



SOUL SUIT
SEE PAGE 12

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE 'SKINS PLAYOFF HOPES ISSUE

Expo moves along slowly

Planners hope 2008 will be smoother for the light rail line

BY MELODY HANATANI | Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN L.A. Public transit activists dreaming of the completion of the Exposition Light Rail Line should be hoping for a smoother new year after the project spent much of 2007 jumping through a series of hurdles.

The most recent one came on Dec. 17 when officials with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) filed a position statement that outlined safety concerns regarding an at-grade crossing near Dorsey High School.

The position statement by the LAUSD was sent to the

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) during the public comment period on the review of more than 40 light rail crossing permits.

The LAUSD is the latest organization to join a growing contingent in opposition to the at-grade crossing proposal near Dorsey High School. An organization called Expo Communities United has been vocal in its opposition to the at-grade Expo crossings near the school for several years, citing safety and traffic concerns.

With more than 700,000 students, the Los Angeles Unified School District is the largest school district in California and the second largest in the United States.

The issue centers around a two-track at-grade crossing on Farmdale Avenue, about 50 feet away from Dorsey High School, a busy intersection for both vehicles and pedestrians, sparking concerns of increased traffic and possible

accidents involving students and passing light rail trains.

District leaders are asking the Exposition Construction Authority and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to instead consider a grade-separated crossing.

"The frequent interaction of trains with pedestrians is an obvious safety risk with an at-grade crossing, but this interaction bears unique risks when the pedestrians are students," according to the statement filed by the law offices of Strumwasser & Woocher LLP, which is representing the LAUSD.

The Exposition Light Rail project is split into two phases — the first that will take the train from Downtown Los Angeles to Culver City, and the second

SEE EXPO PAGE 9

LIFESTYLE

FOR REAL THIS TIME

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS CAN BE HARD TO ACHIEVE

STORY BY KEVIN HERRERA PAGE 8



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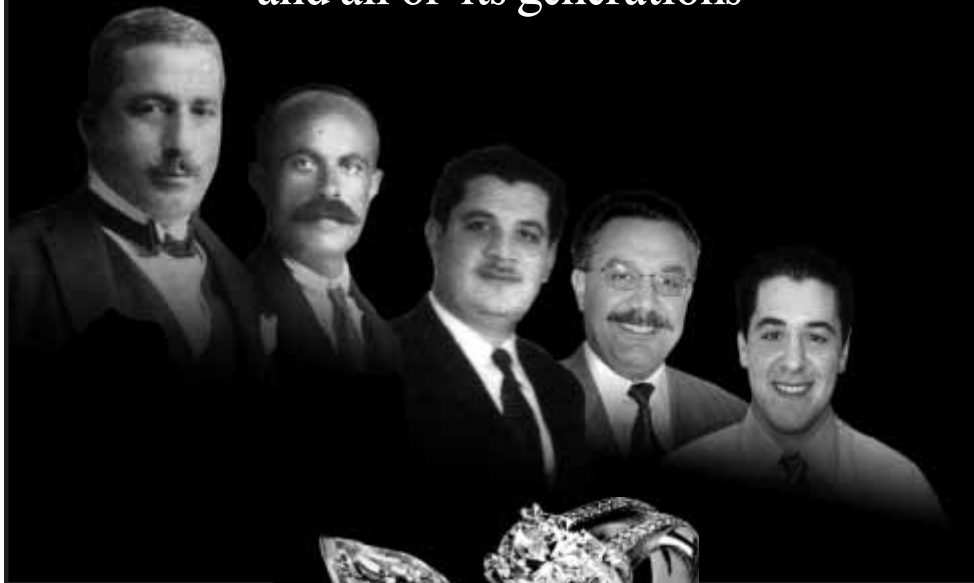
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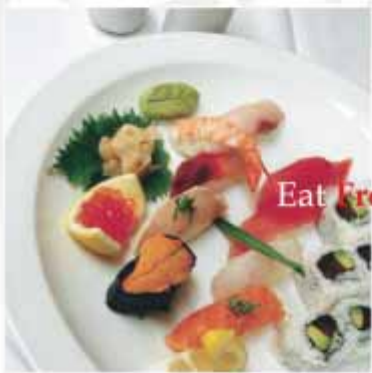


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Calendar

2

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2008

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



Happy New Year!

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**WHAT'S UP
WESTSIDE**

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Happy New Year!

Marx your calendar

1328 Montana Ave., 7:30 p.m.

The Aero is screening a Marx Brothers double feature
with "Duck Soup" (1933) and "Horse Feathers" (1932).

For information on tickets, call (323) 466-3456.

Ice, ice, baby

1324 Fifth St., 10 a.m. — 10 p.m.

Bring back childhood memories — or create new ones
— as you slice through the ice. Admission is \$10;
including skate rental.

Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2008

Whatever floats your day off

Ellis Street and Orange Grove Boulevard, Pasadena, 9
a.m. — 4 p.m.

For those who don't have to return to work and can't
get enough of the Rose Parade, head on over to
Pasadena to check out the floats from the parade.
Tickets are \$7. For more information, visit www.tournamentofroses.com.

Meditate on it

1737 21st St., 7:30 p.m. — 10 p.m.

The Southern California Psychic Institute will teach a
workshop on meditation. Learn to release stress, stay
centered, and relax. For information, call (310) 587-
3536.

Jewish story hour

1428 17th St., 3:15 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Story time at Chabad is for children ages 3 — 7. It is
recommended that participants RSVP to this free event
to ensure there are enough materials for all children.
For questions or to RSVP, call (310) 393-7379 or e-mail
srljs@juno.com.

Cool School revisited

1611 Electric Ave., Venice, by appointment only
The "Cool School" exhibit, named for the film which
features Ferus Gallery artists, will be on display through
January 11. A portion of the proceeds from sold paint-
ings will go to the "Films for Schools" outreach pro-
gram. For more information, visit www.VeniceTrust.com.

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.



Odds are still long on impact

BY ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES The chance of a football field-sized asteroid plowing into Mars next month has been increased to 4 percent, scientists said Friday after analyzing archival data.

Though still a long shot, some researchers are hoping for a cosmic smash.

"I think it'll be cool," said Don Yeomans, who heads the Near-Earth Object Program at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "Usually when an asteroid is headed toward Earth, I'm not rooting for an impact."

The space rock, known as the non-descript 2007 WD5, was discovered in late November by the NASA-funded Catalina Sky Survey in Arizona. Based on the latest information available, scientists said last week there was a 1-in-75 chance the asteroid could hit Mars on Jan. 30.

The odds were increased to 1-in-25 this week after a Ph.D. student pored through the archives and plotted the asteroid's motions before its official discovery. The new information allowed scientists to improve their calculations of the asteroid's orbit and flight path.

Scientists will continue to monitor the asteroid to better predict the possibility of a Martian impact. Yeomans said he expects the odds to decrease with new observations gathered early next year.

The likelihood of an asteroid hit usually "peaks before plummeting to zero with additional data," he said.

The asteroid poses no threat to Earth and is closing in on the Red Planet at 27,900 mph.

Should a collision occur, it would likely blast a half-mile-wide crater north of where the rover Opportunity has been exploring since 2004.

The impact could release energy similar to the 1908 Tunguska object that exploded over remote central Siberia and wiped out 60 million trees.

ON THE NET

■ **Near Earth Object Program:**
neo.jpl.nasa.gov/



File photo

NICE SPEEDOS: Members of the Penguin Club run into the frigid waters of the Santa Monica Bay two years ago as part of a New Year's tradition.

Freezing in a new year

Penguin Club to take a dip in chilly Pacific

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

VENICE BEACH For penguins, it's a necessity, for humans it's purely recreational.

