

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

OPCO chair won't give up financial records

Half dozen board members have resigned

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A long-standing and once influential neighborhood group appears to be slowly crumbling because the organization's leader is keeping its financial records under wraps.

Three board members of the Ocean Park Community Organization quit last week because its chairman, Rick Laudati, hasn't responded to a lawsuit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court demanding that 2000 and 2001 financial statements be made public.

The complaint was filed in September by former board member Tom Fuller, who — among others — has been asking for the organization's financial records for more than a year. They say Laudati has ignored their requests. So far this year, six board members have resigned over the issue.

Elan Glasser, one of the three who quit

last week, said he and other board members had tried to work with the OPCO board in the past month to answer Fuller's complaint.

"There was frustration about the slow pace of OPCO getting the financial information together."

— ELAN GLASSER
Former OPCO board member

"There was frustration about the slow pace of OPCO getting the financial information together," Glasser said. "The fact that it is slow in coming, that's frustrating."

OPCO had 30 days to respond to the complaint, which was served Sept. 17. That deadline came and went with no response.

"We were trying to encourage the board to get an attorney and get a settlement for

See GROUP, page 8

Troubled school district recalls tax committee

Opponents to be included in new parcel tax discussions

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The board members of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District still want the public's money.

Even though a \$300 parcel tax measure failed at the ballot box this month, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified school board signaled Thursday it will offer another measure to the voters to fend off a budget crisis.

The board recalled a committee to investigate and propose a parcel tax measure the financially troubled school district could place before voters as early as March for a special election.

Like a previous parcel tax committee the school board convened earlier this year, the new one will consist of residents, community activists, teachers, administrators, union leaders and business interests.

However, this time school board members more than doubled the number of

people on the committee from about a dozen members to close to 30 members.

Some board members and residents also want to include opponents of the parcel tax to be named as committee members, reasoning that the revised measure should make an attempt to pacify opponents' concerns.

"I believe we need these voices and people need to understand all the legal options," said Louise Jaffe, a Santa Monica resident long-involved in school district activities. "And to do that I think we would want to hear from those (opponents) as well."

Board members Michael Jordan and Pam Brady agreed, adding to reach 67 percent voter approval for a parcel tax, the school district cannot afford to have detractors.

"We can't believe we can leave anyone out of the discussions and still think we can reach that level (of voter approval)," said Jordan. "This is a parcel tax for a unified school district and it has to take a unified approach."

See COMMITTEE, page 7



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Third Street Promenade gets 'Winterlit'

By Daily Press staff

Actress Jamie Lee Curtis on Saturday inaugurates a new tradition, throwing the switch for the first time on Winterlit, the new holiday lighting display running the entire length of the Third Street Promenade.

A native of Los Angeles, Curtis encouraged people to shop locally. Also sending the message to keep commerce in Santa Monica this holiday season were Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown

(right) and Richard Eichenbaum, senior manager at Santa Monica Place (left).

Designed by Steven Spielberg's art director, Ramsey Avery, Winterlit includes towering 18-foot tall illuminated trees, iceberg sculptures, ice shards dangling from light poles and a 30-foot high canopy of stars and lights.

Santa Monica Place also turned on lights at the façade of the Third Street entrance, lit a 30-foot tall Christmas tree and produced falling snowflakes at the mall's entrance.

Charity awards Bayside for efforts on homeless issue

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A downtown organization that instigated two anti-homeless laws earlier this year has been recognized by a charity that helps mentally ill and unhoused persons.

It was announced last week that the Bayside District Corp. will get the "Heart of the Community Award" from Step Up on Second, a non-profit organization that serves about 1,000 people who live on the street and suffer from such diseases as bi-polar disorder, depression, schizophrenia and other mental illnesses.

The Bayside District Corp., which helps manage the commercial core with the city, formed a public safety commit-

tee earlier this year to address concerns over transients' anti-social behavior. Residents, tourists and business owners have been complaining that transients have been urinating and defecating in doorways of downtown businesses and aggressively panhandling.

In response, the public safety committee made recommendations to the city council to pass two laws to address the growing number of transients downtown.

The council passed those laws in October among widespread controversy.

The first law forces charitable organizations running free meal programs in city parks to apply for a permit if the gathering is over 150 people. Each

See AWARD, page 7

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♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★★★ Though you might not be the epitome of organization, you certainly pull it together quickly — no matter what you're doing or where you are. Your questions aim for the meat and potatoes of the issue. Verbalize your thoughts. Tonight: Where the fun is.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★ Getting out the door to work might take more of an effort than you originally anticipated. You can do it. You hear news from associates that piques your interest. Express what you really think, not what might be politically correct. Tonight: Ever playful.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ Speak your mind, especially around the workplace, and others will listen. Others care a lot about what you're thinking and what you need. Direct your energy toward clearing off your desk and returning calls. Good news comes via messages. Tonight: Touch base with others regarding Thanksgiving plans.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★ Deal with finances in a creative way. You might not have a choice with upcoming demands. Float with an opportunity, and don't make a big deal of this chance just yet. Tap into one of your resources involving a co-worker or an associate. Tonight: Run errands on the way home.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ Your sunny ways make it easier for those who enter your life in the next few days. What you hear from someone who is a creative source might get you thinking. Brainstorm with your muse. Also, listen more to someone else's sharing. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★ Step back. When confused or unsure, your best bet is to do nothing. Follow this course, and you will succeed. Realize when you don't know something, and you will ultimately gain. Others find you unusually laid-back, which you are. Tonight: Play ostrich.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ Aim for more of what you want within a friendship. Sometimes others don't see things the same way you do. Be more understanding of another and what he or she means to you. You like to be indulged, don't you? Tonight: Just don't be alone.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★ Realize your limits when dealing with others. Not everyone will agree with you, even if you are dispersing some excellent financial wisdom. A boss or an "authority" figure seems to know better. Establish limits now. Tonight: Work as late as necessary.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ Realize that what is right up your alley might not be a high priority for someone else. Discussions help you understand others. Make strong decisions for you and your family ultimately. A trip in the offing could be extremely exciting. Tonight: Say "yes" when invited to something totally different.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★ Your sensitivity to a partner enhances your relationship as well as your sense of security. Perhaps the time has come to share more of yourself. You can be nearly 100 percent sure a close friend won't walk on you. Tonight: How 'bout some quality time?

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ Others present many more options than you originally thought possible. Knowing when to say "yes" remains key. Success surrounds groups. Make the most of an important meeting. You could be delighted by what comes up. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★ Throw yourself into your work. Brainstorm with someone who is in charge but needs to know and understand more. Your sense of direction plays into a major decision. Hear the facts, then decide. Others trust your judgment because you are thorough. Tonight: Off to the gym.

QUOTE of the DAY

“I think it would be a good idea.”

— Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)
when asked what he thought about Western civilization

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LOCAL



Gavel II Gavel

From the people's court in the Byron Y. Appleton Honorary Courtroom in Santa Monica.

By John Wood

A, B, Cs of employment

Coast Language Academy of Santa Monica learned a quick lesson in employee relations last week.

The school was sued in small claims court for just over \$1,000 by former employer Ismaelite Stewart of Culver City. Stewart, who provided housing for the school's students in addition to working at the school, claimed she had not been reimbursed for bringing international students into her home.

But Natalina Rogers, housing coordinator for Coast Language Academy, told the court Stewart had not finished her job before leaving the school. Rather than pay Stewart for housing students, Rogers said the school had deducted the money owed from salary already paid to Stewart.

Coast Language Academy even filed a counter-suit for \$2,200, saying Stewart owed them more than they owed her.

"We did not expect her to sue us for money she did not earn," Rogers told the court. "We had to hire someone else to do the job. Her salary was paid for a job not completed."

Commissioner Donna Groman asked Rogers to point out the clause in Stewart's contract where it says she is required to fulfill certain duties in order to be paid.

When Rogers conceded that there was no such clause, the commissioner ruled in favor of the plaintiff on both the original lawsuit and the counter-suit. Stewart will also be reimbursed for court expenses.

Not to be taken lightly

Two \$5,000 slander lawsuits were denied in small claims court last week when the plaintiff failed to prove damages.

Tony Dahlin of Los Angeles sued his ex-wife Theresa Dahlin and her employer, St. Marks Catholic School in Venice, saying his ex-wife told people he was a cocaine addict, child molester and a drunk.

"(She's) been spreading stories all around town," the man told Commissioner Donna Groman Wednesday.

The commissioner didn't take long to reach a judgment. She denied both \$5,000 claims without hearing from the defendants, indicating later that in order to find someone guilty of slander, the plaintiff must first prove damages.

