excite the party."

Actor Warren Beatty and director Rob Reiner entered the fray in the campaign's final weeks to lobby against Schwarzenegger, raising hope among Democrats that one or the other would challenge him next year.

But Whalen, who was an aide to former Republican Gov. Pete Wilson, said he didn't think either could deliver what the Democrats need to beat the celebrity governor.

"The election was a referendum against Schwarzenegger and a referendum against the special election," he said. "But I don't see the public chanting 'We want Warren."'

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Arctic drilling plan is dropped in favor of deficit reduction

BY ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A nearly two-decade effort to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling suffered a severe setback at the hands of moderate House Republicans just as Congress was about to deliver it to President Bush as his top energy priority.

GOP leaders scrapped the drilling plan in a search for just enough votes to pass another of Bush's priorities, a $51 billion deficit-reduction program cutting spending on food stamps, Medicaid, child support enforcement and other domestic programs through the rest of the decade. Also axed was another conservative priority, a plan allowing states to lift a moratorium on oil drilling off the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts.

Despite those two actions late Wednesday night, Republican leaders still appeared to lack the votes they needed for the budget measure, postponing the opening of debate Thursday as they leaned on more wavering GOP lawmakers.

As the chamber went into a lengthy recess and Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., worked to assemble support for the bill, the Capitol was abuzz with rumors that further changes were being considered, such as easing cuts to the Medicaid health care program for the poor and disabled.

Removing ANWR reduced the size of the package from $54 billion to $51 billion, the $3 billion difference being royalties the federal government could expect from oil pumped from the Alaskan plain.

Many of the same moderates opposed to the drilling plan remain opposed to the bill's provisions curbing Medicaid's growth, tightening eligibility for food stamps and cutting student loan subsidies.

"I have to represent my district," said Rep. Tim Johnson, R-Ill., who represents farmers opposed to cuts in commodity payments as well as the University of Illinois campus, which is upset about cuts to student loans. "At this point, I am very, very skeptical."

The overall bill is a top Republican priority. The Senate last week passed a milder version of the bill to curb the automatic growth of federal spending by $35 billion through the end of the decade.

The House plan cuts more deeply across a broader range of social services, though Republican leaders say the effects will be modest to programs like the Medicaid health system for the poor and disabled. It will still grow much faster than inflation even after beneficiaries face increased copayments and the likely loss of some benefits.

"We are not cutting Medicaid for those truly in need," said Rep. David Dreier, R-Calif.

Top Republicans such as Budget Committee Chairman Jim Nussle, R-Iowa, and Majority Leader Roy Blunt, R-Mo., worked into the night Wednesday refining the bill in an attempt to bring uneasy lawmakers on board. Florida Republicans were especially active, helping kill the offshore drilling plan and loosening proposed restrictions on food stamp benefits for legal immigrants.

The decision on the Arctic refuge was a big setback for those who have tried for years to open a coastal strip of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, or ANWR, to oil development. It was a victory for environmentalists, who have lobbied hard against drilling. Bush has made drilling in the Alaska refuge one of his top energy priorities.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Thursday the president was pleased that Congress was moving forward with deficit-reduction packages, but that he still strongly supports opening up a small portion of ANWR to environmentally responsible exploration.

"We continue to urge passage of that initiative," McClellan said. "It's vital to helping us reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy and helping to reduce high energy prices."

The House Rules Committee formalized the change late Wednesday by issuing the terms of the debate when the House takes up the budget package Thursday.

The decision to drop the ANWR drilling language came after GOP moderates said they would oppose the budget if that language remained.

Protection of the Alaska refuge from oil companies has been championed by environmentalists for years. The House repeatedly has approved drilling in the refuge as part of broad energy legislation, only to see the effort blocked each time by the threat of a filibuster in the Senate.

NATIONAL

Protesters condemn al-Zarqawi after attacks

BY JAMAL HALABY
Associated Press Writer

AMMAN, Jordan — Hundreds of angry Jordanians rallied Thursday outside one of three U.S.-based hotels attacked by suicide bombers, shouting, "Burn in hell, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi!" after the terrorist's group claimed responsibility for the blasts that killed at least 56 people.

At least one American was killed and two were wounded, a U.S. Embassy official said, speaking on condition of anonymity in accordance with embassy rules. The victims were not identified.

In an Internet statement, al-Qaida in Iraq linked the blasts at the Grand Hyatt, the Radisson SAS and the Days Inn hotels to the war in Iraq and called Amman the "backyard garden" for U.S. operations.

Police continued a broad security lockdown and authorities sent DNA samples to identify the attackers. Land borders closed for nearly 12 hours were reopened.

