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FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2010
Volume 9 Issue 61



Santa Monica Daily Press

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SEE PAGE 12

We have you covered

THE BRING BACK THE SUN ISSUE

Storm sparks blaze at business

BY KATE MATHER
Special to the Daily Press

PICO BLVD An electrical fire broke out at Triathlon Lab Thursday afternoon — the result, the store's owner said, of the major downpour Southern California has faced this week.

Lloyd Taylor, the owner of the store located at 3328 Pico Blvd., said water leaked through the seal protecting the building's meter system, causing an "explosion" in the small annex that housed the store's power source.

The annex was completely destroyed, said Capt. Mark Bridges of the Santa Monica Fire Department, but no injuries were reported, although customers and employees were in the store when the fire broke out around 1:11 p.m.

The employees evacuated the customers as soon as the fire was discovered, Taylor said, and the fire department was on the scene within minutes.

Bridges estimated the total damage — including the smoke damage to clothing in the store — to be about $10,000, although Taylor said he could not confirm that number before hearing from his insurance company.

Taylor did say the fire would have serious consequences for his store, which opened only seven months ago.

"We won't know when we will be able to open again because the power source is completely destroyed," Taylor said. "We'll definitely have a loss of income over the next 48 to 72 hours until the power gets up and running, and we'll probably have to sell all of the clothing we have on sale or collect from insurance."

news@smdp.com



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

MAKING SHORT WORK: **Santa Monica firefighters work to put out an electrical fire at Triathlon Lab on Pico Boulevard.**

'State of the City' focuses on long-term economic fix

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

BROAD STAGE With the recession cutting into tax revenue, City Hall is projecting a deficit of as much as $9 million during the next fiscal year, and outgoing City Manager Lamont Ewell has said that amount could grow to $47 million by 2014 without "corrective action."

"Expenditure growth is projected to far outpace revenue growth over the forecast period, and adjustments will be needed in order to balance our budget in both the near and long term," Ewell wrote in a letter to city employees this month.

Although that dim financial outlook served as the backdrop for Thursday's "State of the City" event, the program focused less on the doom and gloom and more on long-term steps leaders can take to bolster Santa Monica's economy.

The keynote speaker, President and CEO of the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. Bill Allen, stressed the link between civic leadership, the business community and economic development.

In summarizing the county's strategic plan for economic development, which the county's Board of Supervisors approved last month, he highlighted the importance of improving primary education, creating a business friendly environment, investing in infrastructure and making smart land use decisions.

He said Los Angeles County has a weak record in job creation, having added 1 million people since 1980, while at the same time losing 100,000 jobs.

In a portion of his speech that seemed particularly relevant to Santa Monica, he argued that city leaders should recognize the importance of creating a balance between job creation and other community priorities like limiting traffic congestion and maintaining a high quality of life.



Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com
AT THE FOREFRONT: **Frank McCourt, owner of the Dodgers, speaks during the 'State of the City' on Thursday.**

"If we have voices in our community that are not recognizing the appropriate balance, I think there's a moral responsibility for the rest of us to stand up and seek that balance," he said.

The event Thursday morning at the

SEE CITY PAGE 8

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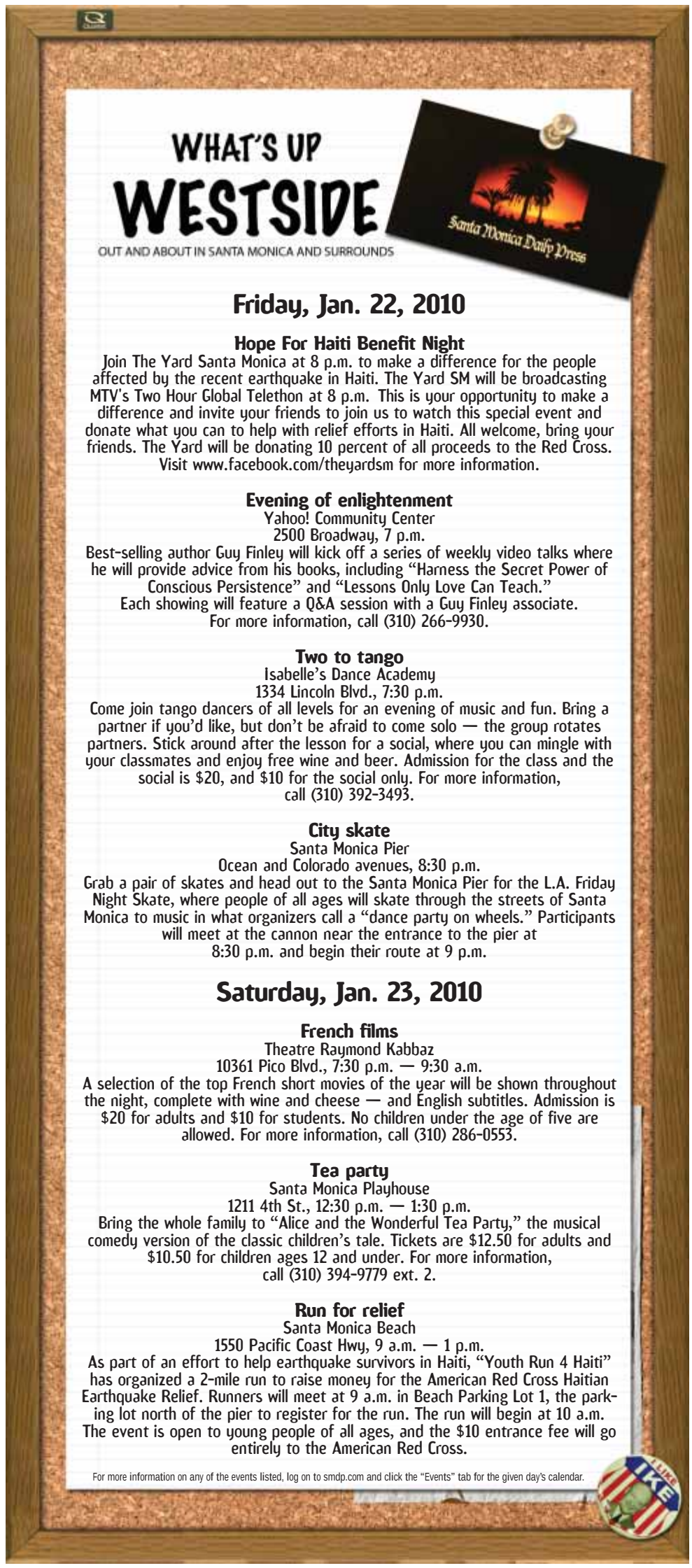
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Friday, Jan. 22, 2010

Hope For Haiti Benefit Night
Join The Yard Santa Monica at 8 p.m. to make a difference for the people affected by the recent earthquake in Haiti. The Yard SM will be broadcasting MTV's Two Hour Global Telethon at 8 p.m. This is your opportunity to make a difference and invite your friends to join us to watch this special event and donate what you can to help with relief efforts in Haiti. All welcome, bring your friends. The Yard will be donating 10 percent of all proceeds to the Red Cross. Visit www.facebook.com/theyardsm for more information.

Evening of enlightenment
Yahoo! Community Center
2500 Broadway, 7 p.m.
Best-selling author Guy Finley will kick off a series of weekly video talks where he will provide advice from his books, including "Harness the Secret Power of Conscious Persistence" and "Lessons Only Love Can Teach."
Each showing will feature a Q&A session with a Guy Finley associate.
For more information, call (310) 266-9930.

Two to tango
Isabelle's Dance Academy
1334 Lincoln Blvd., 7:30 p.m.
Come join tango dancers of all levels for an evening of music and fun. Bring a partner if you'd like, but don't be afraid to come solo — the group rotates partners. Stick around after the lesson for a social, where you can mingle with your classmates and enjoy free wine and beer. Admission for the class and the social is $20, and $10 for the social only. For more information, call (310) 392-3493.

City skate
Santa Monica Pier
Ocean and Colorado avenues, 8:30 p.m.
Grab a pair of skates and head out to the Santa Monica Pier for the L.A. Friday Night Skate, where people of all ages will skate through the streets of Santa Monica to music in what organizers call a "dance party on wheels." Participants will meet at the cannon near the entrance to the pier at 8:30 p.m. and begin their route at 9 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 23, 2010

French films
Theatre Raymond Kabbaz
10361 Pico Blvd., 7:30 p.m. — 9:30 a.m.
A selection of the top French short movies of the year will be shown throughout the night, complete with wine and cheese — and English subtitles. Admission is $20 for adults and $10 for students. No children under the age of five are allowed. For more information, call (310) 286-0553.

Tea party
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 4th St., 12:30 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Bring the whole family to "Alice and the Wonderful Tea Party," the musical comedy version of the classic children's tale. Tickets are $12.50 for adults and $10.50 for children ages 12 and under. For more information, call (310) 394-9779 ext. 2.

Run for relief
Santa Monica Beach
1550 Pacific Coast Hwy, 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.
As part of an effort to help earthquake survivors in Haiti, "Youth Run 4 Haiti" has organized a 2-mile run to raise money for the American Red Cross Haitian Earthquake Relief. Runners will meet at 9 a.m. in Beach Parking Lot 1, the parking lot north of the pier to register for the run. The run will begin at 10 a.m. The event is open to young people of all ages, and the $10 entrance fee will go entirely to the American Red Cross.

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.

A humble man with hundreds of well wishers

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

WILSHIRE BLVD Glenn Wong built his career around being consistent.

One nylon string at a time, during the past 25 years he's earned a reputation in the Southern California tennis community as a premier racket stringer — an artist at adjusting tension to make a player's forehand feel just right.

As other tennis shops on the Westside have closed down, First String Pro Shop, Wong's tiny shop on Berkeley Street, has flourished. Six days a week, eight hours a day, Wong has been a Santa Monica fixture, and an expert sought out by everyone from pros like John McEnroe and Andy Roddick to elite college players at UCLA to hobbyists who appreciate a job well done.

