

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

4 5 6 31 44
Meganumber: 21
Jackpot: \$28 Million

FANTASY 5

1 2 6 14 22

DAILY 3

Daytime: 7 2 9
Evening: 2 2 3

DAILY DERBY

1st: 07 Eureka!
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit

RACE TIME: 1:45.51

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site: <http://www.calottery.com>



NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In November, NASCAR announced it had contracted with the romance publisher Harlequin Enterprises to arrange for steamy women's novels with car-racing themes, beginning with Pamela Britton's forthcoming book "In the Groove." And according to an October Los Angeles Times report, the trade association Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America contracted to pay two writers a "six-figure" fee to write a novel about a national panic resulting from a fear that drug lobbyists had actually been trying to spread in Congress, specifically, that terrorists might poison lower-priced drug imports from Canada. (The Times reported that the association recently killed the project and blamed the whole idea on an unsupervised lower-level executive.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 343rd day of 2005.
There are 22 days left in the year.

On Dec. 9, 1854, Alfred Lord Tennyson's famous poem, "The Charge of the Light Brigade," was published in England.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"All sins are attempts to fill voids."

SIMONE WEIL
FRENCH PHILOSOPHER (1909-1943)

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A show of hands



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Santa Monica Police Department S.W.A.T. officer Eddie Soto demonstrates a felony stop for students enrolled in the Citizen's Police Academy on Wednesday. The 12-week course is designed for residents to learn about the SMPD.

Change is in store for Zucky's

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — A deli once renowned as a frequent stop for celebrities and politicians alike will be transformed into a retail store.

Plans to remodel the long-defunct Zucky's building are currently underway. Construction began this week to make the site more accommodating for retailers.

Large portions of the interior

are being cleared out, a storage room is being added, and restrooms are being updated and improved, according to site plans.

John Watkins, familiar with the project, said there are several retailers interested in the site, but so far, a tenant hasn't been secured.

Located at 431 Wilshire Boulevard, Zucky's restaurant and cof-

See ZUCKY'S, page 7



File photo

The famous Zucky's sign will remain a Santa Monica staple.

Police search for driver with bad intent

By Daily Press staff

Police are looking for the driver of a Mercedes SUV, who on Tuesday ran over a man attempting to push his broken-down car off of the Pacific Coast Highway. The victim suffered a fractured leg, a possible broken ankle and abrasions throughout his body, police said.

At about 1:10 p.m., the victim, who lives in Los Angeles, was pushing his car out of the north-bound left-hand turn lane and into

the 1550 beach lot when he was crushed by the suspect's vehicle — a black, four-door Mercedes G500 sport utility vehicle. When the victim fell to the ground, the suspect made a U-turn and purposely ran over the victim, police said, before fleeing southbound on the PCH out of the area.

The victim sustained moderate to major injuries, including internal damage. He was taken to a local hospital, where he is expected to make a full recovery, police said.

The incident occurred in the

1100 block of the PCH, just below the California Incline. Police are initially ruling the incident as an attempted homicide investigation.

The suspect's vehicle should have damage to the front bumper area. The driver's side fog lamp and housing also should be missing, police said. The suspect is described as a male, white or middle eastern, 25 to 30 years old, with a short haircut and possible mustache.

Anyone with information is encouraged to call Santa Monica

College, city look to turn corner

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC — Elected officials here hope a change in leadership, as well as other measures the school is taking will help soothe tense relations with City Hall.

Santa Monica College and City Hall, with a history of antagonism between them, have been close to litigation in recent months regarding vehicular access at SMC's Bundy satellite campus, a 10.4-acre site, 3171 S. Bundy Dr.

The Bundy campus — which has been conducting classes since June — has been operating with locked gates, causing restricted vehicular access at the north end of the site. At present, traffic isn't allowed at entrance and exit points along Airport Avenue.

City Hall's decision to lock the gates and restrict vehicular access to Bundy was intended to limit campus-related traffic from traveling through Santa Monica neighborhoods, city officials said.

However, SMC officials contend City Hall's move has been disruptive to college classes and

See BUNDY CAMPUS, page 7



Photo courtesy

Police are searching for a Mercedes SUV like this one, believed to be involved in a hit-and-run on the PCH.

Police Detective Ahn at (310) 458-8451, or the watch commander's office at (310) 458-8426.

Jacquie Banks

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HOROSCOPE

Early to bed, Taurus

Santa Monica Daily Press

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)

★★★★★ Though you might not know it until late in the day, you are on a winning cycle, able to clear out problem after problem. There is reason for celebration. Your Ruler goes direct today. Consider this a champagne occasion. Tonight: Your smile is a winner.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★ Take your time right now, as you could be prone to wild mood swings. You will see sudden changes in how you approach situations. Mars in your sign goes direct, causing a mood swing of sorts. Tonight: Early to bed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ You could be a bit more explosive than you realize right now. If you are getting strange reactions even though you know you are on the right path, step back for the moment. Ultimately, you get where you want to be. Tonight: Find your friends.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Take charge, as others might be going back and forth deciding what to do, when and how. Your laughter makes friends out of those who might be remote or having a hard time. You are a sure-bet winner. Tonight: Someone needs to do true confessions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Taking a long-term perspective on a visible or key issue could make or break you. Information that has been held back could come from out of left field. Take the high road, as you might see a prime concept unravel. Tonight: Take in a vision.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Relating looks like a close encounter. You might be surprised by the quality of it and what comes out as a result. Because of a change in someone's attitude, you'll need to rethink a decision carefully. Tonight: Togetherness needs to be the theme.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You could be dumbfounded by others. Investigate what you think is an issue, but also be ready to swing in the opposite direction. Others dominate; you are simply there to receive the end results. Tonight: Togetherness works.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Be nurturing to those around you. A theme of change and perhaps reversals becomes likely in the next few days. You might be bound and determined to make your way through the different emotional waves. Tonight: As you like.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ No matter which way you turn, your routine seems to dissolve into thin air. A child, creative product or special bond could reverse itself. Understanding might not be that easy right now. Just don't try. Tonight: Allow humor to permeate a relationship.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Where you thought a situation was locked and concrete, you discover otherwise in the next few days. On some level, you might need to regroup and think through decisions made in the past two months. Tonight: Frolic close to home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Your word choice might be affected by recent reactions and behavior. How you see someone could change radically. What you thought was loose and easy might no longer be. Tonight: Out and about.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★ Be very careful dealing with money. In fact, the less you do, the better off you will be. If you can avoid dealing with money totally, all the better. News comes your way. Be a good listener — even if you are stunned. Tonight: Out and about.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Take a moment or two to reflect

By Daily Press staff

The holidays are a time for reflection and celebration. First United Methodist Church is hosting an event for Advent Reflection Day on Saturday, Dec. 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The entire community is invited to the free event, which will offer refreshments and a chance to relax and rejuvenate during the busy holiday season. First United Methodist Church is located at 1008 11th St. in Santa Monica. For more information or to RSVP, call Mary Garbesi at (310) 393-8258. RSVP by Dec. 14.

A long-standing display of holiday spirit

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica is gearing up for an annual tradition. The annual Santa Monica nativity scenes display will open in Palisades Park along Ocean Avenue near Arizona Avenue at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, with narration of the Christmas story and Christmas music. A procession of carolers — all ages are welcome to join — will form at 3 p.m. at Broadway on the Third Street Promenade. The carolers will sing their way down the Promenade and Wilshire Boulevard to the opening ceremony. After the ceremony, the 14 lit scenes with life-size figures depicting events surrounding Christ's birth will remain on display through the end of the year. For more information, call (310) 998-8646.

Help needy kids celebrate Christmas

By Daily Press staff

A local Santa Monica organization invites the community to help throw a Christmas party for hundreds of needy kids. The Heartfelt Foundation, located at 2717 Wilshire Blvd., is sponsoring a Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 17 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The party will be for hundreds of children between the ages of 3 and 15, living in downtown Los Angeles and throughout the community. The Heartfelt Foundation is asking for volunteers or donations to help Santa distribute gifts, toys and bring cheer to underprivileged kids. Volunteers can participate in pre-event activities such as toy wrapping on Dec. 12 through Dec. 15 from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., and truck loading on Dec. 16. For more information, call (310) 829-7857.

SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	CONDITIONS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	5"-12"	Packed Powder	2	2

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	CONDITIONS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
3"	24"-36"	Packed Powder Machine Groomed Obstacles	61	16

MOUNTAIN HIGH

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	CONDITIONS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	12"-24"	Machine Made Hard Packed	8	4

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	CONDITIONS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	0"-1"	N/A	0	0

SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	CONDITIONS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	12"-12"	Powder Packed Machine Made Machine Groomed	4	4

SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	CONDITIONS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	12"-0"	Powder Packed Machine Made Hard Packed	3	11

JUNE MOUNTAIN

CLOSED

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 59°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (2-4FT)

Friday the 9th the WNW swell will start to back down, but size is still expected to hover around waist to chest high. Note that Friday holds a slight chance of rain and possibly some problematic winds at times as well, especially for areas north of LA.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

Significant NW swell hits during the weekend...

NW swell being tracked for late next week...