About 80 people will tap into their inner Chilly Willy today, ringing in the New Year with a refreshing — albeit brief — dip in the Pacific Ocean.

It's all part of a Venice Beach New Year's Day tradition dating back 48 years, founded by a local resident, Cecilia Kilger, who organized and participated in the event until 2000, when she called it quits at 93 years old. Kilger passed away two years later.

The so-called Penguin Club Swim has been held in its founder's honor since then and is now organized by Kilger's close friend, Mary McGuirk of Marina del Rey.

"It's always been a party more than a swim because it attracted more than Venice locals," McGuirk said last Thursday.

Water temperature around this time of year ranges in the mid to upper 50s. The celebration

kicks off at noon starting with a brief submersion in the water for a minority of swimmers. That group is followed by the masters swimmers — usually a younger demographic — who will freestyle their way 300 yards through a route that will be determined by the lifeguard today, depending on the weather and water conditions.

The first master swimmer usually finishes by the three minute mark and the first male and female to come in are crowned the king and queen.

McGuirk participated in the swim from the early 1970s until 2001, when she retired because she could no longer handle the cold temperature.

"It took me two days to warm up," the 78-year-old woman joked.

The club has its roots dating back to the late 1950s when a lifeguard on Venice Beach noticed a group of women that frequently swam from the Venice break water to the Venice Pier and back again, a pack with which Kilger swam. With the help of the lifeguard and Kilger, the swim was organized into a club and an annual New Year's Day tradition, McGuirk said.

The Penguin Club Swim is among the many organized winter swimming groups

around the country, all practicing an icy activity that is popular in the Nordic countries where ice swimming is more than a once-a-year occasion. The oldest known winter bathing organization in the United States is the Coney Island Polar Bear Club, founded in 1903. The group of swimmers hangs out in the Atlantic Ocean every Sunday from October through April.

For the many swimmers that participate in the Venice Beach tradition, the New Year's Day event is the perfect way to start fresh. Some participants say the swim keeps them from indulging in alcoholic drinks the night before, avoiding a hangover.

Terry Ballentine has partaken in the event for the past 10 years, a family affair that includes his brother, nephew and a few friends.

The Venice native usually swims out to the buoy and then back, just to get a feel for the water temperature.

"The air is warmer than the water so the fact that I'm not in the water for that long doesn't make it hard to do it," Ballentine said last Friday. "It's shocking at first but it's fun, as long as I have a dry towel to come up to."

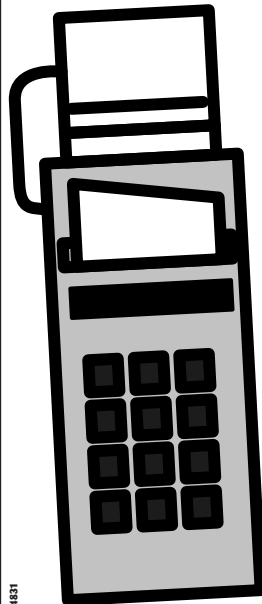
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A vote for the animals

Editor:

The hope that no living thing suffers needlessly is a basic want for all people. I believe that. It's not often that we get an opportunity to easily ban the most inhumane of practices. Californians have such an opportunity now.

The Human Society, Farm Sanctuary and many, many other animal welfare and health professionals are backing an initiative to get on the November 2008 ballot that will prevent three of the cruelest forms of extreme confinement practiced on large Californian factory farms: Veal crates, battery cages and gestation crates. Arizona, Florida and Oregon have already banned gestation crates, and Arizona has also banned veal crates. The European Union has banned all three.

Veal crates are tiny wooden crates in which male calves are trapped for most of their short lives. The crates are just bigger than their bodies and are so restrictive that the calves cannot turn. They cannot even lie down comfortably.

Battery cages are tiny enclosures that confine approximately 19 million egg-laying hens in California. The wire cages are about the size of a sheet of paper. The hens cannot walk, spread their wings; they can barely turn. They are confined like this most of their lives.

Gestation crates are metal cages that confine nearly 20,000 breeding pigs in California for most of their lives. The cage is barely wider than a pig's body. The pigs are unable to turn. Sores develop on many pigs from leaning or rubbing against the bars. The cages are kept on concrete crippling many pigs' feet.

The proposed measure would provide the most basic protection to farm animals; merely allowing them to turn around and extend their limbs. It's hard to imagine a more moderate initiative. Such forms of confinement are not only inhumane, but archaic and unnecessary only subjecting them to stress, fear and pain. And we can end this with our vote!

650,000 signatures by California voters are needed to get this initiative on the November ballot, and they are needed by the end of February. This may seem like a daunting deadline, but the smallest effort made by many caring Californians can make this happen. Please check out Californians for Humane Farms at <http://www.humanecalifornia.org/> to obtain petition information. Petitions can be mailed to you directly even if you just want to collect signatures from your friends and family. Let's take advantage of this opportunity to relieve the most needless of animal suffering.

Danette Rivera

Santa Monica



What's the Point?

David Pizarra

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

New Year's resolve comes to the front

TODAY IS THE DAY WHEN MANY PEOPLE begin their New Year with a hearty effort to change their behavior. They have made initial preparations for a new life, one free of cigarettes, fast food, and laziness.

I once heard a speaker talk about the way in which we deal with change. He called it the "New Binder Theory." It's like when we were kids and each year we'd get a new three ring binder, fill it with clean lined paper, and have one of those plastic pencil holders that clip in. The outside would be a clean slate of denim, ready to be marked up, and made our own.

It held all the promise and hope of a new school year. The year to get straight A's, perfect attendance and make varsity. Rarely did most of us achieve our lofty goals.

Two weeks into the school year, the malaise would set in, the binder would no longer be quite as sparkly and fresh. The pages inside would be filled with the scribbles and babblings of a bored student, the lofty goals having been slowly forgotten. As they fade into the background, the binder would lose its luster.

The pattern of furious interest in a subject, followed by a period of boredom, and eventually a wholesale forgetting of the original goal, is a common experience for all of us. It is part of the human condition.

Some of us will decide that today is the day to give up cigarettes, others are determined to lose that last 25 pounds, or that 180 pounds of useless fat called a spouse, others are going to set themselves up financially. To achieve these lofty goals requires consistent effort, whether it is changing the way in which we eat, being ready to move past the emotional barriers posed by thoughts of a divorce, or the willpower to change our buying habits.

The problems we face, whether personally or socially, require us to make a consistent effort, over a significant period of time, to achieve a new goal. In order to do that, we must keep the goal in focus over time.

It's not easy. I know, because last year I decided that I was going to lose 50 pounds. I changed my diet, my exercise routine (okay, okay, I GOT an exercise routine!), hired a personal trainer and took up swimming. I gave up my favorite quick indulgence of two

fast food hamburgers and a milkshake, in exchange I began eating vegetables and hummus.

I turned myself in to Weight Watchers to learn new ways of dealing with food. I looked at why I ate the way I did, and when I ate, or overate. I dealt with the emotional eating, mostly.

It paid off. Over the course of three months I lost 25 pounds, and as I began to get some muscle definition I realized that I liked the attention I was getting. The positive attention kept me motivated.

But it wasn't easy. The want of a quick fix is a strong pull, whether it is for a cheeseburger for me, or cutting down all the trees on Second and Fourth streets for the city. We like to have quick and easy solutions, based on our grand schemes.

They don't work.

The only way we achieve our goals is to stick to them, daily, by keeping our focus on the goal. For me, I've got another 25 pounds to go, and thankfully, this holiday season didn't do too much damage, and I'm still down most of the 25 I lost last year.

