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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2009

Volume 7 Issue 77



Santa Monica Daily Press

KIDS SMOKING LESS POT
SEE PAGE 6

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE FEELING BAD FOR BYNUM ISSUE

Moose Lodge murder trial set

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN L.A. Jury selection is scheduled to begin today in the trial of two suspected 18th Street gang members charged with the murders of Hector Bonilla and Jonathan Hernandez, who were shot and killed in 2005 during a birthday party at the Moose Lodge in Sunset Park.

Jose Mojaro and Eric Nuñez, a.k.a. Ector Hugo Sanchez, have been charged with two counts of murder, use of firearms during a gang crime and assault with a deadly weapon. The charges include a gang enhancement. Mojaro, also known as "Peanut," and Nuñez, also known as "Enemy," are believed to be gang members from Los Angeles, according to the District Attorney's Office.

If convicted, the defendants could face the death penalty or life in prison without the possibility of parole.

A third defendant, William Vasquez, has been charged with murder in at least one other case and is awaiting trial.

Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney Alan Schneider said that jury selection could finish by the end of today, and the trial could start as early as Wednesday.

"It's a very imprecise process, you just go on experience," Schneider said. "We want to find a fair-minded jury."

Attorney Pierpont M. Laidley, who is representing Nuñez, said two witnesses will testify that his client was not present at the murder scene. He would not comment further on the case.

SEE TRIAL PAGE 9

U.S. seamen are being trained to fend off pirates

BY CLARKE CANFIELD
Associated Press Writer

PORTLAND, Maine With an alarming number of tankers and cargo ships getting hijacked on the high seas, the nation's maritime academies are offering more training to merchant seamen in how to fend off attacks from pirates armed not with cutlasses and flintlocks but automatic weapons and grenade launchers.

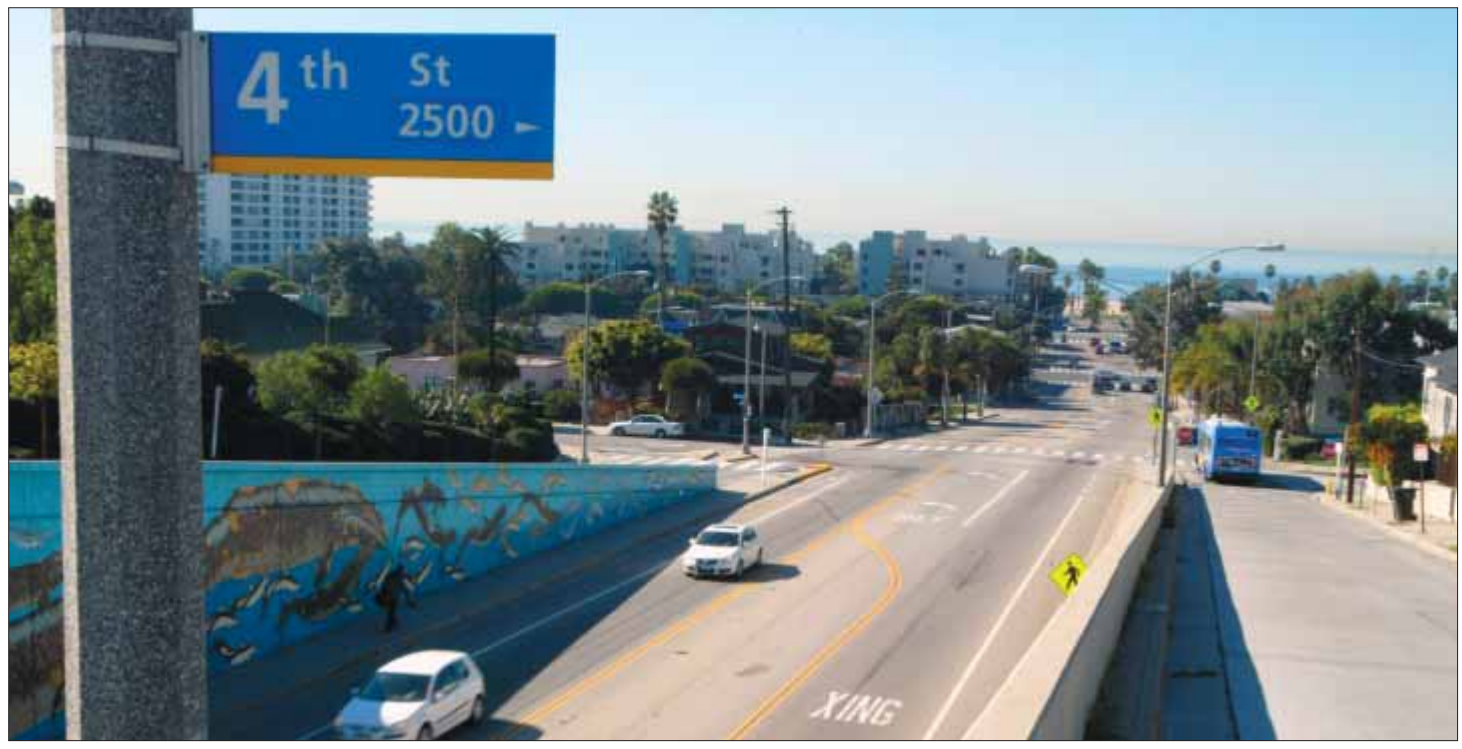
Colleges are teaching students to fishtail their vessels at high speed, drive off intruders with high-pressure water hoses and illuminate their decks with floodlights.

Anti-piracy training is not new. Nor are the techniques. But the lessons have taken on new urgency — and more courses are planned — because of the record number of attacks worldwide in 2008 by outlaws who seize ships and hold them for ransom.

At the California Maritime Academy in Vallejo, Calif., professor Donna Nincic teaches two courses on piracy. Students learn where the piracy hotspots are and how they have shifted over the years.

"If I've done anything, I've shown them that this isn't a joke, it's not about parrots and eye patches and Blackbeard and all that," Nincic said. "It's very real and it's a problem

SEE PIRATES PAGE 10



Byron Kennerly *news@smdp.com*

SIGHT FOR SORE EYES: **Residents in Ocean Park are asking City Hall to create a viewing deck here as part of a streetscape improvement project.**

Residents want bridge with a view

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK It may not be the million dollar ocean view seen from Palisades Park or the Santa Monica Pier, but residents in this neighborhood believe that the one from the Fourth Street bridge is just as picturesque, speeding cars and all.

The bridge, which crosses Ocean Park Boulevard and connects the south and north parts of the neighborhood, could soon be used as more than an overpass for cars.

City planners are considering adding a viewing deck and street furniture onto the bridge as part of a $4.5 million streetscape improvement project for Ocean Park Boulevard, allowing pedestrians to sit and look out to the ocean, which is located several blocks to the west.

Residents have been seeking a viewing platform since the topic of redoing the boulevard first came up more than a decade ago.

SEE VIEW PAGE 8

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Story time

Ocean Park Branch Library
2601 Main St., 10 a.m. — 11 a.m.
Mr. Jesse will read stories, sing songs, rhymes and work with puppets for those two-year-old children in attendance. Registration is required. Call (310) 458-4638 for more information.

Gentle yoga

Ocean Park Branch Library
2601 Main St., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Sign up for a series of six free, gentle-yoga classes for older beginners. Increase your focus and flexibility, while you relax and revitalize. Yoga mat and advance registration are required. Call (310) 392-3804 for more information or visit www.smpl.org.

Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2009

Kickin' it with Kiwanis

Santa Monica YMCA
1332 Sixth St., Noon — 1:30 p.m.
A weekly luncheon with members of one of Santa Monica's oldest social service clubs, featuring guest speakers. For more information call (310) 613-1249.

Walk the labyrinth

First United Methodist Church
1008 11th St., 1 p.m. — 2 p.m.
Take an hour out of your day to get in touch with your soul and find peace amongst the hustle and bustle. Walking the labyrinth provides a contemplative time for prayer and meditation. The permanent labyrinth laid in the floor of Simkins Hall is a replica of the Chartres Labyrinth laid in the floor of the ancient cathedral around 1220 CE. All are welcome. For more information contact Mary Garbesi, mary.garbesi@santamonicaumc.org or at (310) 393-8258.

Taking away aches and pains

Kathmandu Boutique
1844 Lincoln Blvd., 6 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.
Free lessons offered on the technique of Pranic Healing, developed by Master Choa Kok Sui. The technique has worked successfully with ailments ranging from asthma, arthritis, cancer to addictions, depression and phobias. It is an effective no-touch, painless healing art that helps the body repair itself. No appointment required. For more information, contact (310) 396-4036.

