FREE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2004

Volume 4, Issue 42

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO
1 5 6 17 43
Meganumber: 5
Jackpot: $48 Million

FANTASY 5
13 16 21 24 37

DAILY 3
Daytime: 3 9 7
Evening: 4 7 1

DAILY DERBY
1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1:48.06

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In a September issue of the London Review of Books, trendy Slovenian philosopher Slavoj Zisek made the point that the essential ideological differences in German, French and British-American societies, as noted by G.W.F. Hegel and others, can be represented by their countries' respective toilet designs. The German toilet's evacuation hole is in the front, facilitating "inspection and analysis," but the French design places the hole in the rear, so that waste disappears quickly. The British-American toilet allows floatation, which of course signals that society's "utilitarian pragmatism." Zisek described his theory as an "excremental correlative-counterpoint" to a framework identified with French philosopher Claude Levi-Strauss.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1862, President Lincoln signed an act admitting West Virginia to the Union.
In 1877, President and Mrs. Hayes celebrated their silver anniversary (technically, a day late) by re-enacting their wedding ceremony in the White House.
In 1946, President Truman officially proclaimed the end of hostilities in World War II.
In 1961, the Marshall Plan expired after distributing more than $12 billion in foreign aid.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Every person takes the limits of their own field of vision for the limits of the world."

ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER
GERMAN PHILOSOPHER (1788 - 1860)

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The year that was offers peek into future

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica once again captured world-wide attention in 2004 with its politics and high-profile players.

Those two elements combined garnered the attention of citizens around the globe when Kennedy family scion Bobby Shriver — who was upset at how City Hall handled the crime of his too-tall hedges — entered the City Council race and won. And news organizations around the world descended upon Santa Monica when former President Ronald Reagan's body was embalmed at a local funeral home.

Known for its progressive politics and unprecedented laws, it may not have come as a surprise to many around the country that Santa Monica City Hall banned smoking at the beach. Or that a group of very vocal and determined parents forced City Hall's hand and secured an annual $6 million to fund local schools for the next five years.

For the first time in the history of Santa Monica politics, the chamber of commerce officially played a role in local elections by endorsing candidates, two of whom were elected.

And, of course, development is always an issue worthy of discussion among Santa Monicans at the local watering holes and coffee shops. One of the biggest developments to hit the city in decades was unveiled a few months ago, which if approved, would raze the Santa Monica Place mall and dramatically alter the city's downtown skyline.

Philanthropist Wallis Annenberg donated $21 million to restore a beach club originally built for William Randolph Hearst's mistress, actress Marion Davies. And Saint John's Health Care Center opened up its main hospital after a decade of rebuilding from the 1994 Northridge Earthquake.

Despite reported crime being at an all-time low, three homicides occurred in the city in 2004.

The Santa Monica Daily Press will revisit the top 10 news stories of the year over the next two days. Today's issue highlights the top five.

This weekend, look for the No. 6 through No. 10 top news stories of 2004.



File photo

A movement spearheaded by Bobby Shriver and supported by numerous city residents put a halt to the city's crackdown over hedges deemed too tall.

NO. 1: BOBBY SHRIVER HEDGES HIS BETS

It all started around Thanksgiving 2002 when a City Hall inspector photographed Bobby Shriver's hedges at 6 a.m. two days before the holiday. The 17-year resident then got a letter in his mailbox, threatening to fine him up to $25,000 a day until he trimmed his hedges to the allowable height of 42 inches.

Led by Shriver, other residents criminalized over their hedges quickly converged upon City Hall, which has decided to stop enforcing the 56-year-old hedge ordinance until it is rewritten.

It was that kind of method of operation that incensed Shriver enough to run for local office. After mobilizing a group of homeowners and meeting with City Council members, as well as city planning officials, Shriver ran for City Council in an effort to change a government that he characterized as a bully.

During the campaign, it was

See **YEAR IN REVIEW**, page 5

Cops on lookout for anyone too fired up about '05

By Daily Press staff

All too often, New Year's Eve can translate into random gunfire, much to the dismay of police.

But local authorities hope no one will ring in the new year in Santa Monica with a bullet. Fatalities are reported each year as a result of stray bullets and authorities this week warned against firing guns into the air, saying such acts would be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

The ritual of shooting firearms on New Year's Eve may have started in Mexico, but it has moved into the Los Angeles area in the last decade, as well as across the country.

Stray bullets kill and injure innocent people each year. Discharging a firearm into the air is a felony and punishable by one year in state prison. If someone dies as a result of the bullet, the shooter will be charged with murder.

Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts, Jr. is urging the continued support of the community in ensuring a safe New Year's celebration. California Penal Code Section 246.3 prohibits negligent discharging of firearms. Any person who violates section 246.3 of the California Penal Code will have their firearm confiscated and will be arrested for a felony crime. If arrested, bail can be set at $25,000.

Researchers report that a bullet fired into the air can climb as high as two miles and remain in flight for more than a minute. That was the case a couple of years ago when a bullet traveled more than seven blocks and struck a window at a pre-school next to Santa Monica College.

Police urges anyone that witnesses a person shoot a gun to report it to local authorities by calling 9-1-1 and giving the police dispatcher as much information as possible in regards to the shooting. If anyome hears gunfire, they are urged to call (310) 458-8491 immediately.

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Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether.

In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you now what you're looking for. And knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones. To help homesellers deal with this issue before their home is listed, a free report entitled "*11 Things You Kneed to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection*" has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report, call 1.888.465.4534 and enter ID#1003. You can call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call NOW to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the sale of your home.

