

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTO

FANTASY 5

14, 18, 3, 39, 30

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 0, 4, 9

Evening picks: 6, 2, 9

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 4, Big Ben

2nd Place: 6, Whirl Win

3rd Place: 1, Gold Rush

Race Time: 1:43.76



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
by Chuck Shepard

■ Lawyer Christian Gauthier was referred for disciplinary investigation because, while defending a client accused of killing a police officer, he was overheard singing the Bob Marley song "I Shot the Sheriff" during a courtroom break (Montreal, Quebec).

■ A 15-year-old burglary suspect in lockup was also charged with theft for ordering \$42 worth of adult movies on the jail's cable television hookup (Woodstock, Ill.).

■ The eventual winner of the race for president of the Marietta, Ohio, City Council was arrested on the morning of the election on a misdemeanor delinquent-taxes warrant.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If I marry it will be on a sudden impulse, as a man shoots himself."
— H. L. Mencken

INDEX

Horoscopes

Time to bounce, Leo 2

Local

There is an afterlife 3

Opinion

Fighting the Power 4

State

Take the money and run 7

National

High Court open for suggestions . . 8

International

Made in China, too 10

People in the News

Hooliganism in the sky 16

Saint John's lays off 200 employees

Hospital faces tough economic realities

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY — Saint John's Health Care Center laid off 200 employees and eliminated more than a half dozen patient programs on Thursday.

Estimated to save the center about \$10 million, the cuts are in response to the hospital's declining

revenues and increasing operating costs over the past year, administrators said. The lay-offs constitute 12 percent of the hospital's workforce, which is estimated at about 1,650 workers.

Employees received notice that they will be out of a job effective Feb. 9, which is in accordance with labor laws. About 30 contract labor and vacant positions are included in the lay-offs.

Saint John's has eliminated outpatient physical therapy, outpatient

speech therapy, outpatient/inpatient occupational therapy, outpatient cardiac rehabilitation, parent education, personal health care services and Saint John's Home Health Agency. Jobs in those departments were included among the 200 positions eliminated.

The hospital hasn't had a mass lay-off for nearly a decade — the last one occurring in 1994 after the Northridge Earthquake shut down the hospital. More than 1,500 people lost their jobs then because the hospital was inoperable.

Saint John's officials are in discussions with a non-profit agency to assume ownership of the Home Health program with the hope that the program could continue. Saint John's also is providing out-placement counseling services to assist employees in transitioning to future employment opportunities, as well as information about the hospital's severance policy and payments.

"The loss of employment is

See LAY-OFFS, page 5

Cable host tests wings in political arena

Talk show vet Rosendahl sets sights on Council seat

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

WEST LOS ANGELES — Though he has yet to move out of his offices at Adelphia, cable talk show host Bill Rosendahl is already working towards his next job.

The veteran broadcaster said this week he has earned endorsements from Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca, LA District Attorney Steve Cooley, State Sen. Sheila Kuehl, Assemblywoman Fran Pavley and Richard Riordan, the secretary of education for California, in his bid for a seat on the LA City Council in 2005.

Rosendahl, 58, of Mar Vista, hosted and



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Bill Rosendahl hosted approximately 3,000 public service programs for Adelphia.

produced approximately 3,000 public access programs before being laid off by the bankrupt Adelphia in July. He plans to be out of

his office of 18 years by Friday, Dec. 19.

"I'm excited to step into the next level. Frankly, I was a happy bird in the nest and now I'm going to get my wings," said Rosendahl, who hopes to replace termed-out LA City Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowski, representing District 11, which includes Santa Monica.

Rosendahl said he will live off his savings in the interim, as well as some earnings from classes he teaches at California State University at Dominguez Hills, where he works on public affairs programming.

Though he declined to say how much he made at Adelphia, Rosendahl, who witnessed the regional expansion of the company during his tenure to more than 1.2 million customers and 2,700 workers, said the \$140,000 he'll earn, if elected to the LA City Council, will

See ROSENDAHL, page 6

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

BY LEE RAJSICH
Special to the Daily Press

PALISADES PARK — A holiday tradition in its fifth decade makes its anticipated return to Santa Monica this Sunday.

A festive opening ceremony featuring Christmas music and storytelling will be held at Palisades Park to celebrate the return of the Santa Monica Nativity Scenes. This year's event will mark the nativity scenes' largest opening ceremony and include the most church groups in eight years, according to Santa Monica Nativity Scenes Committee spokesperson Hunter Jameson.

The event is expected to draw an audience of approximately 150.

In 1953, Joan Wilcoxson, wife of actor Henry Wilcoxson, had the idea to create a nativity scene in Santa

Monica. With the support of former Santa Monica Mayor and manager of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce Herb Spurgin, Wilcoxson's idea became reality and was bolstered by funding from the city, the Chamber and local churches.

At the same time, local businessmen Virgil Kingsley and Sydro Reyes jumped on board with financial support. Reyes, whose great aunt, Arcadia Bandini Baker, donated the property that now constitutes Palisades Park to the city in the 1890s, became the original emcee for the opening celebration of the nativity scenes in 1954.

"(The scenes) really seemed to get rolling in 1954," said Jameson, recalling that between 1953 and '54 the scene count grew to nine and established a

See SCENES, page 5



File photo

Several prominent choirs from Santa Monica churches will help celebrate the annual unveiling of the nativity scenes in Palisades Park this weekend.

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Features

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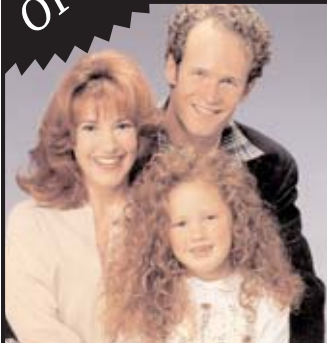
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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, December 13, 2003:

