

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In Kent, Wash., in November, a 24-year-old man, whose reasons will probably never be known, tried to heat his lava lamp on a stove; he was killed when the lamp exploded and propelled a piece of glass into his heart. And on Thanksgiving day in Worcester, Mass., Frank Palacios, 24, apparently got tired of being criticized for picking at the turkey with his fingers and stabbed his cousin and his uncle, sending both to the hospital.

Among the latest "miracles": a fiber-glass statue of Jesus, which washed up on a sandbar on the Rio Grande River near Eagle Pass, Texas, and which has now drawn thousands of worshippers (September); an inflated balloon with a rubber smudge in the image of the Virgin Mary, decorating the car lot of Payne Weslaco Motors, Weslaco, Texas (giving at least one worker there "chills") (August); and the spontaneous falling over of the statue of the Virgin Mary at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church, which was taken to be a holy signal that the church, which had been scheduled for closing by the Boston Archdiocese, should remain open (October).

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1904, the Supreme Court ruled that Puerto Ricans were not aliens and could enter the United States freely; however, the court stopped short of declaring them U.S. citizens.

In 1951, during the Korean conflict, North Korean and Communist Chinese forces captured the city of Seoul.

In 1960, French author Albert Camus died in an automobile accident at age 46.

In 1974, President Nixon refused to hand over tape recordings and documents subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee.

In 1987, 16 people were killed when an Amtrak train bound from Washington to Boston collided with Conrail engines approaching from a side track in Chase, Md.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Sometimes history takes things into its own hands."

THURGOOD MARSHALL
U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE (1908-1993)

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Santa Monicans' whereabouts still remain a mystery

Residents have vanished with little or no trace

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

POLICE HDQTRS. — Authorities throughout the country are looking for Santa Monica residents who have vanished. And in some cases, they've been missing for nearly a decade.

The whereabouts of five individuals posted on the Santa Monica Police Department's Web site remain a mystery to family members, as well as to authorities who have been looking for them with the help of a variety of resources.

SMPD detectives have been continuously working with agencies throughout the United States, and in some cases, the United Kingdom, to find the missing Santa Monica residents. But even working with Interpol, the Department of Justice, the INS, the IRS, credit card companies, banks, as well as local, state and other national authorities, Santa Monica detectives have run into dead-ends finding the missing persons.

The SMPD's Web site serves as an additional resource in hopes that someone will recognize the individuals and contact detectives.

"After going through all of our checks and balances and exhausting our resources, they'll ultimately go on the Web site in hopes that the public can help locate them," said SMPD Sgt. Dan Salerno. "The five here are cases that are long-term missings that we've had no successes in finding."

The SMPD will enter a missing person's information into its own database so if the individual has any contact with police, like arrests or traffic tickets, officers will be alerted to their status. Any information given to the SMPD by the person who reported them missing — like dental records, photographs, or DNA — is forwarded onto the DOJ and other agencies like the sheriff's department, the coroner's office and the morgue.

"The DOJ will send us teletypes if they come across anything that resembles body types or descriptions," Salerno said, adding that as gruesome as it may sound, body parts are regularly analyzed to determine if they came from a missing person file.

There are many more Santa Monica residents who are missing but for a variety of reasons, they haven't been posted on the Web site.

"If we run into a dead end or have a dry run in the investiga-



JOHN BUTLER



DONALD MARCELINO ALVAREZ-VALLECILLO



GEMMA CORONEL



GRAYSON LYONS

Photos courtesy of santamonicapd.org
Five people from Santa Monica are listed as missing on the Santa Monica Police Department's Web site. Despite a wide array of resources available, authorities have been unsuccessful in locating them.

tion, we'll put them on the Web site," Salerno said. "Most of the cases we can find on our own but circumstances dictate what goes on the Web site ... If we don't have a photograph, we are dead

See MISSING, page 6



JOHN A. RANDALL

City doles out \$25K for trip to Hawaii

Samohi choir to compete nationally in Honolulu

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — A group of 42 Santa Monica High School students will head to Hawaii this spring, courtesy of City Hall.

Members of the City Council have awarded the Samohi choir a \$25,000 matching grant to send 42 of its students from low-income families to sing in Honolulu with 115 other members of the school choir.

Several dozen parents and stu-

"Choir is like a sport. Every single team member is vital, and no singer should be denied this wonderful opportunity to be a musical ambassador for our city based on financial need."

ALLEGRA FONDA-BONARDI
SAMOHI STUDENT

dents crammed into the council chambers last month to ask for the money, saying art programs were left out of a recent deal that guar-

antees at least \$6 million a year in city funding for schools.

The \$25,000 matching grant will come from what the council

calls its "discretionary" fund. After approving the grant, the council retained \$46,400 in that fund to spend as it chooses, City Manager Susan McCarthy said.

A small group of designated speakers who addressed the council said every local choir student should be able to compete in the national contest, which will be held in Hawaii in March.

"We are asking for your support so that we can achieve the goal of funding all students who need financial aid," said Samohi student and choir member Allegra Fonda-Bonardi. "Choir is like a sport."

See CHOIR, page 6

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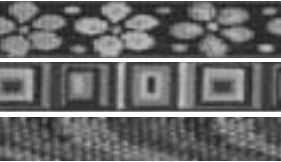
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Avoid a power play, Libra

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)
★★★ Recognize how negativity could be affecting you and others. Toss this attitude to the wind and help others be more positive. A discussion opens up your thinking. In fact, you might need to revise an opinion. Tonight: Share news over dinner.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★ You might easily be misunderstood or have a difficult time getting your day started. Fighting the inevitable won't help. Just deal with problems. Debate, brainstorm and listen to a key associate's presentation or ideas. Tonight: Accept an invitation to go out.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You could easily get tripped up by a financial matter this morning. Be realistic when coming up with solutions. Open up, and then others can help you. Together solutions are easily found. Work with a co-worker or friend. Tonight: Walk or exercise — whatever works for you.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★ You could be far more difficult or touchy than you realize. Take some more time off if you need it. You could use it. Indulge yourself instead of everyone else. Yes, schedule a massage or some other welcomed indulgence. Tonight: Express your inner child.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Something might be bothering you on a subconscious level. Still, put your best foot forward. Seek out others, return messages and update co-workers on recent events. Your ability to present your point of view makes all the difference. Tonight: Head home.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Juggling funds and doing price comparisons could take up a large part of your time. Try to postpone these activities until you complete some work, if you can. A discussion about family or a domestic matter opens your mind. Tonight: Pick up the phone. Talk to others.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ A boss could rain on your parade. You might want to let go and be yourself. You find that a conversation later in the day reveals a lot of what he or she was thinking. Approach communication differently. You'll get results. Tonight: Avoid a power play or money hassle.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Listen and check out information. Somehow facts don't emerge readily. Avoid gossip as well. Talk to an associate or friend about money and perhaps a new way of handling it. Be willing to try a new bank or different type of approach. Tonight: Beam in what you want.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Seize the moment wherever you are. Though an associate could be negative, you are capable of making white rabbits pop out of a black hat. Your perceptions help a boss or associate. Share your view. Tonight: Time for yourself.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You find some people to be difficult and negative. Bypass negativity by rethinking what has happened. Renew your outlook through a confidential discussion. Responsible actions lead to success. You know what you are doing. Tonight: Find your pals.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ If you find that you are tired, use your mental abilities to shorten various tasks. Delegate as much as you can. You find that relaxing and letting go of stress will help as well. Take charge and claim your power. Tonight: Out late.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Listen to a partner or someone who has a very different perspective on money. You might need to rethink your attitude toward a partner or your work. Discuss options with a boss or someone you respect. Tonight: Watch a movie. Hop on your computer.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

New businesses set up shop downtown

By Daily Press staff

The make-up of downtown businesses has changed for the new year. Eight new stores have opened in the Bayside District, ranging from restaurants to clothing shops to a new gym.

