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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Santa Monica election customs under siege

Political group submits initiative to allow citizens to vote for mayor; district representative

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A group of citizens has edged one step closer to changing the way politics has been conducted in Santa Monica for the past 60 years.

But their proposal, which ties a directly elected mayor to election of council members by district and term limits, has attracted fire.

Representatives from the political group called, "Voters Election Reform Initiative for a True Accountability System," also known as VERITAS, announced Monday that it has submitted nearly 13,000 signatures to the city clerk in an attempt to change the city's election charter. The change would allow citizens to vote for their own mayor and one council member from their respective neighborhoods. The group surpassed the requirement by almost 4,000 signatures.

The current law allows only the seven city council members to elect the mayor. City council candidates run at-large throughout the eight square miles of Santa Monica's city limits.

Paul DeSantis, who helped spearhead the VERITAS effort, believes Santa Monica's election process makes it too costly for the average person to run. He also complains that Santa Monica does not have a representative government. Currently, it allows for slate-financed campaigns dominated by huge special interest money, he asserted. What's more, voting for the mayor "politically legitimizes" the position, DeSantis said.

"It's a disgrace," he said. "In the last 20 years, no independent has been elected to city council. An independent, even one with exemplary qualifications and attractive ideas would need \$200,000 to compete effectively ... VERITAS ends this political stagnation with fresh blood, new ideas and true independents serving on the city council.

"I think the process is wrong," he said. "We need people elected based on their ideas, not their money."

"The overall problem is they did not stimulate a public process. There are a lot of ways to do it and they didn't allow the public to debate it."

— MIKE FEINSTEIN
Mayor of Santa Monica

The VERITAS initiative would give citizens a direct line to City Hall by electing one representative from each district, making their politicians accountable to those who elected them, supporters argue.

"The way VERITAS opens up the system is by breaking up the costly, city-wide contest into seven inexpensive, smaller contests in the neighborhood districts," said Irene Zivi, a

See VERITAS, page 3



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

There aren't enough restaurants on the Third Street Promenade Mall to eat outside, which is a concern for the Santa Monica City Council. The proliferation of retail stores has pushed many eateries off the mall. Stop N Cafe is one of only a handful of restaurants that has survived the chain store trend.

City council seeks 'hunger task force'

City council to form task force to attract restaurants on the mall

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Special to the Daily Press

Visitors to the Third Street Promenade may go hungry for several more months while city officials search for ways to bring more restaurants to what has now become nothing more than a long row of retail stores.

A proposed building moratorium

for the mall failed before the Santa Monica City Council Tuesday night, with the majority of councilmembers deciding a task force needs to investigate how to prevent the "bleeding out" of restaurateurs from Third Street.

The emergency ordinance would have prevented further development, expansion, consolidation and change in use of commercial properties on the Third Street Promenade, but foes said the effects on commerce could be too substantial for businesses already operating in a

See RESTAURANTS, page 4

Peggy Chantler Dick dead at 78

By the Associated Press

Peggy Chantler Dick, who wrote scripts for the television shows "Dennis the Menace" and "The Courtship of Eddie's Father," has died. She was 78.

She died of cardiac failure Nov. 20 at St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica.

Born in Philadelphia, Dick graduated from Northwestern University and then interned with the writing team of the "Edgar Bergen Radio Comedy Hour."

She later worked with William Cowley to turn the comic strip "Dennis the Menace" into a television series. They also created the Shirley Booth series "Hazel."

After serving as head writer for "The Courtship of Eddie's Father," she went on to write episodes of "Bewitched" and "The Farmer's Daughter."

She married former actor Douglas Dick in 1963, and occasionally worked on writing projects with him.

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- St. John’s Hospital
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- Main Street Commercial District
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Additional circulation points include:

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Expenses go out of control with the up-and-coming holiday. Support someone in finding a different approach or solution. Make a substantial difference in someone's life. Avoid pioneering new projects for now, stay with the tried-and-true. Tonight: Order in a favorite fast food.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Good intentions come through despite a foggy delivery. Something looks "good on paper." Try this great idea on the boss. Work with an associate singularly to gain the support and understanding you seek. Keep talking even if someone doesn't want to hear you! Tonight: At a favorite spot.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Information that you receive could be tainted. Think in terms of financial gains, and avoid wasting funds. You opt to do more at work and enhance your situation. Others work with you, certainly not against you. Don't take comments personally. Tonight: Do your own thing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Your friends support you more than you ever imagined on a creative project or work-related matter. Your smile wins friends left and right. Don't count on your charm working on a loved one who could be a bit flaky with a money matter. Tonight: Follow the gang.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Confusion surrounds a loved one or partner. Try as you might, you aren't going to make this person see clearly right now. Let your creativity flow into other realms. Your instincts lead you in the right direction with someone you put on a pedestal. Tonight: In the glorious limelight.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Reach out for another. Listen carefully to what someone else thinks about a situation. This person is unusually wise and direct. Feedback helps you sort through the chaos that surrounds work or a co-worker. Burn off frustration by doing something positive for yourself. Tonight: Join a friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ First, take off your rose-colored glasses. You gain a new perspective as a result. A discussion heads in another direction as a consequence. Someone might keep hammering at the same detail. Tackle it. Respond to this issue or question rather than ignoring this person. Tonight: Evaluate any needed expenditure.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ If how many phone calls and requests you receive reflect your desirability, my, how very popular you are! Your feedback might fall on deaf ears unless you add some drama and inflection to your voice. Set the world on its ear with your strong personality. Tonight: Where your pals are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ You could misunderstand someone in the morning. By asking questions when something or someone doesn't make sense, you clear out confusion before it becomes a major problem. A partner does his share in making your finances flow in and out. Tonight: Off to the gym.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ When you find yourself grimacing at money problems, stop. Know that you can handle it easily. Dig into your resources and discover how the mistake occurred. Make corrections accordingly. Your creativity and magnetism encourage others to go along with you. Tonight: Decide where you want to hang the mistletoe.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ You could confuse someone who is close to you. Don't worry too much about a personal matter. Keep expressing yourself, and handle a private matter directly. No one knows what you want better than you do. Make it your job to handle it. Tonight: Stop in and visit with a family member.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Speak your mind, and you get more feedback than you desire. Your intuition works overtime and sometimes gives you mixed messages. Your intensity manifests itself professionally, drawing others toward you. Brainstorm and sort through ideas. Tonight: Tiptoe out of work. Find a pal or loved one.



