

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

13 15 22 30 38
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: \$9 Million

FANTASY 5

1 21 25 34 39

DAILY 3

Daytime: 6 4 9
Evening: 1 8 8

DAILY DERBY

1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 03 Hot Shot

RACE TIME: 1:45.26

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In Homosassa, Fla., near Tampa, Ralph Padgett, 73, was arrested in October and charged with running down (on his riding lawn mower) estranged neighbor David Ervin, who was also on a riding lawn mower. And in nearby Zephyrhills, in October, retiree Bryan Toll became the third person this year to pay more than \$200,000 for a manufactured home at the Betmar Village Mobile Home Park. (Well, it is an 1,800-square-foot double-wide, located next to a golf course clubhouse.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 321st day of 2005.
There are 44 days left in the year.

On Nov. 17, 1800, Congress held its first session in Washington in the partially completed Capitol building. Elizabeth I ascended the English throne upon the death of Queen Mary. In 1869, the Suez Canal opened in Egypt.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Education is a private matter between the person and the world of knowledge and experience, and has little to do with school or college."

LILLIAN SMITH

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Doctors make house calls, vie for presidency



DR. CHUI TSANG



DR. G. JEREMIAH RYAN



DR. DEBORAH BLUE

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE — The school's next president was put to the test this week, as the three finalists for SMC's top administrative post answered questions before community members.

The forums were held for two hours on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, with each of the candidates responding to 21 questions.

The three finalists are Dr. Deborah Blue, vice president of policy and research for the Accrediting Commission for Community & Junior Colleges in Novato, Calif.; Dr. Chui Tsang, president of San Jose City College; and Dr. G. Jeremiah

Ryan, president of Raritan Valley Community College in New Jersey.

Approximately 250 people attended the first forum during which Blue spoke, according to Bruce Smith, SMC's spokesman. During the Tuesday and Wednesday events, more than 75 people attended to hear Tsang and Ryan, respectively.

Meanwhile, more than a dozen SMC faculty members protested outside the pavilion during each of the three forums, frustrated by a failure in recent negotiations to secure a new labor contract for themselves at the college.

Faculty members said they have been operating under a contract that expired in August of

See **PRESIDENT**, page 10

Holding sway



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Michelle Hernandez does a dance routine from Jalisco, Mexico, during 'Folklorico de SMC,' a class at Santa Monica College that provided performances during this week's "International Week of Education."

Schools add muscle to steroid stance

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HQTRS — Santa Monica students who take steroids will not only have to face possible health problems, but soon will also face disciplinary problems.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is set to adopt at its Thursday regular meeting a set of rules whereby student athletes and coaches would be prohibited from distributing or using steroids. Prior to participating in athletics, parents and students must sign an agreement that the student will abide by the district's prohibition.

The ban would also include certain dietary supplements currently on the market.

Superintendent John Deasy said student drug use is already prohibited within the district.

The updated policy on steroids, however, will reinforce the message the district does not condone its use, especially in light of recent scandals in professional sports, he said.

"It's an important concern because of everything the kids are exposed to in the media these days," Deasy said. "They can't help but see it in the news, and the district needs to be clear about how inappropriate it is to use steroids."

In May of 2005, the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), a group which helps regulate state public schools, adopted rules which prohibit coaches and other school personnel from selling, distributing or promoting to students steroids and other enhancements. School districts which are members of the CIF, such as Santa Monica, have been required to adopt such policies, according to a staff report.

According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse, the major side effects of steroid use include liver tumors, jaundice, fluid reten-

See **STEROIDS**, page 11

STATE

Shoe-ins: Sneakers fit bill for migrants

BY ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — The high-top sneakers cost \$215 at a San Diego boutique, but the designer is giving them away to migrants before they cross to this side of the U.S.-Mexico border.

These are no ordinary shoes. A compass and flashlight dangle from one shoelace. The pocket in the tongue is for money or pain relievers. A rough map of the border region

See **SHOE-INS**, page 12



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HOROSCOPE

Trust a friend, Aries

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)
★★★★ Finally, events, conversations and interactions fall into place. You could leap for joy, or you might decide to run with the ball. You know what to do. Now is the time to do it. Finally, others respond. Tonight: Trust a dear friend.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Your imagination is endless; charge it appropriately and funnel it where it counts. You could have a brilliant moneymaking idea. You don't need to act on it yet. Mellow out and explore different approaches. Tonight: Happy as a clam.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Your words might not express your positive feelings, but the depth of your sincerity comes through. You are positive and dynamic in your ideas. Let ideas free-float. You are personality plus. If you are irritated, express your feelings so you can be heard. Tonight: Add some zip to your life.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ The less said the better, because you can't win for losing right now. You are able to communicate through looks and actions. Someone might take up your cause or the idea you are thinking of. Right now, play it cool. A partner is full of life. Tonight: Get some R and R.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Listen and consider other ideas. Though in some ways others have many dreams that seem unattainable, you might be surprised if you start working with them. A group meeting opens up possibilities. Tonight: Think "week-end."



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You handle problems creatively. You have high ideals and desires, which will make a big difference in what happens. Take charge of a problem and resolve it. Show your leadership skills. You have a positive attitude. Tonight: Accept praise.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Your imagination melds with your intellect. What seems like a difficult proposition at first could become a snap. You have the answers, ingenuity and support. Yes, that partner will come through for you. Tonight: Feed your mind. Even your mind needs some treats. Think "music," "movie" or "good book."



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Willingly work with others, and you'll get positive responses. Others are happy to be part of the project and ideas that surround you. You will notice a remarkable change of attitude — for now. Tonight: Listen to a trusted associate.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Others seek you out. They want your feedback, which you happily give. Some of your ideas are a bit far-fetched, but inspired. Others will happily work to make them a reality. Accept a complement the way it was intended. Tonight: Brainstorm away.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Being all work has its plusses, but maybe not today. Express your congeniality and ideas so that others can relate to you better. The quality of your interpersonal bonds makes a difference. Tonight: Go for a walk or a jog.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Others want you for your imagination, feedback and awareness. You are accepting more responsibility than you need to. However, you feel comfortable with the situation. Others care about what you say. Tonight: Express your frisky personality.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Sometimes you have some wild ideas. Others do right now. Don't hesitate to express yourself, though you could feel a bit awkward. Brainstorm and put together solid ideas. Tonight: Happy at home.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Hundreds attend Kristallnacht anniversary event

By Daily Press staff

More than 400 people attended the 67th anniversary event remembering the Kristallnacht, the "Nights of Broken Glass," which is widely viewed as the beginning of the Holocaust. The event, held Nov. 12, featured rare Torah scrolls rescued from formerly Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia.

The Czech Ambassador to the United Nations, His Excellency Hynek Kmonicek, welcomed those who gathered to celebrate the determination of the Jewish people.

More than two dozen temples participated in a moving procession of rescued Torah scrolls, which was followed by a rare public screening of "The Power of Good," an Emmy-award winning HBO documentary about Sir Nicholas Winton, whose Kindertransport saved nearly 700 Jewish children by taking them from Czechoslovakia to England.

Congregation 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 BCC's care since 1973. Mrs. Grilli, who was rescued from her home in Chotebor, Czechoslovakia at age 11 on a Kindertransport, now lives in Poughkeepsie, New York, and attended the event with her family.

See BRIEFS, page 10



SURF REPORT

Overall, NW periods are averaging 10 seconds from 300 degrees. In SoCal, most west-facing breaks are seeing waist-high+ sets when the tide is right. South-facing breaks are running waist high. Today, expect knee to waist high almost everywhere as the Santa Ana continues to blow NE winds along the coast.

Today the water is:

63°

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

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
MONDAY	1:05	1.2	2:17	-0.5	7:23	6.5	8:31	4.3
TUESDAY	1:37	1.6	2:59	-0.8	7:54	6.7	9:21	4.1
WEDNESDAY	2:08	2.0	3:40	-0.8	8:25	6.6	10:12	3.9
THURSDAY	2:38	2.4	4:23	-0.7	8:57	6.4	11:07	3.6
FRIDAY	2:52	2.1	5:03	-0.2	9:24	6.0	12:01	3.0

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The Q Line

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Last week, Californians soundly defeated all propositions attached to the state's special election, which included initiatives on topics ranging from state budget reform to political redistricting. The 'no' votes have been characterized largely as a personal defeat for Gov. Schwarzenegger, who backed many of the propositions as steps in reforming California's government.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Where should Gov. Schwarzenegger focus his efforts now?"

