

# Santa Monica Daily Press

*A newspaper with issues*

## DAILY LOTTERY

### SUPER LOTTO

3 15 23 32 39  
Meganumber: 27  
Jackpot: \$32 Million

### FANTASY 5

8 12 14 22 29

### DAILY 3

Daytime: 2 1 9  
Evening: 5 1 1

### DAILY DERBY

1st: 10 Solid Gold  
2nd: 11 Money Bags  
3rd: 01 Gold Rush

RACE TIME: 1:40.64

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, to calm down a growing number of apparently horrified Australians, the Food Authority of the state of New South Wales issued a statement assuring people that meat in their refrigerators that appears to glow in the dark is actually harmless. Said the authority's director, the light-emitting bacteria responsible for the glow "is not known to cause food poisoning" and, actually, is naturally present in most meats and fish.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 349th day of 2005.  
There are 16 days left in the year.

On Dec. 15, 1944, a single-engine plane carrying bandleader Glenn Miller disappeared over the English Channel while en route to Paris.

In 1791, the Bill of Rights went into effect following ratification by Virginia. In 1890, Sioux Indian Chief Sitting Bull and 11 other tribe members were killed in Grand River, S.D., during a fracas with Indian police.

In 1916, the French defeated the Germans in the World War I battle of Verdun.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Experience is a good teacher,  
but she sends in terrific bills."

MINNA ANTRIM  
AMERICAN WRITER (1856-1950)

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## The spirit is willing



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Kindergarten and first grade students from Grant Elementary School look to put shoppers in the holiday mood on Wednesday, performing several holiday songs in the center court of Santa Monica Place.

# Holbrook takes reins as mayor

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

**CITY HALL** — Santa Monica has a new mayor — sort of.

City Councilman Bob Holbrook became mayor on Tuesday, a position with which he's quite familiar, serving in that capacity in 1998.

Mayor Holbrook replaced City Councilwoman Pam O'Connor to head Santa Monica's mostly cere-

monial post for the next year. City Councilman Bobby Shriver was appointed as mayor pro tem and will spell Holbrook when need be.

Santa Monica has a strong city manager form of government, mean-



BOB HOLBROOK

ing that the city's seven councilmembers, who are elected into office, appoint a mayor and are charged mostly with helping City Hall shape its policies, according to officials.

As Santa Monica's mayor, Holbrook will typically represent the city at government and other public events. He'll also set the agenda for City Council meetings along with

See MAYOR, page 9

## LOCAL

## Schwarzenegger taps BayKeeper founder as special assistant

By Daily Press staff

A Santa Monica man has been appointed as the special assistant to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger for energy and environmental technologies.

Terry Tamminen, 53, had been the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection

Agency, appointed to that post in 2003 by Gov. Schwarzenegger. Founded in 1991, the EPA, which oversees state environmental resources, is the voice of environmental issues in Sacramento.

Tamminen held the EPA post until last week, when he was appointed as special assistant the governor.

Fred Aguiar, secretary of the state and consumer services agency, replaces Tamminen as cabinet secretary.

"I also want to thank Terry Tamminen for his outstanding work for the people of California," Gov. Schwarzenegger said of the appointment. "He

See TAMMINEN, page 11

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HOROSCOPE

No risking, 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 could easily get aggravated, at the same time, you might find that what happens ultimately is for your benefit. Think positively about what you want. Take a hard look at your views. Tonight: Pressure builds.



**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**  
★★★ Financial matters could go haywire in a way you might hardly be able to believe. Hold on to your hat, if you can. Hold on to your funds, too. Someone has great ideas, but he or she could hurt you financially right now. Tonight: No risking.



**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
★★★★ You might want to toss your hands in the air on this Full Moon. Others are touchy, willful and controlling. Though you could feel great, you might want to avoid certain people who seem to be determined to give you a hard time. Tonight: The only answer is yes.



**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
★★ Really consider saying no to someone. Consider not going in to work. Others could be difficult. If you are not feeling 100 percent, take a personal day. You will be happiest by yourself or away from the maddening crowds. Tonight: Vanish.



**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
★★★★ You know what you want but might need to do quite a dance to get there. Reveal more of what you have in mind. A child or loved one could be extremely willful. A situation becomes intense. Let your creativity flourish. Tonight: Keep your goals in mind.



**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
★★ You feel pushed and pulled in two different directions. Knowing what you want could make quite a difference. Still, you might want to evolve past immediate events. You can, you know. Tonight: Don't be reactive.



**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
★★★★ Sometimes you cannot win for losing. Your best bet is to not get involved, no matter how strongly you feel. Detach and understand others' points of view. Ultimately, everything will work out perfectly. Tonight: Escape into music or a movie.



**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
★★★ You might want to rethink a situation more carefully, especially if it impacts your finances. No matter how good a risk might seem, you could find that it spells trouble. Say no. Tonight: Be the real you.



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
★★★ You might be more the cause of a problem than you want to accept. Others could finally throw in the towel and say "enough," and they do mean just that. Listen well to another person you care about. Tonight: Be friendly.



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
★★★ You could be jinxing yourself by overthinking. What an ouch! Understand that our thoughts create our reality. If you think negatively, then negative things will happen. If you think positively, good events will surround you. Tonight: Nap and then decide.



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
★★★★ Your ability to think through a decision and see all the different sides could and might very well make all the difference. Your thinking and relationships constantly evolve, allowing new choices. Flex with others. Tonight: Start the weekend early.



**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
★★★ You might feel that you keep bumping into problems. You are. Your best bet is to pull out and let others have their way. The end results will let you know if you are right or wrong. Tonight: Do only what you must.



AUDIT PENDING

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Building a safer community, one youth at a time

By Daily Press staff

A drug and violence summit has been scheduled for this weekend, one which will primarily consist of former gang members and drug addicts serving as panelists. A community forum has been organized by the Pico Youth & Family Center and the Pico Neighborhood Association (PNA) to identify proactive solutions to youth violence based on the principles of prevention. “We are building on the issues raised during the gang violence awareness workshops that were organized by the City of Santa Monica and Sen. Sheila Kuehl last April,” said Maria Loya, co-chair of the PNA. “We invite youth and parents to attend this forum to learn from those who lived through the struggle and pain of gang violence and drug addiction firsthand,” said panelist Steven Luciano, a community mentor who used to be a gang member. Each of the panelists that will speak during the forum is a former gang member or drug addict who has made a positive transformation happen in their lives. The form is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 17, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the John Adams Middle School cafeteria, 2425 16th St. The cafeteria is on the 17th Street side of the campus. For more information, call the Pico Youth and Family Center at (310) 396-7101.

St. Joseph’s holiday happenings

By Daily Press staff

St. Joseph’s Center has a whole lineup of holiday celebrations for needy families in December. For St. Joseph Center, a Westside social service agency, December is a time for spreading holiday cheer to low-income and homeless families and individuals living throughout Venice, Santa Monica, Palms and Mar Vista. Each year, the center serves roughly 7,000 people through a variety of programs, including job training and child care. During the holidays, the center organizes events and parties that bring together staff, clients and volunteers, and which offer neighbors and supporters ways to participate in the spirit of giving. On Dec. 1, 22 staff members from Payden & Rygel, one of Los Angeles’s top global investment management firms, used a donation of \$35,000 from one of their CEOs to go on a two-hour shopping spree, purchasing toys, household goods, food and clothing for St. Joseph Center clients. Later in the month, various St. Joseph Center programs will offer caroling, cookies and camaraderie during parties hosted by a variety of community organizations. Neutrogena will host parties for St. Joseph Center’s monetary advisory program and veterans representative payee program, which provides financial counseling and housing assistance to veterans and individuals with mental illnesses. St. Matthew Episcopal Parish will serve holiday meals to homeless men and women at the center’s bread and roses café. Community United Methodist Church of Pacific Palisades will provide Christmas dinner for low-income individuals from St. Joseph Center’s family center and a week later Saint Monica Parish Community will have punch and presents ready for a family center party. Girl scout troops No. 212 and No. 808 will live up the festivities at Homeless Service Center, and the Village School, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic School and First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica will throw parties for low-income children and families at St. Joseph Center’s two childcare facilities.

