

FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

16 23 36 44 47
Meganumber: 10
Jackpot: \$10 million

FANTASY 5

1 11 19 28 39

DAILY 3

Daytime: 7 2 6
Evening: 9 7 3

DAILY DERBY

1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit

RACE TIME: 1:49.37

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Gary Arthur Medrow, 60, first made News of the Weird in our inaugural year, 1988, but his criminal record (mostly for impersonating police officers) goes back at least 10 years before that. Medrow's preferred scene is to call someone (usually a woman) on the telephone, pretend to be a police officer on an investigation, and ask her to try to lift up another person in the room and carry him or her into another room. He was charged again in New Berlin, Wis., in September.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1969, financier-diplomat Joseph P. Kennedy died in Hyannis Port, Mass., at age 81.

In 1978, California Congressman Leo J. Ryan and four other people were killed in Jonestown, Guyana, by members of the Peoples Temple; the killings were followed by a night of mass murder and suicide by 912 cult members.

In 1987, the congressional Iran-Contra committees issued their final report, saying President Reagan bore "ultimate responsibility" for wrongdoing by his aides.

Ten years ago: Fifteen people were killed and more than 150 wounded when Palestinian police opened fire on rioting worshippers outside a mosque in the Gaza Strip. The Commerce Department reported that America's trade deficit worsened to \$10 billion in September. Bandleader Cab Calloway died in Hockessin, Del., at age 86.

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SMC president decides to call it quits

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC — After nearly 10 years at the helm, Dr. Piedad F. Robertson will step down as president of Santa Monica College in January to take over a national education think-tank based in Denver, Colo., it was announced Wednesday.

Robertson will start Feb. 1 as president of the Education Commission of the States, a 38-year-old non-profit organization that serves as a resource for policy makers. Robertson is leaving behind her \$205,000-per-year position at SMC during a time of unprecedented growth, and in the wake of a controversy over cut academic programs.

Asked what influence her critics played in her move, Robertson, 66, said, "On a scale of zero to 10, a 0.5, because I learned a long time ago in any job that you are going to carry out, you keep your eyes on the prize."

It could take up to a year for college officials to select Robertson's replacement. She has recommended her assistant, Tom Donner, act as interim president.

Despite being tapped by Gov.

Arnold Schwarzenegger and Secretary of Education Richard Riordan to weigh in on education issues at the state level, Robertson was largely unpopular among her own faculty and campus workers. She received a vote of no confidence from both groups last spring, after Robertson recommended to a supportive college board that academic programs be cut in order to meet the funding shortfall from Sacramento.

"No regrets," said Robertson on Wednesday, adding that she respected and understood the criticisms she faced as leader of the 33,000-student campus. "It has to do with the fact that this college went through a very rough financial situation, very rough. When you don't have money and you cannot compensate people for the work they go through ... there's anger, there's resentment, there's accusation — and that's to be expected."

Though she plans to set up a second residence near her new office in Denver, Robertson said Santa Monica will still be her home and she will keep the house she shares with her husband Bill, a retired professor who works part-time at

See RESIGNATION, page 5



DR. PIEDAD F. ROBERTSON



Courtesy rendering

An artist's rendering depicts what the new \$31 million, 500-seat Madison Project theater might look like upon its completion in 2006.

Curtain set to rise soon on theater construction

By Daily Press staff

MID-CITY — Construction on a new \$31-million, 500-seat theater in Santa Monica will officially begin in January, officials announced this week.

A ground-breaking ceremony for Santa Monica College's Madison Project, a performing arts complex located at 10th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard, will be held on Jan. 19. The new theater is expected to be completely built in 22 months.

Dr. Piedad F. Robertson, president of SMC and perhaps Madison's strongest supporter, will step down from her post at the end of January (see related

story). Still, Robertson said she will remain involved in the project, which also is backed by actor Dustin Hoffman.

"The best thing is that it becomes a pet project of the college, and since I am going to be living in the community, I'll have the opportunity to watch it grow up and I'll have the opportunity to come and watch shows there," Robertson said Wednesday, just moments after announcing she would be leaving SMC to head up a nonprofit education think-tank.

SMC's board of trustees approved a \$30.8 million construction bid for the theater this

See MADISON, page 5

Salvaging the holiday season for kids

By Daily Press staff

COLORADO AVE. — Local children on Tuesday got a jump start on their holiday shopping, compliments of Sears and a host of service organizations.

Not only did the 75 kids beat the rush, they beat the crowds — free to wander both floors of Sears on Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street before the store opened its doors to the public. The children, also treated to an early visit from

Santa Claus, perused the aisles with the holiday sounds of the Santa Monica High School Madrigal singers in the background.

The Salvation Army Santa Monica Corps Community Center sponsored the holiday shopping spree for 75 pre-selected needy children.

Each child received \$100 to spend on new clothes. Volunteers from the Community Center's Advisory Board, service clubs,

businesses and nearby schools assisted the children as they made their selections.

John Ortiz, a McKinley Elementary School student, snagged some sweatshirts, pants and shoes alongside volunteer Amy Roggs, a freshman at Pepperdine. David Allweiss, also a student at Pepperdine, had a more challenging task with Cruz Ayala, a little girl who had as much trouble deciding how old she was as she did staying within her \$100 budget.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Pepperdine student David Allweiss helps Cruz Ayala select something special during a recent holiday shopping spree.

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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 **ARIES (March 21-April 19)**

★★★★ You say what you want, but be prepared to hear news that might be uncomfortable, at best. Read between the lines with a request. You might also need to check out the facts for yourself. You will get a better perspective that way. Others, especially friends, pitch in. Tonight: Do only what you want.

 **TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**

★★★★ Others take charge. You might as well bend like a willow rather than fight the inevitable. Assume a more positive view at work. A partnership helps you zero in on your priorities and helps win bonus points with "the boss." Tonight: Out late working, and maybe a late lunch.

 **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**

★★★★★ Use your finely tuned mental abilities to read between the lines. In fact, for you, the actions of others might be quite transparent, but for others, your explanations are needed. Do needed research, especially when planning a weekend getaway! Tonight: You walk to the beat of a different drummer.

 **CANCER (June 21-July 22)**

★★★★★ Your ability to zero in on what is important helps a partner. Your efficiency earmarks the quality of your work. Basics count. Do not lose sight of your priorities. You have a strong, sound basis of ethics. Tonight: Togetherness.

 **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**

★★★★ Others knock on your door like there's no tomorrow. The unexpected marks your decisions — at least to others it appears unexpected. Your expectations and willingness to take risks emerge again. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

 **VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**

★★★ Let no one make a mistake — you're about work and getting the job done. Others admire your consistency and well-developed efficiency. You get much more done than others expect or could get done themselves. Let someone treat you to a meal, if not more. Tonight: Relax all you want.

 **LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**

★★★★★ Your creativity comes through when others fall flat. You have answers, ideas and the energy to follow through. Your charming manner draws many to you. Pick and choose from your admirers, or decide to play the field. Tonight: Hop out of the office.

 **SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**

★★★ Basics count. You'll come to a better understanding if you're willing to discuss your obligations and needs. A loved one might not be sharing all that he or she needs to. You cannot force his or her hand, either. Tonight: Hang close to home.

 **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**

★★★★ Your ability to state your case makes all the difference in the response you get. Others dote on you and want to pitch in to make your job easier. Why not? Lengthy conversations about the pros and cons could take up your time if you let them. Tonight: Visit with your pals.

 **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**

★★★★ Investigate what needs to happen financially. You might want to spend money on or dote on someone, but you need to refrain for a while. Your instincts lead you in the right direction. Make an important meeting. Tonight: Your treat.

 **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**

★★★★★ Your personality switches to high, making you close to unstoppable. Your efforts to read between the lines pay off. Be generous and give others the benefit of the doubt. Aim for what you want. Take an overview. Tonight: As you like it.

 **PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**

★★ Take your time making a decision. You see many pros and cons within a decision. If you're not sure which way to go, then don't take action yet. Use time as a gift. A partner gives you worthy feedback. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL



Gone but not forgotten



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Fresh flowers adorn the memorial shrine for Deanna ‘Lala’ Maran in front of her family’s Ocean Park home on Thursday. Nov. 17 marked the third anniversary of the Santa Monica High School student’s death. Maran, 15, was fatally stabbed by another teenager at a party in Westwood. Her family has kept the shrine intact ever since.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

‘Star’ chasers at the planetarium

By Daily Press staff

“Star of Wonder,” a look at possible explanations for the Star of Bethlehem will be the feature show Dec. 3, 10 and 17 at Santa Monica College’s Friday astronomy series. “Star of Wonder” is at 8 p.m. and is preceded by “The Night Sky Show,” which re-creates the night sky and provides the latest information on space exploration at 7 p.m. The astronomy shows are held in the John Drescher Planetarium on the second floor of Drescher Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd.

Tickets are \$5 each or \$9 for the “double bill,” with discounts offered for children and senior citizens. For information, call (310) 434-4223 or (310) 434-3000.

Mind over matter at scientist series

By Daily Press staff

“Opening the Black Box: Facts About the Brain and the Human Mind” is the topic of the third and final lecture in Santa Monica College’s fall Distinguished Scientists Lecture Series at 11:15 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 2. The free talk will be held in science lecture hall, room 145, 1900 Pico Blvd.

Dr. Kenneth Wesson — a keynote speaker, lecturer, researcher and author — is an expert on the neuroscience of learning and methods for creating classrooms and learning environments that are “brain-considerate.” Wesson has also been active as a researcher, writer, and university teacher. For information, call (310) 434-4003.