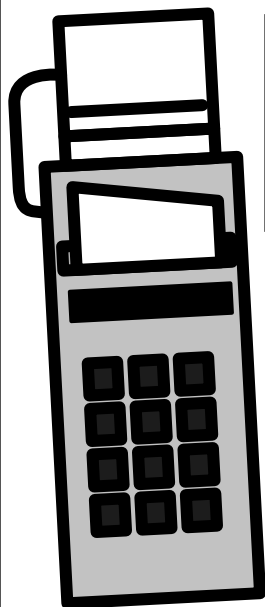
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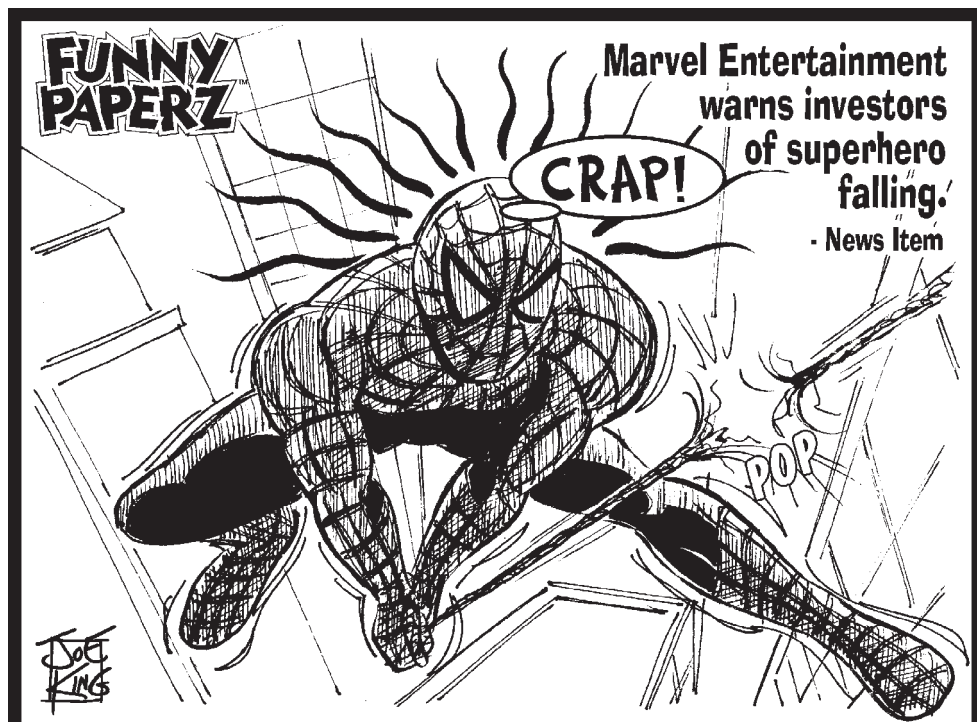
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OPINION



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Landlord-tenant dispute despicable

Editor:

I am disturbed by the story Bill Bauer tells in his column about the abusive city employee using his position with the city to harass his landlord (SMDP, Nov. 14, page 4).

When a Los Angeles County health inspector goes to the trouble to send a letter to the city complaining that the city employee was utilizing his position as a city employee to influence inspections on a private property, that's a serious matter.

But I find the response from the Santa Monica City Attorney even more disturbing: That this city employee is just "uncivil" and "unprofessional."

Here you have a city employee who owns and lives in a home in another city and is defrauding his landlord by keeping his \$446 per month rent-controlled apartment, and then uses his position with the city to harass the landlord — all of this confirmed by a Los Angeles County inspector.

What, if anything, is the city going to do about this blatant misconduct by one of its employees?

Evidently, it's all right to use your government position to harass a landlord in Santa Monica.

Saul Cohen
Santa Monica

Feeling the wrath

Editor:

Given the history of the George W. Bush/Karl Rove administration's verbal and (covertly) physical attacks on people who criticize or disagree with them, I will not be surprised if the Dover school administration building is bombed when the new school board members take their seats, to "prove" God's wrath against people who vote on any side other than the religious right's fundamentalism, and any politicians who adhere to rational, scientific evidence. The very concept of an American Democracy or an American Republic is in jeopardy.

Flo Ginsburg
Santa Monica

GUEST COMMENTARY BY JOHN W. WHITEHEAD

Governor needs to make that call

Robin Lovitt, who has been on death row since March 1, 2000, has now been rescheduled for execution on Nov. 30. On July 11, the United States Supreme Court granted the Virginia death row inmate a glimmer of hope. Amid claims that he could prove his innocence if DNA evidence used at his trial had not been destroyed, the court decided to stay Lovitt's execution and consider whether his appeal merited further review. Last month, however, the high court shattered Lovitt's hope when they decided not to hear his case. Lovitt's final appeal for justice now rests solely on the shoulders of Virginia Governor Mark Warner, touted as a presidential hopeful for the 2008 elections.

Lovitt's long and unsuccessful crusade through state and federal courts is a story many claim is marred with countless instances of injustice. It began when he was convicted of fatally stabbing a man with scissors during a 1998 pool hall robbery in Arlington, Va. But since his 1999 conviction, Lovitt continues to insist that although he committed the robbery, he is innocent of murder.

During Lovitt's trial, low-level DNA evidence was deemed "inconclusive" as to whether he was the perpetrator. But history has shown that previously inconclusive DNA evidence can later be deemed "conclusive" upon further analysis. Gov. Warner has since ordered the re-examination of low-level DNA evidence for many death row inmates. But although Lovitt was among this group, his chances for exoneration were dealt a devastating blow when the DNA evidence that might have spared his life was destroyed by the chief clerk of the Arlington Circuit Court.

Consequently, Lovitt once again turned to the courts, appealing to the Supreme Court of Virginia, the District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. At every stage, his claim was denied. The Fourth Circuit even went so far as to declare that although McCarthy made a "serious error in judgment," Lovitt was not entitled to relief because he could not prove that McCarthy destroyed the evidence in "bad faith." The U.S. Supreme Court's subsequent refusal to hear the case in Oct. 2001 seemingly left Robin Lovitt with no further legal recourse.

During the next four years, while Lovitt sat on death row, his attorneys continued to fight in the courts to save his life. However, after exhausting all legal claims, Lovitt was scheduled to be executed on July 11, barring a stay of execution by Gov. Warner or the U.S. Supreme Court. Warner refused to act. Then, moments before his execution, Lovitt's despair turned into hope when prison officials received word that the U.S. Supreme Court had granted his stay — temporarily sparing his life. However, the stay only offered the Supreme Court justices the opportunity to consider whether they would hear his claim, which they subsequently refused. Immediately afterward, Virginia offi-

cials, for the second time, scheduled Robin Lovitt's execution date.

Now, Lovitt's life undoubtedly rests with Gov. Warner. Barring a commute by Warner, Lovitt will be put to death by state execution on Nov. 30. Warner has a chance to do the right thing — the moral thing. He has the opportunity to take a stand for fairness and justice by ensuring that a potentially innocent man is not put to death.

Indeed, Gov. Warner is in a unique position to ensure that the right to a fair and just judicial process, afforded to every American by our federal and state constitutions, is not jeopardized by government carelessness. Warner's authority to commute death sentences is reserved specifically for situations like this one. Yet, if Warner does not acknowledge the government's wrongdoing in this matter and fails to commute Lovitt's sentence to life in prison, the same injustice will likely occur in the future.

No matter what Warner decides, it will have an impact on Virginians. Either the misdeeds of government officials will continue to be protected or the Governor can send a message to government officials that errors of such magnitude when dealing with matters of life and death will not be tolerated.

Although Warner should be commended for his decision to review death penalty cases involving low-level DNA evidence, he has yet to take the next crucial step of ensuring that accountability and fairness are not only aspirations but also realities.

With Nov. 30 fast approaching, Lovitt's death sentence should be commuted to life in prison. Turning a deaf ear on this issue will not solve the problem. It will occur and reoccur so long as government actions remain protected. Fairness and government accountability must be held to the highest standard.

