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FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2009

Volume 7 Issue 366

Santa Monica Daily Press

WALK ON THE 'WILD' SIDE
SEE PAGE 3

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE PAGE SHIFTER ISSUE

Proposed plastic bag ban challenged

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Facing the threat of a lawsuit from a coalition of manufacturers, city officials on Tuesday delayed a long-anticipated vote to ban plastic bags.

An association by the name, SaveThePlasticBag.com, sent a letter to City Hall on Monday warning it would file a lawsuit that would force an Environmental Impact Report on the proposed prohibition of plastic bags if the City Council proceeded with the ban.

The group has already filed lawsuits against Manhattan Beach for a similar ordinance and Los Angeles County for its voluntary program to encourage grocers to curb the use of plastic bags, setting benchmarks that have to be met in order to prevent a ban from being instituted.

The Los Angeles Superior Court recently granted the group's motion for a preliminary injunction against the Manhattan Beach ordinance from being enforced on the basis it is likely to succeed on the merits, according to Stephen Joseph, an attorney representing SaveThePlasticBag.com. A decision has not been made in the county lawsuit.

The local ordinance would prohibit the use of single-use plastic carry-out bags from all retail establishments and institutes a "Green Fee" on paper bag distribution at grocery stores, convenience stores and pharmacies only. The fee will be determined by city staff at a later date.

Environmentalists have for years been trying to convince city officials to ban plastic bags, pointing out that they typically end up in the Santa Monica Bay and are mistaken for food by sea animals.

The coalition claims that plastic bags have less of an environmental impact than paper bags, which would still be permitted in the city if the ordinance passes. It also argues that the banning of bags would lead to the loss of more than 4,000 American jobs at companies that manufacture plastic bags, adding that many of the cloth reusable sacks used at stores

SEE BAGS PAGE 8

Computer glitch messes with parking tickets

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY If you think you've paid all of your parking tickets, you might want to think again.

That's because the Santa Monica Police Department in November discovered a computer error that rejected roughly 21,000 valid parking tickets issued as far back as 2004, meaning car owners did not receive warning notices advising them to pay their fines before they doubled.

Now, the SMPD, through ACS State and Local Solutions, which processes parking citations for the department, is sending warning notices to thousands of drivers who may have forgotten to pay their tickets or perhaps never knew they received one. Those tickets may have blown off windshields or was thrown away by a cruel passerby, said Sgt. Larry Horn, head of the Traffic Enforcement Division.

The SMPD is not charging any late fees.

"It's like you just got the ticket yesterday," Horn said. "This is a second chance for people to pay."

Because of the snafu, the Daily Press estimates City Hall is missing out on roughly $840,000 in fines if one multiplies 21,000 by $40, the average cost for a violation. Expired meter tickets are $35 while parking in a permit-only block is $47.

The roughly 21,000 tickets that were

SEE TICKETS PAGE 5



IN MOTION

Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

The National Danish Performance Team takes part in an all-school assembly at John Adams Middle School on Thursday afternoon.

Council passes smoking ban in common areas

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Smokers who live in apartments will have to kick their habits — at least in common areas — after the City Council on Tuesday passed its latest ban against lighting up.

The newest ordinance concerns common areas of all multi-unit residences, prohibiting the act in apartments and condominiums where tenants have complained about problems with sharing spaces with smokers, some claiming they have developed asthma.

The law, which the council will formally adopt on second reading at a later meeting, joins a handful of similar bans in the city, including ones that prohibit smoking at the beach and many outdoor areas.

The most recent version of the ordinance addresses concerns that landlords

SEE SMOKING PAGE 7


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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SANTA MONICA REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
CONSIDERATION OF A SHORT-TERM LEASE WITH THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1700 MAIN STREET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 6:45 p.m., in the Council Chambers of Santa Monica City Hall, at 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, the Redevelopment Agency (RDA) will hold a public hearing concerning a proposed short-term lease between the RDA and City of Santa Monica to facilitate an interim use on a portion of RDA owned property located at 1700 Main Street. The short-term lease will allow the City to utilize approximately 2.5 acres of RDA owned land to accommodate a cultural event that will generate revenue to support the design and planning of Palisades Garden Walk. This hearing will be conducted pursuant to Redevelopment Law (Section 33431) of the Health and Safety Code, State of California.

Any interested persons wishing to provide comments may do so by providing oral and/or written comments on or before January 20, 2009 at the Santa Monica Redevelopment Agency office located at 1901 Main Street, Suite D, Santa Monica, California, 90405, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or during the public hearing at 6:45 p.m., on January 27, 2009 in the City of Santa Monica City Council Chambers, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California. For more information please contact the Redevelopment Agency at (310) 458-2232.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-2232 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines numbered 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 serve City Hall. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica, at, or prior to, the public hearing.

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA

Publication Dates: January 9, 2009
January 16, 2009

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Business at Sunset Mixer
This Wednesday Jan. 21
5:30 – 7:30 pm
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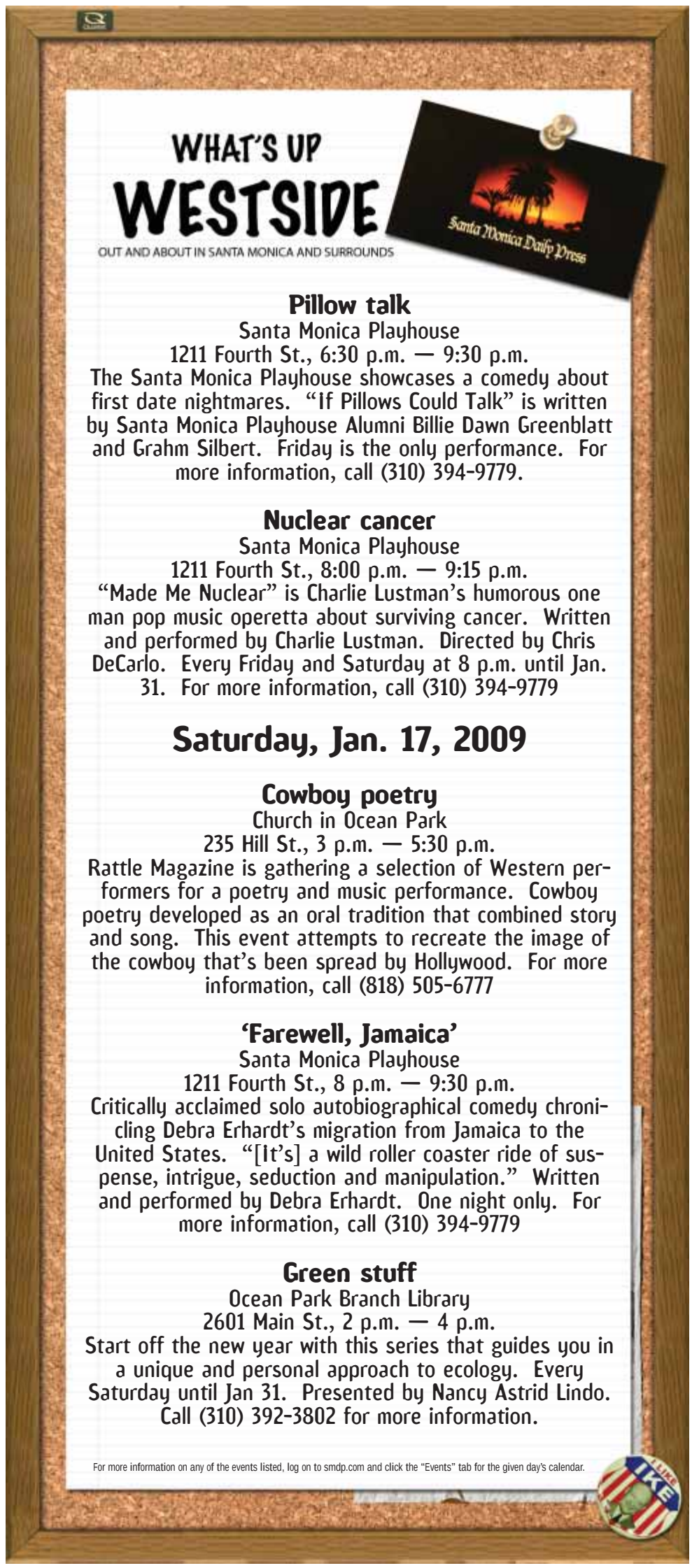
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Pillow talk
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 6:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
The Santa Monica Playhouse showcases a comedy about first date nightmares. "If Pillows Could Talk" is written by Santa Monica Playhouse Alumni Billie Dawn Greenblatt and Grahm Silbert. Friday is the only performance. For more information, call (310) 394-9779.