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.



ACLU says LA sheriff to update anti-bias training

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has agreed to update its anti-bias training as part of a settlement to a claim stemming from the search and seizure of dozens of black students, a civil rights group announced Monday.

The claim was brought against the department after deputies looking into possible drug dealing stopped and searched 33 black students and one Latino at the Los Angeles Trade Tech College campus in October 2007, the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California said in a statement.

"This agreement brings the department into the 21st century and provides the community with important protections against racial profiling," ACLU racial justice director Catherine Lahmon said.

During the incident, deputies searched the male students and forced the entire group, including four women, to sit on the ground with their hands behind their heads, some for more than an hour, the ACLU said. The civil rights group alleges deputies harassed and humiliated the students in front of their peers and professors.

Reviews by the Sheriff's Department and the county's Office of Independent Review found deputies had not engaged in racial profiling but "it could have been a better policing situation," sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore said.

Whitmore had not seen the ACLU statement or the settlement so he could not immediately confirm the ACLU's account.

"But the sheriff has re-established his commitment against racial profiling," Whitmore said. "The sheriff is always looking for ways to improve training."

A report by the Los Angeles Community College District found the actions did constitute racial profiling, the ACLU said.

In addition to revised anti-bias training, the Sheriff's Department will also expand its diversity training and develop community outreach programs, the ACLU said.

The group has also faulted the Los Angeles Police Department, issuing a report last year saying officers are more likely to stop and search black and Hispanic residents than they are whites, even though whites are more often found carrying guns and contraband.



Byron Kennerly *news@smdp.com*

WRONG WAY: **Building a light rail along Olympic Boulevard could face opposition from those who want to protect coral trees planted there.**

Study finds right-of-way best for Expo

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN When it comes to routing the Exposition Light Rail from Culver City to Santa Monica, utilizing the old right-of-way could be the right way to go.

Such was the conclusion of a draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) that was recently released for the second phase of the light rail project, finding that routing the train on the existing right-of-way, which is property designated for transportation use, would be the path of least resistance.

The study, which will be presented during a public meeting at Santa Monica High School on Feb. 18, examined four different alignment alternatives, including two that would travel along the Metropolitan Transportation Authority-owned right-of-way, which hits various Los Angeles streets, before branching off to either Colorado Avenue or Olympic Boulevard, taking it to the terminal at Fourth Street and Colorado in Santa Monica.

The other two options would divert from the right-of-way and take Venice Boulevard to Sepulveda Boulevard before traveling down either Colorado or Olympic.

The Exposition Construction Authority is in the process of constructing the first phase of the project, which will take the light rail from Downtown Los Angeles to Culver City, costing approximately $868 million. The second phase, which would bring the light rail to Downtown Santa Monica and help relieve Westside congestion, is estimated to be completed in 2015 and cost anywhere from $932 million to $1.4 billion, depending on the alternative.

The DEIR has been in the works for sev-

SEE **EXPO** PAGE 8

Octuplets mom gets TV, book offers to tell story

BY JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES The mother of the longest-living octuplets in the U.S. is being deluged with offers for book deals, TV shows and other business proposals, but has not decided what she might do other than care for her children, her newly hired spokeswoman said Monday.

Hundreds of requests have been made since Nadya Suleman gave birth to six boys and two girls a week ago, said Joann Killeen, president of Killeen Furtney Group, a public relations company.

"She's the most sought after mom in the world right now," Killeen said. "Everyone wants to talk to her."

But Suleman, who remained hospitalized with her children Monday at Kaiser Permanente's Bellflower Medical Center, hasn't decided what she'll do next, Killeen said.

SEE **OCTUPLETS** PAGE 9

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Beautification, council leadership

Editor:

The [column] ("Council arrogance clips tree project," page 4, Feb. 2) about the street beautification was way off base and ridiculously unfair to Kevin McKeown and Ken Genser. Both council members were responding to the many years of work by large numbers of concerned residents of Santa Monica that have spoken in support of bicycle lanes repeatedly at council meetings and at the LUCE planning sessions. These council members are not only supported by the community with the highest numbers of votes in their recent elections, but they have the wisdom and vision to see beyond the petty self interest of people like the person who wrote the letter.

The writer represents only himself and a few neighbors with narrow minded and vicious attitudes that are only concerned about their benefit and that have a "not in my back yard" attitude toward solving the larger problems at hand.

Before I go any further let me state that I live off Pico in the area of 27th Street. I went to Lincoln Jr. High, Samohi and SMC. I have been driving, walking and riding bicycles in this community since the '60s. I am part of the local Sustainable Transport Club (sustainableclub.org) that has hundreds of Santa Monica members who know we need to handle making our streets safe for pedestrians and bicycles.

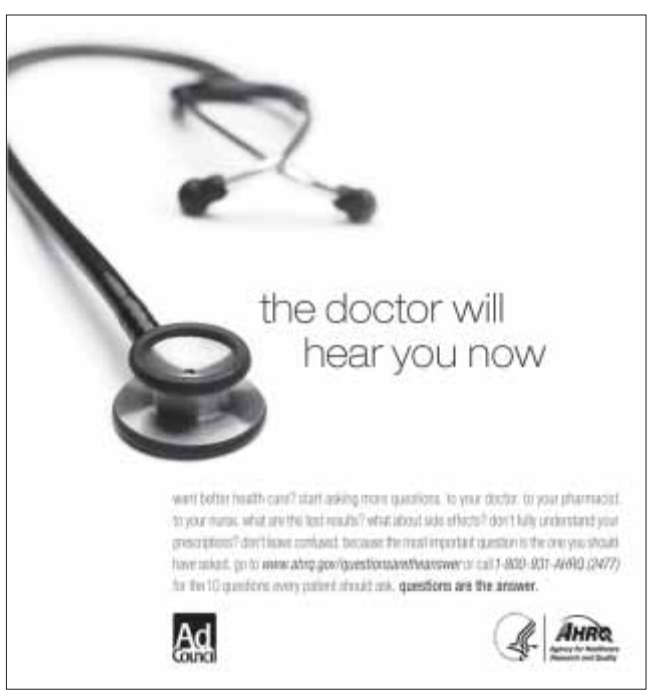
We have been asking for safe bicycle routes for years and have yet to see that come about. We have made good progress but the north/south stretch from Colorado to Ocean Park has yet to be covered by one single safe bike lane. That is true from Ocean to Centinela. Safe bicycle lanes are key to getting people off their backsides, out of their cars and getting fit riding a bike.

The issue of our council members representing out of town people is not only ignoring all the support they have right here in the city, it is ignoring who it is that is driving these 19,000 vehicles a day. Only a small fraction of these are Santa Monica residents. The main bulk is people getting off the freeway and commuting to and from communities to the south. The Santa Monica residents are people like me walking or bicycling to work.

Why I walk and bike to work is not just because it is healthier for me but because we all need to stop using our cars for every little thing. The foreign oil we are using is undermining our country. The poisonous and green house gasses from our tail pipes are disrupting the life support system on our planet.

Our city is in the forefront of showing the rest of our area what we need to do to make a pedestrian and bicycle friendly city. Kevin McKeown and the others on our council are leading the way for us to do that. We need to support and encourage their efforts. Do not let the small-minded NIMBY amongst us keep that from happening.

Russell Sydney
Santa Monica





That Rutherford Guy

John H. Whitehead — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The danger of Obama

MANY AMERICANS, DESPERATE FOR change after years of war and increased economic hardship, are looking upon Barack Obama as a savior, comparing him to Martin Luther King Jr., Abraham Lincoln and Jesus Christ. Even civil libertarians who had fought to defend our constitutional freedoms against the constant encroachments by the Bush administration heaved a collective sigh of relief when Obama took office.

However, while it is admirable that Obama has already made good on some of his campaign promises, the danger is far from over because we still labor under a government armed with dictatorial powers which can, at a moment's notice, dismantle our democracy.

Let us consider the facts.

The national debt is increasing at an alarming rate. It passed the $10 trillion mark in the fall of 2008 and, according to some predictions, could grow another $3.4 trillion by 2018. As it currently stands, each citizen's share of the national debt (not including personal debt) amounts to roughly $34,000. And as of November 2008, China, Japan and the United Kingdom were the biggest foreign holders of our debt, with oil exporters such as Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia not far behind. Not only does the country face a national bankruptcy, we are also in danger of being held hostage by foreign powers.

We live in a surveillance state. Our every movement is monitored by cameras on sidewalks, streets, ATMs, and in shops, offices, schools and parks.

