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JANUARY 12-13, 2008

Volume 7 Issue 53

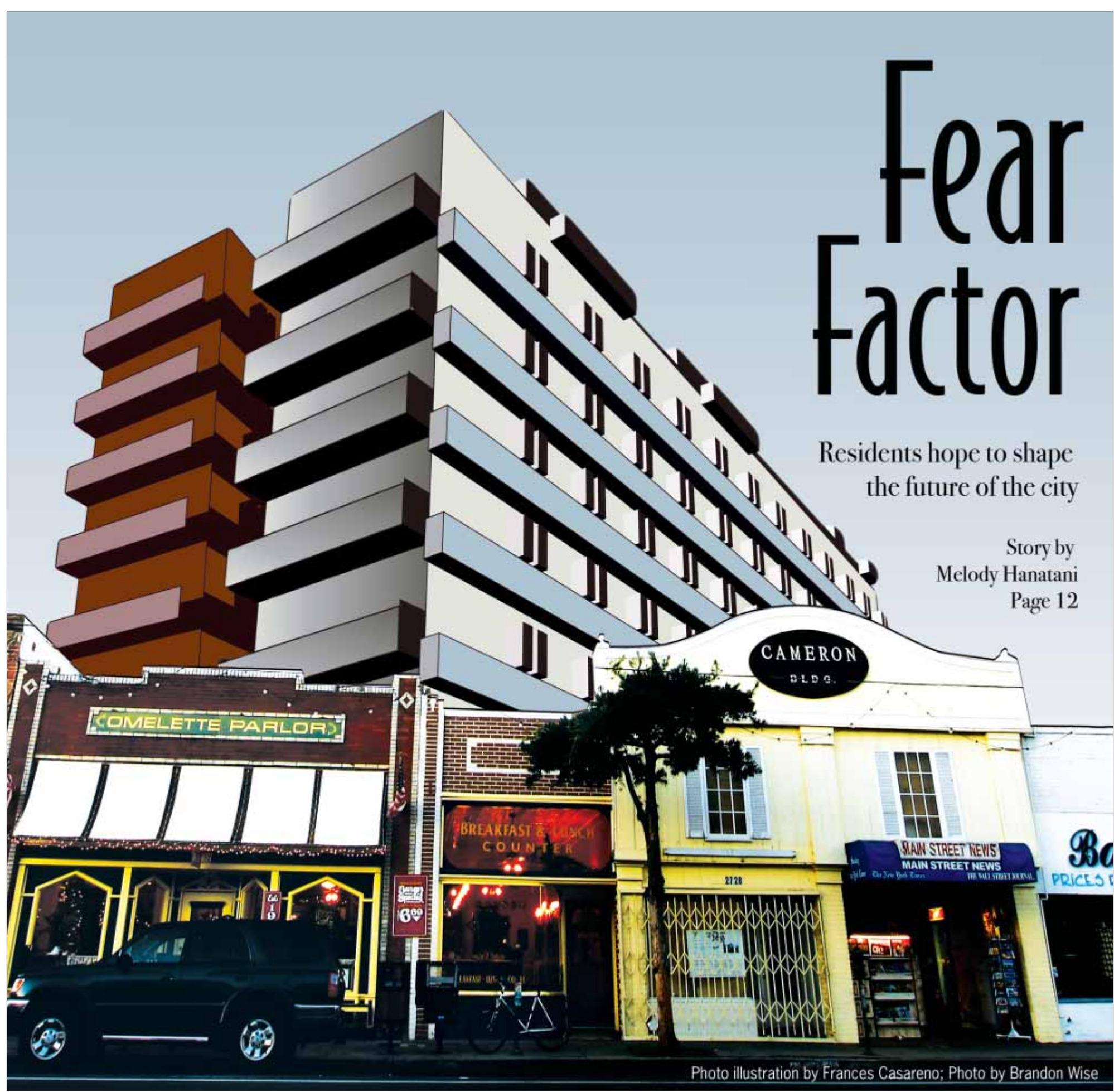


Santa Monica Daily Press

COME CLEAN, BRITNEY
SEE PAGE 19

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE SEE YOU AROUND, MIKEY T ISSUE



Fear Factor

Residents hope to shape
the future of the city

Story by
Melody Hanatani
Page 12

Photo illustration by Frances Casareno; Photo by Brandon Wise



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T a r i s i o



Calendar

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WEEKEND EDITION, JANUARY 12-13, 2008

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Santa Monica Daily Press

WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Take a walk on the historical side

1436 Second St., 10 a.m. — noon

Each Saturday, a docent-guided tour explores more than 130 years of Santa Monica history, from its wild west frontier beginnings to the metropolis of today. Presented by the Santa Monica Conservancy, the Downtown Walking Tour departs from Hostelling International and covers everything from the 1875 Rapp Saloon to the 2003 NRDC building. Tickets are \$10 for the general public, \$5 for Conservancy members. Reservations are advised and can be made at (310) 496-3146 or dwt@smconservancy.org.

Bound, but not gagged

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 11 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.

The Literature Book Group is a lively discussion group focuses on the classics, meeting the second Saturday of each month at the Fairview Branch Library. Call (310) 450-0443 for details.

The pretty maids are lining up

1211 Fourth St., 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

In the Santa Monica Playhouse's latest production, "Mary-Mary, Quite Contrary," a host of colorful storybook characters confronts the miracles and mysteries of modern living as they try to convince a quirky Mary-Mary that she is not too old to believe in fairy tales. Audience participation adds to the enjoyment! For more information, contact (310) 394-9779, ext. 651 or theatre@SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com.

Thou shalt be tolerant

1343 Ocean Park Blvd., 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.

"For the Bible Tells Me So," a new, award-winning documentary that challenges traditional religious views on homosexuality, will be shown at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church. All are invited to come early for a pre-film dinner at 6 p.m. and stay for after-film discussion with producer Helen Mendoza and local clergy at 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 13, 2008

SteveSongs concert

3101 Pico Blvd., 11 a.m. — noon

Steve Roslonek of SteveSongs has delighted audiences all across the country with his creative, entertaining, and contagiously fun concerts for kids. Steve's sense of humor and playful energy will captivate even the youngest children while providing plenty of musical sophistication to keep grownups in the groove. Join Steve at Scherr Forum Theatre for a morning of singing, dancing, laughing, and unforgettable fun. Ages 2-10. Tickets are \$8 (children under 2 are admitted free). Call (310) 828-4497 for more information or to purchase tickets.

Lizzy looks to get laid

10508 W. Pico Blvd., 8 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

"The Catholic Girls' Guide to Losing Your Virginity" tells the story of Lizzy, a witty and soulful Midwestern girl blossoming in the big city of her dreams, who upon realizing her priest has a better sex life than she does, decides to no longer live her life according to the rules of her religion. Lizzy turns 25 in 25 days and will lose her virginity ... or so she hopes. One problem, with whom? From mixing it up in Vegas to church mixers, Lizzy's looking for sex anywhere and everywhere. Tickets are \$20 and \$17.50 (on Thursdays). For reservations, call (866) 811-4111 or visit www.theatermania.com.

The other Jerry's kids

1348 14th St., 7:30 p.m. — 11:30 p.m.

CUBENSIS brings the sights and sounds of a live Grateful Dead concert to 14 Below every Sunday. Don't forget to bring a tie-dye shirt and tinted glasses, man.

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



Angelenos unhappy with project

One-way traffic flow plan faces opposition

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

WEST L.A. A proposal to remove parking during rush hour and alter traffic lights along Pico and Olympic boulevards to favor one-way traffic flow received a cold reception by Angelenos earlier this week, who argued the plan would harm businesses on the busy corridors.

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa unveiled the "Olympic West-Pico East" plan in November, an initiative that aims to alleviate congestion on the two boulevards by changing signaling patterns during peak hours so that westbound traffic is favored on Olympic and eastbound traffic flow on Pico. The proposal covers a roughly seven-mile stretch of the two streets from La Brea Avenue to the Santa Monica city border at Centinela Avenue.

The changes could have an effect on traffic flow in Santa Monica as both boulevards serve as arteries for commuters coming into and out of the city. L.A. transportation officials said they are working with city planners in Santa Monica to ensure a smooth transition.

Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, who represents West Los Angeles, where the majority of congestion is concentrated, held a town hall meeting with residents and city planners on Wednesday evening, a night when many Westsiders complained that city officials should instead save taxpayer's money and synchronize signalization and keep street parking intact.

"You have businesses that will be adversely affected," said Al Casas, a member of the West L.A. Neighborhood Council. "I don't think it's fair to them when you haven't (used) all the methods available to you."

Casas said he would much rather wait at a red light for an extra minute and fly through a series of intersections without stopping, rather than waiting at a light for

SEE TRAFFIC PAGE 15



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

THE PAST MEETS THE FUTURE: Wolfine 'Zucky' Altman signs paperwork making her the first account holder of the new branch of First National Bank on Friday. The bank has preserved the facade and sign of the longtime home of Zucky's, which had been designated a landmark years ago.

Banking on the past

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

WILSHIRE BLVD With the simple stroke of a pen, Wolfine "Zucky" Altman connected the past with the present, becoming the first person to open an account with First Republic Bank, the business that now occupies the space where she and her husband Hy operated Zucky's Deli, a fixture in downtown before it closed in the mid '90s.

"It definitely brings back a lot of memories," Altman said as she looked around the bank, which worked with City Hall to preserve the rock and brick facade and the Zucky's sign that sits prominently over Wilshire Boulevard. The facade and the sign are city landmarks.

