

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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Jackpot: \$11 Million

FANTASY 5

2 4 10 25 38

DAILY 3

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Evening: 1 3 5

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3rd: 07 Eureka !

RACE TIME: 1:47.92

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In August, U.S. District Judge Thomas Hogan placed ads in Colombian newspapers and magazines "ordering" certain leaders of the revolutionary group FARC to come to America and appear in his courtroom in Washington, D.C., to answer charges of kidnapping U.S. citizens. Hogan's assistant said the law requires notification and that no one seems to have the secretive FARC's address.

■ Italy's highest appeals court ruled in March that a divorcing man would have to pay alimony to his ex-wife because he had refused to have sex with her for seven years as punishment for challenging him in a family argument. (Whatever point the husband was trying to make was not disclosed.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 322nd day of 2005.
There are 43 days left in the year.

On Nov. 18, 1903, the United States and Panama signed a treaty granting the U.S. rights to build the Panama Canal.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If an historian were to relate truthfully all the crimes, weaknesses and disorders of mankind, his readers would take his work for satire rather than for history."

PIERRE BAYLE
FRENCH PHILOSOPHER AND CRITIC (1647-1706)

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Board with each other



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Santa Ana winds, warm temperatures and blue skies proved a perfect combination for surfers to catch some waves at Santa Monica Beach on Thursday.

Longtime local educator to be recalled at service

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL — Hundreds are expected to attend the memorial service of beloved educator Stephen Max Kramer on Saturday, paying homage to a man who taught them the meaning of giving something back.

Kramer, a 35-year Lincoln Middle School social studies teacher, passed away on the morning of Nov. 10. He was 63.

The service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19, at the Lincoln Auditorium, 1501 California Ave.

John Obusek, a colleague and good friend, said Kramer was a kind-hearted individual who will be greatly missed by those whose lives he touched.

"One way to describe Steve is to say he was the most caring individual you'd ever want to meet," Obusek said.

Kramer, who often wore Hawaiian shirts, will be surrounded by others wearing the same during his service.

"Over the years, he gathered a collection of Hawaiian shirts, and it was his wife's request that others wear them," Obusek said.

Born in Germany in 1943, Kramer emigrated to the United States in 1948 with his family, settling in Pacific Palisades in 1951. His father was a scientist recruited to work in the U.S. following World War II.

Kramer and his wife, Bonnie, have lived in Brentwood for the past 33 years. He retired from Lincoln in 2003 and has since been enjoying life with his wife and friends, as well as spending time with his grandchildren, Max and Amara.

He is said to have savored his central role in his daughter's wedding in August.

Kramer is survived by his wife, Bonnie, and their children, Christopher Kramer and Stephanie Bowen.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Kramer's name to the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation or the American Red Cross Hurricane Relief 2005.

STATE

How now: Indians making a comeback

By The Associated Press

MALIBU — There was a homecoming for Malibu's first residents.

A Chumash Indians village was reborn Wednesday on a wind-swept oceanview plateau along Pacific Coast Highway near Nicholas Canyon County Beach. The creation of a demonstration village and interpretive center will take about a year to complete.

On four acres of land, the village will teach students and the public about the values and traditions of the ancient culture.

"This is a special area and a learning center for all people, not just Native American people," said Charlie Cooke, a hereditary Chumash chief who helped create a similar teaching center in Ventura County. "This is all Chumash land and we've never given up on this land."

The Ventura-based nonprofit Wishtoyo Foundation, an

See **HOW NOW**, page 5

Official: L.A. will be COG in machine

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

KEN EDWARDS CENTER — The possibility of creating a more cohesive Westside transportation system might have gained momentum Thursday, after a Los Angeles official pledged to get on board with local governments committed to solving common woes.

Representatives from the Westside Cities Council of Governments (COG) were set to become a formal legal entity on Thursday, with or without the city of Los Angeles. However, Los Angeles 11th District Councilman Bill Rosendahl — whose jurisdiction includes Westside communities such as Mar Vista and Venice — pledged his commitment that L.A. will become part of the group by December.

COG members are hoping to muster political support for a variety of common concerns once the organization is formally recognized. For two years, the COG has delayed becoming a formal entity in the hopes Los Angeles would participate and render the group that much more influential, officials said.

Meanwhile, the COG agreed on Thursday to step up lobbying efforts to ensure the proposed "Expo Line" — a proposed light rail transit line that would ultimately connect downtown Los Angeles with Santa Monica — will be aligned in a manner which maximizes cost efficiency and use when it arrives.

Discussions about the need for a better mass transit system in the Westside area is what ensured Rosendahl's commitment to take part in COG activities, he said.

"This is one of the main reasons I want (L.A.) to join the COG," Rosendahl said. "We have common transportation issues. I cannot

See **COG**, page 4

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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)

★★★ Family, real estate and investments play major roles in your choices today. You might have a disagreement with a child or family member. Don't make it a big deal. Everyone has different ideas. Allow others to disagree. Tonight: Mosey on home.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ You might need to adapt your plans for a partner or someone you care about. Don't get an attitude; remain positive despite someone's negativity. You cannot allow others to put you down or trigger you. Tonight: Hang out with pals.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Be careful with funds. You might think that money is there that isn't — ouch. You might need to have a long discussion with an associate who impacts your daily life. Don't accept no for an answer. Work though a problem peacefully. Tonight: Stick to your budget.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Your smile helps bypass a boomerang here and there. Accept no obstacles. Just know that you haven't found the solution yet. You will. Someone might be very hard on you. Don't let anyone or anything rain on your parade. Tonight: You decide.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★ No matter what you do or how you handle it, somehow you could experience a backfire. Think positively. Try to listen to others, even if they are hostile in their tone. Don't get down. You feel pressured. Tonight: Snooze some.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Your friends seek you out. Meetings might also be instrumental. You will have to adjust your plans and/or your thinking. Go with the flow, even if you think everyone is being a bit outrageous or difficult. Tonight: Let off steam with your friends.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Pressure builds for you to accomplish more than you actually can. Others might be critical or temperamental. You are only one person. Count on working past when others leave. Tonight: A late dinner.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You might want to take a leap of faith right now, but obstacles seem to stop you right before you jump. Others have a lot on their plates, and you seem to be the person they seek. Tonight: Split as soon as you can.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Dealing with others might take adapting and not pushing anyone into doing anything he or she doesn't want to do. Someone might be willful. Tempers get triggered, even yours. Take a walk at lunch. Tonight: Spend quality time with your favorite person.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ You might need to defer to others if you have any intention of keeping the peace. Your creativity might be an endless source of ideas, only someone doesn't want to listen. Stop fighting city hall. Tonight: Say yes.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Listen to what is being said. You might be distracted for a good reason. If you can, take an early day and split. You push very hard and need a lot of downtime. Create such a situation for yourself. Tonight: Relax at home.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Try to tame an innate assertiveness that has been developing during the past few months. Allow more humor and joviality into your conversations. Others will respond. Adapt and flow. Tonight: Ever playful.



Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday

Phone: (310) 458-PRESS (7737) • Fax: (310) 576-9913

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LOCAL



Stringing along



Photo courtesy
Pier maintenance worker Mike "Mr. Christmas" Lopez hangs strings of lights on the Harbor Patrol tower at the Santa Monica Pier.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Shriver gets humanitarian award

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica City Councilman Bobby Shriver was honored Thursday night for being an "outstanding humanitarian."

Los Angeles Family Housing (LAFH) gave Shriver the "Sydney M. Irmas Outstanding Humanitarian Award" for raising awareness about Santa Monica's homeless families and veterans, and seeking affordable housing for both groups.

LAFH was founded in 1983 to end homelessness and increase affordable housing opportunities in Los Angeles. Also honored Thursday were Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and developer Mark Weinstein during LAFH's sixth annual awards dinner at the Globe Theater at Universal Studios.

The dinner was expected to raise more than \$600,000 for LAFH, which serves nearly 7,500 homeless individuals each year with emergency, transitional and permanent housing services. Tickets to the dinner were \$250 a piece.

Weinstein, president of MJW Investments and the recipient of the "L.A. Family Housing Legacy Award" has joined LAFH for a development that marks the first time a Los Angeles nonprofit organization and for-profit housing developer are partnering for a large project. According to the agreement, LAFH, with a 17-year track record of service in Boyle Heights, will serve as the primary nonprofit partner to MJW Investments for the development, sale/leasing and management of affordable housing units within the Sears redevelopment project.

"L.A. Family Housing Inspiration Award" recipient Mayor Villaraigosa has been committed to increasing affordable housing since entering public office as a California Assembly member in 1994, LAFH officials said. Mayor Villaraigosa recently announced an unprecedented \$1 billion affordable housing bond for the city of Los Angeles, as well as earmarking a \$50 million increase to the city's Housing Trust Fund.