So, for many longtime customers, it was a shock to walk into The First String last summer and discover that the owner had taken a leave of absence.

Last June, Wong, 49, was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer and told the disease had spread throughout his body, affecting his brain, liver, pancreas and spine.

Described by friends as unassuming and humble, Wong, a non-smoker, was reticent about his illness and didn't want to draw attention to himself.

But as word got out, Wong's loyal clientele started to organize.

One customer, Joyce Ng, who describes herself as a casual tennis player, set up a way for people to make tax deductible donations to Wong through a foundation set up to benefit the seriously ill.

She said she's been going to Wong's shop for several years, and though she wasn't a close friend, she felt the need to help.

"He would treat Pete Sampras the same way he would treat me," she said.

"Glenn's never been seeking financial support from anybody and is not the type of person who would. He's also extremely self-effacing."

Another customer, Bill Schwartz, is putting on a tennis tournament on behalf of Wong to be held Feb. 27 at the Pacific Palisades Tennis Courts. Money will be raised through registration fees, a silent auction and a raffle.

"It's been pretty overwhelming. You don't expect anything like this, really," Wong said in an interview this week. "It's

SEE WONG PAGE 9



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

IN TRAFFIC: **Santa Monica senior Lilly Feder drives to the basket against Beverly Hills on Wednesday. Samohi won the game, 62-54, improving its record to 12-5 overall.**

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Difficult schedule looms for Vikings

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI The next eight days won't be easy for the Vikings.

The Santa Monica High School girls basketball team will continue their string of big games against non-league opponents during the coming days with matchups at Troy on Saturday and Santa Ana's Mater Dei a week later. Troy (16-1 overall, 4-0 in league) is currently ranked eighth in the state on Maxpreps, a popular high school sports Web site. Mater Dei sits atop that and many other polls. Some polls have Mater Dei ranked number one in the country. Samohi is currently 25th in the state and 92nd in the nation, according to Maxpreps.

The game against Mater Dei (17-1 overall, 4-0 in league) will take place during the Santa Monica Extravaganza at Samohi on Jan. 30. Samohi Head Coach Marty Verdugo said he tries to match the best teams from the Westside against "the outside." This is the second year Samohi is hosting the event.

"We have a lot of strong teams this year," Verdugo said. "It's going to be exciting."

The field will include Windward, Inglewood, Ventura, Serra, Gahr, St. Monica, Culver City and Loyola. Samohi and Mater Dei will be the showcase game.

Aside from the two key non-league games, Samohi is in the heart of the Ocean League season. The Vikings (12-5 overall, 3-0 in league) travel to Culver City (13-7 overall, 2-1 in league) tonight. The teams take the court at 6 p.m. The boys teams from each school will play following the girls game.

B-BALL TEAMS EARN CIF-SS RANKINGS

Samohi's boys basketball team is currently ranked ninth in the latest California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section's Division 1-A poll released this week. Across town, St. Monica is ranked 13th in Division 4-A. Crossroads is ranked 12th in Division 5-AA. Pacifica Christian is ranked 10th in Division 6-AA.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Kuehl is too far left for SMC

Editor:

Sheila Kuehl is the most extreme lefty in the state of California.

We are now supposed to believe that SMC has hired her to provide residents of our city with "nonpartisan reports" on economic, social and political issues.

This is what Ms. Kuehl calls "critical thinking for voters" to "restore some rationality" in policy making.

If it were not so ridiculous, it would be laughable.

David Long
Santa Monica

Remembering Ken

Editor:

The Ken Genser I knew for 20 years was Santa Monica's happy warrior. He never failed to say hello to those he knew and was quick to introduce himself to all that wanted to meet him. Ken Genser worked hard for all Santa Monicans and none could ever fail to marvel at how well he knew the subject at hand.

Ken had a passion for this city that only those of us that spent a lifetime on this soil could comprehend. To those who came before him unprepared, Ken would teach them in minute detail what he thought they should know. If someone addressing the council had a subject of merit, Ken always asked questions seeking more information.

Ken always chaired the meetings with an aplomb and a sense of humor never surpassed in our history. No opinion of whatever balance could ever provoke Mayor Genser to be unkind. He thanked one and all for their contributions.

In the public forum we call democracy no one person can please all. However, Mr. Genser was referred to by many as a mensch. And so he was, a person of substance.

Rest in peace as you join the honorable pantheon that came before you, such as Clo Hoover, Ken Edwards, Christine Reed and others. A grateful city will miss you as we all join together and say "Au revoir old friend and well done!"

Edward Greenberg
Santa Monica

Airport critical in disasters

Editor:

To those who want to close the Santa Monica Airport, may I point out just which facility has allowed help and aid to reach the beleaguered citizens of Haiti. Yes, their airport!

I lived in North Hollywood at the time of the big quake of Jan. 17, 1994. Except for a few areas, we escaped with what might be considered minor destruction and fatalities. But, the area may not be so lucky next time. While I have since moved away, I know seismologists continue to predict another, big or bigger quake will occur in Southern California. When it happens, I'm sure the residents of Santa Monica and its surrounding communities will be grateful for the presence of an airport able to accommodate rescue groups and relief supplies.

So, to those of you who want to close the airport, you might want to reassess your selfish and shortsighted view of the world you live in. The next time the ground beneath you gives a little shake and your windows rattle, stop and think ahead to the future. Keeping the airport viable may save your life as well as those of your loved ones, friends and neighbors.

Jim Fisher
Terre Haute, Ind.

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Write Rachel

Rachel Iverson

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Sex isn't something to share with the world

DEAR RACHEL,

My boyfriend wants to have sex in public! The other night he suggested having sex in the alley next to the busy walkway of our favorite Italian restaurant. I consider myself fairly adventurous, but I've already pushed myself beyond my sexual comfort zone for him and now he wants more. He's putting pressure on me to have sex in public, and I'm worried that if I don't give in he'll leave me for a less inhibited woman. Whether it's my fear making itself known or plain old common sense, a little voice inside my head screams, "Don't do it!" Should I disregard the little voice in my head and give in to my boyfriend's public fantasy?

Signed, Peer-Pressured

DEAR PEER-PRESSURED,

That "little voice" that you speak of is your intuition — and may I say that you're intuition is right on target. I don't recommend succumbing to peer pressure in adolescence, and even less so in adulthood. As an adult, you're supposed to be more sensible and self-confident than a teenager, and giving in to a man's fantasies against your better judgment is a mistake at any age. If you want to maintain your boyfriend's respect, don't sacrifice your mental/physical well being for him. Men often look to women to set the moral compass in a relationship. Instead of compromising your principles for your boyfriend, set healthy boundaries and give him the opportunity to raise his ideals to meet yours. Men are notorious for testing women's morals, without even realizing they're doing it at the time. Subconsciously they think, "Is this woman marriage material or not?" Most men won't respect you if you lower your morals for them, and you'll likely lose your self-respect if you disregard your conscience.

Consider this: If you have sex with your boyfriend in public, you may have to have public sex more than once, or he may want to do something even more outrageous the next time. Or, he may lose respect for you and break up with you for going through with his fantasy, or you may resent him for coercing you into it and break up with him. You're contemplating unpleasant behavior to keep your boyfriend, yet the behavior in question actually increases the odds of the two of you breaking up. Why not skip the whole ordeal, maintain your dignity, and avoid a humiliating trip to jail for indecent exposure.

Some women think that they'll gain a man's love by catering to his every whim, when in reality, you're more likely to gain his love and respect by sticking to your values. Although relationships require compromise, those compromises should never be counter-intuitive. Follow your intuition and the right guy will admire you for it.

DEAR RACHEL,

I want a boyfriend, but not just for the sake of having a boyfriend. I want the right guy. I'm willing to wait for him because I know that I don't enjoy filler dates that feel like job interviews. I'm holding out for a deep, permanent connection and I'll settle for nothing in the meantime. One of my greatest fears is getting stuck in a relationship with a so-so guy, then meeting the right guy and having to break up with Mr. So-So. Sometimes I feel impatient and tempted to go on random dates, but then I remember that filler doesn't work for me. My question is this: What's a single, no-filler girl like me to do until the right man comes along? And where is he?

Signed, No-Filler Girl

DEAR NO-FILLER GIRL,

It's said that self-knowledge is the true sign of wisdom. You say that you know you're not a "filler girl" when it comes to dating and you've made a conscious choice to be a selective dater. It's up to each individual to choose the dating approach that suits him or her best. I can tell you've given your situation a lot of thought and you're generally content with your decision. As for your occasional impatience, frustration and loneliness, I can only tell you that these feelings are common among single people, whether they date frequently or not. The path you've chosen, however, may be slightly harder than average because you don't have the distraction of going on dates until the right guy comes along.

Speaking of "the right guy," I can't tell you when he'll come, I can only advise you to stay open-minded enough to recognize him when he arrives, since Prince Charming may not be immediately recognizable. Many fulfilling relationships start with just a small spark of interest that builds into a steady blaze of compatibility, so don't dismiss all contenders too quickly.

There are plenty of selective daters, like you, who have found the right person after long, dating dry spells. Honor your non-filler feelings, while finding ways to interact in a variety of social situations so that you may meet Mr. Charming more promptly.

RACHEL IVERSON is a freelance writer, dating coach and author, who lives with her husband in Venice Beach. Her book, "Don't Help A Man Be A Man: How To Avoid 12 Dating Time Bombs," has been endorsed by Dr. John Gray, author of "Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus." For more information on Rachel or her book, visit: www.rebelgirlpublishing.com. For dating advice, contact: rachel@rebelgirlpublishing.com.

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Santa Monica Daily Press
Call us at (310) 458-7737

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Nick Taborek
nickt@smdp.com

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Meredith Carroll, Kenny Mack, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Dr. Reese Halter, Taylor Van Arsdale, Dane Robert Swanson, Steve Breen, Elizabeth Brown, Merv Hecht, Ron Scott Smith, Mike Heayn, Brian Hepp, Mariel Howsepian, Cynthia Citron, Amanda Cushman, Steve Parker and Phyllis Chavez

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Fabian Lewkowicz

NEWS INTERNS
Lenika Cruz
Carlee Jensen, Derrick Oliver
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERNS
Ray Solano
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Grace Wang
gracew@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC FACILITATOR
Amber Kessee
amberk@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
A newspaper with issues

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

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Is Pat Robertson bananas?