See BRIEFS, page 10



## SNOW AND SURF REPORTS



### CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

| BEAR MOUNTAIN                                                         |    |                    |                            |             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)                                                     | 0" | BASE DEPTH 12"-12" | LIFT HOURS 8:30am - 4:00pm | RUNS OPEN 3 |
| LIFTS OPEN 3                                                          |    |                    |                            |             |
| CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed |    |                    |                            |             |

| JUNE MOUNTAIN                                         |    |                    |                            |              |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)                                     | 0" | BASE DEPTH 12"-24" | LIFT HOURS 8:30am - 4:00pm | RUNS OPEN 35 |
| LIFTS OPEN 4                                          |    |                    |                            |              |
| CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed, Obstacles |    |                    |                            |              |

| MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN                                      |    |                    |                               |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)                                     | 0" | BASE DEPTH 24"-36" | LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 10:00 pm | RUNS OPEN 150 |
| LIFTS OPEN 21                                         |    |                    |                               |               |
| CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed, Obstacles |    |                    |                               |               |

| MOUNTAIN HIGH                                          |    |                    |                               |              |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)                                      | 0" | BASE DEPTH 12"-12" | LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 10:00 pm | RUNS OPEN 10 |
| LIFTS OPEN 6                                           |    |                    |                               |              |
| CONDITIONS: Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed |    |                    |                               |              |

| MT. BALDY         |    |                  |                              |             |
|-------------------|----|------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) | 0" | BASE DEPTH 0"-1" | LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm | RUNS OPEN 0 |
| LIFTS OPEN 0      |    |                  |                              |             |
| CONDITIONS: N/A   |    |                  |                              |             |

| SNOW SUMMIT                                                           |    |                    |                |             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|--------------------|----------------|-------------|
| NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)                                                     | 0" | BASE DEPTH 12"-12" | LIFT HOURS N/A | RUNS OPEN 6 |
| LIFTS OPEN 4                                                          |    |                    |                |             |
| CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed |    |                    |                |             |

| SNOW VALLEY                                          |    |                   |                              |             |
|------------------------------------------------------|----|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)                                    | 0" | BASE DEPTH 12"-0" | LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm | RUNS OPEN 3 |
| LIFTS OPEN 3                                         |    |                   |                              |             |
| CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Hard Packed |    |                   |                              |             |

### CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

### WATER TEMP: 60°

### SWELL FORECAST (4-6FT)

Today we'll see a bantam boost in NW swell, just enough to keep things from going flat. Overall, west facing breaks can expect some 14-second period swell in the waist to possibly chest high zone when the tide is right.

### LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

Substantial NW swell headed to California Sunday... NW to increase more early next week...

### TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

| MONDAY     |         |        |         |
|------------|---------|--------|---------|
| LOW TIDE:  | 1:36PM  | -0.4FT | N/A     |
| HIGH TIDE: | 6:23AM  | 6.3FT  | 7:57PM  |
| 3.7FT      |         |        |         |
| TUESDAY    |         |        |         |
| LOW TIDE:  | 12:34PM | 2.0FT  | 2:18AM  |
| HIGH TIDE: | 6:58AM  | 6.4FT  | 8:49PM  |
| -0.8FT     |         |        |         |
| 3.7FT      |         |        |         |
| WEDNESDAY  |         |        |         |
| LOW TIDE:  | 1:12PM  | 2.3FT  | 2:57PM  |
| HIGH TIDE: | 7:32AM  | 6.5FT  | 9:36PM  |
| -1.0FT     |         |        |         |
| 3.7FT      |         |        |         |
| THURSDAY   |         |        |         |
| LOW TIDE:  | 1:50PM  | 2.1FT  | 3:41AM  |
| HIGH TIDE: | 8:09AM  | 6.1FT  | 10:04PM |
| -0.1FT     |         |        |         |
| 3.1FT      |         |        |         |
| FRIDAY     |         |        |         |
| LOW TIDE:  | 2:34PM  | 1.8FT  | 4:36AM  |
| HIGH TIDE: | 8:42AM  | 5.8FT  | 10:34PM |
| 0.0FT      |         |        |         |
| 2.9FT      |         |        |         |

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## The Q Line

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Dozens of tenants who were evicted from the Lincoln Place apartment complex by their landlord, Denver-based Apartment Investment Management Co., have set up a tent city to protest the loss of their affordable housing. The company, one of the largest real estate management companies in the country, plans to redevelop the land into condos. The ex-tenants and their supporters say they will stay put until the landlord agrees to renegotiate a settlement that will allow them to return to their apartments.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, **“Do you think a compromise can be reached between the tenants and their former landlord? If so, what form should it take?”**

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.

EST. 1934

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# OPINION

**FUNNY PAPERZ**

HEY-HEY!  
BOO BOO!

**Bears to be removed from protected list and hunted outside Jellystone Park.**  
- News Item



ER, I MEAN "YELLOWSTONE" PARK...

© 2005 WWW.FUNNYPAPERZ.COM

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Up on the cross

Editor:

Only the inane ramblings of SMDP's favorite persecuted Christian, Cliff Nichols, (SMDP, Dec. 14, page 4) could have me hoping for more Charles Springer editorials. Does Mr. Nichols live in the United States, where 75 percent or more of the population describe themselves as Christian, where Christians control all three branches of government, and where this same government funds religious "faith-based" programs despite the First Amendment? I don't think that Mr. Nichols' brand of mythology is going anywhere soon, no matter how many magazine articles question it's irrationality and hypocrisy.

Is Mr. Nichols' next editorial going to cover the "evil secular" war on Christmas, or how the hard science behind "intelligent-design" should replace that satanic theory of evolution? Let's hope that he's too busy pondering his version of Pascal's wager and preparing for the rapture.

**Jeff Bender**  
Santa Monica

**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 [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@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.

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...write a letter to the editor

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or fax 310.576.9913



*Santa Monica Daily Press*

# Pulling out the 'C' word

## NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



Imagine no religion. John Lennon said words to that effect a long time ago.

Or imagine much religion. So much so that it be the driving force behind world-wide terror and mayhem.

While much of the world observed the death day of John Lennon last week, the Bush administration began coming forth in waves with talk of that old-time religion. Way old-time — as in seventh century old-time.

Cheney: "They talk about wanting to re-establish what you could refer to as the seventh-century caliphate."

Rumsfeld: "Iraq would serve as the base of a new Islamic caliphate to extend throughout the Middle East."

General John P. Albizaid, top American commander in the Middle East: "They will try to re-establish a caliphate throughout the entire Muslim world."

Eric S. Edelman, under secretary of defense: "Iraq's future will either embolden terrorists and expand their reach and ability to re-establish a caliphate, or it will deal them a crippling blow."

They're pulling out the "C" word to scare the living bejesus out of us. No, not "communism." Been there, loathed that. Not "crusade" either. Get ready friends, you're about to enter the all-"caliphate"-all-the-time zone.

Perhaps because he can't pronounce it, or thinks it's a verb ("caliphate, caliphate, dance to the music" type thing), the president has yet to let the term fly, instead dispatching his underlings — if you can call Cheney his underling — to alert and alarm the American public of the impending doom. Though he won't go near the word, he describes what is happening in the Middle East in no uncertain caliphatic detail. "Terrorists want to establish a totalitarian Islamic empire that reaches from Indonesia to Spain," has become a staple in the string of campaign-style speeches he's been delivering around the nation in an attempt to rally lost support. Why the evil

totalitarian Islamic empire would stop at Spain is anybody's guess, but at least that would leave us out of it wouldn't it? Whew.

Ex-CIA analyst Kenneth M. Pollack says it is cunning administration strategy. "They recognize that there's a lot of resonance when they use the term, "caliphate."

Zbigniew Brzezinski, Jimmy Carter's national security advisor, says, "The word has an almost instinctive fearful impact."

If you think the Reaganites had fun with the communism fear to galvanize their power during the Cold War, wait until you see this current bunch with their new toy. If there's one thing they know how to do well, it's play on people's fears. They wrote the manual.

But is this what the wily bin-Laden has had up his megalomaniacal sleeve? Is it believable that he and his small bands of terrorists have designs on conquering the world or are they just reacting to what they perceive as gross infringements upon their people and territory? In his own words, words that are oddly kept from the American people, "Our acts are reaction to your own acts which are represented by the destruction and killing of our kinfolk in Afghanistan, Iraq and Palestine." Can someone explain to me why the words of our identified arch-enemy are censored from our ears? Are we that fragile? bin-Laden also said, "What happened on 11 September and 11 March (Madrid) is your commodity that was returned to you." Does this sound like a grand Hitleresque design for global conquest?

If the American citizenry is sucker enough to fall for this "caliphate" fear package being drummed up, and in doing so gives even more deadly authority to the misguided neo-con leadership, then perhaps they'd be interested in a real nice piece of oceanfront property just outside Fallujah.

What's troubling about this, beyond the blatant manipulative aspect, is that George W. Bush may well imagine and yearn for a full-out, intercivilizational Christian-Muslim war to settle once and for all just who rules the damn planet. Crusade versus Caliphate, God tosses the coin to see who kills last.

(Ron Scott Smith can be reached at [edgeofthewest@aol.com](mailto:edgeofthewest@aol.com))

# YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

**PLEASE SEND LETTERS TO:**

Santa Monica Daily Press: Att. Editor 1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 Santa Monica, CA 90401  
Or email: [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)





# Good day, sunshine: State unveils \$3.2B plan

BY TERENCE CHEA  
Associated Press Writer

**SAN FRANCISCO** — State energy regulators unveiled one of the nation's most ambitious programs to expand the market for solar power, proposing to offer more than \$3 billion in consumer rebates over the next decade.

The California Solar Initiative, proposed Tuesday by the state Public Utilities Commission, aims to install 3,000 megawatts of solar energy on 1 million homes, businesses and public buildings over 11 years. The five-member commission was expected to vote on the program next month after a 30-day public comment period.

Environmentalists hailed the proposal, which they said would help drive down the cost of solar energy, create jobs and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases blamed for global warming.

"With rising energy prices and continued air pollution, this is exactly the kind of landmark initiative California needs," said Bernadette Del Chiaro, clean energy advocate for Environment California. "From this, we're going to see cleaner air, affordable solar energy and California regaining its world leadership in solar power."