As for the city, we still have the Second and Fourth street trees, but we also still have some long term problems to be dealt with in terms of sick and sickly trees, like the ones on Pico. Those need some love. Can anyone say water and fertilizer?

We have graffiti problems, mostly due to teenagers who have too much time on their hands. We either need to keep them busy with school activities or round them all up and make them mow lawns.

We have goals as a city: We want to house the homeless, we want to reduce the traffic which causes congestion, we want better after school programs and more of them. We want more parks and green spaces. We want to reduce waste and increase recycling.

All of these are goals that are worthy of a world class city. All of them are doable. We just have to keep our focus tight on the goals and not get distracted with issues that aren't issues.

DAVID PISARRA is a business development lawyer for the Santa Monica firm Pizarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpizarra@pizarra.com.

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That Rutherford Guy

John H. Whitehead

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

You don't have to be religious to run

"No religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States."

— Article VI, U.S. Constitution

Growing up in the 1960s, I saw first-hand the religious bigotry that John F. Kennedy encountered over his Catholic faith.

Kennedy arrived at a time when the nation was desperate for someone young, fresh and purposeful to steer us out of the morass of conflict, civil unrest and economic uncertainty in which the country seemed to be mired. And yet despite Kennedy's attempts to campaign on the issues of the day, it was his Catholicism that took center stage, at least during the early days of his campaign. Opponents stirred up fears among a largely Protestant America that a Catholic in the White House would result in the Pope running the country and compromise the constitutional separation of church and state.

Hoping to allay fears about the role his religious beliefs would play were he elected, Kennedy agreed to address 300 clergymen attending the Greater Houston Ministerial Association on Sept. 12, 1960. In a speech that riveted the nation and quelled fears, Kennedy told his audience that he believed in an "America where the separation of church and state is absolute — where no Catholic prelate would tell the president (should he be a Catholic) how to act and no Protestant minister would tell his parishioners for whom to vote."

Having called out the bigots, Kennedy's subsequent ascension to the White House signaled a shift in the public's acceptance of Catholicism. For presidential hopeful Mitt Romney, however, public acceptance of his Mormon beliefs is still a long way off.

Thus, perhaps hoping to calm concerns about his Mormon faith, Romney recently delivered a speech to supporters entitled "Faith in America," in which he talked about the importance of religious liberty in America, invoked Kennedy's 1960 speech and tried to allay fears that if he were elected, the Church of Latter Day Saints would rule.

The problem as I see it is not Romney's religion. Rather, it's that Americans are urged to vote their religion. As George Packer points out in the New Yorker, "Religiosity — as opposed to religion — now completely infects our politics. Democrats have to swear

that they believe; Republicans have to swear that they believe literally. In 2008, Kennedy's brand of secularism would be torn to pieces by pastoral commissars, fretful advisers, and a shallow press corps."

Despite the Constitution's clear prohibition of a religious test for office, the race for the White House has turned into a campaign to get Americans to vote — or not vote — in blocs for particular candidates based on their religious beliefs.

However, we must never forget that no matter what a politician says, everything a politician does is political. Thus, there can be no such thing as a Christian candidate for office or a Mormon candidate. In the end, they are all politicians.

Unfortunately, time and again, religious individuals (particularly Christians), determined to seek out a political savior, conveniently forget this truth. And as history has shown, dependence by religion upon the state for legitimacy has not served religion — or government — well.

Religion does have a part to play in the national dialogue about our freedoms. The voice of moral authority raised without dependence upon the legitimacy of the state will always be the highest expression of true freedom. Such a voice denies the ultimate authority of the government to create or define right or wrong by its own power.

Religion also has a part to play in politics. For those who subscribe to particular religious beliefs, those beliefs understandably shape their perceptions of what is important in a candidate. However, religious individuals should beware of trading in their birthright for a bowl of political porridge.

Furthermore, religion should not be the only factor. As Martin Luther King, Jr. observed, "Religious bigotry is as immoral, undemocratic, un-American and un-Christian as racial bigotry."

Character counts. So does experience and moral values. But what we really need is an administrator in the White House who can actually run the country, shore up the economy and be a diplomat to the world. Most of all, we need someone abides by his or her oath to uphold the Constitution.

Constitutional attorney and author John W. Whitehead is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute. He can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org.



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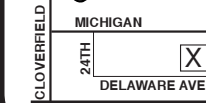
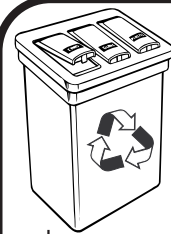
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The Q-Line

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Addition by subtraction

Sometimes the best thing about a year coming to an end is the chance to start over anew. Whether it was a job you weren't crazy about or a significant other that was weighing you down, there is always something best left in the past.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

What negative thing happened to you in 2007 that you would like to leave in the past?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. Please limit responses to a minute or less.



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Tales from the crib

Angie Wagner

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Too much 411 can lead to sass

WHEN I PICKED UP MY 4-YEAR-OLD daughter from preschool the other day, her teacher told me Addie had to be put in time out for goofing around during song practice.

It was the day of the Christmas program, and the teachers wanted one last practice before the big performance.

Rewind to the conversation I had with Addie the night before.

"I am not singing any more of those songs," she told me.

Me: "But you want to be in the program, don't you?"

Her: "No! I hate programs!"

So I can't say I was surprised when her teacher told me she wasn't participating. She was playing with her hair, turning around and looking bored. She lost her recess for her noncompliance.

It was the first time she has been in trouble at school, and the first time her attitude, or her "Addie-tude," as we call it, passed into the school day from our home, where we've seen some major sass. She demands things, barks orders and can be quite nasty.

Where has my sweet toddler gone?

Now it's: "I told you FOUR times to get me my juice."

If I say something such as: "Addie, I'm so tired of this," she responds with "Well, I'm tired of you."

I tried to have a long conversation with her about how it's not appropriate for her to speak to me like that and explained to her why she can't goof off during song practice even if she doesn't like the songs.

But it didn't seem to be getting through.

Later that day, she brought on the attitude again.

She was mad because I wanted her to get out of the car from the same door her sister was using. She refused, then yelled: "If you don't open this door, I will punch your window out."

I left her in the car in the garage. Eventually she caved and came inside.

But what gives? I thought I wouldn't be dealing with this until she was more like 12!

Gary Direnfeld, a social worker in Canada and expert in child development, said it's actually quite normal for preschoolers to cop an attitude.

"What she's really doing is saying, 'I'm separate and apart from you and I'm trying to learn how to assert my own will,'" he said.

Got it.

So what should I do? My talks with her have amounted to only more attitude. Turns out, that may be part of the problem. Direnfeld said parents can actually

over-explain things or try to be too understanding.

Think about getting a traffic ticket, he said. The police officer doesn't go on and on about what you did. He just writes the ticket.

Direnfeld said I need to approach the behavior at the school as a nonnegotiable expectation. This is how we act. End of story.

"Good, well-intentioned parents can fall into the trap of providing their children more input than is really appropriate for the circumstance," he said. "And, as a result, some kids are over-empowered. That, in turn, develops an attitude of self-righteousness that they may have a say in areas where it's just not appropriate for them to have a say."

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME SHE HAS BEEN IN TROUBLE AT SCHOOL, AND THE FIRST TIME HER ATTITUDE, OR HER "ADDIE-TUDE," AS WE CALL IT, PASSED INTO THE SCHOOL DAY FROM OUR HOME, WHERE WE'VE SEEN SOME MAJOR SASS.

So all that talk with Addie about her behavior at school wasn't effective. Direnfeld said she probably didn't get it anyway. And, he said, explaining doesn't modify behavior.