Your sunny ways mark your year. You transform right in front of others and become an even better person than before. Others admire the way you handle yourself. You have a way of detaching and looking an issue over. You might grab an opportunity to go back to school, travel or simply take a seminar. Be open to the new. If you are single, someone quite exotic could enter your life. Wait until late next fall to decide what you want from this relationship. If you are attached, your relationship will flourish because of this newfound energy. Add that extra spice to your bond. LEO reads between the lines.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Your fiery side comes out. Toss yourself into your work in order to get the job done. You might be delighted by how soon you can clear out of work. Get out the door as soon as you can, and start enjoying your weekend. Tonight: Play away.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You might be more focused on family and friends than on work. If you can, take a personal day and be where you want to be. Otherwise, just become a whirlwind and get the job done. The sooner you're out the door, the happier you will be. Tonight: Order in.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ A key partner might be overly enthusiastic about how to spend your money. You might want to say "no," but somehow, somehow, this person manipulates you into taking a strong action. Establish stronger boundaries. Tonight: Your treat.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★ Slow down and take your time with a child or loved one. Money should not be dispersed easily, though at this moment you might be inclined to do so. Time is more important with this person. Schedule some time together. Tonight: Your treat.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You're all smiles, which helps you clear out whatever you need to do. On some level, others depend on you to find answers or to do their work. You seem to be your own person, heading in the right direction. Laughter surrounds you. Tonight: Away you go.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★ Right now you might feel as if you can do nothing right. Do what you need to do to make your day run properly. You might want to close your door in order to get the job done. Consider taking a quiet few days just for yourself. Tonight: Do your thing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ How you handle a personal matter could be different in your present mood. You might feel as if nothing can or will stop you. Investigate the possibilities that surround a meeting. Others might have great suggestions and solutions. Brainstorm. Tonight: In the middle of the action.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Others need your support in order to get the job done. Your take-charge attitude makes a difference right now — to you and to others. You cannot forget that the weekend is upon you. Let what you want happen. Flow with the moment. Tonight: A must show.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)

★★★★ Take a risk and go beyond your normal limits with someone you care about. Do research, perhaps more completely than your norm. If you understand what is happening, you can help guide someone in a new direction. Tonight: Take off as soon as possible.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Others naturally want to do for you. They feel as if they can make a difference in what happens. You're more likely to want to give to others and help their lives work. Your understanding helps a partner. Tonight: Try togetherness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Others knock on your door. They want you and nothing less. Looking at your plans, you might have a difficult time choosing what you want. Do what you want, not what you think might be right. Remember, it is your life. Tonight: Go where you want.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You do well at finishing off tail ends right now. Others seem to be in such a rush to leave the office, you might be left holding the bag. When you leave work, you will leave with a tremendous sense of satisfaction. Tonight: Put your feet up.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday

Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Mayor to light massive menorah

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom will light a 12-foot outdoor menorah on the Third Street Promenade on Dec. 20. The lighting will be followed by live Jewish music. "Chanukah Light Live" coincides this year with the second night of Chanukah and is organized by Chabad in Santa Monica. The joy and music bring on spontaneous Hasidic dancing by Chabad members and onlookers alike.

The menorah was fashioned to blend in with the Promenade's décor, "A Winterlit Holiday." It was donated last year by Bobco Metals and created by Avi Yitzchak.

Chanukah is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the triumphant victory of religious practice and freedom over the Syrian-Greek Empire 2,000 years ago.

The selling of Santa Monica

By Daily Press staff

The local convention and visitors bureau has hired a public relations firm for \$30,000 a year.

Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau president and CEO Misti Kerns recently announced that the non-profit organization retained public relations representation to support their efforts in marketing the city of Santa Monica. Steve Valentine Public Relations, based in Marina del Ray, was selected to spearhead the campaign.

Valentine has 15 years of marketing communications expertise, including work in travel promotion, the hospitality industry and the retail sector. His company has been a resource for local, national and international media. Prior to owning his own consultancy practice, Valentine was vice president of a Venice-based public relations agency.

Valentine will work under the direction of Kerns and her staff including director of communications Debbie Lee and an 11-person board of directors. Valentine's job is to create and maintain highly viable consumer and trade relations programs and the coordination of media familiarization tours to the city. Assisting Valentine in his office are senior account supervisor Maria Losch and office coordinator Sam Martin-Russell.

Circle of life: Free Christmas tree recycling

By Daily Press staff

Residents in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County can get their Christmas trees carried away for free this year.

Following in last year's footsteps, the service will again allow residents to recycle their trees into compost, mulch or ground cover by simply placing their trees at curbside for recycling between Dec. 26 and Jan. 17.

Last year, more than 375,000 trees were recycled in the county.

"This program gets more successful every year," said Robert C. Barker, senior civil engineer at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works.

In order to take advantage of regular trash pickup days between Dec. 26 and Jan. 17, residents should place their trees at the curb along with their other recyclables. Residents are asked to remove all items from the tree, including decorations, its stand, water container and bulk of tinsel. If the last pick-up day is missed, residents can still recycle their trees by chopping them into small pieces and then placing the pieces in their green waste container.

For more information about Christmas tree recycling or the county's other waste reduction programs, call the county's toll-free hotline at 1-888-CLEANLA or visit 888CleanLA.com.

surf report

A mixture of fading WNW wind and ground swell and steep, building NW swell keeps the surf in the waist- to chest-high range, with a few bigger sets at some of the better exposed spots.

OUTLOOK: A reinforcing NW swell will build Sunday and be able to get into a few more spots with the more westerly angle. A stronger and more westerly swell is possible for Monday.

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

Today the
water is:

59°

Sunrise: 6:59 a.m.
Sunset: 4:53 a.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	4:26	3.1	6:42	0.1	1:15	3.4	(10:46)	5.2
SUNDAY	5:40	3.3	7:32	0.3	2:17	3.6	(11:37)	4.8
MONDAY	7:31	3.2	8:23	0.6	3:07	3.9	12:47	4.3
TUESDAY	9:21	2.8	9:14	0.8	3:45	4.2	2:21	3.8
WEDNESDAY	10:40	2.0	10:04	1.1	4:20	4.7	4:00	3.6
THURSDAY	11:39	1.1	10:52	1.3	4:54	5.3	5:24	3.6
FRIDAY	(12:30)	0.1	11:39	1.6	5:30	5.9	6:35	3.8

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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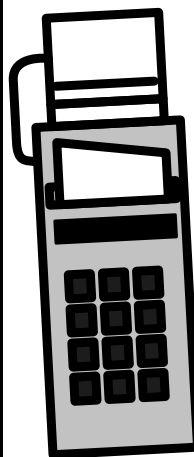
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LETTERS

School gift-sharing is a good start

Editor:

My husband Tynan and I are McKinley PTA's co-presidents. We fully support Superintendent John Deasy and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education as leaders concerned with educating all of our children in a manner that is equitable and independent of location within the district. The gift policy is a step in the right direction to help close the achievement gap and ensure that donations are made that offer education solutions for all of the children in our district, and not just a few. We support this policy because it is a start and is long overdue. However, it does not go far enough. All children have a constitutional right to a quality education, not only in the basics, but in the arts as well, no matter what their financial or geographical situation is. By not addressing the inequities in fundraising for individual schools now, we do a great disservice to our students and our community as a whole.

