

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO
5 15 19 20 35
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: \$60 Million

FANTASY 5
4 15 23 25 27

DAILY 3
Daytime: 9 8 1
Evening: 0 8 7

DAILY DERBY
1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 03 Hot Shot

RACE TIME: 1:42.31
Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site: <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In South Korea, which has the highest rate of high-speed Internet use in the world, more than one-third of the population plays video games, with the result an alarming number of obsessive gamers requiring counseling (and, so far, two deaths after, respectively, 50 and 86 straight hours of playing). According to an October Associated Press dispatch from Seoul, at the many Internet cafes, gamers “typically live on instant (noodles) and cigarettes, barely sleeping and seldom washing.” Video games are also a spectator sport: Three cable channels show matches, and the government is building an electronic-sports “stadium,” where competitions will be shown on big screens.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the sixth day of 2006.
There are 359 days left in the year.

On Jan. 6, 1412, according to tradition, Joan of Arc was born in Domremy.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. ... You must do the thing you think you cannot do.”

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
AMERICAN FIRST LADY (1884-1962)

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Bound for success

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

SANTA MONICA BLVD. — Moving can be rough, especially when it means lugging more than 300,000 reading materials that need to be kept in order.

The Santa Monica Main Public Library, supported by bonds and tax money, has its grand opening celebration set for Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The bright, two-story, environmentally friendly building, located at 601 Santa Monica Blvd., was designed by local architects Moore Ruble Yudell, recipients of the

American Institute of Architect’s 2006 Architecture Firm of the Year Award.

At 104,000 square feet, the new library is substantially bigger than the one it replaced at the same location. While some residents have criticized its “monolithic” facade, those who took a peek inside during a soft opening on Wednesday said the facility made them feel comfortable.

“It’s wonderful to be able to sit down and read in a public building that makes you feel like you’re at home,” said Santa Monica resident

See LIBRARY, page 9



Nicky Five Aces/Five Aces Photo
Library patrons will be able to sit and relax under the Santa Monica sky.

Throwing caution to the winds



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press
Warm temperatures pervading the region courtesy of the Santa Ana winds brought people back to the beaches in droves on Thursday.

Story chasers drive ’round and ’round, chasing their tales

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

THIRD STREET — A national effort that’s underway to document the history of Americans will be held in Santa Monica this month.

Starting on Monday, StoryCorps — the group organizing the documentary effort — will be partnering with KCRW-Santa Monica 89.9

FM to create special programming exclusively for the radio station, based on the stories collected on the Promenade through Feb. 5.

Select segments from StoryCorps will air

nationally on Friday mornings during National Public Radio’s Morning Edition, which is featured on KCRW.

StoryCorps’ sound studio, housed within a silver Airstream trailer, will be located at

Wilshire Boulevard and Third Street.

Seen as an opportunity to share unique tales, friends or family members are invited to participate, during which one interviews the other. A trained facilitator guides participants through the interview process and handles the technical

See STORYCORPS, page 7

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Photos courtesy

The Whale Rescue Team saved more than 260 marine mammals in 2005, a record number.

And they call it puppy love: WRT has whale of a year

By Daily Press staff

The Whale Rescue Team ended 2005 with 264 marine mammal rescues. That’s a record number for marine mammal rescues in one year, according to Peter Wallerstein, who runs the organization.

The WRT this week rescued a 475-pound male sea lion. A five-inch knife blade was pulled from his shoulder.

On the same day, the WRT saved a sea lion pup. The numbers on the pup’s side are made by what’s called “freeze branding.” Federal authorities conduct research by taking the pups from their mothers before they are weaned and they freeze brand and tag the animals.

“I have no doubt that this practice separates some pups from their moms,” Wallerstein said. “This is the outcome. Not too cheerful. But, please remember that every animal we rescue has a much better chance of surviving than if we had left it suffering on the beach, dock, rocks, storm drains, etc.”

Young men, there’s a place you can go

By Daily Press staff

Interested in what the Santa Monica Family YMCA is all about? The YMCA is hosting its annual community open house on Saturday, Jan. 7. Anyone who comes in for a tour of the facility will get a one-week pass. The open house will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The facility is located at 1332 Sixth St. For more information, call (310) 393-2721.

Belt-tightening begins with budget sessions

By Daily Press staff

It’s that time of year again when officials will layout the basics to the public regarding City Hall’s upcoming budget. City of Santa Monica Finance Director Steve Stark has a return engagement with the Leadership Series on Thursday, Jan. 12, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., to lay out budget basics just as public hearings begin, featuring an in-depth review of Santa Monica’s budget development process. No jargon here — get the fundamentals, in easy-to-understand language, of how revenues, expenditures and funding mechanisms work together to provide and maintain city services and programs. The session of the Leadership Series will be held at the Ken Edwards Center, 1527 Fourth St. Courses and material are free, but advanced registration is required, which can be done on-line at www.smgov.net/leadership or by calling (310) 458-8301; for those with hearing disabilities: (310) 917-6626. The Ken Edwards Center is accessible to persons with disabilities, and is served by Big Blue Bus lines 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS				
DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM				
BEAR MOUNTAIN				
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-12"	LIFT HOURS 8:00am - 4:00pm	RUNS OPEN 8	LIFTS OPEN 9/12
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				
JUNE MOUNTAIN				
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 40" - 72"	LIFT HOURS 8:30am - 4:00pm	RUNS OPEN 35	LIFTS OPEN 6/16
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				
MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN				
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 120" - 144"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4 pm	RUNS OPEN 100	LIFTS OPEN 16/28
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				
MOUNTAIN HIGH				
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 10"-12"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 12	LIFTS OPEN 19/16
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed				
MT. BALDY				
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 8"-12"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 4	LIFTS OPEN 3/14
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made				
SNOW SUMMIT				
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-12"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 8	LIFTS OPEN 8/13
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				
SNOW VALLEY				
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-12"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 2	LIFTS OPEN 4/11
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 58°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (6-12 FT)

Friday the 6th into Saturday the 7th is when our next WNW swell is due. This system is a low latitude system we've been watching since late last week forming fairly close to our region just NE of Hawaii. This system has been at a fairly low latitude around 35-40N, thus angled from a more direct westerly angle of 270-275. High pressure will thwart this system northward, thus keeping the storm away from SoCal; NCal though may get a little wet.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

WNW hits coast Saturday...