See BRIEFS, page 5



SURF REPORT

Most all breaks are seeing waist-high sets when the tide is right. On Friday, there is some southern hemi SW due, but we also have a more significant WNW swell moving our way for Saturday. The WNW swell will increase more on Saturday.

Today the water is:

63°

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	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
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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?"

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

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CRIME WATCH

By Daily Press staff

Cops focus on camera thief

At 8:44 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 27, Santa Monica police responded to the 1600 block of Ocean Front Walk regarding a strong armed robbery. During the robbery, the victim's camera and cell phone were taken, valued at \$700. At 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 8, detectives from the Santa Monica police arrested Lavelle Williams, 25, in the 440 block of Mettler Street in Los Angeles. Williams was one of the suspects involved in the robbery. Bail was set at \$100,000.

At 4:15 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 10, the Santa Monica police responded to the 1400 block of Third Street, at the Urban Outfitters, regarding a theft investigation. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the security manager, who said that between May and November of 2005 the employee had stolen \$3,407 of clothing from the store. During the investigation, the officers recovered \$1,487 worth of merchandise in the employee's locker. The remaining items have not been recovered. Christopher Shawn Smith, of Hollywood, was booked for grand theft and probation violation. Bail was set at \$20,000.

At 2:45 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12, the Santa Monica police responded to the 1200 block of Fourth Street regarding a threats investigation. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the victim who said the suspect had been following her for several blocks and made threats to kill her. The victim did not know the suspect and feared for her life because he was attempting to follow her home. Justin Gillespie, 32, transient, was arrested for criminal threats and stalking. Bail was set at \$150,000.

At 2:20 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12, the Santa Monica police responded to the area of Fourth Street and Wilshire Boulevard regarding an assault investigation. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the victim who said the suspect approached her and asked her for change and when she did not have any change, he punched her in the face. The victim received a cut to her left cheek and did not require medical treatment. Larry Bentley, 52, transient, was arrested for assault and battery and parole violation. No bail was set.

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

Rosendahl hops aboard

COG, from page 1

speak about the past, because I wasn't in office, but I am optimistic (about the future)."

In affirming his position that L.A. will soon join the COG, Rosendahl withdrew previous suggestions the Expo Line, so-called because it would use the old Exposition "Red Car" line, might have any other destination than Santa Monica.

"I look forward to suggesting (the Expo Line) go to Santa Monica," Rosendahl said.

In September, Rosendahl told the Santa Monica City Council that Venice might be a more appropriate destination for the Expo. However, Rosendahl also told the COG he is working on alternatives that will allow other mass transit systems, such as the Red and Green lines, to be developed in a way which better serves those living in his jurisdiction.

L.A.'s participation in the COG is expected to be approved by the Los Angeles City Council on Tuesday, Nov. 22. Legal paperwork to formalize L.A.'s participation in the agreement is expected to be completed in December, officials said.

EXPO LINE BECOMING A TOP PRIORITY

In addition to recent stepped-up efforts to fight homelessness, the COG decided on Thursday to focus more attention on the Expo Line and other Westside mass transit issues.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority's board members are set to begin the second phase of Expo planning this spring. The second phase will provide

a blueprint for the line's route from Culver City to Santa Monica.

COG members are concerned that the MTA's board, which includes 13 members from around the county, may overlook their concerns as to how the Expo Line is routed.

"Frankly, it seems the board has already made up it's mind that the Expo Line is going down Wilshire," said West Hollywood Mayor Pro Tempore John Heilman.

Santa Monica's Mayor Pam O'Connor, who serves on the MTA board as one of the Westside's only representatives, said she needs more help if the COG is to be more effective in ensuring the MTA hears its voice.

"We need to have a coordinated strategy we present to the MTA," O'Connor said. "I can't do it alone."

Heilman and other city representatives at the COG meeting expressed a desire for a study to determine which Expo route would serve the most Westside residents at the lowest cost. All of the COG members, including O'Connor and Rosendahl, expressed enthusiasm for the study.

The COG decided to hire an engineering firm to determine the best Expo route for the Westside. The COG may also look into hiring a lobbying group which would help it determine how to help secure transportation funds from federal and state governments for any future proposal it may make to the MTA.

Rosendahl agreed to arrange meetings as needed with COG officials which involve Los Angeles Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa, who commandeers several seats within the MTA board, he said.

LOCAL □ STATE

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

Branching out: Librarian garners national praise

By Daily Press staff

Noted for her commitment to her profession, her peers, and the children and families of her community, Sylvia Anderle, children's and Latino outreach librarian for the Fairview Branch of the Santa Monica Public Library, has received one of the 2005 New York Times Librarian Awards.

Now in its fifth year, the Times' awards program honors librarians from around the country who provide outstanding public service and have a positive impact on their communities. This year's 27 winners represent 13 states with more than 1,200 nominations coming from 48 states.

A selection committee composed of library professionals and a representative from the Times chose the winners. The Times held a reception in honor of the winners on Nov. 16, at which each winner was given \$2,500 from the Times and a commemorative plaque.

A branch children's librarian for 15 years, Anderle was nominated by Santa Monica Public Library staff and library patrons for the national honor. Having spearheaded Spanish-language family and toddler story times at the Fairview Branch that attract not only residents but also families from surrounding communities, Anderle's work to improve the reading skills and lives of library patrons helped garner her recognition, officials said. A summer reading tutorial program begun by Anderle that pairs volunteers with children entering grades one through five has drawn more than 500 youth.

"To see how Sylvia welcomes children and their caregivers to her programs, to observe how she orients new immigrants to the library and to hear the advice that she gives colleagues is to see a great librarian in action," wrote Susan Annett, the public services principal librarian at the Santa Monica Public Library, in her nomination to the Times.

Observing her commitment to serving the emergent literacy and readiness-to-read needs of the children and families of Santa Monica with her outreach and bilingual programs, former Friends of the Library board member, Ellen Mark, wrote to the Times, "I have witnessed the sense of empowerment that Sylvia has created among library users, particularly the Spanish-speakers, by increasing their ability to access information as well as deepening their love for reading."

Chumash Indians stand tall once again in Malibu

HOW NOW, from page 1

environmental watchdog and educational group, partnered with the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors to create a master plan for the site. Nicholas Canyon Creek will also be

restored.

The county department owns the land and charges Wishtoyo \$100 a year to occupy it. Chumash leaders say eight Native American prehistoric archaeological sites have been documented within half a mile of the property.

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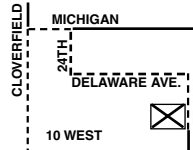


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EDITORIAL

City shortchanges us with empty laws

 Apparently, there is a severe shortage of people and money at City Hall.

It seems illogical, we know, since the city is the largest employer in Santa Monica and manages a \$383 million budget.

But it's true — if you listen to city staff and our elected leaders. Each time an issue is brought into the public light, the standard response is that there isn't enough staff or money to make it a priority.

That was the case this week when would-be skaters complained that the newly-opened Cove skatepark, which cost \$550,000 to build, is only open two hours a day because there are no lights to illuminate it at night.

The reason? There isn't enough money to hire another staffer to man the park for extended hours. Apparently, the City Council didn't budget enough money so the public could actually use the park.

Then there's the laws that have been passed, but not enforced due to staffing shortages or misplaced prioritizing.

The Santa Monica Daily Press reported last month that hundreds, maybe thousands of Santa Monica buildings may not be able to withstand a 7.0 earthquake because updated building safety laws designed to protect such structures in the event of a quake aren't being enforced.

Three years ago, the City Council passed a law that all building owners must conform to seismic standards set by City Hall. The City Council had instructed city staff to enforce the updated laws, which would require the majority of buildings within Santa Monica be brought up to the latest standards so they might successfully endure a major earthquake.

It was requested that city staff send out notices to building owners, who would face a deadline to prepare engineering reports and start ordering seismic retrofitting upgrades to their facilities.

But city staff, namely in the building and safety department, haven't done any enforcement of the new standards. They didn't set it as a priority, despite the City Council's instructing them it become one.

The planning and community development department — part of the building and safety department — has had staffing shortages with their code compliance officers for years. The result? Ordinances go unenforced.

Take the noise ordinance that was passed in 2004. Under the law, a 100-foot transition area was supposed to be established between residential and business zones. If a resident complains that a business is too loud, a code enforcement officer would be sent to the residence to measure the noise level. The noise would then be judged against the allowable standard for the residence — not the adjacent business — as is done now.

The council also passed new noise violation fees — first-time offenders were to be charged \$75, and that amount would be raised for violators who break the law within 36 months. The City Council spent countless hours and meetings discussing this issue, which was brought up by residents.

Again, it hasn't been enforced because there aren't enough code compliance officers to regulate it. There isn't enough money in a city with a \$383 million budget to hire enough staffers to keep its laws enforced.