The Amman protest was organized by Jordan's 14 professional and trade unions — made up of both hardline Islamic groups and leftist political organizations — traditional critics of the king's moderate, pro-Western policies.

Protesters shouted, "Death to al-Zarqawi, the villain and the traitor!" Honking vehicles were decorated with Jordanian flags and posters of the king. A helicopter hovered overhead.

"We sacrifice our lives for you, Amman!" the protesters chanted.

Other rallies were held across the kingdom, including the Red Sea port of Aqaba, where attackers using Katyusha rockets narrowly missed a U.S. ship and killed a Jordanian soldier in August. Others were in al-Zarqawi's hometown of Zarqa and the southern city of Maan, which is a known hub for Muslim fundamentalists.

Amman's streets were deserted early Thursday, which was declared a day of mourning. Public and private offices were closed under government instructions, apparently to allow tightened security measures to take hold.

The date of Wednesday's attack, Nov. 9, would be written as 9/11 in the Middle East, which puts the day before the month. A Jordanian government spokesman declined to speculate on its meaning. But Jordanians were sending text messages that read: "Have you noticed that today is 9-11, similar to America's 11-9?"

In Washington, the White House said the bombings have "the hallmarks of al-Qaida," but spokesman Scott McClellan said there has been no definitive conclusion yet about who was responsible.

President Bush called King Abdullah II on Thursday to express condolences.

Both agreed to reiterate to the world that "the terrorists cannot shake our will and our determination to defeat their hateful, murderous ideology," McClellan said.

Government spokesman Bassel Tarawneh said 56 people were killed in the suicide attacks, but he said that number likely would rise. In addition to the American, the victims included 33 Jordanians, six Iraqis, two Bahrainis, two Chinese, one Saudi and one Indonesian. He could not identify the rest.

The Palestinian envoy to Amman said the victims included two high-ranking Palestinian security officials, a senior Palestinian banker and the commercial attache at the Palestinian Embassy in Cairo, Egypt.

Maj.-Gen. Bashir Nafeh, the head of military intelligence in the West Bank, and Col. Abed Allun, a high-ranking Preventive Security forces official, were killed in the attack at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Ambassador Attala Kheri told The Associated Press.

An east Jerusalem businessman, Bashar Qadoumi, also was killed, his family said.

Tarawneh said 96 people were wounded, although police said more than 115 were hurt. Police detained several people, although it was unclear if they were suspects or witnesses.

"They are being interrogated as we speak," police spokesman Maj. Bashir al-Da'aja told the AP.

The official Petra news agency quoted doctors who treated the injured as saying many wounds were inflicted by ball bearings used in the bombs.

The al-Qaida claim said Jordan was a target because it was "a backyard garden for the enemies of the religion, Jews and crusaders ... a filthy place for the traitors ... and a center for prostitution." Its authenticity could not be independently verified, but it appeared on an Islamic Web site that is a clearinghouse for statements by militant groups.

The claim said the attacks put the United States on notice that the "backyard camp for the crusader army is now in the range of fire of the holy warriors."

The hotels, frequented by Israelis and Americans among other foreign guests, have long been on al-Qaida's hit list.

Iraqi government spokesman Laith Kubba said the attack should alert Jordan that it needed to stop hosting former members of Saddam Hussein's regime.

"I hope that these attacks will wake up the `Jordanian street' to end their sympathy with Saddam's remnants ... who exploit the freedom in this country to have a safe shelter to plot their criminal acts against Iraqis."

He also said Iraqis may have had a hand in the attacks.

Palestinian legislator Hanan Ashrawi said she did not believe al-Qaida "or any of these violent extremists have had support among mainstream Arab opinion at all. Now they are making sure they are turning everyone against them."

Initial police reports showed that the suicide bomber at the Grand Hyatt was possibly Iraqi, a Jordanian security official said on condition of anonymity. He said the middle-aged man, who had explosives under his suit, was stopped by suspicious security officials in the lobby.

Speaking in an Iraqi accent, the man said he was "looking around," and then blew himself up, the official added, saying hotel cameras had some shots of him.

Deputy Prime Minister Marwan Muasher said al-Zarqawi, who has a $25 million U.S. bounty on his head, was a "prime suspect." The Jordanian-born al-Zarqawi is known for his animosity to the country's Hashemite monarchy. The claim of responsibility did not name Abdullah but twice referred to the "tyrant of Jordan."

The suicide bombers struck just before 9 p.m. One explosion occurred in a hall at the Radisson where 300 guests were celebrating the wedding of Ashraf Akhras and Nadia Alami, both Palestinians. They survived, but both their fathers were killed, along with 11 other relatives.