Cyndi Mladinov and Tynan Schmidt
Santa Monica

SMDP has it wrong about Prop. A

Editor:

Enough already with the SMDP and other media's mischaracterization of Proposition A (Prop A) supporters. The SMDP (Dec. 11, page 1) wrote "The March election pitted homeowners and developers ... against preservationists and residents." In my 10 months of volunteering for Prop A, I didn't meet one developer. I did meet hundreds of homeowners and other residents who attended meetings, knocked on doors, distributed flyers, talked to our neighbors and contributed over \$100,000 to the cause. Over 1,000 "Yes on A" signs were displayed in the yards of homeowners across the city. These were the supporters of Prop A. The correct characterization of supporters of Prop A is homeowners and other residents, not developers.

Your article also highlighted how the campaign was enlightening on two other points. First the SMDP identified supporters of Prop A as homeowners and developers, and opponents as preservationists and residents. I never knew that, apparently, the SMDP doesn't consider us homeowners as residents. Secondly, incredibly naive local

attorney Sherill Kushner learned even City Hall dollars granted to a neighborhood group and used to campaign against an initiative must be reported. I guess we all learned something.

Jeff Zangrilli
Santa Monica

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A

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'Best damn columnist' designation on my wish list

MODERN
TIMES

By Lloyd Garver

The good news is that J.D. Power and Associates ranks no column above mine. The bad news is that J.D. Power doesn't rank columns, and has no plans to do so in the near future. I know because I contacted them about it.

Everybody gets awards these days. You can't walk into a store without seeing an Employee Of the Month plaque. A coffee shop near us even gives out a "Customer Of The Week" award. And it seems like there are more award shows on television than regular shows. So, I thought, "why not me?" and I contacted the folks at J.D. Power and Associates.

J.D. Power is famous for ranking cars, but they're involved in non-automotive things as well. Among other areas, they give out awards for wireless service, hotels and health care. In case you've always wondered how there can be so many J.D. Power number ones, it's because they have many specific categories. That way, Hyundai can win the

award for "Most Appealing Entry Midsize Car," Hilton Garden Inns can win for "Guest Satisfaction Among Midprice Hotel Chains With Full Service," and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power can win for "Highest Customer Satisfaction with Midsize Business Electric Service in the West."

It's because of all these categories that I thought J.D. Power would be the right place for me to contact. I'm not so egotistical to think that my column should necessarily get the "Best Column In The Whole World Award." All I wanted was for them to consider me in some appropriate category — maybe something like "Best Column That's Usually Humorous That Appears Weekly. On Saturdays. In the Morning."

So I e-mailed them. I acknowledged that they probably had not honored columns in the past, but thought that should make it even easier for them to consider doing so now. Since no columnists would be expecting to win this award, nobody would be disappointed if they lost out to somebody like me.

Two days later, I got a phone call from someone at J.D. Power. We had the following dialogue:

ME: Have you had a chance to read any of my columns?

J.D. POWER GUY: Yes, I have.

ME: Did you like them?

J.D. POWER GUY: Yes, I did.

ME: Great! Where do I pick up my trophy?

I quickly told him I was kidding — I didn't expect them to give me the award without going through their usual process. I just wanted to be considered in my appropriate category. But he disappointed me by saying that he doubted that J.D. Power was going to get into column-ranking. However, he promised someone would get back to me in a couple of days.

After we hung up, I sent them another e-mail. It is excerpted below:

"When I think about the categories that you usually concern yourself with, I feel that it's completely consistent with your approach to consider rewarding me for my work."

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Two days later, I got another call from

J.D. Power. This guy was more serious than the first guy. For some reason, he thought that if J.D. Power and Associates considered my request, it would diminish the respect and credibility of the company. I didn't understand that. Who thinks that car manufacturers, wireless companies and health care providers are more respectable than columnists?

I sensed a little frustration on the other end of the phone when he finally asked me, "Why do you really want this award?" I explained that I thought their recommendation might help promote my column, I always liked the way the certificate and statuette looked, and, frankly, I think it would be nice to win something. His response seemed a bit strange. He suggested that if I wanted to win something I should go on "Fear Factor." I assume that he was kidding. After all, these corporate types are always ranked very high when it comes to their sense of humor.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.)

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

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn. Editor:

1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 Santa Monica • 90401 • sack@smdp.com

LOCAL



Hospital unsure whether more lay-offs loom on horizon

LAY-OFFS, from page 1

traumatic for most people," said Saint John's CEO Bruce Lamoureux, who spent most of Friday meeting with employees to explain the lay-offs and the hospital's future. "We ask that you keep those who are affected by this action in your thoughts and prayers. They have served our community, each other and Saint John's faithfully for years. We are deeply disappointed that we are not able to keep all of them under employment at this time."

Hospital administrators put a business plan in place earlier this year to address the growing deficit, but after a few months, officials faced the inevitable.

"We developed a corrective action plan over the past several months that included everything except lay-offs and it has been in place for several months, but it wasn't sufficient enough, which is why more significant and dramatic action had to be taken," said hospital spokeswoman Barbara Bishop.

It's unknown if more lay-offs loom on the horizon, but hospital officials are hoping to increase revenues by collecting money owed sooner — submitting claims for health insurance more timely and accurately, Bishop said.

Hospital officials also plan to refine and improve Saint John's business procedures, find new sources of revenue through program growth and renegotiate

health plan contracts. It's unknown what the hospital's operating budget is or how much the deficit was.

Many employees left on Thursday with severance packages, while others will stay on through January. Those who were spared their jobs are concerned about their own futures, officials said.

"The mood is somber," Bishop said. "There is a range of emotions that one would expect that include grief, loss and anger."

The Cardiac Rehabilitation Department, including all monitored and non-monitored programs, will be closed Dec. 19. Patients should call (310) 829-8927 for more information, including referrals to other programs and reimbursement for pre-paid programs. Physicians and patients requesting copies of rehabilitation records should contact Saint John's by Dec. 19 so that arrangements can be made as soon as possible.

The last day for outpatient services for physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy, will be Dec. 24. All classes, including Fit-for-Life, Healthworks and Steppin' Up to Fitness will end on Dec. 22. Physicians and patients should call (310) 829-8236 by Dec. 24 for more information, including referrals to other resources and medical records. Patients also may contact their individual therapists directly for resources and referrals.

Officials said there will not be a lapse in Home Health Services. Over the next

several weeks, patients will be contacted by a Saint John's Home Health Agency representative to assure them their services will continue. Patients with immediate questions can call (310) 829-8825.

There also will not be a lapse in personal health care services. Over the next few weeks, patients will be contacted by a personal health care service representative to ensure continued services. Patients with immediate questions can call (310) 449-5222.

Parent Education services and classes will be discontinued on Feb. 10, with the exception of the Lactation Station, which will continue as usual. Patients should call (310) 829-8397 for more information, including referrals to other programs and reimbursements for pre-paid classes scheduled after Feb. 10. Expectant parents who would like to arrange a tour of the hospital prior to their delivery date should call the nursery at (310) 829-8794 to make arrangements.



