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FEBRUARY 14-15, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 87



L.A. BOUND – AGAIN
SEE PAGE 19

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE TOO MUCH INFO ISSUE

Fugitive murder suspect returns

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

LAX A fugitive who was recently arrested in Jamaica in connection to the murder of a German tourist in Santa Monica more than a decade ago was expected to arrive here Friday evening before being turned over to local authorities.

Paul Carpenter, who is said to be in his 30s, was detained Wednesday by the Jamaican Constabulary Force in Kingston where he was working at a BMW dealership. He was the last remaining suspect in the 1998 shooting death of Horst Fietze, who was visiting the United States when approached by Carpenter, his girlfriend and two individuals attempting to rob the tourist, who himself was hanging out with a group of friends at the time near the Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel.

Fietze, 50, of Lobau, was shot when he had trouble understanding the robbers, who fled empty handed.

While three of the suspects have since been convicted, Carpenter had managed to elude authorities for more than 10 years, possibly traveling within the United States before leaving the country.

Carpenter, who is believed to have

SEE SUSPECT PAGE 13

Anti-smoking campaign gets thumbs up

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The second time's a charm for the no-smoking campaign.

Less than four months after the City Council criticized a set of proposed marketing ideas around the new anti-smoking regulations as uninspiring, a revised version that aims to be more engaging received the thumbs up from officials to move forward.

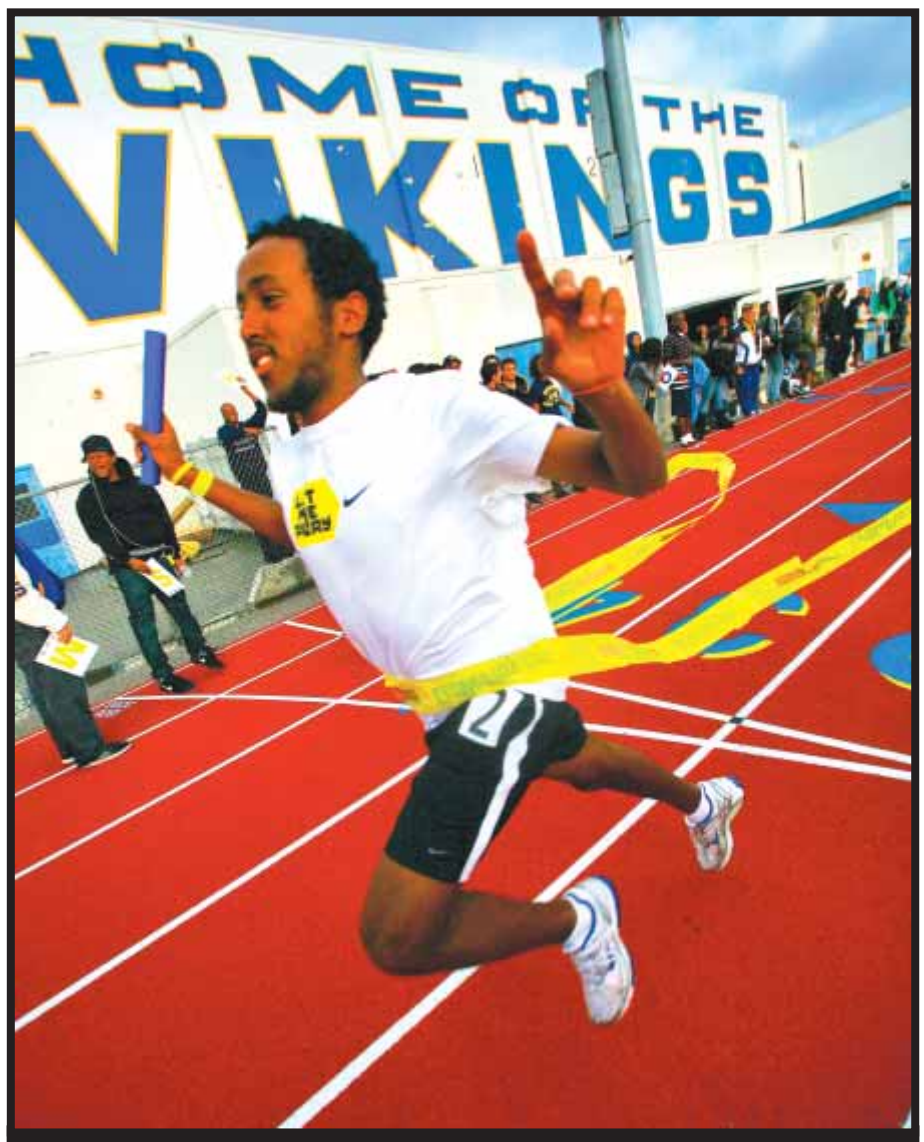
The most recent iteration revolves around the child-like concept of identifying the lone outsider in a group of items under a central theme, playing to the tagline, "Smoking doesn't belong here."

The campaign will include strategically-placed posters and reminder cards where the images displayed will be site specific. For example, a table tent proposed for restaurants usage show images of a tied bunch of uncooked pasta, breadsticks, asparagus and cigarettes, playfully hinting that "One of these doesn't belong here." On the other side of the card is the main tagline.

A similar sign that would be posted at the beach shows a palm tree, vertically-placed surfboard and cigarette butt.

"There is a moment of discovery that really cements that message," said Roxana

SEE SMOKING PAGE 14



FRONT RUNNER

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Santa Monica High School senior Ezana Tesfu finishes first during a relay race Friday commemorating the new running track on campus. Nike, The LA84 Foundation and Take Action Hollywood helped fund the project. The track is made of recycled shoe scraps from Nike.

City Hall, district face funding cuts

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL As City Hall prepares to tackle an especially daunting budget cycle, parents with the local school district are hoping that officials don't forget that there's another organization facing its own set of challenges from the state.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is looking at a budget for fiscal 2009-10 that is 16 percent less in revenue than the current year, translating to roughly $12 million in state funding cuts.

City Hall provides more than $7 million to the SMMUSD through its joint-use agreement in which the district receives money in exchange for community access to its facilities.

During a recent City Council discussion when staff presented a five-year financial forecast and best, worst and baseline case scenarios, a group of parents asked that officials consider education as its number one priority.

"We are proud of our accomplishments in what has for years been fiscally difficult circumstances and ask you to continue work with the education community to do whatever you can to hold on to the first-rate staff, teachers, administrators and programs," said Debbie Mulvaney, one of the founding

SEE FUNDING PAGE 12

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



'The Bourgeois Gentilhomme'
City Garage
1340 Fourth St., 8 p.m.
Director Frédérique Michel gives us a modern day take on Molière's satirical comedy about social climbers and the ridiculous lengths to which they'll go in order to achieve status. This is the second to last week of performances, so go while you can. Tickets are $20. Call (310) 319-9939 for more information.

'Bollywood Delicious'
Highways Performance Space
1651 18th St., 8:30
In their Valentine's Day performance, blue13 dance company is presenting a vivacious performance full of parody and their unique Bollywood-Tech dance style. Lovers, leave your kids at home ... this is not for young children. Admission is $20. Call (310) 315-1459 for more information.

'From Here to Eternity' & 'Casablanca'
Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave., 7:30 p.m.
The Aero Theatre is screening two classic romantic films on the day the chick flick reigns supreme. "Casablanca," the tale of lost love in Morocco, will share the screen with "From Here to Eternity," a love story set against the backdrop of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. $10 general admission, $8 for students and seniors. Call (310) 260-1528.

Kulov's Valentine's Day Tea Festival
Electric Lodge
1416 Electric Ave., Venice, 2 p.m. — 8 p.m.
The Valentine's Day Tea Festival features teas and foods from England with a twist of "Alice in Wonderland" for good measure. There will be interactive plays, art and plenty of tea time munchies. The event will culminate with a musical performance of "Alice & Her Wonderful Tea Party" by the Santa Monica Playhouse. All-inclusive passes are $15. Call (310) 699-7271 for more information.

The Pink Package for Sweethearts on Valentine's Day
Pacific Park
Santa Monica Pier, 4 p.m. — midnight
Pacific Park on Santa Monica Pier presents a Pacific Wheel "love deal" that includes two tickets on the famed Ferris wheel along with a pink rose, a pink commemorative pillow and pink cotton candy. The full package is $20, but if you don't want all the perks, single rides are $5. For $19.95, a couple can ride the ferris wheel all night long. Don't get caught doing anything too "romantic." For more information, call (310) 260-8744 or visit pacpark.com.

Whole Lotta' Love for the Whale
Santa Monica Pier Aquarium
1600 Ocean Front Walk, 12:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Show your love for the whale with a visit to the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium. Guests can make a variety of whale-related arts and crafts, some with a Valentine's Day theme in celebration of the migration of the Pacific gray whale. Story time, face painting, film screenings and presentations on whales are just some of the events that will carry over into Sunday. Call (310) 393-6149 for more information.

Sunday, Feb. 15, 2009

Salsa the night away
Casa Escobar Restaurant & Bar
2500 Wilshire Blvd., 9 p.m.
Beginners and experienced salsa dancers alike can enjoy independent classes taught by three different teachers. Admission is $15 for the class, with free open dancing until 12 a.m. Call (310) 392-3493 for more information.

Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra
The Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 4 p.m.
The orchestra will perform Henry Purcell's "The Fairly Queen," conducted by Martin Haselböck. The piece was inspired by Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Tickets range between $39 and $55. Call (310) 434-3412 for more information.

Monday, Feb. 16, 2009

Game day
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 3 p.m.
Play bridge and Scrabble for free every Monday at the library. Have fun, meet new people and challenge your mind. Call (310) 450-0443 for more information.

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.



Lawmakers set Valentine's Day budget vote

BY JUDY LIN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Will there be love between Democrats and Republicans this Valentine's Day?

Although there were no assurances that enough Republicans would vote for it, both houses of the state Legislature were scheduled to vote Saturday on a critical budget package to tackle California's $42 billion shortfall.

Democrats in contested districts were under tremendous pressure not to cave on a tenuous plan that calls for some $14 billion in tax increases, $15 billion in cuts and $11 billion in borrowing.

Republicans also faced pressure from conservative backers who oppose higher taxes.

"There are 120 members that don't like this budget," said Sen. Abel Maldonado, a moderate Republican from Santa Maria, referring to all members of the Legislature. He said he was still undecided on the plan.

"I'm not the only one. This could be a career-ender for folks on both sides. I haven't seen any one member do cartwheels for this budget," Maldonado said.

Legislative leaders and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger have been locked in a battle for 100 days over how to solve the massive shortfall. Republican and Democratic leaders tentatively agreed to a framework that would give businesses tax credits and relax some environmental rules in exchange for tax increases and borrowing.

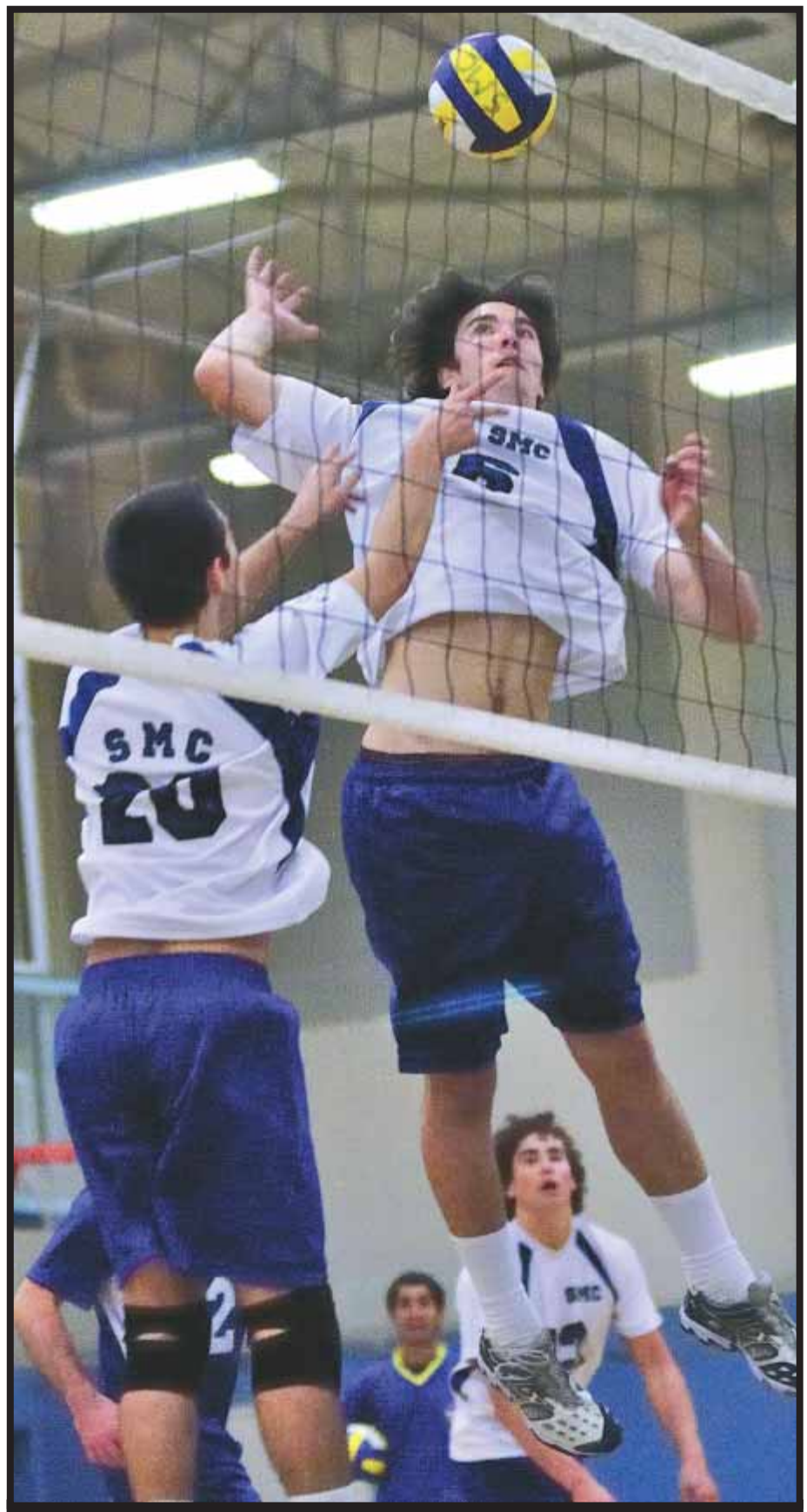
Voters would also be asked to weigh in on five ballot measures, including a state spending cap and a plan to borrow against future lottery revenues.