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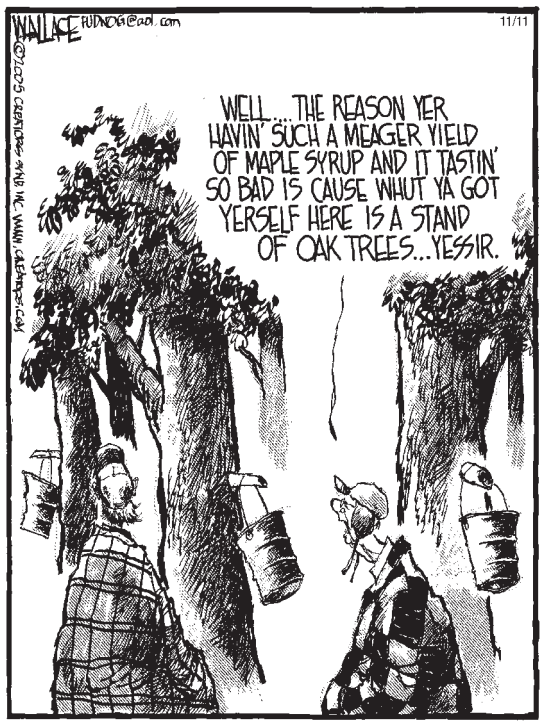

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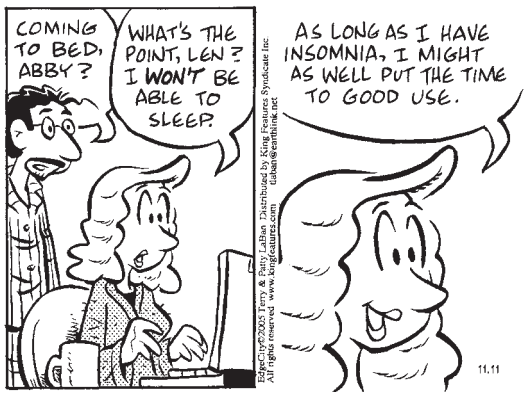

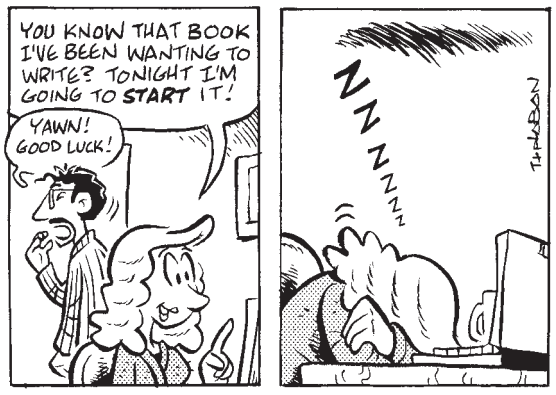

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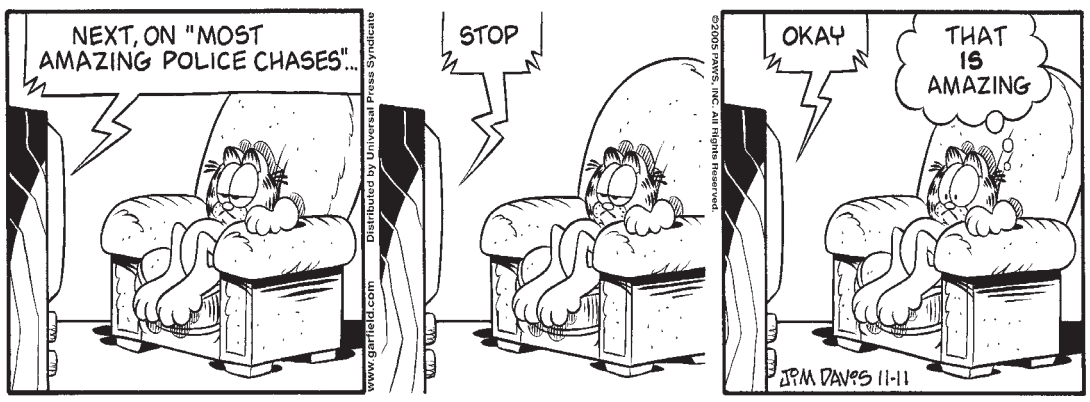