And another good point about the preschool attitude: Direnfeld suggested my daughter might just be mirroring me.

Ouch.

OK. I've said things like: "I'm tired of you doing that" or "I told you three times to pick up this mess." Phrases like that are always spewed when I'm exhausted and just ready for the day to end.

I'm going to take the advice and try to watch the tone of how I speak to her and explain a little less.

And, maybe, just maybe, we will put that attitude on hold for a few more years and watch my sweet daughter return.

ANGIE WAGNER writes Tales From the Crib for the Associated Press.

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Hindu priest can't perform

BY MARTIN GRIFFITH
Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. British government officials said they see no chance that a Hindu chaplain from Nevada will be allowed to read the opening prayer in the House of Commons.

In denying the request by Rajan Zed of Reno — who in July became the first Hindu to offer the U.S. Senate prayer — officials noted the prayers by custom are always led by a Church of England priest.

“That’s been the case since 1660, because you probably understand it’s the established church of the UK,” said Angus Sinclair, who works in the office of the speaker of the House of Commons. “I think it’s probably one of those things that has been happening for so long that it is understood.”

Any change to the prayers could only occur after parliamentary debate and consultation with Queen Elizabeth II, Sinclair added.

Zed said he sought to represent minority religions and denominations in Britain, and was saddened to learn about the policy in a letter from officials there.

“It would be better if they had more diverse prayers because the population and demographics are changing over there,” Zed said. “As long as the policy is in place, there seems to be no question of prayers by other traditions.”

The elected House of Commons and the largely appointed House of Lords are the two houses of Parliament.

The government and the church are entangled in various ways. The monarch is

the supreme governor of the church. Bishops are effectively appointed by the government.

Prayers are conducted in private. The only non-members of the Commons who attend are the chaplain and the sergeant-at-arms.

Zed, who was born in India, said he thinks the policy will eventually change to reflect Britain’s diversity. He cited its growing numbers of Hindus and members of various Christian denominations.

“I feel that there is a sense of unity in diversity and we should celebrate it,” he said. “Existence of different faiths was positively willed by God, as a sign of God’s bountifulness and generosity.”

Zed made history by offering the Senate’s morning prayer from ancient Sanskrit scriptures, but only after police officers removed three shouting protesters from the visitors’ gallery. They were arrested and charged with disrupting Congress, a misdemeanor.

The Mississippi-based American Family Association had urged its members to object to the prayer because Zed would be “seeking the invocation of a non-monotheistic god.”

Also in 2007, Zed became the first Hindu to recite prayers in the California State Senate and both houses of the Nevada Legislature. He also is scheduled to read the first Hindu prayers in the state senates of Colorado and New Mexico in late January.

Hinduism is the world’s third largest religion, behind Christianity and Islam.

Colorado animal shelter gets loan, survives crisis

BY JUDITH KOHLER
Associated Press Writer

DENVER The emu, turkeys, pigs, horses, peacocks and other animals that live at the Creative Acres sanctuary will get to stay home for the holidays — and longer.

Maxine Mager, who runs the 44-acre free-roam shelter about 40 miles northeast of Denver, got a loan to keep her 300 or so charges from being uprooted. They had faced moving because the property was in foreclosure.

Mager, who founded the shelter about 20 years ago, learned earlier this year that she had to raise more than \$350,000.

Mager said donations she received from across the country when her plight was publicized will help her cover the down payment, and the loan is set to close Jan. 9.

“They’re going to be able to stay there,” said John Carver, a Denver attorney representing Mager. He said the lender isn’t requiring any personal guarantors on the loan.

Mager’s one-woman operation has faced uncertainty before. Five years ago, she had to scramble to find a place for her menagerie after losing a court fight over the lease on her original sanctuary site near Brighton. A \$480,000 judgment against her from the dispute over the land prevented her from refi-

nancing her property.

A blizzard and heavy snows that walloped eastern Colorado last December and January kept Mager from doing her normal fundraising and outreach. She worked days and nights shoveling out the animals, getting food to them and repairing storm-battered fences, doors and equipment.

Mager is digging out again after last week’s snows. “One thing I worry about is making it through the winter,” she said.

Volunteers help her cope. A woman who has a big truck hauls feed and hay for her. Mager’s pickup was repossessed.

Many of Mager’s animals were abandoned or left behind when people died. Some were abused or dumped when they became troublesome, including a sheep considered too aggressive. Mager figured out the sheep ran into people because it was blind.

Sheriff’s deputies brought her an emu found wandering around Barr Lake State Park. The bird, named Barr, managed to get around despite missing part of one foot, but it suffered leg problems during last year’s blizzards.

Mager is working with Centennial veterinarian Jerry LaBonde to fit Barr with a prosthetic. LaBonde did similar work in the past when ostrich and emu ranching was popular.



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SURF REPORT

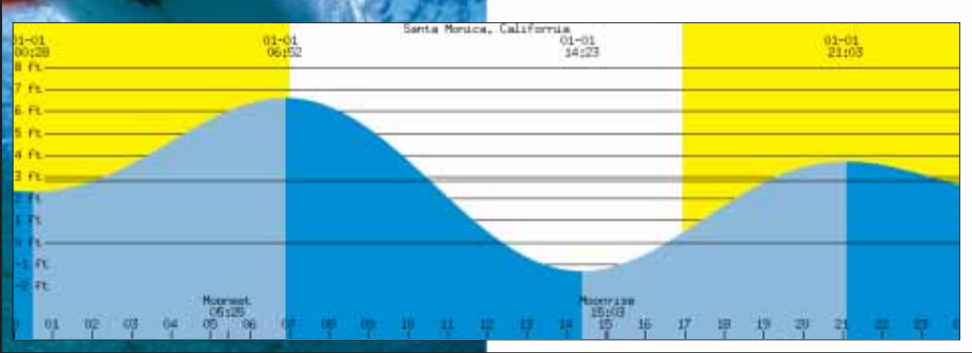


SURF CONDITIONS

SWELL FORECAST (1-2 FT)
New Year's Day looks smaller, waist to maybe chest high at west facing breaks, knee to waist at south facing spots. The Santa Ana event could kick up winds to 20+ mph along the coast from the ENE in many spots, especially north of SD. Tide though doesn't look like much of an issue.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

OFFSHORE EVENT MONDAY, STRONGER TUESDAY...
SIGNIFICANT SWELLS LATE IN WEEK...



TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA

BEACH REPORT CARD



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **December 11, 2007**

HEAL THE BAY - 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - [www.healthebay.org](#) - [brc@healthebay.org](#) - 800 HEAL BAY

QUICK STATS

(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills — 0

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill — 0

Number of wet days — 8

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather — 36 / 18

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather — 11 / 15

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in this state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Los Carillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth (beacarrillo)	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachasa and Las Aliso creeks	A+	ns
Enchil Canyon at El Morado State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
Escalante Creek, just east of Escalante State Beach	A+	ns
Lariga Canyon Creek mouth	A	A+
Solstice Canyon at San Blas County Beach	A+	ns
Pierces State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pierces Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns
Serfider Beach at Malibu Calvary fence	A+	A+
Serfider Beach (beach location) - daily	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	A
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	F	A+
Pierces Creek at Las Flores County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A	A
Tapanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	C
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	C
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	A+

LEGEND

DRY — each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET — grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns — no sample taken



Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

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LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Palms Canyon storm drain	C	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Tennesson Canyon drain	A	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Donatogay)	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	F	D
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	F	C
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurant)	A+	F
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	B	F
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	F	A+
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A	C
Venice Beach - projection of Tapsell St.	A+	C
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach - lifeguard tower	A	D
Deckweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	F
Deckweiler State Beach at Calver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Deckweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Deckweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DAW jetty)	A+	A+
Deckweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A	ns
Deckweiler Beach - opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	A+
Deckweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A	A+

Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card™ is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A-F scale based on the risk of swimmers becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of these areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

On the right foot

Santa Monicans hope that this year's resolutions stick

BY KEVIN HERRERA | Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN Sandra Moore doesn't consider herself a failure, but whenever she takes a drag on her cigarette, she does feel a tinge of guilt for not following through with her plan to stop smoking.

