

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTO

FANTASY 5

15, 25, 23, 20, 31

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 2, 7, 1

Evening picks: 7, 2, 2

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 5, California Classic

2nd Place: 2, Lucky Star

3rd Place: 6, Whirl Win

Race Time: 1:42.06



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

In September, the Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, daily newspaper Al-Watan reported that the father of a prospective bride (whose future husband had not yet met her) had established a new dowry-collection strategy by demanding that the prospective husband pay the equivalent of US \$300 just to take a pre-wedding glance at the bride (fully clothed, of course).



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan — a Mount Rushmore of incompetence."

— David Steinberg



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City Hall's planning department receives low marks in study

USC students validate Santa Monica business owners' complaints

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

— Local officials could learn a few lessons from the planning departments in Burbank, Culver City and Pasadena, according to a presentation given Monday by a team of graduate business students.

After interviewing the head planners and several entrepreneurs from each city, five students from the University of Southern California presented their preliminary findings to a group of City Hall officials and local business leaders.

The students confirmed complaints that it takes significantly longer to open a business in Santa Monica, and that the process is difficult, costly and confusing to navigate.

Chamber of Commerce officials have long lambasted the department for being overly bureaucratic, which negatively affects local businesses.

The chamber called upon the MBA students to flush out the department's weaknesses and offer suggestions on how to fix the perceived problem.

The group recommended that City Hall remove some of the department's bureaucracy and make the process easier for business owners to understand.

"Something that we discovered was, heck, many of these cases were just wrong expectations. And if someone were there to manage those, maybe it would have taken just as long, but it wouldn't have been as frustrating," said Audney DePaulo, one of the graduate students working on the project under Dr. William Crookston, a professor at USC and former chairman of the chamber.

The group conducted four in-depth studies of businesses, but also interviewed an additional half dozen merchants and gathered information

"We have to think about customer service. I think we should become a bellwether for adding more of it in our city."

— DR. WILLIAM CROOKSTON
Professor, USC

on another handful. All four of the in-depth case studies were of businesses opening in buildings that had already once been permitted for the same type of use.

Of those four, one, a bakery called the "Good Urth," on Main Street, was still waiting to open after signing the lease 18 months earlier. Another restaurant had been open one year but was still

See PLANNING, page 6

Students examine visitors bureau, local restaurant

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

It wasn't just City Hall's planning department under the magnifying glass this fall. Also being studied by area graduate students were the local visitors bureau and a downtown restaurant.

Students were given the task to examine the entities and make suggestions on their operations. The three projects are part of 15 being conducted in southland cities by students of Dr. William Crookston, a Santa Monica resident and professor at the University of Southern California.

"This is a way we recruit our students. This is a way we give them internships," said Crookston, who also serves as

See STUDY, page 7

Christmas 'a la cart'



Del Pastrana/Daily Press
People sip coffee next to a shopping cart Christmas tree in the Edgemar courtyard on Main Street Monday.

Downtown luxury hotel looking for approval

By Daily Press staff

COUNCIL CHAMBERS — Elected officials will consider tonight whether City Hall will allow a luxury hotel to move forward on plans to redevelop, which last year involved a 16-story apartment building in downtown Santa Monica.

Although the apartment tower has been scrapped, owners of the Fairmont Miramar Hotel, located on the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Ocean Avenue, now propose to build another hotel with 200 rooms.

The height of the building has not yet been determined, but Matt Dinapoli, a part-owner of the hotel, said he would prefer that the new

hotel not be limited by current height restrictions. In a letter to the Santa Monica City Council, Dinapoli said he and other hotel representatives believe that determining the appropriate height is best accomplished through discussions between City Hall and the developer.

Those discussions would be part of a "development agreement," which Dinapoli is applying for tonight. It would allow the hotel and City Hall to enter into negotiations for any future project on the site. Development agreements typically list city requirements that might not be explicitly written into zoning codes or laws. It would also set a time period for when

See FAIRMONT, page 7

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Saturday, December 6, 2003 Location: Fairmont Miramar Hotel
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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average
★★-So-so ★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Keep your eye on your goals. You empower yourself with the help of someone you really care about. A boss finally sees the positives in your ideas rather than the negatives. You feel pleased to be acknowledged — finally. Use your newfound magnetism. Tonight: All grins, and why not?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You might want to keep your opinion to yourself. Others simply don't and won't agree, no matter what you try to do. Detach and walk in someone else's shoes, and you'll get a lot of answers. Observe, research and stay behind the scenes. Tonight: Happily head home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You might want to discuss a change of pace in the near future. A partner suddenly seems to be in the mood to talk. You are relieved to clear the air. Both of you actually have similar goals. Aim for more of what you want. Tonight: You're all grins.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Although work might be demanding, many grin from ear to ear when they see you. Associates have tremendous faith in your ability to come through. Others pitch in to make a dream happen. You have much to smile about. Tonight: Burn the candle at both ends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Reach out to someone at a distance whom you care about. Your ability to understand those around you makes someone care about you perhaps a little too much. Be ready to establish more boundaries if need be. Tonight: Buy some Christmas music if you don't have any.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Experiment with different ideas with the help of a partner or associate. Brainstorming only adds to your creativity and dynamic ideas. A relationship could be kindling in the background, or a present one might become much softer and endearing. Tonight: Go along with another's suggestion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Others act in a dynamic way. You might want to sit back and watch what goes on. A family member could be unusually pliable. You might be considering a special purchase for your household. Enjoy the moment. Tonight: Just don't be home alone.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Try a different route or do something very different. Your perspective could change during a discussion and soften up a lot about someone close to you. Practice a little more diplomacy. Tonight: Work off that turkey dinner with some exercise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Being in a very playful mood, you might decide to treat someone to something he or she has always wanted, or you might decide to do something a little wild. Risking goes hand in hand with your fiery nature right now. Tonight: So what if it is a work week?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Venus moves into your sign, adding to your allure and desirability. What you hear could put a different perspective on a domestic matter. Check out an investment with care. Tonight: Happily at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You have a way of drawing people to you, which today might be a great ability to call on. Your perspective could change if you let it go and just relax with the moment. Be careful of someone you meet in the near future. Tonight: Get into the whirlwind of life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ A friend might share a secret that you are dying to reveal. The tone of a relationship could be changing — much more to your liking. Be cautious handling funds, as money could easily slip through your hands. Tonight: Your treat.

CORRECTION — In the Dec. 1 issue, the Web site regarding the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce's luncheon today was incorrect. For more information, log onto smchamber.com.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913
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LOCAL

Green Party presidential candidate to speak in SM

By Daily Press staff

The Westside Greens will hold a special forum at its Santa Monica location on Thursday with David Cobb, a contender for the Green Party's presidential nomination.

The event is the first in a series of forums designed to give Los Angelenos exposure to possible nominees. The Green Party will choose its presidential candidate and overall electoral strategy at a national convention to be held in June in Milwaukee, Wisc.

"As the only political party actively opposing the war and occupation in Iraq and the corporate take-over of our electoral process, the Green Party has been the fastest growing party in the United States in the past few years," said Melissa Flamson, a member of the Westside Greens. "To build on that momentum, it's important for us to hear early and directly from those who wish to lead the party at this critical time."

Cobb, who comes from Humboldt County, serves as the general counsel for the Green Party of the U.S. and was the Green Party of Texas candidate for Attorney General in 2002. He practiced law until early 2000, when Ralph Nader asked him to manage the Green Party effort in Texas. He also serves on the steering committee of Democracy Unlimited of Humboldt County and as campaigns director for ReclaimDemocracy.org, both of which are citizens groups dedicated to contesting and challenging illegitimate corporate usurpation of the Constitution and U.S. government.