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Illuminated nativity scenes to shine through new year

SCENES, from page 1

local tradition which included a candlelit procession, featuring a youth choir that marched through downtown to the display, caroling and carrying a giant cross all the while. By 1958, the scene count had expanded to its present total of 14.

By 1960, the Santa Monica City Council had dubbed the city "the City of the Christmas Story," thanks to the storytelling event at the nativity scene opening ceremony.

The successful history of the nativity scenes hasn't been without stumbling blocks, however, says Jameson. In 1968, Proposition 13 took the city's funding out of the nativity project and reduced the display to just five scenes. In response to the gap in funding, local churches took more responsibility and widened their support. In 1981, the Chamber resumed its funding efforts, until '86, long enough to revitalize the display.

Today, there are 13 churches — 12 from Santa Monica and one from Venice — and the Santa Monica Police Officers Association, each representing one booth. The city is no longer associated with the finances of the display. The event organizers, set-up crew and entertainment have always participated voluntarily.

Each year, the booths undergo minor changes, mostly when repairs are needed. This year, one of the most profound changes will be Trinity Baptist Church of Santa Monica's "Flight Into Egypt" booth, according to Jameson. A new backdrop has been added featuring a three-section screen. Routine repairs include refurbishing costumes and fixing mannequins.

This year's ceremony will commence with an opening address by Reyes.

Master of Ceremonies and longtime community member Bob Gabriel will intro-

duce the Santa Monica choirs, which will sing Christmas carols, and the narrators, who will tell the Christmas story. Among the groups featured will be the Samohi Chamber Orchestral Ensemble, the Calvary Baptist Church Choir, the Lighthouse Church Singers and Youth Choir, the Saint Monica Church Choir, the Santa Monica Sweet Adelines and Horianna.

Also speaking at the ceremony will be Rob Scribner, who will give a closing prayer, and Santa Monica Church of the Nazarene's Pastor Clarence Crites, who has been the scene committee chairman since 1992, but has decided to resign his position following this year's staging.

Donations from the 13 participating churches, the Police Officers' Association and from individual supporters defray the scenes' approximate \$17,000 cost, which covers insurance, maintenance, storage and parking-meter fees for the stretch of real estate occupied along Ocean Avenue.

The 14 scenes with life-size figures depicting events surrounding Christ's birth, as told in the Gospel of St. Luke, have been displayed every holiday season at the same location since 1954.

Each of the scenes this year has been designed by individuals from local churches. Featured among the displays will be "the Annunciation," "the Three Wise Men," "Flight into Egypt" and "Return to Nazareth."

Sunday's opening ceremony will begin at 3 p.m., and the scenes will remain on public display until the new year. They are located in Palisades Park near Arizona Avenue and will be illuminated all night. A special covered "viewing lane" has been designated along Ocean Avenue, heading south, for motorists who wish to view the displays from within their vehicles.

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LOCAL

Adelphia plans to keep public service programs

ROSENDAHL, from page 1

represent a substantial pay cut.

"But it isn't the money," he said. "It's the opportunity to serve the people."

A spokesman for Adelphia, which took over local cable operations in 1999, said the company laid off Rosendahl as part of their restructuring after the recent scandal surrounding their former founder and CEO, both of whom are scheduled to face criminal charges in February for siphoning off company profits.

Rosendahl described the scandal surrounding Adelphia as a personal tragedy that cost him potentially millions of dollars in company interests.

"I was shocked. I was mortified," he said. "I was angry, as was everybody else."

Rosendahl is one of eight children. His parents, immigrants from Germany, raised him and his seven siblings as Roman Catholics in Englewood, New Jersey. Rosendahl, who closed each show with, "Thank you for sharing your time with me, God bless you, and bye-bye," described himself as a deeply religious man.

"I could not remain a Roman Catholic because they rejected me. God created me a homosexual and God makes no mistakes," Rosendahl said.

Spokesman Bob Gold said extensive discussions took place between executives before the final decision was handed down to trim Rosendahl.

"Business is business and, unquestionably, Bill is a unique person," replied Gold, when asked if there was a personality conflict between Rosendahl and Adelphia executives. "He's brought a unique and valuable skill and talent to Adelphia, and we appreciate that. But business philosophies and practices change."

Gold said the company is in the process of deciding who to hire next. He said Adelphia is committed to keeping the public service programs and added, from the time of Rosendahl's last show on Nov. 25 until the company hires a replacement, viewers can expect to see a steady rotation of hosts on the various programs.

"It is a fair thing to say that Bill Rosendahl has been Adelphia's Kathy and we are looking for the next Kelly," said Gold, referring to the network morning talk show "Live! with Regis and Kelly." "Some of this is personality driven, relationship driven, resource driven — but the

overall genre, as far as programming, is we'll still be covering the same issues."

That's welcome news to regular viewers and fans of the politically oriented

"I'm excited to step into the next level. Frankly, I was a happy bird in the nest and now I'm going to get my wings."

— BILL ROSENDAHL

Broadcast journalist, politician

programming.

Arnold Steinberg, 56, a conservative political strategist and regular on "Beyond the Beltway," said he hopes the programs will continue to air.

"I think it's important and desirable because I think it provides an outlet for lots of different viewpoints," he said. "I think it provides the potential for serious discussion. There sometimes is very, very serious discussions of in-depth issues, because you're not really dealing with commercials or the normal time limits."

"There is a following out there of serious people looking for in-depth discussion."

National political heavyweights and local players alike were regulars on Rosendahl's 30- and 60-minute programs, which started on Dec. 28, 1987, when the first episode of "Cable Press Conference" hit the airwaves with former LA mayor Tom Bradley as a guest. Over the next 16 years, Rosendahl hosted weekly programs such as "Beltway," "Week in Review" and "Local Talk," featuring everyone from presidential contender Howard Dean to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to former Vice President Al Gore.

"I truly believe that real campaign finance reform involves opening up the airwaves around elections," said Rosendahl, a Vietnam veteran who once worked under Bobby Kennedy. "If they did it, a good 70 to 80 percent of the need for money would be gone."



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STATE



Secretive financial 'firm' keeps its clients in dark

BY DON THOMPSON

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Financial Advisory Consultants, an Orange County-based investment firm, claims to have generated extraordinary profits for its clients over 20 years, but records indicate it has not registered with state and federal agencies that regulate financial advisers and investment funds.

The company's annual reports to clients give no details on the companies it says it has bought and sold, nor the investments it says produced an average annual rate of return of 38.8 percent from its growth fund and 18.9 percent from its income fund since 1983.

