

Santa Monica Daily Press

November 18-19, 2006

A newspaper with issues

Volume 6 Issue 319

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
5 19 25 30 50
Meganumber: 42
Jackpot: \$12M

Super LOTTO PLUS
18 20 32 34 40
Meganumber: 7
Jackpot: \$22M

Fantasy 5 3 10 14 19 32

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 5 1 2
EVENING: 7 7 7

DAILY DERBY
1st: 07 Eureka
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 06 Whirl Win
RACE TIME: 1:43.90

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

A 33-year-old woman was detained by police in September after complaints by residents at a mobile home park in Michigan City, Ind., that she had been having sex in an untinted-windowed limousine on one of the park's streets, in front of what grew to be a large crowd, mostly yelling at her for her indecency. At one point, according to police, the otherwise-occupied woman yelled back at the crowd defiantly that she was "doing adult business" and "I've got to do what I've got to do."

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 322nd day of 2006.
There are 43 days left in the year.

1928 Walt Disney's first sound-synchronized animated cartoon, "Steamboat Willie" starring Mickey Mouse, premiered in New York.

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

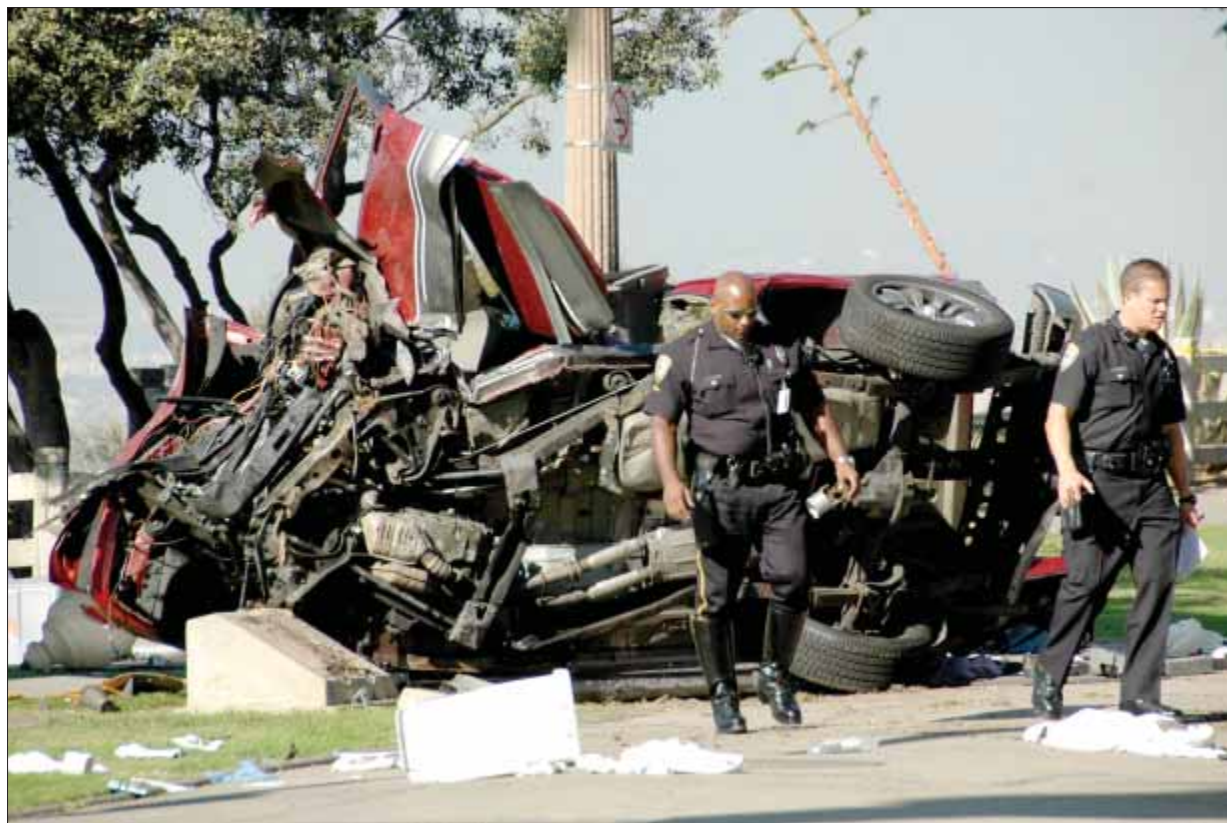
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Football star killed in crash

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

GRIM DISCOVERY: Former UCLA football standout Marcus Cassel was killed Friday morning when the sport utility vehicle he was driving slammed into a tree in Palisades Park. Emergency responders needed to use the Jaws of Life to remove the 23-year-old from the wreckage. Cassel began the current NFL season as a member of the Carolina Panthers before being injured.

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

PALISADES PARK — A former UCLA and NFL football player was killed here Friday morning after he slammed his sport utility vehicle into a tree, the impact of which was so fierce that fire-fighters had to use the Jaws of Life to remove him from the wreckage.

Santa Monica police said Marcus Cassel, a 23-year-old native of Carson, was reportedly driving his SUV at a high rate of speed west on Santa Monica Boulevard around 5:15 a.m. when he failed to negotiate a left turn onto Ocean Avenue, sending his car into Palisades Park, where he struck a large palm tree.

The vehicle rolled over onto itself following the impact, coming to rest against a cement lamp post just a few feet from the edge of the bluff, said

See CASSEL CRASH, page 14



MARCUS CASSEL

SM property is heating up

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN STREET — Demand for office space in Santa Monica has increased dramatically over the last few years, causing rents to rise above levels found in other premier destinations on the west side of Los Angeles, according to a real estate forecast released Friday.

With an overall vacancy rate of 6.6 percent — one of the lowest in the last decade — rents for commercial space have jumped by 20 percent

See COMMERCIAL SPACE, page 18



Bach and forth

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

The Synapse Dance Theater, a contemporary troupe at Santa Monica College, performs to the music "Die Kunst der Fuge," by Johann Sebastian Bach on Thursday in the Black Box theater.

NATIONAL

Die-hard gamers go ga-ga for Sony's PS 3

BY ANICK JESDANUN

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Days of waiting paid off for Sergio Rodriguez, one of the relatively few able to buy Sony's PlayStation 3 when the coveted console went on sale early Friday.

He was among the die-hard gamers and entrepreneurs across the country who braved foul weather and heckling by passers-by all week for the chance to shell out \$500 or more for the sleek game machine.

See PLAYSTATION 3, page 18

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WESTSIDE TODAY

A GUIDE TO ALL THINGS HAPPENING IN YOUR AREA

saturday, Nov. 18, 2006

- Red Cross Youth Pancake Breakfast
Santa Monica Red Cross, 7 a.m. — noon
- Mar Vista Farmers Market
Downtown Mar Vista, 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.
- Annual Holiday Boutique
St. Joan of Arc Church, 10 a.m. — 3 p.m. Two-day event
- And Awaay We Go To Wonderland
Santa Monica Playhouse, 12:30 p.m. — 1:45 p.m.
Saturdays and Sundays 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.
- Forrest Yoga Posture Clinic: Dragonfly
Forrest Yoga Institute, 12:30 p.m. — 2 p.m.
- Santa Monica Pier Aquarium Reopening Celebration
Heal the Bay's Santa Monica Pier Aquarium, 12:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.
- Red Chief! — Children's theater in Santa Monica
Third Street Promenade, 3 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Performances for school groups are available Tuesday through Friday at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- Cinderella
Santa Monica Playhouse, 6 p.m. — 7:20 p.m.
- Audition! The Musical
Santa Monica Playhouse, 7 p.m. — 9:15 p.m.
- The Taming of the Shrew
Saint Monica Catholic High School, 8 p.m. — 10 p.m.
- Debbie Merrill's Learn To Inline Skate Group Class
Perry's Cafe, 1 p.m. — 2 p.m.
- SM YMCA Canned Fitness Food Drive
Santa Monica YMCA, all day
- Sunday, Nov. 19, 2006

- Fall Harvest Run/Walk Feast
San Vicente Blvd. and Darlington Ave., 6:30 a.m. — noon.
- Mar Vista Farmers Market
Downtown Mar Vista, 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.
- Break Point Bridge Sunday Meeting
Santa Monica Bay Women's Club, 10:30 a.m. — noon.
- Orientation for Prospective Students
Santa Monica, 10 a.m. — noon
- The Nuts and Bolts: Judaism 101 Learning with Rabbi Dan Shevitz
Congregation Mishkon Tephilo, 10 a.m. — 11 a.m.
- Lawn Bowling Lessons
Douglas Park, Santa Monica, 10:15 a.m. — 11:45 a.m.
- And Awaay We Go To Wonderland
Santa Monica Playhouse, 12:30 p.m. — 1:45 p.m.
- Red Chief! — Children's theater in Santa Monica
Third Street Promenade, 3 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Performances for school groups are available Tuesday through Friday at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- Cinderella
Santa Monica Playhouse, 6 p.m. — 7:20 p.m.
- Audition! The Musical
Santa Monica Playhouse, 7 p.m. — 9:15 p.m.
- Salsa Dance at Casa Escobar
Isabelle's Salsa/Tango/Pole Dance Academy, 9 p.m. — midnight.
- Debbie Merrill's Learn To Inline Skate Group Class
Perry's Cafe, 1 p.m. — 2 p.m. every Saturday
- SM YMCA Canned Fitness Food Drive
Santa Monica YMCA, all day
- For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.



POSTURE CLINIC: DRAGONFLY
with NYKKI POOLE
Saturday, November 18, 2006
12:30-2:00pm Cost \$15

SPECIAL 2 HOUR THANKSGIVING DAY CLASS
with CHANEL LUCK
Thursday, November 23, 2006
9:00-11:00am Cost \$15

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Rubin still gives peace a chance

BY JOHN ROGERS

Associated Press Writer

SANTA MONICA — Jerry Rubin has heard all the excuses, even some from his friends.

They come up to his table — the one covered in bumper stickers, buttons and posters on tourist-crammed Third Street Promenade — and ask the gray-bearded old guy, “What’s the point? There’s always gonna be war.”

“The most frustrating is when I try to stamp their hand with my peace symbol, and they say, ‘Ah, no, been there, done that,’” Rubin says, effecting an air of world-weary cynicism.

“They need to know that, hey, you’ve had a long enough sabbatical,” the veteran peace activist shouts in frustration, uncharacteristically loud and animated. “Please. Come back. And, by the way, peace is not a fad!”

Indeed, peace has been a lifelong pursuit for Rubin.

The wiry, tanned activist may be the last peace protester standing from the heady anti-Vietnam War, no-nukes days of the 1970s. He’s outlived heroes and friends such as Grey Panthers co-founder Maggie Kuhn and the Chicago 7’s “other Jerry Rubin,” with whom he’s still confused sometimes.

Years after former state Sen. Tom Hayden became a career California politician, Rubin is still at the peace barricades.

Earlier this month, he completed his 30th

See PEACE PURSUIT, page 17



File photo

Rubin shows his signature sign to promote peace.



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

READY FOR THE WORST: Santa Monica Police Officer Michael Chun (center) is escorted to the decontamination area by members of the S.W.A.T. team on Friday as part of a disaster response exercise held for local police and fire agencies at the city yards.

City officials prepare for terror

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY — Weapons of mass destruction were discovered here on Friday.

That was the fictitious scenario around which local police and fire agencies from the Los Angeles area conducted their disaster response drill Friday morning, showcasing a new state-of-the-art hazardous material truck the Santa Monica Fire Department received about two weeks ago.

The emergency preparedness drill was meant to bring together and coordinate the efforts of the local agencies — Santa Monica Police and Fire departments; Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department; Culver City Police and Fire departments; Beverly Hills Police and Fire departments; and the Federal Bureau of Investigation — that would have to respond to such a terrorist attack in Santa Monica.

The Santa Monica Red Cross donated canteen services, providing drinks and food

to the drill participants. The Red Cross also conducted its own exercise, gauging how it might react in an emergency situation of such magnitude.

In the federally funded drill scenario, Santa Monica emergency officials received a call of a victim suffering from a seizure at an office building — in this case, the vacant former Paper Mate facility on 26th Street and Olympic Boulevard. En route to the site of the emergency, officials received multiple calls of victims suffering from seizures at the same building, prompting suspicions of a hazardous situation.

Wearing gas masks, the firefighters pulled out all the victims, evacuating the building. The hazmat team, fully protected with oxygen masks, investigated the scene and discovered the presence of sarin gas — a deadly toxin that was used in the Tokyo subway attacks in 1995. It turned out a group of individuals, conducting business under a Middle Eastern-sounding name, were secretly creating a substance that could be con-

sidered a weapon of mass destruction.

The hazmat team then located a suspicious individual — played by SMPD Officer Michael Chun — roaming the building and immediately alerted the police department. The Santa Monica Police S.W.A.T. Team, in protective gear with air purifying respirators, arrived on scene. After being briefed on the situation, the description of the suspect, and his whereabouts, the S.W.A.T. team entered the building armed with weapons, which were not loaded in the simulation.

The suspect was arrested on the second floor about a half hour later.

In the scenario, two people died and 10 to 12 victims were transported to the hospital for treatment.

The entire drill took about three hours from start to finish.

“Being a controlled environment, it was quicker than it would’ve been in a (real situation),” said Capt. Scott Ziegert of SMFD.

See PREPAREDNESS DRILL, page 17

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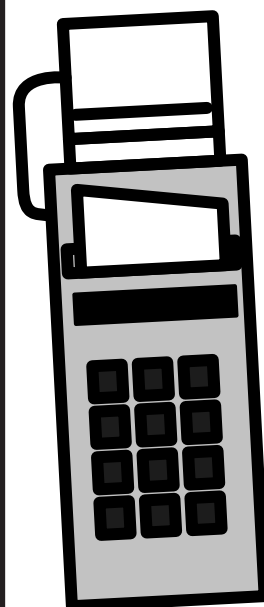
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EDITORIAL

Needles and the damage done

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, and, of course, the Palaeozoic Era.

The lack of anticipation is palpable on the Third Street Promenade this week as the Bayside District assembles its 5-year-old installation of 22-foot tall plastic Christmas trees, candy canes and iceberg chips (global warming be damned) in the center courtyard. Coupled with the Winterlit gingerbread house, the dated "Dinosaurs of Santa Monica" sculptures and the dated Santa Monica Place mall, the whole holiday scene looks like architect Frank Gehry got nauseous from too much egg nog.

The dichotomous decor must leave visitors scratching their heads, wondering how far of a drive it is to The Grove in Los Angeles.