When all is said and done, this case is not about whether the death penalty is good policy or whether it is morally justified. This is a case about basic fairness and the need for government accountability through executive checks and balances. It is a case about ensuring that no innocent person falls prey to reckless government action. And it is a case about erring on the side of caution when a person's life is at stake. Among all the actions of government, there are none that carry greater risks and responsibilities than ensuring a person's guilt before terminating his life.

Recently dubbed one of the five best governors in the nation by Time magazine, Warner's presidential value has obviously risen. But currying political favor with a voting populace that still favors the death penalty shouldn't keep him from doing what is right and morally just in Lovitt's case.

Clearly, Gov. Warner should save Lovitt from death row.

(Constitutional attorney and author John W. Whitehead can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org.)



STATE



San Francisco adopts pot club regulations

BY LISA LEFF
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco supervisors voted unanimously to adopt regulations governing medical marijuana clubs after allegations of abuse at several of the city's 35 facilities.

The proposed rules approved Tuesday, crafted with input from Mayor Gavin Newsom, require pot dispensary operators to apply for permits that include criminal and employment background checks. Club owners would have to pay \$6,610 for a permit along with \$3,100 for a business license.

The regulations also would govern where and how the clubs could do business, prohibiting them from opening in industrial or residential areas. The zoning guidelines would prevent dispensaries from operating within 500 feet of schools or within 1,000 feet if pot-smoking is allowed on the premises.

The crackdown came as elected officials in this liberal city grappled with how to balance their compassion for patients who smoke pot to ease pain with the logistical realities of an unregulated industry that deals in a federally illegal product. Until now, the dispensaries have operated without government oversight.

Noise, traffic and odor complaints from neighborhood groups, along with the realization last spring that a pot dispensary was getting to open in a city-operated residential hotel for substance abusers, led the mayor and Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi to step in.

"There is always a fine line — do you restrict or just allow — and we erred on the side of allowing," Newsom said. "We said to the clubs, 'Do what you do and do it appropriately,' but they got a little out of control."

California is one of 10 states where medical marijuana is legal. Under the Compassionate Use Act approved by voters in 1996, people with a doctor's recommendation are supposed to be able to smoke pot without fear of state or local prosecution.

In June, however, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that medical marijuana patients could be prosecuted for illegal pot possession under federal law, regardless

of state ordinances.

The San Francisco permits will include a bold-faced disclaimer: "Issuance of this permit by the City and County of San Francisco is not intended to and does not authorize the violation of state or federal laws."

When the city started crafting the regulations last spring, San Francisco was home to an estimated 40 dispensaries, far more than any other California city. Since the state's voters adopted the act in 1996, the San Francisco Department of Public Health has issued identification cards to nearly 8,000 people who claimed they needed the drug to ease symptoms for afflictions ranging from AIDS to arthritis.

Mirkarimi, a member of the Green Party, said his goal in crafting the new rules was to make sure that irresponsible clubs did not jeopardize the rights of patients or invite federal drug agents to shut down dispensaries that operated legitimately. Officials estimated that the zoning rules and fees would probably force a handful of clubs out of business.

"There have been days when I would have been OK not being the front man trying to push this, but what caused me not to abort the process was I couldn't allow neglect or indifference threaten the very gains the medical marijuana movement has made," he said.

Under the new rules, clubs that were operating as of April 1, when the city imposed a moratorium on new clubs, will have 18 months to obtain a permit. Their applications then would have to be approved by the city's planning director with input from the police on the adequacy of proposed security measures and the backgrounds of the people running the clubs.

Kris Hermes, legal director for the medical marijuana advocacy group Americans for Safe Access, said after the vote that most patients and dispensary owners were generally pleased with San Francisco's regulations and regard them as a stamp of approval from the city.

"It will send a message to cities and counties throughout the state that are currently deliberating this issue that now is the time to act, follow San Francisco's lead," Hermes said.

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Losing appeal: Bush wants 9th Court split

BY ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department is backing efforts by congressional Republicans to split up the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the nation's largest federal appeals court and the frequent source of anti-Bush administration rulings.

"The department believes that dividing the 9th Circuit would improve the administration of justice," Assistant Attorney General William E. Moschella wrote in a letter released Tuesday by Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev., an advocate of breaking up the San Francisco-based circuit.

"The sheer size of the 9th Circuit has led to serious administrative difficulties that have adversely affected its ability to render justice efficiently," Moschella wrote.

The letter was addressed to House Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., who is pushing legislation to break up the circuit that covers nine Western states, arguing it's too big to be effective.

Opponents allege political motives by Republicans annoyed by the court's rulings, including a 2002 opinion that declared the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional when recited in public schools. The Bush administration had maintained the pledge is not an unconstitutional

endorsement of religion.

The House GOP is seeking to fast-track the circuit-splitting legislation by making it part of a pending deficit-cutting bill. That move is meeting opposition in the Senate, which didn't include the circuit split in its version of the budget bill.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., strongly opposes breaking up the circuit, and has enlisted Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa., to assert his jurisdiction over the issue and argue against including it in the budget-cutting bill. A Senate Judiciary subcommittee held a hearing on the issue last month but the full committee has not yet considered it.

The 9th Circuit's territory encompasses about 54 million people, and the circuit has 28 judgeships. The circuit with the next largest number of judges is the New Orleans-based 5th Circuit, with 17.

Sensenbrenner's legislation would create a 9th Circuit covering California, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands, and a new 12th Circuit covering Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Nevada and Arizona. A Senate bill by Ensign and Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Ala., would accomplish the same split.

Republicans have long sought to break up the 9th Circuit. The GOP-led House last year approved a split, but the measure did not get a vote in the Senate.

Insurance regulators, executives are pondering catastrophe reform

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Business Writer

BURLINGAME, Calif. — Spurred by economic alarms triggered after Hurricane Katrina, top insurance industry regulators and executives huddled Tuesday to discuss better ways to protect policyholders against future catastrophes so taxpayers aren't saddled with the rebuilding bill.

"If Katrina taught us anything, it is better to plan and prepare than to respond after the fact," New York Superintendent of Insurance Howard Mills said at the opening of a two-day industry summit.

Mills and the top insurance regulators from California, Florida and Illinois organized the brainstorming session to prepare a blueprint for how to provide more comprehensive catastrophe coverage.

The summit also attracted the insurance commissioners from Pennsylvania, Arizona, Alabama and Utah. Top executives from major property and casualty insurers, including Allstate Insurance Co. and State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co., also were scheduled to speak Tuesday.

California Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi said the organizers hope to reach a consensus by late Wednesday and draft a proposal that can be taken to Congress. He declined to immediately provide any concrete ideas.

The solution may require policyholders to pay higher premiums, but that's better than deepening the federal budget deficit by relying on the government to pay for most of the losses after a catastrophe, the insurance regulators said.

"Right now, we have a national catastrophe plan — it's the federal deficit," said Kevin McCarty, Florida's top insurance regulator. "It's not rational and it's not comprehensive."

The federal government already has earmarked more than \$60 billion to cover the damages caused by Hurricane Katrina while the insurance industry is expected to pay claims totaling about \$40 billion, according to figures presented Tuesday. Economists speaking at the summit predicted the final bill for Katrina will exceed \$125 billion.

Depending on where they occur, future catastrophes will probably cost much more, based on hypothetical scenarios presented Tuesday.

If a major earthquake were to hit the Midwest or a large hurricane were to sweep through the Northeast, the estimated damages would likely exceed \$300 billion with only a fraction covered by insurance, according to economic models.

California is particularly vulnerable because its location and geography exposes it to three kinds of major catastrophes — earthquakes, wildfires and tsunamis.

"This is a state at the edge of a catastrophe at any moment, yet the insurance system doesn't give us the necessary funds to rebuild," said Garamendi, a Democrat who hopes to be elected as California's lieutenant governor in next year's elections.

Less than 15 percent of California homeowners have earthquake insurance, despite repeated warnings that a major quake is likely to cripple one of the state's cities within the next 30 years.

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Photo courtesy

Members of the Vikings Mighty Mite squad take time off from the gridiron to stand in unison.

They just 'mite': SM Vikings playing for title

By Daily Press staff

A local youth football team has made it to the top.

The Santa Monica Vikings, members of the Mitey Mite division of the American Football League, will play against the Lakewood Eagles in the championship game on Nov. 19 at 9 a.m. at Downey High School in Downey, Calif.

The Mitey Mite division is comprised of 22 young boys, originating from the Santa Monica area, ages 7 to 10 years old and weighing less than 90 pounds at the start of the season. The boys have been practicing as a group since Aug. 1 and compete in the Pacific Coast Conference.