The notion of privacy has become passé. The government has at its disposal the most invasive technology that has ever existed. Satellites, which are so sophisticated they can read a postage stamp lying on the ground from outer space, are trained on the United States. What this means is that they can track your every move.

The right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure, as guaranteed in the Fourth Amendment, has largely been eviscerated. Intelligence agencies such as the National Security Agency, which has for decades been listening in on the telephone calls of American citizens, are not going to relinquish that unprecedented access.

We are becoming numbers in the system. The government is edging closer and closer to requiring every citizen to carry a national ID card. It's now being championed through a congressional law called the REAL ID Act, which will require all citizens to carry a card that will possess the most intimate information about us.

The information on these cards will range from our Social Security numbers to fingerprints and even our buying habits. These cards may eventually be equipped with radio frequency identification tags, which will allow the government to track us day and night, wherever we go.

Police officers are out of control. Take, for instance, the 40,000-plus no-knock raids conducted annually by police SWAT-team style across the United States. Dressed like military troops, doors are rammed down and innocent American citizens are often terrorized and sometimes even killed.

The American military empire, a $700 billion industry, threatens the financial stability of the country and poses a serious threat to our constitutional freedoms. Contrary to everything America's founding fathers warned against, military troops are now being trained as domestic police. At any moment, depending on how the government defines the term "national emergency," the country could be placed under martial law and the Bill of Rights would be lost to history.

OUR POLITICAL STRUCTURE IS RIDDLED WITH CORRUPTION, WITH CONGRESS IN THE HANDS OF PROFESSIONAL POLITICIANS WHO ARE LARGELY OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE AVERAGE VOTER.

Our political structure is riddled with corruption, with Congress in the hands of professional politicians who are largely out of touch with the average voter. And more often than not, what comes out of Congress is more determined by what a lobbyist pushes than what you, the American citizen, wants, requires or needs.

When faced with such seemingly insurmountable problems, it's tempting to buy into the idea that Obama, with a stroke of his pen, could make it all go away. But that's not going to happen. The grim reality is that not every bad policy put in place by Bush and his predecessors will be — or can be — undone by Obama.

So is there any hope in all this? The hope is in you and me. We must be even more vigilant in protecting our freedoms. And it will mean holding all government officials accountable for their actions.

Those who drafted our Constitution understood all too well that "power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely." That's why James Madison, the father of our Constitution, warned against trusting anyone in power — no matter how well-intentioned those in power may be.

We must always be mindful that the Constitution starts with three beautiful words, which are the basis of the American constitutional government: "We the people." Thus, if anything significant is to be accomplished, it will require American citizens doing what that rag-tag group of colonists did in 1776: they finally said enough is enough and took the steps necessary to bring the government under control. And that is the spirit that will bring about any real and lasting change for the better.

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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2006. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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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.



What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Baby boon or burden?

A LOS ANGELES WOMAN GAVE BIRTH TO eight children last week. These newborn octuplets bring her family to a total of 14 children, all of whom are under age 8. They will occupy a two bedroom cottage, where they are going to be raised by their unmarried, single mom, and grandma.

All 14 children were conceived from in-vitro fertilization (IVF). The multiple fathers are not all known, but one of them was mom's co-worker at an IVF facility.

The doctors who performed this particular implanting of embryos used more than the normal recommendation of two or three embryos.

When it was determined that seven fetuses had formed, the mother refused to terminate some of them, even though it was recommended for her health, and that of the fetuses.

My initial reaction to the stunning news was moral outrage. The first obvious question is, who is going to pay for all this? How is a single mom going to be able to give the time and attention to each of these children that it takes to raise a child?

But this is America, stories like this will command money. In fact the family has already begun the process of commercialization of the children and the story. News reports are that she wants to reach out to Oprah and Diane Sawyer, and is expecting to raise $2 million from interviews and product endorsements.

For this family, which will go through approximately 250 diapers a week, in the first few months, the Pampers campaign will be crucial and probably highly lucrative.

I'm certain that there are agents circling this woman with deals, and the reality is, she will likely be more than self-sufficient financially in mere weeks if she plays her cards right.

Time will tell if she has the emotional maturity, and intellectual rigor, to control her good fortune in both children and money. If she fails, and falls on public assistance programs, she runs the risk of becoming an icon of all that is wrong with the Pro-Life agenda.

I am not a believer in the proposition that more children is a de facto better thing for society. I believe that every child should be a wanted child, and while certainly this woman is demonstrating that her children are wanted children, she should take care of them herself, and not expect society at large to provide for them.

Children are a huge responsibility, they are enormously expensive and time consuming for attentive parents. People like to say that being a parent is a right. And that is certainly true.

It is also true that we, as a society, have the right to demand that parents raise their children well. We have the right to demand that if they are going to have children, they take responsibility for teaching them the mores of our society, that they become productive members and give back to our communities.

This one woman is now in the position of directing the lives of 14 children, who will one day have an enormous impact on the society they live in.

Just look into the future six years and see what a kindergarten class is going to look like. Dig deeper and see 16 years into the future and what high school will be like. Not just for these octuplets, but for their classmates.

I remember the effect that just a set of twins had on my high school class. These children will be a force to be reckoned with throughout their school years. That is going to have an enormous effect on their classmates, their teachers, and the resources that are available for all students.

I question the wisdom of a mother of six being allowed to even engage in IVF. It strikes me that at some point, a fertility specialist should have begun to question the need for the procedure.

Certainly it is possible that the doctor could require a psychological profile to rule out some dysfunction. This is not McDonald's after all, where you just drive up to the window and place an order. There are supposed to be professionals involved, exercising judgment.

I wish this mother and her new family all the best. I hope that she has the wisdom to act wisely with the opportunities that are in front of her, and can make a life for all of her children.

But in a world where this type of occurrence is possible, I believe that there is now a need for a wider discussion of what are the boundaries for these procedures. As we have seen with nuclear weapons, just because we have the ability to do something, doesn't mean that we always should.

DAVID PISARRA is a family law attorney focusing on father's rights and men's Issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969.

The Q Line

More control?

The City Council recently released over $800,000 to the school district that it was withholding due to problems with special education. As part of the discussion, some called for the council to wield more control over the district.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Should the council have more control over the school district as part of the joint-use agreement, which is currently being renegotiated?

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.



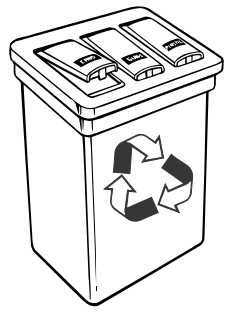




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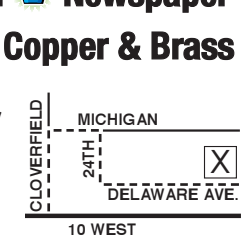


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Mommie Brain

Rachel Zients Schinderman
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Becoming your mother

EVER SINCE MY 2-1/2-YEAR-OLD SON pointed to a picture of my mother and said, "Mommie," I have been aware that I have fallen into the inevitable and have become my mother.

I was not one of those teenagers who vowed never to be like my mother. My mother treated me with respect and allowed me to be my own individual. But now, as I grow older, and look around and see myself looking and acting more and more like her, I still find it disconcerting.

When I look at my face in the mirror, more and more it is my mother I see looking back. It is the angle of my chin, the motion of my hands.

Much of my life it has been, or at least I had wanted it to be, my father's face, since he died when I was a child and I longed for some connection.

But now it is clearly my mother. Especially right after a shower when my hair is wet and off my face. I see my cheeks clearly. I see the darkness under my eyes. I see how much older I look. My mother has always been older than I was, obviously. And now, I see, that I too am older than I was.

I want to make very clear: it is not bad to look like my mother. My mother is lovely and accomplished. She raised me on her own and I think she did a really great job. She is quite beautiful and looks nowhere near her 62 years.

In fact, on her 60th birthday, right after I had my son, as we sat in a restaurant, our waiter got carried away with complimenting her on her birthday and actually said he thought I was the mother — not that we were sisters mind you — but mother and daughter. Granted, I had just had a baby who had been hospitalized for much of his short life. I was also still quite heavy, one of the few where nursing kept the weight on me. But my 60-year-old mother's mother? Seriously?

Not caring that he was probably just scrounging for a good tip, I began to cry. The waiter, while trying to apologize, though, only drove home the point when he said, "but I really thought that."

I have lost the weight and the worried frown some two years later, but often I still feel that vulnerable.

But looking older is not the only way that I feel I am becoming my mother. When I open my mouth and hear not only something she would say, but how she would say it, in tone and inflection, it strikes me. The historical and genetic implications are cool to me, but the social ones can be unsettling.

