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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2010
Volume 9 Issue 77

Santa Monica Daily Press

A SPECIAL DAY FOR HIM
SEE PAGE 4

We have you covered

THE WET SEASON ISSUE

West L.A. project sparks protest

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

OLYMPIC BLVD Centinela Avenue may be where Santa Monica ends, but local residents are afraid a massive development proposed for just beyond that boundary could come to mark the beginning of a new era of nightmarish traffic in the city brought on by overdevelopment.

Called the Bundy Village Medical Park, the controversial project envisions 385 residential units and more than 500,000-square-feet of commercial space at the intersection of Bundy Drive and Olympic Boulevard that is estimated to create more than 20,000 new car trips per day.

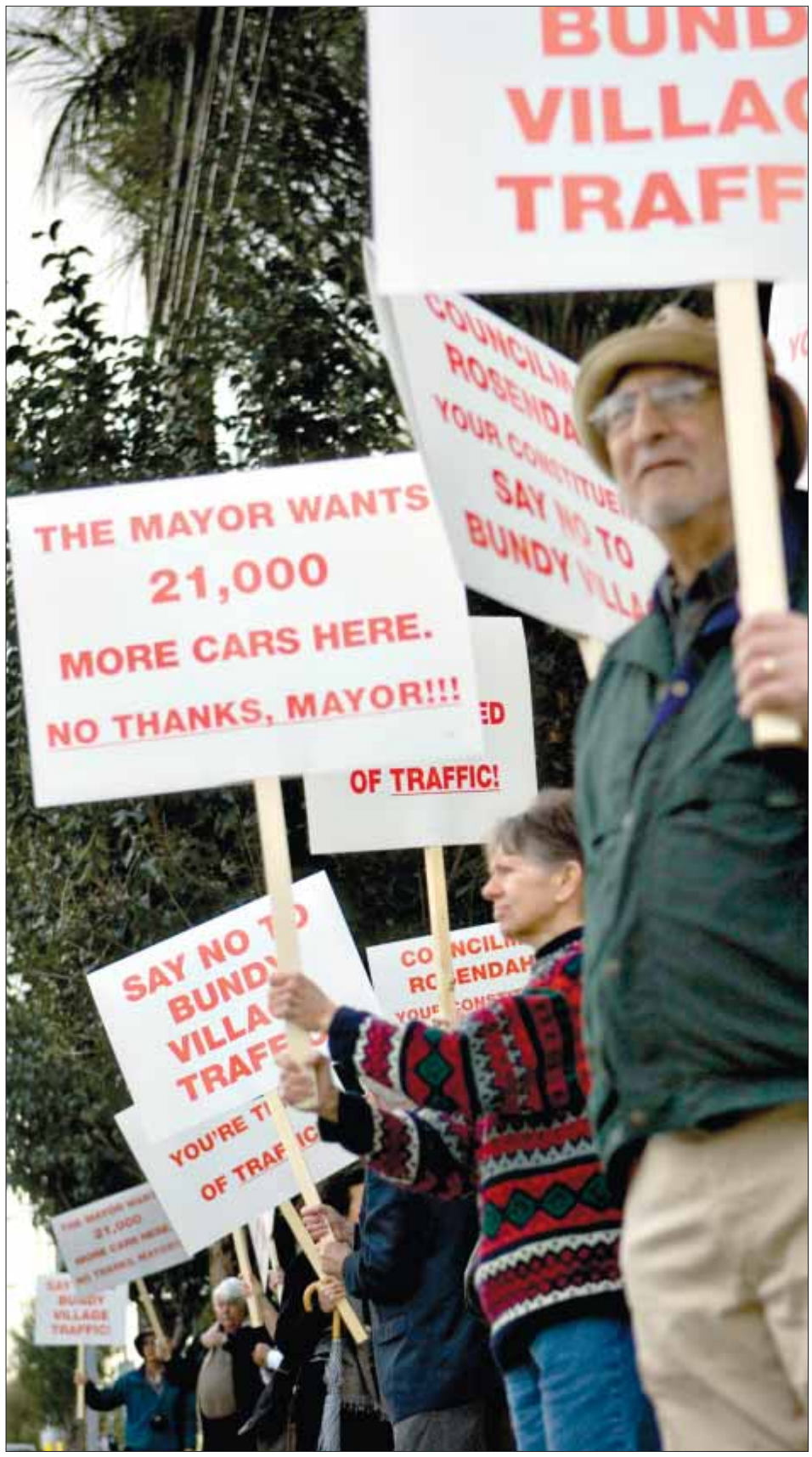
The project's developer calls the proposal "smart growth at its best" that will provide a live-work environment, needed medical services and neighborhood serving retail next to the future Expo light rail line.

The project has won support from the Los Angeles Planning Department and is scheduled to go before the city's Planning Commission Thursday morning. With backing from Los Angeles City Councilman Bill Rosendahl, whose district includes the project site, and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, the project appears headed for approval.

But opponents, including Santa Monica City Council members and groups like Santa Monica's Friends of Sunset Park, are having none of it.

Residents opposed to the large-scale development gathered at Bundy and Olympic Tuesday morning during rush hour carrying signs bearing the slogans "Say No to Bundy Village," and "Honk if You're Tired of Traffic" in a last-ditch effort to drum up sup-

SEE PROTEST PAGE 8



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

NUMBERS: **Westside community leaders march in protest of a massive West Los Angeles development proposed for a site at Bundy Drive and Olympic Boulevard on Tuesday morning.**

City manager settling into 'dream job'

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Less than three weeks into the top job at City Hall, Rod Gould says he's already learned at least one valuable lesson about Santa Monica — "a small city that acts like a big city in many ways," as he put it.

With a large city staff to lead, a host of community leaders to get to know and some significant challenges on the horizon — among them a looming $13.2 million budget gap — he said he's come across an axiom about the town that rings true: "Prioritization is easy in Santa Monica because everything's number one."

In a wide ranging discussion in his office this week, Gould told the Daily Press about his first days on the job, his view of City Hall's relationship with the community and, well, his priorities for the coming year.

With the City Council beginning to formulate next year's budget, Gould said one of his first tasks has been to put City Hall's financial picture in context.

"We have a budget gap now, and it's real and it must be addressed," he said.

But that doesn't mean City Hall is facing severe cuts that will change the face of the city.

"It's not a crisis. It doesn't mean wholesale loss of dear projects, services and activities," he said.

He plans to continue the practice of holding community budget meetings leading up to the June deadline to adopt a 2010-2011 budget, though he may tinker with the format.

At the meetings he said his aim will be to engage community members by getting them to think about tradeoffs, since City Hall's revenue shortfall means difficult decisions will have to be made. He said he wants to learn what services people are willing to give up and what services they're willing to pay more to keep.

"I'd like to figure out a way, through civic engagement, to get the residents to make the kind of decisions that the council is making where they have to balance" program wishes with budget realities, he said.

SEE GOULD PAGE 8


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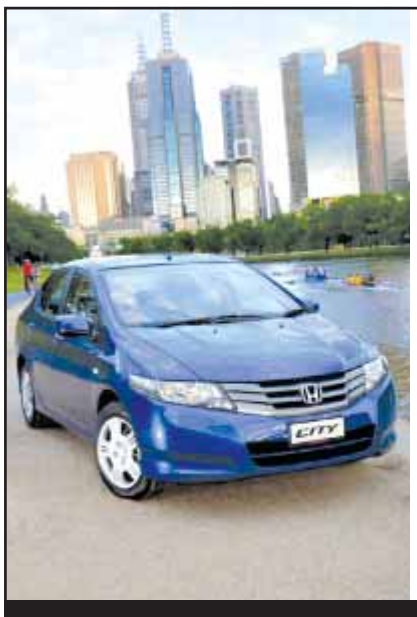
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Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010

Poetry out loud
Santa Monica High School Humanities Center Theatre
601 Pico Blvd., 7 p.m.
Join California poet laureate Carol Muske-Dukes and area student poets for an evening of spoken word and classical poetry. The first Poetry Slam, sponsored by the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation, will also feature work from award-winning teen poetry troupe, the GetLit! Players, as well as guest artists. For more information, call (310) 395-3204.

Hearts and crafts
Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3:45 p.m.
Children over the age of 5 are invited to come listen to Valentine's-themed stories and make old-fashioned Valentine's Day cards in an afternoon of fun at the library.

Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010

Tree talk
Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
A panel of experienced fruit tree growers and experts will be on hand to discuss how to protect flavor and quality when trying to grow "the perfect fruit." Tree growers of all experience levels are invited to come attend the discussion, which is part of the Santa Monica Farmers' Market 2010 Quarterly Panel Series. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

King of hearts
Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m. — 4:45 p.m.
The romantic comedy "King of Hearts," which became a cult classic following its 1966 release, will be shown in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium and is sure to provide entertainment. The movie will be shown in French, German and English, but will have English subtitles.

Getting to know you
Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce
1234 6th St., 5 p.m. — 6:30 p.m.
New members of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce are invited to learn strategies and techniques that will help make the most out of a chamber membership. Attendees will also receive an information packet that includes a benefits check list. The event is free, but exclusively for members of the Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact Member Services Manager John Madigan at membership@smchamber.com.

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.