Doors to the free event open at 7 p.m. and Cobb is scheduled to lecture at 7:30 p.m., followed by time for questions. Westside Greens' Santa Monica office is located at 2809 Pico Blvd. For more information, contact Westside Greens at (310) 449-1882 or visit www.thewestsidegreens.org.

Do's and don'ts of avoiding weight gain during holidays

By Daily Press staff

Now that Thanksgiving is over and there's still more than a month of holiday festivities, the risk of bulging at the seams is even more present.

Local personal trainers and fitness experts have teamed up to compile a list of the top five fitness mistakes people make over the holidays. In addition to the list, the experts offer tips on how to avoid the holiday weight gain and fitness traps, as well as advice on how to jump start the No. 1 New Year's resolution — to lose weight.

The top five holiday mistakes are:

1. Going gung-ho after years of sitting on your rear end.
2. Helping yourself to seconds ... and thirds.
3. Going on a diet during the holidays.
4. Doing too much cardio and absolutely no strength training.
5. Setting unrealistic fitness goals.

"Avoiding these common mistakes made by millions each holiday season is simple," said Misty Tripoli, fitness program director for Bodies in Motion. "Although staying on track can be very difficult with all of the holiday parties and food, remembering a few simple tips can

make a huge difference."

While you may not lose any weight this holiday season, at least you'll be able to maintain your weight and hopefully feel good about yourself if you follow these tips and avoid these commonly made holiday mistakes.

■ "Sedentary people are at greater risk for injury than people who workout regularly. It's best to ease yourself into a fitness routine if it's been a while since you last worked out. Jumping in with both feet at full force may feel like the right thing to do after not being active for long periods of time, but you may be putting yourself at harm without even realizing it. You should remember to warm up your muscles by stretching before you begin your workout and to stretch following as well. Most importantly, check with your physician before you begin any exercise regimen," said Howie Skora, personal trainer at Bodies in Motion.

■ "Holiday binge eating is a big problem. The office is full of goodies, there are tons of holiday parties and with family get-togethers. A person has to try to be aware of when it's time to stop eating. If

See HOLIDAY WEIGHT, page 7

surf report

Look for the current WNW swell mix to fade today as new W wind and ground swell builds from a low that has been hanging about 600 miles off the coast over the last couple of days. We'll see some steep NW swell build through the day as well.

OUTLOOK: The storm is tough to predict, so stay tuned for tomorrow's update.

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

Today the water is:

59°

Sunrise: 6:34 a.m.
Sunset: 4:46 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	12:57	1.1	2:08	-0.9	7:15	6.7	8:23	4.5
SUNDAY	1:34	1.4	2:55	-1.4	7:51	7.0	9:18	4.4
MONDAY	2:12	1.7	3:44	-1.5	8:30	7.2	10:15	4.1
TUESDAY	2:53	2.1	4:36	-1.5	9:13	7.1	11:17	3.9
WEDNESDAY	3:38	2.4	5:33	-1.2	9:59	6.8	N/A	N/A
THURSDAY	4:31	2.8	6:34	-0.8	12:28	3.8	(10:50	6.2)
FRIDAY	5:43	3.1	7:40	-0.4	1:48	3.8	(11:51	5.6)

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The Q Line

To the relief of Santa Monica merchants, the City Council last week rejected a proposed law that would have restricted businesses on how much noise they can generate at certain times of the day.

While politicians said the law as proposed couldn't be passed because too little research was done, a new ordinance will come back to them after staffers do some more work.

Some question whether it's businesses making all of the noise in Santa Monica, or if it's just a fact of living in a con-

densed, high-traffic city. Others suggest that the current noise ordinance isn't even enforced adequately.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Is Santa Monica too loud? Who's making all the noise?"

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.

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OPINION

LETTERS

Real men don't picket

Editor:

It's hard to say who are the most deplorable: The bullies parading outside our supermarkets trying to prevent people from buying food, or the wimpish would-be customers who are afraid to cross a picket line.

Grocery workers seem to feel they have a constitutional right to free health care coverage, and that being asked to contribute \$5 a week (\$10 to \$15 for family coverage) is so outrageous that behavior which could destroy their employers is justified. Placards reading "Corporate Greed" would read "Employee Greed" if hysteria were to be replaced by truth.

Most shoppers seem to regard strikers with the reverence usually reserved for religious martyrs. Perhaps they think the Lord will punish them if they cross the line. They themselves may not enjoy free health care coverage, but they meekly submit to intimidation and inconvenience by those who demand it.

The whole spectacle is depressing in the extreme. To each striker I would like to say: If you're not happy in your job, quite whining and look for another one. Real men (and women) don't do picket lines. To shoppers I would like to say: You have the right to shop wherever you like, so stop allowing yourselves to be pushed around. And to all of you: Grow up!

Jill Renton
Santa Monica

JAMS jammin' from community support

Editor:

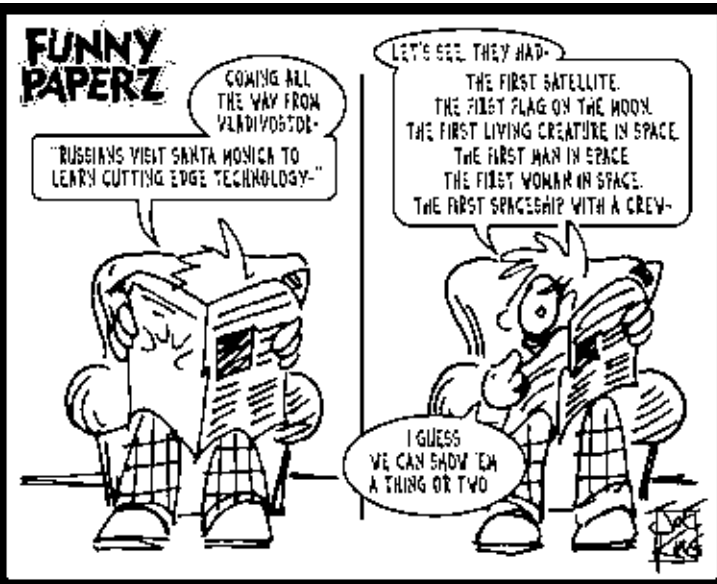
How fortunate we are at John Adams Middle School to be part of the Santa Monica community! It is important to remember the support of our community and thank all of you who have helped to make the start of this school year so dynamic and energizing. It is hard to imagine what this school year would be like for our children and educators without the support of voters, who cast their ballots for education, and the leadership of our City Council members, who demonstrated by action that they share the core values and priorities of this community.

We are able to provide outstanding educational programs due to the talents of our entire staff. Thanks to the support of this community, highly skilled, dedicated teachers and staff were able to return to JAMS where our focus is high academic achievement for all students. All staff members work hard to provide a personalized, vigor-

ous educational experience for our students.

The entire JAMS community — exceptional students, dedicated staff and supportive families — collaborate to make JAMS an outstanding middle school. On behalf of the students, families, teachers and staff at JAMS, we extend a grateful "thank you" to the community for its support of our school.

Lise Reilly
Principal
Judith Meister
PTSA President



Member: AARC 4, NCS 422, SCS 44.

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America's health care system needs an overhaul, but who's going to pay for it?



Todd Flora

Congratulations seniors, and soon-to-be seniors. Congress has added a sweeping prescription drug benefit to your Medicare coverage.