The QLine

Over the weekend, a Christmas winterland was unveiled at the Third Street Promenade, with hopes that the decorations would lure gift-seeking consumers into the various shops. Just like everywhere else in this country, merchants are hoping for a big holiday season to top off an unsettling economic year.

So this week, Q-line wants to know: "To give local merchants a much-

needed shot in the arm, will you make a point of shopping in Santa Monica? Why or why not?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less; it might help to think first about the wording of your response.

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Today we expect to have leftover swell in the morning, the fading end of both the northwest wind and ground swell we saw over the weekend. Remaining energy should keep wave height around waist level mostly, better occasionally.

Fortunately, new northwest ground is coming.

While it is due this afternoon, and some spots with good exposure could be showing occasional chest high sets by late in the day, it will take a better hold Tuesday. Surfers can expect more consistent chest level surf at west and northwest facing breaks.

South bay traditionally has better exposure to the northwest swell, but surf forecast also call for some big sets Tuesday on the north side of Point Dume, so look for Leo Carrillo and County Line to go off too.



Today's Tides:

High-	2:29 a.m.	3.30'
Low-	5:10 a.m.	3.17'
High-	11:34 a.m.	4.86'
Low-	7:53 p.m.	0.19'

Location	Monday	Tuesday	Water Quality
County	2-3'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	A
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	A
Surf	1-2'/Poor	1-2'/Poor	C
Topanga	1-2'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	B
Venice	3-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	C
Porto	3-4'/Fair	3-5'/Fair	A

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LETTERS

Where are the preservationists?

Editor:

As we debate whether or not the city can declare homes "historic" against the wishes of their respective owners, there is a beautiful little "California bungalow" home with its head on the proverbial chopping block.

The 1930s-era home at the corner of Princeton and Arizona has been vacant and on the market for several months now, and the site of several fires recently (suspicious, but I'm not an insurance investigator). When I called the listing agent last week to ask the price, I was told that the \$629,000 price tag is for the land only, that the house MUST be torn down and that the property is zoned for four condominiums.

So while we debate the merits of protecting historic homes, we are mere spectators as one is destroyed before our eyes.

Where's the landmarks commission now? Why are they sitting on the sidelines as yet another beautiful historic home is bulldozed to make way for a modern (read: expensive) condominium development? Where is the city council and preservationists who claim to support historic home protection?

Those who complain about the "gentrification" of Santa Monica should be the first in line to chain themselves to this beautiful little home. Let's see them put their money where their mouths are.

Evelyn Jerome
Santa Monica

A decent wage is not too much ask for

Editor:

Approximately three weeks prior to the Nov. 5 election I saw the play "Nicked and Dimed," based on the book by Barbara Ehrenreich. As those who have read the book or seen the play know, both graphically demonstrate the difficulty, if not impossibility, of getting by on a low-wage salary, a situation facing far too many workers in this country. The movement to establish a living wage is an effort to respond to this situation and to ensure that low-wage workers receive at least enough for basic necessities.

I was therefore distressed when Santa Monica's living wage measure (JJ), which would have provided \$10.50 an hour plus health benefits or \$12.50 without health benefits, was defeated, although a living wage measure had been overwhelmingly approved in a previous election. While there may be various reasons it did not do as well as anticipated, there is little doubt that a major reason was the barrage of mis-

leading literature disseminated by well-funded opponents of the measure, led by several of the hotels and other businesses in the tourist zone. This literature included unsubstantiated threats that the living wage could threaten funding for education, lead to the closing of libraries and undermine care for seniors. It also involved deceptive tactics such as a mailer which in effect implied that supporters of the living wage such as Rep. Henry Waxman and Assembly member Fran Pavley were actually opposed to it.

The living wage measure would have applied to hotels and large businesses in the tourist zone that gross \$5 million a year. It would have enabled those businesses that could claim hardship to obtain an exemption and exempted small businesses and non-profit organizations.

The hotels in the Santa Monica tourist zone have benefited from over \$200 million in tax breaks provided by the city government to develop the coastal zone and attract tourism, as well as a virtual monopoly in the Santa Monica tourist zone due to the restrictions on new development. The spectacle of some of the most privileged businesses in our city engaging in practices that were certainly unethical if not illegal to avoid the necessity of paying a decent wage represents an appalling example of ingratitude to the workers who make their substantial profits possible.

Nora Hamilton
Santa Monica

School leaders need to think more positive

Editor:

Your Nov. 16 issue published the story of the Santa Monica School District's reaction to Proposition EE's failure to pass. While it is understandable Superintendent Deasy's disappointment, his post-election comments were brimming with too much bitterness and subtle threats about where the cuts are going to be made. It is easy to be congenial in good times, when money is plentiful and ideas can be readily funded. However, hard times test the qualities of a true leader, whether one is a visionary, looking ahead and working graciously and creatively with what he has, rather than what he wants. This is the role Deasy finds himself in now. It is a much more telling role than the one he occupied prior to Nov. 5.

Comments like "losing teachers and demoralizing the staff" and "increasing class sizes knowing that it is a poor solution to a difficult problem" are deflating statements reflecting gloomy feelings and knee-jerk, harsh alternatives. For instance, Deasy's solution for attracting more dollars, by rescinding his previous moratorium on permit

See LETTERS, page 5

A one-dollar plan to fix homelessness in Santa Monica



I did not choose to live in America I was born and raised in this country.

I also proudly served as a Marine to defend this country, with my life if need be, so that all Americans can enjoy the freedoms written in the Constitution. In serving this great nation, I took an oath to defend and uphold the Constitution against all enemies both foreign AND domestic. I take that oath very seriously and feel deeply that capitalistic and corporate greed are domestic enemies of the Constitution and the rights it guarantees to ALL citizens, no matter what their race, creed, gender or economic status. This society was founded on those values and many people have fought and died to defend this document and the way of life it represents for all of us who live here.

Capitalism did not really take hold in this country until the turn of the last century during the industrial revolution. So a reader's comment about American society being built on capitalism is not true. And

the fact is that this form of greed tends to erode and take away from the constitutional rights of Americans. This, as well as the down-sizings and number fudging to make phony profits to sell stock, take away from the common man. I honestly ask people to think about this when you feast on your turkey.

Also in some African American communities there is a saying, "It takes a whole village to raise one child." Here again we see the whole community helping each other to accomplish a goal. The only reason some think that socialistic ideas would not work in the economy is in part to what I believe is a very stereotypical view of homelessness and its causes. This seems to be the prevailing attitude of some who become successful. And while I honestly and sincerely applaud your success and wish you more in the future, I also, in the same light, wish to show you how socialistic applications could work within a capitalistic society. The first thing to do is find the mistakes of BOTH systems and not repeat them. This example of what I'm talking about might show you how it could work.

There are approximately 88,000 people in Santa Monica. If each person gave \$1.00 a month, the year's total would be \$1,056,000, which could be set aside in a bank account separate from the city's that funds the existing programs; to help in

training, counseling and rehabilitation of homeless. Also for setting up and adding to REAL work programs like the cart pushing program, which I currently belong to, as well as the people who set up the farmers market on Wednesdays and Fridays.

There are many empty properties which could be rented and used for training in computers, electronics, etc. It's a better use for them than being a "blight" on the neighborhood, right? These could also be used to link the outside feeding programs so that there could be some incentive to get work and get off the streets. Also, there are many vacant apartments that have been so since rent control was lifted. These could be rented out at the pre-rent control price to those who have successfully completed the existing shelter and transitional housing programs, again an incentive. This would free up beds for those of us who want and need the help these programs offer, but due to overcrowding have to wait up to two months to get in.

All of this would be set up and overseen by a committee made up of homeless, and housed from all parts of Santa Monica. Each giving his or her expertise to the situation from all ends of the social spectrum as to how this program would be set up and operated. And could also pull additional funding from non-profit grants from the government and the private sec-

tor. I would also link all the existing homeless services to this as well. This would help better facilitate the transition to housing and help those who are chronically homeless adjust to living in the mainstream lifestyle, as well as form a larger force to begin to solve the homeless situation. All of this could work, funded in part, with \$1.00 per month per resident rich, poor and homeless alike. It would also benefit the capitalistic sector by creating jobs, as well as keeping formerly homeless people off the streets and working, therefore adding to the consumer base of the economy. When this is accomplished, it will be easier to see who is productive and who is not, those who do not want to get with the program should be dealt with as seen fit by the city.

So your socialistic ideologies can be incorporated into, and applied, within a capitalistic system. And this actually insures that the DEMOCRATIC society in which we live is applied to all American citizens in this city: rich, poor, homeless, handicapped, young and old of all races, creeds and genders. And all of the rights the Constitution affords all of us are enjoyed and celebrated. It just takes effort to bring it about and co-operation on all fronts to make anything like this a working reality.