California is running dangerously low on cash and has already halted road projects and delayed some payments to counties and taxpayers.

The Republican governor was in Los Angeles Friday, where he was calling members of the Legislature to try to secure enough votes to pass the package, said his spokesman, Aaron McLear.

"The leaders and the governor are very close to closing on an agreement and they'll be working together to get the votes for it," he said.

SEE **BUDGET** PAGE 15



WAY UP THERE

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Santa Monica College's Matt Atkins (left) sets up teammate Taylor Palm for a spike against Golden West College on Wednesday at SMC. The Corsairs won the match, 30-27, 30-28 and 32-30. With the win, SMC improves its record to 4-0 on the season.

Webster Elementary goes above and beyond

BY CATHERINE CAIN
Special to the Daily Press

ANAHEIM Webster Elementary School is putting life back into lessons, and it's getting noticed.

On Tuesday, Webster was one of 11 California schools awarded with the Service-Learning Leader Schools Award for upholding educational values that extend beyond the classroom. At an Anaheim luncheon and conference, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell honored schools with the award, which included a plaque, a flag, and a certificate.

"These schools were selected because they have wonderful service-learning programs that help students integrate what they learn in class and apply it in ways that benefit their communities," O'Connell said.

Webster Principal Phil Cott applied for the award last October, a process which involved much searching and soliciting for newspaper articles, school records and letters of support from various organizations to verify Webster's position as an outstanding leader for the community and for other schools.

"It's recognition of things that we do that we're proud of," Cott said. "When I saw [the application], it was just so much what we already do and what we already are."

The application included 40 statements concerning school quality that Webster had to rate itself on a scale of one to four, four being the highest. Webster was graded mostly with fours, some threes, and the occasional two, Cott said.

"Only 11 schools received the award this year, so it's quite an honor," said Mike Brugh, CalServe service learning program director.

Brugh said that the award meant most, if not all, the teachers in the school have incorporated service learning into classroom practice. Service learning is a core instructional method that gets students to apply the ideas they learn in class to their outside

SEE **WEBSTER** PAGE 13

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What about Colorado?

Editor:

RE: "Colorado a popular choice for Expo Light Rail route," page 1, Feb. 13, 2009.

While the image of school children crossing Olympic [Boulevard] past the rumbling nose of a 20-ton train engine surely raises strong concerns, the question must be asked: What about pedestrians up and down Colorado Avenue, if that's where the train ends up going?

If train vs. pedestrian in a city that wants to be pedestrian-oriented is an issue, what about the elderly crossing Colorado at 14th Street? What about the infants in strollers flocking to Memorial Park, as they do daily, rolling across steel rails? What about the wheel-chair bound and hobbled homeless and skate-board riders trying to cross Colorado at Lincoln Boulevard? What about shoppers and tourists and all the people who cross at Fourth Street? Bones break just the same, not to mention the fact that Crossroads students cross these roads with paid crossing guards.

Clearly, if the City Council thinks pedestrian safety is a factor, then the original Olympic Boulevard design is superior to the Colorado option. And it's strange, isn't it, that the city staff report makes no mention of pedestrian safety as a factor with either route.

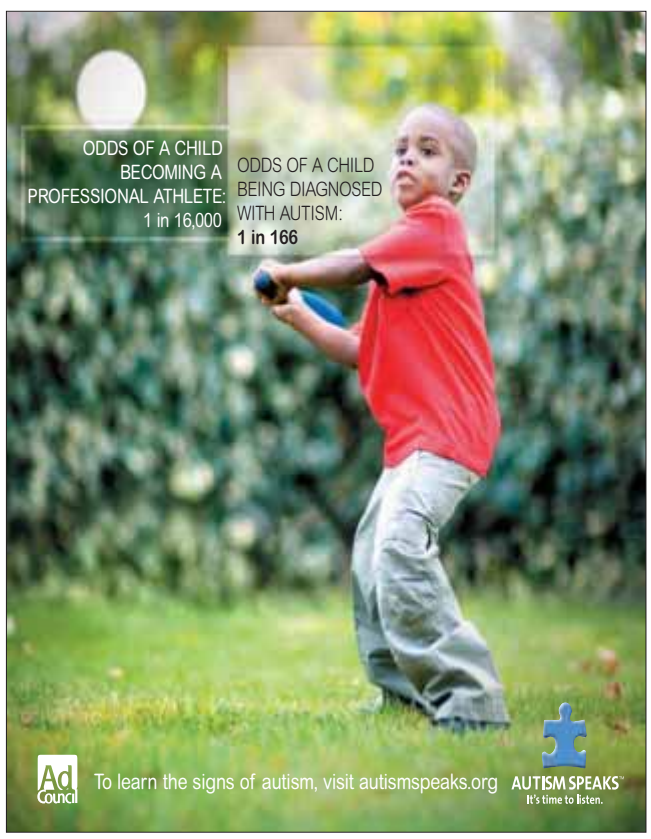
Olympic is far wider, and thus safer for people and cars and bicyclists. Colorado is a primary east-west artery bordering a vibrant neighborhood. The Olympic corridor has very few households, and far less pedestrian traffic. The Olympic design means faster travel times in part because of the strange turns the line would make to join Colorado.

If Colorado, like Ocean Park Boulevard, is knocked down to two lanes for a mile or more, what happens to Broadway, now often choked with cars and trucks between Cloverfield Boulevard and 20th Street? What happens to the residential streets between Broadway and Colorado? With the Olympic option, no travel lanes would be lost, though a few trees would be removed. If the trees and median are so essential to our city's "character," surely there is a way to make it work down Olympic while maintaining the median, which is no doubt beautiful.

Nobody likes change as big as a railroad rolling through town, from traffic to noise pollution to safety to fears of lower property values. Thing is, most people I speak with want the light rail to come as soon as possible. But not down Colorado.

Uh-oh, gotta go. My wife and two infants just returned from Memorial Park. They crossed Colorado twice — safely, thank goodness.

Mark Shepherd
Santa Monica





Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Turn off the news

WHY SHOULD POLITICIANS BE THE ONLY ones with stimulus plans? I happen to have a stimulus plan of my own. It would stimulate good moods and help rid of us of bad feelings and depression. It's very simple: I'm calling for this Feb. 22 to be National Turn Off The TV News Day.

A recent University of Pittsburgh-Harvard Medical School study concluded that adolescents who watch too much TV have a greater chance of becoming depressed adults than those kids who don't watch a lot of television.

For every additional hour of TV watched per day, the odds of becoming depressed increases by 8 percent. I'm not surprised. If I watch too much TV these days, there's a 100 percent chance that I'll get depressed. Especially if I watch the news.

Usually, the studies that portray TV as a villain are concerned about the content of TV and worry about viewers, especially kids, imitating the behavior they see on TV. I'm always a bit dubious about those studies. I guess that's because not one kid I grew up with turned into someone who thinks he can fly, is afraid of kryptonite, and has a best friend who's a talking horse.

But the Pittsburgh-Harvard researchers apparently weren't concerned about the content of what kids were watching on TV. They concluded that just watching television for hours, regardless of what's on, can contribute to an adolescent developing depression. When you throw in the dreary things on TV these days, it's no surprise.

If you watch the news every day, it's bound to bring you down. War rages on, every day more people lose their jobs, and Obama can't find a Cabinet candidate who has paid his taxes. And yet, I'm hooked on it. I even watch those cable shows that talk about the bad news that I just saw ... on The News.

The news isn't the only thing on TV that's likely to depress people. Some of the most popular programs are reality-based or game shows that have people getting rich, famous, or thin.

So the audience who is worried about just paying their bills watches other people getting happy and set for life. What could be more depressing than that?

Then there are the TV dramas. They usually involve murder, and it's not like TV murders in the old days. Back then, somebody got shot, and then a smart cop or a brilliant lawyer got a suspect to confess. Now, solving the crime is just as gruesome as the crime itself. We get to see autopsies, and they show them to us in super-extreme close-up, with bodily functions moving in slow motion.

But no matter how dark those shows are, they're still not as gloomy as the news. Even the usually perky newscasters seem depressed as they tell us how much worse off the world is today than it was yesterday. Sometimes I feel like they are speaking directly to me.

After reciting the latest stock losses, I almost expect the newscaster to look into the camera and say, "And Lloyd, your house lost another 3 percent today, your cholesterol drug has awful side-effects, and that shirt doesn't go with your pants."

The solution to all of this is obvious: If TV turns us off, we should turn off the TV. But I don't think it's realistic for those of us who are hooked on TV to just stop watching it, cold turkey. So, I propose that we start by not watching the programming that bums us out the most — the news.

IF YOU WATCH THE NEWS EVERY DAY, IT'S BOUND TO BRING YOU DOWN. WAR RAGES ON, EVERY DAY MORE PEOPLE LOSE THEIR JOBS, AND OBAMA CAN'T FIND A CABINET CANDIDATE WHO HAS PAID HIS TAXES. AND YET, I'M HOOKED ON IT. I EVEN WATCH THOSE CABLE SHOWS THAT TALK ABOUT THE BAD NEWS THAT I JUST SAW ... ON THE NEWS.

It won't be easy. Some of us are clearly news addicts. But let's try it one day at a time. And let's start on the birthday of someone who was very successful and never watched the news on TV — George Washington.

Let's make Feb. 22 National Turn Off The TV News Day. Tell your friends, make bumper stickers, shout it from the rooftops, call your Senators, organize Facebook groups, Twitter your twitters. We can do this.

We'll be able to tell if this experiment is a success. On Sunday, Feb. 22, if you see some people smiling who are usually grumpy, you'll know they turned off the news. If you're with some sports fans and they aren't talking about the latest athlete who got arrested, you'll know they turned off the news.

And if you go out to dinner with someone, there's a sure-fire way of knowing. They definitely didn't watch the news if they pick up the check.

LLOYD GARVER has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Home Improvement" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He can be reached at lloydgarver@gmail.com. Check out his website at lloydgarver.com and his podcasts on iTunes.

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The Q Line

Love on the cheap

This past week, Q-line asked:
Everybody knows that the economy is in a bad place, but that doesn't mean your sweetheart has to go without this Valentine's Day. What would be your perfect affordable date this Valentine's Day?
Here are your responses:

"MY PERFECT AFFORDABLE DATE WOULD be if your library had a film series at night. I would love for them to play a double feature – 'Hard Day's Night' and 'Help!' and 'Let It Be a Magical Mystery Tour.' Another part of the date would be to borrow CDs and DVDs in the comfort of our home. It's all free thanks to the Santa Monica library card! Also, if you have a handicap placard I can take my date to overlook the beach in the parking lot, walk around the pier, snuggle up and enjoy the sunset and sunrise. What a beautiful city you have. Let the homeless and hopeless and those in between come to your city for a beautiful thing."

"MY PERFECT AFFORDABLE DATE THIS Valentine's Day would be going square dancing and round dancing right here in Santa Monica."

"I THINK A GREAT THING WOULD BE TO give your Valentine $10-15 gift coupon type of thing you made up and go shopping at Goodwill for each other. Nice, fun day – you could go together and I think that that would be amazing."

"A COMEDIAN ONCE STATED FROM A LAS Vegas stage that she told her husband on her wedding day that she could only be good in one room in the house and that he could pick that room. My wife made the same statement to me and after 46 years of marriage I am well aware I picked the right room. On Valentine's Day, I will walk my wife into that room and sing the Bob Hope tune 'Thanks for the Memories.' I will then drive her to a local Santa Monica hamburger stand and order the two for the price of one special and pretend to be kids again."

"A GOOD CHEAP DATE WOULD BE THE art openings which are usually on Saturday nights."

"FIRST, VALENTINE'S DAY IS THE BIGGEST fraud perpetrated by the gullible love-sick bumpkins in this country. Mainly by Hallmark Cards, See's Candy, FTD flowers, and Victoria's Secret. My perfect date would be to ride our bicycles to one of the many Starbucks and buy a $5 latte. Then, with our re-enforced bravery, ride against traffic to the new $1.5 million Ferris wheel on the pier. Next, we ride to the mall to see the quality entertainment fending off bums and out-of-work artists. We soak up the stunning atmosphere. Re-engergized, we bicycle to Pacific Palisades and have a wonderful meal at the Beach Street Cafe – a fireplace, quiet surroundings, no bums, no phony carpetbaggers, no thought police, a wonderful meal with someone I am lucky to have in spite of the Dark Lords of the Santa Monica City Council."