Tracking smaller NW for midweek...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

WEDNESDAY

LOW TIDE:

6:01AM

2.1FT

6:54PM

0.2FT

HIGH TIDE:

12:51AM

4.3FT

11:53AM

0.2FT

THURSDAY

LOW TIDE:

7:26AM

2.0FT

7:40PM

0.5FT

HIGH TIDE:

1:42AM

4.6FT

1:01PM

4.2FT

FRIDAY

LOW TIDE:

9:05AM

1.7FT

8:29PM

1.1FT

HIGH TIDE:

2:35AM

4.9FT

2:33PM

3.4FT

SURF AND SNOW QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? EMAIL ALEX@SMGP.COM

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The Q Line

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Now that a new year is upon us, 2006 will prove to be 365 days of opportunities and challenges. The city of Santa Monica has many of both — a new city manager will start his job this month, as will a “homeless czar” who is charged with effectively dealing with our growing residentially-challenged citizens. So this week, Q-Line wants to know, **“What is the biggest issue facing Santa Monica and how should we as a community deal with it?”** Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your responses in the weekend edition. Please try to limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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EDITORIAL

The party is over



There's a reason why we've made little progress in the fight against homelessness — it's called "government not at work."

The most recent egregious case of government dragging its feet in its so-called attempt to address homelessness in Los Angeles County, and specifically in Santa Monica, is the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority's delay in reporting data after a headcount of people living on the streets was conducted almost a year ago.

In January of 2005, hundreds of volunteers took the time to survey thousands of people living on the streets of LA County's 88 cities. That information is crucial for local governments and social service providers to determine how to allocate the millions of dollars they receive to help the down and out.

While preliminary data was released in June of last year, specific information on the homeless populations in certain cities hasn't yet been made public. For more than six months, LAHSA has provided a host of excuses why the data hasn't been released. Officials at the financially troubled agency — which is supposed to be the leading authority on homeless issues in the county — kept telling the public the data would be released "within weeks" for the better part of 2005.

Now it's 2006 and LAHSA is saying it was the holidays that delayed them and a host of elected leaders in providing the information to the public. Officials cite "scheduling conflicts" among county and city leaders between Thanksgiving and New Year's as the main reason for the delay. It's not a secret that government is known to slow down during the holidays so employees and their bosses can attend all of their holiday parties and take their vacations. But the very people they are supposed to be serving continue to shiver outside, watching the parties and holiday reveling from the sidewalks.

The delay also is attributed to the fact that an outside agency hired to prepare the report had to update it. That certainly doesn't seem to be a very efficient system at LAHSA if they have to update information that should have been released months ago.

It would be nice to know what the demographics of Santa Monica's homeless population are — without it there is no real effective way in knowing what kind of programming and support they need. And now that a year has passed, those demographics could have very likely changed.

These kinds of delays further the already apparent mistrust the public has with government. The lack of information makes the public assume that the data will be corrupted, skewed and interpreted by political players before taxpayers even get a chance to see the raw numbers.

The homeless count was billed by LAHSA as an unbiased analysis of the homeless population. But with the information kept secret by a governmental agency for nearly a year only leads us to believe that it will be nothing but biased.

Not only are tens of millions of dollars at stake, people's lives are hanging in the balance. No more excuses. No more delays. Give us the report and stop putting the people LAHSA supposedly serves on hold.

GUEST COMMENTARY BY ALEX EPSTEIN

The unlearned lessons of Enron are apparent

With the recent plea bargain of former chief accounting officer Richard Causey, Enron was once again thrust into the spotlight. Given that Enron's cataclysmic downfall has been the leading business story this decade, one might expect it to be well-understood by now. In fact, Enron's fall is almost universally misunderstood.

It is commonly believed that Enron fell because its leaders, eager to make money, schemed to bilk investors. The ethical lesson, it is said, is that we must teach — or force — a businessman to curb his selfish, profit-seeking "impulses" before they turn criminal.

But all this is wrong.

Enron was not brought down by fraud. While the company committed fraud, its fraud was primarily an attempt to cover up tens of billions of dollars already lost — not embezzled — in irrational business decisions. Most of its executives believed that Enron was a basically productive company that could be righted. This is why Chairman Ken Lay did not flee to the Caymans with riches, but stayed through the end.

What then caused this unprecedented business failure? Consider a few telling events in Enron's rise and fall.

Enron rose to prominence first as a successful provider of natural gas, and then as a creator of markets for trading natural gas as a commodity. The company made profits by performing a genuinely productive function: Linking buyers and sellers, allowing both sides to control for risk.

Unfortunately, the company's leaders were not honest with themselves about the nature of their success. They wanted to be "New Economy" geniuses who could successfully enter any market they wished. As a result, they entered into ventures far beyond their expertise, based on half-baked ideas thought to be profound market insights. For example, Enron poured billions into a broadband network featuring movies-on-demand — without bothering to check whether movie studios would provide major releases (they wouldn't). They spent \$3 billion on a natural-gas power plant in India — a country with no natural gas reserves — on ludicrous assurances by a transient Indian government that they would be paid indefinitely for vastly overpriced electricity.

The mentality of Enron executives in engineering such fiascos is epitomized by an exchange, described in New York Times reporter Kurt Eichenwald's account of the Enron saga, between eventual CEO Jeff Skilling and subordinate Ray Bowen, on Skilling's — eventually failed — idea for Enron to sell electricity to retail customers.

An analysis of the numbers, Bowen had realized, "told a damning story ... Profit margins were razor thin, massive capital investments were required."

Skilling's response? "You're making me really nervous ... The fact that you're focused on the numbers, and not the underlying essence of the business, worries me ... I don't want to hear that."

When Bowen responded that "the numbers have to make sense ... We've got to be honest (about whether) ... we can actually make a profit," Eichenwald recounts. "Skilling bristled. 'Then you guys must not be smart enough to come up with the good ideas, because we're going to make money in this business.' ... (Bowen) was flabbergasted. Sure, ideas were important, but they had to be built around numbers. A business wasn't going to succeed just because Jeff Skilling thought it should."

But to Skilling and other Enron executives, there was no clear distinction between what they felt should succeed, and what the facts indicated would succeed — between reality as they wished it to be and reality as it is.