Rain chances in the forecast...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

MONDAY				
LOW TIDE:	N/A	1.6FT	1:29PM	0.3FT
HIGH TIDE:	6:33AM	5.7FT	7:35PM	3.8FT
TUESDAY				
LOW TIDE:	12:34AM	1.8FT	2:05	-0.3
HIGH TIDE:	6:59AM	6.1FT	8:21	3.8
WEDNESDAY				
LOW TIDE:	1:02AM	1.4FT	2:31	0.0
HIGH TIDE:	7:28AM	5.4FT	9:15	3.2
THURSDAY				
LOW TIDE:	1:37AM	1.2FT	3:04	-0.1
HIGH TIDE:	8:07AM	4.9FT	9:40	3.0
FRIDAY				
LOW TIDE:	2:06AM	1.1FT	3:41	0.3
HIGH TIDE:	8:41AM	4.3FT	10:09	2.9

SURF AND SNOW QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? EMAIL ALEX@SMOP.COM



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The QLine

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The City Council has named Lamont Ewell as Santa Monica's new city manager. Since the appointment was announced, some people have expressed concern over an ongoing controversy over finances that surrounded Ewell during his time as city manager of San Diego. Council members say they are confident in their choice and that Ewell, who is not accused of any wrong doing, is not linked to the problems in San Diego.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do you support the City Council's choice for city manager? Why or why not?"

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

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Affordable Housing Open
Community Corporation of Santa Monica announces the opening of the **2006 Marketing List**. To be considered you must pick up and appointment card at **1423 2nd St. #B, Santa Monica** between Dec. 12th and Jan. 5th, 8 am - 5pm M-Th. - Closed Dec. 22, 23, 29, & 30. EOH



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The streets are no place to live

Editor:

I read Carole Orlin’s commentary (SMDP, Nov. 21, page 5), as well as Randy Walburger’s letter (SMDP, Nov. 30, page 4). Let me add a few of my own comments. There are a number of homeless people in Santa Monica — “vagrants,” if you will — who appear to me to be so markedly disabled and non-functional, and yet so disengaged from the social service delivery system, that the only way I can think of in order to get them linked up with that system is make them more rather than less comfortable with street living.

For example, there is one woman I know of who has been living on the Santa Monica streets for at least five years. Her only contact with the social service system is to pick up few sandwiches each day and a few clothing items now and then. She is dirty, disheveled and stinks of urine. She carries her possessions, which seems to consist of more urine saturated clothes, in a black plastic trash bag. She is literally frightening and bizarre to look at. She has been banned from the public library. She also has been banned from a number of the senior citizen food service programs around town.

Although I am not a psychiatrist, her thought processes and speech strike me as being as bizarre as does her physical appearance, full of references to the ubiquitous, “they,” as in, “they stole my bag last night,” and, “they’ve been watching me,” and, “they know where my sleeping spot is.” I don’t believe she knows how sick she is.

I have come to the same conclusion that American psychiatrist E. Fuller Torrey has: The mental health laws need some overhaul so as to permit mental health workers to literally pick up this woman — and others equally ill — from the streets and enter her, and them, into treatment for at least a brief period under the watchful eye of an ethical and conscientious individual who would function as a conservator. Yes, I am referring to involuntary hospitalization.

This is of course extremely controversial, but I think necessary. In response to Mr. Walburger’s question about whether I might believe that the homeless are, “having a wonderful time,” on the streets, my answer is, of course, no. Many homeless people seem to be haunted by internal demons and bedeviled by voices that only they can hear. I would not want to “criminalize” them, but neither would I want to facilitate their greater comfort with “street living,” which would amount to just letting them fend for themselves, which is nothing more than a cloak for indifference.

Sterling Walters
Santa Monica

Pie in the sky: Shakey’s should have been saved

Editor:

I’m appalled that the city of Santa Monica, which routinely promotes designating properties owned by private citizens as landmarks to prevent them from being developed, has approved and now allowed the demolition of the Shakey’s pizza parlor site at Berkeley Street and Santa Monica Boulevard. Of course, it probably has a lot to do with the fact that the city bought the Shakey’s property, so the standards the city applies to its citizens don’t actually matter when the city is involved.

This Shakey’s restaurant has been an institution in Santa Monica for generations, one of the few affordable places where one can get a meal, and more importantly, where one can take their family for food, fun and entertainment. For generations, this restaurant has been a destination and meeting place for nearly all of the youth sports teams, and other youth organizations such as the Girl Scouts, in the area.

It’s hypocritical that the city of Santa Monica tore down this landmark site, because it treats private citizens differently and applies different standards solely because the city buys and owns the property.

Arthur Rosenberg
Santa Monica

EDITORIAL

Writing was on the wall



With affordable housing in Los Angeles as scarce as it is, the recent evictions at Lincoln Place — an apartment complex in Venice — is certainly a tragic story, but not a surprising one.

What is surprising, however, is that the tenants there haven’t pulled themselves up by the bootstraps and figured out where they were going to live, knowing evictions were imminent. Instead, they held out and waited for the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department to come knocking, which is exactly what happened on Tuesday.

Denver-based AIMCO, one of the largest real estate management companies in the country and current owner of Lincoln Place, ordered the evictions of 52 households. It did so after years of settlement negotiations, spurred by the tenants’ litigation.

In attempts to make the lawsuit go away, AIMCO PR reps said the company was prepared to provide as many as 180 households with apartments at the site, which would have been well below market rate. In addition, 50 more units would have been designated as “historical” and would not have been redeveloped, under the terms of the proposed settlement.

The development company also had offered the tenants between \$3,000 and \$10,000 apiece to relocate from their affordable units. Hundreds accepted those individual offers and moved on.

But many of the tenants — the ones now without homes — refused those offers, saying they distrusted the developer. Now, they have neither money in their pockets nor a roof over their heads. They should have trusted their instincts when the court ruled against them in June, which paved the way for AIMCO to begin the eviction process. It was a noble cause, but unfortunately, their idealism that as renters they had rights doesn’t mean much anymore.

Big development and greed won out — as it usually does. We lament the loss of hundreds of affordable housing units on the Westside and empathize with the tenants, particularly the families on fixed incomes, as well as the elderly and disabled. Because of the pursuit of the almighty dollar, these people have no homes.

It didn’t have to be that way. The tenants could have accepted reality and started looking for somewhere else to live. Instead, they courageously fought for what they believed they were entitled to — only to get shafted. They protested in front of Los Angeles City Hall to no avail. They have now set up a tent city in front of the complex, with some camping out in the cold temperatures.

Unfortunately, this is America, where development and progress often displace people. We absolutely hope that these people accept that fact and realize it’s time to get out of the cold and move on. But because they’ve refused to face the ugly truth, they now need help. If the local government couldn’t help them win the fight, it should at least help them find shelter.

Los Angeles City Councilman Bill Rosendahl has tried to intervene, attempting to stave off the evictions. He now needs to turn his energy toward finding alternative housing for the people he’s been fighting for.

If the city of Los Angeles wants to truly help these people — and thousands of others — it needs to start buying property that big developers would otherwise acquire and start building affordable places to live.

Hooked, Line and sinker: Don’t start building a white elephant



OUR TOWN
BY TED WINTERER

When I graduated from college just after the end of the last Ice Age, I lived in Jackson Hole, Wyo. for a year. There I taught skiing, worked as a DJ at a bar and wooed the Finnish maids at the Alpenhof. Money was scarce, but I lived cheaply in a luxury condo, with a sauna and a shower larger than many studio apartments.

You see, the condo was adjacent to the Jackson Hole airport, which lies within spitting distance of the ski resort. The only problem was the Snake River, which runs between the airport and the slopes, an impassable obstacle due to the absence of a bridge. So to get from my condo to the ski area, one had to drive 20 minutes into

the town of Jackson, where a bridge crossed the river, and then double back for another 20 minutes on the opposite side of the river to reach the lifts.

Some brilliant developer had gotten wind of a scheme to build a bridge from the airport to the resort, snatched up some cheap scrubland and built luxury condos, expecting a significant windfall when his new town homes were a five-minute drive away from the Tetons. The only catch? The bridge has yet to be built and he had to rent his condos to ski bums like me.

I was reminded of this when reading the latest city staff report on the ongoing revisions to plans for land use and traffic circulation in our town. Several options for future growth are presented and two of them focus on redeveloping the area around Bergamot Station, the site of a planned stop for the Expo light rail.

Now I’m all for this light rail, which will eventually connect us to downtown LA. My concern is that the portion of the

route which extends into Santa Monica won’t be completed until 2015. At this point it’s like that bridge across the Snake River, lacking any funding or approvals.

So I hope our new zoning ordinance, the end result of these planning revisions, won’t allow for any redevelopment incentives around Bergamot Station until the Expo rail extension is completely financed. If we built around Bergamot in anticipation of light rail, we might get stuck with a white elephant of development lacking any public transit.

And then there’s the matter of the arts complex at Bergamot. One would hope the mixed-use development proposed in these alternative plans would be an architecturally inspired medley of galleries, affordable artist studios, low- and middle-income housing, walkable retail and pocket parks, rather than the alienating and insipid market rate dreck we’ve seen pop up downtown in recent years.