Just in time to help redress the excesses of the holidays comes Equinox, a new three-level fitness facility with trainers, equipment and a variety of workout classes in a 33,000-square-foot facility.

The new facility just opened at Second Street and Santa Monica Boulevard. It is the third club for Equinox in the Los Angeles area and the 23rd location for the New York-based company.

The space includes strength and conditioning workout areas, a yoga-only studio, spinning classes and a main studio for ballet, boot camp and pilates, among other fitness offerings. Equinox also sports a full café and juice shop, a kids' club, locker rooms with full amenities, a wet steam room and a full-service day spa. Fitness attire and accessories also is available for sale.

Also open is Boa Steakhouse at 101 Santa Monica Blvd. The contemporary American steakhouse features 43 wines by the glass and all prime dry-aged beef served in what's been described as a hip, sophisticated urban environment.

Santa-Monica based Hard Tail, named the "best young contemporary resource" at the recent Dallas Fashion Awards, tentatively is scheduled to open its first retail store and flagship in 6,400 square feet at 1322 Third Street Promenade in late January. Retailers throughout the United States and in 32 countries sell the Hard Tail line of active sportswear for men and women.

Several other businesses have opened in the past month. Among them is Club Monaco, 1225 Third Street Promenade. The Promenade store is one of 65 U.S. and Canadian stores for the international chain that carries men's and women's clothing and accessories.

New to downtown Santa Monica is Skinny Minnie at 1435 Third Street Promenade. This is the first retail location for the clothing maker recognized by its signature tees with their images conjuring time periods past.

Another clothing seller, Basement the \$10 Store, has opened off the Promenade at 1420 Fourth St. with merchandise for the price conscious.

Kidrobot brings its vision of the world to 1435 Third Street Promenade. Kidrobot was among the first companies to introduce urban vinyl and plush toys to the U.S. market.

Austin-based Wild About Music has opened a store at 1450 Second St. between Santa Monica Boulevard and Broadway, and is dedicated to entertainment-themed art and gifts. At Wild About Music are original paintings and limited edition prints by more than 50 national, international and local artists, as well as musicians such as Bob James and Jerry Garcia. Specialty and accessory lines available include Fender, Dragonfly and Wild About Music. Wild About Music plans to host special events, live music performances and art shows in part of their 7,000 square feet of space.



Richard McKay is this week's mystery photo winner. McKay accurately described that this photo was taken of the Cavalia tent near the Santa Monica Pier. McKay has won a gift certificate to Izzy's Deli on Wilshire Boulevard.

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

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SURF REPORT

The southerly wind swell backs down today while some WNW wind swell picks up. We'll also see long period NW swell (290+300+) build throughout the day, eventually looking strongest for most spots on Wednesday. This will be a low amplitude, but very long period swell. Therefore, average exposed spots won't see much more than inconsistent waist-high surf from it.

Tuesday morning will see mostly relatively light onshore SW to W wind early in the day up to 10 knots, building out of the WNW in the 10-15 knot range for the afternoon.

Expect two- to three-foot waves, occasionally four feet with poor to fair 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	7:53	2.6	7:45	1.0	2:22	4.0	12:54	3.6
SUNDAY	9:35	2.2	8:29	1.5	3:02	4.3	2:30	3.1
MONDAY	9:35	2.2	8:29	1.5	3:02	4.3	2:30	3.1
TUESDAY	10:56	1.5	9:20	1.9	3:43	4.7	4:28	2.9
WEDNESDAY	11:55	0.6	10:19	2.1	4:26	5.2	6:06	3.0
THURSDAY	12:45	-0.2	11:18	2.3	5:11	5.7	7:14	5.2
FRIDAY	12:45	-0.2	11:18	2.3	5:11	5.7	7:14	5.2

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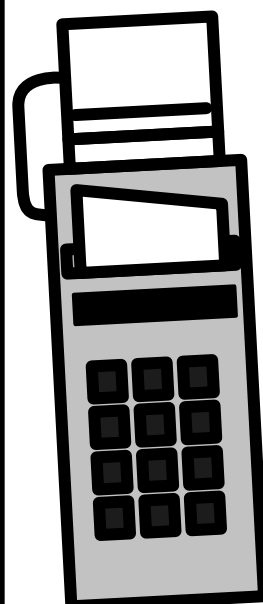
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The Q-Line

It's a new year. Let's start it off right. Every week we hear about what's going wrong in our city. This week, we want to hear about what is going right.

So this week's Q-Line wants to know, "What do you like about living in Santa Monica?"

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



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OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Not providing tsunami aid a ridiculous idea

Editor:

After reading the commentary by David Holcberg my stomach turned (SMDP, Dec. 31, page 4). To realize that there can be someone so out of touch is just plain scary. I now see how Mr. Bush got elected for the first time. Logic such as Mr. Holcberg would be needed in order to cast a vote for someone as out of touch as Mr. Bush and his policies.

What the U.S. government should be spending its money on is education. So that the learned, such as yourself, are educated enough to not say such stupid things. Why not just bomb the areas hit because they didn't vote for Bush? That sounds as logical to me as your arguments. I bet you would be willing to fund the purchase of the bombs for "security."

Roy Persinko
Santa Monica

Origins of smoke-free beaches far reaching

Editor:

While I was pleased to see smoke-free beaches reported as the No. 2 story of 2004 (2004 Year In Review, SMDP, Dec. 31, page 1), I disagree with the SMDP's characterization of this being an unprecedented policy or one that was recommended by a "small group of citizens." Smoke-free beaches were established in Massachusetts and Hawaii nearly a decade ago. The precedent in California was set in Solana Beach, which went smoke-free in 2003. By the time the Santa Monica City Council reviewed and voted on the policy, it had the backing of a wide range of residents and students, Santa Monica's Recreation and Parks Commission, and Task Force on the Environment, and the local chapters of the Surfrider Foundation, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, Los Angeles County Medical Association, Environment Now and many others. Public hearings and extensive community surveying confirmed broad support for smoke-free beaches. The fact that communities like Los Angeles, Malibu, Huntington Beach, Newport Beach, Manhattan Beach, Santa Cruz and as far away as Australia were inspired to follow Santa Monica's lead is further testament to the fact that this is a mainstream issue whose time has come.

Robert Berger
Chair, Los Angeles County Smoke-Free Beach Task Force

Social Security plan is the third rail of politics



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISSARRA

I love the First Amendment. It allows me to ask questions like this: Does anyone besides our brain-dead president and his band of blithering idiots at the White House believe that cutting the Social Security contribution is a good thing?

I am a lower taxes, smaller government kind of guy but let's face facts. Americans hate to save. We are a society that loves credit cards, living beyond our means, in homes too large for our families, driving cars that are stupidly expensive, overeating on a regular basis and buying tons of junk we don't need at Wal-Mart, then bawling the loss of jobs in this country. We are a country of near-sighted, hedonistic, live-for-the moment, impulse-buying consumers.

And these are the people who President Bush wants in charge of their own retirement.

It's a recipe for disaster for everyone — except the retailers.

I realize that half of the country who voted for the president actually believe they can and will do better with an extra few dollars in their pockets today. It is what the man campaigned on. He told the American people they are smart enough to do the right thing for their own well being. Bush said it over and over again, "it's your money, you should have it to invest."

The problem with this is that the people who believe him tend to be overweight, SUV-driving Bubbas and Bubbettes who also believe that the world was created 6,000 years ago, and the Bible is to be strictly interpreted when it applies to your life but is an allegory when it applies to theirs.

These are the people who are at the lower financial ladder rungs and will be most in need of any Social Security benefits. This is a move that is bad for the stock market, bad for the individuals who will quickly be relieved of their money by unscrupulous "money managers" and be left with no savings. And, it's bad for the program.