Time and again, Enron executives placed their wishes above the facts. And as they experienced failure after failure, they deluded themselves into believing that any losses would somehow be overcome with massive profits in the future. This mentality led them to eagerly accept CFO Andy Fastow's absurd claims that their losses could be magically taken off the books using Special Purpose Entities. After all, they felt, Enron should have a high stock price.

Smaller lies led to bigger lies, until Enron became the biggest corporate failure and fraud in American history.

Observe that Enron's problem was not that it was "too concerned" about profit, but that it believed money does not have to be made: It can be had simply by following one's whims. The solution to prevent future Enrons, then, is not to teach, or force CEOs to curb their profit-seeking. The desire to produce and trade valuable products is the essence of business — and of successful life.

Instead, we must teach businessmen the profound virtues money-making requires. Above all, we must teach them that one cannot profit by evading facts. The great profit-makers, such as Bill Gates and Jack Welch, accept the facts of reality — including the market, their finances, their abilities and limitations — as an absolute. "Face reality," advises Jack Welch, "as it is, not as it was or as you wish ... You have to see the world in the purest, clearest way possible, or you can't make decisions on a rational basis."

This is what Enron's executives did not grasp — and the real lesson we should all learn from their fate.

(Alex Epstein is a junior fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine. The Institute promotes the ideas of Ayn Rand, best-selling author of "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead.")



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Strawberry smoothie seemed to hit the spot

PISTACHIO PERSPECTIVE

BY SUSAN ANN CONNOR



Thank God that's over.

Y'know it was one of those nights better to have never happened. Let's call it a never-happened night. Poof ... never happened. Better to have sat around in loose pants, watching old movies with plenty of chocolate at your fingertips. Possibly practicing darts for future Olympic competition. Anything but this.

The evening started out lovely. It was New Year's Eve, and I was feeling fancy. Mr. Strawberry arrived for our date rather resembling the crowned Prince of Dashingness. Oh, this man. He made me delirious. We were off to his friend's black-tie cocktail party. The night was young and so were we. Well, relatively.

I opted for New Year's Eve with Strawberry, not only because it was what I wanted, but because I thought it was best. I turned down Colin, not because I wanted to, but because I thought I better. He still smelled of trouble with a capital T, and that stands for Tail-Twirl. Like it or not, that's my current reasoning.

The party was operating full-throttle by the time we got there. Busy servers were offering the likes of exotic caviar, tomato tarts and assorted martinis. There was a five-piece swing band and a Romanesque fountain of champagne. It's a good thing I was feeling fancy, because these were fancy folks with fancy things to say.

Lost in my lemontini and reveling in all the festivity, I was unprepared for what, or who, was coming next. As I saw her loftily saunter across the crowded room, Strawberry placed a soft kiss on my forehead. Nice. When I realized that this curiously attractive woman was headed directly for us, I smiled a friendly smile. No return smile from her. What an odd approach, I thought, as she tapped Strawberry on the shoulder.

Shock saturated his face when he turned and saw who was tapping.

"What are you doing here?" he asked without humor.

Uh oh. It can't be.

Oh yes, it can.

"I was invited," she stated with a defiant tone.

"But I thought you were up north until the third."

"Changed my mind."

"Who's watching Charlie?"

I was learning so much.

"Sam and Harry," she answered firmly.

Strawberry looked at me with apologetic eyes and introduced us.

"Pleasure to meet you," I said.

She responded with a mini-nod.

Her name was Natalie, which I somehow knew meant "born at Christmas." Well, Feliz Navidad, Natalie. And though I'd never heard her name spoken aloud, I knew it was his ex-wife. One whose acquaintance I was hoping to avoid.

Feeling uncomfortable in an extra special way, I excused myself to the ladies room. No sooner had I refreshed with blush, gloss and a spicy breath mint, then darling Natalie came craftily through the door, still looking beautiful with that sourpuss grin.

She crossed into my personal grooming space and whispered, "I'm not done with him yet."

What did I do? Leave me alone. What is this, a Glenn Close movie?

She appeared fierce and looked a little like the actress, so I refrained from debate. Instead, exposing my intelligence, I did a quick hand-jive and said, "Alrighty then," and slipped out the door.

Strawberry was waiting for me. "I am so sorry. I had no idea she would be here."

"I know. Who's Charlie?"

"Our dog. We raised a golden retriever together. She got custody."

"Oh."

He took my hand and led me to the dance floor. We knew we were having a moment. Not sure what kind of moment it was, but it was sure was a moment.

We didn't talk about the situation again that night, nor did I glimpse Natalie prowling about with any rabbits. This was Sir Strawberry's battle, not mine. My theory is that I shall not judge one's relationship vault, lest they look into mine and find some real doozies.

The next day I met up with good friends at our annual New Year's resolution-eat-all-the-pie-you-can party. I was pleased with the previous year and the resolutions I'd kept. But I was even happier to welcome in the new year, because for some strange reason I felt it was one not to be missed. Lalalala ...

(Susan Ann Connor can be reached at pistachiocolumn@aol.com. Follow her Strawberry stories on the first Friday of each month. Names have been changed to protect the innocent ... and the guilty.)



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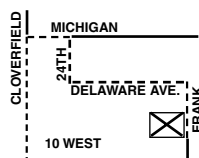
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CRIME WATCH

By Daily Press staff

At 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 24, Santa Monica police responded to the 1700 block of Lincoln Boulevard regarding an assault investigation. When officers arrive at the scene, they spoke to the victim, who said he and the suspect got into an argument over the victim's girlfriend and that during the argument the suspect produced a machete and struck the victim on the right thigh and shoulder, causing minor bruising. The victim did not require medical treatment and the suspect was gone upon the officers' arrival. Approximately two hours later, officer were in the area of 500 the block of Pico Boulevard when they saw a man matching the suspect's description. The subject was detained, a field show-up was conducted and the suspect was positively identified. Gaston James Burley, a transient, was placed under arrest for assault with a deadly weapon. Bail was set at \$30,000.

At 12:13 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 23, a Santa Monica police officer was in the area of Ashland Avenue and Main Street when he saw a commotion between a pedestrian and a taxi driver. As the officer approached, he saw the pedestrian reach inside the taxi and hit the driver with his fist. The pedestrian was detained and a preliminary investigation revealed that the pedestrian became mad at the taxi driver and struck him for an unknown reason. The taxi driver did not require medical attention. However, he was desirous of prosecution. Steven Peter Smith, 24, of New York, was booked for assault and battery. Bail was set at \$20,000.