In the city staff’s report on these alter-

natives for land use in Santa Monica, it’s noted that residents expressed a desire for “an appropriate town scale” and that “existing height limits should be maintained.” I have argued over and over, as have countless others, that popular sentiment does not favor the existing height limits allowed in our zoning ordinance, which are often greater than the heights of the buildings currently in place. Rather, folks like the existing heights.

Is anyone at City Hall listening? If staff acknowledges that “the height and scale of new buildings should complement the existing fabric of neighborhoods and commercial areas,” why do their three preferred alternatives for our future all include areas with increased heights and densities, and why does their report give short shrift to the choices of either preserving the status quo or adopting a no-growth policy?

(Ted Winterer can be reached at ourtownsmdp@aol.com.)



Wiggling his way into my heart



**PISTACHIO
PERSPECTIVE**
BY SUSAN ANN CONNOR

Strawberry and me. Hmmm. Let me repeat that. Strawberry and me. Has a nice ring to it. Sounds ... sweet. And that's exactly what the last few months, our getting-to-know-you period, has been. Very sweet.

Our biggest quarrel was on Thanksgiving over a seven-layer Jell-O mold. Most people are absolute about Jell-O on Thanksgiving Day. There are the Jell-O eaters on one side of the table and the definitely non-Jell-O eaters on the other. There's no Jell-O in-between.

Once a year I break down and make a traditional Jell-O recipe handed down from my great aunt. Let me be perfectly clear: This is the only time I ever eat Jell-O. It is minus any floating fruit, devoid of stringy carrots, and deliciously picture perfect for the palate. Except, Strawberry's palate, that is.

What bothered me was his disdain for the product. As he handsomely headed down the buffet, I noticed a slight nostril expansion when he spotted and detoured away from the attractive Jell-O. I considered, foolishly, that maybe he'd have it for dessert. Then again, that nose action was telling me otherwise.

You know, when you cook with reckless abandon, even if it is just Jell-O, you like people to eat and enjoy it. And I was sensing an arrogance from Mr. Strawberry. Like he was above Jell-O. I thought, "No one is above Jell-O." They may not like it, but they're not superior to it.

Even my sister-in-law whispered, "He didn't eat the Jell-O."

"I know." Don't remind me.

"Colin ate the Jell-O."

"I know." Don't remind me.

"But he was also a cheater-cheater-pumpkin-eater, right?"

"That's right ... don't remind me."

While Strawberry was helping me do the dishes, I finally got the courage to confront him about his lack of Jell-O consumption. Not to seem overly concerned, I asked in a half-teasing kind of way. He smiled at my inquiry. It was a smile that had begun to cause my knees to weaken.

Then taking the dish towel from my sopping hands, he rested his forearms on my shoulders and said, "You are a wonderful cook, and I loved everything you made. But I distrust Jell-O."

Whoa. I needed to delve deeper.

He proceeded to explain that his well-intentioned mother was convinced that Jell-O, particularly lime, was a cure-all. Whenever he was sick, she forced him to eat it. But eating it never made him feel better. It made him feel sicker. So now, he consciously avoids even the sight of the rubbery substance, or he becomes less than lucid.

I wonder if he'd feel differently if he knew that a bowl of wiggly lime Jell-O, when hooked up to an EEG machine, shows brain waves identical to those of adult men and women. Just a thought.

To be fair, I must admit that when he nearly drooled describing the cranberry sauce recipe his mother makes, I politely kept my mouth shut. Childishly though, I turned my head and released a mute gag. Thank goodness he arrived with wine, and not the cranberry thing. Yuck! I'm a non-cranberry sauce eater, and it would have slyly surrendered into my napkin.

In the end, Jell-O was not a deal-breaker. I was slowly reincorporating a man into my life, and this situation had given me further insight into my sweet Mr. Strawberry. It also reminded me not to rush to judgment nor to assume a prejudice against a side salad until I'd heard all the facts.

Speaking of judgment, or the absence of it, Colin was still bobbing his Tail-Twirling head in my vicinity. After managing to dodge dinner for several weeks, I finally stopped resisting. Feeling festive, I decided to brunch the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Reluctantly and unfortunately, I had a lovely time. Truth is, Strawberry weakens my knees, but Colin makes them knock. I wish they didn't, but they do. And that seems so wrong.

And the big holiday dilemma is that they've both expressed interest in my whereabouts for New Year's Eve. Holy night! Naughty or nice? Falalalala ... Lalalala ...

(Susan Ann Connor can be reached at pistachiocolumn@aol.com. Follow her Strawberry stories on the first Fridays of each month. Names have been changed to protect the innocent ... and the guilty.)



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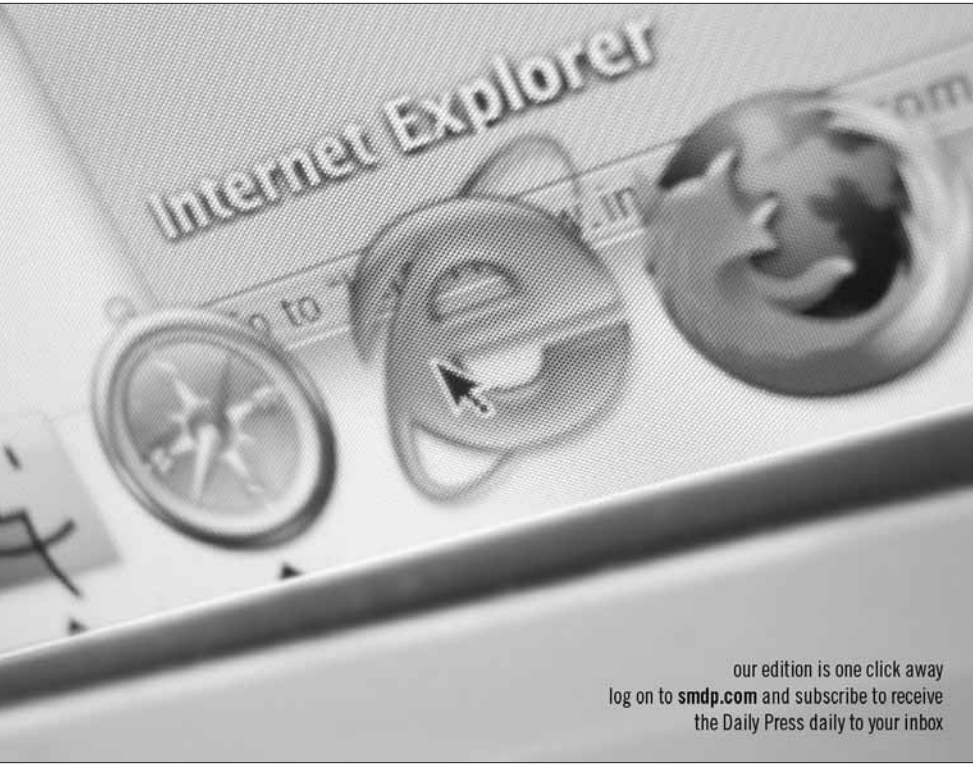
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CRIME WATCH

By Daily Press staff

No buzz for this beer robber

At 4:50 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 28, the Santa Monica police responded to the 1600 block of Santa Monica Boulevard, 7-11, regarding a theft investigation. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the employee, who said the suspect entered the store, took two cans of beer and left the store, failing to pay for the items. When the suspect was confronted by the employee, the suspects began to fight with the clerk and fled. Responding officers saw the suspects running and attempted to stop him. The officers were able to detain the suspect and recovered the two cans of beer. Corwin Palmer, 36, transient, was booked for strong arm robbery and transported to Santa Monica jail. Bail was set at \$50,000.

At 6:50 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 29, the Santa Monica police responded to the 100 block of Santa Monica Place mall, Robinsons-May, regarding a theft investigation. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the loss prevention officer, who said the suspect entered the store and concealed two pairs of pants. The suspect then left the store, failing to pay for the items. Once outside, the suspect was detained. Ken Wayne Aeliol, 25, transient, was arrested for petty theft. Bail was set at \$1,000.

At 3:10 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 1, the Santa Monica police responded to the 1500 block of Alley No. 4. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the victim, who said that while she was sleeping in the alley the suspect came up to her for an unknown reason and began to kick and strike her with the belt. She screamed and police were notified. The victim received an abrasion through her right eyebrow and was treated released from a local hospital. Merlin Steven Coleman, transient, was booked for assault with a deadly weapon and transported to Santa Monica jail. Bail was set at \$30,000.

At 12:20 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 2, the Santa Monica police responded to the 1400 block of the Third Street Promenade regarding an assault investigation. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the victim, who said the suspect was yelling at citizens on the Promenade and when the victim approached to find out what was happening. The suspect began yelling various derogatory comments at the victim and punched and kicked him several times. The suspect was identified and taken into custody by police. The victim sustained abrasions to the chin and chest and was treated at a local hospital and released. Steven Dwayne Anthony, 41, transient, was booked for assault with a deadly weapon and transported to Santa Monica jail. Bail was set at \$30,899.