"I think they did a fabulous job," said Altman, who also founded SOVA (Hebrew for "to eat and be satisfied"), a free kosher food pantry program that provides free groceries and supportive services for people in need. "It's homey, but still business

SEE BANK PAGE 10



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

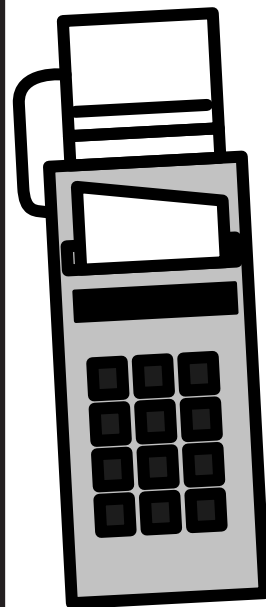
RESPECT: First National Bank has kept the facade of Zucky's, a Wilshire Boulevard landmark.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Cheney seems a bit stiff

Editor:
Is Dick Cheney able to take Viagra? After four heart attacks, I am pretty sure that he has to be careful in the amount of exertion he experiences. So what does an impotent old man who has been at the seat of power for decades do to still feel powerful? By hopping on the shoulders of young, virile boys and men as they enter his “John Wayne” battle, he is able to feel the power, the virility of these warriors. It must make him feel strong to unleash a powerful army against the evil others. And so he tries to create his inner world in the outer world, not realizing that they can never match. Stubborn and blinded by his inadequacy, he leads us to failure.
And then there is the so called “Decider,” who has to steel himself against the impulses that have driven him overtly into his 40s and more concealed since. He now pretends to be God’s agent for good in the world. So good that the evil ones are now all on the outside. It’s proof that his denial is working. He can hear that he has caused the death of a million Iraqis and displaced a like amount, and it is their fault for being others. They are the collateral damage of him being right in the eyes of his God.
Stephen A. Wolfson
Santa Monica

Republicans must be hungry

Editor:
Hillary Clinton winning the Democratic primary in New Hampshire is like Mike Huckabee winning the Republican caucus in the evangelical stronghold of Iowa. Will Democrats, in their selection of a viable presidential nominee, field a candidate like Hillary Clinton who attracts immense animosity (not an overstatement) from a large segment of society or will they go with a candidate who encompasses all demographics in America?
Let’s hope Hillary’s war chest of millions doesn’t distort the Democrats’ selection process because the GOP would like nothing better than to see Hillary Clinton run against their candidate of choice in the 2008 presidential election.
Ron Lowe
Santa Monica

The world through beer goggles

Editor:
(Re: “It’s bougie, not boozy in Ocean Park neighborhood,” Jan. 10)
In particular to the Star Liquors, I am not so sure about their competition. The regular clientele of Star Liquors are: Homeless deadbeats, a guy just wanting a six-pack and a bag of Cheetos, a hard-core alcoholic, a few guys who just got off construction work, and a lot of beach people in shorts and no shirts.
Now, do you think a person looking for culture and cheese and “education” about wines and the wine-making process is going to be such a competition?
Put it this way: The homeless wino will have another place to beg in front of in Santa Monica too!
So there are three liquor stores, two of which don’t speak English nor talk to you and one that refuses change for anything ... like the car wash! And all of them look at customers like the enemy.
Hmm... a nice upscale wine bar? Sure. But, hey, the hotels sell wine and have a bar. Maybe they should have a voice too. Maybe they could call up Arnold (Schwarzenegger) and pass him a couple of million and they can shut a nice wine bar down like they stopped the cost of living wage.
Maybe if we had had the cost of living wage we could have bought more beer at Star Liquor. Maybe Star Liquor caters to the quick-fix scenario of drunk before 7 a.m. and 2 a.m., and the wine and cheese bar is looking for the culture of the wine connoisseur and “educated.”
Maybe Santa Monica should be all liquor stores up and down the strip.
Should I go on?
Marcus Kohl
Santa Monica



Modern Times
Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Frisco tiger should claim self-defense

THOSE OF US WHO LIVE HERE IN Southern California often point up north and claim that’s where all the weird stuff happens. Similarly, those who live in Northern California point down here and say this is where all the nutty stuff is. You be the judge this time.
It was widely reported that on Christmas day, a 350-pound Siberian tiger escaped from her San Francisco Zoo enclosure, killing a 17-year-old boy and injuring two of his friends. At first, this tragic incident was seen as, well, a tragic incident. It was a horrible accident that left one person dead, two injured, and the tiger killed by police.
But the zoo’s director, Manuel Mollinedo’s story was filled with so many contradictions that investigators looked closer at the event. At first, Mollinedo inaccurately told reporters that the wall between the tiger and the people was 18 feet high. Then it was revealed that it was actually only 12 feet high, 4 feet below the recommended national standard. So you’re probably thinking that obviously the zoo and Mollinedo would be held at fault.
Not so fast. You’re forgetting that we live in the United States of Litigation. Knowing that the young men’s families would probably sue, the zoo took the typical tactic of blaming the victims.
The zoo hired a crisis management expert, Sam Singer. He and Mollinedo then suggested that something must have happened to provoke the tiger — as if that would take away the zoo’s responsibility. So rumors started that the guys had been drinking, they had slingshots, and they taunted the tiger. Even after there was no proof of any of these things, the zoo continued to imply that the young men, not the zoo or the tiger, were at fault.
Let’s pretend for a minute that the guys had taunted the animal. Such behavior may be cruel, and it may be stupid. But that’s precisely why there should be tall walls between dangerous animals and people — because sometimes people do foolish things around animals. Even if the guys had yelled, “Nah, nah, nah-nah. Can’t catch us,” it’s hard to blame them for the tiger’s escape.
Animal rights activists have long criticized Mollinedo for being less interested in the safety of animals and people than in “showmanship.” I guess some of that

showmanship might have been having a wall that was excitingly low, but dangerously lower than the recommended height.
Obviously, the tiger is dead, so she will not be present at any legal proceeding. But look for her memory to be invoked. Look for some attorney to talk about the tiger’s death, “the loss of a beautiful, innocent animal all because of the wanton behavior of some thoughtless youths.”
Or something like that. Look for the city of San Francisco and the zoo to cover its tails by claiming that even if they had a wall of the proper height — or 100 feet higher — the accident still might have occurred because “who can predict the behavior of an animal when she is taunted by uncaring kids?” Look for someone to reveal that at least one of these three kids had misbehaved in elementary school once, “obviously” demonstrating a pattern of disregarding rules and regulations.
It’s an additional tragedy that the families will continue to be hounded by ridiculous accusations. It would be nice if city and zoo officials, and Mollinedo would just say something like, “We really messed up. We are so sorry and we will feel this regret for the rest of our lives.” In other words, take the responsibility for what occurred. But that’s not going to happen. Personal responsibility has gone out the window, and somebody has probably sued somebody else because of the draft caused by that opened window.
McDonald’s has been sued for causing obesity. Thieves who hurt themselves after they break into a house have sued homeowners. A Lancaster, Pennsylvania woman recently successfully sued a restaurant because she slipped and hurt herself on their wet floor — even though the floor was wet because she had thrown a drink at her boyfriend. So, do you really think the right people are going to stand up and take the blame for this?
At some point, we may very well hear a representative of the zoo paraphrase a famous lawyer and say, “If animals maul, the victims must take the fall.”

LLOYD GARVER has written for many television shows, ranging from “Sesame Street” to “Family Ties” to “Home Improvement” to “Frasier.” He writes online for “The Huffington Post,” and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com

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PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Melody Hanatani
melodyh@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra,
Meredith Carroll, Kenny Mack,
Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver,
Seth Barnes, Taylor van Arsdale,
Dane Robert Swanson,
Mark Marchillo, Ken Tarr,
Mike Heayn, Brian Hepp
and Mariel Howsepian

NEWS INTERNS
Gabrielle Harradine
news@smdp.com

Jared M. Feldschreiber
news@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Julie Martinez
juliem@smdp.com

Liam Blume
Liamb@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT
Cynthia Vazquez
advertising@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Tessa Vergara
tessav@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
Frances Casareno
production@smdp.com

CLASSIFIEDS SALES MANAGER
Annie Kotok
anniek@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Oswaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

EDITOR AT LARGE
Mike Tittinger
miket@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
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410 Broadway, Suite B
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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STRAY talk

A CENTER-CUT, NO-FAT REVIEW OF WHAT WAS SAID THIS PAST WEEK BY FOLKS THE WORLD OVER AND RIGHT AT HOME

“Do we not bleed? My successor should start slathering himself in urea to toughen up his skin. Prepare to be besieged by callers, e-mailers and snail mailers with two cents to offer on time management, but decidedly little in the way of content.”

— Former Daily Press editor Michael Tittinger, in his column “Hey, Mikey,” offering advice to his successor behind the big desk

“If you lower tuition, then I’ll have money left over for books.”

— Karla Orellana, a sophomore majoring in English at SMC, advocating the passage of Prop. 92

“For several years, we kept the budget wolf from the door, but the wolf is back.”

— Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, addressing state lawmakers during his State of the State address

“The writers are the backbone of the business. So, we don’t want to lose them in any way.”

— Nikky Blonsky, on honoring the Writers’ Guild strike and boycotting the since-cancelled Golden Globes awards

“As much as I say I don’t like dynasties, I think we may end up with one, and that frankly, it may be the best thing for the country.”

— Daily Press columnist David Pizarra, weighing the seemingly inevitable election of Hillary Clinton

“They said they’d call me back but I kind of felt like that lady waiting around for her man to propose. They say they’re going to marry you, but they never do.”

— Jeri Wingo, president of the Municipal Employees Association, on applying for a full-time position with the city of Santa Monica after just a few days as a temp

“There’s no denying that Obama took her out behind the woodshed and gave her a good whooping. He made her look exactly like what she is — a relic of a bygone era.”

— Daily Press columnist Kenny Mack, on Sen. Barack Obama’s victory over Sen. Hillary Clinton at the Iowa caucus

Quotations captured and compiled with care by CYNTHIA VAZQUEZ.

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The QLine

IF THEY BUILD IT, WILL WE STAY?

This past week, Q-line asked:

Should City Hall continue on the path of overhauling the city or should something be done to limit development?

Here are your responses:

"DEFINITELY, AT LEAST UNTIL A solid new City General Plan is completed, a moratorium should be put on all new commercial- and residential-building. Refurbishing and improving, most certainly, but no more sun-blocking, ambiance-destroying, dismal, traffic-inviting building. The present development course will only take away yet more of why many came here in the first place and make this tiny community an even more crowded, uninteresting, visitor less-appealing, and sometimes even unhappy, keyed-up, harried a place to be. We should be asking ourselves that tough question now: 'Do I want my city to be just a place where I sleep and work, and at most other times really need to go somewhere else to be able to find quiet, and to relax and inexpensively enjoy myself with my interests and my friends when out and about?' Please, this coastal gem is already sadly tarnished."

"CITY HALL'S REALLY NOT OVERHAULING this city. They're overwhelming it. One Council meeting and one contract at a time, Santa Monica has become a less desirable place to live. Sadly, to me, it looks and feels more like a business and retail center. Hello to catering to money-driven interests, the ravaging of downtown trees and the forced mass-medication of our water supply. Good-bye to tree-cherishing aesthetics, safe streets and bicycling, and to safe drinking water. Something, obviously, should be done to limit this Council majority's powers. If more residents don't soon wake up and huddle to bring about progressive change, to our own detriment I think more of us will soon be goners."