But somewhere, someone found the money to enforce a 56-year-old law that limits the heights of hedges, which garnered worldwide media attention when now City Councilman Bobby Shriver raised a stink last year after he was threatened with up to \$25,000 in fines if he didn't trim his shrubs.

We ask that the City Council and staff stop wasting the public's time passing laws that will go unenforced. If the City Councilmembers are going to strain their brains creating new laws, they had better follow up and make sure staff enforces them. In both cases of the seismic retrofit and noise ordinances, there was no communication between the City Council and staff as to the status of their respective enforcement.

When the City Council creates the budget every year, it sets priorities. Staffing for its programs obviously should be a priority. If a new program is put in place, it ought to have enough funding allocated to it so the public can use it.

While the City Council's intentions have been good, they are misguided because they do little to ensure they are followed through. It's time that City Hall get its priorities straight. The first order of business is to hire a planning and community development director who can assess how many bodies are needed to enforce the plethora of laws on the books that are designed to make Santa Monica a safe and pleasurable place to live.

Cheney should make his move



HERE'S THE THING

BY LARA M. BROWN, Ph.D.

When the news broke on Wednesday that Bob Woodward, assistant managing editor of the Washington Post and long-time journalist in Washington, had learned of Valerie Plame's identity in mid-June of 2003 — before Lewis Libby allegedly leaked the information to New York Times reporter Judith Miller — only one word came to mind: Unbelievable.

It is unbelievable to me that two of the major characters wrapped up in the CIA leak scandal were also involved in Watergate. Woodward had been one-half of the Woodward and Bernstein reporting team at the Washington Post that is still largely given the credit for bringing down the Nixon administration. Vice President Dick Cheney had served in the Nixon administration, beginning in 1969. He served in numerous capacities working mostly under Donald Rumsfeld who is now President Bush's Secretary of Defense. In 1974, Cheney and Rumsfeld served on the transition team for Gerald Ford after Nixon resigned, and in 1975, Cheney was promoted to assistant to the president and White House Chief of Staff.

Did these men not learn anything from their experience?

Woodward explained that he did not tell the Washington Post executive editor Leonard Downie, Jr. until a month ago because he didn't want to jeopardize his status and that he wanted to be able to keep protecting his source. He said: "I hunkered down. I'm in the habit of keeping secrets. I didn't want anything out there that was going to get me subpoenaed." He then went on to explain that it was "pretty frightening" to see special prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald threatening to put reporters in jail.

Does Woodward not have the judgment at this point to be able to differentiate between who is a "whistleblower" and deserves protection and who is a "leaker" and deserves revelation? This is not a difficult call. If you are using the media to harm those who might be considered your enemy, you are a leaker. If you are using the media to get out information about the corruption of your own bosses, you are a whistleblower. Perhaps, journalists should rethink how they protect anonymous sources and how they are used by others in the game of character assassination.

Does Cheney — after being a witness to Nixon's fall — really believe that he can escape the net that is slowly tighten-

ing around him? If Woodward's source wasn't Libby and we know from the Libby indictment that Cheney is the one who gave Libby the information because Cheney got it from former CIA director George Tenet, then isn't it likely that Cheney was Woodward's source? Especially, since according to an article in Thursday's New York Times, just about every "senior administration official" with the exception of Vice President Cheney has denied being Woodward's source.

Here's The Thing:

Conspiracies aren't real. They don't happen in Washington. It's too hard to get one governmental department to function properly (think: FEMA) to imagine that more than one could coordinate to achieve something as grand that which most conspiracy theories assert.

What does happen, however, is that mistakes snowball into cover-ups. When a person errs in Washington and he discovers that his mistakes are about to become news, he begins an elaborate effort to reorder the events of the past to keep his mistakes from being revealed. During this process, he enlists a number of other people, telling them "half-truths" and working to move the story in another direction to make him appear as though he was either the accessory or the victim. Typically, however, the story and the effort to stop the story move like a snowball sliding down a mountain, gaining momentum along the way. Eventually, the story and the cover-up break wide open.

When all is said and done, my bet is that Vice President Cheney is the one who made the mistakes and that he is the one behind the cover-ups that are just now showing momentum. What is worse is that he not only erred in deciding that he should go after former Ambassador Joseph Wilson by revealing his wife's identity, but that he made much more serious errors in judgment from his position of power. He deemed fraudulent intelligence on Saddam's weapons programs credible and he advocated for the Iraq War on the basis of ideology, not facts. He also trusted his former boss' (Donald Rumsfeld) capability to plan and execute both the war and the peace in Iraq, which the administration has now admitted was neither well-conceived, nor well-implemented.

Every day that passes without Fitzgerald's investigation being closed is another bad day for the Bush administration. Cheney should take a cue from former Vice President Agnew and step aside before the snowball bowls him over.

(Lara M. Brown, Ph.D., is a political scientist from Los Angeles. She can be reached at larambrown@aol.com)



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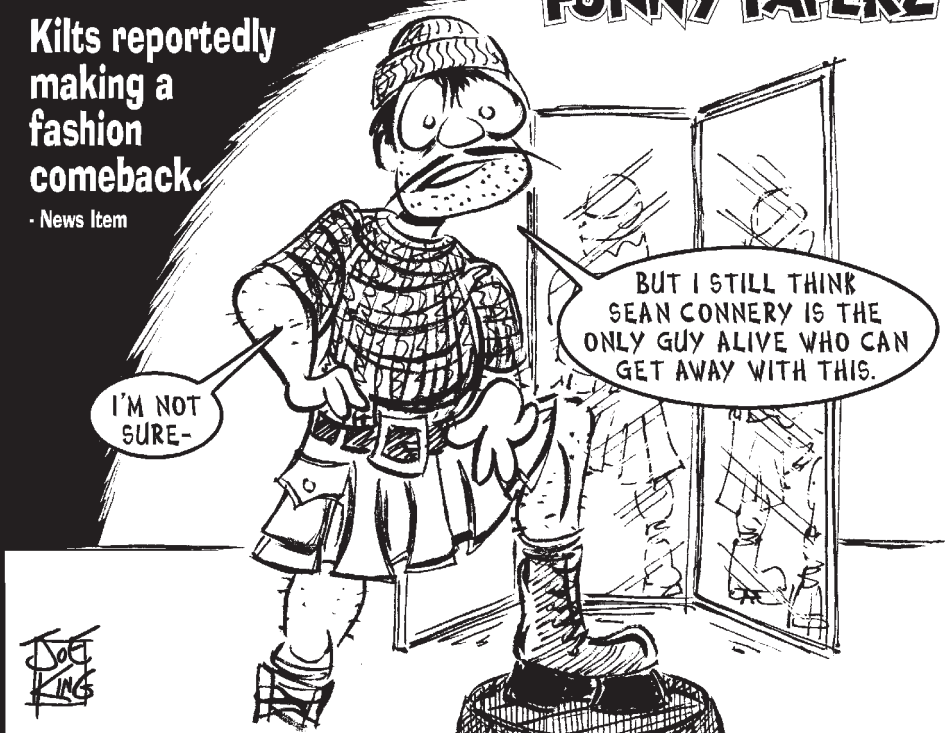
OPINION



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let there be light at the skatepark

Editor:

I read your article about the lack of lights at the skatepark (SMDP, Nov. 16, page 1) and could not agree more with the skateboarders that putting in lights should be a high priority for the city. The skatepark is clearly one of the great additions to our parks. It has far exceeded our expectations, by more than doubling the number of people who have signed up to use the skatepark over initial estimates. It also has brought many new faces to our parks and created a safe environment for young skateboarders and a great venue for the adult skateboarders. However, without lights, we are shortchanging the skateboarders and underutilizing a great community facility. The No. 1 issue and complaint I hear about the skatepark, especially now that we are no longer on daylight savings time, is the short hours without lights. The demand and need for lights is there. The wiring is already in and there are plans to install lights in the future. But when it comes to lights at the skatepark, the future should be now and the City Council should do everything in its power to find the money to install lights and to find the funds to staff the longer hours. To me, it is clearly a wise investment and will be money well spent.

Neil Carrey

Santa Monica Recreation and Parks Commissioner

Thankful of cartoon

Editor:

Kudos and thanks to you and "Funny Paperz" for the poignant cartoon of the shotgun house in the weekend edition (SMDP, Nov. 12-13, page 4) of the newspaper. The Friends of the Shotgun House is working hard to find a permanent site and to raise money to rehab this orphan. We look forward to receiving community support in this effort.

Sherrill Kushner

Santa Monica

No dictatorship, please

Editor:

I read the letter in your paper today from the various environmentalists touting their choice to replace the retiring Santa Monica City Manager (SMDP, Nov. 16, page 4).

As a life long Santa Monica resident I have an opinion on one important characteristic the new city manager should possess: Someone who will bring civility back to City Hall and city government, so that Santa Monica citizens are treated like customers rather than criminals.