Let's just assume for a moment that we take two hypothetical people: Joe who works at a grocery store and makes \$40,000 a year and LaTonya, who is an expert in international trade making \$180,000 a year. Joe and LaTonya will each pay 6.20 percent of their income into the Social Security system. But there's a catch. Joe pays it on all of his income, and LaTonya will pay it on only the first \$87,900 she earns. That's because there is a maximum taxable income level. This means that Joe contributes \$2,480 and LaTonya contributes \$5,450.

If Joe gets to keep an extra \$1,000 of "his" money, that's about \$20 a week. The odds are that he will not use that money to invest in the stock market, or put it into a savings account. He is more likely to spend it on a couple of Starbucks mocha grandes for himself and his wife, a hot chocolate for his kid and with the \$7 that is left over, he'll buy an extra three gallons of gas for his Excursion.

If LaTonya gets to keep an extra \$1,000 of "her" money, it's much more likely to end up in a stock portfolio direct reinvestment plan, or IRA. That's because as a percentage of her earnings, it's minuscule. But it's a much larger percentage of Joe's earnings and will actually make a difference in his lifestyle today.

So when retirement time comes for both of them, one of them will have a retirement that allows for enjoyment of life, and one will have to keep working, or be homeless and poor. It's the old fable of the ant and grasshopper. The ant works all summer and can enjoy the winter. The grasshopper enjoys all summer and dies in the winter.

It's simply irresponsible to believe that the vast majority of American workers are going to suddenly be able to manage their money more wisely. It has quite clearly been shown that this is not the case.

The number of get rich quick schemes will explode if the president's proposal to "give you back your money" is actually implemented.

There will be a large number of losses and people will be in a much worse financial situation than they are in now. Should the American worker suddenly decide that they want to, and are able to, invest in the stock market, it would result in an artificial raising of the value of the stocks today. And 20 years from now, when those people need their money back, it would cause a huge drop in the overall value of the stock market.

This of course is to say nothing of the cash drain in the immediate future it would cause on the current Social Security system and the benefits that it's paying out today. There is no mention made of how that shortfall is going to be covered in a time when we have a budget deficit of gargantuan proportions already.

The vast majority of Americans are unsophisticated, Wal-Mart shopping fools who elected a man that plays to their insecurities and their bravado.

President "Smaller Government" Bush wants controls in place to prevent people from "going to Vegas and rolling the dice," but look at how people handle their IRAs and 401(k)s now. Most people still bungle the job. I have clients who borrow from their 401(k)s, don't realize they have to pay taxes on it, can't pay the taxes and the penalties, and now are in worse shape than if they weren't allowed to touch the money at all.

The president says he wants to give us our money back, but then put all kinds of controls on the ways in which we can invest it, have access to it and use it. Why the need for the double speak? If we can't be trusted to invest it wisely, then why give it back to us?

We cannot simply tell people "we trust you to do the right thing" and simultaneously prevent them from doing their own thing. The current tax code and Social Security structure provides some retirement, and what the president is proposing is a wholesale disaster waiting in the wings.

(David Pissarra is a business development lawyer in the Santa Monica firm of Pissarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpissarra@pissarra.com).

Bitch!
Whine!
Complain!

Check Out the Question of the Week on Page 3 and let us hear what you have to say

The **Q** Line

COMMENTARY



The one thing that Los Angeles is not is comforting



ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

If I could say one thing that LA is not, it would be comfort.

LA is fast-paced, trendy and tries painfully to be forever young. I promise it can be exhilarating to know that any second you could run into a Rob Lowe or Demi Moore, and even more so that your friends will believe you did. But by no means is LA comfort and by that measure, home.

Many may make LA their home. I have. But I don't find comfort seeing women twice my age dressing like my friends in college and dating my ex-boyfriends. And it makes me uneasy quite

honestly to be sneered at by clerks on Montana Avenue who sell clothes at the price of a down payment on a home.

I don't like to wake up to the sound of strange men sorting through glass, and garbage trucks picking up the waste of low-carb, high-stress diets. Life doesn't have to be so noisy, and I promise you it isn't everywhere.

A comfortable city to me is St. Paul, Minn. People are known as egregiously friendly, striking up conversations in airport bathrooms. The quality of life on many a survey is high — its residents are reportedly happy and the city is clean and safe.

In such an environment one can let down their protective Chanel waistline, immaculately trim bodies and rest in the comfort of being themselves.

But I don't see this in LA. I see people desperately wanting to be special, noticed. And honestly it makes me sad. Sure, most

of us are not as Buddhist as we should be. We don't want to deal with the pain of human suffering. With botox, younger clothes and a team of plastic surgeons, we shun away any conception of the idea that we too some day will die.

I'm not Buddhist but I don't adhere to LA teaching either. Happiness doesn't come from success and exploited sexuality. It comes in a comfort and confidence in yourself.

Sounds simple right? Of course it's not. That's why arrogance/self consciousness and eating disorders run rampant. We are the only nation that is so conspicuously overweight yet adores celebrities unable to produce a menstruation cycle. In layman's terms, we are f'd up.

Are you looking to me to find a solution? You shouldn't. Not because it's insulting to be insulted by someone so young and inexperienced but because that's wherein the problem lies.

I am not saying that I have never been sucked in by the glitz and glamour of LA. I admit I too had the unmistakably flat stomach, tanned exterior and perfectly coifed, immorally priced hair. But in the passing of years and misdirected compliments of some that I should be a model (by size and not looks), I finally realized that I had gone too far.

Three years later I sit here paler, larger and unmistakably happier. No more talent scouts approaching me for modeling jobs — no more dizziness in life. And that in itself gives me great peace.

I don't find comfort in the exteriors of LA but I do find comfort in the fact that I have battled with the outside stimuli provided for me, and for the moment, have won.

(If you want to tell Heidi what brings you comfort, send her an e-mail at anydayinla@gmail.com).

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SMPD working with agencies to find missing persons

MISSING, from page 1

in the water.”

Sometimes police will locate missing persons only to find out they didn’t want to be found. If that’s the case and they appear stable and not in any danger, authorities will tell family members or the reporting party that their loved one was found.

“We won’t leave the reporting person hanging,” Salerno said. “Sometimes these people are missing because they don’t want to be found. If we find them and they don’t want to be found, we’ll let the family know that, or they’ll let the family member know that they are alive.”

SMPD at least once a year communicates with the reporting party on the status of the case, as does the DOJ, which requires annual notification.

Anyone having information regarding any of the missing persons is asked to contact the Santa Monica Police Department at (310) 458-8451. Police have little information on the following individuals who have been missing from as long ago as 1994 and as most recently as 2003:

#1: GEMMA CORONEL

Coronel, also known as Kirsty Jane Ormerod, or Gemma Michelle Taylor, is the most recent missing person case posted on the SMPD Web site.

The 22-year-old, originally from Wales, vanished in 2003 when she failed to meet her 50-year-old husband after a routine work-out. She was last seen on Sept. 3, 2003 at the Santa Monica YMCA, 1300 Sixth St. Coronel said she would meet her husband in the YMCA lobby but when he got there, the receptionist said Coronel had already left. She never showed up and didn’t tell anyone she was leaving. Her husband reported her missing a few days later.

“She kind of up and left,” Salerno said, adding further investigation revealed that Coronel was initially reported missing in Wales in 2002. “She had a past that the husband did not know about ... she has a history of moving on when she is tired or fed up ... she just moves on.”

Working with a private missing person group in the United Kingdom and Interpol, SMPD detectives learned that Coronel went missing after she traveled from Wales to Chicago for a Guns and Roses concert in November of 2002. According to family members, she was expected to return to Wales on Nov. 20, 2002. But she never came home.

Salerno said Coronel met her future husband in Las Vegas. She moved to Santa Monica with him. Her husband, who still lives on the Westside and her mother, continue to be very concerned about Coronel’s whereabouts, police said. She has not contacted her husband or any common friends. According to her husband, Coronel believed she was pregnant with their child.

Height: Five feet, six inches tall

Weight: 130 pounds

Hair: Blonde

Eyes: Blue

Born on either June 12, 1982 or Dec. 6, 1982.