Obama wants answers on insurer's rate hike

SHAYA TAYEFE MOHAJER
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES For the second time this week, President Barack Obama has pointed to one health insurer's major rate hike in California as a doomy harbinger of rising premiums across America.

Anthem Blue Cross' 30 to 39 percent rate hike in California will affect an unknown number of its 800,000 individual policyholders — the insurer has declined giving specifics. But Obama said the rate hike is a sign of what will happen to many Americans without reform.

"Premiums will continue to rise for folks with insurance, millions more will lose their coverage altogether, our deficits will continue to grow larger," Obama said Tuesday at a White House briefing. He also namechecked the rate hike in a CBS News interview on Sunday, citing it as a reason Congress should advance stalled health reform legislation.

Calling for bipartisanship and renewed effort on both sides of the aisle, Obama told reporters that "without some action on the part of Congress, it is very unlikely that we see any improvement over the current trajectory" of rising premiums.

House Committee on Energy and Commerce Chairman Rep. Henry Waxman, D-California, and subcommittee Chairman Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Michigan, announced a congressional hearing will be held Feb. 24. In addition to information from the company on its rate increases, testimony has been requested from Angela Braly, the president and CEO of Anthem's parent company, WellPoint Inc.

In a Tuesday post to the White House blog, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius repeated demands that Anthem, California's largest for-profit health insurer, answer questions on how much profit the insurer will reap from the hike. Sebelius issued a sternly worded letter to the company on Monday.

California Insurance Commissioner Steven Poizner announced an inquiry into the rate hike on Monday, which doesn't require the state's approval, to ensure that it abides by state regulation and 70 percent of income from premiums will be directed to medical costs.

In an interview Tuesday with the Associated Press, Poizner said Anthem had not responded to his letter, adding the insurer "would be quite wise to postpone their rate increase" until after his department's review.

"Anthem Blue Cross, or any health insurance company, can't pick and choose who to raise prices on," said Poizner. "Part of our analysis of what Anthem Blue Cross is doing is we're going to make sure they're not discriminating" against a segment of their customer base.

Anthem also has not issued response to Obama or his administration. In a statement Monday, the insurer blamed the weak economy and rising health care costs for its rate hike, while pledging to reply to Sebelius' query promptly.

Health insurance analysts agreed that the rise in individual premiums will be echoed on a smaller scale in the rest of the marketplace. Employer-based insurance and group policies will likely see 10 to 20 percent increases in the next year, said health industry consultant Robert Laszewski.

About 13 million Americans purchased health insurance through the individual market in 2008, the most recent data available. Surges in their premiums can be explained by competing interests: Insurance companies are working to maintain earnings expectations in the face of rising costs, while rising premiums are driving healthy people to drop coverage, Laszewski said.

California's Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein on Tuesday called the rate hike unconscionable, saying it was proof of the need for reform. She also called for Congress to remove the health insurance industry's antitrust exemption "to ensure a fair, competitive market is not dominated by a handful of companies."

Various insurers have mandated rate hikes on individual policies across the country in recent years, though California's increase is larger than most. Last month, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield filed for a 23 percent rate hike on 11,066 individual policies in Maine. In November, Oregonians holding individual policies with Health Net Health Plan of Oregon faced a 22.8 percent hike.

The Los Angeles Times first reported the California rate hikes last week. Anthem notified customers that rates would go up beginning March 1 and might start increasing more frequently than the usual annual increases. The company declined to provide details on the rate increases, such as how many people would be affected or how much the new rates would be.

It's also not clear whether customers in other states are being affected.

Indianapolis-based WellPoint is the largest commercial health insurer based on membership. It operates Blue Cross Blue Shield plans in 14 states and Unicare plans in several others.

Suspect plays 'Dating Game' video during murder trial

GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press Writer

SANTA ANA A convicted rapist who could face the death penalty in five alleged serial killings from the 1970s presented "The Dating Game" defense Tuesday during a surreal court session in which he questioned himself on the witness stand.

Rodney James Alcala, 66, who is acting as his own lawyer, played a clip from an episode of the game show that he won in September 1978 in an attempt to prove his innocence in one of the killings.

Alcala told jurors they could see a flash of two gold ball earrings in his double-pierced left ear as he gives the game show's signoff salute.

Prosecutors believe a pair of gold ball earrings found in a red pouch in a Seattle storage locker rented by Alcala belonged to the youngest of the alleged victims, 12-year-old Robin Samsoe of Huntington Beach, in Orange County.

But Alcala told jurors the clip proves he owned the earrings almost a year before Samsoe's disappearance on June 20, 1979. In the segment, he can be seen dancing to the closing music while wearing a black bell-bottom pantsuit and open-necked white shirt.

"You'll see my hair go up over my left ear, and you'll see a little flash of gold," he told jurors before playing the segment. "You need to look closely, but there are two little specks there."

Alcala, a photographer and UCLA undergraduate with a purported IQ between 160 and 170, made the highly unusual decision to represent himself in the potential death penalty trial and took the stand in his own defense.

During an often bizarre day of testimony, the defendant referred to himself as Mr. Alcala as he posed questions and then responded with long and sometimes rambling answers. Prosecutors will begin their cross-examination Wednesday.

As family members of the victims watched, Alcala asked himself about everything from a dozen different hair styles he wore in the late 1970s to his decision in 1978 to double-pierce his left ear and buy the earrings.

At one point, Alcala explained he could use hair gel and a towel to straighten his long, curly hair but also had worn it in a teased-out Afro before his arrest.

Prosecutors maintain that he straightened his hair, then cut it after Samsoe's disappearance so he would not be recognized as the person in a police sketch.

"OK, Mr. Alcala, let's move on to ... let's talk about your earrings," he said to himself.

Alcala went on to testify that he bought gold ball earrings with a dangling chain in 1978 then clipped off the chain.

"I went to the club and, to make a long story short, I got kind of embarrassed because it looked kind of feminine," he answered. "So, when I went home, I cut off the dangle."

Samsoe's brother, Robert Samsoe, said outside court that he was disgusted to see Alcala get so much attention.

"He's just trying to confuse them. He thinks he's so smart that if he throws one thing of doubt in there, it's going to get him off," he said. "It's his grand show."

Alcala has been sentenced to death twice for Samsoe's slaying, but both convictions were overturned.

He was charged with killing four L.A. area women between 1977 and 1979 after prosecutors alleged DNA testing in 2005 linked him to those crimes.

He has pleaded not guilty to all counts and denied special circumstance allegations of murder in the commission of rape, torture and burglary.

Orange County Superior Court Judge Francisco Briseno rejected Alcala's bid at self-representation, but an appeals court ruled it was his constitutional right.

Samsoe disappeared while riding her friend's bike to a ballet class in Huntington Beach in Orange County.

In addition to Samsoe, Alcala is charged with killing Jill Barcomb, 18, who had just moved to Los Angeles from Oneida, N.Y.; Georgia Wixted, 27, of Malibu; Charlotte Lamb, 32, of Santa Monica; and Jill Parenteau, 21, of Burbank.

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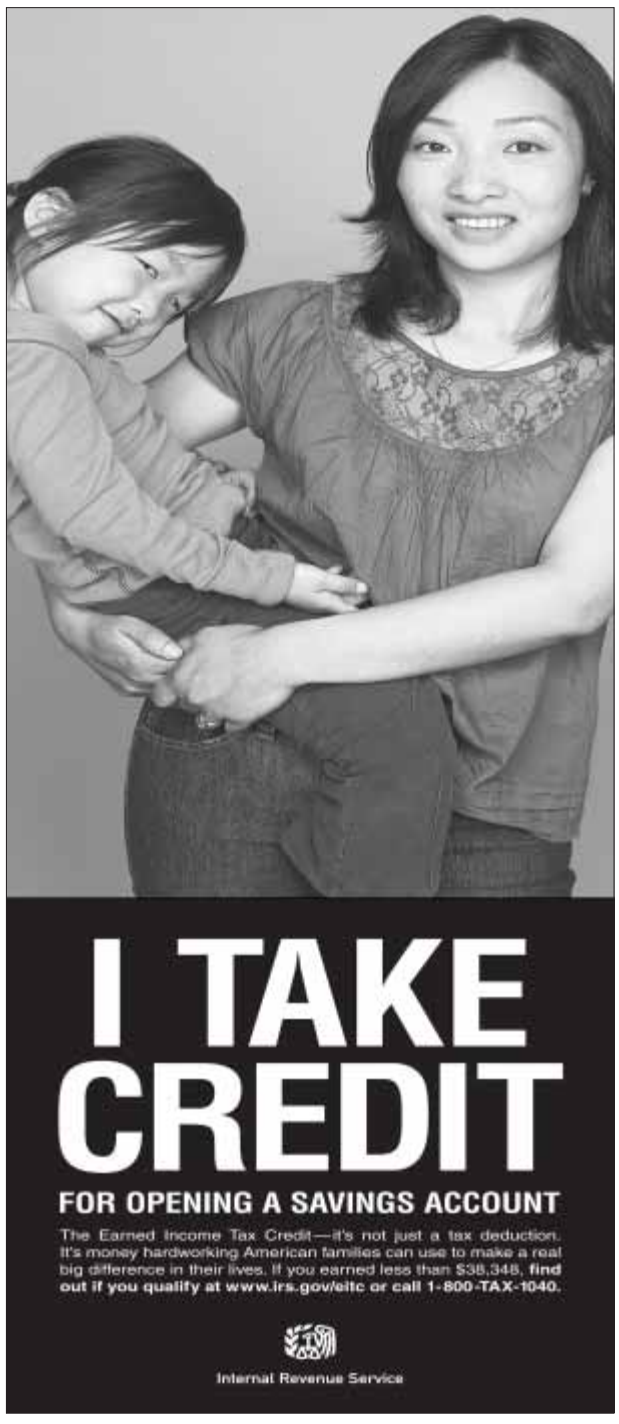
Act now on health reform

Editor:

An explosion of ire toward the health insurance industry coursed through my blood as I read that as of March 1st, Anthem Blue Cross intends to raise its rates for those individual policies they insure to upwards of 39 percent, and that those policies may be adjusted "more frequently than its typical yearly increases" (Los Angeles Times, Feb.).