CORRECTION — A community brief in the Nov. 17 edition contained an error. The musical cantata “The Carpenter” will be presented at First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica on Nov. 21 at 3 p.m.

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SURF REPORT

On Thursday, look for some new NW wind swell to join a modest NW and SW swell mix. Most spots with good NW exposure see knee-thigh-waist high surf, with some bigger sets at top combo breaks. Some steep NW swell shows at best exposed beaches on Friday. Winds are light Thursday morning, building out of the W in the 6-10 knot range for the afternoon. Some more NW winds due Friday.

**Today the
water is:**

63°

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

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	2:23	1.8	3:55	-1.1	8:41	6.8	10:25	4.0
SUNDAY	2:58	2.2	4:48	-1.1	9:20	6.8	11:30	3.7
MONDAY	3:39	2.6	5:47	-0.9	10:05	6.6	N/A	N/A
TUESDAY	4:29	2.9	6:54	-0.6	12:49	3.6	10:59	6.1
WEDNESDAY	5:48	3.2	8:06	-0.3	2:22	3.7	12:06	5.6
THURSDAY	7:50	3.3	9:14	-0.1	3:40	4.0	1:33	5.0
FRIDAY	9:44	2.8	10:13	0.1	4:32	4.4	3:08	4.6

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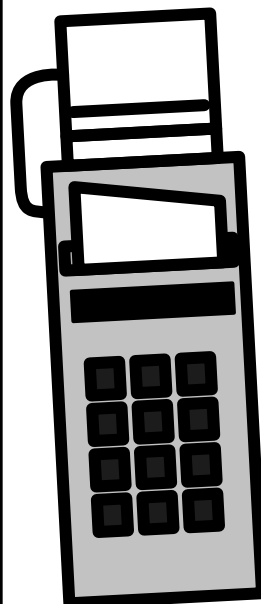
The Santa Monica City Council is considering letting businesses have a portion of residents’ coveted parking spaces — spaces that are currently restricted to outsiders in certain neighborhoods.

Although no official action has been taken, some members of the council think businesses should be able to have their employees park in residential neighborhoods. They believe it would free up parking spaces on major thor-

oughfares for customers.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, “Is this a good idea? Should residents give up some of their parking for businesses?”

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



IRS PROBLEMS?

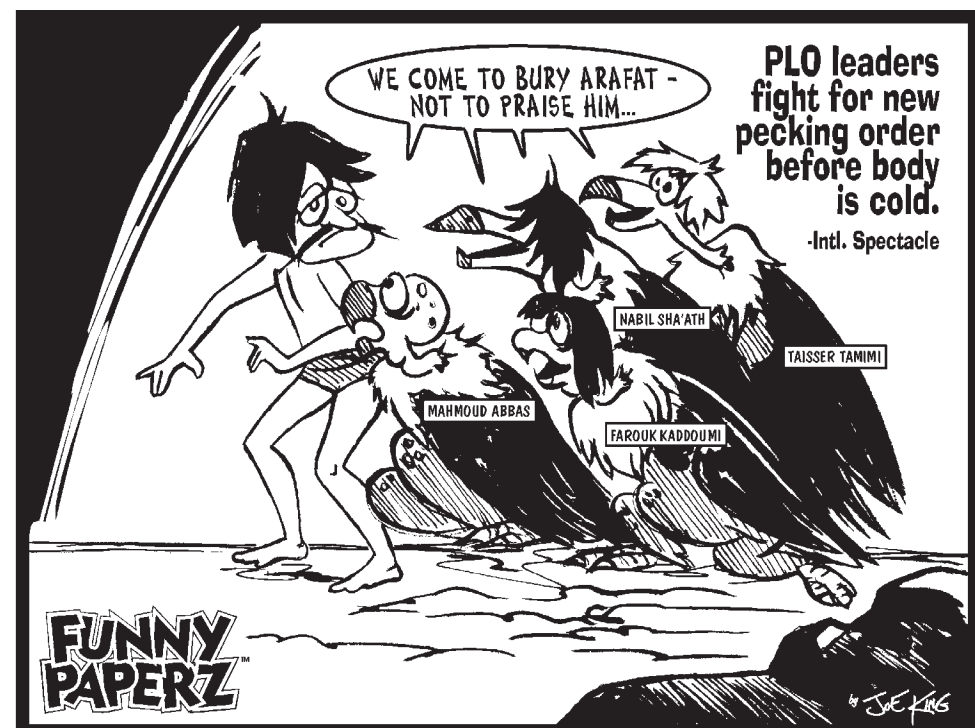
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OPINION



He's not really dead -- just enjoying some 5-star Paris room service. © 2004 WWW.FUNNYPAPERZ.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A letter to Silverstein's nephews and nieces

Editor:

Dear Mathew, Casey, Samantha, Madeline, Robert, Abigal, Anthony and Madison:

I hope I am not being presumptuous writing to you directly, but I simply must respond to the misguided and misinformed letter you recently received from your Uncle Ed (SMDP, Nov. 17, page 4). By the way, I am sure he is a fine man with the best of intentions, but, as they say, "the road to hell ..."

First, the good news: By any serious standards, the air you breathe and water you drink is cleaner now than it has been for the past 50 years. We have stable forests with sustainable harvesting practices. If you don't smoke, your chances of lung disease is exceedingly remote. Your wombs are not toxic. Americans have a far greater life expectancy now than ever before. You will not be kept ignorant about sex and because of ignorance die of AIDS. Your life will not be ruined if you become pregnant. The American Dream is alive and well — if you go to school, get a job and work hard you will succeed. We have a higher standard of living than our grandparents could ever have dreamed of. Scientific and medical research continues to provide dazzling breakthroughs. The great majority of Americans are tolerant and charitable.

Now, the bad news: Like our parents and grandparents, we live in a very dangerous world. Our grandparents rose up to fight and rid the world of brutal fascist regimes. We defeated that enemy, but only through great national and personal costs and sacrifice. We then faced and defeated the communist empire of the Soviet Union.

Now, similarly, we face another great war against Islamo-fascists who have as their stated end goal the destruction of Western Civilization and its free societies, to be replaced with repressive theocracies. If we are diligent, we will win this war too.

Now, get out there and savor life, have fun and always keep learning.

Why don't you give Uncle Ed a call and cheer him up? Tell him you appreciate his concern, but that America is a pretty great place. Perhaps he can take you out for an ice cream — if he's not too worried about the artery clogging fat and tooth decaying sugar.

John B. Garacochea
Venice

Heads up! Watch where you're going

Editor:

One day last week I was almost hit by four cars while walking my dog. That was just one day! The drivers of these vehicles were either on their cell phones, speeding, or just not paying attention.

Then on Monday morning, our beloved 9-year-old family cat was hit and killed by a car. Yes, he shouldn't have been outside. He ran out when I opened the door to go to work. However, I can't help but wonder whether it was a driver similar to one of the drivers that almost hit me and my dog last week — on a cell phone, not paying attention or speeding.

Please, fellow drivers, is the life of another human being or an animal worth that phone call or whatever it is that takes your mind from being present behind the wheel of your car, a machine that can kill? One day it could be your own child or pet.

Victoria Pavis
Santa Monica

Little Rock: Political center of the country



HERE'S THE THING

BY LARA M. BROWN, Ph.D.

Helicopters have been circling overhead all week. The hotels and the restaurants are booked solid with reservations, and the locals haven't seen anything like it — well, at least not anything like this in 12 years.

President William Jefferson Clinton's Library and Center opens today. Expected are more than 100,000 visitors to Little Rock, Ark. Guests include two former presidents (Jimmy Carter and George H.W. Bush), our current president (George W. Bush), Clinton's former vice president, Al Gore, and his wife, Tipper, and celebrities ranging from Bono to Ben Affleck.

Aside from recognizing President Clinton's tenure in office, a subtler message will be conveyed to all of the Democratic faithful who accepted Bill's invitation — the center of the country is where it's at — literally and figuratively.

And if anyone thinks this is a mistake, or a coincidence, think again. Bill didn't decide to put his library in Little Rock just because he's from here. If you recall, when he made the decision about eight months before he left office there was controversy around it. Arkansans weren't sure they wanted to claim it or him. Meanwhile, New Yorkers and Californians were clamoring for the library, each arguing that they could more properly provide his legacy a home.

But Clinton, as usual, had a vision, and he was dogged in pursuing his goal. He knew his legacy was wrapped up with the Democratic Party, and that he had to attend to some unfinished business. He also knew that he could best conduct his work in a post-presidency from the center of the country.

Clinton, if nothing else, is a tremendous student of history and presidents who are considered great by historians — not only change policies and leave strong governing records, but they also leave a lasting mark on the political system. Typically, they change the shape, outlook, or governing coalition of their political party, and it usually lasts long past their time in elective office. Franklin Roosevelt is credited with this kind of change because of the groups he brought together under the auspices of the New Deal. Ronald Reagan is also beginning to be looked upon this way by historians

because he laid the foundation for 1994's "Contract With America."

Clinton knows this. He also knows that he was successful in his two presidential bids because of the new democratic message of opportunity, responsibility, and community he articulated in his campaigns. He helped develop the Democratic Leadership Council's "Third Way" approach to policies when he served as its chairman before running for president, and he worked tirelessly to sell it to the party while he was in office.

He, however, did not finish transforming the party while he was president. When Gore decided to run from Clinton rather than with him in 2000, the party divided — between its liberal core and its moderate majority. In that election, Gore lost his home state of Tennessee, and since that time, the Democrats have lost ground across the South and the Midwest where most of the moderates and conservatives reside. Gore comfortably carried the coasts, where the party's liberals and most of the party's monetary power base live and work.