Charles Springer is homeless and living in Santa Monica.

LOCAL



LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 4

students, borders on being punitive rather than searching further for less harmful options. More students only means incredible crowding, diluted learning experiences and increased district expenditures to cover the costs of educating these additional students. However, nowhere has he drawn a line in the sand, trying to make the numbers work by cutting prudently at the top, leaving school populations and solid educational programs alone.

To do this, hard questions should be asked and politically correct mind sets need to be challenged. Does the district really need such a big administration? Is this the right time to "redesign" Samohi's basic educational program into six small schools? What about the child care program at Samohi? Can children having children find their own child care outside of the school — like in their parents' homes? Why can't parents contribute more to their PTSAs? Public education is free. But, GOOD public education is not.

Deasy's response to meet funding shortages is to change the gift policy and essentially thwart parents from donating directly to their own school programs. Instead, contributions would go into the district pot to be distributed evenly to all schools — an egalitarian approach. Would such a measure, if adopted, create more or less parent revenue for the schools? I personally think it would dry up private funding and/or cause more affluent parents to say good bye to SMMUSD, and send their kids elsewhere to be educated.

Lastly, it seemed that Superintendent Deasy wrapped himself up in the cloak of Dennis Zane — or, was it the other way around? The close ties between renters' rights and the schools are inappropriate to many. For, after having had a lock on the school board, for so many years, it was like adding insult to injury having a SMRR officer acting as the school district's campaign consultant. Many people feel that the quality of schools have eroded under SMRR's dominion. Why should residents then back a measure devised and marketed by this group and its superintendent?

Also, monetary shortfalls and educational flaws did not evolve overnight in the schools. They have been in the making for years. Someone somewhere was negligent in their oversight position regarding sensibly budgeting school expenditures, keeping school leases current, supervising ongoing construction properly. The schools have been weakened from within, being run by ideologues rather than being managed by sound ideas. And, hence, we are now at such a critical point to be one proposition away from so called catastrophe.

Take the sword out of your side, Mr. Deasy, and think in terms of having a glass half full rather than half empty.

Jan Tousignant
Santa Monica

Do the best for all of our students

Editor:

Bill Bauer may need a reminder that it is indeed the Santa Monica-Malibu UNIFIED School District. (See article Nov. 22, Daily Press) Superintendent John Deasy and school board president Julia Brownley deserve applause for their efforts in keeping our public schools public. We have significant gaps in educational achievement in our district, which closely parallel the income levels in the families of our students. We need to focus our efforts on the education of ALL of our students.

I would encourage the PTSAs to work collaboratively to raise funds for the district in order to restore programs at all of our schools. We should aspire to teach our children more than just reading, writing and arithmetic. Parents should try to set an example by addressing more than their own individual narrow concerns at their own school by looking at how we can improve a difficult situation for all of our students throughout the district. When we don't provide equal opportunity for students of varying economic and racial backgrounds, our entire community suffers as a result.

Separate and unequal should not be encouraged in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

Mark Harding
Santa Monica

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LOCAL

‘Get Festive!’ at holiday party on Main Street

By Daily Press staff

The Main Street Merchants in Santa Monica will sponsor their 2nd Annual Get Festive! holiday event, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7 and Dec. 8 on Main Street, between Pico and Marine.

All the music and activities are free. The event includes live music, outdoor movies and children's activities. Activities will be in parking lots, vacant lots, on two closed streets and courtyards all day.

Main Street merchants will be offering items on sale as part of the sidewalk sale, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days. Many merchants also will be having customer appreciation open house specials and activities, staying open later than usual.

On Saturday, three holiday movies will be shown at different locations between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Santa Monica High School Choir carolers will be strolling the street, singing before the movies start. (Tentatively scheduled: "A Christmas Story," "Home Alone 2" and a series of shorts and cartoons; locations to be announced.)

On Sunday, from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. there will be a variety of music at several locations.

There will also be pony rides, a petting zoo and a tidepool touch tank for the kids. Musclemag will sponsor several team contests including a tug of war.

Get Festive! is produced by the Main Street Merchants Association.

All day parking is available at the beach lots two blocks away for only \$5.

Below is the current schedule (subject to change):

SATURDAY:

Sidewalk sale, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Open house, 11 a.m. - closing.
Samohi Choir carolers, late afternoon
Outdoor holiday movies, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY:

"Urth Caffie lot," northeast corner of Hollister and Main: Petting zoo and pony rides.

Edgemar Courtyard, 2430 Main, east side:

Live music featuring WOOD/WIND with flutist Cathy Larson and guitarist Bill Luke (classical repertoire, standards and pop tunes)

Norman Place:

12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.: Joe Gaeta (jazz)
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.: Shea Welsh (jazz)
Window On The Waters Tidepool touchtank, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

First Federal Lot:

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.: Tom Nolan Band (rock)
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.: The Gary Gordon Band (folk and country-rock)

Kinney Street:

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.: Luca (rock)
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.: Neon Venus (Latin)
"Scratch Lot" (southeast corner, Main and Marine):
Musclemag team contests including a tug of war

SUNDAY AFTERNOON:

Sales and special events at stores include:

Ten Women (2651 Main St.) — 20 percent off sale, snacks, open until 9 p.m.

Eyes on Main (3110 Main St.) — 10 - 75 percent off most eyeglass frames in inventory. Open 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Relish — (New at 216 Pier Ave.) — Opening event. Come sample some teas while you shop for the holidays. First 10 people get a free gift.

Precious Metal Arts (2510 Main St.) — will be open both days from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. featuring:

- A two day "Meet the artists" trunk show featuring several of the jewelers represented in the gallery, including a special selection of loose gemstones that can be made into custom gifts.

- A 15 percent discount on all purchases made from the gallery.

- Special "jewelry in a day" demonstrations.

- Free holiday gift packaging.

- Refreshments.

- Drawing for gift certificates.

Jams (3110 Main St.) will have a sale of up to 50 percent off selected merchandise. Snacks will be available on Sunday.

ZJ Boardinghouse (2619 Main St.) — Annual holiday sale Dec. 6-8 (Friday-Sunday).

For further information log onto: www.mainstreetsm.com/soulstice_info_02.html.

Let your voice be heard

By Daily Press staff

In 1999-2000, the city's human services division engaged in an exhaustive community planning process called "Community Voices." Through Community Voices, a profile of the Santa Monica community was developed, as well as determining the range of human service needs. With the participation of residents, service providers and the business community, the group determined the priorities for a three-year cycle of grant funding.

To participate in Community Voices and help guide human service funding in Santa Monica for the next three years — here are just some of the opportunities and ways to get your voice heard:

Participate in the following public hearings:

- Social Services Commission on Monday, Nov. 25, 2002 at 7 p.m. at Thelma Terry Center, Virginia Ave. Park, 2200 Virginia Ave.

- Commission on the Status of Women on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2002 at 7 p.m. at Ken Edwards Center, 1527 Fourth St.

For more information, call Tracy Scruggs at (310) 458-8701.

LOCAL



Superintendent wants a separate special election

COMMITTEE, from page 1

If the measure's detractors refuse to participate, the board asked the new parcel tax committee to set up a sub-committee to interview opponents and report back to the full membership so those concerns can be included.

But some who vocally argued against the school district's previous \$300 parcel tax said the school district must first exhaust all possible funding sources before turning to voters for higher taxes.

"As long as there are other ways to raise money, it will only hurt the chances of any future parcel tax's success," said Don Gray, a resident who opposed the previous parcel tax measure.

"How can you convene a parcel tax (committee) if you don't know what you need first? Or where you can get funding from alternative sources before trying to see how the parcel tax fits into the equation," he said. "That's where they screwed up last time. They put the cart before the horse. And the voters knew it."

Gray said the school district needs to look at getting a cut of taxes collected on hotel rooms, raising its leases with the Double Guest Suites Hotel — which is built on district land — and Santa Monica College. SMC rents the Madison Campus from the district.

He said since the school district is moving forward with a parcel tax again without trying to raise its revenues first, any new parcel tax will be defeated again.

"It shows they have the same head in the sand mentality that produced the first parcel tax," Gray said. "If they think it's just selling a tax measure to the residents, they are missing the bigger picture."

"If they are still not going to look at those options and see how to make the parcel tax more attractive, then they are not playing with a full deck and not using all the resources available to them," he added.

Throughout the past year, a precipitous decline in education funding from the state Legislature, and a substantial increase in the cost of health insurance and retirement benefits, sent the school district into an economic pit spin.

Immediate reductions close to \$5 million were executed, and the City of Santa Monica gave the school district a one-time grant of \$1.5 million, in addition to

the annual \$3 million it gives.