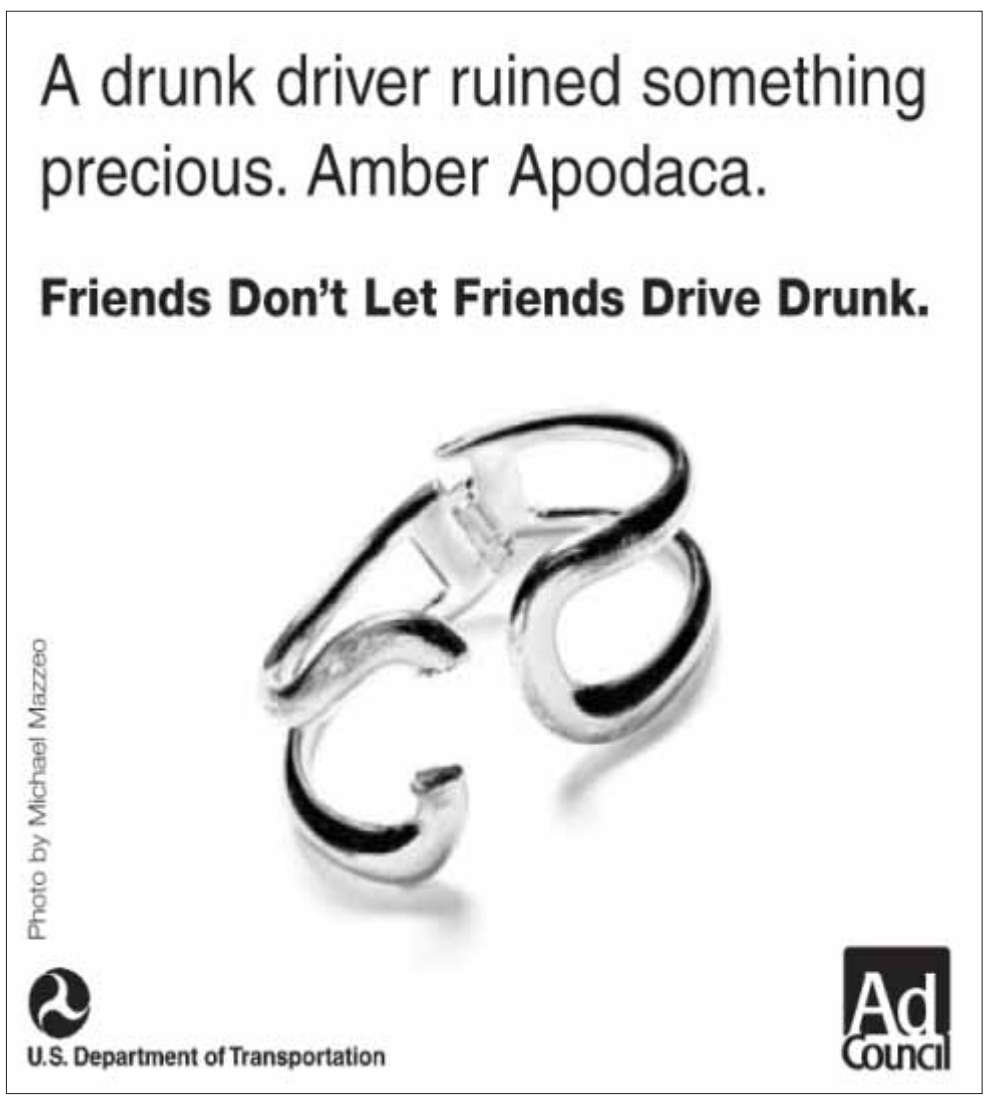
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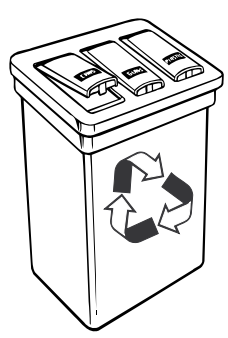
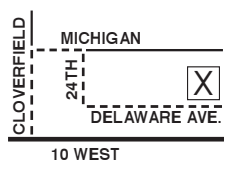

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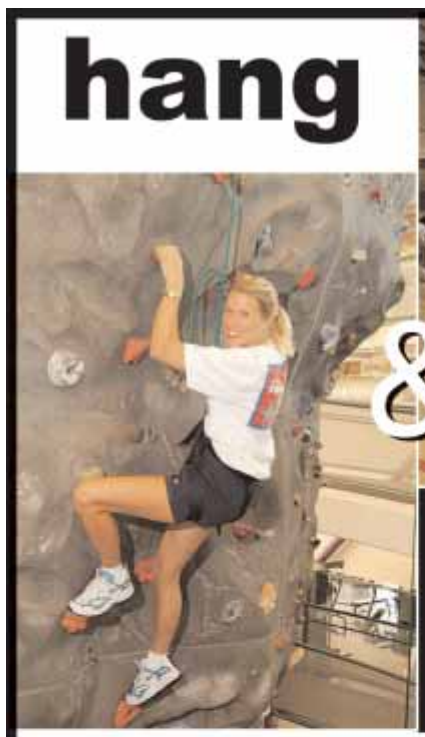
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Parents think twice about peanut butter

BY HOLLY RAMER
Associated Press Writer

CONCORD, N.H. The nationwide salmonella outbreak has left many parents in a situation as sticky as peanut butter itself: Should they pack their kids' lunches with PB&J or stay away from the old standby?

Jarred peanut butter sales were down significantly last month compared to the previous year, suggesting that many children are going without their favorite sandwiches even though leading brands of jarred peanut butter have not been recalled.

Other parents are taking a more moderate approach, sticking with the jarred stuff and avoiding everything else, or carefully combing through the recall lists before shopping.

It's a dilemma even President Barack Obama has faced: Earlier this month, he said his younger daughter eats peanut butter sandwiches several times a week. "And you know, I don't want to have to worry about whether she's going to get sick as a consequence to having her lunch," he said. A White House spokesman said Sasha is still eating peanut butter.

In Seabrook, Texas, Dayna Steele is more worried that her 9-year-old son will become sick if he doesn't eat peanut butter. After years of trying to get him to eat other foods, his pediatrician said, "He's fine. Let him eat all the peanut butter he wants. When he meets a girl, he'll start eating something else."

Steele, a former rock deejay turned motivational speaker, has been holding her breath every time another recall notice pops up online, but she is confident for now that the tubs of Kroger-brand peanut butter her son favors are safe.

"Maybe it's my rose-colored glasses, but I do want to believe that if a company like Kroger, who stands to lose a lot, felt like there was any danger whatsoever with their jarred peanut butter, that there would be an immediate announcement," she said.

The salmonella outbreak has sickened some 600 people in 43 states and is being linked to nine deaths. More than 1,900 products have been recalled, and the company at the heart of the recall — Peanut Corp. of America — is under FBI investigation and filed for bankruptcy Friday. Leading brands of jarred peanut butter are not affected, but some parents aren't taking any chances.

Camille Hurst of Tallassee, Ala., used to buy a jar of peanut butter a week for her three children. Before the recalls, she switched to an all-natural brand because of concerns about unhealthy ingredients. Now she has sworn off peanut products entirely.

"Once they find it in one major brand it is found in others," she said. "Just like in the melamine contamination, we were told it was only in a few products but then more and more came up."

Hurst, 31, said she is frustrated that there is no real way for consumers to trace the origins of their food.

"We are blind consumers who trust and rely on the government and manufacturers, and they are abusing that trust and putting the health of consumers in jeopardy," she said.

That attitude is further evidence that consumers have grown less trusting of government, said Michal Ann Strahilevitz, a professor of marketing and consumer behavior at Golden Gate University in San Francisco.

"Americans feel that they trusted officials to monitor a lot of things that they clearly did not monitor carefully enough. The economy is one example. However, people are particularly risk-averse when it comes to what they feed their families," she said. "So no surprise, federal assurances are not going to make all the fear go away."

Government assurances also tend to get lost in a sea of media coverage, said David Urban, professor of marketing at Virginia Commonwealth University. The message that comes through is "peanutsunsafe."

"It's a good example of what gets through to consumers and what doesn't," he said. "The big negative headline that has any connection to one's children is really going to stick."

There are plenty of parents, however, who aren't reacting with an all-or-nothing approach. In Bow, N.H., Eleana Walsh has thrown out any processed products that contain peanuts or peanut butter, including items that haven't been recalled. But Walsh, a mother of two boys, also hasn't given up jarred peanut butter.

"With the economy going the way it is I need peanut butter to be safe. We will be relying on this to stay alive if things don't look up," she joked.

Statistics compiled by Yahoo! suggest plenty of parents are looking for answers online before they shop. Yahoo! Internet searches for "peanut butter recall" have increased almost 125,000 percent in the past month. Nearly two-thirds of the searches are being made by women, and the top age group is 30-44.

Martha Dexter, 45, of Litchfield, N.H., admits she waited until coming home from the grocery store to make sure the products she bought for her family hadn't been recalled. She didn't think much about it until her daughter came home from 3rd grade and said, "Mom! That has peanut butter in it. What are you trying to do?"

She then called the grocery store and looked up the recall lists online.

"I felt reassured. But we spent about half an hour making sure our food was safe to eat, which is kind of crazy," she said.

It's reasonable for parents to react strongly to the initial news of the recalls, said Barry Glassner, a sociology professor at the University of Southern California, but unnecessarily avoiding peanut butter in the long run could teach children to be afraid of food.

Many more children will die from being hit by lightning than tainted peanut butter, said Glassner, author of "The Gospel of Food: Everything You Think You Know About Food is Wrong."

"Are you going to prohibit your child from going outside every time it rains?" he asked. "If you're rational, what you'll do is, if there's lightning outside, you'll keep them in, and when that's done, you let them go out safely and go to school in the rain. I think this is the same thing. It's very reasonable to take peanut butter off the menu until we knew what was going on, but then it's not anymore."



Kitchen Vixen

Elizabeth Brown
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Sexy edible treats

IN HONOR OF VALENTINE'S DAY, LET'S talk about sex, baby.

Sex plays a fundamental role in our physical and emotional well-being. It's a basic human need according to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, along with breathing (very important), food, water, sleep, homeostasis (another term for internal balance) and excretion (also, very important). If any of these areas are missing in life, it could negatively affect one's health and well-being.

Therefore, it is in your best interest that I tell you about an aspect of sex that is tied to food. Well, sort of.

During my culinary training I learned about edible lubricants. My instructor said she gave them as gifts. She wouldn't share her recipe; I think she was a little embarrassed. So I did my own research to find out what makes a lubricant both edible and lubricating?

It's mainly due to a component called glycerin sometimes spelled glycerine (glis-uh-REEN). Glycerin is a commercial product with over 1,500 uses, as a humectant, plasticizer, emollient, thickener, solvent, dispersing medium, antifreeze, processing aid, bodying agent, sweetener and lubricant. Glycerin is often found as an ingredient in many personal care items such as soaps, lotions and of course personal lubricants. It's also used in recipes or added to commercial food products where it can serve as an emulsifier to hold things together and also make things taste sweet.

Also known as glycerol, glycerin is found widely in the body where it serves as the backbone for a triglyceride or found floating freely in the body.

A triglyceride is a type of fat that travels through the body to be used for energy or stored as fat. As the triglyceride is broken down for energy, the byproducts are glycerol and three individual fatty acids. The glycerol component is a fat but, unlike any other fat, can be converted to glucose and used for immediate energy. The three fatty acids which were part of the triglyceride chain can be used for energy or stored as fat for future use.

When combined with water, glycerin works like humectants, which act to keep things moist. Without the addition of water, glycerin will pull water from the skin and cause dry skin. Although it is not a sugar or a carbohydrate, glycerin makes things taste sweet. It is the only fat that can be converted to glucose for energy. Health-conscious people use glycerin as an alternative sweetener because it is converted to glucose at such a slow rate that it is unlikely to cause the rapid rise in insulin associated with weight gain.

Whether you use glycerin in a recipe for food or as a lubricant, it gives you energy and the lubricating properties of oil without the stored calories associated with oils.

What you mix with glycerin will determine its taste because you choose the flavor enhancer.

Vanilla extract is perfect if you're making a recipe for a man because research has shown that men associate the scent of vanilla with love. Actually, I believe that goes back to childhood and the wafting smell of freshly baked cookies that only mom could make. So the introduction of vanilla into an edible lubricant might border a bit on an oedipal complex, but we'll let you guys work that one out in therapy.

ELIZABETH can be reached at eat2liv@earthlink.net.

Edible Lubricant

1/4 cup filtered still water (not tap & not sparkling)
1/4 cup Vegetable Glycerine (NOW brand)
1 tsp of extract of your choice such as vanilla or chocolate
Mix all ingredients in a small bottle.
Makes 1/2 cup or 4 oz. by volume.

Oedipal Ice Cream
4 eggs, beaten
1/2 cup vegetable Glycerin (NOW nutritional product)
2 cups (unsweetened) soy or almond milk
2 teaspoons alcohol free organic vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoons sea salt (optional)
2 cups light cream, or 2 extra cups of soy or almond milk to lower the fat content
1/2 cup pecans or nut of your choice (roast lightly in a skillet to bring out flavor, cool before adding)
Place medium size bowl in the freezer to chill. The ice cream will cool in this bowl. Combine beaten eggs, glycerin and almond milk in a large saucepan. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly until mixture thickens and coats the spoon, about 15 minutes. Remove from heat. Cool by pouring mixture in the chilled bowl placed in an ice bath. Gently stir in cream, nuts and vanilla extract. Chill in freezer. After forty-five minutes, check the ice cream. As it starts to freeze near the edges stir it vigorously with a spatula, whisk or electric mixer. Break up any frozen sections and blend. Return to freezer. Continue to check the mixture every 30 minutes, stirring vigorously as its freezing. Keep checking periodically and stirring while it freezes until the ice cream is frozen. It will take about 2-3 hours.