WEATHER

Today ... Partly Cloudy with a High of 63°F. Winds from the Southeast at 5mph.

Tonight Partly Cloudy with a low of 46°F. Wins from the South at 3mph.

Thursday Showers. High — 60°F Low — 46°



QUOTE of the DAY

“When you see a fork in the road, take it.”
 — Yogi Berra

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 530 Wilshire Blvd., Suite #200 • Santa Monica, CA 90401

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa.....ext. 104

EDITOR

Carolyn Sackariason.....ext. 102

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Del Pastrana.....ext. 106

TEST SUBJECT

Dave Danforth.....ext. 103

LOCAL

Mayor: citizens not given full story about proposal

VERITAS, from page 1

VERITAS supporter. "We don't expect the slates to disappear. What VERITAS does is give a slingshot to every Santa Monica independent who can now challenge these Goliath slates with a good pair of walking shoes, interested neighbors and a few hundred dollars for photocopying."

What VERITAS is introducing is nothing new to American politics, DeSantis said. Having a mayor represent the entire city with district representation on the council mirrors national electoral politics.

"We are not trying to be clever here," he said. "We are just taking that American paradigm and bringing it to Santa Monica."

But Santa Monica Mayor Mike Feinstein thinks the entire initiative is nothing more than a clever attempt to undermine the successful political culture here.

And as a result, the entire election process is in danger, he added. Feinstein argues the initiative, if passed, would decrease voter choice, decrease public officials' accountability, and increase the amount of special interest money thrown at politicians.

Under the current system, each person can vote for all seven city council members but under the VERITAS initiative, voters would be restricted to choosing only one out of seven council members, Feinstein said. What's more, council members would be accountable to only a

single neighborhood, pitting one neighborhood against each other, especially on development issues, he suggested.

"I think that with the size of our city, every council member should be accountable to the community," he said. "The form of government we have now is so much more appropriate for a city our size."

Feinstein also fears that a voting mayor would attract enormous campaign funds to the race, corrupting the scale and cost of local elections, Feinstein said.

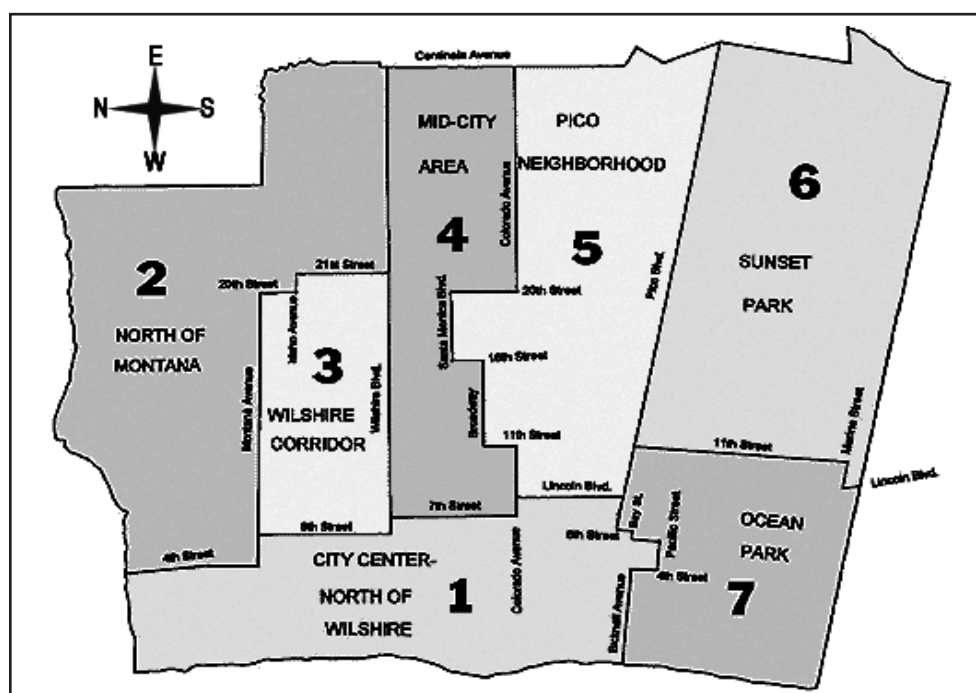
Feinstein attacked VERITAS for what he called deceptive practices by failing to tell petition-signers its full effect. For example, the mayor notes, the petition calls for term limits, but the "hired guns" VERITAS used to collect signatures outside local grocery stores and in residential neighborhoods didn't disclose that. Instead, he said, they mentioned only that the mayor would be directly elected.