Things cannot continue like this if the Democratic Party wants to be a majority party. Clinton knows this. He also knows how to change it.

Clinton knows there can be no better thing for this party that keeps looking across its shores, making friends with the world, than to also learn how to make friends at home — in the heartland. Winning begins with approaching and talking, eventually persuading. Hating only leads to distancing and misunderstanding, or simply losing. This was Clinton's genius in foreign policy. He brought world leaders together, showing them how to set aside their hate long enough, so they could find their common ground.

HERE'S THE THING ...

Little Rock, Arkansas, is almost exactly halfway between both coasts. If the airlines would ever fly direct, the flights would be a little under three hours from either Los Angeles or New York.

Clinton says he plans on spending at least seven to ten days each month here. Democratic pilgrimages to Little Rock may soon become akin to going to Mecca. Traveling to a red state and staying a while in Arkansas is all a part Bill's plan to make the country purple.

(Lara M. Brown, Ph.D., is a political scientist from Los Angeles, and is teaching this semester in Arkansas, at Hendrix College and UALR. She can be reached at larambrown@aol.com)

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



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In Donner they trust? Robertson suggests change

RESIGNATION, from page 1

Santa Monica College.

"My husband can travel," she said.

He won't be alone. Meeting with policy makers and philanthropists is a big part of running ECS, an organization with some 50 staffers that commands a \$13 million annual budget, according to retiring ECS president Ted Sanders, who also served as an acting U.S. Secretary of Education.

Asked what he planned to do next, Sanders said, "I don't know. One thing I'm not going to do is get up every week and get on an airplane and live out of a suitcase. I want to spend more time with my wife and my kids, and my grandkids."

"This is a very, very demanding position," added Sanders, who earned \$250,000 at ECS, and was eligible for a 10-percent bonus.

Robertson declined to say how much she would earn in her new post, but said it wouldn't constitute a pay cut. She was selected by ECS from some two dozen applicants, said Sherry Freeland Walker, director of communication for ECS, who said Los Angeles headhunters K.E. McCarthy and Associates helped with the selection process.

News of Robertson's departure spread quickly through the halls of SMC Wednesday. In order for Donner to take over from Robertson, the college board must vote on the matter. Donner assumed the president's duties once before, from October of 1994 until Robertson was hired in July of 1995. He was returning from a business conference in South Carolina Wednesday and could not be reached for comment.

Union leaders expressed optimism that Robertson's resignation would affect change.

"We're very surprised," said Phil Hendricks, who heads the union for SMC's classified employees. "We believe that people want to work to get a president that has the genuine needs of the students and community in view ... The mood hasn't changed ... It's still the feeling that it's time for change."

Susan Aminoff, who was elected on Nov. 2 to one of three open seats on the SMC Board of Trustees, said she would miss Robertson's expertise, but viewed the change in leadership as an opportunity for the college to mend internal relations.

"I'm saddened to hear that Piedad is leaving because, of course, she has been the architect in creating the powerhouse institution that Santa Monica College is today," Aminoff said. "The input that I got during the campaign was that faculty and classified, that their voices were not being heard by the current administration, so this, of course, will be an opportunity to see if we can mend that relationship with a new CEO."

It's not just internal relations the next college president will have to consider. Mayor Richard Bloom reiterated his long-standing call for SMC to improve communication with its neighbors and with City Hall.

The local college, Bloom said, reminded him of "that caricature of a person who is torn between the angel on one shoulder and the devil on the other. That's really the reality we face with Santa Monica College, is that it does some angelic things in our community. At the same time we are bedeviled with problems."

Key accomplishments

A native of Cuba, SMC President Dr. Piedad F. Robertson received undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Miami and was awarded an Ed.D. from Florida Atlantic University. Robertson announced her resignation Wednesday.

Here is a breakdown of some of her key accomplishments:

■ Under Robertson's watch, the college grew significantly and more than 160 new, full-time, tenure-track faculty members were hired, making up about 45 percent of the current full-time professor ranks.

■ Also under Robertson, voters in March 2002 and earlier this month approved two bond measures totaling \$295 million that will transform SMC with new facilities and safety and modernization projects over the next decade. SMC also bought a 10-acre property at Santa Monica Airport, which will become a major satellite campus.

■ Robertson was credited with creating the SMC Academy of Entertainment and Technology, which prepares students for jobs in the entertainment industry, particularly digital animation and new media. She expanded workforce and economic development programs in such fields as nursing, education and apparel.

■ The development of the \$23 million SMC library expansion happened under Robertson, as did the opening of a

\$35 million science complex and planning for the upcoming Madison Project (see related story).

■ Robertson is one of just seven people on the Gates Millennium Scholars Program Advisory Council, which oversees the \$1 billion scholarship endowment created in 1999 by Microsoft founder and billionaire Bill Gates.

■ Honors include the 2002 Humanitarian Award from the National Conference for Community and Justice, 1999 Woman of the Year Award from the Santa Monica YWCA, and 1997 Status of Women Award from the American Association of University Women.

■ Before coming to Santa Monica College, Robertson served four years as Massachusetts Secretary of Education, a post she was appointed to by Governor William F. Weld on Sept. 1, 1991. As education secretary, Robertson oversaw the drafting of a comprehensive K-12 education reform law. She also reportedly received a handful of no confidence votes from university and community college leaders displeased with her handling of that state's deficit.

■ Prior to her appointment as education secretary, Robertson served as president of Bunker Hill Community College from 1988 to 1991.

Before that, she held a number of administrative and faculty positions at Miami Dade Community College, Broward Community College and the University of Miami.

Madison Project construction set to get underway soon after New Year

MADISON, from page 1

week, a project which has been in the works for more than six years. As recently as last summer the theater cost was pegged at \$17 million, but that figure has nearly doubled since.

"First of all, there were a lot of things that changed," explained Robertson. "The size of the whole structure. The EIR (Environmental Impact Report) requirements that the city asked us to go through were massive ... The things that are being requested of us like, for example, changing the sewer line in the city and adding

one onto the street. That's at our cost.

"We hadn't thought of that when we first looked at building a theater."

Outside of construction costs, college officials already have spent about \$2.7 million to have the architectural plans drafted and to pay for other expenses like completing the EIR, according to Dale Franzen, project director for the new theater.

While officials originally expected to fund the theater solely through private money, voters on Nov. 2 passed Measure S, which will pump \$24 million into the theater. Another \$3 million is available

from the Measure U bond, passed by voters in 2002. SMC also received a \$1 million federal grant and has raised close to \$8 million from private donors, Franzen said.

Santa Monica architecture firm Renzo

Zecchetto Architects drafted designs for the theater, which will be used both for professional and student shows.

— John Wood

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STATE

UC Regent is looking to add 'multiracial' box

BY MICHELLE LOCKE
Associated Press Writer

BERKELEY — University of California Regent Ward Connerly is proposing that the 10-campus system add a "multiracial" box to application forms to give students more options in defining themselves.

"There's a view among many people who are multiracial that, look, we represent a growing segment of the population in this state, in this country," he said. "And yet there are many who believe that we're just irrelevant, that we don't count."

The proposal has drawn criticism from students and others who say the box could make it harder to collect data on minorities.

Meanwhile, UC administrators also oppose the change, saying that adding a box would go against federal requirements.

The debate illustrates how the emergence of a multiracial population has prompted institutions nationwide to review how they collect data. The U.S. Census decided in 2000 to give people the option to check multiple boxes. In 2004, about 4.3 million people listed themselves as being of more than one race, up 10.5 percent from 2000.

Statewide, people identifying themselves as multiracial make up about 5 percent of the total population, twice the national average, said Hans Johnson of the Public Policy Institute of California, a nonprofit research group.

Critics of Connerly's proposal note that he led the fight to drop UC's old affirmative action programs and campaigned unsuccessfully for an initiative that would have stopped the state from asking college applicants their race.

Connerly, who is multiracial, contends he's not trying to blur the data, but rather to have the statistics reflect reality.

"Our society inhibits that. You either fit into this food group or you fit into that food group and you don't allow anything in between," he said. "We're redefining people so that they fit the system that we have, rather than having a system that fits who they are."

In a letter to regents, UC President Robert C. Dynes acknowledged that the population of California is changing and that as a research institution, UC should examine those changes. But, he recom-

mended against adding a multiracial box, saying the change would undermine trend data on student demographics, would go against federal guidelines, jeopardizing funding, and would put UC out of step with other universities.

UC applicants now have the choice of checking one or more of 13 race or ethnicity boxes including "other." Checking the boxes is voluntary.

However, UC reports the data based on the five categories mandated by federal officials: American Indian, Asian, black, Hispanic or white.

Some opponents to Connerly's proposal say adding a multiracial or multiethnic box would confuse the data and is inferior to the option of checking one or more boxes.

"It's going to prevent the UC system from accurately reporting who's really here," said UC Berkeley student Ai-Ling Malone. Malone, who is of Asian and white descent, said multiracial people are not homogenous and "to lump us all in a box would really hurt the true representation of who's on campus."

Malone is president of UC Berkeley's Multi-Cultural Student Union, which is one of several student groups opposing the change.

UC officials surveyed the approximately 154,000 undergraduates enrolled last spring about the issue. About 42,000, or 27 percent, of students responded, with just under 11,000 identifying themselves as multiracial or multiethnic. Of those students, 44 percent said they wanted to check more than one box, 21 percent wanted to check a multiracial or multiethnic box instead of individual categories and 35 percent had no preference.