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Music helps you, Cap



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)
★★ Nurture yourself and do what is necessary to perk up. Some might want to clear out some work, whereas others opt for extra zzz's. Think New Year's resolutions. Tonight: A force to be dealt with, but honor your feelings. Come in early if you feel like it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You have a mischievous twinkle in your eye as you kiss this year good-bye. Whatever you do, you add to the atmosphere and mood of the celebration. If you can, take off early. Opt for different New Year's plans. Tonight: Follow the music. Or put on music if you stay home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You might want to stay home and nestle in. If you have to work, call it an early day. Your personal touch makes a big difference in your relationships and associations. Confirm that you and a family member are on the same page. Tonight: Snuggle in.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Though you might be a bit irritable as the day begins, you feel much better as the New Year greets you. List the people you want to call to wish a happy New Year. Your calls and wishes touch the recipients. Tonight: Don't stay in, unless you throw a party. Celebrating suits your mood.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You could go over the deep end with extravagance and indulgence. Remember, you don't have to do anything to attract others. The Lion's desirability is well known. Do you want to make a New Year's resolution? Tonight: Be good to yourself too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You happily enter the New Year with the Moon in your sign. Your desires are highlighted. Don't hesitate, especially with a romantic tie or a loved one. Others will have a good time if they are with you. Tonight: Smile and greet 2005 beaming.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★ Some days still might be difficult even with all the major positive transits in your sign. Today you are out of kilter. Hide out or lie low. Allow yourself to reflect on what you want. You can make it so this coming year. Tonight: Vanish.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You enjoy yourself in crowds. You make the party wherever you are. You know what to say to help people who aren't into greeting the New Year with a smile. Around you, people beam. Tonight: Where the action is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ You might not be in the mood for what you have agreed to do. In any case, you follow through with a smile. Be aware of how much you are spending. Some might choose to go into work for a little while. Tonight: Radiate in the limelight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You are particularly enjoying the moment. Some might be fortunate enough to get away or do something very different. Be open to discussing your long-term goals. Think of what you want to change this coming year. Tonight: Music helps you greet 2005.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You have some strong feelings that you might want to share with someone else. Your plans need to involve a special person. Don't stand on ceremony. Talks are productive. Tonight: The theme is togetherness.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Others seek you out left and right. You might even receive some last-minute invitations. Go and do what you want. Touch base with those you care about. Friendship plays a key role, even if you are working. Tonight: Try to fit as much as you can into one night.

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Donations continue St. Joseph's mission

By Daily Press staff

A global investment firm donated locally this holiday season.

For more than 20 years, the staff of Payden & Rygel has participated in procuring essential resources and Christmas gifts for St. Joseph Center clients at holiday time. This year was no exception. Earlier this month, 22 of the firm's 150 employees participated in a charitable shopping spree that benefited more than 1,000 homeless and low-income persons, providing food, household items, clothing, baby supplies, games and toys.

Payden & Rygel is a global investment management firm headquartered in Los Angeles with offices in London and Frankfurt.

St. Joseph Center assists more than 7,000 working poor and homeless adults and children, veterans, and seniors each year to achieve self-sufficiency through food distributions, child care, mentoring, and job training. For more information call (310) 396-6468 ext. 325, or visit www.stjosephctr.org.



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SURF REPORT

A storm sliding down the coast on Friday sets up more rain, SW winds and a rising SW/WNW(250-300) wind/ground swell mix. Lots of spots get sloppy waist- to chest-plus surf then while best combo breaks hit head high.

Expect waves to be three to four feet, occassionally five feet with poor conditions.

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

Today the water is:

57°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	1:26	2.4	3:10	-0.7	7:44	6.1	9:49	3.6
SUNDAY	1:57	2.5	3:43	-0/7	7:44	6.1	9:49	3.6
MONDAY	2:29	2.6	4:16	-0.6	8:46	6.0	11:00	3.5
TUESDAY	3:01	2.6	4:50	-0.5	9:18	5.9	11:38	3.5
WEDNESDAY	3:36	2.7	5:24	-0.3	9:51	5.6	N/A	N/A
THURSDAY	4:17	2.8	5:58	0.0	12:18	3.6	(10:25	5.3)
FRIDAY	**5:08**	**2.9**	**6:34**	**0.3**	**1:00**	**3.6**	**(11:03**	**4.9)**

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The Q Line

With Christmas behind us, it's time to gear up for a new year. Many of us have New Year's resolutions, but how many of them do we really stick to? That goes double for city politicians who have prioritized what they think are the most important issues facing Santa Monica in 2005.

This week, Q-Line wants to know, **"What should your elected leaders' New Year's resolutions be for 2005?"**

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

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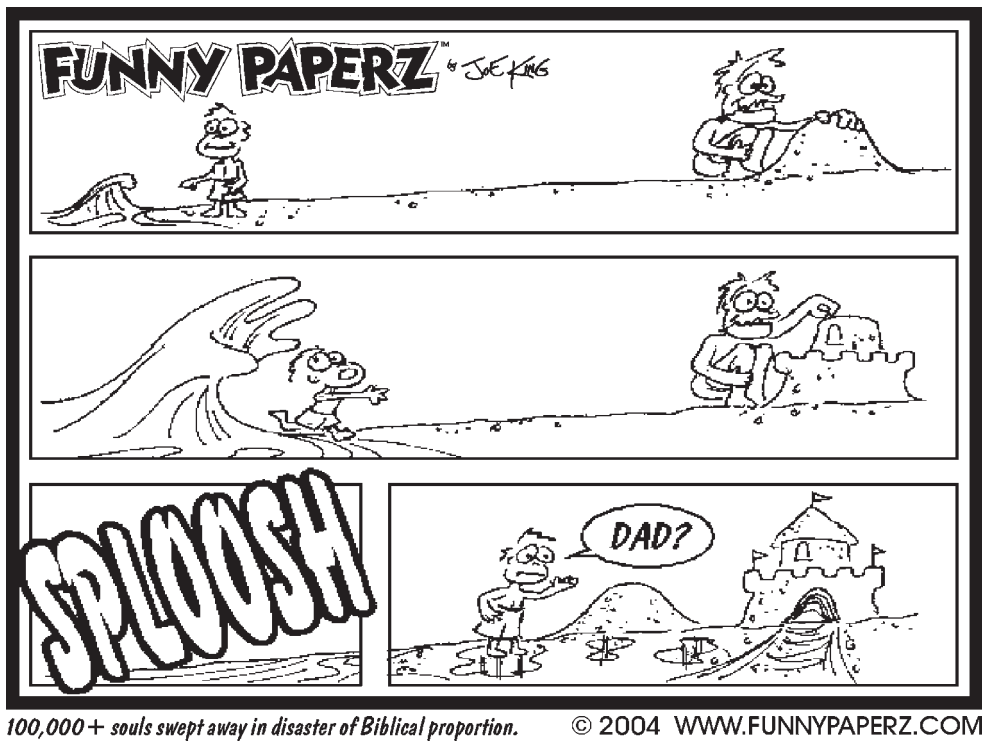
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OPINION



100,000+ souls swept away in disaster of Biblical proportion. © 2004 WWW.FUNNYPAPERZ.COM

GUEST COMMENTARY **BY DAVID HOLCBERG**

U.S. should not help tsunami victims

As the death toll mounts in the areas hit by Sunday's tsunami in southern Asia, private organizations and individuals are scrambling to send out money and goods to help the victims. Such help may be entirely proper, especially considering that most of those affected by this tragedy are suffering through no fault of their own.

The United States government, however, should not give any money to help the tsunami victims. Why? Because the money is not the government's to give.