DeSantis hopes to bring the initiative to voters this spring, after a set of public hearings on the proposal.

However, Feinstein favors public debate before the proposal is brought to voters. He also noted there are a number of different ways that electoral overhaul could be done. One proposal would allow a vote for a district representative while voting for the other six council members at large.

"The overall problem is they did not stimulate a public process," he said. "There are a lot of ways to do it and they didn't allow the public to debate it."

The proposed district map by VERITAS, which is proposing that citizens vote for council members based on neighborhood representation.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Los Angeles Agricultural Inspector Reza Marashi loads up Christmas trees he removed from the J Crew store on the Third Street Promenade Tuesday. He said the trees were imported into the state from the East Coast without the proper certification. They were ordered to be removed in all the clothing store's outlets in the area.

LETTERS

Leave our poor mayor alone

Editor:

"In the days to come when you hear or read about our poor mayor, please be understanding and please be kind to him. Ask not what our poor mayor can do for you, ask what you can do for our poor mayor."

During the past few weeks, I have heard some very nasty comments coming from veterans, activists, and advocates. All of which are very angry about our poor mayor policies and insensitive actions such as holding the 9/11 city council meeting while more than 4,000 Americans were dying. I feel that unsubstantiated, disrespectful, personal attacks on our poor mayor for never being a real mayor are wrong. Crude and horrible comments about the mayor allegedly converting Green Party donation money to his personal bank account, allegedly lacking honesty, allegedly lacking leadership, allegedly lacking courage or allegedly

lacking respect for democracy or to his oath of office are getting real old with me.

Our poor mayor is what he is. We, the people of Santa Monica, never elected him to be our mayor. I wish my friends would just leave the poor man alone. I for one pray that our poor mayor be well. I for one pray that truth and justice begins with our poor mayor. Instead of picking on our poor mayor for not being perfect, they should impeach him and change the political system to allow the people to elect their own, real mayor. Our poor mayor is a human being and is only guilty of trying to make everyone happy — most of the time — with both of his smiling faces.

Let's all come together right now by making the commitment next November to be like the rest of American cities in voting for a real mayor.

Pro Se
Santa Monica

'Network,' 'Happy Days' earn hall of fame honors

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The films "The Manchurian Candidate" and "Network" and the TV series "Happy Days" and "Maude" have been chosen as hall of fame inductees by the guild representing Hollywood producers.

The Producers Guild of America announced Tuesday that the films and shows will be saluted at the group's annual movie and television awards ceremony March 3.

The guild's hall of fame honors films and TV shows at

least 10 years old that "have brilliantly survived the test of time," according to a guild statement.

Starring Frank Sinatra and Laurence Harvey, "The Manchurian Candidate" is a Cold War thriller about a Korean War veteran brainwashed to carry out a political assassination in the United States. John Frankenheimer directed the 1962 film.

"Network," whose ensemble cast included William Holden, Faye Dunaway, Peter Finch and Robert Duvall, is a scathing satire about the anything-goes quest for TV

ratings. The 1976 movie was written by Paddy Chayefsky and directed by Sidney Lumet.

"Happy Days" starred Ron Howard and Henry Winkler in a nostalgic sit-com about 1950s life. Bea Arthur starred as the caustic, hard-nosed title character in "Maude."

Last year, the Producers Guild inducted the films "Lawrence of Arabia" and "It Happened One Night" and the TV series "The Andy Griffith Show" and "The Honeymooners" into its hall of fame.