"OVERHAULING THE CITY IS NOT the key word, 'overloading' is. The brakes should have been put on long ago – too much building, way too many people and nightmare traffic have turned this city upside down. The infrastructure in all this mess is lagging way behind. But some people are getting rich in the midst of all this disaster ... and that is the other operative word, just like the homeless industry here – lots of people getting rich. So that will be going on and on, and the mess will continue."

"THE CITY NEEDS TO CUT DOWN ON development – commercial and residential – besides pollution and smog ad congestion. We are in the midst of water shortage. Just this afternoon, the news said California might have to impose strict rationing. How can we add more buildings and more people? We don't have the water for it."

"WE'VE GOT TOO MUCH BUILDING going on. Every time we build something we get more people and more traffic, which makes even more of a mess. We should have less development, even tear down some things and have more open space. Less people equals less traffic."

"ALL OF MY LIFE, AFTER ENTERING puberty, I was told it is not the size that counts. It is how well you use it that counts, thank God. That has a lot to do with cities as well. The city of Santa Monica is very much like Reno, Nevada – a city that advertises itself as the biggest little city in the world. Santa Monica is big in everything except geographical size, certainly large in the area of commercial development such as high-rise office buildings and retail hopping centers. These commercial

cash flows are great for the city treasury, but still there is the well known side of transformational commercial development. Transformation often means out with the old and in with the new, and the city loses its character. Where would Paris be without the Eiffel Tower or London without Big Ben?"

"I THINK SANTA MONICA SHOULD LIMIT commercial development. I'll never forget the time my family went to Clearwater, Florida, and it was just high-rises with very little offset, with a beach that was small and black water. The irony was it was called Clearwater and the water was black. There was so much overdevelopment so close to the beach. Of course, that's where the garbage drained to."

"WHEN FRIENDS COME TO VISIT US IN Santa Monica, they often comment how filthy and dirty our town is, especially on the streets surrounding our beach and the promenade – broken bottles and Starbucks cups, traffic jams and tourists driving the wrong way. Santa Monica for Renters Rights have sold us out. Wake up, Santa Monica, and smell the roses ... oops, I mean smell the homeless pee."

"CITY HALL NEEDS TO CUT DOWN ON development, and the bustling environment. I miss the days when Santa Monica was a quiet, mellow town for people to come to and relax and enjoy."

"CITY HALL'S IDEAS FOR OVERHAULING the city are so against what we residents want and need, like, for example, the ridiculous removal of ficus trees from where they are needed most, that I hope we wait until we get another Council until we do anything."

"SANTA MONICA IS A SPECIAL PLACE with a special environment, and rapid overdevelopment is slowly ruining a quiet beach town. We feel that careful long-range planning is overdue."

"I THINK WE SHOULD SIMPLY STOP. We've already built way too much. There's too much traffic, not enough space, and we should just stop. Yes, I think there should be a stop in commercial development."

"I THINK THE CITY SHOULD LIMIT ITS development. They've way overdone themselves. The air is now dirty, filled with dirt from construction and that's a very bad thing for all of us."

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Dems looking at tax rebates

BY ANDREW TAYLOR

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Democrats controlling Congress are looking at tax rebates, extended unemployment benefits and more food stamps to stimulate the sagging economy.

Even as momentum builds behind those ideas — with President Bush increasingly open to proposing a stimulus package later this month — the effort is fraught with election-year risks for both Democrats and Republicans.

Any politician who promises action on the economy had better deliver. Failure to enact those or other pump-priming measures, which is possible, will register with voters increasingly alarmed about their own well-being.

On the other hand, not trying is a losing strategy too. Democrats see little choice but to make the effort.

"There's a risk in doing nothing and a risk in doing something," said Illinois Rep. Rahm Emmanuel, who heads the House Democrats' campaign organization. "I'll take the risk of doing something for middle-class families versus the risk of doing nothing."

The White House also is examining broad-based tax rebates comparable to the \$300-600 checks sent to taxpayers in 2001, as well as bigger tax breaks for businesses that invest in new equipment.

Bush's advisers and Republicans are skeptical of new spending initiatives like extended jobless benefits and higher food stamp payments; or accelerating highway, bridge and other public infrastructure projects to address rising unemployment among construction workers.

Complicating the debate is the fact that Democrats and Bush also have a poor track record of working together.

Both sides insist that work on competing stimulus plans is just beginning and that no decisions have been made about what might be included. The White House says it's not a sure thing Bush will even propose a plan if upcoming economic data don't suggest a deepening downturn of the economy.

Expectations are growing that some action on an economic stimulus bill is inevitable.

The mantra among Democrats and many economists is that any stimulus bill should be timely, temporary and targeted toward people most likely to funnel the money right back into the economy. As such, some Democrats are suggesting limiting tax rebates to lower-income and middle-class families and people with children.

"Our initiative will assist hard-hit families by promoting consumer confidence, economic growth and job creation," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said in a statement Tuesday. Pelosi promised help for the unemployed, people hurt by higher health care and spiraling energy prices, as well as those hit by the subprime mortgage crisis.

Democrats also are eyeing extending unemployment benefits beyond the 26-week limit and a temporary increase in food stamp benefits, Pelosi's spokesman, Brendan Daly, said. He cautioned that any decisions would be made only after lawmakers return to Washington next week.

Liberal economists say boosting food

stamps is one of the most efficient ways of pumping money into the economy, an idea surprisingly embraced by GOP economist Martin Feldstein at a Brookings Institution forum on Thursday.

The White House and Democrats are probably on a collision course. Bush is likely to resist social spending initiatives or efforts to restrict tax rebates to a relatively narrow segment of the public. He is sure to press to extend his 2001 and 2003 tax cuts.

There's naturally a temptation to use the debate to score political points in this election year. Democrats, for instance, could provoke a veto clash. That's the course they took in last year's debate over expanding a popular health insurance plan for children.

I BELIEVE WE ARE IN A RECESSION. I BELIEVE IT'S GOING TO GET A LOT WORSE."

Rep. Ron Paul
R-Texas

On the presidential campaign trail Thursday in Las Vegas, Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton said Congress needed to take action to revive the economy and contain a mortgage crisis that she called an epidemic. The New York senator was to reveal details of her economic plan Friday.

"I'm going to do everything I can to promote what I think would be the best way to stimulate the economy," said Clinton, who has called for a 90-day freeze on foreclosures.

The economy also dominated the first portion of a Republican presidential debate Thursday night in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Fred Thompson, who advocates a cut in corporate taxes, said "we need to count on the Federal Reserve doing the right thing on interest rates" to keep the economy from tumbling into recession. He also said tax cuts enacted in recent years should be extended.

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani also advocated tax cuts, and his campaign purchased an advertisement during the first commercial break in the televised debate that said he would send the largest tax cut in history to Congress on his first day in the White House.

Rep. Ron Paul said, "I believe we are in a recession. I believe it's going to get a lot worse."

With an economy that may be teetering on the edge of a recession, congressional Democrats see a need to deliver results rather than be viewed as seeking political advantage. That means limiting the wish list of liberal Democratic lawmakers if they are to get an agreement with Bush.

Senate Democrats have taken fewer steps toward fashioning a stimulus package. Their deliberations are made more complicated by Senate rules that effectively require GOP support for almost any bill.



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Urth Caffè 2327 Main St.	(310) 749-8879
Via Veneto 3009 Main St.	(310) 399-1843
The Victorian Baker Cafe 2640 Main St.	(310) 392-4956
Wildflour 2807 Main St.	(310) 452-7739
World Café 2640 Main St.	(310) 392-1661
Yose Restaurant 2435 Main St.	(310) 255-0680

VENICE

26 Beach Restaurant 3100 Washington Blvd.	(310) 823-7526
Abbot's Habit 1401 Abbot Kinney Blvd	(310) 399-1171
Abbot's Pizza Co 1407 Abbot Kinney Blvd	(310) 396-7334
Agra Indian Kitchen 2553 Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 396-8749
Axe 1009 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 664-9787
Azteca Restaurant 835 Sunset Ave.	(310) 396-6576
Baby Blues BBQ 444 Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 396-7675
Beechwood 822 W. Washington Blvd.	(310) 448-8884
Benice 1715 Pacific Ave.	(310) 396-9938
Big Daddy and Sons 1425 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 508-2793
The Brig 1515 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 399-7537
The Brick House Cafe 826 Hampton Dr.	(310) 581-1639
Cafe 50's 838 Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 399-1955

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China Beach Bistro 2024 Pacific Ave.	(310) 823-4646
Danny's Deli 23 Windward Ave.	(310) 566-5610
Firehouse 213 Rose Ave.	(310) 396-6810
French Market Cafe 2321 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 577-9775
Great Western Steak & Hoagie Company 1720 Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 450-4545
Hal's Bar & Grill 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 396-3105
Hama 213 Windward Ave.	(310) 396-8783
James Beach 60 N. Venice Blvd.	(310) 823-5396
Joe's Restaurant 1023 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 399-5811
La Cabana Restaurant 738 Rose Ave.	(310) 392-6161
La Meditrina 1029 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 396-5000
Lands End Restaurant 323 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 392-3997
Lilly's French Cafe & Bar 1031 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 314-0004
Maos Kitchen 1512 Pacific Ave.	(310) 581-8305
Piccolo Ristorante 5 Dudley Ave.	(310) 314-3222
Primitivo Wine Bistro 1025 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 396-5353
Rose Cafe 220 Rose Ave.	(310) 399-0711
Shima 1432 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 314-0882
Siam Best Restaurant 2533 Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 827-8977
Stroh's Gourmet 1239 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 450-5119
Szechwan Restaurant 2905 Washington Blvd.	(310) 821-6256
Uncle Darrow's 2560 S Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 306-4862
Wabi-Sabi 1635 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 314-2229
Wacky Wok 2805 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 822-7373

MARINA DEL REY

Beachside Cafe 4175 Admiralty Way	(310) 821-5313
C & O Cucina 3016 Washington Blvd.	(310) 301-7278
Cafe Del Rey 4451 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-6395
California Pizza Kitchen 3345 Fiji Way	(310) 301-1563
Casa Escobar 14160 Palawan Way	(310) 822-2199
Chart House 13950 Panay Way	(310) 822-4144
The Cheesecake Factor 4142 Via Marina	(310) 306-3344
Chin Chin 13455 Maxella Ave Ste 266	(310) 823-9999
Chipotle Mexican Grill 4718 Admiralty Way	(310) 821-0059
Harbor House Restaurant 4211 Admiralty Way	(310) 577-4555
Islands 404 Washington Blvd	(310) 822-3939
Jer-ne at The Ritz-Carlton 4375 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-1700
Kaya Sushi 13400 Washington Blvd.	(310) 577-1143
Kifune Restaurant 405 Washington Blvd	(310) 822-1595
Le Marmiton 4724 Admiralty Way	(310) 773-3560
Mercedes Grille 14 Washington Blvd	(310) 827-6209
Mermaids-Juice Java & More 14045 Panay Way	(310) 306-3883
Rainbow Acres Natural Foods 4756 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-5373
Sapori Ristorante 13723 Fiji Way	(310) 821-1740
Tony P's 4445 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-4534
Tsuji No Hana 4714 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 827-1433
The Warehouse Restaurant 4499 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-5451