The Vikings finished their regular season 5-3 and won a sudden death tie breaker to earn a spot in the playoffs. Having now defeated both Palos Verdes and Torrance in the quarter and semifinal rounds of the playoffs, the Vikings now face the Eagles — the game has special significance as the Vikings will be attempting to avenge an early-season defeat.

The team is led by first year head coach Jason Detamore, whose son Jordan guides the team on the field as its quarterback. Coach Detamore has shown he is a gifted teacher as many of his players have never played before. He has blended their talents and abilities with those of players Aztlan Gonzalez who leads the team in tackles and touchdowns, and Ricky Bryant putting together a squad that represents the Santa Monica community.

Eagles take on Gauchos in Beach Bowl VI

By Daily Press staff

The Mt. San Jacinto College Eagles will battle the Saddleback College Gauchos in the sixth annual U.S. Bank Beach Bowl on Saturday, Nov. 19 at 4 p.m. at Santa Monica College's Corsair stadium.

The game features two teams coming off successful seasons, both ranked in the top 15 in the California Community College Football Poll for Southern California.

Mt. San Jacinto College representing the Foothill Conference completed a 8-2 campaign, earning Southern California's 11th place ranking and a match-up with the 12th ranked Saddleback College Gauchos. Saddleback College, representing the Orange Empire Conference, finished 6-4 on the season.

The U.S. Bank Beach Bowl became part of the California Community College bowl series in 2000 when Santa Monica College defeated Citrus College in the inaugural game. The game's success continued in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 with victories by Glendale College, LA Harbor College, Fullerton College and Moorpark College.

U.S. Bank is continuing its support of Santa Monica and the entire Los Angeles and Orange County areas, where it has contributed more than \$625,000 in grants during 2005.

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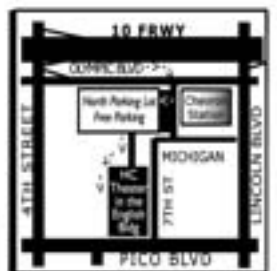
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Santa Monica Daily Press



Business

Keep emotions in check while you clean portfolio

MARKET MATTERS

BY BRIAN HEPP



If there were an easy formula for successful investing, then everyone would be rich. Unfortunately — and obviously — that's not the case. It takes time and discipline to build a successful portfolio to meet your investment needs. Sometimes, after critically evaluating your portfolio, you may find that some of your stock positions — while promising at first — simply haven't performed well. One of the most important things to remember when you find yourself in this position is that you are not alone. But the question remains: What to do now?

When it comes to underperforming stocks, many investors would prefer to simply do nothing rather than take action. This is a natural tendency, because most people have a tremendous aversion to selling stock, often believing that a turnaround is "just around the corner." However, frequently this is flawed thinking and symptomatic of a bigger problem — basing investment decisions on emotions rather than on fundamentals.

Despite the lack of an easy formula, there are a few simple steps investors can follow to take the emotion out of the equation and prune holdings if need be.

Identify underperformers. To make sure your portfolio stays on track to meet your investment goals, you need to identify stocks that have been underperforming relative to the overall market. Remember why you bought the stock, and ask yourself if your rationale for buying is still valid. When a stock's fundamentals change, that could mean that it's no longer appropriate for your individual suitability or objectives.

In addition to analyzing the individual stock itself, it's also important to take a look at its entire sector. Sectors move in and out of favor at different times. If you happened to buy a stock in a hot sector when it was at its peak, you may end up waiting a while before the business cycle

favors that particular sector again.

After taking a look at your stocks and their respective sectors, you will probably be able to pick out those that could continue to underperform the market for an extended period of time. At this point, you should consider pruning these issues from your portfolio and replacing them with securities that have a more favorable outlook. By regularly identifying and paring losing stocks from your portfolio, you can keep those losing stocks from weighing down your portfolio.

Consider year-end opportunities. Wherever possible, you will want to match any gains you have with losses you may have incurred. For tax purposes, you can offset capital gains you realize over the course of the year with capital losses. If you have more capital losses than capital gains, additional capital losses up to \$3,000 may be used to offset ordinary income. What's more, any losses in excess of that amount can be carried over to subsequent years.

Another investment strategy to consider is doubling up. Simply put, you can double your position in a security — as long as you do it at least 31 days in advance — and then sell your original position to claim a loss. This strategy is particularly helpful if you still want to maintain exposure to a particular stock, despite carrying a loss in your current position. Just be careful to avoid the wash sale rule, which also prohibits you from buying back a "substantially identical" security within 30 calendar days before or after selling one for a loss.

Diversify your holdings. A critical part of managing risk involves owning a number of different investments with counterbalancing characteristics. Your stock investments should be spread over a number of companies in a variety of sectors. For example, no single sector should represent more than one fourth of your portfolio.

Taking a proactive approach to cleaning your portfolio can help put you back on course to meeting your investment objectives.

(Brian Hepp is a financial consultant for Santa Monica-based A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. Reach him at (310) 453-0077 or brian.hepp@agedwards.com.)

SANTA MONICA BUSINESS BRIEFS



Private's eyes were watching Smith

By Daily Press staff

There's a new man in charge at The Private Bank of California.

Richard A. Smith, a senior officer at West Los Angeles banks over the past 25 years, has been elected president and a director of The Private Bank of California in Century City, which serves Santa Monica.

The Private Bank of California opened for business on Oct. 24 following a record initial public offering totaling \$36.3 million, the largest IPO ever for a new bank in California.

For the past five years, Smith has headed the private banking group at the Beverly Hills office of one of the country's largest banks.

Smith graduated from the University of Denver with a bachelor of science degree in business administration.

The Private Bank of California is a community bank serving customers in West Los Angeles, Beverly Hills and Santa Monica. They include high net worth individuals, business owners, legal and financial professionals and their firms and entertainment service businesses.

Film Fest looking for some reel help

By Daily Press staff

Independent filmmakers are looking for local businesses to help prop up the next Malibu Film Festival.

The red carpet will roll out in Malibu for the seventh annual Malibu International Film Festival (MIFF), kicking off with the opening night film at the New Malibu Theater, followed by the opening night party and fashion show sponsored by Maui and Sons and hosted by The Sunset Restaurant on April 7, 2006.

Cutting-edge independent films from around world will screen at New Malibu Theater and compete over the seven-day event. The festival will offer films, parties, industry seminars, sponsor exhibits, test drives and an awards reception under the stars.

As Malibu is the home to many film industry decision-makers, MIFF is a competition festival that focuses on premiering new films and talent that are looking for distribution and representation. Premiere status is taken into account for all sections, and films that have not yet screened in Los Angeles are given priority.

Sponsors include Maui & Sons, The Sunset Restaurant, Penta Water, Charter Communications, Adelphia, Wexler Video, Technicolor, Disc Makers, MS&K, Filmworks, Urth Café, TheHostCo.com, WithOutABox, Malibu Chronicle, Graphic Weekly, Canyon News, Santa Monica Daily Press, Santa Monica Mirror, Santa Monica Observer, Malibu Surfside News, Musicians Outlet.

For more information call (310) 452-6688.

OPCC receives grant from SBC Foundation

By Daily Press staff

SBC Communications Inc. is giving back to the community.

The SBC Foundation — the philanthropic arm of SBC Communications Inc. — announced it has awarded \$237,000 in SBC technology grants to 20 local nonprofit organizations in Los Angeles County. In Santa Monica, the Ocean Park Community Center received an SBC grant to support the Champion Mental Health Center and OPCC project.

SBC connects the nation's neediest residents, including at-risk youth and underserved urban families, to technology resources, such as Internet access and training. The program also assists nonprofits in using technology to expand the reach of services and to heighten the impact those services have on people in the community. The competitive grant program is part of an overall \$7 million 2005 SBC initiative. Now in its fourth year, SBC has provided more than \$33 million to more than 2,000 nonprofit organizations around the country to build stronger communities and improve lives through improved technology infrastructure and service enhancements.

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History should have forewarned 'empire'

THE WEEKLY RECKONING

BY BILL BONNER



Expensive foreign wars, expensive bread, expensive circuses — these are what bankrupted almost every empire from Rome to London. In the book Addison Wiggin and I recently released, "Empire of Debt," we point out that this will likely prove true for the American empire — eventually, everything reverts to the mean. No empire is eternal.