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LOCAL

City construction projects

Effective November 22, 2001 to December 7, 2001

NAME OF PROJECT AND TYPE OF WORK	LOCATION OF WORK
1999/2000 Water Main Replacement Project Water Main Replacement	- Franklin St. and Bristol Ave. from Montana Ave. to Lipton Ave. - Montana Ave. from Bristol Ave. to Stanford St. 26th St. from San Vicente Blvd. to Montana
2000/2001 Street Improvement Sidewalk Replacement	Citywide
2000/2001 Water Main Replacement Project Water Main Construction	- Yale St. from Washington Ave. to Wilshire Blvd. - Exposition Blvd. from Stewart St. to 34th St. - Yorkshire St. from Exposition Blvd. to Virginia Ave. - Warwick Ave. from Exposition Blvd. to Delaware Ave. 17th Court from Wilshire Place South to Montana Ave. 18th Court from Wilshire Blvd. to Olympic Blvd.
Airport Improvements-Phase II Tie-down Area Paving and Blast Wall Construction	Santa Monica Municipal Airport
City's Main Line Construction Water Main Line Construction	33rd Street from Pico Blvd. to Pearl St.
Sewer Project 15A Line MH's in the Easements. Remove and Replace Sewer Mains near 16th Street and Ashland Avenue; and near Sunset Avenue and Glenn Avenue	The area bounded by 18th Street, 11th Street, Ashland Ave., and Southern City Limits.
Sewer Project 15B Sewer Line Construction (RibLoc Repair) Run 73	Navy St. from Highland Ave. to 7th St.
Sewer Project 13 Sewer Line Construction (Installation of New Manholes)	- The area bounded by 22nd St., Ocean Park Place North, 20th St., and Pearl St. - The area bounded by Lincoln Blvd., Pico Blvd., Kensington Road, and 6th St.
Sewer Project 13 Sewer Line Construction	The area bounded by 18th St., 11th St., Ashland Ave., and the Southern City Limits
Downtown Transit Mall Street and Sidewalk Reconstruction and Installation of Site Amenities	Construction Suspended Until January 2002
PCH Sewer Replacement Installation and Replacement of Sewer Main	Pacific Coast Highway (restricted to two lanes Northbound and Southbound) 500 feet South of the Incline to Entrada
Parking Structure #5 Installation of New Steel Stairs	1441 14th St.
Parks and Street Lighting Improvements Installation of New Conduit, Circuits and Lighting	- Mary Hotchkiss Park 4th St. from Montana Ave. to San Vicente Blvd.
Public Safety Facility Constructing New Public Safety Building	4th St. between Colorado Ave. and Pico Blvd.

How to Contact Us:
If you have any questions or concerns regarding City construction projects please contact the City's Engineering Division by phone at (310)458-8721 or by email.
You can also obtain this information using a touch-tone phone to access the City's automated information system, "City Hall on Call." Just dial (310) 458-8999, press 1, and enter Message No. 724 to hear a description of on-going street construction projects within the City. For the hearing impaired, "City Hall on Call" can be accessed by calling (310) 458-2224.

City wants more dining on mall

RESTAURANTS, from page 1

tight recession.

"This decision should be made by businesses who want to locate along the Promenade and the customers who shop there," said resident Ann Greenspan, who also is the president of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

The council was concerned with further losing restaurants to nationwide retailers, who have bought up smaller shops and turned them into massive stores. As a result, it has pushed out local business owners and restaurants.

"Third Street is more than just an economic engine for this city, but a gathering place for the entire community," said Councilman Kevin McKeown. "We have to take into consideration those concerns too."

Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bloom
agreed.

"If this becomes a monolithic corporate structure with little flavor, then we have let the promenade become any mall constructed across the country," he said.

Instead, the council postponed taking

action until its next meeting, urging the city administration to move quickly on forming a Promenade task force.

In 1996, the city revised the plan for the mall which established a 10-year plan to control growth of retail outlets on the Promenade. However, the actual growth of retail has outstripped the planned growth and the 10-year projection is already met. As a result, what officials have worked so hard to protect is now being threatened, city staff say.

Five restaurants have closed up in the past two years and several more are nearing the end of their leases while at the same time, retail outlets are growing and displacing restaurants. What's more, sidewalk dining is declining as more retailers consume more street frontage. The Third Street Promenade has about 530,000 square feet of retail and more is on the way.

“The promenade becomes less and less the unique, outdoor community entertainment center and more and more like a standard outdoor mall,” city staff wrote to the council.



INTERNATIONAL □ NATIONAL



More bloodshed in Israel; Palestinians open fire

BY STEVE WEIZMAN
Associated Press Writer

AFULA, Israel — Palestinians opened fire in the center of a northern Israeli town Tuesday, killing two Israelis and wounding dozens, police said. The attack came as U.S. mediators held a second day of meetings with Israeli officials, and hours after Israeli troops pulled out of the last West Bank town they held.

Just before noon, two Palestinian gunmen dressed as civilians began spraying fire from Kalashnikov submachine guns at Israelis at the central bus station in Afula, police and witnesses said.

“This illustrates the fact that the Palestinian Authority is not doing anything to stop terrorism, and terror activity is going to continue.”

— AVI PAZNER
Israeli government spokesman

“They shot the first person (they encountered) in the head,” witness Mordechai Cohen told Israel Radio.

A woman tried to attack one of the gunman from behind, but he turned around and shot her, said another woman who gave her name as Iris. “It was shocking. It’s a mess,” she said.

The gunmen proceeded to a nearby open air market and continued firing before being cornered by Israeli police officers and an army reservist in a parking lot, where they were killed in a firefight, said police spokesman Gil Kleiman. There were unconfirmed reports that another gunman may have escaped.

The militant Islamic Jihad group and the Al Aqsa Brigades, a militia affiliated with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat’s Fatah group, claimed responsibility for what they said was a joint attack to avenge the deaths of Palestinian militants killed by Israel.

A video released by the two groups showed the two gunmen sitting in a room in front of political banners. “We hope our people will continue in the path of holy war,” said one of the gunmen, identified as Mustafa Abu

Srieh of Islamic Jihad. His age was not available.