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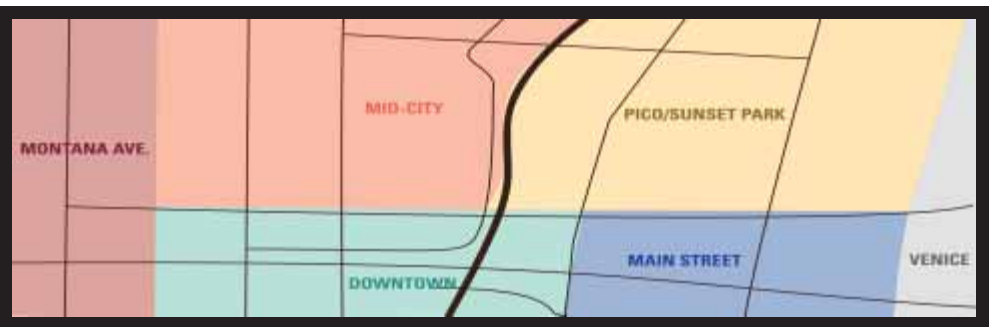
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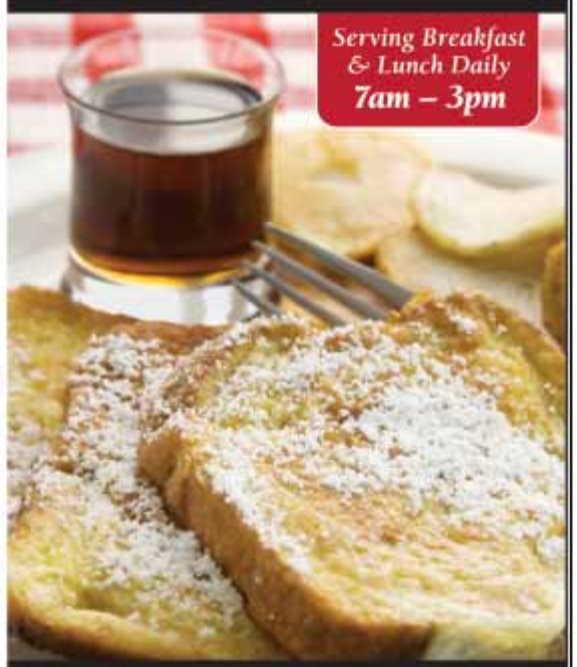
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Democrats push stimulus plan

BY DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON In a major victory for President Barack Obama, Democrats muscled a huge, $787 billion stimulus bill to the brink of final passage Friday night in hopes of combating the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Republican opposition was nearly unanimous.

The vote in the House was 246-183 for the package of tax cuts and federal spending that Obama made the centerpiece of his plan for economic recovery.

The Senate was following suit in a roll call that was without suspense but extended into the night. That was to allow time for Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown to fly back from Ohio, where his mother died earlier in the week. His was the decisive 60th vote for the bill.

Obama is expected to sign the bill soon.

Supporters said the measure would save or create 3.5 million jobs. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer conceded there was no guarantee, but he said that "millions and millions and millions of people will be helped, as they have lost their jobs and can't put food on the table of their families."

Vigorously disagreeing, House Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio dumped a copy of the 1,071-page bill to the floor in a gesture of contempt. "The bill that was about jobs, jobs, jobs has turned into a bill that's about spending, spending, spending," he said. No House Republican voted for the measure.

The legislation, among the costliest ever considered in Congress, provides billions of dollars to aid victims of the recession through unemployment benefits, food stamps, medical care, job retraining and more. Tens of billions are ticketed for the states to offset cuts they might otherwise have to make in aid to schools and local governments, and there is more than $48 billion for transportation projects such as road and bridge construction, mass transit and high-speed rail.

Democrats said the bill's tax cuts would help 95 percent of all Americans, much of the relief in the form of a break of $400 for individuals and $800 for couples. At the insistence of the White House, people who do not earn enough money to owe income taxes are eligible, an attempt to offset the payroll taxes they pay.

In a bow to political reality, lawmakers included $70 billion to shelter upper middle-class and wealthier taxpayers from an income tax increase that would otherwise hit them, a provision that the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said would do relatively little to create jobs.

Also included were funds for two of Obama's initiatives, the expansion of computerized information technology in the health care industry and billions to create so-called green jobs the administration says will begin reducing the country's dependence on foreign oil.

Asked for his reaction to House passage of the bill, Obama said "thumbs up" and indeed gave a thumbs-up sign as he left the White House with his family for a long weekend in Chicago.

Congress cast its votes as federal regulators announced the closing of the Sherman County Bank in Loup City, Neb., and Riverside Bank of the Gulf Coast in Florida, based in Cape Coral. Those were the 10th and 11th failures this year of federally insured banking companies and the latest reminders of the toll taken by recession and frozen credit markets.

The day's events at the Capitol were scripted to allow Democratic leaders to fulfill their pledge to send Obama legislation by mid-February.

"Barack Obama, in just a few short weeks as president, has passed one of the biggest packages for economic recovery in our nation's history," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, anticipating final Senate passage.

The approval also capped an early period of accomplishment for the Democrats, who won control of the White House and expanded their majorities in Congress in last fall's elections.

Since taking office on Jan. 20, the president has signed legislation extending government-financed health care to millions of lower-income children who lack it, a bill that President George W. Bush twice vetoed. He also has placed his signature on a measure making it easier for workers to sue their employers for alleged job discrimination, effectively overturning a ruling by the Supreme Court's conservative majority.

Obama made the stimulus a cornerstone of his economic recovery plan even before he took office, but his calls for bipartisanship were an early casualty.

Republicans complained they had been locked out of the early decisions, and Democrats countered that Boehner had tried to rally opposition even before the president met privately with the GOP rank and file.

In retrospect, said White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel, the White House wasn't "sharp enough" in emphasizing the benefits of the bill as Republicans began to criticize spending on items such as family planning services, anti-smoking programs and reseeding the National Mall.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid faced a different task — finding enough GOP moderates to give him the 60 votes needed to surmount a variety of procedural hurdles. To do that, he and the White House agreed to trim billions in spending from the original $820 billion House-passed bill, enough to obtain the backing of GOP Sens. Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins of Maine and Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania.

As the final compromise took shape in a frenzied round of bargaining earlier this week, it was trimmed again to hold the support of the moderates, whose opposition to a new program for federal school construction caused anger among House Democrats.

In the end, a compromise was reached that allows states to use funds for modernizing schools. But in a display of displeasure, Pelosi decided to skip the news conference last Wednesday where Reid announced a final agreement.

In addition to tax relief for individuals and businesses who purchase new equipment, lawmakers inserted breaks for first-time home buyers and consumers purchasing new cars in an attempt to aid two industries particularly hard-hit by the recession. In response to pressure from lawmakers from Pennsylvania, Indiana and elsewhere, the bill was altered at the last minute to permit the buyers of recreational vehicles and motorcycles to claim the same break as those buying cars and light trucks.

In the House, all 246 votes in favor were cast by Democrats. Seven Democrats joined 176 Republicans in opposition.

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NTSB: Plane crew noticed significant ice before crash

BY CAROLYN THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

BUFFALO, N.Y. The crew of the commuter plane that fell on a house, killing all 49 people aboard and one person on the ground, noticed significant ice buildup on the wings and windshield just before the aircraft began pitching and rolling violently, investigators said Friday.

Officials stopped short of saying the ice buildup caused Thursday night's crash and stressed that nothing has been ruled out. But ice on the wings can interfere catastrophically with an aircraft's handling and has been blamed for a number of major air disasters over the years.

Continental Connection Flight 3407, bound from Newark, N.J., went down in light snow and mist — ideal conditions for ice to form — about six miles short of the Buffalo airport, plunging nose-first through the roof of a house in the suburb of Clarence.

All 44 passengers, four crew members, an off-duty pilot and one person on the ground were killed. Two others escaped from the home, which was engulfed in a raging fireball that climbed higher than the treetops and burned for hours, making it too hot to begin removing the bodies until around nightfall Friday.

Among the passengers killed was a woman whose husband died in the World Trade Center attacks of Sept. 11.

It was the nation's first deadly crash of a commercial airliner in 2Ω years.

One of the survivors from the house, Karen Wielinski, 57, told WBEN-AM that she was watching TV in the family room when she heard a noise. She said her daughter, 22-year-old Jill, who also survived, was watching TV in another part of the house.

"Planes do go over our house, but this one just sounded really different, louder, and I thought to myself, 'If that's a plane, it's going to hit something,'" she told the station. "The next thing I knew the ceiling was on me."

She said she and her daughter escaped in their socks.

"I was panicking a little but trying to stay cool," she said. "I happened to notice a little light on the right of me. I shouted first in case anybody was out there. Then I just kind of pushed what was on top of me off and crawled out the hole. ... The back of the house was gone, the fire had started. I could see the wing of the plane."

She said she hadn't been told the fate of her husband, Doug, but added: "He was a good person, loved his family."

Investigators pulled the black box recorders from the wreckage, sent them to Washington and immediately began analyzing the flight data and listening to the cockpit conversations.

Steve Chealander, a spokesman for the National Transportation Safety Board, said at an afternoon news conference that the crew of the twin-engine turboprop discussed "significant ice buildup" on the windshield and the leading edge of the wings at an altitude of around 11,000 feet as the plane was coming in for a landing.

The flight data recorder indicated the plane's de-icing equipment was in the "on" position, but Chealander would not say whether the equipment was functioning.

The landing gear was lowered one minute before the end of the flight at an altitude of more than 2,000 feet, and 20 seconds later the wing flaps were set to slow the plane down, after which the aircraft went through "severe pitch and roll," Chealander said.

The crew raised the landing gear at the last moment, just before the recording ran out. No mayday call came from the pilot.

Doug Hartmayer, a spokesman for Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, which runs the Buffalo airport, said: "The plane simply dropped off the radar screen."

"Icing, if a significant buildup, is an aerodynamic impediment, if you will," Chealander said. "Airplanes are built with wings that are shaped a certain way. If you have too much ice, the shape of the wing can change requiring different airspeeds."

But he refused to draw any conclusions from the data, and cautioned: "We are not ruling anything in or anything out at this time."

Witnesses heard the plane sputtering before it plunged squarely through the roof of the house, its tail section visible through the flames.

"The whole sky was lit up orange," said Bob Dworak, who lives less than a mile away. "There was a big bang, and the house shook." He added: "It looked like the house just got destroyed the instant it got hit."

William Voss, a former official of the Federal Aviation Administration and current president of the Flight Safety Foundation, a nonprofit advocacy group, said the plane's near vertical drop suggests that ice or a mechanical failure, such as wing flaps deploying asymmetrically or the two engines putting out different thrust, caused the crash.

After the crash, at least two pilots were heard on air traffic control circuits saying they had been picking up ice on their wings.

The 74-seat Q400 Bombardier aircraft, in the Dash 8 family of planes, was operated by Colgan Air, based in Manassas, Va. Colgan's parent company, Pinnacle Airlines of Memphis, Tenn., said the plane was new and had a clean safety record.

The pilot, Capt. Marvin Renslow, had been with the airline for nearly 3Ω years and had more than 3,000 hours of flying experience with Colgan, which is nearly the maximum a pilot can fly over that period of time under government regulations.

Flight 3407 is the first fatal crash of a commercial airliner in the United States since Aug. 27, 2006, when 49 people were killed after a Comair jetliner mistakenly took off from a Lexington, Ky., runway that was too short.

In general, smaller planes like the Dash 8, which uses a system of pneumatic de-icing boots, are more susceptible to ice buildup than larger commuter planes that use a system to warm the wings. The boots, a rubber membrane stretched over the surface, are filled with compressed air to crack any ice that builds up.

A similar turboprop jet crash 15 years ago in Indiana was caused by ice, and after that the NTSB recommended more aggressively using pneumatic de-icing boots. But the FAA has not adopted the recommendation. It remains on the NTSB's list of most-wanted safety improvements.

Clarence is a growing eastern suburb of Buffalo. The crash site was on a street of older, single-family homes about 20 to 25 feet apart.



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A newspaper with issues





Maya Myers *news@smdp.com*

EMPTY: **With tourism on the decline, business has been somewhat slower on the SM Pier.**

Best-case scenario shows $17.4 million deficit by 2013-14

FROM **FUNDING** PAGE 1

members of LEAD [Leadership Effectiveness Accountability Direction.]

But City Hall itself is in a less than desirable financial position, seeing a net loss of $2.7 million in expected revenue this fiscal year. Council voted to set aside $8.2 million in revenue from the Utility Users Tax to an economic uncertainty fund. Council also approved increasing the general fund expenditures by $1.5 million, most of which is for the transfer of the fire dispatch center back to Santa Monica.

"We're starting to see further deterioration," City Manager Lamont Ewell said. "Given the current trend, I want to advise you that we are going to be looking at some reduction in services, but for the most part we will do everything we can to avoid negative impacts to the public."

City departments have been asked to reduce their respective budget by 3 percent in the current fiscal year to make up for the deficit while planning for a 5 percent decrease for 2009-10.

While City Hall has in the past been resilient to much of the financial troubles affecting other municipalities thanks to a diversified tax base, those sources are starting to take a hit.

Much of the major revenue sources — property, sales, utility user, transient occupancy and business license taxes — have fallen victim to the economy.

Auto sales, which account for more than 20 percent of the local sales tax revenue, has continued to decline in the past few quarters. Transient occupancy taxes, which is money from the local hotels, is also expected to decline in the next fiscal year.

The baseline scenario, which is considered the best estimate of the future, assumes a budget deficit of $8.3 million in next year, growing to $24.3 by 2013-14. The worst-case scenario, which assumes the recession will have one of the greatest impacts on City Hall in decades, projects a deficit of $16.4 million next year while the best-case outlook, which expects more revenues along with lower labor costs, projects a $17.4 million deficit in 2013-14, the final year of the forecast.

"I served in this community for the past 26 years … and we've been through this before but I've never been through something as deep and bad," Councilmember Bob Holbrook said.

School advocates urged that the council continue funding education.

Richard McKinnon, a district parent, told council he had just recently attended a meeting at Santa Monica High School where administrators said that class sizes could increase and at least one house could get shut down. Samohi operates under a house system in which all students are assigned to a "house" that has its own principal and counselor.

"Schools are a very powerful symbol of what a community is and in Santa Monica, we have built an extraordinarily powerful symbol," he said.

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Murder suspect to be arraigned next week

FROM **SUSPECT** PAGE 1

fathered a child in Jamaica, was discovered after the FBI received a tip about his whereabouts, living under the name Jermaine Thomas.

"He was on his way to work and was removed from an employee shuttle bus by local authorities with the Jamaican Constabulary Force," Laura Eimiller, the spokeswoman for the FBI, said.

