



FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

February 5-6, 2005

A newspaper with issues

Volume 4, Issue 73

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

2 9 13 20 44
Meganumber: 27
Jackpot: \$7 Million

FANTASY 5

5 7 18 31 36

DAILY 3

Daytime: 7 3 7
Evening: 6 1 8

DAILY DERBY

1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 11 Money Bags

RACE TIME: 1:48.96



NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In July, Winnetka, Ill., investment promoter Charles Harris made a last-ditch effort to get his clients' support, hoping they would not cooperate with authorities who were about to arrest him for fraud. Harris sent each a DVD in which he begged them to give his investments more time, but federal agents, after arresting Harris in September, said Harris probably shot that DVD from the Caribbean Sea, on the 62-foot yacht he had bought with clients' money.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1917, Mexico's constitution was adopted.

In 1958, Gamel Abdel Nasser was formally nominated to become the first president of the new United Arab Republic.

In 1973, services were held at Arlington National Cemetery for Army Lt. Col. William B. Nolde, the last American soldier killed before the Vietnam cease-fire.

In 1981, a military jury in North Carolina convicted Marine Pfc. Robert Garwood of collaborating with the enemy while a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

INDEX

Horoscopes

Don't go too far, Libra 2

Surf Report

Water Temperature: 60° 3

Opinion

Kids' say darndest things 4

Recreation

Get your ducks in a row 6

State

Stemming the tide 9

National

Tale of the tapes 10

Comics

Laugh it up 12

Classifieds

Ad space odyssey 13-15

Solar power



Nicky Five Aces/Five Aces Photo

JUST ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE: Onlookers watch the sun set over the Pacific Ocean Friday from Palisades Park.

Being cool to your school continues, despite share plan

Donations are up at all schools, quelling parent fears

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

DISTRICT HDQRTS. — A controversial plan that mandates 15 percent of school donations be shared with the poorest campuses in Santa Monica and Malibu apparently hasn't hampered the community's urge to give.

PTA groups in the Santa Monica-Malibu district plan to collectively spend nearly \$200,000 more this school year than last year, district records show. That means parent contributions were assured to top \$1,371,000 in 2004-2005.

See **SHARING THE WEALTH**, page 7

Minding your own business gets costly

BY DIDIER DIELS

Special to the Daily Press

Residents be warned: If you sold so much as a shabby old pair of sneakers last year, City Hall wants a piece of your sole.

City Hall requires that every individual who earns money from home pay a Santa Monica business tax.

Mark Humphrey recently learned that the hard way. The freelance writer got a letter last month from an auditing firm hired by City Hall informing him he owed \$703.99 in back taxes, penalties and fees for using his home as an office.

Humphrey, who lives in Santa Monica and works full-time for

See **HOUSE CALLS**, page 8

Cheesiest art thou amongst women

BY LESLIE JONES

Special to the Daily Press

Gluttony will soon meet reverence on Venice Beach.

The first annual World Grilled Cheese-Eating Championship is honoring the renowned Virgin Mary grilled cheese sandwich, which will be on display at 1 p.m. next Saturday, Feb. 12 at Muscle beach.

The sandwich will be on display during the eating contest. Diana Duyser, its original owner, will attend and tell the sandwich's story.

The Virgin Mary grilled cheese

sandwich has become a veritable pop culture icon in the past several months. The sandwich reached celebrity status due to the burn on its bread that is believed to bear resemblance to the Virgin Mary. Duyser sold the sandwich on eBay to GoldenPalace.com, an online casino, for \$28,000.

Duyser believes the sandwich brought her good luck during 10 years of owning it. She hoped the new owner would share the sandwich with the world.

"We intend to do just that," said Richard Rowe, CEO of

GoldenPalace.com. Since the sandwich was posted on eBay it has received 1,700,000 viewers.

GoldenPalace.com now has the sandwich on national tour. Proceeds from memorabilia sold on the tour go to charity and tsunami relief efforts.

Drew Black, spokesman for GoldenPalace.com, said reactions to the sandwich vary greatly — some claim the sandwich looks more like Michelle Pfeiffer than the blessed Virgin. Others are true

See **CHEESY DISPLAY**, page 9

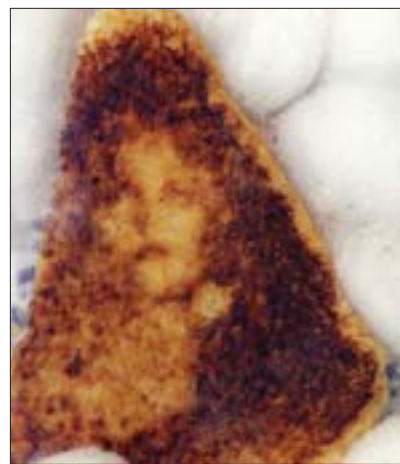


Photo Courtesy

The Virgin Mary will appear on Venice Beach next weekend in the form of a grilled cheese sandwich.

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COMMERCIAL

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★★★★-Positive

★★★-Average

★★-So-so

★-Difficult





ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You'll hit a home run if you grab an opportunity. Don't back off, but instead strategically place your energy. A parent or boss appreciates your efforts. Don't underestimate your abilities. Follow your sixth sense. Tonight: Out.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Read between the lines. What might be important is what isn't said. A friend pushes you hard to achieve your goals. Look beyond the pressure, plans and demands. You will know what is best in the long run. Tonight: Where the music is.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Work and mesh with a partner if you want to achieve a deeper bond. You could laugh easily when you view the whimsical nature of others. Don't expect stability. Accept change as the status quo. Tonight: Add romance to dinner.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Others seek you out en masse. Your ability to make a difference emerges and stands out. Use your skills. Let someone believe that he or she is making the decisions. You'll find that doors open up as a result. Lose your rose-colored shades. Tonight: Go along with plans.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Plunge into a project or favorite hobby. Inviting a partner to share or join in thaws any ice that might have been developing between the two of you. Relax as well as work together. Note how good you feel. Tonight: Easy does it.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Your libido rides high and points you in a new direction. Your imagination bubbles forth as you release your childlike qualities. Do something you enjoyed as a kid, and invite a child or pal to join you. Tonight: Let the good times happen.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ You don't always need to give in to your wanderlust. Slow down and look around your home and neighborhood. Recognize others who you care about. You are naturally into drama, but know that it isn't mandatory, especially today. Tonight: You don't have to go far.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Reach out to others in your immediate environment. Make a phone call to a friend you haven't talked to for a while. Spontaneous plans perk up what you might have thought was a dull afternoon. Tonight: Allow more excitement in your life.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ You share more of yourself than in the past. Listen to your instincts when dealing with family, real estate and security. Guide others in a subtle manner. Being authoritative won't work ultimately. Tonight: Your treat.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Add your personality into the mix, and nearly everything and everyone will go along with you. Don't attempt to structure your whole day, because the unexpected could surprise you. Letting go allows more fun into your life. Tonight: Flourish with the moment.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Take your time and allow yourself to kick back and enjoy. Sometimes you don't realize what a pressure cooker you exist in. Shed unnecessary tension and relax. A walk or a yoga session might ease the path to less stress. Tonight: You don't have to tell everyone your plans.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Your unpredictability takes adventure to a new level. Round up your friends. Get together with someone you really care about. Don't do anything halfway. Add that special Piscean touch of enthusiasm. Tonight: Where the action is.