While the installations are eclectic, even whimsical for the kids, they are more than likely too dizzying and out of touch for those shoppers the district covets — those looking to lay down some serious Christmas gift cash along the three-block stretch of designer chain stores. In recent years, whenever talk of redeveloping the adjacent mall site into an open-air shopping Mecca surfaced, it was The Grove held up as the example to emulate. With Third Street's dramatic shift to predominantly national chain outlets — rather than the comely homegrown merchants of yore — it resembles a Grove-like shopping experience a bit more each season.

That is, except the holiday season.

Here in Santa Monica, we wink at the whimsical dinosaurs and bloated plastic trees in that aren't-we-a-quirky-little-beach-town manner, except that the ever-changing face of the promenade no longer reflects that simpler times mindset. Meanwhile, over at The Grove at Farmers Market, during the holiday shopping push there is a town square with more than 200,000 lights adorning a 100-foot Christmas tree ... a real 100-foot Christmas tree! Holiday decorations are everywhere, from store windows to a trolley. Real snow falls twice a day through New Year's. It's a veritable winter wonderland in Southern California. Santa resides in a two-story cottage in the center of it all, with his elves fanning out to give candy to shoppers.

Back in Santa Monica, our tired production doesn't quite have that running-down-the-stairs-on-Christmas-morning-to-see-what-you-got-from-Santa excitement. Rather than serving as a communal draw, the hulking "trees" and spouting dinosaurs on the promenade only serve to divide the marketplace in two.

It's not for a lack of spirit, but maybe a little homegrown vision or inspiration is what's required here, in a city with no dearth of creative types.

According to Bayside District marketers, a real tree is cost prohibitive because of the added safety and security measures it would entail. Well, one thing seems certain, no one is going to steal our plastic fire-retardant Tannenbaums ... nor gather around them.

The Republicans really won



MODERN TIMES
BY LLOYD GARVER

Democrats, stop celebrating, and Republicans, don't despair. I know the Democrats won the recent election on paper, but in the long run, the Republicans just might be the big winners of Election 2006. In fact, I think the Republicans set the whole thing up so that the Democrats could fail over the next two years, which will bring about a big Republican Presidential win in 2008.

What other explanation is there? I mean, do you think that Karl Rove and the rest of the Republican brain-trust suddenly got stupid? I don't think so.

Iraq — Iraq looks like a no-win situation. And who knows this better than the current administration? So, they're turning over the mess to the Democrats, saying, "Here. If you think you're so smart, you fix it." And when the 2008 election comes around and we haven't gotten out of Iraq as easily as everyone hoped, who's going to be blamed? The Democratic majority.

Accountability and Revenge — Everyone is waiting to see how vigorously the Democrats will try to make the Republicans accountable for the mistakes that were made in dealing with Katrina and Iraq.

I guess the thinking goes like this, "If they could impeach President Clinton because he lied about his sexual exploits, shouldn't the Republicans be held accountable for lying (or at best, being mistaken or incompetent) about things that led to Americans losing their homes or their lives?"

I follow the logic, but this could be a trap set by the Republicans. If there are too many committees, too many accusations and too many subpoenas, there is bound to be a public backlash. If Republicans are blamed for everything from the war in Iraq to global warming to the popularity of "Dancing With The Stars," Democrats will look like sore winners.

If the Democrats investigate other things — corruption and general sleaziness — they risk turning up evidence about themselves as well. On the other hand, if they don't try to put a stop to all the greed and sleaze in Congress, those who voted for them will feel betrayed. Is this another no-win situation engineered by the Republicans?

The Rumsfeld Factor — When I first

heard that President Bush was firing — I mean, "accepting the resignation of" — Secretary Rumsfeld, I thought this meant that the President was resigning, too. After all, a week before the election, President Bush assured us that Secretary Rumsfeld would continue in his position for as long as Bush was president. But people were so happy to see Rumsfeld go that nobody made that big of a deal about the President's little fib.

Bush wanted to get rid of Rumsfeld for quite a while, but he couldn't just fire him after making so many statements supporting him. But after the election, the President could say that he was responding to the electorate since "the people have spoken." Score a big one for the Republicans.

Bringing in Daddy's Guys — And who did the President name as Rumsfeld's replacement? Robert Gates, the guy who was the head of the CIA during the first President Bush's administration. And who was brought in to help with Iraq policy? James Baker III, a good friend of President Bush I and his secretary of state.

Baker last surfaced during the Florida recount in 2000, representing the Republican interests. If he could help pull off that victory, maybe some of his mojo can help end the war in Iraq. This might even be easier than 2000 — he won't have to worry about annoying things like election laws and "obstructionist" Supreme Court justices.

Other friends and associates of the elder Bush will be helping out, too. But I don't think this is just a case of a father bailing out a son. I think this is all part of a calculated grand scheme by the Grand Old Party to do whatever's necessary to keep the White House in 2008.

So, who do they plan on running for president in 2008? Let's see. Who's comfortable with all these friends and advisors of the first George Bush? Who has experience in waging war against Iraq? And who could become president without saying one negative word about the current president? There's only one man who fits this bill. That's right — George Herbert Walker Bush.

Why not? The President's dad served only one term, so Constitutionally, he's still eligible. And do you honestly think this scenario is any more far-fetched than some of the things we're going to see in politics over the next two years?

Lloyd Garver writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and a weekly column for SportsLine.com. He can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.

The QLine

SOME STICKY SM SLOGANS

This past week, Q-line asked:

Given the state and direction of Santa Monica today, what would be a fitting nickname for the city, worthy of a bumper sticker? Explain.
Here are your responses:

☎ "Given what has happened to Santa Monica over the years, it can now be designated 'Miami Beach West' due to the horrendous overgrowth. A close second would be 'Skid Row West,' due to all the bums and freeloaders."

☎ "The appropriate name at the present time would be 'Pigsty.' Basically it is the responsibility of the city manager's office to oversee the workings of all departments

of city management and government. These concrete sideways are covered with wads of chewing gum and need to be scraped and steam-cleaned and are now being repaired with eye-sore black asphalt that will erode with the winter's rain. Bus riders are being put next to alcoholic squatters, whose life's ambition is to sit, sleep and regurgitate on our bus stops. Every alleyway between Montana Avenue and Pico Boulevard is awash will urine stains and human feces. I could go and go, but I do not wish to wax negative.

☎ "It is time for the city manager to stop shaking hands and take a bike ride through the city's apartment and house neighborhoods. The ride will be very revealing."

See Q-LINE RESPONSE, page 5

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Santa Monica Daily Press
A newspaper with issues

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Visit us online at smdp.com



The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2006. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA.

Members of CNPA, AFPP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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The Q-Line

Q-LINE RESPOSE, from page 4

Q “The city nickname should be ‘Santa Monica: Home of the homeless.’ No explanation. Most already know we are the home of the homeless, whether we like it or not.”

Q “For a slogan or a bumper sticker, they could do one of two choices: ‘Welcome to Santa Monica: Where the sun meets the surf’ or ‘Welcome to Santa Monica, Bumtown USA: Where the bums meet everything else.’”

Q “As one of the youngest landlords in Santa Monica, and having grown up with rent control, and the things with it I’d like to call the city ‘Samolicious.’ It’s a wonderful city, but there are little quirks like the City Council and politics. So ‘Samolicious’ is my choice.”

Q “I think that the ‘Peoples Republic of Santa Monica’ is an old, tired-out slogan. I think it should be called ‘Odessa by the Sea’ because we have so many Russians living in Santa Monica now. Regular seniors can’t get an apartment in a building. Most of the buildings are 85 percent Russians and we still have the members of the old communist party sitting in the City Council. So a change is as good as the rest. It would be better just to name it ‘Odessa by the Sea’ or you could call a branch of the Kremlin.”

Q “How about ‘Santa Monica: The land of no compassion?’”

Q “Any nickname worthy of a bumper sticker would be the ‘Santa Monica Softies.’ Why? Because they don’t address the immediate concerns of the people who live in Santa Monica, such as the homeless, not necessarily those in need, but the people who are undeserving of consideration who are just bums and criminals. Gangs who put graffiti all over the place. There are issues with just governing the regular maintenance of the city, like the lights on Main Street. But they are not about the immediate issues of the

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people of the city. It's not about being progressive, it's about caring about the city, then being progressive.”

Q “Bumper sticker: ‘If you don’t live here, go home.’ The reason? Too many tourists, too many regional shoppers.”

Q “‘Santa Monica: Where the debris meets the sea.’”

Q “‘People’s Republic is Santa Monica’ is fine with me. I’ve lived here 50 years and it’s catchy, it’s cute. So what? It’s great.”

Q “How about ‘Welcome to Santa Monica City: Scum by the sea?’ After years of swimming in Santa Monica Bay, I find more crud in the city than in the ocean. Let’s see, first it was the City Council, then the school district, followed by SMC. Not one had a candidate worth voting for. Next comes the 70 parasitic non-profits. Plus bums, no parking, no driving, overbuilding, low-income housing for the lazy, just there is more socialist deer manure that’s now fertilizing Santa Monica.”

Q “‘SMRR Monica’ would refer to some of the morons who rule the roost.”



John McGrail, C.Ht.

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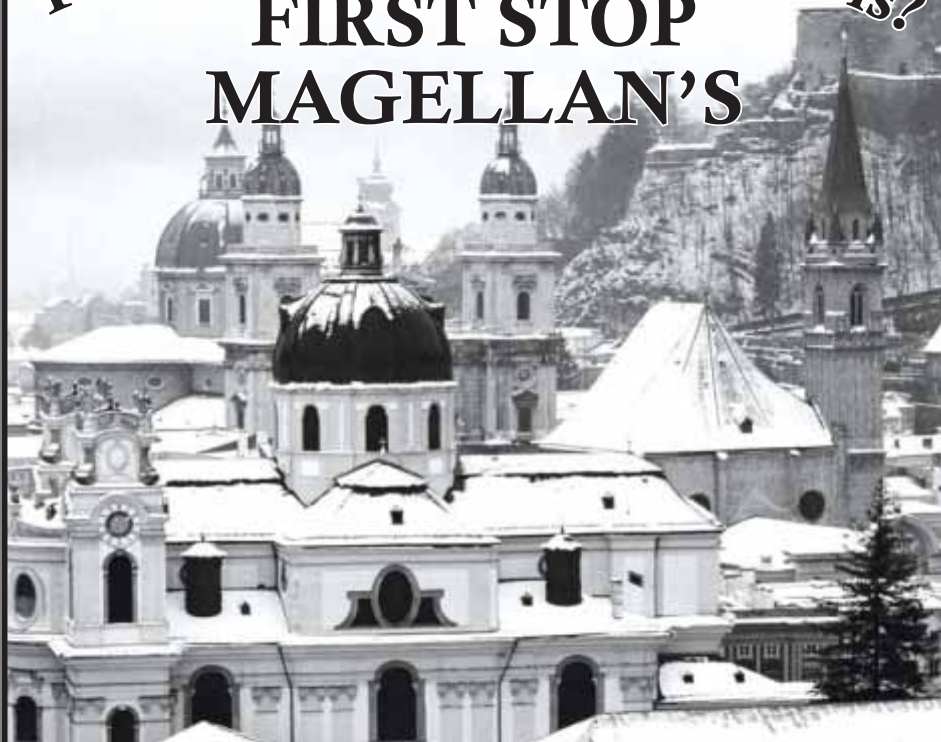
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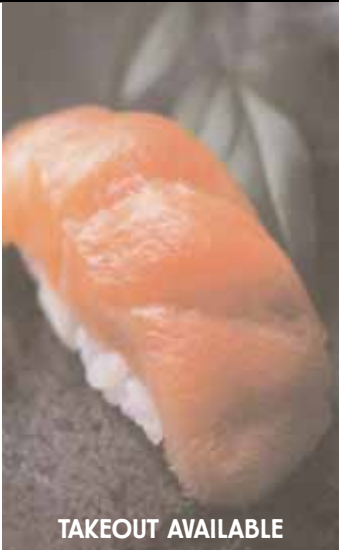
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Red Cross adopts soldiers for Christmas

By Daily Press staff

The American Red Cross of Santa Monica and the Rotary Club of Santa Monica are adopting a platoon currently on deployment in Iraq who are from or have family in the Santa Monica area.

Residents and friends may donate the following items to the Red Cross chapter for packaging and shipping to Iraq: New CDs and DVDs, AA batteries, lip balm, beef jerky, writing pens and stationary, fruit roll snacks, small flashlights, vacuum packed snacks and camping food, dental floss, disposable cameras, facial tissues, hand sanitizers (travel size), moist wipes, phone cards, playing cards and foot powder (travel size).

An "Adopt a Platoon Drive-Thru" will be open this Saturday, Nov. 18, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Santa Monica Red Cross, 1450 11th St. Both Red Cross and Rotarian youth volunteers will be on hand to personally accept your contribution. Contributions may also be delivered to the Santa Monica Red Cross chapter anytime through Saturday afternoon, Nov. 18.

Personal messages and holiday greetings are also appreciated. If you can't bring one of the designated items, monetary donations are also being accepted.

The effort is being made to help brighten up the holiday season for those serving our country by sending them items that service men and women can use while on assignment.

For information about the "Adopt a Platoon" Fund, call the Santa Monica Red Cross at (310) 394-3773 or on the Web at www.redcrossofsantamonica.com.

Luncheon with Fogarty for planning

By Daily Press staff

The League of Women Voters of Santa Monica invites the public to lunch with Eileen Fogarty, the new head of Santa Monica's Planning and Community Development Department. The luncheon is at noon on Saturday, Nov. 18 at the Back on Broadway Restaurant, 2024 Broadway.

Since 2000, Fogarty was the planning and zoning director in Alexandria, Virginia, and before that, she worked for 23 years in the planning departments of Santa Cruz and Annapolis, Maryland.

Fogarty come to Santa Monica with a reputation as a "turn-around specialist," known for building consensus, resolving disputes, and championing green technology and smart growth, according to press reports.

"I look forward to the opportunity to come to a city like Santa Monica where inclusiveness is valued and there is an established tradition of community involvement and commitment to livability and quality of life," Fogarty told the City of Santa Monica Seascape last fall.

Guests are encouraged to bring their questions about plans for the Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica Place, the City Master Plan and other planning issues.

Reservations are required, and the luncheon costs \$27 per person. Call League Boardmember Peggy Fonkalsrud at (310) 394-3079 for more information and to make reservations.

