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Santa Monica Daily Press

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DAILY 3

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Evening: 7 7 3

DAILY DERBY

1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit

RACE TIME: 1:47.03

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Asking for Trouble From the Spirits: Kenneth Rabalais, 19, was charged with desecrating a grave in a suburb of New Orleans after he opened the crypt of a young relative, believing that other relatives had buried "tribute" money and drugs to help ease the deceased's transition to the afterworld. (Apparently, the deceased left un-tributed.) And in Hawaii, Wal-Mart opened a store in October despite warnings that it had been built on an ancient grave site (and, indeed, the remains of 44 bodies turned up during construction). (Wal-Mart said it is protecting the remains while it seeks state approval to re-bury them.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1980, rock star John Lennon was shot to death outside his New York City apartment building by an apparently deranged fan.

In 1914, "Watch Your Step," the first musical revue to feature a score composed entirely by Irving Berlin, opened in New York.

In 1949, the Chinese Nationalist government moved from the Chinese mainland to Formosa as the Communists pressed their attacks.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"So long as governments set the example of killing their enemies, private individuals will occasionally kill theirs."

ELBERT HUBBARD

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Susan Tam/Special to Daily Press

From top to bottom: (Left to right) City Councilmen Bobby Shriver, Herb Katz, Richard Bloom and Ken Genser are sworn in by City Clerk Maria Stewart on Tuesday night. (Left to right) Santa Monica College Board of Trustees Rob Rader, Susan Aminoff and Margaret Quiñones take the oath. (Left to right) Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board members Kathy Wisnicki, Maria Leon-Vazquez and Jose Escarce are sworn in. Santa Monica Rent Control Board members Joel Koury and Jeffrey Sklar are sworn in by Stewart in council chambers.

Hotel union ready to go on defensive

HERE must convince court it legally unionized Four Points Sheraton

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

PICO BLVD. — A federal labor judge will decide early next year whether the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Santa Monica was illegally unionized.

The National Labor Relations Board issued a formal complaint last week, alleging the union took power in December of 2003 with-

out the necessary majority backing from workers. Union officials will fight those claims in a Jan. 3 hearing.

At issue in the dispute is the way labor organizers build consensus among workers. At Four Points, the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Local 11 used what's called a card-check process, where they had an extended time period to gather support from a majority of workers.

Opponents of the card-check process say it's unfair to workers, who can be approached by organizers and lobbied individually.

See **UNION**, page 5

Trustees tap Donner to take over at SMC

By Daily Press staff

SMC — The local community college will have a new leader, at least for one year.

The Santa Monica College Board of Trustees voted unanimously Monday night to install Tom Donner as interim president, beginning Jan. 1. Donner now serves as SMC's executive vice president of business and administration.

The action comes less than three weeks after SMC President Dr. Piedad F. Robertson announ-



TOM DONNER

ced she would leave next month to head up the Education Commission of the States, an education policy group based in Denver, Colo.

Robertson's retirement becomes effective on Jan. 31, allowing for a month-long transition period. Donner will

See **DONNER**, page 5

Changing of the guard

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — The new Santa Monica City Council was sworn into office Tuesday in a packed council chambers, but the only new face on the dais was that of Bobby Shriver.

Incumbents Richard Bloom, Herb Katz and Ken Genser held onto their posts this past election. Shriver, the lone newcomer, took former City Councilman Mike Feinstein's seat. Feinstein didn't attend the last official meeting of the old guard, conducted before the new members were sworn in

on Tuesday. Councilwoman Pam O'Connor was also missing in action after her mother, Esther Smicklas, had passed away last week.

Because of O'Connor's absence, the council voted to postpone the appointment of a new mayor, typically selected after the swearing-in ceremony. The council agreed to allow Bloom to remain as mayor with Councilman Kevin McKeown acting as mayor pro tem until O'Connor can return to the dais. Both Bloom and McKeown served in those respective capacities for the past two years.

See **SWEARING IN**, page 6

Jacquie Banks

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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)

★★★★ Share more with a special person in your life, instead of allowing him or her to make judgments about what you are thinking. This person's feedback gives you deep insight and direction. Appreciate this special person and his or her understanding. Tonight: Dinner and a chat for two.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ A friend can be flaky at times. Today is no exception, as you will discover. Don't try to contain this person, but enjoy the excitement he or she delivers to your life. Others seek you out. Don't worry about company or a project. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You can count on a boss changing directions easily. By now, you should be used to this behavior. The quality of your work counts more than anything. Continue to flow with this unpredictable person. Tonight: Exercise stress away.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Your imagination integrates with news, no matter how unexpected it might be. You express your ingenuity and ability to break past black-and-white thinking. A relationship or new friendship could be heating up. Be sure you want to head in this direction. Tonight: Ever playful.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

HHH Push comes to shove. Others have expectations of you that simply don't conform with who you are. At the risk of upsetting someone or quite a few people, you cannot change who you are. Try to make it an early day. Tonight: Put your feet up and read a book or the newspaper.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You might need to discuss someone's unpredictability, as you could be quite irritated. By sharing your discomfort with someone in a similar position, you feel better and gain understanding. Tonight: Head out to a favorite spot.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ New equipment or techniques might cause a moment of mayhem, but ultimately you will adjust. Understand the financial benefit of this change as well as the saving of time. You might become gung-ho by the end of the day! Tonight: Gather your bills.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You're all smiles. You deal with others well because of your lively and somewhat offbeat personality. You could find a child or loved one very touchy or unpredictable. Tap into his or her imagination and use it positively. Tonight: As you like.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ You cannot calm down a domestic matter, or you might need to deal with a problem at home. You tend to keep your opinion to yourself, which might be better right now. Work through a problem on your own. Tonight: Take some personal time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Others seek you out for guidance. You might be dealing with an unusual amount of unpredictability or change. Listen to your friends. Hold a meeting to get a consensus. You don't always have to carry the ball. Tonight: A pre-holiday get-together with your pals.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Your financial situation still has its ups and downs. You certainly have pulled the wild card. Put in the extra hours or do whatever you need to do in order to achieve your goals. Perhaps you need your own private piggy bank! Tonight: Pushing to the wee hours.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might not be aware of what your newfound unpredictability sets off. Try to distance yourself from your behavior and imagine how others feel. You could get a whole new perspective. Try to explain yourself more often. Tonight: Find some mind candy.

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LOCAL



Santa claws



Rocco Pavone/Special to the Daily Press

A couple of felines sit with Santa at Santa Monica Place this week during 'Pet Night.' People can bring their pets to Santa Monica Place again on Dec. 13, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., to get photos of their pets with the jolly one. Costumes are encouraged. Since its inception in 1996, Pet Night at Santa Monica Place has grown to attract thousands of animals of all types to the event: dogs, cats, birds, and even fish. It can be a bit of a menagerie, but it has become one of the most popular holiday evenings for owners and shoppers. Donations also can be made to the SPCA LA.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Shuttering at the thought of California beauty

By Daily Press staff

Do you have a photograph that depicts the epitome of California's landscape?

The California Department of Fish and Game's Outdoor California magazine reminds photographers around the state that the deadline for the annual photography award program is fast approaching. Photographs for the 2004 photo contest must be delivered to the office of communications, Department of Fish and Game, 1416 9th St., room 117, Sacramento, Calif., 95814 by noon on Dec. 31.

Participants should keep in mind the following when submitting an entry:

■ Only photographs of live fish, wildlife and plant species in their native habitat will be considered. All photographs must be of native California species.

■ Photographers should avoid artificial structures (fences, utility poles, etc.) and people in their submissions.

■ All submissions must be 35 mm slide (duplicate).

The entries are judged by a panel of outside photographers and biologists. In addition to "Photograph of the Year," awards also will be given for excellence and honorable mention. Award-winning entries from the nine categories — birds, mammals, fish, aquatic invertebrates, terrestrial invertebrates, plants, natural environment, wildlife in action, and open — are featured in the March-April issue of the magazine. For an official entry form, call DFG at (916) 653-6420.



SURF REPORT

On Wednesday, look for a WNW wind/ground swell, holding Southern Hemi and some more SW wind swell. Northern LA breaks have knee-waist high plus waves with some bigger sets at top breaks to chest high. South Bay spots see knee- to waist-plus surf at many breaks and chest to shoulder sets at top spots. Building new NW ground swell shows up on Thursday. Look for light E wind in the morning turning variable in the afternoon.

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

Today the water is:

58°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	9:12	3.2	9:20	0.9	4:18	4.0	1:52	3.9
SUNDAY	10:34	2.6	10:04	1.0	4:41	4.3	3:29	3.7
MONDAY	11:27	1.9	10:44	1.2	5:03	4.7	4:51	3.6
TUESDAY	12:11	1.1	11:23	1.4	5:28	5.2	5:58	3.7
WEDNESDAY	NA	NA	12:53	0.2	5:56	5.8	6:57	3.8
THURSDAY	12:01	1.6	1:35	-0.5	6:28	6.3	7:51	3.9
FRIDAY	12:40	1.8	2:18	-1.1	7:04	6.7	8:44	3.9

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The QLine

On Tuesday, the new slate of Santa Monica City Councilmembers will be sworn into office, as Bobby Shriver, Ken Genser, Herb Katz and Richard Bloom take the oath and usher in a new chapter for Santa Monica policy making. Within the next month or so, the council will take up the charge of anointing one of their own as the city's next mayor, to succeed Bloom for a two-year term.

Largely just a figurehead position, the

office of mayor puts a face on the city's elected representation.

This week, Q-Line wants to know: "Who should be appointed as the next mayor of Santa Monica, and why?"

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

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OPINION



This time Justice is more than blind...

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't fall for the 'progress' mantra

Editor:

In a November 19 LA Times article about the proposed three 21-story buildings in downtown Santa Monica, the architect is quoted saying: "We're introducing nature into the urban heart of downtown Santa Monica." Building three 21-story buildings is introducing nature? I have never heard anything so idiotic. It almost seems like a stand-up comedy joke.

It reminds me of the Philip-Morris ads that go on about how dangerous smoking is and how to quit, while marketing cigarettes everywhere. Pure hype.

I have lived in my present address for 28 years. I have seen our town become less and less friendly to residents. We already have too many people coming in and out of Santa Monica each day. There is already too much congestion. This ridiculous plan will further increase traffic, create more smog and generally make life worse for us residents.