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1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • www.smdp.com

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com

EDITOR

Carolyn Sackariason sack@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER

John Wood wood@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Robbie P. Piubeni rob@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Rob Schwenker schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Stewart O'Dell stewarto@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II alex@smdp.com

EXECUTIVE TRAFFIC MANAGER

Brenda Casas brenda@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Mirella Reyes mirella@smdp.com

NIGHT EDITOR

Lori Luechtefeld lori@smdp.com

NIGHT EDITOR

Michael Tittinger moneysurf@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Keith Wyatt keith@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Glenn Bolan glenn@smdp.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com

MASCOT

Maya Furukawa maya@smdp.com

LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Culture club taps a new lead

By Daily Press staff

After a nationwide search, Santa Monica’s Community and Cultural Services Department has announced the hiring of Jessica Cusick as the city’s new cultural affairs manager.

Beginning on Feb. 14, Cusick will head up the cultural affairs division, overseeing the city’s public art program along with the division’s grant programs which supports numerous Santa Monica based nonprofit arts agencies.

“Ms. Cusick is one of the most respected, talented and qualified public art advocates in the United States,” said Santa Monica Arts Commission Chairperson Phyllis Green.

Cusick received her undergraduate degree in art history from the Sorbonne in Paris. She went on to get her masters in art history at NYU. Cusick has been involved in public art projects nationwide. She founded and directed Metro Art, the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s public art program, which incorporated art from contemporary artists into the stations of the MTA subway and light rail systems. Cusick also is an adjunct professor at the University of Southern California in its public art studies program.

For additional information on the Santa Monica Cultural Affairs Division, log onto www.arts.santa-monica.org

Silent movie star prescribed to aid medical mission

By Daily Press staff

A group of local doctors is silently raising money for sick individuals in one of the poorest nations on the planet.

The second annual Silent Movie Extravaganza on Valentine’s weekend will feature the comedy-romance “Girl Shy” starring Harold Lloyd, the “King of Daredevil Comedy,” as a benefit for the Santa Monica-based Lighthouse Medical Mission Team’s trip to Sierra Leone in March.

“Girl Shy” is being made available by the Harold Lloyd Trust. Lloyd ranked in popularity with two other famous silent film comedians of the 1920s — Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton.

The evening will include appearances by actresses Patricia Heaton of the television series “Everybody Loves Raymond” and Nancy Travis of “Becker,” and by Mark Steines, the co-host of “Entertainment Tonight.” An oral auction will feature a Mexican cruise. Live orchestral accompaniment for the movie will be led by Robert Israel.

The event will help the all-volunteer medical team make its seventh annual visit to West Africa under the direction of Dr. Robert Hamilton, a Santa Monica pediatrician. Hamilton expects the largest team ever — close to 50 doctors, nurses and helpers — to make the trip in late March to Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone has appeared in some rankings as the poorest country in the world and was racked by a civil war from 1991 to 2002. During last year’s trip, the Lighthouse Medical Mission Team helped care for approximately 3,500 patients in a week-long clinic in the capital of Freetown and during a visit to Enema in Eastern Sierra Leone. Many of the people in those areas wouldn’t otherwise get treatment if it weren’t for the medical team, Hamilton said.

The benefit is set for 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, in the newly refurbished historic Aero Theatre, 1328 Montana Ave.

Tickets are \$50 and advanced reservations are needed. Call (310) 264-2100



SURF REPORT

Saturday the 5th is looking smaller yet, knee high or so. Sunday the 6th we’re expecting to see a light mix of NW wind swell and SW ground swell, but nothing significant by any means. During the right mid tide hours, it may be long-boardable with knee to waist high sets, occasionally better at standout west facing breaks

Today the water is:

60°

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	N/A	N/A	1:22	1.2	5:43	6.0	8:06	3.5
SUNDAY	12:16	2.3	2:04	1.6	6:39	6.5	8:39	3.8
Monday	1:12	1.9	2:44	1.9	7:30	6.8	9:12	4.1
Tuesday	2:03	1.5	3:23	1.8	8:18	6.9	9:46	4.4
Wednesday	2:52	1.2	3:59	1.6	9:04	6.7	10:20	4.6
Thursday	3:42	1.0	4:35	1.1	9:49	6.2	10:56	4.8
Friday	3:42	1.0	4:35	1.1	9:49	6.2	10:56	4.8

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THE Q-LINE RESPONSES ARE IN!

WE HAVE THE QUESTIONS.
YOU HAVE THE ANSWERS.
CHECK OUT THIS WEEK’S Q-LINE RESPONSES ON PAGE 4.



INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2!

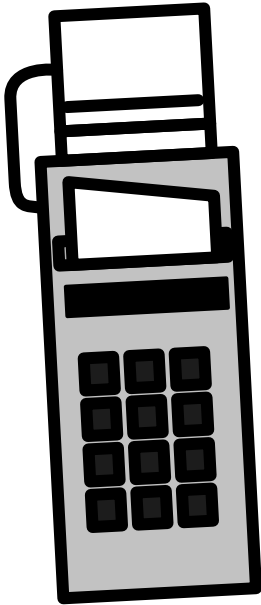
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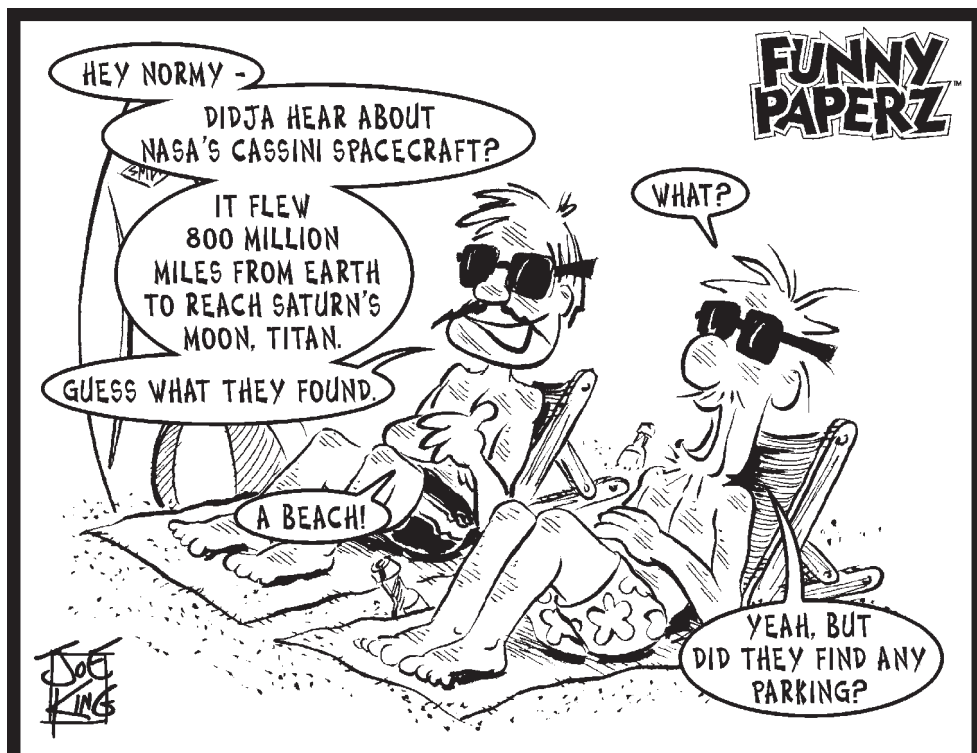
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OPINION



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't be hounding the dog lovers

Editor:

I am responding to Ben Jacobs's letter (SMDP, Jan. 28, page 4).