At 2:05 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 26, the Santa Monica police responded to Main Street and the pier, regarding a strong arm robbery investigation. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the victim, who said the suspect approached while he was seated in a vehicle and struck him in the face and took his property, valued at \$700. The property included a mini TV and sunglasses. The suspect fled the scene and arriving officers were able to develop additional information about the suspect until a warrant was placed on him. At 1:45 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 2, the suspect was arrested by LA County Sheriff's Department at its Lost Hill Station. Kiyoshi Lauren Patrick, 21, of Venice, was booked for strong arm robbery and transported to Santa Monica jail.

This police report was prepared by Daily Press staff writer Ryan Hyatt.

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SMC retains right to sue city for access

BUNDY CAMPUS, from page 1

dangerous for students. Many students are entering and exiting Bundy through a driveway located along the southern end of the campus, located in Los Angeles. The students are making risky left-hand turns out of the campus and into heavy traffic onto Bundy Drive, college officials said.

Los Angeles City Councilman Bill Rosendahl — whose jurisdiction includes areas around the Bundy campus — is trying to have a turn signal placed at the Bundy intersection. It may come as early as June, but it will likely not be ready in time for the second semester, officials said.

On Monday, Dr. Nancy Greenstein and Dr. Susan Aminoff were unanimously elected as chair and vice chair, respectively, of SMC's board of trustees for 2006. Their one-year terms, approved by their colleagues, began on Dec. 5.

Their nominations were intended, in part, to help improve relations with Santa Monica City Hall. Greenstein's on good terms with several Santa Monica city councilmembers, and both Greenstein and Aminoff are generally regarded for their diplomatic approach to solving problems, college officials said.

In addition, SMC's board of trustees on Monday also decided not to publicly discuss an agreement proposed by City Hall which would have granted students easier vehicular access to Bundy.

In order to gain an easier, and safer, temporary access route to Bundy campus from Santa Monica's Airport Avenue —

already regulated by a traffic light at the intersection of Bundy Drive — SMC would have to agree to not sue City Hall over the Bundy access issue, city officials said.

College officials said that was not a right they're ready to relinquish. However, talks behind closed doors on Monday have led them to believe they can create a counter-proposal that will better facilitate the situation without litigation, according to Tom Donner, SMC's interim president.

"The college staff has been working very closely, and well, with city staff so all parties can feel comfortable and step forward in what we would like to call a new day," Donner said. "We'd like to have relationships based upon trust, not lawsuits, and the college is making every effort to make that happen."

"Likewise, I feel the city is making a good faith effort."

While some believe SMC's decision to withdrawal consideration of City Hall's agreement may better posture itself for litigation against the city in the future, others say the college is being sincere.

"My understanding is the college had a productive discussion in closed session (on Monday), and I'd anticipate we'll be receiving a written communication which we, in turn, will review in the council's closed session on (Dec. 13)," said City Councilman Kevin McKeown. "The board and the council are still working together on a mutual solution to assure the safety of students."

Sign at Zucky's to be preserved

ZUCKY'S, from page 1

feehouse was once a Santa Monica staple, a well known 24-hour hangout where residents might spot a local politician or visiting celebrity at any hour of the day. Built in 1954, the building is classified as "Googie" — a style of architecture typified by characteristics such as the use of Palos Verdes stone, bold-colored ceramic tile and an expansive use of plate glass walls.

Zucky's closed its doors in 1993 and has since remained vacant. And according to city planner Marika Modugno, the building has not been consistently maintained and is the source of many resident complaints. Modugno contends it's been getting worse with each passing year.

One portion of the site that will be saved is the sign. In March, the city's landmark commission designated the Zucky's sign a historical landmark which can't be removed.

While the building has remained empty and dilapidated, the debate over what should be done with the one-time hot spot was renewed early this year, when the building's owners went in front of the Architectural Review Board (ARB) seeking permission to remodel its façade in order to bring new tenants into the space.

However, the building's owners — Carey Testamentary Trust — were met

with opposition the Los Angeles Conservancy, a historic preservation group.

The conservancy opposed modifications to the building, referring to Zucky's as a cultural icon and one of the last remaining examples of post-war coffee-shop architecture in the city.

The ARB ordered the two groups to work together, and the parties have since reached a consensus.

Nina Fresco — with the landmarks commission, the preservationist body which reviewed the re-development plans — felt the agreement between the conservancy and the building's owners ensured that the "character-defining elements" of the building, such as its signature tile, would be protected. As a result of their agreement, the commission did not feel it was necessary to pursue landmarking the entire building, said Fresco.

The preservation of the sign was a compromise between the owners and preservationists, and the landmark commission voted in favor of preserving it in March.

City Councilman Kevin McKeown, a liaison to the landmarks commission, spoke on behalf of landmarking the sign and agreed with the commission's ultimate decision, noting the sign is what most people recognize when looking at the building.



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VIOLET-At Violet restaurant the atmosphere is casual, comfortable, and, like its cuisine, is uncluttered. Chef Jared Simons' flavorful small plate fare has something to suit everyone, from light eaters to those with a taste for a more robust fare. The Braised Short Ribs with Shallot Potatoes (\$14.50) melt apart while the Multi-Colored Beet Salad with Eel delights with Kumquat and Ginger Vinaigrette (\$9) and the favorite among the regulars is the Baked Macaroni and Gruyere Cheese with Serrano Ham (\$7.50). Unique selection of new and old world wines by the bottle, glass or flight as well as an impressive list of domestic & imported artisan beers. Hours: Lunch: Tuesday-Friday, 11:30am-2pm. Dinner: Tuesday-Friday, 6pm-10pm & Saturday and Sunday, 5:30pm-10pm. 3221 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. www.violetrestaurant.com (310) 453-9113.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
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‘Armed Old Man’ arrested by FBI

By Daily Press staff

A man known to law enforcement as the “Armed Old Man Bandit” — believed to be responsible for robbing at least 17 banks — was taken into custody late Wednesday.

The FBI apprehended Edmund Sykes, 54, of Encino, at a casino in the City of Commerce, announced J. Stephen Tidwell, assistant director in charge of the FBI in Los Angeles.

Sykes had been sought by law enforcement since he first robbed a First Federal Bank in Encino in March of 2004. Since that time, Sykes is thought to have been involved in numerous bank robberies throughout the San Fernando Valley and Pacific Palisades.

During the robbery spree, the Armed Old Man Bandit would alter his disguise and method of operation. In one robbery that took place in Pacific Palisades on March 17, the bandit wore a hard hat and warned tellers he had a bomb, a tactic he allegedly used on five separate occasions. The LAPD Bomb Squad was forced to evacuate the bank after the robbery, but found no explosive device, authorities said. In another robbery, the Armed Old Man

Bandit wore bandages on his face and appeared as though he had been involved in a serious accident. In many of the robberies linked to Sykes, customers and tellers were confronted by the bandit, who made death threats while pointing his weapon at them.

Recent developments in the case positively identified Sykes as the Armed Old Man Bandit. Agents obtained a federal arrest warrant for Sykes on Nov. 29 and conducted a search of Sykes’ Encino residence that evening, which he had since vacated. Investigators learned that Sykes was known to frequent local casinos and consulted with security personnel at Southern California gaming clubs.

On Wednesday, FBI Agents, while conferring with security guards at the Commerce Casino, noticed a man playing poker who strongly resembled Sykes. Agents and security personnel lured Sykes into a private area of the casino and took him into custody.

Sykes was scheduled to appear in U.S. District Court in downtown Los Angeles on Thursday, when he was to be charged in a criminal complaint for armed bank robbery.

Angry Republicans request meeting with governor over appointment

BY TOM CHORNEAU

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s decision to hire a prominent Democrat as his chief of staff has sparked a growing uprising among Republican Party loyalists, who have requested a meeting with Schwarzenegger to hear him explain the choice.

The governor has agreed to meet next Thursday with leaders of the California Republican Party to hear their concerns that Susan Kennedy, an aide to former Gov. Gray Davis, is now positioned to learn critical details of GOP campaign strategy and political policy.

Some Republicans said they want the governor to rescind the appointment and warn that Schwarzenegger’s support in the upcoming re-election campaign could be jeopardized if their concerns are not addressed.

California Republican Party Chairman Duf Sundheim said he is optimistic the differences can be resolved without a major rebellion.

“Every indication is that this will be a constructive meeting,” Sundheim said. “The two major things people want to understand is what her role will be in the campaign. To what extent will we be interacting with her, or will there be others that we can discuss things with? You understand that we are concerned about races other than the governor.”

Rob Stutzman, the governor’s communication director, said Republicans have raised legitimate concerns but added that Schwarzenegger is not inclined to consider rescinding Kennedy’s appointment.

“Any elected official has the right to hire the person he believes will best help him accomplish his mission,” Stutzman said. “This is not something for a political party to decide.

“There are obviously understandable concerns given Susan’s work prior to coming to the administration, and that makes it a good story,” he said. “But my caution to Republicans that are talking about rather drastic measures (is) they are overreacting. They should judge the governor on how he governs, and that’s all that matters.”

Kennedy, 45, served as cabinet secretary to Davis and campaigned for her former boss during the 2003 recall election that brought Schwarzenegger to power. She also is a former director of an abortion rights group and a former staff aide to Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

Kennedy will replace Patricia Clarey, who will leave as chief of staff Jan. 1.