Its clients, some of whom have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars of their retirement savings with the company, said they're pleased with the consistently above-market returns reported by the firm in good times and bad.

But state and federal regulators have begun probing what at least one whistleblowing client fears may be returns too good to be true. Regulators are examining documents provided by Barry Minkow, a convicted felon turned anti-fraud investigator for San Diego-based Fraud Discovery Institute.

When contacted for comment, company receptionists said only President James Lewis could answer questions. He did not respond to numerous messages left with his office or on his cell phone, though his staff said he had received them. He also had received but did not respond to letters sent by certified mail and overnight mail, although the certified mail receipt indicated it was received by the company and his staff said he had picked them up. The Associated Press' offer to talk with a company attorney or other representatives drew no response.

In its literature, the company says it performs a variety of functions that state and federal regulators and financial experts say require government registration. Regulators in California, Oregon, Washington and at the federal Securities and Exchange Commission said they have no incorporation, licensing or registration for Financial Advisory Consultants or Lewis.

"We're trying to figure out who they are," said SEC spokeswoman Pauline Calande.

North American Securities Administrators Association spokesman Bob Webster said a lack of registration is a warning sign to investors, as is the lack of detail in the firm's reports to its clients.

"In investment, disclosure is king," Webster added. "An investor has a right to know what they're investing in."

Dustin Woodard, mutual funds editor at About.com, said the extraordinary returns, the lack of details and the word-of-mouth marketing make the company "very fishy."

"Certainly no mutual fund has had such a phenomenal track record," said Woodard, who is "highly doubtful that any hedge fund or investor pool could produce such results."

Large portions of Lewis' reports to investors were virtually identical to those used by another Southern California firm, Sunburst Financial Systems of Palm Desert. Sunburst also borrowed from reports by a third company — MX Factors of Riverside — that state regulators have barred from accepting new investments.

While certain hedge funds and firms that deal with wealthy, "sophisticated" investors are exempt from some licensing requirements, Financial Advisory Consultants' investors present a different profile. They said they learned of the firm by word of mouth — often from friends, family or members of their church — and are satisfied despite a complete lack of detail on the investments made on their behalf.

Some, however, reported difficulties in getting access to their money.

Robert Liss of Aurora, Colo., said he tried to withdraw money from his account in September but was told he couldn't because the federal government had put a homeland security freeze on \$8.4 million from investors in Syria and Iran.

Neither the U.S. Department of Homeland Security nor the U.S. Treasury could find any record of such an asset freeze.

Some of the other registered companies with which the 57-year-old Lewis is affiliated have run into problems with business associates and the government, records show.

Lewis is listed as a registered agent for Sun West International LLC, which was sued by Harrah's Entertainment Inc. of Las Vegas in 2001 after it stopped flying Harrah's guests to its casinos from around the nation. Harrah's sued to recover \$377,000 in prepayments and \$622,000 it spent on guests stranded when the company stopped flying, according to reports at the time.

A Sun West employee confirmed Lewis is the same person who runs Financial Advisory Consultants. U.S. and Canadian aviation authorities could find no registrations or aircraft ownership records for Sun West.

California Department of Insurance records show a James Paul Lewis at the same address as Financial Advisory Consultants had his insurance license revoked in 1989, while he was affiliated with Pi Omega Delta Insurance Services.

Financial Advisory Consultants, according to Lewis' 2001 report to investors, closed 26 projects in its growth fund and had a 40 percent profit, mostly by buying and reselling financially healthy companies in "ownership distress" — when partnerships or marriages break up, or an owner dies and the spouse doesn't want to run the business.

The income fund returned 18.9 percent in 2001 by financing insurance premiums and equipment leasing programs and providing corporate loans, Lewis reported.

Though the firm's reports provide no details on what companies were bought or sold, or its investments or loans, some clients interviewed by The Associated Press said they aren't bothered.

"They've gone out and made these investments, and we're the recipients, I guess," said John Streib of Bremerton, Wash. He said his investments have earned more than 30 percent a year for more than five years.

Minkow's client, who would not let his name be used, said he has invested about \$150,000 and other members of his family about \$500,000 with the firm over about five years. He said he has been able to withdraw substantial sums, but with a two-month delay after he asked for his money — as outlined in a company document that warns "the right of redemption is at the sole discretion of the Funds Manager, James P. Lewis Jr."

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STATE

'Mr. Freeze' may hinder water efficiency measures

BY ANNA OBERTHUR

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — A freeze on regulations Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared on his first day in office may delay or alter a law requiring greater water efficiency for California clothes washers, which could keep the state from saving billions of gallons in water use.

The California Energy Commission must adopt the regulations putting the first-in-the-nation law into place by the end of the year. It has applied to the governor's office for an exemption to Schwarzenegger's order, which requires agencies to assess potential regulatory impacts on the state's businesses.

But commissioners don't know if they'll get the exemption, said Valerie Hall, one of the agency's directors. "We are not certain of the effects at this time."

While the administration says the regulations aren't in jeopardy, officials haven't provided any specifics about what will happen. That has water conservation experts concerned the state may blow a chance to both save enough water to supply 100,000 homes for a year and provide a national model for water conservation involving an appliance that consumes 20 percent of a household's annual water use.

"I think in general the conservation community has a concern," said Thomas Pape, a technical adviser for the California Urban Water Conservation Council.

"If Dec. 31 comes and goes and the deadline set by the Legislature is not met, then that's cause for worry," said Edward

Osann, a water consultant for the Natural Resources Defense Council. "It's hard to tell whether this is simply a procedural review or whether this is an opening for more serious delay."

Delay, if not the outright demise of the law, is what the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers is hoping for, said David Calabrese, the group's spokesman. Last year, the group and appliance retailers fought the law as it moved through the Legislature.

Calabrese said his group opposes the law because it regulates water use at a state level instead of nationally, adding "there's a significant regulatory burden on industry in California" that his organization's member companies want to change.

California also faces perpetual water issues, water experts said.

With 35 million residents, the state adds another 500,000 people each year, making conservation and water efficiency essential to planning for future water use, said Marsha Prillwitz of the California Department of Water Resources.

If the state delays putting the law in place, water conservation advocates said, it will also jeopardize its attempts to gain a federal waiver allowing it to apply the water-use limits for washing machines, which go beyond federal appliance efficiency laws. The state needs the waiver before the law can go into effect.

For the last 40 years, California has led the nation on environmental issues, as proposals and laws start here and often spread to other states and the federal level. Other states are watching California's

clothes washer law to gauge their next move, said Al Dietemann of the Seattle Public Utilities and an official of the American Water Works Association.