Carpenter had been working as a driver for several years and was among the employees transferred to Stewart Motors when it took over the business in 2006, said Jackie Stewart Lechler, the director of the dealership in Jamaica.

"Thomas has worked with us since as a driver and was quite a hard-working employee who never gave any indication to us or his fellow employees that he was anyone other than who we thought he was," she said. "This development is something that none of us could have foreseen, as we accepted the transferred employee in good faith, having had no reason to question whether he was worthy of being employed by us."

The suspect has been deported by Jamaican authorities and was scheduled to arrive at LAX under the escort of an FBI agent and Los Angeles Police Department officer assigned to the FBI Fugitive Task Force. He was charged more than 10 years ago with murder and attempted robbery. He has also been federally charged with unlawful flight to avoid prosecution, though it is expected to be dismissed when he is turned over to the Santa Monica Police Department and prosecuted by the Los Angeles County District Attorney, Eimiller said.

He is expected to be arraigned on Tuesday.

After Fietze' murder on Oct. 12, 1998, SMPD detectives spent several months identifying all four suspects, arresting one in Oklahoma and another in South Carolina.



CARPENTER

Lamont Dion Santos, the gunman, has been sentenced to 35 years to life in prison and Roshana Latiesha Roberts, who was the getaway driver, was sentenced to 13 years and four months in prison. Tyrina Lakeisha Griffin, also an accomplice, was sentenced to 16 years to life.

Investigators had long ago concluded that Carpenter had fled the country. The FBI in 2007 announced a $20,000 award for information leading to the suspect's capture.

His arrest involved cooperation by the FBI's Fugitive Task Force in Los Angeles, the United States Marshal Service based in Kingston, Jamaica, the Jamaican Constabulory Force, the FBI's Legal Attache in Santo Domingo in the Domincan Republic, and detectives with the Santa Monica Police Department.

"It's rewarding to know that our efforts weren't futile," Lt. Ray Cooper with the SMPD said. "It's rewarding to know that the final piece of the puzzle, the final suspect, is soon to be in our custody."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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Local school upholds award status

FROM **WEBSTER** PAGE 3

communities.

Brugh described a service learning school where one of the teachers came down with breast cancer. The students became very interested, learned about breast cancer, made posters, and did projects on the subject.

"We are honored to be recognized for something that Webster has consistently done for a very long time. We do not only give back to the community through a variety of service projects, but link those projects to the classroom and learning experiences both at school and at home," said Dorothy Reinhold, Webster PTA co-president. Reinhold also wrote a letter for the application on behalf of the PTA.

Earning the award is hardly the end of the road for Webster.

"We have only just begun! Under Mr. Cott's leadership, Webster is going to keep looking for ways that our students can make a difference in the community, and that also lead them to a greater curiosity about and understanding of the world outside the school," Reinhold said.

The award, which can be displayed for a maximum of five years at Webster, truly exemplifies the outlook Cott and Webster have on education. Cott, who says the school is now starting to focus on recycling and composting, thinks homework has its place in the education process, but that Webster is more concerned with the bigger picture.

> **"WE ARE HONORED TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR SOMETHING THAT WEBSTER HAS CONSISTENTLY DONE FOR A VERY LONG TIME."**
>
> Dorothy Reinhold
> PTA co-president

"Education [should] have actual value outside the classroom," Cott said. "This is a way of taking these beliefs and carry them out."

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PIER RESTORATION CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Commission on the Status of Women:
One seat available for a term ending June 30, 2010.
Applicants shall be residents of Santa Monica.

Pier Restoration Corporation Board of Directors:
One seat available for term ending November 10, 2009.
Applicants must reside in Santa Monica or do business or be employed in the City of Santa Monica.

Applications due by noon, Tuesday, March 17, 2009.
Appointments to be made by City Council, Tuesday, March 24, 2009.

No City employee may serve as a member of any Board or Commission listed above.

The State Political Reform Act requires commission members to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action. The applicant appointed to serve in this position will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) with the City Clerk's office upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

Applications and information on Board/Commission duties & disclosure requirements are available from the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 1685 Main St., Rm. 102 (submit applications at this same location), by phone at (310) 458-8211 or on-line at http://www.smgov.net. All current applications on file will be considered.

Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request by calling (310) 458-8211.



NEW WHEELS

Rob Lawrence *news@smdp.com*

The new XC60 Crossover was debuted at Volvo of Santa Monica on Wednesday. The model features the world's first automatic braking system to come standard.



Photo courtesy Southard Communications

NO BUTTS: **Pictured is the latest concept of City Hall's upcoming anti-smoking campaign.**

Campaign takes playful turn

FROM **SMOKING** PAGE 1

Janka, the vice president of Southard Communications, which devised the marketing concept. "We feel that we successfully met the challenges that council put forth to make it more playful and engaging."

The consultant will move ahead with finalizing the designs and releasing a series of campaign materials, including signs, advertisements, Web site, and a collateral business toolkit that will contain "friendly reminder" tips, cards and window clings.

The council was more receptive to the latest concept.

"I think it was well done," Mayor Ken Genser said.

Genser said he had mixed feelings about the original design and felt he could have voted either way.

"I thought it was kind of boring and not real clear but at the same time I thought it was acceptable," he said.

The former version was crafted after the consultant surveyed more than 800 residents, businesses, visitors and tourists on the phone and the street, determining their attitude toward the anti-smoking regulations and rating their own level of compliance. Four preliminary concepts were then presented to two focus groups, one made up of residents and the other of business owners. The two highest testing logos and designs were selected to move forward.

Both of the concepts spoke to the idea of keeping the air clean, using the slogans, "Pureair Santa Monica" and "Care for our air."

The campaign aims to educate residents and visitors about the handful of smoking regulations that have been adopted in the past several years, including bans at beaches, parks, outdoor dining areas and bars and within 20 feet of any door or window of a building that is publicly accessible.

The council last year also passed a regulation to hold restaurant owners and managers liable if they knowingly allowed their customers to light up, requiring that they post no-smoking signs in their establishment.

The council hired Southard Communication last year on a $150,000 contract to create the marketing campaign.

"This is a more direct campaign as opposed to the former care for our air," Janka said. "This is very clear in communicating the places where you cannot smoke."

melodyh@smdp.com

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



Photo courtesy j.k. livin'

UP-AND-COMING: **Reggae artist Mishka recently signed with record label j.k. livin'**

Reggae unites artists

BY TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE
Special to the Daily Press

Westsider Matthew McConaughey knew he wanted to sign reggae recording artist, Mishka as his first official artist on his new record label, j.k. livin' [as in "just keep …"] the first time he heard him. The problem was finding the artist. McConaughey "searched for almost five years before [he] tracked Mishka down at the House of Blues." The two kindred spirits formed a friendship through their mutual passion for reggae music. Mishka, impressed with McConaughey's drive and admiration decided to sign with j.k. livin', because said Mishka, "Matthew has the enthusiasm to put this record out."

Mishka's life experiences were formed while traveling and exploring the world via boat, having grown up in a seafaring lifestyle amidst the cerulean waters of the Caribbean.

"I always knew I wanted to do music," said Mishka, who brings "an engaging perspective on life" to his songs and lyrics.

Mishka plays Tuesday, Feb. 17, at The Roxy debuting songs from his album, "Above the Bones" as well as some favorites from "One Tree" and is joined by an all-star group of musicians including former Peter Tosh guitarist, Darryl Thompson. For info and tickets, visit www.mishka.com

news@smdp.com

Education faces major funding cuts

FROM **BUDGET** PAGE 3

Democrats hold a majority in both the Assembly and Senate, but California, along with Arkansas and Rhode Island, is one of three states to require an unusually high two-thirds approval to pass annual spending plans, as well as increase taxes. Three GOP votes are needed in each house, as well as support from all Democrats.

In addition to $8.6 billion in education cuts that will likely force schools to lay off teachers, Schwarzenegger and Republican lawmakers won a number of items they considered vital to rescuing the state from the current recession.

The proposal to be voted on includes up to $400 million in tax credits for small businesses that make new hires over the next two years, lowers taxes by a projected $690 million for corporations that operate in multiple states, and provides $100 million in tax incentives for film production in California.

It removes environmental hurdles and allows the state to partner with more private businesses on transportation projects such as toll roads. The plan would also postpone air pollution regulations for some diesel-run equipment.

Assemblyman Jared Huffman, D-San Rafael, said he intends to support the budget his party leaders helped negotiate but he wasn't pleased with all the Republican giveaways.

"I think there's a difference between supporting the core budget compromises and some of the extortion stuff from the minority party," Huffman said.

The Schwarzenegger administration threatened earlier this week to start the process to lay off up to 10,000 state workers if there was no deal by Friday. But McLear said he would hold off for now, pending the outcome of this weekend's vote.

"We still have some flexibility about when we can send those (layoff notices) out for them to be effective in the next fiscal year, but that time is running short," he said.

Schwarzenegger and lawmakers planned to be in Sacramento on a particularly busy Saturday. Tens of thousands of spectators were expected to crowd downtown to watch Lance Armstrong and other pro cyclers compete in the Amgen Tour of California. The race ends with a lap around Capitol Park, and many of the streets around the Capitol were to be closed.

Both houses were scheduled to meet Saturday morning, but the vote was expected to last all day, and the package faced particular uncertainty in the Senate.

Maldonado, the moderate Republican, said he remained "noncommittal" along with Sen. Lou Correa, D-Anaheim, whose seat is in conservative Orange County.

"He's going through a hard time," Maldonado said of his former roommate Correa. "I don't think he's made his final decision."

A message couldn't be left for Correa on his cell phone Friday because his voice mail was full. A message left by The Associated Press at his office was also not returned.

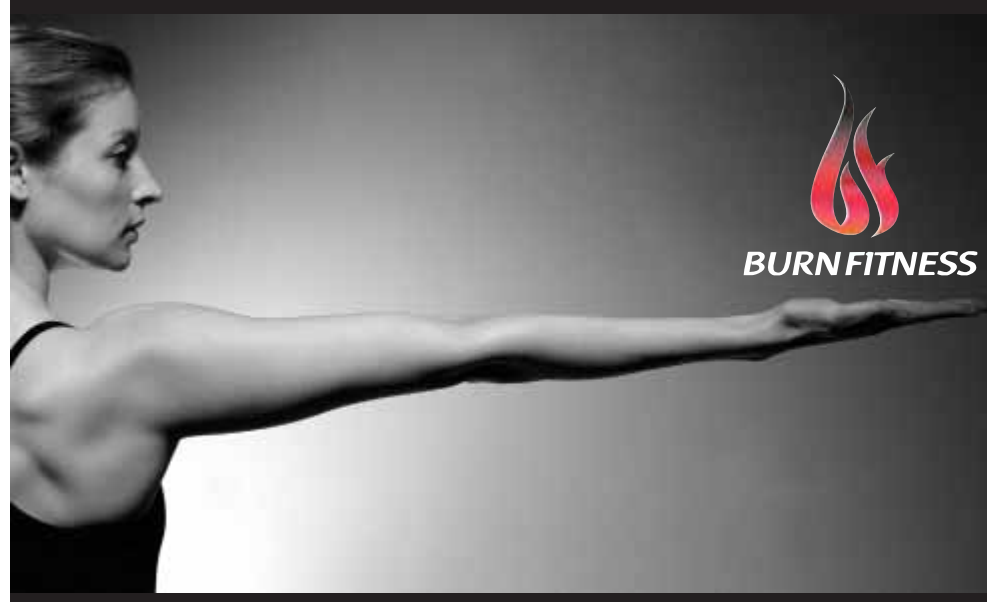
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Female suicide bomber kills 40 on pilgrimage

BY ROBERT H. REID
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD A female suicide bomber struck a tent filled with women and children resting during a pilgrimage south of Baghdad on Friday, killing 40 people and wounding about 80 in the deadliest of three straight days of attacks against Shiite worshippers.

The grisly assault, which also appeared to be the deadliest in Iraq this year, demonstrates the determination of some extremists to re-ignite sectarian warfare. It also underscores how fragile security remains here, even as the U.S. turns over more responsibility to the Iraqis.

Witnesses said many of the injured were hurt in a stampede as terrified survivors — most of them poor Shiites exhausted after days of walking — scrambled away from the tent in terror.

They left behind piles of clothing, small rugs and toddlers' strollers, Associated Press Television News video showed. A dismembered leg believed to have been the bomber's lay wrapped in an abaya in a cardboard box.

"It was a horrific scene with dead and screaming injured people on the ground," said Sadiya Kadom, 40, a Baghdad resident who was near the tent when the blast occurred.

No group claimed responsibility. But suicide bombings against Shiite civilians are the signature attack of al-Qaida in Iraq, which U.S. commanders say has been severely weakened but not defeated.

"What kind of belief system do these people have? Are they monsters?" a man shouted as he held his dazed and wounded son, wrapped in a red and yellow blanket.

"What is my son's fault? What did he do?" implored the man, one of a number of pilgrims mingling aimlessly around the site hours after the attack. He refused to give his name.

The bomber was successful in detonating her explosives despite a massive security operation by Iraqi authorities to protect the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims streaming into the Shiite holy city of Karbala for religious rituals that culminate Monday.

The vast numbers of pilgrims and the distances many of them must travel make it all but impossible to guarantee their safety against determined extremist groups willing to die.

The blast occurred at midday near a dusty stretch of road flanked by palm trees alongside a railroad track close to Musayyib, about 40 miles south of Baghdad and 10 miles north of Karbala.

Separate tents for men and women offer pilgrims food, beverages and a place to rest along the routes to Karbala.

A procession leader, Mussa al-Kadhem, said he was drinking tea with a group of men when he noticed a woman dressed in a full-body black abaya robe and with her face covered wander into the women's tent.

He said he sensed something was wrong with the woman.

"As soon as some people asked who she was ... there was a huge explosion," he said.

Hussein Faris, 39, said he was injured in the stomach but that his wife, who was walking behind him closer to the tent, was killed.