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Barney's Hamburgers 11660 San Vicente Blvd.	(310) 447-6000
Chez Mimi Restaurant 246 26th St	(310) 393-0558
Chin Chin 11740 San Vicente Blvd.	(310) 826-2525
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Aphrodisiac 10351 Santa Monica Blvd.	(310) 470-0792
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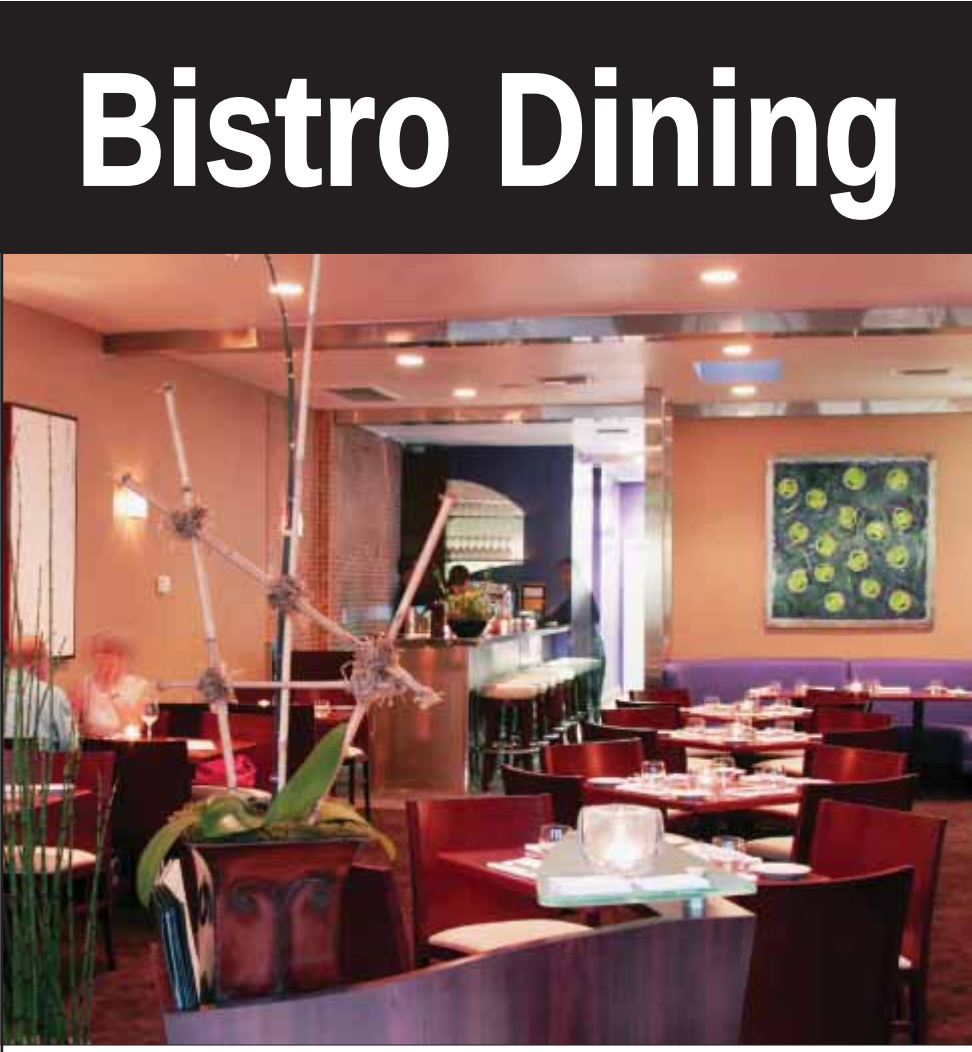
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A new lease on life for Zucky's

FROM BANK PAGE 3

like. It's really first class."

The Zucky's location is First Republic's lone branch in Santa Monica. Customers can open checking and savings accounts, apply for personal loans and manage trusts and investments, said Greg Berardi, a spokesman for the bank.

IT DEFINITELY BRINGS BACK A LOT OF MEMORIES."

Wolfine "Zucky" Altman,
Former owner of Zucky's

"It's just a wonderful location and we are so thrilled to be in Zucky's place," Berardi said. "Our clients are pleased that we came here. We have many Santa Monica customers who have fond memories of Zucky's. After a long absence, this kind of feels like a home coming."

Zucky's, which was constructed in 1954, was influenced by the Googie style of post-World War II commercial archi-

itecture, taking advantage of its corner location with a combination of deep, overlapping, angled canopies and floor-to-ceiling plate glass walls.

First Republic kept the canopies and the natural rock, stucco and glazed tile accents, ensuring that the Googie style would be retained.

Designer Habibou Sissoko said the challenge with this adaptive-reuse was protecting the stone facade, the large windows and tiles.

"It forced us to be creative," said Habibou, who was approached by a couple during the renovation who had their first date at Zucky's. "Luckily for us the building was in great shape. The more we worked on it, the more I fell in love with it. It's one building that now has two lives."

Altman is pleased that the facade has been retained, especially since she hand picked every stone and watched as they were put in place.

"It feels good to know that people will be coming to this bank and will see the sign and ask about what used to be here," she said. "It's funny. Everyone jokes that now I'm a banker."

kevinh@smdp.com



OUCH!

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

A construction worker had to be helped by Santa Monica paramedics Thursday afternoon after seriously injuring his hand while working on a site located on Fourth Street. The worker's left index finger was caught in a drill he was working with prompting the emergency response.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD

Community Corp.'s new digs are a site to see

Community Corporation's new building at 26th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard is raising some eyebrows for its innovative design, even being called "a ray of hope" by The American Institute of Architects, which has given the non-profit one of its 13 Honor Awards.

The national award praised the way architects for the project "used the light and breezes, which are free, wonderfully. The building is beautiful in a clean-scrubbed way while creating a safe haven," the AIA jurors wrote.

The building, which houses 44 low- and moderate-income families, was designed by Kanner Architects, who devised a vibrant pattern for the structure of white walls, colorful panels and Hardie siding, a durable man-made composite that has the appearance of wood.

The site on a very busy street maximizes views of the sunsets, private balconies, and a large courtyard to bring light and space to the residents' daily lives. The building was honored along with the renovated Griffith Park Observatory, as well as 11 other noted architectural projects outside Los Angeles.

DAILY PRESS STAFF

SMC

A pointed look into Orion's sword

Planets forming within Orion's sword and a telescopic view of the winter sky will be ripe for discussion this month, as Santa Monica College's John Drescher Planetarium presents the feature shows "Starbirth in Orion's Sword" and "Winter Sky Highlights."

"Starbirth," which uncovers the recent discoveries of hundreds of potential planetary systems, will be presented on Friday, Jan. 18, at 8 p.m.

"Winter Sky Highlights" will include glimpses of the Pleiades star cluster, the great Orion Nebula and the red giant star Betelgeuse. If the weather is cloudy, professional images of the objects will be shown. "Winter Sky Highlights" will be staged on Friday, Jan. 25, at 8 p.m.

Both shows are preceded by "The Night Sky Show," which re-creates the night sky and provides the latest information on space exploration, at 7 p.m.

The John Drescher Planetarium, which features the Digistar projection system, is located on the second floor of Drescher Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. Tickets are \$5 each or \$9 for the "double bill," with discounts for children and senior citizens. For information, call (310) 434-4223 or (310) 434-3000.

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DOWNTOWN

A singularly good time at Peace Center

The power of the individual is the topic du jour on Saturday, Jan. 19, when Professor Paula Garb, a founding member of the Citizen Peacebuilding Program and Associate Director of International Studies at the University of California, Irvine, presents a lecture in Santa Monica.

"A Journey Toward Peace: From the Intrapersonal and Interpersonal to the International" will take place at the SGI-USA Culture of Peace Resource Center, 606 Wilshire Blvd.

Since 1999, Professor Garb has directed Center for Citizen Peacebuilding programs in response to the growing national and international problems of conflict and violence. Turning research into action, she takes an integrated approach to studying the best grassroots peacebuilding methods in both domestic and international conflicts, and utilizes those findings in grassroots peacebuilding projects.

"There is an urgency today to educate as many as people as possible to become 'world citizens,'" says series organizer Ian McIlraith. "Paula Garb is doing just that. Her work in examining and comparing the best conflict resolution practices from citizens living in conflict zones around the globe is helping to train new generations of leaders who can apply them within their local communities."

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, log on to www.sgi-usa.org/thegiusa/community/dss/.

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Development has its limits

Locals want the city to keep construction at a reasonable level

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Tensions were running high in the City Council Chambers, the room filled with one impassioned speech after another by Santa Monicans wanting the Landmarks Commission to save an historic surf shop.

The sanctity of Dogtown must be preserved, the residents pleaded.

If there was an underlying theme from that night in November 2006 — a hearing on whether an Ocean Park building that once housed the old Zephyr Surf Shop should be saved — it was that there's been too many unwanted developmental changes along Main Street.

"It's important to send a message to developers that this entire city isn't up for sale," said Jacob Samuel, a lifelong Santa Monica resident, during the Landmarks Commission hearing.

The pace and scale of development has long been a concern of residents, worried that their once sleepy town is being overtaken by developers, building what has been criticized as unsightly and out-of-character structures that have a knack for attracting traffic into the city.

These residents often point to the same list of projects that have popped up citywide since the General Plan, a long-range land-use blueprint, was last implemented in 1984 — a compilation of developments that include the Water Garden, the Plaza at the Arboretum, and occasionally, the new Archstone mixed-use complex at the corner of Main and Bay streets — directly across from the former Zephyr shop.

Residents hope the city's changing face will be molded into an attractive one, with the future adoption of the new Land Use & Circulation Element (LUCE), a planning document that will guide development in Santa Monica for the next 20 years or more.

"There's no compelling reason to densify the city," said Peter Tigler, an artist and 30-year-resident, who said he would like to see a general plan geared toward a less dense city.