I realize that a few people will make a lot of money, but I'm sick of seeing my town disappear into a Century City By-the-Sea scenario. The article says Macerich already owns 61 malls. How much money do these people need?

Don't do it. It doesn't have to be "Babbitt-Booster-Here We Grow Again." Make a legacy for yourself of actually stopping the "progress." If you have to make some money-maker there, make it small, one or two stories. It doesn't always have to be some grandiose nonsense. I realize that you forget that people actually live here, we can't all be tourists. The actual people of Santa Monica would like to stop the runaway growth and retain some of our small-town feeling.

Don't do it.

Peter Davison
Santa Monica

No can do: Condos would provide few benefits

Editor:

Macerich's proposal to replace the downtown mall includes three 21-story condo buildings, one eight-story apartment building, and one eight-story office building. How many more cars would that add to downtown traffic every day? Maybe 2,000?

Prohibiting the skyscrapers won't necessarily eliminate the additional cars. If Macerich is denied permission to build the towers, its architects could redesign the project to go horizontal instead of vertical — replacing much of the planned park space with smaller buildings, while keeping the same total number of residential units and offices.

Less than four years ago, the city decided not to allow Target to open a store next to Toys R Us. Although many residents argued for the store, the opponents won because it would create too many traffic problems. At least Target would provide a valuable service to many city residents. You can't make that argument for luxury condos.

So we in Santa Monica have two big decisions to make: (a) how high should we allow buildings near the beach, and (b) how much more traffic congestion are we willing to tolerate downtown?

Elissa Royal
Santa Monica

Tally-Ho! A fox hunter can spot loss of freedom



INCITES

BY ED SILVERSTEIN

Flasks are tilted; the alcohol a brace against a morning chill that is infused with the scent of wild sage. A couple dozen horses paw the ground impatiently as the hounds — calling them "dogs" is sacrilege — nose the ground.

The hounds give voice as they strike a line, then race off in the full cry of a hot scent. The scarlet-coated field master gives a signal and the field — in what is ironically the only place in LA that still requires a jacket and tie — plunges full gallop down a hill steep enough to give a snowboarder heart palpitations.

Despite the dizzying descent, the riders adhere to a strict hierarchy, the second field behind the first, the black coats behind those in pinks, the pinks behind the field master who will never pass the huntsman.

As the bunched horses hit the valley floor one stumbles and slams its rider, a slender woman, to the ground. Horses veer around her in what will be one of many falls that day in a sport that makes pro football look like an outing to "Mommy and Me." Injuries are a veritable certainty with some severe enough to require helicopter evacuation. This time, however, the rider escapes with little more than scratches and a bruised ego.

For nearly an hour, the horses hammer over wild terrain at breakneck speeds; charge up and down impossibly steep hills, crash streams and dense thickets; soar over ditches and fences and speed along deadly cliff trails barely a foot wide. And just when the riders have reached the limits of their endurance, desperately clinging to their steeds with little more than sheer will and luck, a cry goes up — "Tally-Ho!" The call is echoed as others spot the quarry, a coyote, loping ahead of the hounds. In the next instant the coyote, in a rare misjudgment, goes to the ground in a large thicket of dense brush. The hounds immediately circle with frantic yips.

The huntsman sounds several blasts from his horn. It is a "gone away," an adrenaline-pumping free-for-all race to the hounds that resembles something between a steeplechase and a rave during a police raid. Riders jostle and jockey toward the scene of impending carnage and the privilege of being awarded the hapless coyote's mask. But even as the horses descend upon the hounds, the coyote is spotted slinking off down the hill where he will escape to fight another day.

As of next year, fox hunting will be illegal in England, its place of birth. While this delights urban animal activists to no end, it has enraged the rural types who love the sport and are steeped in its traditions that go back hundreds of years. And while I am sure that this will send P.E.T.A.-philes into apoplectic fits, I am in full agreement with the fox hunters.

For two years, I was among those who participated in the sport of fox hunting. I have rock climbed, whitewater canoed, hang glided and fished across a stream from a 600-pound grizzly, and nothing comes remotely close to the adrenaline

rush of a fox hunt.

And there are a slew of justifications. The coyotes we hunted were vastly overpopulated. They had become a menace to the ranchers, killing livestock, even slaughtering calves as they were being born. And coyotes made quick work of the fuzzy little kittens that were born on the ranch each year, not to mention a pet dog or two. In any event, it was exceedingly rare that a coyote, faster and smarter than the hounds — not to mention the fox hunters — would get caught: only once during the time I hunted.

But the truth is that fox hunting is a blood sport. The quarry is chased down and, if caught, ripped to shreds by the hounds. And though that sounds barbaric, far worse sports are readily accepted. Fishing, for instance, provides about as much fun for the fish as a stay at Abu Ghraib. And the FOX television network has even dropped the pretense that NASCAR is little more than a perverse desire to see an unimaginable fiery crash, which, if you're really lucky, will send a tire hurling into the stands causing horrifying injuries to a dozen or so spectators.

And that is nothing compared to Mother Nature who often seems like a cross between Mommy Dearest and the Hillside Strangler. Death is often neither quick nor painless. I witnessed a pack of wolves attack and wound a fawn, which screamed and screamed as it slowly died. Another pack killed and maimed over 50 sheep one night for no other conceivable reason than sport. And have you ever watched a sated cat with a mouse?

But to me, this issue is not really about fox hunting. It is about choice and personal freedom. I believe there is little difference between legislating a ban on fox hunting, or abortion or doctor-assisted suicide. In all cases, it is a special interest group using the government to force its belief system onto others. And, as is often the case, those beliefs are the result of emotions superseding intellect.

The California ban on mountain lion hunting, for instance, has resulted in lions overpopulating their shrinking habitats, which in turn has led to more attacks against humans. And instead of collecting hunting fees, which could be used to expand habitats, the state pays professional hunters to kill troublesome lions.

That is not to say there isn't an element of cruelty to fox hunting as in many sports. And the participants can often seem like a bouillabaisse of psychological disorders, though no more so than an assemblage of politicians or studio executives. But the reality is that the rare coyote that is killed in the hunt is invariably old or sick. And their quick demise at the jaws of the hounds is considerably more merciful than the slow "natural" starvation to which the animal activists would condemn them.

And while I fully support the right of any group to educate, even berate, I do not believe it is the government's place to legislate issues relating to choice no matter how onerous such a choice might seem. And if that's a problem for you, all I have to say is ... Tally-Ho.

(Comments or requests for copies of this column can be e-mailed to incites@incites.net).



Four Points has agreed to nullify union contract

UNION, from page 1

"We believe that it's important that workers choose their own representation and that must be free of coercion," said Justin Hakes, an attorney for the conservative National Right to Work Foundation, a nonprofit group. "We don't think that employers and union officials should be getting together and cutting backroom deals to force unionization on workers that may not necessarily want it. We believe the employees themselves should be free to decide."

Hakes represents seven workers from Four Points who filed a complaint last December, alleging hotel employees were coerced into unionizing and that a majority actually didn't want to be organized. The charges were dismissed by the regional office of the labor board in February, but later appealed, and in September, the Washington, D.C. office of the NLRB agreed that a majority hadn't backed unionization. The NLRB issued a

formal complaint last week stating HERE "has been restraining and coercing employees" by representing them for the last 15-plus months without consent from the majority.

Kurt Petersen, the union's organizing director, said the complaint reflected a political change in the board's makeup and maintained that a majority of Four Points workers do want to be organized.

"There's no question we had a majority," he said. "Recently, the National Labor Relations Board, under the direction of George Bush, they changed the rule ... Those workers have gotten caught in this anti-worker shift ... It's totally political."

"It's a change in the law midstream. Workers will suffer for it."

NLRB officials said they couldn't comment on the evidence in the case. According to Petersen, the NLRB is claiming the union didn't have majority support because there was a petition signed by many Four Points workers stating they didn't want union representation.

Under the old law, Petersen said the workers would have had to submit the petition to have it count against unionization. Under the new law, Petersen said the petition's existence precluded the union's authority to declare a victory in the card-check process.

Under the union contract, workers pay \$37 a month and benefit from, among other things, paid lunch hours, increased salaries and reduced workloads, Petersen said. Still, some of the employees have said they prefer to work outside of the union because they don't trust union organizers, and fear their benefits will be reduced and premiums raised. Some workers pointed to negative experiences relatives have had working in other unionized hotels.

While HERE prepares to fight the charges at the Jan. 3 trial, Four Points management already has agreed in a settlement with the NLRB to nullify the union contract. That settlement is on hold pending the outcome of the January trial,

according to Tony Bisceglia, an NLRB spokesman.

Average NLRB trials last for several days, and the labor judges often take several weeks before issuing a decision, Bisceglia added.

HERE is no stranger to the card-check process. Union officials are using the same method to unionize workers at Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel, where they have been gathering signatures under a card-check process for more than two years. Petersen said a small but vocal faction of anti-union workers have prevented organizers from declaring victory there.

Four Points last year became Santa Monica's third large hotel to be unionized, following the Viceroy and Fairmont Miramar. Organizers have pledged to unionize all of Santa Monica's major luxury hotels, including Loews, the Doubletree Guest Suites, Le Merigot, Casa Del Mar, Shutters on the Beach, the Radisson Huntley Hotel and the Holiday Inn Santa Monica Pier.

Donner to take the reins at SMC for second time

DONNER, from page 1

serve in the interim position for one year, about the length of time officials expect it will take to find a replacement. He will be paid Robertson's base salary of \$178,846.

Donner also served as interim president from October of 1994 to June of 1995, between the presidencies of Richard Moore and Robertson.

A fixture at the college since 1976, Donner has had extensive senior administrative and financial experience, overseeing the business operations of SMC through massive facilities changes and more than one state budget crisis. The Community College Business Officers, a national organization, last month named Donner "Outstanding Chief Business Officer of the Year."

Donner is credited with chartering the college's fiscal plan through the aftermath of the Proposition 13 tax reform and developing a strong international student recruitment program to supplement state funding, according to school officials. He is also credited with forming a team to rebuild the college following the 1994 Northridge earthquake, and procuring federal funding for the science, library and business buildings, and other reconstruction projects.

Donner negotiated the establishment of satellite sites for the college at Santa Monica Airport and several other locations throughout Santa Monica. He received a bachelor of science degree in finance and his MBA from California State University, Long Beach. He holds a juris doctorate degree from Southwestern University and is an active member of the California State Bar.

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LOCAL

Susan Tam/Special to the Daily Press
Newly elected board members await their respective turns to be sworn in at council chambers on Tuesday night.