Every cent the government spends comes from taxation. Every dollar the government hands out as foreign aid has to be extorted from an American taxpayer first. Year after year, for decades, the government has forced American taxpayers to provide foreign aid to every type of natural or man-made disaster on the face of the earth: From the Marshall Plan to reconstruct a war-ravaged Europe to the $15 billion recently promised to fight AIDS in Africa to the countless amounts spent to help the victims of earthquakes, fires and floods — from South America to Asia. Even the enemies of the United States were given money extorted from American taxpayers: From the billions given away by Clinton to help the starving North Koreans to the billions given away by Bush to help the blood-thirsty Palestinians under Arafat's murderous regime.

The question no one asks about our politicians' "generosity" towards the world's needy is: By what right? By what right do they take our hard-earned money and give it away?

The reason politicians can get away with doling out money that they have no right to and that does not belong to them is that they have the morality of altruism on their side. According to altruism — the morality that most Americans accept and that politicians exploit for all it's worth — those who have more have the moral obligation to help those who have less. This is why Americans — the wealthiest people on earth — are expected to sacrifice (voluntarily or by force) the wealth they have earned to provide for the needs of those who did not earn it. It is Americans' acceptance of altruism that renders them morally impotent to protest against the confiscation and distribution of their wealth. It is past time to question — and to reject — such a vicious morality that demands that we sacrifice our values instead of holding on to them.

Next time a politician gives away money taken from you to show what a good, compassionate altruist he is, ask yourself: By what right?

(David Holcberg is a research associate at the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine, Calif. The Institute promotes the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead.")

Always remember that elephants never forget



HERE'S THE THING

BY LARA M. BROWN, PH.D

While the world has been transfixed this week by the horrifying images emerging from the countries bordering the Indian Ocean that were leveled by tsunamis, Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) and the Republican leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives have been maneuvering to secure their power in Washington. They're meting out payback to those who crossed them and they're rewarding friends for their loyalty.

On Wednesday, Hastert said he was "seriously considering" replacing Rep. Joel Hefley (R-Colo.) who has had the thankless position of serving as ethics committee chairman since 2001. It was reported that Hefley's reputation of "independence" as ethics chairman was problematic. In a letter, Hefley had also publicly admonished House Majority Leader Tom Delay (R-Tex.) for his questionable conduct in a fundraising inquiry handled by the ethics committee earlier in the fall. Speculation is that Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Tex.), both a former ethics committee chairman and a friend of fellow Texan Rep. Tom Delay, may be named as the replacement for Hefley.

On Tuesday, it was announced that Rep. Jim McDermott (D-Wash.) was going to be investigated by the ethics committee for the leaking of a transcript from 1997 of Republican leaders discussing then-Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.).

1997? Gingrich? McDermott has already lost in a federal court ruling and is being fined $600,000 for this transgression. What could possibly be the reason for reviving the matter?

McDermott was one of the most vocal members in opposition of the Bush Administration prior to the election and he serves on the prestigious Ways & Means Committee, but what makes him so special?

Could it be that he had appeared in Michael Moore's Fahrenheit 9/11 and discussed the psychology of the fear? Could it be that he had described in the film how the Bush Administration and the Republicans had manipulated the threat levels (the color chart) and asserted contradictory statements to keep the American public on edge? While he was obviously offering his opinions, he has credibility speaking on these matters because he is a medical doctor and he spent several years prior to serving as a legislator as a resident in psychiatry. In Moore's film, McDermott, like a bucket of cold water, doused the administration, destroying the illusion that the Republicans were protecting the American people.

These announcements come on top of the decision late last month to rearrange the Republican conference rules, so that Rep. Delay would not be subject to his own ethical conduct. On Nov. 17, Republican members voted to alter the rule that required members in leadership to step aside if indicted, giving Delay what amounts to a hall pass. He'll remain in the position of Majority Leader even though he has been indicted and he is currently being investigated for his fundraising practices.

Ten years have passed since "Gingrich's Revolution" when the Republicans took over the control of the House of Representatives, and all they've managed to do is show that the "Contract with America" was a campaign gimmick. They've all but ignored the term limit promises. They not only have not been able to reduce the size of the government, but the budget deficits they've been allowing to pass through their chambers these past few years have been shameful, largely because they refuse to leave the tax rates alone, despite the fact that they've taken us into a "war of choice." The special interests are winning as many favors, if not more, than in times past, and the pork barrel legislation has not ceased to exist, irrespective of their rhetoric.

Here's The Thing:

Democrats are not saints. Republicans are not sinners. Politics is and always will be politics. There is only one simple truth about the nature of man and the wielding of power, which was beautifully said by two psychologists, Robert Moore and Douglas Gillette: "Hubris leads to nemesis."

Should Speaker Hastert and the Republican leadership continue on their path, wielding power wantonly and unreasonably, speaking only for the "majority of the majority," as Hastert puts it, then they will soon find that like Icarus, their wings are also made with wax. For most Democrats, the sight of GOP leaders falling to Earth couldn't happen soon enough.

Whatever side of the aisle you find yourself, it is always good to remember that gravity exists.

(Lara M. Brown, Ph.D., is a political scientist from Los Angeles, and is teaching this semester in Arkansas, at Hendrix College and UALR. She can be reached at larambrown@aol.com)



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’04: Bucking up for schools, butting out on beaches

YEAR IN REVIEW, from page 1

realized that Shriver was just one of a group of local homeowners and residents who say the focus on illegal hedges was a symptom of a larger problem — that City Hall has grown increasingly out of touch with its citizens.

When Shriver hit the campaign trail, so did his high profile supporters, particularly his family. His uncle, Sen. Ted Kennedy; his sister, California First Lady Maria Shriver; his cousin, Robert F. Kennedy Jr.; and his mother, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, all came to Santa Monica to canvass for Shriver.

But it wasn’t just America’s version of the royal family that showed up for Shriver. He was able to garner support from both sides of the political divide in Santa Monica. Members of the city’s ruling party for more than two decades — Santa Monicans for Renters Rights — campaigned for Shriver, and the local chamber of commerce endorsed him.

Shriver outspent his opponents nearly 2 to 1, raising more than $160,000. Several Hollywood luminaries were among those who donated to Shriver, who relied upon family and personal connections across the country to beef up his campaign war chest. Included as donors were actors Warren Beatty, Annette Bening, Mel Brooks and Robert DeNiro. Singers Neil Diamond and Jon Bon Jovi also contributed, as did Motown legend Barry Gordy.

Money may have brought Shriver success in the election, but he also canvassed hard during the campaign — knocking on hundreds of doors, talking to thousands of residents and listening to their concerns. The expectations are high for Shriver, who got more votes than any candidate in 20 years in Santa Monica.

NO. 2: SMOKERS SNUFFED OUT AT BEACHES

Earlier this year a small group of citizens recommended to the City Council that there should be no more smoking on local beaches and some areas of the Santa Monica Pier. That was enough for elected leaders to discuss the idea for a few months before passing a law in April that banished all smokers from the sandy shores of Santa Monica. Just in time for the summer holiday season, the law went into effect on May 27.