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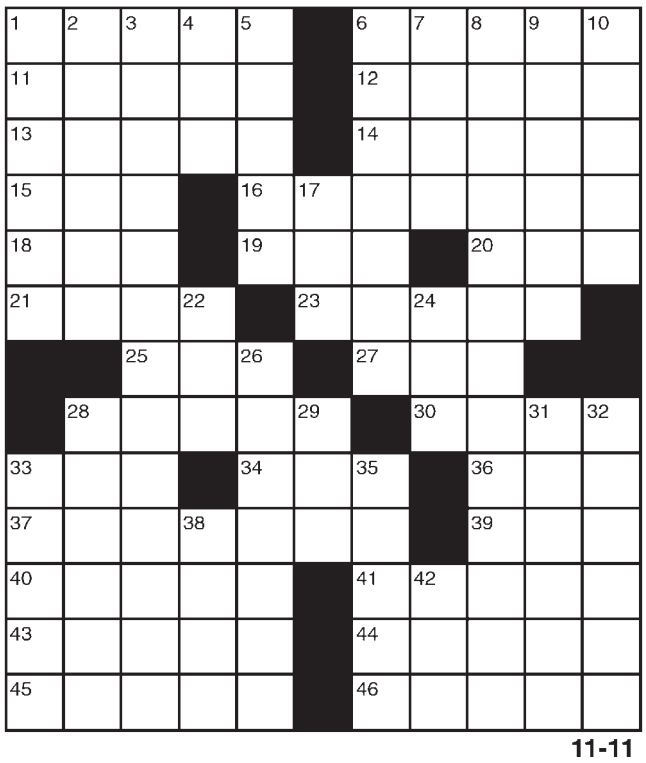

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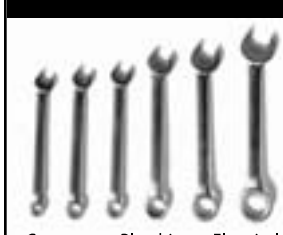

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

In Crow's nest, happiness doesn't always sit well

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Dating Lance Armstrong has given Sheryl Crow a taste of what it feels like to be part of a celebrity couple — and she's not too crazy about it.

"I think we've actually escaped a lot of it, because I've seen what happened to Brad and Jen and Nick and Jessica," Crow told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

Crow said celebrity magazines are more interested in seeing a couple break up than reporting on them being happy together. The 43-year-old singer and Armstrong, 34, announced their engagement in September.

"When we were rumored to have split, and when our publicists called these magazines to say we haven't split, the magazines were all so disappointed because that's really what's selling, rooting for a couple and then they split," she said. "That's what sells the magazines."

And Crow says it's not just tabloids that perpetuate the negative vibe.

"There's so much harshness in the world now, there are so many hard edges," she complained. "I cannot pick up a magazine or really even for that matter a newspaper without some kind of nasty editorial comment that just offends me. Why can't we just report things the way they are or see things for the good in them? ... It's an insidious energy."

Although Crow was by Armstrong's side to cheer him on during his last two wins on the Tour de France and she credits him for inspiring her latest album, "Wildflower," Crow says she tries to keep her relationship with him as private as possible.

"Our life is somewhat out there, but we protect it pretty heavily."

NEW YORK — Ashlee Simpson may have followed sister Jessica's lead by launching a singing career, but she's not interested in mirroring her romantic life by linking up with a famous guy.

"If you fall in love with somebody, you fall in love with somebody, but I would really like to not like a celebrity," she said with a laugh in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

Of course, Jessica Simpson is married to fellow singer Nick Lachey. The pair has been under a microscope since their MTV reality show "Newlyweds" made them A-list stars. It has recently been reported that they have broken up; publicists for the pair have denied it.

Like her sister, Simpson also has had a celebrity romance — though not as high profile. She dated fellow singer Ryan Cabrera, and also like her sister, had her relationship chronicled on an MTV reality show last year.

"It's definitely interesting when your relationship is in a magazine and people know about it and how I had this reality show and people knew what was going on in my relationship," she said.

The pair have since split, though she is still friends with Cabrera and calls him a "great guy."

But an average Joe seems to have a better shot with Simpson these days.

"I think it would definitely be easier. I'm not looking for an actor, I'm not looking for a musician!"

Simpson's latest album, "I Am Me," was released last month.

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — Ashley Judd has come to this Central American capital to join 3,000 Latin American politicians, police chiefs, doctors and activists in a regional forum on HIV.

Judd, who has been the ambassador of U.S.-based project Youth AIDS since 2002, on Wednesday met briefly with Salvadorian Foreign Minister Francisco Lainez, who thanked her for her visit.

"She can raise interest among the public and politicians about the need to increase efforts to prevent the spread of AIDS," Lainez said.

AIDS activists hope Latin American governments will sign commitments by the end of the conference on Friday to make medicine more easily available to HIV sufferers.

