

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

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Meganumber: 23
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FANTASY 5

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DAILY 3

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In a company employee style manual issued in late 2005 by Commonwealth Bank in Queensland state in Australia, workers were advised with great specificity how to groom themselves and practice good hygiene. Among the areas covered were proper brands of underwear, shapes for women's eyebrows, and frequency for shaving and for moisturizing one's hands. (In December, a Commonwealth executive issued an "if" apology, i.e., an apology "if" the bank had offended anyone.)

■ In October, Tony Price, managing director of the British firm WStore UK, reportedly threatened to give each of his 80 employees first a DNA test, and then when reaction to that went poorly, a lie detector test, after he accidentally got someone's discarded chewing gum on his trousers.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 52nd day of 2006.
There are 313 days left in the year.

On Feb. 21, 1965, former Black Muslim leader Malcolm X, 39, was shot to death in New York by assassins identified as Black Muslims.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"In scandal, as in robbery, the receiver is always as bad as the thief."

LORD CHESTERFIELD

INDEX

Horoscopes

Avoid others, Virgo 2

Snow & Surf Report

Water temperature: 58° 3

Opinion

Freedom to roam 4

Commentary

Stargazing on Valentine's 5

SM Parenting

Chuck, I presume 8

National

MySpace security concerns 10

People in the News

Striking a chord 11

Comics

Strips tease 12

Classifieds

Ad space odyssey 13-14



File Photo

THERE IT IS: Often hard to locate, Bergamot Station is revered by art enthusiasts.

City puts money where its muse is

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

BERGAMOT STATION — Custom framer and part-time artist Barry Blum and his wife Ellen, owners of Art Concepts, have heard it a thousand times since they moved their business here 11 years ago.

"People always say when they come here that they never knew we existed," Blum said of Bergamot Station's growing art community. "I've talked to people who lived in Santa Monica for years and they don't know where we are."

The former abandoned trolley station on Michigan Avenue — sparse, with rusted cargo container-like structures seemingly left to rot — is now a campus-like art gallery complex with a trendy, old industrial feel, housing 30 art galleries, production houses, a cafe and the Santa Monica Museum of Art. It is one of the premier locations for contemporary art and a valuable asset in the city's cultural arsenal.

But the problem is, many people don't know about it.

Jessica Cusick, the city's cultural affairs manager, is hoping that will change with the development of Santa Monica's Cultural Arts Master Plan, a detailed assessment of the city's cultural assets, from playhouses to public sculptures, coupled with an action plan that will seek to promote and expand the arts over the next five to 10 years.

"Santa Monica has the greatest number of people per capita who work in some sort of creative field, over any other city in the state ... perhaps the country," Cusick said. "We need to double check that,

See ARTS PLAN, page 7

Davies makeover gets ugly

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY — An association of homeowners here are threatening to sue City Hall if it moves forward with plans to turn the former Marion Davies estate into a public beach club.

Residents living along Pacific Coast Highway are concerned that redeveloping the estate, complete with banquet halls and a kitchen, is

not only a violation of Proposition S, which limits food-serving facilities on the beach, but would also attract more traffic, creating the potential for deadly car accidents on an already dangerous stretch of PCH.

"We are not opposed to redevelopment of the property," said Chuck Levey, president of the Palisades Beach Road Home Owners Association, which is threatening City Hall with a lawsuit. "We would like to see

improvements so that everyone can use it. Right now, the property is a broken down wreck, an eyesore, so we are foremost wanting it restored.

"But there is a right way to do it and a wrong way. You have to, first and foremost, be concerned about safety."

Tonight, homeowners will meet with city officials at The Beach

See BEACH CLUB, page 6

Not slipping through the cracks



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Workers from the Los Angeles Conservation Corps' 'Clean and Green Program,' (from left to right) Louis Garcia, 13; Racquel Avina, 14; and Carlos Rodriguez, 13, dig up the weeds and grass in the sidewalk cracks on Rose Avenue in Venice. The program offers at-risk young adults and school-aged children opportunities by providing them with job training, education and work-skills training with an emphasis on environmental and service projects that benefit the community.

Sushi vs. slurpee: Japanese mart lands in SM

BY JACOB ADELMAN

Associated Press Writer

WEST HOLLYWOOD — A huge plate glass window provides a view of tony Santa Monica Boulevard from inside Famima, an upscale convenience store from Japan.

Clear plastic trays of sushi, pasta and steamed dumplings sit on refrigerated shelves that might

hold microwave burritos in other convenience stores. Seaweed-wrapped rice crackers edge out potato chips along the snack aisle.