She made the promise to herself nearly a year ago while dancing and drinking with friends at a Santa Monica bar during their New Year's Eve celebration, just after she finished singing "Auld Lang Syne." Like millions of Americans, Moore felt compelled that night to make a resolution to kick the habit. And just like those millions, she quickly gave in to temptation and started puffing away.

"It was really hard," Moore said as she walked down Broadway on her way to the Third Street Promenade in the days before New Year's. "I was really determined. I started to notice that smoking was affecting my health and was getting to be really expensive, so I made a conscious effort to give it up."

"Then it was kind of like reality set in and it became a lot harder than I thought it would," Moore, 32, added. "Once I bought that first pack, I just became easier and easier to let my resolution die."

Quitting smoking is one of the most popular New Year's resolutions a person makes, right along with taming the bulge, cutting down credit card debt and spending more time with family and friends. It is also one of the most difficult to realize.

Most resolutions are for that matter, breeding cynicism about the tradition many follow, which is to promise to make some positive change in one's life at the start of a new year.

"I don't believe in it," said Bryan Burciaga, a local resident. "I think it's ridiculous to make these grand statements about changing your life just because it's a new year. Why not change your life for the better when you notice yourself getting out of control? And then to do it on a night when you probably aren't thinking clearly. It just seems like a big joke to me, kind of like something to do because it's tradition. It's lost its meaning."

Burciaga has a point. Studies have shown that 50 percent of people give up on their resolutions by March and fall back into old habits. For some, failing to follow through can become a burden, pushing them further into depression or apathy, said professional life coach Marie Elena Rigo, president of MEI Life Designs in Santa Monica.

"Making resolutions does come with a lot of pressure for people," Rigo said. "It should be a process that you work on throughout the year, with very specific goals that are attainable. Many times people set goals that are unrealistic and when they don't achieve them, they end up judging themselves harshly and that can be even worse."

Instead of making resolutions, Rigo recommends making intentions that are broken up into manageable chunks. It is also important to have a plan on how to achieve certain goals. It is one thing to say you would like to spend more time with family, but how will you achieve that goal?

"Once you have a plan in place, it is important to realize that failure will be a part of that plan, but that doesn't mean you give up," said life coach Allison Schwartz, the author of "True Vision," an e-book that teaches how to use visualization, an effective tool that athletes often use to succeed.



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

FRESH STARTS: (Left) Santa Monica locals run up and down the very popular stairs at the end of Fourth Street. Many people decide to start working out more for their New Year's resolutions. (Right) Others hope to curb their spending by shopping less.

"You are going to have challenges along the way," Schwartz said. "Everything is not going to go perfectly. You are human. The important thing is to just get back on track. A lot of people give up because they make a mistake, but that's part of it."

money, which means going out less on the weekends and eating more at home.

"Both kind of go together," Cummings, 26, said of her resolutions. "By not going out as much, I can save money and have more time to go to the gym. I'll also be eating a



IT IS IMPORTANT TO REALIZE
THAT FAILURE WILL BE A
PART OF THAT PLAN,
**BUT THAT DOESN'T
MEAN YOU GIVE UP."**

Allison Schwartz, Life coach and the author of the e-book, "True Vision"

There are clear ways to succeed, and they include getting friends and family members involved, setting achievable goals and rewarding yourself along the way, Schwartz said.

Resolution maker Haley Cummings is committed to paying of her credit card bills and getting back into shape after a long layoff because of the holidays. She says she's prepared and willing to make the commitment to saving

lot more at home so that will save money and help me stay on my diet. For me, having them sort of relate to one another, I think, will help me in the long run because I will be getting double the benefit."

And if she doesn't succeed, there's always next year.

kevinh@smdp.com



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LAUSD fights Expo crossings

FROM EXPO PAGE 1

one that will complete the trip to Santa Monica. The second phase is still under review while the first phase is undergoing construction.

Most of the grade crossings have been resolved and the Exposition Construction Authority board is exploring a range of alternative crossings near Dorsey High School, according to Pam O'Connor, the chair of the MTA board.

"The bottom line is the Construction Authority and board are looking at a range of alternatives and certainly LAUSD has some input, it's good for them to be there in a more formal manner to figure out what are the various options," O'Connor said on Sunday.

O'Connor estimates the Exposition Construction Authority board will have an idea of what direction to head in with the crossing affecting Dorsey High School sometime this month or next.

While Expo Communities United has fought the proposed crossing near Dorsey for a few years, LAUSD officials were reluctant to participate until recently, according to Mark Jolles, one of the leaders with the organiza-

tion and a substitute teacher who lives near the school.

Calls to Board of Education member Marguerite Poindexter LaMotte's office — whose district includes Dorsey — last week were not returned as the office is closed for the holiday break. Zahirah Washington, an attorney with Strumwasser & Woocher, also did not return a request seeking comment.

THE WHOLE PURPOSE IS TO IMPROVE MOBILITY, TO GET PEOPLE WHERE THEY WANT TO GET FASTER."

Mark Jolles, Expo Communities United

Jolles believes the grade-separated crossing would make more sense both on a safety and a financial level, since the train would be able to travel faster if above or below ground, attracting more riders.

"The whole purpose is to improve mobility, to get people where they want to get faster," Jolles said last Friday. "When you slow down the train, it doesn't attract ridership and loses revenues and there's no benefit to it."

Darrell Clarke, the co-chair of Friends 4 Expo Transit, expects that the Exposition Construction Authority will be able to negotiate a compromise with the school district.

Clarke, an Expo advocate for years, noted that there is a high school being constructed in East Los Angeles near the Gold Line and "nobody seemed to be concerned about that."

"Trains are very predictable," he said last Friday. "They go along the track, their speed is limited, they have crossing warning devices."

Groundbreaking for the Expo project kicked off in early August, but funding became a question when state legislators deadlocked on the budget, tying up Expo funding. The political battle ended in late August, about 51 days after the start of the fiscal year, and in September, the California Transportation Commission allocated \$314 million to Expo.

melodyh@smdp.com

Latino gang accused of targeting blacks

BY THOMAS WATKINS

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES In a murderous quest aimed at "cleansing" their turf of snitches and rival gangsters, members of one of Los Angeles County's most vicious Latino gangs sometimes killed people just because of their race, an investigation found.

There were even instances in which Florencia 13 leaders ordered killings of black gangsters and then, when the intended victim couldn't be located, said "Well, shoot any black you see," Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca said.

"In certain cases some murders were just purely motivated on killing a black person," Baca said.

Authorities say there were 20 murders among more than 80 shootings documented during the gang's rampage in the hardscrabble Florence-Firestone neighborhood, exceptional even in an area where gang violence has been commonplace for decades. They don't specify the time frame or how many of the killings were racial.

Los Angeles has struggled with gang violence for years, especially during the wars in the late 1980s and early '90s between the Crips and the Bloods — both black gangs.

Latino gangs have gained influence since then as the Hispanic population surged.

Evidence of Florencia 13, or F13, is easy to find in Florence-Firestone. Arrows spray-painted on the wall of a liquor store mark

YOU DON'T SEE THESE MAJOR BLACK-BROWN WARS, EITHER WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF GANGS OR OUTSIDE THE CONTEXT OF GANGS."