At 12:50 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 28, Santa Monica police responded to the 200 block of Wilshire Boulevard regarding a grand theft from a person. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the witness who said that he saw the suspect in a nearby bar steal an item from the victim's coat, which had been placed on the bar stool. When the witness told the victim what happened, the victim realized an adapter device had been taken. The victim and the witness looked for the suspect. When entering the restroom, they saw the device on the floor. While officers were talking to the witness and victim, they saw the suspect in a parking lot. Christopher Frederick Carrico, 38, of Santa Monica, was placed under arrest for grand theft.

At 1:20 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31, the Santa Monica police responded to the 2900 block of Santa Monica Boulevard regarding a burglary in progress. When officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the witness, who saw three or four suspects hop a fence and steal rims from a parked cars at the Major Motors car lot. Officers searched the location and one found a loaded firearm between two vehicles and later saw three suspects stealing the property. Davit Ksachikyan, 21, of North Hollywood, Gevork George Arakelyan, 23, of Van Nuys, Daniel Patrick Cosgrove, 38, of Santa Monica, were arrested for burglary, receiving stolen property and being convicted felons in possession of a firearm. Bail was not set due to parole violations on all of them.

This police report was prepared by Daily Press staff writer Ryan Hyatt.

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LOCAL



Photo courtesy

EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY: The StoryCorps sound studio will pair unlikely participants together in efforts to record their tales for inclusion in an oral history of America.

Truth be told: Group on Promenade is all ears

STORYCORPS, from page 1

aspects of the recording.

At the end of a 40-minute session, participants receive a CD of their interview. With permission, a second copy is sent to the American Folklife Center (AFC) at the Library of Congress where it becomes part of a digital archive that will eventually become an oral history of America.

StoryCorps was created by radio documentary producer and MacArthur Genius Award recipient Dave Isay. The group has been traveling across the country since May of 2005 to encourage individuals to record one another's stories.

"We've seen the profound effect on the lives of those who have participated in the project, and the power that these stories have had on the millions who have heard them on NPR and on the Web," Isay said. "We believe that listening is an act of love."

Isay said StoryCorps will engage communities, teach participants to become better listeners, foster communication between generations, and help Americans appreciate the strength in the stories of everyday people they find all around them. Participants are encouraged to make

a \$10 donation.

The documentary effort is intended to mirror the Works Progress Administration (WPA) of the 1930s, through which oral-history interviews with everyday Americans across the country were recorded. These recordings remain the most important collection of American voices gathered to date, according to organizers, who hope to build and expand on the WPA's work for the 21st Century.

With more than 2,000 stories already recorded, StoryCorps will collect more than 250,000 interviews over the next 10 years. In Santa Monica, the group anticipates recording at least 125 stories. According to participants, the process of interviewing a friend, neighbor, or family member can bring them closer together.

Locally, the documentary effort is being sponsored by KCRW, the Bayside District and Hard Tail Clothing Co.

Kathleen Rawson, Bayside's director, said the Promenade is a worthy venue for the event.

"Downtown draws as many as 100,000 visitors throughout the week from across the country, so we believe Santa Monica will be a terrific location to collect a varied set of American stories," Rawson said.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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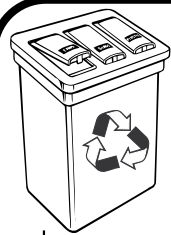
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OVERUNDER SPORTS GRILL-Located on the corner of 14th Street and Santa Monica Blvd., OVERUNDER features 12 draft beers and a fine selection of wine making it a great place to watch any and all of your favorite teams. The house specialty is the Philadelphia cheese steak. OVERUNDER also offers great burgers, salads, Mexican food and more. OVERUNDER is the viewing home for the Cleveland Browns and strongly supports the Lakers, Clippers, Dodgers, and Kings. Frequent food and beer specials are also offered at OVERUNDER Sports Grill. All football, baseball, and basketball games are televised via satellite for every team. 1348 14th Street, Santa Monica. (310) 576-9913.

THE OMELETTE PARLOR-For 28 years The Omelette Parlor has been offering the finest in breakfast fare. With high fluffy omelettes, super sandwiches, and the freshest of salads, it's more than breakfast. Enjoy your day on our garden patio and experience the friendliness of service. Quality and value prevail forever at The Omelette Parlor. We open everyday at 6am. Come early! Hours: 6am-2:30pm Monday-Friday, 6am-4pm Saturday and Sunday. 2732 Main Street, Santa Monica. (310) 399-7892.

THE SLICE-A true neighborhood pizzeria serving authentic New York pizza & buffalo wings. We also offer a selection of hot & cold subs, pastas and salads. You can also create your own calzone. Eat in, take out, or delivery. Catering is available. Hours: open daily 11am-9pm. Visit one of our three locations: 915 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica (310) 451-7542, 1622 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica (310) 399-4060, 13151 Fountain Park Drive, Playa Vista (310) 437-7499.

VIOLET-At Violet restaurant the atmosphere is casual, comfortable, and, like its cuisine, is uncluttered. Chef Jared Simons' flavorful small plate fare has something to suit everyone, from light eaters to those with a taste for a more robust fare. The Braised Short Ribs with Shallot Potatoes (\$14.50) melt apart while the Multi-Colored Beet Salad with Eel delights with Kumquat and Ginger Vinaigrette (\$9) and the favorite among the regulars is the Baked Macaroni and Gruyere Cheese with Serrano Ham (\$7.50). Unique selection of new and old world wines by the bottle, glass or flight as well as an impressive list of domestic & imported artisan beers. Hours: Lunch: Tuesday-Friday, 11:30am-2pm. Dinner: Tuesday-Friday, 6pm-10pm & Saturday and Sunday, 5:30pm-10pm. 3221 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. www.violetrestaurant.com (310) 453-9113.



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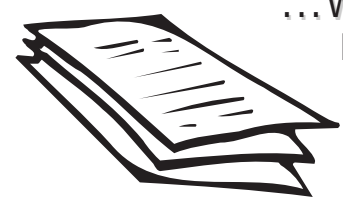
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Filmmaker searches for the good in America

By Daily Press staff

Come meet filmmaker Mark Manning and attend a screening of his two newest films. Two new documentaries by Manning will be presented at three separate events in January.