Katherine Marie Anderson

Santa Monica

GUEST COMMENTARY **BY JOSEPH A. KLEIN & ERIC M. JACKSON**

Keeping the Internet safe from the U.N.

The historic "World Summit on the Information Society" convened in Tunisia this past Wednesday. And while the name given to this United Nations' sponsored meeting sounds sophisticated and futuristic, in reality the delegates in attendance will be debating a measure that could put the greatest technological development of recent decades at risk. On the summit's agenda will be several different proposals to strip control of the World Wide Web from the United States and entrust it to the UN.

History is the reason that the Internet's backbone is run by the U.S. The predecessor for today's Web was created by Pentagon researchers as a decentralized communication system that could survive a nuclear war. But in the ensuing decades, the Cold War gave way to commerce and the Internet became the world's most important engine for economic growth and the spread of personal liberty. The 13 supercomputers that control the Domain Name System (DNS) that routes e-mails and Web page requests through the Internet are controlled by ICANN, a non-profit corporation set up by the Department of Commerce. Under ICANN's non-partisan supervision, online commerce and communication have prospered as usage of this American invention has soared to 1 billion people worldwide.

But although the results of U.S. stewardship of its creation are beyond reproach, the globalists meeting in Tunisia want to endorse a proposal to take control of the DNS away from ICANN and entrust it to a UN-approved body. While an impulse to "give control of the World Wide Web to the world" might sound reasonable upon first hearing, this rhetoric masks a dangerous agenda that American officials should resist.

The Internet is simply too important to entrust to the UN for several critical reasons. First, control of the DNS would give the UN financial authority over the Internet. Many of the globalist followers of Kofi Annan and Jacques Chirac have long advocated an Internet usage tax as a means of transferring wealth from countries to the developing world and for generating revenue for the UN itself. Operating under the belief that the Internet is part of what they call the "global commons," advocates of an Internet tax have estimated they could collect at least \$70 billion a year, according to the United Nations Development Programme's 1999 Report. And the price tag today would undoubtedly be even higher given the Internet's rapid growth since that report was published.

Second, UN control would almost certainly politicize the Internet, making

international access to it contingent on political considerations. If a country ran afoul of international consensus, who's to say that the UN would not change the DNS to restrict e-mails and Web sites from a given nation? After all, the vote tally in the General Assembly from 1948 to 1991 came to 55,642 votes that condemned Israel for one thing or another, compared to only 7,938 in support. So who can confidently say that Israel — or perhaps its ally, the often maligned only remaining superpower — wouldn't be hit with a crippling ban on Internet access?

Third, seizing control of the DNS away from ICANN could lead to a fragmentation of the Internet — a technical nightmare in which individual countries set their own standards and apply their own toll booths. This is the approach that freedom-hating regimes such as Iran, China and Cuba — who were all members of the working group that planned the November summit — tend to favor because it would make it easier for them to censor online material and limit the free flow of information. In essence, such a scenario would take the "world" out of the World Wide Web and leave a cacophony of incompatible national Intranets in its place.

Beyond the UN's ulterior motives and its known tendency of corruption, the move to can ICANN is simply without merit. The organization has shown itself to be committed to a non-politicized Internet with a DNS based on feedback from all stakeholders, not just government. With the world's leading Internet firms such as Google, eBay, and Yahoo all located in the U.S., ICANN has far more incentive to promote the global health of the Web than the UN ever will. And ICANN is already a truly multinational affair — the governments of over 100 countries already serve on an ICANN committee designed specifically to collect international input. As the saying goes, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

President Bush and the Congressional leadership should dismiss the nonsense that emerges from Tunisia out of hand and rebuff any Internet power grab by summit attendees, UN delegates, or anti-American globalists. The best thing for the Internet — and the world — is to keep the Internet under U.S. control.

(Joseph A. Klein is a technology attorney and the author of "Global Deception: The UN's Stealth Assault on America's Freedom." Eric M. Jackson is the president of World Ahead Publishing and the author of "The PayPal Wars: Battles with eBay, the Media, the Mafia, and the Rest of Planet Earth.")

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

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

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

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STATE BRIEFS

Six Flags set to unleash the ‘beast’

By The Associated Press

VALENCIA — Six Flags Magic Mountain is building another white-knuckle thrill ride, a 62 mph coaster debuting this spring to mark the amusement park’s 35th anniversary.

Dubbed TATSU, Magic Mountain promoters claim the “flying beast” will take thrill-seekers riding horizontally through a series of plunges, spirals and high speed banked curves on the tallest, fastest and longest flying coaster. It’s the park’s 17th coaster.

“There’s no better way to commemorate the Park’s 35th anniversary ...,” Six Flags California general manager Del Holland said in a statement Thursday.

Riders board sleek dragon-like vehicles and ascend TATSU’S 170-foot tall lift with arms stretched forward, feet trailing behind and eyes focused on the landscape below.

There are more than 3,602 feet of track.

Cops ganging up with feds to best bangers

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Police officers and local prosecutors are being taught how to put gang members behind bars for a long time — seek federal firearms charges.

U.S. attorneys and federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agents discussed the advantages of filing federal charges during an eight-hour class Wednesday for police officers and city and district attorneys.

“Local agencies, they can take state cases, and if they meet a certain criteria, they can bring those for federal consideration,” bureau Senior Special Agent Wendell Roberts said. “That’s not done consistently. A lot of officers are not aware that they can do that.”

Federal charges can turn a small drug bust into a long time behind bars, officers were told. Police are often frustrated at the speed with which convicted criminals return to the street.

Under federal statutes, possession of two ounces of pure methamphetamine and a gun carries a minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison, officials said during a presentation.

“People in federal prison do 80 percent time, which means an eight- to 10-year sentence is a substantial sentence, and not one where people will be out in a year or two,” police Deputy Chief Michel Moore said.

Man who hunted down teen goes down

By The Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO — A Yucaipa man was sentenced to 40 years to life in prison for killing a teenager with a shotgun blast while searching for youths who tried to steal his 1962 Chevrolet truck.

Superior Court Judge Douglas Fettel said during sentencing Wednesday that Douglas Brian McShane was clearly stressed at the time because his 15-year-old daughter had run away from home.

But the judge said that didn’t justify retrieving a 12-gauge shotgun from the trunk of his car, loading it with buckshot and searching for three teens who tried to steal the truck from his driveway on Feb. 11, 2003.

McShane cruised the area around his home with his son to find the youths and about 90 minutes later Jerel Cobbs, 15, was shot to death in a Yucaipa field. McShane, who said he didn’t plan to kill the boy, was convicted of second-degree murder.

“I think it flies in the face of reality and in the jury’s findings that (McShane) did not have an intent to kill,” Fettel said, adding McShane knew the effects of the shotgun and used it in the most atrocious of ways.

Crash survivor killed in second accident

By The Associated Press

CLAREMONT — A woman who returned to her wrecked car to retrieve something after a freeway crash was killed when a suspected drunken driver slammed into the vehicle.

Mary Charlene Gibbons, 22, of Baldwin Park was killed at about 3:30 a.m. Thursday on Interstate 10 near South Indian Hill Boulevard, California Highway Patrol Officer Ed Casillas said.

Witnesses told CHP investigators that Gibbons was out of harm’s way after a collision when she walked back onto the freeway to retrieve something from her car. Another vehicle then struck her car.

The driver of that car was arrested and booked for investigation of drunken driving, Casillas said. The name of the driver wasn’t released.

Bus drivers can no longer buck the system

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Bus drivers must now buckle up.

An arbitrator ruled Metropolitan Transportation Authority drivers must use seat belts while on the job, officials said Wednesday. The decision came after months of meetings with the MTA and the drivers’ United Transportation Union.

California law does not require transit bus drivers to buckle up, but the MTA has the right to mandate a reasonable safety rule, arbitrator Howard Block said in his written directive.

“The evidence is clear that operators are more likely to be seriously injured without a seat belt, and sometimes lose control of their buses because they are ejected from their seat during a collision,” Block said.

MTA officials said drivers must buckle up immediately.

NATIONAL



Polygamist's brother indicted by federal grand jury

BY JON SARCHE
Associated Press Writer

DENVER — A federal grand jury has indicted the brother of fugitive polygamist sect leader Warren Steed Jeffs on a charge of helping him avoid arrest.

Seth Steed Jeffs, 32, of Hildale, Utah, faces one federal count of concealing his brother. Seth Jeffs, who is free on \$25,000 bond, was scheduled to appear in federal court later Thursday to enter a plea.

The indictment, announced Wednesday, formalizes the charge prosecutors filed earlier.

Seth Jeffs was arrested after a traffic stop Oct. 28 in Pueblo County south of Denver. Authorities said he had nearly \$142,000 in cash, about \$7,000 worth of prepaid debit and phone cards and Warren Jeffs' personal papers in his SUV.

Prosecutors accused Seth Jeffs of providing the means for his brother to remain on the run.