School, rent control and college boards installed

SWEARING IN, from page 1

The council welcomed Shriver, a Kennedy family scion who attracted national media attention during his candidacy. There was no shortage of media in council chambers Tuesday night, in stark contrast to years past when swearing-in ceremonies were staged with little fanfare.

The recently elected council members shared their priorities with the public and thanked those who supported them in their campaigns. They also thanked and welcomed each other.

Katz joked with Shriver about his commitment to serving on the Santa Monica City Council.

"You are out of your mind and so are the rest of us," he said.

Both Shriver and Katz said shortening the length of council meetings — which often go past midnight — was one of their top priorities. Not surprisingly, their comments were brief, while Genser and Bloom spent considerably more time acknowledging city staff, the political organizations that backed them and the issues currently facing Santa Monica.

However, Tuesday's meeting ran late, partly because it didn't start on time — Shriver was 15 minutes late. After he entered council chambers and the meeting began, Shriver did an interview in the back of the room with a television reporter during the proceedings.

The ceremony began with perfor-

mances by the Santa Monica High School string quartet and the Samohi chamber singers. City Hall receptionist Lindsey Haley then read an inspirational poem.

The usual gadflies seen at nearly every council meeting addressed the elected officials, many taking the time to criticize local government.

Jon Mann, recently defeated for a seventh time in his bid for a council seat, accused council members of succumbing to special interest groups.

"How many of you remember who you're constituents are, special interests or residents?" he asked, then turning to Shriver who sat in the audience before being sworn in. "Bobby Shriver ... will you use your family name to shame those who are to blame?"

City Councilman Bob Holbrook presented Shriver with rare campaign buttons of his father, Sargent Shriver, who ran for vice president in 1972 alongside George McGovern.

"Sargent Shriver started something ... you did something your father didn't do — got elected," Holbrook joked.

Also sworn into office were Santa Monica College board trustees Rob Rader, Susan Aminoff and Margaret Quinones; Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District board members Jose Escarce, Maria Leon-Vazquez and Kathy Wisnicki; and Santa Monica Rent Control board members Joel Koury and Jeffrey Sklar.

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STATE



Creating a \$3B agency for stem cell is big task

BY PAUL ELIAS

AP Biotechnology Writer

IRVINE, Calif. — In November, Californians by a wide margin passed Proposition 71, a landmark \$3 billion initiative to fund stem-cell research. That may have been the easy part.

Now, a state agency must be created from scratch to decide who gets the money and who will benefit financially from any scientific breakthroughs produced from the huge, taxpayer-funded gift.

Scientists and bureaucrats gathered to Monday to begin hashing out the issues at a forum sponsored by the National Science Foundation at the University of California-Irvine. But political wrangling had already begun, over matters such as who will lead the state agency and how best to ensure that the state gets its fair share of any financial windfall.

Meanwhile, in Sacramento, state Sen. Deborah Ortiz, D-Sacramento, introduced legislation Monday to "reform" Proposition 71, which is barely a month old.

Her proposed law would require drugs developed with state money be made affordable for the poor, and would guarantee that California share in any profits realized by companies who benefit from the publicly supported research.

"As funders of this research, the people of California not only deserve, but are entitled to, appropriate royalties from their investment," Ortiz wrote in a letter Monday addressed to the organizer of the Irvine meeting.

Proposition 71 itself decrees that the state "shall establish standards" but doesn't detail how it would accomplish the profit sharing — a key campaign promise made to taxpayers by the well-heeled supporters of the initiative, who contributed more than \$20 million to help pass it.

What's more, the University of Wisconsin — where human embryonic stem cells were first discovered — and its corporate partner, Geron Corp. of Menlo Park, already claim broad patent rights to any commercial products developed with stem cells.

Proposition 71 campaign chairman Robert Klein II said such intellectual property issues will be worked out once a 29-member board to govern the new agency is established later this month.

Klein said many of the board members are from the University of California and Stanford University, which he said are adept at hammering out deals with corporations that want to exploit academia's discoveries.

He said once research reaches a critical mass in California, the University of Wisconsin and Geron will be compelled to deal "reasonably" with California

interests.

Furthermore, Klein said, legislative remedies such as Ortiz's are not necessary and will serve only to confuse stem cell researchers, many of whom are already frustrated by red tape and funding restrictions from federal funding sources.

"I would hope that the Legislature showed respect and constraint," said Klein, who added that Proposition 71 also includes provisions barring the Legislature from amending the initiative for three years.

It's not clear what affect that prohibition has on the bill proposed by Ortiz, who also included provisions to prevent exploitation of poor women, such as prohibiting payment for anything more than expenses for donating eggs to research.

Researchers extract most of their experimental stem cells from fertilized human eggs, most of which are now donated by fertility clinics. But scientists say they need to find or create other supply sources to broaden their research, including using cloning techniques to create stem cell sources.

Stem cells are formed in the first days after fertilization and they are the building blocks of the human body. Researchers hope to harness that biological power to create "cells in a bottle" to cure and treat a wide range of ailments from diabetes to spinal cord injuries.

But conservative Christians and others oppose the research as immoral because days-old embryos are destroyed in the lab. President Bush has severely limited the amount of federal funding allowed for the work, prompting the millionaire housing developer Klein to organize a coterie of venture capitalists, technology tycoons such as Microsoft Corp.'s Bill Gates and wealthy parents of sick children to pass Proposition 71.

Now, Klein has emerged as a leading candidate to serve as the new state agency's first chairman — a position that is widely expected to be the most influential voice of the \$3 billion California Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante, Treasurer Phil Angelides and Controller Steve Westly may each propose a candidate to chair the 29-member board. Board members themselves will vote on the appointment.

Klein, a major Democratic campaign donor whose son suffers from diabetes, said he met with the Schwarzenegger, a Republican, for an hour last month to discuss the chairmanship.

Schwarzenegger broke ranks with the state Republican Party and endorsed the measure, which will cost \$6 billion to pay back the principal and interest of the bonds California will use to fund the research.

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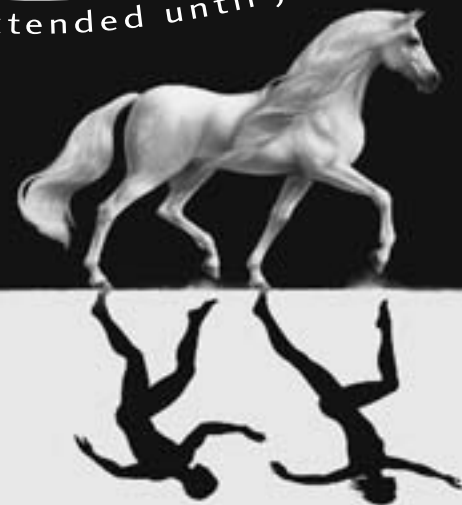
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STATE

Same-sex marriages pit lawmaker vs. churches

BY BRIAN MELLEY

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — As a state lawmaker sought to legalize gay marriage Monday, a church-led group announced efforts to insert the existing definition of marriage into the California Constitution and to strip same-sex couples of domestic partner benefits.

The Orange County-based Traditional Values Coalition, representing 8,300 churches, said it was mounting the campaign on behalf of “pro-family, pro-marriage conservatives” to save marriage from a tide of laws expanding the rights of gay couples in recent years.

“The fact that we’re here today to discuss this issue is proof that there’s been a gradual and concerted effort on the part of the homosexual community to advance their agenda on society,” said Benjamin Lopez, a lobbyist for the coalition.

The announcement came as Assemblyman Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, filed a bill that would allow gays to marry. At the urging of the coalition, Sen. Bill Morrow, R-Oceanside, and Assemblyman Ray Haynes, R-Murrieta, introduced constitutional amendments that would elevate the definition of marriage as a union between a man and a woman from statute to the constitution.

Adding the language to the constitution would prevent lawmakers from changing it without approval from voters.

The dueling measures introduced on the first day of the legislative session follow a national election in which 11 states outlawed gay marriage.

Four years ago, California voters passed Proposition 22, which held that the state could only recognize a marriage between a man and a woman as valid.

Since then, however, lawmakers have passed a broad array of domestic partner benefits, including a law that takes effect Jan. 1 giving same-sex couples who register as domestic partners nearly all the legal rights and responsibilities as married spouses.

Given the support in the Democrat-controlled Legislature for domestic partnership benefits, gay rights supporters predicted the amendments would not receive the needed two-thirds support needed to make it on the ballot for voters to decide.

“They know they don’t have two-thirds vote, so it’s just theater,” Leno said.

If it fails in the Legislature, supporters could put it on the ballot through the petition process, but the Rev. Louis Sheldon, chairman of the coalition, said he would not speculate what his group would do.

Sheldon said gay marriage was threatening the nation and society. He said the amendment was an effort to prevent gay rights supporters from circumventing Proposition 22.

“They want to destroy marriage and the family as we know it today,” he said. “Natural law opposes homosexuality. That is, body parts do not fit. That is worth thinking about.”

Gay rights supporters said the coalition’s latest attempts aim to harm gay families.

“Their goal isn’t just to limit the definition of marriage as between a man and woman, their goal is to destroy lesbian and gay families,” said Geoffrey Kors, executive director Equality California, the state’s largest gay rights lobbying group. “They are motivated by hate and when you are motivated by hate it has nothing to do with domestic partnership or marriage.”

Based on some recent polls, it would appear both efforts are doomed.

In June, a Field Poll found a majority of Californians didn’t support gay marriage, but they also didn’t support a federal constitutional amendment defining marriage as between a man and a woman. A year ago, Field found that 72 percent of voters surveyed supported expanded rights for same-sex couples.

Leno’s “Marriage License Nondiscrimination Act” would amend a section of California’s family code that defines marriage as “a personal relationship arising out of a civil contract between a man and woman” to read “between two persons.”

That measure faces another type of opposition: Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has said he will support the voice of the people or a decision by the courts. And until they speak again, the word by 61 percent of voters four years ago on Proposition 22 was a “no.”

“He thinks the people already spoke on that,” said spokeswoman Margita Thompson.