Nuclear cancer
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 8:00 p.m. — 9:15 p.m.
"Made Me Nuclear" is Charlie Lustman's humorous one man pop music operetta about surviving cancer. Written and performed by Charlie Lustman. Directed by Chris DeCarlo. Every Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. until Jan. 31. For more information, call (310) 394-9779

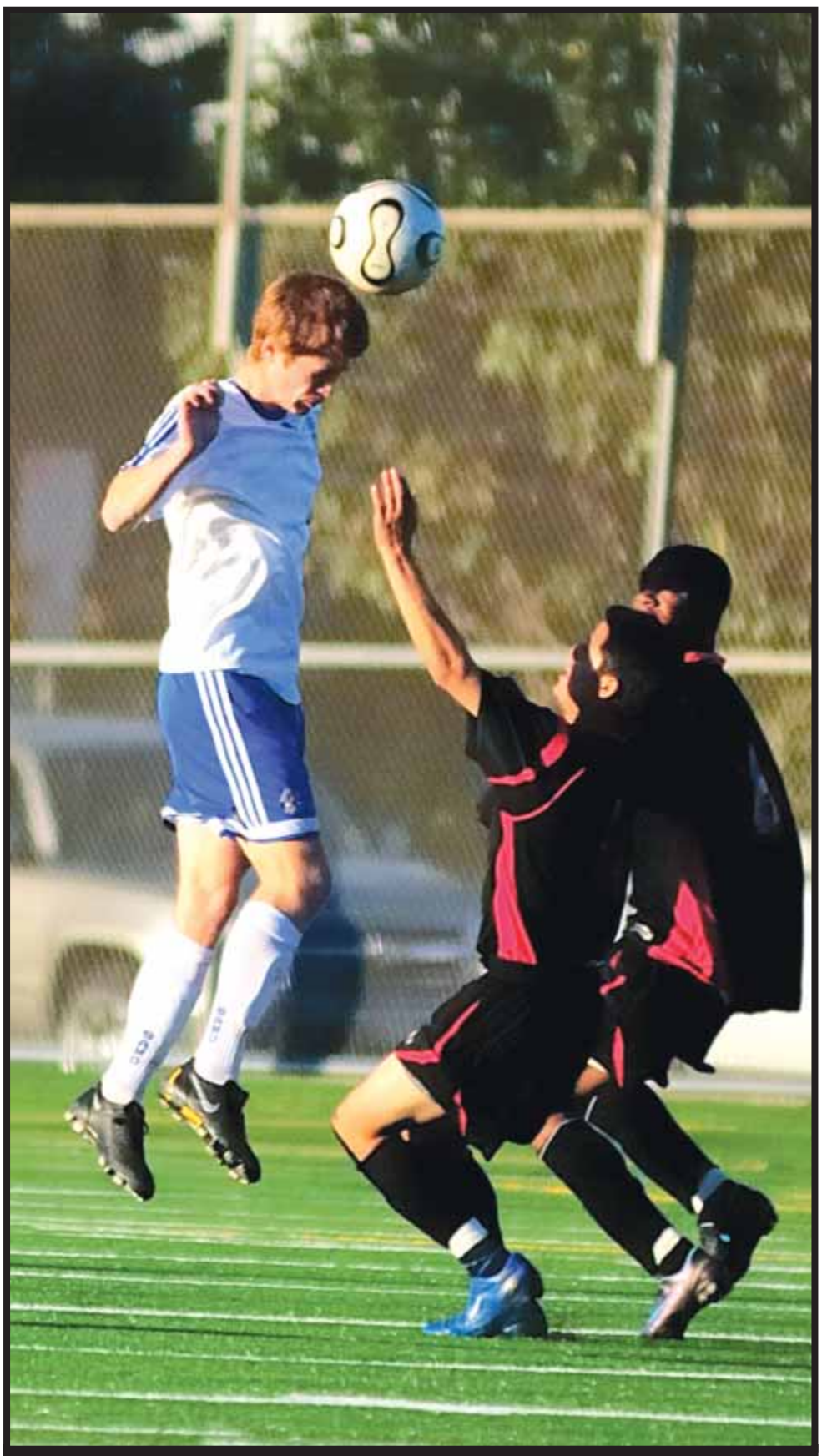
Saturday, Jan. 17, 2009

Cowboy poetry
Church in Ocean Park
235 Hill St., 3 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.
Rattle Magazine is gathering a selection of Western performers for a poetry and music performance. Cowboy poetry developed as an oral tradition that combined story and song. This event attempts to recreate the image of the cowboy that's been spread by Hollywood. For more information, call (818) 505-6777

'Farewell, Jamaica'
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 8 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
Critically acclaimed solo autobiographical comedy chronicling Debra Erhardt's migration from Jamaica to the United States. "[It's] a wild roller coaster ride of suspense, intrigue, seduction and manipulation." Written and performed by Debra Erhardt. One night only. For more information, call (310) 394-9779

Green stuff
Ocean Park Branch Library
2601 Main St., 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Start off the new year with this series that guides you in a unique and personal approach to ecology. Every Saturday until Jan 31. Presented by Nancy Astrid Lindo. Call (310) 392-3802 for more information.

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.



USING HIS HEAD

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Santa Monica High School defender Tyler Horton goes up for a loose ball against a pair of Morningside High School defenders during the Vikings' 0-1 home loss at John Adams Middle School on Wednesday. With the loss, Samohi is 0-1 in Ocean League play and 5-2-2 overall.

'Wild' side of SM Mountains

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SM MOUNTAINS It's a jungle out there in the hills above Santa Monica. Well, not really a jungle, but it is home to a broad diversity of wildlife that most city dwellers would never expect to find so close to such a teeming metropolis.

That wildlife is the subject of PBS show, "Wild Chronicles," which airs locally on KLCS on Jan. 22, at 11 p.m. The series, produced by National Geographic, delves into the many natural wonders on the planet and advocates for the protection of these delicate resources. In this particular episode, the series' season premiere, host Boyd Matson tags along with thousands of volunteers during the Santa Monica Mountains BioBlitz.

The event, co-sponsored by the National Geographic Society and the National Park Service, was a 24-hour search of the popular hiking area for any and every living thing found there to give participants a baseline of what lives in the not-so-distant wild.

"The BioBlitz was a fantastic opportunity for community members to get outside and to really explore their backyard, to see and learn about all the plants and animals that call the Santa Monica Mountains home," Martha Conboy, senior executive producer for National Geographic Television, said.

The BioBlitz in the local mountains was the second of 10 annual events that will be held at urban national parks around the country, leading up the Park Service's centennial celebration in 2016. The first was held at Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C. in 2007.

While the event was held in mid-2008, it was still fresh on the mind of one of the nearly 5,000 volunteers who participated.

"I learned a lot about what kind of animals and birds live in our area," said 11-year-old Christina Pham, who attended the BioBlitz with her fifth grade class at Manzanita Elementary School in Newbury Park. "I learned that each animal lives in different habitats.

"It was a great trip, I would do it again."

Pham, her twin sister Michelle, and the thousands of volunteers who took part were tasked with scouring the underbrush and trails of the Santa Monica Mountains in search of every plant, animal, bird and insect they ran across. In all, upwards of 1,300 different species were discovered.

"BioBlitz organizers encouraged public participation and was open to volunteers of all ages: families, students, anyone who was curious," Conboy said.

While volunteers did learn a thing or two about the natural world around them, leave it to an 11-year-old to put it all in perspective.

"It was really fun," Michelle Pham said. "We were given binoculars and backpacks and lots of really cool stuff.

"They even gave us cool bandanas, neat notebooks and a water bottle."

daniela@smdp.com

Obama-mania offers armloads of books for kids

BY LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press Writer

Books to inspire and inform young people about President-elect Barack Obama and his historic inauguration include an artist's celebration of the American spirit, the life of the first lady to be and a look at our 44th commander-in-chief for pre-schoolers.

Obama-mania has generated junior biographies and fresh presidential encyclopedias by the armload in time for the big swearing-in Tuesday, but parents beware: Splashy Obama covers or promised post-election updates may not pay off, so check inside.