The more things change, the more they remain insane.

"Alan Greenspan has welcomed the ability of new technologies in financial markets to reduce transaction costs, to allow the creation of new instruments that enable risk and return to be divided and priced to better meet the needs of borrowers and lenders, to permit previously illiquid obligations to be securitized and traded, and to make obsolete previous divisions among types of financial intermediaries and across the geographical regions in which they operate."

The words are those of Donald Kohn, a man who is a Fed governor, a Greenspan aficionado, an attendee at the Jackson Hole confab in August, and probably — only history will tell, a jackass. He and other speakers elaborated a view, which is both new and old, and completely mad: that technology, innovation, globalization and sophistication have made the financial world a safer place.

Since Alan Greenspan took over at the Fed, levels of debt throughout the entire financial system have increased greatly. Over the past decade, adds Dr. Kurt Richebacher, "consumer debts are up 121 percent, to \$10.7 trillion," while real consumer income was either stagnant or falling. More alarming, but also more puzzling, is the increase in derivatives. The ISDA reports that international interest rates and currency derivatives outstanding shot from \$865 billion in 1987 to \$201.413 trillion in 2005. It is these last figures to which Mr. Kohn refers. These sophisticated financial instruments make it possible for 8,000 hedge fund managers, and thousands more money managers spread all over the world, to go long, short, and upside down all day long.

In theory, with so many more ways to protect themselves, and so many people involved in the financial markets, the system is more stable. When one position tanks, the loss is absorbed by thousands of investors and financial intermediaries all over the globe. But in practice, the money managers all tend to do the same thing. They know that they will lose their jobs if they under-perform their peers; if they go along with everyone else, on the other hand, they may all blow up — but it was-

n't their money anyway.

Financial institutions make their money by originating and selling what are inherently risky positions. In a bank-dominated financial system, the banks themselves, and ultimately a banker, stood to gain or lose as the loans came due. If the banker made bad bets, he could be disgraced, broke and out of business.

But in this new, more sophisticated world, financial institutions create derivative products and sell them to hedge funds. Once sold, the salesmen earn a commission and the risks are transferred to the buyers. The funds have every incentive to take risks. If they win, the managers take a bit part of the gains. If they lose, they suffer no personal penalty. Ultimately, no one knows how risky the system is, or who, exactly, stands to lose if it implodes.

We don't know any more than anyone else. We only note that the more stable and safe a financial system becomes, the more investors are lured to take risks, and the more financial intermediaries are encouraged to develop new products to help investors part company with their money. Eventually, the lack of perceived risk creates a situation in which real risk is greater than ever. When people think there is no risk, for example, they see no need to save money. But when people have no savings — savings rates in America were recently negative — they are most at risk, and often driven to react in panicky, desperate ways. That is where we find ourselves today.

It reminds us of the geo-political situation prior to the Great War. That too, was a period of fast innovation, stability, technological progress and globalization. Thinkers at the time came to the same conclusions about these things as Kohn did 100 years later. The world had become too sophisticated for war, they said. Interlocking treaties would serve to prevent any nation from firing its cannons first. New technology made war too devastating to contemplate — or, taking the opposite side of the argument — many argued that technology made it possible to fight a war with few casualties. And modern, globalized markets meant that war no longer made sense. That was the point made by Norman Angell, in a celebrated book of the time. A nation's wealth was built on factories and trade, he pointed out. War was now out of the question, because it would destroy wealth.

But in 1914, began the most deadly and expensive war in human history.

(For more insight and analysis, visit www.dailyreckoning.com)

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Santa Monica Daily Press





LOCAL

SMC president to be named as early as December

PRESIDENT, from page 1

2004. As a result of the gridlock, faculty members contend they haven't had a pay raise since fiscal year 2002-03.

During the forums, attendees were given an assessment form in which they were asked whether or not the finalist should be invited to accept the position based on their perceived strengths and weaknesses.

The SMC board of trustees said they will review the assessments and consider the public's comments in their final decision to determine the school's next president.

Smith said the board of trustees will make a decision as early as Dec. 5.

THE FINALISTS' POSTURE TOWARD CITY HALL

One of the questions posed to the finalists was in regards to what steps they would take to strengthen the relationship with Santa Monica City Hall.

Blue said she has been told by college officials there is significant information available regarding the communications SMC has had with City Hall. Blue said she would first absorb that information and then meet with city officials to try and improve the strained relationship, which has resulted, in large part, over develop-

ment in the community.

Blue said the fact the college is set to have a new president and City Hall is set to have a new city manager may benefit both institutions.

"It would be an opportunity for a new president to come on board and have a new perspective," Blue said. "Sometimes when you're in a situation it becomes difficult to see the possibilities, but the fact there will be a new president and city manager in Santa Monica makes it a golden opportunity for a new starting point."

Tsang, who spoke on Tuesday, said it's important for the college to be seen as part of the community. He said he does not see himself as a politician, but has worked with politicians in the past to settle disputes with San Jose City College.

Specifically, Tsang said the college where he works sought to put a sign on the fifth floor of a building. However, having a sign at such a height was illegal. So, Tsang said he worked with his local City Council to change the sign ordinance. As a result, the sign, which advertises the college, can be seen from miles away.

"It's not a neon sign, but it's a tastefully done sign," Tsang said, jokingly.

As the son of two politicians, Ryan said he is comfortable working with elected

officials and the new president should be, too.

"You just don't see them once a year when you have a problem," Ryan said. "They should be in your Rolodex, and you should know them (personally)."

Ryan said he currently belongs on the board of 10 organizations outside of the college where he works. Belonging to several organizations has allowed him to advance causes for the college, he said. If chosen, he also would become similarly involved in Santa Monica.

Ryan suggested that one way SMC and City Hall might better resolve differences would be to have a summit in which all interested parties could come together and pave the way for a future that would involve both institutions.

THE FINALISTS' POSTURE TOWARD SMC

The finalists were asked questions regarding administrative styles and ways to attain educational goals.

Blue said she would focus on building good relationships with SMC's administrators, faculty, classified employees and students in order to advance her role at the college.

"Relationship building would be my highest priority from the beginning," Blue said. "I'd like to know as many people as

possible on a personal basis.

"I'd work personally with the student body president to help develop her as a leader."

Tsang described his administrative style as "having a nose in everything, with (my) hands in (my) pockets."

Tsang said he would try to be as informed a president as possible. However, since the college is dispersed among many campuses, he would build a strong administrative team to run SMC's day-to-day tasks.

"I'd talk to the people doing the work, but not do the work itself," Tsang said. "I think that would be a good guide to this college and its many campuses."

Ryan said that, ideally, he would like SMC's administrative offices — which are located away from the main campus — to be returned to it.

Such a move would not be a top priority. However, he believes it would make communication easier between SMC groups.

"My style of management is by walking around," Ryan said.

Ryan said he would try to meet every SMC employee within the first months he's on the job. He'd also make attempts to familiarize himself with the top 100 people who may be influential to the college and befriend them.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

Design and conquer at SMC

By Daily Press staff



Santa Monica College's library expansion and modernization project and its science complex have both won statewide awards from the Community College Facility Coalition. Both projects were designed by CO Architects of Los Angeles, formerly Anshen + Allen.

The library project won the Award of Honor in the Modernization Project category and the Science Complex won the Award of Honor in the Growth Project category.

The coalition is made up of representatives of California community colleges, architects, engineers and contractors. The 2005 awards were presented for the best in design for California community college projects.

The \$23.6-million library — which was completed in August 2003 — nearly doubled the size of the facility to 96,500-square feet and provided widespread Internet access. In addition, the project included seismic retrofitting and a redesign of the exterior, with landscaping, benches, lighting and more.

With three stories divided into five levels, the library features skylights and atriums. The centerpiece is an elliptical wood-paneled "building-within-a-building," flanked at the north end by a three-story glass elevator tower.

The \$30 million science complex — which opened in August 1999 — is a 98,000-square-foot facility made up of two buildings separated by a courtyard but connected at the second floor. The gray-green-white building has many environmentally-sensitive features, as well as modern labs and classrooms, officials said.

The complex includes two 100-seat lecture halls, including built-ins such as infrared assisted-listening devices and computerized control modules for the professor to display DVDs, CDs, and other media. There are also labs ranging from plant propagation to instrument labs and a Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometer, one of only two at a community college.