File photo

Smokers on and around the Santa Monica Pier need to mind a newly enacted smoking ban.

If caught, the crime is punishable by a $250 fine. But once fines, penalties and other court costs are totaled, violators can expect to be out of pocket $750 or more.

The Los Angeles City Council also this year banned smoking on the four beaches in the city of LA — Cabrillo, Dockweiler, Will Rogers and Venice — which comprises 13 miles of beach. The Malibu City Council also passed a smoking ban on its beaches, which took effect this past summer.

California is at the forefront of anti-smoking legislation. Perhaps the fiercest bans exist in Davis, Berkeley, Palo Alto and San Ramon, where smoking is illegal within 20 feet of any smoke-free area. For Santa Monica, that would mean stores, restaurants and offices.

A California law went into effect on Jan. 1, 2003 that prohibits smoking within 20 feet of any public building, including universities and community colleges. The state law compliments Santa Monica’s anti-smoking stance. The City Council in March of 2003 voted to ban smoking in its 15 parks because of health risks associated with second-hand smoke and the likelihood that children could ingest discarded cigarette butts.

Citing health risks and pollution, politicians are considering a ban at local beaches throughout the state. A bill is being considered in Sacramento to ban smoking on all beaches of California’s 1,200-mile coastline.

NO. 3: CITY HALL FORCED INTO $6 MILLION SCHOOLS CONTRIBUTION

A group of local school supporters in January forced City Hall’s hand by pushing for a measure on the fall ballot that, if passed, would have mandated $6 million in public money to be given to the school district every year.

The grassroots community organization, known as Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS), filed a proposal to amend the Santa Monica charter which would have required a portion of City Hall’s general fund be funneled directly into the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District indefinitely.

It was a ultimatum of sorts: Either establish a permanent funding source for the cash-strapped district, or let voters decide how City Hall’s money should be spent. Elected leaders considered it a threat and some of them called the group a bunch of “schoolyard bullies.” Council members didn’t like the fact that some of the money they control would be taken away and said during difficult budget years, city services and police and fire services may have to be cut as a result.



File photo

Local school supporters filed a petition at City Hall in January to amend the city’s charter.

School supporters felt the proposal was a necessary nudge.

However, after six months of negotiation, CEPS abandoned their campaign for the unprecedented amendment after elected officials narrowly agreed to a compromise. The agreement, which was hashed out behind closed doors, mandates that City Hall give local schools at least $6 million annually for the next five years, and significantly more if the economy blossoms. The charter amendment would have lasted indefinitely and likely forced larger donations.

The deal has yet to be inked, however. Politicians and school supporters are confident that both sides will hold up their ends of the bargain.

NO. 4: DEVELOPER UNVEILS PLANS FOR HIGH-RISE TOWERS

An ultimate question mark had been lingering for years about what was going to become of the archaic Santa Monica

See **YEAR IN REVIEW**, page 6

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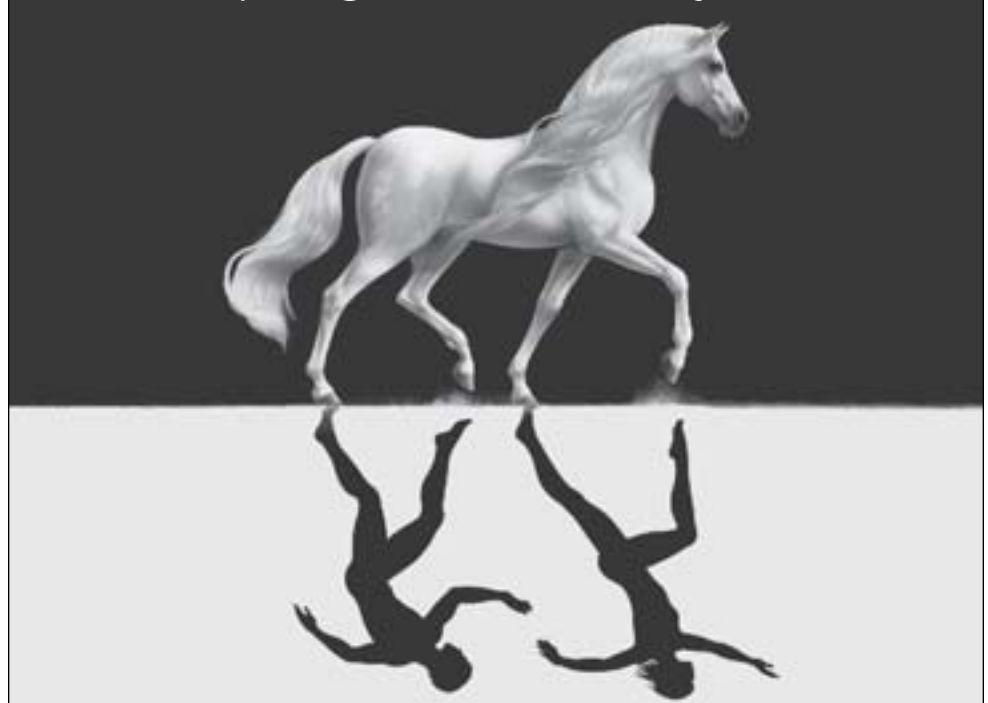


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LOCAL

Something old, something new in works for 2005



File photo

If developers have their way, the downtown skyline will soon include three 21-story high-rises.

YEAR IN REVIEW, from page 5

Place, which has experienced falling sales numbers, and thus, sales tax revenue for City Hall.

The owner of the mall, the Macerich Co., had kept its plans under wraps for more than a year, much to the dismay of civic leaders, particularly the Bayside District Corp., which manages downtown Santa Monica in conjunction with City Hall.

But as the campaign for November election geared up, Macerich slowly and quietly rolled out its plans in private meetings with then-current City Council members and some candidates to gauge their reactions.

While those privy to the unveiling before the plans went public were tight-lipped about what they saw, community members have been fairly vocal about the idea to build high-rise towers, three of them standing 21 stories tall in downtown Santa Monica.

Macerich in November finally unveiled the plan to raze the 24-year-old mall and extend the Third Street Promenade another block to the south. On top of the buildings would be four acres of parks and five high-rise towers, three reaching 300 feet skyward. Below the buildings would be four levels of parking.

The proposal includes 560,000 square feet of retail and restaurant spaces spread out over two stories of shops along an outdoor walkway. Above the shops would stand three 21-story towers with a total of 300 condominiums, and two seven- to eight-story buildings. One of the smaller towers would house 150 apartments. In the other would be 70,000 square feet of leasable office space.

Also above the shops would be four acres of park space. On the east side of the Third Street extension would be a private two-acre park and swimming pool exclusively for residents living in the new project. On the west side would be another two-acre park.