Manning's film, "American Voices," will be presented by Topanga Peace Alliance to raise finishing funds to complete the documentary. "American Voices" will screen on Friday, Jan. 6 at Yoga Desa, located at 120 N. Topanga Cyn. Blvd. The presentation starts at 7:45 p.m. and admission is \$10 at the door. To RSVP, call Julie at (310) 455-9389.

Manning's documentary film, "Caught in the Crossfire: The Untold Story of Falluja," will be presented twice in January. On Saturday, Jan. 14, at 7 p.m., Frank Dorrel (Addicted to War) will host a house party at 3967 Shedd Terrace in Culver City. Admission is \$10 at the door. On Sunday, Jan. 22, at 11 a.m., special guest Fernando Suarez will appear with Manning at the Laemmle Monica 4-Plex Theatre, 1332 Second St., in Santa Monica. Tickets are \$15 at the door. To RSVP, call (310) 838-8131.

In the aftermath of Sept. 11, when many Americans were shocked and unsure of where to turn, Manning decided to take a journey. He was deeply troubled that his country appeared headed into war. He traveled across the country, from the Pacific Coast to the heartland, through Dixie and up the Eastern seaboard, to try to find out what his fellow Americans were thinking.

With film camera in tow, Manning asked Americans four basic questions: How do you feel about the impending war against Iraq? Why are terrorists attacking the U.S.? Can you describe the United States' foreign policy in the Middle East? How do you feel emotionally about the United States going to war?

"In every case, people wanted to express themselves," Manning said. "They wanted to be heard above the administration's declaration, 'You're either with us or you're against us.'"

"I was searching for the goodness in America and I found it. Deep down, people want the best for everyone. They just don't know how to get there."

While filming "American Voices," Manning met Nadia McCaffrey, a mother whose only son, Patrick, was killed in Iraq.

"It was amazing to me, how many people thought Iraq attacked us," Manning said. "These Americans were ready to respond with violence. Patrick, on the other hand, was attacked by Iraqis, and yet Nadia had only compassion for the Iraqi people after her son had been killed."

McCaffrey wanted to hook up with Iraqi mothers who also lost children in the U.S. invasion. With the help of Global Exchange, the mothers met at a conference in Jordan in late 2004. Manning joined Nadia and filmed the 20-minute documentary, "Journey to Peace." It shows the raw emotional encounters of American and Iraqi mothers who shared the horrific tragedy of having their children killed in the Iraq war.

Manning's trip to Jordan had an unexpected twist. At the conference, an Iraqi translator approached him. She suggested that Manning come inside the war zone and film what happened in Falluja. Three weeks later, Manning was walking down the airport road, the most dangerous highway in the world. His quest to find out how Americans felt about going to war had catapulted him into epicenter of that war. Heading for the ravaged city of Falluja, with a few clothes and a camera bundled over his shoulder, he would soon find out the Iraqi point of view.

The people of Falluja befriended Manning, saying they felt if Americans knew the truth of what their government was doing, they would work to stop the suffering and killing. The documentary "Caught in the Crossfire: The Untold Story of Falluja," bears witness to the horrendous military destruction on an ancient city roughly the size of Cincinnati, Ohio.

At venues around the country Manning is fulfilling his promise to the citizens of Falluja by showing the American people the atrocities being committed in their name.

Board to tears: 'Poor' sheds light on shadows

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

THE MOVIE: Kill The Poor

THE DIRECTOR: Alan Taylor

THE STARS: David Krumholtz, Clara Bellar, Paul Calderon

"Kill the Poor" is the tale of a group of culturally diverse misfit squatters trying to stake their claim in a soon-to-be-gentrified tenement in New York's Lower East Side. You may recognize this storyline and setting from another recently released film (based on a Broadway musical, if memory serves), but the similarities to "Rent" end there. For one thing, nobody ever breaks into song in "Kill the Poor" — probably because they're preoccupied with not getting killed by junkies and thugs. And while unsavory types abound in director Alan Taylor's tragicomic film, not a one looks as heroin chic as Rosario Dawson in her designer subfusc, nor can evil be warded off by cheesy power ballads from Bon Jovi wanna-be's. Taylor didn't have a "Rent"-like budget either, so he shot "Kill the Poor" on a consumer-grade digital video camera with a cast of predominantly unknown (read: affordable) actors. Overall production value is surprisingly good, however, thanks in

large part to the impressive efforts of DP Harlan Bosmajian and editor Malcolm Jamieson. It also helps to have a well-crafted script, and scribe Daniel Handler (who occasionally publishes tomes under the nom de plume Lemony Snicket) turned in a very lively adaptation of Joel Rose's 1988 novel.

It's the early 1980s, and timorous newsstand operator Joe Peltz (David Krumholtz) has gathered the courage to take his first nibble on a piece of the American pie. After marrying and impregnating a hard-bitten yet sexy French stripper named Annabelle (Clara Bellar), Joe buys into a squalid co-op on the very same block where his immigrant grandparents first settled. The neighborhood has become a war zone since then, however, and the residents of the building must contend with all manner of hardship, from fire-starting delinquents to water pipe-stealing crack addicts, as the attempt to resurrect their forebear's Eden. The filmmakers' mine plenty of humor from the never-ending "board meetings" in which the mismatched tenants bicker and booze. The third act, on the other hand, is rife with tension as a conflict with a resident bully who refuses to cooperate escalates.

(RATED R. RUNNING TIME: 85 MINUTES)

Resolution No. 1 is to PartySmart



THE
IMBIBER
BY DAN DUNN

Well, America, here we are, six full years into the George W. Bush Presidency and I, for one, couldn't be happier with the direction this country is headed. We're mired in a seemingly un-winnable, unpopular and ludicrously expensive conflict in the Middle East, while at home middle- and lower-income families are getting their butts kicked in the administration's War on the Working Class. Corruption is widespread at the highest levels of government, civil liberties are disappearing at an alarming rate, there's a terrible health-care crisis, the ozone is deteriorating, and polls indicate that the citizenry is more divided than it's ever been on so-called "hot-button" issues such as abortion, gay marriage and the reasons behind Nick and Jessica's breakup. But amidst all the turmoil and uncertainty in this country, one thing's clear: These days, Americans have more reasons than ever to hit the bottle. That's what we in the spirits reportage industry call "job security," and for that,

Mr. President, I raise a glass in your honor. Keep up the sub-par work in '06!