George Tita, Criminologist

the gang's boundary and graffiti warns rivals to steer clear.

The gang's name comes from the neighborhood that is its stronghold and the 13th letter of the alphabet — M — representing the gang's ties to the Mexican Mafia.

Federal, state and local officials worked together to charge 102 men linked to F13 with racketeering, conspiracy to murder, weapons possession, drug dealing and other crimes. In terms of people charged, it's the largest-ever federal case involving a Southern California gang, prosecutors say. More than 80 of those indicted are in custody.

But eliminating the gang won't be easy. It's survived for decades and is believed to have about 2,000 members. Its reach extends to Nevada, Arizona and into prisons, where prosecutors say incarcerated gang leaders

were able to order hits on black gangsters.

According to the indictment, F13's leader, Arturo Castellanos, sent word in 2004 from California's fortress-like Pelican Bay State Prison that he wanted his street soldiers to begin "cleansing" Florence-Firestone of black gangsters, notably the East Coast Crips, and snitches.

His followers eagerly obeyed, according to federal prosecutors.

In one case, F13 members came across a black man at a bus stop, shouted "Cheese toast!" and fired. "Cheese toast" is a derogatory name for East Coast Crips, Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin S. Rosenberg said.

The victim, apparently targeted only because of his skin color, survived being shot several times, Rosenberg said.

F13 isn't the only Latino gang linked to racial killings. Last year, four members of The Avenues, a gang from the Highland Park area east of downtown Los Angeles, were convicted of hate crimes for killing a black man in what prosecutors called a campaign to drive blacks from that neighborhood. And last January, authorities announced a crackdown on the 204th Street gang following the killing of a 14-year-old black girl.

The violence goes both ways, said Adam Torres, a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department gang detective whose beat includes Florence-Firestone.

During a recent patrol on the east side of the neighborhood, he pointed to a cinderblock wall peppered with bullet holes. Torres said the Crips still control that area and any Hispanic there is at risk of being shot.

Despite the wave of violence, George Tita, a criminologist with the University of California, Irvine, said racially motivated gang killings are an exception. Latinos and blacks are far more likely to be murdered by one of their own.

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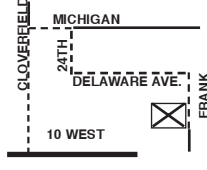


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MOVIEGUIDE

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AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-1506

Aliens vs. Predator - Requiem (R)

10:20am, 12:45, 3:10, 5:50, 8:25, 10:50

Atonement (R)

10:30am, 1:25, 4:20, 7:25, 10:20

The Great Debaters (PG-13)

10:10am, 1:05, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55

P.S. I Love You (PG-13)

10:45am, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

Charlie Wilson's War (R)

10:05am, 12:30, 3:00, 5:40, 8:15, 10:45

Enchanted (PG)

11:00am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:10

The Golden Compass (PG-13)

10:40am, 1:20, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

The Kite Runner (PG-13)

10:55am, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 10:55

National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG)

10:45am, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 9:55, 10:50

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (R)

10:15am, 1:05, 4:05, 7:30, 10:25

The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep (PG)

10:00am, 12:40, 3:20, 5:55, 8:30, 11:05

LAEMMLE'S MONICA
FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

Juno (PG-13)

12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

No Country for Old Men (R)

1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55

Persepolis (PG-13)

12:45, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15

The Savages (R)

1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55

MANN'S CRITERION
THEATRE
1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG)

11:10am, 12:10, 1:50, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

The Bucket List (PG-13)

11:30am, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30

I Am Legend (PG-13)

12:00, 2:40, 4:20, 5:20, 6:50, 7:50, 9:20, 10:20

Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R) DLP-Digital Projection

11:50am, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10

On the mend

PAT GREEN canceled a New Year's Eve concert after undergoing an emergency appendectomy, a concert promoter said.

The 35-year-old country singer was in good condition Thursday after

being admitted to a Dallas-area hospital on Wednesday, said Greg Henry, president of Austin Universal Entertainment.

Doctors advised Green to cancel the show as

well as several days of planned studio work in Nashville, Tenn., Henry said in a story posted Thursday on the Waco Tribune-Herald's Web site.

Green grew up in

Pat Green has surgery, scraps New Year's show

Waco and lives in Fort Worth. With a dedicated following in Texas, he has been working to build his fan base around the country. His most recent album, "Cannonball," was

released in August 2006.

Green's publicist did not immediately return a phone message left late Thursday by The Associated Press.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GARNER GETS TOP HONORS

Actress **JENNIFER GARNER** has been honored as the 2007 West Virginian of the Year by her hometown newspaper.

The Sunday Gazette-Mail chose Garner for her dedication, hard work and service as an ambassador for West Virginia.

Garner is balancing raising her 2-year-old daughter, her marriage with fellow actor Ben Affleck and a career that includes a starring role in "Cyrano de Bergerac" on Broadway, the new film "Juno," and two more films yet to shoot.

Garner is a Texas transplant, but moved to the Mountain State when she was 4.

AP

Five of **JAMES BROWN'S** children say their late father's will should be invalidated because his former advisers used undue influence to get him to create charitable trusts that the advisers would profit from, according to court documents filed this week.

The children were largely left out of the financial portion of the will, which leaves the bulk of the soul singer's money to trusts set up to educate Brown's grandchildren and needy kids.

Atlanta attorney Louis Levenson said the children discovered earlier wills drafted by their father that cast doubt on whether he truly wanted to leave his

estate to charity.

"There was sporadic indication that Mr. Brown intended to benefit some charities, but the circumstances surrounding the making of these documents have always been clouded in mystery," Levenson said.

Five Brown children are challenging the will in Aiken County Probate Court. They claim Brown's longtime advisers Buddy Dallas, Alford Bradley and David Cannon convinced the soul singer to create the trusts so the advisers would profit from managing the two charities after Brown died.

Dallas denied the allegations and called attempts to void the will

"an act of desperation."

"No one told James Brown what to do," Dallas said, adding that if he were going to use his influence to benefit himself, "I would have just influenced him into giving me something."

The Brown children challenging the will are Deanna Brown Thomas, Venisha Brown, Daryl Brown, Yamma Brown Lumar and Larry Brown. A sixth child named in Brown's will, Terry Brown, has hired a different attorney.

One grandchild whose tuition would be paid for by the trusts has accused his relatives of trying to break the charities to get the money.

Most of Brown's estate,

including his Beech Island home and rights to his image, name and music, would go to the James Brown "I Feel Good" Trust for the education of needy children in South Carolina and Georgia, as well as to a family trust to educate his grandchildren younger than 35.

Brown died on Christmas Day 2006 of heart failure. He was 73.

Just how much money is involved in Brown's estate is unclear. In October, Forbes reported Brown made an estimated \$5 million in 2005 alone. But attorneys have said Brown's accounts do not have the money they expected.

AP

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★ Dynamic ★★★ Positive ★★ Average ★★ So-So ★ Difficult

Let your mind wander, Pisces

Happy Birthday!

You walk into what could be a year that you'll speak about for the remainder of your life. Special events and people punctuate your life. You will discover the intensity of your creativity as well as the innate power you have. If you are single, be ready to blaze a new trail. If you are attached, do be generous with your time and honor your sweetie's requests more often. SCORPIO helps you zero in on what you want.