Santa Monica CoHousing Group schedules public meeting

By Daily Press staff

The steadily growing Santa Monica CoHousing Group announces that its next informational and organizational meeting. The meeting will be held on Sunday, Nov. 19 between noon and 2 p.m. in Palisades Park, on the lawn just north of Idaho Avenue, just west of Ocean Avenue. The meeting spot will be marked by a green flag and a green blanket.

Anyone interested in learning more about cohousing is encouraged to attend and participate. (For your own comfort, please bring a chair and some refreshment, up to and including a picnic lunch.)

The Santa Monica CoHousing Group is an umbrella organization intent on finding suitable property and supporting the formation of one or more cohousing projects in the Greater Santa Monica area within two years.

For information, go to the Web site at www.cohousing.org.

'A Clockwork Orange' producer speaks

By Daily Press staff

Bernie Williams, associate producer of "A Clockwork Orange," will discuss the groundbreaking film. Williams will speak on Nov. 20 after the movie is screened as part of a popular and free political film series launched at Santa Monica College this semester.

"A Clockwork Orange," the last in the film series, will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 20 in Science Lecture Hall 145, 1900 Pico Blvd.

The films in the series focus on contemporary political issues, including race, war, corporate power, crime, religion and the media. Political Science Professor Alan Buckley and Film Studies Professor Josh Kanin host and moderate the after-screening discussions.

"A Clockwork Orange," Stanley Kubrick's 1971 masterpiece starring Malcolm McDowell, takes a dark and satirical look at a government experiment that attempts to reform criminals through an unorthodox new medical treatment.

For information, call (310) 434-4588 or (310) 434-4510.

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Evidence is unclear in deadly arson wildfire

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press Writer

RIVERSIDE — Prosecutors who charged an auto mechanic with setting a blaze that killed five wildland firefighters say they have “overwhelming” evidence against him despite the notorious difficulty of proving arson cases.

The attorney for Raymond Lee Oyler, however, insists his client has an “airtight alibi” for the night when the deadly blaze was set and points out that prosecutors haven’t made public any evidence directly linking his client to the October fire.

Attorneys watching the case said it’s unusual for the district attorney’s office to be so adamant about its case so early in the prosecution, particularly in an arson investigation. Arsons are particularly challenging to prove because evidence often burns up in the fire and suspects can be miles away creating an alibi by the time anyone notices flames.

“It’s unusual for a DA to speak in such absolute terms,” said Steve Harmon, a Riverside defense attorney who’s handled arson cases. “I’ve heard, ‘We have a strong case’ or ‘We are building a strong case,’ but never ‘overwhelming.’”

Within hours of its start on Oct. 26, the Esperanza Fire killed five members of San Bernardino National Forest’s Engine 57, the greatest loss of firefighters in a single wildfire in since 1994. The blaze also destroyed dozens of homes and charred more than 60 square miles in a tinder-dry area about 90 miles east of Los Angeles.

Oyler, 36, is charged with multiple counts of murder and arson and could receive the death penalty if convicted. He has also been charged

with setting 10 other fires since June in the Banning Pass area, a windy Interstate 10 corridor. He has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Mark McDonald, Oyler’s attorney, said media attention and anger generated by the fire prompted prosecutors to rush their arrest. They ended up with the wrong man, he said.

The night the fire was set, Oyler was home caring for his 7-month-old baby and didn’t have access to a car, McDonald said. Oyler’s girlfriend and sister and a log of phone calls made on a landline from Oyler’s apartment around the time the fire began support that alibi, he said.

“I am here to tell you that he did not have a damned thing to do with the fires he is charged with starting, and he will be vindicated when this political circus act is over,” McDonald said.

Prosecutors declined to comment on the case, and have revealed little evidence — and none linking Oyler directly to the deadly October blaze.

But from what’s been disclosed so far, legal experts say prosecutors appear to be methodically building a case, using evidence from other fires for which Oyler is charged that share characteristics with the Esperanza blaze.

A police report obtained by The Associated Press and a bail affidavit reveal investigators recovered almost identical incendiary devices at the scene of 10 of the 11 fires, including the Esperanza Fire.

Secret cameras atop utility poles caught images of Oyler’s Ford Taurus leaving the scene of the 11th fire, which was set by a “hand-held open flame device,” the report says. The report also disclosed that Oyler told investigators he drove to a spot near where the fire started on the night it was set to watch the flames.

Fishermen race to harvest crabs in Dungeness season

BY TERENCE CHEA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Just a few miles off the California coast, Mike Thayer reached over the side of his boat and pulled up a round, steel-wire trap with more than a dozen Dungeness crabs squirming inside.

“Golden treasures! That’s what we came here for,” the 50-year-old fisherman from Bellingham, Wash., said as he grabbed two meaty crustaceans from the truck tire-sized cage. “They’re feisty this year.”

Hundreds of fishermen are swarming the waters west of the San Francisco Bay area in the frenzied opening days of the Dungeness crab season, which began Nov. 15. Sport fishermen were allowed to start pulling their traps four days earlier.

On opening day, the crabbers went to work with blue skies and gently rolling waters. The ocean was littered with bright-colored buoys marking where traps had been set below, and fishing boats could be seen in all directions.

The Central California fishery, which stretches from Monterey County to Mendocino County, is the first to open on the West Coast, and crabbers are racing to harvest the 10-legged delicacies many Northern Californians expect for Thanksgiving.

“It looks good so far,” said Mel Wickliffe, vice president of Alber Seafoods, as he helped unload giant crates of live crab at San Francisco’s Fisherman’s Wharf.

The fishermen are scrambling to sell their catch before larger fisheries up north open and prices begin to fall. On Tuesday, the day before the commercial season began, they reached a last-minute deal with seafood processors to sell their crabs for \$1.85 per pound. Last year, a bitter price dispute delayed the season’s start by two weeks.

Consumers can expect to pay about \$5 per pound until early December, when crab fisheries in far northern California, Oregon and Washington open and start flooding the market.

Dungeness crab is one of California’s healthiest and most profitable fisheries. In 2005-06, a near-record 23 million crabs worth \$38.5 million were landed, and state biologists expect another bountiful season.

But many local fishermen complain about the growing number of large, out-of-state boats, some carrying more than 1,200 traps, that have moved into the Central California fishery, which opens two weeks before the northern fisheries.

About 80 percent of the fishery’s landings are made in the first two weeks of the eight-month season, said Carrie Wilson, a biologist with the Department of Fish and Game.



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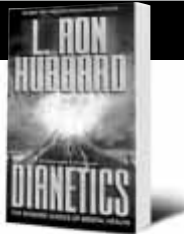
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Boehner elected to follow Hastert as House leader

BY ANDREW TAYLOR

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Republicans Friday chose Rep. John Boehner as minority leader, succeeding Speaker Dennis Hastert in the top GOP leadership post for the Democratic-controlled House that convenes in January.

Boehner defeated Indiana conservative Mike Pence. The vote tally was 168-27 with one vote for Texas Rep. Joe Barton. Boehner's election cements the Ohio conservative's resurrection within GOP leadership ranks. His elevation to succeed Hastert as the party's front line leader came despite unrest within the rank and file and a spirited campaign by Pence.

Shortly afterward, Rep. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., won a 137-57 vote to keep his post as whip, which will be the No. 2 GOP job when Republicans become the minority party in January. Blunt is currently the No. 3 House Republican; he defeated Arizona conservative Rep. John Shadegg despite sentiment for fresh leadership faces.

Boehner succeeded Tom DeLay, R-Texas, as majority leader in February and was easily elevated to replace Hastert, who is leaving the leadership ranks in the wake the Democrats' victory.

Boehner initially rode Rep. Newt Gingrich's "Contract With America" campaign to power when the Republicans won control of the House in the 1994 midterm elections. But he was purged along with Gingrich, R-Ga., in the wake of the party's disappointing performance in the 1998 elections.

"We need to start by rebuilding the Republican brand," Boehner said. "Republicans need to get back to our core principles and rededicate ourselves to the reform mind-set that put us in the majority 12 years ago."

Boehner was elevated despite the GOP's Election Day drubbing in the wake of the Mark Foley congressional page scandal. Boehner was among the few lawmakers to learn of inappropriate e-mails sent by Foley, R-Fla., to a former page from Louisiana.

Boehner testified last month before an ethics panel, telling investigators that he had apprised Hastert last spring of the Foley situation.

Boehner told his colleagues that he would work to tighten ethical standards in the wake of a series of recent scandals that tarred the GOP: DeLay's indictment in Texas; a guilty plea on corruption charges by Randy "Duke" Cunningham, R-Calif.; and another guilty plea by Bob Ney, R-Ohio, on corruption charges in the Jack Abramoff lobbying scandal.

House Republicans are still recovering from the shock of an election in which they lost control of the chamber for the first time in 12 years. Many GOP lawmakers feel the party strayed from its conservative roots and that their leaders fostered a culture in which retaining power seemed more important than sticking with principles.

That was the message carried by Pence, an ambitious religious conservative.

Pence argued that Republicans needed to adopt a new, more aggressive attitude now that the party is entering the minority. He said the lure of power caused them to drift away from principles such as curbing federal spending.

"We did not just lose our majority ... we lost our way," Pence said in a Thursday speech to his colleagues. "We are in the wilderness because we walked away from the limited-government principles that minted the Republican Congress."

Boehner's allies noted that he came to Congress in 1991 and worked with Gingrich to help rid the party of a mind-set that Republicans were a permanent minority.

"John Boehner has the courage, vision, patience, and experience to lead us back to the majority," said Rep. Jim McCrery, R-La., as he nominated Boehner for leader. "How do I know this? Because he's done it before."

As top vote counter, Blunt promised Republicans will be united in opposition to a Democratic agenda set forth by San Francisco liberal and speaker-to-be Nancy Pelosi.

"Today begins the rebirth of House Republicans' common sense agenda with a leadership team that is more unified than ever, ready to regain the trust of the American people," Blunt said.

Rep. Zach Wamp, R-Tenn., who backed Boehner but not Blunt said that "everybody on this leadership team understands we've got to go back to our roots."

Democrats, for their part, are focusing on healing the wounds from a rancorous battle for their No. 2 leadership post, a struggle in which Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md., defeated a rival backed by Pelosi.

The battle between Hoyer and John Murtha, D-Pa., appeared to overshadow Pelosi's unanimous selection by Democrats to become the first female speaker when Democrats take control of the House in January. Pelosi had aggressively backed top ally Murtha over Hoyer, with whom she has long had a testy relationship.

Each of the combatants said they would bury the hatchet and promised a unified Democratic leadership once the party assumes the majority for the first time in a dozen years.

Big VIP jets at a glance

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BIG VIP JETS — Boeing Co. and Airbus SAS sell the largest private planes on the market today. They're based on the companies' single-aisle, narrow-body planes: for Boeing, the 737-700, 737-800 and the 737-900ER; for Airbus, the A318, A319 and A320.

BOEING — Boeing Business Jets come in three models. The smallest, the BBJ, typically seats up to 19 people and goes for about \$48 million in "green condition" without finished interiors. Customers generally spend about \$15 million to have the planes completed.

The BBJ2 costs \$58 million, and the

largest, the BBJ3, which launched earlier this year, costs about \$68 million. Those two models seat anywhere from 20 to 60 people.

AIRBUS — Airbus' most popular model, the Airbus Corporate Jet, is based on the A319, seats about 20-50 people and costs about \$55 million finished. The A320 Prestige, the largest model available, seats about 20-60 passengers and costs roughly \$65 million. The company's newest offering, the A318 Elite, comes with a standardized cabin that seats 14 or 18 passengers and starts out around \$45 million finished.

Sources: Boeing, Airbus, Associated Air Center.

Housing construction plunges in October

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Housing construction plunged in October as builders slashed activity to the lowest level in more than six years. Further declines were expected as the five-year housing boom turns into what is being described as a “housing recession.” Construction of new single-family homes and apartments dropped 14.6 percent to an annual rate of 1.486 million units, the slowest pace since July 2000.

The news was even more stark for building permits, which fell for a record ninth consecutive month, dropping 6.3 percent to an annual rate of 1.535 million units, the slowest pace in nine years.

“A tornado hit the housing sector in October,” said Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors, a private forecasting firm. “Builders have seen the light from the housing market meltdown and are now moving as rapidly as possible to reduce supply.”

Housing, which had been one of the economy's standout performers during a five-year boom, shaved about a percentage point off growth in the July-September quarter. That pushed overall economic activity as measured by the gross domestic product down to an anemic rate of just 1.6 percent, the slowest growth in more than three years.

Many economists predicted that GDP growth would be trimmed by a similar amount in the current quarter as housing continues to act as a drag, through lower sales and reduced building activity. Construction in October stood 27.4 percent below the level of activity a year ago, the biggest year-over-year decline in more than 15 years.

“The scale of the yearly decline is now in housing recession territory,” said Brian Bethune, chief economist at Global Insight, a Lexington, Mass., forecasting firm.

With inventories of unsold new and existing homes near record levels, many analysts said the slump in housing was likely to last for a number of more months, possibly until the middle of next year.

But some economists noted some faint hints of a turnaround. A monthly survey of builder sentiment conducted by the National Association of Home Builders was up in November for the second straight month, the first back-to-back gains since mid-2005.

The hope is that recent declines in mortgage rates, which have been spurred by the decision by the Federal Reserve to put its rate hikes on hold, should entice buyers back into the market.

David Seiders, chief economist for the builders' group, said he still believed what was occurring was a correction in the housing market with builders moving aggressively to cut back on production and move finished homes by offering a raft of incentives.

Analysts said the fallout from the housing weakness should not be enough to push the country into an outright recession unless home prices drop sharply on a nationwide basis, triggering a cutback on consumer spending because homeowners suddenly feel less wealthy.

Concerns on that score were raised when it was reported last month that the median price of a new home dropped in September by the largest amount in 35 years, when compared to prices a year ago, and prices of existing homes were down by an all-time record.

Analysts believe that home prices will continue to weaken in coming months until the backlog of unsold homes is reduced further. But they said the declines should not cause a significant cutback in consumer spending, given that other factors currently are supporting spending including low unemployment and falling gasoline prices.

Lawmaker wants English as the offical language

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS — A lame-duck lawmaker who lost a bid for Congress said the state Legislature should adopt a measure making English the official language of Nevada.

Assemblywoman Sharron Angle, R-Reno, said another legislator was willing to introduce a measure similar to an ordinance adopted this week by the Town Council in Pahrump. She declined to identify the lawmaker who would carry the bill when the Legislature convenes in February.