IN 2004, PAT ROBERTSON WAS ON THE "Larry King Show" recounting a conversation that he had with God who told him that "Bush would win in a blowout" (making God sound more like Jimmy the Greek than the Almighty).

After the election, King reminded Robertson that the vote had been extremely close. "You know Larry," Pat giggled, "sometimes you're not sure if you're talking to God or just hearin' things."

Robertson also paid a visit to the White House days before the Iraq invasion. Once again God had given him inside information, that the war would cost many American lives. What are the odds, but Bush told Robertson that he, too, had talked with God who said that there would be no casualties. (Dueling chats with God?)

Two alleged adults each convinced that they'd talked to God, while hundreds of thousands of innocent young lives hung in the balance. Why, of all the truly great thinkers in the world, would God pick Bush or Robertson? (Couldn't he teach Bush to pronounce "nuclear?")

One day after the Haiti earthquake, Pat put both feet in his mouth on his TV show, the "700 Club." Robertson told an estimated 1 million devoted viewers exactly why the worst natural disaster in history had occurred. "Over 200 years ago the Haitians were under the boot of the French, Napoleon III or whatever." (I love the "whatever" part.)

"The Haitians went to the devil (how?) and said, 'If you free us from the French, we will serve you.' And the devil responded, 'You've got a deal.'" (Sounds like Howie Mandel's "Deal or No Deal.") Then Robertson said authoritatively, "And this is a true story," as though he had been in the next room with a tape recorder.

After every natural disaster, Robertson, and the religious right lemmings, feel compelled to explain why God unleashed his (or her) wrath. Katrina was supposedly God punishing homosexuals in New Orleans. (Not much comfort to heterosexuals in Mississippi who drowned or were left homeless.)

Following 9/11, Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson issued a statement "God may have allowed what the nation deserved because of moral decay." They blamed pro-choice advocates and the ACLU. (Odd that Bin Laden didn't mention either group.)

Frankly, after watching the images of the devastation in Haiti, I no longer find Pat amusing. He's sick or senile, or a combination of both. And he's dangerous. A million people a day believe he speaks the word of God. Poor God. Poor us.

Tens of thousands of Haitians (and some Americans) were bulldozed into large open pits serving as unmarked graves. Meanwhile, smiling Pat explained to his mindless masses that it's all because the Haitians struck a deal with the devil. As Joseph Welch asked Joe McCarthy, "At long last, have you left no sense of decency?"

Some of Pat's past preposterous predictions included that WW III would begin in 1980. In 1998, Robertson threatened that, as punishment for flying rainbow flags during Disney World's Gay Days event, Orlando would be struck by earthquakes, tornadoes and possibly a meteor. Robertson also asked God for vacancies on the U.S. Supreme Court. (Usually precipitated by death or serious illness of a sitting justice.) And not long ago he advocated that the U.S. assassinate Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez. (Perhaps bananas isn't a strong enough adjective for Pat?)

For my female readers, Robertson has quite a quote just for you. "Christ is the head of the household, and the husband is the head of the wife, and that's the way it is, period." I'd love to see Pat try to run that by Michelle Obama.

I'M NAUSEOUS AT THE NOTION OF DIMWITS IN POWER 'TALKING TO GOD' AND THEN MAKING BONEHEAD DECISIONS THAT MEANS LIFE OR DEATH FOR OTHERS.

But Robertson isn't the only demagogue exploiting the Haiti earthquake. The dead bodies weren't even cold when Rush Limbaugh predicted that the Obama administration would use the Haitian tragedy to "appeal to the light-skinned and dark-skinned black communities." Hateful, divisive rhetoric like that makes me want to make my own deal with the devil. Sure, I'd face eternal damnation, but getting rid of these two sicko narcissists might be worth it.

After eight years, prior to this one, I'm nauseous at the notion of dimwits in power "talking to God" and then making bonehead decisions that means life or death for others. For example, following the Iraq invasion, George Bush was asked if he had consulted with his father, who actually had experience fighting Saddam and could have provided helpful insights. "Oh no," Bush said smiling (reminiscent of Pat's) "He's the wrong father. For that I talked to a higher father." A higher father who told him there'd be no casualties? God should sue for defamation.

As Pat Robertson suggested, "Sometimes you're not sure if you're talking to God or just hearin' things." At worst George Bush was lying. At best he was hearin' things.

When **JACK** isn't busy avoiding the "700 Club," he can be reached at Jackneworth@yahoo.com.

The Q Line

Money for schools

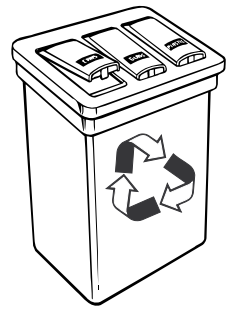
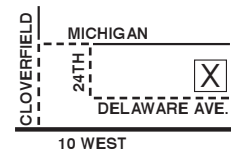
The SMMUSD's Board of Education recently agreed to place an emergency parcel tax on the ballot. This issue is sure to divide the local electorate. Some are no doubt willing to pay more for education while others feel that taxpayers are overburdened as it is.

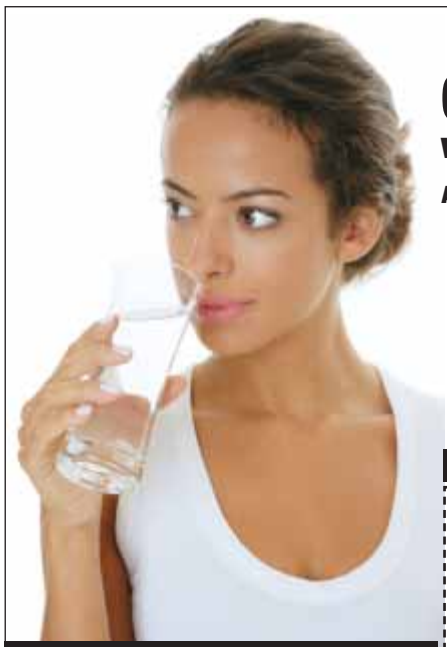
So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What's your opinion of the proposed tax?

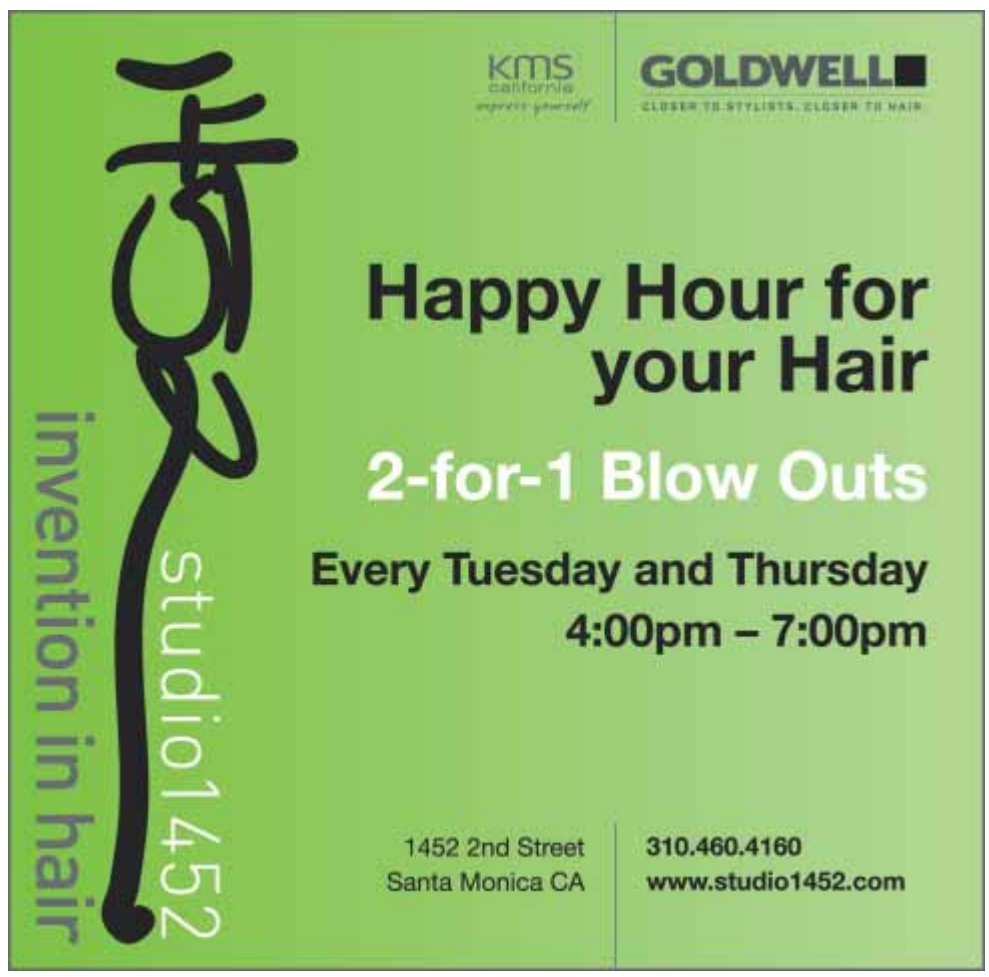
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Prop. 8 backers: Tactics hurt effort

LISA LEFF
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Gay rights supporters lost public support when they used economic boycotts, vandalism and alleged death threats against backers of California's same-sex marriage ban, lawyers defending the measure argued Thursday.

David Thompson, who is representing Proposition 8 sponsors in a federal trial challenging the ban, presented news coverage of the tactics to counter an assertion by a political scientist that gays are a politically unpopular group facing intense opposition from powerful religious groups and ongoing threats of violence themselves.