I have friends who complain about how irritating or annoying their moms can be. But when I see them together I actually think that their moms are cute and adorable, borderline eccentric maybe, but nothing that would cause their grown daughters to retreat to teenagedom — eye-rolling and loud sighing.

So when my own mom starts to bring these reactions out in me, as she has been known to do, I try to take a step back and think what would I think if she were someone else's mom. And I probably would think she was fun, maybe a little kooky, but not outrageously irritating. I am not always successful at this, as I am sure she will tell you. Perhaps I am worried as I become more and more like her that my actions are not as endearing as hers.

BUT LOOKING OLDER IS NOT THE ONLY WAY THAT I FEEL I AM BECOMING MY MOTHER. WHEN I OPEN MY MOUTH AND HEAR NOT ONLY SOMETHING SHE WOULD SAY, BUT HOW SHE WOULD SAY IT, IN TONE AND INFLECTION, IT STRIKES ME.

What I think is challenging about this process is even if you like your mother, and wouldn't mind turning into her, you spend your whole life creating your own identity only to sort of stumble into one that is already established.

But while I aim for us to be separate from each other, when I watch her with my son, I expect her to be an extension of me, to parent as I would. When she watches him, I snap easier than I should. I hover. I treat her like she is me and expect her to respond how I would, which is entirely unfair. But I am realizing, even though I may be her extension, she is not mine. Nor should she be.

She is the grandma. She is there to indulge him and fuss over him and stare at him and think everything he does is lovely and give into his whims and his whines.

She is grandma. And a very good grandma at that. I am the mom. She is not a second mom, not another version of me.

And even though my son points and says "Mommie" to her picture (a picture I may add where she is in her late 30's as I am now), I know I am not just another version of her. And even if I were, if that means being mistaken for my child's child when I am 60 years old, well then, that doesn't seem so bad.

RACHEL ZIENTS SCHINDERMAN lives in Santa Monica with her family. She can reached at Rachel@mommiebrain.com.

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Dope smoking among teens down in many countries

BY LINDSEY TANNER
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO Kids on both sides of the Atlantic are smoking less pot and going out less often with friends at night, a study of 15-year-olds in 30 countries found.

The double declines occurred in the United States, Canada and mostly European countries from 2002 to 2006. The trends are likely related, since other research has found that kids who spend many evenings out are more likely to smoke dope than homebodies.

Since few parents approve of marijuana use, teens are most likely to use the drug secretly away from home, said lead author Emmanuel Kuntsche of the Swiss Institute for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Problems.

Reasons for the declines are unclear. But the researchers said drug prevention efforts and technology may have contributed.

Instant messaging, e-mail and cell phones "may have partly replaced face-to-face contacts, leading to fewer social contacts in the evenings," Kuntsche said.

The study appears in February's Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, released Monday.

The researchers analyzed data on 93,297 15-year-olds from periodic health surveys in dozens of countries conducted in collaboration with the World Health Organization.

Survey questionnaires were distributed to entire classrooms at various schools, asking various health-related questions including about marijuana use and evenings out with friends in the past year. Responses to 2006 surveys were compared with those in 2002.

Users were kids who'd tried marijuana at least once in the past year.

Marijuana use increased only in Estonia, Lithuania and Malta, and among Russian girls.

While rates varied widely among countries, prevalence was highest both years in Canada, where 30 percent of boys and almost 28 percent of girls used marijuana in 2006. That was down 13 percent among boys and almost 10 percent among girls.

The United States ranked third in 2006, with 24 percent of boys and girls each reporting marijuana use. That was down almost 12 percent among boys and 2 percent among girls, echoing previous reports of declining pot use among U.S. teens.

Switzerland ranked second in prevalence among boys, and Wales was second among girls. Greece, Macedonia and Sweden were at the bottom of the list — with fewer than 5 percent of boys and girls reporting marijuana use in 2006.

Average number of evenings out also decreased in most countries. In the United States, nights out fell slightly to about twice a week in 2006 for boys and girls.

An Archives editorial said that while evenings out may increase chances for marijuana use, parents shouldn't discourage socializing since teens need time away from home to gain independence. Instead, the editorial advises, parents should help steer kids to activities that don't encourage drug use.

Study finds one-third of U.S. kids take vitamins

BY LINDSEY TANNER
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO About a third of U.S. children and teens take vitamins, even though most of those taking the pills are healthy, active kids who probably don't need them, a new study suggests.

Youngsters who could benefit the most from vitamins — kids in fair or poor health with the worst eating habits — were the least likely to take them, researchers reported.

The survey of parents of children aged 2 to 17 was done from 1999-2004. The results show a decline in vitamin use from the 1970s when roughly half of all American children took vitamins, the study's lead author said.

The study highlights a question doctors often get from parents: Should I give my kids vitamins? Stacy Fournier, of Gainesville, Fla., says it's often on her mind even though her daughter is a great eater.

"I probably bring it up every other time we visit the pediatrician because it is looming on my mind and I want to make sure that she's healthy," said Fournier, whose daughter is almost 3.

For now, Fournier has heeded her doctor's advice against it, but she still wonders, "Why not? It can't hurt."

The study's lead author, Dr. Ulfat Shaikh, a pediatrician at the University of California-Davis Children's Hospital in Sacramento, says taking daily multivitamins in the dose recommended on the label probably is harmless. However, they often aren't needed for healthy children with a varied diet, she said.

Shaikh said kids in the study "who had the ideal profile — higher dietary fiber intake, higher milk intake, lower total fat and cholesterol intake, lower computer use, greater physical activity, lower obesity, kids that had insurance coverage, had good health care access, whose parents said that they were in good health — these kinds of kids were the highest users."

She noted that vitamin and mineral supplements aren't cheap. A bottle of 100 multivitamin-mineral tablets for kids can cost around $10, depending on the brand. Almost $2 billion is spent on them annually.

Also, some parents and teens may mistakenly think taking a daily pill will make up for a lousy diet, Shaikh said. Pediatricians generally agree that the best source for vitamins and minerals is a varied diet that includes fresh fruit, vegetables and fiber — not pills.

Still, there's mounting evidence about important potential benefits from a vitamin that can be hard to get enough of from food, particularly for kids who don't drink much milk. That's vitamin D.

The American Academy of Pediatrics last year doubled the amount of vitamin D it recommends for all children, from newborns to teens. It now advises 400 international units daily of vitamin D, which kids can get by drinking four cups a day of fortified milk. But many don't drink that much, and eat little of the few foods containing the vitamin, including tuna and other oily fish. So the academy recommends 400 IU supplements for kids lacking adequate vitamin D in their diets.

The vitamin can keep bones strong, but also has been linked to other possible health benefits, including preventing some cancers and heart disease.



Tornante

Steve Parker

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Garnering serious street cred

A SMALL, UPSTART CARMAKER HAS JUST received the kind of positive image and auto industry credibility which no new company could afford to buy, but only hope to develop over decades. One of the nation's largest auto dealer groups, Ron Tonkin Automotive in Portland, Ore., has signed with Fisker Automotive to sell their Karma luxury sedan and hardtop convertible plug-in hybrids, which will use an extended-range gasoline/electric hybrid system similar to that developed by General Motors for their Chevrolet Volt and, in Europe, the Opel Ampera.

When a well-known dealer opts to carry an all new and unfamiliar make or model, it immediately lends respectability to that carmaker. And the young carmaker says achieving 100 mpg with Karma is not out of the question. The cars will not come cheap, with base prices well north of $85,000; GM's Volt is expected to start at over $40,000 when it debuts in 2010, if and when it does indeed become a reality.

As for Detroit-built high-milers, Chevrolet's 2009 Malibu hybrid starts at $25,555 and Ford's 2010 Fusion hybrid is expected to have a base price of $27,270 when it becomes available later this year.

"Early adopters" of all kinds of high-tech products tend to be college-educated with high incomes; that means Santa Monica, as it already is with Asian-made hybrids, will be a hotbed of sales for Karma. Wonder if Buddhists get a discount or a bucks-off coupon to use for a Karma purchase in their next lives?

Fisker wouldn't answer our questions concerning potential dealers in the Santa Monica area, but anyone interested in the cars can visit the corporate Web site at www.FiskerAutomotive.com or call the company's Irvine headquarters at (714) 888-4255. Fisker has financial backing from Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, Palo Alto Investors and QIA.

According to dealer Ron Tonkin, also a former president of the influential National Automobile Dealers Association, the Fisker factory has already received orders for 931 Karmas. How influential is NADA? At their recent annual convention in New Orleans, former presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton both addressed the dealers and took part in a panel discussion.