The demographics of UC have been an issue for years. In 1995, regents, led by Connerly, dropped affirmative action admissions, which led to a sharp decrease in black and Hispanic students. The numbers have rebounded since then for the system as a whole, but black and Hispanic enrollment remains low at the top campuses.

Connerly went on to chair Proposition 209, passed in 1996, which banned considering race in state hiring, contracting and education. His latest campaign, Proposition 54, which would have stopped the state from asking people about race in a number of settings, including college admissions, failed last year.

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BUSINESS



It's a matter of trust: Incentives are in vogue



MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS

BY COREY K. QUINN, BRETT A. BROWN

Is a trust able to monitor your family's values? Maybe, maybe not, but there is currently a new trend among wealthy individuals to establish "family incentive trusts" for other family members, with the aim of fostering responsibility and social consciousness among their offspring.

Incentive trusts are not new but have recently become more popular. These irrevocable trusts typically include a series of goals or accomplishments that a child or young adult must achieve before benefiting from his or her family's wealth. These identified goals and the resulting trust benefits are often based on academic, financial, professional or philanthropic accomplishments that are to be achieved by the young person over time.

For example, an incentive trust may require that the trust's beneficiary receive funds only after graduating from college with a certain grade point average. Or, the trust may be set up to distribute funds as part of a matching formula based on earnings from employment. The trust could stipulate that no funds are to be paid from the trust if the young person is involved in drugs or other illegal activities. Other requirements might include community activity or involvement with certain charitable organizations. Some family incentive trusts even require that the beneficiary be devoted to raising a family.

Critics of family incentive trusts suggest that this is a way for wealthy individuals to "rule from the grave" or to

improperly "bribe" children into a certain mode of behavior or lifestyle.

Despite the criticisms, family incentive trusts are flourishing among high-net-worth individuals. When carefully written and disclosed to family members, this kind of trust can provide an incentive for children to live goal-oriented, productive lives. However, it is important that the trust document be carefully set up to include broad language that covers emergencies as well as legitimate mistakes a young person may make.

Selecting a trustee is an important decision in setting up any trust. You may choose a family member or close friend as a trustee, but this person might not be objective or could be too removed from family decision-making to see that the trust's required goals are met. An impartial, experienced professional trustee can make the most sense to help ensure that provisions drawn up in the trust document are strictly carried out.

Your financial advisor can provide more information about family incentive and other types of trusts and help you decide which strategies may work best for your individual needs and goals. Be sure to consult your tax and legal advisors, though, before making any tax or legally related investment decisions.

(Corey K. Quinn and Brett A. Brown can be reached at the Santa Monica branch of Morgan Stanley DW Inc. at (310) 319-5210).

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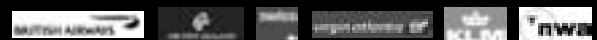
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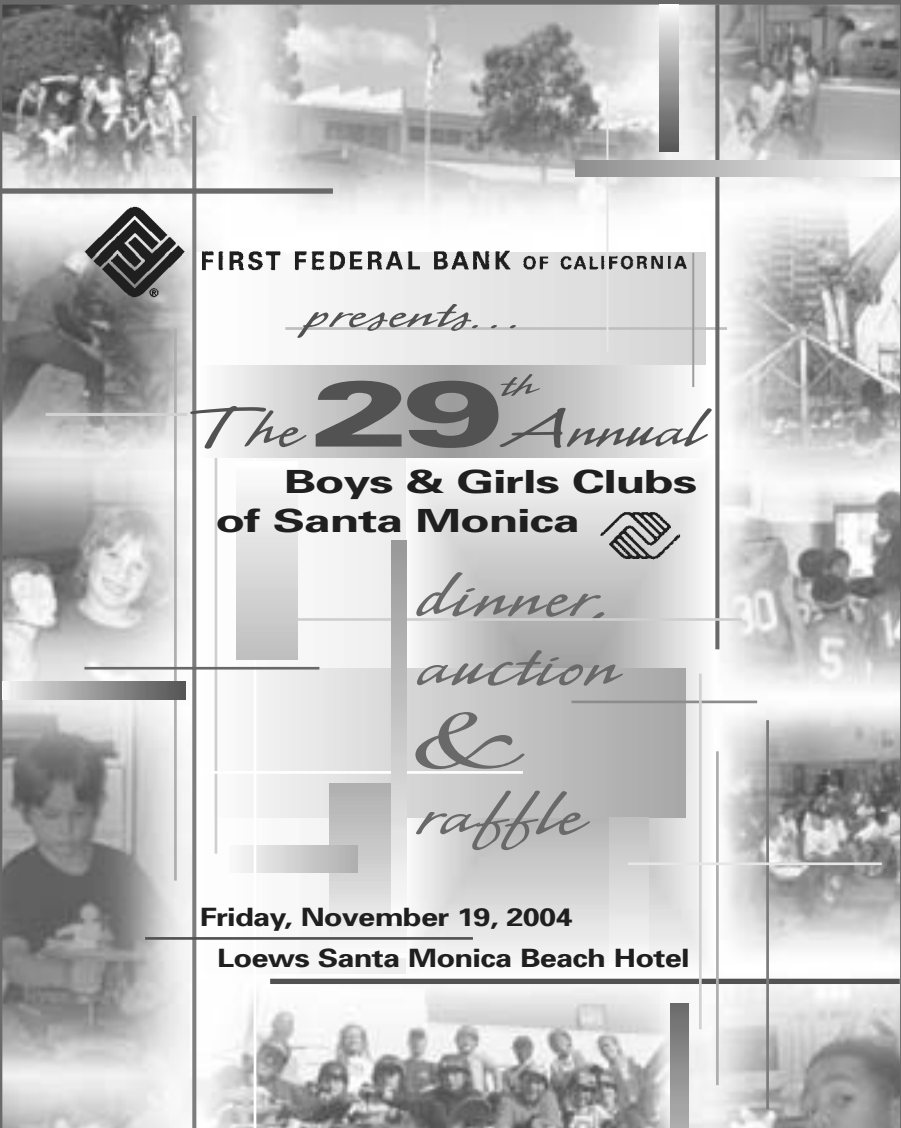
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STATE BRIEFS

Retiree gets reamed out for child porn

By The Associated Press

SANTA ANA — An elderly retiree who authorities say planned to sexually abuse pre-teenage girls in the Philippines began hearing the evidence against him Tuesday in the first trial of someone charged under a new federal law aimed at international child sex tourism.

John W. Seljan, 86, sat in a wheelchair and listened through headphones as federal agents described his arrest at Los Angeles International Airport, where he allegedly attempted to board a flight with child pornography, sexual aids and nearly 100 pounds of chocolate.

Seljan, who had been exchanging letters with two girls he planned to meet in the Philippines, told investigators that he had “sexually educated” young girls in that country with their parents’ consent since 1983, said Shane Folden, a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent.

“He said he didn’t believe it was rape, that it was accepted over there, culturally accepted,” Folden testified in the trial at the federal courthouse in Orange County.

The charges against Seljan, a retired business owner from Garden Grove, include attempted travel with intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct, and two counts each of possessing and producing child pornography. He faces up to 200 years if convicted.

Aargh! Movie industry taking on pirates

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A trade group representing seven major movie studios filed a first wave of lawsuits against individuals they say are offering pirated copies of films using Internet-based peer-to-peer file-sharing programs.

As part of a larger effort to combat piracy, the Motion Picture Association of America also said it would soon make available a computer program that sniffs out movie and music files on a user’s computer as well as any installed file-sharing programs.

The MPAA announced the federal court suits Tuesday, but did not say how many defendants were sued or where the lawsuits were filed. The group also did not immediately make available a copy of the complaint.

Three lawsuits, obtained by The Associated Press, were filed in federal courts in St. Louis and Denver. Two suits filed in Denver name a total of 22 defendants while the one in St. Louis targets 18 individuals.

Other lawsuits are believed to have been filed in New York, Philadelphia and other areas with large concentrations of high-speed Internet customers. Such connections are required to download the massive movie files.

Youth gone wild: Case against errant Authority begins

By The Associated Press

STOCKTON — An independent attorney has been appointed to oversee reforms in the California Youth Authority, criticized by national experts as a Draconian system where until recently youths were routinely locked in cages and often received more drugs than counseling.

The changes were caused by the settlement of a 2003 taxpayer lawsuit in Alameda County in which the parent of a California Youth Authority ward protested conditions at the authority. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said he ordered his legal advisers to settle the case after he took office a year ago and determined the correctional system was deeply flawed.

Now, the focus will shift back to rehabilitating wayward youths instead of simply removing them from society, he and prison system leaders said at an appearance at the N.A. Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility.

“It is good for Californians because better rehabilitation will lead to less crime and fewer victims,” Schwarzenegger said, adding that settling will save millions of dollars in litigation costs.

Schwarzenegger said it is “important to recognize as a state when we make mistakes. ... This is the beginning of the correction period.”

A bad scene where picturesque lake was protected

By The Associated Press

LEE VINING — Congress created the nation’s first federal scenic area 20 years ago, stepping in to protect Mono Lake, the high desert oddity nearly three times as salty as the ocean that fascinated author Mark Twain during the 1860s.

The law signed by President Reagan helped preserve a major stopover for migratory birds and save an inland sea that was being drained to slake Los Angeles’ thirst.

Now, residents and the U.S. Forest Service say the Mono Lake protections are imperiled by a plan to subdivide 120 acres for luxury homes on the lake’s western shore.

“Everyone’s lived with the scenic area regulations for 20 years, and I’m sure they’ve at times been frustrated by them, but they’ve worked,” said Geoff McQuilkin, co-executive director of the nonprofit Mono Lake Committee, which opposes the proposal. “This is kind of the cutting edge of bringing (development) to Mono Lake ... one of the last wild corners of California.”