"When people read about this on the Internet, would (it) have the potential to diminish political support?" Thompson asked Stanford University professor Gary M. Segura about the tactics of gays. "Politically, it's kryptonite, is that correct?"

Segura answered that he considered boycotts an acceptable political tool, but that "organized violence or even broad disorderly behavior certainly has a negative impact."

He said such behavior could be "a cry for help or expression of frustration or maybe the ultimate expression of powerlessness."

Lawyers for two same-sex couples suing to overturn Proposition 8 are trying to demonstrate that gay Americans lack meaningful political power. The point is central to their contention that state bans on gay marriage are unconstitutional because they single out a disadvantaged group.

Segura scoffed at Thompson's suggestion that Proposition 8 passed with 52 percent of the vote in part because large numbers of voters were turned off by sporadic reports of campaign-related hostilities.

"That the number of individuals this would be true of would come close to the margin for the proposition is ridiculous in the extreme," he said.

Thompson also sought to undercut Segura's earlier testimony that gays faced an unprecedented opponent in a coalition of Mormon, Roman Catholic and evangelical Christian that joined forces to back the 2008 ballot measure.

Segura replied that membership in pro-Proposition 8 churches accounts for 34 percent of the U.S. population, while churches that opposed the measure represent less than 2 percent. Plaintiffs lawyers next plan to call as a hostile witness a Proposition 8 proponent who warned that gay rights activists would try to legalize sex with children if same-sex marriage was not outlawed.

Company to pay $1.3 million for SoCal oil spill

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONG BEACH An oil transport company has agreed to pay $1.3 million for an oil spill in 2005 into Pyramid Lake, a reservoir that holds water for Southern California cities.

The Justice Department and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the settlement Wednesday with Pacific Pipeline Systems LLP, based in Long Beach.

A landslide five years ago caused a portion of underground pipeline that transports crude oil from the San Joaquin Valley to Los Angeles-area refineries to fail. It caused nearly 3,400 barrels of oil to spill. Officials have said they were not concerned about potential contamination of the region's drinking water.

As part of the settlement, the company agreed to discontinue the use of a section of pipeline.

Pyramid Lake is about 60 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

High court strikes down medical pot limits

PAUL ELIAS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO A unanimous California Supreme Court on Thursday struck down a law that sought to impose limits on the amount of marijuana a medical patient can legally possess.

The California Supreme Court ruled that state lawmakers were wrong to change provisions of the voter-approved Proposition 215. The 1996 measure allowed for patients with a doctor's recommendation to possess an unspecified amount of marijuana.

The Legislature, seeking to give law enforcement guidance on when to make marijuana possession arrests, mandated in 2003 that each patient could have a maximum of 8 ounces of dried marijuana.

The high court says only voters can change amendments that they've added to California's constitution through the initiative process. The ruling by Chief Justice Ron George left in place the portion of the new law that protects patients possessing a state-issue medical marijuana identification card from arrest. George did note, though, that police were still authorized to make arrests if they believe the cards to be forgeries or reasonably suspects a crime has been committed.

Left open to interpretation: What amount of marijuana is for legitimate personal medical consumption and how much constitutes illegal trafficking?

"The California Supreme Court did the right thing by abolishing limits on medical marijuana possession and cultivation," said Joe Elford, the top lawyer for the marijuana advocacy group Americans for Safe Access. "At the same time, the Court may have left too much discretion to law enforcement in deciding what are reasonable amounts of medicine for patients to possess and cultivate."

The Supreme Court's decision upholds a lower court ruling that tossed out the conviction of Patrick Kelly, a Southern California man who was arrested for possession of 12 ounces of dried marijuana and seven plants. A "confidential informant" called Lakewood Police to report Kelly's possession in October 2005.

Experts testified that the amount of marijuana Kelly had on hand would last him just a few weeks for treatment of hepatitis C, chronic back pain, and cirrhosis.

The ruling was widely expected because the California Attorney General's office largely agreed with the position of Kelly's court-appointed attorney Gerald Uelman, a Santa Clara University law professor.

Also Thursday, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled that a doctor's permission to use medical marijuana doesn't preclude police from arresting a patient or searching a home. The court upheld the conviction of Jason Fry, a Stevens County man busted with 2 pounds of marijuana in 2004.

Justices said sheriff's officers who smelled marijuana smoke at his home had probable cause to believe a crime was committed.



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CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Not the way to feed a family

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.

SATURDAY, JAN. 16, AT 3:29 P.M.,
Santa Monica police officers responded to the 2600 block of Lincoln Boulevard — Albertsons — regarding a theft suspect in custody. When officers arrived, they were advised by store security that the suspect entered the store and went to the liquor aisle. The suspect removed two bottles of alcohol, valued at $45.99 each, and placed them in his jacket. Security confronted the suspect about the alcohol. The suspect allegedly removed the two bottles from his jacket and returned them to the store. The suspect then attempted to leave. Security detained him until police arrived. The suspect was placed under arrest for burglary. He told officers that he stole the liquor so he could sell them and get money to buy food for his family, police said. The suspect was identified as Bahram Bakhtegan, 45, of Santa Monica. His bail was set at $20,000.

MONDAY, JAN. 11, AT 8:31 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 300 block of Colorado Avenue regarding an assault that just occurred. When officers arrived, they made contact with the alleged victim who said he was walking east on Colorado Avenue in front of Sears when he passed by a man and said hello. For some unknown reason, the man started to strike the victim in the face and body. The victim defended himself by blocking the strikes. The suspect eventually became tired or bored and stopped hitting the man, police said. The victim then walked away and called police. Officers stopped the suspect a short distance away and placed him under arrest for assault, battery and obstruction of justice. He was identified as Anthony Pearson, 34, a transient. His bail was set at $50,000.

TUESDAY, JAN. 12, AT 12:55 A.M.,
Officers were patrolling the area of 1900 Stewart Street when they observed a man they knew was on probation. Officers said they man was hanging out with a known gang member. When officers attempted to make contact with the men for violating terms of their probation, the two allegedly ran. Officers were able to detain one of the suspects, who was arrested for obstruction of justice and a probation violation. He was identified as Kenneth Jones, 19, of Santa Monica. His bail was set at $10,000.

TUESDAY, JAN. 12, AT 1:44 A.M.,
Officers responded to the area of Lincoln and Santa Monica boulevards regarding a witness that observed a possible drunk driver. When officers arrived, they made contact with the witness who said the driver of the vehicle was currently asleep behind the wheel, the car idling in the drive-through of Jack-in-the-Box. As officers approached the vehicle, the driver allegedly put the vehicle in drive and tried to flee. Officers were able to stop the car and made contact with the driver, who appeared to be under the influence of alcohol. Officers placed the driver under arrest for DUI. She was identified as Michelle Cazares, 27, of Los Angeles. Her bail was set at $5,285.

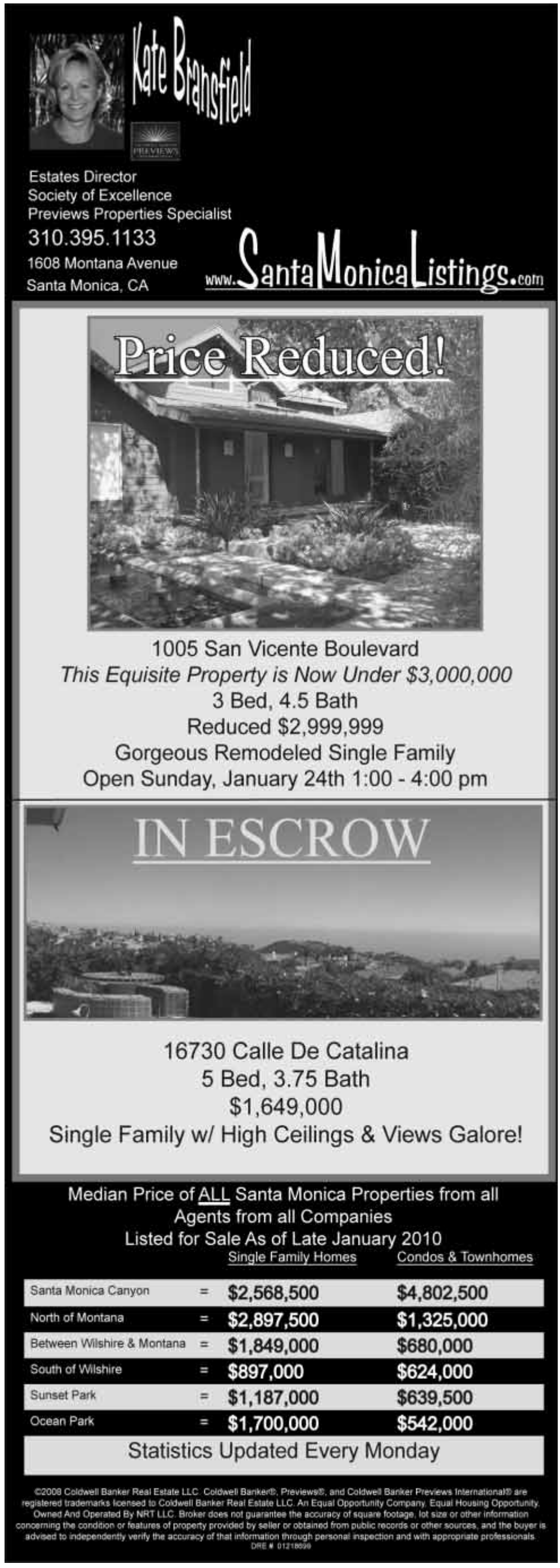
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13, AT 2:30 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 1100 block of Lincoln Boulevard — American Motel — regarding a suspect yelling and banging on the motel room doors. When officers arrived, they observed the suspect inside of his motel room yelling and cursing. When officers contacted the suspect, he stepped outside. Officers felt he was intoxicated and unable to care for himself. Officers placed him under arrest for public intoxication. During a booking search, officers allegedly found cocaine in the suspect's possession. The suspect was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and a probation violation. He was identified as Michael Suir. His bail was set at $10,000. No other information on the suspect was provided by police.