Henrik Fisker, a former designer for BMW, Ford and Aston Martin says each Karma, both the four-door, four-seat sedan and two-door, four-seat hardtop convertible S model, will be built to each customers' specifications.

According to Fisker, "Karma uses 'q-drive' plug-in hybrid technology, developed for Fisker by Quantum Technologies. A fully-charged Karma burns no fuel for the first 50 miles. Venture further and the small gasoline engine acts as a generator to keep the lithium ion battery pack charged.

"Once the 50-mile electric range has been exceeded, the car operates as a normal hybrid vehicle. This balance of electric and gas range makes it entirely possible that Karma drivers who charge their car overnight and commute less than 50 miles a day will achieve an average fuel economy of 100 mpg per year."

The Karma sedan's base price is $87,900. Karma may be eligible for a $7,500 tax credit. The Karma S hardtop convertible is planned to start production at the end of 2011. Though no price has yet been set, the company says the drop-top will be priced "significantly higher" than the sedan.

Karma's bodies will be built in Finland, by automotive R&D and small-production run specialist Valmet; Porsche uses Valmet to produce their super-tight Boxster and Cayman models.

Fisker lists some impressive specs for the new rear-wheel drive cars, claiming 0-60 mph in less than six seconds, a top speed of 125 mph and two driving modes: efficient economy and sport. As in other hybrids, regenerative brakes capture heat produced by braking and uses that energy to help recharge the lithium ion battery pack; as is planned for the next-generation Toyota Prius. Solar panels on Karma's roof will help charge the batteries and aid in running the air conditioning system, too. Fisker adds a low center of gravity provides an "optimal sport vehicle driving dynamic." Karmas are expected to have a range of over-300 miles.

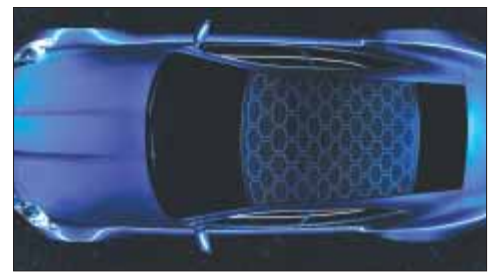


photo courtesy

SUNROOF: **The Fisker Automotive Karma luxury sedan, plug-in hybrid with solar panel roof.**

Green Car Journal has selected the Karma as a finalist in its annual Green Car Vision Award competition. Quick, someone call Larry David!

STEVE PARKER has covered the world's auto industry for over 35 years. He's a two-time Emmy Award-winner who reported on cars for almost a decade at both KTLA/TV5 and KCBS/TV2. He is a consultant to the NBC-TV show Whipnotic and the show's companion website, www.Whipnotic.com. He created, writes and moderates the only all-automotive blog on The Huffington Post at www.huffingtonpost.com/steve-parker. Contact Steve through his own automotive issues Web site at www.SteveParker.com.



Ask George

George Valverde

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Getting the 411 following an accident

Q: I WAS RECENTLY IN AN ACCIDENT AND I was so upset I didn't think about all the information I should have gotten from the person that hit me. How do I get information on the other party?

A: Each driver involved in a collision where any person was injured or killed, or where property damage to any one vehicle exceeded $750 worth of property damage, must complete a Report of Traffic Accident Occurring in California (form SR1) within 10 days and submit the report to the DMV. The report is required even if a law enforcement officer completed a report. You may obtain information about the other driver from the accident report that he or she submitted.

To request this information, complete a request form and mail it to: Department of Motor Vehicles, Financial Responsibility Unit, P.O. Box 942884, Sacramento, CA 942884-0884.

Also available are the other driver's insurance information and a photocopy of the accident report and/or certification that the other driver in the accident was not insured (Uninsured Motorist Certificate). A $20 fee is required for each type of information requested.

Q: I'm a senior citizen and recently lost the ability to drive due to medical complications. Where can I find information on acquiring an identification card? Is there a fee for my new card?

A: For customers over the age of 62, the DMV offers an identification card valid for 10 years for no charge. The card looks likes a driver license, but is used for identification purposes only. The DMV will also exchange a valid license for a no-fee ID card to drivers who are no longer able to drive safely because of a physical or mental condition.

Q: I bought a vehicle with a clean air sticker. Is the sticker still active even though I wasn't the original owner?

A: Yes, all Clean Air stickers remain with the vehicle they were originally issued to and cannot be transferred to any other vehicle. If you purchase a vehicle that has a Clean Air Sticker you may transfer the sticker to your name. To transfer the Clean Air Sticker to your name, complete the following steps:

- Complete an application for Clean Air Vehicle Stickers (REG 1000).
- Check the "Replacement ID card only" box.
- If the clean air vehicle is a hybrid and you are a resident of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano or Sonoma County, you must include an original Bay Area FasTrak receipt as evidence of a "FasTrak" toll account.
- Submit the completed REG 1000 form and FasTrak receipt to the address on the REG 1000 form.

GEORGE VALVERDE is the director of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

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Removal of coral trees could be an issue

FROM **EXPO** PAGE 3

eral years.

"We're excited it's reached this milestone," Darrell Clarke, the co-chair of Friends 4 Expo Transit, said. "It's a long time coming."

The Friends 4 Expo Transit has yet to take a position on the EIR results.

Both alternatives that would opt for the right-of-way were found to have fewer impacts and present greater opportunities to reduce regional vehicle miles traveled while the Venice and Sepulveda alignments would pose problems that could not be mitigated, the study said.

The Olympic Boulevard alignment is expected to see opposition from environmentalists who have expressed concerns about the proposed removal of coral trees along the median.

The Santa Monica Treesavers, which rallied against the plan to remove ficus trees in Downtown, is planning to meet with Expo authorities next Monday.

"From my point of view, it seems like it would serve the community better by being routed on Colorado," Jerry Rubin, the co-founder of Treesavers, said. "I hope … they pay attention to the needs of the tree-loving and environment-loving community in Santa Monica."

> **"WE REALLY NEED EXPO TO MAKE A COMMITMENT … THAT THEY ARE GOING TO BE PLANNING ON INTEGRATING THE BIKEWAY SO IT'S HAPPENING AS EFFICIENTLY AND TIMELY AS POSSIBLE."**
>
> **Kent Strumpell**
> Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition

But businesses and property owners along Colorado have equally been vocal in their opposition to an alignment on their street, believing it would lead to traffic impacts and loss of parking spaces. Residents who live off of Colorado have also expressed similar concerns, pointing out that a light rail could affect the quality of life in the neighborhood because of noise.

The study also found that the two Venice/Sepulveda alignments would have both a bigger construction and traffic impact than the right-of-way alternatives. The DEIR also concluded that the Colorado options would pose a great impact to air quality.

One popular topic missing from the study is the construction of a bikeway and how it would fit in with the light rail project. The issue was left out of the report because MTA officials are no longer using federal funding for the project, instead looking to the recently passed sales tax measure that will be used to pay for public transportation purposes. Measure R, which passed in November, raised the sales tax to 8.75 percent in Los Angeles County, allowing the MTA to bring in $40 billion over the next 30 years.

The proposed bikeway on the other hand would be federally funded, requiring a different review process under the National Environmental Policy Act, according to Kent Strumpell, who serves on the board of directors for the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition. The NEPA study would be conducted by the different cities where the bikeway would exist, he said.

A bikeway covers a number of different categories, including bike lanes, paths and routes in which there is no lane designation.

"We really need Expo to make a commitment … that they are going to be planning on integrating the bikeway so it's happening as efficiently and timely as possible," Strumpell said.

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NOT SO FAST

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Sophomore Lauren Rodriguez from Notre Dame Academy watches as she has her shot blocked by Santa Monica High School goalkeeper Rachel Forer at John Adams Middle School on Monday. Samohi hosted Notre Dame in a Southern Sectional, non-league game in which the Vikings lost by a score of 7-0.

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Streetscape project could bring viewing deck to Fourth Street

FROM **VIEW** PAGE 1

"The community felt it was a good opportunity to provide a restful place," said Bob Taylor, who serves on the Ocean Park Association's Ocean Park Boulevard Committee. "It's something that enhances the livability, which is part of the issues and concerns that we have for this street."

The viewing deck will also allow city planners to address a concern among Fourth Street residents who have complained about the noise that busses create when they brake and then go on, moving one of the stops onto the bridge and away from the homes.

"It wouldn't be directly in front of the residences and it would be a cool place to wait for the bus," Peter James, an associate city planner, said.