The Pahrump measure made English the official language in the community 60 miles west of Las Vegas. It also restricted the display of foreign flags and denied town benefits to illegal immigrants. “Obviously, we agree on some things,” Angle told the Las Vegas Review-Journal for a Friday report. She said she had been traveling out-of-state and was not familiar with the Pahrump ordinance.

Angle gave up her Assembly seat to run for Nevada's 2nd Congressional District seat. She lost in the Republican primary to Nevada Secretary of State Heller, who won the seat this month over Democrat Jill Derby. Angle's primary campaign was

largely financed by the Washington, D.C.-based Club for Growth, a national conservative group.

State Senate Minority Leader Dina Titus, D-Las Vegas, said an English-only measure would go nowhere in the 2007 Legislature.

“I would be surprised if anyone would even introduce it,” said Titus, who lost a close race for governor to Republican Rep. Jim Gibbons.

Outgoing state Sen. Sandra Tiffany, R-Henderson, who lost her seat in the Nov. 7 election to Democrat Joyce Woodhouse, has filed a bill draft request with provisions to prevent “unauthorized aliens from receiving certain benefits.” The benefits are not specified.

Benjamin Johnson, director of the American Immigration Law Foundation's Immigration Policy Center, said laws like the one in Pahrump grow out of frustration with federal immigration policies.

“The fact that folks in Washington aren't doing something to solve the problem is an encouragement for local officials to step in and try to do something,” he told the Review-Journal.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Nevada has threatened to sue Pahrump over the town ordinance.

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Warming with widespread melting occurring in Arctic

BY RANDOLPH E. SCHMID

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — Signs of warming continue in the Arctic with a decline in sea ice, an increase in shrubs growing on the tundra and rising concerns about the Greenland ice sheet.

"There have been regional warming periods before. Now we're seeing Arctic-wide changes," James Overland, an oceanographer at the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle, said Thursday.

For the past five years, it was at least 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit above average over the Arctic over the entire year, he said.

The new "State of the Arctic" analysis, released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, also reports an increase in northward movement of warmer water through the Bering Strait in 2001-2004. This may have contributed to a continuing reduction of sea ice.

During that time, there were record lows in sea ice coverage in the region, Overland said. This year there was more normal coverage in the Bering area but a record low on the Atlantic side of the Arctic.

In the past when such a shift occurred, there would have been no net loss of ice overall, just a change in where there was a smaller amount. Now, however, there is both the shift and an overall net loss of ice, he said.

Indeed, the report said Arctic sea ice coverage this past March was the lowest in winter since measurements by satellite began in the early 1970s.

Jacqueline A. Richter-Menge of the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, N.H., said the sea ice decline is now being observed in both winter and summer.

The study was designed to assess the overall impact of climate change in the Arctic and will be updated annually. It was compiled by researchers from the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Poland, Norway, Sweden and Russia, she said.

In addition, 2007 has been designated the International Year of the Arctic, with intense scientific study of the region planned.

There have been many changes over the Arctic land areas, too, said Vladimir E. Romanovsky, a professor at the geophysical institute of the University of Alaska. These include changes in vegetation, river discharge into the Arctic Ocean, glaciers and permafrost.

The tundra is becoming greener with the growth of more shrubs, he said. This development is causing problems in some areas as herds of reindeer migrate.

At the same time, there is some decrease in the greening of the northern forest areas, probably due to drought. The glaciers are continuing to shrink and river discharge into the Arctic Ocean is rising, Romanovsky said.

There has been a significant warming of the permafrost over the past 30 years, he added.

Much of the damage to the permafrost soil can be blamed on human construction activities and fires, he said. In many areas, this frozen ground is close to the melting point and soon could begin to thaw.

Environmentalists fear politics trumping science for big cats

BY JUDITH KOHLER

Associated Press Writer

DENVER — A revised plan for managing the elusive and threatened lynx in the southern Rockies still includes provisions that environmentalists fear would jeopardize the cat's habitat and has revived claims that politics are trumping science.

The draft environmental impact statement released this week updates one from 2004 to include the White River National Forest along with other national forests in Colorado and the Medicine Bow National Forest in southern Wyoming.

U.S. Forest Service officials said the goal is to make lynx management consistent across the region, where wildlife officials and advocates hope the long-haired, big-pawed mountain cat makes a comeback. Trapping, poisoning and development wiped the lynx out in Colorado by the early 1970s.

Critics said the revised plan allows too

many intrusions into lynx habitat for logging and other activities, and they blamed political pressure.

"All they did was take a really bad plan and add the White River National Forest to it," said Jacob Smith, executive director of the Denver-based Center for Native Ecosystems.

Smith said the 2004 plan drew from sound science but threw in "sweeping exemptions."

Last year, a top official with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees the Forest Service, overturned the White River forest's own rules for managing the federally protected lynx in the 2.3 million-acre forest, Colorado's largest.

Deputy Agriculture Undersecretary David Tenny said he rejected the White River plan in part to keep it consistent with the overall management strategy that was in the works for other national forests in the region.

Environmentalists and some state and county elected officials objected, saying Tenny's action undermined efforts to help the lynx population recover.



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Scientists urge for ethanol research to balance needs

BY AMY LORENTZEN

Associated Press Writer

DES MOINES, Iowa — To ensure there's enough corn to fuel humans as well as vehicles, scientists are urging more research into boosting corn yields and improving ethanol production.

Many key issues related to expanding the nation's ethanol industry aren't being studied under current government programs, said Kenneth G. Cassman, director of the Nebraska Center for Energy Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"It's the core issue to ensuring that we don't come up short in food supply, and don't have high consumer prices, and can still maintain expansion of the ethanol industry," he said.

Cassman is co-author of "Convergence of Agriculture and Energy: Implications for Research and Policy," a study released Tuesday by the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, an international consortium of 38 scientific and professional societies.

"The main thing that we all have to be aware of is the complexity of the feed, food and fuel interaction, and how policy and research have to be conducted in a very conscientious fashion, or we are going to have ourselves out of balance," said John M. Bonner, director of the Iowa-based consortium.

Lester Brown, founder of the Earth Policy Institute, a Washington-based think tank, and a vocal opponent of ethanol, said many of the poorest countries around the world that use corn as a food staple will have to compete for supplies gobbled up by ethanol production. They'll also pay more because of increases in corn prices, which he said have climbed 40 percent this year.

For U.S. consumers, Brown said, the price of animal products — meat, eggs, cheese and dairy products — will increase if livestock operations have to pay more for feed.

"We used to have a food economy and an energy economy. Now you can't draw a line between them anymore," he said.

Since January 2001, U.S. ethanol production has grown

ON THE NET

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Earth Policy Institute:

<http://www.earth-policy.org>

Renewable Fuels Association:

<http://www.ethanolrfa.org/>

dramatically, climbing from 1.7 billion gallons to 4.8 billion gallons in June 2006, according to the report.

"Some in the corn industry believe it will be possible to produce 16 billion gallons of ethanol by 2015 while also meeting corn grain requirements for human food and livestock feed," the report said.

But in some areas, including northwestern Iowa, the ethanol industry is already using up much of the available corn, Bonner said. In turn, that can pressure the livestock industry.

"It puts quite a strain on the livestock industry ... because of the amounts they can use and the sensitivity to corn price," he said.

A byproduct of ethanol production called distiller's grains can be used as feed, but experts say it isn't the best source of food for some livestock, including poultry and swine.

Other considerations, the scientists say, are the effects of ethanol production on the economy and the environment.

"We have abruptly entered a new era for agriculture that no one predicted," Cassman said. "That is an era where the value of agriculture and its commodities are being determined more by the price of energy than by the value of commodities for food or feedstock."

Matt Hartwig, a spokesman for the Renewable Fuels Association, which represents ethanol producers, said the industry is very aware of the food versus fuel debate, "but believe it is a false choice."

"American farmers can and will do both," he said. "There is a lot of room for growth in the corn-to-ethanol industry, as the National Corn Growers have pointed out."

Body found in wreckage in Canyon

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK, Ariz. — One person was found dead after the wreckage of a vehicle that had plunged into the Grand Canyon was spotted by a helicopter crew late Thursday, the National Park Service reported.

A flight crew was responding to an unrelated medical call on Bright Angel Trail when it spotted the wreckage about

500 feet below the canyon's rim in an area known as the Abyss, said park service spokeswoman Maureen Oltrogge. The accident scene is about four miles west of Grand Canyon Village.

A recovery team planned to retrieve the body Friday and investigate the accident scene, Oltrogge said. The unidentified body was spotted about 150 feet from the wreckage.

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The stand is approximately 48 square feet, and has all equipment and furnishings attached. The stand is located at 1300 Third Street Promenade, at the intersection of Third Street and Santa Monica Boulevard. The license agreement will be issued in early 2007.

The RFP package contains the key questions and informational requirements for respondents to address. For more information or to request an RFP package, please call 310-458-8906 or send your request via e-mail to Gretchen.kuback@smgov.net.

Proposals are due no later than 2pm on Monday, December 18, 2006.

The City of Santa Monica reserves the right to reject any and all bids and waive all minor irregularities.



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Tribes are working to stop rise of meth use

BY CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE

Associated Press Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — In the rural areas of the Osage Nation reservation, tribal officials say a silent epidemic is spreading, causing domestic abuse, child abuse, child neglect and an overall decline in the quality of life for some Osages.

Methamphetamine use is on the rise, and tribal leaders passed an anti-meth bill this week that would set minimum penalties for the use, possession and distribution of meth.

The bill, which was passed Wednesday in the Osage Nation Congress, is a starting point in the Osage Nation's battle against the "methamphetamine epidemic," Osage Congresswoman Debbie Littleton said.

Littleton worked diligently to get the legislation passed because she said she had seen firsthand the effects of the drug on family members.

"It's something I've been concerned with a long time," Littleton said. "It didn't seem like there was anything being done about it."

About 69.2 percent of the open Indian child welfare cases in the tribe are related to methamphetamine, said Lee Collins, director of social services for Osage Nation.

The tribe, which occupies Osage County in northeastern Oklahoma, has about 3,200 members living on its reservation.

Collins said the 2004 Oklahoma law that restricted access to products containing pseudoephedrine, a key meth ingredient, helped to bring down usage numbers on the reservation, but the trend has reversed as meth trafficking in the area has increased.

"If we looked at the past three months we'd see that number go up significantly," Collins said. "I've worked with families (involved with

meth), and in the past 11 years I've seen one mother get off meth and stay off."

Even those who seek treatment for their addiction don't last and they wind up back in the system, she said.

Other problems that go hand-in-hand with methamphetamine use are child neglect and abuse.

"People who have used meth don't supervise their children. They party, sleep, and their children are subject to things such as sexual abuse by strangers the parents have let stay at their homes," Collins said.

If all of Oklahoma's tribes would work together in applying for grants, they might be more successful in getting the funds needed to create two-year treatment programs, Collins said.

Right now the Osage Nation only has a 28-day treatment program that Collins said is insufficient for any meth addict. She said a true addict would need at least a two-year program to stay clean.

"It's not just tribes — it's all of society," Collins said. "We've got to do a better job of protecting our children so the parents can get the treatment they need."

Other tribes like the Cherokee Nation and the Choctaw Nation are working to get meth prevention grants to aid in their fight to keep the drug out.

The Cherokee Nation has received a \$350,000 methamphetamine prevention grant that will be used to educate the community — particularly the 16 to 20-year-old population — and raise awareness about the drug.

B.J. Boyd, deputy director of Cherokee Nation Behavioral Health, said the tribe wants to help communities develop their own drug prevention plans and programs.

The EPA issues final rule on apple pesticide

BY SHANNON DININNY

Associated Press Writer

YAKIMA, Wash. — A pesticide that has been applied to apples, pears and other crops since the late 1950s will be phased out by 2012 — two years later than originally proposed, the Environmental Protection Agency announced Thursday.

Environmental groups have argued for years that the pesticide azinphos-methyl — AZM for short — poisons farmworkers. Growers contend it remains the easiest tool for ensuring their crops are free of codling moths and other pests that could impede trade.

Environmental and worker safety groups immediately expressed disappointment with the agency's decision to allow farmers to use the pesticide longer.

"In our view, it's outrageous that EPA is allowing the continued use of a pesticide that poisons workers and that it has determined on its own poses unreasonable risk to workers," said Patti Goldman of Earthjustice.

Farmworker and environmental groups sued the EPA in federal court in Seattle in 2004, arguing that the agency was wrong to continue allowing the use of a pesticide that could cause dizziness, vomiting, seizures, paralysis, loss of mental function and death. That lawsuit was settled when the EPA agreed to reconsider the use of AZM and

another pesticide, phosmet.

Under the new rule, use of AZM on nursery stocks and Brussels sprouts will end by Sept. 30, 2007. The phase-out for nuts was extended until Oct. 30, 2009, and for apples, blueberries, cherries, pears and parsley until Sept. 30, 2012.

In explaining the reason for the extension, the EPA said new alternatives to AZM that have been recently developed are more costly and generally require more precise application. Crop experts also say these new products should be adopted gradually, so that growers can learn appropriate application techniques and gain confidence in the products, the EPA said.

Heather Hansen, executive director of Washington Friends of Farms and Forests, said that while a delay in phasing out use of AZM was a positive step, ideally growers would like to have all the tools they need to combat pests.

"The vast majority of growers are using biological controls, but still, they need AZM as a backup. It's one of the very few chemicals that is extremely effective, and when you're dealing with international trade ... you can't afford to take chances."

Opponents of the ruling have until Jan. 8 to challenge it. The EPA expects to issue a ruling on use of phosmet by early December.

School educates kids with firearm safety

BY DAN JOLING

Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Tom Milliron figures Juneau school children are going to encounter guns one way or another, whether venturing armed into nearby wilderness or visiting the home of a friend.

Better they learn how to handle a firearm safely than to hurt themselves through ignorance, he says.

Milliron is principal of one of Juneau's two middle schools. Sixth-graders under his care last month completed an outdoor education course that included instruction in safe handling of guns and firing rounds from .22-caliber rifles. For some children, it was the first time they'd touched a gun.

In gun-happy Alaska, teaching children how to safely handle firearms is just common sense, Milliron said.

"Kids ought to be approached from a solid educational perspective and not discover guns on their own," Milliron said.

Juneau, population 31,193, can be reached only by water or air. It's in the heart of America's largest national forest, the Tongass.

Juneau's front yard is the Inside Passage, the protected Pacific waters off Alaska's Panhandle. Its backyard is the Juneau Icefield, a 1,500-square-mile blanket of ice that feeds 38 glaciers. Most residents hike, ski, fish, hunt or kayak.

"That's what makes it worth it," Milliron said of living in temperate rain forest. "We certainly don't live here for the weather."