The second assailant, Abdel Karim Abu Nafa, 20, was a Palestinian policeman and Fatah activist. His participation in the attack was seen as a serious challenge to Arafat, whose Palestinian Authority has urged Palestinians not to carry out attacks in revenge for Israel’s killing last week of Mahmoud Abu Hanoud, a Hamas activist accused by Israeli of masterminding bombings that killed scores of Israelis.

The two U.S. envoys, retired Marine Corps Gen. Anthony Zinni and Assistant Secretary of State William Burns, were on a helicopter tour with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon at the time of the attack, and flew over Afula a few minutes later.

The attack “points out the importance of gaining a cease-fire,” Zinni said after the attacks. “As the prime minister said, a cease-fire is what we need to get on to something more comprehensive and lasting.”

In the Afula attack, a 23-year-old man was killed and a 25-year-old woman died later, police and hospital officials said. It wasn’t clear which victims they were. At least 16 people were hospitalized, including four in serious condition, TV reports said. Dozens of others were lightly hurt.

Police sealed downtown Afula. Outside the market, a bag filled with lemons lay beside a puddle of blood.

A crowd of about 20 Israeli youths gathered around the covered bodies of the assailants shouting “revenge!” and “death to the Arabs!” One body was covered with an old Sharon election banner proclaiming: “Only Sharon will bring peace.”

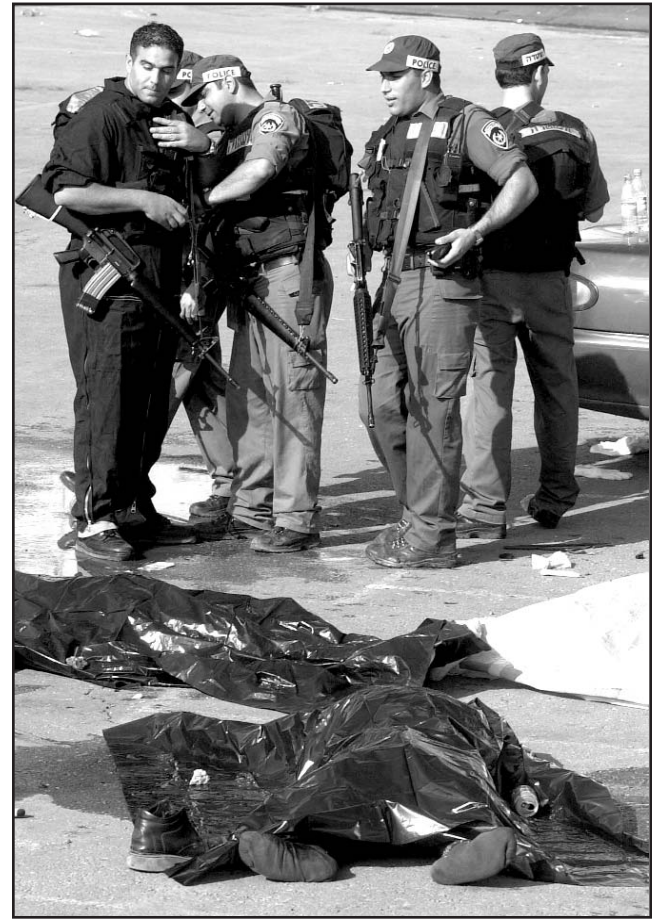
The attackers came from a refugee camp adjacent to the West Bank town of Jenin. “This illustrates the fact that the Palestinian Authority is not doing anything to stop terrorism, and terror activity is going to continue,” Israeli government spokesman Avi Pazner said.

Palestinian Cabinet Secretary Ahmed Abdel Rahman countered that “within less than a month they have killed 56 Palestinians — so when there is a Palestinian response for such aggression, Sharon should blame (no one but) himself.”

Radio reports said the assailants used a stolen Subaru to reach Afula, which is close to the Israel-West Bank border and has been targeted by several such attacks over the past year.

Afula is about 10 miles north of Jenin, the last of six West Bank towns that Israel seized last month in response to the assassination of an Israeli cabinet minister by Palestinian militants.

Israel said it stayed in Jenin longer than in the other



Eitan Hess-Ashkenazi/Associated Press

Israeli police stand near the bodies of Palestinian gunmen killed after they opened fire in the center of the northern Israeli town of Afula, near the central bus station on Tuesday. Two Israelis and two Palestinian gunmen were killed and dozens wounded in the attack which came as U.S. mediators held a second day of meetings with Israeli officials.

towns because of warnings that Palestinian militants there were planning attacks in Israel. Several Palestinian suicide bombers have come from Jenin.

Israel pulled out of Jenin earlier Tuesday, complying with a key U.S. demand just hours before Burns and Zinni began a second day of meetings with Israeli officials in hopes of ending 14 months of Mideast violence.

Since the fighting erupted Sept. 28, 2000, 770 people have been killed on the Palestinian side and 198 people on the Israeli side.

Condit running for re-election

By the Associated Press

MODESTO, Calif. — Rep. Gary Condit took a step toward seeking re-election by filing signatures to put his name on the March primary ballot.