Warren Jeffs, 49, leader of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, is wanted on an Arizona charge of arranging a marriage between a 16-year-old girl and a married man and on a federal charge of unlawful flight.

Seth Jeffs also faces a Colorado charge of solicitation for prostitution, a misdemeanor.

Authorities said a passenger in Jeffs' SUV at the time of the traffic stop told Pueblo County sheriff's deputies Jeffs had hired him for sexual companionship.

Jeffs was issued a summons and was to appear in state court Friday, but that hearing likely will be rescheduled, Pueblo County Assistant District Attorney Steve Fieldman said.

The man in Jeffs' vehicle, identified by authorities as Nathaniel Steed Allred, faces a state charge of prostitution, also a misdemeanor.

Senate approves auto route through ancient flood path

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Wednesday night approved a bill to establish an Ice Age Floods National Geological Trail from Montana to the Pacific Ocean.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash. and other Western lawmakers, would create an auto route stretching from Missoula, Mont., to the Willamette Valley in Oregon and tell the story of the Ice Age floods.

The four-state route would be managed by the National Park Service, in partnership with the private Ice Age Floods Institute and other groups. Interpretive centers, signs, exhibits and roadside pullouts would be used to tell the story of the floods that tore through the region 15,000 years ago.

"Celebrating the unique geological history of the Pacific Northwest by creating a national trail will boost tourism ... and provide a valuable educational tool," said Cantwell. "This is something the whole region can take pride in."

The Park Service testified against the bill earlier this year, telling a Senate subcommittee the idea is too expensive. Developing interpretive sites and buying land across the four states could cost between \$8 million and \$12 million, said Donald Murphy, Park Service deputy director. Operating the trail would cost \$500,000 a year.

Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash., has sponsored a similar bill in the House.

Friday marks Barrow's last sunset of the year

By The Associated Press

BARROW, Alaska — The nation's northernmost town is heading for its last sundown of the year Friday.

The sun sets in Barrow on Friday at 1:40 p.m. and doesn't rise again until Jan. 23 at 1:01 p.m.

Diana Martin, an Inupiat Eskimo and a lifelong Barrow resident, said it's much easier to start the day when Barrow receives round-the-clock daylight in summer. But other than sleeping in a bit longer, Martin said, school and community events go on as usual through the long night.

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Entertainment

Phoenix walking tall as the 'Man in Black'

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press



REVIEW

THE MOVIE: Walk The Line

THE DIRECTOR: James Mangold

THE STARS: Joaquin Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon

James Mangold's smashing biopic of the late Johnny Cash (Joaquin Phoenix) walks a narrative line that is familiar to anyone who has seen "Ray" or "Coal Miner's Daughter" -- eloquent cinematic sketches of immensely talented, troubled American roots singers. Early on, "Walk the Line" relies upon a number of "Behind the Music" clichés to conjure the spirit of the legendary Man in Black — his difficult upbringing, a string of dead-end jobs, introduction to drugs, ongoing battles with personal demons — but the film hits its stride once it settles on exploring Cash's complex relationship with the love of his life, June Carter, portrayed with unimpeachable assuredness by soon-to-be Oscar nominee Reese Witherspoon.

Mangold, who co-wrote the script with Gill Dennis using two Cash autobiographies as source material, devotes little time to the iconic singer's

childhood in Depression-era Arkansas, except to establish that Cash, like his contemporary Ray Charles, would be forever haunted and his music informed by the loss of a brother killed in a horrific accident. After a stint in the Air Force in Germany during which he composes the classic "Folsom Prison Blues," Cash moves to Memphis with hopes of launching his music career, much to the chagrin of his bourgeois first wife Vivian Loberto (Ginnifer Goodwin). After impressing Sun Records' owner Sam Phillips at an impromptu audition, Cash records his first hit, "Cry, Cry, Cry," then hits the road for a tour with Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis Presley and June Carter, among others. The experience changes him forever.

Phoenix and Witherspoon generate plenty of heat during a lengthy courtship that begins in the late '50s and lasts nearly a decade before the pair consummate their union. Along the way, Cash battles an addiction to amphetamines that leads to an arrest for possession in El Paso in 1965.

Phoenix did all the singing rather than lip-sync to Cash's voice, and with the exception of a few too-high notes, it's a spot-on impersonation. Witherspoon also handles her own crooning; the icing on one of the tastiest performances of the year and — arguably — the best of Witherspoon's career.

(RATED PG-13. RUNNING TIME: 136 MINUTES.)

'Potter' franchise knows when it's time to change

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press



REVIEW

Movies tend to get bulkier this time of year, but it's not always a given that they get better too. Clocking in at nearly two hours and forty minutes long, "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" demands a substantial commitment from filmgoers — one that a gazillion or so fans will be more than happy to make over and over again. For most, not a minute will feel like wasted time. "Goblet of Fire," the fourth installment in the blockbuster series, is at least as good as last year's "The Prisoner of Azkaban," theretofore the best Harry Potter yet. This very British franchise gets its first homegrown director in Mike Newell ("Donnie Brasco," "Four Weddings and a Funeral"), who continues down the dark path Mexican helmer Alfonso Cuarón tread in "Azkaban." What's new here is a challenge young Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) and his best buds Ron (Rupert Grint) and Hermione (Emma Watson) hadn't encountered in previous outings: Puberty. Screenwriter Steve

Kloves, who has adapted all the Potter books thus far, handles the characters' sexual awakening very delicately, but one need look only as far as the MPAA rating — PG-13 — to see that this series is growing up. "Goblet of Fire" also offers the first mano a mano confrontation between our titular hero and the evil Lord Voldemort, a sinister figure effectively portrayed by Ralph Fiennes.

Several magnificent set pieces highlight "Goblet of Fire," the bulk of which concerns a magical "Triwizard" competition pitting Hogwarts golden boy Cedric Diggory (Robert Pattinson) against the best from an all-girl French academy and an Eastern European school called Durmstrang. Mysterious circumstances land Harry in the contest as well, causing a rift between he and a jealous Ron, and raising concerns among his Hogwarts stewards who are certain something wicked is afoot. Familiar faces abound, with Michael Gambon returning as Dumbledore, Maggie Smith as Minerva McGonagall and Alan Rickman as the delightfully acerbic Severus Snape. Brendan Gleeson shines as newcomer Alastor "MadEye" Moody, the Defense Against the Dark Arts professor who keeps Harry under his watchful, all-seeing glass eye. As for sight and sound, "Goblet of Fire" exceeds the technical achievements of its predecessors — and that is no small trick.

(RATED PG-13. RUNNING TIME: 157 MINUTES.)

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ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Play finds humor in competitive college costs

By Daily Press staff

With the college application season underway, "Early Decision," author, playwright, TV and film writer David T. Levinson's new play at a local arts complex explores some of the "craziness" surrounding a process that has become par for the course in Los Angeles and elsewhere in the USA.

Playing to full houses and recently extended, "Early Decision" is hitting a social nerve, successfully raising important and probing questions about the country's education system, and why and how we pursue life's decisions.

Examples of the "craziness" include: the exorbitant amounts of money that parents are spending on tutors, SAT and other types of test prep, summer trips around the world to engage in community service designed to "pad" a child's resume and give him the edge when applying to college and parents mortgaging their retirement in order to put their children through an elite college.

The high costs of this intense competition to get into one's "college of choice" raises deeper questions about the value of a college education in general. This "crazy" competition, and the costs involved, now infiltrates not just the college application process, but commences at the beginning of a child's education, with intense competition and all sorts of expensive preparatory courses and coaches for kids applying to middle school, junior high and high school, even kindergarten.

Borne out of Levinson's personal experiences with his own child's middle school application process, "Early Decision" explores the excesses of the contemporary college application process and its effect on the family and community, via the fresh lens of public theater. When a college-bound high school student decides that she's not going to apply for college, the effect on her family, friends and community is comical, surprising and thought-provoking.

The play runs through Dec. 4 on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 7 p.m. at the Edgemar Center for the Arts, 2437 Main St. For reservations, call (310) 392-7327.

Free orchestra concert to honor Stalvey's legacy

By Daily Press staff

The Crossroads Chamber Orchestra this weekend will honor the legacy of composer and educator Dorrance Stalvey, who passed away in July 2005, with a free concert at Crossroads School.

Stalvey was the Director of Music Programs at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) from 1984 until his passing, and made an indelible mark on the field of contemporary music. Stalvey's compositions, which have been performed in more than 20 countries, are in various media and forms, including chamber, solo, vocal, orchestral, electronic, musical theater, multi-media and dance. He was working on his first opera, Kursk, when he passed away, and although it is unfinished, there are plans for a performance.

Stalvey was actively involved in the promotion of contemporary music in Los Angeles through the many concerts he produced and presented as the director of "Monday Evening Concerts" series at LACMA, for which he received six awards.