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LOCAL



Watching high lights



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Crews were out on Wednesday adorning lightposts in downtown Santa Monica with holiday themed banners in anticipation of the winter season.

'Roid rage: District takes a tougher stance on drugs

STERIODS, from page 1

tion and high blood pressure; other adverse effects include severe acne and trembling.

Steroid use increases lean muscle mass, strength and the ability to train longer and harder; but the long-term, high-dose effects of steroid use remain largely unknown.

Many health hazards of short-term effects are reversible, but not all; and there is concern over the potential psychiatric effects. In addition, people who inject steroids run the added risk of contracting or transmitting hepatitis or the virus (HIV)

that leads to AIDS, according to the institute.

According to the district's policy, students in grades 7 through 12 shall receive a lesson on the effects of steroids or any other performance-enhancing supplement.

Student athletes who are found to have violated the district's agreement shall be restricted from participating in sports and face suspension or expulsion.

Coaches shall also educate students about the ill-effects of using steroids.

Also, the district will not be allowed to accept sponsorships from manufacturers who offer muscle-building supplements to students.

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STATE

Border-crossers have happy feet with new shoes

SHOE-INS, from page 1

is printed on a removable insole.

They are red, white and green, the colors of the Mexican flag. On the back ankle, a drawing of Mexico's patron saint of migrants.

On this side of the border, the shoes sit in art collections or the closets of well-heeled sneaker cognoscenti. On the other side, in Tijuana, it's a utilitarian affair: Immigrants to be are happy to have the sturdy, light-weight shoes for the hike — or dash — into the United States.

Their designer is Judi Werthein, an Argentine artist who moved to New York in 1997 — legally, she notes.

On a recent evening in Tijuana, after giving away 50 pairs at a migrant shelter, Werthein waved the insole and pointed to Interstate 8, the main road between San Diego and Phoenix.

"This blue line is where you want to go," Werthein, 38, said in Spanish.

"Good luck! You're all very courageous," she told the cheering crowd of about 50 men huddled in a recreation room after dinner.

"God bless you!" several cried back.

Werthein has concluded that shoes are a border crosser's most important garment.

"The main problem that people have when they're crossing is their feet," Werthein. "If people are going to cross anyway, at least this will make it safer."

Only 1,000 pairs of the "Brinco" sneakers (it means "Jump" in Spanish) have been made — in China, for \$17 each. The shoes were introduced in August at inSite, an art exhibition in San Diego and Tijuana whose sponsors include nonprofit foundations and private collectors.

Benefactors put up \$40,000 for the project; Werthein gets a \$5,000 stipend, plus expenses.

The shoes have kicked up a mini-controversy in art circles.

A San Diego surgeon told Werthein that she was encouraging illegal immigration — a charge she rejects, saying people will cross with or without her shoes. The surgeon's wife sided with her, Werthein said, and bought the shoes.

Chris and Eloisa Haudenschild display a pair of the sneakers at their resplendent San Diego home. Eloisa Haudenschild said the shoes portray an uncomfortable reality about the perils of crossing the border.

"It's a reality that we don't like to look at," she said. "That's what an artist points out."

Across the border, several curious migrants waiting for sunset along a

cement river basin approached Werthein as she emptied a sport utility vehicle of white shoe boxes. One man already wore a dirty pair of Brincos. Another, Felipe de Jesus Olivar Canto, slipped into a size 11 and said he would use them instead of his black leather shoes.

"These are much more comfortable for hiking," according to Olivar Canto, who said he was heading for \$6.75-an-hour work installing doors and windows in Santa Ana, about 90 miles north of border. "The ones I have are more dressy."

From there, Werthein went to Casa del Migrante, a Tijuana shelter that will receive a share of the proceeds from Brincos sold in the United States.

Jose Garcia, 30, eased into a size 10, which he said he would wear to cross the California desert on his way to Las Vegas or Phoenix.

"Those are way too heavy and they don't breathe," he said, pointing to clunky hiking boots that he tossed aside.

"Does it have a sensor to alert us to the Border Patrol?" joked Javier Lopez, 33, who said he had a \$10-an-hour job hanging drywall waiting for him in Denver.

This isn't the first time Werthein has tried to appeal to art aficionados and low-wage workers alike. In 2002, she turned a room in the Bronx Museum into a salon,

painting the walls pink and inviting the public to get their fingernails covered with work from the museum's collection.

Blends, a downtown San Diego boutique, displays the shoes on a black pedestal. Werthein says Blends and Printed Matter, a store in Manhattan, have sold about 350 pairs.

"I wouldn't wear them and I wouldn't want my husband to wear them," said Blends browser Antonieta LaRussa, 28. "But the cause is awesome. There's so much opposition to immigration. She's looking at it from the other side of the fence and asking why."

To research the best design over two years, Werthein interviewed shoe designers, migrants, aid workers, even an immigrant smuggler. She joined the Mexican government's Grupo Beta migrant-aid society on long border hikes. She heard from a Salvadoran woman in Tijuana who said she was kidnapped and raped by her smuggler.

Based on those interviews, she added a pocket — migrants told her they were often robbed. She also added the flashlight — many cross at night.

Some get lost — hence, the compass and map.

"If you get lost," she told the men at the shelter, "just go north."



*Saturday November 19, 2005

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NATIONAL



Bush now risks alienating Republicans as well

BY TOM RAUM

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush's efforts to paint Democrats as hypocrites for criticizing the Iraq war after they once warned that Saddam Hussein was a grave threat could backfire on Republicans.

Polls show marked declines in support for the war, notably among moderate Republicans, especially Republican women, and independents.

If Bush castigates Democrats for changing their minds on the war, he might wind up alienating Republicans who have done so, too.

The administration has been engaging in a rhetorical high-wire act in its efforts to defend its use of prewar intelligence — so much that some analysts have likened it to President Clinton's remark in his deposition on the Monica Lewinsky case: "That depends on what the definition of 'is' is."

Bush and his advisers have conceded that the administration was wrong in its assessment of Saddam's weapons of mass destruction before the U.S. invasion. So the debate centers on whether they misled members of Congress and the American people.

"The fact is this was a truly major failure in intelligence and analysis," said Anthony Cordesman, an Iraq expert and former Pentagon intelligence official. "But that does not mean that information was not manipulated or used to create a case for war that was much stronger than the assessments made before the conflict."

Well, maybe it depends on what the definition of "manipulated" is.

"In reality in this city, on a bipartisan basis, everybody always spins the facts to support the policy they advocate. There are no innocents," said Cordesman, now an analyst with the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He suggested those in the intelligence community didn't have to be told that, if they wanted to exert influence and have their advice taken seriously, "you better tell policy-makers there was a really good case for war."

Anxiety over Iraq among both Republicans and Democrats seemed apparent as the Senate voted 79-19 on Tuesday to demand regular updates from the White House on progress in Iraq until all U.S. troops are withdrawn.

The vote on a defense policy bill came after the GOP-led chamber rejected a far more restrictive Democratic amendment demanding that Bush set a timetable for withdrawing from Iraq.

Bush said during a news conference in Kyoto, Japan, on Wednesday he was "more than happy" to provide Congress with more regular updates on Iraq progress and did not view the vote as a setback. "I appreciated the fact that the Senate rejected an amendment that would have taken our troops out of Iraq before the mission is complete," he said of the Democratic bid for a withdrawal schedule.

Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, senior Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee, called the resolution that passed "a turning point" even though it lacks enforcement teeth. "We're losing the American people," Biden told NBC's "Today" show. "We're losing them because they look over there and they think — there's this giant gap between what they see and the rhetoric they hear."

Bush and senior members of his administration have stepped up their attack on Democrats, singling out those criticizing the war now who supported the October 2002 war resolution like Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., and former Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C.

In a speech to U.S. troops in Alaska on his way to a trip to Asia, Bush said Monday it was "irresponsible for Democrats to now claim that we misled them and the American people," suggesting lawmakers had access to the same intelligence — faulty as it turns out — as did the administration and foreign allies.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and the Republican National Committee joined the fray on Tuesday.

Rumsfeld quoted Clinton administration officials who

contended in the late 1990s that Saddam was a security threat to the U.S. and its allies, including Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Sandy Berger, Clinton's national security adviser.