Sitka blacktail deer abound in the forest. Black bears often wander into the city during seasonal migrations, stopping to dine on garbage or bird seed if residents leave them unprotected. Grizzly bears are kings of the forest, especially on nearby islands.

"A lot of people who aren't hunters carry firearms for that reason," Milliron said.

Milliron used to teach in Cube Cove, a logging camp on Admiralty Island. Outdoor education was crucial in such a wild setting, he said. He took the job at Juneau's Floyd Dryden Middle School eight years ago and found volunteers who wanted firearm education in public schools, including Tom Coate.

More than two decades ago, Coate had taught his 10-year-old son, Tobin, how to safely handle guns before they went waterfowl hunting. Then his son's friends wanted to go too. They were "dumber than a brick" about gun safety, Coate said.

He helped promote hunter safety programs in a 4-H club, then at rural village schools, and starting in 2000, at the Juneau middle school. About 1,200 students have taken the course.

The program has provided a counterbalance to the portrayal of guns on "the idiot tube," Coate said.

"What we're trying to do is mitigate the onslaught of very bad habits that cause needless deaths and needless accidents," Coate said.

Guns are simply a way of life in Southeast Alaska, Milliron and Coate said.

"For every home that doesn't have a

firearm it in, there are 25 that do," Coate said.

Sixth grade, when students are still in awe of teachers, is the perfect setting to teach gun safety, Milliron said.

"In sixth grade, we can get kids to internalize the need to practice safety around firearms," he said. "They're willing to listen to instructors and take to heart what instructors tell them."

As part of their outdoors education, students take the standard state of Alaska hunter safety education course. After safety lessons, they take a "shoot-don't shoot" field course, deciding whether it would have been safe to discharge a weapon at an animal simulated by a silhouette.

They also must demonstrate proficiency in firing a weapon, shooting 20 rounds from .22-caliber rifles at Juneau's indoor firing range.

Taylor Daniels, 11, learned she should never direct a muzzle at another person and never shoot across a highway. She learned that keeping a rifle's action open will render it inoperative, and that the barrel wiggles far less if she's kneeling instead of standing when she shoots.

Phillip Fenumiai, 12, said he felt confident he can handle a rifle.

"If someone asked me, I could do the proper things and learn how to keep myself safe and make sure I'm handling it safely," he said.

The program has not been adopted at the city's other middle school.

"I think the administrators feeling on it was that that was something we felt families would support rather than school," said Barb Mecum, principal of Dzantik'i Heeni Middle school.

But even gun control advocates don't have much reaction to programs that teach gun safety, such as the one in Juneau.

"We generally don't have much of a problem with them as long as the actual firing of weapons is off campus and there's the appropriate law enforcement, professional trainers, present," said Peter Hamm, communications director for the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

"We think it's far better that people know how to safely handle a firearm than not know," he said.

Sixth grade is an appropriate age for training, as long as parents approve, he said.

Besides gun safety, children took lessons on appropriate outdoor clothing, wildlife conservation, and reading a compass and a topographical map. They learned hunting ethics and meat care — turning Bullwinkle into an entree.

Milliron says the class does not try to turn the sixth graders into little hunters. If they do, it's a good, healthy activity that will last a lifetime, he said.

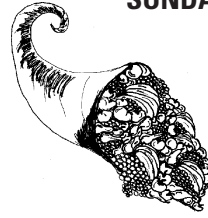
Milliron said students love the program. "It's education that's real life. It's not, 'Why am I learning this,'" he said.

"They won't remember the first time they learned to divide a polynomial, but they will remember the first time they fired a rifle and learned firearm safety," he said.

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SP2026**

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A mandatory pre bid meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 30, 2006 at 2:00 p.m., at Palisades Park Senior Center Restroom, 1450 Ocean Avenue.

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Contract Documents may be obtained at the Office of the City Engineer or by mail for an additional mailing charge (check or money order payable to the City of Santa Monica). Cost of the documents shall be **\$40.00**. Additional mailing charge shall be **\$10.00**. Contract Documents may also be examined in City Hall, at the Civil Engineering and Architecture counter, phone number (310) 458-8721. Additional information may be obtained on the City's website at www.santa-monica.org/engineering. The Contractor is required to have a **Class B** license at the time the Construction Contract is awarded.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

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Cause of the crash is under investigation

CASSEL CRASH, from page 1

SMPD Capt. Alex Padilla.

Firefighters had to use tools to cut the back end of the roof off the car and remove Cassel, who was in critical condition. Once stabilized, Cassel was transported to UCLA Medical Center in Westwood, where he later died as a result of his injuries. No one else was in the vehicle at the time of the crash, police said.

SMPD detectives are still investigating the cause of the crash.

The Los Angeles County Coroner's Office is expected to receive Cassel's body within the next 24 hours, at which time an autopsy will be performed to determine the exact cause of death, said Craig Harvey, a spokesperson for the coroner.

Cassel was recently released by the NFL's Carolina Panthers, who signed the defensive back in May as an undrafted free agent out of UCLA. Cassel, who received a \$1,000 signing bonus, was cut on Sept. 26, after being placed on injured reserve for an injury to his left hamstring, according to the team's Web site.

Cassel played cornerback for UCLA from 2002 to 2005, after having sat out in 2001. As a starter for the Bruins in 2005, Cassel made 59 tackles. He also tied for the team lead with 10 passes broken up, helping lead UCLA to a 10-2 record, according to officials with the university. Cassel earned his degree in March.

"This is a tragic loss for Marcus' family and our football program," said UCLA head football coach Karl Dorrell, who was with his team in Arizona in preparation for today's game against Arizona State. "No words can express the sorrow we feel at his passing. Marcus was a terrific young man who was one of the most well-liked players in our program. He had a great smile and a wonderful personality, and he combined them with a determination to be the best."

Dorrell said Cassel was instrumental in the team's success last season and was "still close" to many players on this year's team.

"This news has been tough on them," said Dorrell. "Our prayers are with Marcus and his family."

Cassel played football at St. John Bosco High School in Bellflower, where he was remembered more for his bright personality and attention to academics than his athletic prowess.

"Good athletes are a dime a dozen, but a guy with that smile, that kind of heart and great sense of humor and intelligence only comes around every so often, and Marcus was one of those guys," said Kiki Mendoza, coach at St. John's, who helped Cassel earn a scholarship to UCLA when he convinced the then-reluctant senior to try out for college scouts.



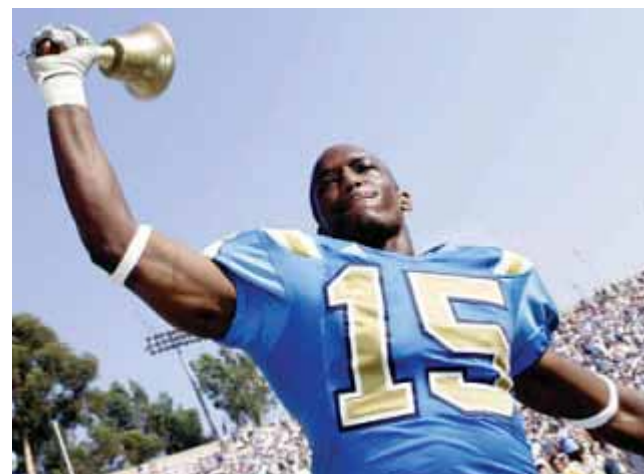
Photo courtesy

A FATAL CRASH: (Above) Cassel's SUV rolled over onto itself after the impact. (Right) Cassel after UCLA knocked off heavily-favored Oklahoma, 41-24, in Pasadena last September, was killed in an early morning accident at Palisades Park on Friday. The 23-year-old Carson native played cornerback for UCLA from 2002 to 2005, tying for the team lead with 10 passes broken up in helping lead the Bruins to a 10-2 mark in 2005.

"He was just such a wonderful person and you knew that you were lucky to have someone like him in your life," Mendoza said. "It's just sad. I feel for his family, his brother, his mother and father. No one should have to bury their child."

SMPD detectives have asked anyone who witnessed the accident to contact Det. Chris Dawson at (310) 458-8954.

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Photo courtesy of SMFD

FIRE DRILL: Members of the Santa Monica Fire Department respond to a fictitious disaster. The morning exercise also served as a showcase for the SMFD's new hazardous material truck.

Drills help coordinate local agency efforts

PREPAREDNESS DRILL, from page 3

In light of Hurricane Katrina and 9/11, where miscommunication among police and fire officials proved costly, drills are deemed necessary to ensure that local agencies can coordinate their efforts in the event of a terrorist attack, said SMFD firefighter Milo Garcia.

The idea for the drill came after the Santa Monica Fire Department purchased a \$500,000 hazmat truck through federal post-9/11 grant money.

The emergency preparedness drill utilized both the Santa Monica hazmat vehicle, which services the entire Westside, and one belonging to Los Angeles.

Santa Monica's hazardous materials response truck is fully equipped with its own chemical lab, satellite Internet, radio communication, liquid crystal display monitors

and surveillance cameras. It also provides storage for hazmat protective suits.

"This thing is phenomenal," said Paddy Cates, an SMFD engineer, of the hazmat truck.

The city went all out in conducting the drill, closing down a stretch of 26th Street; suiting all participants in the protective gear that would be used in an actual emergency; setting up a decontamination shower tent; and actually forcing all participants who entered the former Paper Mate facility to hose down, even though there were no actual toxins present.

To an unknown passerby, 26th Street almost looked like the scene of a real attack.

"We consider it a success," Ziegert said. "It allowed the agencies to interact and see the workings of the other agencies."

MELODYH@SMDP.COM

Pushing peace for elections

PEACE PURSUIT, from page 3

peace fast — a three-week, juice-only effort aimed at encouraging people to vote for peace candidates in the Nov. 7 election. (He used to do water-only fasts until a 26-day effort in 1997 nearly killed him.)

"I hesitate to say he's a saint. But he's as close as I've ever been to somebody who is," says PBS radio talk-show host Michael Benner, who has known Rubin for years. "He's not limited to opposing this war or that war, but all war."

Some of the most significant moments of Rubin's life have occurred around protests.

He met his wife of 23 years after returning from an anti-war protest in New York City. He married her the following year at an anti-war protest in Santa Monica, giving her a heart-shaped ring with a peace symbol in the middle.

Now he runs the Los Angeles chapter of the anti-war group Alliance for Survival. When he ran for Santa Monica City Council a few years ago, he tried to list his occupation as peace activist.

The law did not allow that, so he took the

city all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court — and lost. Now he's looking for a state legislator who will work to get the law changed.

On his 60th birthday nearly three years ago, Rubin officially changed his name to Jerry Peace Activist Rubin. The judge didn't take him seriously at first, something that still rankles Rubin, and put him off for a week before agreeing to the move.

"I guess that's like two middle names," he chuckles, regaining his usual good humor. President George Herbert Walker Bush, he notes with amusement, also has two middle names.

Bush's son, the current President Bush, was the target of Rubin's latest fast to persuade people to roust the Republican majorities in Congress and end the war in Iraq.

"I was very, very happy with the outcome," he says softly but passionately, quickly adding that much more work remains. He's ready to direct his efforts at Democrats if they aren't any more accommodating than the Republicans.

Rubin shares a small, tidy condo a half-mile from the Pacific Ocean with his wife, Marissa, and their cat, Muffin.

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More businesses means more traffic for SM

COMMERCIAL SPACE, from page 1

in the last year alone, with some property owners commanding an average of \$4.34 per square foot, said Neil Resnick, executive vice president and managing director of Grubb & Ellis Co., a commercial real estate advisory firm that produced the forecast.

"In all of my 20-plus years of experience, it is amazing to me how quick of a shift has happened," Resnick said. "We have seen huge increases in rents. Tenants are dropping their jaws."

The forecast by Grubb & Ellis was released during the fifth annual Westside

Economic Summit held Friday at the RAND Corp. headquarters in downtown Santa Monica. Commercial real estate experts, city officials and property owners gathered to answer the burning question on many people's minds: "If you build it, will they come?"

The short answer is yes, said Resnick.

Across the westside of Los Angeles, which includes the cities of West Hollywood, Culver City, Beverly Hills and Santa Monica, there is an increased demand for square footage, so much so that an 800,000 square-foot development in Century City, slated for completion in 2007, is already more than 60 percent pre-leased.

Much of the demand is coming from the entertainment and high-tech industries, including household names like Yahoo! Inc., America Online Inc., Fox Sports Interactive, Google, Creative Artists Agency and William Morris Agency, which recently signed a lease for 150,000 square feet in a yet-to-be-built complex in Beverly Hills, according to the forecast.

In the last few years, Santa Monica has seen an influx of entertainment, high-tech and software companies whose executives are attracted to the clean air; wide variety of retail and restaurants; entertainment venues; the seaside city's close proximity to Los Angeles International Airport; and high-end housing, where corporate chiefs prefer to reside, Resnick said.

That has made Santa Monica the most expensive and desirable office market in West Los Angeles County. Soon, the forecast predicts Santa Monica will see rents rise to more than \$4 per square foot. In some locations, including 100 Wilshire Boulevard, the rents are already well over \$6 per square foot.

"That's a fortune. I hope there's turn-down service," Resnick said jokingly, referring to amenities provided by luxury hotels that include fresh linens, clean towels and bedside chocolates.

Santa Monica currently has more than 7.6 million square feet of office space and is on track to add 2 million more in the next few years, said Resnick. That should help to keep prices relatively stable. However, demand will remain strong, therefore, those with low rents now should lock in long-term leases.

"It really is a great time to be a landlord," Resnick said.