A meeting between Monterey-based New Cities Land Co. and Mono County planning officials is set for Thursday, as the company prepares a revised development proposal. Company officials did not return repeated telephone messages from The Associated Press over two days.

STATE



Speed racer: 'Scramjet' blasts into record books

BY JOHN ANTCHAK

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — A tiny unmanned NASA "scramjet" soared above the Pacific Ocean Tuesday at nearly 10 times the speed of sound, or almost 7,000 mph, in a record-breaking demonstration of a radical new engine technology.

The 12-foot-long X-43A supersonic combustion ramjet flew at about Mach 9.6 or slightly higher, said research engineer Randy Volland, leader of the scramjet propulsion team, during a post-flight press conference at NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center on Edwards Air Force Base.

The exotic aircraft flew under its own power for about 10 seconds after separating from a booster rocket at 111,000 feet, then glided to a splash landing about 800 miles offshore. Analysis of data to determine the exact performance will take several months, but mission officials were jubilant.

"Once again we made aviation history — we did that in March when we went seven times the speed of sound and now we've done it right around 10 times the speed of sound," said Vince Rausch, Hyper-X program manager from NASA's Langley Research Center in Virginia.

"It was an absolutely tremendous experience," said Griff Corpening, chief engineer on two previous X-43A flights. "The

research vehicle was absolutely rock-solid stable. Fuel came on as expected and off. All indications now we had a successful experiment."

The X-43A, mounted on a Pegasus rocket used to boost it to flight speed, was carried aloft under the wing of a B-52 aircraft and released at an altitude of 40,000 feet over a test range off the Southern California coast. The rocket motor then fired for a 90-second ascent.

"It's 90 seconds of terror, but once it's over with you realize that you've really accomplished some great things," said Joel Sitz, the X-43A project manager at Dryden.

Like its predecessors, the X-43A will not be recovered from the ocean. "None of us can swim that deep," Sitz joked.

The flight was the last in a \$230 million-plus program testing a technology most likely to be initially used in military aircraft, such as a bomber that could reach any target on Earth within two hours of takeoff from the United States, or to power missiles.

Scramjets may also provide an alternative to rockets for space launches.

Unlike conventional jet engines which use rotating fan blades to compress air for combustion, the X-43A has no such rotating engine parts. Instead it uses the underside of the aircraft's forebody to compress air for mixing with hydrogen fuel. The airflow through the engine remains super-

sonic.

The X-43A launched Tuesday was the last of three built for NASA's Hyper-X program.

The first X-43A flight failed in 2001 when the booster rocket veered off course and was destroyed.

The second X-43A successfully flew in March, reaching Mach 6.83 — nearly 5,000 mph — and setting a new world speed record for a plane powered by an air-breathing engine.

That was more than double the top speed of the jet-powered SR-71 Blackbird spyplane, which at slightly more than Mach 3 is the fastest air-breathing,

manned aircraft.

The old X-15 was the fastest rocket-powered manned airplane, hitting Mach 6.7. Rockets don't "breathe" air, but instead carry oxidizers that are combined with fuel to allow combustion.

Not having to carry oxygen is one of the advantages scramjets hold over rockets. Rockets achieve the same kind of high speeds but the weight of oxygen tanks or other oxidizers reduces the amount of payload they can carry.

Tuesday's launch was expected to be the last research flight for NASA's B-52, which is being retired after some 40 years of service.

Trimmer branches out in making historic hike

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A self-employed tree trimmer from Santa Cruz is believed to be the first person to complete a roundtrip hike of the Pacific Crest Trail connecting Mexico with Canada, one of the longest continuous backpacking routes in the United States.

Scott Williamson, 32, completed the 5,300-mile hike on Saturday after 6 1/2 months, he said Tuesday in a phone interview from a friend's San Diego home. The trail, 2,650 miles in one direction, stretches from the Mexican border to the Canadian border.

"It's very satisfying. My goal wasn't to become the first person, it was to achieve a personal goal," he said. "I'm sort of still living in the twilight zone because I've been living in the woods for the past 6 1/2

months."

Angela Bassett, publications manager for the Pacific Crest Trail Association, said as far as the association knows Williamson is the first person to complete the roundtrip hike — also called a "yo-yo."

Bassett, who herself wrote a romantic comedy about hiking 2,300 miles of the trail with her husband, said Williamson's time of 6 1/2 months is extraordinary — but also the key to his success.

"It's important for someone trying to do a yo-yo to go fast because on the way back down (from Canada) you have to be concerned with early snow in the Sierra Nevada mountains," she said.

Williamson wore running shoes during his trek and restocked his lightweight pack by picking up 42 pre-packed boxes his father mailed to post offices along the route.



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STATE

Billy Graham comes full circle with LA revival

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press Writer

PASADENA — The nation was still recovering from World War II when a little-known minister pitched a tent over a sawdust floor in downtown Los Angeles and began preaching a powerful message of salvation.

His revival led 3,000 people to embrace Christianity over eight weeks and launched a decades-long career that reaped another 3 million Christian commitments, sparking a boom in evangelism worldwide.

Fifty-five years later, a frail Billy Graham is returning to greater Los Angeles for a four-day crusade that organizers say will be his last in California, with his final one scheduled next June in New York City.

Graham, 86, will speak about 30 minutes a day Thursday evening through Sunday in the 92,000-seat Rose Bowl — one of the biggest stadiums he's ever booked.

Greater Los Angeles has changed dramatically since 1949, when Graham first preached here. The region of 5 million framed by barren hills and orange groves is now a sprawling metropolitan grid packed with 16 million people who speak hundreds of languages.

Graham says his message endures.

"I'll be preaching some of the same sermons I preached in 1949," Graham said in a phone interview. "The Gospel hasn't changed and people's hearts haven't changed — they're still in need of the affection the Gospel can give."

Graham's followers are pondering the future of evangelism without their charismatic leader, who has Parkinson's disease, broke his hip and pelvis in the past year and was treated for fluid on the brain in 2001. He uses a walker and has doctors and emergency substitute preachers on call during his rare appearances.

Some 1,200 churches from nearly 100 denominations have contributed more than 20,000 pastors and volunteers to plan the California reunion, substantial numbers but less than organizers wanted.

Graham confesses that filling the cavernous Rose Bowl is daunting. "I'm a little bit old for it, the stadium is a little bit big for me," he said.

Organizers say Los Angeles' size cuts both ways: The market has lots of untapped potential, but it's limited by language barriers, weeknight traffic and a lifestyle that can crowd out time for worship.

"We're busy here, so who wants to think about religion?" said the Rev. Jack Hayford, president of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel in Los Angeles and the crusade's co-executive chairman. "There's no other city in this country — and maybe in the world — where it's more difficult to communicate than LA."

Language plays a large part.

The crusade has spent \$1.4 million of its \$5.4 million total budget on advertising, most of it in non-English media. Organizers have trained up to 12,000 volunteers in 19 different languages to counsel non-English speaking converts who come forward to receive Christ. Audience members can listen in real time on 17,000 radios that will carry translations in 26 different languages — the most ever at a Graham crusade.

Graham's first Los Angeles revival addressed a much different city.

The young preacher set up in what is now an industrial district sandwiched between two highways. He planned to speak for three weeks. But when famous personalities such as 1936 Olympian and war hero Louis Zamperini and mobster Mickey Cohen showed up, the event caught the nation's eye and Graham kept going. Soon, the Southern Baptist minister from North Carolina

was big news.

More recently, the minister's long absence from Los Angeles and limited appearances elsewhere have diminished his name recognition. Coordinators find that young congregants, and even many young pastors, see Graham as "Billy who?"

Meanwhile, up-and-coming evangelists from South America, Africa and southeast Asia attract crowds of 20,000 to 80,000 — but none has yet matched Graham's star power. Billy's son, Franklin, has taken over the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and also preaches revivals.

But Billy Graham biographer William Martin expects ever less dependence on one-time, blowout events, partly because weekly church attendance is swelling.

"Evangelism is so much larger and more diverse that it's difficult for anyone to dominate it in the way he has," said Martin, a Rice University sociologist. "Churches are so much more robust, there's the question of why they should put so much time and money into something when they don't need to be rescued."

But those who have experienced one of Graham's stadium-style crusades say there is no way to replace the spiritual passion of a revival tens of thousands of people strong.

Willie Jordan, who attended every day of the 1949 revival as a 16-year-old, said she will never forget the preaching that led her to God.

"Every night that tent was packed. I remember the crowds of people — you could see them coming for miles," said Jordan, 71, who leads the Fred Jordan Mission on the city's Skid Row. "It was a greater sight than any of us had ever witnessed before. It was clear that God had placed his hand on Billy for something special"

Some facts and figures about a Graham crusade

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NATIONAL



Resources to punish immigrants scarce

BY ANANDA SHOREY

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — Federal immigration officials don't have the resources to punish illegal immigrants who may be reported by government workers under a recently approved Arizona initiative aimed at cracking down on fraud, immigration experts say.

State and local government workers who don't report illegal immigrants who apply for some benefits and services could go to jail or face fines under Proposition 200, which voters passed Nov. 2. Federal officials won't be responsible for enforcing the state law, but they will have to deal with any increased reports.

Immigration officials are already too swamped dealing with smugglers, fugitives and potential terrorists to deal with illegal immigrants seeking benefits, said Angela Kelley, deputy director of the National Immigration Forum, an immigrant rights organization.