The discussion on dog beaches has been going on for over a year. A concerned Santa Monica citizen before the City Council brought many facts to light of what other beach cities in California are already successfully and safely enjoying. To answer all of your concerns please go to: <http://unleashthebeach.org/>. What are the issues? Read 10 "Mistaken Assumptions" and Facts about Dog Beaches

As for Kevin McKeown, I'm so grateful that he's on the City Council and is such an animal advocate. I admire his strength to question governments that preside over a larger area than his own backyard. It doesn't take one to see the examples shown in Michael Moore's movie "Fahrenheit 911," to know that larger governments are not always paying attention to the little things that are important. If Bobby Shriver can keep the Gov. Schwarzenegger abreast of what's really going on with the concerns of Santa Monicans, that can only be in our favor.

A resident of Santa Monica brought poisoning the squirrels to the City Council's attention. The poisoning is both inhumane and ineffective in its effort to kill fleas and as Kevin McKeown pointed out, "If your dog has fleas, you don't kill your dog." It turned out other jurisdictions have satisfied similar health directives by controlling fleas, not killing squirrels. The Santa Monica city staff also suggested to the county other options: The county was unmoved, even though there are many safe organic ways to get rid of fleas. They insisted killing the squirrels was the only solution. How sad and cruel that that's what eventually happened.

Willow Evans
Santa Monica

The QLine

TROUBLED WATER ON THE MIND

This past week, Q-line asked:

How concerned are you about the water quality of Santa Monica Bay?

Here are your responses:

① "Yes, I am concerned due to the endangerment of marine life. Healing the bay is not a difficult task due to the major pollutant being motor oil that drips from automobile engines due to faulty oil retaining gaskets. After each rain, the oil that drips from automobiles is washed into the storm drain that empties into the ocean. When the automobile owner has their oil changed or an engine tune-up, the gaskets should be checked and if found to be leaking, then replaced. Also, the Los Angeles County has an enormous network of storm drains that lie underneath the cities. These empty into the ocean via Ballona Creek. It is important that the county keep these underground storm drains clean especially the main polluter, Ballona Creek. I have seen everything floating in Ballona Creek, including the kitchen sink."

② "I'm very concerned about the water quality of Santa Monica Bay for a number of reasons. Number one is the recreational aspect, all the children, young people, and surfers who get so much fun, enjoyment, and exercise is chief among them. Secondly, our ocean is a big tourist attraction. Thirdly, the fish and marine animals and birds are at such great risk with all the pollution. Whatever can be done to improve water quality, should be a high priority."

③ "I'm very concerned about the quality of the ocean water. For one thing, big thing, reroute the storm drains from emptying into the ocean into a treatment plant. That would be a biggie."

④ "Yes, I'm concerned about the quality of our water on our entire planet Earth. Thanks to the stupid, chemical, greed-driven corporations, all nature, including human, are being poisoned to

disease and death. We are continually being chemically poisoned by man. Finally, if our stupid city decision-makers add sodium fluoride to our water supply, we can count on more poisons to our bodies and the environment."

⑤ "Well, the water pollution every time it rains, some of it's from idiots that drain their car oil and don't bother cleaning up. I wonder how much of it's from the bums who don't know how to use the toilet because they haven't been house-broken yet."

⑥ "I am very concerned. When my adult children were young, I used to take them to the beach and consider their time in the ocean waves to be healthy for them. When I was a child, an ocean swim was healthy. These days swimming in the ocean is a health hazard with possibly life-threatening disease. After the years of using the ocean as a dumping ground for chemicals, garbage, human waste, etc., it isn't very safe anymore and I go down and I look at the ocean but I never go in. It really saddens me that we have treated the ocean in this way and it will never be the same."

⑦ "I'm very concerned regarding the water quality of the Santa Monica Bay. If we have an accidental spill of fluoride, who will and how will they be able to come to the aid of the birds and the fish that live in the bay? You can wash the outside of birds. I don't know about the fish but you can't wash the inside. We had an accident spill in West LA just a day or so ago and everybody boiled their water. I don't think we can boil the bay."

⑧ "I think the quality of the water in Santa Monica should be looked at because there's a lot of pollutants going into the ocean."

When did intolerance become a family value?



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

Recently, popular radio commentator and founder of the conservative Christian group, Focus on the Family, James C. Dobson, focused on an unlikely target: The cartoon character SpongeBob SquarePants. At a black-tie dinner in which he addressed some members of Congress, Dobson claimed that the animated sponge was actually part of a movement to slyly promote homosexuality to children. Huh? James, it's an animated character, and it's not even a human!

Nonetheless, Dobson is outraged. As proof of his assertion, he pointed out that SpongeBob often holds hands with his friend who is a pink starfish. What more evidence could this guy need?

But there's more. What really has

made him mad is that a group called, the "We Are Family Foundation" has made a pro-diversity video with SpongeBob and other characters from kids' shows. On the video, characters from "Barney," "The Muppets," "The Book of Pooh," "Clifford the Red Dog," "Lilo and Stitch," "Rugrats," and "Sesame Street," along with the evil SpongeBob, sing the '70's song, "We Are Family."

A spokesman for another conservative group, the Family Research Council, said that their "homosexuality detection expert" is also suspicious of the video.

I didn't even know there was such a thing as a "homosexuality detection expert." Is that what he puts on his income tax form under "occupation?" What kind of detection equipment does he use? Gaydar? How do you become an expert in this area? There's probably a debate in their community about it. Some people may believe you just choose to let others convince you to be a homosexual detector, while others may believe you're just born

with the skills.

There is no mention of sexual identity on the video. However, included in the teaching materials is a link to a Web site where there is a "tolerance pledge," and that's what offends Dobson and his buddies the most. This statement seeks "respect for people whose abilities, beliefs, culture, race, sexual identity or other characteristics are different from my own." Those words sound very much like the ones I've heard President Bush use and encourage all of us to believe.

I guess if you hate something enough, you can convince yourself you see it in all kinds of places. But why stop with SpongeBob? Has Dobson put Bert and Ernie to the test? What were Heckle and Jekyll up to all those years? And surely, there are other subversive things that have been sneaked into cartoons. What about the ridiculing of Scrooge McDuck by Donald and the others? Isn't making a rich, miserly duck the butt of jokes just a subtle way of anti-American communists

making fun of capitalism?