Through his participation in new-music seminars and service on numerous advisory panels, including eight years as a panelist and consultant for the National Endowment for the Arts, he worked to encourage the propagation of contemporary music.

The free concert will be held on Sunday, Nov. 20 at 6 p.m. at the Crossroads School's community room on the Norton Campus, 1715 Olympic Blvd.

Take a peek at free arts this weekend

By Daily Press staff

18th Street Arts Center presents the fourth "ArtNight at 18th Street," a series of free art events, on Saturday, Nov. 19, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at 18th Street Arts Center, 1639 18th St.

This edition will feature opening receptions for the art exhibits, "TransFOURmations" and "What We Think Now," a free concert by Bobby Matos and His Afro-Cuban Jazz, as well as numerous open studios of local and international artists.

Founded in 1988, in Santa Monica, 18th Street Arts Center is Southern California's largest international residential art center of its kind. It is a nonprofit that supports artists and arts organizations dedicated to issues of community and diversity in contemporary society. 18th Street programs are supported in part by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, California Community Foundation, Santa Monica City Cultural Affairs Division, L.A. County Arts Commission, Dana Foundation, J. Paul Getty Grant Program, Ford Foundation, and others.

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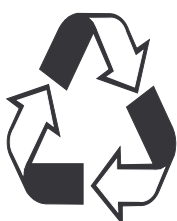
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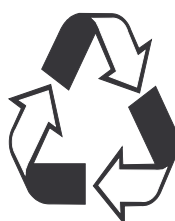
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Santa Monica Daily Press



‘Friends’ star gets far wearing heart on sleeve

BY EMILY CHRISTIANSON
Special to the Daily Press

For Ryan Reynolds, high school was tough. Acting gigs left him little time to chum around with his classmates and the Vancouver native, who admits he was small for his age, was picked on by other kids. Eventually the bullying got so bad he transferred schools.

“I really worked on invisibility,” said the actor who eventually graduated from Kitsilano High School in British Columbia. “I just wanted to get through it ... for me it felt like I was in the Maze Prison in Ireland. It was a terrifying experience everyday.”

It’s no wonder the movie star would like to run into his former classmates now.

“I always wish I would, but I don’t,” he admitted during an LA press day. “I can remember everyone’s face like it was yesterday. It is such a formative time there’s just no way to shake it really.”

Seems Reynolds has a lot in common with his “Just Friends” character Chris Brander who also went from geek to chic after high school. The chubby senior is head over heels for his best friend Jamie Palamino (Amy Smart) and when he professes his love for her on graduation night, he gets the dreaded “just friends” speech. Crushed, Chris leaves town to reinvent himself. When he returns home unexpectedly 10 years later he’s a slimmed down, smooth talking, music executive from Los Angeles hoping for a shot with the girl of his dreams.

When it comes to staying out of the “friend zone” Reynolds has it all figured out.

“What ends up working is ultimately the last thing any guy wants to do, which is telling the girl exactly how you feel and wearing your heart on your sleeve ...,” said the 29-year-old. “It sucks, but that’s the real way out.”

Reynolds, the youngest of four brothers, got his first acting gig as a teen on the Nickelodeon series “Hillside.” He went on to do several TV movies before his Hillside costar Chris Martin convinced him to move to Los Angeles.

“My Jeep got stolen the first hour I was there,” he told Splicedwire. “Yeah. That’s a true story. My Jeep was stolen, but then it was just rolled down a hill around the corner. They removed the doors, took the stereo and I was left with this shell that was my car. I spent four months in LA without doors on my Jeep — in the rainy



season. So I was slugging my way to auditions in the freezing cold. Contrary to popular belief, LA is actually kind of cold in the winter.”

Eventually one of those auditions paid off. In 1998 he joined the cast of ABC’s “Two Guys and a Girl,” and the show enjoyed a four season run. Bigger and better projects soon followed like starring roles in National Lampoon’s “Van Wilder,” “Blade: Trinity,” and “The Amityville Horror.”

Now, Reynolds is busy shooting the crime drama “Smokin’ Aces” with Andy Garcia, Ben Affleck, Ray Liotta and other big names. “Chaos Theory,” “Ride Along,” and “Horrible Bosses” also are in the works.

One would think wedding planning would also top his to do list, but Reynolds and his fiancé, rocker Alanis Morissette, may skip that all together.

“Knowing her we will both go ‘let’s just do it tomor-

row. Tomorrow is a good day. Your parents are in town. Let’s get together and wear some rings.”

The two Nickelodeon alumni met at a taping of Two Guys and a Girl then ran into each other two years later at a party.

“We took it really slowly,” he tells Toro magazine. “It was almost old-fashioned. It was a month before we even kissed. We’ve kind of been inseparable ever since.”

The Van Wilder star and his “You Oughta Know” songstress may seem like an odd couple, but Reynolds told the magazine “She helps me with almost every aspect of my being. It’s something I’m so grateful for.”

Morissette also gushed about her beau to VH1 and admitted the song “Knees of my Bees” from her So-Called Chaos album was about Reynolds. “I think I’ll be giddy about him forever!”

“Just Friends” opens in theaters Nov. 23.

Keeping the Faith: Hill cooks up something special

BY EMILY CHRISTIANSON
Special To The Daily Press

Faith Hill fans are in for a treat next week. The southern starlet will perform hits like “Breathe,” “This Kiss,” “Cry” and other favorites during her NBC special Faith Hill: Fireflies. The mother of three and wife of country hunk Tim McGraw says the show will combine footage from two live concerts at Pantages Theater in Los Angeles with an intimate concert in Nashville.

Hill, 38, recently shared some thoughts about her three daughters, Tim’s cooking, and the upcoming show which airs at 9 p.m. on Nov. 23.

QUESTION: You’ve already had one successful special. What can we expect with your second?

ANSWER: With this particular special we had three nights. One night was in Nashville where I performed all of those new songs from Fireflies with the songwriters ... the other two were at the Pantages in Los Angeles, (which was) basically a live concert. We had rolls and rolls of backstage footage, rehearsal footage, just moments that are so fun to see and to go back and relive ... the toughest part for this particular special was trying to figure out what to eliminate.

Q: As a big star do you still have intimidating moments?

A: The first time I had the opportunity to meet Aretha Franklin. I didn’t have the guts to do it. I was at the Grammys and my husband and I were in the front row and she ... walked in front of us. He said “Jump up, jump up and introduce yourself” and I said “I can’t, I can’t

move, I’m frozen.” He practically tried to pull me out of my seat to meet her, but I couldn’t. I grabbed a hold of the handrail and just sat there. I couldn’t do it. I couple of years later my tour manager Jimmy Johnson introduced me to her and I cried like a baby.

Q: Have you ever heard a song and wished you had recorded it instead?

A: Imagine, by John Lennon.

Q: Who has inspired you the most in your life?

A: It has to be my husband. I felt my life began then and with the birth of our children. It gave my life purpose and great meaning and huge responsibility. I think when we have responsibility and purpose for me it’s inspirational.

Q: Have your three daughters, Gracie, Maggie and Audrey, shown any musical aptitude?

A: All of them do, but Gracie and Audrey are the most interested.

Q: Do they sing or play instruments?

A: (Gracie) plays a little guitar ... and piano, but she is the rock and roll chick in the family ... Last year for Christmas she asked for an iPod filled with Robert Plant,



Stevie Nicks and Steven Tyler and that was it.

Q: She’s only 8. Did you and Tim introduce her to these artists?

A: Gracie has a very raspy dark voice and when she started singing we heard she had so much soul in her voice. Tim and I were like “Listen to Stevie Nicks,” so we started buying her albums ... Tim did a Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Norway and we were all there watching him perform and Robert Plant came on to perform and Gracie leaned over and said “Who is this guy?” and I told her who he was. She said “I want his album.” Steven Tyler she just thinks he’s the greatest thing that walked the face of the earth.

Q: Are they at the point where they don’t think mom and dad as cool?

A: Not yet ... When I picked them up from school after having done Oprah I was still dressed because I had come right from the airport. I got out of the car to give them a hug and Gracie and Maggie were both (saying) “Mama get back in the car, get back in the car” they didn’t want anybody to see me dressed like that. They were embarrassed that I had make-up on ... They asked “Why are you wearing make-up? Why is your hair down?”

Q: Tim says he tries to cook, but he’s not the greatest. Is that true?

A: He is a fantastic cook he is just a very, very messy one. Spaghetti sauce is in the drawers, in the cabinets, you will find it on all of the spoons, pots and pans. I don’t know how he gets it everywhere, but he does. It is so good I don’t mind cleaning it.

NATIONAL



Cheney joins in war of words against Dems who oppose Iraq

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Vice President Dick Cheney is joining President Bush and other Republicans in accusing Democrats of foul play for asserting that the administration misrepresented intelligence to build support for taking the nation to war in Iraq.