"I was so terrified. People nearby were running in terror and many got hurt in the stampede," he said at a hospital in nearby Hillah.

Provincial health official Dr. Mohammed Abbas and the provincial police reported 40 people were killed and 81 wounded. Abbas said most of the victims were women and children.

Casualty figures in Iraq often fluctuate but if the tally stands, it would be the deadliest attack in the country since Dec. 11, when a suicide bomber killed 55 people at a restaurant near Kirkuk where Kurdish officials were meeting with Arab tribal leaders.

The latest attack occurred one day after a suicide bomber killed eight people and wounded more than 50 in Karbala.

And on Wednesday, at least 12 people were killed and more than 40 wounded in a series of bombings in Baghdad targeting pilgrims traveling to Karbala.

Space crash called 'catastrophic,' lots of debris

BY VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW The crash of two satellites has generated an estimated tens of thousands of pieces of space junk that could circle Earth and threaten other satellites for the next 10,000 years, space experts said Friday.

One expert called the collision "a catastrophic event" that he hoped would force President Barack Obama's administration to address the long-ignored issue of debris in space.

Russian Mission Control chief Vladimir Solovyov said Tuesday's smashup of a derelict Russian military satellite and a working U.S. Iridium commercial satellite occurred in the busiest part of near-Earth space — some 500 miles (800 kilometers) above Earth.

"800 kilometers is a very popular orbit which is used by Earth-tracking and communications satellites," Solovyov told reporters Friday. "The clouds of debris pose a serious danger to them."

Solovyov said debris from the collision could stay in orbit for up to 10,000 years and even tiny fragments threaten spacecraft because both travel at such a high orbiting speed.

James Oberg, an experienced aerospace engineer who worked on NASA's space shuttle program and is now a space consultant, described the crash over northern Siberia as "catastrophic event." NASA said it was the first-ever high-speed impact between two intact spacecraft — with the Iridium craft weighing 1,235 pounds (560 kilograms) and the Russian craft nearly a ton.

"At physical contact at orbital speeds, a hypersonic shock wave bursts outwards through the structures," Oberg said in e-mailed comments. "It literally shreds the material into confetti and detonates any fuels."

Most fragments are concentrated near the collision course, but Maj.-Gen. Alexander Yakushin, chief of staff of the Russian military's Space Forces, said some debris was thrown into other orbits, ranging from 300 to 800 miles (500-1,300 kilometers) above Earth.

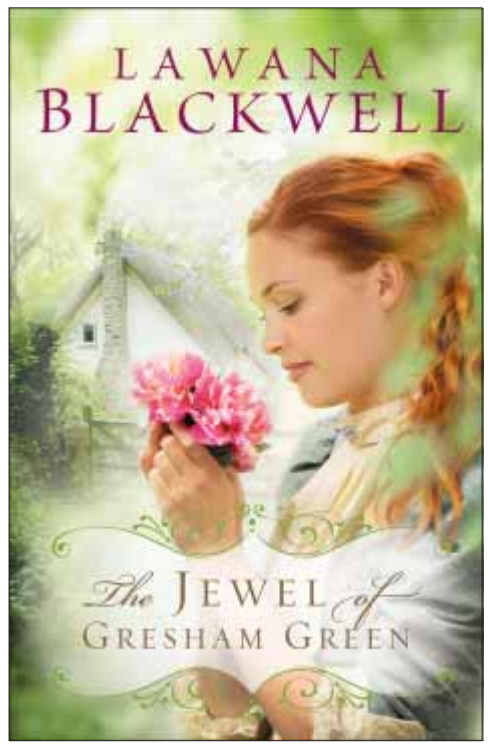
David Wright at the Union of Concerned Scientists' Global Security said the collision had possibly generated tens of thousands of particles larger than 1 centimeter (half an inch), any of which could significantly damage or even destroy a satellite.

BOOKREVIEW

BY DANE ROBERT SWANSON

'The Jewel of Gresham Greene'

Lawana Blackwell • Bethany House



"Why are boys more valued than girls, do you think?" Jewel asked an older woman.

"Rich folks about carrin' on the name. We poor need sons because we can send them out to work earlier than girls. And they're paid more."

Jewel gave her a sidelong look.

Mrs. Fenton shrugged. "Life's hard, if you ain't noticed."

It is 1884 in Birmingham, England. You lose your job as a seamstress. The only way you can support yourself is to get another job. Work is scarce.

Problems arise. You have caused a fellow worker to lose his job because you are protecting your child. You must flee. With the help of your friends you are directed to a small village to find refuge. You find you are landing in the midst of trouble. The vicar is having marital problems. He soon gets sick and needs the help of his estranged son who is a doctor.

Meanwhile Jewel is able to find employment as a caretaker for the squire who suffers from apoplexy and can't speak. He can only watch as his nephew, Donald, drives a wedge between the townsfolk who want to help. He waits for his uncle to die and leave him the money to pay off his gambling debts. But Donald must pretend to aid his uncle.

"I shall die of boredom! Donald thought, pacing the library rug.

"Aside from a few current magazines, nothing but ponderous old books. The conservatory was quite pleasant for sitting and smoking Gold Flake cigarettes, but a man could not spend all his hours so engaged. The stables still boasted four fine horses, but he did not ride saddle, a secret he guarded closely."

A widow in those days had no protection. The best she could hope for was that she could find refuge. Jewell does through the kindness of a close friend. Soon she is able to get a position as a caretaker for the squire when Donald decides she is someone he can manipulate. So he hires her to just watch the squire. In doing so, he can appear to care for his uncle. This will allow him to continue his out of control lifestyle.

The characters are well drawn and you feel like they are the people next door.

Blackwell handles the many subplots well. It is a good historical period piece. There is a hint of romance. But what can a person like Jewell, poor, dependent, trusting do? The main emphasis in this book is the greed that Donald shows contrasted to the selfless servitude of Jewell. She takes care of the squire with no thought of reward. Donald on the other hand pretends to care for his uncle but he is not caring at all. In the end, Donald loses everything, the will gives him so very little, and Jewell gains a husband, a reward far greater than anything the squire could have left her.

This is a book for the romantic, and there are lots of us out there.

Author Lawana Blackwell has 11 published novels to her credit. She has a Web site you can visit at www.lawanablaackwell.com.

This book can be purchased at your local bookstore or on line at www.bethanyhouse.com.

Valentine's Day is here. Did you remember to get your sweetheart something special? If not, on Monday you will be in the dog house. Meanwhile keep on reading and you can contact the "best looking book reviewer" in Santa Monica at smdp_review@yahoo.com.

Secret Service agent returns to Fox's '24'

BY MATT HURWITZ
For The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES In the world of Fox's hit series "24," there aren't many people you can really trust, other than Jack Bauer, of course — and Secret Service Agent Aaron Pierce.

Pierce also happens to be the only other character besides Bauer to have appeared in all seven seasons of the show.

Played by veteran character actor Glenn Morshower, Pierce makes his return in Monday's episode on Fox (9 p.m. EST).

While fans have seen Pierce protect and become the confidant of the show's now-deceased President David Palmer, as well as that of former first lady Martha Logan, Morshower says that, seven years ago, he never expected he'd be around so long.

"I read for the second episode in season one, and all I knew was it would be a two-episode guarantee," he explains. "All they wanted me to do was be the guy that looks official enough to walk President Palmer someplace and protect him."

But Morshower's look of reliability, integrity and loyalty made producers take notice, enough to bring the character back year after year, while other popular regulars fell by the wayside.

"Glenn's talent is in being able to project that solidity and trustworthiness," says executive producer Evan Katz. "He's able to be that stolid guy you want to hide behind."

NEWDVDRELEASES

BY RANDY WILLIAMS

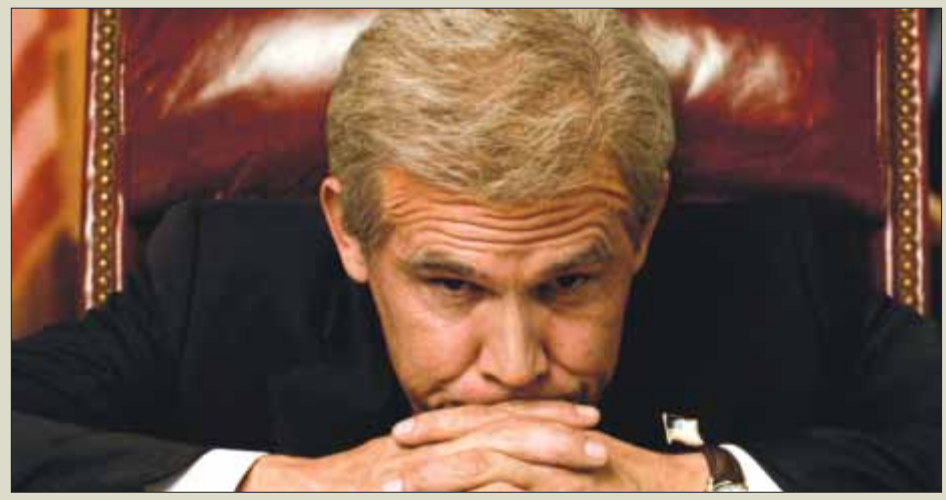


Photo courtesy Lions Gate

'W.'

Josh Brolin stars as two-term President George W. Bush in this engaging biopic written by Stanley Weiser and directed by Oliver Stone. The seasoned filmmakers focus on George's wild youth and maturation process including the ups and downs of life in his powerful family. The presentation is strongly enhanced by a host of fine performances from Elizabeth Banks as George's wife, James Cromwell and Ellen Burstyn as his parents, and Stacey Keach as Rev. Earle Hudd. Commentary by Stone and a look at the Bush Presidency are included. (Lions Gate)

'Swing Vote'

In a cast that includes Stanley Tucci, Dennis Hopper, Kelsey Grammer and George Lopez, Kevin Costner stars in this witty comedy as an ordinary father who dotes on his daughter. From their tiny town in New Mexico, the precocious 12 year-old accidentally sets off a chain of events that makes her father's vote for the U.S. President the crucial one. (Touchstone/Disney)

'Being There' Deluxe Edition

Nominated for an Academy Award in this modern comedy classic the late, great Peter Sellers stars as Chance the Gardner, a man so isolated, living his life in a Washington DC townhouse, he only knows what he has seen on television. Cast out into the world, he stumbles into the inner circle of political power brokers. Comedic and poignant, you'll "like to watch." Special features: alternate ending, a gag reel, recently discovered scenes as well as recollections by actress Ileana Douglas, granddaughter of Melvyn Douglas, who won a Best Supporting Oscar for his role here as influential industrialist Benjamin Rand. (Warner Bros)

'Dr. Syn: The Scarecrow of Romney Marsh'

This gem from 1964, produced for the "Wonderful World of Disney" weekly TV show, is a suspenseful three-part adventure from English literature featuring Patrick McGoohan ("Secret Agent Man," "The Prisoner") as Dr. Syn, a priest by day and righter-of-wrongs by night in rural England. Original introductions by Walt Disney and recent ones by Leonard Maltin are included. (Disney)

'The Odd Couple' The Final Season

One of the classic sitcoms goes out with a bang with 22 episodes on three discs. The legendary duo of Felix Unger (Tony Randall) and Oscar Madison (Jack Klugman) are involved in a wide range of storylines that also include Murray the Cop (Al Molinaro), Oscar's secretary Myrna (Penny Marshall) and Felix's ex-wife, Gloria (Janis Hansen). Which begs the question, does either Felix or Oscar get re-married? (CBS/Paramount)

'Lincoln: His Life and Legacy'

Considered by many to be our finest president, Abraham Lincoln is given the red carpet treatment in this four-disc, eight-hour presentation. Bringing to life the tumultuous times in which the 16th president led our country, this tribute examines his legacy in a modern context. Bonus material include Civil War tactics and a look at Sherman's march. (A&E)

'The Last Detective' The Complete Collection

Peter Davison ("All Creatures Great and Small," "Dr. Who") stars as detective constable "Dangerous" Davies working in a London suburb who always gets the cases no one wants. And no one notices when he eventually does succeed. Mocked by his colleagues, the beleaguered, old-fashioned official with a dogged determination often making connections slicker officers miss became one of England's most beloved detectives. All 17 episodes of this hit British mystery series are included. (Acorn Media)

'The Story of the Yardbirds'

This riveting documentary covers one of the super groups of rock 'n' roll. From 1963 to 1968, The Yardbirds were an innovative and compelling creative force. Featuring such guitar legends as Jimmy Page, Jeff Beck, and Eric Clapton, the film includes rare concert footage, archival and recent band interviews with tons of their original tunes examined and presented. Without a doubt, it was a band that would help determine the "shape of things". (MVD)

RANDY WILLIAMS can be reached at writtenbyrw@yahoo.com

NBA

All-Star weekend reunites Shaq, Kobe

BY BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

PHOENIX Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant spent part of their first day as teammates again helping refurbish a school and its playground.

O'Neal didn't accuse Bryant of hogging the tools and Bryant didn't blame O'Neal for being too fat to keep up.

See that, those former feuders are getting along just fine.

The start of All-Star weekend brought the former Los Angeles Lakers teammates back together Friday, five years after the end of a great partnership on the court and a better soap opera off it.

"It'll be like old times. It'll be great memories," O'Neal said. "Kobe's playing at a very high level right now. It'll be like old times. I can remember, not that long ago, we were the best tandem ever created in the game. So it's going to be fun out there."

They will take the floor Sunday night for the first time since the 2004 NBA finals, when they were upset by the Detroit Pistons, letting another possible title slip away.

They won three, but both say they would have won more had they stayed together. O'Neal guessed six or seven, Bryant said "several more," but all agreed there was no use dwelling on the past.

"We just don't look at things like that in this game," said Lakers coach Phil Jackson, who will coach the Western Conference. "Things went the way they were supposed to go, and life goes on as far as that goes."

Just like the old days, the two couldn't have seemed more different Friday. O'Neal, always the entertainer, had hugs and handshakes for old friends and foes, smiling his way throughout his return to All-Star weekend after missing last year's game.