However, to address the \$5 to \$6 million in estimated budget deficits next year — again due to a drop-off in state funding — the district decided it must win approval from the voters for a new parcel tax, which levies a fee on each land owner of the (TK) parcels in Santa Monica and Malibu.

About six months ago, the school district convened a parcel tax committee to investigate the community's desire for quality educational programs and the extent residents said they would pay to support education.

While the school district calculated it would only need a new parcel tax between \$200 to \$225 to stave off deep educational cuts, a poll taken by the parcel tax committee found likely voters willing to approve a \$300 tax.

Administrators and school board members said reaching for the higher number would stave off future parcel tax increases and protect the school district's economic future. They put a parcel tax on the Nov. 5 ballot, Measure EE, that asked for the higher number.

However, the measure narrowly failed to win the 67 percent voter approval needed for a parcel tax increase to take effect. Instead, the measure achieved nearly 61 percent voter approval.

The loss of the parcel tax sent the school district back to making severe cuts to balance its budget, which had again hit deficits due to a falloff in state funding. On Thursday, Nov. 22, the school board approved initial cuts close to \$1.5 million, and at least \$800,000 more may be cut by Jan. 1.

Even though the district is desperate for funds, superintendent John Deasy said he would prefer any proposed parcel tax measure not share the same ballot with an initiative proposing to make historic designation a voluntary process for homeowners. The special election for the historic designation measure could possibly take place in March.

He said voters would go to the polls angry, which wouldn't help the district's measure.

"Let's have this prepared as soon as possible," he said, "and hopefully be the only measure on the ballot."

Bayside 'compassionate' when addressing homeless issues

AWARD, from page 1

organization must also receive a permit from the Los Angeles County Health Department, verifying its program follows stringent health codes and is not conducted more than three times in a 90-day period.

Some believe the reason Santa Monica has such a high population of homeless people is because they are attracted by church groups outside of the city who offer free food in parks and in front of City Hall several times a day.

The council also unanimously enacted a law that makes it illegal to sleep in doorways and vestibules downtown and in the commercial zones along Main Street from

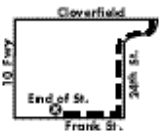
11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Tod Lipka, executive director of Step Up on Second, told Bayside board members last week that the announcement of the award was probably surprising to them given the amount of controversy and politics surrounding the issue.

But despite that Bayside was the originator of the laws, the organization has worked collaboratively with homeless service providers in trying to get people off the streets, Lipka said. He added that Bayside has looked for common solutions like working with Step Up on Second to employ its clients at the twice-weekly farmer's market on the Third Street Promenade.

"We've seen Bayside compassionately address homeless issues," Lipka said.

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Member cites frustration as reason for resignation

GROUP, from page 1

Tom," Glasser said. "Being on the board and the fact that I couldn't personally provide these documents to a community organization that should be available to them ... I certainly felt that some of the information could have been provided."

Gary Clouse, a Santa Monica-based attorney who is representing Fuller, said he is unsure what the next course of action will be since OPCO hasn't responded to the complaint.

Fuller, who is mystified that an organization of which he is a part continues to ignore him, said one possible option is to ask the court for a summary judgment.

"Basically, it says you didn't respond so you lose," Fuller said. "At least give me the courtesy of saying I exist ... this has really alienated the organization."

Laudati hasn't responded in the past month to requests from the Daily Press seeking comment. Susan Love Loughmiller, an OPCO member, said on Saturday that she was unable to locate a board member on such short notice when the Daily Press sought comment on Friday for this story. Loughmiller declined to comment.

OPCO, which was formed in 1978 as a community

organization for the Ocean Park neighborhood, is a non-profit corporation. Under California law, OPCO is required to provide its membership with financial records, according to the complaint. And because it hasn't, it is operating illegally, which opens the organization and its board members to liability, some say.

One of OPCO's functions is to review development projects and make recommendations to the planning commission and city council on whether they should be approved or denied. Some board members who have resigned said they did so because there is no protection of liability when the legality of the organization is being challenged.

Board members Audrea Golding Bitler and Ted Winterer, who along with Glasser, attempted to work out a resolution, also resigned last week reportedly for the same reasons.

"Not having an attorney regarding the issue was concerning for us," Glasser said.

Clouse said OPCO and Laudati, who controls the records, are going to have to face its membership and provide the records eventually.

"It's been strangely quiet," he said. "But they don't

have the luxury of ignoring this lawsuit."

Glasser said the OPCO board had made some progress in the past month in getting financial records for 2002, but not for the previous two years, which are the statements in question.

When Fuller got involved in OPCO in early 2001, he asked to review the accounting books and all financial records, as well as a list of the organization's current membership.

In his written request to Laudati in June 2001, Fuller said he was concerned about an apparent discrepancy between the number of reported members compared to the small amount of membership fees collected. Both the size of the organization and the size of its bank account are unknown.

By the end of 2001, Fuller and other board members wanted the documents to review before the organization's annual congress in February of this year, when all of its members gathered to elect board members and discuss issues. They also requested that Laudati provide monthly financial statements.

Fuller said that this past August, he got an e-mail from Laudati declining to release the records.

Desert Hot Springs mayor files bankruptcy a year after city

By The Associated Press

DESERT HOT SPRINGS — Nearly a year after the city became California's first government entity to file for bankruptcy in seven years, Mayor Matt Weyuker said he's declaring bankruptcy, too.

Financially crippled by a legal dispute involving a former employer, Weyuker confirmed in a letter to residents this week that he has filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection.

In the letter, Weyuker, 69, said he was wrongly fired from his position at a university and a subsequent lawsuit coupled with a weakened stock market have sapped him and his wife of their savings.

"We are, of course, deeply embarrassed by this turn of events," wrote Weyuker, who has been mayor since 1999. "We simply ran out of money and other assets"

Last year, the city filed for protection under Chapter 9 of the federal bankruptcy code. The emergency measure allows the city to protect its assets and property while adjusting its debt — estimated at \$8 million.

The filing followed a federal judge's ruling that upheld an award against the city in a decade-old dispute with a mobile home developer. The company claimed the

city violated the Fair Housing Act and discriminated against low-income families. The developer won a \$3 million judgment. After attorneys fees, interest and penalties, the award totaled more than \$6 million.

The bankruptcy filing last December was the first by a government entity in California since Orange County filed for protection in 1994, after losing more than \$1.5 billion on its investments, according to the League of California Cities.

Weyuker, who said he has no plans to resign as mayor, worked at Western University of Health Sciences, based in Pomona, for 21 years and was serving as director of government relations when he was elected mayor in November 1999. After being fired in July 2000, he filed a wrongful termination lawsuit, alleging age bias. The case is set for trial in 2003.

An early morning call to a Western University spokeswoman was not immediately returned.

Marine recruit dies during basic training

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A Marine recruit died during routine basic training early Sunday, officials said.

Pvt. Neal Edwards IV, of St. Clair, Mo., collapsed after negotiating an obstacle course Saturday afternoon during physical training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego.

Drill instructors administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation until paramedics arrived.

Edwards was taken to the University of California, San Diego where he was pronounced dead at 1:33 a.m.

A statement issued by the Marines did not list his age and a representative of the Recruit Depot could not

be reached for comment Sunday.

Edwards was on his 11th day of training at the main West Coast Marine training facility. The more than 16,000 Marines who pass through the recruit depot each year undergo 63 days of training over 12 weeks, according to its Web site.

The cause of death is pending results of an autopsy.

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STATE



Dockworkers, shipping lines reach tentative agreement

BY JUSTIN
PRITCHARD
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Officials with the West Coast dockworkers' union and shipping companies hailed their six-year contract Sunday as a harbinger of labor peace in more efficient ports where a 10-day shutdown this fall prompted presidential intervention and cost billions.

First, the 10,500 union members — still bitter over the lockout — must ratify the multibillion dollar deal. Union leaders and the federal mediator who wrangled agreement out of a caustic dispute said they thought that would happen by January.

The contract provides "significant" wage and benefit increases, said federal mediator Peter Hurtgen, who wouldn't divulge details.

In exchange, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union agreed to lose about 400 positions as shipping companies and port terminal operators introduce more efficient cargo-tracking technology at 29 major Pacific ports.

"The agreement provides stability for the industry and the economy that is dependent on the industry," Hurtgen said.

The ports handle more than \$300 billion in trade each year — a volume that may double over the next decade as Pacific Rim trade explodes.

The deal came together Saturday night in a flurry of last-minute activity.

Hurtgen had told both parties that if an accord wasn't reached over the weekend, he would resume talks after Thanksgiving in Washington, D.C.

He got a deal he said the membership should approve.

"I think once they see the magnitude of the pension increases, the wage increases — it would be phenomenal if they were to turn that down," he said.