"It puts in jeopardy priorities that target criminal aliens and terrorists — those who mean to do us harm," Kelley said. "It is completely a wrong-headed approach."

The enforcement priorities for Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents here include capturing and removing terrorists, migrant

smugglers, criminal and fugitive illegal immigrants and protecting the national security infrastructure, said agency spokesman Russell Ahr.

Ahr wouldn't say how ICE will handle reports generated by Proposition 200. Ahr also declined to say how many agents work in Arizona — the main gateway for illegal immigrants on the U.S.-Mexico border.

But he did say ICE has been dealing with a budget shortfall, which has led to scaled-back training, travel and vehicle maintenance, as well as a ban on hiring and transfers.

The agency is already too busy to handle reports it receives about undocumented immigrants in workplaces unless they involve high security facilities, said Tamar Jacoby, senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, a conservative think tank.

"We have 8 (million) to 12 million illegal immigrants in the country," said Jacoby, who specializes in immigration. "There is no way that enforcement alone is going to solve the problem."

Under Proposition 200, government workers must refuse to accept state-issued identification cards, including drivers' licenses, to determine the eligibility for benefits unless the issuing agency has verified the applicant's immigration status. It also would require proof

of citizenship when registering to vote.

Government workers will have to provide written reports to federal immigration authorities on illegal immigrants who seek certain benefits. But the reports will likely join the thousands of tips immigration officials in Arizona already receive monthly.

"We need to document what is going on even if we can't act on it," said Kathy McKee, chairwoman of a group that backed Proposition 200.

It sends a message to state and local government workers that they must enforce the laws. Once that happens, the focus can shift to what the federal government is doing, McKee said.

Proponents sold the measure to voters as an answer to the state's illegal immigration crisis, with advertisements saying illegal immigration has increased homicides and home invasions, is costing Arizona's health care system hundreds of millions of dollars, and is crowding public schools.

But the measure won't address those issues or deter people from traveling north to work, said Deborah Meyers, policy analyst for the Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank.

Gov. Janet Napolitano plans to declare Proposition 200 law after election results are canvassed Monday.

Wine Commission uncorks a new ad campaign

BY SHANNON DININNY

Associated Press Writer

YAKIMA, Wash. — When consumers think domestic wine, they picture California. And when they hear Washington, they assume D.C.

The Washington Wine Commission aims to change all that with a new global advertising campaign designed to increase consumer awareness and promote tourism. Print advertisements are being rolled out this month within the state, followed later by a national and international campaign.

The new tag line: Washington State — The Perfect Climate for Wine.

"The perfect climate for wine doesn't only mean the land and the weather. It also means our contribution to the economic climate, which is huge, both on the wine tourism side and the lifestyle, wine production side," said Jane Baxter Lynn, executive director of the commission, a promotional state agency financed by fees on member wineries and growers.

Wine is a \$2.4 billion industry in Washington, which produces more wine than any state except California. Roughly 300 wineries and 300 wine-grape growers, operating on about 30,000 acres, produce wines sold in all 50 states and more than 40 countries.

Having consumers assume Washington,

D.C., instead of Washington state, is one problem for promoters. But the fact that some believe the sun never shines here is a bigger one, said Ted Baseler, president and chief executive officer of Ste. Michelle Wine Estates in Woodinville, northeast of Seattle.

"People just think of the Pacific Northwest as the rainy place, and that really is in direct conflict with the general perception of where fine wine is generally produced — warm, sunny climates," Baseler said.

Washington is not too wet to grow wine grapes, Baseler said. There are certain grapes that grow well on the rainy west side of the state along Puget Sound, including white wine varieties that account for 43 percent of the state's total crop.

The remaining 57 percent are red wine varieties, such as merlot, cabernet and syrah, which flourish in hot, dry weather.

"And in Eastern Washington, it's often sunny — and definitely dry," Baseler said.

Already, Washington wines compete favorably with higher-profile wines from California or the international market in wine-tasting competitions and in wine publications, Baxter Lynn said.

"What our job is now is convincing the consumer that, ranging from \$10 to \$50, we have great value, high quality wine here in Washington state," she said.

The campaign is being introduced to the industry's local audience first "because we don't want to be talking about this to other people before we talk to our friends about it," Baxter Lynn said.

The initial in-state phase of the campaign will cost about \$1 million. The cost is being covered by wine commission and state funding.

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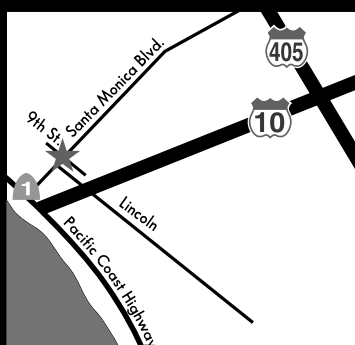
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STATE

Roots of all evil: GOP looks to lift farm rules

BY LIBBY QUAID

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Telling consumers where their meat, fruit and vegetables came from seemed such a good idea to U.S. ranchers and farmers in competition with imports that Congress two years ago ordered the food industry to do it.

But meatpackers and food processors fought the law from the start, and newly emboldened Republicans now plan to repeal it before Thanksgiving.

As part of the 2002 farm bill, country-of-origin labeling was supposed to have gone into effect this fall. Congress last year postponed it until 2006. Now, House Republicans are trying to wipe it off the books as part of a spending bill they plan to finish this month.

House Majority Whip Roy Blunt, R-Mo., said he expected the Senate to agree to repeal the measure, whose main champion two years ago was Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D.

"I can't find any real opposition to doing exactly what we want to do here," Blunt said.

President Bush never supported mandatory labeling. Chances for repealing the law improved when Daschle, still his party's leader in the Senate, was defeating for re-election Nov. 2. Daschle indicated through a spokesman this week that he probably will not fight the repeal.

Those who want the repeal say the labeling system is so expensive that it far outweighs any benefit to consumers. The Agriculture Department has estimated the cost could range from hundreds of millions to billions of dollars in the first year alone.

"Everybody realized it was going to cost a lot of money, and ranchers were going to have to bear most of that," said Sen. Jim Talent, R-Mo., chairman of a Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry subcommittee on the issue.

Food processors and other opponents

of mandatory labeling say they are amenable to voluntary labels.

Grocery Manufacturers Association spokeswoman Stephanie Childs cited the government's voluntary standards for labeling organic food and said, "That's the sort of thing we should be looking toward."

Supporters of the labeling requirement says opponents want the repeal so producers will not have to spend money getting ready to follow the law. The House Agriculture Committee approved legislation this year to substitute a voluntary system for the current law.

The issue divides cattlemen and other livestock producers. Many of the bigger livestock and feedlot operations, as well as food processors, do not want mandatory labeling.

Producers in favor of mandatory labels believe consumers will prefer U.S.-grown food over foreign imports. The law requires companies to put country-of-origin labels on meat, vegetables and fruit.

"We really feel that country-of-origin labeling is one of the key things we need to keep ourselves competitive in that market. I understand the trade-offs," said Doran Junek, a rancher in Brewster, Kan. Junek also is executive director of the Kansas Cattlemen's Association, an affiliate of R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America.

Consumer groups say the issue is whether buyers have a right to know where their food came from.

"When nutrition labeling was suggested by advocates 25 years ago, the industry kept saying, 'Oh, we can't do that,'" said Carol Tucker Foreman, director of food policy for the Consumer Federation of America. "Look, they've done it. They love it. Consumers use it."

The wrangling does not affect fish because Congress did not include fish last year when it delayed the mandatory labeling. Fresh and frozen fish will be required to carry labels beginning in April.

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NATIONAL



Bang for the buck: Sears and Kmart to merge

BY MEGAN REICHGOTT

Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO — Kmart is acquiring Sears, one of the most venerable names in U.S. retailing, in a surprise \$11 billion deal that will create the nation's third-largest retailer.

The company being created by the combination announced Wednesday would be known as Sears Holdings Corp., but it was clearly orchestrated by Kmart chairman and Sears shareholder Edward Lampert, who will lead a new board that will be dominated by Kmart directors. The company said it will continue to operate the Kmart and Sears stores under their current names, but some locations may close or switch from one to the other store.

Shares of both companies surged on news of the deal. Kmart Holding Corp. shares climbed \$17.38, or 17 percent, to \$118.60 on the Nasdaq Stock Market, while Sears, Roebuck & Co. shares soared \$9.69, or 21 percent, to \$54.89 on the New York Stock Exchange.

The deal marks a remarkable comeback for Kmart, which had sharply scaled back operations after seeking bankruptcy protection in 2002. The combined companies expect to save more than \$300 million a year by improving operations and combining their purchasing power.

"We need to have a very low cost structure in order to compete with our biggest competitors," Lampert said at a news conference in New York.

Lampert would not provide any details on possible layoffs, except to say, "There will be some head count changes that come out of this."

Both companies' roots date to the late 1800s. Sears began as a mail-order house while Kmart began as the

Kresge five-and-dime chain. Sears, which opened its first retail store in 1925, eventually became the nation's biggest retailer, a title it held until just 13 years ago.

The combined company is expected to have \$55 billion in annual revenues and nearly 3,500 stores. That means it will trail only Wal-Mart and Home Depot among the biggest U.S. retailers.

It will have its headquarters in the northwestern Chicago suburb of Hoffman Estates, home of Sears, but will maintain a "significant presence" in Troy, Mich., where Kmart is based.

Under the agreement, unanimously approved by both companies' boards of directors, Kmart shareholders will receive one share of new Sears Holdings stock for each Kmart share. Sears, Roebuck shareholders can choose \$50 in cash or half a share of Sears Holdings stock. That portion of the deal values Sears shares at \$11 billion, a 10.6 percent premium over its value at Tuesday's close.