Like so many of you, The Imbiber spent the holidays with friends and family inebriantly roasting my cognitive chestnuts night in and night out. But there was nary a morning that my Yuletide jollification waned thanks to a new herbal supplement called PartySmart. I've endorsed other hangover remedies in this space before, friends, and I gotta tell ya', PartySmart is as effective as any I've tried. One pill, taken 30 minutes prior to imbibing, goes to work in the liver breaking down acetaldehyde (the toxic by-product of booze that causes headaches and nausea). PartySmart is a blend of six herbs, among them something called "bhumyamalaki," which also happens to be the sound people often make in the toilet mornings after drinking too much. I'd recommend PartySmart to anyone, even the president but — despite trouble signs that suggest otherwise — he reportedly doesn't drink anymore. (Hard to believe, eh?) This latest cure for the common hangover can be purchased online at www.partysmart.net. Cost: \$10 per 10-dose pack.

(Thirsty for more Imbiber? Pull up a barstool at www.TheImbiber.com)

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Ready, set, read: Library opens doors

LIBRARY, from page 1

Leonard Schneiderman.

Since construction began on the new library, 80 percent of the collection — or approximately 240,000 reading materials — have been kept in storage. The remainder had been available at the temporary library, located on Fifth Street between Santa Monica Boulevard and Arizona Avenue.

When the old Main Library closed, City Hall hired a moving company. Not only did moving require extensive packing and storage — some 8,000 boxes were involved — but reading materials had to be removed from shelves at the old library, stored or re-shelved, then put back on display at the new facility.

And it all had to be done in an organized fashion, because if not, moving would be that much more difficult.

“You don’t want to mess up a moving a library,” said library director Greg Mullen. “It would be a lot more work putting books on shelves that were out of order.”

To make the move as organized as possible, boxes were labeled according to the shelf location of the books they contained. Reading materials were placed in boxes side by side, and above and below each other in a manner that reflected their placement on book shelves. That allowed staff to place reading materials in their original order at the new library.

The library is capable of housing more than 400,000 reading materials. An average of 30,000 materials are added to the library annually. However, thousands of old materials never make it back to the book shelves for various reasons, so Mullen said he expects it would take years before the new facility reaches capacity.

The \$73.9 million project includes expansion already completed at Santa Monica’s other library branches. It is being paid for with \$25 million in bond money approved in 1998. The remaining sum has been accrued for years by City Hall through saving funds.

FIRST FLOOR PEEK

There’s an underground, three-level parking garage that offers 500 spaces. Rates are \$1 per hour. In addition, a rear parking structure offers 30 surface spaces. To keep within an environmentally friendly theme, there are also several bicycle racks.

The building is accessible from three sides, with the main entrance being a ramp on the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and Sixth Street. Entering the library via the ramp, visitors come into an open hallway that runs north and east, split by a 10,000-square-foot “see-through” courtyard accessed from wall-sized sliding-glass doors.

The lobby has lightly-stained hardwood floors and white-washed walls with sections of green and red shades mixed in. The entire facility smells like a new home.

Information desks, easily identified by their lamps, are arranged throughout the building as open cubicles that have swinging computer monitors, allowing for better customer interaction.

On the northwest side of the first floor is the main reference desk, also accessible from the building’s rear and subterranean parking garage through a ramp and elevator.

The west side of the first floor offers adult fiction. To the east are the newer



Nicky Five Aces/Five Aces Photo

The new Main Library provides ponderers with ample room. At more than 100,000 square feet, the branch can house some 400,000 reading materials.

collections of books and magazines where authors are highlighted. The books and magazines are arranged like the main displays at a bookstore, front-faced, intended to attract readers, arranged by category and topic. There are chairs and tables for visitors to read.

To the far east is the children’s area. It’s twice as large as its counterpart at the old facility and has open indoor space for story time and other gatherings.

There’s also a new dedicated area for young adults which offers a row of computers and more desks and chairs for lounging.

On the north side of the first floor is the Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium. It will be used for community events and holds 167 people. On Monday, Jan. 16, Yolanda

King, the eldest daughter of the civil rights activist, will be the keynote speaker at the celebration to be held in her father’s name at the Soka Gakai International Auditorium, 525 Wilshire Blvd.

The free event will end with a march two blocks to the dedication of the new Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium in the new library.

The courtyard features trees and tables where visitors can sit, read, write or enjoy a sandwich and cup of coffee. The cafe, however, has just been approved for construction and is set to open in five to eight weeks.

The courtyard’s centerpiece is a large “Underwater Canopy,” a circular structure hanging 11 feet above the ground. Looking up at it through a series of color-

ful glass plates is intended to give one the effect of “staring up from the bottom of the ocean,” Mullen said.

The canopy was designed by Santa Monica artist Carl Cheng, intended to be part of the library’s broader oceanside theme. In addition, there’s a small fountain perimeter that surrounds the canopy and cuts through the courtyard.

The water, along with the majority of water used at the facility, trickles to cisterns below the underground parking garage from where it is recycled and reused.

SECOND FLOOR SCENE

The face of the library is constructed in

See LIBRARY, page 10



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Library celebration to have star power

LIBRARY, from page 9

two-story “see-through” glass which provides a sense of openness, Mullen said. Looking outside from the second floor is a clear view of Santa Monica Boulevard, and from some vantage points, the ocean. Looking inside the building is more difficult during the day but easier at night. That’s due to the design of the glass, intended to cool and heat the building, Mullen said.

The second floor of the library, accessible by ramp or elevators toward the front entrance, is considered more of the “quiet area” for serious study and research. It houses non-fiction materials along the south and east ends of the building, as well as the 5,000-square-foot Santa Monica Historical Society books and reference collection.

The historical society is still raising funds to lease the library space.

The second floor is where the majority of the library’s 150 computers are stationed, allowing for a variety of Internet research opportunities, Mullen said. There’s Wi-Fi access for laptops, as well as 50 computers in a common area to the northwest that offer unrestricted Internet access.

“We hope the 50 computers will meet demand for Internet use,” Mullen said.

To the northeast are study rooms, a quiet reading area, computer training room, and community meeting rooms.