It would be nice if we could just dismiss Dobson as one man with some weird, but harmless ideas. But we can't do that. Dobson's group has a budget of more than \$100 million, a magazine empire with millions of subscribers, and thousands of radio stations. When he gives an opinion, politicians listen.

The irony of all this is that if it weren't for adults, kids wouldn't need to be taught tolerance. Young children seem to treat all different kinds of people the same. The brouhaha about these characters singing "We Are Family" makes me think of a song from the musical "South Pacific."

"You have to be taught

Before it's too late.

Before you are six or seven or eight

To hate all the people your relatives hate.

You have to be carefully taught."

(Lloyd Garver can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com).

COMMENTARY



GUEST COMMENTARY BY HANK ROSENFELD

Not every tragedy makes way into papers

Vanity Fair has a story in its February issue called "Nightmare on Sunset," about how "the sylvan enclaves of Bel Air, Brentwood, Pacific Palisades and Beverly Hills" have been experiencing a surge in crime. When the reporter asked why nobody seemed to be talking about it, one of the residents said, "Real estate values." It reminded me of a story in my neighborhood that never got covered.

When Joe Pipersky opened his diner on Main Street in 1987, Amador Garcia Rodriguez was there on Aug. 3, a day before the opening. He's still there. Not only chef Amador, but members of his family have come up from the state of Jalisco in Western Mexico to work at both Joe's and Holy Guacamole across the street. Seven people can live in a \$400 per month apartment, sleeping in different shifts, sending paychecks south. They mostly stay home at night with the TV and maybe a Gameboy.

Sylvestre Garcia Rodriguez, one of Amador's nephews, washed dishes at the diner. Pipersky had recently given him a raise across the street at Holy Guacamole. On the same night of that infamous pro basketball brawl in Detroit, at the cold, dark end of November, Sylvestre was murdered on Rose Avenue. I never read anything about it. The 22-year-old had worked at Joe's for a year. His brother Rogelio worked there, too. They sent money from Santa Monica to their parents and eight brothers and sisters in Mexicacan, a town of 30,000 people. Uncle Amador said there is no industry except for the two-month corn harvest. Rogelio and Sylvestre saved \$10,000 to send. Now, Sylvestre's younger brother plans to come up from Jalisco to work at the diner.

"It's such a huge human tragedy," Joe Pipersky said. "The family sends sons with hopes and aspirations to come up here and see them dashed."

"He was a sweet kid," said Megan Underhill, a waitress at Joe's, where Merry Murray, Heidi Jackson, Eddie Levenson, Sevrian Lopez, Luis Contreras and the rest of the diner family were shattered by the death.

"He smiled all the time," Underhill said of the young man with the slim face and physique.

It cost \$7,000 to send the body back to Jalisco with Rogelio.

"It's more expensive to die than to be born," Amador said.

They took up a collection at the diner. Of the generous response, Pipersky said, "It came from the heart."

On Nov. 28, the boy was laid to rest.

Amador and fellow cook Pascual described what happened: Sylvestre was near his home on Rose and Sixth, near the Venice Free Clinic, standing in a parking space on that Friday night. Sylvestre was not in a gang, but he was murdered right there by a gang member who came along. Channel 11 gave the story its only coverage. Mistaken identity was cited. I thought maybe it wasn't reported because of the condo development on the corner of Rose and Sixth. Or because Sylvestre wasn't white, or his life not somehow as important as that of a sea lion or beached squid.

I know it's been more than two months. But in these days of worldwide overwhelming loss and giving to causes beyond our comprehension, I've been thinking about this kid.

"He was nothing but friendly," said Chris, who shared beers with Sylvestre at Joe's after work. Merry "not just a waitress" Murray sat for a bit in a booth with some favorite customers. Like Amador, she's been with Pipersky since day one in 1987.

"It is so sad," Murray said.

(Hank Rosenfeld is a writer living in Ocean Park.)

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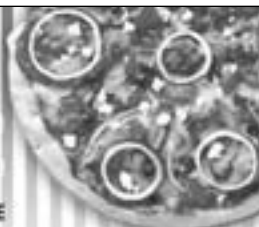
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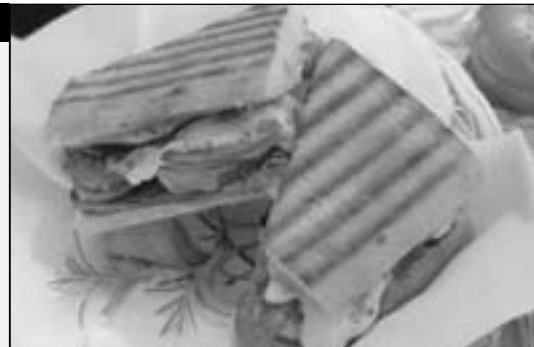
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RECREATION

Don't miss the boat: 'Indo-Row' is here to stay



EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT

BY THADDEUS REICHLEY

We all have them. You know, those "ex" boyfriends or girlfriends that we would rather not bump into again for one reason or another. Maybe they dumped us, or we dumped them. Maybe we promised to call and then never did. Or, maybe they broke our hearts before we knew better and we still haven't gotten over them. You can go about your daily life for days, months, even years at a time without so much as thinking of them and then one day you step out of the dry cleaners and there they are. Or, there is someone that looks just like them, and for a minute or two your heart rate jumps to its threshold and you are flooded with all of those uncomfortable emotions that you have worked so hard to file away in some dark little corner of your memory.

I recently had just such an experience. It happened to me at Revolution Fitness on Montana Avenue. It was a normal Monday night except that I was mixing it up a little and going to a new class. I was running a little late as I got to the studio and I was already a little flustered. I signed in, changed my clothes, walked into class, and there she was. Let's call her "Rosie." I don't want to go into too many details, but let's just say that for the better part of my college years Rosie caused me

a considerable amount of pain and heartache. We met my freshman year and quickly became very close. From the beginning it was a love-hate relationship full of ups and downs, and every time we said good-bye, I swore it was for good. Still, I always went back. Partly because of the void I felt when she wasn't part of my day, but mostly because I missed our two-hour sessions that always left me sweaty and exhausted. Before you get the wrong idea, I should probably tell you that Rosie is not your average lady. She is about six feet tall, dark, quiet, and will give you a better workout in an hour than running, biking, or swimming. Rosie, you see, is a rowing machine.

In a former life, I was a rower at the University of Washington. I was never great, but I loved it. Rowing is a beautiful and amazingly difficult sport that is as physically and mentally challenging as anything I have ever done. When done right, rowing is a full body, low impact workout that targets all major muscle groups. I loved the way my body felt when I was in prime rowing shape. Still, it was the team aspect of rowing that I loved most. Rowing is done as a group, but it is not like other team sports. For a rowing team to be successful, every oar must move together, and every body must be as one. When you are part of this synchronized effort you forget about everything else in the world and just row.

As with any sport, rowing takes practice, and one of the best ways to practice is on a rowing machine. From the beginning, I was drawn to the simplicity of it.

There are no bells, whistles, or alarms, and when you sit on a rowing machine you can actually see how it works. You can definitely feel what it is working. I spent countless hours on the rowing machine in college trying to hone my skills and build my fitness. Though I enjoyed it in that twisted way we all enjoy great workouts, I honestly never thought the rowing machine would be part of my life again after college. That is until I met Josh Crosby.