Residents have long complained about the layout of Ocean Park Boulevard, which was widened decades ago to accommodate the anticipated traffic from developments that were proposed — yet never realized — along the beach. The result has been a wide street — packed with residences and schools — that has attracted speeding motorists.

The City Council recently reviewed two different options for Ocean Park Boulevard, both of which would add new signalized crosswalks on Highland Avenue and Seventh Street, more pedestrian lighting, enhanced landscaping and bike lanes.

Neither option would eliminate any travel lanes from the current configuration, which is already one way in each direction.

Alternative A would include seven landscaped medians throughout the boulevard and sidewalk extensions, costing anywhere from $3.2-$4.2 million.

The second alternative would have more than double the landscaped center medians as the first option but far fewer sidewalk extensions, costing about $650,000 less. The latter option comes with a viewing deck, which could be constructed over the landscaped median that would sit below the bridge.

The second option has a wider landscaped median, James said.

> **"WE'RE TRYING TO CREATE AT THE TIME TWO OPPOSITE DESIGNS THAT STILL ACHIEVE THE SAME GOALS."**
>
> **Peter James**
> Associate planner

"It's a tradeoff for the community to decide if they prefer to have a wider sidewalk or prefer to have a median," James said. "We're trying to create at the time two opposite designs that still achieve the same goals."

The council directed city planners to mix and match the different elements from the two options to come up with a final design. The proposal is expected to go before the Recreation and Parks and Planning commissions before returning back to the council in the next few months.

Construction is expected to begin in the 2009-10 fiscal year.

The viewing deck was a popular feature for residents who came to the council meeting last week.

"Put (the viewing deck) on both sides and price it out," Mike Feinstein, a former City Councilmember and Ocean Park resident, said. "There are views going both ways."

Taylor said that while he is in favor of the viewing deck, he would not want it to financially detract from the improvements on the boulevard.

"It's a place where someone could sit and watch the sunset without taking the additional three or four blocks to the water," he said.

melodyh@smdp.com



'ROUND AND AROUND

Byron Kennerly *news@smdp.com*

Tab Chatman hangs on for dear life as he rides the historic carousel on the Santa Monica Pier.

Babies growing stronger

FROM **OCTUPLETS** PAGE 3

Some of the deals and requests for interviews involve offers to pay, said Killeen and her partner, Mike Furtney. They didn't reveal the amounts being offered, but Killeen noted that raising eight babies will be expensive, adding that Suleman plans to carefully review her financial opportunities.

"Right now her top priority is to be the best mom she can be to all her children," she said. "She's hired us to manage all of those opportunities."

The spokeswoman discounted some published reports that Suleman had already decided to host a television show on parenting. But she added that Suleman does want to eventually tell her story to the world.

"As soon as she's able, she will tell her story, and it's an amazing story," she said.

Suleman, a 33-year-old single mother, already had six children, ages 2 to 7 when she gave birth to her octuplets on Jan. 26.

Her babies continue to grow stronger, the hospital said in a statement Monday. It wasn't immediately known when the octuplets or their mother would be released from the hospital. At the time of the births, doctors said the babies would stay about two months.

"This has been a very good week for the babies. It is always satisfying to be able to see a baby that was born premature continue to get stronger every day," said Dr. Mandhir Gupta, a neonatologist at the hospital.

The country's first set of octuplets was born to Nkem Chukwu of Texas on Dec. 20, 1998. A week later, the tiniest of the infants died of heart and lung failure. The surviving seven siblings celebrated their 10th birthday in December.

Suleman retained the Killeen Furtney Group to represent her last Friday. Furtney said the company, which normally handles corporate clients and crisis public relations, was referred to her by the hospital. Its clients include the Union Pacific Railroad and the California State Parks Department.

Suleman's mother told The Associated Press last week that her daughter has always loved children and had wanted to be a mother since her teens.

Suleman had all 14 of her children through in vitro fertilization, according to her mother, Angela Suleman, who is caring for the other six while her daughter is hospitalized.

Associated Press Writer SHAYA TAYEFE MOHAJER contributed to this story.

Trial expected to start this week

FROM **TRIAL** PAGE 1

The grizzly double homicide took place on Mar. 5, 2005 at the Moose Lodge on Ocean Park Boulevard. Hernandez, a 19-year-old resident of Ocean Park, and Bonilla, a 25-year-old resident of the Pico Neighborhood, were guests at a private birthday party when three suspects opened fire after a tussle with Hernandez, according to previous reports.

Bonilla ran to assist Hernandez and was shot multiple times in the torso and head. Hernandez sustained extensive injuries to the head, torso and buttocks according to the Los Angeles County Department of Coroner.

All three suspects fled the scene. Police took Mojaro into custody July 5, 2005 after he was picked up on a parole violation. Vasquez was apprehended Oct. 6, 2005 in the 500 block of Westlake Street in Los Angeles. Nuñez, who remained at-large the longest, was caught after a violent police chase in January 2006 that ended in a hostage situation. Nobody was hurt.

Mojaro and Vasquez pleaded not guilty to charges during an arraignment in Los Angeles Superior Court.

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Best defense is vigilance

FROM **PIRATES** PAGE 1

without an easy solution."

Emily Rizzo, a student at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in Buzzards Bay, Mass., worked aboard a 760-foot cargo ship last year as part of her training. As the vessel sailed the Malacca Straits in Southeast Asia, she served on "pirate watches," learned to use hoses and took part in drills with alarms indicating the ship had been boarded.

The training "brought to light just how serious it is," said Rizzo, a 22-year-old senior from Milwaukee. "The pirates can get on board these huge ships and they know what they're doing. It's not like the old days."

The International Maritime Bureau reported 293 piracy incidents in 2008, an increase of 11 percent from the year before. Forty-nine vessels were hijacked, and 889 crew members were taken hostage.

Eleven were killed and 21 reported missing and presumed dead, according to the bureau.

Piracy hotspots have been identified off East Africa and in Southeast Asia, South America and the Caribbean.

Typically, small numbers of pirates — as few as two and up to 15 or 16 — draw up alongside ships in motorized skiffs and use grappling hooks and rope ladders to clamber aboard. Some of the biggest ships might have no more than two dozen crew members.

Often the pirates are armed with knives and guns. Pirates off the coast of Somalia have taken to firing automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades.

In the old days, ships were armed with cannons to guard against pirates. But nowadays, crew members for the most part do not carry guns. And maritime instructors say that arming crews is not the answer.

It is illegal for crews to carry weapons in the territorial waters of many nations, and ship captains are wary of arming crew members for fear of mutinies, Nincic said.

Also, some worry that aiming crew members would only cause the violence to escalate.

> **"THEY TAKE EVERYTHING AND SELL EVERYTHING. ANYTHING ON A SHIP CAN BE SOLD TO SOMEBODY FOR SOMETHING."**
>
> **Michael Durnan**
> Senior at Cal Maritime

Instead, the best defense is vigilance, Nincic tells students.

"If you demonstrate a culture of awareness, that you look like you know you're in pirate waters and are clearly standing watch, patrolling, etc., the pirates know you're going to be more difficult to board and are possibly going to wait for the next ship and board the one that's easier," she said.

The Maine Maritime Academy in Castine, Maine, is putting together a new anti-piracy course on nonlethal defense for ship crews, said Ralph Pundt, chairman of the school's marine transportation department.

The course would teach how crews can use observation techniques, lights, fire hoses and evasive action. The best way to combat pirates, Pundt said, it to keep them from boarding in the first place.

Michael Durnan, a 42-year-old senior at Cal Maritime, was working on a tanker filled with soybean oil in 2001 when he confronted four pirates standing on the ship's stern in the Bay of Bengal off Bangladesh.

Durnan approached the men with a 2-by-4, but they threw some equipment overboard and then jumped over themselves, escaping into the darkness in small fishing boats.

"They take everything and sell everything," he said. "Anything on a ship can be sold to somebody for something."

Earliest chocolate use found in what is now U.S.

BY RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON Chocolate for your sweetheart this Valentine's Day?

Folks may be surprised to know how far back chocolate goes — perhaps 1,000 years in what is now the United States.

Evidence of chocolate was been found in Pueblo Bonito in Chaco Canyon, N.M., the earliest indication of the tasty substance north of Mexico, Patricia L. Crown of the University of New Mexico and W. Jeffrey Hurst of the Hershey Center for Health and Nutrition report in Tuesday's issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Drinking chocolate was associated with a variety of rituals in ancient Central America, including weddings, but Crown said she is not sure of its exact uses in her area.

The discovery, dated to between A.D. 1000 and 1125, indicates trade was under way between the Chaco Canyon residents and cacao growers in Central America.