Cheney said Wednesday the accusation is “one of the most dishonest and reprehensible charges ever aired in this city.”

“Some of the most irresponsible comments have, of course, come from politicians who actually voted in favor of authorizing force against Saddam Hussein,” Cheney told the Frontiers of Freedom Institute, a conservative policy group.

“I agree with the vice president,” Bush said Thursday in South Korea when asked about Cheney’s remarks. “I think people ought to be allowed to ask questions. It is irresponsible to say that I deliberately misled the American people.”

“What bothers me is when people are irresponsibly using their positions and playing politics,” Bush added. “That’s exactly what is taking place in America.”

Cheney’s speech was part of a GOP effort to push back against criticism on Iraq that presidential counselor Dan Bartlett said will continue.

Traveling with Bush, Bartlett said: “There’s a bright line there that the Democrats have crossed. They have no facts on their side.”

He said the administration to push back “will be sustained” because “in the last couple of weeks it has reached a critical mass and we felt it was important to respond.”

Pushing back against the push-back, the Democrat’s 2004 presidential nominee, Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, said Cheney “continues to mislead America about how we got into Iraqi and what must be done to complete the still unaccomplished mission.”

Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said Cheney was “playing politics like he’s in the middle of a presidential campaign.”

Bush has made two speeches in recent days that painted Democrats as hypocrites for criticizing the Iraq war after earlier supporting the idea that Saddam should go.

Although critical of some administration tactics in prosecuting the war, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said Sunday that “I think it’s a lie to say that the president lied to the American people” about prewar intelligence on weapons of mass destruction.

The Republican National Committee has posted on its Web site a video compilation of past statements by prominent Democrats — including several 2008 presidential hopefuls — who supported a hard line against Saddam.

On Tuesday, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld singled out a number of Democrats, including President Clinton and his secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, who had depicted Saddam as a threat because of weapons of mass destruction.

Following up on that theme, Cheney said Wednesday that “these are elected officials who had access to the intelligence, and were free to draw their own conclusions. They arrived at the same judgment about Iraq’s capabilities and intentions that was made by this administration and by the previous administration.”

He said there was “broad-based, bipartisan agreement” that Saddam was a threat, had violated U.N. Security Council resolution and had banned weapons.

Colorado GOP holds hearing on immigration; called ‘huge issue’

BY STEVEN K. PAULSON
Associated Press Writer

DENVER — Republicans seeking a crackdown on illegal immigrants convened an informal hearing Wednesday, urging state lawmakers to stop what they call a “silent invasion” of the United States.

Former Senate President John Andrews, who now heads a conservative think tank, said the issue is not whether the country should welcome immigrants, but how. He said immigrants who follow the law are welcome.

“We draw a line between them and others who seek to enter in violation of our laws,” Andrews said.

But Karen Roubal of Fort Collins, one of dozens who attended, said lawmakers need to find ways to round up and deport illegal immigrants and seal the nation’s borders.

“We’re overwhelmed with illegal immigrants, who are undocumented, unaccounted for, taxing our Social Security system and closing hospitals. This isn’t going to be a quick fix,” she said.

The meeting was set up by the Republican Study Committee of Colorado, formed earlier this year and modeled after the Republican Study Committee in the U.S. House. Its goal is helping Republican politicians in state government focus on such issues as lower taxes, personal responsibility and limited government.

It was requested by Rep. Dave Schultheis after meeting in Arizona last month with the Minutemen Civil Defense Corps — private citizens who patrol the border. He said immigration will be a major issue when the Legislature

convenes in January and in next year’s elections.

“This is a huge issue with people,” said Schultheis.

Madeleine Cosman told lawmakers at the meeting that illegal immigrants often have “disgusting” diseases and strain the nation’s health care system. She said flesh-eating viruses were rare until the number of immigrants surged.

Cosman said illegal immigrants are giving birth to children who are immediately entitled to benefits. She said those children are “anchor babies,” used to gain citizenship for other members of the family.

“I’m not the only one who maintains that anchor babies are in essence an abomination,” she said.

But Rachel Olivarez-Sellers of the Colorado Democratic Latino Initiative said she was disturbed by some of the statements.

“I was born in the United States. I’m an abomination?” she asked during a break.

Mark Krikorian, director of the Center for Immigration Studies, said the United States faces the possibility of riots similar to the ones that swept France this month if it tries to expand the number of immigrant workers, as some members of Congress have proposed.

“Permanent amnesty could put us at risk,” he said.

Manolo Gonzalez-Estay, who formed a group to campaign against proposal on next year’s ballot that would restrict services to illegal immigrants, said the meeting was “eye-opening.”

He said the meeting raises questions about whether immigrants can get police protection and medical care.

“I think there will be an important discussion on both sides of the debate,” he said.

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INTERNATIONAL

Bush, Moo-hyun take united stand on N. Korea

BY JENNIFER LOVEN

Associated Press Writer

GYEONGJU, South Korea — President Bush took a hardline stance against North Korea on Thursday, saying the U.S. won't help the communist nation build a civilian nuclear reactor to produce electricity until it dismantles its nuclear weapons programs.

With the nuclear dispute with North Korea at an apparent impasse, Bush and South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun put the communist regime on notice that it would not be allowed to keep its nuclear weapons programs.

"A nuclear-armed North Korea will not be tolerated," Roh said through a translator.

The North has demanded that it be given a light-water reactor — a type less easily diverted for weapons use — in exchange for disarming. U.S. officials once rejected the idea outright and argued North Korea could not be trusted with any nuclear program, but now have left the door open as long as Pyongyang isn't given a reactor as an incentive but only as a reward after it has eliminated nuclear weapons programs.

"We'll consider the light-water reactor at the appropriate time," Bush said. "The appropriate time is after they have verifiably given up their nuclear weapons and/or programs."

So far, Bush is getting one thing he wanted from his four-country swing through Asia: no public displays of dissension from the United States' partners

in the talks.

Negotiations between North Korea and the United States, Japan, South Korea, Russia and China in September concluded with Pyongyang's promising to end its nuclear program in exchange for aid, diplomatic recognition and security guarantees. But a disappointing new round of talks ended last week without progress on the difficult next step — how to dismantle existing weapons and verify that the country has really ended all suspicious programs.

At Bush's meeting with Roh — like that a day earlier in Japan with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi — the leaders made clear they remain committed to ending North Korea's program. There was no mention of the differences between the United States and South Korea on how to deal with Pyongyang.

Roh, who has pursued engagement and closer ties with the North, opposes military action if diplomacy fails and is cool to going to the U.N. Security Council for sanctions. Bush has not taken either option off the table.

But, declared Roh: "We have no disagreement at all that this issue must be resolved."

The issue will continue as a dominant theme during Bush's Asian tour. On Friday, Bush confers with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. Over the weekend, he travels to China to meet with President Hu Jintao.

Negotiations between North Korea and the United States, Japan, South Korea, Russia and China in September concluded with Pyongyang's promising to end its nuclear program in exchange for aid.

Roh's determination to put South Korea on a more equal footing with the United States was on display when the two leaders appeared together. Bush normally dominates such sessions with fellow leaders, even on foreign soil, as he takes most of the questions and does much of the talking.

That wasn't the case this time. Roh spoke twice as much as Bush, who kept his answers brief.

Still, there was none of the language that Roh used during his 2002 campaign that some viewed as anti-American.

Roh repeatedly said U.S.-Korean relations have been strong under his administration. The leaders celebrated the draw-down of U.S. forces in South Korea, slated to drop by about a quarter from the current 37,000. Bush also thanked South Korea for sending military forces to Iraq.

Protests in the historic capital where the two leaders met were much smaller than the anti-American demonstrations that greeted Bush in Latin America earlier this month. About 250 people gathered at the Gyeongju train station, carrying signs reading "Stop Bush" and opposing Roh's

talks with Bush.

In the nearby port city of Busan, where the annual two-day summit of 21 Pacific Rim leaders begins Friday, a small pro-Bush rally was the only demonstration. Supporters of the American president carried signs reading "We love USA" and with crossed-out portraits of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il.

After their meeting, Bush and Roh had a private lunch and toured the picturesque mountaintop Bulguksa Buddhist Temple, South Korea's oldest Buddhist temple.

After returning to Busan, the president met briefly in his hotel with Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, leader of a moderate Muslim-majority nation that is a U.S. ally against terrorism — though it bitterly opposed the Iraq and Afghan invasions.

At the APEC forum, Bush is expected to make the risk that bird flu might spark a global human pandemic a main topic of discussion. With the member countries accounting for nearly half of global trade, the leaders are also expected to try to rein-vigorate stalled talks on a global free-trade accord.

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INTERNATIONAL



Rival tribes anted up in trying to block casino

BY JOHN SOLOMON

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Nearly three dozen members of Congress, including leaders from both parties, pressed the government to block a Louisiana Indian tribe from opening a casino while the lawmakers collected large donations from rival tribes and their lobbyist, Jack Abramoff.