Coronel is described as slim with a fair complexion. She has dime-size burns that cover both forearms from a scalding. She has a thick British accent and poor teeth.

#2: GRAYSON LYONS

Also a Brit, the 35-year-old Lyons was last seen on Nov. 29, 1994. At the time of his disappearance, Grayson lived in Santa Monica with friends. Lyons’ mother had normally been in frequent contact with him but had had a fight with him shortly before his disappearance.

“He may have psychiatric problems and could be living on the street,” Salerno said. “And he could be using an alias which makes it that much harder to find him.”

The last activity on Lyons’ case within the SMPD was in August of 2004. Local detectives are working with Interpol on Lyons’ whereabouts.

Height: Five feet, eight inches tall

Weight: 165 pounds

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Blue

Grayson speaks with a British accent.

#3: JOHN A. RANDALL

The 59-year-old electrical engineer resided in Santa Monica and left his home in August of 1997 but wasn’t reported missing by family members in Greece until a year later. He left behind his cat and other personal belongings. Randall wired \$50,000 to his mother in Greece in 1997 and had called his brother in Greece in October of 1997, advising him that he was possibly going to Asia and would contact him once he relocated.

“After that, he wasn’t heard by the family,” Salerno said.

Randall was last seen October of 1997 in Carson City, Nev. He sold his car to a car dealership and cashed the check at a local bank. He had a backpack and suitcase with him, and was last seen on foot.

“He’s a very interesting case and a lot of time and effort has gone into it,” Salerno said. “We have no idea where he went or why.”

Salerno added that Randall has been difficult to find because he was elusive while he lived here — using only P.O. boxes. There’s been no activity on his driving record, bank accounts or credit cards. The case was revisited by the SMPD in October of 2004 after teletypes by outside agencies were sent on Randall but local detectives have come up with nothing.

Height: Five feet, eight inches tall

Weight: 145 pounds

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Brown

Born on May 5, 1945

California driver’s license number: N7227871

#4: JOHN CLIFTON BUTLER

Butler, now 53 years old, was last seen in 1994 living on the streets of Santa Monica. He was reported missing in September of 1999 when a family member tried to locate him to inform him that his father had died and left him a substantial amount of money.

“He’s one of those indigent people that the family hadn’t seen for a long time,” Salerno said, adding the SMPD has checked with all of the local homeless

shelters and social service agencies looking for Butler.

He has been in and out of mental institutions from California to Oregon. In 1984, Butler traveled to Belgium but was immediately sent back to the United States due to his mental condition. He suffers from paranoid schizophrenia.

Height: Five feet, 10 inches tall

Weight: 130 pounds

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Brown

Born on July 22, 1951

#5: DONALD MARCELINO ALVAREZ-VALLECILLO

The 42-year-old has been missing since 1999 but not reported as such until March 2, 2003 when Denny Hirley reported that she had not seen or heard from her uncle, Donald Marcelino Alvarez-Vallecillo.

“He basically just vanished,” Salerno said. “He was single, had friends here. One day he said he was going to return and never did. We think he may have gone back to Nicaragua.”

Alvarez-Vallecillo was temporarily living with Hirley at 1249 Lincoln Blvd. #5 in Santa Monica. He left home during the last week of February 1999 with two Latino men. He has not been seen or heard from since. Upon leaving his residence he said to Hirley, “I’ll be back tonight.”

“We ran in-house checks, with the INS, IRS, anything to link whether this guy is still around,” Salerno said. “If he’s stopped by U.S. Customs, they’ll use the same databases and they’ll notify us.”

He is described as Latino, five feet, eight inches tall, 150 pounds, brown hair, brown eyes. He was born on May 9, 1962. He has a medium build and complexion, and wears a mustache. He has scars above his left eye. He was last seen wearing a black leather jacket, white T-shirt, blue jeans and tennis shoes. He was a passenger in a red Toyota, unknown year. The vehicle had a white colored California license plate.

SM City Council reserve funds drop to \$46,000

CHOIR, from page 1

Every single team member is vital, and no singer should be denied this wonderful opportunity to be a musical ambassador for our city based on financial need.”

Choir director Christopher Rhodes said the trip to Hawaii would mean a whole lot more to students than sun and fun. Rhodes said he picked the long-distance choir trip carefully, based on its educational value, adding the skilled choir recently was invited to a nation-

al convention to be held in Los Angeles in February by the National American Choral Director’s Association. The choir did not apply for that honor, he said.

“I know that Honolulu seems like it’s going to be a day at the beach,” Rhodes added. “It’s very packed and there actually is not a whole lot of time at the beach because there’s more to Honolulu than Waikiki, and this festival and this tour opportunity really presents students with an overall picture of the culture of the Hawaiian islands, and not

simply a tourist destination.”

As well as competing in the National High School Choral Festival, choir members will tour Pearl Harbor, climb a volcano, snorkel, learn about Polynesian culture and participate in a choral exchange with a Hawaiian high school, according to the Choral Parents Association at Samohi.

Council members supported the matching grant unanimously.

“I asked for this in the belief that it’s an important and appropriate cultural and

educational opportunity for the young chorale singers of our community who are here tonight to support this,” City Councilman Kevin McKeown said.

City Councilman Bob Holbrook also voted for the grant, but took exception to the way the \$6 million in city funds was earmarked.

“I hope the city manager heard that comment and I’d like to think our \$6 million donation filters down even to the arts,” he said. “That’s important, at least to me.”



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STATE



STATE BRIEFS

Crusader still fighting City Hall

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — In the cozy world of San Diego politics, Michael Aguirre seemed a perennial outsider — the gadfly who sued the city about a half-dozen times and lost election after election.

It took a public pension scandal and a federal investigation for voters to heed his cries of corruption and incompetence. Now Aguirre, 55, is fighting City Hall from the inside.

Since being narrowly elected city attorney in November, the fast-moving Aguirre has been poring through documents in search of questionable behavior and making them public. He also has tried to assert legal oversight of a city pension board that has been under investigation by the U.S. Justice Department, FBI and U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission since February.

The former securities fraud attorney began his own investigation of the San Diego City Employees' Retirement System only two days after taking office. After promising to clean up City Hall during the campaign, he declared in his inaugural speech that San Diego was in "the most serious legal and financial crisis" in its history.

Artificial reef plan in the works

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — Federal and local agencies want to build an underwater artificial reef between Mussel Shoals

and Seacliff to combat beach erosion.

It's designed to be a test of sorts to determine whether artificial reefs could be used elsewhere to minimize beach erosion.

The Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment, known as BEACON, and the Army Corps of Engineers applied to the California Coastal Commission to build a \$2 million reef at the former Mobil Oil Piers site.

Ventura and Santa Barbara counties and the cities of Ventura, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Carpinteria and Santa Barbara are BEACON members.

"We're basically trying to figure out ways to get sand on the beaches and get it to stay on the beaches," Mayor Brian Brennan. "We're trying to do things that mirror the natural process as much as possible.

"If this solution works here, it has the potential to work in other areas."

The Coastal Commission is expected to schedule a public hearing on the proposal in coming months. If approved, construction could start in the summer and take six to 10 months to complete.

Removal of the oil piers in 1998 left sand exposed to the gnawing surf. The reef would allow waves to break farther offshore.

The reef project is part of the National Shoreline Erosion Control Development and Demonstration Program, which is authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. The law provides federal funds to jurisdictions for aquatic ecosystem restoration programs.