While there is hardly universal applause in the policy community or even among seniors for the package the House and Senate have passed, AARP (America's premiere seniors organization) has reportedly seen the long view on this issue and banked on its emerging Baby Boom membership in endorsing the plan. Republicans rejoice at their presumed preemption of senior voters from the Democrats in 2004.

Never mind that Congress hasn't a dime to spare, and that this reform was worked through Congress without any care to its fiscal impacts. Organizations like the Concord Coalition have wisely pointed out that a prescription drug benefit should have been added as part of an overall reform package that restrains total Medicare costs. This sweeping "reform" won't put the reigns on increases in drug costs one iota. In fact, it will

add to them. There are several additional downsides, among them:

■ Rather than structurally reform an already beleaguered system, this plan will simply pile a new benefit on top of an already unsustainable one.

■ Rather than consider seniors with the lowest incomes or highest drug costs, the new benefit will add an estimated 20 percent to Medicare's long-term cost. This estimate may even be low if a larger-than-expected number of employers drop their retiree drug coverage as a result of the bill.

■ Rather than make Medicare more efficient on a wide scale, the bill is limited to a small "demonstration project" that requires the traditional fee-for-service program to compete with managed care alternatives. But that isn't even scheduled to begin until 2010. Congress has instituted absolutely no enforceable cost-containment mechanism whatsoever.

Never mind that reversing the Bush tax cuts and eliminating all spending on the war in Iraq STILL would not offset the cost of the Medicare prescription drug benefit. The \$400 BILLION price tag for Medicare prescription drugs over the next 10 years is just one reason. But

the hundreds of billions more in the following 10 years as the tidal wave of retiring Baby Boomers hits its apex adds insult to injury. The resulting deficits will make Reagan, Bush I, and Bush II deficits look like the good old days.

Never mind that the federal government spends nine times on seniors what it does on Americans 18 or under. Even when state spending on education is factored in, the ratio of financial resources dedicated to seniors versus young people is still 3 to 1. Many of you reading this column may be proud members of AARP. Good for you. In addition to providing Medi-Gap coverage, AARP successfully advocates for seniors on a wide range of issues. Two noble battles have been AARP's fights against telemarketing fraud perpetrated on our most vulnerable seniors, and exposing "predatory lenders" from trapping seniors into loans with devastating fine print.

But the powerful AARP — second only in membership to the Catholic church — has done wrong by future generations by demagoguing the argument that Medicare and Social Security don't truly need reform. They need MAJOR reform in order to be "saved," and the

organization would do right by its New Deal legacy to be part of the solution, rather than continuing to be an impediment.

Doing the right thing should entail providing health coverage — including a prescription plan — to ALL Americans, regardless of age. But why do we consistently fail to take responsibility for finding a revenue source for new spending? Regardless of political party or ideology, we must begin to discipline ourselves to offset spending on major new initiatives with cuts or tax increases. No longer can we spend our way to social and economic justice without budgetary justification simply because a particular program is more noble than a war. Spending is spending. We have a moral responsibility to future generations to hand them a country in better fiscal order than we find it today.

(Todd Flora is a six-year resident of Santa Monica. He is a government relations representative with a statewide children's network, and the former western regional director of The Concord Coalition, a nationwide fiscal watchdog organization. To comment or reach Todd, e-mail him at: reformadvocate@yahoo.com)

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

OPINION

Retail madness: Avoid going spastic on the plastic



LEGAL VIEWS AND NEWS

By David Pizarra

This week starts the rush to declare retail sales as either better than normal, or as indicators of a falling economy. This past Friday was the first day of the traditional holiday shopping season — the annual orgy of buyers and sellers seeking to satisfy the perceived needs of the nation's consumers. This year there is certain to be a "must have" toy for the tots. It will likely be something that the manufacturers have produced in short supply just to drive people into the stores to buy three other toys to make up for their failure to get the "must have" gift.

Retailers have had a lackluster year this year, and particularly in Santa Monica, they need to boost their year-end sales. The latest draws to the Promenade are on display — those very popular "sculptures" have returned and hopefully with them the crowds of buyers.

A quick trip down the Promenade, however, will prove to even the most jaundiced eye that, times are not so good. Our new governor may have taken office with a flourish, but his presence will not open the wallets of the public into the coffers of corporate America. And frankly, that is good. As a society we need to have a vibrant economy, but there is a difference between a vibrant economy and one that is living beyond its means.

This year, like many years, the push is on to have people buy what they don't need, to give to people who have far too much already, and to do it with money they don't have. As a business lawyer, I like to see a lot of shopping going on in stores. It makes for a good transfer of wealth. But it must be based on a solid foundation.

In 2002 there were 1.6 million bankruptcies in this country, the last full year statistics are available. And 2003 is shaping up to be every bit as bankrupt, with 1.2 million filings for the first three quarters. There has been a clear increase in filings over the past three years. That trend is likely to continue into next year. Southern California leads the pack in the number of new filings for Chapter 7. We are the ultimate, again. But that is not necessarily a good thing in this case.

Americans are paying 14 percent of their disposable debt to service their credit card debt. This is great news for the shareholders of Capital One, FirstUSA Bank and Provident, among others, the bottom feeders of the credit card market, and horrible news for the future health of our economy.

So long as Americans are spending their income on credit card interest and late fees, they are not saving it, investing it and making it work for them. Money that is saved in a bank is used by the bank to fund other projects. It is loaned out to borrowers who then take the money, buy building materials with it, pay their workers and they in turn use it to purchase groceries and hopefully save it for their retirement. This is the cycle of money in a well ordered society. It is actually how money is created. By letting the bank use it to lend out to others, we as a society end up with greater wealth. No one person would likely have the resources to build any of the skyscrapers that dot the landscape. With the assistance of banks, using their depositors' money, buildings get built, roads get paved and jobs are created.

But when income is going to credit card interest, that money is effectively spent by the consumer, never to be seen again by them. The interest will be reported by the lender as an income item, and at the end of the year, it will declare a dividend based on how much income is left over. That dividend is sent to their shareholders who are

likely to take it and save it themselves. This might at first sound like no big deal, but the problem is hidden.

When someone pays credit card interest, they are obviously not saving for their retirement or preparing for their future. They are paying for last year's spending with this year's money, which means that today's spending will have to be paid with tomorrow's earnings. Thus a perpetual cycle is created whereby they can never get ahead of the curve. Eventually this will come to a halt, when tomorrow's earnings stop, and the spending hasn't. It's like that old saying, "It's OK to rob Peter to pay Paul, until they meet."

If people are not saving for their retirement, or to buy an asset that produces income, they will eventually get to the point where they require financial help. That assistance must come from somewhere. They will have to rely on their family for help, or worse, require the government to help them with foodstamps, housing, or medical care. That means that

the tax burden will be felt by the working population. So whether or not it is coming from family members or the government, in either case, they are now taking away from someone else's ability to save and prepare for the future.

Back to the vibrant economy part. We need to have a vibrant economy, but that means people are putting money where it can do them the most good — where people are living within their means and building futures. This year the hottest toy of the season is going to be a seductive choice for many of us. It will likely be one that makes noise, is furry, and causes kids to go spastic. It should not make parents go spastic on plastic, otherwise those kids might be paying for it in their future. And that's not a very good gift.

(David Pizarra is a partner in the Santa Monica law firm of Pizarra & Grist. He welcomes questions and can be reached at (310) 664-9969 or e-mailed at DPISARRA@PISARRA.COM.)