TUESDAY, JAN. 12, AT 11:30 P.M.,
Officers at the Public Safety Facility in the Civic Center made contact with a woman who said she was the victim of domestic violence. The woman told officers that she was dating a man who was the father of her child. Recently, the man and the victim broke up, with the man moving out of the home. The man recently moved back into the house. A fight broke out between the two and the man allegedly slapped the victim. She left the home and went to the police station. Officers went to the residence and placed the suspect under arrest for domestic violence. The suspect was identified as Edward Bronstein, 28, of Santa Monica. His bail was set at $20,000.

THURSDAY, JAN. 14, AT 5:40 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 900 block of Wilshire Boulevard regarding a disturbance. When officers arrived, they were flagged down by a witness who directed them to a male and female who were arguing. Officers learned that the female had befriended the male earlier in the evening. The man allegedly tried to get the woman to lay down with him on some cardboard and have sex. The man allegedly attempted to kiss the woman and put his hands down her pants. She was able to flag down a person walking by and get the suspect to stop. Officers detained the suspect and placed him under arrest for attempted rape by force or fear, assault to commit rape and a violation of parole. He was identified as Walter Songen, 43, a transient. He was not eligible for bail.

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Editor-in-Chief **KEVIN HERRERA** compiled these reports.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DOWNTOWN

Free adult seminars kick off Saturday

Residents over the age of 50 will soon have more resources made available to them, thanks to a joint effort by the Life Long Learning Older Adult Task Force and City Hall.

The two have teamed up to provide a four-part series of free seminars designed to address key issues facing those over the age of 50. Local and national experts will be featured at the monthly seminars.

The first seminar, which will be held Saturday from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium of the Main Library, will focus on women and retirement. National retirement expert Helen Davis, who co-wrote "Project Renewment," will lead the seminar.

The remaining seminars, which will occur on Feb. 25, March 27 and April 28, will cover community care options, how to care for an adult with dementia or physical health problems and how to enrich one's later life.

The meetings will be held at the main branch of the Santa Monica Public Library.

DAILY PRESS

UCLA report details recession's impact on public school students

TERENCE CHEA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Widespread teacher layoffs, larger class sizes and increased economic hardship for children are among the impacts California's budget crisis and the recession have had on public schools and students, according to a report released Thursday.

Researchers at UCLA's Institute for Democracy, Education and Access interviewed 87 elementary, middle and high principals across California to gauge the impact of the recession and budget cuts on student welfare and school learning environments.

Before the recession began, California K-12 public schools, which were among the nation's best in the 1960s, already ranked near the bottom nationally in many measures of academic achievement and school quality.

The economic downturn and state budget crisis has undermined recent academic gains and widened the disparity between schools in rich and poor communities, said John Rogers, the institute's director.

"It's taken California several steps backward on the road to improvement," Rogers said. "It's also harmed the long-term prospects for California to rebuild a quality education system."

The report, called "Educational Opportunities in Hard Times," found that:

• 62 percent of principals reported that teachers in their schools had been laid off, threatened with layoffs or reassigned to other schools. The number of actual layoffs was four times greater at schools in poorer communities than wealthier communities.

• 67 percent reported that class sizes had increased, with 74 percent of elementary school principals reporting larger class sizes.

• 75 percent reported that summer school had been reduced or eliminated.

• 75 percent reported reductions in instructional materials and supplies.

• 70 percent reported cuts to professional development programs.

• 67 percent reported growing housing insecurity, which includes homelessness, families moving in together and families moving away for economic reasons.

• 51 percent reported an increase in the health, psychological or social service needs of their students.

Many principals are seeing the impact on rising unemployment and poverty on their students as parents lose their jobs and homes, according to the report. About two-thirds said their schools have referred students and families to health and social service providers.

"Lately it's been kids telling me, 'We're hungry, we don't have food,'" Patti Webb, principal of Farmdale Elementary in Merced, told the researchers. "Even some PTA parents are saying they don't have enough food."

McCourt says L.A. Marathon will remain in SM for years to come

FROM CITY PAGE 1

Broad Stage was put on by the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce and also served as a changing of the guard for the City Manager's Office.

In brief remarks, incoming City Manager Rod Gould said he looks forward to working with the chamber as City Hall tries to boost its coffers.

"I believe it's imperative that the city work with you in the business community to speed the recovery which most prognosticators believe will be anemic and halting across California and the rest of the nation," he said.

Highlighting one of the brightest spots for Santa Monica in early 2010, honoree Frank McCourt discussed the L.A. Marathon, which will end at the Santa Monica Pier in March. In addition to owning the Los Angeles Dodgers, McCourt owns the company that puts on the marathon.

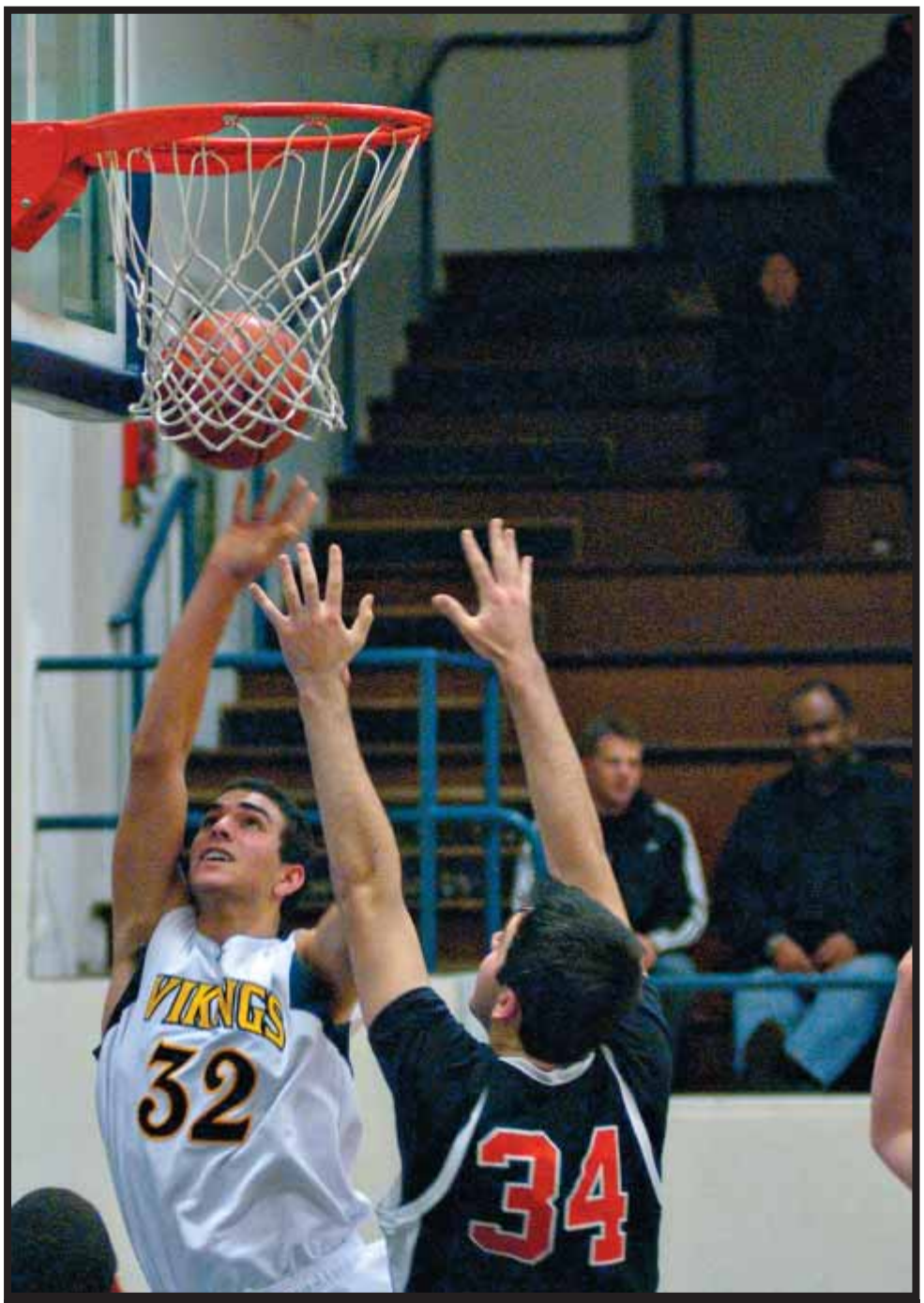
He credited the late Mayor Ken Genser with working to bring the marathon to Santa Monica and exemplifying "unbelievable civic pride."

Because the March 21 race will end at the pier, McCourt said many people will view it as a Santa Monica event, though the course begins in Los Angeles and also passes through West Hollywood and Beverly Hills, he said.

He also promised to make the marathon a tradition for years to come in Santa Monica, saying the event will benefit both businesses and residents in the city.

"This has been a very special relationship we've developed with Santa Monica," he said.

nickt@smdp.com



EASY ONE

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Santa Monica's Harry Horn puts up a shot over Beverly Hills' Bo Abrams on Wednesday at Samohi. The Vikings won the Ocean League game, 70-39.

Cancer patient fighting the odds

FROM **WONG** PAGE 3

still a little shocking. People want to do whatever they can."

Since his diagnosis, Wong has started brain radiation treatment and chemotherapy, which have shown some positive results.

Wong's fiancé, Billie Parsons, said the cancer is considered incurable, but there's hope that with drugs and treatment Wong can resume a normal life. Fewer than one percent of advanced-stage lung cancer patients live for five years after they are diagnosed, she said, but there are always significant exceptions.

After reading stories about cancer survivors, she said Wong "doesn't see any reason why he shouldn't be one of those exceptional cases.

"The odds are not great but in spite of that I think he remains optimistic," she said.

The tennis community, meanwhile, appears to be rallying, with donations coming in from customers and competitors alike.

"He's incredibly well-loved and appreciated," said Cary Wayne, tennis director at the Luxe Hotels, who called Wong "one of the best racket stringers in the world, without a doubt."