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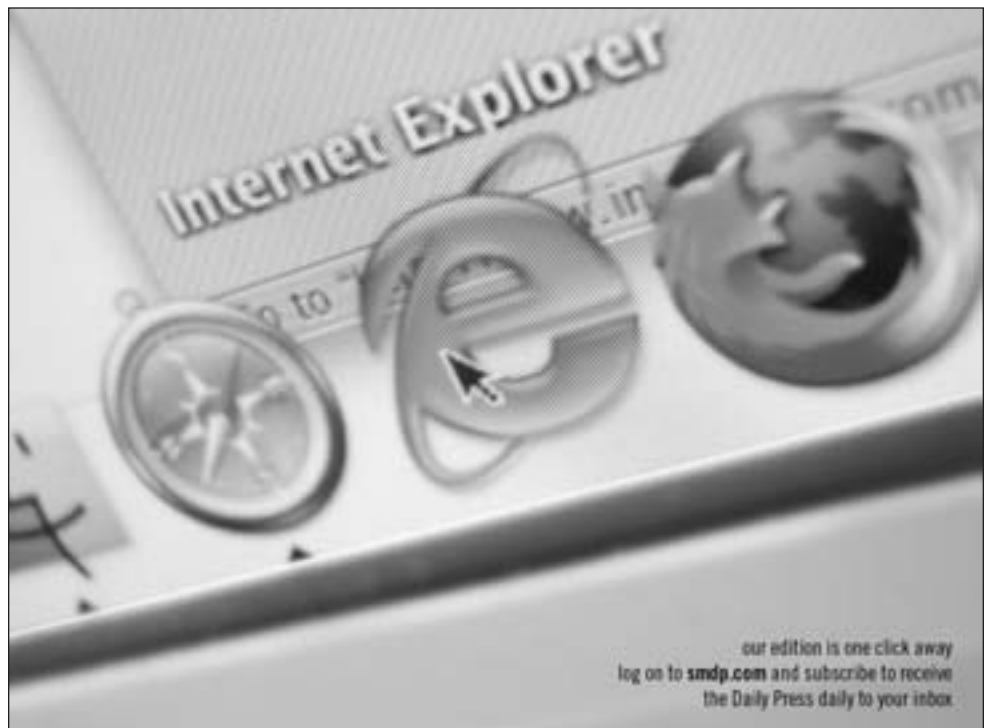
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STATE



Bridge-building priest expands his operation beyond East L.A.

BY LAURA WIDES

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — At first they thought the priest riding his bike through the night and chatting it up with the homeboys was crazy. They figured he'd go away, like most who tried to stop gang violence in the neighborhood.

But the Rev. Greg Boyle stayed.

He visited the gang members in jail and vouched for them to judges. He dodged bullets to break up fights and once tried to wrestle a semiautomatic rifle from the hands of a gang leader. He helped thousands of young men remove tattoos, get jobs and restart their lives.

Since he arrived in Boyle Heights 20 years ago, the Jesuit priest has hosted dignitaries from Senegal to Australia, fended off numerous requests to franchise his programs and seen his life story twice optioned by Hollywood.

Now Father Boyle, 50, is branching out from the neglected East Los Angeles community to a downtown location that reflects his desire to bring together the region's diverse youth. He plans to build a bakery, cafe, and office in a swath of parking lots and abandoned fields between two of the city's most visible ethnic landmarks, Chinatown and the historic Mexican Olvera plaza.

The new center will give Boyle a more prominent platform from which to spread his message that "nothing stops a bullet like a job."

"It becomes a symbol for the nation, for 'what if you invested here, in these folks who want to turn around their life?'" Boyle said. "This is true in every city in the nation."

The move comes as Boyle is rebounding from a year of setbacks.

His frenetic pace slowed after a diagnosis with leukemia, now in remission. Two of his employees were killed on the job — a first for Homeboy Industries, Boyle's job training program.

He refuses to dwell on the challenges

Though his flannel shirts, Mexican belts, tall frame and trim white beard give the look of an affable lumberjack, his tough love and Spanglish street slang earned Boyle the moniker "G-Dog."

"The day won't ever come when ... my life presents difficulties or obstacles the likes of which these folks haven't encountered," Boyle said as he glanced toward an office ramp that enables former gang members, victims of driveby shootings, to maneuver their wheelchairs.

Photos and artwork from the homeboys and a portrait of labor leader Cesar Chavez decorate his office. On his desk stands a statue of Jesus — Boyle's "ultimate Homeboy" — making a jumpshot.

Boyle grew up a world away on Los Angeles' affluent

Westside and arrived in Boyle Heights, a struggling Mexican immigrant community, as a divinity student during the Olympic summer of 1984.

He began by working with the eight neighborhood gangs. Today, his group works with more than 360 gangs across Los Angeles County.

Homeboy Industries already owns about a quarter of the lot where it expects to expand next year, while probably retaining its current site.

Plans are to reopen the Homeboy Bakery, which burned down in 1999, as well as a Homegirl Cafe, part of its expanding economic redevelopment efforts and a reminder that the group serves young women as well.

The organization has raised roughly \$4 million for construction of buildings, which would include a job counseling center and tattoo removal program, according to Mike Hennigan, president of Homeboy Industries' board of directors and an Archdiocese of Los Angeles attorney. It still needs an additional \$6 million.

When the organization moves, Boyle will leave both success and sorrow.

He remembers how one of the two men gunned down this summer came into his office the morning before going out on a graffiti removal job.

The young man, struggling to pull his life together, was having a good day.

"I'm proud of myself," Boyle recalls him saying.

Hours later, he was dead.

The crimes were not connected to Homeboy Industries, but Boyle suspended the graffiti project, whose trucks had been a defiant ad for peace in the neighborhood.

"It was the most difficult two-week period of my life," he said.

Many of his stories are happier, and he weaves them into his sermons, mixing up the sacred with the ordinary.

At a recent Sunday Mass at a county juvenile detention camp, Boyle moved seamlessly between the "grace of God" and a homily about enemy gang members bonding over a Viagra joke.

"I like how he speaks real," said 16-year-old Griffin, one of 60 teens who attended the Mass. Griffin, who is not Catholic, said he was drawn by Boyle's reputation.

Boyle attributes his success in part to the police, who early on warned kids to stay away from him because they believed he was protecting gangbangers.

"Nothing could have helped me more in terms of my own street cred," he recalled.

When asked about his work, Boyle likes to tell a Christmas tale. Last year, a homeboy estranged from his family invited former rival gang members over to cook a turkey. The group spent the evening huddled in the tiny apartment, watching the oven.

That, Boyle says, is the perfect example of "the sacred embedded in the ordinary."

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Governor asks judge for permission to sign bill

BY SANDY YANG
 Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano has asked a federal judge for permission to sign a voter-passed immigration initiative, despite the issuance of a temporary restraining order blocking its implementation.

The governor's office filed a motion Friday in U.S. District Court in Tucson asking Judge David C. Bury to allow her to issue a proclamation making Proposition 200 law.

The Arizona Constitution requires her to declare as law the measure, which would mandate proof of citizenship for voter registration and proof of residency status for some government services.

Napolitano had planned to sign the proclamation last week, but she said then it appeared the temporary restraining order barred her from doing so.

Bury issued the order blocking implementation after Proposition 200 opponents filed a lawsuit raising questions about the constitutionality of the initiative, which was approved by voters on Nov. 2.

The motion from the governor was intended "to get it out of the way, so that doesn't have to be yet another step it has to have" if the restraining order is lifted, Napolitano said Monday.

Proposition 200 backers promoted the measure as a way to begin cracking down on illegal immigration in Arizona, the busiest illegal entry point on the U.S.-Mexico border.

It requires proof of legal immigration status when obtaining some government services and proof of citizenship when registering to vote. Government workers who don't report illegal immigrants who try to get benefits could face jail time and a fine.

Napolitano's motion asked Bury to limit the restraining order to Proposition 200's service provisions. That would allow the state to submit the voting provisions to the U.S. Justice Department for a voting rights review, the motion said.

Opponents said Proposition 200 is unconstitutional because it usurps the federal government's power over immigration and naturalization. The lawsuit against the initiative argues that the law will jeopardize families who depend on public benefits for basic necessities.

Napolitano called the act of signing the initiative a ministerial act, which does not affect social services until a decision is made by the courts.

"Proclaiming is not the same as implementing," Napolitano said.

Giant octopus keeps the faith, doesn't give up on motherhood

BY MARY PEMBERTON
 Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — No mate? No problem.

Aurora, the Giant Pacific octopus at the Alaska Sealife Center, isn't afraid to go it alone.

Aurora laid tens of thousands of eggs in June after hitting it off with the aging yet amorous J-1. Unfortunately, her sweetheart died of old age in September. Still, Aurora tended her eggs.

Day in and day out, she sucked in water through her mantle and sent waves of water out through her siphon to gently cleanse her eggs. She defended them against hungry sea cucumbers and starfish.

Despite months of meticulous tending, Aurora's eggs remained pearly white with no signs of developing into baby octopuses. Aquarists at the center in Seward concluded the eggs were likely sterile.

"We were checking frequently and we didn't see anything inside," said aquarium curator Richard Hocking.

Just about everybody had given up — except Aurora. Last week, her 3,600-gallon tank was being drained so she could be removed from display when a sharp-eyed intern noticed something after a few of the eggs were placed in her hand. She saw two very small red dots in each egg.

"I looked and right away noticed the red dots," said Meghan Kokal, 24, who recently moved to Alaska from Helper, Utah. "I asked if that was normal."

It turns out the small red dots were baby octopus eyes.

Aurora probably had some moments of "quiet desperation" last Tuesday while several hundred gallons of water were drained from her tank, Hocking said.

As the water went down, one of the aquarists placed some of the eggs that had fallen from the sides of the tank on a rock shelf.

Even then, Aurora refused to give up.

"She didn't want to leave them. As the water was going down she was going down with it," Kokal said.

Aquarists took a look under a microscope and saw the developing eyes and pulsing mantles. It was decided that Aurora would stay in her tank after all.

Aurora and J-1 surprised everyone in May when the two hit it off on their first date, embracing for hours in a dark corner of the tank. A few weeks later Aurora began dribbling long strings of pearly eggs down the sides of the tank, which is part of the center's "Denizens of the Deep" exhibit.

Aurora will be allowed to stay with her eggs as long as she continues to care for them. When the eggs are close to hatching, which could be as late as spring, they will be moved to rearing tanks.

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NATIONAL



More border crossers required to leave their marks

BY ARTHUR H. ROTSTEIN

Associated Press Writer

NOGALES, Ariz. — The Department of Homeland Security's new digital screening program for foreign visitors opened at the main port here and at several other locations in Arizona and California this week.

The first few people processed in Nogales zipped through quickly.