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LOCAL

Chamber will hear final report at January luncheon

PLANNING, from page 1

waiting to have its signage approved. A crepe restaurant successfully completed the process after one year. The last business has been in the planning process for two years with "no real end in sight," the students said.

Nearly a dozen local officials, including city manager Susan McCarthy, assistant city manager Gordon Anderson, planning department head Suzanne Frick, City Councilwoman Pam O'Connor, and former chamber chairs Ann Greenspun and Nat Trives, attended Monday's presentation at the chamber's offices downtown. The students will give a final presentation at a chamber luncheon in January.

Meanwhile, a recommendation by the planning commission earlier this year that the planning department be audited is expected to go before the City Council this month.

Crookston said the USC project was initiated by repeated war stories from business owners that the process in Santa Monica was too burdensome and time consuming.

So the students set out to work interviewing various business owners. They talked to restaurateurs and to retailers. They interviewed merchants moving into in new building and ones moving into aged structures. They made sure to include businesses that were a new type of use for a location and those that were still the same as whatever business had preceded them.

What they found was that, it takes significantly longer to set up shop in Santa Monica than it does elsewhere. While the goal for approving projects in Culver City is two weeks, the goal in Burbank is a little over a month and Pasadena approvals seemed to average about two to four months, Santa Monica lacked a clearly communicated goal. As a result, many businesses end up trapped in the process for years.

The students highlighted good qualities in the other three cities, such as online tools, flow charts and information booklets that spell out the intricacies of the process. They pointed to the "one-stop shop" for information and help that's available to prospective business owners in Pasadena, as well as the consistency in Culver City and the business-friendly attitude of Burbank.

But the students didn't find any of those qualities in Santa Monica.

"There are a lot of paths a business could lead down that could take a long time," said USC student Shana Rosengart. "I think Santa Monica is balancing a lot of needs in the planning department. There seem to be a lot of conflicting messages."

Chamber president and CEO Kathy

Dodson said the 12-week study, which Crookston valued at about \$30,000 if done privately, is a starting place for future research and analysis.

"We're using it for a very broad overview of these four cities," she said. "I don't think it'll ever replace paying a consultant, but I think it gives us particularly a great starting place."

The students said problems appeared to stem from the lack of a clear understanding of the process, a clear time frame for different types of projects and the lack of a defined culture promoting or limiting business growth.

The students reported difficulty in meeting with business owners because they were apparently shy to criticize the planning department, which may be indicative of the lack of communication between City Hall and local merchants. Students said they didn't encounter the same resistance in other cities studied.

To remedy the situation, the group suggested that hearings and other subjective elements be removed from the planning process and citizens be educated on the benefits of business growth. What's more, the students suggested that City Hall do a better job of managing its image in the press and business owners be encouraged to give more input to the city's policies.

But streamlining the process may be difficult. Though planning heads Suzanne Frick and Andy Agle have said in the past they are open to suggestions and criticisms from outside sources, how much change they can effect in City Hall may ultimately be controlled by other local ruling boards, like the City Council and the Planning Commission, which draft ordinances and hold hearings related to the issues the businesses are dealing with.

Several members of the City Council have said the amount of ordinances currently controlling developments in Santa Monica may have become too burdensome and the entire situation needs to be re-examined.

In the end, the students acknowledged that the other three cities all want to develop a business climate like the one that exists on the thriving Third Street Promenade in the center of downtown. They suggested City Hall conduct surveys with residents and businesses to determine exactly how much business growth locals want, and then develop cash or recognition incentive programs to get planning department staffers to work more diligently towards that end.

"We have to think about customer service," Crookston said after the presentation, as others asked questions of the students. "I think we should become a bellwether for adding more of it in our city."

The breakdown

	PLANNERS	BUSINESS CASES/YR*	BUDGET
Culver City	13	40	\$1.1M
Burbank	13	126	\$1.7M
Pasadena	34	100	\$3.2M
Santa Monica	27	190	\$2.6M

* The number of cases relates to new businesses opening that are handled by the department each year. Students said in the other three cities the majority of cases are handled "over-the-counter," whereas more cases are heard administratively in Santa Monica.

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LOCAL



MBA students at USC deliver presentations this week

STUDY, from page 1

board vice president at the Santa Monica Visitors and Convention Bureau. "Is there a trend? Yes. More and more entrepreneurial schools are attempting to allow students to do practical projects."

Crookston's teams of four and five graduate students are delivering reports this week in all three Santa Monica projects. The studies began in September and lasted 12 weeks.

"This was one of the best projects I've ever worked on," said Jason Barschi, 28, a Santa Monica resident and business student working on the visitors bureau project. "We really had a hands-on approach. We were given a lot of freedom to do what we wanted to do."

For Barschi and four of his classmates, that meant coming up with a line of Santa Monica-themed souvenirs to be sold at the bureau's walk-in visitor center at Santa Monica Place and from a cart on the Third Street Promenade. It's a proposition that could net the bureau tens of thousands of dollars annually.

The seven-worker convention and visitors bureau oversees a \$1.2 million annual budget funded by City Hall, said Debbie Lee, director of communications.

In a Monday presentation to bureau officials, the students suggested selling Santa Monica T-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs, tote bags and high-quality plastic street maps.

"We're hoping that they're going to have to be less reliant on city funding," Barschi said.

The students designed the inventory and set up all the required paperwork for the test program. Their recommendations followed an analysis of the market based on interviews with tourists and residents, and discussions with bureau staffers.

Also on Monday was a preliminary presentation to Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce officials on an independent study of the often-criticized planning department (see related story). A final presentation on both projects will be delivered to officials in January.

Meanwhile, students from the third group are expected today to deliver their findings to West Hooker, owner of Locando del Lago, an Italian restaurant on the Promenade.

In their research, Crookston said the students met with Lago workers, visited other Promenade restaurants, interviewed customers and pored over credit card data. Among other things, the students are expected to recommend the restaurant

entrance and bar be relocated to the Third Street Promenade, closer to where the foot traffic is. Currently, both are off of Arizona Avenue.

"In other words, enhance the layout so it would be a more attractive, 'What's going on here?' site," said Crookston, adding the students also drafted marketing plans to boost lunch business.

While the research projects give graduate students hands-on experience in the field, they also are saving the organiza-

tions consulting bills that could total \$30,000 or more. But Crookston, who does some consulting on the side, said there's little worry that the students will infringe on the outside market.

"These are short-term, narrow focus, fast turnaround types of projects," he said, adding that although City Hall stands to directly benefit from two of the three local projects, they were chosen because of their commercial and entrepreneurial value to students.

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Additional building would give Miramar 502 rooms

FAIRMONT, from page 1

development must begin in order for the agreement to be valid.

Dinapoli laid out the plan a year ago in front of the Planning Commission, which shocked some members and citizens because of its sheer size. But Dinapoli insisted that the plans are not a formal proposal, but rather the beginning of a community forum on what should be built on the historic site.

At the Planning Commission hearing, Dinapoli said the project would create a "gateway to Santa Monica," as well as complement the existing white tower at 100 Wilshire Blvd., which can be seen for miles along the coast.

Based on concerns from planning commission members and citizens, Miramar officials tweaked their original plans. Instead of developing 100 apartments on

the Wilshire Boulevard and Ocean Avenue site, a 200-room hotel is planned. On a second parcel, on Second Street between Wilshire Boulevard and California Avenue, Miramar officials propose using the land to either build affordable or assisted-living housing. Underneath the entire site would be a 600-car parking garage. About 20,000 square feet of retail space along Wilshire Boulevard also is proposed.