"We're all going to go to the wall to raise as much cash as we can for him. We hopefully can eradicate his bills," he said.

> **HE WOULD TREAT PETE SAMPRAS THE SAME WAY HE WOULD TREAT ME.**
>
> Joyce Ng,
> Glenn Wong supporter

Gene Farkas, a longtime customer and sometime golf buddy, said Wong's connection with people was built on his laid-back personality and his dependability.

"Once you know people you trust, you go back to them," he said.

Wong has recently made enough progress fighting his disease to return to work part-time and hopes to be on the job full-time soon. He's also started riding his bike and playing golf again.

"I like being retired, but I'm not there yet," he said.

To learn more about supporting Glenn Wong, contact Joyce Ng at joyceng.springboard@verizon.net or Bill Schwartz at Bill@schwartzcompany.com

nickt@smdp.com

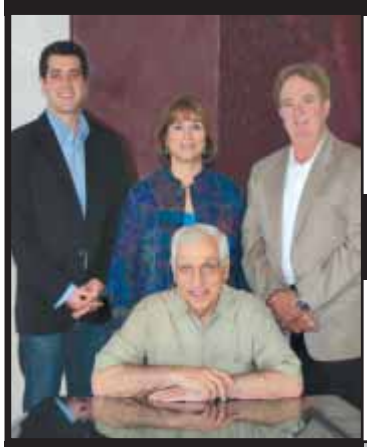
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Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for Santa Monica Land Use and Circulation Element

OFFICIAL NOTICE is hereby given on the completion and availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed Land Use and Circulation Element.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) is a plan for the enhancement of Santa Monica that conserves the existing pattern of uses and establishes policies for the long-term conservation of established residential neighborhoods. The LUCE focuses a modest amount of change at strategic locations connected to transit, particularly at future Exposition light rail stations, and at nodes along primary commercial and transit corridors to manage trips and congestion in the City. It sets the goal of no net new evening peak period trips, and achieves it through integrated transportation management including trip reduction, transit enhancements, pedestrian and bicycle improvements, shared parking and appropriate impact fees. It transforms commercial potential on the boulevards into mixed-use housing and local-serving retail that are the heart of vibrant and walkable complete neighborhoods. The proposed LUCE encourages a thriving economy that supports community services, and achieves a sustainable and integrated system of land use and transportation that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, enabling the City to achieve the goals of the Sustainable City Plan and consistency with the requirements of recent state legislation.

Overall, the proposed LUCE would reduce the maximum development potential within the City compared to the level of allowable development under the current development standards contained in the existing 1984 Plan. It establishes a lower by-right base height, above which projects are subject to discretionary review and provide community benefits such as additional affordable and workforce housing, increased TDM measures, social and cultural facilities, historic preservation, and infrastructure including connecting streets and ground level open space. Compared to today, the modest land use changes allowed under the proposed LUCE could result in a net increase of residential units (emphasizing affordable and workforce housing), retail space, office uses, creative arts spaces, medical space (medical office and hospital), hotel space, and approximately 18.5 acres of additional parks/open space by the proposed LUCE horizon year of 2030. The proposed LUCE is part of the state-required General Plan, that guides the future physical form and character of the city.

ANTICIPATED SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS: The Draft EIR determined that implementation of the project may result in some of the following significant or potentially significant impacts:

- Significant Unavoidable Project Impacts – Air Quality (Construction-related), Noise (Construction-related), Transportation/Circulation, Construction Effects. The proposed LUCE is rigorous in conserving and protecting neighborhoods and historic structures, however, since there remains a potential over a 20 year period for loss of a structure, a finding of significance was made for Cultural Resources.
- Significant Unavoidable Cumulative Impacts – Air Quality (Construction-related), Noise (Construction-related), Transportation/Circulation, Utilities and Service Systems (Solid Waste)

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: A 45-day public review period will be provided for all interested persons to submit written comments (letters or email) on the adequacy of the Draft EIR. **The comment period will start on Thursday, January 21, 2010 and end at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 8, 2010.** Written comments should be sent to: Francie Stefan, Community & Strategic Planning Manager, Community & Strategic Planning Division, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401. FAX: 310-458-3380. E-Mail: francie.stefan@smgov.net

PUBLIC MEETING: Additional notice will be given when public meetings before the Planning Commission and City Council are scheduled to receive comments on the Draft EIR and the proposed Land Use and Circulation Element. If you wish to challenge the Draft Environmental Impact Report in court, you may be limited to raising those issues that you or someone else raised during this 45 day comment period, or at any public hearing or meetings where this document was considered.

AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION: The Draft EIR and background materials will be available on the City website at www.shapethefuture2025.net and at the following locations:

- Planning Public Counter, Room 111, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica
- Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica
- Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Boulevard, Santa Monica
- Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue, Santa Monica
- Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Boulevard, Santa Monica
- Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main Street, Santa Monica

Relatives of missing Americans in Haiti upset with slow response

BRIAN SKOLOFF
Associated Press Writer

DEERFIELD BEACH, Fla. Family and friends of missing Americans have searched the ruins themselves. They've hired private rescue teams. They've pleaded with the U.S. government to do more to help bring home loved ones who disappeared amid the rubble of earthquake-ravaged Haiti.

More than a week after the quake rocked the country, the grief of not knowing has become unbearable. Frustration and hopelessness have boiled into anger against the U.S. government.

"We know our daughter was there and we want them to find her!" Leonard Gengel yelled earlier this week, hammering his fist on a table.

Gengel's daughter Brittany, whose 20th birthday was Thursday, is one of four Florida college students still missing. Two of their teachers are also believed buried at the Hotel Montana in Port-Au-Prince.

It remains unclear exactly how many Americans are missing. The U.S. Embassy in Port-Au-Prince had so far accounted for at least 9,400 of up to 45,000 Americans who were in Haiti before the quake. But some Americans may not have been affected by the devastation, and others may be OK but haven't contacted officials.

At least 35 Americans have been confirmed dead, with U.S. officials investigating reports of an additional 21 potential U.S. fatalities.

Friends and relatives want the Americans brought home — dead or alive.

"I think everyone has accepted the fact that they're not going to find everyone alive, but we at least want to bury our loved ones on American soil and not under the rubble," said Forrest Masters, who is in Haiti helping search for a family friend.

Confusion has added to the frustration. At one point, Gengel was told by the university his daughter had been found, but the news turned out to be "bad intelligence" from a rescue crew in Haiti.

The school, Lynn University in Boca Raton, has hired private rescue teams to help search for the missing faculty and students, who were there to distribute food and visit schools and orphanages. Eight of their classmates escaped and have returned home safe.

"These kids went down there on a journey of hope, that's what it was called, and it's turned into a journey of hell," said Gengel, of Rutland, Mass.

Sally Baldwin, of Fort Worth, Texas, is praying for any word about her son, Brendan Beck, 35. He also is believed lost in the rubble of the Montana.

Beck, an engineer doing consulting work in Haiti, checked into the hotel for a night to catch a flight to another part of the country the next day. His mother is angry that she's not getting information from the government; U.S. officials say they're doing what they can under difficult conditions.

"Given that most Americans do not register with the embassy ... it is often impossible to say in these situations how many are missing," State Department spokesman Gordon Duguid said. "As for sharing information, we can always do a better job ... I think we have been sharing the information we have, but many times it is just not enough to be of help to families in anguish."

According to the White House there were 43 international search-and-rescue groups in Haiti with more than 1,700 personnel, including more than 500 from the U.S. Altogether, they had rescued more than 120 people from the rubble as of Wednesday.

The United Nations, which is coordinating the rescue teams, recently determined no additional search-and-rescue groups were needed. Rescue efforts will eventually give way to recovery of bodies, and there's a chance some may never be found.

But even a week after the earthquake hit, teams emerged from the rubble with improbable success stories — including the rescue of several people. That leaves some hope for John Gianacaci, of Hopewell, N.J. His 22-year-old daughter, Christine, is one of the missing Lynn students.

"This is the United States of America. They perform miracles all across the world ... Where's our miracle?"

Oil prices slump as market stumbles

CHRIS KAHN
AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK — Oil prices dropped Thursday to the lowest level in a month after a government report showed the country continues to use less energy than last year, raising doubts about the strength of the fragile economic recovery.

A proposal by President Barack Obama for tougher bank regulations also pulled the stock market sharply lower and left traders wondering how it would affect commodities markets. Goldman Sachs and other major banks have helped funnel billions of dollars of speculative money into oil and natural gas contracts during the past several years.

Obama's call to limit speculation by commercial banks could make it more expensive for them to buy oil contracts, hedge fund manager Mike Masters said. Masters, who called for tighter scrutiny of energy markets last year, cheered Obama's announcement.

"If you can reduce the impact of banks in commodities, you're going to have much less volatility in food and energy prices," Masters said.

Benchmark crude for March delivery fell $1.66 to settle at $76.08 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract dropped as low as $75.66 earlier in the day, the lowest price since Dec. 23.

The decline in crude prices this week has pushed pump prices down as well. Retail gas prices fell 0.4 cents overnight to $2.733 a gallon, according to AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service. Even with this week's fall, a gallon of regular unleaded is 14.5 cents higher than a month ago and 88.5 cents higher than the same time last year.

Energy prices dropped in morning trading after the Energy Information Administration reported that demand for gasoline and jet fuel both weakened during the past few weeks. America is consuming less petroleum than the same time last year, and refineries, which have struggled to pass higher crude costs along to consumers, are now operating at the lowest levels since September 2008.

Natural gas supplies dropped more than expected to 2.6 trillion cubic feet and are now slightly lower than the five-year average.

The Labor Department also said Thursday that initial claims for unemployment insurance rose last week by 36,000 to a seasonally adjusted 482,000.

Pilot diverts jet over teen's in-flight prayer

KATHY MATHESON
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA A teenage airplane passenger using a Jewish prayer object caused a misunderstanding that led the captain to divert a Kentucky-bound flight to Philadelphia and prompted a visit from a bomb squad.