In addition to the pre-inaugural fare, look for a comic book biography of Michelle Obama in April from Bluewater Productions. She's the latest to join the company's "Female Force" series with Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin and Hillary Rodham Clinton. Bluewater, based in Bellingham, Wash., plans to add Caroline Kennedy in June.

With a little help from a grown-up, there's "my first presidential board book" from Michaelson Entertainment in Santa Monica — "Barack Obama 101" by Brad M. Epstein ($10.95). It includes full-color photos of the smiling first family, Obama grinning at the wheel of a bumper care with daughter Sasha and Obama the boy, college guy and community organizer.

There's even a photo spread on the presidential wheels — Air Force One, the helicopter Marine One and the sleek black limos of many a motorcade to come.

Little Obama watchers can trace where he's lived on a world map, slip their own photos into a frame as possible presidential contenders of the future and make a list of their heroes.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

How beautiful is Santa Monica?

Editor:

Off to my traditional Wednesday lunch at Fromin's, where the pot roast special haunts my taste buds, motoring through the traffic of my fellow Santa Monicans, once again, I am impressed by my fellow citizen's commitment to save energy by not using their turn indicators. Who says us Santa Monica yuppies are hypocritical? Welcomed by Celia, the hostess (who should be mayor of our fair city right after Kevin McKeown gets his proper chance) I get down to the business.

But the tenderness of my lunch was wasted while reading Kenny Mack's rebuttal to Robert Kronovet's letter. Mr. Mack was far too nice. Kronovet's letter had personified that brand of "Americanism" that is (temporarily, I fear) so out of fashion, a willful ignorance matched by a dangerous level of greed. I first took note of Kronovet, our own little Quisling, when I noticed that, during the campaign, he was leafleting on the single home streets, and not on the apartment block streets. So, he was elected by "homeowners" to make sure that renters suffered.

"Home" ownership, a curious concept philosophically, has only become a fetish since sometime over 30 years ago. It has served well as a form of labor control. A worker afraid of losing his investment is a worker who will submit to management. Capitalism, itself, requires a flexibility to ensure a workforce that can move as needed. Here in our little city we have bred a fine crop of frightened little winners, convinced of their own brilliance. Where a philosophical sort might quip, "easy come, easy go," these folk don't find it enough that fortune has favored them, they must make sure that it doesn't favor others. I have been at dinner parties where my fellow citizens have waxed apoplectic at the idea that Santa Monica might construct low to mid income apartments near the sea. "Why do those bums deserve a sea view" is something I have even heard. Santa Monica, a truly beautiful place, how beautiful is its people?

If there were any justice, Kronovet might be sentenced to a thousand hours of real community service.

Peter Kaye
Santa Monica

No more aid

Editor:

Why should this Israeli war on Gaza concern us?

Is it about destroying Hamas? Is it about stopping rockets into Israel? Is it about bringing peace?

No. None of these.

Israel has decided to pour death and devastation on Gaza, an essentially defenseless civilian population, using American-made lethal weapons like F-16 jet fighters, Apache attack helicopters, and 250-pound "smart" GBU-39 bombs – all a part of the $2.4 billion given in military aid by the U.S. to Israel each year.

The Israeli slaughter is about ethnic cleansing by the Israeli leadership and military, which Israel has fought for years for. And stopping genocide is a concern to us all as Americans, especially when it's our money performing this holocaust. Enough U.S. aid to Israel.

As journalist Chris Hedges says of today's war on Gaza:

"Israel's destruction of Hamas and reoccupation of Gaza will not bring peace or security to Israel. It will wipe out any authority in Gaza to maintain order. Israel has opened a Pandora's box of ills. Life will become a nightmare for most Palestinians and, in the years ahead, for most Israelis."

Andrew Kay Liberman
Santa Monica

Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Farewell to failure

BARACK OBAMA WILL BECOME THE 44th president in approximately three days, two hours and 47 minutes. (But who's counting?) It's no secret that I'm not a fan of the 43rd president. I wasn't even going to write this farewell column until I saw his final press conference which was an exercise in the surreal.

Firstly, Bush apparently learned a new word. He noted that among his critics were certain writers and "opiners." He went on to use "opiner" three times. I suppose lest we "mis-underestimate" him?

Bush went on to stake his entire legacy on the fact that we haven't been attacked since 9/11. This, despite government reports that al-Qaida is back at pre-911 strength and that 50 percent of the bomb tests the government runs at our airports sneak through. And the one time Bush was warned about an imminent attack, as on Aug. 8, 2003, he went on vacation. (He even set the presidential record for vacation days!)

During this past week, Bush and Cheney were all over the media with their "Whitewash Tour," rewriting history as fast as they could make it up. Now, having nearly destroyed America, they're trying to convince us we should be grateful for their service.

Seeing all this I flashed on "Godfather III," when Michael (Al Pacino) exploded, "Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in!" That was my reaction when I saw Dubya on Larry King looking like Alfred E. Newman, "We didn't torture." Except that Susan Crawford, in charge of prosecuting Gitmo cases, says we absolutely did and some guilty terrorists will likely go free as a result.

Even Scott McClellan criticized the Magical Mystery Tour during which Bush called not finding WMD's a "disappointment." When your favorite TV show is a rerun, that's a disappointment. When you've based a war on it, it's slightly more serious.

Obviously Dubya is psychologically incapable of admitting mistakes. During the 2004 campaign he was asked what errors he might have made during his first term. He shrugged sheepishly and said he couldn't think of a single one. He now admits that the "Mission Accomplished" sign was a mistake but points out that the sign wasn't his idea.

According to Bush, even the 2008 election wasn't his fault, it was "the Republicans." (I didn't know that many people could fit under a bus.) Because of the landslide, however, he fears his party "might look inward." (Heaven forbid!) Bush isn't big on introspection. Instead of studying an issue, he "listens to his gut." After eight years, I wish he had taken Maalox, instead.

Years ago, there was a unique moment of Bush candor I've never forgotten. It was right after the 2000 election and he admitted that during the debates he worried about a potential question from Al Gore for which he had no answer: "What do you have against peace and prosperity?"

Looking back, imagine the right wing outrage if events on Bush's watch had occurred on Clinton's. What if Clinton had threatened "Dead or alive" and seven years later Bin Laden was still releasing audiotapes? Rush Limbaugh's head would explode.

DURING THIS PAST WEEK, BUSH AND CHENEY WERE ALL OVER THE MEDIA WITH THEIR 'WHITEWASH TOUR,' REWRITING HISTORY AS FAST AS THEY COULD MAKE IT UP.

A few months ago Bush joked that he was looking forward to his post-presidency so that he could "replenish the coffers." On that very day, six American GI's died. Somehow I can't envision FDR joking about "replenishing the coffers."

Among the things Bush says he'll miss (other than White House cooking) were the families of the fallen soldiers because they make him feel good about the war. He always sees everything as about him. How sad.

Here's a relevant fact: Of the 4,226 dead GI's in Iraq (latest on Jan.11), Bush hasn't attended a single funeral. He wouldn't even give Cindy Sheehan or Mary Tillman five minutes. He's notorious for being unable to tolerate those who disagree with him.

George Bush never should have been president. He was intellectually and temperamentally unfit. During Katrina, the story was that his aides argued over who was going to break the bad news to him. Fearing his legendary temper, they made a DVD and left it on his chair. And where was Bush while people were drowning? In sunny Arizona, having birthday cake with John McCain (who later would call Bush's Secretary of Defense "one of the worst in history").

Readers e-mail to ask if I will be as critical of Obama as I am of Bush. If he starts unnecessary wars and shreds the constitution, you bet.

But before we say farewell to Bush, look at the America he inherited and the one he's leaving. And yet he blames everyone but himself. Harry Truman said "The buck stops here." For George W. Bush the buck stops at wherever he can shift it. Of course he might say I'm just an "opiner."

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WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

EMAIL TO: EDITOR@SMDP.COM OR FAX TO (310) 576-9913

Santa Monica Daily Press — Visit us online at smdp.com

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 410 Broadway, Suite B, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

Traffic cops have to be more careful

FROM TICKETS PAGE 1

rejected over the last four years represent only 2 percent of the total citations issued by parking enforcement, Horn said.

SMPD officials are investigating why the error occurred and why parking enforcement didn't realize the mistake until November when they received a report from ACS. It could be that regular reports were sent to the Finance Department and not the SMPD, Horn said.

In the meantime, the computer filters that are most likely responsible for the error have been disabled.