Born Today

FBI director J. Edgar Hoover (1895)
Author J.D. Salinger (1919)
Patriot Paul Revere (1735)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at
<http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Listen to others; in fact, be indulgent. You might enjoy what comes up for you, as well as for others. Touch base with the many people in your life, and your view will change. Examine an idea from many different angles. Tonight: With your favorite person.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Visit with friends, yet at the same time, clear up decorations or set up for a little get-together. Don't think you will be alone. Refuse to think that way. You will like the end results. Tonight: Where everyone else can be found.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Creativity bubbles forth with newfound energy. You might want to clear out a call or misunderstanding. What a perfect way to start the New Year. You could be surprised by the final results. Tonight: If you want to make an early night of it, do!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ If you listen to your inner beat and vibes, you will know where you are heading and why. Share your resolutions with family. Clear out old problems and make sure communication flourishes once more. Tonight: Fun and games.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You express yourself in an unprecedented and fun manner. Others appreciate your calls, efforts and good wishes. A male friend could be very direct, to the point that you feel pushed. Back off. Surround yourself with friends. Tonight: Mosey on home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Deal with finances as the year begins. You want to make sure you are on the proper course. Someone you look up to might be touchy or difficult. Know when to back away. Schedule get-togethers for later. Tonight: An important chat could happen.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You cannot help but beam. Others cannot help but respond. With this knowledge, you blaze a new trail. A message could be instrumental in making a decision. Know when you have had enough. Timing works. Tonight: Out and about.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Handle a personal matter early on, and you will be smiling, as long as you resist pushing another's buttons. Tempers can flare with fatigue, excitement and pressure all mixed together. Know when to walk away. Tonight: Re-energized, make plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ A get-together might be more important than you realize. Listen to others and be more imaginative in your approach. You know your limits; state them clearly. Your creativity peaks to a new level. Tonight: Take some much needed personal time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Bring others together, even if you feel too tired for words. Knowing when to step back could have a considerable impact. Investigate options with an eye to greater success and friendship. Draw friends together. Tonight: Still fun and games!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Dealing with those in your life in a more novel or dynamic manner could make for a very odd situation. Investigate and understand what others want. Tonight: A must-show appearance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Others relate in a close and dynamic style. Understand what makes you tick, then decide on your limits. Don't stand on ceremony with a family member. Let go and relax. Try to walk in another's shoes. Tonight: Let your mind wander.

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Difficulty
SILVER

			1	3				
9		3	5		6	4	7	1
		6		8				
	4				2		5	
6		7		1		8		3
	3		6				1	
				6		5		
8	5	4	3		9	1		2
			4		1			

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GETTING STARTED

There are many strategies to solving Sudoku. One way to begin is to examine each 3x3 grid and figure out which numbers are missing. Then, based on the other numbers in the row and column of each blank cell, find which of the missing numbers will work. Eliminating numbers will eventually lead you to the answer.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

1	2	3	7	9	4	5	8	6
8	9	5	1	3	6	4	7	2
4	7	6	2	8	5	9	1	3
3	1	2	6	4	7	8	9	5
5	8	4	3	1	9	6	2	7
9	6	7	5	2	8	3	4	1
6	4	1	9	5	2	7	3	8
2	5	8	4	7	3	1	6	9
7	3	9	8	6	1	2	5	4

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PS0803 11/06

Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



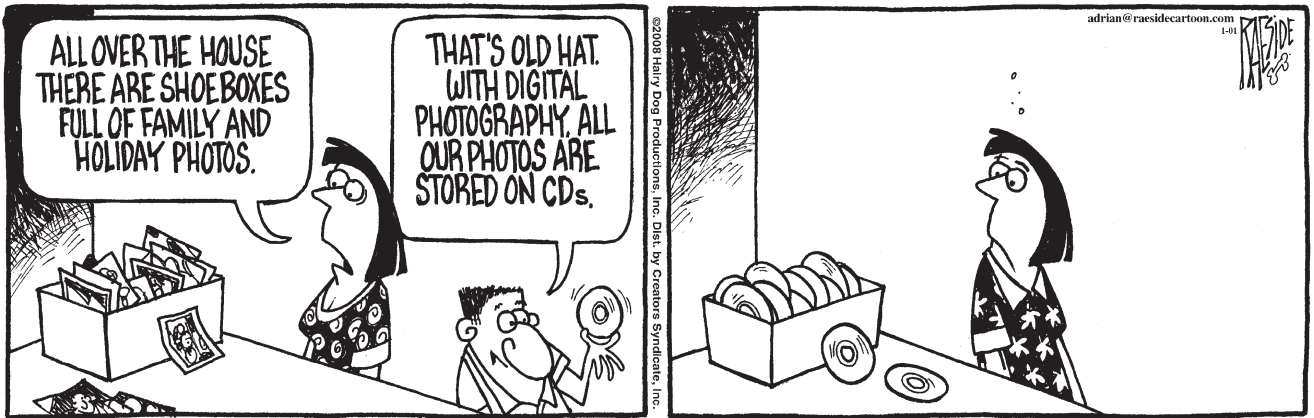
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



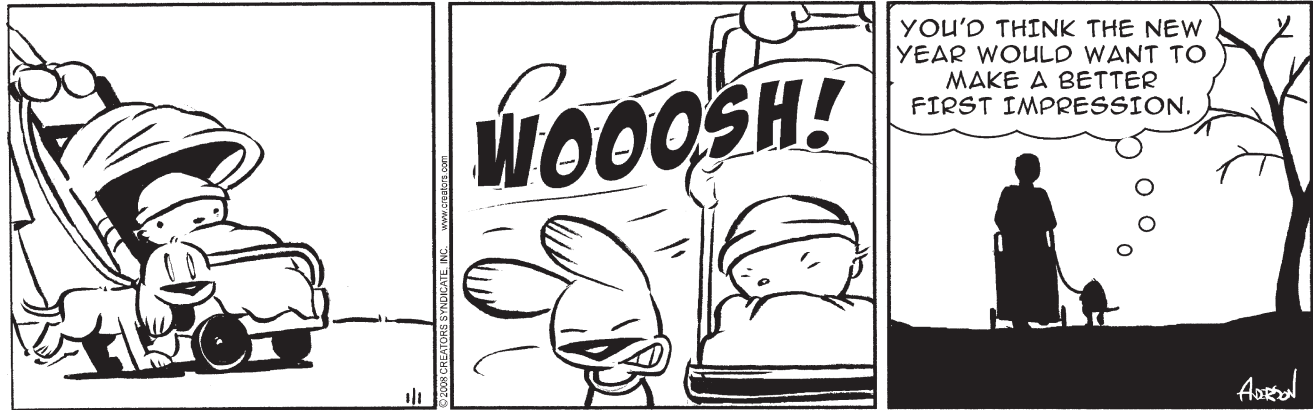
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