A 17-year-old boy on US Airways Express Flight 3079 from New York to Louisville was using tefillin, a set of small boxes containing biblical passages that are attached to leather straps, said Philadelphia police Lt. Frank Vanore.

When used in prayer, one box is strapped to the arm while the other box is placed on the head.

"It's something that the average person is not going to see very often, if ever," FBI spokesman J.J. Klaver said.

The teen explained the ritual after being questioned by crew members of the flight, which had left LaGuardia Airport around 7:30 a.m. and was operated by Chautauqua Airlines, authorities said.

Officials with the airline, however, said crew members "did not receive a clear response" when they talked with the teen, according to a statement issued by Republic Airways, which owns Chautauqua.

"Therefore, in the interest of everyone's safety, the crew decided to land in Philadelphia, where a more complete investigation and follow-up with authorities would be possible," the statement said.

The flight left LaGuardia Airport around 7:30 a.m. The plane landed without incident and was met by police, bomb-sniffing dogs and officials from the FBI and Transportation Security Administration.

Authorities said the plane was searched and passengers were questioned. The teen, who is from White Plains, N.Y., and was traveling with his 16-year-old sister, was very cooperative, Vanore said.

"They were more alarmed than we were," Vanore said.

Klaver said the teen and his sister were never in custody, and were cleared to continue their travels.

The teen's grandmother, who was waiting for him at Louisville International Airport, said the early flight left no time to pray before leaving New York.

"They had a morning flight. My grandson didn't have a chance to pray," Frances Winchell told WLKY-TV.

The teen, who belongs to the congregation Young Israel of White Plains, is "a brilliant student" from "the sweetest family," said Shmuel Greenberg, the synagogue's rabbi.

The morning prayer ritual is supposed to take place within a few hours of sunrise, so it's understandable that the teen was doing it on the plane, Greenberg said.

Binding the boxes of holy scrolls to the arm and head serves as "a reminder for the person that their actions during the day, and what they think about during the day, should be on a level of holiness and should inspire them to do productive, good things," he said.

The rabbi said he could see how someone unfamiliar with the tefillin could be alarmed.

"Security today is a serious issue. You can't become educated up in the air," Greenberg said. "I can definitely see a pilot or a crew that never saw it before in today's environment be very, very concerned."

Another rabbi, however, said tefillin have been used for thousands of years and he found it hard to believe no one recognized it. Benjamin Blech, an assistant professor of Talmud at Yeshiva University in New York, said he found the incident "both humorous and outlandish" and called it a "wake-up call" for religious sensitivity.

"We should be aware of ignorance just as much as we should be aware of terrorism," he said.

Concerns about passengers carrying bombs have been heightened since a Nigerian man allegedly tried to blow up a Detroit-bound Northwest Airlines flight using explosives concealed in his pants.

The Republic statement said the airline would use the event "to further strengthen our commitment to both security and customer service."

The flight was carrying 15 passengers and three crew members; travelers were rebooked on other flights, US Airways spokesman Morgan Durrant said.

Global warming opens up Arctic for undersea cable

DAN JOLING
Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska Global warming has melted so much Arctic ice that a telecommunication group is moving forward with a project that was unthinkable just a few years ago: laying underwater fiber optic cable between Tokyo and London by way of the Northwest Passage.

The proposed system would nearly cut in half the time it takes to send messages from the United Kingdom to Asia, said Walt Ebell, CEO of Kodiak-Kenai Cable Co. The route is the shortest underwater path between Tokyo and London.

The quicker transmission time is important in the financial world where milliseconds can count in executing profitable trades and transactions. "Speed is the crux," Ebell said. "You're cutting the delay from 140 milliseconds to 88 milliseconds."

The project, while still facing many significant obstacles, also serves as an example of how warming has altered the Arctic landscape in profound ways.

The loss of summer sea ice prompted the U.S. to list polar bears as a threatened species in May 2008. Walrus in two of the last three years gathered by the thousands on Alaska's northwest shore rather than ride pack ice to unproductive waters beyond the outer continental shelf.

Summer sea ice melted to its lowest recorded level ever in late 2007, and most climate modelers predict a continued downward spiral. The result is a path through the Northwest Passage, the Arctic route connecting the Atlantic and Pacific that has fascinated explorers for centuries.

"That opens up the construction window to actually do something like this without the need of heavy icebreakers," Ebell said. "On the other side, you've got the market part of it and the increasing demand we're seeing for lower and lower latencies, or transmission times."

But the project, called ArcticLink, is not without hurdles — namely the estimated construction price of $1.2 billion, said Alan Mauldin, research director at TeleGeography Research, a Washington, D.C.-based telecommunications market research company.

"That's not a cheap project," he said by phone from the Slovak Republic.

By comparison, a line beginning service next month between Japan and the U.S. West Coast was built for $300 million, he said.

The leaders of the project will need to persuade telecommunications companies to buy a piece of the capacity created by the cable. Telecom companies will make that decision largely based on demand from financial companies.

"What we've seen is just because you have a diverse path does not mean that you can necessarily sell that capacity for much more than the current market price," Mauldin said.

Ebell uses the analogy of building a shopping mall to describe the financing process: Secure some initial investments and then lure an anchor tenant.

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WHEN:
During the month of
January
City of Santa Monica
WHERE:
Trees may be brought to any of the following Santa Monica parks:
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25th & Ocean Park Blvd.
Douglas Park
Chelsea & Wilshire
Christine Emerson Reed Park
Lincoln & California
Los Amigos Park
5th & Hollister
WHEN:
City of Santa Monica
Transfer Station
2401 Delaware Avenue (next to Recycling Center). During the month of January, Christmans trees may be brought, free of charge, to the city's Transfer Station.
Hours: Monday-Saturday
6:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.



SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

Swell Forecast

The incoming swell could produce face heights 20+ feet along west facing beaches.

Long Range Synopsis

This swell could peak in the early morning hours, producing 20-foot surf early, backing off though throughout the day (perhaps just DOH max around mid morning).

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 30 days up to the ending date of **January 12, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (in last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 42 / 22
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 3 / 21

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation
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SIMA

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+	F
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechasa 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+	C
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	B	A+
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 Don Blacker County Beach.	A	D
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A	F
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.	A	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	D
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	B

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+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	B
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	B	C
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	D
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	A
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	F
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	F
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	D
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	D
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	C	C
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	D
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	C	A+
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+	B

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

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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.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Pac-10 reprimands USC's Cooper

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The Pac-10 has reprimanded Southern California women's basketball coach Michael Cooper for a profane postgame comment about archrival UCLA.

Pac-10 commissioner Larry Scott issued the reprimand Thursday.

Cooper made his two-word jab at the Bruins immediately following the Trojans' 70-63 victory over UCLA last Sunday. Cooper later apologized and acknowledged his comment was inappropriate.

Cooper was a longtime Los Angeles Lakers star who also coached the WNBA's Los Angeles Sparks. He is in his first season at USC (10-6, 4-1 Pac-10).

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MOVIE TIMES

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

The Quiet Man (NR) 2hrs 09min
7:30

How Green was My Valley (NR) 1hr 58min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) 1hr 28min
10:35 am, 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:05

Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG-13) 2hrs 02min
10:30 am, 1:20, 4:10. 7:05, 10:00

Leap Year (PG) 1hr 37min
8:00, 10:30

The Princess and the Frog (G) 1hr 35min
10:15 am, 12:40, 3:05, 5:35

To Save a Life (PG-13) 2hrs
10:45 am, 1:30, 4:25, 7:20, 10:15

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

Avatar 3D (PG-13) 2hr 40 min
10:30 am, 11:30 am, 2;15, 3:15, 6:00, 7:00, 9:45, 10:40

The Tooth Fairy (PG) 1hr 42min
11:20 am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

Up in the Air (R) 1hr 49min
11:00 am, 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:30

It's Complicated (R) 1hr 54min
10:15 am, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:05

Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 2hrs 14min
10:40 am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30

Legion (R) 1hr 40min
11:45 am, 2:30, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20

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

An Education (PG13) 1hr 55min
1:55, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00

The Young Victoria (PG) 1hr 59min
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40

Crazy Heart (R) 2hr 07min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

A Single Man (R) 1hr 55min
1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50

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

The Blind Side (PG-13) 2hrs 6min
1:00, 7:00

Youth in Revolt (R) 1hr 30min
12:10, 2:20. 4:40. 7:20, 9:30

The Book of Eli (R) 1hr 58min
11:30am, 2:10, 3:50, 4:50, 7:40, 9:50, 10:30

The Lovely Bones (PG-13) 2hrs 15min
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

Extraordinary Measures (PG) 1hr 46min
Noon, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

The Spy Next Door (PG) 1hr 32min
11:40am, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00

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

Squeeze in some reps, Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Your ability to get things accomplished has been high all week. Today is no exception. Zero in on what you want, realizing that you have limited time. Your imagination provides another source of thought and action. Tonight: As you like.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Know when to back off. You will accomplish the most by being low-key when responding to a boss or someone who influences your thinking. Question which way to go with an enthusiastic friend. Tonight: Keep a secret just that.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Zero in on what you want. Consider what is happening with a friend who cannot stay on topic. On the other hand, you are in a whirlwind of ideas as you try to sort through what is workable. Use the moment. Tonight: Only where people are.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Others might not like all your decisions, but they do follow your lead. Know when enough is enough. Though you might want to get this or that done, not everyone has the energy to follow-through. Tonight: Still pushing your weight around?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Tap into your ability to see the big picture, but this will be a concentrated effort if you are vested. Remember, so many possibilities are out there. Be willing to walk up and take a step in a new direction. Tonight: Try a new spot or new type of happening.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ A partner continues to act on strange influences. Respond in a caring way once more, knowing that soon this person's attitude might change. Use your imagination with a day-to-day project. Do make an appointment with the doctor before starting a diet. Tonight Go for togetherness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Defer to others and observe where the clog in the works is. Clearly, you will make changes, but only when you are more sure of yourself. Wait it out a little longer; more is likely to emerge. You need as much information as possible. Tonight: Choose what pleases you most.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your ability to see and handle different situation emerges. If you want to understand what makes a co-worker tick, start observing more. You understand what needs to happen but might hedge on another project. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Let more fun into your professional life. You work very hard to keep this boundary, but others could use an infusion of happiness. Make that additional time that a co-worker needs. Tonight: Paint the town red!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ If you can take off today, please do. You will benefit from time spent out of the office or away from the work site. How you feel could change your approach, and thus the outcome of a situation. Tonight: Balance your checkbook before deciding.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You are inspired, and others get a charge off of this energy. Be precise, because sloppiness could be a problem, especially if someone is following your lead. Conversations are animated and have many suggestions below the surface. Tonight: Start the weekend with a fun get-together.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Sometimes your intuition leads you down an expensive path. Make sure you separate intuition from wanting, as you could be off spending way too much. How you deal with another person could be off. Tonight: Stick to your budget. There is a tomorrow.