Horn believes the error was caused by a difference in the way details about vehicles were entered into the system. For example, Scions are cars made by Toyota. If a parking enforcement officer issues a ticket for an expired meter and enters Scion as the make of the car, but the car was registered by the Department of Motor Vehicles as a Toyota, the computers at ACS or the SMPD would reject the ticket because the information didn't match.

The ticket is still valid and placed on a windshield by the officer, but because it was rejected by the computers, the driver did not receive a notice demanding payment. It was left up to the driver to be responsible.

The filters, which look at license plate numbers and VIN numbers and other identifying features, are set up to ensure that tickets are issued to the right car and registered owner, Horn said. But when there are differences in the way a car is registered and identified, the computer makes assumptions and throws valid citations out.

Traffic enforcement officers must now be trained to enter information in accordance with the DMV, Horn said, and be more careful when entering data. Whether or not DMV staff enter information in accordance with set guidelines is out of the SMPD's control.

"With all the good things that come with computers … sometimes they don't do it right," Horn said.

Some drivers have received their notices and at least one isn't too happy about it. Melody Cervantes sent e-mails to City Council members and the City Manager's Office complaining about the glitch and they way in which she was notified.

"I can't even dispute this because I don't remember ever getting a ticket," said Cervantes, who received her warning letter Jan.12 for a ticket issued in 2006 for an expired meter. "Two-and-a-half years later and you expect me to remember if I paid this?"

Horn said he is working with ACS to insert a paragraph or two into the warning notices explaining the computer glitch and what is being done to fix the problem.

"I understand some people may look at this and start scratching their heads," because they may not remember every getting a parking ticket, Horn said. "We could have done a better job of notifying people."

Thousands more warning notices will be sent by ACS over the next few months, Horn said.

Those who receive notices can pay the fine or contest the violation.

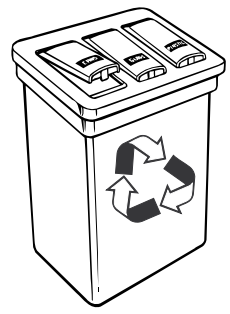
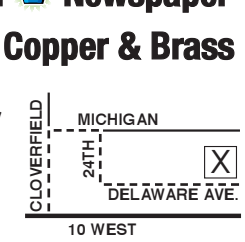
"We're making progress," Horn said. "We are not getting as many kick-backs as we were three or four months ago. Now we just have to get everyone on the same page. … We're not silly enough to believe the DMV will change to us. We have to change to them."

kevinh@smdp.com

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The Q Line

Fond memories

The passing of Councilman Herb Katz last week got us thinking of the many things he accomplished as a civil servant.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

What are some of your fond memories of the longtime lawmaker?

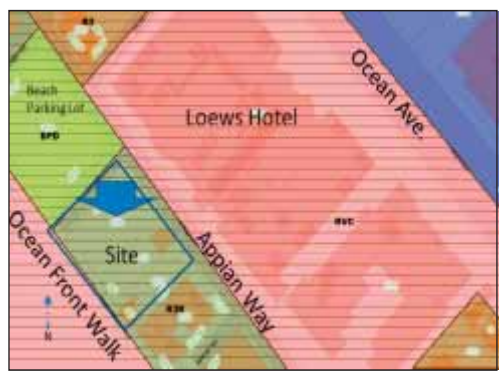
Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. Please limit responses to a minute or less.


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Community Meeting For A Proposed 6-Unit Condominium Project With Bike Rental Shop At 1703 Ocean Front Walk

January 27, 2009
7:00PM

Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel
1700 Ocean Avenue
Santa Monica, CA



You are invited to attend a community meeting to review the design for a new 6-unit condominium project proposed by SHC Santa Monica Beach Hotel, III, LLC. The project consists of 5 market rate condominium units and 1 affordable for sale unit and the replacement of a bicycle rental shop at 1703 Ocean Front Walk. The project goals include the LEED Platinum green building certification.

This meeting is a City Planning initiative to solicit comments from the public prior to the project being heard by the Planning Commission. You will have an opportunity to provide direct feedback to the staff and the developer with regards to the project design. For further information, please contact Gina Szilak, Associate Planner at (310) 458-8341 or regina.szilak@smgov.net
RSVP appreciated to (310) 458-8341.

ESPANOL
Esto es una noticia de una reunión de la comunidad para revisar el diseño de la applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.



Please join

Police Activities League (PAL) for ...

SRLA Friendship 18 Miller

Sunday February 1, 2009

Bus will be leaving from PAL @ 6:15 a.m.
Teens ages 12 - 17 years
Participants must train two (2) nights a week: Mondays & Thursdays - 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
The Students Run L.A. program is to challenge students to experience the benefits of goal-setting, character development, and improve health by providing a truly life-changing experience:
Training for and completing the City of Los Angeles Marathon - 26.2 miles.
*A medical examination is required for all participants in the SRLA Program.
Please call Karen or Don for additional information at (310) 458-8988.

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Review and Discussion of Preliminary Concept Designs for the Ocean Park Boulevard Streetscape Project

The City Council will review and discuss preliminary design concepts for the Ocean Park Boulevard streetscape project, which provides a range of physical and programmatic improvements to Ocean Park Boulevard between Lincoln Boulevard and Neilson Way. Two concept alternatives have been developed based on input from an extensive public outreach process that includes community workshops, meetings and web-based communication. In addition to enhancing the Boulevard's functional and aesthetic qualities, both alternatives incorporate significant sustainability measures that seek to reduce urban runoff pollution from discharging into the Santa Monica Bay.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, JANUARY 27 2009 AT 7:00 P.M.**
(This item is continued from the January 13 meeting)

LOCATION: City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, Santa Monica City Hall
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the City Council public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the City Council at the meeting.

Address your letters to: Peter James, Associate Planner
Re: Ocean Park Blvd. Streetscape Project
City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Room 212
Santa Monica, CA 90401

City of Santa Monica

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Peter James at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at greenopb@smgov.net. The project's webpages are located within the City's website at http://www01.smgov.net/planning/greenoceanparkblvdwest.html.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and the Tide Ride serve City Hall.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL
Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para informar la comunidad sobre el proyecto Ocean Park Boulevard Streetscape. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Peter James en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Caught in the act

Crime Watch is a weekly series culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

FRIDAY, JAN. 9, AT 6:20 P.M.,
Santa Monica vice officers conducting a prostitution sting in the 1000 block Euclid Street arrested a woman who ran an online ad offering sensual massages. The suspect allegedly performed a massage on an undercover officer and then offered sexual favors in exchange for $160. The woman was arrested for prostitution, providing a massage without a permit and providing a service without a business license. The suspect was identified as Donna Lynn Trousdale, 37, from Santa Monica. Her bail was set at $2,000.

FRIDAY, JAN. 9, AT 1:52 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 2900 block of Main Street regarding a report of a fight. Upon arrival, officers didn't see anyone brawling but contacted a group of siblings who were drunk and may have been involved in the fight. Officers spoke with the group and determined that they were unable to care for themselves and they were placed under arrest for public intoxication. They were identified as Mena Gergis Boktor, 20, of Reseda; George Gergis Boktor, 20, from Reseda; Jacqueline Anton Boktor, 22, of San Francisco; and Joseph Anwar Boktor, 22, of Santa Monica. Bail was set at $250.

FRIDAY, JAN. 9, 8:30 P.M.,
An officer on routine patrol stopped a vehicle that was being driven without headlights on. Officers made contact with the driver and passenger and determined that the driver was on parole and the passenger on probation. Officers searched the vehicle and found a bag containing 14 small plastic bags, each containing marijuana. Both were arrested and later booked for possession of marijuana for sale and unlawful transportation of marijuana. They driver was identified as Christopher Dayvon Butler, 21, of Los Angeles. He was also booked for violation of parole and driving without headlights. No bail was set. The passenger was identified as Terrelle Rashad Antoine, 21, of Santa Monica. He was also booked for violation of probation. No bail was set.