Clarey was deputy chief of staff to former Gov. Pete Wilson and was one of several Wilson aides who caught on with Schwarzenegger’s team during the 2003 recall election.

Kennedy’s appointment comes after Schwarzenegger lost badly in the November special election, seeing voters reject all four of the ballot measures he promoted.

Republican legislative leaders said they share the same concerns over Kennedy as their party leaders, but said the directors acted on their own in forcing next week’s meeting with the governor.

Assembly Republican leader Kevin McCarthy of Bakersfield said he does not support the Kennedy appointment: “I think it is a step backward.”

Senate Republican leader Dick Ackerman of Tustin said it sent “the wrong message.” Still, Ackerman said he would not ask that the appointment be rescinded.

“That’s up to the governor to decide,” he said.

Several Republicans said they are watching for signs that the governor has moved to the left on policy issues, some of which will arise next month. Those include the 2006-2007 budget and his State of the State speech, in which he will lay out his agenda for the coming year.

More immediately, however, is the governor’s decision on a clemency appeal from condemned inmate Stanley Toookie Williams, a co-founder of the Crips gang who was convicted of murdering four people in 1979. The hearing is Thursday, and Schwarzenegger’s decision is expected this weekend.

Some believe that if the governor grants clemency, it could further undermine his support from inside his own party.

“I’d be very surprised if Schwarzenegger would commute the sentence,” Republican analyst Allan Hoffenblum said.

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BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press



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THE DIRECTOR: Rob Marshall
THE STARS: Ziyi Zhang, Ken Watanabe, Michelle Yeoh, Gong Li

Oscar contenders come out to play this time of year, so there’s a high level of expectation for an epic period piece based on an international best seller. “Memoirs of a Geisha” is such a film — with an A-list American director (Rob Marshall) leading a cast of Asian superstars — and it fails, in many respects, to pass muster. It’s certainly a marvel to behold, this big-budgeted 144-minute peak inside the secret world of Japan’s mythic beauties. The production design is first-rate, the costumes exquisite, and the actors all quite fetching — particularly the breathtaking female leads, Ziyi Zhang, Michelle Yeoh and Gong Li. But there isn’t a whole lot going on behind the enchanting façade, and in the end almost everything about “Geisha” feels conspicuously like an Oscar grab.

Time and again we get emotive excess where subtlety would have served the film better. The rivalry between the geishas Sayuri (Zhang) and Hatsumomo (Gong) should have been a chess match but instead plays out like a catfight. There’s good and there’s evil, and any nuances between the two got lost in director Marshall and screenwriter Robin Swicord’s soap operatic interpretation of Arthur Golden’s exhaustively researched, delicately spun source material. Worst of all, exposition is routinely disposed with via clunky dialogue — “A geisha serves as a companion to men but she is not a prostitute” — rather than through the characters’ actions. In short, the audience isn’t trusted to grasp the complexities of this “world of mystery,” so the information is spoonfed to them like children. Clearly, the filmmakers’ intent in dumbing-down “Geisha” was to make it widely accessible, but in so doing they sacrificed the very thing that matters most in the culture it purports to celebrate: Honor. Suggested subtitle for Marshall’s film: “Japanese culture for American dummies.”

(RATED PG-13. RUNNING TIME: 144 MINUTES)

Faithful ‘Narnia’ suits all

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press



REVIEW

THE MOVIE: The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
THE DIRECTOR: Andrew Adamson
THE STARS: Tilda Swinton, Jim Broadbent, James McAvoy, Liam Neeson

Most adults are aware that the C.S. Lewis novel upon which this mega-budgeted film is based is an allegory for the Christ story, and much ado has been made about the studio’s (Disney) overt courtship of Evangelical Christians, ala the campaign that accompanied Mel Gibson’s controversial “The Passion of the Christ.” One of “Narnia’s” well-known financiers, billionaire Phil Anschutz, is a major Bush backer and outspoken proponent of so-called “traditional family values” in entertainment, so the film’s release has been preceded in some camps (heathens and/or those who aren’t quite Rapture Ready, for instance) by questions of intent and the nagging concern that certain heavy-handed ideologies might adversely impact the finished product. Oh, and I almost forgot, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah ...

Everyone relax, please, for this “Narnia” adaptation isn’t the ticking time bomb some have made it out to be. Rather, it’s a classic morality fable filled with the eye-popping stuff of childhood fantasies that is likely to satisfy the saints and the sinners. Director Andrew Adamson

‘Mountain’ men made good decision

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press



REVIEW

THE MOVIE: Brokeback Mountain
THE DIRECTOR: Ang Lee
THE STARS: Heath Ledger, Jake Gyllenhaal, Michelle Williams, Anne Hathaway

There’s no denying “Brokeback Mountain” is arriving in theaters with considerable baggage in tow. The so-called “gay cowboy movie” from director Ang Lee (“Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon”) comes along at a time when this country is sharply divided on (and, some might argue, shrewdly distracted by) the issue of homosexual marriage.

Stars Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal are rightly being hailed for their courageous and stellar performances, but both men have had to endure all manner of ridiculous queries regarding their onscreen coupling. The actors, who are straight, play lovers in the movie — can this really be such the big deal in 2005? Apparently, and what a shame, because all the hetero-hunk hullabaloo seems to be obscuring what really matters here: That “Brokeback Mountain” is one of the best movies of the year.

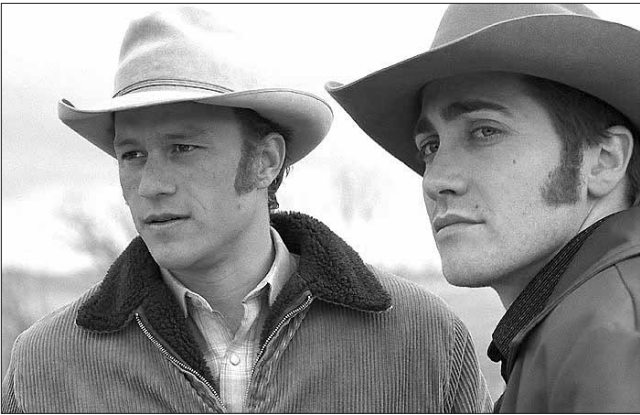
In light of the atypical subject matter, “Brokeback”

See BROKEBACK, page 12



(co-director of both “Shrek” movies) and his team have scored a stunning technical achievement with a narrative that remains true to the source material: During the Blitz in WWII, four young siblings are whisked away from London to the countryside estate of a wise old professor (Jim Broadbent). There they discover a portal to a magical land called Narnia, where they’ll become the central figures in a battle between the forces of good and evil. The acting is solid; the stand-out performance delivered by Tilda Swinton as the White Witch. In a refreshing digression from the current trend in youth-oriented fare, the Pevensie kids aren’t imbued with any modish proclivities of today’s “extreme” generation. Their language, behavior and overall comportment indicative of the bygone era during which the story is set.

(RATED PG. RUNNING TIME: 140 MINUTES)



Gyllenhaal leaving his own legacy

BY EMILY CHRISTIANSON
Special to the Daily Press

Jake Gyllenhaal remembers meeting with a director to discuss “Brokeback Mountain” when he was just a teen, but he wouldn’t go near it.

“It had been introduced to me as the ‘gay cowboy’ movie ... no matter how I felt about any of those topics I couldn’t venture into that world,” he confessed. “It freaked me out.”

Fast forward a few years and the 25-year-old is ready to take on the role of Jack Twisp, an aspiring rodeo cowboy. Set against a Wyoming backdrop, Jack spends the summer of 1963 watching over sheep with Ennis Del mar (Heath Ledger), a quiet ranch hand. The epic love story, directed by Oscar winner Ang

See GYLLENHAAL, page 12

Venerable Hopkins cycles back into cineplex



BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

THE MOVIE: The World’s Fastest Indian
THE DIRECTOR: Roger Donaldson
THE STARS: Anthony Hopkins, Diane Ladd, Paul Rodriguez

Anthony Hopkins grunts and fusses his way into the heart as legendary speed demon Burt Munro in this delightfully whimsical biopic from Roger Donaldson (“Thirteen Days”). The late Munro is a little-known historical figure outside of his native New Zealand, yet still holds the land-speed record he set at Utah’s Bonneville Speedway in 1967 aboard his Indian Scout motorcycle.

Unlike the man, the movie is in no hurry to get anywhere and the leisurely pace suits Munro’s spiritual journey just fine. There are many similarities to David Lynch’s excellent “The Straight Story,” and Hopkins may well have earned himself another Oscar nomination.

(RATED PG-13. RUNNING TIME: 127 MINUTES)

Furry at top of 'Kraft'

BY JAYA GUPTA

Special to the Daily Press

It's hard to take a band with a name like "Super Furry Animals" very seriously. And perhaps that was the point 12 years ago when the progressive rock act made their formal debut amidst a musical scene utterly engrossed with Grunge, cutting its heaviness with airy absurdity.

September saw the release of SFA's seventh record, entitled "Love Kraft." It is an ostensibly mature work for a band oft characterized by their oddity and impishness — their catalogue features songs about indigenous language erosion, inflatable bears and the Clinton scandal. Ethereally warm, lush and borderline elegiac, the symphonic record reflects five men who've embraced their statesmen-like status as music veterans.