What unmitigated gall. Aren't they making enough money? Then I thought to myself, what are you worried about? You've got group coverage. Even if you lost it, which could happen in this economy and more than likely will, you still couldn't get individual coverage because of preexisting conditions. So why worry about paying through the nose for individual health coverage when the insurance companies wouldn't sell it to you anyway? Well, I do worry and I've had it. This nation has come close to passing real health care reform and I'm sick of the pussyfooting in Washington that's going on now. I demand that congress, (and I'm speaking to those spineless Democrats worried about reelection who are saying to delay or give up reform entirely), finish the job they started before it is too late. The stakes are too high! I resent being under the thumb of the health insurance industry, having to live my life in fear of debt and bankruptcy because of possible illness. With a new federal study showing that health care spending rose to an estimated $2.5 trillion in 2009 and projected to nearly double in nine years, every American should be just as concerned as I am. The time for action is now!

Greg Vie
Santa Monica





Hiding in the Open

David Alsabery — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Valentine's Day for your man

LADIES, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. What are you going to do for your man on Valentine's Day? You have less than a week before the big day and you don't have any plans to take your man out to dinner. Flowers are going to cost you 10 times the normal price and so will dinner. Your favorite restaurant is already booked up and a 10 p.m. dinner reservation may be all that's left. Your man is most likely wondering what to wear for the big night out and has already written a wonderful card expressing his feelings for you. Odds are you will get lucky tonight.

So ladies how about we look at starting a paradigm shift. Toss out what you'd normally do for your man on this all-important day of love, and let's treat your man to what he really wants. Let's first talk about gifts. I'm sure Sears in Santa Monica has some great deals on Craftsman tools. Mac Mall has some great electronics and REI has great outdoor products that should keep your cost under $100. If you want to stay on budget, try baking him cookies. They're always a hit. He'll appreciate that as a gift more than the $100 roses that will die in a few days.

If you are into diamonds and fancy jewelry, then go to Readers Jewelers on Wilshire Boulevard and get him a nice watch. Most men will get excited over a new Cartier, Breitling or Rolex watch. Imagine how proud you'll feel when you go out and your man shows off the wonderful watch you gave him.

In regards to eating, any place that serves beer will most likely work. Also keep in mind a great number of action movies are playing at the theater and he would greatly appreciate spending the evening with you at the movies. Movie or bar food will always be a hit with your man. Men are easy.

Remember that men are very visual. That's why marketing folks use half naked women in their advertising when trying to reach a male audience. That doesn't mean you need to pick up your man dressed like a pole dancer, but any clothing a man would not wear like dresses, skirts and heels seem to do the trick for most heterosexual men. Do you remember what you used to wear when you were on the prowl?

If you don't want to go out, you have plenty of other options. Now, I'm sure you're not one of those females who's rumored to have sexy time with your man only on birthdays. So why not have some sexy time with your man on Valentine's Day? Bring home a DVD, bottle of wine, six pack of Belgian beer, French food from Monsieur Marcel, Polish food from Warszawa, Mexican food from El Cholo, or a good hamburger from Johnny Rockets, all in Santa Monica. Don't forget to wear some attention grabbing clothing when you come through the door so he can't take his eyes off you. The two of you could spend an exhilarating evening in the privacy of your own home.

If you're on a budget, you can keep it simple by making dinner at home for two. Wear something that he finds irresistible and instead of booking a massage, give your man a massage and start the sexy time early! If you have a bathtub, take a bath together and spend some quality time with candles, Sade in the background and enjoy each other's company. Budgeting doesn't mean your evening can't be special.

Maybe the two of you are avid outdoor people. How about a golf weekend in Palm Springs or Pebble Beach? You have plenty of time to take him camping as well. Or you can stay local and take him ice skating or bowling in Santa Monica. Afterwards go for a walk around town and hit the local eateries. If you're not the outdoorsy type, and you have the extra coin to spare, book a hotel on the Sunset Strip or Downtown at the Standard. The other fun fact most people forget when you stay in town is you don't have a long drive back when you are ready to head home.

The hotels have great restaurants and will give you priority at the poolside bar. The Viceroy offers the same swanky feel right here in Santa Monica. The nightlife is great, and you can walk back to the room when the evening is over. At Seven Grand (it's at Seventh Street & Grand in Downtown L.A.), the two of you can go play pool, drink fine scotch and smoke cigars. If mixology is his passion, Varnish is an old speak easy in the back of Coles restaurant. The drink makers at Varnish are something beyond bartenders so just let them make you want ever they want. You will not be disappointed.

Ladies, times are changing. Seize the moment! Valentine's Day was invented to celebrate the love and passion you feel for your man. Make this Valentine's Day one he will never forget.

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STATE BRIEFS

SACRAMENTO

Report: Schwarzenegger among state's top donors

Movie producer Steve Bing has given more money to California political causes and candidates than any other person in the last decade — $58 million.

That's according to a Top 10 donors list compiled by the California Fair Political Practices Commission and released Tuesday.

Next is GOP gubernatorial hopeful Steve Poizner, who has given $43 million to various causes, including his runs for office. Steve Westly, who ran a failed campaign for the 2006 Democratic gubernatorial nomination, was third, spending nearly $42 million.

Also on the list was Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has given nearly $26 million.

Former eBay CEO Meg Whitman, a Republican, has given $39 million to her gubernatorial campaign this year, but only half that was noted in the report, which counted donations through 2009.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND

Attorney general asks Target to recall Valentine toys

The California attorney general is asking Target Corp. to pull its Valentine's Day "Message Bears" from store shelves over concerns that they have illegal levels of lead.

In a letter sent to the company Monday, Attorney General Jerry Brown said testing of the holiday toys revealed lead levels that violate federal law.

A message left at Target's corporate headquarters in Minneapolis seeking comment was not immediately returned.

The products were identified as two of Target's "Message Bears" — one a pink stuffed bear with "XOXO" across the chest and the other a brown stuffed bear with "I Love U" across the chest, with "love" represented by a heart.

Brown's letter says an investigator for the Center for Environmental Health, a nonprofit watchdog, bought the toys at stores in California.

AP

FRESNO

Feinstein calls for stop of waste dump expansion

California's senior senator wants to halt any expansions of the West's largest toxic waste dump while the state investigates reports about a rash of birth defects in a nearby town.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein said in a statement Tuesday that she was "very concerned about the surge in birth defects occurring in Kettleman City."

Feinstein says the Chemical Waste Management Inc. facility should not be allowed to expand until more is known about the cause.

Her statement came as state public health officials reported that there appears to be no "common underlying cause" for the birth defects. Officials say their probe continues.

County planning officials approved an expansion of the dump last year, but the company needs state and federal approval to get a permit.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Ex-hospital CFO pleads guilty in homeless scam

An ex-hospital chief financial officer has agreed to plead guilty to paying illegal kickbacks for patients recruited from the Skid Row area of Los Angeles.

In court documents filed Tuesday, 49-year-old Vincent Rubio said he paid off so-called marketers who recruited homeless people and had them taken to Tustin Hospital and Medical Center where he worked. As part of the scheme, the hospital then billed Medicare and Medi-Cal for unnecessary treatments.

Rubio is the fifth person to be charged in an ongoing investigation into health care fraud involving Skid Row residents.

Rubio agreed to plead guilty to health care fraud and tax evasion, which carry a combined maximum of 15 years in prison. He is scheduled to appear in court March 1.

AP

SAN FRANCISCO

Court OKs blanket strip-search policy at jails

A federal appeals court says San Francisco jail guards did not violate inmates' constitutional rights when strip-searching them without reason to believe they had weapons or contraband.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Tuesday that the policy was a reasonable security measure. The court noted that the strip searches had uncovered 73 cases of contraband possession.

San Francisco abandoned the blanket policy in 2004 and now limits strip searches to inmates suspected of concealing contraband.

In its 7-4 ruling, the specially convened 11-judge panel overruled a previous decision by a three-judge panel of the same court that found the policy unconstitutional.

The 9th Circuit decision overturns two of its previous holdings and contradicts rulings by two other federal appeals courts.