THURSDAY, JAN. 8, AT 2:47 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 300 block of Colorado Avenue regarding a reporting of someone possibly smoking contraband. When officers arrived, they made contact with suspects who were found to be in possession of marijuana, police said. Officers learned that one suspect sold the other, who is a minor, marijuana. The suspect tried to destroy evidence by throwing a small, electronic scale used to measure drugs into the street, police said. Officers detained the suspect and booked him for furnishing marijuana to a minor and attempting to destroy evidence. He was identified as Moises Baltazarxol, 21, of Los Angeles. His bail was set at $40,000. The 14-year-old suspect was cited for possession and released to his aunt.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7, AT 8 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 1600 block of the beach, the men's showers, after receiving a report of an attempted murder that just occurred. When officers arrived, they made contact with witnesses who said the suspect wanted to take a shower, but it was in use. Instead of waiting his turn, the suspect stabbed a man taking a shower and then fled. The victim was transported to a local hospital with multiple stab wounds. The victim knew the suspect, police said, and provided officers with a description. The suspect was located a few hours later at the Main Library and arrested for attempted murder. He was identified as John William Randall, 38, a transient. His bail was set at $500,000.

TUESDAY, JAN. 6, AT 8:30 P.M.,
Detectives from Santa Monica arrested a suspect at his home in Granada Hills. The suspect was wanted in connection with a street robbery that occurred in the 800 block of Washington Avenue on Dec. 5, 2008. Officers said the victim provided them with a license plate number that matched a car registered to the suspect. The victim positively identified the suspect and he was booked for robbery and petty theft. He was identified as Andrew Jonathan Lopez, 21. His bail was set at $50,000.

SATURDAY, JAN. 10, AT 5:25 P.M.,
Officers on routine patrol in the 2800 block of Barnard Way observed a man drinking inside his vehicle, which was parked in a nearby beach lot. Officers made contact with the man and his passenger and discovered that one was in possession of Valium without a prescription and the other was in possession of marijuana. Both were arrested and brought to the Santa Monica Jail for booking. Once inside, the jail officers found additional marijuana on the suspect who was on parole. He was identified as Jorge Vital, Jr., 31, from North Hills. We was also booked for possession of a controlled substance and possession of prescription medication. His bail was set at $10,000. The second suspect was identified as Rene Garcia, 31, from Santa Monica. He was booked for bringing contraband into a jail, possession of an open container and violation of parole. No bail was set.

Editor in Chief KEVIN HERRERA compiled these reports. news@smdp.com

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Submit news releases to editor@smdp.com or by fax at (310) 576-9913
Santa Monica Daily Press Visit us online at smdp.com



Byron Kennerly *news@smdp.com*

NO BUTTS: **The City Council has banned smoking in the common areas of multi-unit residences.**

Property owners criticize latest anti-smoking law

FROM **SMOKING** PAGE 1

would use it to evict offending renters, specifically stating in the language that it cannot be used as grounds to terminate tenancy and clarifying that smoking in common areas shall not be considered a violation of law under a lease, according to Adam Radinsky, who heads the Consumer Protection Unit in the City Attorney's Office. The council sent an earlier draft of the ordinance back to staff in October after several rent control advocates had expressed concerns that the ban would lead to evictions.

The ordinance also establishes a method by which residents could challenge a neighbor who smokes in a common area, allowing them to seek damages of at least $100 in Small Claims Court.

The law does not require landlords to create smoking areas for their tenants.

City Hall is expected to conduct a public education campaign before the ordinance takes effect.

A group of residents pleaded with councilmembers to adopt the ordinance, some asking that the law be strengthened in the future.

Santa Monica resident Beth Miller suggested that landlords be required to disclose which units permit smoking to prospective tenants, adding that she was told there were no smokers in her building, only to learn her neighbor was one.

"If I had known this, I would not have moved into this apartment," Miller said.

The ordinance has its fair share of critics, including rent-control advocates who fear that low-income residents will be disproportionately affected.

Several other cities have adopted similar ordinances, including in Calabasas and Oakland, which also has a rent control law.

"The seriousness of the problem of tobacco smoke in apartments is finally beginning to be understood in Santa Monica," Marlene Gomez of Smokefree Air for Everyone (SAFE), said. SAFE is a support network of individuals who have been disabled by secondhand smoke.

Marilyn Korade-Wilson, a resident and member of the Rent Control Board, said that while she appreciates the inclusion of tenant protections in the ordinance, she believes it will still have an impact on the poor, disabled and minority groups.

"This action will create litigation between neighbors," she said. "Those with sufficient income will hire attorneys."

Property owners have also been outspoken against the ordinance, some arguing that it forces landlords and managers to act as the police.

"We are not here to issue citations," Robert Kronovet, a property owner and manager, said. "It is nonsense because it is an unenforceable ordinance,"

Kronovet, who also serves on the Rent Control Board, argued that the ordinance "doesn't have teeth" and believes that it might backfire and lead to battles between tenants in court.

Bill Dawson, the president of the Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles, echoed the concerns, adding he believes the ordinance is another step toward infringing on tenants' private lives.

Dawson, who is the vice president of Sullivan-Dituri, a property management company, said that he believes an education program encouraging property owners to set up smoke-free units and smoke-free buildings could be a better solution at the moment.

"I think it's well intended but I'm very concerned that the precedent of setting up tenants to sue each other is a bad one and further unforeseen problems could arise out of this," he said.

melodyh@smdp.com



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The City of Santa Monica's Environmental Programs Division (EPD) is now the Office of Sustainability and the Environment (OSE).
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sustainablesm.org
City of Santa Monica
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Byron Kennerly *news@smdp.com*

BAG MAN: **A shopper leaves Vons supermarket with a handful of groceries in plastic bags.**

Council delays vote on plastic bag ban

FROM **BAGS** PAGE 1

like Trader Joe's are produced in China, which leads to another set of environmental impacts from the fuel and energy used to ship the products to the United States.

"Listen to the facts than stigmatizing plastic bags and getting everyone agitated and refusing to look at the facts," Joseph said. "Don't just sweep them under the carpet and say we know everything and don't need to study anything."

Dean Kubani, the head of the Office of Sustainability and the Environment at City Hall, said that he will meet with the City Attorney's Office next week to determine which steps to take to avoid a lawsuit, weighing whether that would be a minor or in-depth report. City staff was originally going to request an exemption from conducting an environmental review, which is typically not required for policy decisions, Kubani said.

He added that City Hall was planning on reaching out to a start-up business that employs local veterans to make cloth bags using scraps.

"That is a very sustainable business," he said.

Kubani said that he has done a full assessment on single-use bags, canvas bags and plastic reusable bags, studying the different environmental impacts, including the carbon footprint caused from transporting them.

"The reusable bag wins by a large margin," he said. "It is durable and you can use it hundreds and hundreds of times."

The delay in action by the council came as a disappointment to a group of Santa Monica High School students who stayed into the late hours on Tuesday to lobby for the ban. They included the "Plastic Bag Monster," a student covered in plastic bags, and the "Cap Woman," who was similarly decked out in plastic bottle caps.

"When this 'ban was first discussed a couple of years ago, my liquid petroleum sweat started dripping and I was nagged by my mom for bad performance," Andrew Brown, the Plastic Bag Monster, said. "What does she know, she's just an old bag."

Many of the students were from school environmental groups such as Team Marine and the Heal the Bay Club.

"This plastic bags ban is so important to keeping our oceans and beaches clean and to helping us expand our minds," Megan Kilroy, a Samohi student said.

While the gathering at the council meeting was mostly in favor of the ordinance, several residents spoke against the ban, including a member of SaveThePlasticBag.com.

"I just really find it hard to believe if you look at the city's goals for sustainability and their long-range plan, how this can be an alternative that is going to work," Chandler Hadrada, a local business owner and member of the coalition, said.

Ella Bronstein, an environmentalist who helped start a recycling program at the University of Maryland during the 1970s, said that she reuses plastic bags to store items and as waterproof liners under plants.

"When you hear that less than 5 percent of single-use bags are recycled in California, it sounds terrible," she said. "However most people now do recycle their bags."

melodyh@smdp.com

BOOKREVIEW

BY DANE ROBERT SWANSON

'Compelling Conversations'

Eric H. Roth and Toni Aberson
Chimayo Press

America is a great land of opportunity. I am sure we all want to get ahead in this country. We want to find the type of employment that is suited for us. We wish to advance in the work world. We wish to make friends.

The best way to get ahead in the world is to speak the mother tongue of the country you are living in. In this case, we are talking about English. With so many "English as a Second Language" courses being taught there is no excuse for not learning. The problem is, what book do you use to learn from?

Have you been looking for a good ESL manual? If you have, I think this is one to consider. The topics cover: Your Life, The Civic Life, along with the everyday aspects as dating, enjoying money, handling stress.