Hurtgen credited the union with adapting to the inevitable — increased computerization on docks that can be painfully strained and gridlocked under the current system.

"This is a package, a contract that labor can be

"The agreement provides stability for the industry and the economy that is dependent on the industry."

— PETER HURTGEN
Federal mediator

proud of and, in fact, other unions would do well to model themselves on this, especially when they're dealing with change," Hurtgen said. "Rather than resist (new technology), they need to roll with it and benefit from it and this union did that."

AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka, who joined the negotiations weeks ago and was credited by both sides as a crucial catalyst in reaching an agreement, said it was a milestone agreement because it showed organized labor can adapt to the electronic age.

"Workers can harness technology and make it work for them," Trumka said. "They can bridle it, saddle it and ride it to job, pension and economic security."

Many details of the contract were closely guarded Sunday, though Joseph Miniace, president of the Pacific Maritime Association, said the package was worth billions.

The real gold mine for workers was in pensions and health benefits.

Miniace said pensions will cost shipping companies more than \$1 billion and by the end of the deal, health care will cost \$500 million. The current annual cost is \$220 million.

Longshoreman average an \$80,000 annual salary for full-time work. During the contract's six years, they can expect a total 10 to 15 percent salary raise, sources said.

Despite the increases, the deal often was in peril, participants on both sides said, and at least a half dozen times it nearly disintegrated.

Hurtgen described two sides that brought to the table "a degree of intractability that, if not unique, was severe and unusual. ... It was a terribly difficult balancing act to keep them moving."

That balance toppled in late September when the association locked out workers — first for 36

hours, and then, after a brief reopening, until a federal judge on Oct. 9 ordered ports reopened for at least 80 days at the behest of President Bush.

Some economists estimated the U.S. economy lost \$1 billion each day as cargo piled up at the docks and ships waited at anchor offshore. Some factories shut down for lack of supplies and farmers worried their produce would rot before it reached market.

When the ports reopened, union officials said privately they would walk a fine line — they would do just enough to keep cargo moving so the Justice Department wouldn't penalize them, but not too much to help rescue their employers from the mountain of cargo that piled up during the shutdown.

Shipping lines decried what they termed a "strike without pay." They insisted continued slowdowns were cutting productivity by about 30 percent and pressed its case with feder-

al prosecutors.

But prosecutors ultimately judged they couldn't prove a slowdown and told U.S. District Judge William Alsup they wouldn't ask for punitive intervention.

Miniace all but apologized for the shut down Sunday, saying "we absolutely regret that the lockout was a part of this negotiating process."

Hurtgen said the lockout was "not avoidable," but inflicted pain that was both blessing and curse.

"The shutdown produced a national reaction which focused the president and the administration and the Congress and the nation," Hurtgen said. "It was that pressure that ... someone's watching that ultimately produced the changed attitudes."

It ended when Bush invoked the Taft-Hartley Act to reopen the docks for an 80-day "cooling-off" period that expires Dec. 27.

The union's top lawyer, Rob Remar, said the use of Taft-Hartley antagonized

the rank and file, and that could complicate the ratification.

"There's a real bitterness that is going to linger with them for a long time," he said. The leadership's lobbying for the pact must address that anger, he said, "And we will."

A caucus of about 100 union members will meet Dec. 9 to vote on the contract, and the entire rank-and-file will probably vote on it in early January, according to union president Jim Spinoso.

If 60 percent of union members approve the contract, it passes outright. If between 50 and 60 percent approve, it still passes as long as each individual union accepts the plan. But if any of the local unions reject the plan, there's a break for lobbying, followed by a second round of voting.

In 1996, 59 percent of union members approved the contract, but one local turned it down. That meant, in the first round, the contract failed. After union leaders lobbied the rank and file membership, the contract passed with 62 percent of the vote.

"This process is set up to be very protective of everybody," union spokesman Steve Stallone said.

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Craig Rubadoux/Associated Press/Florida Today
The shuttle Endeavour lifts off, lighting the night sky, as seen from Port's End Park at Port Canaveral, on its way to the international space station Saturday evening.

Endeavour chases after international space station

BY MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Space shuttle Endeavour chased after the international space station Sunday, bringing a relief crew for its three longtime inhabitants.

"We're on our way," said the shuttle's skipper, James Wetherbee.

The 250-mile-high linkup will occur Monday afternoon.

American astronaut Peggy Whitson and Russian cosmonauts Valery Korzun and Sergei Treschev have been aboard the space station for almost six months. Their mission was supposed to last 4 1/2 months, but all of the space shuttles were grounded after they moved in because of cracked plumbing. Then, Endeavour ran into other trouble that further delayed liftoff.

The long wait ended Saturday night with an ear-splitting launch. "You really rocked the house with that ascent," Mission Control radioed.

Wetherbee said Sunday that moments after liftoff, the shuttle was pointed toward a nearly full moon and he could see it through the front window of the cockpit. He described the scene as "pretty amazing, giving us a real sense that we were headed toward space as we were headed straight toward the moon."

Wetherbee and his crew gave Endeavour's robot arm a workout as the shuttle drew closer to the station. The job took on added significance because of the damage that workers inflicted two weeks ago during oxygen-leak repairs; they accidentally hit the arm with scaffolding.

Despite the 2-inch bruise near the shoulder of the 50-foot crane, it operated fine in orbit, although a wrist joint was sluggish. Mission Control said recently applied lubricant may not have had a chance yet to work its way into that joint.

The arm will be used Tuesday to lift a giant girder from the shuttle payload bay for installation on the space station.

Endeavour will spend a full week at the space station and return to Earth, with Whitson and her two station crewmates, on Dec. 4.

Graceland reverses decision to bow out of 'clone' festivals

By The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Elvis impersonators can continue swiveling their hips and quivering their lips, after Graceland reversed its earlier decision to sever its support of festivals featuring clones of the King.

Elvis Presley Enterprises, the business arm of the multi-million-dollar Presley estate, decided in October to no longer associate with festivals using Elvis impersonators.

But the estate gave back its backing after receiving about 30 letters from festival organizers and fans who were all shook up.

"From reading these, we said, 'Let's forget about the hassles. This is some-

thing, frankly, we need to support,'" said Jack Soden, chief executive officer of EPE.

Most Elvis impersonators do "heart-felt" tributes to Elvis, said Soden. "But we've all seen pictures of people who just should not have gone outdoors in outfits like that."

Soden said the idea for the policy change came from some festivals "becoming more about Elvis impersonators than Elvis."

But most impersonators would disagree.

"Everything I'm doing is just to pay tribute to him," said David Lee, a major contender on the festival circuit. "Graceland disliking tribute artists is something I've never understood."

INTERNATIONAL



Iraq's foreign minister complains of 'pretexts' in U.N.'s resolution to war

BY CHARLES J. HANLEY
AP Special Correspondent

BAGHDAD, Iraq — In a point-by-point protest, the Iraqi government complained to the United Nations Sunday that the small print behind the weapons inspections beginning this week will give Washington a pretext to attack.

The new U.N. resolution on the inspections could turn "inaccurate statements (among) thousands of pages" of required Iraqi reports into a supposed justification for military action, Foreign Minister Naji Sabri said in a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

"There is premeditation to target Iraq, whatever the pretext," Sabri said.

His lengthy letter, a detailed commentary on the Security Council resolution, was not expected to affect the inspections, which resume Wednesday after a four-year suspension. Iraq had accepted the resolution in a Nov. 13 letter from Sabri to Annan.

Preparations moved steadily ahead on Baghdad's outskirts Sunday, where technicians at the U.N. inspection center worked to establish a "hot line" with liaisons in the Iraqi government.

The first working group of 18 inspectors arrives Monday on a flight from a U.N. rear base in Cyprus. Their numbers are expected to swell by year-end to between 80 and 100 at a time in Iraq.

In seven years' work after the 1991 Gulf War, U.N. experts destroyed large amounts of chemical and biological weapons and longer-range missiles forbidden to Iraq by U.N. resolutions, and dismantled Iraq's nuclear weapons program before it could build a bomb. The inspections were suspended amid disputes over U.N. access to Iraqi sites and Iraqi

complaints the United States inserted spies in the inspection teams.

A new focus on Iraq by the Bush administration led to adoption of Resolution 1441 and the dispatch of inspectors back to Iraq with greater powers of unrestricted access to suspected weapons sites. Washington alleges Iraq retains some prohibited weapons and may be producing others.

The resolution, adopted unanimously Nov. 7, demands the Iraqis give up any chemical, biological or nuclear weapons, or face "serious consequences."