"It's much faster this way," said Adolfo Moroyoqui Felix, who was traveling between Nogales, Mexico, and Phoenix. "They had to fill out paperwork before. It's more effective this way."

Within a couple minutes, Moroyoqui had both index fingers and a photo of his face scanned digitally into a computer. They were compared to scans taken when he originally filled out a visa application. His data was also compared to federal agencies' criminal databases.

He then paid the \$6 processing fee and was on his way.

The newly implemented system, which began with pilot programs on Nov. 15, is designed to speed processing of those traveling with passports or visas.

Most Mexican visitors entering Arizona's ports carry border crossing cards, or laser visas, stay less than 30 days and stay within a so-called border zone — in Arizona, within 75 miles of the border — and do not need a visa or passport.

The border zone is 25 miles in California, New Mexico and Texas.

Similarly, most Canadian citizens can enter the United States without a visa or passport.

But Mexicans going farther into the interior or staying longer than 30 days must have a specific visa form, which previously had to be processed by hand at a port of entry.

Now, after a computer check compares the scans with visa or passport data on file with the State Department, it is printed automatically.

James Tong, Customs and Border Protection's port director for Nogales, estimated that only about 15 percent of the 1.2 million people crossing at Nogales' port of entry each month will have to go through the process.

Since January, more than 350 people nationwide have been apprehended using the system for immigration vio-

lations or criminal violations ranging from manslaughter to fraud, he said.

"Not only does it enhance national security, but it also speeds up the processing of passengers entering the country," he added — likely cutting processing times in half.

Gloria Valdez Almeida of Los Mochis, Mexico, also sped through the port in Nogales Monday as she headed toward Los Angeles to spend Christmas with her niece.

"Today was a lot quicker" than when she went through paperwork processing two years ago, she said. Then it took her about a half hour to fill out the application because she said she doesn't write or read well. "Today, this is a lot better," she said.

The U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology, or US-VISIT, began testing in Douglas, Ariz.; Laredo, Texas; and Port Huron, Mich.

On Monday, the system expanded to Lukeville, San Luis and Nogales in Arizona and to Calexico and Andrade, Calif. It will be in the country's 50 busiest land ports by the end of the month and at all 165 land border crossings by the end of next year.

Reef madness: Coral damage on the rise worldwide

BY JOHN HEILPRIN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Only about 30 percent of the world's coral reefs are healthy, down from 41 percent two years ago, according to a study released Monday that lists global warming as the top threat.

The study found as many as one-fifth of the world's coral reefs have been destroyed. Another half are damaged but could be saved, it said.

Coral reefs are among the oldest and most diverse forms of life. They provide food and shelter to fish and protect shores from erosion.

While covering less than 1 percent of the earth's surface, they help drive the food chains and economies of many on the planet, with \$375 billion in economic benefits globally, according to the study by 240 scientists in 96 countries.

After global warming — blamed for higher water temperatures and carbon dioxide concentrations — threats to the reefs include coral disease, overfishing, coastal development and pollution runoff from land-based sources.

"Reefs need our help, but they're not going to go extinct," said Clive Wilkinson, the study's lead author and coordinator of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network. Still, he said, it's crucial to "raise the level of political will" to help reefs around the world.

"We know they're degrading fast, we know what the problems are, we know how to fix them," Wilkinson said at news conference by the Swiss-based World Wildlife Fund. "We've just got to do it."

Destruction or threats to 70 percent of the coral reefs represent a sharp rise from 59 percent in the last study in 2002.

About 65 percent of the Persian Gulf's reefs have been destroyed, the report said. Next in terms of damage are reefs off South and Southeast Asia, where 45 percent and 38 percent, respectively, have been destroyed.

Retired Navy Vice Adm. Conrad Lautenbacher, a Commerce Department undersecretary who heads the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, called reefs a global issue.

"It is not just a nice thing from an environmental perspective," Lautenbacher said. "It is essential to life on earth."

John Turner, assistant secretary of state for oceans and international environmental and scientific affairs, called the report "a wake-up call" and said it would be circulated to U.S. diplomats overseas.

A more positive development is the recovery of about two-fifths of the reefs seriously damaged by an unprecedented coral "bleaching" from unusually warm waters in 1998. About 16 percent of global reefs had been damaged by the bleaching.

Most of the reefs that have recovered are in the Indian Ocean, are part of the Great Barrier Reef off Australia's

coast or are in the western Pacific, particularly around Palau. Australia this year put as much as a third of both its Great Barrier Reef and Ningaloo Reef marine park off limits to fishing.

The Caribbean has lost 80 percent to 98 percent of its elkhorn and staghorn coral, two of the region's most common species, the scientists said, suggesting the United States should look at listing them as endangered species. A petition from an environmental group, the Center for Biological Diversity, to do that is being considered by the Bush administration.

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Real Estate

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Pre-approval key in securing a home



**BUYING
AND SELLING**
BY THOMAS KHAMMAR
& BRENT PARSONS

In today's seller's market, many real estate agents recommend or even require that the buyers they work with obtain pre-approval before they start looking for homes.

So what is pre-approval and what does it mean? Pre-approval is a confirmed loan agreement from a broker or a lender stating that they will provide a loan to the buyer for the amount specified. The broker usually looks at credit history, pay stubs, assets, liabilities and can involve a completed loan application to determine the value of the loan approval. Upon approval, the lender will then issue the buyer a "pre-approval letter."

Don't be confused by the term "pre-qualified." Pre-qualified is only a guideline to help a buyer determine how much of a home they can afford. It's based on the information that the borrower provides to the lender, with no credit checks or further verification of that data. Pre-qualification is not a guarantee for a loan.

Pre-approval will help you determine the price range for homes you should be looking at. It confirms your ability to obtain a home loan, and it provides an advantage when making an offer on a house. By obtaining pre-approval, you look more serious and capable in the seller's eyes and they will put your

offer in front of those from buyers that aren't pre-approved.

Obtaining pre-approval does not commit you to a loan. A pre-approval letter is only stating the amount of money that lender will lend you for the purchase of a home. It's not the loan agreement. Not only does the pre-approval letter not commit you to a loan, it doesn't commit the lender to a loan either. Further information will have to be provided to the lender in order to obtain the actual loan. This occurs after a property has been selected and an offer has been made. Items the lender will need include a preliminary title report and an appraisal for the chosen property.

Please note that the document that binds you to the loan is the trust deed that you sign with a notary. The trust deed confirms the lender, property and borrower information, and is recorded as a lien against the property in the county recorder's office for the property.

WHAT DO I NEED TO START SHOPPING FOR LENDERS?

First, review your credit report. Make sure the report is accurate. If there are errors, send letters to the bureaus notifying them of the error and requesting them to remove it. Cancel credit cards that you are not using. Do not make a lot of requests to open new credit lines. Finally, clear any bad credit.

The credit scoring system that many mortgage brokers and lenders refer to is the FICO score. A FICO score ranges from 400 to 900, with 900 being the best score. The scores are viewed as very accurate predic-

tors of future delinquencies. The brokers assume that the higher the score, the less chance there is of having a default on a mortgage. The better the score, the easier it is to be pre-approved for a loan.

The second thing that you will want to do is compile the paperwork needed to obtain a home loan, including 12 months of bank statements, two years employment verification in the same industry, W-2s, etc.

WHAT DO I LOOK FOR IN A MORTGAGE BROKER?

It's very important to use an experienced mortgage broker. He should be able to find a lender that is right for you, get you pre-approved for the most money with the highest ratios.

Get referrals for the brokers that you speak with. Make sure you speak with several brokers before you choose one. Many real estate agents can recommend a good mortgage broker to you. Ask your agent if there are a few that he or she has worked with before that did a good job. You also can ask friends and relatives. Even if they haven't purchased a home recently, many have probably refinanced and will know of someone.

Remember, getting the loan for your dream home is a very integral part of the home buying process. Although it may not be the fun part, make sure to give the process the time it deserves.

(Should you have any questions pertaining to real estate, call Thomas Khammar at 310-943-7656 or Brent Parsons at 310-943-7657.)

SANTA MONICA RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS: SINGLE FAMILY HOMES, CONDOS AND INCOME HOMES

Sold Santa Monica 12/01/2004	1043 CHELSEA AVE SqFt: N/A Lot Size: 6,118	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$1,299,000 Sold Price: \$1,315,000	Bed: 3 Bath: 1.50
Sold Santa Monica 11/30/2004	811 MARGUERITA AVE SqFt: 4,478 Lot Size: 7,500	SANTA MONICA 90402 List Price: \$2,595,000 Sold Price: \$2,575,000	Bed: 4 Bath: 3.50
Sold Santa Monica 11/30/2004	1414 BAY ST SqFt: 1,022 Lot Size: 6,192	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$849,000 Sold Price: \$795,000	Bed: 3 Bath: 1.00
Sold Santa Monica 12/01/2004	2611 30TH ST SqFt: 2,004 Lot Size: 9,000	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$995,000 Sold Price: \$975,000	Bed: 3 Bath: 2.00
Sold Santa Monica 12/01/2004	320 MESA RD SqFt: 0 Lot Size: 0	SANTA MONICA 90402 List Price: \$1,895,000 Sold Price: \$1,815,000	\$/SF: Bed: 3 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 12/03/2004	2304 CLOVERFIELD SqFt: 1,100 Lot Size: 6,750	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$839,000 Sold Price: \$849,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.00
Sold Santa Monica 12/04/2004	311 OCEAN AVE #204 SqFt: 1,422 HOD: \$0	SANTA MONICA 90402 List Price: \$3,800 Sold Price: \$3,450	Bed: 3 Bath: 2.00
Sold Santa Monica 11/30/2004	848 LINCOLN BL #F SqFt: 1,420 HOD: \$325	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$679,000 Sold Price: \$655,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 11/30/2004	1508 IDAHO AVE SqFt: 1,472 HOD: \$250	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$781,000 Sold Price: \$785,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 11/29/2004	2045 4TH ST #301B SqFt: 699 HOD: \$262	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$449,000 Sold Price: \$446,500	Bed: 1 Bath: 1.00
Sold Santa Monica 11/29/2004	2405 34TH ST #4 SqFt: 1,456 HOD: \$265	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$635,000 Sold Price: \$625,000	Bed: 3 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 11/30/2004	1014 6TH ST #F SqFt: 590 HOD: \$120	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$449,000 Sold Price: \$445,000	Bed: 1 Bath: 1.00
Sold Santa Monica 11/30/2004	2445 28TH ST #D SqFt: 1,620 HOD: \$300	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$689,000 Sold Price: \$685,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 12/01/2004	821 14TH ST #1 SqFt: 1,723 HOD: \$250	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$985,000 Sold Price: \$985,000	Bed: 3 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 12/03/2004	2920 NEILSON WAY #205 SqFt: N/A HOD: \$675	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$725,000 Sold Price: \$685,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.75
Sold Santa Monica 12/03/2004	101 CALIFORNIA AVE #801 SqFt: 1,232 HOD: \$720	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$1,100,000 Sold Price: \$950,000	Bed: 1 Bath: 1.75
Sold Santa Monica 11/29/2004	1337 BERKELEY ST #3 SqFt: 937 HOD: \$200	SANTA MONICA 90404 List Price: \$439,000 Sold Price: \$435,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 1.00
Sold Santa Monica 12/02/2004	2022 DELAWARE AVE #2 SqFt: 1,452 HOD: \$150	SANTA MONICA 90404 List Price: \$549,000 Sold Price: \$517,000	Bed: 3 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 12/02/2004	1524 10TH ST #2 SqFt: 617 HOD: \$130	SANTA MONICA 90401 List Price: \$369,000 Sold Price: \$375,500	Bed: 1 Bath: 1.00
Sold Santa Monica 12/03/2004	927 21ST ST #3 SqFt: 1,198 HOD: \$222	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$575,000 Sold Price: \$570,000	Bed: 3 Bath: 2.00
Sold Santa Monica 12/03/2004	915 12th ST #1 SqFt: N/A HOD: \$231	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$1,215,000 Sold Price: \$1,200,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 11/29/2004	2417 34TH ST #17 SqFt: 1,305 HOD: \$265	SANTA MONICA 90405 List Price: \$579,000 Sold Price: \$612,000	Bed: 2 Bath: 2.50
Sold Santa Monica 12/01/2004	818 LINCOLN BLVD SqFt: 2,300 Lot Size: 7,500	SANTA MONICA 90403 List Price: \$1,499,000 Sold Price: \$1,550,000	Gl: \$0 GRM: 0.00