Known previously for fusing sun-drenched pop melodies with techno and rock, it has been a formidable undertaking trying to pin them down stylistically. Touted as SFA's definitive record, their latest offering adds a reflective and resounding dimension to their sunny discography — namely through standout tracks "Atomik Lust" and "Cloudberryes." One thing is for certain, SFA's music has retained its manifest paradox of being befuddling and beguiling alike.

Currently on tour supporting "Love Kraft," bassist Guto Pryce indulged our desire for a little Q and A:

QUESTION: How has the road been treating you? Have you had a good turnout?

ANSWER: (Laughs) We're half way through a five-week tour. It's kind of like a vortex. We've had a very good turnout. All of last week we were in Texas where it's been sunny and warm. In Chicago, it's bitter cold. So it's been interesting.

Q: The press around “Love Kraftæ has said it’s SFA’s definitive record. Do you think that’s accurate?

A: It is put oddly. The press is always gonna come up with a catch phrase and it's their opinion. We don't necessarily agree. When SFA is done making music, we're gonna have a pile of albums and then maybe we'll decide which one's

Animals' instincts still lean toward the absurd at LA gig

BY JAYA GUPTA

Special to the Daily Press

Leave it up to the Super Furry Animals to make hitting the same piano key over and over again sound like genius. And leave it up to them to get their fans diving for stalks of celery. Absurd as it may sound, SFA's concert at the Avalon on Nov. 29 was not only exhilarating but nutritious.

In front of a sparse crowd, Toronto-based artist Caribou started off the late show with music that in essence can only be described as experimentally-driven. Caribou mastermind Dan Snaith juxtaposes all-out noise with intricate melody using everything from guitars routed through innumerable effect pedals to xylophones.

By the time SFA hit the stage, the auditorium had swelled with people representing a cross-section of age groups. Five men dressed in plastic jumpsuits decorated with spattered glow-in-the-dark paint entered the stage after a video introduction that showed them making their way through LA on a single golf cart.



“definitive.” With Love Kraft we’re very pleased with it.

Q: “Love Kraft” was recorded in Spain. Your other albums have been sunny, upbeat. This record is more reflective and kind of sorrowful. Why?

A: It's kind of ironic (laughs). This album was recorded in the sun. All of our other stuff was recorded in Britain where it's nothing but cloudy. Mario (Caldato, producer) told us that he wouldn't leave Spain, or go anywhere where it'd be cloudy. So we all went to Spain and then mixed it in Rio. It was fun recording there, good people, good weather, fields of sunflowers, good food. This time around Gruff (Rhys, vocals) didn't write all the songs or sing alone. We all wrote and sang. That contributed to the difference.

Q: How did the environment permeate the record?

A: I think it slowed everything down. You get up, do some recording, have a long lunch with a bottle of wine, record some more. It was a really relaxed atmosphere. We wanted to capture the pace of life and that's what we did.

Q: Are you thinking about the 8th record or is it too early?

A: We're always thinking about the next one. We've been recording stuff on the road, during sound checks and stuff.

Q: What do you anticipate it sounding like?

A: I don't really know. It's always difficult to tell. I would probably be recorded quickly. We could do punk or do lounge; it really depends on where our heads are after this tour.

They blasted out “The International Language of Screaming” to start off the set. Though currently supporting their latest “Love Kraft,” a markedly mature work, SFA toned down none of their mischievous stage histrionics. After playing “Cloudberry” and “Atomik Lust,” a fantastic song off LK when a single piano key is hit monotonously, lead singer Gruff Rhys grabbed some zucchini and celery and began devouring it. Forgetting not others’ nutrition, he also handed celery out to the audience. SFA went on to play most of the songs off their compilation record, “Songbook: Vol. 1,” including “Slow Life” and “Juxtaposed with U” — for which Rhys would don an oversized Power Ranger helmet.

The night, however, was not officially over until the video showing the band exiting the theatre on the same golf cart and loading themselves into a U-haul truck had ended.

SFA's set could have well been a scene out of an Absurdist comedy; the Super Furry Animals at the Avalon was one hell of a show and one that won't be forgotten.

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEF



SM student a vision as Sugar Plum in 'Nutcracker'

By Daily Press staff

A young Santa Monica student will star as the Sugar Plum Fairy in an upcoming performance of “The Nutcracker.”

The Marat Daukayev Ballet Theatre will offer three performances of its holiday classic on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. at the Japan America Theatre, located in downtown Los Angeles.

Daisy Long of Santa Monica, stars as the Sugar Plum Fairy in the Saturday, matinee performance. Long was a former student at Santa Monica High School and now follows a home study program to allow her to attend the Daukayev Conservatory Program during the day. Long has been a competitor in international ballet competitions in New York, Helsinki and Lausanne.

Marat Daukayev, a former Kirov star, dances the role of Drosselmeyer together with more than 70 students of the mid-Wilshire school that bears his name. During his 20-year career at the Kirov, Daukayev danced the leading male role in the complete classic repertoire. He was renowned for his technical brilliance and compelling dramatic portrayal.

Tickets are \$20 at the box office, and can be ordered by calling (213) 680-3700. Box office hours are Monday through Saturday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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‘Gay cowboy movie’ proves so much more

BROKEBACK, from page 10

isn't likely to attract the sizable audience it so richly deserves, but those who do see it will find that the cast and crew have forged something quite remarkable — a heartwrenching elegy so profoundly true it can melt away even the most deep-seated biases. Undoubtedly, this is a motion picture experience viewers will carry with them for a long, long time.

Jack Twist (Gyllenhaal) and Ennis Del Mar (Ledger) are two hired ranch hands that make an intimate connection while ensconced on a majestic Wyoming peak in the summer of 1963. Well aware their relationship — if discovered — could have dire consequences, the two men come down from the mountain and part ways. Both marry, have children and do their best to lead “normal” lives — Jack in

Texas, Ennis in Wyoming. Four years pass before they reunite only to discover that their passion for each other is stronger than ever. But they are far removed from that magical summer on Brokeback Mountain, and the many obstacles to their forbidden union appear impossible to overcome. As Ennis succinctly puts it, “If you can't fix it, you gotta stand it.” That's the unsettling sentiment at the core of this tragic love story.

Winning performances all around are complemented by impressive technical achievements. The script, by Pulitzer Prize winner Larry McMurtry (“Lonesome Dove”) and Diana Ossana, was adapted from a short story by Annie Proulx, herself a Pulitzer Prize winner for the novel “The Shipping News.”

(RATED R. RUNNING TIME: 134 MINUTES)

From gay cowboy to killer, Gyllenhaal's star on the rise

GYLLENHAAL, from page 10

Lee, follows the two young men through their lifetime of friendship and heartache. Despite the changing times, they are hesitant to pursue their true feelings for each other.

“Heath and I trusted each other enough to take risks,” he said. “It was wonderful creating an intimacy with him. He made me feel comfortable; he made me want to be present, and that's the best thing you can ask for from someone you're acting with.”

Gyllenhaal, who describes the movie as a myth that everyone knows but has never been told, said they shot the mountain scenes in a remote area of Alberta, Canada, riding their horses to set and hiking to the camps.

“Before we started shooting, we rehearsed up at all those camps when it was still snowing,” he said. “I remember I had gotten my dog right before I did this movie and he was like jumping through the snow, just having a great time.”

“Brokeback Mountain” is quite the opposite of his last film “Jarhead”, the story of a third generation enlistee on active duty in the Persian Gulf. The film, which hit theaters in early November, was based on a true story and directed by Oscar winner Sam Mendes.

“Frankly, you don't say ‘no’ to Ang Lee and you don't say ‘no’ to Sam Mendes and you beg both of them no matter what you're doing in either of the movies, whether you're wearing a Santa cap over your (penis) or whether you're making love to Heath Ledger, you just don't say ‘no’ to them,” he said. “I think that the short story of ‘Brokeback Mountain’ and the book of ‘Jarhead’ are just two of the most ... extraordinary pieces of literature.”

The son of director Stephen Gyllenhaal and screenwriter Naomi Foner, Jake Gyllenhaal made his debut in “City Slickers” in 1991 at just 11 years old.

“My parents would let me audition for things — with the thought that I wouldn't get them,” the Los Angeles native told Film Force. “And then I would get them ... sometimes, and it would surprise them ... When I did, it was like they told me I couldn't do it. Which now I thank them for more than anything, but I hated them at the time for it. I thought it was everything I wanted to do then.”

Gyllenhaal, who worked as a lifeguard and bus boy as a teen, received praise for his role as Homer Hickam, a real life rocket builder, in “October Sky” and later gained a cult following for his performance in “Donnie Darko” alongside big sister Maggie.

“Bubble Boy” and a stint on the London stage in “This is Our Youth” were followed by the indie films “The Good Girl” and “Lovely and Amazing”. In 2004 he starred in his first Hollywood blockbuster “The Day After Tomorrow” opposite Dennis Quaid.

“The most difficult was running away from wolves that didn't exist,” he recalls of shooting the action flick. “The hardest sequence I think, we shot like two weeks in a tank full of water with 700 extras which is that scene of the wave that comes over. By the end of week one, people weren't getting out of the tank to go to bathroom, they were doing it right in the tank so that was in its own ‘special’ way, the most difficult scene that I shot.”