The initiative revives an essential component of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's bid to expand use of renewable energy in California. The governor's widely publicized "Million Solar Roofs" initiative had bipartisan support, but it died in the Legislature this year after construction unions demanded high wages for solar panel installers.

The governor bypassed the Legislature by asking the PUC to sponsor the California Solar Initiative, which shares many provisions of the "Million Solar

Roofs" program.

The initiative would offer rebates to homes, businesses, farms, schools and public buildings that install rooftop solar panels. Large public utilities such as Pacific Gas & Electric Co. would not be eligible for the program.

The PUC currently offers \$400 million in solar rebates through programs funded by a surcharge on consumer utility bills. The new initiative would expand that amount to \$3.2 billion through an additional surcharge over 11 years starting in 2006.

Under the program, home and business owners who install solar panels would at first be eligible for a \$2.80 rebate for each watt of capacity they install. For example, a homeowner who installs a 2,000-watt system could receive a \$5,600 rebate from the PUC.

The rebate amount would decrease by 10 percent each year until consumers would only be eligible for a 25-cent-per-watt rebate in 2016. But regulators anticipate that as the market for solar power expands, costs will drop and offset the decreasing rebate amounts.

PG&E, the state's largest utility, supports the "concept of an expanded solar program," but was still studying its potential impacts on customers, said spokesman Paul Moreno.

In the 1970s, California was the world's leader in solar energy, but the state has been overtaken by Japan and Germany, the world's two largest solar markets. Currently, about 15,000 California homes and businesses have solar panels, Del Chiaro said.

"Given the amount of sunshine we have in California and these investments," Del Chiaro said, "we will be on pace to catch up with Germany and Japan and hopefully outpace them."



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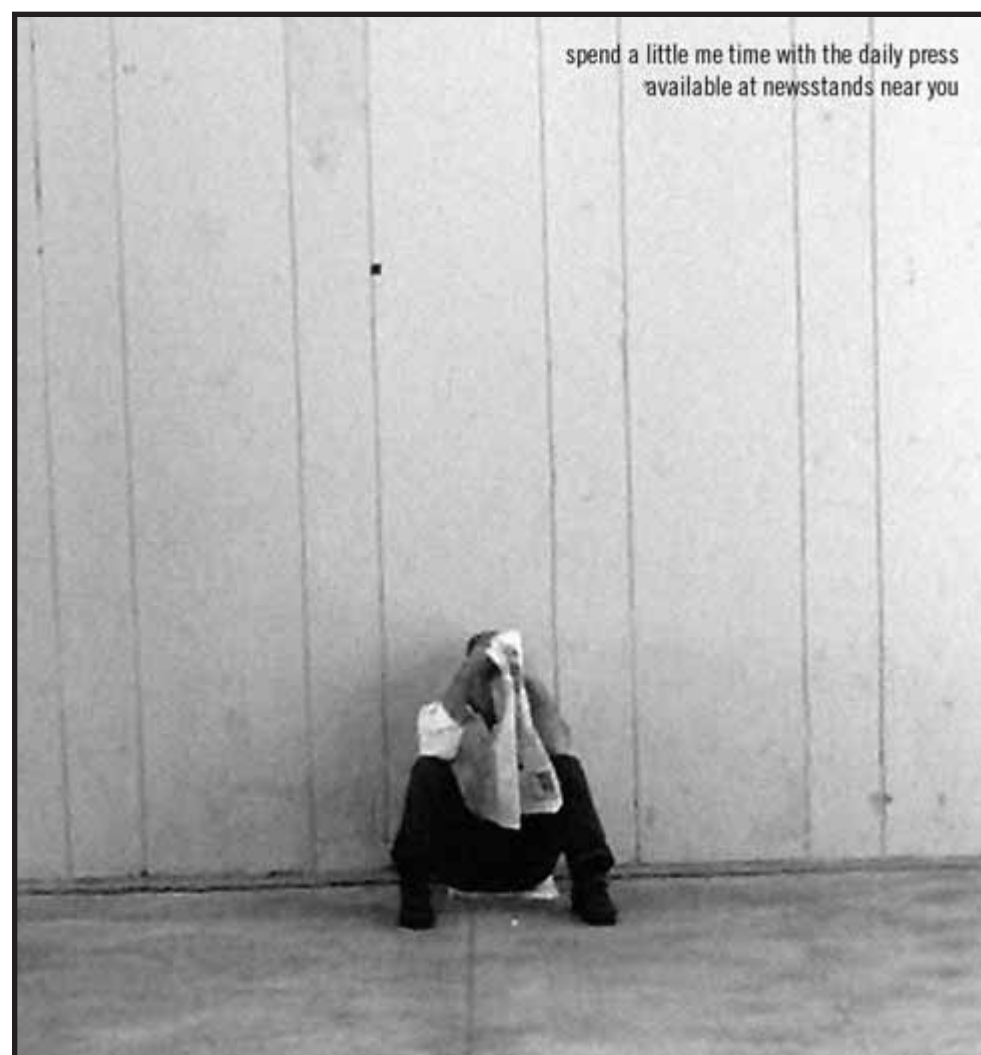
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# Human cloning work is called into question

BY PAUL ELIAS

AP Biotechnology Writer

**SAN FRANCISCO** — Some of stem cell researcher Hwang Woo-suk's high-profile human cloning work announced earlier this year may have been "fabricated," a former top collaborator charged as he attempted to distance himself from the groundbreaking research.

University of Pittsburgh researcher Gerald Schatten has demanded that the journal Science remove him as the senior author of a report it published in June to international acclaim that detailed how individual stem cell colonies were created for 11 patients through cloning.

"My careful re-evaluations of published figures and tables, along with new problematic information, now casts substantial doubts about the paper's accuracy," Schatten wrote in a letter to Science released late Tuesday by the university. "Over the weekend, I received allegations from someone involved with the experiments that certain elements of the report may be fabricated."

Hwang could not immediately be reached for comment. An e-mail sent to his office at the start of the business day in Seoul was not returned.

Pitt spokeswoman Jane Duffield said Schatten wouldn't make any further comment while the university investigated the matter.

Schatten's highly unusual demand, in a letter that Science confirmed receiving Tuesday, adds to growing skepticism over Hwang's findings and places the entire cloning and stem cell field under a cloud.

"It's a very serious step. It's not good," said Rudolf Jaenisch, a leading stem cell scientist at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Mass.

Many stem cell scientists had stood by Hwang's work even as the South Korean admitted to ethical lapses and minor data reporting errors.

Now, a significant number, such as Jaenisch, are calling on Hwang to submit his cloning research to independent analysts to bolster public confidence, which they perceive as eroding because of the continued controversy over Hwang's work.

Schatten set off the ethics furor last month when he publicly accused Hwang of collecting eggs from subordinate scientists, a practice many consider unethical, and lying about it to him.

But until now, even Schatten has maintained that the main findings of the paper — that tailor-made stem cells were extracted from embryos cloned from the DNA of sick volunteers — were valid.

The journal Science acknowledged receiving Schatten's demand, but spokeswoman Ginger Pinholster declined to release Schatten's letter because "it contains unsubstantiated allegations."

Schatten's name was listed last among the 25 authors, signifying that he was the senior researcher on the project.

"No single author, having declared at the time of submission his full and complete confidence in the contents of the paper, can retract his name unilaterally, after publication," the journal said in a

statement.

The journal has said it has no reason to believe Hwang's primary finding "is any way fraudulent or questionable."

Stem cell scientists hope to clone embryos to extract stem cells in order to better learn how diseases develop and even perhaps rejuvenate failing organs. The basic idea of cloning is to take a patient's genetic material and inject it into an unfertilized human egg. The implanted DNA then drives the egg to develop into an embryo.

Hwang is considered a national hero in South Korea for his cloning prowess. He has publicly apologized for the ethical lapses and quit as head of the World Stem Cell Hub, an international project he had launched in October that envisioned California and British labs in addition to a facility in Korea.

At the time, Hwang defended his work as scientifically sound.

But doubts about his central claim — that he extracted separate stem cell colonies from 11 patients from cloned human embryos — are growing.

Colleagues in South Korea are also demanding independent confirmation of Hwang's results, and Hwang has been in and out of the Seoul National University hospital since last week, suffering from "extreme stress," hospital officials said.

The critics allege that Hwang's assertion, published by Science, that he created 11 separate cloned embryos may be inaccurate. That's because each cloned embryo was required to have a separate DNA sample showing it was derived from a unique individual. Several of the samples appear to be identical — suggesting more than one came from a single person.

If the critics are correct, the DNA data could simply be another careless reporting error akin to a photography mix up the Hwang team disclosed to Science last week. Or, the alleged DNA inaccuracy could be the tip of something more sinister.

Hwang's bosses at Seoul National University — prodded by 30 skeptical faculty members — have launched an investigation. Separately, the University of Pittsburgh has begun its own probe.

Stem cell scientists say an investigation from an outside party is necessary and could be done quickly.

Ian Wilmut, the man who cloned Dolly the sheep in 1998, and seven other scientists on Tuesday called on Hwang to submit his research to an independent analysis — essentially a simple paternity test that would prove all 11 stem cell lines were derived from separate patients.

Wilmut said in a letter to Science that he was able to fend off baseless fraud accusations over Dolly's nativity by handing over his data to an outside expert.