The editors put it together in an easy to use form. You have conversation starters such as, "How much time do you spend each week in cars? Why?"

There is a section in each chapter for vocabulary building. A section on common sayings is included, as well. To increase the conversation we have such questions as this: "Do you prefer to drive in the city or the country? Flat or hills?"

Each chapter in the book concludes with quotations. An example is this one by Woody Allen, "I have bad reflexes. I was once run over by a car being pushed by two guys."

This manual helps conversation by giving common subjects to talk about. Since English is one of the confusing, difficult and strange languages for a foreigner to grasp and be comfortable conversing in, the compilers pack in 45 chapters over 30 questions, 10 or more targeted vocabulary words, some proverbs, and quotations per chapter.

Each chapter focuses on a promising conversation topic. They start with easy questions and continue on to questions a bit more abstract. Each question is there to allow the speaker to share his life experiences along with his insights.

This manual will go best with the advanced ESL student or even at coffee shop conversation clubs. It will bring about authentic, not stilted communication, which should be the purpose of an ESL course. It is easier for a person to learn a language through conversation rather than by a given list of vocabulary words. That is what makes this a welcome addition to the material which can be used for the immigrant who must learn English to advance in the world.

Eric H. Roth has taught many ESL courses at Santa Monica College, UCLA Extension, Cal State Long Beach's American Language Institute. Toni Aberson has taught English and supervised teachers for over 35 years and holds to the view that when you have a lively classroom you have optimal learning going on.

This manual is available at Amazon.com. It can also be purchased on the Web site: www.CompellingCoversations.com. There is a substantial discount available for schools and bookstores.

DANE ROBERT SWANSON is the best looking book reviewer in Santa Monica and wishes to get feedback from you. Smdp_review@yahoo.com.

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Christopher Thornberg
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- A welcome from Santa Monica's new Mayor Ken Genser
- Local overview of 2009 city budget from City Manager P. Lamont Ewell
- Global perspective as to how the economy is affecting us locally from Christopher Thornberg, past economist with the UCLA Anderson Forecast and cofounder of Beacon Economics

DATE: Friday, January 30, 2009

TIME: Breakfast Reception
7:30 - 8:00 am
Conference
8:00 - 10:00 am

PLACE: THE ELI AND EDYTHE BROAD STAGE
Santa Monica College
1310 11th Street

Ticket Information:
Call 310-393-9825
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$55 at the door
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$20 (at the door)

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 57°

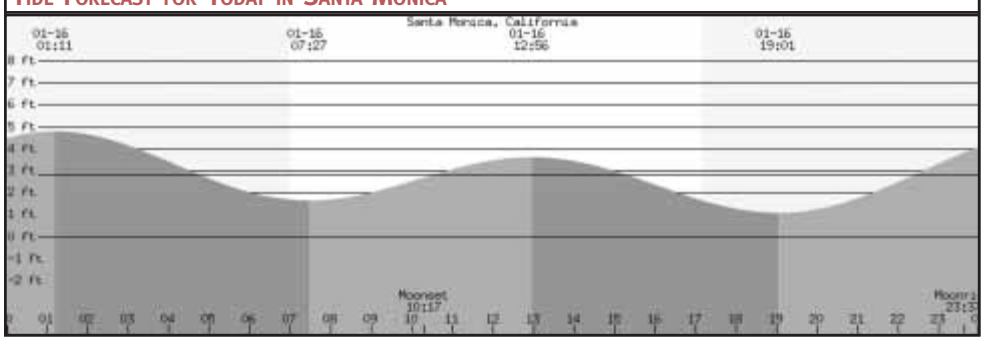
Swell Forecast (2-4 FT)

Only ankle to knee high surf is expected most everywhere. Winds should be offshore, mostly 5-10 mph with wind-prone spots seeing 15 mph gusts.

Long Range Synopsis

Saturday the 17th WNW swell will build along the California coast as waves from the Japanese system begin to fill in.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **January 6, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 13
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 39 / 17
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 9 / 30

The Beach Report Card is made possible by simplehuman, Goldhirsh Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, Ford

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
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	F
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	D	A
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	D
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A	F
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	D
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	A
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	F
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	F	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	A
Tuna Canyon	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	F	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	C

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

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.

Heal the Bay

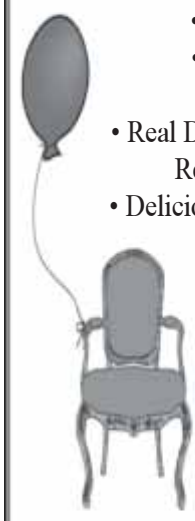
Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card® is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are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

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

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NCAA FOOTBALL

USC's Sanchez goes pro

BY KEN PETERS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES Southern California quarterback Mark Sanchez will skip his senior season to enter the NFL draft.

Sanchez and Georgia's Matthew Stafford, another junior coming out early, are considered the top two quarterback prospects in the draft. Heisman Trophy winner Sam Bradford of Oklahoma decided to return to school.

Sanchez is coming off a spectacular Rose Bowl against Penn State. The fourth-year junior went 28-for-35, setting a Rose Bowl record by completing 80 percent of his passes. He threw for 413 yards and four touchdowns, and also ran for a score in the Trojans' 38-24 victory.

"In the end, after sleepless nights and lots of prayers, I've decided I'll forgo my fifth year and declare for the NFL draft," Sanchez said Thursday at a campus news conference. "It is with a heavy heart I am going to leave this university."

Thursday was the deadline for underclassmen to declare for the NFL draft. Trojans coach Pete Carroll tried to talk Sanchez into coming back for another year, noting that he started only 16 college games and NFL teams often prefer quarterbacks with more experience.

"Mark is going against the grain and he knows that," Carroll said. "And he's OK about that."

Sanchez started just one full season at USC, leading the Trojans to a 12-1 record and No. 3 national ranking. He started three games the previous year when John David Booty was hurt, going 2-1 in those contests.

Sanchez is the fourth in a line of outstanding quarterbacks to play under Carroll at USC, joining Heisman Trophy winners Carson Palmer and Matt Leinart along with Booty. All three are playing in the NFL.

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Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(323) 466-FILM

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(310) 458-1506

Bedtime Stories (PG) 1hr 35min
11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:45

Not Easily Broken (PG-13) 1hr 39min
11:45am, 2:15, 4:50, 7:15

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) 2hrs 48min
9:35

Milk (R) 2hrs 08min
11:00am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20

Notorious (R)
12:15, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15

AMC 7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) 2hrs 48min
11:10am, 2:45, 6:20, 10:00

My Bloody Valentine 3D (R) 1hr 41min
11:20am, 2:05, 4:55, 7:30, 10:05

Bride Wars (PG) 1hr 30min
11:30am, 1:55, 4:40, 7:05, 9:40

Yes Man (PG-13) 1hr 44min
11:40am, 2:30, 5:05, 7:45, 10:30

Defiance (R) 2hrs 17min
11:50am, 3:15, 6:40, 9:50

Frost/Nixon (R) 2hrs 02min
11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10

The Unborn (PG-13)
11:05am, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:20

Laemmle's Monica Fourplex
1332 Second St.
(310) 394-9741

Revolutionary Road (R) 1hr 59min
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50

Last Chance Harvey (PG-13) 1hr 39min
1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45

Slumdog Millionaire (R) 2hr 1min
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00

Doubt (PG-13) 1hr 44min
1:30, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35

Mann's Criterion Theatre
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) 1hr 27min
12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30

Gran Torino (R)
1:20, 4:30, 7:40, 10:30

Valkyrie (PG-13) 2hrs
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:20

Hotel for Dogs (PG) 1hr 40min
11:50am, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Marley & Me (PG) 2hrs
1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10

The Reader (R) 2hrs 02min
1:00, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50