The plans are to redevelop the southern portion of the site, which now has a two-story office and restaurant complex, a surface parking lot and a one-story support building that faces Ocean Avenue. The hotel currently has 302 rooms and houses support facilities that include a 10-story building, a six-story building, one- and two-story buildings, and the restaurant and office complex.

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Tips on holiday weight gain

HOLIDAY WEIGHT, from page 3

you put your fork down between bites and thoroughly chew, it will provide your brain with enough time to respond to your stomach's cue of when you are truly full. This way you will not feel the urge to go back for seconds or thirds," adds Skora.

■ "The average person gains eight to 10 pounds during the holidays. It is not about going on a diet, rather making wise choices. Many people bake goodies to give to others and while making them, they sample the product. Why not give out candles or gift certificates, instead of baked goodies? Not only will you save yourself from tasting the treats, but you will save whom ever you intended to give the goodies to. It's all about portion control and smart choices," said Tripoli.

■ "Set a routine. Don't try to push yourself too hard. Alternate days of doing cardio and strength training. You will find that you will be much more satisfied with the results if you mix the two. It will help increase your metabolism and boost your results. Don't let fitness take a back seat in Santa's sleigh," said Laura Christy, a personal trainer.

■ "We all know that the holidays are busy and we often have little time to ourselves, so why not plan ahead and set goals that are attainable? Try not to get too caught up in the holidays. When you go to the gym, take a crack at interval training. You can also shop online to save time. It's important to remember to take care of ourselves during the holidays," adds Christy.

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Santa Monica

A weekly look at events and programs for Santa Monica

Risks of preeclampsia, who is likely to have it

Guest Commentary

By Connie Agnew, M.D.
Saint John's Health Center

Preeclampsia is a rapidly progressive medical condition characterized by high blood pressure and the presentation of protein in the urine. If you display any signs of preeclampsia, you need to be closely monitored for the duration of your pregnancy, delivery and the first postpartum weeks.

It is very important for pregnant women to be aware of the condition and its symptoms as untreated preeclampsia can be life-threatening to the mother and fetus, causing organ failure, seizures and even death.

Preeclampsia occurs in approximately 5 to 8 percent of all pregnancies. It is more common in a woman's first pregnancy and

in women whose mothers or sisters had preeclampsia. The risk of preeclampsia is higher in women carrying multiple babies, in teenage mothers, in African-American women, and in women older than 40 years old. Other women at risk include those who have high blood pressure or kidney disease before they become pregnant. The cause of preeclampsia, or toxemia as it is also called, is not known.

The condition usually occurs during the second half of pregnancy (after 20 weeks), though sometimes it develops shortly after delivery and, in very rare instances, before 20 weeks of pregnancy. For the majority of women with preeclampsia, their blood pressure returns to normal after having their baby.

Treatment for preeclampsia varies based on the severity of the disease, the stage of pregnancy and the health of the mother and baby.

If the woman is near the end of her pregnancy and has mild to moderate preeclampsia, she will likely be induced

so that her health and the health of the fetus are protected. If she is not near the end of her pregnancy and has mild preeclampsia, she will most likely be put on bed rest in the hospital where her blood pressure and condition are observed and monitored carefully. Drugs to lower blood pressure or to prevent seizures may be given. In rare cases, when the condition is severe, delivery is immediate regardless of the age of the fetus.

Since the condition can quickly turn into an emergency, it is important that pregnant women, as well as their family and friends, become familiar with the symptoms of preeclampsia, which include blurred vision or other vision problems; frequent headaches that become worse or a persistent headache that does not respond to nonprescription pain medication; pain or tenderness in the abdomen, especially in the upper right section; sudden swelling of the legs and feet and a weight gain of two pounds or more over a 24-hour period.

Other symptoms can include ringing or buzzing in the ear, excessive vomiting or

drowsiness and a marked decrease in urine output. It is important to note that some mild swelling in the legs and feet are normal during pregnancy. If the swelling is sudden or severe, or if you experience any of the other symptoms listed, contact your health professional right away.

Although there are currently no known methods to prevent preeclampsia, all pregnant women should obtain early and ongoing prenatal care so that baseline blood pressure can be noted and any abnormal rise in blood pressure or urinary protein can be easily detected. Since early diagnosis can be critical, don't wait for a scheduled appointment if you think you may have preeclampsia. Call your doctor's office to discuss your concerns.

(Connie Agnew, M.D., is a medical director of maternal/fetal medicine at Saint John's Health Center and a perinatologist in private practice in Santa Monica. For more information call (310) 829-5511 or visit the hospital's Web site at www.stjohns.org).

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CALENDAR:

Special Events

MERRIMENT ON MONTANA — Holiday Walk **Montana** - Friday, December 5th, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m., 7th to 17th Streets. Enjoy twinkling lights, music and unique holiday décor as merchants provide a tasty bounty for you to enjoy. From stocking stuffers to designer clothing, jewelry and furniture, find a gift for everyone on your list.

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms

Movies for Moms sponsored by:



"The Magdalene Sisters" showing December 2, 11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. From acclaimed director Peter Mullan comes "The Magdalene Sisters" starring Geraldine McEwan, Dorothy Duffy, Annie-Marie Duff, Eileen Walsh and introducing Nora-Jane Noone. This unflinching and compelling emotional drama charts several years in the young lives of four "fallen women" who were rejected by their families and abandoned to the mercy of the Catholic Church in 1960's Ireland. While women's liberation is sweeping the globe, these women are stripped of their liberty and dignity and condemned to indefinite sentences of servitude in The Magdalene Laundries in order to atone for their "sins." The last Magdalene Asylum in Ireland closed in 1996 and only since has the true horror of conditions in these institutions begun to emerge. Golden Lion Award, Best Picture, Venice Film Festival, 2002

Coming Attractions: December 9th – "Casa de los Babys"

Storytelling

Main Library - Toddler Story Time at 10:00 and 10:30 a.m., at Reed Park, 7th and Wilshire – 2 year olds with parents, 310-458-8600.

Fairview Branch – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443. Lap Time – 11:00 a.m., New series begins Nov. 4, a six-week series for babies 0-24 months.

Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., New series begins Nov. 4, a six-week series in Spanish for children 24-36 months with adult.

Twilight Story Time - 7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.

Montana Avenue Branch – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081. Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.

Ocean Park Branch – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804. Toddler Story Time – 10 and 10:30 a.m. New series begins Nov. 11 – Dec. 16. Registration required. Music, rhymes

and stories for 24 – 36 months with adult.

Other

Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute) – December 2 - Frankling Canyon (Beverly Hills) – 10:00am. Reservations required - 310-998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Mommy Care – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd, at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Santa Monica YMCA – 1332 6th St., 310-393-2721

Pre-natal Water Work – 10 – 11 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Free for members. Non-members pay \$15.00 regular YMCA day fee or buy a ten-class card for \$70 (\$7 per class)

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station – 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30pm

Other

Magicipolis – 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 Call 310-451-2241 for info. **School Age Stories and Crafts** – Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. 3:30 p.m. every other Tuesday, Nov. 11 and 25. A combination of stories and crafts for 5-9 year olds.

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

Ocean Park Branch – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804. Twilight Story Time – 7:00 to 7:30pm – for parents with 3-5 year olds.

Montana Avenue Branch – 1704 Montana Avenue – 310-829-7081. Lap Time – 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. – New series begins Nov. 12-Dec. 17 for 0-24 months old, no registration required.

Toddler Story Time – 11:15 am - New series begins Nov. 12-Dec. 17 for two year olds with adult, no registration required.

Fairview Branch – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443. Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m., New series begins Nov. 5-Dec. 18, a six-week series for 3-5 year olds.