Condit’s son, Chad, said his father still has not decided whether he will run, but the estimated 4,800 signatures filed Monday allow him to avoid paying a \$1,451 filing fee to put his name on the ballot.

The congressman has been mum about his political aspirations since he was romantically linked to missing federal intern Chandra Levy.

Condit told police he had an extramarital affair with the 24-year-old Modesto woman, but police said he is not a suspect in her disappearance.

Condit’s children, Chad and Cadée, who quit high-paying jobs with Gov. Gray Davis after he criticized Condit for not being more forthcoming about Levy, collected signatures for their father.

Election clerks in Stanislaus, Merced and San Joaquin counties have to verify that the signatures come from registered voters.

Condit must file notice by Dec. 7 if he intends to run.

If Condit decides to run, he would face at least three Democrats in the primary, including protege Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza, D-Atwater, who is considered the most serious threat.



Associated Press

Cadée Condit, daughter of Rep. Gary Condit, D-Calif., watches as Merced County Elections Clerk Diana Suversen, left, surveys signatures that Condit delivered to the Merced County Administration Building on Monday in Merced, Calif. Condit said she provided the signatures from the 18th Congressional District in support of her father's reelection bid, but she would not confirm that the congressman, who was romantically linked to missing Washington intern Chandra Levy.

Two other men from outside the district, Joseph Martin, 45, of San Jose and Elvis Pringle, 42, of Los Angeles, said they will run.

On the Republican side, state Sen. Dick Monteith and City Councilor Bill Conrad, both of Modesto, are running.

Winner of nearly \$33 million jackpot going home

WASHINGTON — Cabbie Ihsan Khan is using some of his winnings in the multimillion-dollar Powerball lottery jackpot for a trip back to Pakistan.

Khan had the only winning ticket for the Nov. 7 multistate Powerball annuity drawing worth \$55 million. Having opted for the lump-sum payout, he will be presented a check Wednesday for almost \$32.5 million at the District of Columbia Lottery office.

Khan’s winning combination: 2 4 6 17 25, Powerball 31.

After 22 years in the Washington area, the former cabbie from Arlington, Va., has no plans to hang around. He told lottery officials he will be leaving for Pakistan immediately after Wednesday’s ceremony.

“He didn’t say if he was going for good,” said D.C. Lottery spokesman Bob Hainey. “He’s got two kids in Pakistan. He may just be going to go get his kids, but we didn’t ask him about that,” Hainey said. Khan seemed reluctant to talk much when he went to claim his prize, Hainey said.

Of the \$32.5 million, 28 percent goes off the top to pay federal taxes.

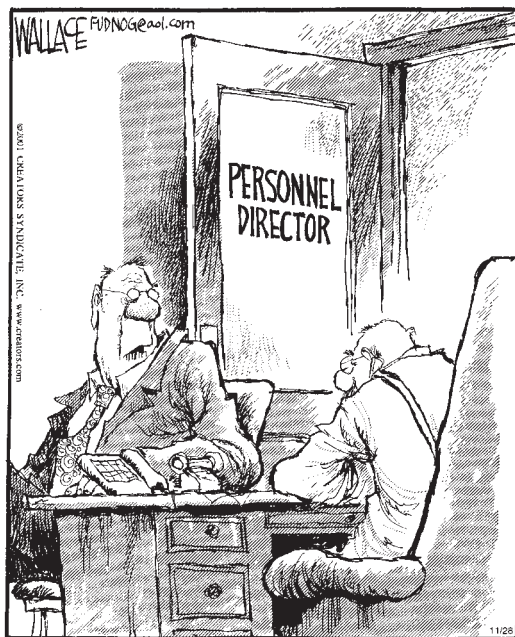
Khan said this month he plans to do “godly things” with the cash.

COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



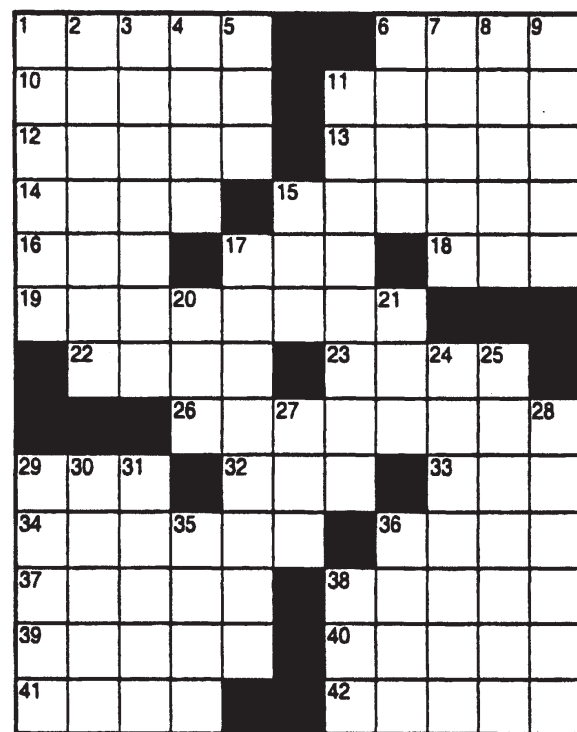
CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Actor Kirby
 - 6 Super-market haul
 - 10 CD player part
 - 11 Hawkeye
 - 12 Stand
 - 13 Temporary fad
 - 14 Budget amount
 - 15 Stowe villain
 - 16 Meringue ingredient
 - 17 Keyboard key
 - 18 Blunder
 - 19 Family tree member
 - 22 Practice for a fight
 - 23 Foolhardy
 - 26 Comedy club output
 - 29 Droop
 - 32 Ave. crossers
 - 33 Deli choice
 - 34 Singer Franklin
 - 36 Mexico area
 - 37 Literary category
 - 38 Showed interest
 - 39 Keyboard key
 - 40 Steer clear of
 - 41 Job
- DOWN**
- 42 Oven feature
 - 1 Sounded the trumpets
 - 2 Helium, e.g.
 - 3 Depleting
 - 4 Lair
 - 5 Refinery stuff
 - 6 Five-time Wimbledon champ
 - 7 In the know
 - 8 One with an intent look
 - 9 Derisive look