AP

The Q Line

On the tracks

The board of the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority approved the final leg of the long-awaited transit line last week. The proposed route has the project traveling down Colorado Avenue to Fourth Street in Downtown.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:

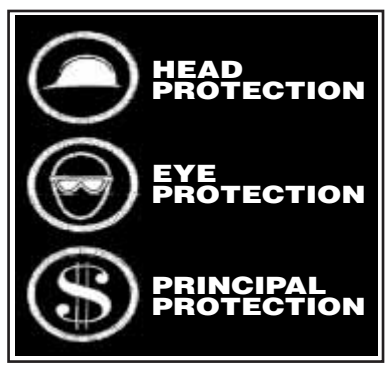
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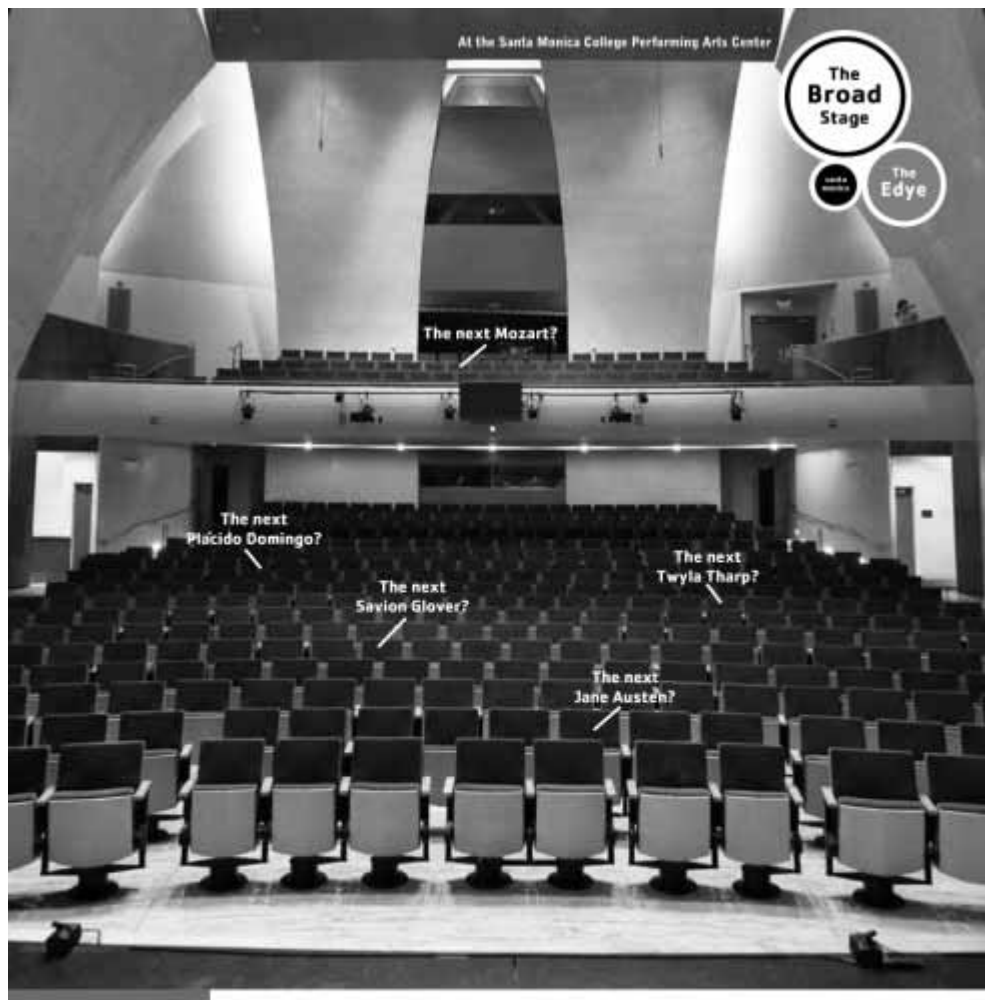
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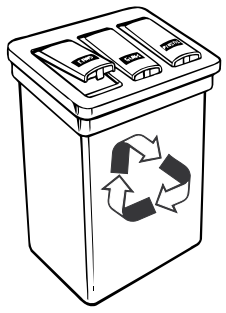
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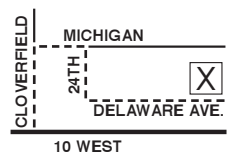


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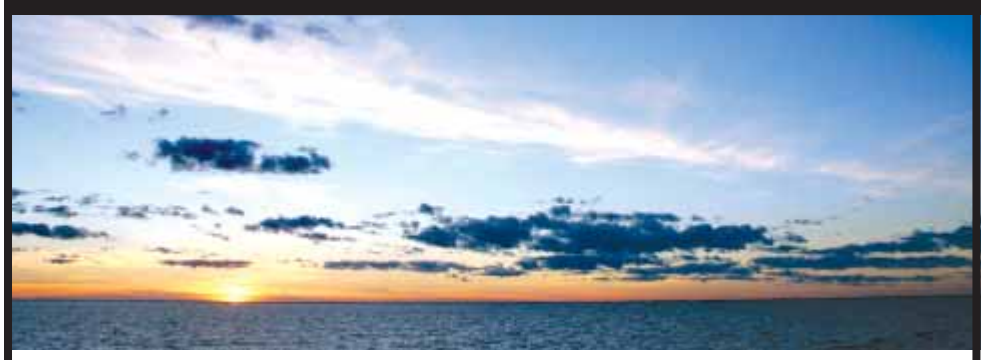
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TRANSPORTATION

Toyota to announce action soon for Prius hybrids

KELLY OLSEN
AP Business Writer

TOKYO Toyota said Sunday that it will soon announce plans to deal with braking problems in its prized Prius hybrid amid reports it has decided to issue a recall for the vehicle in Japan, a possible new embarrassment for the world's biggest automaker.

Toyota Motor Corp. has already had to recall more than 7 million other cars in the U.S., Europe and China over a sticky accelerator and floor mats that can get caught in the gas pedal. Those problems and criticism of Toyota's response to them have sullied the stellar reputation for quality long enjoyed by one of Japan's corporate icons.

Separately, the company has told dealers in the United States it is preparing to repair the brakes on thousands of Prius vehicles there, according to an e-mail sent by a company executive. It was unclear whether Toyota planned a formal U.S. recall.

"We will make an announcement soon on the action we plan to take," spokeswoman Ririko Takeuchi said, commenting on media reports Sunday that the company has decided to issue a Japan recall. Takeuchi did not confirm those reports.

The Prius is the world's top-selling gas-electric hybrid and its fuel efficiency has drawn intense interest amid concerns about global warming and dependence on fossil fuels.

Toyota decided Saturday on a recall in Japan covering its latest Prius model and has notified domestic dealers, Japan's largest newspaper, the Yomiuri, reported without naming sources. It said Toyota would announce the move early in the coming week after consulting with the Japanese government. Japan's Kyodo News agency and TV Asahi carried similar reports. Kyodo said Toyota had started notifying dealers and that at least 170,000 vehicles in Japan would be subject to the recall.

Phone calls to the section at Japan's transport ministry dealing with recalls went unanswered Sunday. None of about 10 Toyota dealers in Tokyo and the western Japanese city of Osaka said they had received any notification. Three dealers in the U.S. said the same thing on Sunday.

Prius drivers in Japan and the U.S. have complained of a short delay before the antilock brakes kick in — a flaw Toyota says can be fixed with a software programming change. The brakes will work if the driver keeps pushing the pedal.

The brake problem affects about 270,000 Priuses that were sold in the U.S. and Japan starting last May. The company says it has already fixed vehicles that went on sale since last month.

Bob Carter, a Toyota group vice president, sent an e-mail message Friday night to U.S. dealers saying the automaker is working on a Prius repair plan and will disclose more details early this week. At least 100 drivers of Prius cars in the U.S. have complained to the government that their brakes seemed to fail momentarily when they were driving on bumpy roads. The government says the problem is suspected in four crashes and two minor injuries.

Public awareness of the problem "has prompted considerable customer concern, speculation, and media attention due to the significance of the Prius image," Carter said in the e-mail. "We want to assure our dealers that we are moving rapidly to provide a solution for your existing customers."

Toyota on Sunday morning began airing spots on U.S. television saying that the company is "working around the clock" to build the highest-quality vehicles and to restore the faith of its customers.

"In recent days, our company hasn't been living up to the standards that you've come to expect from us," an unidentified announcer said in a voiceover.

Carter wrote that the ads tell viewers of Toyota's 50-plus years of building safe, reliable vehicles in the U.S. They were airing in prime time and on local, national and cable news shows, but will not appear during the Super Bowl, he wrote.

Toyota's response to the safety issues has drawn the attention of U.S. politicians. Toyota Motor North America Chairman and CEO Yoshi Inaba will appear before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on Wednesday, as will Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Administrator David Strickland, the committee chairman announced Sunday.

"There appears to be growing public concern regarding which Toyota vehicles may be problematic and how people should respond," Chairman Edolphus Towns(D-NY)said in a statement. "Consumers want to know whether their cars are safe to drive and, if not, they need to know what to do about it."

A key committee member has asked that transportation officials who served under former President George W. Bush also appear.

Besides a full-fledged safety recall, the company could simply ask owners to bring in their vehicles for repairs, since the brakes are not failing completely. The Yomiuri newspaper, however, said that Toyota decided on the more serious step of a recall for the Prius to give priority to restoring consumer trust.

Toyota has acknowledged receiving dozens of complaints about the Prius in Japan, where there is high-level government concern about Toyota's quality problems. Cabinet ministers have expressed alarm and urged the company to move more quickly to ease consumer worries.