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144

Border's, Westwood – 11am – 310-475-3444.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9, Mommy and Me (infants) 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station – 826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Other

Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute) – December 3 - Griffith Park Bird Sanctuary – 10:00am. Reservations required - 310-998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org

THURSDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Toddler Story Time – 10:00 a.m. – Reed Park, for 2 year olds. Preschool Story Time – 10:30am – Reed Park. Stories for ages 3-5. 310-458-8922 for info.

Montana Avenue Branch – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081. Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m. – Nov. 13 to Dec. 18, for 2 year olds with adult, no registration required. Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m., for 3-5 year olds.

Fairview Branch – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443. Toddler Story Time – 10:30 a.m., New series begins Nov. 6 – Dec. 18. A six-week series for children 24-36 months.

La Hora del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages. **Ocean Park Branch** – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804. Lap Time – 9:20 and 10:20 a.m. – Oct. 23 – Dec. 4 (no class Nov. 27) – for babies 0-24 months old.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Mommy Care – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd, at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Santa Monica YMCA – 1332 6th St., 310-393-2721

Pre-natal Water Work – 10 – 11 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Free for members. Non-members pay \$15.00 regular YMCA day fee or buy a ten-class card for \$70 (\$7 per class)

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00-2:30pm

Other

Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute) – December 4 - Griffith Park Bird Sanctuary – 10:00am. Reservations required - 310-998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org

FRIDAY

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-

393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381; Prenatal yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., \$13 Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.; Mommy and Me (infants) 1:00 – 2:00 p.m., \$9

Other

Merriment on Montana Holiday Celebration – see Special Events for details

Magicipolis – 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Cinderella – thru Dec. 19, 6:00 p.m.

Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., 394-9779, www.santamonicalayhouse.com. The single most requested of all of the Santa Monica Playhouse Family Theatre musicals, Cinderella is a delightfully romantic, original classic. \$12.00 for adults, \$10.00 for ages 12 and under.

SATURDAY

Storytelling

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381; Prenatal yoga – 9:15– 10:30 a.m., and 10:45 – noon, \$13.

Mommy Care – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd, at the Dance Factory, West LA, 394-6711; Pregnancy Exercise – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Other

Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-

0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

Magicipolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Alice and the Wonderful Tea Party – Saturdays and Sundays, Nov. 8 – Dec. 28 at 12:30 and 3:00 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse's Family Theatre presents this musical matinee based on Lewis Carroll's delightful and zany characters. Ages 2 and up; \$9 and \$10. 1211 Fourth St., 394-9779, ext. 2, www.santamonicalayhouse.com

Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute) – December 6 - Griffith Park Bird Sanctuary – 10:00am. Reservations required - 310-998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org

SUNDAY

Main Street Farmer's Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing. Visit with Santa Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, 14 and 21.

Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

Magicipolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Alice and the Wonderful Tea Party – Saturdays and Sundays, Nov. 8 – Dec. 28 at 12:30 and 3:00 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse's Family Theatre presents this musical matinee based on Lewis Carroll's delightful and zany characters. Ages 2 and up; \$9 and \$10. 1211 Fourth St., 394-9779, ext. 2, www.santamonicalayhouse.com

Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute) – December 7 - Griffith Park Bird Sanctuary – 10:00am. Reservations required - 310-998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org

MONDAY

Storytelling

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park – 9:30 a.m., September 8 – December 15 (no program Oct. 6), a series for children 0-24 months old with adult.

Ocean Park Branch – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804. Spanish for Little Ones – 11:15 a.m., September 22 – December 15 (no class Nov. 3). Rhymes, songs and very simple stories in Spanish for ages 2-5 with adult.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station – 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 8-12 months, 10:30 a.m. – noon; Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

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Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15

Yoga Garden, - Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal – 6:30 p.m., 310-450-0133. www.yogagardenstudios.com

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9, Mommy and Me (infants) 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Other

Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute) – December 6 - Griffith Park Bird Sanctuary – 10:00am. Reservations required - 310-998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org

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STATE

73-year-old Roy Disney resigns from Disney Co. board

BY GARY GENTILE

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — Disney Vice chairman Roy E. Disney has resigned from the media giant's board, reportedly calling on Chairman Michael Eisner to resign also.

Disney's resignation may be a pre-emptive move to avoid being forced off the board of The Walt Disney Co. The board's governance and nominating committee has decided not to recommend Disney for another term because he is over the mandated retirement age of 72, the company said Sunday.

The full board is scheduled to meet Monday and Tuesday in New York and board membership is on the agenda.

Disney, the nephew of company co-founder Walt Disney, has been increasingly critical of Eisner's leadership and has called for Eisner's resignation before, a move that was rejected by the board.

Disney is the last family member to be active in the company. He previously resigned from the board in 1984 to launch a stock battle for the company, which was then headed by Ron Miller, Walt's son-in-law.

Disney and Stanley Gold, who runs Disney's investments from a company called Shamrock Holdings, were instrumental in preventing a hostile takeover of the company and installing Eisner and Frank Wells to run Disney.

Gold remains on Disney's board. Wells died in a 1994 helicopter crash.

The story was first reported in the Wall Street Journal, which said the 73-year-old Disney sent a scathing three-page letter to Eisner on Sunday critical of Eisner's leadership over the past seven years.

"It is my sincere belief that it is you that should be leaving and not me," Disney wrote, according to a text of the letter obtained by the Journal.

Disney accused Eisner of "muzzling" his voice on the board, although he praises Eisner and Wells for their first 10 years.

"Michael, I believe your conduct has resulted from my clear and unambiguous statements to you and the Board of Directors that after 19 years at the helm, you are no longer the best person to run the Walt Disney Company," Disney wrote.

A call to Disney on Sunday was not immediately returned.

Disney's letter also blames Eisner for a loss of morale at the company and for causing a perception that "the Company is rapacious, soul-less, and always looking for the 'quick buck' rather than the long-term value which is leading to a loss of public trust."

He also blasts Eisner for the failure to maintain constructive relationships with business partners, including Pixar Animation Studios, which co-produces computer-animated films with Disney, including the record-breaking "Finding Nemo."

Former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell, the board's presiding director, issued a statement Sunday regretting Disney's actions.

"The Governance and Nominating Committee recently informed Mr. Disney of its judgment that the mandatory age limits of the company's Corporate Governance Guidelines, which had previously been unanimously approved by the Board, should be applied to him and two other Board members, Thomas S. Murphy and Raymond Watson," Mitchell said.

"It is unfortunate that the Committee's judgment to apply these unanimously adopted governance rules has become an occasion to raise again criticisms of the direction of the Company, and calls for change of management, that have been previously rejected by the Board."

Watson and Murphy were considered Eisner allies, while Gold, who will remain on the board, is an Eisner critic.

Eisner is credited with building the company from a minor maker of mediocre films and proprietor of two theme parks in 1984 into a media giant that includes five theme parks around the world, the ABC Television network, the ESPN sports cable channel and one of the highest-grossing movie studios.

But he has been severely criticized for a series of blunders since 1994, which include the paying of a multimillion dollar severance to Michael Ovitz after serving less than two years as Disney president; the clumsy firing of former studio chief Jeffrey Katzenberg and the severe decline in ABC's ratings.

Eisner has also been criticized for micromanaging the company and presiding over a "brain drain," as top executives have left the company over the past 10 years, including Katzenberg, Steven Bollenbach, who now heads the Hilton Corp., and most recently Paul Pressler, who left last year to head Gap Inc.