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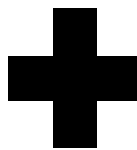
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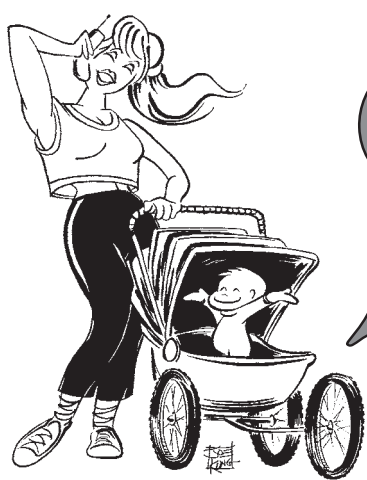


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Santa Monica

A weekly look at events and programs for



DEAR DORIE

New kid on the block: The square toys key to child development

Dear Dorie,

What is all the fuss about blocks? Everywhere I turn, someone is mentioning how great they are and how any good home or preschool should have them. I'm sure they're fun and all but why are they so important? Should I buy them for home? Should I get the fancy ones or not? Am I block-impaired?

Mommy with Mental Block

Dear Parent,

The function of block play is easy to explain and very important to implement in every child's young life. Ask yourself, if you handed any established cartoon character to your toddler, would they recognize it? The answer in this country is a resounding yes and thus the problem. The personality, physical features and, implicitly, actions are pre-determined. This makes it a "closed" toy. Blocks are the ultimate "open" toy. They have no right or wrong, can create or re-create anything the child wants and/or needs, and accomplish a sense of achievement (wow, I did it!) that no other toy can accomplish.

What you have heard or read is correct. Any quality child care or preschool setting should have readily available a huge supply of well-organized and labeled blocks. These are commonly referred to as "unit blocks" and are without color but come in a variety of shapes. The more the program has the better. But these are useless unless the program offers plenty of "open time" or "choice time." Children need to construct on their own schedule.

As far as having blocks at home, a good collection of unit blocks is huge. If you are fortunate enough to have the space and means to acquire them, go for it. Most homes will have to use the smaller "table unit blocks" that can be easily stored in a bin and don't take up the entire room. As far as "fancy," definitely stick with the plain and leave the "fancy" to your child's imagination. Just observe and enjoy.

For more information on blocks and block play, contact Community Playthings at 800-777-4244, or your local educational supply store. Good luck.

(Dorie Meek is director of the Infant & Family Support Program, provided by Saint John's Health Center in partnership with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Meek answers questions concerning children ages birth to 5 years old. Submit your questions to "Dear Dorie" at meek@smmusd.org, or call (310) 452-6132; fax (310) 452-6392).

Learn the ABCs of breastfeeding

By Daily Press staff

Breast milk provides the perfect blend of nutrients essential to a newborn baby, and breast milk supports babies' immune systems, doctors say. Breast milk also is completely natural and it's far less expensive than store-bought formula. Most of all, however, breastfeeding is an ideal way for mothers and babies to bond with one another.

Unfortunately, breastfeeding isn't easy, and many new mothers find the experience frustrating.

Doctors at Saint John's Health Care Center answer some commonly asked questions:

Question: I'm about to deliver my first baby and I want to breastfeed her for the recommended first year. I've heard breastfeeding can be hard and I want to make sure I know what I am doing.

Answer: Good for you for getting prepared. Most hospitals and doctors are very encouraging when it comes to breastfeeding. For example, Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica proactively encourages all mothers to at the very least try to breastfeed their babies for a minimum of six months.

To address any difficulties new mothers may have with breastfeeding, Saint John's has onsite lactation certified nurses and a lactation consultant available after delivery. Nursing mothers are assisted in learning their babies' feeding cues, proper positioning and latch-on techniques, issues arising from prematurity, breast augmentation or reduction, and breastfeeding in the workplace. This encouragement is reinforced through post-hospitalization visits to the hospital's Lactation Station.

Question: I just had my first child and am breastfeeding him. What makes my breasts so sore?

Answer: Breastfeeding shouldn't cause a lot of pain. Most women experience some initial tenderness, but this should disappear after a week or two. The three most

common causes of breast tenderness are:

- Breasts that are too full of milk.
- Positioning the baby incorrectly.
- A child who is sucking improperly.

Question: What should I do if I need to breastfeed in a public place?

Answer: Breastfeeding in public is becoming more accepted. It's your right to breastfeed whenever you need to but please be aware that you may make some people uncomfortable. If you are in a public place, try to find a quiet corner to nurse. Your baby will have an easier time feeding without distraction, and people will appreciate your discretion. In the end, however, you need to do what is best for your baby, no matter where you may be.

If you are an expectant mother, this is a great time to learn more about breastfeeding and prepare yourself for delivery. Expectant parents are encouraged to tour Saint John's McAlister Women's Health Center. The tour provides information on procedures from admission through discharge and takes parents on a tour of the hospital's new facilities from the birthing suites to the Maria Shriver Nursery. Call (310) 829-8794 to make reservations.

Ask your doctor or nurse for assistance while you are in the hospital. After you have gone home, call your doctor for help, or take advantage of Saint John's lactation hotline. The support line number is (310) 829-8944. You don't need to have delivered at Saint John's to take advantage of the hotline.

Saint John's also offers a breastfeeding support group to new mothers. The group meets at Saint John's on Wednesdays and Fridays from noon to 1 p.m. To learn more about the support group, call (310) 829-8944.

If you are a nursing mother and need some encouragement or have questions about nursing, call the Saint John's Lactation hotline for assistance, (310) 829-8944, or make a date to attend the Breastfeeding Support Group for new mothers. To learn more about the support group, call (310) 829-8944.

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SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES – REGISTER NOW!
 Registration began Dec. 9 for the winter session that begins the second week of January. Classes for kids include Parent/Me with infants and toddlers, dance, gymnastics, sports and more. Visit www.RecEnroll.smgov.net or call 458-2239 for more info.

FRIDAY, JAN. 7
PARENTS NIGHT OUT at CHILD'S PLAY, 6:00 –11:00 p.m., 2299 Westwood, LA
 Kids get a night of supervised fun with pizza, games and more. Parents get a night out. Ages 3-10, \$9 per hour, \$7 siblings, 3 hour minimum. Reservations required. 470-4997, www.childisplayonline.net.

PLANETARIUM SHOW at SMC'S JOHN DRESCHER PLANETARIUM
 Pico Blvd and 17th St., Night Sky Show at 7:00 p.m., Featured Program "Beneath Titan's Clouds" at 8:00 p.m. \$5 adults, \$4 children, 434-3000.

SATURDAY, JAN 8
RALPH'S WORLD, 11:00 a.m., The Geffen Playhouse at the Brentwood Theatre, Bldg. 221, 11301 Wilshire Blvd., Brentwood. Ralph Covert performs kid-friendly songs and music. Ages 3 and up, \$10 adults, \$5 kids, 208-6500.

RHYTHM CHILD FAMILY JAM, 4:30 p.m., Santa Monica Studios, 3025 W. Olympic Blvd. Bring the whole family for a percussion jam. All ages, \$15 per child, \$10 sibling, adults free. 204-5466.

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms! Jan. 4 - "William Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice" starring Al Pacino, Jeremy Irons and Joseph Fiennes. Drama; Rated "PG-13."
 11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reel-moms for details.

Storytelling
Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.
Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m. For 2 year olds with adult. (not Dec. 21 & 28)
Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5. (not Dec. 21 & 28)
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Cuentos Para Pequeños – 10:00 a.m., six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds with adult. Next session Jan. 4 – Feb. 8.
Lap Time – 11:00 a.m, six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Programs. Next session Jan. 4 – Feb. 8.
Twilight Story Time -7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
Montana Avenue Branch Library –

1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 24-36 month olds.
Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis
 For ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, www.storyopolis.com
Barnes and Noble at the Grove
 Storytime for ages 2 – 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years) – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Infant & Me, Transitional Group (7 – 14 mos.) – 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.; Infant & Me (0-12 mos.) – 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.; classes in partnership with the Infant and Family Support Program. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA
 10:00 – 11:00 a.m and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Thursday nights 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
Itsy Bitsy Yoga – Tots (crawling to 24 months) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. (Register now for new session beginning Jan. 4.) Baby (6 weeks to pre-crawling) – 11:30 – 12:30 a.m.
With Khefri Riley at Ocean Oasis, 1333 Ocean Ave. Register at www.khefri.net or call 323-549-5383.
Stroller Strides – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 866-FIT-4MOM or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge – 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052
 10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4 at this neighborhood coffee shop.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult. Next session Jan. 5 – Feb. 9.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
 **New Time - Lap Time - 10:15 & 11:15 a.m., ages 0-2. Next session Jan. 5 – Feb. 9.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. –392-3804.
Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144
 Border's, Westwood – 11am – 310-475-3444.