Media criticism of Toyota has intensified since a news conference on Friday by Toyota President Akio Toyoda in which he offered an apology for the defects, but few details about what the automaker would do about the Prius.

The reports said the new Prius model was released in May, and more than 300,000 have been sold in about 60 countries and territories.

Toyota plans to resume production Monday at U.S. factories that make the eight models recalled for sticky gas pedal systems, spokesman Brian Lyons said in an e-mail Sunday. The production halt involved the RAV4 crossover, Corolla, Matrix hatchback, Avalon, Camry, Highlander crossover, Tundra pickup and the 2008-10 Sequoia SUV.

AGRICULTURE

Smarter farming key to saving Amazon rainforest

BRADLEY BROOKS
Associated Press Writer

NOVA CANAA DO NORTE, Brazil Walking on a dusty field of cut rice that was once rainforest, researcher Flavio Wruck explains how farming, the Amazon's biggest killer, can be turned into its best defender.

At the government-run experimental farm where he works, he points toward plots where crops, cattle and timber live together.

It's a simple system, long practiced in the U.S., of rotating crops and revitalizing pasture instead of simply chopping down forest and planting new grasslands. But here in the state of Mato Grosso ("thick forest"), where ranchers and farmers have destroyed more of the Amazon than anywhere else, it's a relatively new idea.

In the Amazon, the practice has been for ranchers to raze a patch of jungle, plant pasture and graze cattle on it for about 20 years until it's exhausted, and then rip up a fresh patch of virgin forest.

It's up to Wruck and others to convince farmers and ranchers that by diversifying and renewing the nutrients in soil, they can farm the same tract for several generations — and make more money.

"Our integration system rapidly increases the efficiency of crop and pasture land, allowing, for example, ranchers to graze as much as five times more cattle on the same piece of ground," Wruck said during a recent visit to the 750-hectare (1,850-acre) Fazenda Gramada farm run by Brazil's agricultural research agency Embrapa.

"That means we can break the cycle of ranchers needing to deforest to create more pasture."

Brazilian officials and environmentalists agree that cattle ranching is the biggest cause of deforestation of the nation's Amazon, an area the size of the U.S. west of the Mississippi River, about 20 percent of which has been destroyed.

The rainforest may be the world's best defense against climate change because it absorbs the carbon dioxide blamed for global warming. But the gains are offset by burned or rotted vegetation that releases about 75 percent of Brazil's carbon emissions.

Right now the government is claiming stepped-up policing has produced the biggest annual drop in deforestation since it started keeping records 20 years ago — 7,008 square kilometers (2,705 square miles) from August 2008 to July 2009. That was 46 percent less than the previous year.

But with only 1,400 agents overseeing about 5 million square kilometers (2 million square miles) of the Amazon, and most of those bunched in targeted areas, environmentalists have their doubts, saying the real reason is the global economic slowdown and the drop in demand for cattle, soy and timber.

The government aims to reduce deforestation by 80 percent within a decade, and the challenge for Wruck is to foster smarter farming.

Across Brazil some 60 million hectares (150 million acres) of pasture is considered degraded, supporting less than one head of cattle per hectare.

"We have the technology to make that five head per hectare quickly," Wruck said.

But the slash-and-burn mentality among Brazilian farmers is hard to crack. Moreover, the drive for more ranching and farming land is higher than ever to feed Brazil's rising demand for meat and China's appetite for soy.

Complicating the problem, only about 5 percent of private land in the area is even titled. That makes it hard to prove who is responsible for illegally destroying the forest, leading to a culture of impunity and even more deforestation.

Wruck wants to change the thinking of Brazilians like 34-year-old Haullingtom Barbosa, who runs 1,300 head of cattle on 500 hectares (1,200 acres) at his ranch 2,170 kilometers (1,350 miles) from Rio de Janeiro.

Walking in his luminescent-green pasture, among blackened trunks of felled trees, Barbosa explains the ease of starting a ranch in the Amazon.

"We came here three years ago because we heard a good living could be made and that land was available," he said. "We cleared the forest, threw out some grass seed and let it grow. We can feed cattle on this pasture for 20 years without doing anything."

It's a truth that Wruck and other agriculture scientists acknowledge: Temperate climate and ample rainfall mean just about anything can grow with little help.

And if Barbosa runs out of land? The rancher's answer was simple: Raze more rainforest, at least up to the legal limit of 20 percent of his holdings.

"This land here just gives and gives," he said.

Wruck said his role is to persuade ranchers that his system gives much more.

A typical plot on Wruck's farm alternates rows of balsa or eucalyptus trees, a cash crop, with 30-meter (-yard) wide areas of pasture. Every five years, the pasture is replaced by a grain or cereal crop which replenish nutrients in the soil.

With hundreds of acres put to use this way, a rancher will have constantly rotating areas of grazing and crop lands, along with timber.

"Our methods will allow Brazil to grow much more and deforest much less," Wruck said, standing next to a row of eucalyptus trees bordering soybeans. "It's a simple way to increase revenue and halt deforestation at the same time."

One convert is Mario Wolf Filho, a rancher, farmer and president of his farmers' union in the town of Nova Canaa do Norte.

"I've been able to triple my productivity in the same area without opening more forest," he said. "It's fantastic. I make economic gains and not at the expense of the environment. It's Brazil's way forward."

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Saint Monica Catholic High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
GIRLS SOCCER				
Feb 11	JV/Var	CSHM	Airport Park	1:30/3pm
BOYS BASKETBALL				
Feb 10	F/J/V	Mary Star	Mary Star	4/5:30/7pm
BOYS SOCCER				
Feb 10	JV/Var	Mary Star	Mary Star	3:30/5pm
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Feb 11	JV/Var	CSHM	SMCHS	5:30/7pm

Santa Monica High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
GIRLS SOCCER				
Feb 11	Var	Hawthorne	Hawthorne	4:30pm
GIRLS BASKETBALL				
Feb 11	Var	Hawthorne	Hawthorne	6:00pm
BOYS SOCCER				
Feb 11	Var	Hawthorne	JAMS	3:30pm
BOYS BASKETBALL				
Feb 11	Var	Hawthorne	Hawthorne	7:30pm
GIRLS WATER POLO				
Feb 11	Var	El Segundo High School	(Ocean League Game)	7:00pm
Feb 12	JV	El Dorado Tournament		TBA
Feb 13	JV	El Dorado Tournament		TBA
COED VOLLEYBALL				
Feb 13	Four Person Parent Meeting			9:00am

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Budget gap a pressing issue

FROM GOULD PAGE 1

He said resolving City Hall's shortfall will probably take 18 months and involve the careful use of reserve funds in addition to cuts, which he said he expects to make "around the edges" without having to resort to layoffs or furloughs.

There is a "soft hiring freeze" in effect, he said, which means public safety positions will be filled but vacancies that arise in other departments may remain open.

When it comes to interacting with community groups, the new city manager said he sees value in getting out of the office to visit with neighborhood councils, business groups and political organizations as much as possible.

"I don't know that City Hall can exist by having relationships with just some groups in town and shunning others," he said. "We have to be open to everybody."

Considering the breadth of City Hall's services, he said it's important to recognize the role businesses play in making the City Council's vision a reality.

"If people want all of these services, programs, facilities [and] amenities, then they need to worry about the local economy and they need to be somewhat open to local business changes and expansions," he said.

With the City Council expected to adopt the long-studied Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) this year, he said he believes City Hall will soon have a blueprint for development that achieves the appropriate balance of protecting neighborhoods while permitting a limited amount of smart growth.

"The LUCE is, I think, a very ingenious, creative means of trying to have it both ways," he said.


Kevin Herrera *kevinh@smdp.com*

GOULD

For the time being, Gould is staying in a hotel during the week and commuting home to his family in San Diego on weekends. He and his wife plan to move to Santa Monica this summer after their daughter, the youngest of the couple's two children, graduates from high school.

Leading Santa Monica, he said, is like stepping into a dream job.

"This is as good as it gets, I think, in city management. As I've looked around I don't think there's another California city that's got as much going for it as Santa Monica, so I couldn't feel more fortunate ... to have this opportunity come."

nickt@smdp.com

Neighborhood groups speak out

FROM PROTEST PAGE 1

port for forcing the project to scale down.

Santa Monica's planning director sent a letter to Los Angeles planners last year expressing concerns about impacts on Santa Monica streets, stating that 15 intersections in the city or bordering it would be significantly impacted by traffic because of the project.

But Michael Lombardi, the project developer, and Rosendahl both said while traffic on the Westside is an obvious concern, opposing the project is short sighted and in some cases selfish.

Many Westside jobs are located in Santa Monica, Rosendahl pointed out, boosting the city's tax base while causing traffic in West L.A.

He said for Santa Monica to oppose a project in his district is "hypocrisy at its worst," especially since the city is set to consider approving Bergamot Transit Village, a nearly 1-million-square-foot project in its city limits located nearby.

"We are frustrated with the gridlock, but does that mean we roll over and let Santa Monica continue to pave our way into paralysis?" Rosendahl said. "They're the ones that have created the gridlock that we suffer through."

Lombardi said the project's traffic impacts that critics blast is misleading. With 385,000-square-feet of medical office space included in the design, he said the project will give people who would otherwise have to travel into Santa Monica or drive across town a more convenient place for doctor visits. In an area with an aging population and a shortage of medical resources he said the project will benefit the community.