MAHAL	PESTS
ELOPE	IMPEL
TIMESS	SQUARE
EVE	SOUTEN
RESTORE	IND
ONE	PACE
GASPS	BALER
RITE	BAT
ORE	PERHAPS
OWN	AGO RUE
MAGICS	SQUARE
EVERT	UMBER
DELES	EASES

Yesterday's answer

- 11 Shipping hazards
- 15 Back muscle, for short
- 17 Curve-billed bird
- 20 Guy's date
- 21 Sidelines sound
- 24 Layer
- 25 Beatles classic
- 27 Actress Hagen
- 28 Death personified
- 29 Sitcom star Bob
- 30 Fight site
- 31 Polite fellows
- 35 Hard trip
- 36 Indonesian island
- 38 Go down



11-28

STUMPED?

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edge city

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Bad haircut prompts shooting

- A 22-year-old man got 60 years in prison for shooting two guys who laughed at his brother's haircut (shaved all around except for a patch of hair surrounding his pony tail) (Chicago).
- Former president Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan warned citizens that if they didn't vote for the candidates he is endorsing, he will kill himself.
- The 270-pound president of a group that helps steer at-risk kids away from crime (and who coaches a football team of 7-year-olds) was arrested for punching a referee in the head (Sarasota, Fla.).
- Two weeks after the House of Representatives' highly criticized decision to fearfully shut down because of anthrax mail, its members voted themselves \$12,000 pay raises.

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BACK PAGE

Murder plot center of self help program

By the Associated Press

MARTINEZ, Calif. — A trio accused of killing five people, including the daughter of blues guitarist Elvin Bishop, wanted to bring truth to the world through a self-awareness program, prosecutors say.

The days surrounding the brutal slayings and dismemberments in August 2000 were outlined in Contra Costa County court Monday by Deputy District Attorney Harold Jewett.

The remains of an elderly Concord couple and Selina Bishop were found in nine duffel bags in the Mokelumne River.

Two brothers and a friend also face murder charges in the shooting deaths of Selina Bishop's mother and the mother's boyfriend in Marin County.

Glenn Helzer, 31, his brother, Justin, 29, and housemate Dawn Godman, 27, also are charged with extorting \$100,000 from Ivan and Annette Stineman, the elderly Concord couple. Selina Bishop was Glenn Helzer's girlfriend.

In addition to five counts of murder, the trio faces charges of conspiracy, extortion, false imprisonment and drug possession. They have pleaded innocent to all charges.

A preliminary hearing, where a judge decides whether there's enough evidence to support the charges, is scheduled to begin next Monday.

Glenn Helzer was an instructor in a self-awareness program called Harmony, and wanted to bring truth to the world by directing his own group, according to court documents. He planned to use drug dealing, an escort service and extortion to finance it.

The \$100,000 extorted from the Stinemans was to be the seed money for the escort service, which would provide enough cash to start Helzer's program, according to court documents.

At Monday's hearing, defense attorneys asked the judge to close the preliminary hearing to prevent publicity from biasing potential jurors. Judge Douglas Cunningham will rule today on that motion.

Prosecutors say Glenn Helzer's plan started to come together in May 2000 when the brothers and Godman moved into a rental home in east Concord. They began buying equipment: ski masks, handcuffs and leg irons, a saw, a plastic tarp and duffel bags. Justin Helzer, a former military police officer, bought a 9mm Beretta semi-automatic.

To launder the Stinemans' money, Glenn Helzer turned to Bishop, a 22-year-old woman who knew him as "Jordan." He asked her to deposit a large inheritance to keep it away from his estranged wife.

On Aug. 1, 2000, Godman deposited two checks written on the Stinemans'

account into Bishop's bank account. That same day, Bishop spent the evening with her mother, Jennifer Villarin. Bishop was last seen Aug. 2 at a Berkeley bar with "Jordan."

Villarin and her boyfriend, James Gamble, spent the night at Bishop's apartment. Early Aug. 3, both were fatally shot, authorities said.

That same day, the Stinemans' daughter reported her parents missing and a surveillance camera recorded a vehicle simi-

lar to Justin Helzer's crossing the Antioch bridge towing a personal watercraft. That was when the three dumped the duffel bags in the river, the prosecutor said.