Disney has often called itself a "farm team" that nurtures talented executives, some of whom who leave to run their own companies.

Disney's stock has fallen from more than \$40 per share in 2000 to under \$14 in 2002. The stock has risen nearly 34 percent since the beginning of the year as the company's fortunes have gradually improved.

Disney shares closed at \$23.09 at the end of trading Friday on the New York Stock Exchange.

In September, 2002, after months of often bitter infighting among board members about the company's declining fortunes, the board unanimously approved Eisner's plan for improvement, which included the most drastic changes in board membership since Eisner became chairman.

One of the changes included bringing more independent members to the board, which had long been criticized for having a too cozy relationship with Eisner.

Since then, another vocal Eisner critic, Andrea Van de Kamp, was dropped from the board.

The two other board members who will not be renominated due to the age limit are 76-year-old Watson and Murphy, 77.

Biographical sketch of Roy E. Disney

By The Associated Press

Biographical sketch of Roy E. Disney, who resigned Sunday as vice chairman of The Walt Disney Co.

■ Born in Los Angeles on Jan. 10, 1930, to Roy O. Disney and Edna Francis Disney. He is the nephew of Walt Disney.

■ Joined the Disney board in 1967 when his father was chairman.

■ Formed Shamrock Holdings in 1978 to oversee his investments, primarily consisting of Disney stock.

■ Resigned from the board in 1984 to spearhead an effort to prevent a corporate takeover. He was instrumental in bringing Michael Eisner and Frank Wells to run the company, taking over from Ron Miller, Walt's son-in-law.

■ Became chairman of Walt Disney Animation in 1984.

■ An avid sailor who often participated in offshore yacht racing, where he holds numerous time records.

■ Announced earlier this year he would sell much of his Disney holdings in a complex deal for estate planning purposes.



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NATIONAL



High court lets 9th Circuit gun-rights decision stand

BY GINA HOLLAND

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court disappointed gun owner groups Monday, refusing to consider whether the Constitution guarantees people a personal right to own a gun.

The court has never said if the right to "keep and bear arms" applies to individuals.

Although the Bush administration has endorsed individual gun-ownership rights, it did not encourage the justices to resolve the issue in this case involving a challenge of California laws banning high-powered weapons.

Many other groups wanted the court to take the politically charged case, including the National Rifle Association, the Pink Pistols, a group of gay and lesbian gun owners; the Second Amendment Sisters; Doctors for Sensible Gun Laws; and Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership.

"Citizens need the Second Amendment for protection of their families, homes and businesses," lawyer Gary

Gorski of Fair Oaks, Calif., wrote in the appeal filed on behalf of his rugby teammates and friends.

The challengers included a police SWAT officer, a Purple Heart recipient, a former Marine sniper, a parole officer, a stockbroker and others with varied political views.

Timothy Rieger, California's deputy attorney general, said the case involved regulations on "rapid-fire rifles and pistols that have been used on California's school grounds to kill children."

The Second Amendment says, "A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

A panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the amendment's intent was to protect gun rights of militias, not individuals. A more conservative appeals court in New Orleans has ruled that individuals have a constitutional right to guns.

Justices refused without comment to review the 9th Circuit decision.

One 9th Circuit judge, Alex Kozinski, said the panel was off-base and its "labored effort to smother the Second Amendment by sheer body weight has all the grace of a sumo wrestler trying to kill a rattlesnake by sitting on it — and is just as likely to succeed." He and some other judges had wanted to reverse the decision.

The decision was written by Judge Stephen Reinhardt, who said the Supreme Court's guidance on the meaning of the right to bear arms was "not entirely illuminating."

In 2002, the Bush administration told the Supreme Court in another case that it believed the Constitution protects an individual's right to possess guns. The announcement reversed the government's long-standing interpretation of the Second Amendment. Even then, Justice Department lawyers said the high court need not test the principle.

Gorski said he was surprised by the court's action Monday. "I guess the Supreme Court thinks it's acceptable to deprive 20 percent of the people of a major constitutional right," he said.

Woman sentenced to three years in Taliban terror trial

BY JULIA SILVERMAN

Associated Press Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. — The lone woman among the group of Portland-area Muslims who tried to ally themselves with the Taliban was sentenced Monday to three years in prison.

October Martinique Lewis, 26, appeared in court flanked by her lawyers and dressed in the traditional female garb for Muslims that covers all of a woman except her face.

She was convicted of wiring money to her husband and a group of men who tried to cross the Afghanistan border in 2001 to aid the Taliban in their fight against U.S. soldiers.

"My heart never internalized a hurt so bad that tears are insufficient to explain how it feels to be called a terrorist by my fellow Americans," Lewis said. "Even so, I refuse to be bitter. Love and peace remain unyielding in my heart."

U.S. Attorney Charles Gorder said the agreed-upon sentence reflected Lewis' cooperation in the case, and would also send a message that, "it is not appropriate to send funds to people engaged in illegal acts."

The hearing was markedly different in tone from last week's sentencing for Lewis's former husband, Jeffrey Leon Battle, and another of the men, Patrice Lumumba Ford. Both Ford and Battle pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to levy war against the United States, and were sentenced to 18 years in prison.

At that hearing, Ford delivered an impassioned denunciation of the Bush administration's Middle Eastern policies, while Battle sang a song of freedom he had written while in prison.

By contrast, Lewis was gently questioned by Judge Robert Jones, who asked about the traditional role of women in Muslim society.

"A Muslim man does not tell his wife everything," Lewis told the judge. "A man's business is his business. A lot of times he will not comment to his wife about what he is going to do."

Lewis also told the court that Battle had taken a second wife while traveling in Bangladesh, that the two are now divorced under both civil and Islamic laws, and that she herself came from a family with a proud U.S. military background.

And she assured the judge that she had never heard any Muslim clerics in the Portland area advocate that Muslim men should fight against the United States.

Jones ordered Lewis to surrender to the U.S. marshal's office in Portland on Jan. 15, saying that she was not considered a flight risk or a danger to others.

Four other men accused of conspiring to travel to Afghanistan to fight in 2001 have pleaded guilty, and a fifth, accused ringleader Habis Abdulla al Saoub, 37, was killed in a shootout in Pakistan, according to the U.S. government.

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SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2003

EVENTS

Write Away

Open to writers who are looking to share their work, receive feedback, and write new pieces. The group meets weekly and welcomes published writers, students, and those who simply enjoy to write. 12 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Fairview Library (310) 450-0443 2601 Ocean Park Blvd.

Girl Talk

The Girl Talk group, a monthly group for girls, grades six and up, will meet from 4:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. to discuss esteem building other issues. There will also be activities. For more information, call Nia at (310) 458-8688. Participation in the group is free. Fairview Branch, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd.

CULTURE

Snowwhite

The Santa Monica Playhouse presents the musical, Snowwhite, based on the classic European fairytale. Written and directed by Chris DeCarlo & Evelyn Rudie. There are Saturday and Sunday showings at 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. through Feb. 29. Tickets cost \$10 for kids 12 and under, and \$12 for adults. Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 Fourth St.

A Winter's Tale

The Morgan-Wixson Theatre presents a musical based on

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Tale. Directed by Anne Gesling. There will be a showing on Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. For reservations or more information, call (310) 828-7519. Morgan-Wixson Theatre, 2627 Pico Blvd

I Went to Clown College...Cirque de Commedia
Santa Monica College presents "I Went to Clown College...Cirque de Commedia," a comedy by Terrin Adair-Lynch featuring all the laughs from the regular Commedia characters. There will be humorous planned scenarios as well as improvisational acts - making each showing different from the last. This preview night event begins at 7:30 p.m. and costs \$5. For reservations or more information, call (310) 434-3000.