With Lampert as chairman, Sears CEO Alan Lacy will be vice chairman and CEO of the new company. The 10-member Sears Holdings board will have seven members from Kmart and three from Sears.

Lampert, Kmart's majority shareholder, is also Sears' largest shareholder, holding a 15 percent stake in Sears through his ESL Investments Inc.

The merger, expected to close by the end of March, is subject to approval by Kmart and Sears shareholders and regulatory agencies.

Kmart filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in early 2002, leading to the closing of about 600 stores, termination of 57,000 employees and cancellation of company stock.

It emerged from bankruptcy in May 2003 and on Wednesday posted its fourth consecutive quarterly prof-

it. Its stock price has risen to \$101.22 on Tuesday from \$15 a share when it emerged from bankruptcy.

Sears had long fallen out of favor on Wall Street after losing ground to competitors and enduring sluggish sales for years.

The company last fall introduced its Sears Grand stores, which offer grocery and convenience items besides traditional Sears fare such as clothing, home appliances and tools.

Kmart has been shedding many of its underperforming stores, a strategy that has helped it bounce back. In fact, it has sold 50 of those stores to Sears for \$575 million.

It has appeared that Sears could be shifting toward a similar real estate strategy since the disclosure that Vornado Realty Trust, a real estate investment trust, had purchased a 4.3 percent interest in the chain. Since that Nov. 5 announcement, Sears' stock has jumped 25 percent, closing at \$45.20 Tuesday.

The merger will not affect agreements to carry home and fashion lines including Martha Stewart Everyday, Lands' End and Sesame Street, the companies said.

Wal-Mart dethroned Sears as the nation's largest retailer in 1991.

Sears dates to 1886, when Richard W. Sears started a watch company. Alvah C. Roebuck joined the company the following year as a watchmaker, and within a few years they expanded to a mail-order general merchandise business. The first Sears catalog was issued in 1896. The company opened its first stores in the 1920s.

The first Kmart discount store was opened in 1962 by the S.S. Kresge Co., the chain founded in 1899 by Sebastian S. Kresge. In 1977, after Kmart sales grew to more than 90 percent of Kresge's total sales, the company name was changed to Kmart Corp.

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NATIONAL

War in Iraq sullies U.S. image in Latin America

BY GEORGE GEDDA
 Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Colin Powell is heading off to Europe soon to try to heal divisions generated by the Iraq war. No less pernicious, according to some analysts, are that war's effects on the U.S. reputation in Latin America.

The Iraq war, says former Mexican Foreign Minister Jorge Castaneda, has "contributed to a wide, deep and probably lasting collapse of sympathy for the United States" in the region.

Castaneda, a candidate for the Mexican presidency in the 2006 elections, is hardly a knee-jerk leftist. He served as foreign minister in the pre-Sept. 11 period, when U.S.-Mexican relations were at a high point.

Beyond the war itself, Castaneda says Latin American faith in the United States was sullied by the disclosures that overthrown Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had not been collaborating with al-Qaida, and the unconventional weapons thought to have been in Saddam's possession never materialized.

Michael Shifter, an analyst at the

Washington-based Inter-American Dialogue, says the Iraq war was a grim reminder for Latin Americans of U.S. intervention in the hemisphere. Because of Iraq, he says, "It's going to take a long time to restore the trust. A lot of goodwill has been depleted."

With so much of Washington's attention and resources directed toward Iraq, there has been neglect of hemispheric issues, Shifter says, describing U.S. policy as one of "indifference and disengagement." Democracy for Cuba may be a priority for the United States but not for Latin America, he said.

Some hemispheric countries do get special attention.

Next week, for example, President Bush will visit Colombia, where the United States helps combat insurgencies and narcotraffickers. Bush also will visit Chile, but the main topic there will be East Asian security, not Latin America. Chile is playing host to a summit of leaders from the Asia-Pacific rim.

Mexico is getting more attention these days. Powell was there last week, and Bush is planning a state visit to Mexico in early 2005. Powell made a two-day visit

to Brazil in October.

Philip McLean, a former diplomat who is now a Latin America expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, says Washington should talk less about international terrorism and pay more heed to the region's development needs.

"Latin America policy is always best when it ties into what's on Latin America's mind," McLean said.

Responding to allegations of neglect, Powell points out that he has traveled to Latin America and the Caribbean region 14 times since he took office. He also routinely cites a Bush foreign aid initiative — good governance is rewarded with U.S. assistance — as an example of American support for Latin America and other regions.

But thus far, there have been only three beneficiaries in the hemisphere — Bolivia, Honduras and Nicaragua — representing a tiny fraction of the region's population. Powell hopes that the plan will encourage other countries to make the changes necessary to qualify for the aid.

Mark Falcoff, newly retired as the Latin American expert at the American Enterprise Institute, says the perception of

U.S. neglect has generated deep resentment in the hemisphere.

He also says that Washington's commitment to open, freer economies, is viewed by Latin Americans as a policy forced upon them "by a selfish, grasping and unfeeling United States."

A U.S.-backed proposal for a hemispherewide free trade agreement, Falcoff says, "is often depicted as a conspiracy to exploit and subjugate Latin economies."

Looking back recently on his four years in office, Powell has a decidedly different take on the situation.

"There are always problems, but I think we're doing well in Latin America," he said. He pointed to trade agreements being negotiated with Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic, and what he described as quick U.S. action to provide hurricane relief to the Caribbean in the fall.

"I don't accept the characterization that the place is awash with problems that the United States hasn't tended to," Powell said. "And I sense that all of these countries are looking for a better relationship with the United States as we are looking for a better relationship with each and every one of them."

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NATIONAL



Group accuses Bush of changing drilling rule for national parks

BY SUZANNE GAMBOA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Sierra Club filed a lawsuit Wednesday alleging that the Bush administration quietly changed a rule so oil and gas producers could more easily drill under national parks from outside their boundaries.

The environmental group filed the suit here, asking for an immediate injunction to reverse the rule change, which it said was done without public input. It also asks that the drilling be stopped.

The lawsuit names Interior Secretary Gale Norton and National Park Service Director Fran Mainella as defendants.

The Park Service denied the allegation.

"That is so untrue. There has been no change from the Bush administration, from the Clinton administration," said Carol McCoy, a Denver-based Park Service spokeswoman. "Nothing has been done outside the public process."

The Sierra Club alleged that a rule change affects 14 national parks that have privately owned minerals beneath them.

"The Bush administration bent over backward to help its friends in the oil and gas industry, even when the facts showed that its policy would harm national parks," said Brandt Mannchen, chairman of the Sierra Club's Lone Star chapter.

Oil and gas producers can drill at an angle to reach privately owned minerals from private land adjacent to a park.

Under a 1979 rule, the Park Service must study such drilling plans and their possible impacts to the park or adjacent land, Mannchen said. Also, the drilling company is required to submit environmental impact analyses.

But the Sierra Club alleges that since late 2001 the Park Service has been allowing directional drilling without such impact analyses. The environmental studies required of drilling companies also have been reduced, Mannchen said.

The Sierra Club alleged the change was in response to complaints about the process by Davis Brothers Oil Producers Inc., based in Houston. Davis Brothers wanted to drill along boundaries of the Big Thicket. A spokesman for the company could not be immediately reached.

Parks the group says could be affected are Gulf Islands National Seashore, Ala.; Big Cypress National Preserve, Fla.; Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Kan.; Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Ky.; Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve, La.; Aztec Ruins National Monument, N.M.; Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Ohio; Obed Wild and Scenic River, Tenn.; Gauley River National Recreation Area and New River Gorge National River, W.Va, and four Texas parks — Big Thicket National Preserve, Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument, Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Padre Island National Seashore.

Close ties may put State Department front and center in U.S. foreign policy

BY BARRY SCHWEID

AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON — Condoleezza Rice has been both protégé and mentor to President Bush in his first four years in the White House. So he is bound to feel comfortable with the former Stanford University provost running the State Department.

They chat easily and interchangeably, without a hint of divergence, about perceived threats to U.S. national security. There is no reason to expect that comity to falter.

The outlook is for a more secure Bush, spared Secretary of State Colin Powell's steady stream of reminders about the impact that a unilateral and aggressive foreign policy might have on friends and foes around the world.

"She is very able," Zbigniew Brzezinski, former President Carter's national security adviser, said of Rice on Tuesday.

But in a cautionary note, Brzezinski questioned whether the complexity of America's situation in the world should be reduced to "grand formulas" that are hostile to nuances.

"You cannot reduce everything to the global war on terrorism," Brzezinski said in an interview.

Rice, who mentored Bush on foreign policy and national security, has never indicated publicly any difference in view with him. She helped Bush respond to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks by declaring war on terrorism, and she had a hand in plotting the war on Iraq.

The faulty intelligence that Saddam Hussein had hidden caches of weapons of mass destruction passed through her hands to the president, but that is unlikely to slow her confirmation.

On Tuesday, there was no sign of any serious opposition to Rice's nomination in the Republican-controlled Senate.

Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, pledged to speed her approval, saying Rice "brings extraordinary talents and a gamut of experience to her new responsibilities." He is trying to arrange a confirmation hearing for sometime between Dec. 6 and Dec. 8.

The senior Democrat on the committee, Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr. of Delaware, called Bush's selection of Rice a "sound choice" and said he looked forward to working

with her.

But in Europe, Rice has raised some eyebrows, especially last year with her suggestions of how Washington should treat European opponents of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

"Punish France, ignore Germany and forgive Russia," Rice was widely quoted as telling associates in the spring of 2003.