"It's an easy test that can be done in a few hours," said Dr. Bob Lanza, a cloning expert at the biotechnology company Advanced Cell Technology in Worcester, Mass.

Lanza co-wrote the letter Wilmut sent to Science.

"You can't fake the results if they're carried out by an independent group," Lanza said. "I think this simple test could put the charges to rest."

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## STATE



## STATE BRIEFS

## Clearing the air for a modernized airport

By The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — Federal officials approved a crucial part of a plan to settle neighbor lawsuits and modernize Los Angeles International Airport, one of the world's busiest terminals.

In a letter Tuesday, the FAA said it was approving a portion of the tentative settlement that calls for reducing the number of gates where jetliners can land when the annual number of LAX passengers reaches about 80 million.

Other segments of the deal remained under review, the FAA said.

Airport Director Lydia Kennard said she was pleased with the FAA's quick action.

"We look forward to the ratification process being completed as soon as possible so long-awaited improvements can get under way at LAX," Kennard said.

Surrounding cities and a group of homeowners sued to block the \$11 billion LAX Master Plan out of air pollution and traffic concerns.

A tentative settlement reached earlier this month would scrap most of the plan. It also provides for a cap on passengers while providing hundreds of millions of dollars to soundproof nearby homes, reduce traffic congestion and provide training and employment for airport jobs.

In return, the airport will be allowed to start immediately remodeling some runways and the Tom Bradley International Terminal and install bomb-detection equipment in its baggage-handling system.

The deal still requires approval by the FAA, the homeowners' group, and the cities of Los Angeles, Culver City, El Segundo and Inglewood.

## Homeowners may have to buck up for cleaner energy

By The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — It probably will cost the average homeowner an extra \$12 per year for the city Department of Water and Power to generate a fifth of its electricity from cleaner energy sources, the agency said.

The cost is "affordable," DWP board member H. David Nahai said Tuesday during a workshop on renewable energy.

The panel concluded that it would be able to generate 20 percent of its electricity from so-called "green" sources by 2010, seven years earlier than planned.

Currently, only about 3 percent of DWP electricity comes from renewable energy sources such as wind, solar or geothermal.

A vote to move up the deadline was scheduled at the board's meeting next Tuesday. Board members said one reason for moving up the deadline is that the price of natural gas, currently a major source of power generation, probably will continue to climb.

"From a purely economical perspective, we are compelled to move up the timetable," Nahai said.

Meanwhile, the City Council Tuesday approved spending \$239 million to build 80 windmills 12 miles north of the town of Mojave that would provide clean energy to 100,000 Los Angeles homes and businesses.

The 120-megawatt project would represent about 1.5 percent of the DWP's energy portfolio.

## City hopes to avoid dubious record

By The Associated Press

**SAN BERNARDINO** — The city has had 59 reported homicides this year, but the number could reach 60 — the highest total in a decade — if a woman found dead last summer is determined to have been murdered, authorities said.

Three of the homicides — the term for death at the hands of another — were committed by police who were found to have lawfully shot suspects, police Lt. Mark Garcia said.

Caroline Peterson, 40, was found dead June 15 in a Dumpster behind an apartment complex. Her death is officially listed as undetermined, said county coroner's spokesman Randy Emon.

The homicide total includes two men who were killed by other patients in Patton State Hospital, a state mental facility that is in San Bernardino but is patrolled by its own police force.

The city's deadliest year was 1993, when 82 people were killed.

## High school plans proceed despite dumping

By The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — The school board approved a plan to build a new South Los Angeles high school in an area contaminated by toxic chemicals even though it will mean tearing down 45 homes and 10 businesses on the site.

The board Tuesday unanimously approved construction of the high school at Slauson Avenue and Hoover Street. Millions of dollars will be needed to buy homes there and to clean up the site, which is contaminated by carcinogenic PCBs and potentially explosive methane.

The \$100 million high school would serve 1,215 students, easing overcrowding at nearby Manual Arts High. It would open in 2008.

Some longtime residents begged the board not to approve the school.

"There are sites that can be utilized that would not displace senior citizens such as myself who are widowed," Esther Fisher said.

Fisher, 69, said she planted a pine tree and a rose bed near the three-bedroom home she bought with her late husband in 1965.

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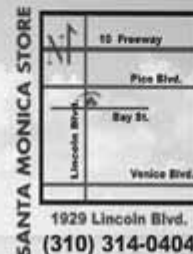
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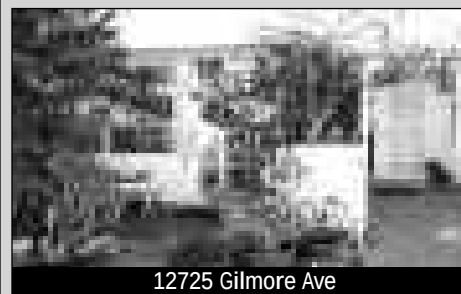
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# Business



## SANTA MONICA BUSINESS BRIEFS

### S.M. design firm wins top honor

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica-based architecture firm responsible for the design of the new Main Library has received top recognition for their work.

The board of directors of The American Institute of Architects (AIA) announced that Moore Ruble Yudell Architects & Planners is the recipient of the 2006 AIA architecture firm award.

The annual award is the highest honor the AIA bestows on an architectural firm. The award will be presented at the American Architectural Foundation accent on architecture gala, Feb. 10, 2006, at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. .

"This is a wonderful honor, which we share with our colleagues and clients," said Moore Ruble Yudell founding partners, Buzz Yudell and John Ruble, when notified by AIA president Douglas L Steidl, that their firm had been selected for the award.

The firm's leadership includes principals Krista Becker, Jeanne Chen, Michael S. Martin, Neal Matsuno, James Mary O'Connor, and Mario Violich, who each share in the design and management of the office with the partners. Tina Beebe continues her recognized leadership as a colorist, and Stanley Anderson heads the interior design team. The firm's primary work began with residential designs and has since evolved to a broad spectrum of public and private projects.

Michael Franklin Ross, chair of AIA's committee on design, praised the firm by explaining, "the firm has consistently produced an outstanding body of work rooted in a deep commitment to humanistic architecture." Mr. Ross added, "the firm continues to evolve in response to new challenges and opportunities while remaining true to the fundamental principles of humanism."

Moore Ruble Yudell's has become a major influence in the integration of light and color in design. The firm's work in the international arena is credited with bringing to the foreground issues in sustainability, social housing, construction practices and the need to work collaboratively with diverse civic groups, clients and consultants throughout the lifecycle of a project.

### Donate your car, get a tax break

By Daily Press staff

Need a tax break? Why not donate your old car to charity?

Cars4charities has a unique opportunity for community members to get a year-end tax deduction and help one of over 250 respected charities at the same time. Donate an unwanted car to cars4charities and you'll be eligible for a tax deduction of \$500 or the sale price of the car — whichever is greater.

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"This is a great program for people who want to help a charity, but aren't able to make a significant cash contribution," says Karen Campese, CEO of cars4charities. "They can donate a vehicle they no longer need, receive a valuable tax deduction, and support a respected charity. It's a win-win situation for everyone."

For more information, call 1-866-448-3487.

## Valuable guidelines for staying on the right track



### MARKET MATTERS

BY BRIAN HEPP

Knowing that financial markets are constantly changing, it's often hard to gauge when the best time would be to jump in. Trying to time your investments in this way can cause you undue stress and cost you financially when you try to invest by guessing when the market has hit the "top" or the "bottom." Fortunately, however, there are several timeless strategies that can help you eliminate the emotional component, and get you on the right track to successful investing.

Think long term. While past performance is never a guarantee of future results, the markets have historically performed well over the long run. Successful investors are the ones who develop the discipline and patience to stay the course over the long run, despite market fluctuations.

Patience accept volatility. Building on the last point, it's important to realize that market highs and lows are a natural occurrence, and should be considered a normal part of investing. Once you accept that fact, you can prepare yourself to resist the emotional urges to jump in and out of the market based solely on its current direction.

Stay in the market. Some investors attempt to time the market. When it's down, they sit on the sidelines waiting for it to rally before they get in on the action. Conversely, when the market is up, they wait for a correction so they can buy at what they see as bargain rates. Moving in and out of the market by timing its ups and downs is a skill not even the most seasoned investment professionals have mastered. Consistent investment — in both up and down markets — will produce more reliable results over time.

Diversify. Possibly one of the most important investment principles — and at the same time most overlooked — is the

need for careful asset allocation. The popular adage that tells you not to keep all your eggs in one basket is especially true when it comes to your investments. A well-diversified portfolio should include complementary asset classes, so they can cushion each other against the effects of market downturns and lower your portfolio's overall risk.

Watch your asset allocation. Even if you properly diversify your portfolio in the beginning, changing markets will affect the value of your investments and could alter your actual allocation. Consistent reviews will help you identify when your portfolio needs to be rebalanced, helping you maintain a proper asset mix.

Pay yourself first. You may have heard this before, but it's certainly worth repeating: Save first and then spend what you have left, rather than spending first and saving what you have left. Inevitably, if you attempt to do the latter, you'll often find there's nothing left to save.

Reinvest dividends. Many quality companies have a history of paying dividends, regardless of overall stock market performance. Reinvesting these dividends offers you an excellent way to easily build your stock positions.