Over the past several years, residents have had the opportunity to air their concerns about development in the city through a series of workshops held as part of the LUCE update process, a process that has been named, "Shape the Future: 2025."

More than a thousand residents have participated in the community workshops, each of which have focused on a specific neighborhood or issue, from parking constraints in the Wilshire-Montana area to walkability in the Pico neighborhood to density in Ocean Park.

Growth seems to be an issue in many California municipalities. In Sacramento, where the plan update is roughly two-thirds completed, planners are looking at ways to accommodate the growth of its population in an already densely-built city.

The state capital is projected to grow by about 40 percent, according to Tom Pace, the general plan project director in Sacramento.

"We don't have an additional 40 percent of the nearly 100 square miles (in Sacramento)," Pace said.

A draft of the city's LUCE, just one of many municipal general plans being updated throughout the state, is expected to be



Illustration courtesy City of Santa Monica

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS: A light rail station is planned for the Bergamot Station area of town. The project is one of many planned for the near future.

ready for the City Council in June, and once approved, an accompanying zoning ordinance revamp is expected to occur.

One thing city planners say they've heard loud and clear is that neighborhoods need to be protected, somewhat maintaining the status quo, while density in Santa Monica needs to be controlled and managed carefully.

neither defines the type of development nor the specific location where it should occur.

The lack of direction for developers has been one of the most glaring shortcomings of the current general plan, leading to "piecemeal" projects that have popped up throughout the industrial area, said Eileen Fogarty, the director of planning and com-

"The only way to improve the quality of life is to strategically locate uses," Fogarty said

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE

If the general plan were to remain the same over the next 20 years, the city would most likely see the continuation of what has been taking place since 1984.

"You see change, but not any of it managed," Fogarty said. "You would see a continual deterioration in the quality of life."

"You get the impacts, but you don't get the positive change."

Santa Monicans have different visions for the future of the city, some wanting to see as little development as possible, others acknowledging that change is inevitable and that there are opportunities for smart development in certain segments of the city.

"My overall sense of it is that we should severely limit the development of any more commercial floor area in most of the city, the exception being downtown," said Councilmember Ken Genser. "We have a real imbalance in the city where we have more people coming to work here than live here."

While fewer projects would result in the loss of developer fees for City Hall, there are also hidden costs that come with commercial development — traffic and weakened infrastructures, such as wastewater, Genser added.

One thing that Fogarty said will not happen is the realization of the fears of many residents — a metropolitan Santa Monica with high-rises popping up, incompatibly large-mass developments that just don't seem to serve a purpose in

THE ONLY WAY TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IS TO STRATEGICALLY LOCATE USES."

Eileen Fogarty, Director of Planning and Community Development.

"(Sunset Park) residents tell us that they want densities to remain largely the same, but that the Industrial Lands should be down-zoned," said Zina Josephs, president of the neighborhood group Friends of Sunset Park. "In other words, no growth, as Santa Monica is already one of the most densely populated cities in the country."

After the current general plan was adopted, the projections for new commercial growth were exceeded by 1990, according to the Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City, which is filing a ballot initiative that would limit commercial development in the city. By 1990, City Hall had approved approximately 5.7 million square feet of new commercial development, Diana Gordon, a member of the coalition, said last week.

One of the major differences between the current general plan and its successor will be the manner in which future development will occur in Santa Monica.

The current general plan essentially calls for a vision for a specific area of the city, but

munity development for City Hall. The so-called industrial area, home to the Water Gardens and various creative arts studios, is roughly bounded by Centinela Avenue to the east, the I-10 Freeway to the south, the downtown area to the west and Broadway to the north.

The new LUCE will not only state a clear vision, but it will also put that vision into action, mapping out not only what type of development should occur, but where it should take place, allowing projects to communicate with each other. The result will be the creation of a cohesive neighborhood feel in the industrial area, Fogarty added. The updated general plan will also specify how developments could provide benefits to the community, such as parking solutions for residents.

The result of the new general plan will be smarter development, projects that communicate with one another, promoting walkability and improving the quality of life, Fogarty said.

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

GOING UP: A new apartment complex is currently under construction at Fifth Street and Broadway. Some residents believe that buildings like these should be limited in the future.

the neighborhoods.

Each new development will have to serve a clear community benefit, Fogarty said.

The new general plan will keep neighborhoods the same, which are already built-out and have limited options for growth. The goal in LUCE with regards to the neighborhoods will be to protect the quality of life, improving parking conditions and adding open space.

Continuity is something that the residents of Sunset Park want to see.

"Residents tell us that what they currently like about living in Sunset Park is the 'small town' family-oriented feel of the area, the convenience of the location, the good schools, the parks and nearby ocean," Josephs said. "What they would like to get rid of is the traffic congestion caused by cut-through traffic from the special office district, (Santa Monica College), and other parts of the Westside."

One of the biggest opportunities for positive change lies in the industrial area, where city planners see a bright future built around the Exposition Light Rail Line, which will cut right through the heart of the district, enhancing walkability in the area.

The Expo Line, which is projected to come to Santa Monica in the next three or four years, will have stops at Bergamot Station and the Sears lot at the corner of Fourth Street and Broadway.

"We're looking at the industrial area as

the area that is most likely to transform in the next 20 years," said Senior Planner Elizabeth Bar-El.

GETTING RID OF TRAFFIC

One of the biggest concerns with density is traffic, which has rapidly bottlenecked the Westside.

"Since 1984, we've overshot the mark, particularly on traffic generating commercial construction like massive office complexes that were approved by a non-SMRR Council majority in the late '80s," said Councilmember Kevin McKeown, referring to a City Council that did not have a majority of members from Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights.

But the solution might not be necessarily in just limiting growth, but rather attacking congestion at its source, requiring that new development try to fix traffic problems and not contribute to it.

Traffic consultant Jeffrey Tumlin, who is working on the LUCE process with City Hall, used the Water Garden as an example of how a management company can help the Westside's congestion. By closely monitoring traffic counts caused by the people that go in and out of the Water Garden every day and implementing programs that would encourage employees to carpool or take alternate transportation, the traffic to the complex is half of what it could be, Tumlin said.

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GRIDLOCK: A mass of cars move slowly down Pico Boulevard during rush hour on Wednesday evening. Los Angeles city officials have unveiled a plan to manage traffic that has been criticized by locals.

Plan aims to manage traffic

FROM TRAFFIC PAGE 3

only two minutes and having to stop at the next block. But according to Ken Husting, the senior transportation planner with L.A. Department of Transportation (LADOT), there is only so much that can be done with signal timing. “We timed signals as best we can,” Husting said. The mayor’s proposal incorporates ideas from L.A. County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, which suggested last year that Pico and Olympic boulevards each be turned into one-way streets. Rather than doing that, the mayor’s recommendation would favor one direction while keeping traffic on the other side alive. The three-phase project could be implemented as soon as March, starting with the removal of the morning and early evening peak period parking, adding an extra lane for traffic flow. The phase, estimated to cost about \$300,000, is projected to improve traffic speed by roughly 2 mph.

The \$300,000 second phase, which would come about a month later, would see the implementation of traffic signalization changes, which could improve speeds by up to 6 mph, according to transportation planners. After evaluating both measures for about three months, the third phase could be implemented if the changes actually ends up encouraging more traffic onto Pico and Olympic boulevards, Husting said. The third phase, which could cost \$1.5 million, would add a peak period lane. The most pressing issue amongst Angelenos seemed to be the impact on business. “We’re tired of being a stepping stone for solving every problem,” said Jay Handal, the chairman of the Greater West Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. If parking is removed on Pico Boulevard, which seems to be the area that would lose the most because of the concentration of mom and pop businesses, the loss of revenue will not only affect those shops, but will also take

away from the local general fund, Handal said. “We lose every day when you take away cars and business,” he said to the panel of city planners and officials in attendance. “Why not refine our lights instead of screwing our businesses.” “Amen,” a member of the audience murmured. Terry Smulen, who lives in the Faircrest neighborhood near Fairfax, said she was concerned with the impact on businesses with the loss of parking. Smulen, who lives just south of Pico, added that the boulevard has recently seen an influx of small shops and boutiques. If there’s going to be changes along Pico and Olympic, impacting the residents and businesses, then every street should be turned to one-way, Smulen said. “If we’re doing one-way streets, then let’s do it all over the city,” Smulen said after the meeting. “I feel we’re being punished for the rest of the city.”

melodyh@smdp.com

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ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

The truth is black & white

The eyes of the photographic sect will focus on Barker Hangar this weekend, site of the 17th Annual International Los Angeles Photographic Art Exposition. Opening to the public on Friday, Photo L.A. 2008 will run through the weekend.

For more information, see artfairsinc.com.

MIKE TITTINGER

Make art, not war

A team of artists at 18th Street Arts Center launches its most ambitious exhibition ever this weekend, when "The Future of Nations" kicks off with "Patriot Acts" this Saturday. Inspired by Samuel Johnson's words written in 1775 "Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel," Linda Pollack has curated an art exhibition that departs from recent manifestations of patriotism, inviting 11 artists to create new works about different constitutional issues for Patriot Acts. The works include film, sculpture, patterns, interviews and more.

The larger Future of Nations project aims to address many issues that will determine the future of this country.

Patriot Acts runs through March 28 at the 18th Street Arts center, located at 1639 18th St. For more information, call (310) 453-3711.

MT

Be there with cockle shells on

The curtain goes up Saturday on the Santa Monica Playhouse's latest production, "Mary-Mary, Quite Contrary," which is being dubbed as a heartwarming fairytale musical for kids from age 2 to 102. The story depicts a young girl who cannot decide if she is too old to believe in fairytales. The story sees a host of colorful characters land in Suburbia, U.S.A., and confront the miracles and mysteries of modern living, stressing the importance of family togetherness.

Be warned: The audience is asked to participate.

Written and directed by Chris Decarlo and Evelyn Rudie, "Mary-Mary" runs for four weeks, Saturdays and Sundays, at 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

The Santa Monica Playhouse is located at 1211 Fourth St. For more information, call (310) 394-9779.

MT



Let love rule at the Civic

That funky fashion plate of a rock star, Lenny Kravitz, will take center stage for one night, Jan. 17, at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium. Known for such hits as "Let Love Rule," "Fly Away" and "Are You Gonna Go My Way?" Kravitz has been a part of the rock 'n' roll lexicon since "The Cosby Show" reigned supreme. The former Romeo Blue, and the former husband of "Cosby" star Lisa Bonet, Kravitz typically delivers an electrically charged show that doesn't disappoint, showing a flair for a number of musical instruments, but mostly the ax.