Cinderella

The Santa Monica Playhouse presents Chris Decarlo & Evelyn Rudie's version of the romantic musical classic, Cinderella, as part of their Fall Twilight Series. The performance begins at 6 p.m. and will be shown every Friday until Dec. 21. Tickets for kids 12 and under cost \$10 and \$12 for adults. For more information or reservations, call (310) 394-9779, ext. 1. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 Fourth Street

Puppetolio!

Watch a puppet show at the Santa Monica Puppet and Magic Center. This is a great place to take the kids and to unwind after a long day. Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. 1255 2nd St. (310) 656-0483

A Cabaret and "Out Loud"

David Rasche performs a cabaret and "Out Loud," a Comedic Piece at the Edgemar Center for the Arts. Tickets cost \$20 and the performance will begin Saturday at 9 p.m. For more information, call (310) 392-7327. Edgemar Center for the Arts, 2437 Main Street Admission: \$20

ENTERTAINMENT

Temple Bar

Here visitors can enjoy concoctions like White Chocolate Martinis, a Gingitini or a Razzmatazz. Those who are really hungry can enjoy a Chicken Tamale Plate with Fried Plantains. Temple Bar even offers vegetarian options like veggie eggrolls and burgers. But no good bar would be complete without live music. Tonight the Temple Bar features the following: Dionysus at 8:30 p.m., Mavis at 9:45 p.m., and Soul Flower at 11 p.m. \$5. 1026 Wilshire Blvd., (310) 393-6611

14 Below

An intimate and well-equipped club that is leading the Westside music scene with live performances seven nights a week. Tonight 14 Below features the following: The White Sundays at 8:30 p.m., The Bachelorette at 9:30 p.m., and Blackwish at 10:30 p.m. 1348 14th St., (310) 451-5040

MOVIE °GUIDE

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1332 2nd Street
The Cooler - 12, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10 p.m.
In America - 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 p.m.
Lost in Translation - 2:30, 7:30, 10 p.m.
Shattered Glass R - 12:15, 2:40, 3:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55 p.m.
The Street Sweeper - 12:5 p.m.
The Station Agent R - 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10 p.m.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd
21 Grams R - 4, 7, 10 p.m.
Pieces of April PG-13 - 4:45, 7:30, 10 p.m.

LOEWS CINEPLEX BROADWAY CINEMAS

1441 Third Street Promenade
Kill Bill: Volume 1 R - 11:15 a.m., 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:15 p.m.
Love Actually R - 11:30 a.m., 12:30, 2:45, 3:45, 6:15, 7:30, 10:15 p.m.
Mystic River R - 12:45 p.m., 3:50, 7:15, 10:20 p.m.

AMC SANTA MONICA 7

1310 Third Street Promenade
Bad Santa - 12:50, 3, 5:20, 7:40, 10 p.m.
Brother Bear PG - 1:25, 4:35, 7 p.m.
Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat - 12:40, 2:40, 4:50, 7:10, 9:25 p.m.
Elf PG - 1:35, 4:15, 7:15, 9:40 p.m.
The Cat in the Hat - 10:45 a.m., 1, 3:20, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10 p.m.
Gothika - 1:15, 4:25, 7:30, 9:55 p.m.
The Haunted Mansion - 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:20, 9:45 p.m.
Master and Commander R - 9:15 p.m.

MANN CRITERION 6 THEATERS

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If you know of an upcoming event which may be included in the calendar please send the information to calendar@smdp.com or fax it to (310) 576 9913



BACK PAGE

Why does BCS poll know college football and we don't?

Sports

BY STEPHEN SAUX

Special to the Daily Press

The new BCS poll is out with only one week of college football left before the bowl games. What has to happen for USC to make it to the National Championship game in New Orleans?

It's hard to tell if you look at computer calculations, the only way it's tracked these days. Sure, people will predict and say it's all about numbers but they don't really know. If it were really just numbers, then we would know. Don't tell me Stephen Hawking or that guy from "A

Beautiful Mind" can't figure out the equations.

Have the computers really out-smarted us? Have they really infiltrated our world so deeply that they now have a grip on our sacred college football? I guess we should have seen it coming. Our present governor warned us a few years ago that the computers were planning an uprising against the humans. Well, it has started and we are at their mercy.

What we do know is USC has to beat Oregon State Saturday in the L.A. Coliseum, where they have not lost to the Beavers since 1960. It is possible that even if the Trojans do win, LSU could leap frog into the second spot and steal the

Jan. 4 trip to the Sugar Bowl.

Things will be a little more cut and dry if LSU (11-1) doesn't beat Georgia (10-2) in the SEC title game, though. For the most part, college football fans have not focused on the fact that this LSU/Georgia game is going to be a full on war between two powerhouse football teams. The Tigers may be favored, but this will be like a home game to the Dawgs who were injury-stricken when LSU beat them 17-10 in September. The BCS computer probably will knock Georgia out of the top 10, if they lose, which will hurt LSU by taking away that all important 4/10 of a point for a quality win.

So-called experts say it could come

down to Notre Dame. It seems a loss by the Irish could anger the computers and weaken USC's strength of schedule, which may open the door for LSU. The BCS computer doesn't know about the tradition of South Bend — it can't hear the roar of the crowd or see touchdown Jesus. The only thing the computer cares about is poll averages, schedule ranks and quality win components.

Here's an idea, why don't we take a page out of Lawrence Taylor's book, buy a couple of computer prostitutes and send them up to the BCS computer's hotel suite Saturday night? That just might be enough to crash his hard drive and we would be able to go back to the human polls.

BCS POLL:

TEAM	AP	ESPN	AVG	COMPUTER POLLS							AVG	SOS	RANK	L	Subtotal	QW	TOTAL
Oklahoma	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00	14	0.56	0	2.56	-0.5	2.06
USC	2	2	2	3	2	2	4	2.5	3	2	2.42	37	1.48	1	6.90		6.90
LSU	3	3	3	2	3	4	2	5	2	3	2.67	54	2.16	1	8.83	-0.4	8.43
Michigan	4	4	4	7	4	6	5	2.5	5	4	4.42	10	0.40	2	10.82	-0.6	10.22
Ohio State	8	7	7.5	6	6	3	3	7	7	6	5.17	4	0.16	2	14.83		14.83

COMPUTER AVERAGE — Average of Anderson & Hester, Richard Billingsley, Colley Matrix, Kenneth Massey, New York Times, Jeff Sagarin's USA Today and the Peter Wolfe rankings. The computer component will be determined by averaging six of the seven rankings. The lowest (worst) computer ranking will be disregarded.

SOS — STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE — Rank of schedule strength compared to other Division I-A teams of actual games played divided by 25. This component is calculated by determining the cumulative win/loss records of the team's opponent (66.6 percent) and the cumulative win/loss records of the teams' opponents (33.3 percent).

L — LOSSES — One point for each loss during the season.

QW — QUALITY WINS — The quality win component will reward to varying degrees teams that defeat opponents ranked among the top 10 in the weekly standings. The bonus point scale will range from a high of 1.0 points for a win over the top ranked team to a low of 0.1 for a victory over the 10th-ranked BCS team. The BCS standings at the end of the season will determine final quality win points. If a team registers a victory over a team more than once during the regular season, quality points will be awarded just once. Quality win points are based on the standings determined by the subtotal. The final standings are reconfigured to reflect the quality win point deduction.

Explanations are from the BCS.

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