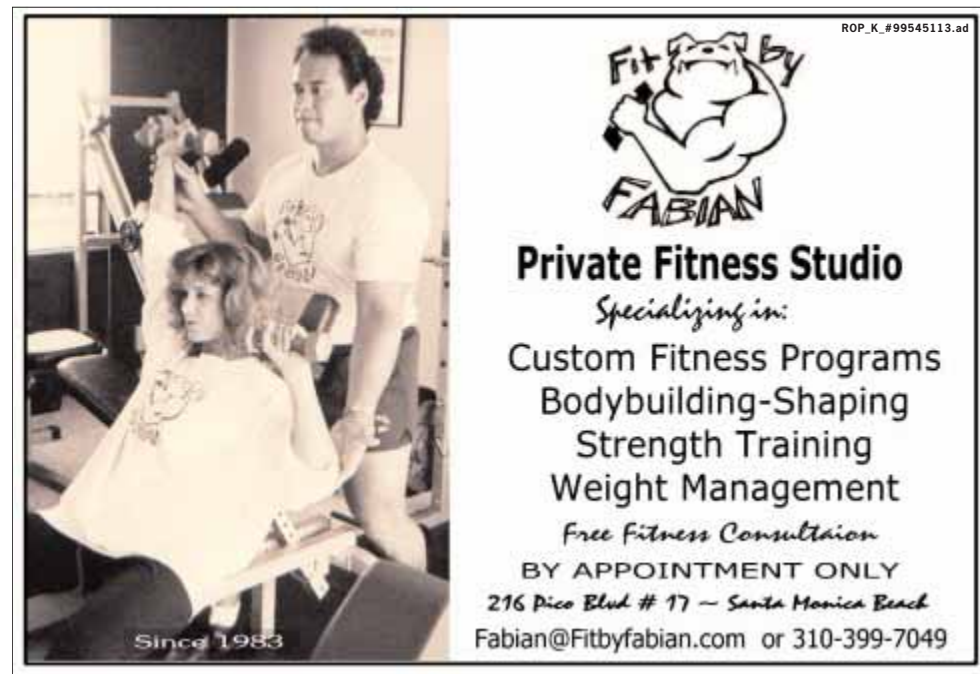
But is it a great time to be a resident of Santa Monica?

With increased demand comes an increase in traffic. Santa Monica and the rest of the Westside is suffering from gridlock, and there seems to be no relief in sight. That, coupled with the city's aging infrastructure, which city officials admit has been neglected in the last few years because of budget constraints, signals a rough road ahead, literally.

There are no indications that longer drive times are going to scare people away.

"The West Los Angeles market is a hot market," Resnick said. "And even with the addition of people coming into market that will create drive times in excess of what they are today, it's not going to have an adverse affect on people coming here."

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PLAYSTATION 3, from page 1

With shortages resulting from production problems, many had camped out for days without knowing if they'd be going home empty-handed. At some stores, the crowds got rowdy and stampeded for the shelves, injuring a man in Wisconsin and forcing authorities to shut down a Wal-Mart store in California.

In Connecticut, two armed thugs who got wise to the PS3's high price and tried to rob a line of people waiting outside a Putnam Wal-Mart store at 3 a.m. One person who refused to give up the money was shot, state police said. In Lexington, Ky., four people waiting outside a Best Buy were hit by BB pellets, though none was seriously injured, according to WKYT, whose own reporter was hit as she interviewed buyers.

Rodriguez had been waiting outside the New York Circuit City store since Sunday for the a midnight launch event, and he was the first to walk away with the PS3 as people still standing in line outside the store cheered.

"This is the best game ever. It's so worth the wait," the 25-year-old graphics designer said. "Some people may call me crazy, but I really love to play."

With Sony promising only 400,000 systems for the nationwide launch, the chance of disappointment was high. While retailers tried to keep expectations low, lines snaked around the block at many stores — even those that weren't going to begin sales until later Friday.

Saby Madrigal, an 18-year-old college student who worked for a month at a liquor store to save for a PS3, waited in line outside the Circuit City for 24 hours without success. Still, she vowed to keep looking.

"For the work we had to do to get all the money to get the stupid system, I'm going to search every single store in town," she said. "I don't care, I'm going to get it."

Some who saw long lines at the midnight

launches simply went to another location, with later openings and smaller crowds. Nonetheless, about 50 people were in front of Ahmad Mustafa, 24, outside a New York Best Buy with only 34 units available.

Ernie Ferreira, 22, of Allentown, Pa., who was visiting relatives in New York, was No. 4 in line and didn't mind waiting for the store's 8 a.m. opening.

"Only seven or eight hours, I can handle that," he said. "I did it three nights already."

Nathaniel Lord, who camped out for three nights at a Best Buy in West Hollywood, Calif., spent more than \$700 on a console and game.

"I thought about going home to shower first because I haven't showered in three days, but I think I'm just going to get another energy drink, log on and get started," said Lord, a recent graduate of California Institute of the Arts.

Sony, which has contended with laptop battery recalls and trails rivals in key products such as music players and liquid crystal displays, is counting on the PS3 to maintain and build its market lead in consoles.

Some customers were buying PS3 machines for themselves or as gifts, but many were hoping to resell them at a profit. Units were fetching several thousand dollars early Friday at the eBay Inc. auction site.

James Salterio, 27, explained the reason for his two-day camp-out outside a west Houston Target Corp. store: Greed.

"I'm gonna sell mine," Salterio said, figuring he could make anywhere between \$1,500 and \$4,000. His 21-year-old brother, a gamer, wanted company in line, so Salterio decided to make a profit in the process.

"It's capitalism at work," he said.

Edgar Alcalá, 18, who grabbed one of the first spots in line at San Francisco's Sony Metreon Mall on Wednesday morning, said he was looking forward to a warm, dry bed

See PLAYSTATION 3, page 19

Short supplies

PLAYSTATION 3, from page 18

and a hefty profit.

"When I get home, I'm going to take a quick picture of it, slap it on eBay and go to sleep," Alcala said minutes before the store's doors opened at midnight Friday.

Potential customers braved freezing temperatures in Fargo, N.D., and heavy rain and winds in Baltimore and other East Coast locales.

"Katrina could come through here and I wouldn't switch," said Marco Cajas, 20, of Baltimore. "I spent the night on the cold street."

Even a volunteer for former Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina asked for help in getting a PS3 — from Wal-Mart Stores Inc., which the potential 2008 presidential candidate frequently criticizes.

Edwards said the volunteer "feels terrible" about seeking the console from Wal-Mart a day after his boss criticized the retail giant, saying it doesn't treat its employees fairly.

Wal-Mart accused Edwards, the Democrats' vice presidential candidate in 2004, of not wanting to wait his turn.

Short supplies and strong demand were feared to be a formula for trouble as the PS3 hit store shelves, a half-year late because of problems completing work on the console's built-in, next-generation DVD player.

In Palmdale, Calif., authorities shut down a Super Wal-Mart after some shoppers got rowdy late Wednesday. In West Bend, Wis., a 19-year-old man ran into a pole and struck his head racing with 50 others for one of 10 spots outside a Wal-Mart.

Many stores reported calm.

At a Best Buy in Boston with 140 machines for sale, employees simply gave out tickets for the first 140 in line so that everyone can go home.

At San Francisco's Sony Metreon mall, a "sacred scroll" notebook kept track of the first 505 people in line so they could go to the bathroom or pick up food without losing their spots. Some got wristbands guaranteeing a unit.

There was even a vibrant economy in Mount Laurel, N.J. Restaurants not only delivered pizza and wings, but also dis-



Joy ride

A group of Santa Monica Police Department bicycle officers peddle north along the Third Street Promenade this week as stores prepare for the hustle and bustle of the holiday shopping season.

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

patched workers to hand out menus. The Dick's Sporting Goods store nearby sold camp chairs and more than a few tents.

Even as retailers drummed up publicity by throwing parties and inviting celebrities, Best Buy Co. Inc., Circuit City Stores Inc. and others warned customers all week that supplies would be tight.

Sony promised the 400,000 machines in the United States

for Friday's launch and about 1 million by year's end. Worldwide, it was expecting 2 million this year, half its original projections.

Enthusiasm for the PlayStation 3 wasn't dampened by its high price tag — \$500 for the basic model with a 20-gigabyte hard drive and \$600 for the 60-gigabyte version, which also has built-in wireless.

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Energy industry and state compromise on ozone standards

BY JUDITH KOHLER

Associated Press Writer

DENVER — Heading into a hearing Friday over stricter pollution controls on the oil and gas industry, state and industry officials say they have reached a deal that's tougher than existing standards but not as tough as environmentalists and activists want.

State regulators are considering more stringent rules along Colorado's heavily populated Front Range and new regulations for the rest of the state because they say smog-forming emissions are increasing at a higher-than-projected rate in the oil and gas fields.

The Front Range is exceeding federal ozone levels. While the Environmental Protection Agency has given Colorado time to comply, state health officials fear pollu-

tion from oil and gas operations could derail their plan since emission levels from vehicles and other sources are dropping.

For failing EPA standards, Colorado could face such sanctions as more federal scrutiny of industry development and the loss of highway funds.

Ken Wonstolen, senior vice president and general counsel of the Colorado Oil and Gas Association, said the state air pollution control division agreed Thursday on retaining the current system but requiring oil and gas producers to slash emissions by more than 70 percent.

"I think both sides think it's fair," Wonstolen said. "All this is contingent on the (Air Quality Control) commission's agreement. And they will hear from the other parties who have not been involved in the negotiations."

Jeremy Nichols, director of Rocky Mountain Clean Air Action, said he would object to the compromise. He said he prefers requiring pollution controls on all tanks that emit 11 tons or more per year.

Currently, companies must cut pollution but individual tanks aren't regulated. The tanks capture liquids and other byproducts and are routinely vented during production.

The oil and gas industry generally supports proposed ozone regulations for the rest of the state. The statewide standard, not required by the EPA, would mandate pollution-control devices on tanks emitting at least 20 tons of pollution a year.

Ozone is created when industrial pollution and car exhaust interact with sunlight on bright, sunny days. It poses significant health risks, especially for young children and peo-

ON THE NET

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment:
<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us>

ple with respiratory problems such as asthma.

State health officials say ozone levels have shot up in western Wyoming, where energy development has increased substantially, during the winter, typically not the time for such readings. They say plans for hundreds of new wells throughout western Colorado underscore the need to deal with the issue now rather than wait to fail federal standards.

Some western Colorado environmental and community groups want statewide regulations as tough as those for the Front Range.

Energy Department fines Hanford Group for safety violation

BY SHANNON DININNY

Associated Press Writer

YAKIMA, Wash. — CH2M Hill Hanford Group, a contractor hired to help clean up the highly contaminated Hanford nuclear reservation, will be fined \$82,500 for violating nuclear safety requirements, the Department of Energy announced Friday.

CH2M Hill is the primary contractor responsible for retrieving hazardous and radioactive waste from 177 underground tanks at the site. The toxic stew was left

from decades of plutonium production for the nation's nuclear weapons arsenal.

The preliminary notice of violation issued Friday cited a series of violations associated with two separate events, during which employees were contaminated with radioactivity.

On Sept. 21, 2005, when workers were removing equipment used to retrieve waste from one of the tanks, they were contaminated with highly radioactive waste while disconnecting a pressurized hose that was contaminated inside. Workers again were contaminated on March 6, while removing

a camera from a radioactively contaminated catch tank.

None of the contaminated employees exceeding regulatory exposure limits, the Energy Department said in a statement.

"The proposed civil penalty of \$82,500 is based on the overall significance of the violations and reflects mitigation granted by the Department for prompt, corrective actions taken by CHG to prevent recurrence," the statement said.

A CH2M Hill spokeswoman did not immediately return telephone messages seeking comment. The company must

respond to the notice within 30 days.

The federal government created Hanford in the 1940s as part of the top-secret Manhattan Project to build the atomic bomb. The site produced the plutonium for the Fat Man bomb that was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, effectively ending World War II, and continued to produce plutonium for the nation's nuclear weapons arsenal through the Cold War.

Today, it is the nation's most contaminated nuclear site. Focus has shifted to cleanup, which is expected to top \$50 billion and continue through 2035.

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Bush urges for patience for positive war results

BY TERENCE HUNT

AP White House Correspondent

HANOI, Vietnam — Visiting a land where America suffered military defeat, President Bush urged patience for positive results in Iraq on Friday and tried to stiffen global resolve to challenge a nuclear-armed North Korea.

"For decades you had been torn apart by war," Bush said in a state banquet salute to Vietnam, Asia's fastest growing economy. "Today the Vietnamese people are at peace and seeing the benefits of reform."

In Hanoi, powerful reminders remain of the fighting three decades ago, the longest U.S. war and one that — like Iraq — bitterly divided Americans.

Asked if the experience in Vietnam offered lessons for Iraq, Bush said, "We tend to want there to be instant success in the world, and the task in Iraq is going to take awhile."

He said "it's just going to take a long period of time" for "an ideology of freedom to overcome an ideology of hate. Yet, the world that we live in today is one where they want things to happen immediately."

"We'll succeed unless we quit," the president said.

His talk about impatience brought a rejoinder back home from Sen. Dick Durbin, who will be the second-ranking Democrat in the new Senate.

"I think we ought to show a little impatience when it comes to the Iraqis and their unwillingness to respond to the need to change," Durbin said at a St. Louis news conference. "America has been patient. Our troops have been heroic. ... It is time for the Iraqis to stand up and defend their own country."

Bush is in Vietnam for the annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, and his first test Saturday is to persuade South Korea to fully implement U.N. sanctions imposed on North Korea for testing nuclear weapons.

South Korea has balked at some of the measures, and Bush planned to press President Roh Moo-hyun on the issue. South Korea suggests Washington needs to show more flexibility.

In weekend discussions, Bush hoped to coordinate strategy with China, Russia, Japan and South Korea for the resumption of disarmament negotiations with North Korea. Bush was to see Japan's new prime minister, Shinzo Abe, later Saturday.

In all, leaders of 21 nations and territories are gathered here, and it is unclear whether the summit will produce a unified stand toward North Korea.

As for local Vietnamese, the turnout for Bush as his motorcade moved past storefronts was far more subdued than the enthusiastic reception that greeted President Clinton six years ago. A few people waved, but most merely watched impassively. Weary of war, many here deeply disapprove of the

U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

Bush's limousine took him along Truc Bach lake, where then-Lt. Cmdr. John McCain, now a Republican senator from Arizona, was captured after parachuting from his damaged warplane. McCain spent more than five years as a prisoner of war.

"He suffered a lot as a result of his imprisonment, and yet we passed the place where he was literally saved, in one way, by the people pulling him out," Bush said. He was talking with reporters after meeting with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia, a staunch partner in Iraq.

Bush was to pay a visit Saturday to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, charged with recovering and identifying the remains of Americans who were killed in action but never brought home. With personnel in Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Hawaii, the command identifies about six MIAs each month.

Reflecting on his visit, Bush said that "my first reaction is history has a long march to it, and that societies change and relationships can constantly be altered to the good."

There were bronze busts of Ho Chi Minh, the victorious North's revolutionary communist leader, as Bush met with the Vietnamese president, the prime minister, and the general secretary of the Communist Party. But there also were signs of change and Vietnam's quest to replace poverty with prosperity.

Nong Duc Manh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, was quoted by the White House as telling Bush that his country wanted to "put aside the past and look forward to the future."

Facing resistance in Congress, Bush was unable to deliver promised normalized trade benefits to Vietnam but said he was confident they would eventually win approval.