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 move in an unprecedented direction. The key to your success is a newfound valuing of communication. Thinking outside the box, a specialty of yours, becomes the best path. You set the pace; others respond accordingly. Your home and personal life could be put on the back burner for part of the year, but not forever, as you'll discover. Don't take others for granted. If you are single, you'll meet many people, though you might not be ready for a commitment. You could enjoy the romance of dating. If you are attached, take a seminar or class together. Share a hobby. Choose an activity that draws you together. TAURUS reminds you of the basics.

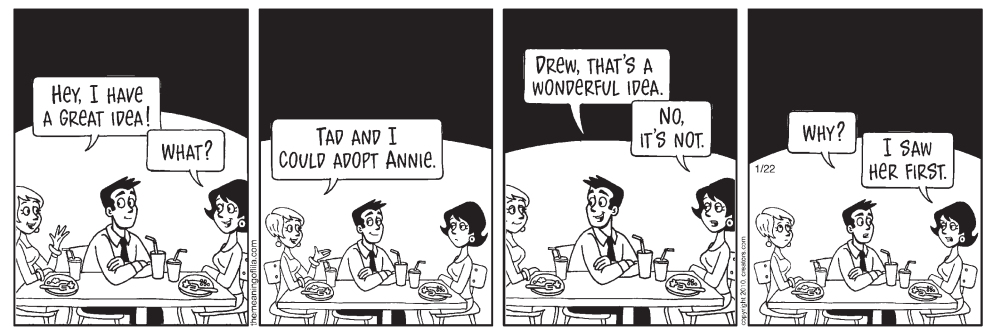
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



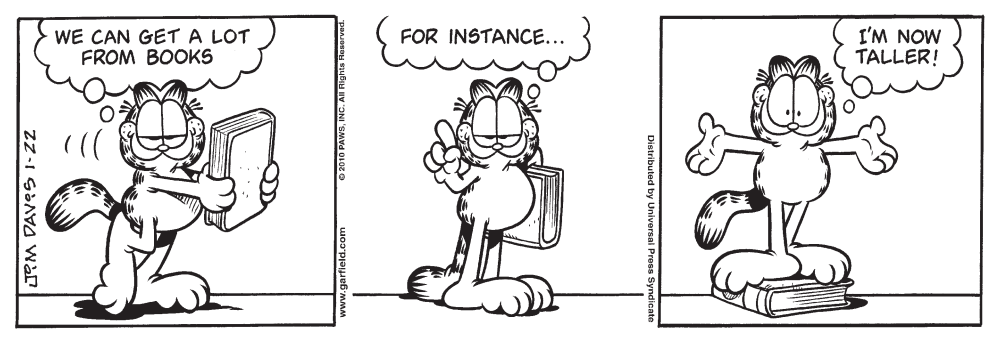
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



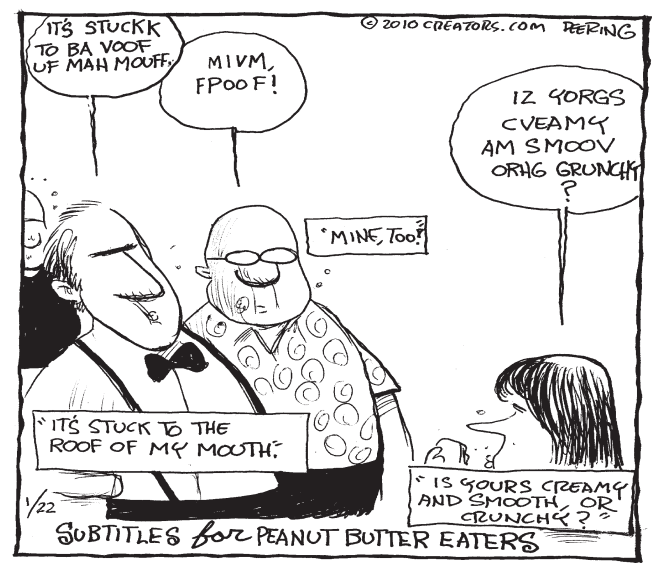
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Fit for a king
6 Molten rock
11 Contest setting
12 Perfect
13 Pad sitters
14 Cherish
15 Tire tracks
17 Mineral sources
18 Entreats
20 Hunger indicator
22 Keats poem
23 Vaccine pioneer
26 Usher's spot
28 Puccini work
29 Oscar-winning Hitchcock film
31 Crafty
32 Ascend
33 Pod fill
34 Weary word
36 Corker
38 Irritate
40 Rides the waves
43 Loses focus
44 Some messages
45 Like a cliff
46 Stylishly quaint

DOWN

1 Brit. flyers
2 Mess up
3 Noted cubist
4 Black cattle
5 Endure
6 Farrow of films
7 Supplement
8 Noted pointillist
9 Grown-up filly
10 Brewpub choices
16 Relaxing place
18 Sow's mate
19 Singer Brickell
21 Movie barker
23 Chest muscles
24 Bruins' sch.
25 Tanners catch them
27 Free time
30 Cartoon frame
33 Fancy feather
34 Cops' bulletins
35 Bouncy tune
37 Manual reader
39 Sixth sense, briefly
41 Tall tree
42 Traffic caution

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

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					■	46				

1-22

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 4 5 34 38 41
Meganumber: 18
Jackpot: $105M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 7 11 15 31 45
Meganumber: 3
Jackpot: $12M

Fantasy 5: 5 23 28 29 32

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 2 4 5
EVENING: 9 6 8

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 01 Gold Rush
RACE TIME: 1.41.91

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

■ Plastic surgeon Mark Weinberger, who skipped town in Merrillville, Ind., in 2004 to avoid mounting malpractice lawsuits and Medicare fraud charges, was finally cornered living in a tent on the southern slopes of Italy's Mont Blanc in December. As authorities approached to arrest him, Dr. Weinberger grabbed a knife and plunged it into his neck, but perhaps owing to his rusty skills (or incompetence, if the malpractice claims are accurate), missed the major artery and was captured.

■ The Great Yarmouth Sea Life Centre in Norfolk, England, lowered the water level in its giant aquarium for Christmas because the big turtles (which are herbivores) were scheduled to receive their annual holiday treat of brussels sprouts. Officials know from experience that if they fail to lower the water level, the gas bubbles from the powerful turtle emissions will lift the water high enough to trigger the emergency tank-flooding buzzers.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1919 Act Zluky is signed, unifying the Ukrainian People's Republic and the West Ukrainian National Republic.

1924 Ramsay MacDonald becomes the first Labour Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

1927 First live radio commentary of a football match anywhere in the world, between Arsenal F.C. and Sheffield United at Highbury.

1931 Sir Isaac Isaacs is sworn in as the first Australian-born Governor-General of Australia.

1941 World War II: British and Commonwealth troops capture Tobruk from Italian forces during Operation Compass.

1944 World War II: The Allies commence Operation Shingle which is an assault on Anzio, Italy.

1946 Iran: Qazi Muhammad declares the independent people's Republic of Mahabad at Chuwarchira Square in the Kurdish city of Mahabad. He is the new president; Hadschi Baba Scheich is the prime minister.

WORD UP!

bibelot
\BEE-buh-loh\ , noun;
1. A small decorative object without practical utility; a trinket.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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501 N. Venice 1+1, #29 $1250/mo stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

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2+1, st, -fns, w/d hkp **$1400**
2344-A Ocean Park Blvd
Sgl, st, fr, lwr **$875**
1831 Pearl Street, #5
3+1_, st, fr, fp, Berber cpt, carport-1, upr **$2200**

WEST L.A.
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2+1_ , st, fr, hdwd **$1500**
1657 Federal Ave, #12
Bach, sm, fr, htpl, ldry, separate bath **$775**
1766_ Malcolm Ave
Sgl, st, fr, pkg, cpt, ldry **$800**
1766 Malcolm Ave
2+1, st, fr, cpt, pkg-1, ldry **$1500**
1800 Kelton Ave, #5 & #7
1+1, st, fr, cpt, pkg **$1100**
11321 Massachusetts, #9
1+1, st, fr, pkg **$1100**
11321 Massachusetts, #4
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MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. 1bdrm/1bath, gated parking, intercom entry, stove, fridge, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. $995 & up (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12766 Matteson Ave #8 2+2 $1325/mo stove, fridge, tile and vinlyn floors, blinds, parking, laundry, no pets call between 5:30-7:30pm units shown by appt.only $500 off move-in (310) 439-1928 jkwproperties.com

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MAR VISTA: 11932 Courtleigh Dr. unit 9, $1025/mo. 1+1 stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, carpet, utilities include, intercom entry, laundry, gated, parking, no pets. $500 off move-in (310) 737-7933 jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA: 12434 CULVER Blvd. unit 1 2+2 stove, fridge, AC, carpets blinds, laundry room, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets.$1375/mo $500 off move-in (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

MARVISTA-LA $1495.00 2bdrms, 2 baths, no pets, balcony, stove, refrig, dshwshr, washr/dryr, 2-car garage gas-fireplace. 12048 Culver Blvd. #202 Open daily 9am-7pm. Additional info in unit Mgr#100 or #101

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