The Stanton Macdonald-Wright Library Mural series (1934-35), on long-term loan from the Smithsonian American Art Museum, is displayed on the second level. Conservation and reinstallation of the murals is made possible, in part, by a grant from the California Cultural and Historical Endowment.

GRAND OPENING DETAILS

The day-long celebration on Saturday features a ribbon-cutting ceremony; book readings and signings with actors and children’s book authors, Jamie Lee Curtis and Rhea Perlman; interviews with key individuals and community members involved in the library project; and interviews with prominent authors, Sid Fleischman, Ernest Marquez, Carolyn See and Sonya Sones.

There will be activities for children and teens including a teen lounge open house, fiesta, and special appearances by the Swazzle Puppet Theatre, edu-tainer Janeece Flint, and the Animal Guys. The grand opening celebration is followed by special library programs during January and February.

The main library hours are Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, call (310) 458-8600, or visit the library’s Web site at www.smpl.org.



Nicky Five Aces/Five Aces Photo

(Top) Rows and rows of Internet-ready computers await residents at the Main Library, located at Santa Monica Boulevard and Sixth Street. (Bottom) The main branch also includes a children’s library.

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY



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INTERNATIONAL



Sharon in serious condition following emergency surgery

BY STEVE WEIZMAN

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was in serious condition Thursday following seven hours of emergency surgery to stop widespread bleeding in his brain caused by a life-threatening stroke, doctors said.

Vice Premier Ehud Olmert was named acting prime minister and convened the Cabinet for a special session. Close Sharon associates said they did not expect the 77-year-old prime minister to return to office.

A brain scan after surgery showed that the bleeding had been stopped, and Sharon was transferred to the intensive care unit, said Dr. Shlomo Mor-Yosef, the director of Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. Sharon remained sedated and on a respirator, hospital officials said.

“At this point, all the vital signs are ... stable. The prime minister is still in serious condition,” Mor-Yosef said.

Sharon’s stroke threw Israeli politics and diplomacy throughout the region into turmoil amid election campaigns for both Israel and the Palestinians.

He had been expected to easily win re-election in March at the head of the moderate Kadima Party he created to free his hands for further peace moves with the Palestinians.

Many Israelis see Sharon — an overweight war hero and longtime hawk who changed tack and withdrew from the Gaza Strip last year — as the best hope for achieving a peace deal with the Palestinians. His illness would create a power vacuum in the government and cloud the electoral prospects of his party, which was built around Sharon.

At the emergency Cabinet meeting, Sharon’s chair at the center of the long oval table remained empty.

“This is a difficult situation that we are not accustomed to,” Olmert told the somber ministers.

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas contacted Israeli officials Thursday to express concern over Sharon’s deteriorating health, an Abbas aide said.

Sharon fell ill at his ranch Wednesday evening and was rushed to Hadassah Hospital, where doctors put him on a respirator and began emergency surgery about midnight (5 p.m. EST Wednesday). Doctors said Thursday morning they had stopped the bleeding during initial surgery, but Sharon was sent back to the operating room because a brain scan showed he required more treatment. He later underwent a second scan before being sent to the ICU, Mor-Yosef said.

Surgery apparently had been complicated by blood thinners Sharon took following a mild stroke Dec. 18. The medication may also have contributed to Wednesday’s stroke. Sharon originally had been scheduled to undergo a procedure Thursday to seal a hole in his heart that contributed to the initial stroke.

Mor-Yosef did not address Sharon’s prognosis, but neurosurgeons not involved in Sharon’s treatment said a full recovery was not likely following such a massive stroke. They said it usually takes at least a day after surgery to determine the extent of any damage.

Outside doctors said chances of recovery were slim, especially because of the length of the surgery.

“For them to have to go back in twice, that’s not good,” said Dr. Emil Popovic, at neurosurgeon at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Perth, Australia. “At 77, not too many people make a good recovery from a brain hemorrhage.”

Palestinian officials said they were concerned the uncertainty in Israel could overshadow their campaign for Jan. 25 elections.

U.S. National Security Council official Elliott Abrams and State Department official David Welch were to have met with Sharon on Thursday evening, apparently to urge Israel to reverse a decision to ban Palestinian voting in disputed Jerusalem. But Palestinians said that they had postponed their trip to the region because of Sharon’s illness.

Abbas has said he may not hold elections if Jerusalem, claimed by the Palestinians as a capital, is excluded.

“We hope that this (Sharon’s illness) will not affect what we had expected of the Israelis,” said Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat. If Olmert puts off a decision on

Jerusalem, “it means the Palestinian election is going down,” Erekat said.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi postponed his visit, scheduled to begin Sunday, Japan’s Foreign Ministry said.

Israelis and world leaders expressed concern and offered prayers for Sharon.

In a statement, President Bush praised Sharon as “a man of courage and peace,” saying he and first lady Laura Bush “share the concerns of the Israeli people ... and we are praying for his recovery.”

Israel’s stock market plunged 5.4 percent on news of Sharon’s stroke.

Israeli Chief Rabbi Yona Metzger called on Israelis to read Psalms and pray for Sharon. “We are very, very worried,” he said, and prayed for “mercy from Heaven.”

Pan-Arab satellite television broadcasters beamed out largely straightforward, nonstop live coverage from outside the hospital where Sharon — a particularly despised figure among many Arabs — struggled for his life.

Ahmed Jibril, a radical Palestinian leader in Damascus, Syria, called the stroke a gift from God.

Speaking to reporters outside the hospital, Sharon aide Raanan Gissin warned Israel’s enemies: “To anyone who entertains any notion to try and exploit this situation ... the security forces and IDF (Israeli military) are ready for any kind of challenge,” he said.

But a Palestinian commentator on the Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya network offered Sharon unexpected praise as “the first Israeli leader who stopped claiming Israel had a right to all of the Palestinians’ land,” a reference to Israel’s Gaza withdrawal.

“A live Sharon is better for the Palestinians now, despite all the crimes he has committed against us,” said Ghazi al-Saadi.

According to Israeli law, Olmert, as vice premier, assumed the post of acting prime minister for 100 days. An election will be held in that time, apparently as scheduled on March 28. If Sharon should die, the Cabinet would choose a replacement, said legal analyst Moshe Negbi.