The RNC, meanwhile, put on its Web site (www.gop.com) a video compilation of such statements, including more recent ones by current Democratic leaders and potential 2008 presidential contenders, including Sens. Hillary Clinton of New York, Biden and Edwards.

The video implies that such Democrats had later turned against the war, even though Mrs. Clinton has been consistent in supporting Bush's efforts.

Stephen Cimbala, a Pennsylvania State University political scientist who studies war and politics, said "Republicans in Congress are very nervous because they know that, if Bush's numbers don't come up, they could be in big trouble next year in the midterm elections."

Bush's approval is at the low point of his presidency, 37 percent in a recent AP-Ipsos poll.

His Republican base still supports him on Iraq, but that support has been eroding.

His approval on handling Iraq fell from 87 percent among all Republicans in November 2004 to 78 percent this month. Among Republican women, from 88 percent a year ago to 73 percent now. Among independents, approval on Iraq fell from 49 percent in November 2004 to 33 percent now.

Among Democrats, where he has enjoyed little support for his war policies all along, it fell from just 15 percent a year ago to 12 percent now.

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U.S. steers away from mad cow restrictions

BY LIBBY QUAID

AP Food and Farm Writer

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration intends to lift all mad cow disease-related restrictions on Canadian cattle in the next year, the Agriculture Department said Wednesday.

The restrictions, in place since Canada's first case of the disease was disclosed in 2003, were eased earlier this year to allow younger cattle to enter the United States.

A prohibition has remained on Canadian animals older than 30 months; levels of infection from mad cow disease are thought to increase with age. Industry officials argue that rules for how cattle are

slaughtered would keep the disease from ever entering the human or animal food supply.

The department said it is writing a rule that would lift remaining restrictions on Canadian cattle. Ron DeHaven, administrator of the department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said the rule will be proposed in six to eight months.

Since discovering its first case in May 2003, Canada has turned up two more cases. The United States discovered two additional cases, one in a cow that was imported from Canada and one in a Texas-born cow. Since the ban was eased, Canada has shipped more than 333,803 cattle into the United States.

Despite efforts to stem C-sections, procedure rates continue to increase

BY MIKE STOBBE

Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — Twenty years ago, virtually no mothers-to-be asked for Caesarean sections, said Dr. Sarah Kilpatrick, of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Nowadays, she said, more and more women are demanding them. "The public gets the sense that it's like a zipper — they open you and then close you back up."

The latest government data seems to back up that observation: The rate of C-sections in the U.S. has climbed to an all-time high, despite efforts by public health authorities to bring down the number of such deliveries.

Nearly 1.2 million C-sections were performed in 2004, accounting for 29.1 percent of all births that year, the National Center for Health Statistics reported Tuesday. That is up from 27.5 percent in 2003 and 20.7 in 1996.

The increase is attributed to fears of malpractice lawsuits if a vaginal delivery goes wrong, the preferences of mothers and physicians, and the risks of attempting vaginal births after Caesareans.

The C-section rate increased for all births, even those that involved healthy, first-time pregnancies with a full-term, single child. In 2000, the government announced a national public health goal of reducing the C-section rate for such births to 15 percent by 2010, but the actual rate now is about 24 percent and rising.

The government also reported that more than a half-million infants were born preterm — at less than 37 weeks' gestation — in 2004, which is another record. And the proportion of infants with a low birth weight rose to 8.1 percent in 2004, from 7.9 percent the year before.

Increases in multiple-fetus pregnancies and in pre-term C-sections seem to help explain the preterm and low birth weight numbers, said Joyce Martin, an epidemiologist who co-wrote the report.

Some women believe they have a lower chance of becoming incontinent if they opt

for a C-section, though the evidence to support that is not complete, Kilpatrick said.

A C-section is major surgery: A doctor cuts open a women's abdomen to retrieve the baby. The risks include infection and, in rare cases, death, and recovery time is longer than with a vaginal delivery. Doctors often perform a Caesarean when the fetus lacks oxygen or is in some other kind of life-threatening distress.

For decades, C-sections were done in only a small fraction of births. In 1970, the national rate was 5 percent. Then it rose, surpassing 20 percent by the mid-1980s.

Experts say many factors drove the rate: Mothers increasingly preferred the convenience of C-sections, which could be scheduled. Technological innovations let doctors better see problems before birth.

The trend temporarily reversed in the early 1990s, partly because HMOs pressured doctors to curtail unnecessary procedures. But by the late 1990s, health insurers had cut back their C-section control efforts.

Also, doctors became worried by studies that showed that women who deliver vaginally after having a C-section earlier suffer a ruptured uterus — a potentially lethal complication for both mother and child — in about 1 percent of such cases.

Some hospitals have banned vaginal deliveries after C-section, or VBAC, said Tonya Jamois, president of the International Cesarean Awareness Network, an advocacy organization.

"Women are struggling to avoid unnecessary surgery, but the medical system has abandoned them. For many, they have to submit to major surgery in order to get medical care," she said.

The VBAC rate has dropped to 9.2 percent of births after a previous Caesarean in 2004, compared with 28.3 percent in 1996.

The rate of Caesareans among women who have not previously had one has shot up, climbing to 20.6 percent of such births in 2004, compared with 19.1 percent in 2003 and 14.6 in 1996.

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INTERNATIONAL



Leaner deterrent? Troops in Asia shipping out

BY ERIC TALMADGE

Associated Press Writer

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea —

North Korea's military power hasn't suddenly changed. It claims to have nukes and its million-man army is ready to roll. China, meanwhile, is emerging as the new Asian military leader, and terrorism is flaring up all over the region.

But at the United States' major Asian outposts, some serious downsizing is under way.

In Japan and South Korea, two countries President Bush is visiting this week, a U.S. military presence that had remained relatively static for years is undergoing a huge change. In Washington's two primary Asian partners, troops are being pulled out by the thousands, and well-established bases shut for good.

The American position isn't weakening, say officials and analysts; the cutbacks will be counterbalanced by improved equipment, organization and cooperation.

"We have always been unique and we have always maintained the old-style

structure and doctrine," said Col. Richard Parker, chief of force development and plans for the 8th U.S. Army, headquartered in the heart of Seoul, just 30 miles from North Korea.

Not anymore.

In its biggest reorganization in two decades, the U.S. will shed 12,500 of its 32,500-strong force in Korea over the next three years, reduce its number of bases by about three quarters and hand over major elements of the troops' mission to their Korean counterparts, who will "play a larger and larger role," U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on a recent Asia tour.

Similar restructuring is afoot in Japan, where nearly 50,000 U.S. troops are stationed.

The United States and Japan have just agreed to the most sweeping changes in the deployments there in recent memory, a plan that — along with basing a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier just south of Tokyo — includes the withdrawal of about 7,000 of the 18,000 Marines on the crowded island of Okinawa.

Sheila Smith, an analyst with the pri-

vate East-West Center in Honolulu, says the aim is to streamline, but not undermine, the alliance.

"Rather than planning for fixed contingencies, such as the defense of an ally, the U.S. Department of Defense would like to retain flexibility over the deployment of its military, and access to facilities and bases around the globe," she wrote recently. "Japan has embraced these priorities for its own military, and so the alliance now places a premium on joint operations and the interoperability of the (Japanese military) and U.S. forces in the region."

In Korea, the 8th Army is scattered across 41 major bases and several dozen smaller camps. "Eventually, we'll be down to about eight," Parker said in an interview.

The changes in Korea are in line with shifts now taking place within the entire Army, moving toward combat teams that are "smaller but fully capable and fully lethal packages that can be deployed faster," Parker said.

Yongsan Garrison, a Seoul landmark, will be moved, along with overall U.S.

military headquarters, to Pyongtaek, about 40 miles south of the capital, by 2008.

By the end of this year, the 8th Army will have shed 8,000 troops. Another 3,500 will leave by 2008, along with 1,000 Air Force personnel.

Parker stressed that in conjunction with upgrades in technology, forces here will be as capable as ever of deterring North Korean attack.

Facing increasing demands on its own troops in Iraq and elsewhere, Washington is pushing Seoul and Tokyo to assume a bigger role in regional security and in their own defense — and both appear willing.

The two governments are also under domestic pressure from communities near the bases to scale back the U.S. presence, and from left-leaning groups that want to cut the alliance altogether.

But the drawdown poses a dilemma: The leftists can't object to U.S. troop reductions, but worry about Japan taking a bigger military role and possibly rewriting its post-World War II "peace constitution" to give itself more military leeway abroad.