I ran into Josh on a mountain bike ride the other day and after chatting for a while as we battled up Sullivan Canyon, we figured out that we had rowed against each other in college and that we share a group of old rowing buddies. Josh is this amazingly charismatic guy that could probably sell a bear a fur coat. It didn't take long for him to talk me into coming to one of his "Indo-Row" classes. I am usually a little skeptical fitness fads and would rather go to the dentist than workout indoors, but I was intrigued by the concept and really wanted to get that old rowing buzz again. Besides, I thought spinning was just a fad, and now everyone is doing it, including me, so what do I know.

Josh runs his classes similar to a spin class. There are probably about a dozen rowing machines lined up with fans, and he has really great music pumping to keep you going. However, unlike a spin class where you are basically going to the beat of your own drum, "Indo-Row" classes all follow a prescribed cadence that Josh sets throughout the class. The collective movement of bodies, and the rhythm of the

breathing that results are amazing. You literally get lost in the energy and before you know it the workout is over. After just one class, I was hooked, and have since made it a part of my weekly routine.

If you are looking for a way to mix up your weekly routine, or trying to jump-start yourself into a new program, "Indo-Row" might be the perfect solution. If you still need convincing, here are a few reasons you should give it a try:

1. "Indo-Row" is a full body, low impact workout that burns more calories than biking, swimming, or running. And, it does not take all of the time and equipment that other sports do. If you have an hour to get a workout in, you can't beat this!

2. I'll say it again, misery loves company. There is something about working out with a group that is more fun than going it alone. Unlike most group workouts, "Indo-Row" is truly a team effort, and when you are in the class you feel like you are drawing energy from each and every person around you.

3. Learning something new is fun. How often, as adults, do we try something new?

Most of us hate that "first day of school" feeling that you get when you start something like this, but I promise it is easy. Revolution Fitness is a fantastic studio and Josh has classes to meet the needs of everyone from experienced rowers to brand new "freshmen." For more information call Revolution Fitness or visit "Indo-Row" online at www.indo-row.com.

(Look for Thaddeus' columns on the weekends).

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LOCAL



Even Malibu schools see boost in donations

SHARING THE WEALTH, from page 1

Schools Superintendent John Deasy, who proposed the gift policy in 2003 as a way to help offset the wide discrepancy in fundraising at wealthy schools in Malibu and northern Santa Monica from those in poorer neighborhoods, said the results indicated that worries over the policy were misplaced.

"It's pretty clear what's happened," Deasy said during a Friday interview. "It says that the fundraising through the PTA has been more generous and increased support for our schools ... People have come to support this. People were really responsible around the policy and it's really appreciated."

Dozens of parents argued against the policy before its inception, saying it unfairly taxed the generosity of donors, and would lead to an overall decline in gifts. School board member Shane McCloud, one of two to vote against the policy, said Friday he was both surprised and pleased by the increase in donations.

"I'm ecstatic that PTA contributions are improved," said McCloud, who teaches at a charter school in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

"That doesn't change my position, I still feel, principally, it's wrong to alter someone's generosity," he added. "But knowing the community as I do, I think this policy inspired a lot of parents to learn that a lot of students need extra resources and, in kind, they responded with increased contribution. So I'm pleased."

PTA council president Maria Rodriguez, who works as a community liaison at John Adams Middle School, said the initial outrage over the proposal died as soon as the school board approved

it. The PTA groups immediately began holding forums on the particulars of the policy, which doesn't affect gifts for scholarships and PTA operating expenses, or gifts that benefit all district schools.

"Overall, it has been pretty positive," Rodriguez said. "I was actually pleasantly surprised because we went through a pretty extensive information, question and input period from the different (PTA) units ... Once the decision was made, then we tried to look at ways to try and make it work — it is what it is."

Even wealthy schools, where the most vociferous opposition to the gift policy was heard, have experienced an increase in donations. According to district records, donations to the PTA at Pt. Dume Elementary rose from \$219,002 before the gift policy to a minimum of \$225,950 this year, while at Webster Elementary donations rose from \$259,885 to a base of \$290,800. At Franklin Elementary in Santa Monica, the donations rose from \$196,459 to \$206,100.

The policy calls for 15 percent of school donations to go into a central fund, to be distributed to schools in the district at the end of the school year, based on need. It's unclear how much money that fund will net this year, though Deasy said he expects the fund will receive at least \$130,000, and probably more.

"At the end of the year, we'll know the total amount that actually got contributed into that fund through all of the gift giving," he said.

Added McCloud: "One thing this whole controversial policy has created is an awareness that there are students that need extra — there's an inequity with some students and some schools, and they benefit from increased contributions."

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City paying house calls to collect on business tax

HOUSE CALLS, from page 1

KCCS Productions in Weatherford, TX, earns a few extra thousand dollars each year as a freelance writer and roughly \$200 for mailing out CDs he produces as a hobby.

On this supplemental income, Humphrey already paid taxes to the federal and state governments but never realized he also owed Santa Monica, or that by writing from inside his Third Street apartment he was "conducting business" in the city.

"It may be that they're perfectly within their rights, but it sure does seem unfriendly," said Humphrey.

Just how many Santa Monicans discovered this year that their home activities qualify as businesses, or that they owed the city money, is unknown. City officials were unable to disclose how many residents had been charged for the first time, or how much that money amounted to. Also unclear is just how much the city paid the auditing firm MuniServices to track down the working-from-home residents.

For decades, municipal laws have defined a business as any entity doing

business in any form or quantity within city limits.

That definition includes individual residents earning money, no matter how small the amount, from employment such as freelance writing, arts and crafts, or any other source.

"Technically speaking, half the homes in Santa Monica qualify for this," said Samuel Moses, a Santa Monica accountant. "If you had a yard sale or sold a homemade candle, you qualify."

Many individuals working from home for years have paid the \$75 annual registration fee and any taxes owed, according to Steve Stark, City Hall's finance director. But a recent change in California law has allowed the city to catch, charge and fine Santa Monica residents who haven't paid, including those who never knew they were supposed to be paying.

Under a California State Assembly bill passed in 2004, municipalities were given access for the first time to state tax records, allowing them to see if residents were paying business tax to the state that they also owed their own city.

Santa Monica then hired MuniServices to cross-reference the long list of those paying a business tax to the state to the list

of businesses registered with the city. Anyone not registered was sent a letter, then a bill. Humphrey got the initial letter on Oct. 13, informing him he needed to license his business with Santa Monica and supply the history of his income for the last three years.

City Councilman Kevin McKeown said he would be asking City Hall's finance department staff as early as Tuesday to investigate whether or not the cost of paying MuniServices was more than the tax actually earned for the city.

"If it's a fairly small amount of money — and I think it is — we might eat it up in administrative costs anyway," McKeown said. "Besides, the annoyance of this is obviously huge."

McKeown plans to propose in March an amnesty for Santa Monica residents who had been unaware of the tax before the letters from MuniServices went out in the fall. He also would advise anyone charged to pay the tax now and seek a refund later.