Classes

Rhythm Child Parent & Me Rhythms, Santa Monica Studios,

3025 Olympic Blvd., 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Children explore rhythms through drum play. Ages 6 mos. – 3.5 years; \$15 per session. Call 204-5466 or visit www.rhythmchild.net for more info.
YWCA – A Place for Parents – Parent Support (3 – 5 years) – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Infant Plus (0-12 mos.) – 10:30 a.m. – noon; Parents of Adolescents Support Group – 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Step Aerobics, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.
Stroller Strides – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 866-FIT-4MOM or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Other

Puppetolio – 1:00 p.m., 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

THURSDAY

Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590
 10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.
Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.
Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m.; for 2 year olds with adult.
Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Toddler Story Time – 10:30 a.m; for ages 2 – 3. Next session begins Jan. 6.
La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., for 2 year olds. Next session begins Jan. 6.
Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m.; for 3-5 year olds.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Lap Time – 9:20 & 10:20 a.m., 6-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Program. Next session begins Jan. 6.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years) – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. and 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.; classes in partnership with the Infant and Family Support Program.
Parent Support (3 – 5 years) – 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA
 7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Tuesdays at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Stroller Strides – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 866-FIT-4MOM or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

January 6 - Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute)
Temescal Canyon, 15601 Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades, 10:00 a.m. Reservations – 998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org

FRIDAY

La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista – meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call 310-390-2529 for info.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years) – 9:20 – 10:20 a.m.; Parent Support (1-3 years) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
Mommy and Me Dance– celebrate the wonderful world of imagination Fridays at the Electric Lodge. 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. ages 14 - 24 months; 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. ages 2 – 4. 6 classes for \$75 or \$14 per class. First class free! 1416 Electric Ave, Venice, 306-1854.

Yoga & Exercise

Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Indoor Cycling, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.
 Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.
 Stroller Strides – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 866-FIT-4MOM or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Other

Baby Attuned - Fridays, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., A new program promoting sensitive parenting and developmental awareness Parent-completed developmental screening, with review and feedback from a licensed clinical developmental psychologist and experienced pediatric nurse practitioner, Eileen Escarce, PhD, MSN. (PSY 18819). Introductory fee: \$15 per screening with feedback. 1137 2nd Ave, Suite 213. By appointment only 310-367-1155.

SATURDAY

Storytelling

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144.
Children's Book World – story time on break until Jan. 15.
Village Books, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m. – 454-4063.

Yoga & Exercise

Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
 1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonicayoga.com
Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.(babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
 Stroller Strides – 9:00 a.m., Palisades Park, call 866-FIT-4MOM or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Other

Cinderella at the Santa Monica Playhouse
 Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m.; Jan. 8, 9, 15 and 16. \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime
 Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.

Breastfeeding

Working Mother's Support Group
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd. – 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., \$12 fee, led by Ilka Sternberger, certified lactation educator. Call 826-5774 for more info.

SUNDAY

Main Street Farmer's Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St.

and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Cinderella at the Santa Monica Playhouse
 Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m.; Jan. 8, 9, 15 and 16. \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 9:30 a.m. A series for babies up to two years old. (No lap time Jan. 17 & Feb. 21)
"Family Connections" – on break until Jan. Check back here for start date.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804.
"Spanish for Little Ones", 11:15 a.m. Next session begins Jan. 24.
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

MOMS Club of Santa Monica – New Mother Group – for new moms with babies ages 0-6 months. Meet for conversation, support and playtime. All new Moms welcome! Call Clare at 395-7422 for time, location and more info.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years) – 9:20 – 10:20 a.m.; Parent Support (1-3 years) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
Yoga Garden, – Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal – 6:30 p.m., 310-450-0133. www.yogagardenstudios.com
Stroller Strides – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 866-FIT-4MOM or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

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Storm brings more rain and snow throughout state

BY GREG RISLING

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Rain-soaked California got even wetter Monday as another storm dumped heavy snow in the mountains, eroded beaches and shut down a 40-mile stretch of the state's major north-south highway.

Roadway flooding turned Southern California's morning commute into a white-knuckle obstacle course, while the mountain peaks above metropolitan Los Angeles were capped with white.

About 2 feet of snow fell in the Tejon Pass north of Los Angeles, stranding some drivers and shutting down a section of Interstate 5. It was not clear when the pass would reopen.

"It's pretty slippery," Ravinder Singh told KTLA-TV. "We didn't know it was going to be snowing. We're kind of stuck."

The storm swamped Beverly Hills and Malibu, which received 2 inches and 3 1/2 inches of rain, respectively, the NWS said Monday.

One man died in the San Fernando Valley when his car went off a road and slammed into a palm tree and another man was killed in Pomona when he tried to run across the San Bernardino Freeway and was struck by two vehicles.

In Goleta, near Santa Barbara, surging high tides washed away tons of sand deposited last year as part of a \$2 million preservation project. Most of the 80,000 cubic yards of sand used at the beach to help curb erosion has been swept away, leaving a jagged wall of sand and dirt, forcing officials to close part of the coastline as a safety precaution.

California has been battered over the past week by storms that have caused widespread street flooding and provided

enough snow to keep skiers happy. More storms are expected later in the week.

Although the ground has been saturated, there were no reports of major mudslides or other problems in parts of Southern California that were devastated by wildfires in 2003.

Average yearly rainfall totals, measured from July 1 to June 30, have already been surpassed in some areas. Los Angeles has received 15.4 inches of rain since July 1, compared to a yearly average of 14.7 inches, the National Weather Service reported. Last year's rainy season brought 9.2 inches to Los Angeles.

The city also recorded the single wettest day in December last Tuesday when 5 1/2 inches fell. It also marked the third wettest day on record since 1921.

Single day records have either been threatened or broken in some California cities over the past couple of months. Rain

totals are well ahead of last year's figures but forecasters said the drenching will likely not mark an end to the state's long-term drought.

"It certainly provides some relief, but a drought is a multiyear problem," said Dan Keeton, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. "One year of good rain doesn't mean a full recovery."

The latest storm swept through Northern California on Sunday, delaying about half of the flights arriving at San Francisco International Airport and intermittently closing two main routes across the Sierra Nevada. Both were opened Monday morning.

Some ski resorts in the Lake Tahoe area reported as much as 9 feet of snow since late last week.

"This certainly is the most significant series of storms that I've experienced here. It's pretty much been nonstop," said California Highway Patrol Sgt. Jon Dietrich.

Beef producers react to second case of mad cow in Canada

BY BETSY BLANEY

Associated Press Writer

LUBBOCK, Texas — Benny Montague has raised cattle in West Texas for 35 years and believes he knows what's best for the nation's beef industry.

With this weekend's confirmed case of mad cow disease in Canada, Montague and others in the nation's leading beef-producing state said the government is acting too hastily in lifting a ban on importing live cattle from the country. The ban — lifted last week — has been in place since the first confirmed case of the disease in

Canada was found in May 2003.

"We don't need any more mad cows over here," Montague said. "I think it's crazy since they found one to open it back up."

Not everyone agreed with Montague, however.

"The bottom line is that the beef supply is safe," said Jan Lyons, president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

She said the animal, an older dairy cow born in 1996, posed no health threat because of procedures in place to keep potentially infected cows out of the food chain.

The rules on beef imports stipulate that imported cows must be under 30 months

of age.