It requires Iraq to submit an accounting by Dec. 8 of its weapons programs, as well as of chemical, biological and nuclear programs it claims are peaceful. Any "false statements or omissions" in that declaration could contribute to a finding it had committed a "material breach" of the resolution — a finding that might lead to military action.

The Bush administration has threatened war to enforce Iraqi disarmament, with or without U.N. sanction. But other governments, including France, Russia and China, say that decision can be made only by the Security Council.

Sabri's letter, dated Saturday and released Sunday, complained that a key passage on providing documentation is unjust, "because it considers the giving of inaccurate statements — taking into consideration that there are thousands of pages to be presented in those statements — is a material breach."

Sabri wrote that the aim was clear: "to provide pretexts ... to be used in aggressive acts against Iraq."

After talks with the Iraqis last week, chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix said they had expressed "particular con-

Tension in India



Channi Anand/Associated Press

Indian paramilitary soldiers take position at the Raghunath Temple complex in Jammu, India, Sunday after suspected Islamic separatists stormed the temple, killing at least six people and injuring 25 others, police said. Security forces surrounded the temple and exchanged fire with the militants holed up inside. Police said many pilgrims were trapped in the temple.

cern" about what was expected of them in reporting on their chemical industry, a complex area in which many toxic products can be diverted to military use.

The foreign minister's letter disputed the allegations that his government retained chemical or biological weapons and rebuilt weapons programs. "The United States and Britain failed to give one credible proof on this matter," Sabri wrote.

Sabri complained of what he called arbitrary powers being granted to inspectors, including "meeting people inside their country without the presence of a representative of their government, or asking them to leave the country with their families to meet (for interviews) abroad."

Mohamed ElBaradei, the top nuclear inspector, said Sunday night that any interviews of Iraqi scientists outside the

country would be handled professionally and aren't an attempt to spirit Iraq's brightest scientists out of the country.

"If this measure takes place it would be for objective reasons," ElBaradei told reporters on arriving in Cairo, Egypt. "(Interviews) aren't aimed at Iraqi brain-drain, won't take place unless the scientists desire to be questioned outside Iraq and won't be forced from our side."

ElBaradei was in Egypt for meetings Monday with President Hosni Mubarak and Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa.

In notifying Annan of Iraq's acceptance of Resolution 1441, Sabri had advised the U.N. chief he would follow with this second letter commenting on supposed violations of international law and other problems with the resolution.

Burial box of Jesus' brother under 'very cautious' scrutiny

BY RICHARD N. OSTLING
AP Religion Writer

TORONTO — The French scholar who discovered the purported burial box of Jesus' brother, James, strongly defended the artifact's identification Sunday against skeptical points raised at a convention of religion scholars.

Despite the doubts, Andre Lemaire asserted that "myself, I have been very cautious. I say it is very probable."

The animated panel discussion, attended by 800 people, involved mainly crucial technical points such as grammar and the forms of handwriting in the inscription, which reads "James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus."

The words appear on a 1st century bone box known as an "ossuary," a form of Jewish burial that ended in A.D. 70. The New Testament identifies James as Jesus' brother and the leader of Jerusalem's early Christians.

If experts decide the inscription refers to Jesus of Nazareth rather than some other Jesus, and is not a forger, the box would rank as a monumental archaeological discovery.

Since Lemaire reported the box's existence last month in Biblical Archaeology Review magazine, some have suggested the Jesus phrase could have been added by a forger, more likely in ancient than in modern times.

Some scientific questions about the box, on display at the Royal Ontario Museum through Dec. 29, may be clarified when the Israel Antiquities Authority conducts further examination.

Two specialists with Israel's Geological Survey have certified that the surface patina indicates all the letters were inscribed in ancient times with no sign they were

tampered with.

Eric Meyers of Duke University, who got his first look at the box last week, told the meeting he has "serious questions about authenticity" and urged caution, among other reasons because the "brother of Jesus" phrase could have been added.

"There's a kind of resistance. We don't want to believe it."

— HERSHEL SHANKS
archaeology magazine, editor

Due to the claimed link to Jesus, the artifact has been valued at \$1 million to \$2 million, Meyers said.

University of Toronto archaeologist Peter Richardson told a separate panel at the Ontario museum that the inscription shows two different writing styles, but the "character of the letters changes gradually" from one end to the other, making forgery less likely.

But Kyle McCarter of Johns Hopkins University responded that the existence of two writing styles "suggests the possibility of a second hand."

Lemaire said the more fundamental question is whether the inscription refers to the biblical James. On

that, he estimated that in 1st century Jerusalem only 20 males named James might have had a father named Joseph and a brother named Jesus.

He reached his "very probable" identification because it was extremely rare to name a brother, so this particular Jesus must have stood out.

John Painter, an Australian historian who has written on James, questioned the statistical basis for Lemaire's estimate.

But Oded Golan, the Israeli collector who owns the box, told the museum session that Tel Aviv University statistician Camil Fuchs has narrowed the odds to three people or, by less cautious reckoning, "down to almost one person of the period."

He said Fuchs' calculations, not yet published, eliminate Jerusalem's non-Jews, children, the 85 percent who were illiterate and the 50 percent who could not afford ossuary burial.

Fuchs' conclusion would cover a span of 90 years. But the museum's display says the letter shapes narrow the time of the inscription to roughly A.D. 50-70. Josephus, the most important Jewish historian in the 1st century, recorded that James was executed as a heretic in A.D. 62.

Hershel Shanks, editor of the archaeology magazine, who is co-authoring a book and advising a television documentary about the box, said of all the questions being posed, "There's a kind of resistance. We don't want to believe it."

The annual convention of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature, two major associations of North American religion scholars, continues through Tuesday.



SPORTS

USC playing their best entering game vs. Notre Dame

BY JOHN NADEL

AP Sports Writer

PASADENA — Pete Carroll certainly has UCLA's number. The second-year Southern California coach and his team will try to find Notre Dame's before next weekend.

The sixth-ranked Trojans scored in the first 16 seconds and added two more touchdowns before the game was 10 minutes old in rolling to a 52-21 victory over the Bruins on Saturday before a crowd of 91,084 at the Rose Bowl.

Coupled with last year's 27-0 triumph, the Trojans have posted the most one-sided back-to-back wins in the 72-game series since winning 76-0 and 52-0 in 1929 and 1930 — the first two games between the rivals.

"This is a great accomplishment," USC quarterback Carson Palmer said. "To beat UCLA so convincingly twice in a row — that's unheard of."

USC's 52 points were the most by either team since 1930.

The Trojans (9-2, 7-1 Pac-10) have won six straight entering Saturday night's game against No. 7 Notre Dame (10-1) at the Los Angeles Coliseum. The game is already a sellout.

USC has averaged 41.6 points while allowing 22.2 in those six games.

The Trojans also matched their longest winning streak against UCLA, having



Southern California's Mike Williams fends off UCLA's Ben Emanuel II as USC head coach Pete Carroll, lower left, reacts during the second half, Saturday, in Pasadena, Calif.

four won in a row since losing eight straight from 1991-98.

"We've never lost to UCLA since I've been here," senior USC safety Troy Polamalu said. "Then again, we've never beaten Notre Dame."

USC has lost its last three games to the Fighting Irish and hasn't beaten UCLA and Notre Dame in the same season since 1981.

Palmer completed 18 of 31 passes for 254 yards and four touchdowns against

UCLA, including a 34-yarder to Kareem Kelly on USC's first play. UCLA's Tab Perry fumbled the opening kickoff, and Grant Mattos recovered.

That was the first of five UCLA turnovers, and that doesn't include an errant snap from center by Rusty Williams on a punt attempt that led to a 34-yard loss, setting up USC's third touchdown.

"We came into an adverse situation and played lights out," Carroll said. "So many opportunities were cashed in right off the bat. That's the mark of a good football team."

"We are really looking forward to next week."

Palmer became the leading passer in Pac-10 history, surpassing the record of 10,911 yards set by Stanford's Steve Stenstrom from 1991-94 less than five minutes into the game — on a 51-yard touchdown pass to Keary Colbert.

"He made a statement, he played great today and showed great leadership," Carroll said. "Right now, he is playing at a higher level than any other quarterback in the country. He should win the Heisman if we win next week."

After beating the Bruins soundly, the Trojans will be cheering for their crosstown rivals Dec. 7, when UCLA faces No. 9 Washington State (9-2, 6-1) at the Rose Bowl.

That's because USC will win the Pac-10 championship and play in the Rose

Oakland Raiders victorious over Cardinals in Arizona

BY BOB BAUM

AP Sports Writer

TEMPE, Ariz. — The Raider Nation came to the desert by the thousands, and Rich Gannon made them feel right at home.