The Los Angeles City Council, after drawing similar ire for enforcement of the business tax, voted in November to extend amnesty to home businesses who had not previously paid the tax. The council also

voted to eliminate the tax for anyone making less than \$100,000 in total income.

In Santa Monica, no one earning less than \$60,000 in total income has to pay the tax beyond the annual \$75 business license registration fee.

"No one knows about this, because no one bothers to find out," Moses said. "I try to inform my clients, but I don't bash them over the head with it. It's like speeding. If you want to go to Vegas at 70 miles or 100 miles an hour, it's your option. If the cop doesn't pull you over, you get there faster."

Moses said that enforcement of the business tax, even after the California Assembly bill went into effect, remained spotty at best and the penalty for not registering, in some clients' minds, was still worth the risk.

The actual tax rates vary depending on the type of work performed. "Professionals," the broad label that includes Humphrey, are required to pay \$5 out of every \$1,000 in income.

"It's like giving out jaywalking tickets," Moses said. "It's another way to earn money without publicly raising taxes. The law is on the books, but the cities really only enforce it when they need the money."

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State stem cell agency vows to keep deadline

BY PAUL ELIAS

Associated Press Biotechnology Writer

SAN DIEGO — California remains on target to issue its first grants from its novel \$3 billion stem cell research institute by May, according to its chairman, although biotechnology companies and other industry applicants might be frozen out of the initial grant-making process.

Bob Klein, chairman of the committee tasked with overseeing the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, pledged Thursday to issue grants by May at the end of an eight-hour meeting of the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee.

The 29-member committee was scheduled to discuss restricting the first rounds of grants to nonprofit labs and universities because of patent and profit issues but delayed extensive conversation on the matter until its next meeting next month.

Earlier this week, an influential institute subcommittee floated the nonprofits-only plan and it appears to have widespread support of the full committee. Committee vice chair Ed Penhoet said at the subcommittee meeting Monday that it would be relatively simple to create a single, boilerplate intellectual property agreement between the institute and nonprofit grant recipients spelling out who owned the rights to any drugs or other commercial products created with taxpayer money.

A much thornier issue, Penhoet said, was hammering out similar agreements with companies applying for grants. Complicating the matter is the fact the University of Wisconsin, where human embryonic stem cells were first discovered, and its corporate partner Geron Corp. of Menlo Park claim broad commercial rights to any stem cell-based products.

Ensuring that California taxpayers recoup their \$3 billion bond investment, which is expected to balloon to \$6 billion once interest is added, has become a political hot potato for the nascent agency. Putting off making grants to corporate interests is seen as a way to put off the controversial issue until the agency has

better intellectual property standards in place.

Still, Klein and the board dealt with other controversial issues Thursday, including how Klein intends to collect the \$1 million he loaned the campaign that backed Proposition 71, which created the institute he now heads.

An Oakland public interest group said it was concerned Klein and the campaign organization he led might cross conflict-of-interest guidelines in their efforts to pay back the debt to Klein.

"This raises the prospect of the head of a powerful state agency asking for money to reimburse his own campaign expenses from people who may desire grants from that agency," said Jesse Reynolds of the Center for Genetics and Society.

Klein said he and the campaign organization had no intentions of actively soliciting potential donors and he called the loan a "long-term obligation." Klein also contributed an additional \$2 million to a campaign that spent nearly \$35 million. Proposition 71 passed with 59 percent of the vote in November.

Klein said he would "not accept a contribution from any entity" that has any connection or potential connection to the institute. Klein, a wealthy Palo Alto builder and financier of low-income housing, wrote much of Proposition 71 and led the campaign because he said his teen son has diabetes and his mother suffers from Alzheimer's disease.

Meanwhile, the committee voted to move the institute's temporary headquarters to Emeryville until it can find a permanent home. Klein said he expects the institute to remain in Emeryville for about six months. The institute lease agreement calls for free rent for seven months. Cities throughout California, including San Francisco, San Jose, Sacramento and San Diego, are competing to win the permanent headquarters with similar offers of free rents and other incentives.

The institute itself is expected to employ no more than 50 workers, but the cities view winning the headquarters as a prestigious victory that could be used to lure biotechnology companies to relocate.

Virgin Mary sandwich should provide some food for thought

CHEESY DISPLAY, from page 1

believers. Some will kneel before the sandwich and make the sign of the cross, or touch their lottery tickets to the sandwich's plastic encasement. The sandwich has remained mold free, though it was stored with no preservation — a fact that adds to its mystery.

Some of the top-ranked eaters in the world will be competing at the grilled cheese championship for a \$10,000 prize. All those competing are members of the International Federation of Competitive Eating (IFCE).

Sonya Thomas, No. 1 ranked eater in America will attend. At a mere 105 pounds, Thomas is known for ingesting 36 dozen Louisiana oysters in 10 minutes, 11 pounds of cheesecake in nine minutes, and 46 hamburgers in eight minutes.

The grilled cheese competition is one of more than 70 events that the IFCE con-

ducts each year. There are more than 3,000 veteran and rookie athletes that comprise the competitive eating community. The athletes travel throughout the country seeking top titles in competitive eating.

"This is more than just an eating contest, it's a pilgrimage," said George Shea, the chairman of the IFCE.

The sandwich will be on display Feb. 10-11 at the Los Angeles Ripley's Believe It Or Not museum before it makes its appearance at Venice Beach on Feb. 12.

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NATIONAL

Tale of the tapes: Enron was scamming for years

BY GENE JOHNSON

Associated Press Writer

EVERETT, Wash. — Disgraced energy giant Enron Corp. was running scams to drive up the cost of power years before the 2000-01 West Coast energy crisis, according to audio transcripts and documents unveiled by a public utility north of Seattle.

By November 1997, Enron apparently knew of loopholes in California's ill-advised deregulation plan, and by May 1998 — a month after the plan took effect — Enron was already falsifying transmission schedules to inflate prices, Snohomish County Public Utility District officials said Thursday as they unveiled new evidence at a news conference.

The public utility district in Everett,

about 30 miles north of Seattle, has been using its meager resources to transcribe thousands of hours of phone conversations involving Enron traders — a job it says should have been done by federal regulators long ago.

It hopes to prove that an exorbitant contract it entered with Enron in January 2001, at the height of the crisis, should be considered fraudulent because of Enron's manipulation, and that the utility shouldn't have to pay the \$122 million that Enron claims it owes.

The material the utility released is the first evidence that Enron appears to have been honing its fraudulent schemes well before rolling blackouts darkened California and drove up prices, helping Enron make at least \$1.6 billion.

The utility found a November 1997 e-

mail on Portland, Ore.-based Enron trader Tim Belden's computer referring to loopholes in California's soon-to-be implemented power deregulation plan. Belden pleaded guilty to charges of involvement in fraudulent trading schemes, and acknowledged that wrongdoing dated to 1998, but this is the first evidence of what the company was doing.

In May 1998, an internal Enron memo between energy traders makes reference to a "PHONY import." The note also says California's independent system operator "will call and tell us we're out of balance, so tell them we intend to correct the imbalance in the 'hour-ahead' market. In fact, we really intend to do NOTHING..."