Though a coalition of Westside neighborhood councils are opposed to the development because of traffic concerns, the demonstration on Tuesday was put together by Kilroy Realty Corp., which owns property next to the Bundy Village site and has hired a public relations company to coordinate opposition to the proposed development.

Peter Brown, a vice president with the PR firm MWW Group, said his client is concerned traffic caused by Bundy Village would adversely affect Kilroy tenants.

"In this case the community and businesses in the neighborhood are hand in hand," he said.

Lombardi, though, said Kilroy's motives are obviously highly questionable.

Finger pointing aside, many residents who live in the vicinity of the proposed development feel Bundy Village is a simple example of overreaching by a developer in an area were traffic already snarls.

"This project is going to be an aneurysm beyond belief," said Marilyn Noyes, a West L.A. resident who showed up on Tuesday to protest.

Zina Josephs, president of the Friends of Sunset Park, said the sheer size of the development is certain to worsen the quality of life in her neighborhood.

"We can't go east already from our neighborhood in the afternoons," she said. "Add another 20,000 cars and how are we going to go east at all?"

nickt@smdp.com

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**

Police debate use of family DNA to ID crime suspects

P. SOLOMON BANDA
Associated Press Writer

DENVER Police in at least two states are increasingly using a DNA crime-solving technique that some legal experts say amounts to guilt by association: If your brother, father, uncle or son has been in trouble with the law and is in a DNA database because of it, you, too, could fall under suspicion.

The technique is known as a "familial DNA" search. And in what is believed to be a precedent-setting case, Denver police used it to help catch the burglar who left a drop of blood on a passenger seat when he broke a car window and stole $1.40 in change.

A growing number of law enforcement agencies nationwide are considering whether to adopt the technique, which scientists say holds great promise.

"How can we look a rape victim in the face and say, 'We could have prevented your rape if we had looked at this evidence?'" said Fredrick Bieber, a Harvard medical professor who co-wrote a research paper suggesting familial DNA searches could solve up to 40 percent more crimes in which DNA evidence is present.

The conventional way of using DNA to identify the perpetrator of a crime is to gather blood, semen or other genetic material at the scene and run it through a database of criminals to see if it yields an exact match. But that approach isn't helpful if the perpetrator is not in the database.

That is where a familial DNA search comes in. It entails looking through the database for a near-match — that is, for a close male relative of the perpetrator. Police can then use that information to zero in on whoever committed the crime.

The legality of such searches has not been tested in court, but it may be just a matter of time. Critics complain the technique could subject innocent people to arrest or hours of interrogation.

"It makes absolutely no sense," said Erin Murphy, a law professor at the University of California, Berkeley. "Other than the misfortune of having a relative that has gotten in trouble, there's no distinction in their likelihood of having committed a crime."

California and Colorado are the only states to expressly allow authorities to conduct familial DNA searches of its statewide databases. Maryland has banned the practice.

In Denver, District Attorney Mitch Morrissey pushed for the familial DNA search in the 2008 car break-in.

The blood did not match anyone in the county's DNA database of 1,700 convicted felons. So authorities searched the database for a near-match and came up with the name of a convicted criminal. From there, investigators narrowed their focus to the criminal's brother, Luis Jaimes-Tinajeros.

Jaimes-Tinajeros was ultimately arrested and pleaded guilty last September after a second DNA sample — obtained by court order — definitively determined the blood was his.

Jaimes-Tinajeros is believed to be the first person convicted through this kind of database search in the U.S., Morrissey and other legal observers say.

Morrissey contends such searches are legal, and he has become one of the nation's leading proponents of the practice.

"In a serious investigation, wasting time can lead to more crimes being committed," he said.

While Jaimes-Tinajeros declined comment, his mother objected to the tactic in an interview in October. "They're suspecting him just because his brother committed a crime?" said Teresa Tinajeros. "He pleaded guilty because he's scared."

The technique involves a close examination of the Y chromosome — the male sex chromosome — in both the crime-scene DNA and the database samples. The probability of a genetic link can be established with 90 percent confidence, Morrissey and Bieber said.

Because it relies on the Y chromosome, this technique cannot be used to arrest women. There is no equally reliable way of tracing suspects through the X chromosome, Morrissey said.

The use of familial DNA is not new to police work. It has been employed in high-profile cases in Britain for years, while police in the U.S. have used familial DNA from time to time in situations where they already had a suspect in mind and needed to confirm their suspicions.

The difference now is that U.S. authorities are conducting blind searches of databases for suspects unknown to police.

The FBI does not allow such searches of the national database.

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Private colleges limit financial aid

ERIC GORSKI
AP Education Writer

In the last year, the nation's private colleges have laid off staff, shelved construction projects, slashed sports teams and turned down thermostats to cut costs. But student financial aid has kept flowing.

Now the weak economy is forcing some institutions to limit their generosity after many of them doubled or even tripled financial aid over the last decade to attract more applicants and reduce student debt.

Two of the nation's most selective private colleges — Dartmouth and Williams — announced they would no longer offer aid packages that allow students of any income to attend without taking out loans. Other schools are expected to follow suit, meaning many middle-class students will have to take on more debt.

Situations vary depending on the school, but experts expect financial aid at private schools to be less generous than last year while colleges increase tuition by 4 to 6 percent.

Many colleges dipped into savings last year to substantially increase student aid out of concern their enrollments would plunge because of the economic downturn — fears that went unrealized at most schools.

"There's a bit of a feeling that in increasing aid, maybe colleges went a little overboard because there was a lot of panic a year ago," said Roland Kinge, vice president of public affairs for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. "I think it's going to be a more austere year."

On Monday, Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H., became the latest prestigious private institution to announce sweeping cutbacks in the wake of the recession.

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

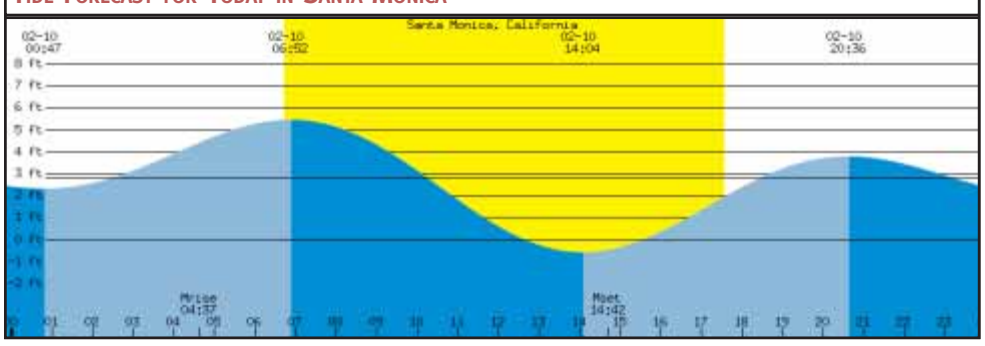
Swell Forecast

Looks like a chest high day at west facing breaks with possibly a few pluses from wind swell. Conditions are not looking favorable as a storm passes through the region.

Long Range Synopsis

Doesn't look much better size-wise, perhaps waist to maybe chest high at west 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 30 days up to the ending date of **February 3, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 17
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 40 / 9
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / 35

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	C
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alina creeks.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	F	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A+	B
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	D
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	B	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	F
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	B
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	D
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	F
Pena Creek at Los Tunos County Beach.	A+	D
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	D
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+	F

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

LEGEND

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

Heal the Bay'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.

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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SPORTS BRIEFS

NCAA SPORTS

Pac-10 considering possible expansion

Pac-10 commissioner Larry Scott says that if the conference is going to expand, a decision will likely be made in the next year.

Scott spoke Tuesday on a conference call to announce the hiring of former Big 12 commissioner Kevin Weiberg as his new deputy.

Scott said it made sense to have a decision about expansion before starting to negotiate new television deals that expire following the 2011-12 academic year.

Scott says "serious evaluation" of the topic will go on in the next six to 12 months. He said the primary factor in the decision will be finding schools that fit into the conference culturally and academically and determining whether the benefits of adding extra teams outweigh the costs.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WNBA

Veteran Penicheiro signs with Sparks

The Sparks have signed WNBA veteran Ticha Penicheiro, who helped lead the Sacramento Monarchs to the championship in 2005.

The Sparks announced the deal Tuesday.

Penicheiro had spent her entire 12-year career with the rival Monarchs, where she averaged 6.4 points, 5.9 assists, 3.4 rebounds and 1.9 steals.

The Monarchs reached the playoffs in nine of her 12 seasons with them.

Penicheiro is a four-time All-Star and the WNBA's career leader in assists (2,178) and steals (685). She joins a Los Angeles roster that includes Olympians Candace Parker, Tina Thompson and DeLisha Milton-Jones.

AP

WINTER GAMES

Doping lab already testing dozens of samples

The scientist in charge of Vancouver's state-of-the-art doping lab says her staff already has tested more than 200 blood and urine samples from Olympic athletes.

Dr. Christiane Ayotte says the new facility at the Richmond Oval aims to process about 2,000 samples – 1,600 urine and about 400-500 blood samples – during the games, which open Friday.

There have been no positive tests reported from pre-games testing, but Ayotte says it is impossible to guarantee a completely clean Olympics.