By Aug. 7, investigators traced the mysterious "Jordan" to the Helzers' Concord address. They arrested the trio on suspicion of drug possession and began to piece together evidence they say linked them to the five killings.

The defendants have been jailed in Martinez without bail.

Councilman nailed by police after driving without license

By the Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A city councilman who drove without a license for 25 years has been issued seven citations, one for each time a television crew videotaped him at the wheel.

If Angel Ortiz pleads guilty, the license he finally got this month after he was caught by the news crew will be suspended for three years.

Each charge of driving without a license is punishable by a \$200 fine. If he pleads innocent and is convicted, he could face up to three years in jail, said Fortunato Perri, administrative judge of

city Traffic Court.

Ortiz has had a city car since he became records commissioner in 1984. He has also served on City Council since the mid-1980s.

After a WTXF-TV news crew confronted him, he admitted he never bothered to get a Pennsylvania license when he moved here from New York in 1976.

Ortiz also paid more than \$3,000 earlier this month to settle 53 unpaid parking tickets.

Ortiz's office referred questions to his lawyer, Tom McGill, who did not return calls for comment Tuesday.



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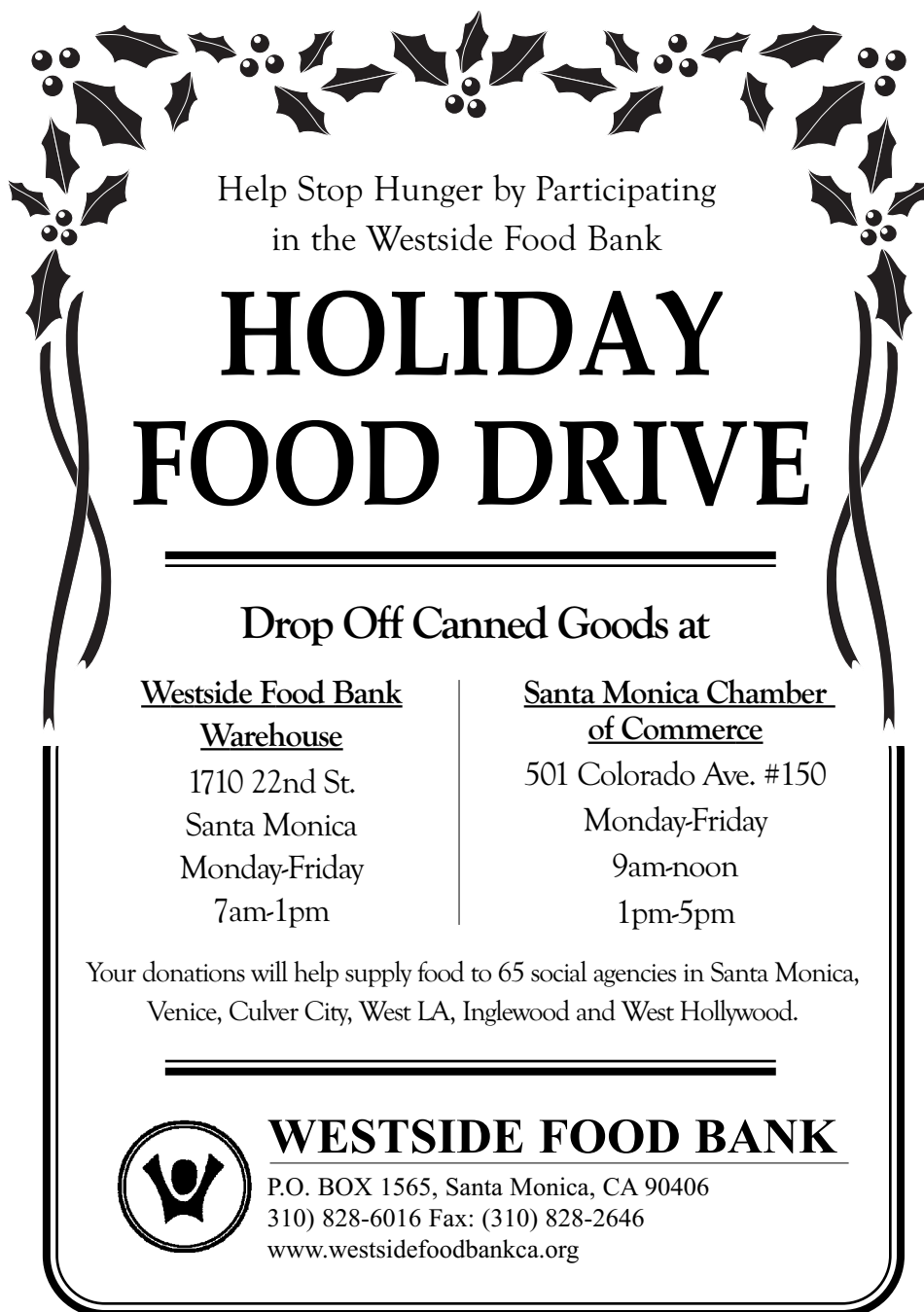
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