Set goals. While this may seem like the most basic idea, it's still one of the most important. When considering your investments, you need to have a clear idea of where you are, a goal in mind of where you want to go, and then put strategies in place to help you get there. By incorporating all of the above-mentioned ideas, you will have a guide to help you in all your important investment decisions.

*(Brian Hepp is a financial consultant for Santa Monica-based A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. Member SIPC. He can be reached at (310) 453-0077 or at [brian.hepp@agedwards.com](mailto:brian.hepp@agedwards.com). A.G. Edwards is a full-service retail brokerage firm that offers a complete spectrum of financial products and services, including stocks, bonds and mutual funds, financial retirement planning and tax-advantage investments.)*

## Goose that lays golden egg is quality insurance



### THE WEEKLY RECKONING

BY BILL BONNER

"Gold fever breaks out again," says a headline from SF Gate.

The diagnosis, we think, is premature. We checked the news. We found no sign of "fever." Nor did we find much agitation or sweaty palms. The gold market's pulse is strong. Its appetite is good. It looks like it is in fine shape.

The second stage of gold's bull market has begun. The public has begun to take notice, but just barely. There is certainly no fever. You can test this yourself. Just ask your friends and neighbors if they have bought any gold lately. Most likely, the response will be same as if you had

asked it they had taken up clogging or canasta. "Huh?" They're popular in some circles, but not yet "mainstream."

Even most people who bother to think about it have the wrong idea. "All commodities are going up," they'll tell you, "because of such strong demand from Asia."

The world economy may be divided into two parts. In the East, people make, and in the West, they take. In the Orient, people lend, while in the Occident, they borrow. On the one side of the globe, they create deflation; on the other, inflation.

And yes, it is true, just about everything the Asians can make is going down

in price, and holding down prices and wages throughout the world. But things they cannot make — energy, health care, housing, copper — you name it — are going up. And if the Feds have anything to do with it, these prices will go up a lot more. The U.S. money supply, as measured by M3, rose by \$42 billion in the week ending Nov. 2. This is what "inflation of the currency" is all about. Eventually and inevitably it ends in higher prices, but for what? For the foreseeable future, it should be prices of things the Chinese can't mass-produce: Commodities, energy and gold.

Gold is rising against all major currencies, and all major commodities. Why?

It tells us that there is more going on here than just ordinary "inflation." And we think we know what it is. All the world's governments want weak currencies and mild inflation. And all the world's speculators, including ordinary

homeowners, are convinced that central bankers will make sure that nothing interferes with existing trends. The more sure they are, the bigger the bets they are willing to make, and the greater the risk to the financial system. Smart investors are buying insurance: Gold.

Christopher Wood, the chief Asian equity strategist at investment bank CLSA, forecasts a gold price of \$3,700 before the end of the decade. He states, "Gold is the antithesis of the increasingly insane world of asset-backed securities and collateralized debt obligations which purport to be free market creations, but which have only grown to the size they have because of the insidious understanding of all those involved in these exploding markets that central banks will bail out the handful of big intermediaries who dominate dealing in these instruments if there is any real problem."

*(Visit [www.dailyreckoning.com](http://www.dailyreckoning.com).)*

LOCAL



# City looking into laws that care for homeless

HOMELESS, from page 1

resources it will take to get these people housed."

Maceri said one of the best ways to fight homelessness was to prevent it in the first place, a strategy he feels shouldn't be neglected as the city aims to overhaul its programming in coming months. Maceri referred to families and individuals who may be verging on becoming homeless and for whom a little help could go a long way in making sure they have a roof over their head.

"We need to be keeping an eye out for eviction prevention," Maceri said. "The sooner we make an intervention (in the homelessness process), the faster we can get them housed again."

The point was well-taken by councilmembers. Still, a growing frustration with the numerous homeless individuals living on Santa Monica's streets have prompted some, such as City Councilman Bobby Shriver, to advocate a position that more must be done to address the homeless problem, because what's being done now simply doesn't seem to be working.

"I'm still cross about the lack of progress," Shriver said. "It's outrageous. There are 91,000 homeless people living in Los Angeles, and it's the policemen who are administering the largest mental hospital — county jail."

"There needs to be a homeless law to force cities to pay their fair share to make

sure these people can get off the streets."

Shriver said he supported paying more attention to the chronically homeless population because that's what the public wants him to do.

The feasibility of Shriver's idea to create a legislative proposal that would require cities to do a better job providing for their homeless populations will be investigated by City Hall.

City Councilman Richard Bloom said that despite the setbacks to solving the homeless problem, there's also hope in that it's starting to become better addressed on a regional level.

Bloom said staff's report comes on the heels of recent regional awareness being brought to the homeless debate. Recent news reports have drawn attention to homelessness at a time when all of Los Angeles is becoming galvanized by the issue.

"The people and institutions of Los Angeles are paying more attention to homelessness and are starting to act on the issue," Bloom said. "Santa Monica is considered one of the pre-eminent leaders on homelessness in the country, but we can't solve the problem alone."

City Councilman Kevin McKeown added that a bigger community effort was also needed to fight homelessness.

"It's a good time for people to ask themselves what they can do to help," McKeown said.

# Holbrook wants to bring city and college together

MAYOR, from page 1

the city manager.

Within the city, Holbrook said there are a number of issues Santa Monica is facing which he hopes to be able to help address in coming months.

Holbrook said he will work with other councilmembers and city staff to look for ways to better address Santa Monica's homeless problem.

On Tuesday, City Hall also officially approved Edmund D. Edelman, a former county supervisor, as Santa Monica's homeless czar — a first-of-its-kind post. Edelman will earn \$200,000 this year to help get several homeless-related social service projects off the ground. He will also be charged with investigating whether greater regional cohesiveness might be possible to better serve the down and out.

Holbrook said he will be helping Edelman in any way he can.

On a similar note, Holbrook also pledged his assistance to Lamont Ewell, who in January will be coming on board as Santa Monica's new city manager, to better orient him with his position and the city. As a first order of business, Holbrook would like to see Ewell meet with the new president of Santa Monica College, who will be taking that institution's top position in coming weeks.

City Hall and SMC — which have been on ill-footing for years, mostly due to traffic and growth issues — have come close to a lawsuit recently over concerns related to

SMC's Bundy satellite campus near Santa Monica Airport. This summer, City Hall closed access ways into and out of Bundy in an effort to stifle resident traffic issues.

Holbrook feels his appointment as mayor and the two new top administrators selected to run City Hall and SMC should provide a fresh start for both institutions.

"I would like to organize a meeting with Lamont and SMC's new president in the hopes we can get those two on the right foot and start to improve relations between the city and college," Holbrook said.

Holbrook will also be administering Santa Monica's City Council meetings, a position he intends to use to better manage public discussions. Holbrook and other elected officials have been critical of the hours spent at council meetings in recent years. The meetings usually start at 5:45 p.m. on Tuesdays and often go until after midnight.

Holbrook said he felt his first night as Santa Monica's mayor went well, despite the fact the meeting still stretched until the midnight hour.

"We did pretty good," Holbrook said. "But I will be looking at ways to end the meetings earlier, so we are all not so tired the next day. I'd even support breaking up the council meetings so we can continue them the next day, if the Tuesday meetings can end earlier."

"I'll also be reminding the public on occasion to try to be succinct in its remarks, but mostly I'll be doing everything I can on the council end to make sure the meetings are managed well."

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LOCAL

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3



### Design student drives off with 'Best in Show' honor

By Daily Press staff

One man's trash is a Santa Monica college student's treasure.

SMC interior design student Sarah Barnard has won "Best in Show" in the national "Trash to Treasure" contest for her petite chair made from discarded auto parts and scrap metal.

The award was part of Environ-Design, a national conference held recently in New York whose primary sponsor is Interiors & Sources Magazine. Aside from "Best in Show," the contest gave awards in three categories — "Classy Trash," "Treasured Trash" and "Viewers Choice." Barnard's chair and the other winning entries were auctioned off, with the money going to nonprofit "green" organizations.

Barnard's chair, called "The Driver's Seat," was made with a 1930 Ford truck steering wheel as the seat, 1970's Volkswagen beetle side-mirrors serving as the "feet," and a late model Toyota operating as the back rest, the useful art piece salvages a bit of automotive history.

Open to architects and interior designers, the contest asked entrants to find something discarded as waste and turn it into something of value.

Whether old cars, houses or furniture, Barnard has always had an interest in preserving Americana.

"I have an appreciation for things that show their age a little," she said. "I think it is important to preserve what we can, while we can. That being said, I also have an affinity for things that are fresh and unexpected. Maybe that is the link between this chair and my work in general. It combines the new with the old to create something sophisticated and unique."

As owner of Sarah Barnard Design, a Los Angeles-based interior design firm, Barnard takes an eco-friendly approach to her work whenever possible. Currently, she is transforming a Montecito estate by combining "green" design methods and a modern-prairie aesthetic.



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## Beefeaters



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Hall of Fame running back Marcus Allen hands out holiday presents to kids who packed into Arby's in Santa Monica on Wednesday to celebrate the restaurant and MasterCard's \$10,000 donation to Big Brother Big Sisters. Allen had breakfast with 25 kids from the program before giving out gift baskets, donated by Arby's and MasterCard.