Before mall officials can begin the estimated 30-month construction process, they'll have to get approval from City Hall and the Coastal Commission, which governs all development near California's coast. Macerich already has applied for what's called a development agreement with the city. If granted, the agreement would allow developers to skirt city codes governing building heights, among other things.

NO. 5: $21 MILLION GIVEN TO CITY TO RESTORE BEACH CLUB

In December, the Annenberg Foundation announced it would give City Hall $21 million to help restore the Marion Davies Estate. Built in the 1920s by newspaper mogul William Randolph Hearst, tAn eyesore on Santa Monica Beach for more than a decade, ore than a decade,

Originally a 100-room mansion lived in by Hearst's mistress, actress Marion Davies, the property at 415 Pacific Coast Highway was bought by the state in 1959, which leased it to a private beach club for three decades. It has languished in disrepair since 1994.

Philanthropist Wallis Annenberg took a personal interest in the site after reading a Santa Monica newspaper article detailing City Hall's desire to repair the remaining historical components, but the local government lacked funding. With the foundation's donation in hand, officials hope to have the site open to the public in 2008. Tentative plans call for preserving the property's original guest house and swimming pool, and refurbishing a three-story locker building, along with a beach cafe and paddle tennis and volleyball courts. A banquet center with ocean views would be available for public and private events.

City officials said Santa Monica already has garnered approximately $1.4 million in state and federal grants to support the project and has contributed an equivalent amount of local dollars. Before Annenberg expressed an interest in the site, City Hall was poised to approach private developers.





File photos

The Marion Davies Estate in better times (above), has since fallen on hard times (below). The 1920s-era landmark is scheduled to receive a much-needed facelift.

In the weekend edition:

No. 6: Election 2004
No. 7: Homicides in Santa Monica
No. 8: SMC President bows out
No. 9: New beginnings at Saint John's
No. 10: Ronald Reagan begins final journey in Santa Monica

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STATE

Death toll from deadly tsunami likely to climb

BY TERENCE CHEA
Associated Press Writer

After completing a 10-month work assignment in India, Kristi Anderson decided to take a side trip to Sri Lanka before returning to the United States to start a new job with her company.

An adventurer who already had traveled to such places as Kenya, China and Morocco, Anderson seemed to have found an ideal setting, a beachside lodge in a national wildlife preserve in the southeast part of the island nation.

"She was taking one last safari," said her brother, Mike Anderson, a police officer in Scottsdale, Ariz.

The resort in Yala National Park was wiped out in Sunday's massive earthquake and tsunami, killing Anderson, 42. Her body and passport were found where the resort once stood.

Her family this week was remembering her as a free spirit who loved to travel, easy to make friends no matter where she was.

"She was spectacular and brilliant," her brother said. "She had everything except forty more years."

Anderson is the third Californian known to have perished in the tsunami that devastated parts of 12 countries in southern Asia and so far has claimed the lives of nearly 80,000. A mother and daughter from the Los Angeles neighborhood of Encino, Orlantha and Beulah Ambrose, also were killed in Yala National Park.

The U.S. State Department has confirmed that at least 12 Americans were killed by the tsunami, spokesman Lou Fintor said Wednesday. He said seven died in Sri Lanka and five in Thailand, but would not disclose other information about the deaths.

"We don't know how many Americans were in the affected areas," Fintor said. "Typically, Americans don't register with us when they travel abroad."

The State Department has received thousands of calls on a toll-free hotline set up for Americans concerned about friends and family, Fintor said.

It is estimated that hundreds of Americans remain missing, including an undetermined number from California. Many people have posted messages on Web sites and blogs, which have evolved into public announcement boards for those seeking to connect with loved ones.

Herb Meyer of Larkspur, a Marin County enclave north of San Francisco, was looking for his son, Peter, who works in the gem business in Bangkok, Thailand. When Peter Meyer last talked to his family before Christmas, he told them he was heading to the Indonesian island of Sumatra for the holidays.

"That was the last we heard from him," Herb Meyer, 73, said Wednesday. "We don't know where he was going to go."

The 9.0 earthquake was centered about 150 miles off Sumatra's shore and devastated its coastline.

Herb Meyer posted a message asking for any information on his 46-year-old son, who he described as "six feet tall, well built and has a receding hairline and hazel eyes."

Meyer hopes his son is just having trouble reaching a working phone or computer.

"We hope that he'll read our message on the computer, and he'll get back to us," Meyer said. "Every time the phone rings, we wonder if it's going to be some kind of response. ... I'm optimistic, but I'm also realistic."

Among the injured is Libby Wales, a 29-year-old Stanford Business School student who had traveled with friends to the island of Koh Phi Phi in Thailand. A classmate on her study-abroad program, 25-year-old Merced resident James Hsu, remains missing.

The Santa Rosa woman was due to board a plane for Australia on Sunday when the giant waves engulfed the beach, sucking away some 200 bungalows stretched across the sand, her father, Allen Wales, said Wednesday.

He and his wife have spoken to their daughter by telephone since she's been hospitalized.

He said she was alone in one of the bungalows when the tsunami hit, then was sucked into the ocean when the water receded and eventually tossed ashore. She was taken to a local hospital with a "quite severe" gash on her leg, Allen Wales said.

After receiving treatment, doctors told her they needed the bed for gravely ill patients, so her parents hired a helicopter for $10,000 to fly their daughter to a hospital in Bangkok. She is being treated for the leg wound, pneumonia and severe blood poisoning, Allen Wales said.

"She's doing much better now and her spirits seem to be much higher," he said.

His wife, Eleanor, flew to Bangkok on Wednesday, and the couple hopes to bring their daughter home within a week.

"It's a whole different story now without the anxiety of not knowing where she was or how bad she was hurt," Allen Wales said. "At least our daughter is alive."

Kristi Anderson's family is mourning her loss but comforted that she lived as she wanted, as a "rolling stone" who loved learning about different cultures.

"Every couple years, she got anxious and had to do something different," Mike Anderson said.

An only daughter with three older brothers, she had been living in the San Francisco Bay area city of San Ramon and working for Convergis Corp., a technology and communications staffing company based in Addison, Texas.

She had stopped in Sri Lanka after finishing an extended work assignment overseeing call centers in Bangalore, India, and was scheduled to return to the United States on Thursday.

She planned to move to Las Vegas to head a new Convergis division. In recent months, Anderson had sold her San Ramon condominium and bought a house next to one of her brothers.

Her brothers now plan to start a foundation in her name to provide direct relief to tsunami victims.

"She touched so many people in so many different places, and there's still a lot more for her to do," Mike Anderson said. "We want her spirit and commitment to impoverished people to continue."

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2!