Bryant arrived 45 minutes late for his session with the media and seemed to squirm with every mention of O'Neal's name.

"Everybody wants to make a story out of that thing and to us it's really not that big of a story," Bryant said. "I'm not revisiting that. It wasn't a fun time for me so I'm not about to revisit it."

O'Neal and Bryant won three straight titles from 2000-02, all the more impressive considering how much energy they spent bickering with each other. O'Neal thought Bryant was a ballhog who wouldn't settle for being the No. 2. Bryant retorted that O'Neal was out of shape and therefore not dependable late in games — and that was just part of it.

Yet both swear things were never as bad as they seemed in the media.

"All of that stuff going back and forth, I think it was done purposely. I know times that I would say stuff just be saying it," O'Neal said. "But I can tell you for a fact, and you can ask Kobe this, our years together we never had one problem in practice. It was always, he said something that I thought he'd said, and I'd come back.

"Not only that, we never had a problem in a game. It was always on point. We always looked out for each other. It was all marketing. It was a duo that's still talked about to this day, and I haven't played with him for what, five years? Which means my marketing worked."

Their feud became out of control by the time of their loss in the 2004 finals. When they committed to Bryant that summer with a max deal to keep the free agent, it was time for O'Neal to go.

He was dealt to Miami, where he won another title two years later teamed with Dwyane Wade. Bryant and the Lakers never got past the first round of the playoffs the next three years before reaching the finals last season.

"Now that they look back on it, they kind of miss the times that they had and I'm sure they'll enjoy this weekend," Wade said.

They volleyed occasional shots at each other from opposite coasts before patching things up three years ago — though O'Neal did mock Bryant in a freestyle rap last summer. O'Neal claims they were never that bad, blaming the media for overhyping them and Jackson for allowing them to continue for so long.

O'Neal is now complimentary of Bryant, calling him the best player in the game. Bryant doesn't say much about O'Neal, trying to change the topic whenever he was asked Friday.

MLS

Torre: Baseball has to rebuild image

BY KEN PETERS
AP Sports Writer

LITCHFIELD PARK, Ariz. Asked how long a drug cloud would hover over baseball, Joe Torre peered into the past.

"I don't know how long the Black Sox scandal lasted," the Los Angeles Dodgers manager said Friday. "It's something we're going to have to endure.

"To me, the most important thing is that we need to regain the trust and it's not something that's going to happen overnight, it's not going to be fixed overnight. It's going to take management, players, to do everything we can to recover from this. I think the healing process has to start now with all of us taking part."

Torre spoke at a news conference on the eve of the Dodgers' opening their new camp in Arizona, where they've moved from their longtime spring home in Vero Beach, Fla.

Few of the questions dealt with the Dodgers or their progress toward bringing Manny Ramirez back, with those negotiations still on hold. Most of the queries dealt with Alex Rodriguez, Torre's time as the Yankees' manager and the sport's marred image.

"Baseball has always been very proud of its past. It's one of the few sports that really never changed, so the records always pretty much meant the same," Torre said. "But now there are going to be a lot of questions involved. That's the sad part about it, but we have to look forward and try to do something about it."

He said the news about A-Rod, who played for him for four years in New York, was particularly difficult for him to take. Rodriguez said he stopped using any substances before he joined the Yankees. "I was very saddened, knowing Alex personally and knowing how proud he is of everything he's done, not only on the baseball field but preparing to go on the baseball field," Torre said.

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SANTA MONICA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MLS

Beckham will return to Galaxy

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CARSON David Beckham is coming back to the Los Angeles Galaxy.

The English midfielder will return to the MLS team next month as scheduled after his two-month loan agreement with AC Milan ends despite his wish to stay in Italy.

Tim Leiweke, president of Galaxy parent AEG, said Friday the Italian club didn't make a second offer to the Galaxy to keep Beckham so the team will adhere to MLS commissioner Don Garber's Friday deadline to resolve the situation.

The Galaxy had earlier rejected Milan's only offer.

"We didn't receive an offer today," Leiweke told The Associated Press by phone from Colorado. "We will abide by the commissioner's wishes, so we are clear at this point that we don't want to have any further conversations."

Leiweke said he had discussions with Milan officials earlier in the week, but heard nothing from them Friday.

"They clearly were looking at this as a football decision and we were looking at it as a football and business decision," he said.

"I'm not sure they ever quite understood the magnitude of the losses the Galaxy and the league would have had to bear this season. They were very respectful discussions. We're fine. There's no issues here."

Leiweke said he had not spoken directly to Beckham, but that he informed the player's representatives the loan would not be made permanent. Beckham's five-year Galaxy contract is owned by MLS, and he is due in the team's training camp on March 9.

"I know David is emotionally invested, but I don't think Milan really was that interested in spending the money we would have had to receive to compensate us for our losses," Leiweke said.

"We need David to honor the contract and come home and let's stop the distraction."

Leiweke said Beckham will likely be disappointed by the outcome, but added that "David is a professional. He will get his arms around this and he will come back here."

Beckham had said he wanted to stay with Milan in a bid to play one more World Cup with England in South Africa next year.

"He can probably still accomplish that as well by being here in 2009," Galaxy coach Bruce Arena said Friday before the resolution was announced.

Leiweke confirmed that Beckham has a clause in his contract that would allow him to leave at the end of this year.

"Clearly the risk is we may lose him at the end of the year," Leiweke said. "Our hope is the team surprises him and we're a lot better than last year."

Beckham arrived injured amid much hoopla in July 2007, but he had no goals and two assists as the Galaxy finished with a 9-14-7 record that was third-worst in the league.

Last season, Beckham had five goals and 10 assists, but the Galaxy's 8-13-9 record tied for the worst in MLS.

Beckham was injured last season, when he left the Galaxy at various times for appearances with England's national team.

Garber said this week he wanted Beckham's future resolved by Friday or he would not approve any transfer between the two teams.

"The negotiations are over and we move on," Leiweke said. "We look forward to seeing David back in camp. We need to have a good season and we need to live up to a higher expectation."

Leiweke said the Galaxy's sponsors and season ticket holders were clamoring for a conclusion to the saga.

"We heard loud and clear this week from our contractual partners that they wanted an end to this," he said. "We need to pay a little bit of attention to the league and Galaxy now."

The Galaxy opens the MLS season on March 21.



Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 55°

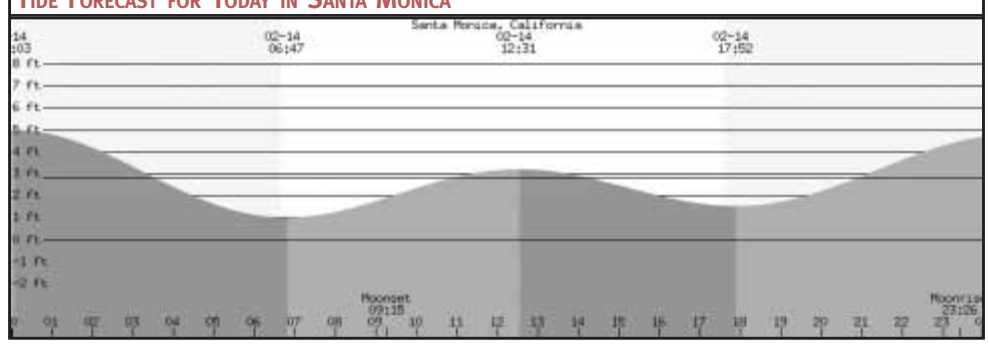
Swell Forecast (2-9 FT)

Saturday the 14th should see another swath of swell move in. Currently, models show chest+ waves for most west facing breaks as the 310-degree angle would be too steep for many spots.

Long Range Synopsis

Monday the 16th stormy weather and wind issues are likely to continue.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **February 10, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 11
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / 11
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 8 / 30

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Las Cerrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	D
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	B
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	F
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	B
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	D
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	F
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	A+	A+
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	B
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	B
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	F
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	D	F
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F
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
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	F	B
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	B	D
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+	F
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+	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	F
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	B
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	B	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	C	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	F
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	B
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	F

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken

Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

Heal the Bay

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

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

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MOVIE TIMES

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1441 Third Street Promenade
(310) 458-1506

Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) 1hr 27min
10:25am, 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:45, 10:05

Fuel (NR) 1hr 55min
10:00am, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:15

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

Defiance (R) 2hrs 17min
12:10, 3:20, 6:30, 9:40

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

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13) 2hrs 48min
Closed Captions and Descriptive video
11:25am, 3:00, 6:40

Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) 1hr 52min
11:15am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

The Uninvited (PG-13) 1hr 27min
10:15

Coraline 3D (PG) 1hr 40min
11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

Frost/Nixon (R) 2hrs 02min
10:50am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20

Push (PG-13) 1hr 51min
11:20am, 2:05, 4:55, 7:40, 10:30

Friday the 13th (2009) (R) 1hr 35min
11:55am, 2:50, 5:35, 8:00, 10:40

The Pink Panther 2 (PG) 1hr 32min
11:30am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50

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

Crips and Bloods: Made in America (NR) 1hr 33min
1:00, 9:55

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

Waltz With Bashir (R) 1hr 30min
3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15

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

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

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

The International (R) 1hr 58min
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

Gran Torino (R)
11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:30

Taken (PG-13) 1hr 33min
12:20, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00

Hotel for Dogs (PG) 1hr 40min
11:30am, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40

He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13) 2hrs 09min
12:40, 3:40, 7:00, 9:00, 10:20

The Reader (R) 2hrs 02min
12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40

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

Sort options, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Intensity breeds more intensity; be careful whom you relate to and the depth you express. Not everyone can handle deep feelings the way you do. What might feel like a confrontation is really someone acting out. Give this person space. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Deferring to others really isn't a problem usually. Someone might push you too far. This person might think that he or she is more in control than he or she really is. Tonight: Sort through your options.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Sometimes you push yourself way too hard. Now is the time to take a break and relax. Invite a friend to a movie or to go bowling. Discover just how much fun you'll have. Tonight: Don't make anything more difficult than need be.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You could see life much differently if you relax. Add some fun and humor, and once more your perspective will change. Be willing to discuss a very touchy and difficult situation with a partner or family member. Clear the air. Tonight: Act like it is Saturday night.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might enjoy some time close to home, visiting with neighbors and family. You rarely slow down enough to visit. You might be surprised by what you haven't experienced. Invest in those close to you. Tonight: Entertain from home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Keep communication flowing. Get to the bottom of a problem, even though you might feel it is difficult or problematic. Others respond to a project with ease. They seem to see the path far differently than you do. Tonight: Meet a friend for dinner.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Be aware of innate financial limitations of the moment. Be careful dealing with others who seem to be determined to do their own thing. Your finances could take quite a hit if you risk. Opt not to. Tonight: Honor your budget.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your personality certainly helps you create a lot more of what you desire. The path that you proceed on could involve friends and perhaps a new interest. Someone very close could be extremely threatened. Tonight: Whatever lights up your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★ Keep your own council, and you will be far happier. Though you might want to discuss a changeable situation, you might be better off observing it rather than acting on it. Trust in your ability to sort through what is relevant. Tonight: Hang with your best friend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Let go of heavy concerns, making this a day to be remembered with friends or loved ones. Someone might ask you for your opinion on a money matter, but really isn't interested. Be smart and say no to a risk. Tonight: Where the party is.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Others look up to you. They have many different expectations. Be as clear as possible about these expectations in a discussion. Someone will see you a lot differently from in the past if you stress reality, not wishful thinking. Tonight: A must appearance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance. A trip might be in the offing before you are actually ready. Investigate possibilities with an eye to a new path or experience. Accept different habits and styles. Tonight: Take in a movie.

Happy birthday

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

You see life from a new perspective this year. Others note this growth and compassion. Often, others put you on a pedestal. You cannot be too clear about what you can and cannot do. Your high energy needs funneling, or you could become sarcastic or brusque. If you are single, you will meet someone through work or through someone you put on a pedestal. If you are attached, the two of you will become closer because of a parent or a community commitment. SCORPIO assumes the limelight.