Tickets are \$35 and are general admission, but must be purchased through Ticketmaster. No advance tickets are available at the Civic Auditorium. Doors open at 8 p.m.

MT

It's time to cut to Chase

Chase Allen brings his blend of R&B, soul and experimental music to Temple Bar this weekend. The Huntington Beach product was named Best R&B singer at the 2006 "Orange County Music Awards," with his soul-bearing style shining through on such songs as "Echoes" and "Lying Awake."

Sharing Saturday's bill with Allen are Girth and DJ Anthony Valadez. Allen takes the stage at 10:30 p.m. Doors open at 9 p.m.

Temple Bar is located at 1026 Wilshire Blvd. Cover charge is \$10.

MT

They're just like us!

For those looking for some great photography in the comfort of your pajamas, log on to takegreatpictures.com and its new series "Celebrities Who Shoot," which features galleries snapped by some recognizable names in other creative fields. Among those posting shots are platinum-selling recording artist Ben Folds, actors Kyle MacLachlan and Matthew Modine, baseball pitcher Barry Zito and Republican presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani.

For viewing pleasure, log on to takegreatpictures.com.

MT

Santa Monica Daily Press

The Agent Directory

Your guide to local real estate agents



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What kind of garbage is this?

FILM EXECUTIVES ARE BUSY TRUDGING THROUGH garbage heaps just the same as our local homeless population lately.

Directors are close to striking and executives are left in a money pit without the good old friends they enjoy screwing over. The effect of hungry film executives looking to acquire new material must be overwhelming at Sundance this month. In Palm Springs, mostly an international schmaltz-fest, far fewer film execs were on the prowl. The struggle for screenwriters' rights has cost studios millions lately and all of the back-lots are deserted. Shrewd mavens that they are, on both coasts, many TV and film soundstages are being rented out for storage. It makes one think of 1992's great Robert Altman satire "The Player" starring Tim Robbins as embattled film exec Griffin Mill. Peter Gallagher's character Larry Levy takes out a newspaper in one scene and tells the bean-counters to pick a story to turn into a film, proceeding to describe how to formulate every news story into a film. Mill said, "I was just thinking what an interesting idea it is to take the writers out of the filmmaking process. Now if we can only get rid of these writers and directors." Somewhere out there, perhaps in the mind of Michael Tolkin, there is Mill chuckling at the state of film city.

After digging in the trash for a while they will most likely come up empty.

In light of "Alvin and the Chipmunks" hustling past the \$200 million mark, the options for "Marmaduke," "Family Circle" and "The Smurfs" are likely to be as hot as Mario Puzo was after "The Godfather."

Edmund Hillary just passed away, and his escapades of hiking Mount Everest are prime for exploitation. Hell, anyone dead is. As bio-pic happy as studios seem to be, there are 1000s of famous personalities past and present without a bio-pic. I write because I



Notes from the film scoundrel

Kenn Tarr

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

fear film could denigrate to "reality movies" rather quickly. You fellows should start writing stories yourselves. It's really not as hard as it looks. The big secret of this or any strike is that the workers are ... replaceable. If they weren't the strike would have been a blip. Now I don't know what it is .

AND THE WINNERS ARE ...

Since I can't properly formulate a 10 best list, I figured I would contribute some sort of year-end awards. For the next two months, awards talk will flood pop culture. Most of the talk will get redundant, and I will go on record with my takes and predictions for the nominations before they are announced. Everything will be muted this year, of course, for the strike, but there will still be plenty of discussion.

With no further delay, the award for the Most Under-Rated Performance this year goes to Richard Gere for "The Hoax." As a man writing a fake biography of Howard Hughes, Gere made the character believable and his performance was highly-regarded ... in April. The character was a very manipulative yet likable and the movie was interesting. I'd like to find out how much is authentic, because most of the Lasse Holstrom film seemed contrived.

For Most Enjoyable Movie, the award goes to "Ratatouille." I am certain this film doesn't stand up on repeat-viewing but I bet I still will enjoy it for years to come when my children play the DVD over and over again. Thoroughly engaging, the film was "well-shot,"

every image of the film composed as if a cinematographer or set designer actually put it together.

Best Overt Attempt To Jock The Success Of "The Departed" goes to "We Own The Night." With its ethnic characters, secretly bound by blood and its plot of police corruption and Mafia mecheegas, "Night" was a box office failure and came and went in a blur. The Mark Wahlberg-Joaquin Phoenix double-vehicle was well-made and acted but derivative as all hell and wins the award for rigging up a publicity campaign that jocked "The Departed" in every way. When do the executives and advertising department at Columbia go on strike? Every PR push they make is derivative.

For Best Plot Twist, the award goes to "Eastern Promises." I won't spoil it.

For Best Uncomfortable Sequence, Nicole Kidman in "Margot at the Wedding" steals this award. Her neurotic, siren-like novelist single mother character was a WASPy misanthrope without a care for anyone else. The give and take with her son in that film, played by Zane Pais, is some of the more interesting film stock of 2007.

For Best Boring Movie, "Michael Clayton." It was a real snooze-fest. A good movie, but once you see it you understand where I'm coming from. With that aside, Tom Wilkinson's performance definitely woke me up a couple of times.

Most Annoying Movie is easily clinched by "Hairspray." Occasionally I wanted to take a walk around town just to stop the insanity.

Best Title, and by best I mean the very worst, goes to "Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium."

KEN TARR is a student at Santa Monica College, an actor and writer and is also taller than 99 percent of the population. He can be reached telepathically or at troutlouse@yahoo.com.

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SURF REPORT

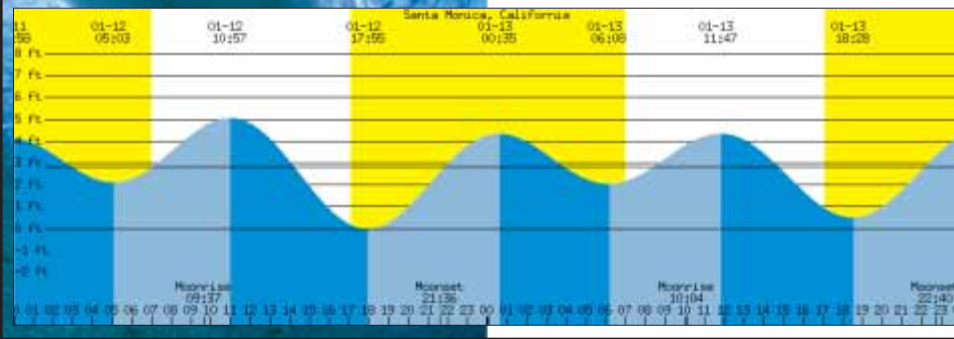


SURF CONDITIONS
WATER TEMP: 56°

SWELL FORECAST (1-1 FT)
Saturday should see quite an increase in NW swell from a significantly sized storm that, on Tuesday, was sitting mid way between Japan and Hawaii at a fairly low latitude (30-35N). This storm has held its expected trajectory, maintaining a near-direct westerly angle from us until high pressure near our area pushed it northward into the Gulf.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
SIZEABLE WNW SWELL THIS WEEKEND...
OFFSHORE EVENT THIS WEEKEND...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA





NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **January 8, 2008**

HEAL THE BAY - 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - www.healthebay.org - bro@healthebay.org - 800 HEAL BAY

QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)
Number of sewage spills — 0
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill — 0
Number of wet days — 11
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather — 41 / 21
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather — 4 / 23

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth (Pescadero)	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Red Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Palga Canyon storm drain	B	B
El Pescadero State Beach, between Lachasa and Los Alisos creeks	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Tenejuel Canyon drain	A+	A+
Escalante Canyon at El Morado State Beach	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauque)	F	F
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	C	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	C
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A	B
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	A+	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	C	D
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	B	B	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kester storm drain	A	F
Escalante Creek, just east of Escalante State Beach	A+	D	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurant)	A+	D
Laguna Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	F
Selkirk Canyon at San Blas/County Beach	A+	F	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	F
Panaca State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Panaca Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A+	F	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	A+
Serfside Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	A+	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	D
Serfside Beach (beach location) - daily	F	F	Venice Beach - projection of Tapsell St.	A+	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	A	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach - lifeguard tower	B	F
Carlson Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A	F	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zone)	A+	C	Dockweiler State Beach at Calver Blvd. drain	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A+	C	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	B
Pine Creek at Las Flores County Beach	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DAW jetty)	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A+	F	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	F	Dockweiler Beach - opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	A+
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A	F			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	A+			

LEGEND
DRY -- each location is graded on an A - F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone
WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
ns -- no sample taken



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

Simpson arrested for violating order

BY KEN RITTER
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS O.J. Simpson was taken into custody Friday in Florida and will be brought before a judge next week on allegations that he violated terms of his bail in a Las Vegas armed robbery case, court officials said.

Clark County District Attorney David Roger alleges that in a November voice message, Simpson told his bail bondsman to contact co-defendant Clarence "C.J." Stewart and express frustration about testimony given at hearing where Simpson, Stewart and a third man were ordered to stand trial.

"I'm tired of this (expletive)," Simpson is quoted as saying in a transcript that was included in Roger's motion to revoke bail filed Friday. "Fed up with (expletive) changing what they told me. All right?"

Simpson had been instructed by Las Vegas Justice of the Peace Joe M. Bonaventure in September not to have any contact with anyone involved in the case — not even by "carrier pigeon."

Simpson was to go before a judge Wednesday.

"We understand he's in the custody of his bail bondsman in Florida right now and will be brought to Las Vegas for the hearing," said Elana Pitaro, a clerk for District Court Judge Jackie Glass.

WSVN-TV in Miami showed video of Simpson walking through Miami International Airport near an American Airlines counter Friday. He was wearing a

golf visor, golf shirt and jeans, talking on a cell phone while a man accompanied him.

"I can't talk to you guys. I cannot talk to you guys," Simpson said before boarding the plane.

Simpson's lawyer Yale Galanter did not return phone messages seeking comment. A bail bondsman at You Ring We Spring bail bonds in North Las Vegas declined to comment.

Simpson was freed Sept. 19 on \$125,000 bail following his arrest on allegations he and several friends burst into a Las Vegas hotel room and robbed two sports memorabilia dealers at gunpoint.

Simpson has maintained that he was retrieving items that belonged to him. He and the two other men are scheduled to stand trial April 7.

Roger alleges that Simpson left the voice message with bail bondsman Miguel Pereira for Stewart on Nov. 16, two days after Bonaventure ruled that Simpson, Stewart and Charles Ehrlich, should stand trial on 12 charges, including kidnapping and armed robbery.