But the nearest cacao plantation would have been more than 1,000 miles away, so importing the material would have been a major undertaking, she said.

Chocolate was probably something not consumed often, she said in a telephone interview.

It also probably tasted bitter compared with what is available today. Central Americans didn't sweeten their chocolate and sometimes mixed in hot peppers. Crown said honey might have been available in new Mexico but she didn't know if it was used.

The research was prompted by a discussion about cylinder jars, when Crown was told the Maya used the jars for drinking chocolate.

She had pieces of ceramic that appeared to come from similar jars, so she had them tested for residue. There was theobromine, an indication of chocolate.

"This illustrates the importance of collections in archaeology," Crown said, "that we can return to material with new techniques and find out new things. Every artifact has a story to tell."

Chocolate was used in rituals in Central America as early as 1500 B.C. and was even a form of currency among the Aztec.

The new research was supported by the National Science Foundation, National Geographic Society, University of New Mexico and the Hershey Technical Center.

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 57°

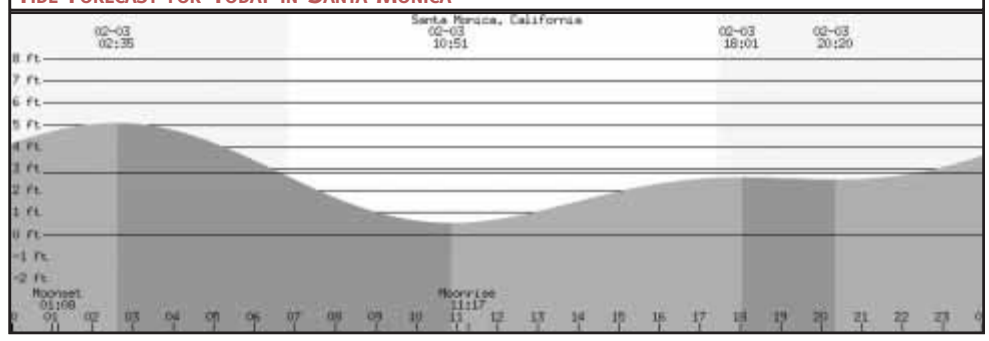
Swell Forecast (1-1 FT)

Knee high or so most everywhere. Winds should be lightly offshore throughout the morning, perhaps 10-15 mph at times from the ENE at wind-prone spots.

Long Range Synopsis

Wednesday the 4th looks small as well. No NW is expected, but some light southern hemi should bring occasional knee to maybe waist high waves to south facing breaks.

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 27, 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 -- 5
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / 29
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 9 / 12

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

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	F	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	D	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	D
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	D	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	A+
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	F
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+	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	B
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	A+
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	B	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	D	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	B
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.

MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for information.

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

Bride Wars (PG) 1hr 30min
2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45

Yes Man (PG-13) 1hr 44min
10:00

Milk (R) 2hrs 08min
1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50

Inkheart (PG) 1hr 46min
2:30, 5:00, 7:30

Notorious (R)
1:20, 4:05, 6:50, 9:35

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

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) 2hrs 48min
1:15, 4:45, 8:15

My Bloody Valentine 3D (R) 1hr 41min
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45

New in Town (PG) 1hr 36min
1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30

The Uninvited (PG-13) 1hr 27min
2:10, 4:55, 7:30, 9:40

Defiance (R) 2hrs 17min
1:30, 4:35, 8:00

Frost/Nixon (R) 2hrs 02min
1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 9:55

Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (R) 1hr 32min
2:20, 5:05, 7:40, 10:00

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

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

Doubt (PG-13) 1hr 44min
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55

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

The Wrestler (R) 1hr 45min
1:30, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

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, 10:20

Taken (PG-13) 1hr 33min
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

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

Hotel for Dogs (PG) 1hr 40min
11:50am, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 10:00

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

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

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

Get some rest, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ If you're feeling confused about a change or potential money venture, stop. You could be pushing hard to achieve certain results. Slow down rather than push. An easy pace might be more steady, and thus more successful. Tonight: Hang out with a friend.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Even though you're in the thick of the action, you can accomplish a lot, perhaps getting through to a somewhat vague, deceptive or unusually creative associate. Ask yourself what is new about this interaction. Just flow. Tonight: First pay bills, then decide.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Do necessary research. Someone might be feeding you information that is not quite right-on, perhaps unintentionally. Verify and confirm information. Someone will call on you to give him or her the facts, and just the facts. Tonight: You perk up.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Wait to take action. You might have been weighing the pros and cons of a situation. Communication picks up as the day gets older. Could a partner be confusing a matter much more than necessary? Tonight: Go off and take a deep breath. Take time for yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Step up to the plate and accept your natural role. With the undefined communication of different partners or associates, realize there is only so much you can do. Work on encouraging better verbal flow. Tonight: Time to let your hair down — don't you think?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Keep researching until you are satisfied that you have facts and not opinions. Once you decide which way to go, you will find it easy to assume the lead. Tonight: A must appearance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Work with others directly, making this a superb and exciting arrangement, especially professionally. You might not understand which is the best direction to go in. Tonight: Daydreams blossom from nights like this.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Others have too many ideas and are as stubborn as can be. You know your best move would be to pull back and then make an important decision. Not everything needs to go your way right now. Trust in your flexibility, which is evolving. Tonight: Accept a dinner invitation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Get into a project. Information that heads in your direction could be less than sure or exact. You must get more information. Your fiery side emerges when dealing with finances. You might want to spend less. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Your creativity emerges despite a problem. You might not be as sure as you would like to be about money or a budget matter. You still might decide to go with an idea, good or not. Tonight: Choose something relaxing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Think more and do less right now. Centering yourself might be an excellent idea. You might want to pretend that a problem doesn't exist, but don't even try that game. It will backfire. Tonight: Let mischief perk.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your ability to communicate emerges with a friend who might be asking a lot of questions. At some point, someone might judge you to be quite distracted. Listen to feedback from a partner, and focus on a more positive outlook. Tonight: Get some rest.

Happy birthday

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

How you communicate and what you say this year have far more implications than you think or would perhaps want. Work with individuals rather than groups in order to succeed on the level you would like. Must appearances or more responsibilities seem to drop on you. Often, there is a whirlwind of confusion around you. You like mystery, and often create it by not saying everything. Focus on family and loved ones. If you are single, you might greet a very exciting romance, one for the history books. Enjoy every moment. If you are attached, the two of you could rediscover each other if you nurture your relationship. GEMINI provokes wild thinking.

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 ★★

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

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

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

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Rachel Dardashti *news@smdp.com*

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Use a broom
6 Whiskey buy
11 Hold fill
12 Sun Valley setting
13 Perfectly restored
15 Letter after pi
16 Bear's lair
17 Salon stuff
18 Put in office
20 Gray-brown
23 Goof
27 Different
28 Corn Belt state
29 Church areas
31 "Our Gang" dog
32 Light lunch
34 Chips buy
37 Fellow
38 Carpentry tool
41 Quite simple
44 Fab Four drummer
45 Bea Arthur series
46 Devoured
47 Tacked on

3 Therefore
4 Freud topic
5 Curly-coated dog
6 Groom-to-be
7 Check users' needs
8 Viper feature
9 Friends' pronoun
10 Coyote call
14 Ruby of film
18 Some swords
19 Had a go at
20 Brewed drink
21 Swiss peak
22 Ship initials
24 Go bad
25 Have debts
26 Jamie Foxx film
30 Bible strongman
31 Canal setting
33 Put down
34 Unadorned
35 Nepal setting
36 Fellow
38 Tater
39 Staff member
40 Hoe target
42 Maturity
43 Blue

DOWN

1 Surgery reminder
2 Clean

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

Yesterday's answer

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

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	10
11					■	12				
13					14					
15			■	16			■	17		
■	■	■	18				19	■	■	■
20	21	22			■	23		24	25	26
27				■	■	■	28			
29				30	■	31				
■	■	■	32		33			■	■	■
34	35	36	■	37			■	38	39	40
41			42				43			
44					■	45				
46					■	47				

2-3

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SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 4 34 35 38 43
Meganumber: 17
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FANTASY 5: 4 5 25 31 32

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 1 6 0
EVENING: 9 4 7

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1.47.29

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Poetry on the Rise: (1) Twelve local poets jumped into the frigid Green Lake in Seattle in December, just because they thought it would be a good way to publicize their art. "It's not enough to write," said one. "You need that audience." (2) The Ontario Court of Appeal overturned the conviction of Antonio Batista in November, declaring that his "death threat" against a Missassauga city council member, in the form of a sonnet on long-neglected potholes, was more likely literary expression. (3) Jose Gouveia, 45, recently published "Rubber Side Down," a book of poems by bikers about the open road (including 17-syllable "baiku"), some from the educationally upscale Highway Poets Motorcycle Club of Cambridge, Mass.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1913 the 16th Amendment to the Constitution, providing for a federal income tax, was ratified.