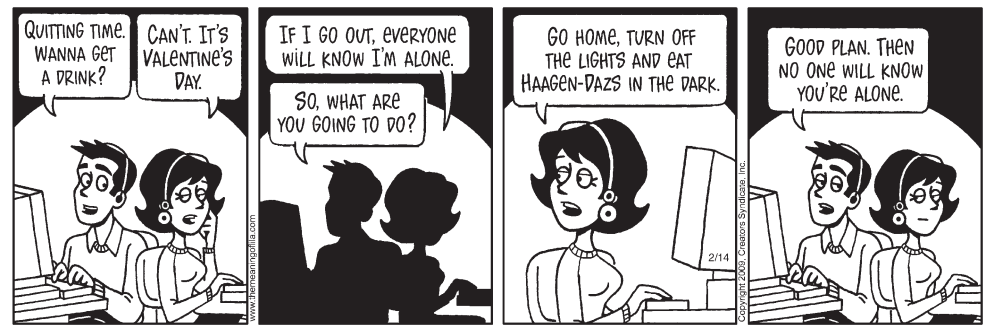
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



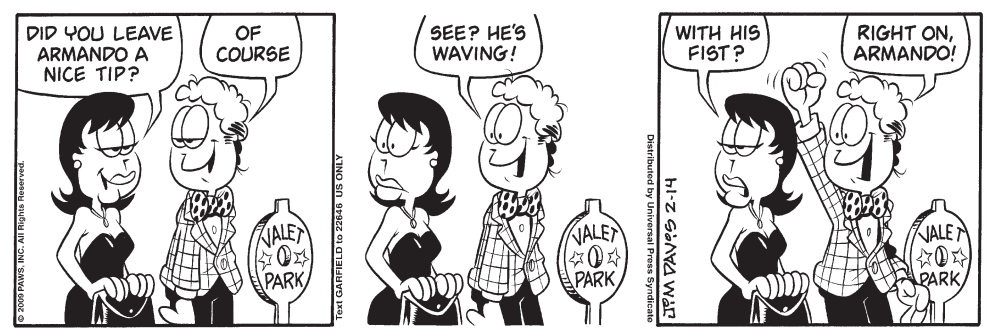
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



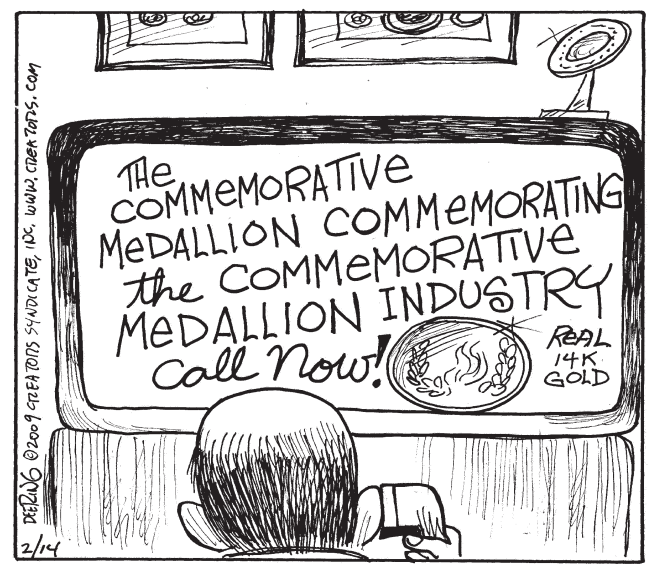
Garfield

By Jim Davis



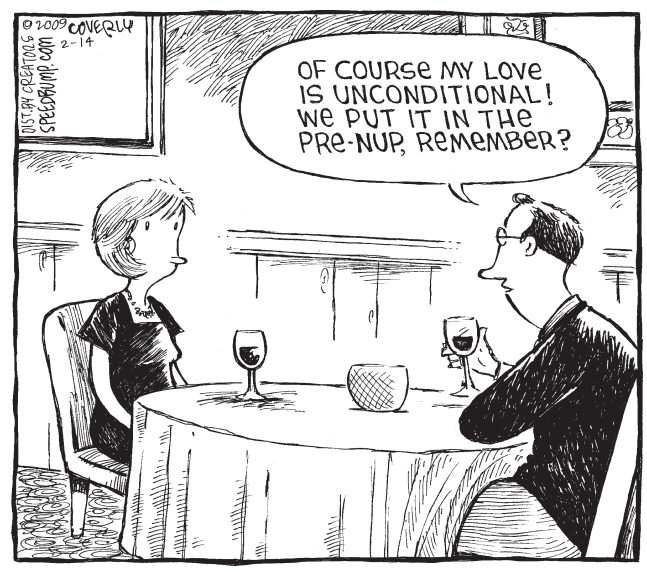
Strange Brew

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

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Rachel Dardashti *news@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Undo, in a way
7 Swindle
11 Answer source
12 Fashion mag
13 Matured
14 Adorn unnecessarily
15 Blissful spots
16 Drive off
17 Nevada city
18 Desert sight
19 Average
21 Spanish king
22 They let the sunshine in
25 "East of Eden" brother
26 To boot
27 Celebrity groups
29 Like bucks
33 Following
34 Cordelia's sister
35 Lily type
36 Available, as a flat
37 Pressing need
38 Show clearly
39 Trig function
40 Oscar role for Hopkins

DOWN

1 "Message received"
2 Eat away
3 Eucharist need
4 Market concern
5 "— well that ..."
6 Was ahead
7 Rocker Bob
8 Graphics for layouts
9 Maintains
10 Song selection
16 Magician's props
18 Posts
20 Tickle pink
22 "Amadeus" role
23 "Star Trek" being
24 Like the Iliad
25 Currant liqueur
28 Tea cake
30 Bond, for one
31 Jousting need
32 Door sign
34 Wander
36 Bus. card abbr.

C	H	A	R	O	■	C	U	B	I	C
H	E	R	O	N	■	O	P	E	R	A
E	R	O	D	E	■	M	A	Y	O	R
E	M	U	■	H	O	E	■	O	N	A
S	A	N	■	O	P	T	■	N	E	T
E	N	D	S	U	P	■	A	D	D	S
■	■	T	O	R	R	E	N	T	■	■
C	A	H	N	■	E	S	T	H	E	R
O	R	E	■	R	S	T	■	E	V	E
L	A	B	■	E	S	E	■	P	O	M
O	B	E	S	E	■	F	L	A	K	E
R	I	N	K	S	■	A	I	L	E	D
S	A	D	I	E	■	N	E	E	D	Y

Yesterday's answer

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

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

2-14

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 25 36 37 40 51
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: $85M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 4 11 15 23 34
Meganumber: 26
Jackpot: $8M

FANTASY 5: 1 10 13 18 26

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 6 6 9
EVENING: 7 6 9

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 02 Lucky Star
RACE TIME: 1:46.06

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

■ London's Gymbox in Bank athletic club, recognizing that lifting weights can be a boring way to exercise, introduced "human barbells" recently, hiring five men of various sizes (including two dwarfs) that customers could use for weights instead of the iron. One advantage of the humans is that, on request, they shout encouragement to the customer with each lift. The largest of the five is a 37-year-old, 340-pound man.

■ Walter Tessier was charged with one of the pettiest of petit larceny counts in January as sheriff's deputies in Amsterdam, N.Y., said he tried to defraud a Price Chopper store. Tessier had purchased a $10.99 lobster but returned it, claiming that it had turned "bad," and the store allowed him some crab meat in exchange, but employees discovered that the "lobster" was only its empty, carefully reconstructed shell that made it appear whole. Tessier then ran from the store but was arrested later at his home, where he had just finished the crab meat.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1929 the "St. Valentine's Day Massacre" took place in a Chicago garage as seven rivals of Al Capone's gang were gunned down.

1962 First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy conducted a televised tour of the White House in a videotaped special that was broadcast on CBS and NBC (and several nights later on ABC).

1979 Adolph Dubs, the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, was kidnapped in Kabul by Muslim extremists and killed in a shootout between his abductors and police.

1984 6-year-old Stormie Jones became the world's first heart-liver transplant recipient at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. (She lived until November 1990).

1989 Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini called on Muslims to kill Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses," a novel condemned as blasphemous.

WORD UP!

expurgate \EK-sper-geyt\, *verb*:
to remove objectionable words or passages from a document

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Announcements

NEED HEALING OR DREAM INTERPRETATION? HEALING CIRCLE IS HERE!
The Healing Circle Healing Rooms will be gathering at the Virginia Park in Santa Monica this Saturday February 14, from 10 am to noon in the Patio Room. Virginia Park is located at the corner of Pico and Cloverfield. The Patio Room is on the side of Virginia St. (Virginia and 22nd St). We'll be praying for people who are seeking spiritual, physical and emotional healing. Come and receive prayer to attain wholeness and restoration of your body, soul and spirit. We'll also be doing dream interpretation. For more info please call Cibby at 310-993-0267. Next meetings will be on February 28 and March 28.

Employment Wanted

I would like to do carpet care for a company I have equipment. Thank you Robert (310)394-1533

Employment

ASSISTANT SPORTS Performance Director. Resume to Westside Velocity LLC, 11845 Olympic Blvd, Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90064

BOOKKEEPER, P/T 16-20 hrs/wk. Quickbooks exp. req'd, Excel/ADP a plus. Must be able to work flexible hours depending on payroll schedule. Email resume to patricialriley@hotmail.com or FAX to 310 313-1455.

CASHIER, F/T, for busy Culver City car wash. $12.50/ hr. Email resume to patricialriley@hotmail.com or FAX to 310 313-1455.

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Experienced chair side assistant with x-ray license needed. Permanent, Part-time position 2-3days per week . Flexible hours possible. No Medi-CAL or HMO patients. Non hectic, high-quality office (310)451-1446

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

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World Famous Santa Monica Jeweler is looking for a full time Fine Jewelry Sales Professional, with 1-2 years experience. Must be enthusiastic and willing to provide EXCELLENT customer service.Please fax or email resume to 310.451.0095; info@readersjewelers.com

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501 N. Venice 1+1, #37 $1350/mo stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

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PALMS 3346 S. Canfiled #202/205 $1150 1+1 upper, stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, on-site laundry, garage parking, intercom entry no pets.$300 off move-in (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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Santa Monica $1795.00 2 Bdrms, 1Bath plus den , NO pets, stove, refrigerator, parking 1935 Cloverfield Blvd., #15 Open daily for viewing 9am-7pm. Additional info in unit manager in unit #19

Santa Monica $1895.00 2 Bdrms, 2 Bath , NO pets, stove, refrigerator, parking 2535 Kansas Ave., #205 Open daily for viewing 9am-7pm. Additional info in unit manager in unit #101

SANTA MONICA 2bdrm/1bath balcony, garage, completely remodeled, no pets $1900 $500 off move-in security deposit $1500 (310)829-4179

WLA 1457 Westgate #E 1+1 stove, fridge, blinds, tile & carpet, garage parking no pets $1275/mo (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

WLA 1457 WESTGATE UNIT C 2+1 stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, carpet, blinds, hardwood floors, laundry, fireplace kitchen w/ceramic tile tandem parking intercom no pets, $1550 (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20090066587 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as OPENPITCH, OPENPITCH.COM, 2345 LAKE VIEW AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90039, COUNTY OF LA; 7119 WEST SUNSET BLVD., SUITE 304, HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : RONALD PATRICK CICERO, 2345 LAKE VIEW AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90039 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)6/1/2008. /s/: RONALD PATRICK CICERO
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 1/16/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR 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 common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 2/14/2009, 2/21/2009, 2/28/2009, 3/7/2009

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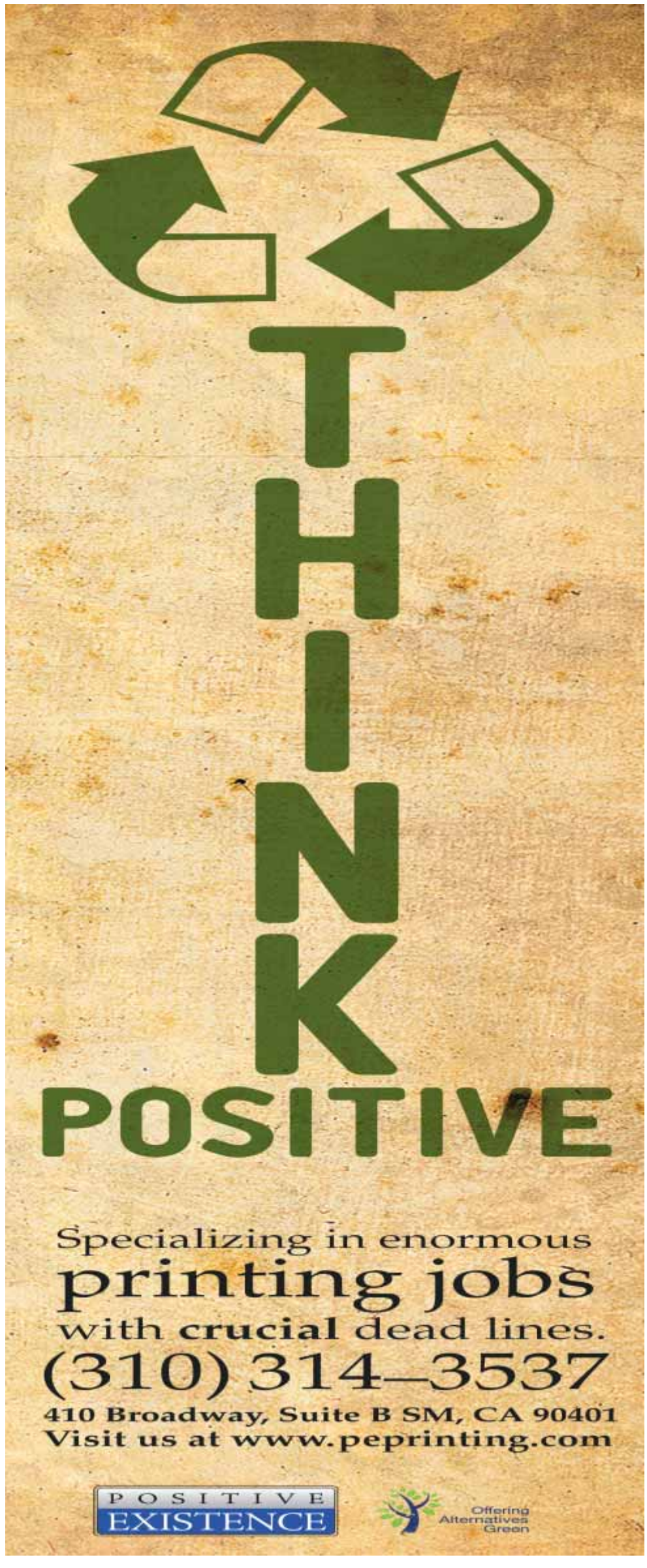
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good2hug:	14, female, Daytona, FL
joey16:	16, male, Hackensack, NJ
robbieW:	38, male, Daytona, FL
b-ball_tommy:	15, male, Pocatello, ID
tu_tu:	16, female, Burlington, VT
duffme:	44, male, Minneapolis, MN
QTpie:	30, male, Chicago, IL
ty1989:	15, female, Naperville, IL
harrys_grl:	12, female, Appleton, MN
slugger20:	17, male, Jackson, MS
qtrback21:	26, male, Brooklyn, NY
suzie14:	14, female, Portland, OR
hiphopper:	13, female, Plano, TX
paperboy:	41, male, Beaverton, OR

Every day, children are sexually solicited online.

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

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North of Montana	=	$3,372,000	$1,295,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$1,995,000	$799,250
South of Wilshire	=	$1,010,000	$789,000
Sunset Park	=	$1,137,500	$674,000
Ocean Park	=	$1,747,000	$740,125

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