A lawyer for Stewart said his client was never contacted.

Simpson, Stewart and Ehrlich each pleaded not guilty Nov. 28 to kidnapping, armed robbery, assault with a deadly weapon, burglary, coercion and conspiracy charges. A kidnapping conviction could bring a life sentence with the possibility of parole. An armed robbery conviction carries mandatory prison time.

MLB

Baseball establishes unit to investigate drug issue

BY RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK Major League Baseball launched a department of investigations Friday, a permanent branch of the commissioner's office responsible for looking into drug use in the sport.

In his report last month on drug use in baseball, George Mitchell had recommended the formation of the unit. Adopting another of Mitchell's recommendations, MLB is establishing a tip line for team employees to make the commissioner's office aware of violations of drug, betting and other rules.

MLB said the unit "will have broad authority to conduct investigations." The limits of the unit were not immediately clear. Will it place moles in clubhouses? Will it secretly tail players away from ballparks?

Dan Mullin, a former New York City Police Officer who had been in baseball's senior director of security operations, was appointed vice president and head of the unit. George Hanna, a former FBI employee currently in baseball's security department, was appointed senior director of investigations.

Mullin was not available for comment, baseball spokesman Rich Levin said.

"The department of investigations will

have critically important responsibilities in protecting the integrity of our sport," commissioner Bud Selig said.

THE DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATIONS WILL HAVE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES IN PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY OF OUR SPORT."

Bud Selig, MLB commissioner

It was unclear whether the activities the unit could participate in would have to be negotiated with the players' association. Under labor law, terms and conditions of employment are subject to collective bargaining.

"We learned about this late last night. We had no role of any kind or sort in it," union head Donald Fehr said. "After we digest it, to the extent we have questions and things we want to raise, I'm sure we'll be doing that."

MLB will require all employees of the team to report any information.

Disclosure

Federline's attorney requests police report on Spears' latest incident

An attorney for **KEVIN FEDERLINE** wants the Police Department to release its investigative report on an incident at ex-wife Britney Spears' home a week ago that led to the pop star losing custody of her two sons. According to a court order released Friday by Los Angeles County

Superior Court, there was a hearing Thursday in the couple's child custody dispute. Federline's attorney, Mark Vincent Kaplan, asked for the police report and also requested the names of the law enforcement officers who responded. A hearing on the requests will be held

Monday. Police intervened Jan. 3 when Spears refused to return the children to Federline after a court-monitored visit. After a standoff, Spears, 26, was taken to a hospital in an ambulance that was chased by a crowd of photographers.

The next day, Commissioner Scott Gordon awarded sole legal and physical custody of 1-year-old Jayden James and 2-year-old Sean Preston to Federline and suspended Spears' visitation rights. Spears left Cedars-Sinai Medical Center a day and half later.

According to the court order, Gordon denied a request from Spears' lawyers that the next hearing be closed to the media. That means that, unlike most of the previous hearings, Monday's proceedings could be open to the public and the media.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

STARS COME OUT FOR V-DAY

JESSICA ALBA and **ROSARIO DAWSON** were among the celebrities who celebrated the 10th anniversary of V-Day, a global effort to end violence against women and girls.

Alba, who made her stage debut performing Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues," offered a poem at a private luncheon Thursday sponsored by Glamour magazine. But first the 26-year-old actress warned that she was "popping out" of her dress.

"If you guys don't know, I'm pregnant," Alba said.

AP

Collette gives birth to baby daughter

TONI COLLETTE has given birth to her first child, a baby girl, Australian media reported Friday.

The Sydney-born actress and her husband, musician Dave Galafassi, welcomed Sage Florence Galafassi into the world Wednesday, a spokeswoman told the Australian Associated Press.

"Both mother and baby are very well and very happy," the spokeswoman was quoted as saying.

Collette, 35, was nominated for a best supporting-actress Oscar for her role in

1999's "The Sixth Sense." Her screen credits also include "Little Miss Sunshine," "The Night Listener" and "Muriel's Wedding."

She announced her pregnancy in July, saying she had recently been leaning toward motherhood roles.

"It is strange the last three films I've done I have been pregnant," Collette said at the time. "I'm just like, 'What is the universe trying to tell me?' But I think everything happens when it's meant to."

AP



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

Go with the flow, Libra

Happy Birthday!

This year opt to head down a new path or do something quite different. Lady Luck sits on your shoulder, perhaps adding a certain sense of magic. Be open to opportunity. If you are single, someone significant to your life could pop up. Look for it toward the middle of 2008, though it could happen earlier. If you are attached, enjoy the element of surprise that is in your lives. PISCES can trigger a lot of excitement.



Born Today

Singer Glenn Yarborough (1930)
Author Jack London (1876)
Singer Rob Zombie (1966)

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

★★ You might need to pull back. If you are out of sorts, look at fatigue as the culprit. Use the moment to indulge yourself; perhaps take a catnap or two. What you see might stun you, partially because you are less resilient. Tonight: Vanish if possible.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Try as you might, you could have difficulty holding yourself back. Letting someone know how negative or difficult he or she is simply might not help. Allow others the space to be unpredictable. Tonight: Zero in on what you want.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Think before you leap into action. Others might be surprisingly difficult. You might be happiest being a loner, though that might not be your style generally. Understand what might be going on with an older friend or relative. Tonight: A must appearance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision that involves travel, a seminar or doing something quite unique. Today it could prove to be more of a hassle than you might like. Know when to pull back. Tonight: Off to a movie or a concert.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You might have difficulty making strong decisions right now. Take your time with someone who appears to be a touch cantankerous – at least right now. If you're making an agreement, put it in writing. Tonight: Listen well. Learn.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ If you defer to others, you could discover that life will be easier. Someone might feel that his or her way or idea is the only one in town. By allowing this person to have his way, he or she can see the net results. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Whatever your plans are, don't be surprised by an unexpected twist or turn. Think in terms of gains and growth. Your ability to breeze through a problem is earmarked by your generous and good nature. Tonight: Go with the flow.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Don't hold back. Your ingenuity could add sparks to any situation. Just because the unexpected does occur, doesn't mean there is a problem. Relax with others at the moment. You see a situation in a new light. Tonight: Add more fun to your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ By now you must be at ease with the constant surprises that surround your home and personal life. Let go of trying to make a situation conform to your ideas. Learn to flow more, and you'll get better results. Tonight: At home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Be willing to make needed inquiries. Also, at the same time, find answers. You could like what comes down your path. Answer questions more freely and allow an open give and take. Your ability to touch others emerges. Tonight: Go to a favorite spot.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Just when you thought everything was under control, you quickly discover otherwise. Use special care with your finances, as you might not appreciate a backfire and could quite possibly prevent it. Tonight: Fun doesn't have to cost a mint.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might not realize what is happening with someone. If you become erratic, it could trigger more problems. Work on being steady. Others will become responsive if they feel secure. Tonight: What would put a smile on your face?

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 260.1528

Persepolis (PG-13)
7:30

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

Atonement (R)
11:05am, 1:55, 4:50, 7:45, 10:35
The Great Debaters (PG-13)
11:05am, 1:45, 4:35, 7:30, 10:20
P.S. I Love You (PG-13)
10:45am, 1:35, 4:25, 7:15, 10:05
Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie (G)
11:15am, 1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:35, 9:45

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

Charlie Wilson's War (R)
12:15, 2:50, 5:30, 8:10, 10:45
Enchanted (PG)
11:15am, 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45
The Kite Runner (PG-13)
1:10, 4:10, 7:35, 10:30
National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG)
10:45am, 1:40, 4:40, 7:45, 10:50
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (R)
10:50am, 1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 10:05
There Will Be Blood (R)
11:40am, 3:25, 7:00, 10:35
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep (PG)
11:20am, 2:05, 4:45, 7:20, 10:00

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

Before the Devil Knows You're Dead (R)
11:00am
The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (Le Scaphandre et le papillon) (PG-13)
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55
Juno (PG-13)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
No Country for Old Men (R)
1:15, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55
Persepolis (PG-13)
12:45, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15
Starting Out in the Evening (PG-13)
11:00am
Yiddish Theater: A Love Story (NR)
11:00am

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

Alvin and the Chipmunks (PG)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50
The Bucket List (PG-13)
11:50am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 10:10
First Sunday (PG-13)
11:40am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:10, 9:40
I Am Legend (PG-13)
12:10, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
One Missed Call (PG-13)
12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story (R) DLP-Digital Projection
12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

Janric Classic Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

Difficulty
GOLD

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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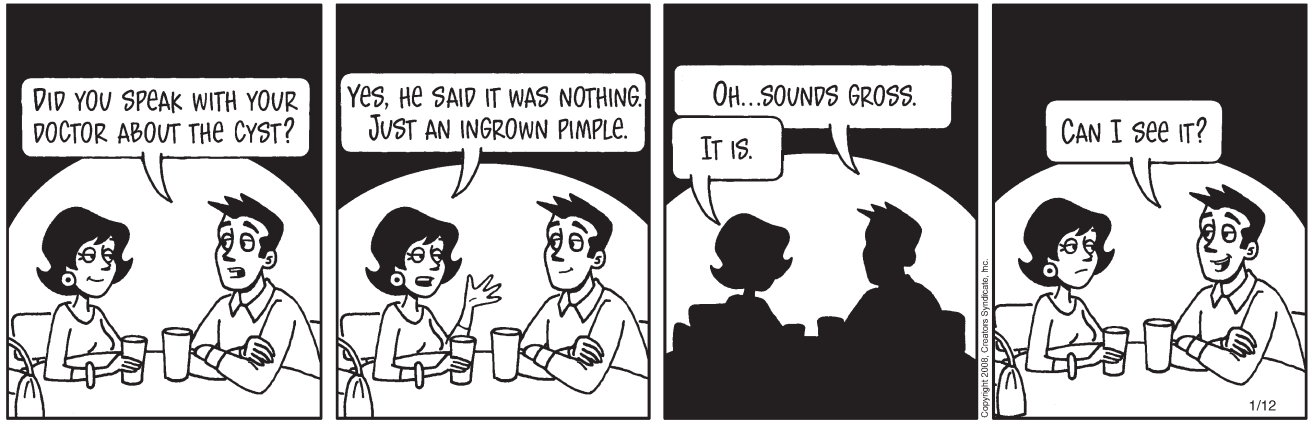
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