Gannon completed 27 of 45 passes for 340 yards and three touchdowns as the Oakland Raiders rolled over the Arizona Cardinals 41-20 Sunday. Charlie Garner rushed for 100 yards in 16 carries, including an 8-yard touchdown run. Tyrone Wheatley added 82 yards on 13 carries.

Gannon topped 300 yards passing for the eighth time in 10 games. The record for 300-yard games in a season is nine.

The Raiders, with the NFL's No. 1 offense, amassed 520 yards against the hapless Cardinals, who lost their fifth in a row and have been outscored 168-84 in the process.

Marcel Shipp gained 135 yards in 16 carries for Arizona in his first NFL start. But the Raiders scored touchdowns after Jake Plummer's two first-quarter turnovers and were in control throughout.

Oakland's first TD came after Plummer inexplicably tried a no-look, behind-the-back lateral on a broken play.

Shipp got the start because Thomas Jones broke his right hand Friday night. Jones told the Cardinals he broke it when he hit it on a counter reaching for a ringing telephone.

With more than half the crowd of 58,814 in 73,000-seat Sun Devil Stadium decked out in Raider black, Oakland (7-4) won its third in a row after a four-game losing streak. Gannon threw touchdown passes of 7 and 14 yards to Jerry Porter in the first half and a 37-yarder to Jerry Rice for a score in the third quarter.

Shipp was the lone bright spot for the Cardinals (4-7). The second-year running back from Massachusetts, who was not drafted, had 122 yards in 12 carries by halftime.

The Raiders revved up their offense with a 17-0 third quarter. Oakland had touchdown drives of 62 and 64 yards on its first two possessions of the second half. The TD pass to Rice on third-and-seven put Oakland up 35-

14 with 5:02 left in the quarter.

Sebastian Janikowski's 37-yard field goal made it 38-14 with 43 seconds left in the third. Janikowski capped the blowout with a 51-yarder with 1:56 remaining in the game as Oakland avenged a 34-31 overtime loss at home to Arizona last year.

Plummer was 16-for-34 for 145 yards and two touchdowns. His two early mistakes set the tone for the whole afternoon.

His first turnover may have been the most ill-advised play in a career that already had featured plenty of them. When Shipp broke the wrong way on a running play, Plummer attempted to flip a no-look lateral to him behind his back. The ball bounced to the turf, and the Raiders' DeLawrence Grant recovered at the Arizona 13.

Gannon threw 7 yards to Porter for the score with 8:51

left in the first. Moments later, Eric Barton intercepted Plummer's pass at the Cardinals 33. Garner had a 22-yard run, then an 8-yard touchdown run and it was 14-0 with 1:14 left in the first.

Shipp's 3-yard touchdown cut the lead to 14-7 with 13:53 to go on the half. He had runs of 17 and 26 yards and Plummer threw 31 yards to Frank Sanders to set up the score.

Oakland's first long scoring drive of the game — seven plays, 84 yards — made it 21-7, Gannon throwing 14 yards to Porter for the TD with 5:31 to play in the half.

A penalty against Oakland for too many men on the field on an Arizona breathed life into the Cardinals' second scoring drive. Plummer threw a yard to Joel Makovicka for the touchdown that cut the lead to 21-14 with 1:08 to play in the first half.

Report: Two former Fresno State ball players accepted cash and other benefits

By The Associated Press

FRESNO — Two former Fresno State basketball players said they accepted cash and other benefits from sports agents in violation of NCAA rules, The Fresno Bee reported Sunday.

Tito Maddox said in an interview that he accepted an estimated \$30,000 from relatives of a Las Vegas sports agent during the 2000-01 season, The Bee reported. And Terrance Roberson told the newspaper he accepted at least several hundred dollars from middleman Nate Cebrun during the 1999-2000 season.

The admission supports Cebrun's account that he funneled money from

a Las Vegas sports agent to Roberson throughout the season.

In addition, The Bee reported it has obtained a document supporting Cebrun's allegation that he used a money order to send \$300 to Roberson in February 2000.

Both cases violate NCAA rules, which prohibit student-athletes from receiving extra benefits.

If the allegations are affirmed by the NCAA, Fresno State could face penalties that include forfeiture of victories during the seasons in which the players participated; the return of money accrued from NCAA tournament appearances; and scholarship reductions. It also could put the pro-

gram on probation.

Fresno State president John Welty and athletic director Scott Johnson told the newspaper they are aware, as part of the NCAA's letter of inquiry issued this summer, that at least two players had accepted money and extra benefits from sports agencies.

"We have been working with the NCAA on these issues," said Welty, who refused to identify the players. "Once the investigation is finished, we will take appropriate action."

Welty and Johnson said they believe the NCAA investigation will conclude in early 2003. The NCAA would neither confirm nor deny to the Bee that it is investigating the program.

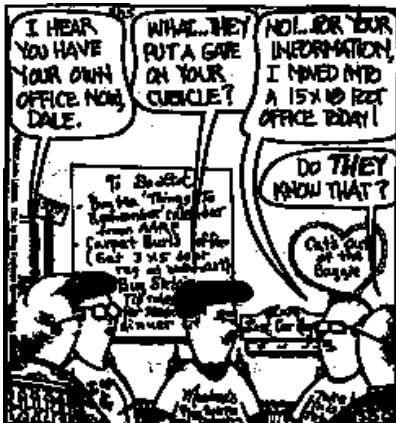
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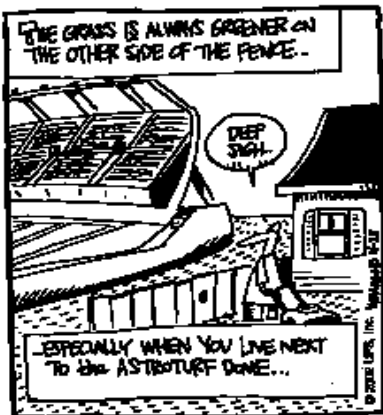
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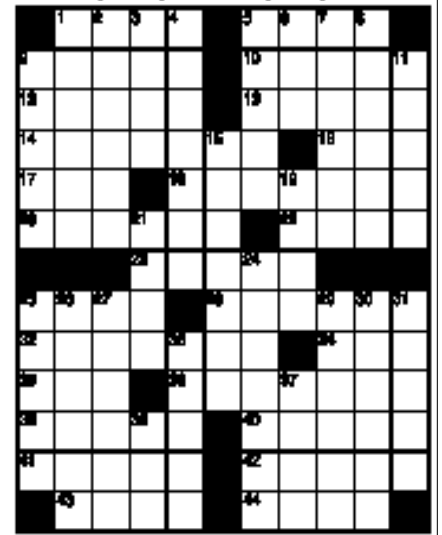
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

School low on cash suggests odd cutbacks

The for-profit school administration company Edison Schools Inc., reportedly low on cash but with 20 particularly troublesome Philadelphia high schools to manage, tried to cut some corners in September until reined in by the school board. According to an October dispatch in Toronto's Globe and Mail, Edison ran low on cash and (1) had to send back newly ordered textbooks, computers, lab supplies and musical instruments; (2) tried to move its Philadelphia executives out of their downtown offices and into vacant school-system rooms to save on rent; and (3) suggested to the school board that students could acquire valuable experience if they were assigned various work projects (for free) for Edison. The latter two ideas were thwarted by the school board, but the students were still making do with old books and equipment.





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YARD SALE Saturday 8am-2pm. Furniture, clothes and more. 2219 Cloverfield.

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DIABETIC WEIGHT-LOSS Bath Shampoo. Free sample. Ralph Sahara, P.O. Box 62174, Honolulu, HI.

EXPERIENCED MAKE-UP ARTIST! Weddings & Special Events. Local references available. (310)702-8778 / (323)559-9033. Nina & Alex.

Personals

FINANCIAL SECURE 70 seeking 50 plus, petite, secure lady for companion, travel, hiking, homelife. (310)452-3131.

MY NAME is Robert. 50/yr. old caucasian male looking for a 50/yr. old caucasian gal for some real fun. Not a financial free ride! Don't be bashful. (310)394-1533.

Classified Advertising Conditions : **REGULAR RATE:** \$.25 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. **PREMIUMS:** First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. **TYPOS:** Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. **DEADLINES:** 4:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 4:00 p.m. **PAYMENT:** All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. **CORRESPONDENCE:** To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310)458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. 202. **OTHER RATES:** For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310)458-7737.

ADVERTISE! Santa Monica Daily Press 310-458-7737

Calendar

Monday, November 25, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema

1441 Third St. at Broadway
Femme Fatale (R) 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40. Half Past Dead (PG-13) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10. The Emperor's Club (PG-13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20. Ararat (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00.