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# LOCAL



## A litany of limited editions



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Suzanne Yankovic, an art student at Santa Monica College, browses the 28th annual holiday student art sale at SMC's Bundy campus on Wednesday.

## Governor's assistant helped draft platform

TAMMINEN, from page 1

will continue to serve in my administration as an advisor. His counsel and expertise will guarantee that California will continue to lead the world in our efforts to protect the environment while ensuring that we balance the needs of the state's recovering economy."

Tamminen, a Democrat, helped draft Schwarzenegger's environmental platform, which includes ambitious measures to protect California's national forests, cut air pollution by 50 percent, reduce independence on foreign oil and invest in hydrogen vehicles.

In 1993, Tamminen founded Santa Monica BayKeeper, a local environmental watchdog group, and was its executive director for six years. And from 1999 to 2003, Tamminen served as the executive director of the Santa Monica-based Environment Now Foundation, a private organization dedicated to protecting, preserving and restoring the environment of California.

A former student of CSU Northridge and the University of Queensland, Australia, Tamminen also co-founded water protection groups in San Diego, Orange County, Ventura and Santa Barbara.

A United States Coast Guard-licensed ship captain, Tamminen has long been drawn to the undersea world, starting in the 1960s with a family operated tropical fish-breeding business in Australia and continuing with studies on conch depletion in the Bahamas, manatee populations in Florida coastal waters, and mariculture

in the Gulf States with Texas A&M University.

On land, Tamminen managed the largest sheep ranch east of the Mississippi, assisting the University of Minnesota in developing new methods of livestock disease control. He also managed a multi-million dollar real estate company, owned/operated a successful recreational services business, and assisted the nation of Nigeria with the creation of their first solid waste recycling program.

**Tamminen has long been drawn to the undersea world, starting in the 1960s with a family operated tropical fish-breeding business in Australia**

Tamminen has served on numerous civic and charitable boards and commissions, including as chair of the Public Advisory Committee to the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project and on the U.S. Navy Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station Restoration Advisory Board, the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee and on the Board of the Wishtoyo Foundation, a group that preserves natural resources through Chumash Indian traditional teachings.

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# Vail welcomes news of suspect in '98 mountain fire

BY P. SOLOMON BANDA

Associated Press Writer

**DENVER** — News that federal prosecutors have identified a suspect in the \$12 million October 1998 fire on Vail Mountain was welcomed in the resort town on Tuesday.

“Safe to say, everyone here in this community is interested in seeing some closure to the Vail fire. I think it was very difficult for this community to overcome,” said Kim Andree, spokeswoman for the Eagle County sheriff’s department, which investigated the fire.

During a bail hearing in U.S. District Court in Oregon, Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Engdahl said Chelsea Gerlach, 28, of Portland is a prime suspect in five cases, including the fire at Vail.

“Even though the arson occurred seven years ago, we are very encouraged that the authorities continue to show great interest in this case,” said Kelly Ladyga, Vail Resorts spokeswoman.

Gerlach was one of six people arrested in a string of ecoterrorism attacks in the Northwest. She has been indicted on charges she helped two others topple a Bonneville Power Administration high-tension line 25 miles east of Bend, Ore., on the night of Dec. 30, 1999.

“It’s good news to know this case is going somewhere,” said A.J. Johnson, the sheriff at the time of the fire who left office in 2002 and lives in nearby Edwards.

After the fire, Johnson said a task force was established in the Denver FBI office to investigate it and agents worked closely with the FBI in Portland. He said there was a lot of communication back and forth.

“It’s good that information is flowing though the organizations like it should. I’m hopeful it leads to more arrests,” he said.

Several fires were set at the Vail ski resort before dawn on Oct. 19, 1998, in one of the nation’s costliest ecoterrorism incidents.

Four buildings, including the Two Elk

Lodge, ski patrol headquarters, and four chairlifts at the top of the mountain, were damaged or destroyed. A new lodge was built on the site of the original one and was opened in 2000.

At the time, authorities said they had at least 100 suspects and some community members suspected an inside job because of the amount of accelerant needed to start such a large fire. Suspicion also fell on environmental groups, including members of one group that was camping four miles from Vail at the time of the fires.

“The opportunity to create a seamless reason to why this occurred, would make us all... feel much more safe,” Andree said. “I think we would feel vindicated and actually move forward and not have this little black cloud hanging over the shoulder of people who were named and were suspect.”

The first big break in the case came in 2000, when a hunter found four five-gallon gas cans hidden under some broken branches in the White River National

Forest just outside the ski area. No one has been arrested in the case, despite a reward offer of \$50,000.

The fires’ legacy includes beefed up security at Vail Resorts’ four Colorado resorts, measures which remain in place, and a uniting of the community.

“The fires were a defining moment for Vail. It made us stronger as a community. It brought us all closer together,” said town spokeswoman Suzanne Silverthorne. “It galvanized us. If we had disagreements with Vail Resorts, we set those differences aside and worked together to get that mountain open and rebuild what we had lost. That spirit and community unity still exists today.”

Rocky Smith of the environmental group, Colorado Wild, told the Vail Daily that the ecoterrorists’ cause did not justify destruction.

“In fact, it generated sympathy for Vail that they didn’t deserve,” Smith said. “As far as ecoterror in general, it’s not productive, and morally you can’t justify it.”

## Earth First! duo convicted of lion hunt disruption

By The Associated Press

**TUCSON, Ariz.** — A federal jury has convicted two environmental activists of disrupting a mountain lion hunt in Arizona’s Sabino Canyon recreation area last year.

Rodney A. Coronado, 39, of Tucson,

and Matthew Crozier, 33, of Prescott, both described as members of Earth First!, were convicted of conspiracy to impede or injure a federal officer — a felony — and two misdemeanor charges of destroying government property and of interfering with a Forest Service officer.

The pair were convicted of entering the Sabino Canyon National Recreation Area in March 2004 when authorities had closed it and interfering with their efforts to hunt lions believed to have posed a potential threat to visitors to the popular recreation site.

The two were accused of pulling up

sensors and disabling snare traps and also spreading mountain lion urine to confuse tracking dogs.

They could receive up to six years in prison for the conspiracy convictions at sentencing March 8, and up to a year for the destruction of property convictions.

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## NATIONAL



# Virgin, New Mexico plan \$225M spaceport

BY JANE WARDELL

AP Business Writer

**LONDON** — Virgin Galactic, the British company created by entrepreneur Richard Branson to send tourists into space, and New Mexico announced an agreement Tuesday for the state to build a \$225 million spaceport.

Virgin Galactic also revealed that up to 38,000 people from 126 countries have paid a deposit for a seat on one of its manned commercial flights, including a core group of 100 "founders" who have paid the initial \$200,000 cost of a flight upfront. Virgin Galactic is planning to begin flights in late 2008 or early 2009.

New Mexico Economic Development Secretary Rick Homans said construction of the spaceport, to be built largely underground in the south of the state near the White Sands Missile Range, could begin in early 2007, depending on approval from environmental and aviation authorities.

Virgin will have a 20-year lease on the facility, with annual payments of \$1 million for the first five years and rising to cover the cost of the project by the end of the lease.

"Experts predict that thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars of private investment will be created in the next 20 years as the private sector develops new commercial markets in the space industry in New Mexico," Homans said in London. "Virgin is the beginning and many other space companies will follow."

Virgin Galactic said it had chosen New Mexico as the site for its headquarters because of its steady climate, free airspace, low population density and high altitude. All those factors can significantly reduce the cost of the space flight program.

The spaceport, to be located some 25 miles south of the town of Truth or

Consequences, will be constructed 90 percent underground, with just the runway and supporting structures above ground.

Stephen Attenborough, the Virgin Galactic executive in charge of marketing the space flights, said the 100 founder members were committed to "stepping up to the plate" and boarding a flight early in the operations.

"Many of the others will need to wait until the price comes down and will want to wait for proven reliability and safety," he said.

Trevor Beattie, a London-based advertising director who paid for his ticket within days of Branson's announcement of the company's launch, said he was not concerned about safety.

"My only concern is that the longer they leave the launch, the more likely we all are to be hit by a bus," said Beattie, who has dreamed of going to space since watching the 1969 moonwalk.

Branson formed Virgin Galactic after watching SpaceShipOne, a craft designed by Burt Rutan and funded by Microsoft Corp. co-founder Paul Allen, become the first privately manned rocket to reach space last year. SpaceShipOne went on to win the \$10 million Ansari X Prize with two suborbital flights in five days from Mojave, Calif.

Virgin Galactic has a deal with Rutan to build five spacecraft, licensing technology from Allen's company, Mojave Aerospace Ventures.

Virgin Galactic plans to operate its initial flights from the Mojave base ahead of the projected opening of the New Mexico spaceport in late 2009 or early 2010.

Virgin Galactic also unveiled its logo — the pupil of an eye incorporating an eclipse. Branson's iris will be used for the final design.

Branson is due to join New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson in the United States on Wednesday to unveil the spaceport plans.