At Stanford, Rice's specialty was Soviet and Eastern European policy, as it was for her on former President Bush's National Security Council. Those areas receded in importance with the end of the Cold War and the rise of anti-U.S. terrorism and the proliferation of dangerous weapons technology as primary concerns.

Lee Feinstein, who worked for former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in the Clinton administration, said the choice of Rice "is in keeping with the retooling of the second Bush administration in which the top posts are going to Bush's confidants."

Feinstein, who is at the Council on Foreign Relations, rejected any suggestion that Bush, in his second term, would take a more moderate approach, as the late President Reagan did the second time around.

"The choice of Rice is a clear signal the president believes he was re-elected to do more of what he did in his first term, which is to pursue a foreign policy that seeks to limit constraints on America's freedom of action," Feinstein said.

Dimitri Simes, president of the Nixon Center, said there was no question Rice had grown in her job and was very close to the president. Simes said that was essential for any secretary of state.

"The problem with Powell, for whom I have great admiration, is that while he was pragmatic he never quite fit into the team," Simes said. "There were a number of times when it was not just his views but his aloof standing that undermined his effectiveness."

Richard Perle of the American Enterprise Institute said, "Her most obvious and greatest strength as secretary of state is her close relationship to the president."

That closeness, Perle said, will be "highly advantageous for her and for the orderly conduct of foreign policy." This was never the case between Bush and Powell, he noted.

Perle said he rejected the idea there were two competing camps in the government, ideologues and realists. "Every one of the foreign challenges we face has a practical component that is overwhelming," he said.

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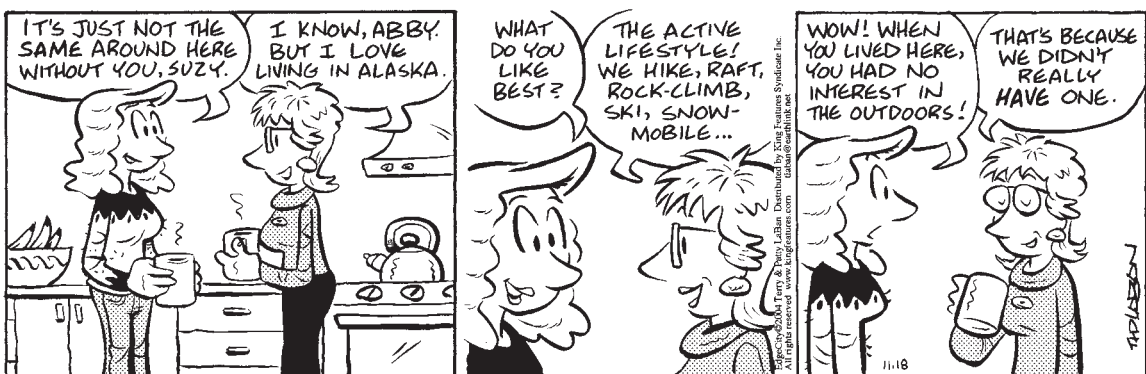


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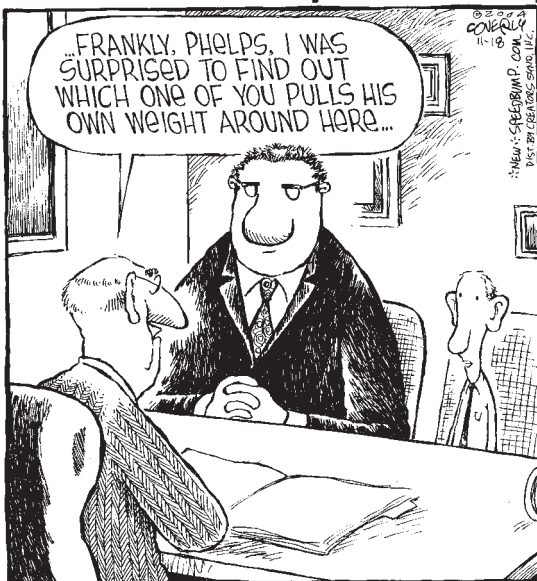
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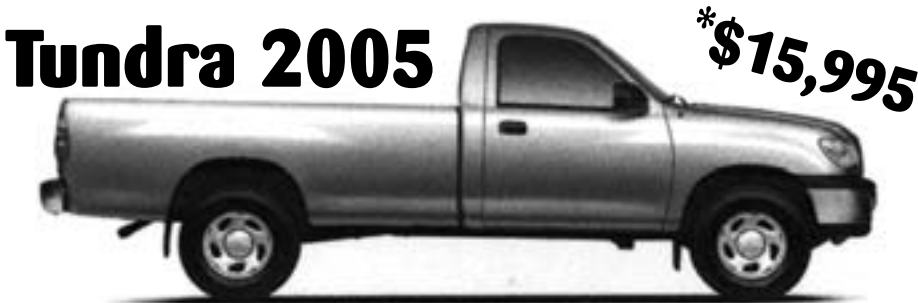
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Richie's former wife adds new wrinkle to drama

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Diane Keri Richie, the estranged wife of pop singer Lionel Richie, has been charged with letting a man use her Beverly Hills home to give illegal anti-wrinkle injections.

Richie faces two counts of aiding and abetting Daniel Tomas Fuente Serrano, who wasn't licensed as a doctor or nurse when he gave injections not yet approved by the Food and Drug Administration, federal prosecutors said Tuesday.

She was arrested and spent one night in jail but was released on \$25,000 bail after appearing in court Tuesday. A bail hearing was scheduled for Thursday for Serrano, who faces four counts in connection with the alleged injections, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph Johns.

Serrano allegedly gave numerous people injections of Artecoll and Metacril, which are made by foreign companies and intended to eliminate wrinkles and skin imperfections.

A worker at the Richie residence told investigators that 20 to 40 people came to the home for injections from July to December last year, according to court documents. Serrano allegedly charged thousands of dollars for the injections.

Some treated by Serrano, who is reportedly now Richie's boyfriend, said they suffered ill effects from the injections, including a woman who has a bump on her lip that can make it difficult to drink or speak clearly.

Diane Richie filed for separation in October 2003 and divorce in January, citing irreconcilable differences. In March, she asked for \$300,000 a month in child and spousal support to maintain the "extraordinary extravagant lifestyle" the couple had enjoyed during marriage.

LOS ANGELES — Rap artist Snoop Dogg donned football gloves and a red Southern California sweat suit to run through drills with the top-ranked Trojans football team.

Snoop, whose real name is Calvin Broadus, had a 40-yard pass from quarterback Matt Leinart hit him in the hands Tuesday, but he couldn't hold the ball.

"Ain't nobody sticking me, that's why I dropped it," the rapper jokingly told players who teased him.

Snoop also participated in a few football drills, knocking down dummies and running over obstacles.

The rap artist has coached his son's youth football team and is a former player himself.

He appeared at practice a day after a fight broke out near the stage of the Vibe Awards. Snoop and producer Quincy Jones were about to honor rapper Dr. Dre when a melee broke out and one person was stabbed.

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Oliver Stone will receive a lifetime achievement award at the Stockholm International Film Festival, which celebrates its 15th anniversary this week.

Starting Thursday, the festival will showcase 170 movies from more than 40 countries, most made by young independent filmmakers.

"We look for films that are innovative, that bring the cinematic medium forward somehow," festival director Git Scheynius said. "We look for young people, and we look for films that touch the audience."

Stone's new film, "Alexander," will have its European premiere at the festival. The story of Alexander the Great stars Colin Farrell as Alexander and Angelina Jolie as Alexander's mother, Olympias.

This year's candidates for the Bronze Horse, the festival's top award, include Zach Braff's "Garden State," Hong Kong filmmaker Yan Yan Mak's "Butterfly" and "Primer," a low-budget thriller by Shane Carruth, which won the grand jury prize at this year's Sundance Film Festival.

More than 50,000 visitors and 500 journalists are expected for the event, which will run through Nov. 28.

Scheynius said the scheduling of the festival, which is always held in the cold and dark of November, has

helped contribute to its popularity in Sweden.

"It's our most boring month," she said. "So you want to see good movies."

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Humorist Garrison Keillor is launching a five-show radio series next year on Minnesota Public Radio called "Literary Friendships."

Each show at the Fitzgerald Theater will feature two noted writers who also are close friends, discussing their craft and their relationship.

Keillor said he was inspired by famous literary companions such as F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway, or Gertrude Stein and Thornton Wilder.

The shows will be taped between January and June. Keillor's Prairie Home Productions is staging the series, which will air locally next summer. They also will be offered nationally by MPR's distribution arm, American Public Media.

NEW YORK — John Elway and Jon Bon Jovi are at it again. The Hall of Fame quarterback and the rocker, both owners of Arena Football League teams, have joined the cast of NBC's "Las Vegas" for a second AFL movie short, "Rumble in the Montecito."

The short, the second starring Elway and Bon Jovi, will be shown nationwide in 430 theaters next month.

Elway's Colorado Crush and Bon Jovi's Philadelphia Soul meet in a game on the set of Las Vegas' fictional Montecito Resort & Casino in a sequel to last year's "Rumble in the House."

"Las Vegas" actors Josh Duhamel, Nikki Cox and James Lesure are featured. Four AFL players also appear: quarterback Tony Graziani and fullback-linebacker Chris Ryan for the Soul, plus quarterback John Dutton and offensive specialist Damian Harrell for the Crush.

"It's always fun shooting with Jon Bon Jovi," Elway said. "I'm really pleased with the way it turned out. I think it's even better than last year's and I hope people enjoy it."



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