For more information, e-mail news@smdp.com

Add some sparkle, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Communicate when someone seeks you out. A friendship will build if you remain open. You need to put in the extra work to complete a project as expected. Investigate and remain open to a tough boss or associate. Tonight: More comes out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ A slow and easy pace makes a difference. Investigate what others think, but at the same time, when something doesn't work for you, get past the immediate issue. Reach out for an expert or two. Tonight: Let your spirit soar.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Your creativity and playfulness emerge when you handle a problem. If you find yourself in a disagreement with an associate or key loved one, attempt to get a more neutral opinion. Tonight: Togetherness works.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Others can be difficult without intending to. You might feel discouraged when you make an effort to make peace but a problem ensues. Communication feels off. Tonight: Mosey on home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Your ability to hold a conversation allows you to gain new insight. Realize what you want from a situation, and help others focus on the long-term results. If you're feeling overly energetic, take a walk. You will chill. Tonight: Hang out with friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Be aware of your spending and what is going on. You know you have a lot to accomplish in order to stabilize your funds. Say no to a high risk; be smart and stay anchored, knowing the basics. Tonight: Be a fiscal conservative.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ You are in prime shape and ready to handle anything that comes your way. Laughter and caring earmark your relationships. Others catch on to your fun energy. A roommate could be difficult anyway. Tonight: Add sparkle into your night.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Take care of yourself, as others could demand more than you can give. Don't take another's beliefs or opinions personally. Indulge a family member. Let more caring flow here. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Reach out past the obvious. You could see a situation far differently from the way you did in the past. Though you might want to rush into a situation, it might be smarter to detach and think. Your perspective will change. Tonight: Yap up a storm.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Take a stand and stay on top of your game. Your willingness to get past an immediate issue comes across as aggressive on your part. Making a statement like "whatever" could put others off. Tonight: A must show.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Make a point not to get caught up in a situation that could be most uncomfortable. Your way of dealing with this matter would be to detach and gain a more complete picture. Empathize with someone; understand where people are coming from. Tonight: Take off ASAP.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ A partner dominates plans and what goes on. You'll gain a perspective with ease as long as you work to walk in another's footsteps. Your empathy adds caring and trust to your bond. Tonight: Go with another's choice.

Happy birthday

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

This year, you will not lack energy; however, funneling your high-voltage enthusiasm and drive could become a major issue. If left unharnessed, you could find that snappiness or irritation emanates from you. With so many possibilities, it would be sad not to employ some self-discipline. Others could be very serious. Might that be the result of your being a little wilder than usual? If you are single, you barely will have time to pursue others, as so many people will be chasing you! Ask yourself what you want in a relationship as you explore different bonds. LIBRA has the same issues as you but could be quite challenging.

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT ST. MONICA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY CAMPUS ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

DATE: January 14, 2009

TO: State Clearinghouse, Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Organizations and Interested Parties

LEAD AGENCY: City of Santa Monica, City Planning Division

The City of Santa Monica intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the St. Monica Church Campus Enhancement Project. In accordance with Section 15082 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the City of Santa Monica has prepared this Notice of Preparation to provide Responsible Agencies and other interested parties with information describing the proposal and its potential environmental effects. The following environmental factors, identified in the Initial Study, that would potentially be affected by the project include: Aesthetics, Construction Effects, Historic Resources, Neighborhood Effects, Noise and Transportation/Circulation.

PROJECT APPLICANT: St. Monica Catholic Church
725 California Avenue
Santa Monica, CA 90403

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site consists of a full city block bounded by 7th Street to the west, Lincoln Boulevard to the east, Washington Boulevard to the north, and California Avenue to the south.

Regional access to the site is provided from the Pacific Coast Highway (State Route 1) via the California Incline and from the Santa Monica Freeway via the interchanges at Lincoln Boulevard.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project is a two-phase campus enhancement and parking improvement plan for several existing facilities on the St. Monica campus. The project would improve the facilities available to the students, parishioners and the community. The project would also reduce the existing parking deficit and improve the availability of parking onsite when school is in session by constructing a subterranean parking garage. The two development phases are projected to be completed within a period of 7 to 10 years. Each of the two phases is described below.

Phase I involves replacing the existing Pastoral Center with a new community center and subterranean parking garage; upgrading both the elementary and high school facilities by retrofitting much of the existing facilities and incorporating a minor addition to the east wing of the high school; converting portions of the Trepp Center into specialty lab classrooms; renovating the campus courtyard/playground; and interior renovations to the gymnasium. It is anticipated that this phase would commence in late 2011 and would be completed within about four years after commencement of construction.

Phase II involves modernizing the existing school auditorium; expansion of the subterranean parking structure (constructed during Phase I) by 102 spaces; and updates to the elementary school and the west wing of the high school. Construction of Phase II components would begin within about four years after completion of Phase I and would be completed within about three years after commencement of construction.

The proposed project would not increase school enrollment or church capacity. Instead, the proposed project would supply more parking and improve facilities for existing parishioners and students.

REVIEW PERIOD: As specified by the State CEQA Guidelines, the Notice of Preparation will be circulated for a 30-day review period. The City of Santa Monica welcomes agency and public input during this period regarding the scope and content of environmental information related to your agency's responsibility that must be included in the Draft EIR. **Comments may be submitted, in writing, by 5:30 p.m. on February 13, 2009** and addressed to:

Bradley J. Misner, AICP, Principal Planner
City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Room 212
Santa Monica, CA 90401
Telephone: (310) 458-8341
E-mail: brad.misner@smgov.net

ESPAÑOL: Este es una noticia para la preparación de un reporte sobre los posibles efectos ambientales en referencia a la construcción propuesta de renovar el campus de la St. Monica Church, lo cual puede ser de interés a usted. Para más información, llame a Carmen Gutiérrez, al número (310) 458-8341.

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 ★ (easiest) to ★★★★★ (hardest).

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

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

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

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PS2867 11/08

Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



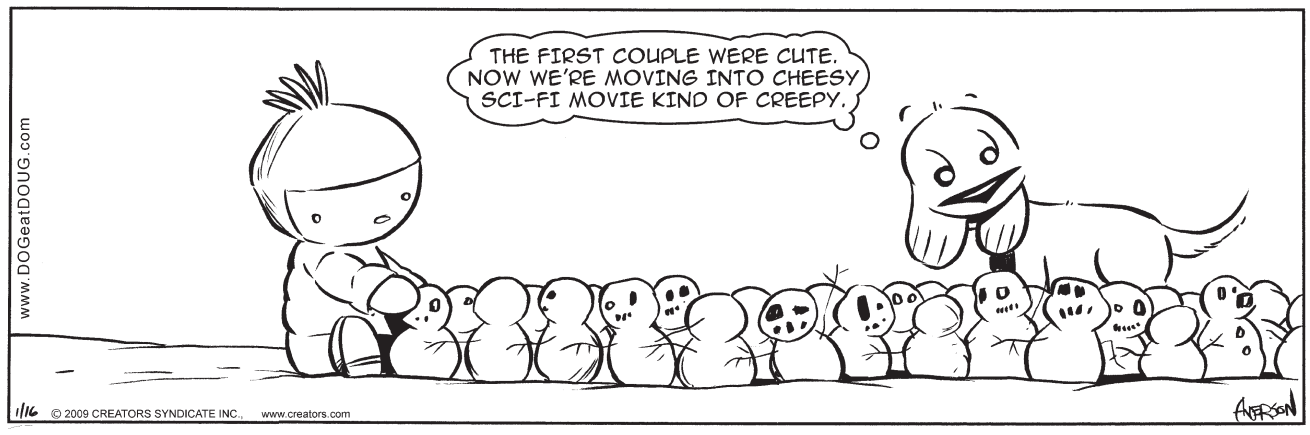
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



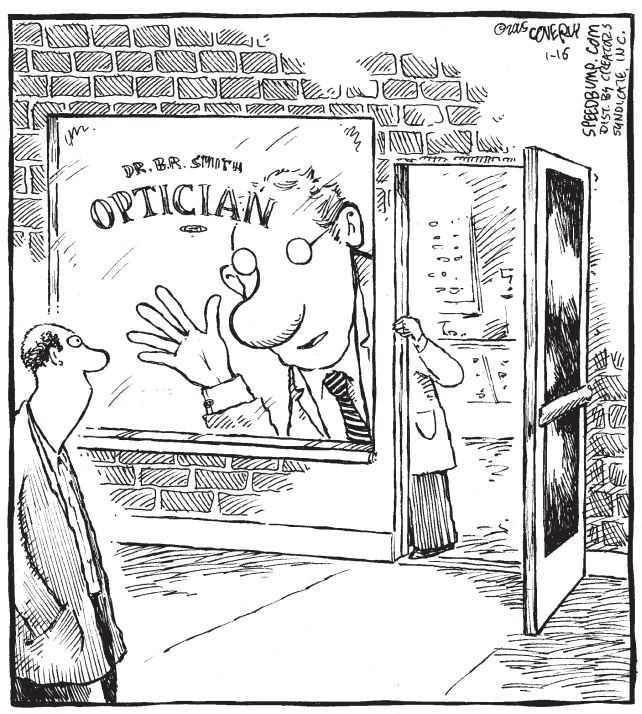
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By John Deering