"They have a pretty decent selection," personal trainer Tom Kunze, 48, said as he sorted through rows of panini. "It's sort of like an upgraded 7-Eleven."

Famima is short for Family Mart, a Japanese chain that has

more than 6,000 outlets in that country and another 5,500 branches throughout Asia.

The company is exporting a classed-up version of its stores to the United States, using Southern California as a beachhead. A Santa Monica branch is set to open today on the Third Street Promenade,

See JAPANESE MART, page 7

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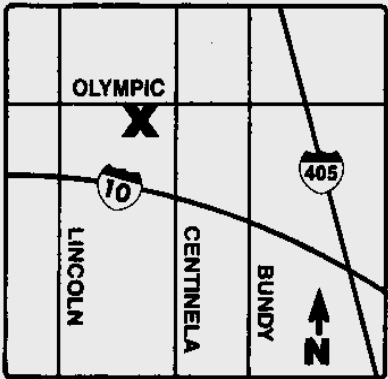


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HOROSCOPES

Avoid others, Virgo

Santa Monica Daily Press



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll Have:

★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★-Average ★-So-so ★-Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You are a of spitfire, but how much better would it be for you to approach your life differently? Intellectualize rather than lead a revolution. You get a new perspective when you detach from trigger issues. Tonight: Explore the unknown.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You need to think through a decision with an eye to the conclusion. The unexpected will occur with friends. You will be much better off if you have what you want. Listen to what others think, but know that you can blaze your own trail. Tonight: Togetherness.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Reverse gears and find out what you need to do in order to make a situation work for you. Sometimes getting clarity can be difficult. You want others to work with the unexpected. Listen to your sixth sense. Tonight: Easy works.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Defer to others, and you will succeed. Teamwork helps everyone feel involved. Why change what works? You will want to change your plans at the last minute. Make this all right. Make sure you have dotted your i's and crossed your t's. Tonight: Put your feet up.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ While being playful, you are stirring up your imagination and creativity. Though an associate or partner might have been acting strange, now everything is workable and plausible. Kindle the warmth between you and a loved one. Tonight: Let the kid in you out.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You might feel as if you are chasing your tail. In many ways, you might be. Slow down and look at the consequences of your actions. You'll see life from a renewed perspective if you don't react. Tonight: Head home. Avoid others if possible.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You have a way of stating the facts that demands others' attention. You might have a smile on your face, trying to help make someone more comfortable. Listen to what others say, or someone's reaction could stun you. Tonight: Easy does it.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Use your good sense when spending money. You don't need to hit a snafu. Your spending seems less profuse than it has been in the past. Good for you! Any risk taken right now will backfire. Understand that, please. Tonight: Play it calm.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You might be unstoppable, but someone close could trip you up if you let him or her. Having a good sense of direction will help you. You know what is needed and will do well dealing with others. Tonight: Claim your power.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★ Pull back, and you'll gain a better sense of what could be possible if you allow it to happen. You might be jolted by what someone has to say. Your opinions are noteworthy but need to be worked through before being presented. Tonight: Get some extra R and R. Screen calls.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You are right in the thick of things. Understand exactly what someone else wants, OK? Realize your limits more carefully with a money matter. In a wild moment, you could give your checkbook a major case of indigestion. Tonight: Where the crowds are.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ You could easily feel overwhelmed by what is going on around you. Knowing what you want is instrumental in meeting today's demands. You also might need to take a different course. Be flexible. Tonight: Look at the big picture.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Making heads or tails of celestial streakers

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica College Planetarium will present a special lecture, "Unveiling the Secrets of Comets," at 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 24, in Room 140 of the Science Complex, 1900 Pico Blvd.

Guest lecturer Dr. Paul Chodas, of the Jet Propulsion Lab's Solar System Dynamics Group, will talk about the latest information about comets and what has been learned from recent spacecraft missions to some of the exotic celestial travelers.

The guest lecture is preceded by "The Night Sky Show" at 7 p.m. on the second floor of Drescher Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. "Sky Show", which re-creates the night sky and provides the latest information on space exploration, features the state-of-the-art Digistar projection system.

Tickets are \$5 each or \$9 for the "double bill," with discounts for children and senior citizens. For information, call (310) 434-3000.

Chamber music: New site takes requests

By Daily Press staff

Take more than 1,000 vendors, 22 industry categories and a click of a mouse and what do you have? The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce's newest venture.

Those who visit the Request A Quote page (www.smchamber.com/requestquote) have a new means of reaching multiple businesses at the same time when requesting a quote for services.