"Several other states are kind of waiting in the wings, ready to move forward," Dietemann said, citing western states such as Texas, Nevada and Arizona. "They kind of want California to pave the way for them and they'll follow right after."

Passed and signed by former Gov. Gray Davis last year and set to go into effect in 2007, the law creates a two-tier approach to increasing the water efficiency of washing machines.

By 2007, all washers sold in California must have a water factor of 8.5, which will save an estimated 3.6 billion gallons of water that year, the energy commission said. The water factor is calculated by dividing the total amount of water used to wash and rinse a load of laundry by the tub's capacity in cubic feet.

In 2010, washers would have to have a water factor standard of 6, which would save an estimated 6.3 billion gallons of water that year.

Cumulative water savings by 2010 would be 15.3 billion gallons, which equals 47,000 acre feet of water, Pape said. That's enough to provide 100,000 families with water for an entire year.

Beyond water savings, the energy commission estimates the law will save energy and money, too.

Although the more efficient washers — which are almost all front-loading machines — will cost more to buy, they will save consumers money over time

through lower water and electricity bills, according to energy commission analyses.

To get that far, however, the state must navigate the confusing situation created by the regulatory freeze.

"We're kind of covering some new ground that we've never as an agency gone forward with before," said Claudia Chandler, spokeswoman for the commission.

By halting regulations for review by state agencies, the order hit the clothes washer regulations at a crucial time, as the commission was preparing to adopt them at a Dec. 3 meeting.

Facing the Dec. 31 deadline, commission officials worried they didn't have time to reassess the law's effects on businesses and sought an exception to the order.

A delay would make it difficult to meet the deadline set by the law, in particular adopting the regulations by Jan. 1 and submitting the federal waiver request by April 1, said Hall of the energy commission.

The commission delayed discussing the regulations until Dec. 17 — its last business meeting before the end of the year. It's also conducting the reassessment.

If the exception is denied and the commission is required to complete the reassessment, Hall said, they don't know if they need the administration to approve it. The commission is "continuing to ask clarifying questions."

Schwarzenegger spokesman Vince Sollitto said no one in the administration has to "rubber stamp" the reassessment, and the energy commission would be able to move on once they finished the report and submitted it to the legal affairs secretary.



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NATIONAL



Campaign finance guidelines still open book

BY GINA HOLLAND
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The legal wrangling over campaign finance restrictions is far from over, despite the Supreme Court's endorsement of the broadest limits on campaign donations in nearly 30 years.

Justices invited opponents of the law to come back later with proof that parts of the new campaign law, as applied, are unconstitutional.

But unless there is a showing of harm, the divided court said this week, the nation is better off with limits on the financial influence of deep-pocket donors even if money can never be divorced from politics.

The ruling means the restrictions put in place by Congress last year will apply to the 2004 election, including the first presidential delegate selection contests in Iowa and New Hampshire next month.

The court ruled 5-4 that rooting out corruption, or even the appearance of it, justifies limitations on the free speech and free spending of contributors, candidates and political parties. Justices also divided 5-4 to uphold the federal campaign law's restrictions on political advertising in the weeks before an election.

Justices John Paul Stevens and Sandra Day O'Connor, writing in a rare joint opinion, said they were "under no illusion that (the law) will be the last congressional statement on the matter. Money, like water,

"Outside special interest groups have become the modern-day political parties. Soft money is not gone — it has just changed its address."

— SEN. MITCH MCCONNELL
R-Kentucky

will always find an outlet. What problems will arise, and how Congress will respond, are concerns for another day."

Indeed, that already has happened, with groups being formed to collect donations and spend money in ways not covered by the law.

"Outside special interest groups have become the modern-day political parties. Soft money is not gone — it has just changed its address," said the law's main congressional opponent, Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

A lower court fight is already under way over regulations that law sponsors say open loopholes in the law's restrictions on the large political contributions known as "soft money."

Reps. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., and Marty Meehan, D-Mass., filed suit last year challenging the Federal Election Commission's interpretation of the new law. The high court ruling allows that lawsuit to go forward in a federal court.

The Stevens-O'Connor ruling was joined by Justices David Souter, Ruth Bader

Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer. Dissenting were Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justices Antonin Scalia, Anthony M. Kennedy and Clarence Thomas.

Scalia called it "a sad day for the freedom of speech" and warned that incumbents would pass more restrictions on speech, to protect their incumbency. "We have witnessed merely the second scene of Act I of what promises to be a lengthy tragedy," he wrote.

The justices struck down two provisions of the law — a ban on political contributions from those too young to vote and a limitation on some party spending that is independent of a particular candidate.

It took the Supreme Court just three months to decide the case, which the justices wrapped up in about 300 pages, including three separate opinions addressing different parts of the law. By comparison, the three-judge panel that reviewed the case first devoted nearly 1,700 pages to it.

The law passed by Congress last year was the broadest reform since 1974, when President Ford signed a law creating the

Federal Election Commission in the wake of the Watergate scandal. It limited individual and political action committee contributions to candidates to \$1,000 and \$5,000 per election, respectively.

Soft money donations were not included in the law, and the parties exploited the loophole. In the last election cycle, the three Democratic campaign committees raised about \$246 million in soft money, compared with \$250 million for Republicans.

Soft money is a catchall term for money not subject to existing federal caps on the amount individuals may give and which is outside the old law that prohibits corporations and labor unions from making direct campaign donations.

The 2002 campaign finance law is often known as "McCain-Feingold" — named for its chief Senate sponsors, Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Russ Feingold, D-Wis. McCain built his maverick 2000 presidential campaign largely around the assertion that the old system was full of holes.

Feingold said the ruling could energize efforts for public financing of campaigns and requirements that television stations offer free air time.

"The whole ruling really helps further campaign finance legislation because it gets away from the irrational fear that doing anything about it gets into free speech problems," he said.



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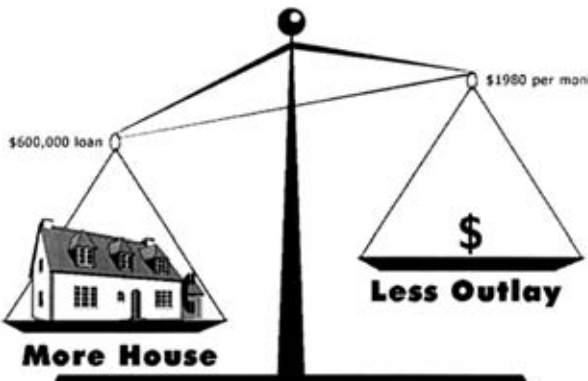
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INTERNATIONAL

Thirst for foreign-made goods creates a record trade deficit

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
 AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Americans' demand for imported goods — everything from cars and clothing to those hot toys for Christmas — climbed to an all-time high in October, in the process creating a record U.S. trade deficit with China.