Sharon has been prominent in Israeli life for more than five decades. He first rose to prominence as an army officer in the 1950s, advancing through the ranks and gaining attention during the 1967 war. Sharon left the military for politics, forging the hardline Likud Party, which came to power in 1977.

As defense minister, Sharon directed Israel’s ill-fated invasion of Lebanon in 1982 during which an Israeli commission found him indirectly responsible for a massacre of Palestinians in two refugee camps by Christian Phalangist soldiers.

Sharon re-emerged as prime minister in 2001 soon after the outbreak of a new round of Israeli-Palestinian violence, and two years later he reversed his decades-long course of supporting Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, and pushed through a plan to withdraw from Gaza and part of the West Bank. The pullout was completed in September.

The withdrawal fractured Likud, and he bolted to form Kadima. He was putting together a list of candidates for the election when he fell ill Wednesday.

In the election, Sharon was to face off against Likud’s candidate, former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and Amir Peretz, the union leader who recently took control of the dovish Labor Party.

Olmert, who could emerge as Sharon’s successor as head of Kadima, would likely have a far tougher time in the election than Sharon, Israel’s most popular politician.

Sharon was put in an ambulance at his ranch in the Negev Desert after complaining of feeling unwell. The stroke happened during the hourlong drive to Hadassah Hospital, Dr. Shmuel Shapira of the hospital told Channel 10 TV.

Sharon was taken to the same hospital last month after suffering a mild stroke caused by a blood clot. Doctors said he would not suffer long-term effects, but they discovered a birth defect in his heart that apparently contributed to the stroke. They originally planned to fix the hole in a procedure Thursday.

He took blood thinners after the first stroke to prevent another clot, but such drugs also raise the risk of cerebral hemorrhages.



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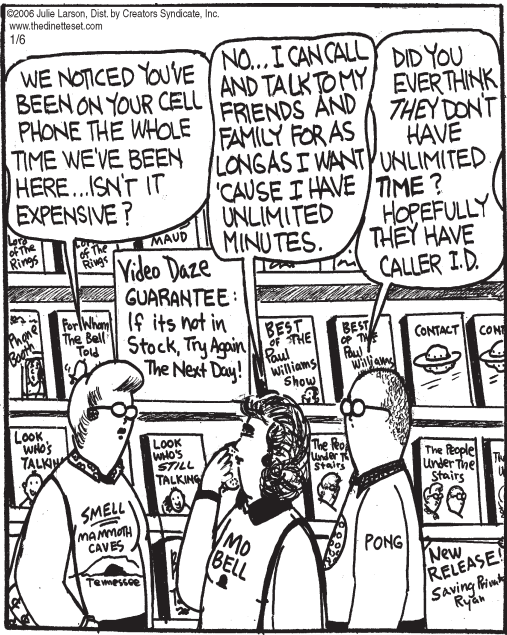
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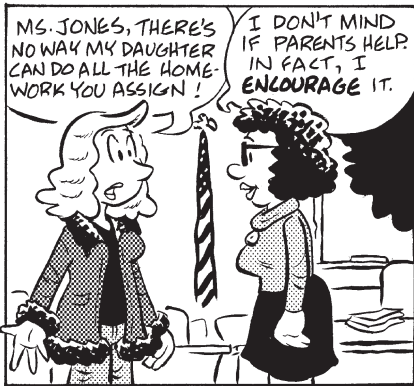


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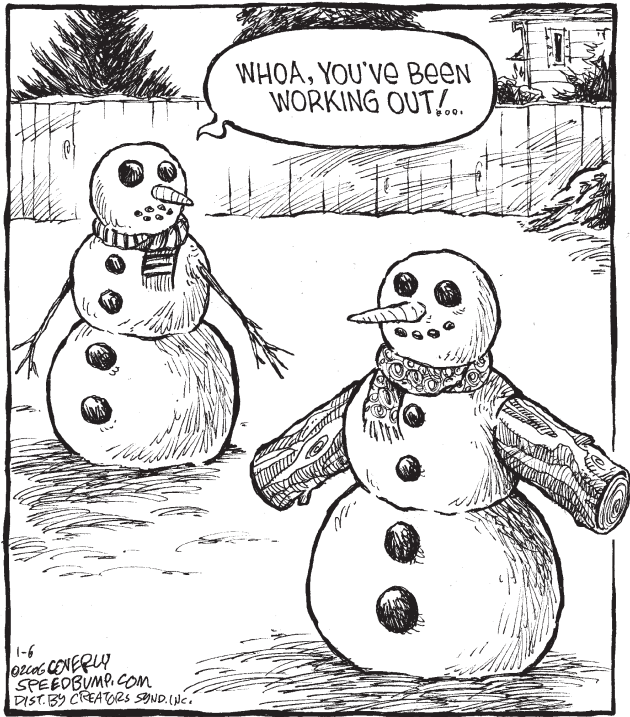
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- 19 Down
- 20 Set a course
- 21 Till fill
- 23 Fixes
- 25 Lightning attractor
- 27 General address
- 28 Poll goer
- 30 Fancy
- 33 Pipe material
- 34 "East of Eden" brother
- 36 Big snake
- 37 Montana neighbor
- 39 Hot-dog holder
- 40 "Spider-Man" director
- 41 Skating division

DOWN

- 43 Bert's buddy
- 44 Because
- 45 Battery makeup
- 46 Infamous auto
- 1 Cope
- 2 Spanish province
- 3 "The King and I" choreographer
- 4 Need to pay
- 5 Leases
- 6 Consents
- 7 Blacken
- 8 "The Carpet-baggers" writer

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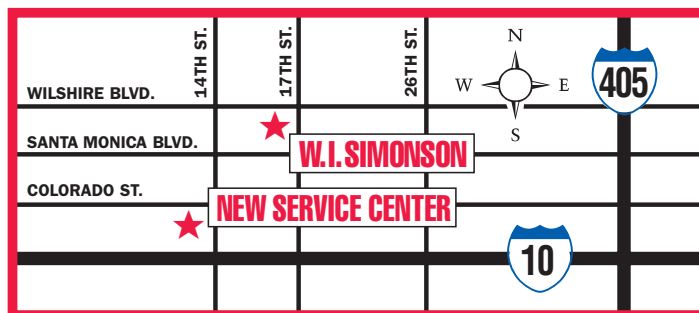
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