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11969 VICTORIA AVE , LOS ANGELES 90066

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12506 WAGNER ST , LOS ANGELES 90066

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3650 TULLER AVE , LOS ANGELES 90034

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3259 ROSEWOOD AVE , LOS ANGELES 90066

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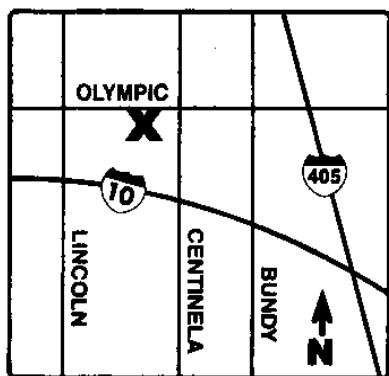
Something to build on. 602 N. PCH boasts curb cuts and entrances on two streets. C2 zoning -> two-story commercial sits on one side, residential on the other. Shopping mall across the street. Build up or back ^ the 1954 building has sidewalk frontage on a 5,300+ sq. ft. lot

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New fireplace designs may force Santa to diet



DAYS ON THE MARKET

BY JODI SUMMERS

Research speculates that men have become obsessed with large-screen televisions because they are digital reminders of the open flickering flames of fire. From the time there was man, there was fire — it was good for life. The open fire-pit evolved into fireplaces, which evolved into slow combustion stoves into the sophisticated new-millennium wood fireplaces and stoves seen today. Now that it's the holidays, fireplaces mean love and warmth and family, stockings, Christmas Carols, chestnuts and Santa Claus.

In Colonial times, the fireplace was the center of the early American household. The fireplace with its flues and chimneys was the source of heat, as well as the center of the kitchen. Large logs burned on andirons below a pot with its handle sitting on a swivel hook rotating the pot to or from the fire. Those were the big fat chimneys that Santa climbed down as he braved equatorial temperatures of escaping heat.

According to Benjamin Thompson, the Count of Rumford, prior to 1800, fireplaces were extremely inefficient and sent a considerable amount of smoke into the room. He found that the exaggerated width of the chimney throat — needed to allow the chimney sweep access — was the primary problem with regard to smoke evacuation. He also noted that the fire box design did not direct enough of the heat into the room. His design advances greatly improved fireplace operation in 19th century England.

Early in the 20th century Professor Rosin, working with the British Coal Association, designed a curved fire box that directed most of the heat into the room, along with a contoured chimney. This eliminated the smoke shelf, which disrupted the efficient flow of smoke up the flue.

In the 1970s, wood-burning devices were again made more efficient: One could slow down the burn rate by controlling the air intake of these units. The downside of slow combustion stoves is the amount of creosote deposited in the chimneys.

Fires are a renewable and perpetual resource, and experts and vendors declare that accessories and chimney inserts make the home fireplace safer than ever. Currently, more than one-third of

Americans use fireplaces, wood stoves and other fuel-fired appliances as primary heat sources in their homes.

Not all are aware of the fire risks when heating with wood and solid fuels. Heating fires account for 36 percent of residential home fires in rural areas every year. Often these fires are due to creosote build-up in chimneys and stove pipes. Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.

If you're planning to install a fireplace, start by visiting City Hall. Get your permits, that way the city won't come in and shut you down, plus a non-permitted fireplace can affect real estate values. The room layout, as well as other physical constraints, will help you decide on a freestanding unit or an existing fireplace with an insert. Your energy source (i.e. wood or pellets) should be determined by its availability and cost.

The fuel cost usually increases as you go from wood to wood pellets to natural gas to liquid propane. Traditional wood fireplaces and inserts give off radiant heat, while newer wood stove designs — pellet and gas stoves and fireplaces — use convection to circulate warm air within the home.

Another consideration in choosing which energy source best suits your requirements is the need for a chimney. Wood fireplaces and stoves require a true chimney. Gas and pellet units, as well as cleaner burners, can direct vent through the wall or ceiling. Some gas stoves are vent-free.

A well-designed stove or fireplace can circulate warm air throughout the home, and should last for generations. Style options include a freestanding stove, an insert, a traditional fireplace or a masonry heater. Each of these heaters uses wood, but there's a lot of variance in design, efficiency, cost and size. Installation option includes a fully-built factory unit, or the more traditional masonry system. New fireplaces burn more efficiently and direct the heat into the home rather than up the flue. That's why Santa's on a diet.

To maintain fire safety, the experts at ThisOldHouse.com suggest that you cover the chimney with a mesh screen spark arrester and remove branches hanging above the chimney, flues or vents. Provide proper venting systems for all heating equipment and extend all vent pipes at least three feet above the roof.

(For your real estate needs, e-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call (310) 309-4219).

Bitch!
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Check Out the Question of the Week on Page 3 and let us hear what you have to say

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Paying for the 'load factor' is a measurable cost



IN YOUR SPACE

BY CHRISTINA S. PORTER

Hopefully, most of you will not have to negotiate more than a few leases in your business career. A commercial real estate broker conducts lease negotiations regularly and, because of this, grasps the many components of a lease that can and/or should come into play during the negotiation process. For instance, understanding the different types of leases is a very important part of an effective negotiation, and/or renegotiation of the terms and conditions in a lease. One of the more prominent lease structures is the "full service gross" lease.

A full service gross lease is primarily used in larger "A" class office buildings. The definition of an "A" class office building varies slightly, but examples would be most of the larger office buildings in Westwood, Brentwood, West Los Angeles and Santa Monica. This does not mean that smaller building owners do not offer full service gross leases, but the utilization of this type of lease in smaller buildings is not as common.

When you agree to a lease on a full service gross basis it should include the fol-

lowing, general terms:

■ The landlord pays all building expenses, including electricity and janitorial.

■ You pay for parking and your "pro-rata" share of any increase in operating expenses over the "base year," usually the first year of your lease term.

■ Most of the time you are on your own as far as "after hours" heating ventilating and air conditioning. Most "A" class office buildings charge as much as \$100 per hour and certainly not less than \$35 for after hours air conditioning. The hours that different building owners offer HVAC vary but you can expect 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. If you consistently need "off hours" HVAC, it is possible to have a "package unit" installed in your suite, but this should be anticipated and negotiated as part of the initial tenant improvements if at all possible.

■ Be sure to ask if the quoted parking rates include the city tax.

Another important issue found primarily in a full service gross lease is what's known as the "load factor." How much is your "rentable" square feet and how much do you actually occupy? Do you know what the amount of "usable" square footage is in your office suite?

In all office buildings there is a common area the size of which, during the life of a building, may change from remodel

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES LEASED

Location	Type	Date Leased	Sq. Ft.	Price
1221 2nd St	Office	11/30/2004	5,701	\$2.75/fs
2400 Broadway	Office	11/30/2004	5,060	\$3.20/fs
2400 Broadway	Office	11/30/2004	11,004	\$3.20/fs
2400 Broadway	Office	12/3/2004	1,833	\$2.95/fs
3000 Ocean Park Blvd	Office	12/6/2004	14,581	\$2.35/fs
2425 Olympic Blvd	Office	11/30/2004	5,106	\$2.25/fs *
3000 W Olympic Blvd	Office	11/29/2004	17,000	\$2.85/fs
501 Santa Monica Blvd	Office	12/6/2004	1,267	\$1.99/fs

The above information is deemed to be true, but is not guaranteed. The lease rates quoted are the asking price and may not be the actual lease rate.

to remodel. The common area consists of the hallways, lobby areas, bathrooms and any area of the office that is not for your exclusive use. The usable square footage is how many square feet you actually occupy, or the inside of your office.

The "rentable" square footage is calculated as follows: The percentage of the office project's square footage that is common area added to the actual amount of square footage that you occupy in your suite.

Example: If you occupy 10,000 square feet and the load factor is 15 percent, then your rentable square footage amount — and the basis from which your base rent is calculated — is 11,500 square feet.

Even though you do not have exclusive use of the common areas, you are still

paying for it via the load factor.

Most owners add a load factor close to 15 percent to be competitive — notwithstanding the fact that their building's actual common area percentage may be much higher and occasionally lower. It is rare to find an owner who does not have a load factor to compensate for the common area in the building.

When comparing lease opportunities, the load factor is certainly an important component.