"We hope that (presidents) fulfill their promises," said Ordi Miranda, director of "Atlacatl," a Salvadoran foundation for HIV sufferers.

More than 40 million people around the world have HIV, including more than 1.7 million Latin Americans, according to the United Nations.

LOS ANGELES — Country singer-turned-sitcom star Reba McEntire will host the seventh annual Family Television Awards.

"She's a great entertainer and a solid role model," said Kaki Hinton, co-chairwoman of the Family Friendly Programming Forum, which presents the awards.

McEntire, star of the WB show "Reba," first hosted the awards in 2000.

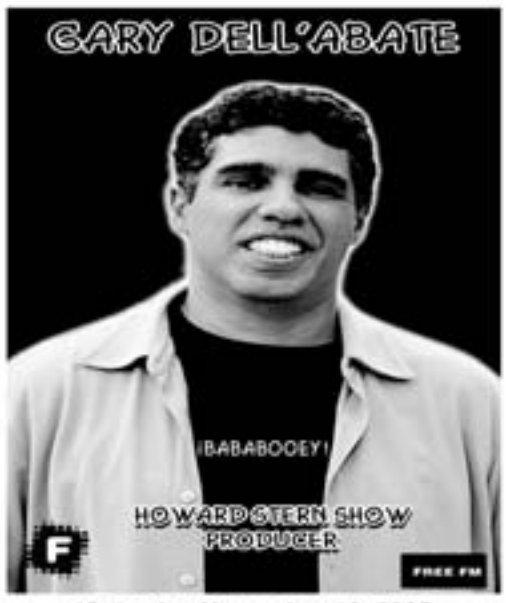
A group of national advertisers created the forum in 1998 to promote airing family-oriented fare during television's primetime hours, from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

It funds script development for programs that "have cross-generational appeal, depict real-life situations and handle those issues very responsibly," Hinton said.

The group's efforts are not totally altruistic, said Pat Gentile, national television programming manager for Procter & Gamble and a forum member.

"We're all in business," he said. "If you can have an adult and the children all in one place, watching a program with your advertising available, that's a home run."

The Family Television Awards will be taped Nov. 30 and aired Dec. 11 on the WB



*Saturday November 19, 2005

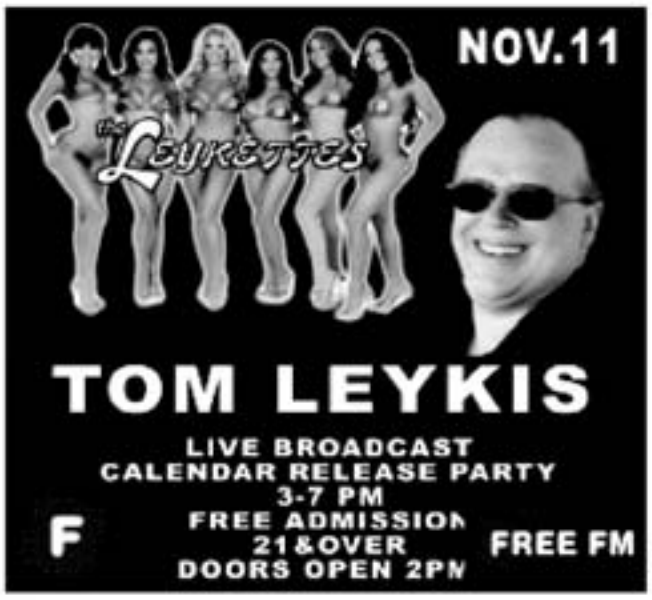
Ba Ba Booey, Gary Del'Abate from the Stern Show is making his final Los Angeles Free FM Appearance this Saturday from 1 to 3 pm at 'Taboo Hydroponics' in Santa Monica...

There'll be free food, giveaways and Ba Ba Booey will be signing autographs and taking pictures with listeners...Taboo Hydroponics, where Free Fm Listeners go for their indoor growing needs, is located at 2112 Wilshire, at 21st street in Santa Monica...

Be there Saturday from 1 to 3 for your last chance to say farewell to Ba Ba Booey...

Taboo Hydroponics
and
97.1 FREE FM
Team up to bring you
this years Tom Leykis
Calender release party
Join us as Taboo hydroponics will be giving away
three complete hydroponic systems for
FREE!

2112 Wilshire Blvd Santa Monica, CA 90403 310-998-8589



The Professor Tom Leykis will be broadcasting live from the Vault 350 in Long Beach from 3pm to 7pm for the 2006 Leykette Calendar Release Party.

Come out and meet Tom's lovely ladies as they sign their brand new calendar.

*Free admission *21 & Over *Doors open @ 2PM

FREE FM