Nearly two weeks after elections at home that brought heavy Republican losses and a rebuke on the Iraq war, Bush discussed the possibility of a new approach with Howard.

"I assured John that any repositioning of troops, if that's what we choose to do, will be done in close consultation with John and his government. But I also assured him that we're not leaving until this job is done, until Iraq can govern, sustain and defend itself."

Bush said the embattled government of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki "is going to make it unless the coalition leaves before they have a chance to make it. And that's why I assured the prime minister we'll get the job done."

Howard said a premature withdrawal of troops "would be a catastrophic defeat for our cause, not only in the Middle East, but it would embolden terrorists in that region and it would embolden terrorism in countries like Indonesia."

Associated Press Writer **Jim Suhr** contributed to this report from St. Louis.

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Basra governor says security workers freed

BY WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Two of five kidnapped security company employees abducted in a convoy hijacking near the Kuwait border were freed in an Iraqi police operation Friday, the Basra provincial governor said.

Gov. Mohammed al-Waili also said one of the five was found dead near the southern city of Safwan. He did not give the victim's nationality.

"Police were able to free two of the foreigners kidnapped and they are in good health," al-Waili said in a telephone interview. He said he thought they were Americans but could not yet confirm their nationality.

Officials have said that four American contractors with Crescent Security Group and their Austrian co-worker were abducted in a convoy hijacking Thursday. An Iraqi police officer said the Austrian was found dead and one of the Americans was found gravely wounded, but the report could not be confirmed by Austrian and U.S. officials or the company.

Shortly after the Crescent convoy was hijacked while driving through Safwan on a highway that connects Kuwait and southern Iraq, nine other employees of the company from Asian countries such as India, Pakistan and the Philippines were released by the captors, the company said.

At dawn Friday, British ground forces and U.S. helicopters searched the Safwan area for gunmen who had attacked coalition forces in the past few days when about 10 of them opened fire from farm buildings.

The British and U.S. forces returned fire, killing at least two gunmen, Capt. Tane Dunlop, a spokesman for British forces, said in a telephone interview from Basra.

In London, a spokeswoman at Britain's Ministry of Defense said, "We were looking to arrest individuals involved in terrorist activities." She said the raid was unrelated to the hostage seizure.

As violence in Iraq continued to spiral out of control, a crisis was brewing for Iraq's Shiite-led government.

The influential Association of Muslim Scholars called on Sunni politicians to quit Iraq's government and parliament, angered by the government's decision to issue an arrest warrant for the association's leader, Harith al-Dhari.

Abdul-Salam al-Kubaisi, a spokesman for the association, said the arrest warrant was political cover for "the acts of the government's security agencies that kill dozens of Iraqis every day."

Al-Kubaisi called for "political groups to withdraw from parliament and the government, which has proven that it is not a national government."

Sunni Vice President Tariq al-Hashimi called for the government to cancel the war-

rant, saying "it is destructive to the national reconciliation plan."

Al-Dhari, who is in Jordan, said the arrest warrant was illegal and "proof of the failure and the confusion of the Iraqi government."

Interior Minister Jawad al-Bolani issued the warrant on Thursday night, declaring on state television that al-Dhari was wanted for inciting terrorism and violence. Afterward, however, government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh, also a Shiite, sought to minimize it as an "investigation warrant." The spokesman said it is up to judicial authorities to issue an arrest warrant.

And Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh said the Cabinet and the president's office had no knowledge about the arrest warrant. He called for an urgent meeting of political leaders to review the government's work.

The warrant is seen as certain to inflame Iraq's raging sectarian violence. The interior minister is a Shiite, while al-Dhari is a Sunni extremist who recently mocked a government offer of reconciliation in return for abandoning the insurgency.

Al-Dhari, who has been outside Iraq for months, said: "The timing of the warrant came when the Iraqi government felt embarrassed by its failure in security."

President Bush, speaking Friday in Asia, promised to stand with the embattled government of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

"We'll succeed unless we quit," Bush said. "The Maliki government is going to make it unless the coalition leaves before they have a chance to make it."

Control of the area where the kidnapping took place had been formally handed to the Iraqi government from British and Italian forces.

An Iraqi police officer said the Crescent Security Group convoy had been stopped at a checkpoint on Thursday by Iraqi men, some of them wearing police uniforms. The company works mostly in Iraq, and its operations are based in Kuwait. Many of its managers and employees are American.

A U.S. Embassy official, who refused to be identified because he was not authorized to release the information, said the convoy included 43 heavy trucks and six security vehicles. Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said Thursday that preliminary reports suggested the attacked convoy included about 19 vehicles.

A State Department official informed the family of Paul Reuben, 39, a former suburban Minneapolis police officer who was working as a security contractor in Iraq, that he was among those captured, his brother, Patrick Reuben, told the Star Tribune newspaper and KSTP-TV in St. Paul, Minn.

Italy formally handed over security responsibility of the southern Dhi Qar Province to Iraqi forces in late September, and British troops handed over control of the adjacent southern Muthana province in July.

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FOOTBALL

Former Michigan coach Schembechler dies at 77

BY LARRY LAGE
AP Sports Writer

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Bo Schembechler, who became one of college football's great coaches in two decades at Michigan, died Friday after taping a TV show on the eve of the Wolverines' No. 1 vs. No. 2 showdown with perennial rival Ohio State. He was 77.

“This is a tremendous shock and an irreplaceable loss,” University of Michigan president Mary Sue Coleman said at a news conference at Providence Hospital in Southfield, where the coach died.

Schembechler collapsed at the studios of WXYZ-TV in the Detroit suburb and was taken by ambulance to the hospital. His death at 11:42 a.m. was confirmed by Mike Dowd, chief investigator for the medical examiner's office in Oakland County.

Police were sent to the station about 9:25 a.m. along with the city's fire department and escorted the ambulance, Southfield police spokesman John Harris said.

“The electrical part of the heart was working fine but the mechanical part was not working,” said Dr. Shukri David, the head of cardiology at Providence Hospital. “The heart was sending signals to the heart muscle to contract. The muscle was not responding.”

Schembechler had a heart attack on the eve of his first Rose Bowl in 1970 and another one in 1987. He had two quadruple heart-bypass

operations, and doctors implanted a pacemaker to regulate his heartbeat after he became ill during a taping at WXYZ on Oct. 20.

During a news conference this week to discuss Saturday's big game, Schembechler said the device covered about half his chest and doctors still were adjusting it.

Schembechler said he did not plan to attend the game in Columbus, Ohio, and that he didn't travel to road games anymore.

“This is an extraordinary loss for college football,” Ohio State coach Jim Tressel said in a statement. “Bo Schembechler touched the lives of many people and made the game of football better in every way. He will always be both a Buckeye and a Wolverine and our thoughts are with all who grieve his loss.”

The seven-time Big Ten coach of the year compiled a 194-48-5 record at Michigan from 1969-89. Schembechler's record in 26 years of coaching was 234-65-8.

Schembechler's Wolverines were 11-9-1 against the Buckeyes. But fans in both states generally agree the rivalry's prime years were 1969-78, when Schembechler opposed his friend and coaching guru, Woody Hayes. Michigan prevailed in those meetings, going 5-4-1.

“It was a very personal rivalry,” Earle Bruce, who succeeded Hayes as coach, once said. “And for the first and only time, it was as much about the coaches as it was about the game.

FOOTBALL

Booty giving Trojans what they need at QB position

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — The rare sound of boos directed toward the home team filled the Los Angeles Coliseum, where more than 90,000 USC fans expressed their dismay.

John David Booty had just thrown an interception that was returned for a touchdown, enabling Arizona State to tie heavily favored Southern California late in the third quarter.

The Trojans wound up with a 28-21 victory for their third straight closer-than-expected triumph over a Pac-10 opponent. But many wondered afterward whether Booty was a worthy successor to Heisman Trophy-winning quarterbacks Carson Palmer and Matt Leinart.

Those who doubted would discover in USC's next game — a loss of all things — that Booty does belong.

“He found out he could play at this level,” quarterbacks coach Steve Sarkisian said of Booty's 406-yard passing performance in a 33-31 loss at Oregon State on Oct. 28. “He made throw after throw. Although we didn't win, I think that was a turning point.”

USC coach Pete Carroll recalled a conversation with Booty following that game.

“He just felt like he wished he could have kept playing. He didn't feel like he could be stopped at that time,” Carroll said. “He really hadn't had a big game like that. It's carried over. He's in a really good place.”

Booty has been efficient, if not outstanding, in No. 4 USC's 42-0 victory over Stanford and 35-10 triumph over Oregon since that time, thrusting the Trojans (8-1, 6-

1 Pac-10) back into the national championship race.

They'll try to stay there Saturday night against No. 17 California (8-2, 6-1), with the Pac-10 championship at stake as well.

Booty acknowledged the importance of what he accomplished against Oregon State, when the Trojans rallied from a 33-10 deficit, only to fall two points short.

“It was the first game where I had to have the main role in bringing us back,” he said. “I think it was definitely a turning point for me, the whole game rested in the passing game. Even though we did lose, it meant something to us. I think it opened up a lot of eyes.

“I'm a lot more confident. I've played more, I've done more.”

Booty clearly has the support of his teammates.

“I really believe in him,” tight end Fred Davis said.

Offensive tackle Kyle Williams added, “We have no doubt about his abilities. He's pretty laid back. (But) If somebody's talking in the huddle and he's trying to call a play, he'll say, 'Hey, listen up!' It's funny. We love it. He's taken to that leadership role.”

Booty arrived at USC three years ago with expectations so high many thought he would beat out Leinart during the 2003 season. It didn't happen, and Booty sat and watched as Leinart led the Trojans to a 37-2 record during one of the finest careers for a quarterback in NCAA history.

“To be able to get this opportunity is all I could ask for,” Booty said. “It's fun for me, it really is. I didn't know what to expect. It's really been a blast.”



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SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 64°

SWELL FORECAST (3-5 FT)

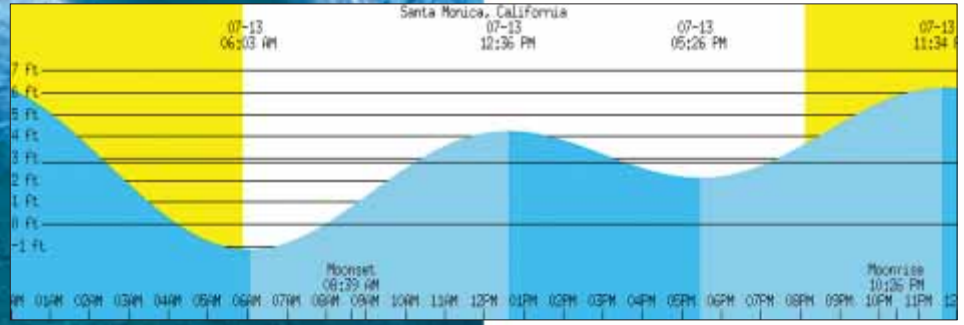
The NW swell should peak with similar size, at least for areas south of LA. This swell will likely fade for areas north of LA. Still, size is expected to run chest high for most west facing breaks with some, rare, head high set waves at times for the standouts.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

NEXT NW'ER POSSIBLE NEXT WEEK...

TRACKING MODERATE SW FOR 29TH.

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA





NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **November 14, 2006**

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QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 0

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0

Number of wet days -- 0

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 33 / ns

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 12 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	F	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A	ns
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	B	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	D	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	B	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	F	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	D	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	F	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurants)	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	D	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	D	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	D	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A	ns

Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card™ is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A-F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.



Heal the Bay

Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

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Chat up a storm, Virgo

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)

★★★★ The unexpected does keep one on his toes, as you will find out. Working with a partner could be instrumental to making the right choices. A new beginning within a partnership or relationship becomes possible, if not probable. Tonight: Team up with that favorite person.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ What you thought was a given most certainly isn't. You might want to rethink a situation more carefully. You cannot fight city hall, which you'll find out today. Stay together; remain poised. This too will pass. Tonight: Let someone else have the control he or she seeks.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Plug into your routine, especially if you feel unsettled. What comes up for you could be very different from what you'd anticipated. Know that more information could be forthcoming. Listen but don't judge. Take in what is being said. Tonight: Easy does it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Use creativity, and you might beat the odds right now. A risk might be too appealing to turn your back on. Remember, a good risk is often worth it, as long as you can deal with the losses. Can you? Tonight: Add more spice to your evenings.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Others could knock the wind out of you. People are unpredictable and demanding at the same time. Have you thought about going on a mini-retreat? Don't play into events, and make clear choices for yourself. Tonight: Head home and slam the door shut.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Think before you say anything. On some level, you could be stunned by what heads down your path right now. How you react might determine the end results, far more than you realize. Think in terms of positive changes. Tonight: Hang out.

Born Today

Actor Owen Wilson (1968)

Pollster George Gallup (1901)

Singer Kim Wilde (1960)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.
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LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Curb spending and openly say "no" to any risks. You might want to rethink a decision or head in a new direction. Don't make any major decisions in this particular emotional climate. Think positively and wait. Tonight: Infuse laughter into whatever you do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ New beginnings become possible much sooner than you realize. What might feel and look like a major shake-up will turn to your advantage. Just hang in there and maintain your perspective. You could be thrilled by events. Tonight: Start working on making a long-term wish a reality.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Don't worry about what is going on. Rather, connect with what you need to do. Your time for action will come much faster than you realize. Suddenly, you will feel enthusiastic. Tonight: Energize and do what you want.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Use the daylight hours to the max. On some level you might feel as if you are quelling a volcano, but it's simply a planet letting you know it exists. Allow others to express their independence. Tonight: Indulge in some extra R and R.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Take a stand. You might need to take a whole different approach. Your perspective involving money proves to be very funny and easy. Listen to someone more carefully. This person will do whatever he or she needs to do to command your attention. Tonight: A must appearance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Read between the lines and get down to basics. You might find that before you know it, your world is totally shaken up. Think through a move carefully, and you'll get better results. You will lean toward the radical. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

Happy Birthday

You have spirit and understanding. Your creativity helps you bypass any problem and handle various situations. You will see that many people enjoy being imaginative. You will see life from a far different perspective if you remain open. You might not have all the answers. Learn to be open and more creative. If you are single, life becomes a more dynamic experience, and you will enjoy relating to the many others in your life. Your charisma speaks.

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Being Whitney

Two of the diva's homes go up for sale

Whitney Houston no longer has the suburban Atlanta home she shared with Bobby Brown, according to a published report.