In a more hopeful sign for battered manufacturers, American exports also rose, to the highest level in 2 1/2 years.

The overall trade deficit hit \$41.8 billion, a 1 percent increase from September's imbalance of \$41.3 billion, the Commerce Department reported Friday.

The deficit was the biggest in five months and kept the country on track for a record shortfall this year of around \$490 billion. That would surpass last year's \$418 billion record gap between what America sells abroad and what it imports.

Americans' seemingly insatiable appetite for foreign goods continued unabated, pushing October's total imports to a record \$129.7 billion, an increase of 2.1 percent over September.

Demand for foreign cars and auto parts rose by \$1 billion to a new high of \$18.4 billion while retailers stocking their shelves with Hokey Pokey Elmo and other hot Christmas toys pushed demand for imported toys and games up \$36 million to \$2 billion. Three out of four toys sold in the United States are foreign-made, about two-thirds of those imports coming from China.

Democrats campaigning to replace President Bush have seized on the soaring trade deficits and the 2.8 million jobs lost in manufacturing over the last three years as evidence the administration's economic policies are failing.

Treasury Secretary John Snow, promoting those policies Friday with a shopping trip to New York City, told reporters at a Toys "R" Us store in Times Square that the administration was trying to deal with the trade deficit by encouraging Europe and Japan to promote faster economic growth in those countries.

"We need to embrace trade," Snow said. "Trade is good for America. Trade is good for our consumers. It's good for our producers and manufacturers, and it's good for jobs."

The administration could take heart that exports were up as well in October, rising by 2.6 percent to \$87.96 billion. It was the fifth increase in the past six months and pushed exports to the highest level since March 2001.

A wide range of American exporters participated in the gains, with farm exports climbing to the highest level in more than seven years, foreign sales of American cars hitting the highest level since March 2000 and exports of capital goods including aircraft at the highest level in 27 months.

"After three lean years, trade conditions are finally beginning to improve thanks to a realigning dollar and improving demand abroad," said Jerry Jasnowski, president of the National Association of Manufacturers.

The dollar has fallen in value by about 14 percent against a marketbasket of major currencies since the beginning of the year. It has not budged against China, however, because that country has pegged the value of its currency to the U.S. dollar, which American manufacturers contend gives Chinese products a price advantage of as much as 40 percent over U.S. products.

While the Bush administration, heeding their complaints, is pressing China to float its currency to float freely against the dollar, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said Thursday he doubted that this would boost U.S. employment.

In other economic news, the Labor Department reported Friday that wholesale prices fell by 0.3 percent in November, the first decline since May, reflecting falling costs for gasoline, beef and cars. The department's core Producer Price Index, excluding volatile food and energy costs, was down 0.1 percent, indicating that price pressures are nonexistent despite a rebound in economic growth in recent months.

The October trade report showed that U.S. exports to China hit a record of \$2.87 billion but still were swamped by Chinese imports into this country, which climbed to a record \$16.43 billion. That pushed America's trade deficit with China to \$13.57 billion, the largest monthly imbalance ever recorded with any country.

America's deficit with Japan was up an even sharper, 25.4 percent in October to \$6.44 billion, but remained far below the deficit with China.

America's deficit also was up with Mexico, rising by 7.8 percent to \$3.5 billion, as imports from Mexico hit a record high. Critics say the surging trade deficit with Mexico is evidence of the failure of the North American Free Trade Agreement, which links the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Rejecting that argument, the administration has been dealing this week in Washington with trade negotiators from five Central American countries to seek agreement this month on a Central American Free Trade Agreement.

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WORLD BRIEFLY

Chretien set to go out swinging

By The Associated Press

OTTAWA — Jean Chretien said he was proud of his decade in office as Canada's often combative prime minister prepared to give way Friday to Paul Martin, a conservative former finance minister who has pledged to seek smoother ties with the United States despite strains over Iraq.

Martin, who was being sworn in as prime minister on Friday, has been a powerful figure for years in the governing Liberal Party and overwhelmingly won a leadership election after Chretien announced his retirement plans earlier this year.

Chretien was one of the longest-serving heads of government among major Western nations. He enjoyed a warm friendship with former President Clinton, but relations with the Bush administration have been tense due to Canada's refusal to join the war in Iraq.

Martin has expressed interest in improving ties with Washington. However, he spoke critically this week of President Bush's plan to exclude countries outside the U.S.-led coalition from bidding on lucrative rebuilding contracts in Iraq.

Israel may take 'comprehensive step'

By The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — If the Palestinians do not act against their militant groups, Israel will dismantle some Jewish settlements and draw a border around the rest in a "comprehensive step" that may fundamentally change the situation in the Middle East, Israel's vice premier told The Associated Press.

In violence early Friday, Palestinian gunmen ambushed an Israeli car, wounding seven passengers, two seriously, in the West Bank city of Nablus, the military said. The ultra-Orthodox Jews had been praying at a holy site where Jews believe the biblical Joseph is buried.

Vice Premier Ehud Olmert, acknowledging his thinking is along the lines of that of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, told AP Thursday that Israel will impose its own solution without a peace agreement unless the Palestinians finally move against "terror organizations."

Without a peace deal, "the fire will burn, the terror will grow," Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia warned in an interview with the Israeli daily Maariv newspaper published Thursday.

Not your father's college dorm

By The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Forget flip flops and shower caddies. Today's college students are demanding private bathrooms and more living space — and they're getting it.

Across the nation, colleges and universities are building new residential facilities that cater to every student's desire, from high-speed Internet connections and cable television to their own bedrooms in apartments and suites.

Duquesne University recently entered into an agreement to purchase an 850-bed apartment tower, and housing officials are mulling over plans to add six floors to a suite-style dorm at the urban campus in Pittsburgh.

At Penn State, officials took out a \$75 million bond to construct housing for 800 juniors and seniors at its University Park campus. The dorms will feature clusters of single rooms with private baths around common living and study areas.

Lander Medlin, executive vice president of the Association of Higher Education Facilities Officers, says the college building boom comes as higher education institutions compete for students.

Flight museum drawing rave reviews

By The Associated Press

CHANTILLY, Va. — John Travolta lost his movie-star cool while admiring the aviation marvels at the

National Air and Space Museum's new second home.

He was one of 2,000 people at the dedication Thursday of the huge hangar, which exhibits such treasures as Amelia Earhart's flight suit and the Enterprise space shuttle.

Travolta declared his love for the Concorde, waved fondly at the Boeing 707 (he owns one) and tried to imagine what it would have been like to pilot the sleek SR-71 Blackbird spy plane from coast to coast in an hour.