Mexico launches effort to register migrants for historic absentee balloting

BY OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press Writer

REYNOSA, Mexico —

A small army of electoral workers carrying absentee ballot registration forms was deployed Wednesday in airports, land crossings and customs checkpoints along Mexico's border with the United States.

Their mission is to get the thousands of migrants returning home for the holidays to register for the nation's first absentee ballot. Votes from millions of Mexicans living abroad, mostly in the United States, could swing July's presidential election.

Some Mexican migrants in the United States, however, complain a lack of information has made registration confusing and difficult. Many also lack a voter ID card, which is required to register and can only be obtained in Mexico.

Registering his U.S. car at a Mexican customs office, where electoral officials still hadn't set up an information booth by afternoon, 47-year-old day laborer Adrian Salinas of Edinburg, Texas, said the new absentee voting program was news to him.

"Often, it's easier to come to Mexico and vote," said Salinas, a Mexican citizen who has lived in the United States since 1971.

As of Nov. 1, only 773 eligible voters had mailed back their absentee voter forms, electoral officials said.

The border registration drive, which will last two months, is aimed at making the process easier and getting more people to participate.

"This is a completely new program, and it takes time for citizens to learn about their

rights," said Alberto Alonso y Coria, voter registry director for Mexico's Federal Electoral Institute. "We are expecting a spike (in registrations) in the coming weeks, as we get closer to the deadline."

In Reynosa, the program got off to a slow start as workers unloaded a desk and set up an information booth Wednesday in a room next door to a customs office. There was no one seeking information.

Previously, Mexican citizens living abroad had to return home to vote and many were unable to make the trip. In June, Congress voted to allow mail-in ballots from outside Mexico, something migrant groups had demanded for years.

Under the new law, voters can register for an absentee ballot by filling out forms available on the electoral institute's Web site and at Mexican consulates in the United States and other foreign countries.

Absentee ballot forms must be sent by registered mail and postmarked by Jan. 15.

The border effort includes information booths in the cities of Mexicali, Reynosa, Nuevo Laredo, Matamoros, Tijuana, Nogales, Agua Prieta, Ciudad Juarez, Piedras Negras and Ciudad Acuna. Information centers are also open in Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey.

One of the six information booths in Reynosa is set up just off an international bridge at the customs office, where all those driving to Mexico's interior must purchase an import permit for their cars.

Electoral workers will also be stationed at the airport, bus station and immigration checkpoints outside the city.

Migrants will be able to apply for a voter registration card at the electoral

institute's offices in border cities. Before, migrants had to return to their home states to apply for a card.

Electoral officials said the cards will be processed in about two weeks, as opposed to the usual monthlong wait, so they will be ready before migrants return to the U.S.

Electoral officials also have used professional athletes to promote registration. The Chivas USA soccer team visited the Mexican consulate in Los Angeles to publicize the new program, and race car driver Adrian Fernandez made a similar visit in Dallas.



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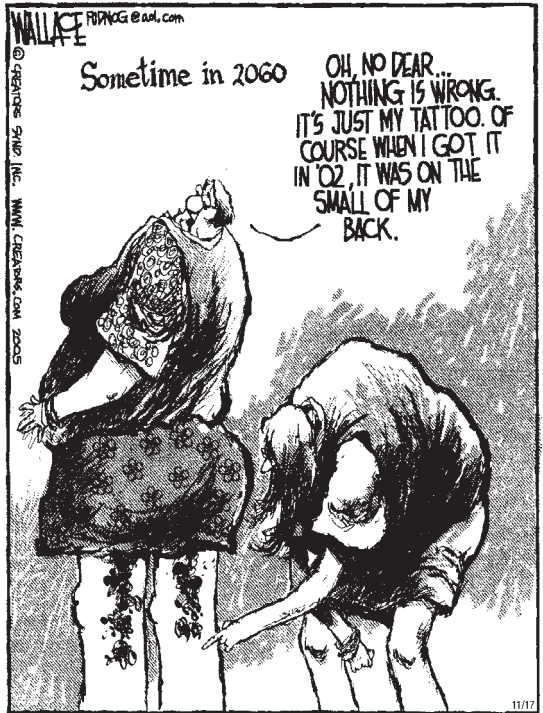


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Notice of Hearing on Petition Notice is given that on November 29, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. or as soon after that time as the matter may be heard, petitioner Ross Furukawa, will move for an order pursuant to Government Code §6008 adjudicating The Santa Monica Daily Press as a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles. The hearing will be held in Department 64 of the Los Angeles Superior Court, 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The Petition sets forth the following: 1. Petitioner, Ross Furukawa, is publisher of the newspaper known as The Santa Monica Daily Press, which is seeking adjudication under Government Code §6008 as a newspaper of general circulation for the City of Santa Monica. 2. The Santa Monica Daily Press is published for the dissemination of local or telegraphic news and intelligence of a general character in the City of Santa Monica, California. The business address is 1427 Third St. Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, CA 90401. 3. The Santa Monica Daily Press has a bona fide subscription list of paying subscribers, and substantial distribution to subscribers numbering 1023 in the City of Santa Monica and surrounding areas for a total weekly distribution of approximately 20,000. 4. For more than three years preceding the filing of the petition, the petitioning newspaper has been established under the name of The Santa Monica Daily Press, and has been so established and published, that is, issued and sold or distributed regularly each day in the City of Santa Monica and the surrounding areas. 5. During each of the three-year period preceding the filing of this petition, the newspaper has maintained a minimum coverage of local news and intelligence of a general character of not less than twenty-five percent of its total inches; it has a principal office of publication located in the City of Santa Monica, County of Los Angeles. WHEREFORE, petitioner prays that The Santa Monica Daily Press be adjudicated pursuant to Government Code §6008 as a newspaper of general circulation for the City of Santa Monica, Santa Monica Judicial District, County of Los Angeles, State of California. DATED: November 5, 2005 Lisa Grace-Kello Attorney for Petitioner

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2470577 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Twist Punch Music, Twist Punch Publishing, Twist Punch, Privateer St., Apt. 2, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Christopher Matthew Rash, 14 Privateer St., Apt. 2, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)9/15/2005. /s/: Christopher M. Rash This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 10/13/05. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of

DBAS

fictional business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 11/10/2005, 11/17/2005 11/24/2005, 12/1/2005

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'02 C230	\$17,981
COUPE, WHITE, MOONROOF, CD, 2A265605	
'02 ML500	\$22,984
BLACK OPAL, AND MORE! 2A295671	
'01 ML320	\$23,981
BLACK/BLACK, 3RD SEAT, 1A241304	
'02 C320	\$24,981
BLACK/BLACK, CD, 9K MILES, 2F240670	
'03 C320	\$28,982
NAVIGATION, SILVER/CHARCOAL BEAUTY & MORE, 3F313565	
'03 ML500	\$28,984
SILVER/CHARCOAL BEAUTY & MORE! 3A376028	
'05 C240	\$29,983
WHITE, CD, 5A656710	

'96 BMW 328i	\$11,981
WHITE/TAN, AUTOMATIC SF320711	
'01 JAG S-TYPE 4.0	\$21,981
FLINT GREY/GREY, 22K MILES, 16M19410	
'02 FORD T-BIRD	\$23,981
WHITE, 2 TOPS, ONLY 14K MILES, 2Y131101	
'01 BMW 330i CONV	\$26,981
BLACK/BLACK, SPORT PKG, 1EV86593	
01 JAG XJ8 CONV	\$34,981
BLACK/BLACK, NAVI, XM RADIO, 1NA17351	

'03 CLK320	\$41,981
CABRIOLET, PEWTER/CHARCOAL, CD, 3T144271	
'05 E500	\$41,981
PEWTER/ASH, 3A298414	
'04 CLK500	\$46,981
COUPE, BLUE/STONE, 4F104882	
'05 S430	\$63,984
SILVER/CHARCOAL, 5W449143	
'05 S500	\$65,984
BLACK, ONLY 10K MILES, LIKE NEW! 5AU41192	
'06 CLS500	\$69,984
BORDEAUX/JAVA, 6A017865	
'03 SL500	\$69,984
SILVER/CHARCOAL, SPORT PKG, 3F027035	
'05 G500	\$71,981
BLACK/ASH BEAUTY & MORE! 5X160408	

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