By keeping power transmission imbalanced, Enron increased the price of electricity and thus its own profit.

Also in 1998, Belden wrote to a supervisor as part of a performance review: "California gaming — we always say that we need to increase this activity, yet we never do."

In another scheme, believed to have been nicknamed "Project Stanley" in honor of the Stanley Cup hockey trophy, Enron traders in Alberta conspired with other companies to artificially inflate energy prices in Canada in 1999. References to "Project Stanley" were discovered on former Enron Chief Executive Jeffrey Skilling's calendar on at least two dates, and recorded phone conversations between project leader John Lavorato and Belden show they knew the scheme — similar to those later used in California — was illegal.

Lavorato: "I'm just, ah, (expletive), I'm just trying to be an honest camper so I only go to jail once."

Belden: "Well, there you go. At least in only one country (laughs)."

Lavorato: "Yeah, (expletive), this isn't a joke. ... Nobody else seems to be concerned anymore."

Canadian officials raided Enron's Alberta office, but the investigation petered out.

Enron collapsed in late 2001 after a web of fraudulent accounting was uncovered. Skilling, ex-Chairman Kenneth Lay and former top accountant Rick Causey are scheduled to face trial in Houston in September.

The district obtained much of its most recent evidence in one of Enron's Houston warehouses.

Some of the most damning evidence arises from taped phone conversations involving Enron traders. Traders typically record conversations as a way of keeping track of oral contracts.

One newly transcribed conversation reveals that Enron and a 50-megawatt plant in Las Vegas, LV Cogen, conspired to take the plant off line on Jan. 17, 2001 — the same day rolling blackouts hit an estimated 1 million customers in California. Taking the plant off line was in direct violation of an order by U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson requiring generators to send their energy to California.

In the conversation late on Jan. 16 that year, an Enron worker identified as Bill told a plant worker identified as Rich not to take notes because "this is going to be a word-of-mouth kind of thing."

Bill: "Ah, we want you guys to get a little creative."

Rich: "OK."

Bill: "And come up with a reason to go down."

Rich: "OK."

Bill: "Anything you want to do over there? Any ..."

Rich: "Ah ..."

Bill: "Cleaning, anything like that?"

Rich: "Yeah, yeah. There's some stuff we could be doing."

The plant went off line, compounding California's crisis.

In another conversation, a worker named Matt Goering complained about fraudulent record-keeping by company traders: "I mean, I might get fired for marking the book correctly, but I'll go to jail for cooking it."

"Beyond the illegal nature of Enron's gaming of the energy market, its insensitivity to human suffering is reprehensible," said PUD lawyer Michael Gianunzio.

Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., who has long insisted that FERC should have done more to protect consumers from Enron, said the transcripts added insult to injury. She said she would ask the Senate's Government Affairs to investigate Enron's response.

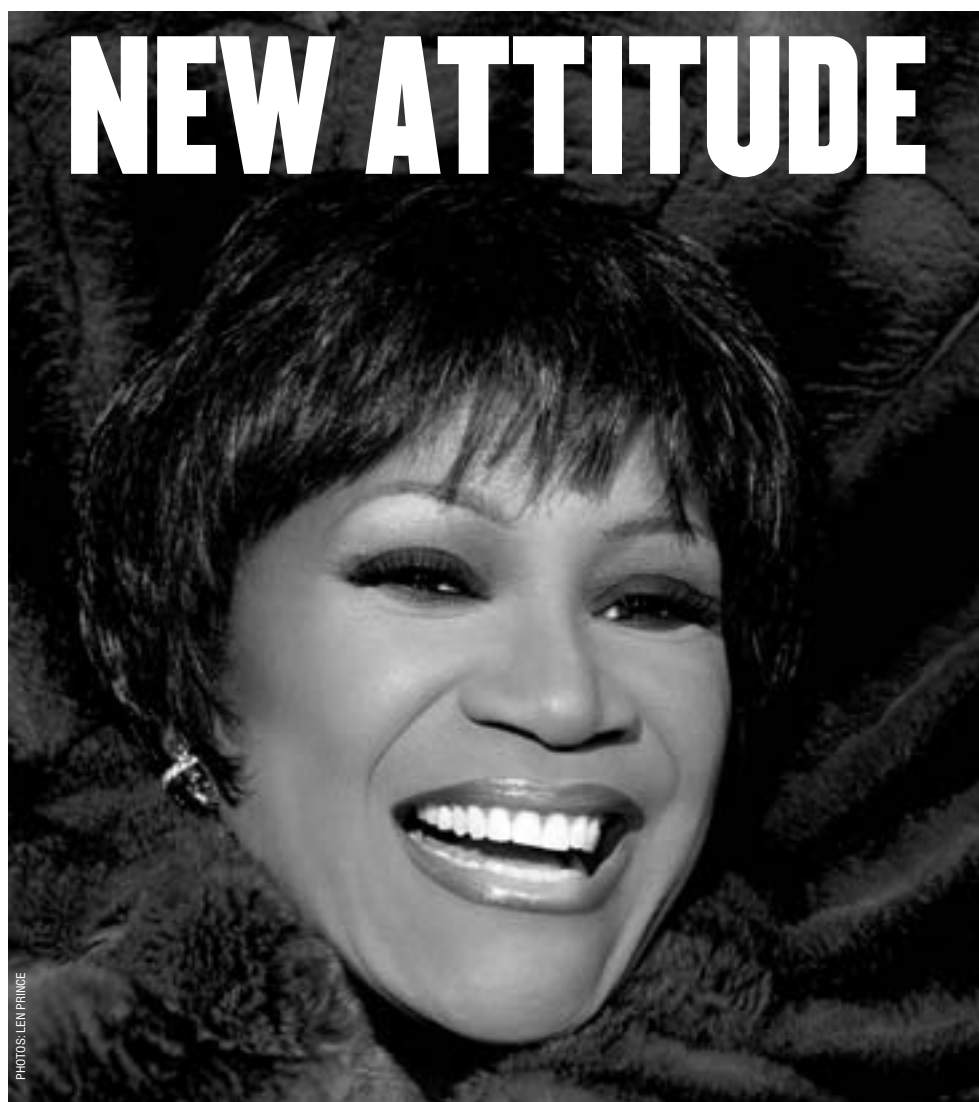
"At the very least, FERC needs to ensure that the victims who paid the price for Enron's schemes the first time around aren't forced to pay a single penny more," Cantwell said.

FERC spokesman Bryan Lee said the Snohomish PUD only knew the Enron tapes existed because of the agency's ongoing proceedings against the company.

"We understand the desire to take Enron out and hang them from the nearest tree. That is Western justice, after all," Lee said. "But the courts tend to like due process."

Enron spokeswoman Jennifer Lowney said only that the company is cooperating with federal investigations.

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NATIONAL



Colo. education department plans to repost controversial pamphlet

BY COLLEEN SLEVIN

Associated Press Writer

DENVER — State officials plan to repost an edited version of a controversial guide for immigrants on its Web site, a document that was yanked after critics said it provided tips for illegal immigrants.

State Education Commissioner William Moloney said Thursday that staffers were reviewing the guide and would remove parts deemed objectionable. He didn't have any details on what would be removed but said most people agree that "99 percent" of the guide contains good information and should be available to immigrants.