During a tour of the facility Tuesday, Ayotte says 23 scientists are working around the clock at the lab, and that number will soon rise to 35.

AP

MLB

Taveras released by Oakland Athletics

Speedy outfielder Willy Taveras has been released by the Oakland Athletics, eight days after he was acquired from Cincinnati with infielder Adam Rosales for infielder Aaron Miles and a player to be named.

AP

NHL

Six teams to open 2010-11 season in Europe

Six NHL teams will open the 2010-11 season in Europe, the fourth straight year the league will begin play overseas.

The NHL announced Tuesday that the Boston Bruins, Carolina Hurricanes, Columbus Blue Jackets, Minnesota Wild, Phoenix Coyotes and San Jose Sharks will combine to play a total of six games in Europe at the start of next season.

The Hurricanes and Wild will meet in a pair of games in Helsinki on Oct. 7-8; Columbus plays San Jose in Stockholm on Oct. 8-9; and the Bruins and Coyotes face off in Prague on Oct. 9-10.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Double Feature
Inherit the Wind (NR) 2 hr 8 min
Guess Who's Coming to Dinner (NR) 1 hr 48 min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG-13) 2hrs 02min
3:35, 6:30, 9:25

Invictus (PG-13) 2hrs 12min
12:40, 4:00

Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 2hrs 14min
1:00, 7:05, 10:00

Tooth Fairy (PG) 1hr 42min
1:45, 4:25, 7:00, 9:30

Up in the Air (R) 1hr 49min
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55

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

Avatar 3D (PG-13) 2hr 40 min
1:30, 2:30, 5:00, 6:00, 8:30, 9:30

Edge of Darkness (R) 1 hr 48 min
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55

When in Rome (PG-13) 1 hr 31 min
1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:20

Dear John (PG-13) 1hr 48min
1:15, 2:10, 4:00, 4:45, 6:30, 7:30, 9:15, 10:00

From Paris With Love (R) 1hr 35min
2:20, 4:50, 7:15, 9:45

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

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

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

Last Station (Ein Russischer Sommer) (R) 1hr 52min
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45

Single Man (R) 1hr 39min
1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50

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

The Blind Side (PG-13) 2hrs 6min
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

Youth in Revolt (R) 1hr 30min
2:40, 7:40

The Book of Eli (R) 1hr 58min
12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40

The Lovely Bones (PG-13) 2hrs 15min
12:50, 6:45

It's Complicated (R) 1hr 54min
11:50am, 4:50, 9:50

Legion (R) 1hr 40min
12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

Precious (R) 1hr 49min
3:50, 9:45

Frozen (R) 1 hr 34 min
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30. 10:00

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

Hang out, Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You might want to take charge rather than let a good idea drop away. The issue remains, you might have to follow an untried path in order to achieve the goal you desire. Your instincts come through with a boss. Tonight: A must appearance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Keep the conversation moving. Think twice about an opportunity that surrounds a family situation. You might intrinsically feel that there could be a backfire. A friend might come through in a big way. Tonight: A get-together could be more fun than you anticipated.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Let a partner assume the lead. He or she probably will hit some flak without your help. This person needs that experience in order to understand you a bit more fully. Let him or her have the chance. Tonight: Go with another's solution.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Defer to a partner. New information comes forward. Listen to news, yet don't hesitate to get several opinions, especially an expert's. You might want to sort through what path would be best. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ An steady pattern could be difficult right now, as you seem to feel passionate about one issue after another. Perhaps focusing on your daily happenings or a project will help. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Your creativity comes out right now and seems endless. Others seem unusually optimistic, and it might be the perfect time for a long-overdue conversation. Understanding evolves to a much higher level than you thought possible. Tonight: Take a midweek break.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Stay close to home, if possible. If you must head into the office in order to accomplish more of what you want, then do. Try to avoid socializing or taking away from the immediate situation. Laugh and relax with others. Tonight: Light a fire and curl up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Keep communication flowing. A situation might be confusing or take away from your sense of well-being. This is only a passage. Intelligence and imagination merge. You seem to be on top of your game. Tonight: Hanging out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Your finances become very important, and you will want to stay ahead of the game. Your creativity surges in the face of an opportunity. Do erase the word "impossible" from your language. Know what you want. Tonight: Order in.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Right now everyone seems to have something to say. In the midst of all the jabbering, there might be something useful to hear. Check out an opportunity with your eyes open. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Know when it might be appropriate to back off. Your instincts guide you with a money matter. Your ability to listen to everything that is shared comes forward. Integrate information with the help of others. Tonight: Do your thing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Zero in on what you want now that others prove to be supportive. You have a lot of positive energy and do make a difference. Focus on what is important to a key partner or friend in your life. Tonight: Find your friends.

Happy birthday

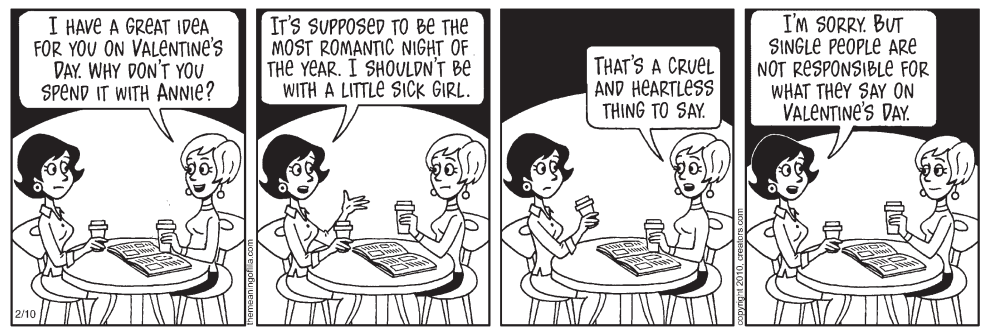
This year, make a point of tapping into your inner self. Often your instincts will guide you better than anything else. Logic works more often than not; experts do give good advice, but no one has the understanding that you do about a situation involving you. Learn to trust yourself. Your intuition and instincts are excellent. If you are single, take your time checking out each potential suitor. You might have a tendency to attract someone who is emotionally unavailable. If you are attached, go away together more. CAPRICORN makes a good healer.

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

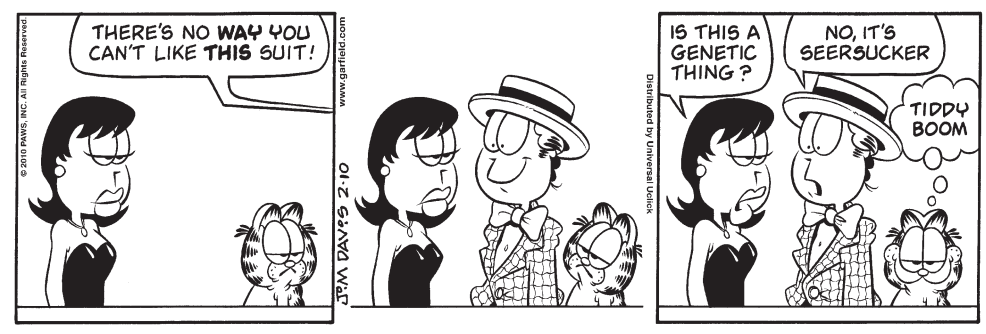
Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



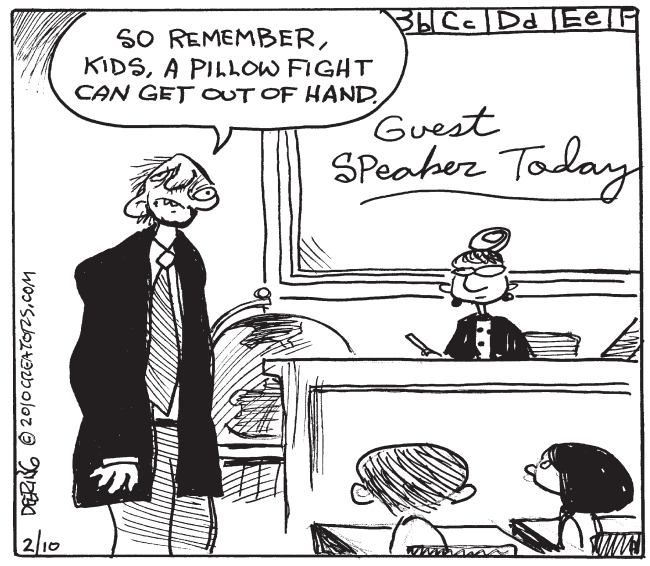
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