(The above is for informational purposes only and not meant to be taken as advice. Christina S. Porter is in the business of leasing and selling office and industrial buildings, she can be reached at (310) 806-6104, or cporter@naicapital.com)

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Dear Santa Monica Daily Press Reader,

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I goofed. I should have had bigger rooms. That's why I felt obligated to bring him to you at no charge. **That's why this class is free if you sign up now.** He's agreed to be here this **Saturday, December 11th** to conduct an all-day seminar to teach you how he's making millionaires out of ordinary people all over America.

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Scott is the real deal and frankly, we had to twist his arm and pay big bucks to arrange for Scott to come back. After all this effort, I'd hate to see you miss him. Every seat counts and space is limited, but we still have a little room as of this writing. I've got 93 seats left for the first people to respond and you can also bring a guest. It's not too late to get in but time is very short.

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B. Kraven, Santa Monica, CA

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NATIONAL

House putting its final stamp on intelligence bill

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON The Republican-controlled House agreed Tuesday to vote to overhaul the nation's intelligence agencies now that President Bush and House Armed Services chairman Duncan Hunter have endorsed a provision guaranteeing battlefield commanders access to top-secret information.

A vote could come late Tuesday, House Intelligence chairman Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., said, after getting the approval of the majority of House Republicans at a morning meeting.

While several House Republicans still oppose the compromise version of the bill, Hoekstra is confident the legislation will win the approval of a majority of the House GOP — a condition set by House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill.

"We feel good about what is in the bill," Hoekstra said.

Bush has called on Congress for months to pass legislation implementing the Sept. 11 commission's recommendations to protect the nation from terrorists. House

GOP leaders have been holding up the bill because of Hunter's concerns that it might interfere with the military's ability to get vital information.

Hunter now supports it because House-Senate negotiators added language to ensure that Defense Department officials would have priority in battlefield areas over the nation's spy satellites and other intelligence equipment.

The California congressman had worried that a new national intelligence director, a position the legislation would create to coordinate spy agencies, would have been able to insert himself into the chain of command from the president to the commanders in the field.

Lawmakers from both parties expect the bill to pass and said its reforms were long overdue.

"We have not in 50 years changed the intelligence system. We've never walked away from the Cold War model," Sen. Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, said Tuesday on CBS' "The Early Show." "We now have a bill which will pass both houses, I hope, that will change the intelligence system and head it in the right direction."

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, the chief Republican

negotiator on the bill, told CBS that by creating the post of national intelligence director, the legislation would create "a single individual who will be responsible for coordinating our intelligence and who will be accountable. We've lacked that in the current system."

Hastert, R-Ill., had refused to bring the bill up before Thanksgiving because of the opposition from Hunter and House Judiciary chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis. Sensenbrenner said he would still oppose the bill in Tuesday's GOP meeting because it does not deal with such issues as illegal immigration and asylum changes.

Bush, in a letter to Congress, said the bill should be passed anyway. "These omissions from the final bill should not prevent the Congress from passing this historic legislation now," Bush said.

House Intelligence chairman Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., told CNN on Tuesday that while the intelligence reorganization bill was not perfect, it is "a good solid step in the right direction."

"If we waited on every bill in Washington to have the complete package done we'd never get anything done," Hoekstra said. "This is a good solid step in the right direction, addressing many of the issues that will make America safer, but we all agree this is not the complete and total package."

Even if some Republicans oppose the bill, supporters in the House and Senate say they have enough votes to pass the legislation.

"We hope that this support will provide the final momentum necessary to take intelligence reform across the finish line," Collins and Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., the lead Senate negotiators, said Monday in a joint statement.

The legislation also would cement into law the existence of a national counterintelligence center to coordinate the nation's fight against terrorism.

Pearl Harbor survivors mark attack anniversary amid dwindling numbers

BY JAYMES SONG

Associated Press Writer

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii — Paul Goodyear was standing on a signal bridge on the starboard side of the USS Oklahoma when bombs started falling from the sky and torpedoes zeroed in.

Explosions, screams, chaos and gunfire shattered the calm morning of Dec. 7, 1941, and within 12 minutes, the massive battleship rolled over and capsized, trapping hundreds of men below the Oklahoma's decks.

Sixty-three years later, Goodyear can still hear their cries and tapping for help.

Goodyear, 86, and a dwindling number of survivors have returned to the site of their most haunting memories to honor the 429 men from the Oklahoma and nearly 2,000 others who died in the Japanese sneak attack that plunged the United States into World War II.

"There's a great bond between us," Goodyear said.

Goodyear was a 23-year-old petty officer in 1941 whose life was saved when, after jumping into the burning waters of the harbor, someone threw him a line from the USS Maryland and he was able to pull himself up.

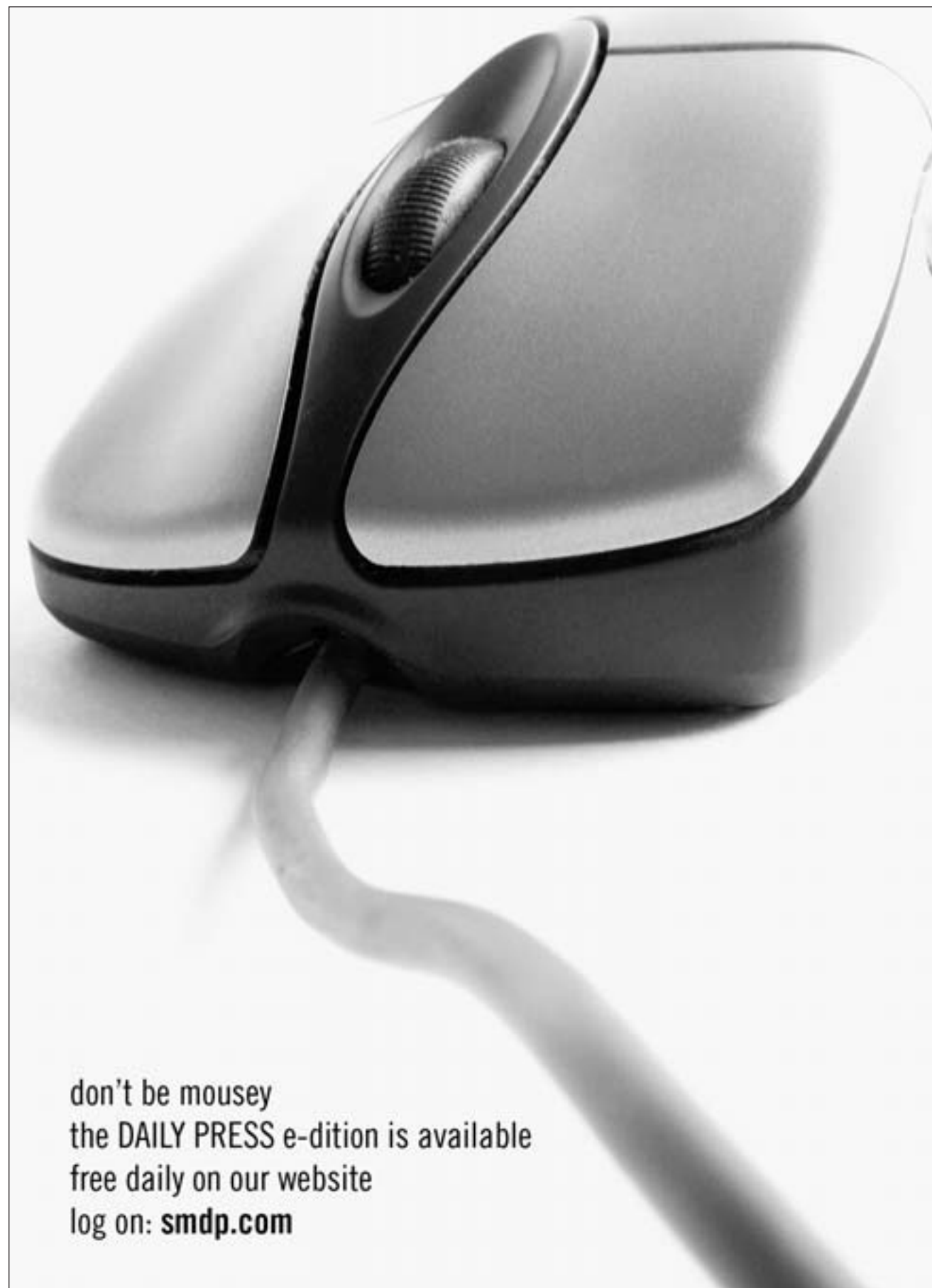
The USS Oklahoma suffered the second-highest number of Pearl Harbor casualties behind the USS Arizona, where most of its 1,177 killed crewmen remain entombed after the ship sank.

"I could see the torpedo coming and I was yelling at the gunner to shoot the bastard down," said Goodyear, of Casa Grande, Ariz.

The anniversary will be marked with simultaneous ceremonies Tuesday aboard the USS Arizona Memorial above that sunken battleship, and on shore. Each ceremony was to feature a moment of silence at 7:55 a.m. — the minute the attack started.

Goodyear, head of the USS Oklahoma Survivors Association, joined four other survivors and about two dozen friends and family Monday evening for the unveiling of a permanent exhibit on the Oklahoma.

Although they were pleased with the small exhibit in the Arizona museum, survivors of the USS Oklahoma are pressing for a permanent memorial.



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INTERNATIONAL



Karzai calls for sustained help from around world

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM

Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan — Hamid Karzai was sworn in Tuesday as Afghanistan's first popularly elected president, calling for sustained help from the international community to bolster a young democracy that still faces the twin threats of terrorism and drugs.

The U.S.-backed leader, wearing a traditional green robe and a black lambskin hat, took the oath of office in a solemn ceremony in a restored hall of the war-damaged former royal palace.

Vice President Dick Cheney, the highest-ranking American official to visit Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld were among those who gave Karzai a standing ovation when he arrived.

Karzai repeated the oath of allegiance read to him by Afghanistan's white-bearded chief justice, Fazl Hadi Shinwari. He then swore in his two vice presidents, Ahmad Zia Massood and Karim Khalili, members of the country's two largest ethnic minorities.

Kabul was calm amid massive security for the ceremony, but overnight attacks near the Pakistani frontier that left 12 dead provided a strong reminder of threats to the nation's stability.

In his inaugural address, Karzai said the hopes of ordinary Afghans would drive him during what is likely to be a tough five-year term. He reiterated his main pledges — cracking down on the booming opium trade, disarming militias and lifting living standards.