Entertainment

‘In Good Company’ has that and more

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Review

Paul Weitz, who teamed with his brother Chris to direct “American Pie” and “About a Boy,” makes a very impressive solo debut with the incisive comedy “In Good Company,” about the unlikely relationship between two men whose personal and professional lives collide. Dennis Quaid brings just the right mix of grit and vulnerability to the part of Dan Foreman, a pragmatic 51-year-old sports magazine ad salesman from the old school of doing business. At the film’s outset, Dan learns his wife (“CSI’s Marg Helgenberger) is pregnant and that his 18-year-old daughter, Alex, (Scarlett Johansson) has decided to attend NYU. In short, his wallet is about to get a whole lot lighter. Though concerned Dan screws on a smile and assures the family that, as always, they’ll manage just fine. Meanwhile, 26-year-old Carter Duryea (Topher Grace), a hotshot exec at an unfeeling multi-national conglomerate called Globecom, gets word he’s being groomed to head up ad sales at the company’s latest takeover, “Sports America” magazine. Carter’s so jacked about this “awesome” opportunity that he promptly goes out and buys himself a shiny new Porsche to park next to his pretty new wife (Selma Blair, in a very brief appearance). The car and the marriage are wrecked shortly thereafter, and it becomes clear that in spite of his promising career and MBA swagger, Carter’s really just a lonely kid.



Photo courtesy

Topher Grace, of “That 70s Show” fame, stars as a lost corporate executive in “In Good Company.”

As you might expect, Dan’s none to happy about being demoted to make room for an inexperienced boss half his age, but the developments at home leave him little choice but to suck it up and move into a smaller office. Carter is zealous to impress his bottom-line-obsessed superiors, but woefully unprepared to lead the veteran staff suddenly in his charge. So he turns to Dan for help, promptly inviting himself over to the Foreman’s for dinner. When he meets the bright and pretty Alex, sparks fly, and his already sticky relationship with Dan gets a thick coating of Crazy Glue. The three leads do what it is they’ve routinely done on screen — easily win us over. Grace, especially, takes what might have been an unsympathetic character and instills him with a sweetness that makes it all but impossible not to pull for him. Weitz, directing from his own screenplay, has proven to be a keen expositor of the human condition, and here leads us down several divergent paths that ultimately connect for a very satisfying conclusion.

(Rated PG-13 for some sexual content and drug references. Running time: 109 minutes)



It was the best of films, it was the worst

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

You know what's coming, doncha? Of course you do. You understand that newspapers are obligated by custom to end each calendar year with a barrage of lists concerning everything from fashion to politics to Ben Affleck's girlfriends. Though I haven't been keeping abreast of Ben's love life, I was fortunate to have survived "Surviving Christmas." Also wasted was two hours of semi-consciousness earlier this year enduring "13 Going on 30" with Jennifer Garner, who is rumored to be Affleck's latest nuzzle-buddy … again, not that I care about that sort of stuff or anything.

The aforementioned clunkers are but two of many motion pictures to garner mention in the following lists — this popcorn-weary observer's take on the year that was in cinema. There are potentially list-worthy films that have been omitted simply because I never got around to seeing them. These include "Hotel Rwanda," "We Don't Live Here Anymore," "Maria Full of Grace" and "Vera Drake," to name a few that are highly regarded. I didn't catch "Alexander" or "Christmas with the Kranks" either, and for that, as many of my fellow critics will no doubt attest, I should be most thankful. So here's how it went down on the big screen in 2004:

FAVORITE MOVIES

1. Finding Neverland — Peter Pan is 100 years old this month, and it's hard to imagine a more transcendent tribute to that milestone than this profoundly moving film, which is sure to unlock even the most immured imagination.



2. Sideways — Raise a glass (anything but merlot!) to this oenophilic triumph from the talented Alexander Payne, who may very well be America's most provocative storyteller.

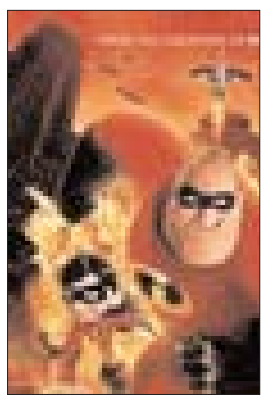
3. Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind — From the fertile imagination of Charlie Kaufman comes a reality-bending bizarro dramedy in the spirit of Godard that is alternately sweet and hilarious.

4. Spider-man 2 — The best comic book flick of all time.

5. Million Dollar Baby — This baby's worth every penny.

6. The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou — The ne plus ultra of whimsical cerebration from Wes Anderson.

7. The Aviator — Ought to be on everyone's list this holiday season; the second-best biopic Scorsese has helmed, behind the exalted "Raging Bull."



8. The Incredibles — Boasts the total package: Great cast, invigorating storytelling, state-of-the-art 3-D animation and, best of all, that elusive quality known as movie magic.

9. Ray — An instant inductee into the pantheon of great biographic movies.

10. Kill Bill, Volume 2 — Tarantino silences critics (this one included) with the conclusion of his martial arts opus.

11. Fahrenheit 9/11 — The propaganda film that almost changed a nation.

12. Garden State — This funny and heartfelt release was a welcome diversion from all the cacophonous noise at the multiplex last summer.

13. Kinsey — Captivating biopic about a sexual revolutionary that feels particularly relevant in these retrogressive times.

14. House of Flying Daggers — Chinese director Zhang Yimou bests his only other foray into the martial arts genre, "Hero."



15. Baadasssss! — Has the raw look and feel that marked the coolest flicks the blaxploitation era had to offer.

Honorable mention: "Before Sunset," "Harold & Kumar Go To White Castle," "Miracle," "Birth," "The Bourne Supremacy," "Touching the Void" and "Riding Giants."

BEST MALE PERFORMANCES

1. Paul Giamatti, "Sideways"
2. Johnny Depp, "Neverland"
3. Clint Eastwood, "Million Dollar Baby"
4. Jamie Foxx, "Ray"
5. Leonardo DiCaprio, "The Aviator"
6. Thomas Haden Church, "Sideways"
7. Bill Murray, "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou"
8. Liam Neeson, "Kinsey"
9. Jim Carrey, "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind"
10. Kevin Bacon, "The Woodsman"
11. Mario Van Peebles "Baadasssss"
12. Clive Owen, "Closer"
13. Tom Cruise, "Collateral"
14. Al Pacino, "The Merchant of Venice"
15. Tobey Maguire, "Spider-man 2"

Honorable mention: George W. Bush, "Fahrenheit 9/11;" Kurt Russell, "Miracle"