Gyllenhaal is currently filming “Zodiac”, the true story of a northern California serial killer who sends letters to the San Francisco Chronicle in the '60s and '70s. He plays a cartoonist obsessed with finding the killer. He continues his search even after the detective and journalist working the case give up.

“I play the cartoonist,” he tells about.com. “And they could never really get the guy, so he's still out there supposedly, and ... I feel very safe making a movie about it.”

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Rice won't guarantee end to prisoner abuses

BY ANNE GEARAN
AP Diplomatic Writer

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said she can give no guarantee that terrorism detainees won't be abused again despite what she called the United States' clear rules against torture.

"Will there be abuses of policy? That's entirely possible," Rice said at a NATO press conference. "Just because you're a democracy it doesn't mean that you're perfect."

She offered assurances, however, that any abuses would be investigated and violators punished.

"That is the only promise we can make," Rice said. She spoke a day after trying to clarify to European foreign ministers the U.S. policy on secret prisons and treatment of terrorism suspects.

They foreign ministers appeared receptive. NATO Secretary General Jaap De Hoop Scheffer said Rice had "cleared the air."

Rice explained to the NATO and European Union foreign ministers over dinner Wednesday night that the United States does not violate the rights of terrorist suspects, De Hoop Scheffer said. "You will not see this discussion continuing" at the NATO headquarters, he told a news conference Thursday.

His comments echoed those of several foreign ministers who sought to shift away from a confrontation with Washington over the issue.

Rice repeated on Thursday that no U.S. personnel are allowed to commit abuses, whether on U.S. soil or overseas.

"The United States doesn't engage in torture, doesn't condone it, doesn't expect its employees to engage in it," she said.

Rice did not mention U.S. employees in similar statements Wednesday and earlier. Including them now may be a reference to a loophole identified by human rights organizations that could allow the CIA to contract out mistreatment.

Complaints that the United States has overstepped its bounds and may have practiced or condoned torture have dogged Rice through a four-nation tour this week. She said she welcomed a discussion of the issue, and invited it herself at the top of the private dinner with other NATO ministers.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said Thursday that Rice "has reiterated that in the United States international obligations are not interpreted differently than in Europe."

Dutch Foreign Minister Ben Bot said he left Wednesday night's dinner "very satisfied" by Rice's comments.

Rice has refused to answer directly whether the United States keeps terrorist suspects in detention centers that violate European legal and human rights guarantees. She assured German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Tuesday that the United States would work to rectify any mistakes it has made in its war on terror.

Reports of secret prisons have roiled Europe for a month. Rice has asserted that the United States acts within the law and tried to argue that the Europeans are safer because of tough U.S. tactics.

Sustained criticism in the media and open skepticism from some European leaders indicate that the issue isn't going away.

Before Rice arrived in Brussels, Europe's leading human rights watchdog group said it hoped to be able to see satellite images of sites in Romania and Poland as part of its investigation into alleged secret CIA prisons and air transport of terrorists in Europe.

A top Council of Europe official said the body had been granted permission to look at images in the archives of the European Union's main satellite center, as well as log books held by the EU's air safety organization.

Rene van der Linden, chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, also said America's war on terror was not a real war.

"There is ... a difference of opinion between Condoleezza Rice and the Council of Europe, because the law of war doesn't exist. We have international conventions. We are fully in favor of fight against terrorism, but we have to be aware that certain cases can not be accepted," van der Linden said.

The Strasbourg, France-based Council of Europe is the guardian of the European Convention on Human Rights, a legally binding treaty signed by all 46 council members.

The council itself has no direct jurisdiction over any country, but can exercise political pressure.

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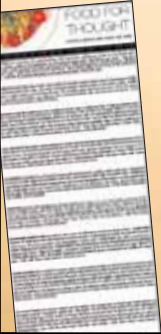






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NATIONAL

House committee OK with immigration bill

BY JIM ABRAMS
 Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Legislation to choke off illegal immigration, both at the border and in the workplace, cleared a key House committee Thursday despite strong objections from Democrats who said immigration reform must also deal with the 11 million illegal immigrants already in the country.

The Judiciary Committee approved the measure on a party-line 23-15 vote, setting up a vote in the full House next week before Congress adjourns for the year.

The 169-page bill goes beyond increasing Border Patrol agents and equipment to enlist military support in border surveillance and reimburse local law enforcement in border areas for assistance in combatting alien smuggling and illegal entry.

It requires the Homeland Security Department to detain until removal all who try to enter the country illegally and sets new mandatory minimum sentences on smugglers and people convicted of re-entry after removal.

Illegal presence in the country, now a civil offense, would become a federal crime, and three drunken driving convictions would become a deportable offense for legal immigrants.

All employers in the country would be required to participate in a verification system under which the government would confirm that a worker or a job applicant has legal status.

The bill, said its sponsor, committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., “will help restore the integrity of our nation’s borders and re-establish respect for our laws by holding violators accountable.”

President Bush, citing national security concerns as well as the social and economic costs, has demanded that Congress address the illegal immigrant issue. He has also proposed a guest worker program that could allow illegal immigrants to stay in the country temporarily to fill jobs unwanted by Americans.

Democrats on the committee faulted the Sensenbrenner bill for not addressing the guest worker issue, saying border security measures are doomed to fail if nothing is done about those already in the country.

Rep. Howard Berman, D-Calif., said the tourist industry as well as the fruit and vegetable industries would be devastated if no guest worker program is available and employers have to verify the legality of workers.

Berman tried to attach provisions of legislation proposed by an Arizona Republican, Rep. Jeff Flake, that includes a guest worker program, but Republicans voted it down.

Flake, who voted “present,” said he would continue to push his bill because “we have to have a legal channel for workers to come and go home.”

Sensenbrenner said he was not against a guest worker program, but decided to move on enforcement issues first because there was still no consensus on how a guest worker program would take shape.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., has said he would open debate in February on a border security bill that could become the basis for more comprehensive immigration reform. There are several guest worker proposals in the Senate, with the main issue being whether those here illegally would have to leave the country before applying for a temporary worker visa.

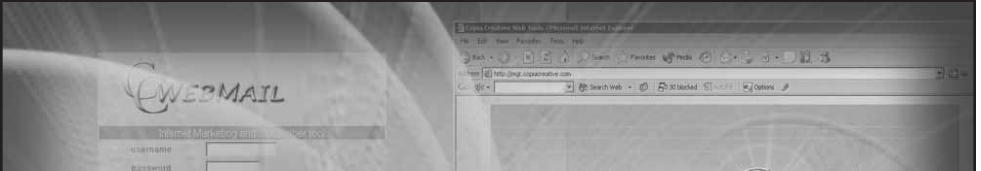


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Greenland glaciers pick up speed because of warming

BY ALICIA CHANG

AP Science Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Two of Greenland's largest glaciers are retreating at an alarming pace, most likely because of climate warming, scientists said Wednesday.

But researchers at the annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union also presented studies of the retreat of Alaska's Columbia Glacier that suggest more complexity in the processes of glacial melt.

One of the Greenland glaciers, Kangerdlugssuaq, is currently moving at about nine miles a year compared to three miles a year in 2001, said Gordon Hamilton of the University of Maine's Climate Change Institute.

The other glacier, Helheim, is speeding at about seven miles a year — up from four miles a year during the same period.

"It's quite a staggering rate of increase," Hamilton said during the AGU meeting.

Glaciers worldwide play a major role in discharging flowing water into oceans.

Sea levels have swelled globally an estimated 4 inches to 8 inches over the past century due to melting glaciers and polar ice — enough to cause some low-lying

places to be awash at high tide or during severe storms.

Melting of Greenland ice and calving of icebergs from glaciers is responsible for about 7 percent of the annual rise in global sea level.

Global warming is frequently blamed for retreating glaciers around the world. The rapid retreat of Greenland glaciers suggest that climate change is a factor, Hamilton said.

Meanwhile, one of the fastest melting glaciers in North America has reached the halfway point of disintegration and will continue retreat for another two decades.

Alaska's Columbia Glacier — about the size of Los Angeles — has shrunk nine miles since the 1980s. It is expected to lose an additional nine miles in the next 15 to 20 years before the bed of the glacier rises above sea level.

The glacier, which moves about 80 feet a day, currently releases about 2 cubic miles of ice every year into the Prince William Sound on the south coast of Alaska.

Understanding what happens during Alaskan glacier retreat could help explain the phenomenon in Greenland, said Tad Pfeffer, associate director of the University of Colorado's Institute of Arctic and Alpine.

Six face charges in Northwest ecoterror attacks

BY GENE JOHNSON

Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE — Six people have been arrested in connection with ecoterrorism attacks in Oregon and Washington dating back to 1998, including a \$1.2 million fire that destroyed a U.S. Department of Agriculture research facility near Olympia.

The arrests were made Wednesday in New York, Virginia, Oregon and Arizona, and each of the defendants has been indicted in Oregon or Washington, the U.S. attorney's office said. Besides the USDA fire, the attacks included three arsons in Oregon and the toppling of a Bonneville Power Administration transmission tower near Bend, Ore., on the eve of the millennium.