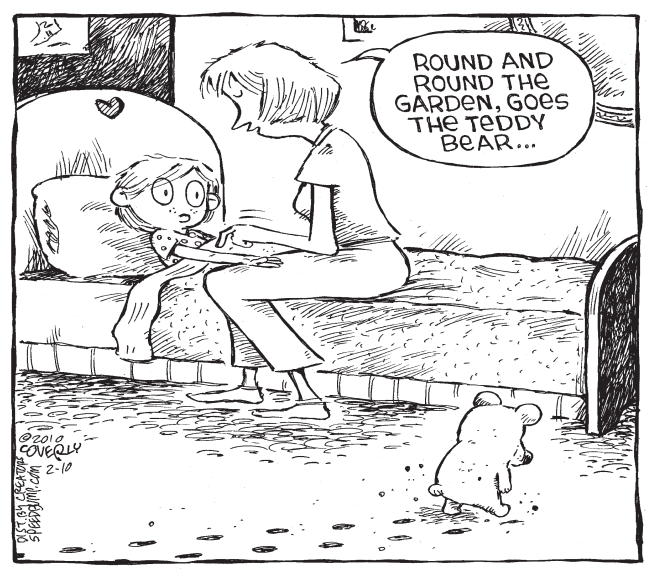
Garfield
By Jim Davis



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 ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Try to get, at an auction
6 Galoots
10 Kind of acid
11 Fashionably dated
12 Bowling button
13 Leek's cousin
14 Siestas
15 From Florence, perhaps
16 One, for Juan
17 Guitarist Wood
18 Some amount of
19 Bad acts
22 Blue hue
23 Greek liqueur
26 Printer jam causes
29 Memorable time
32 Sprite
33 Big snake
34 Fix
36 Contented sound
37 Texas landmark
38 Series test
39 Gown material
40 Hemingway's "— Time"
41 Highway ramp
42 Uptight

DOWN

1 Circus great
2 Parent's warning
3 Get rid (of)
4 Wallet bills
5 Undoing word
6 Camera part
7 New York city
8 Sound of pain
9 Boxer Liston
11 Smooth
15 Sandal sight
17 Couldn't do without
20 Reservoir maker
21 Take to court
24 Explorer Pike
25 Smelly
27 Crafty
28 "No Exit" writer
29 Wipe off
30 Kick back
31 Valuable violin
35 Radiate
36 Freshener scent
38 Chasm

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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

2-10

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 2 17 20 26 48
Meganumber: 12
Jackpot: $32M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 19 29 36 37 41
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: $7M

FANTASY 5: 1 11 22 26 39

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 2 9 5
EVENING: 9 3 9

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1.49.18

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Economic Recovery in Denver: As of early January, at least 390 new Denver businesses had applied for sales-tax licenses as dispensaries for legal (medicinal) marijuana. By comparison, Starbucks coffee shops number 208 in the entire state of Colorado. Among the first cannabis-centered businesses to open, in December, was the Ganja Gourmet on South Broadway, featuring lasagna, pizza, jambalaya, paella, flavored cheesecakes and other delicacies, all "spiced" appropriately for customers with doctors' prescriptions.

■ Jeweler Colin Burn, of Broome, Australia, announced in October at the Asia Adult Expo in Macau that he will make the world's most expensive "personal vibrator," in 10 limited editions, out of smooth platinum, each with 1,500 white diamonds. He said he planned to shoot for a price of $1 million (U.S.) and noted that he currently offers a similar sex toy with only 450 diamonds (but with a handle made of rare conkerberry wood) that he sells for $38,000.

■ Professor Yevgeny Moskalev of Russia's St. Petersburg Technological University announced in November that he had perfected a somewhat-useful powdered version of Russia's favorite drink (vodka). However, after much experimentation, he had found that the only way to preserve the alcohol was by mixing the liquid vodka into a special wax and letting it harden. According to a November report in the English language version of Pravda, the resulting shaved chips could then be flavored to counteract the wax's insipidness, and might be used for cooking or medicine. "Instant vodka" mix for straight drinking does not appear to be in professor Moskalev's plans.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1967 The 25th Amendment to the United States Constitution is ratified.

1970 Sylvester Stallone's first film Italian Stallion is released.

1981 A fire at the Las Vegas Hilton hotel-casino kills eight and injures 198.

WORD UP!

vitiate \VISH-ee-ayt\ , transitive verb; 1. To make faulty or imperfect; to render defective; to impair; as, "exaggeration vitiates a style of writing."

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Obituary



LOUISE VIOLET THOMPSON
December 20, 1913–January 6, 2010

Louise graduated from Fairfax High School in the winter of 1931. She received a technical certificate from Cosmetology School in the spring of 1932 and began working in aBeverly Hills salon, often counting among her clients various movie stars living in the town. When she met and married Monson Keith Thompson, a budding restaurateur, she joined him as owner-proprietor. They owned restaurants in Beverly Hills; in Burbank during Word War II; and finally settled in Glendale at the Maryland Hotel where Louise began her role as "social director, counselor, matchmaker and hostess".

Although the Glendale News Press was just down the street, it was Louise who got the "scoop" on all the comings and goings of the Glendale merchants, bankers, store owners and residents who called the Maryland Grill their only place to breakfast or lunch. Many sports celebrities ate at the Grill for over 30 years. This was due to many USC sports figures returning to Glendale to start businesses. It was also due to the fact that Edna Stengel, a long time Glendale resident, was the wife of Casey Stengel (then Manager of the New York Yankees), and Casey was to bring his team to Glendale for spring training for many years. Since the Grill was "the" gathering place, Louise organized charity events, put people in touch with others in the community for planned social and political events, ran innocent betting pools on the major sporting events, and just made sure that all her customers were treated well – no matter their standing in the community. Everyone waited their turn for an open seat; no matter who they were. All the customers knew they were going to get the BEST meal of the day prepared by Chef Keith and served up by Louise.

The Thompsons called Burbank home, buying their first house in 1938 shortly before the birth of their daughter Penelope Ann. Their second daughter, Christina Louise came along in 1943. Both girls attended Burbank schools graduating from Burbank High School before going on to UCLA. Keith and Louise supported the girls activities, attending their recitals for music and dance and all school events. They also enjoyed all the other opportunities that living in Southern California afforded them. They loved the auto racing in Culver City in the 30's; were Thursday night regulars at the Jim Jeffries Boxing Barn where they sat next to actor George Raft; enjoyed visiting the horse racing tracks at Hollywood Park and Santa Anita; and never missed the Bob Hope Invitational Golf Tournament in Palm Springs. They were visitors to Las Vegas from the early days on. They loved their sports teams… the Rams, Bruins, Trojans, Hollywood Stars and, of course, the Dodgers. They danced many Saturday nights at Ciro's in Hollywood, and to Lawrence Welk's bank on Lick Pier, and were regulars at such eateries as the Smoke House, Musso & Franks, Chasens and Alfonse's.

After retiring to Newport Beach in the early 70's they soon decided it was too far away from their grandchildren, so they moved back to Encino where they lived until Keith's unexpected death in 1975. The following year Louise discovered that her daughter Penny's father-in-law, Frank Donnelly who had been recently widowed, shared many of the same memories of growing up in Los Angeles, and enjoyed many of the same things. Slowly but surely, Louise and Frank ventured out to dinner and theater, dancing and concerts, and eventually, sharing their life. The 20 years that followed were filled with cruises to exotic places around the world, spending time completing the home that Don was building in Ojai, celebrating every New Year's Eve at the Ojai Country Club for dinner and dancing; and enjoying each other's company and that of their joint children and grandchildren.

Louise had been very active with the Canoga Park-West Hills Republican Women's Organization when she lived in the San Fernando Valley and was an avid participant in several weekly bridge clubs until she moved to Santa Monica. There she lived quite close to her daughter Penny and was active in the Santa Monica Women's Auxiliary of the Salvation Army for 30 years. In December 2007 she returned to Encino to live with her daughter Christy and Christy's husband John. She had her own little "cottage" next to their house where she most importantly was able to see her granddaughter Jenny every day, and enjoyed regular visits from her great-grandson Zachary. Zachary, who was born in 2008. came to see her almost every week the last year of her life.

Louise leaves behind her daughter Penny and husband Richard Donnelly of Mar Vista, their son Bret of Salt Lake City, and daughter Kyle of Alhambra; her daughter Christy and husband John Jaskiewicz of Encino, their daughter Jennifer, and son Christopher with his wife Jamie and son Zachary John of Lake Balboa; her "adopted family" (children of Francis Donnelly) son Joel Donnelly and wife Susan of Mission Viejo and their children Tracy and her husband Jeff Locher of Escondido, and grandchildren Jessica, Christian and Anna Grace; and daughter Mary with husband John McWilliams of Monarch Bay and their children Sarah and Matthew. She was Aunt Louise to her sister Evelyn's children Michael and Michelle McLean of Las Vegas; and her sister-in-law's daughter Connie Harrington of Las Cruces, New Mexico. And most important, she was a wonderful friend and "pen pal" to hundreds of people she met during her long and very interesting 96 years.

Louise was interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Hollywood Hills in a private family service as were her wishes. It was also her wish that her family would celebrate her life with long time friends in gatherings planned for this spring. In memory of Louise, donations can be made to: Santa Monica Women's Auxiliary of the Salvation Army, c/o Ellie Margaillon, 2508 25th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405

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Name Changes

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. SS019058
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of MAURICE GOLCHIN for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner or Attorney: MAURICE GOLCHIN filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: MAURICE GOLCHIN to REESE GOLCHIN. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: MARCH 18, 2010 Time: 8:30AM, Dept. A., Room 104
The address of the court is 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401.
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.
Date: FEB 1, 2009
GERALD ROSENBERG
Judge Of The Superior Court
02/10/2010, 02/17/2010, 02/24/2010, 03/03/2010

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	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
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North of Montana	$2,800,000	$1,150,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,935,000	$739,498
South of Wilshire	$850,000	$653,000
Sunset Park	$997,000	$595,000
Ocean Park	$1,750,000	$654,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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