The five-bedroom Alpharetta home went into foreclosure this fall and was sold on the steps of the Fulton County Courthouse earlier this month, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported Thursday.

The property has gone back up for sale for \$1.4 million, according to real estate Web

sites.

Houston's Atlanta attorney, Mark Trigg, confirmed the foreclosure to the newspaper but did not provide other details.

The couple bought the home in 2003 for \$1.1 million.

Meanwhile, Houston's New Jersey mansion is slated to be sold at a sheriff's sale on Jan. 4 because she is more than \$1 million behind on the mortgage and taxes have not been paid this year, the Daily Record of

Parsippany reported.

Houston in September filed for divorce from Brown after a 14-year marriage. She remains in Los Angeles, where she is working on a new album.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Duchess wants to get into the groove

Actors and athletes have busted some amazing moves on "Dancing with the Stars," including its new champion, football great Emmitt Smith. **Sarah Ferguson**, the Duchess of York, is hoping the show will make room for a royal.

"I'd quite like to go on 'Dancing

with the Stars,'" Ferguson tells "Inside Edition" in an interview that aired Thursday. "I'd like them to teach me the tango."

Ferguson, 47, says she was turned on to the romantic dance during a visit to Buenos Aires, Argentina. "I did go to the oldest tango place and I did

look at it and think 'I can try this,'" she said.

The muscular Smith, a three-time Super Bowl champion and all-time NFL rushing leader, out-hoofed actor Mario Lopez to win the third edition of the hit ABC show.

Ferguson and Britain's Prince Andrew — aka the Duke of York

— divorced in 1996. They have two daughters, princesses Beatrice, 18, and Eugenie, 16.

Ferguson also published a best-selling memoir, "My Story," in 1996 and went on to become a spokeswoman for Weight Watchers.

AP

Ramsay fires up the restaurant scene

Chef **Gordon Ramsay** was about to enter the ultimate "Hell's Kitchen." But this time, the stakes were much greater than the ones on his popular reality competition on Fox television.

The famously fiery Ramsay was to debut his first U.S. restaurant Thursday night in New York City,

where the food critics were anxiously circling and diners had booked the place solid for two months.

Called Gordon Ramsay at The London, the elegant restaurant with its French-influenced menu is located inside the London NYC Hotel in midtown.

The restaurant, which boasts a

casual and formal dining area, is Ramsay's biggest and most expensive gamble to date.

"The biggest," Ramsay, 40, told The Associated Press shortly before the opening. "The till has to start working. New York is an expensive place to survive."

The Michelin-starred, celebrity

chef has a total of 10 restaurants in his culinary empire, including the successful Restaurant Gordon Ramsay in London.

Born in Scotland, Ramsay is the author of the best-selling cookbook, "Gordon Ramsay Makes it Easy."

AP

PRESSLY'S NEW JOY

Jaime Pressly has made it official: She's pregnant.

"I'm four months pregnant! I'm making it official tonight for the first time," the 29-year-old actress told Jay Leno on NBC's "The Tonight Show" on Wednesday.

The blond bombshell, known for her Emmy-nominated role as the trash-talking Joy on NBC's "My Name Is Earl," and disc jockey Eric Cubiche became engaged last month. They had been dating for about 18 months.

Pressly said she knows the baby is a boy.

"I'm healthy, the baby's healthy. We're good," she said.

AP

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**assuming an average ticket of \$800

***based on a frequency of 3x per week.

Walking to the nearest newsstand increases circulation.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE

1328 Montana Avenue (310) 395-4990

Friday

Darkman, Danger Diabolik 7:30

Saturday

Superman, Batman 7:30

Superman II, Batman Returns 6:30

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4

1441 3rd Street (310) 458-6232

Babel (R) 12:30, 1:15, 3:45, 4:30, 7:00, 7:45, 10:15

For Your Consideration (PG-13) 12:15, 1:00, 2:30, 3:15, 4:45, 5:30, 7:15, 8:00, 9:30

The Return (PG-13) 10:00

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA

1310 3rd Street (310) 289-4262

The Departed (R) 10:05am, 1:15, 4:25, 7:35, 10:55

Flushed Away (PG) 10:15am, 12:30, 2:45, 5:15, 7:40, 9:55

A Good Year (PG-13) 11:20am, 2:05, 4:50, 7:45, 10:45

Let's Go to Prison (R) 11:10am, 1:25, 3:30, 5:40, 8:10, 10:25

Marie Antoinette (PG-13) 10:40am, 1:35, 4:20, 7:15, 10:15

The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause (G) 11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

Stranger Than Fiction (PG-13) 11:30am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:30

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd (310) 281-8228

The Last King of Scotland (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 9:55

LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX

1332 2nd Street (310) 394-9741

Copying Beethoven (PG-13) 4:00, 9:50

Fast Food Nation (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45

Fur: An Imaginary Portrait of Diane Arbus (R) 1:00, 7:00

Little Children (R) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:15

The Queen (PG-13) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55

MAIN'S CRITERION THEATRE

1313 3rd Street (310) 395-1599

Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan (R) 11:50am, 12:20, 2:20, 4:50, 5:20, 7:20, 9:40, 10:20, 11:50

Casino Royale (PG-13) 12:30, 1:20, 3:50, 4:40, 7:10, 8:00, 10:30, 11:30

Happy Feet (PG) 1:00, 3:40, 6:30, 9:20

Happy Feet (PG) 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

Running With Scissors (R) 2:30, 7:30

More information email news@smdp.com

Janric Classic Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

Difficulty
SILVER

			5	1				
	1					7	4	
9	4		6	8		2	1	
4	6			5				
		1				9		
				7			8	2
	5	9		4	1		6	7
	8	4					3	
				6	8			

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GETTING STARTED

There are many strategies to solving Sudoku. One way to begin is to examine each 3x3 grid and figure out which numbers are missing. Then, based on the other numbers in the row and column of each blank cell, find which of the missing numbers will work. Eliminating numbers will eventually lead you to the answer.

SOLUTIONS TO LAST PUZZLE

2	6	1	3	9	5	7	8	4
4	8	9	7	6	1	3	2	5
3	7	5	2	4	8	1	6	9
9	4	2	6	5	7	8	1	3
6	3	7	8	1	9	5	4	2
5	1	8	4	3	2	9	7	6
7	9	6	5	8	4	2	3	1
1	2	4	9	7	3	6	5	8
8	5	3	1	2	6	4	9	7

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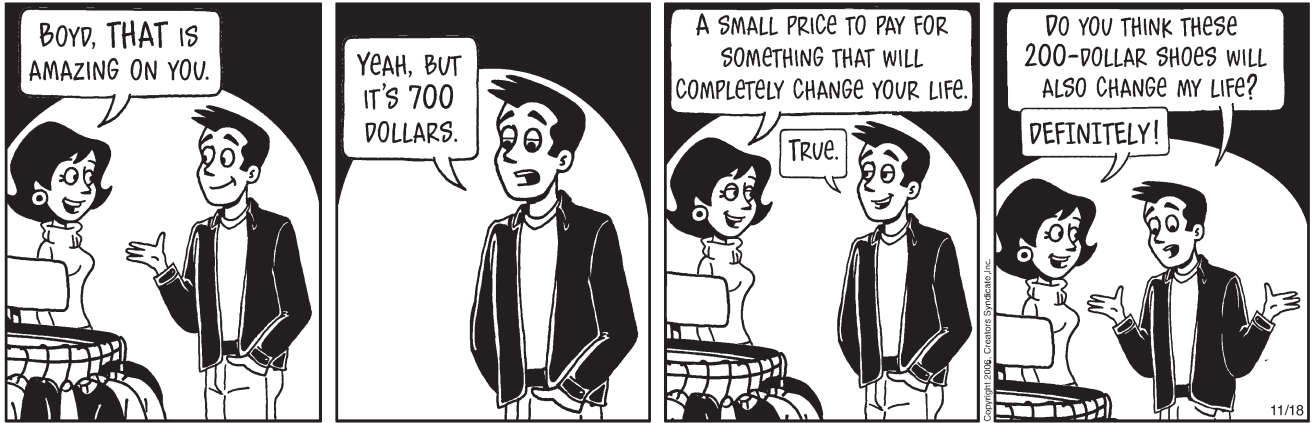
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



Opening Lines, Pinky Probes and L-Bombs: The Girls & Sports Dating Playbook is available at: www.girlsandsports.com/book. Mention this newspaper for a free gift!

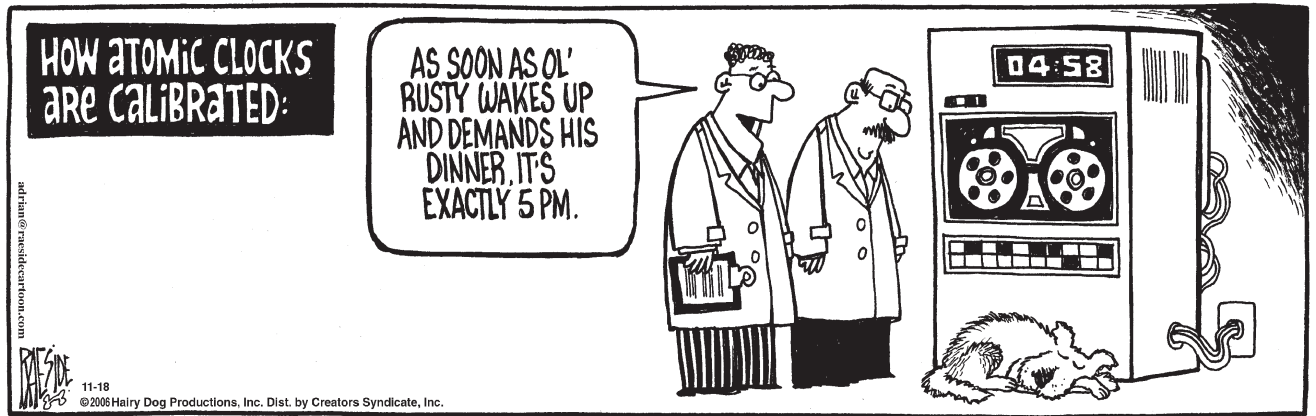
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



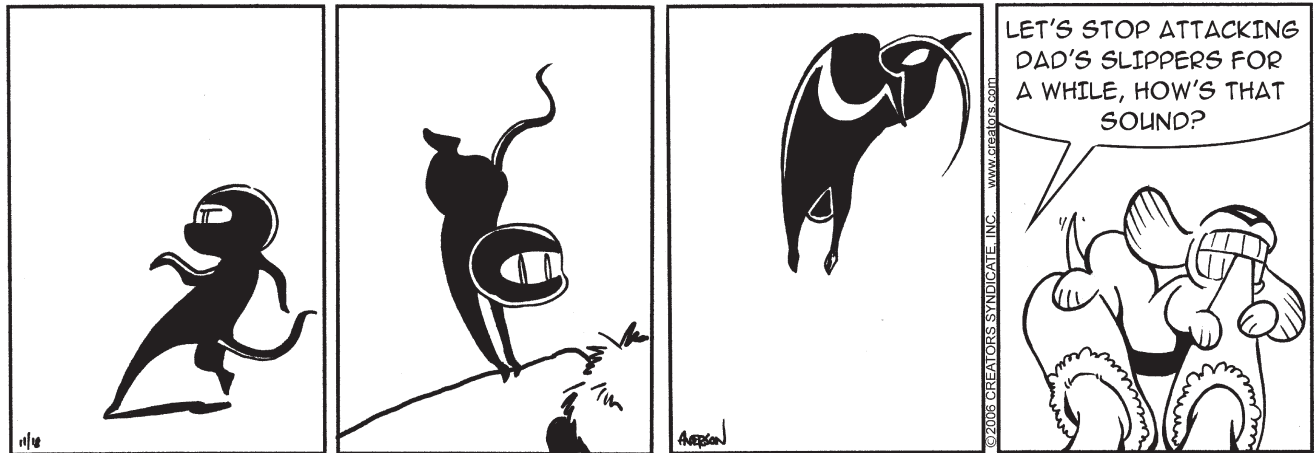
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

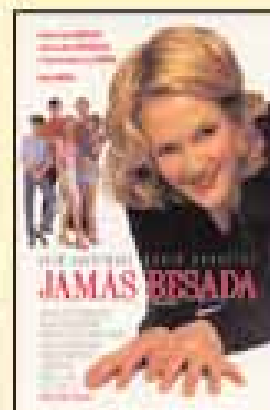
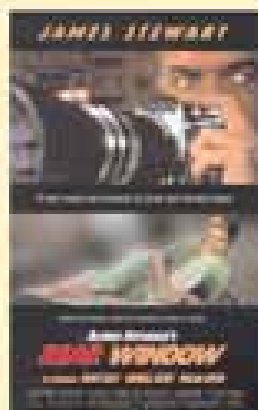
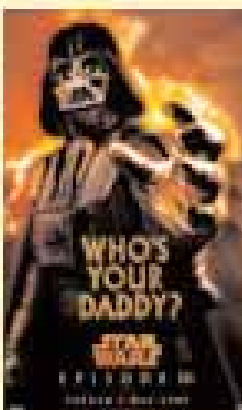
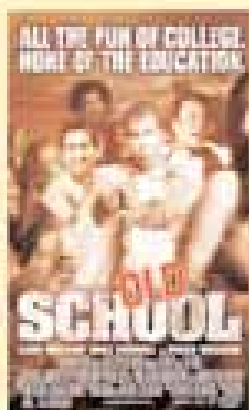
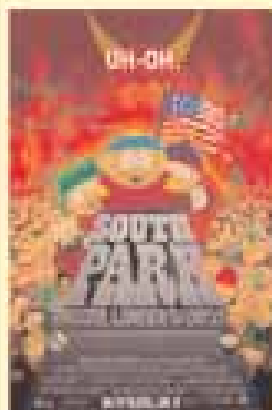
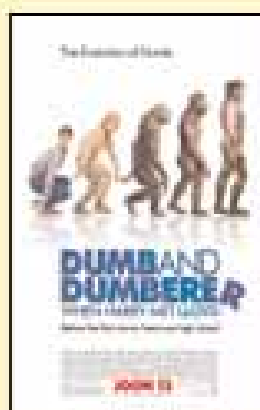
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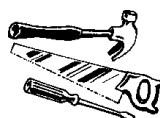
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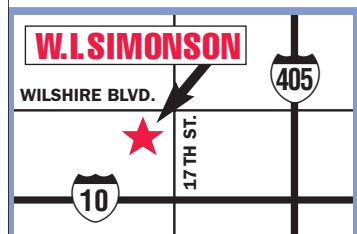
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