One of the fires caused more than \$500,000 in damage, and the other three caused more than \$1 million, investigators said. The shadowy Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility for most of the acts.

Two of the defendants — Stanislas Gregory Meyerhoff, 28, and Daniel Gerard McGowan, 31 — face up to life in prison if convicted of setting fires Jan. 2, 2001, at the Superior Lumber Co. in Glendale, Ore., and May 21, 2001, at the Jefferson Poplar Farm in Clatskanie. Damage from each fire exceeded \$1 million.

May 21, 2001, was also the day of a devastating unsolved fire at the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture in Seattle. The Earth Liberation Front claimed responsibility for both of those fires, saying the attacks targeted the UW's genetic plant research

and the poplar farm's experimental trees, which an anonymous statement called "an ecological nightmare" for the diversity of native forests.

Meyerhoff was arrested in Charlottesville, Va., where he was attending Piedmont Community College. McGowan was arrested in New York City.

Kevin M. Tubbs, 36, and William C. Rodgers, 40, face up to 20 years each if convicted of a June 21, 1998, arson at the Agriculture Department's Animal and Plant and Health Inspection Services facility in Olympia. Tubbs was arrested in Springfield, Ore., and Rodgers was arrested in Prescott, Ariz.

Sarah Kendall Harvey, a 28-year-old student at Northern Arizona University, was arrested in Flagstaff after being charged with a Dec. 27, 1998, fire at U.S. Forest Industries in Medford, Ore. That fire caused an estimated \$500,000 in damage. She faces up to 20 years if convicted.

Chelsea Dawn Gerlach, 28, of Portland, was charged with conspiring to destroy an energy facility and destruction of an energy facility in the attack on the transmission tower. She faces up to 25 years.

The 80-foot-tall tower supported transmission lines that carry surplus BPA energy from the Northwest to Southern California. No loss of service occurred because the load was instantly switched to other lines by computer, and workers re-erected the tower the next day.

The defendants were scheduled to make initial appearances in federal court in the districts where they were arrested.

The U.S. attorney's office in Seattle said the investigation, already nine years old, is continuing.

Pfeffer said climate change warming trends do not directly explain the shrinking Columbia Glacier and other tidewater glaciers. Instead, scientists think the retreat is triggered by a slow warming trend that began five centuries ago.

Significant thinning of the Columbia Glacier is thought to be caused by huge chunks of iceberg that break off into the sound as a result of seawater pressure rather than climate change, Pfeffer said.

The glacier, which is up to 3,000 feet thick, has thinned up to 1,300 feet in some places over the last two decades.

Since the 1970s, scientists have monitored the Columbia Glacier with satellites, lasers and aerial photography and found that the increase of its so-called calving rate might be dangerous to shipping lanes in the sound.

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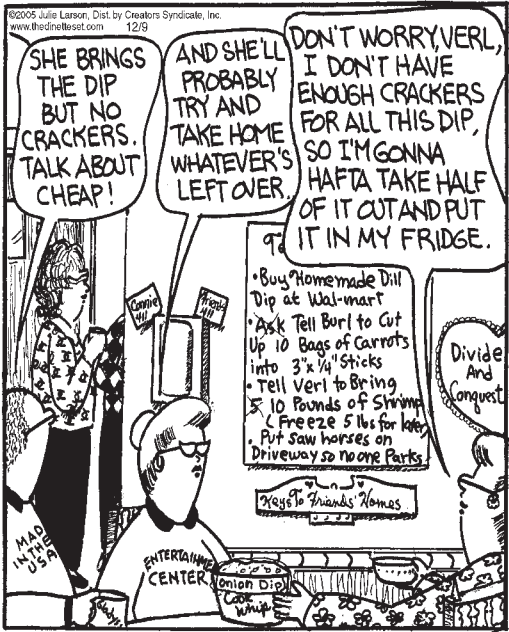
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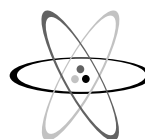
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Ho, Ho, Ho: Singer may be home for Christmas

By The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Hawaiian crooner Don Ho was moved out of intensive care at a Thailand hospital Wednesday and was doing well after an experimental procedure on his ailing heart, his doctor said.

Ho, known for his signature tune, "Tiny Bubbles," could be singing again by Christmas, said Dr. Amit Patel, a heart surgeon from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center who oversaw the procedure in Bangkok.

The 75-year-old performer underwent the new treatment in Thailand Tuesday that has not been approved in the United States. It involves multiplying stem cells taken from his blood and injecting them into his heart in hopes of strengthening the organ.

Patel said the singer had "an extremely weak" heart that was pumping far less blood than a healthy organ before the surgery.

His "ejection fractions," a measurement of how well the heart pumps blood, was at 10 percent to 15 percent. A good heart has a rate of at least 55 percent to 65 percent, Patel said.

Ho, who has entertained tourists for more than four decades, has suffered from heart problems for about a year and had a pacemaker implanted a few months ago.

In August, Ho was admitted to a hospital with shortness of breath. He was treated for an abnormal heart rhythm and released after three days. He soon returned to his Waikiki show on a reduced schedule.

The experimental procedure was developed by TheraVita Co., which has offices in Thailand and laboratories in Israel, where Ho's stem cells were sent to be multiplied. The surgery costs roughly \$30,000.

"His prognosis in terms of recovering from surgery, thus far, is good," Patel said in a telephone interview from Pittsburgh. "In terms of singing, it would really be up to him. I would not be surprised he'd be able to sing by Christmas, if not before."

Besides "Tiny Bubbles," Ho's other hits include "I'll Remember You," "With All My Love" and the "Hawaiian Wedding Song."

NEW YORK — David Schwimmer will make his

Broadway debut in a revival of "The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial," Herman Wouk's stage adaptation of his best-selling novel that later became a hit movie.

The courtroom drama will open May 7 at a theater to be announced, with preview performances to begin April 14. Schwimmer will play the role of Lt. Barney Greenwald in the production, which will be directed by Jerry Zaks.

Zeljko Ivanek will co-star as the infamous Lt. Com. Philip Francis Queeg, a role played in the movie version by Humphrey Bogart.

Schwimmer, one of the stars of the long-running television series "Friends," has extensive stage credits, particularly in Chicago where he was a co-founder of the Lookingglass Theatre Company.

"The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial" originally opened on Broadway in 1954 starring Henry Fonda as Greenwald and Lloyd Nolan as Queeg.

PARIS — Jazz great Sidney Bechet's soprano saxophone sold at auction in Paris for more than \$140,000.

The instrument, which Bechet used to compose many of his standards, inspired the highest bid among 32 pieces up for sale at the Hotel Drouot auction house on Wednesday. The total selling price, including fees, was \$140,900, the auction house said.

A handwritten love letter from the New Orleans jazzman to his wife, Jacqueline, sold for \$2,817. Golden cuff links decorated with the initials "SB" went for \$2,957.

Daniel Bechet, a drummer who lives in France, organized the auction to finance a foundation dedicated to his father's memory in the south of France. Born in New Orleans in 1897, the clarinet and saxophone player died in France in 1959.

BOMBAY, India — Indian actress Aishwarya Rai says finding work in Hollywood is no easy task — even for one of Bollywood's most recognizable leading ladies.

"People overseas are aware of me, but haven't seen enough of my work to be able to perceive me as anything but relatively new to their world," Rai was quoted as saying in the December issue of Filmfare magazine.

The former Miss India, long a major box office draw

in India, recently wrapped up filming "The Last Legion," a Hollywood epic about a Roman warrior, played by Colin Firth, who must protect a young Caesar as the Roman Empire crumbles.

Although she is not the lead in the movie, Rai agreed to take part "because you want visibility or (to) be part of a great team or work with a director or you want (a) foot in the door."

Last year, the 32-year-old Rai starred in "Bride & Prejudice," her first English-language film.

"It's a tightrope you are walking and it's your decision which side you want to dip and which way you want to go," she said.

Shot in Slovakia, "The Last Legion" also stars Ben Kingsley and is scheduled to be released next year.

DENVER — Ronan Tynan has reached a settlement in a lawsuit alleging faulty maintenance in a hotel shower stall resulted in an injury that has caused three years of pain, the hotel and his lawyer confirmed.

The 45-year-old Tynan, who along with Finbar Wright and Anthony Kearns has made up The Irish Tenors, said the bench in his shower at The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs collapsed, causing him to fall. He began hurting during an airplane flight 12 hours later, he said during a video deposition earlier this year.

Tynan, known to many for his renditions of "God Bless America" during New York Yankees home games, filed an \$8 million lawsuit, which included \$5 million in past and future lost income, in U.S. District Court in Denver in 2003.

The trial was scheduled to start Monday but was vacated after both parties agreed to an undisclosed settlement.

"We regret that one of our guests was injured at the hotel and have taken steps to ensure that such an incident will not happen again," according to a statement issued Tuesday by the Broadmoor. They have previously denied any negligence.

One of Tynan's attorneys, David Palmer, confirmed the settlement, but also declined comment.

Tynan, who lost his legs after a motorcycle accident in his 20s, stayed in a handicapped-designated room at the hotel to give a motivational speech in July 2002.

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