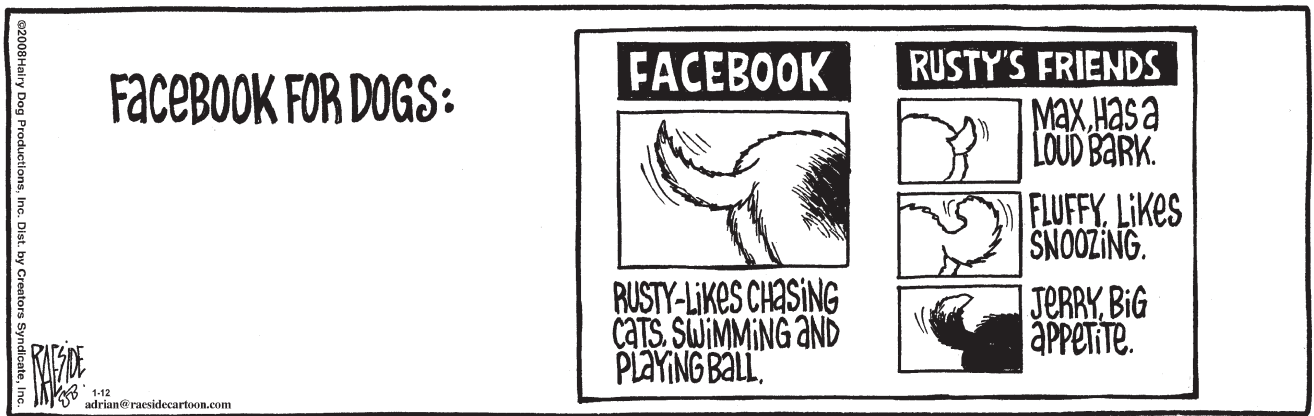
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



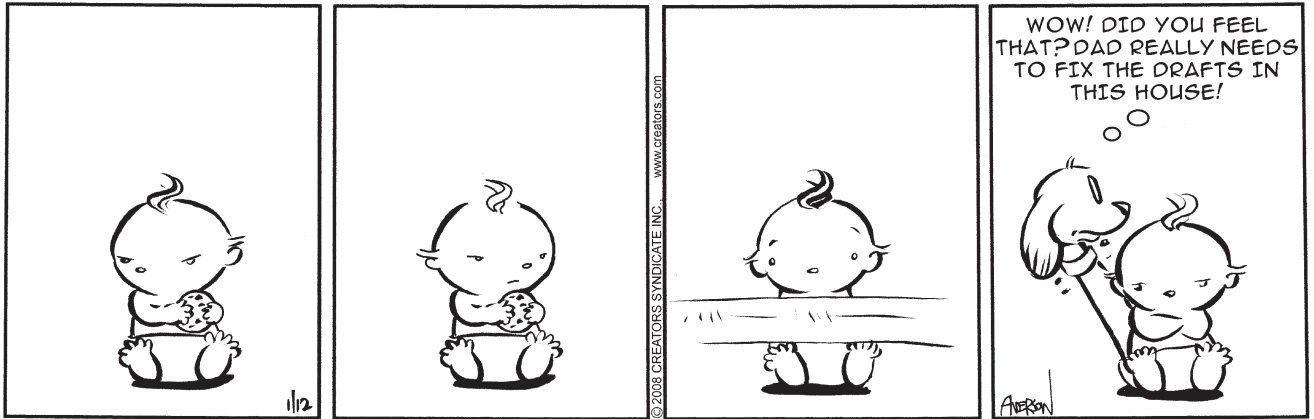
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



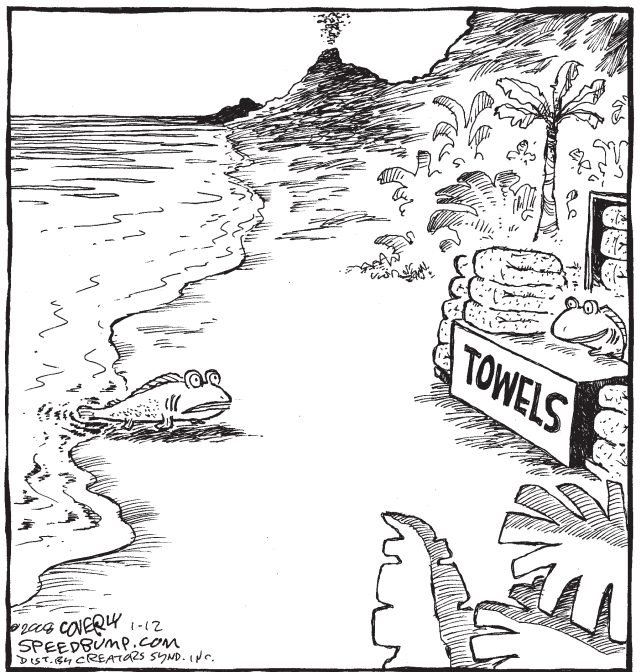
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Strange Brew By John Deering



Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO
Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com
Jesse Bunayog is the Mystery Photo winner, having correctly identified the image in this photo as a metal sculpture located on the Third Street Promenade.

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Word on a nickel
 - 5 Leaves
 - 9 Is bold
 - 10 Prepared to fire
 - 12 Clickable pictures
 - 13 Trombone part
 - 14 Classic
 - 16 Ravine
 - 17 Yale supporter
 - 18 Answer choice
 - 20 Hush-hush
 - 22 Suit piece
 - 23 Saw
 - 25 Dis-
 - 28 Irons of film
 - 32 Checks the fit of
 - 34 Cattle call
 - 35 Skill
 - 36 Washing-ton Monu-ment, e.g.
 - 38 Crew member
 - 40 Washer cycle
 - 41 Stale
 - 42 Staggering
- DOWN**
- 1 Glib
 - 2 Arch
 - 3 Let off steam
 - 4 Tried
 - 5 Nebula makeup
 - 6 Engine need
 - 7 Asylum seeker
 - 8 Car choices
 - 9 Shabby joints
 - 11 Station
 - 43 Marquee name
 - 44 Hightails it

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

Yesterday's answer

- 15 Cry to a freeloader
- 19 Finished
- 21 Assess
- 24 Army bigwig
- 25 Kick in
- 26 Fielder's blunders
- 27 Pinhead
- 29 "Lose Yourself" singer
- 30 Forest growths
- 31 Rube
- 33 More angry
- 37 Coin replaced by the euro
- 39 Pilot's guess: Abbr.

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

	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	
9						10				11
12						13				
14					15			16		
17				18			19			
20			21				22			
			23			24				
25	26	27			28			29	30	31
32				33				34		
35				36			37			
38			39			40				
41						42				
	43					44				

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 22 36 42 45 55
Meganumber: 42
Jackpot: \$24M

Super LOTTO 14 36 37 41 45
Meganumber: 26
Jackpot: \$36M

Fantasy 5 9 16 24 29 39

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 0 2 5
EVENING: 3 0 7

DAILY DERRY 1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 10 Solid Gold
RACE TIME: 1:47:29

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 at <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ A 46-year-old construction worker fell to his death in November in Custer County, S.D., after co-workers had raised him, in a boom, 30 to 40 feet off the ground so that he could try to get cell-phone reception, but the boom's truck tipped over backward.

■ More people who accidentally shot themselves recently: Opherro Jones, 32, shot himself in the stomach while allegedly pistol-whipping a man (Honolulu, June). A 23-year-old San Francisco police officer accidentally shot himself to death while demonstrating police training techniques to friends at a party (August). A 24-year-old man accidentally shot himself in the foot while aiming at a turtle (Massillon, Ohio, August). A 17-year-old boy, and 19-year-old Patrick Jefferson, accidentally shot themselves while "holstering" handguns in their waistbands (in, respectively, Pittsburgh, September, and Chicago, August). Eric Titov, 22, accidentally shot himself to death while fleeing from police (perhaps caused, they said, by his tripping on his baggy shorts) (Houston, October).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1519 Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I died.

1773 The first public museum in America was organized, in Charleston, S.C.

1915 The U.S. House of Representatives rejected a proposal to give women the right to vote.

1932 Hattie W. Caraway became the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate, after serving out the remainder of the term of her late husband.

1942 President Franklin D. Roosevelt re-established the National War Labor Board.

1945 During World War II, Soviet forces began a huge, successful offensive against the Germans in Eastern Europe.

1966 President Lyndon Johnson said in his State of the Union address that the U.S. should stay in South Vietnam until Communist aggression there was ended.

1976 Mystery writer Dame Agatha Christie died in Wallingford, England, at age 85.

1986 The shuttle Columbia blasted off with a crew that included the first Hispanic-American in space, Dr. Franklin R. Chang-Diaz.

WORD UP!

imprimatur \im-prih-MAH-tur; -MAY-, *noun*: 1. Official license or approval to print or publish a book, paper, etc.; especially, such a license issued by the Roman Catholic episcopal authority. 2. Approval; sanction. 3. A mark of approval or distinction.

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POINTS

VOLUNTEERING JUST LONG ENOUGH TO PUT IT ON YOUR RESUME: -12
POINTS

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Ad Council

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Kate Bransfield

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www.SantaMonicaListings.com



Estates Director
Previews Properties Specialist
Coldwell Banker - Montana Ave
310.395.1133

Open Tuesday, January 15th
11:00 am to 2:00 pm



831 - 18th Street
\$2,349,000
Gillette's Regent Square
3 + 1.75 Original Single Family Home

Open Sunday, January 13th
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm



1012 - 7th Street # 7
\$639,000
Updated 2 + 1.75 Condo, Amazing Location!

Open Sunday Jan 13th 1 - 4 pm
Call Jeff Rhodes @ 310.613.1364



9808 Regent Street # 2
\$529,500
Contemporary 2 + 2.5 Townhome

Easy to Show
Call for appointment



737 Pier Avenue # 3
\$748,000
Ocean Park 2 + 2.5 Townhome

Easy to Show
Call for appointment



852 - 21st Street Unit D
\$949,000
2 + 1.75 Condo Amazing Patio!

Easy to Show
Call for appointment



1754 - 11th St # 102
\$599,000
Large, Bright 2 + 2.5 Townhome

Average Price of Properties Listed for Sale As of Mid January 2008

		Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	=	\$ 2,663,286	No Listings
North of Montana	=	\$ 3,740,143	\$ 1,886,150
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 1,833,000	\$ 965,724
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 1,099,000	\$ 706,351
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,290,188	\$ 656,000
Ocean Park	=	\$ 2,114,071	\$ 965,820

Statistics updated every Friday

What is Your Home Worth? Contact Me to Find Out!

This is not intended as a solicitation if you currently have a broker. The information has been retrieved from the Multiple Listing Service. Some of these properties have been sold or listed with other Real Estate Agents.