"Whether you do it or you don't do it, people are going to be upset. There's no sure path to making everyone happy," Moloney said.

The pamphlet was removed from the site Monday after U.S. Rep. Tom Tancredo sent a letter to Gov. Bill Owens criticizing it for encouraging illegal immigrants to take advantage of government services and helping

them find jobs.

The online version of the pamphlet included an introduction by Owens but he said this week that he didn't realize that some of the information seemed to be aimed at illegal immigrants.

Moloney didn't consult Owens but the governor's spokesman said he thought it would be fine to post an edited version since the majority of the pamphlet was acceptable.

The guide, which is also available in a print edition, contains information about everything from how to get a driver's license to domestic abuse laws. It also says health clinics don't have to see immigration papers before providing treatment, and that children born in the United States can qualify for certain health benefits even if their parents are here illegally.

Tancredo's spokesman, Carlos Espinosa, said he hoped the new guide would just help legal immigrants.

"I just hope that the hapless bureaucrats who put this together in the first place aren't the ones making the edits," he said.

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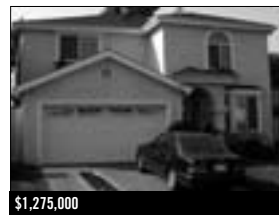
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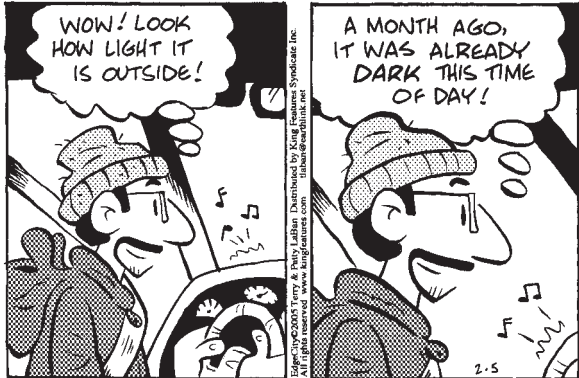
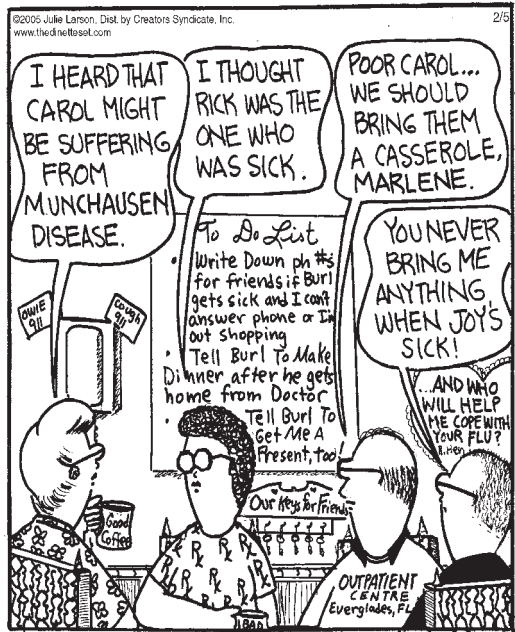
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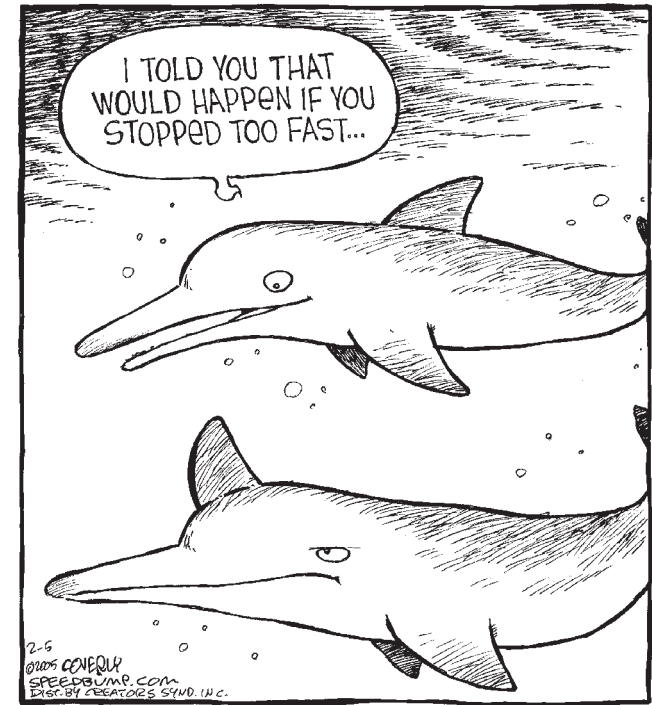
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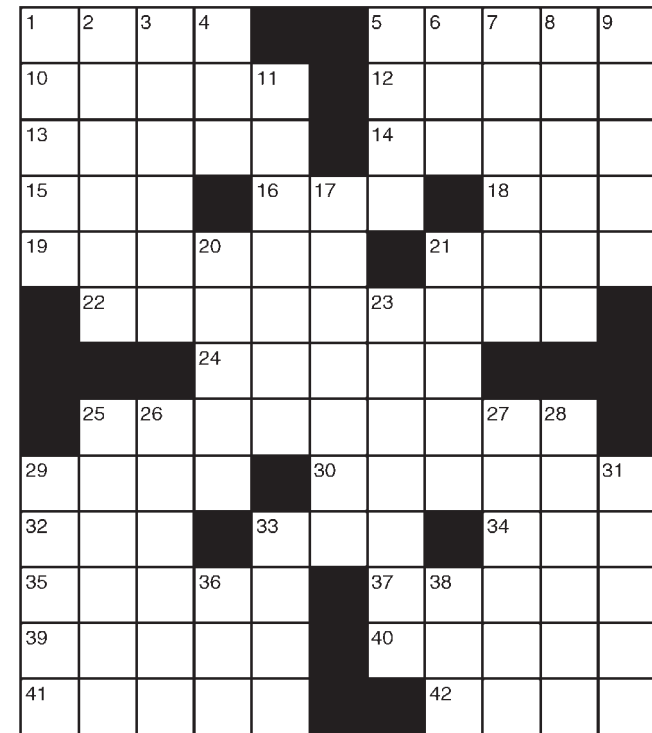
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- 34 Devious
- 35 Weather zone
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- 40 Clerk, at times
- 41 Bumbling

- 42 Garden areas

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- 6 Really impress
- 7 Lined up
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE
NO. 05 0032255 FIRST FILING. The following per-
son(s) is (are) doing business as Hoodgurl, 12435
W. Jefferson. Blvd., #216, Los Angeles, CA 90066.
The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Stephanie
Merinda Powell, 12435 W. Jefferson. Blvd., #216,
Los Angeles, CA 90066 This Business is being con-
ducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not
yet begun to transact business under the fictitious
name or names listed herein. /s/: Stephanie Mer-
inda Powell
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of
LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTI-
TIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE
YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OF-
FICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRI-
OR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement
does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a
fictitious business name statement in violation of
the rights of another under federal, state, or com-
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