Speed Bump

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Rachel Dardashti *news@smdp.com*

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Duel count
6 Headings
11 Kitchen come-on
12 Detached
13 Full range
14 Truman's birthplace
15 Homer's pop
16 Squid's defense
18 Planning time
19 Tiny complaint
20 Spanish king
21 High rating
22 Defendant in a 1925 trial
24 Radiator part
25 Trial
27 Madeline of "Paper Moon"
29 Slot machine symbols
32 King topper
33 Not masc.
34 Cal. abbr.
35 Game caller
36 Bustle
37 Solo in space
38 Bikini, for one
40 Monsoon weather
42 Car quartet
43 Subsequently
44 Public outburst
45 Periphery

DOWN

1 Heathens
2 Like our numerals
3 Become visible
4 Outback runner
5 Swift works
6 Loquacious
7 Copying
8 Fail
9 Rascals
10 Peaceful
17 Got comfy
23 Stock holder
24 Engine sound
26 Contriteness
27 Jewelry units
28 Vinegary
30 Subtle shade
31 Detects
33 Disloyal
39 Actor Cariou
41 Help out

R	E	P	R	O	■	S	C	R	U	B
R	E	L	I	C	■	C	A	U	S	E
S	L	A	T	E	■	O	R	G	A	N
■	■	Y	E	A	S	T	Y	■	■	■
R	E	D	■	N	O	T	■	R	E	F
A	R	A	B	I	A	■	M	A	L	I
D	A	T	E	A	N	D	T	I	M	E
A	S	E	A	■	D	I	N	N	E	R
R	E	S	■	A	S	S	■	D	R	Y
■	■	■	G	L	O	R	I	A	■	■
F	A	B	L	E	■	O	C	T	E	T
A	M	O	U	R	■	B	E	E	N	E
T	I	B	E	T	■	E	S	S	E	X

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, 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					■	45				

1-16

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Meganumber: 40
Jackpot: $12M

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Meganumber: 8
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Fantasy 5: 14 18 20 28 35

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 3 0 6
EVENING: 0 5 6

DAILY DERBY
1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 01 Gold Rush
RACE TIME: 1.48.66

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Elizabeth Shelton, 21, filed a lawsuit in Houston in December against the truck driver that she accidentally rear-ended in a 2007 crash, while she was intoxicated, and in which her boyfriend was killed. Though she was convicted of manslaughter, she is now suing for $20,000 damage to her Lexus SUV and for "pain and suffering," basing her claim on the fact that the blameless driver she hit was uninsured. In all, her lawsuit names 16 defendants, including insurance companies and banks. Shelton is the daughter of a state court judge.

■ In November, Michigan state circuit court judge Robert Colombo Jr. almost single-handedly quashed thousands of apparently bogus lawsuits for asbestos-related injuries by exposing the principal examining doctor as unqualified. Dr. Michael Kelly had diagnosed injuries on 7,323 patients' x-rays over 15 years (earning $500 per screening), which in one sampling was 58 times the abnormality-detection rate of independent radiologists. Judge Colombo found that Kelly is neither a radiologist nor a pulmonologist, had failed the certification test for reading x-rays, and performed lung-function tests improperly 90 percent of the time. On the day Judge Colombo commenced the investigation of Dr. Kelly, plaintiffs' attorneys, realizing they had been busted, promptly withdrew all of their lawsuits except one.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1920 Prohibition began in the United States as the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution took effect, one year to the day after its ratification. (It was later repealed by the 21st Amendment.)

1989 three days of rioting began in Miami when a police officer fatally shot a black motorcyclist, causing a crash that also claimed the life of a passenger. (The officer, William Lozano, was convicted of manslaughter, but then was acquitted in a retrial.)

2007 Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., launched his successful bid for the White House.

WORD UP!

kinetic \ki-NET-ik\, *adjective*: of or having to do with motion; caused by motion

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Employment

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Assistant Manager Position Available-Self Storage company in Santa Monica seeking a candidate with a great personality and great phone skills. Position is full time, must have sales experience, a valid driver's license, be available on weekends, must pass background check. Please e-mail your resume to info@sawtelleselfstorage.com

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GIVE OF YOURSELF American Cancer Society Discovery Shop needs volunteer sales help. You can contribute by spending 4 hours per week Thurs., Fri., or Sat.assisting in our up-scale resale shop in Santa Monica. Conact Terry or Shaunnah at (310) 458-4490.

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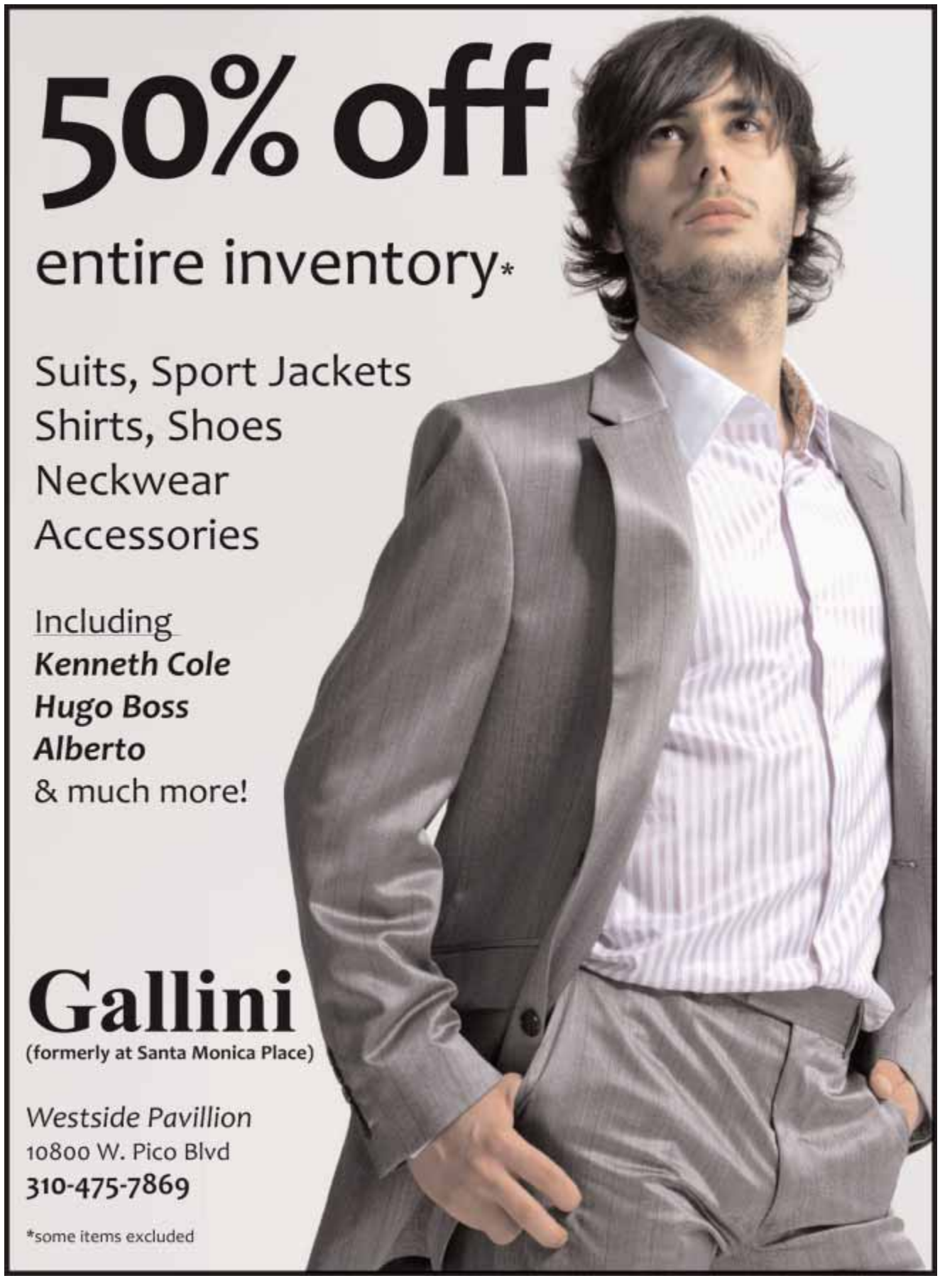
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