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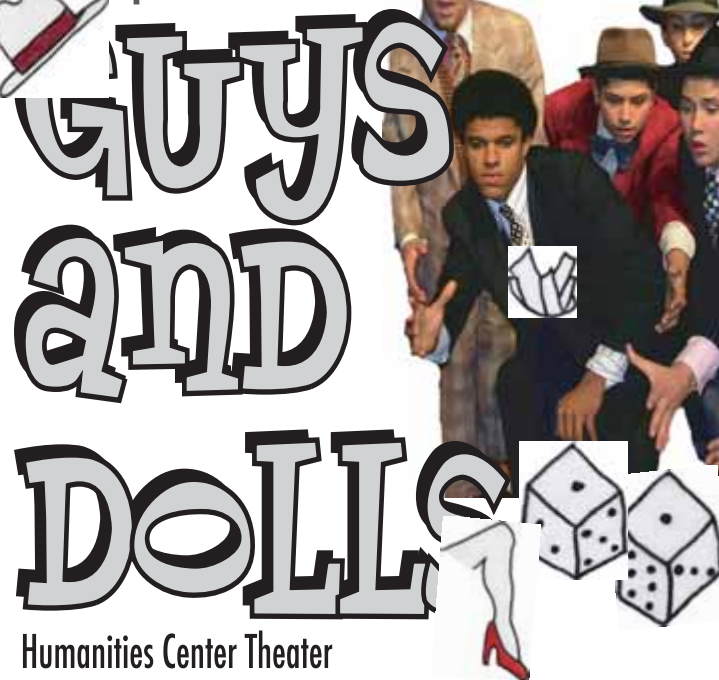
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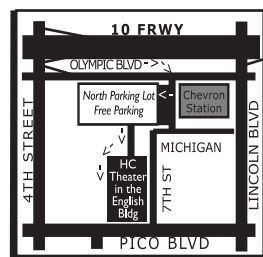
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# Iranian president calls Holocaust a 'myth'

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI

Associated Press Writer

**TEHRAN, Iran** — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad escalated his anti-Israeli rhetoric Wednesday, calling the Holocaust a "myth" used by Europeans to create a Jewish state in the heart of the Islamic world.

His remarks drew swift condemnation from the White House, Israel, Germany, France and the European Commission. Germany said the remarks would affect upcoming negotiations over Iran's nuclear program, and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said Iranians "do not have the president, or the regime, they deserve."

Ahmadinejad last week questioned whether the Nazi destruction of 6 million European Jews during World War II occurred and said Israel should be moved to Europe. He also provoked an international outcry in October when he called for Israel to be "wiped off the map."

But Wednesday was the first time he publicly denied the Holocaust. Touring southeast Iran, Ahmadinejad said that if Europeans insist the Holocaust happened, then they are responsible and should pay the price.

"Today, they have created a myth in the name of Holocaust and consider it to be above God, religion and the prophets," Ahmadinejad told thousands of people in the southeastern city of Zahedan.

"If you committed this big crime, then why should the oppressed Palestinian nation pay the price?" Ahmadinejad asked

rhetorically.

"This is our proposal: if you committed the crime, then give a part of your own land in Europe, the United States, Canada or Alaska to them so that the Jews can establish their country," he said, developing a theme he raised in Saudi Arabia last week.

The White House denounced the comments and said they show why Iran must not develop an atomic bomb.

"All responsible leaders in the international community recognize how outrageous those such comments are," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said, adding that they "only underscore why it is so important that the international community continue to work together to keep Iran from developing nuclear weapons."

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier called the remarks "shocking and unacceptable." He said the German government had summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires to make its displeasure "unmistakably clear."

"I cannot hide the fact that this weighs on bilateral relations and on the chances for the negotiation process, the so-called nuclear dossier," Steinmeier said, referring to European talks with Iran on its nuclear program.

The German government said Chancellor Angela Merkel would call on the European Union to press for international condemnation at the United Nations.

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Mark Regev said: "The repeated outra-

geous remarks of the Iranian president show clearly the mind-set of the ruling clique in Tehran and indicate clearly the extremist policy goals of the regime.

"The combination of fanatical ideology, a warped sense of reality and nuclear weapons is a combination that no one in the international community can accept," Regev added, referring to allegations that Iran is developing nuclear bombs.

Avner Shalev, the director of Yad Vashem, Israel's memorial to the Holocaust in Jerusalem, said Ahmadinejad's comments required a "stronger response from world leaders."

"Every genocidal statement has to be taken seriously because the Holocaust occurred, and the world knows it. Therefore, we don't just condemn these comments, we believe that the international community and the United Nations should deal with them more seriously," Shalev said.

In Strasbourg, France, Barroso said the president's comments were "completely unacceptable."

"This shows the nature of (Iranian) regime," he said. "With the great respect I have for that country, that people, the great history of that country, I say they do not have the president, or the regime, they deserve."

France's Foreign Ministry also condemned Ahmadinejad's remarks.

Ahmadinejad said the West had harmed Muslims, invaded their countries and plundered their wealth.

"If your civilization consists of aggression, making oppressed people homeless, suffocating the voices of justice and bringing poverty to a majority of the world's people, we say loudly that we hate your hollow civilization," he said.

Ahmadinejad has been unapologetic about taking Iran on a more openly defiant course, insisting on Iran's right to develop its nuclear program and often using rhetoric reminiscent of the 1980s heyday of the Islamic Revolution.

The president's views sharply conflict with those of predecessor Mohammad Khatami, a moderate who used to call for dialogue among civilizations and promoted a low-key understanding with the United States that stopped short of diplomatic relations.

Inside Iran, Ahmadinejad's remarks have been criticized by some of his conservative allies, who fear he is hurting the country's image. Moderate Iranians have called on the ruling Islamic establishment to rein in the president.

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the ultimate say, has backed Ahmadinejad's calls for Israel's elimination.

Ahmadinejad criticized the United States for refusing to sell Iran spare parts for its civilian planes as part of its long-standing embargo against the country.

Iran has suffered a series of plane accidents — most recently on Dec. 6, when an aging U.S.-made military transport plane crashed into a tall building in Tehran, killing 115 people. Iranian officials have blamed Washington for the crashes, saying they are partly caused by the difficulty in obtaining spare parts.

"No country is authorized to impose spare-part sanctions against another country. Nothing can justify this," Ahmadinejad said Wednesday.

Ahmadinejad said the denial of spare parts was a reason why Iran would not trust Western promises to give it nuclear fuel. The country is currently at loggerheads with the West over its insistence on enriching uranium to fuel its first nuclear reactor, which is due to start generating electricity next year.

The Europeans do not trust Iran to have its own enrichment process since highly enriched uranium can be used for nuclear warheads. Europe has offered to sell enriched uranium for the reactor, but Iran has rejected this.

The United States is pushing to have Iran referred to the U.N. Security Council, where it could face sanctions for violating a nuclear arms control treaty.

Ahmadinejad said that if Iran gave in on the nuclear dispute, there was no guarantee the West might not refuse to sell nuclear fuel in the future.

"I assure you that we won't step back one inch from our nuclear rights," the president told the crowd, drawing chants of "Death to America!"

Iran is due to resume negotiations on the nuclear issue with envoys from Britain, France and Germany starting Dec. 21 in Vienna, Austria.

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## INTERNATIONAL



# Campaigning halts on eve of elections

BY PATRICK QUINN

Associated Press Writer

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Campaigning halted Wednesday across Iraq to give its 15 million voters an opportunity to reflect before parliamentary elections — the final step toward constitutional democracy since the ouster of Saddam Hussein two years ago.

Baghdad's streets were eerily quiet on the eve of Thursday's parliamentary election, with police strictly enforcing a traffic ban. Only an occasional siren, a sporadic gunshot, a U.S. helicopter, or shouts from boys playing soccer could be heard. Borders and airports also have been closed, and the nighttime curfew has been extended.

Gunmen shot up four polling stations near Fallujah, but no one was hurt, police said. Two police officers were killed and four others were wounded by a roadside bomb that exploded next to an Interior Ministry patrol in northern Mosul, according to officials at Jumhuri hospital.

President Bush said in a speech in Washington that the elections will inspire democracy across the Middle East, but he also accepted responsibility for going to war in Iraq with faulty intelligence.

"We are in Iraq today because our goal has always been more than the removal of brutal dictator," Bush said. "It is to leave a free and democratic Iraq in his place."

Bush said the United States, at the request of Iraqi leaders, accelerated the transition to Iraqi self-government.

"We set four major milestones to guide Iraq's transition to constitutional democracy: the transfer of sovereignty, elections for a transitional government, the adoption of a democratic constitution, and elections for a new government under that constitution. In spite of the violence, Iraqis have met every milestone," he said.

President Jalal Talabani described the elections as "a national celebration, a day of the national unity and of victory over the terrorists and those who oppose our march toward democracy."

He said a good turnout would give the new government the legitimacy it needs to deflate the insurgency and allow it to build up its armed forces so foreign troops could begin withdrawing.

The otherwise calm day was disrupted by demonstrations by thousands of Shiites angered over disparaging remarks made about them by a fellow Shiite politician on an Al-Jazeera television talk show late Tuesday.

The demonstrations, which turned into political rallies, threatened to further polarize the elections after angry Shiites in the southern city of Nasiriyah set fire to a building housing the offices of former interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi. A secular Shiite, Allawi has campaigned on a platform of national reconciliation.