Mann Criterion

1313 Third St.
The Ring (PG-13) 12:45, 4:00, 7:30, 10:40. My Big Fat Greek Wedding (PG 7:40, 9:55. Punch-Drunk Love (R) 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15. Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (PG) 9:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:30, 11:45.

AMC Theatre SM 7

1310 3rd Street

Santa Clause 2 (G) 11:20, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:40. I Spy (PG-13) 11:15, 1:30, 7:05, 9:30. The Sweet Home Alabama (PG-13) 10:30, 4:00, 8 Mile (R) 12:30, 1:20, 3:45, 4:35, 6:45, 7:45, 9:50, 10:45. Die Another Day (PG-13) 11:00, 1:10, 1:55, 4:15, 5:00, 7:25, 8:10, 10:30, 11:10. I Spy (PG-13) 11:15, 1:30, 7:05, 9:30. Jackass: The Movie (R) 12:15, 2:45, 5:10, 7:55, 10:35.

Landmark Nu-Wilshire

1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Bowling for Columbine (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:30, 10:15. Far From Heaven (PG-13) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30.

Laemmle Monica

1332 2nd St.
Real Women Have Curves (PG-13) 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00. The Fourth Tenor 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15. The Quiet American (R) 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40. El Crimen del Padre Amaro (R) 1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 10:05.

Aero Theatre

1328 Montana Ave.
Secretary 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Today

Toddler Time, 10 a.m. Barnes & Noble at the Promenade and Wilshire. (310)260-9110.

Dodd Art Gallery showing Dafne Nesti "Paintings" and Dodd Jolsapple "New Works". Nov. 17th through Dec. 16th, 5pm to 8pm, 1650 20th Street, Santa Monica. For more information please call (310) 828-5825.

Santa Monica Strutters, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa

Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Harvelle's Blues Club present Sports Happy Hour, 5pm to 8pm. 100 inch movie screen with high definition LCD projector, JBL surround sound, drink specials, \$3.00 Happy Hour Buffet. 1432 4th Street. Between Broadway and Santa Monica Blvd. (310)395-1676

Conversations with God study group in Santa Monica every Monday night 7-8:30 pm, sequentially exploring and implementing the concepts of the "with God" books authored by Neale Donald Walsch. Meets in an ocean front condominium, donation \$5. For further information call Grant at (310) 399-8982.

Unurban Coffee House presents Hot Topics Night hosted by Ali every Monday evening. Signup is at 8pm. Open panel discussion and open forum. 3301 Pico

Bldv. (310)315-0056

Tuesday

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in, So, What Are You Going to Do With the Rest of your Life? Tuesdays, 10:00 to 11:30am. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in, So, What Are You Going to Do With the Rest of your Life? Tuesdays, 10:00 to 11:30am. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS AT SMC'S EMERITUS COLLEGE. Santa Monica College offers free bereavement support groups in the summer session through it's Emeritus College, a widely

praised program designed for older adults. Two support groups will meet Tuesdays on an ongoing basis. One group will meet from noon to 1:50 p.m. and the other from 7 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. For information and registration, call Emeritus College at (310) 434-4306.

Crossroads Schools in Santa Monica invites local musicians (grades 3-7) to join orchestra rehearsals. Rehearsals are ongoing and are held each Tuesday of the school year, from 3:15 to 4:15. Students may join at anytime. Cost is free, students must bring their own instruments. 1714 21st Street, SM. For more information please call (310)829-7391

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Unurban Coffee House presents Stitch 'n' Bitch every Tuesday evening. Chicks, yarn, coffee & chat. 7:30pm to 9:30pm. 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to todaypaper@smdp.com for consideration. Calendar events are limited by space, and will be run at the discretion of the Calendar Editor.

KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

Promote your event in the Santa Monica Daily Press Calendar section.
Fax all information to our Calendar Editor: Attention Angela @ 310.576.9913



BACK PAGE

Montana park's famous glaciers disappearing quickly

BY USHA LEE MCFARLING

Los Angeles Times

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, Mont.

— When naturalists first hiked through Glacier National Park more than a century ago, 150 glaciers graced its high cliffs and jagged peaks. Today there are 35.

The cold slivers that remain are disintegrating so fast that scientists estimate the park will have no glaciers in 30 years.

Boulder Glacier, once massive enough to contain a human-dwarfing ice cave, was gone by 1998. Grinnell Glacier, beloved by tourists and scientists alike, has lost 90 percent of its volume since 1850.

The dwindling glaciers amid the deeply chiseled landscape of this national park offer the clearest and most visible sign of climate change in America. It is an omen even a child can grasp in an instant: Ice that has lasted in these high alpine valleys since the end of the Stone Age will soon vanish.

"It's not just going to happen in my lifetime," said Dan Fagre, a 49-year-old ecologist who leads the U.S. Geological Survey team working to chronicle climate change here. "It's going to happen during my career."

The unexpected speed of the demise of the glaciers has left scientists racing against time. They have only decades left — nothing at all in geological time — before they disappear.

"The scariest thing to me is realizing how fast these things are happening," said Blase Reardon, 39, an avalanche expert who has worked in the park for the last two years. "Being here is like having a

front row seat at the Indianapolis 500."

The melting here is being mimicked around the world, from the snows of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania to the ice fields beneath Mount Everest in the Himalayas. Experts predict that glaciers in the high Andes, the Swiss Alps and even Iceland could disappear in coming decades as well.

In contrast to these more remote, high-altitude areas, the accessibility of Glacier gives scientists a chance to get the most intimate view possible of a dying glacier.

Since 1991, a team of scientists has measured the most ephemeral details of the glaciers. They have analyzed the cycles of precipitation and temperature. They have dragged ground-penetrating radar over crevasses and risked skiing into avalanches to measure snowfall. They have analyzed soil carbon and counted frog eggs to document the unique ecology of glaciers and their meltwater streams.

But for all the gigabytes of data team members have accumulated, they realize they have only scratched the surface. The transformation of the park has turned out to be far more complex than anyone imagined. For example, even as most glaciers here race toward extinction, a handful seem to effortlessly maintain their grip on mountain peaks.

While the team has spent much of its tenure here talking about streamflow data, snowfall records and vegetation dynamics, they have started talking about something new: the loss of beauty. These scientists know they are recording the last vestiges of a world that may soon exist only in their computers, photographs and

memories — a world their grandchildren may never see.

To glaciologists who thrill to see the groaning dynamics of ice in real time, there still is beauty in the rocky new landscapes. Glaciers often drip away into milky lakes of "unusual, gorgeous, turquoise, practically indescribable color," said Jeffrey Kargel, a USGS scientist who monitors many of the world's wasting glaciers from space. The color is a product of light reflecting off "glacial flour," or ground-up rock that floats in meltwater.

The terrain left behind by a retreating glacier is like land recovering from fire, Kargel said. It may look devastated, scarred and littered with boulders. But soon, lichens, grasses and wildflowers grow. Those who stand at the edge of retreating glaciers are likely standing where no human has stood before. "It's not all doom and gloom," Kargel said.

Some of this epochal change can be hard to detect, particularly for those who have spent much of their lives in the park. But pictures can overwhelm.

In most areas with vanishing glaciers, there are few historical records documenting how the ice has responded to the warming of the planet during the last century — or even the last decade. Here, an archive of 12,000 photos offers an unparalleled window into the last century.

The creation of this park, the nation's 10th, neatly coincides with the rise of photography. Boxes of photos of the park date back to the 19th century, and can be compared with modern photographs taken from the same locations.

Of 17 glaciers that have been repho-

tographed, said Karen Holzer, a USGS scientist, four small ones in the park's shadiest, north-facing recesses have not changed at all. Twelve have shrunk considerably. And one, Boulder, disappeared.

A set of photos of Grinnell Glacier through time now hangs in the park's Appar visitor center. The images startle visitors who think of climate change only as some distant, far-off threat.

Glaciers take decades to respond to warming. Scientists say the melting of the glaciers seen today is largely because of leftover warming from the end of the Little Ice Age and global warming, the recent heating of our planet. Most scientists agree the recent warming is mainly a product of industrial activity.

For the first years of the study, the phenomena seemed a simple matter of rising temperatures melting the ice. But closer analysis of temperature data from nearby Kalispell didn't fit that picture. Annual temperatures there have not warmed significantly in the last century — the time when glaciers have retreated most.

It is a world of unexplained contradiction and complexity that keeps Fagre going. As long as the glaciers last, he will keep teasing secrets from them, measuring their size and monitoring the lakes of milky aquamarine meltwater pooling beneath them. He will monitor the firs, track bull trout populations and use powerful computers to model new forest fire cycles.

There is some comfort in the long columns of data he can generate, some satisfaction in knowing the careful work could one day help reduce ecological damage from retreating glaciers around the world.

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