Concerns about mad cow have been heightened since the May 2003 discovery in Canada. The United States closed the border with Canada following that case, but has slowly been easing the restrictions, including last week's lifting of the ban on live cattle under 30 months old.

The Bush administration said it would stand by the decision. But Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., said he has written Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman saying she should immediately suspend the rule.

This country's first confirmed mad cow case, in Washington state in

December 2003, turned out to be a Canadian-born Holstein. It prompted several countries, Japan being the largest, to ban U.S. beef.

Gene Harris, owner of a small, family-operated ranch in Killdeer, N.D., said the United States should import beef from countries that have taken adequate steps to ensure human and herd safety.

"In the short term it will have some negative effects to the market, but in the long term, re-establishing trade will allow us to establish a framework to trade with Canada and other minimal-risk countries," he said.

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NATIONAL



U.S. troops stretched around the world in a host of danger zones

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Nearly a million members of the U.S. armed forces have been deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, and other danger zones since the Sept. 11 terror attacks, and almost a third of them have been sent more than once, figures released by the Pentagon show.

That figure has implications both for the military and society at large, experts on the military say. For the first time in 30 years, a significant portion of society will have seen the misery and violence of war for an extended period.

“The only silver lining you can find in these numbers is that, for a generation to come, America will have many, many adults who understand the reality of what war is all about,” said Loren Thompson of the Lexington Institute. “Today hundreds of thousands of soldiers, Marines, airmen and sailors are seeing war up close. They will carry that knowledge into the future as they return to the United States.”

But not everyone. During Vietnam, more Americans knew someone who served, and someone who died. The post-Sept. 11, 2001 wars are far less a part of the mainstream American experience, says Charles C. Moskos, a Northwestern University professor who is an expert on the military and society.

“It’s not a generational experience,” he said.

More than 3.4 million people served in southeastern Asia during the Vietnam War, including draftees. More than 58,000 died. Around 700,000 Americans served in the Persian Gulf during the first war with Iraq, but many came home quickly after the liberation of Kuwait. Of those, 382 died.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, military deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan combined are close to 1,500.

Today’s military is billed an all-volunteer, professional force, though tens of thousands of members of the National Guard and reserves are serving in Iraq.

“The reality is you will have had a group of Americans who bore almost all of the burden of citizenship,” said Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies. “For most Americans it is being fought by other families’ sons and daughters, who are both out of sight and often out of mind.”

He described the present situation as “a society which pays a fraction of its population to take all the real risks of citizenship.”

The news media can only tell so much of their story to the rest of the country.

“I don’t think you have much information as to what it means to spend six months in a combat zone. You can’t easily communicate what it means to come back with serious and debilitating wounds and have to live with the aftermath,” Cordesman said. More than 10,000 U.S. service members have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Today’s military is billed an all-volunteer, professional force, though tens of thousands of members of the National Guard and reserves are serving in Iraq.

The demographics of the soldiers have changed somewhat since earlier wars. More women are going to war. More young men and women are leaving spouses and children at home.

“Going overseas (for a married soldier) is going to be more traumatic than it would be for a single soldier,” Moskos said.

Still, he said, “the social background of the troops is basically the same. These are solid, working-class men and women. They are not in any sense the bottom of the barrel, but they are not the children of the privileged, either.”

Another difference: the troops overseas are not interacting with the indigenous cultures the way they have in the past. Americans saw most of the world during World War II; GIs walked around Saigon during the Vietnam War; most of Baghdad today is too dangerous. Even allied countries like Saudi Arabia and Pakistan minimize any U.S. presence for fear of angering the public.

“It’s going to be the first major war we’ve fought where there are not going to be GI war brides” in any numbers, Moskos said.

According to figures provided by the Pentagon, as of Sept. 30, 2004, more than 955,000 members of the armed forces had been deployed to danger zones since Sept. 11. The majority served in Iraq and nearby countries, with a smaller number serving in Afghanistan. Troops who have gone to countries like the Philippines, which has received U.S. assistance in fighting an Islamic insurgency, are included in the count.

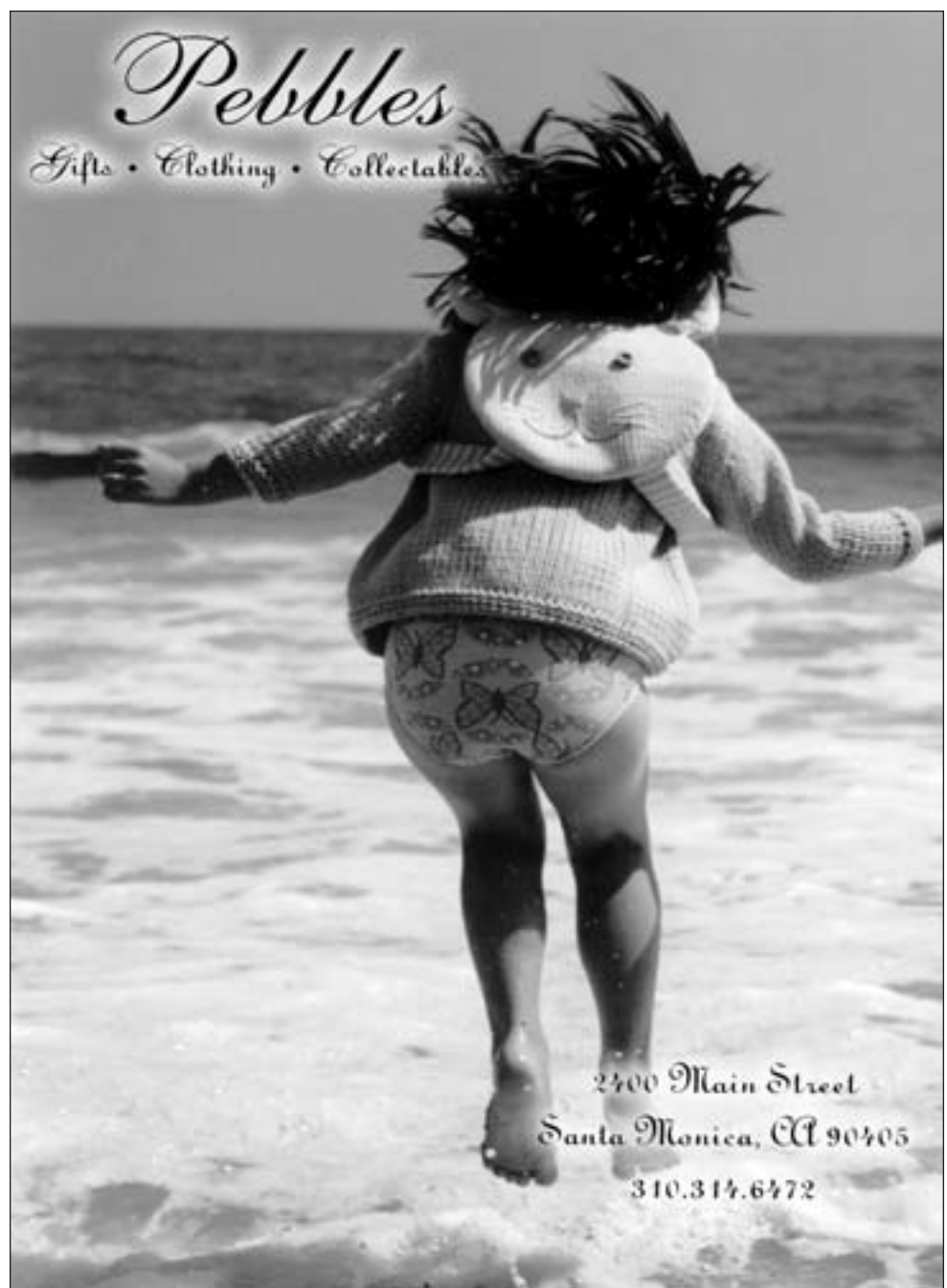
The pace of deployments to that country make it likely that the million figure will be reached soon, if it hasn’t already. The number will continue to grow along with the length of the U.S. stay in Iraq.