BEST FEMALE PERFORMANCES

1. Hilary Swank, "Million Dollar Baby"
2. Kate Winslet, "Finding Neverland," "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind"
3. Uma Thurman, "Kill Bill, Volume 2"
4. Kerry Washington, "Ray"
5. Virginia Madsen, "Sideways"
6. Cate Blanchett, "The Aviator"
7. Nicole Kidman, "Birth"
8. Naomi Watts, "I Heart Huckabees"
9. Bryce Dallas Howard, "The Village"
10. Natalie Portman, "Closer"
11. Julie Delpy, "Before Sunrise"
12. Sandra Oh, "Sideways"
13. Kyra Sedgwick, "The Woodsman"
14. Lynn Collins, "The Merchant of Venice"
15. Daryl Hannah, "Kill Bill, Volume 2"

THEY SAID IT

1. (re: Katie Holmes' breasts) "You know the Holocaust? Picture the exact opposite of that." — David Krumholtz as Goldstein in "Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle"

2. "I'm a killer. A murdering bastard, you know that. And there are consequences to breaking the heart of a murdering bastard." — David Carradine as Bill in "Kill Bill, Volume 2"

3. "No, if anyone orders merlot, I'm leaving. I am NOT drinking any merlot!" — Paul Giamatti as Miles Raymond in "Sideways"

4. "Young boys should never be sent to bed. They always wake up a day older." — Johnny Depp as J.M. Barrie in "Finding Neverland"

5. "I call upon all nations to do everything they can to stop these terrorist killers. Thank you (brandishes a golf club). Now, watch this drive." — George W. Bush in "Fahrenheit 9/11"

6. "Love is the answer, isn't it? But sex raises a lot of very interesting questions." — Liam Neeson as Alfred Kinsey in "Kinsey"

7. "There's magic of fighting battles beyond endurance. It's the magic of risking everything for a dream that nobody sees but you." — Morgan Freeman as Eddie "Scrap-Iron" Dupris in "Million Dollar Baby"

8. (to cute girl) "I like your sleeves. They're real big." — Jon Heder as Napoleon Dynamite in "Napoleon Dynamite"

9. (to his dog) "You're so wise. You're like a miniature Buddha, covered with hair." — Will Ferrell as Ron Burgundy in "Anchorman"

10. "I'm OK with being unimpressive. I sleep better." — Peter Sarsgaard as Mark in "Garden State

LEAST FAVORITE FILMS

1. "Catwoman"
2. "Garfield"
3. "Surviving Christmas"
4. "New York Minute"
5. "Taxi"
6. "Dogville"
7. "White Chicks"
8. "Resident Evil: Apocalypse"
9. "Taking Lives"
10. "Torque"

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INTERNATIONAL

Death toll from tsunami disaster surpasses 117,000

BY CHRIS BRUMMITT
Associated Press Writer

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — The death toll from last weekend's earthquake-tsunami catastrophe rose to more than 117,000 Thursday as Indonesia uncovered more and more dead from ravaged Sumatra island, where pilots dropped food to remote villages still unreachable by rescue workers. A false alarm that new killer waves were about to hit sparked panic in India, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Up to 5 million people around the tsunami-struck Indian Ocean region do not have access to the basics they need to stay alive — clean water, shelter, food, sanitation and health care, the U.N. World Health Organization said, saying it needed $40 million dollars to get those supplies to victims.

The increase in the death toll came after Indonesia reported nearly 28,000 newly confirmed dead in Sumatra, which was closest to the epicenter of last weekend's massive earthquake and was overwhelmed by the tsunami that followed. Some 60 percent of Banda Aceh, the main city in northern Sumatra was destroyed, the U.N. children's agency estimated, and 115 miles of the island's northwest coast — lined with villages — was inundated.

Another zone where officials have hardly begun to get a sense of the human cost was India's remote Andaman and Nicobar islands, just northwest of Sumatra, where entire villages were wiped out. With only 400 bodies found so far, the region's administrator said Thursday that 10,000 people were missing.

Survivors who reached the archipelago's main city, Port Blair, said they had not eaten for two days and people had to contend with hungry crocodiles that were washed ashore. "Two or three crocodiles started coming toward us," said Sister Charity, a 32-year-old nun, decribing her rescue from a small island by the navy. "The navy officers had to fire their revolvers to ward off the crocodiles to protect us."

Government have so far donated some $500 million for victims of the disaster, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said, adding that he was "satisfied" by the response.

Indonesia, with around 80,000 dead, was the worst hit, followed by Sri Lanka, India and Thailand. The total across 11 nations in southern Asia and East Africa was likely to rise, with thousands still missing and fears that disease could bring a new wave of deaths.

Tens of thousands of residents fled coasts in India, Sri Lanka and Thailand after warnings that a new tsunami was about to strike after new aftershocks hit the Indian Ocean Thursday.

India issued a tsunami warning at midday, but then hours later its science minister, Kapil Sibal, went on television to announce the warning was incorrect and based on information received from a U.S. research firm.

Fears of a new tsunami were "unscientific, hogwash and should be discarded," Sibal said.

But by that time, the alert sparked panic among people traumatized by Sunday's devastation.

"We got into a truck and fled," said 40-year-old Gandhimathi of Nagappattinam in India's Tamil Nadu state, who said authorities told her to leave her home. "We took only a few clothes and left behind all of our belongings, everything we had."

Several aftershocks were recorded in the Indian Ocean Thursday and late Wednesday, but experts said they were not strong enough to spark a tsunami.

The false alarm highlighted the lack of an organized tsunami warning system in the Indian Ocean region — which experts have already said may have worsened the crisis after Sunday's 9.0 magnitude quake hit off Sumatra's coast, sending a massive wave racing at 500 mph across the Indian Ocean.

With counting still going on, Sri Lanka reported 27,200 dead, India more than 7,300 and Thailand around 2,400 — though

See **TSUNAMI**, page 11



INTERNATIONAL

Noodles and medicine dropped along Sumatra coast

TSUNAMI, from page 10

the interior minister estimated that 3,500 bodies were found in one province alone and Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra warned the death toll could near 7,000. A total of more than 300 were killed in Malaysia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, the Maldives, Somalia, Tanzania and Kenya.

Meanwhile, military ships and planes rushed to get desperately needed aid to Sumatra's ravaged coast. Countless corpses strewn on the streets rotted under the tropical sun causing a nearly unbearable stench.

Food drops began along the coast, mostly of instant noodles and medicines, with some of the areas "hard to reach because they are surrounded by cliffs," said Budi Aditutro, head of the government's relief team.

Government institutions in Aceh province, the territory on Sumatra's northern tip, have ceased to function and basic supplies such as fuel have almost run out, forcing even ambulances to ration gasoline.

On the streets of Banda Aceh, the provincial capital, fights have broken out over packets of noodles dropped from military vehicles.

"I believe the frustration will be growing in the days and weeks ahead," U.N. Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Egeland said.