Many intervened with letters to Interior Secretary Gale Norton within days of receiving money from tribes represented by Abramoff or using the lobbyist's restaurant for fundraising, an Associated Press review of campaign records, IRS records and congressional correspondence found.

Lawmakers said their intervention had nothing to do with Abramoff, and the timing of donations was a coincidence. They said they wrote letters because they opposed the expansion of tribal gaming — even though they continued to accept donations from casino-operating tribes.

Many lived far from Louisiana and had no constituent interest in the casino dispute.

House Speaker Dennis Hastert, an Illinois Republican, held a fundraiser at Abramoff's Signatures restaurant in Washington on June 3, 2003, that collected at least \$21,500 for his Keep Our Majority political action committee from the lobbyist's firm and tribal clients.

Seven days later, Hastert wrote Norton urging her to reject the Jena tribe of Choctaw Indians' request for a new casino. Hastert's three top House deputies also signed the letter.

Approving the Jena application or others like it would "run counter to congressional intent," Hastert's June 10, 2003, letter warned Norton.

It was exactly what Abramoff's tribal clients wanted. The tribes, including the Louisiana Coushattas and Mississippi Choctaw, were trying to block the Jena's gambling hall for fear it would undercut business at their own casinos.

Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid sent a letter to Norton on March 5, 2002, also signed by Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev. The next day, the Coushattas issued a \$5,000 check to Reid's tax-exempt political group, the Searchlight Leadership Fund. A second Abramoff tribe sent another \$5,000 to Reid's group. Reid ultimately received more than \$66,000 in Abramoff-related donations between 2001 and 2004.

In the midst of the congressional letter-writing campaign, the Bush administration rejected the Jena's casino on technical grounds. The tribe persisted, eventually winning Interior approval but the casino now is tied up in a court dispute.

Congressional ethics rules require lawmakers to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest in performing their official duties and accepting political money.

That requirement was made famous a decade ago during the Keating Five scandal when five lawmakers were criticized for intervening with federal regulators on behalf of Charles Keating while receiving money from the failed savings and loan operator.

The Abramoff donations dwarf those made by Keating. At least 33 lawmakers wrote letters to Norton and got more than \$830,000 in Abramoff-related donations as the lobbying unfolded between 2001 and 2004, AP found.

"This is one of the largest examples we've had to date where congressional action was predicated on money being given for the action," said Kent Cooper, who reviewed lawmakers' campaign reports for two decades as the Federal Election Commission's chief of public disclosure.

Cooper, who now runs the Political Money Line Web site that tracks fundraising, said "the speed in which this money was turned around" after the letters makes the Abramoff matter more serious than previous controversies that tarnished Congress.

Lawmakers contacted by AP said their intervention had nothing to do with Abramoff's fundraising, and instead reflected their long-held concerns about tribal gaming expansion.

"There is absolutely no connection between the letter and the fundraising," Reid spokesman Jim Manley said. "The only connection was Senator Reid has consistently opposed any effort to undermine the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act."

Hastert ultimately collected more than \$100,000 in donations from Abramoff's firm and tribal clients between 2001 and 2004. His office said he never dis-

cussed the matter with Abramoff, but long opposed expanding Indian gambling off reservations and was asked to send the letter by Rep. Jim McCrery, R-La.

McCrery sent his own letter as well, and collected more than \$36,000 in Abramoff-connected donations.

"We've always opposed these things, in our backyard, in our state, someplace else," said Michael Stokke, Hastert's deputy chief of staff.

Melanie Sloan, a former federal prosecutor, said lawmakers' denials of a connection rang hollow.

"Special interests do get more and they do get what they pay for despite the constant denial that lawmakers can't be bought," said Sloan, who now runs Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a group that monitors public officials' conduct.

Abramoff's spokesman, Andrew Blum, declined comment. The lobbyist has been indicted on fraud charges by a federal grand jury in Florida stemming from his role in the 2000 purchase of a fleet of gambling boats.

Federal prosecutors are investigating whether Abramoff's fundraising influenced members of Congress or the Bush administration, and whether anyone tried to conceal their dealings with Abramoff. For instance:

■ Hastert failed for two years to disclose his use of Abramoff's restaurant the week before his letter or to reimburse for it as legally required. Hastert blames a paperwork oversight and recently corrected it.

■ Sen. David Vitter, R-La., received \$6,000 from Abramoff tribes from 1999 to 2001 and refunded it the day before he sent one of his letters to Norton in February 2002. He also used Abramoff's restaurant for a September 2003 fund-raiser but failed to reimburse for it until this year.

■ The Coushattas wrote two checks to Rep. Tom DeLay's groups in 2001 and 2002, shortly before the GOP leader wrote Norton. But the tribe was asked by Abramoff to take back the checks and route the money to other GOP groups. In all, DeLay, R-Texas, received at least \$57,000 in Abramoff and tribal donations between 2001 and 2004.

The intervention by congressional Republicans and Democrats was all but ignored in recent hearings on Capitol Hill led by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz, that examined Abramoff's lobbying inside Interior.

In one letter obtained by AP, 27 lawmakers told Norton she should reject the Jena casino because gambling was a societal blight. But within weeks, several of the authors had accepted donations from Abramoff's casino-operating tribes. All but eight eventually got Abramoff-related donations or used his restaurant for political events.

Rep. Pete Sessions, R-Texas, received four donations totaling \$5,500 from casino-operating tribes represented by Abramoff a month and a day after he signed the Feb. 27, 2002, group letter.

"If they want to give a contribution to support Republican candidates, more power to them. That does-

n't mean we have to support what they are doing," said Guy Harrison, a Sessions spokesman.

Rep. John Doolittle, R-Calif., received \$1,000 from Abramoff several weeks before he signed the group letter, then got \$16,000 from two of Abramoff's casino-operating tribal clients about two months later. By year's end, Doolittle also had used Abramoff's restaurant to cater a campaign event and received another \$15,000 from tribes.

Some lawmakers intervened more than once.

House Majority Leader Roy Blunt, a Missouri Republican, signed three letters to Norton. He took \$1,000 from Abramoff and \$2,000 from the lobbyist's firm around the time he sent a May 2003 letter.

Blunt long has opposed the expansion of tribal gaming and his letters are "consistent with his long-held position and are in no way related to political contributions," spokeswoman Burson Taylor said.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, whose committee is investigating Abramoff, sent a letter on March 1, 2002, opposing the Jena casino. The letter said a company that operates casinos in Grassley's home state was concerned. Grassley got \$1,000 from Abramoff's firm the following month and a total of \$62,200 in related donation by 2004.

Others who intervened:

■ Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., the former Senate GOP leader, wrote Norton on March 1, 2002, to "seriously urge" she reject the Jena casino. Lott received \$10,000 in donations from Abramoff tribes just before the letter and \$55,000 soon after. Lott's office said he sent the letter because his state's Choctaw tribe and a casino company were concerned about losing business.

■ Then-Sen. John Breaux, D-La., wrote Norton on March 1, 2002. Five days later the Coushattas sent \$1,000 to his campaign and \$10,000 to his library fund, tribal records show.

■ Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., wrote Norton on June 14, 2001, one of the first such letters. Cochran's political committee got \$6,000 from Abramoff tribes in the weeks before the letter, and another \$71,000 in the three years after.

■ Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., who was engaged in a tight re-election race in 2002, sent her letter March 6, 2002. That same day, the Coushattas sent \$2,000 to her campaign and she received \$5,000 more by the end of that month. By year's end, the total had grown to at least \$24,000.

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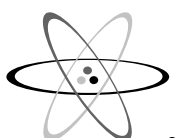
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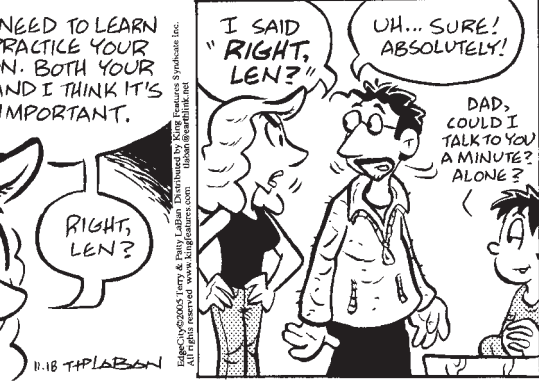
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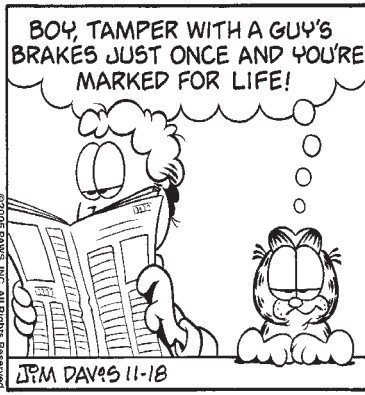
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