So far, more than 303,000 have been sent more than once, the figures show — evidence of the strain on a military that some say is too small for all the missions it is assigned. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld argues otherwise, saying a currently under way reorganization of the force will ease the burden.

“What the Pentagon statistics reflect is a military that is fully committed, in fact over-committed worldwide,” Thompson said.



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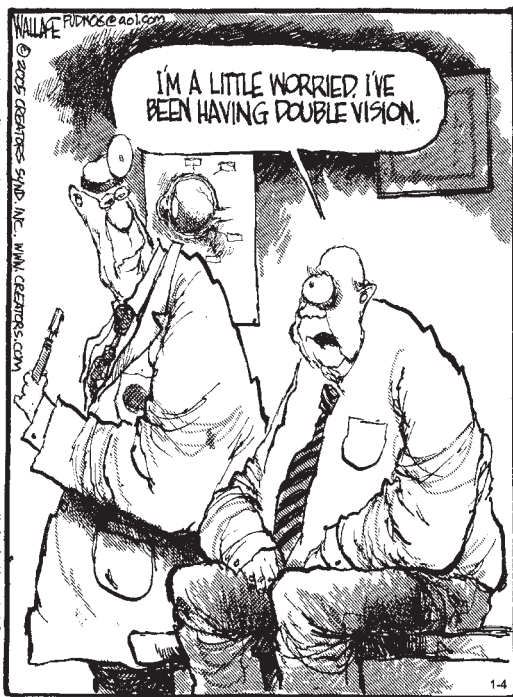
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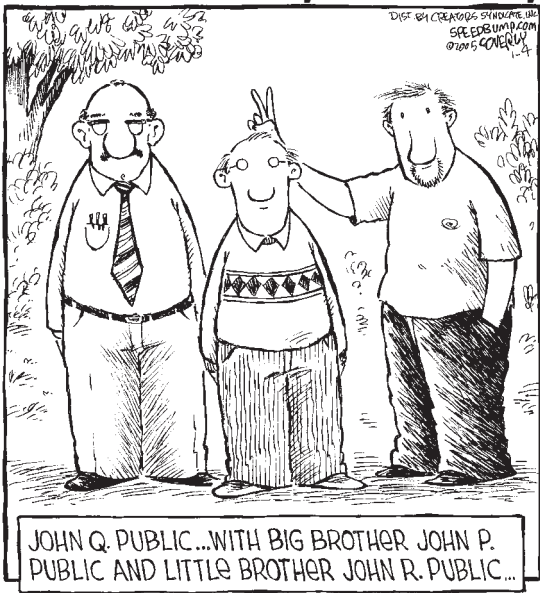
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Yesterday's answer

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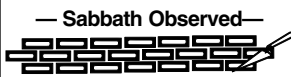
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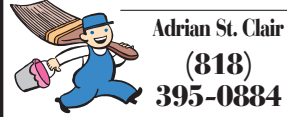
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Bullock kicks in a cool million for tsunami relief

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Actress Sandra Bullock has donated \$1 million to the American Red Cross to help relief efforts in countries affected by the deadly earthquake and tsunamis in southern Asia and eastern Africa.

Bullock, whose screen credits include "Miss Congeniality," "While You Were Sleeping" and "Speed," contacted the American Red Cross last week, the organization said Monday. She also donated \$1 million after the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

"At this critical time, I am grateful to Sandra Bullock for once again demonstrating her leadership, compassion and belief in our global humanitarian mission," said American Red Cross President and Chief Executive Officer Marsha Evans in a statement. "Sandra continues to enable our lifesaving work and is a model for personal generosity."

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's total donations for tsunami-stricken areas climbed to \$50 million as pop stars including Andy Lau and Nicholas Tse performed at weekend charity concerts.

Lau appeared with Leon Lai, Aaron Kwok, Leo Koo and Alan Tam at a Sunday night fund-raiser aired by local broadcaster TVB. The event took in more than \$6.2 million, TVB said Monday.

Wearing white sweat shirts with the Chinese characters "Delivering Care United in All Four Seas" inscribed in calligraphy, local celebrities wrote goodwill messages for disaster victims on a white lantern.

Tse and fellow singer Joey Yung and the female pop duo Twins led the "Hand in Hand Delivering Warmth to South Asia" charity performance, organized by their record label, Emperor Entertainment Group, which raised \$526,000.

The stars sang "We Are the World," the 1985 African

famine relief benefit song.

Separately, out-of-tune "American Idol" reject William Hung also lent a hand, holding charity sales of his albums and posters, the Apple Daily newspaper reported.

The Ta Kung Pao newspaper reported Monday the total amount raised in Hong Kong is approaching \$50 million.

LOS ANGELES — Craig Ferguson has something that will make his late-night TV talk show distinct — his Scottish accent.

"My gimmick is that I'll be using a Scottish accent for the entire show," Ferguson told AP Radio in an interview. "You know, it's out there, but I think it will work."

Ferguson, the new host of CBS' "The Late Late Show," said a photo of his 3 1/2-year-old son is "out of sight on the desk" away from studio cameras.

Does he plan on making changes to the format?

"I am going to stay with the format as it is for now and experiment with it gradually. I think you have to know your way 'round an engine before you start dismantling it," he said.

Ferguson is best known for "The Drew Carey Show," where he played Carey's boss. The 42-year-old actor-comedian also wrote and starred in the films "Saving Grace" and "The Big Tease."

He is replacing Craig Kilborn, who stepped down last August. Ferguson's guests this week — his first week as host — were expected to include Jon Cryer, Jason Alexander and Jeremy Piven.

NEW YORK — Bill Murray gets defensive when told he has a reputation for being difficult.

"If it keeps obnoxious people away, that's fine," he tells Time magazine in its editions on sale Monday. "It

makes me think of that line you catch more flies with honey than vinegar. People say this to you with a straight face, and I always say, 'Who. Wants. Flies?'"

Murray, the star of "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou," grew up in a blue-collar family and suggested his outbursts are generally spurred by an empathy for the underdog.

Recently on the set of his still-untitled film for director Jim Jarmusch, Murray got into a fracas with the location manager when he arrived at a rented house for a scene with child actors and discovered that there was no heat. When he started a fire in the fireplace, the location manager told him to stop.

"Who are you?" Murray told her. "She said, 'I'm locations.' I said, 'Well, if locations had done their job and made sure it was warm enough for these people, we wouldn't be lighting a fire in the fireplace.'"

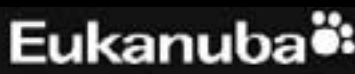
But at the wrap party, Murray approached the woman again. "I said, 'You know, we had our moment, and I don't apologize for that for a second.'" But she had excelled at other aspects of her job, and Murray told her so. "I wanted to let her know I could see it both ways."

BOSTON — Kevin Bacon had intimate knowledge about his character's love interest while shooting "The Woodsman." She was, after all, Kyra Sedgwick, his love interest in real life.

"Kyra and I have rarely worked together. Between us we've been married 16 years, and this is one of the handful of times we've been on-screen together," Bacon told the Boston Herald in Sunday's editions.

"She had a lot of hesitation about taking the part. She said, 'Look, if there were any other actor playing this part, I'd say yes in a second. But I'm afraid people will come out of the movie and step out and say, 'Oh, that's Kyra and Kevin.'"

Bacon managed to convince his better half.

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\$1.00 OFF LUNCH SPECIALS
11 TO CHOOSE
 FROM MONDAY - FRIDAY 11:30AM-3:00PM
 With choice of seasoned or curly fries, potato chips, mixed greens or rice & beans and a soda.
 Limit 1 Special per customer. Expires 04-30-05

ALL LAKERS GAMES

\$5 Burgers \$5 Philly Cheese Steaks
\$3.00 DRAFTS
 Limit 1 Special per customer. Expires 12/31/04

Available for private parties

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 Lunch-Time Delivery Available

Since 1993
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