The United States, India, Australia and Japan have formed an international coalition to coordinate worldwide relief and reconstruction efforts, President Bush announced.

"We will prevail over this destruction," Bush said from his Texas ranch Wednesday.

The disaster struck a band of the tropics that not only is heavily populated but attracts tourists from all corners. Throughout the world, people sought word of missing relatives, from small-town Sri Lankan fishermen to Europeans on sand-and-sun holidays.

On hundreds of Web sites, the messages were brief but poignant: "Missing: Christina Blomee in Khao Lak," or simply, "Where are you?"

But even as hope for the missing dwindled, survivors continued to turn up.

A 2-year-old Swedish boy was reunited with his father days after the toddler was found alone on a roadside in Thailand's southern beach resort island of Phuket. In Sri Lanka, a lone fisherman named Sini Mohammed Sarfudeen was rescued Wednesday by an air force helicopter crew after clinging to his wave-tossed boat for three days.

Rescue workers on Thursday plied the dense forests of India's remote Andaman and Nicobar islands — an archipelago just to the northwest of the quake's epicenter — where authorities fear as many as 10,000 more people may be buried in mud and thick vegetation. Many hungry villagers were surviving on coconut milk, rescuers said.

Mohammad Yusef, 60, a fisherman who fled his village and was holed up at a Catholic church in the territory's capital Port Blair along with about 800 others, said all 15 villages on the coast of Car Nicobar island had been destroyed.

"There's not a single hut which is standing," he told The Associated Press. "Everything is gone. Most of the people have gone up to the hills and are afraid to come down," Yusef said.

Many villagers had not eaten for two days and said that crocodiles had washed ashore during the disaster, compounding the horror of more than 50 aftershocks since Sunday's quake.

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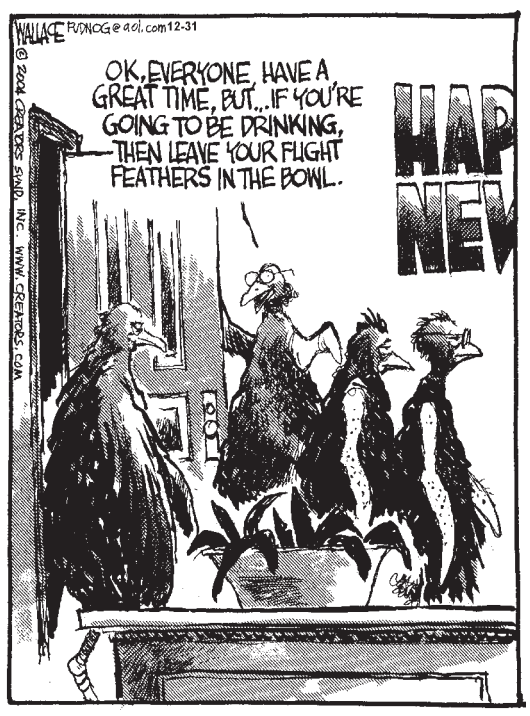
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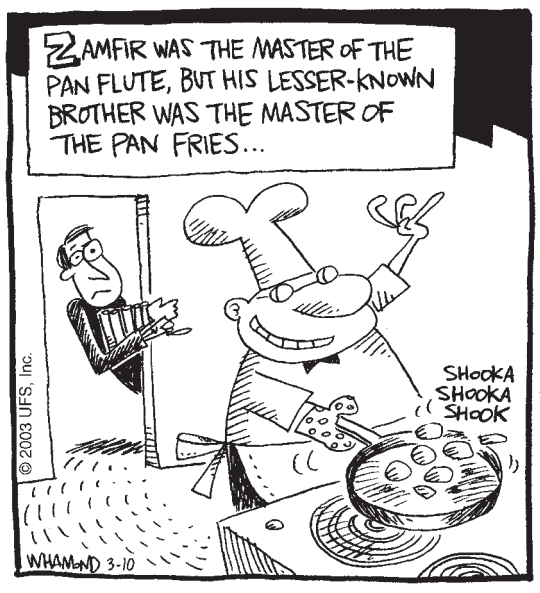
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11 Game site
12 Bouquet
13 Diamond side
14 Floppy topper
15 Stagger
17 Heredity unit
18 Wields
20 Historic times
22 Big Apple opera house
23 Prepare to ride
26 Edit menu choice
28 Puccini opera
29 Sound systems
31 Golf's Ernie
32 Poet Dove
33 Rotten kid
34 Campbell of "Scream"
36 Ukraine capital
38 Rust, e.g.
40 Clinton's Labor secretary
43 Sitting duck?
44 Promptly
45 Embarrassing outburst
46 Poor

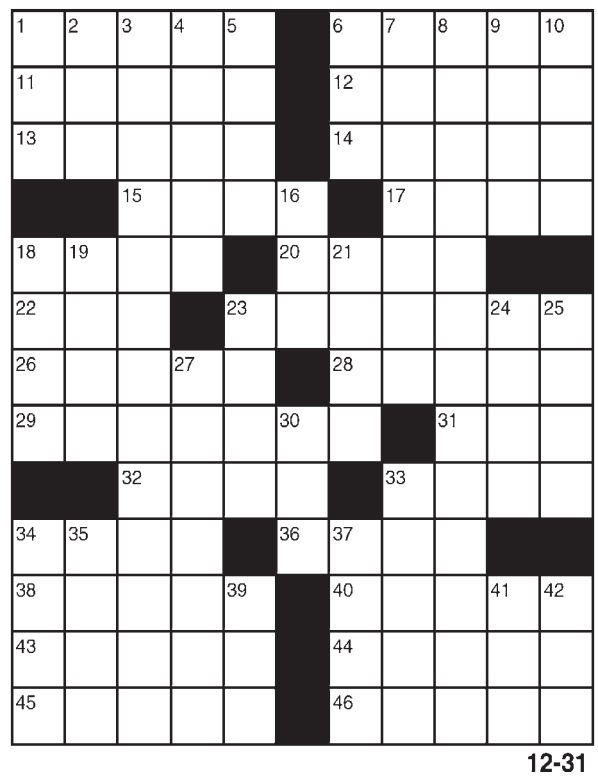
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1 Brit. fliers
2 Lyricist Gershwin
3 President's protectors
4 Dandling spots
5 Fill
6 Yak it up
7 Pizza herb
8 Ranger's group
9 "You said it!"
10 Velocity
16 Summer sign
18 Strike callers
19 Do usher's work
21 Dull existences
23 Come together
24 Home of the Bruins
25 Yesterday
27 Checked the fit of
30 Sturdy wood
33 Designer Geoffrey
34 Auction signals
35 Suit
37 Press
39 Needle feature
41 Mouthful for Bossy
42 "You there!"

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