John Glenn, who circled the Earth, and Neil Armstrong, who stood on the moon, gaped along with everyone else at the impressive collection — the Enola Gay, the Spacelab module, a Boeing 307 Stratoliner, various rockets, missiles, satellites, fighters and jetliners.

The huge museum is 28 miles west of the original's home on the National Mall. It opens Monday, two days shy of the 100th anniversary of the Wright brothers' first powered flight.

Campaign finance advocates take aim

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sponsors of a campaign finance law that survived a court fight now have a new goal: eliminating the Federal Election Commission.

With the Supreme Court decision supporting the ban on corporate and union donations to political parties, the law's advocates say it is now time to do away with the agency they blame for creating "soft money" in the first place.

Sen. Russ Feingold said this week that legislation to replace the FEC with a new agency is among the top priorities of the law's sponsors, including Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., and Rep. Martin Meehan, D-Mass.

In its ruling, the court echoed the law's sponsors in saying the commission had erroneously allowed national party committees to raise soft money — corporate, union and unlimited donations — and permitted the flood of big special-interest political checks that made the new law necessary.

The commission consists of three Democrats and three Republicans. Feingold and other critics contend its members are more interested in protecting the interests of political insiders than enforcing campaign finance rules, and that the FEC too often deadlocks along party lines.



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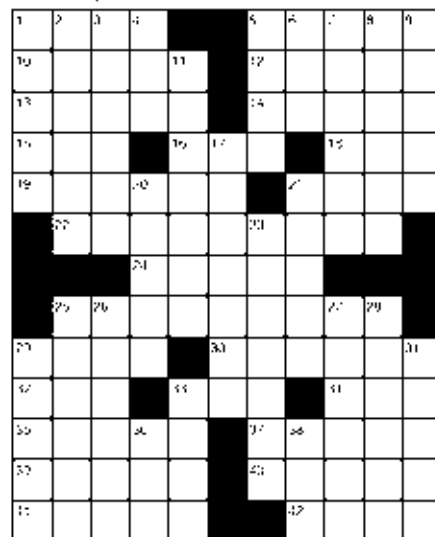
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

'Idol' castoff Frenchie lands squarely on her feet

By The Associated Press

■ **SEATTLE** — Kicked off the TV talent show "American Idol" because she once worked for an adult-oriented Web site, Frenchie Davis has landed her first professional lead role.

The big-voiced, full-figured singer from Los Angeles will begin rehearsals Monday for the top role in the upcoming production of "Dreamgirls."

"There are a lot of people who were on 'American Idol,'" Davis told The Associated Press in an interview. "But not all of them are getting lead roles."

The 24-year-old singer will play the top role of Effie Melody White in the revival of "Dreamgirls," which was a major Broadway hit in the 1980s. It's a co-production of the 5th Avenue Theatre of Seattle, American Musical Theatre of San Jose, Calif., and the California Musical Theatre of Sacramento.

"Dreamgirls" will play in San Jose from Jan. 9-25, Sacramento from Jan. 27-Feb. 8 and Seattle from Feb. 11-29.

Davis was one of the 30 contestants on "American Idol" earlier this year and had planned to sing a song from "Dreamgirls" as part of the competition when she was given the boot by producers of the reality series and Fox executives. Fox said she was fired because she'd worked on the adult-oriented Web site after her sophomore year at Howard University in fall 1999.

"I disclosed that I posed in lingerie on an adult Web site to pay my tuition for college," she said. "I told them that in November and it wasn't a problem. In February, they decided to kick me off of the show."

■ **CLEVELAND** — Barbara Walters made LeBron James a top pick again.

The Cleveland Cavaliers' rookie guard has been named one of the "The 10 Most Fascinating People of 2003" for Walters' upcoming network TV special.

James was the No. 1 overall pick in the NBA draft

last June.

The 18-year-old James said he was surprised to make the list, which includes California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Nicole Kidman and lifestyle maven Martha Stewart.

"I don't know who votes on something like that," James said.

James' interview with Walters will air on Dec. 17 at 9 p.m. EST on ABC.

■ **LONDON** — Soccer star turned actor Vinnie Jones was sentenced Friday to 80 hours of community service for an outburst of "air rage" during which he threatened and assaulted a fellow passenger on a flight from London to Tokyo.

The 38-year-old star of the 1998 comedy thriller "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels" pleaded guilty to the charges earlier Friday, and prosecutors withdrew an allegation that he was drunk aboard the aircraft.

The judge sentenced Jones on the charges of using threatening, abusive or insulting words and common assault, which took place June 1 in the first class cabin of a Virgin Atlantic flight from Heathrow airport.

Jones said in a statement he "regretted the incident deeply."

He was also ordered to pay \$525 compensation to Stephen Driscoll, the passenger he admitted assaulting. The judge also fined him \$875 for threatening the cabin crew and ordered him to pay \$525 in court costs.

During his soccer career with Wimbledon and Wales, Jones built a reputation for rough tackling and aggressive play.

■ **NASHVILLE, Tenn.** — Scotty Moore, a Hall of Fame guitarist who played on Elvis Presley's first single, was in serious but stable condition this week following brain surgery, hospital officials said.

Moore, 71, was admitted to Baptist Hospital last

week after doctors found he had a subdural hematoma, said his longtime companion, Gail Pollock. Surgery was on Dec. 5.

"I emphasize that he has no blood nor damage inside his brain," Pollock said in a statement posted on Moore's Web site. "He had a bleed between his skull and the sac which contains the brain which was putting pressure on his brain."

"The result was temporary impairment to his right hand, his right leg, and slowness, but no slurring of his speech."

Pollock said the surgery was successful and doctors believe he'll be able to continue to play guitar after some physical therapy.

Moore is most famous in the early days of rock 'n' roll for teaming with Presley and bassist Bill Black to record "That's All Right (Mama)" for Sun Records in Memphis.

Moore and Black played with Presley from 1954 to 1958, and Moore continued with Presley until 1968. Moore was elected to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2000.

The lawsuit also names as defendants Knight's record label, Tha Row, music publisher Warner/Chappell Music, Inc., Miramax Films and the songwriters, among others.

■ **MEXICO CITY** — Mexican actress Laura Zapata, sister of pop singer Thalia, says she's completing a play based on her kidnapping.

The play is a "type of catharsis" and a way to move forward with her life, Zapata told the newspaper El Universal this week.

Zapata and her sister, writer Ernestina Sodi, were abducted from their car last year after Zapata appeared in a play. The sisters were released weeks later. Zapata has indicated that her family paid a ransom but hasn't disclosed the amount.

The play doesn't have a title yet, and Zapata said she hoped to finish it by Christmas. It isn't clear when it may be put on the stage.

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