"We have now left a hard and dark past behind us and today we are opening a new chapter in our history in a spirit of friendship with the international community," Karzai said, speaking in Pashto and Dari, Afghanistan's two main languages.

He said the fight against terrorism was "not yet over" and urged continued international aid and cooperation to defeat increasing links between extremists and drug-trafficking.

"The same cooperation has led to the rebuilding of the Afghan state and significant progress in restoring peace, stability and security to our country."

Wary of attacks by Taliban or al-Qaida militants, Afghan and international forces launched their biggest security operation since the Oct. 9 election that gave Karzai, who had been interim leader, a landslide victory.

Hours before the ceremony, dozens of insurgents armed with assault rifles and rockets attacked an Afghan military base in Khost province, sparking a firefight that left four Afghan soldiers and at least six militants dead, an Afghan commander said.

In Khost, insurgents opened fire on a U.S. patrol, which returned fire and killed two of the assailants, U.S. spokesman Maj. Mark McCann said. No Americans were reported hurt.

Militants also tried to launch a rocket toward Kabul on Monday evening, but it landed harmlessly on a cattle farm outside the city limits, a NATO spokesman said.

Cheney, arriving at the main U.S. base north of Kabul earlier Tuesday, congratulated some of the 18,000 U.S. troops here for helping give democracy a chance to take root.

"For the first time the people of this country are looking confident about the future of freedom and peace," Cheney said. "Freedom still has enemies here in Afghanistan, and you are here to make those enemies miserable."

The establishment of a democracy in Kabul was necessary to Afghanistan's "basic, fundamental transformation," Cheney said later, speaking on NBC's "Today" show.

"It has to happen, if you will, if we're going to win the war on terrorism," Cheney added. Democracies give rise to people who "are focused on their own lives and focused on building a free society," he said.

Before the ceremony, Karzai thanked the United States, his main sponsor, for its help.

"Without that help, Afghanistan would be in the hands of terrorists," he said. "Terrorism as a force is gone. As individuals they are all around and we will continue to look for them."

The list of 150 foreign dignitaries included Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi and Pakistan's Interior

Minister, Aftab Khan Sherpao. Lakhdar Brahimi, special adviser to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, represented the world body.

Rumsfeld cautioned that the military mission here is not over.

"There are still groups, extremists, that would like to take this country back — the Taliban, the al-Qaida — and use it for a base for terrorist activities around the world as they did on 9/11," Rumsfeld told a group of special forces soldiers at Bagram. "But it's not going to happen."

Annan has warned in a report to the U.N. Security Council that unless Karzai tackles Afghanistan's surge in opium production and its arms proliferation, much of its recent progress could be seriously undermined and "the economy may well be subsumed by the illicit drugs industry."

The inauguration was the culmination of a three-year drive to transform Afghanistan from a training ground for al-Qaida extremists into a moderate Islamic republic.

Afghans have adopted a new constitution labeled by the United States as the most progressive in the region

and held their first Western-style vote, despite militant attacks that killed at least 15 election workers.

Some 3 million Afghan refugees displaced by more than two decades of warfare have returned home, and women and girls are back in jobs and schools from which they were barred under the previous regime. The economy is growing strongly.

Insurgents continue to harass U.S. and Afghan forces across a broad swath of the south and east. American officials expect to keep their force strength at about 18,000 at least until after parliamentary elections slated for the spring.

Karzai has said the drug economy is a bigger threat than the insurgents and will be the top priority for the coming years.

U.N. surveys show cultivation of opium poppy in Afghanistan, from which most of the world's heroin is refined, jumped more than 60 percent this year, and warn that drug smuggling mafias are taking an iron grip on the country.

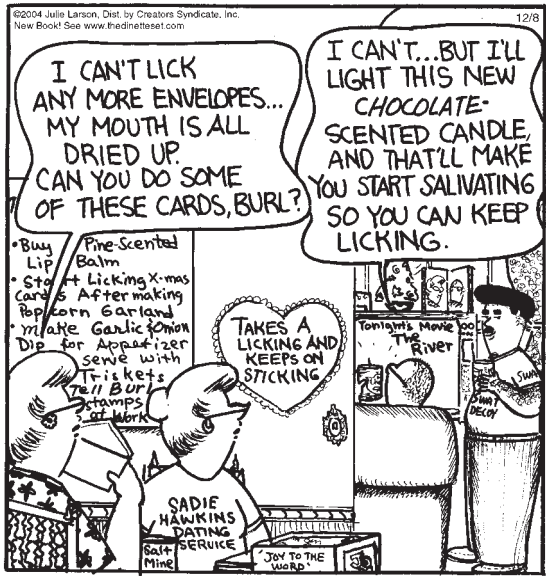
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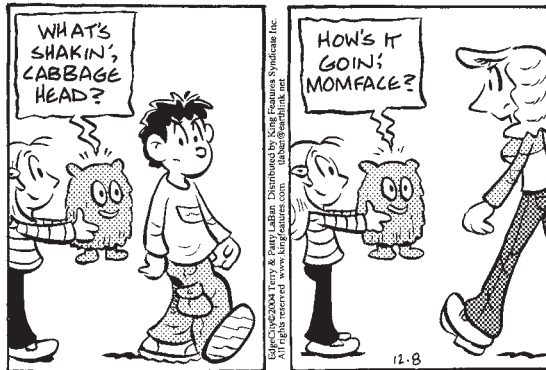


COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



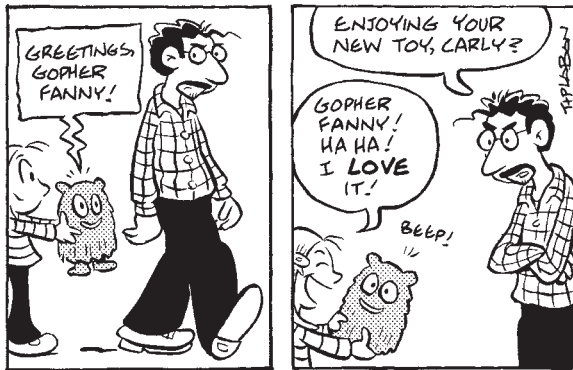
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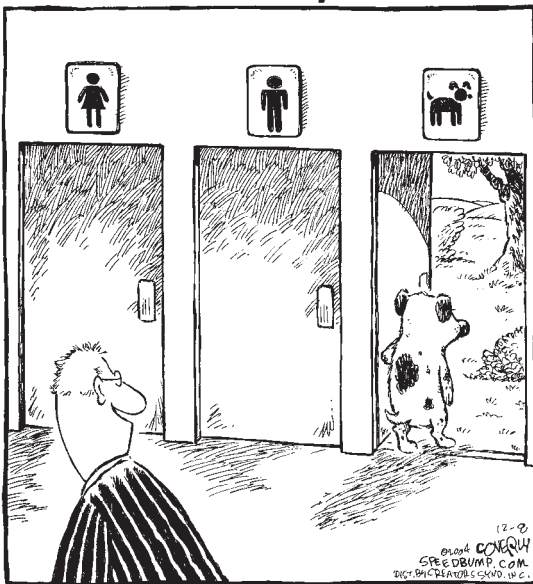
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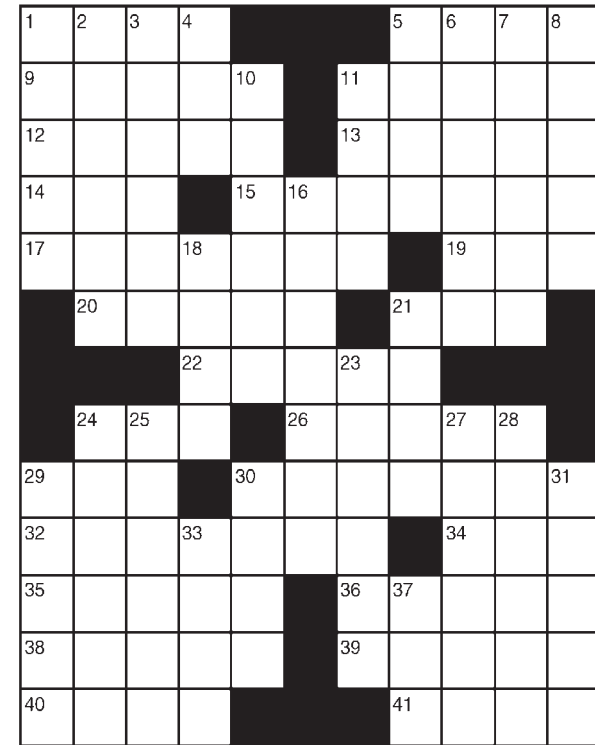
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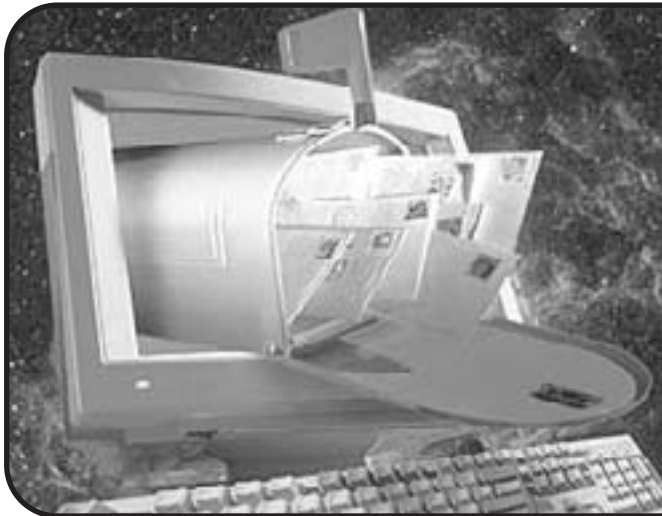
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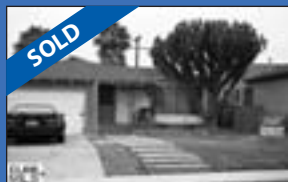
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- 30 years of experience
- 100% financing
- Purchase or Refinances
- Residential & Commercial loans
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- Expert loan consultations
- Timely performance

Very aggressive rates

30 year fixed 5.625%
10 year/1 arm 5.5%
7 year/1 arm 5.375%
5 year/1 arm 5.25%
3 year/1 arm 4.875%
1 year/1 arm 3.75%
6 mos./6 mo. arm 3.75%
1 mo./1 mo. arm 1%

* Rates subject to change
* As of December 1, 2004

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(367-5626)