Also set ablaze was the Nasiriyah office of the Iraqi Communist Party, whose candidates are running on the same slate as Allawi. A guard at the Communist Party

offices was hospitalized with serious burns and three police officers were treated for smoke inhalation.

Fadel al-Rubaei, as Shiite living in exile, said on a talk show broadcast by Al-Jazeera that Shiite clerics should not take part in politics, and he accused them of conspiring with the Americans against the mostly Sunni insurgents.

On Tuesday's last day of campaigning, a roadside bomb killed four American soldiers and gunmen assassinated a candidate for parliament. A Shiite politician escaped injury in a bombing south of Baghdad.

The election commission said it had registered 7,655 candidates on 996 lists and had certified 307 political groups and 19 coalitions. Baghdad is the biggest electoral district, with 2,161 candidates running for 59 of the 275 seats in parliament, said commission executive director Adel Ali al-Lami. There are 33,000 polling stations around Iraq.

The Interior Ministry denied reports that a tanker truck filled with thousands of blank ballots had been confiscated in the town of Badra near the Iranian border.

Election commission spokesman Farid Ayar told Al-Arabiya television the report was untrue and called it "a kind of an electoral ploy in favor of this party or that."

U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, meanwhile, said the number of abused prisoners found so far in jails run by the Shiite-led Interior Ministry came to about 120. Khalilzad's statement reinforced Sunni Arab claims of mistreatment by security forces.

Despite the violence, more than 1,000 Sunni clerics issued a religious decree instructing their followers to vote Thursday, boosting U.S. hopes the election will encourage more members of the disaffected minority to abandon the insurgency.

Three of Iraq's leading politicians agreed that a speedy withdrawal of foreign troops before Iraqi forces are ready would cause chaos.

The three — Allawi, Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani and Sunni Arab politician Tariq al-Hashimi — disagreed on the description of U.S. and other foreign troops. Barzani described them as "forces of liberation," while al-Hashimi said they were occupiers.

The three, speaking from Baghdad and representing important constituencies, appeared in a debate on Dubai-based Al-Arabiya television. Such debates are rare in the Arab world, where candidates mainly rely on rallies attended by hand-picked followers.

Barzani heads the Kurdish autonomous region in the north and is among the country's most powerful politicians. Allawi heads a religiously mixed ticket, while al-Hashimi represents a major Sunni Arab coalition.

Allawi said an early U.S. withdrawal "will lead to a catastrophic war."

Al-Hashimi, whose party has been sharply critical of the U.S. role, said he looked forward to "my country's liberation" but not "to be followed by chaos." He also criticized President Bush for saying the United States is fighting terrorism in Iraq.

"Why should Iraqis pay a bill for something they have nothing to do with?" said al-Hashimi, a candidate for parliament. "Terrorism is not the problem of Iraqis."

Iraqis abroad voted Tuesday in the United States and 14 other countries and Associated Press reporters saw heavier turnout than in Iraq's January elections.

Many Sunnis boycotted the January election, enabling rival Shiites and Kurds to win most of the seats in the interim parliament. Unlike January's vote, which elected a government that was to last less than a year, the new government will last four years.

More than 1,000 Sunni clerics issued a religious edict, or a fatwa, on Tuesday, urging followers to vote.

While some prominent clerics with links to the insurgency have avoided calling on followers to cast ballots, the edict likely will encourage many Sunnis to vote. They hope that more participation will lessen the ability of the Shiite majority to abuse them.

Six insurgent groups have said they would not attack polling stations. But they all vowed to continue their war against U.S.-led coalition forces.

Khalilzad said on the prisoner abuse issue that "over 100" of the detainees found last month at an Interior Ministry jail in Baghdad's Jadriyah district were suffering signs of abuse. Another "21 or 26 people" were found three days ago at another Interior Ministry lockup, he said.

Khalilzad said the United States would "accelerate the investigation" to determine who was responsible for abuses.

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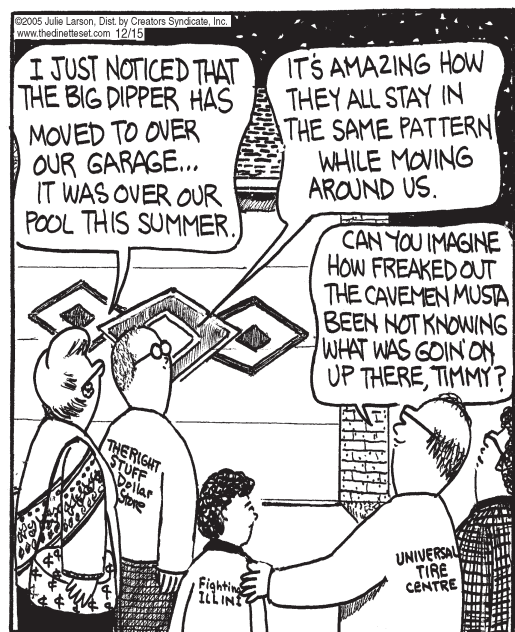
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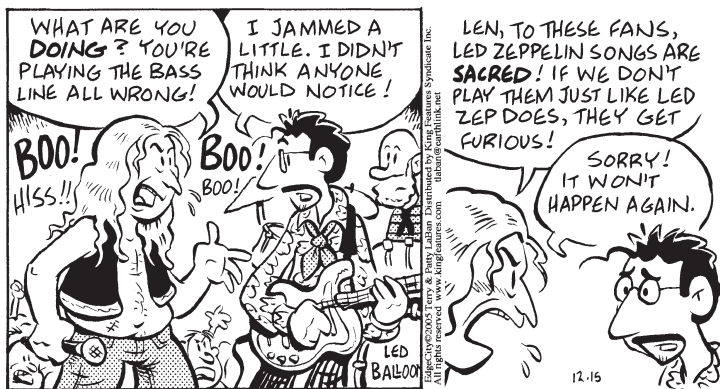
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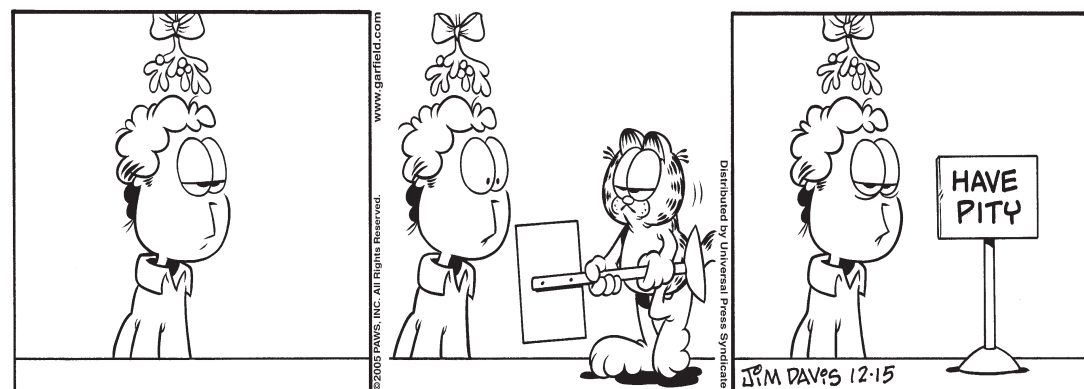
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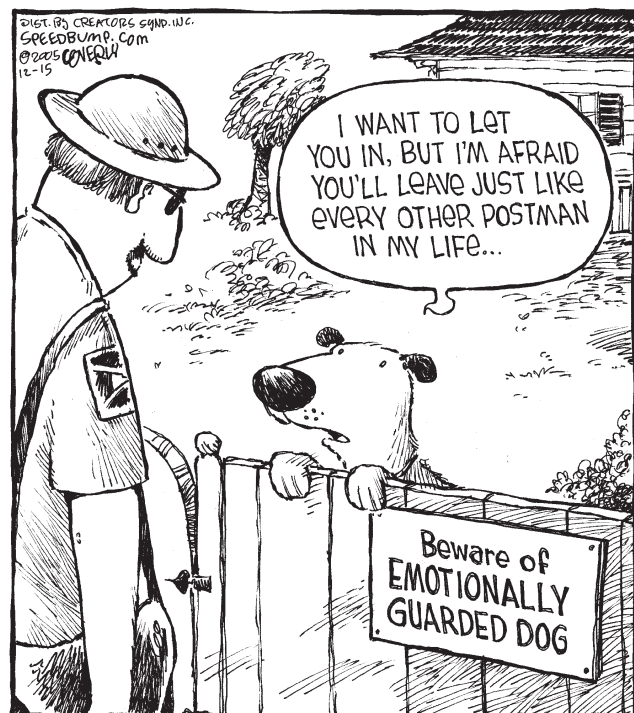
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2776403 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Phree Ya Mind, Flower Funk, 4126 Jefferson Blvd., Studio A, Los Angeles, CA 90016. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Patrick Henry Johnson, 4126 Jefferson Blvd., Studio A, Los Angeles, CA 90016, Sherree Lenore Saperstein-Johnson, 4126 Jefferson Blvd., Studio A, Los Angeles, CA 90016 This Business is being conducted by, husband and wife. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/ Patrick H. Johnson, Sherree L. Saperstein-Johnson

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/16/05. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/15/2005, 12/22/2005, 12/29/2005, 1/5/2006

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