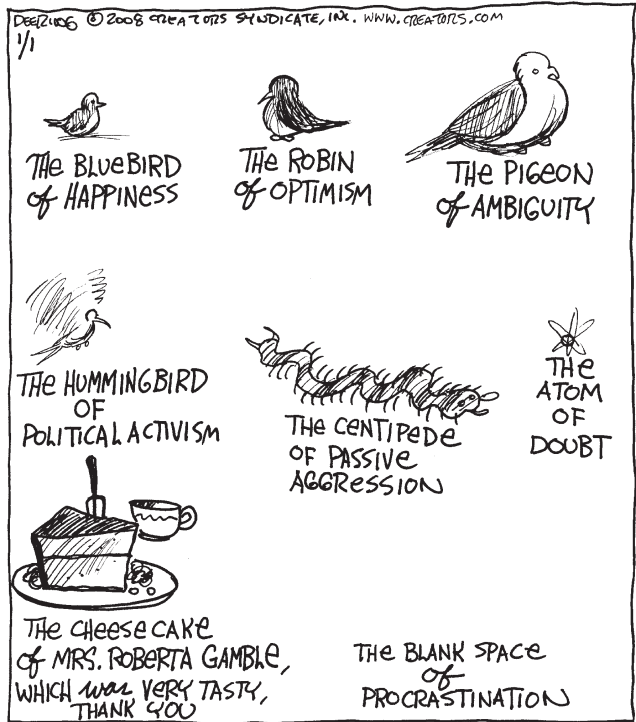


The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



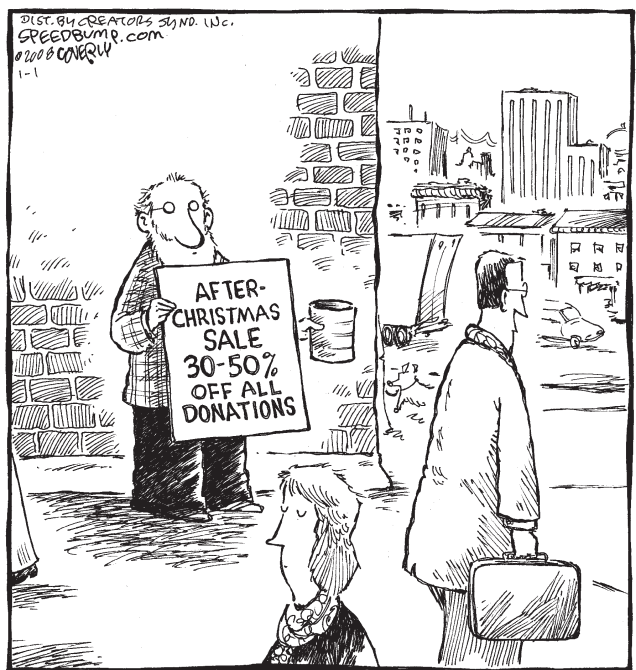
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

The first one to identify where this shot was taken wins a prize from the Daily Press. Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Algiers section
- 7 Bounders
- 11 "Lawrence of Arabia" star
- 12 Visitor to Siam
- 13 Time to make 34-Across
- 15 Dutch bloom
- 16 Location
- 18 Sassy
- 21 Not at home
- 22 Turned into a thick liquid
- 24 Casey Affleck's brother
- 25 Unruly do
- 26 Sauna site
- 27 Be furious
- 29 Accomplishment
- 30 Novel need
- 31 Cast a ballot
- 32 Elementary
- 34 They're often broken in January
- 40 Scads
- 41 Danseur's forte
- 42 Brooches
- 43 Like winter weather

DOWN

- 1 Jailbird
- 2 Had chow
- 3 Boar's mate
- 4 Woman's younger beau
- 5 Alaska native
- 6 Get better
- 7 Cartoon ghost
- 8 Plus
- 9 "CSI" evidence
- 10 Pro-nounce
- 14 Shred
- 16 Chimney cleaner
- 17 Gauge setting
- 19 Bowler's button
- 20 Plains abode
- 21 Crunch targets
- 22 Okra unit
- 23 June honoree
- 25 Music genre
- 28 Mechanical men
- 29 Calm

C	O	A	T	S		J	E	E	P	S
A	D	L	A	I		A	G	R	E	E
W	E	E	K	S		G	O	O	S	E
			E	S	A	U		S	O	D
S	T	R	A	Y	C	A	T			
K	I	E	V		T	R	A	C	E	Y
I	D	I	O	T		S	K	A	T	E
M	E	N	T	O		R	E	L	A	N
			E	Y	E	B	A	L	L	S
P	O	D		S	P	A	N			
I	R	I	S	H		S	O	B	E	R
C	A	M	E	O		I	T	A	L	Y
S	L	E	E	P		C	E	A	S	E

Yesterday's answer

- 31 Imperative
- 33 Stand-ins
- 34 Music genre
- 35 Yalie
- 36 Bart, to Homer
- 37 Flamenco call
- 38 Court divider
- 39 Hog holder

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11							12			
13							14			
			15							
	16	17				18		19	20	
21					22					23
24				25				26		
27			28				29			
	30					31				
			32		33					
34	35	36						37	38	39
40					41					
42					43					

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The Texas Board of Education announced in November that it had made its selections of approved math textbooks for the next school year, even though the group of chosen books contained a total of 109,263 errors. Books of the industry giant Houghton Mifflin accounted for about 86,000. All publishers have guaranteed to correct the errors by the time the books are shipped.

■ In October, rescue crews in Pittsburgh freed a woman who had become stuck underneath an SUV in front of another woman's house. She told police that she suspected her husband was having an affair with the woman and had crawled around to get a better vantage point for spying. She said she inadvertently fell asleep and, when she awoke, could not crawl out.

■ The existence of the 50-year-old, ultra-secure computer protocol required for a U.S. president to launch nuclear weapons is well-known, through newspapers, books and Hollywood films, but according to papers released by Britain's National Archive in November, a similarly complex protocol has been in place in that country only since 1998. Before that, a person could arm a nuclear bomb simply by removing two ordinary screws and (according to BBC News) using "an Allen key to select high yield or low yield, air burst or groundburst and other parameters."

■ Creme de la Weir: Mesa, Ariz., police arrested Sebastian Mancilla, 41, in November after a security camera at Mervyn's department store caught him being not too subtle in looking up the skirt of a female shopper. According to an Arizona Republic reporter, citing a police source: "At one time Mancilla approached the woman from behind and laid down on the floor to look up her skirt. He then got back to his feet and continued to act as if he was shopping." Mancilla allegedly tried again with the same woman, dropping to his knees, but to no avail, as the woman walked away.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1438 Albert II of Habsburg is crowned King of Hungary.
- 1515 King Francis I of France succeeds to the French throne.
- 1651 Charles II is crowned King of Scotland.
- 1800 The Dutch East India Company ceases to exist.
- 1801 Dwarf planet Ceres is discovered by Giuseppe Piazzi.
- 1808 The importation of slaves into the United States is banned.
- 1861 Porfirio Díaz conquers Mexico City.
- 1899 Spanish rule ends in Cuba.
- 1912 The Republic of China is established.
- 1934 Alcatraz Island becomes a United States federal prison.
- 1946 The first civil flight from Heathrow Airport occurs.

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Obituaries

MARGARET C. BONACHEA
Bonachea, Margaret C. Passed away on December 5, 2007 at the age of 92. Beloved mother, grandmother, and aunt. Services will be held on Tuesday December 11, 2007 at 10 A.M. Spalding Mortuary (323) 934-1181 may be contacted for further info.

Miscellaneous

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5 YEAR/1 ARM	6%**
APR 7.25%	
3 YEAR/1 ARM	5.75%**
APR 7.275%	
1 YEAR/1 ARM	5.5%
APR 7.35%	
6 MO./6 MO. ARM	5.25%
APR 7.49%	
1 MO./1 MO. ARM	1.25%**
APR 8.25%	

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* As of August 29, 2007
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20072574226 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as EMPIRE BY DESIGN, 3755 MENTONE #8, P O BOX 741963, L.A. CA. 90004, 90034. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : LEVAR BROWN, 3755 MENTONE #8, L.A. CA. 90034 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)11/19/2007. /s/: LEVAR BROWN
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/19/2007. 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 12/18/2007, 12/25/2007, 1/1/2008, 1/8/2008

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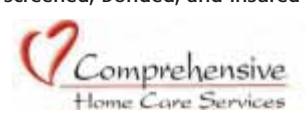
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Kate Bransfield

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North of Montana	=	\$ 4,142,182	\$ 1,841,609
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 2,123,500	\$ 958,276
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 1,049,800	\$ 679,863
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,297,467	\$ 683,385
Ocean Park	=	\$ 2,043,188	\$ 964,100

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