1916 Canada's original Parliament Buildings, in Ottawa, burned down.

1959 a single-engine plane crashed shortly after midnight near Clear Lake, Iowa, claiming the lives of rock-and-roll stars Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson, as well as pilot Roger Peterson. That same day, an American Airlines Lockheed Electra from Chicago crashed into New York's East River while approaching LaGuardia Airport, killing 65 of the 73 people on board.

1966 the Soviet probe Luna 9 became the first manmade object to make a soft landing on the moon.

1969 Yasser Arafat was elected chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization's executive committee during a council meeting in Cairo, Egypt.

1989 Alfredo Stroessner, president of Paraguay for more than three decades, was overthrown in a military coup.

WORD UP!

chaff \chaf\, *noun*, *verb*:
1. the stiff strawlike part of grains such as wheat, oats, rye
verb:
1. to make good-natured fun of someone
noun:
1. worthless material; detritus

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Employment

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.

Line Cook with valid drivers license for catering delivery Must speak English. Please call (310)985-0080

OCEAN HOUSE, an upscale assisted living community, is looking for caregivers who can assist our residents with escorting, showers, and other activities of daily living. Must be drug free, have great people skills, and a love for seniors. Various shifts available and on weekdays and weekends. If interested, please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM 90405. EOE

PART-TIME SALES POSITION-Retail hardware/lumber store in Santa Monica. Contact Erik (310)395-0956.

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MAR VISTA, 11621 Braddock Dr. unit 16 2bdrm. 1.5 bath, $1300, townhouse style, stove, carpt, w/d hookup, patio, gated parking, carpet, intercom entry, no pets.$500 off move-in (310)967-4471 www.jkwproperties.com

WLA, LARGE 3+2. OCEAN VIEW, top of hill, on prv drvwy, 3 patios/backyard, gated. Redeco, end unit. $2345/mo Cat ok 310-390-4610.

1248 11TH st. unit I, 3bdrm/1 1/2bath, stove, carpet, blinds, laundry, parking, no pets.on site manager $2500/mo $500 off move in (310)393-6322 www.jkwproperties.com

615 1/2 MIDVALE lower Bachelor, no kitchen, sink, fridge,hot plate,, ceiling fan, carpet, street parking, no pets $925/mo utilities included (310)578-7512 wwwjkwproperties.com

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Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR URBAN DESIGN AND PLANNING CONSULTING SERVICES

The Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors requests proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide as-needed urban planning and design consulting services. The purpose of this RFP is to solicit architecture, landscape architecture, planning and graphic design teams capable of providing comprehensive design consultation, including architectural standards, wayfinding devices, aesthetic elements and community amenities.

Interested and qualified Proposers that can demonstrate their ability to successfully provide the required services are invited to submit proposal(s) provided they meet the following requirements:

* Proposers must have a minimum of five years' experience performing significant urban planning and design consulting services for governmental agencies or private organizations.
* Proposers Contract Representative (Project Manager) must have a minimum of five year's experience providing urban planning and design consulting services.
* Proposer must have a staff member possessing a valid license in good standing with the California Architects Board.

An informational meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 12, 2009 at the Boathouse Meeting Room, 13640 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey. The deadline for submitting proposals is 12:00 p.m., February 23, 2009.

To request a copy of the RFP, either telephone (310) 577-5736, send an e-mail with Urban Planning & Design Consulting Services RFP in the subject line to ntaylor@bh.lacounty.gov, visit http://lacounty.info/doing_business/main_db.htm, or write to:

Department of Beaches and Harbors
Urban Planning & Design RFP /Attn: Nicolette Taylor
13837 Fiji Way
Marina del Rey, CA 90292
Fax: (310) 821-8155

The County reserves the right to cancel the RFP and to modify any and all terms and conditions of the RFP, including minimum requirements. For further information, call Nicolette Taylor at (310) 577-5736.

Santa Monica Daily Press
CN812020 09-00727 Feb 3, 2009

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE(S)
Date of Filing Application: January 27, 2009
To Whom it may concern:
The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: DINING SOLUTION INC
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell

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Notices

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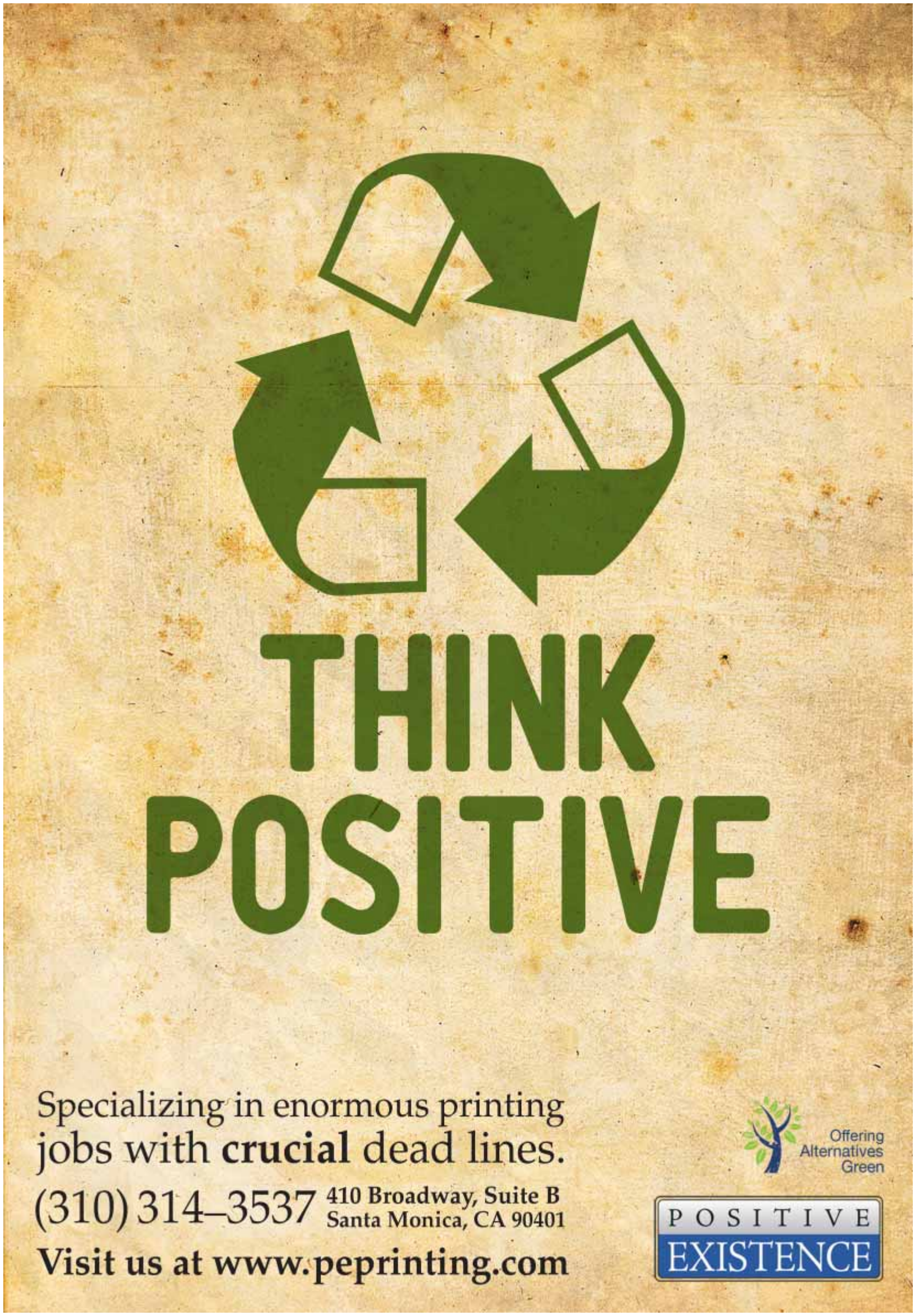
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Median Price of ALL Santa Monica Properties Listed for Sale As of Early February 2009

		Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
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North of Montana	=	$3,475,000	$995,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$1,995,000	$799,250
South of Wilshire	=	$799,000	$799,000
Sunset Park	=	$1,100,000	$674,000
Ocean Park	=	$1,695,000	$803,125

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