The free, 24/7 online service allows visitors to contact multiple vendors at one time to hire the best company for their job. Once at the Request A Quote page, a businessperson selects a category, enters the project information in the request form and then hits submit, where the request for a quote is sent to each Chamber member in the category, who will respond accordingly. Some request elements include project deadline; budget range; quantities and vendor selection criteria including lowest price, top quality and speed of delivery.

"This exciting new program streamlines the experience for the businessperson or individual looking for services from City vendors, but most importantly it provides another avenue for member businesses to generate new leads and eventually new business," said Kathryn B. Dodson, PhD, President and CEO of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. "We've looked for a way to better serve our members online and have found that this is the most efficient means possible."

Visitors to the website will find sections on the main page including an introduction and directions, a section with the Top Rated Request Categories, and a list of additional Request Categories by industry, in alphabetical order.

In addition to blasting several businesses at once from the Request A Quote page, a businessperson can also contact a Chamber member directly from the Business Directory link, which is prominently located in the sidebar at the top of the Request A Quote page.

Request A Quote is free to visitors and to vendors with an active Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce membership. Inquiries can be made at (310) 393-9825 or info@smchamber.com.

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SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 24"-48"	LIFT HOURS 8:30am - 4:00pm	RUNS OPEN 18	LIFTS OPEN 10/12
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed				

JUNE MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 12"	BASE DEPTH 60"-84"	LIFT HOURS 8:00am - 4:00pm	RUNS OPEN 35	LIFTS OPEN 6/6
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 2"	BASE DEPTH 18"-30"	LIFT HOURS 8:30am - 4:00pm	RUNS OPEN 150	LIFTS OPEN 26/28
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

MOUNTAIN HIGH

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 18"-30"	LIFT HOURS 8:30am - 4:00pm	RUNS OPEN 17	LIFTS OPEN 9/16
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder				

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 8"	BASE DEPTH 12"-16"	LIFT HOURS 8:00am - 4:30pm	RUNS OPEN 0	LIFTS OPEN 3/4
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder				

SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 24"-48"	LIFT HOURS 8:30am - 9:30pm	RUNS OPEN 18	LIFTS OPEN 14/14
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed				

SNOW VALLEY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 1"	BASE DEPTH 30"-12"	LIFT HOURS 8:00am - 9:00pm	RUNS OPEN 12	LIFTS OPEN 6/11
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 58°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (2-4 FT)

Today looks like a small day with the NW fading even more towards a more meager knee high, but a small swath of SW is due. This isn't much from a system that swirled up near the ice cap about 8 days ago, and only waist high waves are expected around south facing breaks from this one.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

NW decreases dramatically this week...

Small SW by Tuesday...

Tracking SW for 2nd...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

MONDAY	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LOW TIDE:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TUESDAY:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LOW TIDE:	10:54AM	0.7FT	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE:	1:57AM	4.6FT	N/A	N/A
WEDNESDAY:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LOW TIDE:	11:57AM	0.1FT	9:57PM	2.9FT
HIGH TIDE:	3:28AM	4.8FT	7:40PM	3.0FT
THURSDAY:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LOW TIDE:	12:43PM	-0.6FT	11:32PM	2.6FT
HIGH TIDE:	4:49AM	5.21FT	7:42PM	3.3FT
FRIDAY:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LOW TIDE:	1:22PM	-1.1FT	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE:	5:52AM	5.8FT	8PM	3.7FT

SURF AND SNOW QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? EMAIL ALEX@SMDP.COM

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The Q Line

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Merchants on Fourth Street are urging the City Council to reconsider its decision to tear up the ficus trees that have lined the street for decades. Under the current plan, half of the aging trees would each be replaced with two smaller, less-dense trees. City officials say the current tree canopy is too dense and the mature trees are tearing up the sidewalks with their roots.

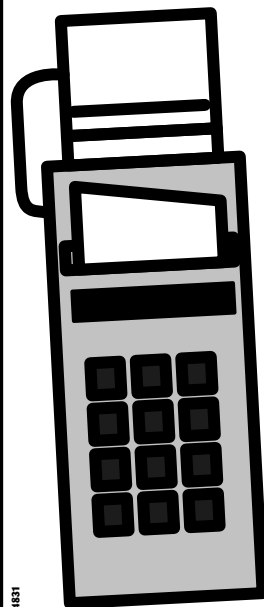
So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do you support the plan to replace the ficus trees along Fourth Street? Why or why not?"

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your responses in the weekend edition. Please try to limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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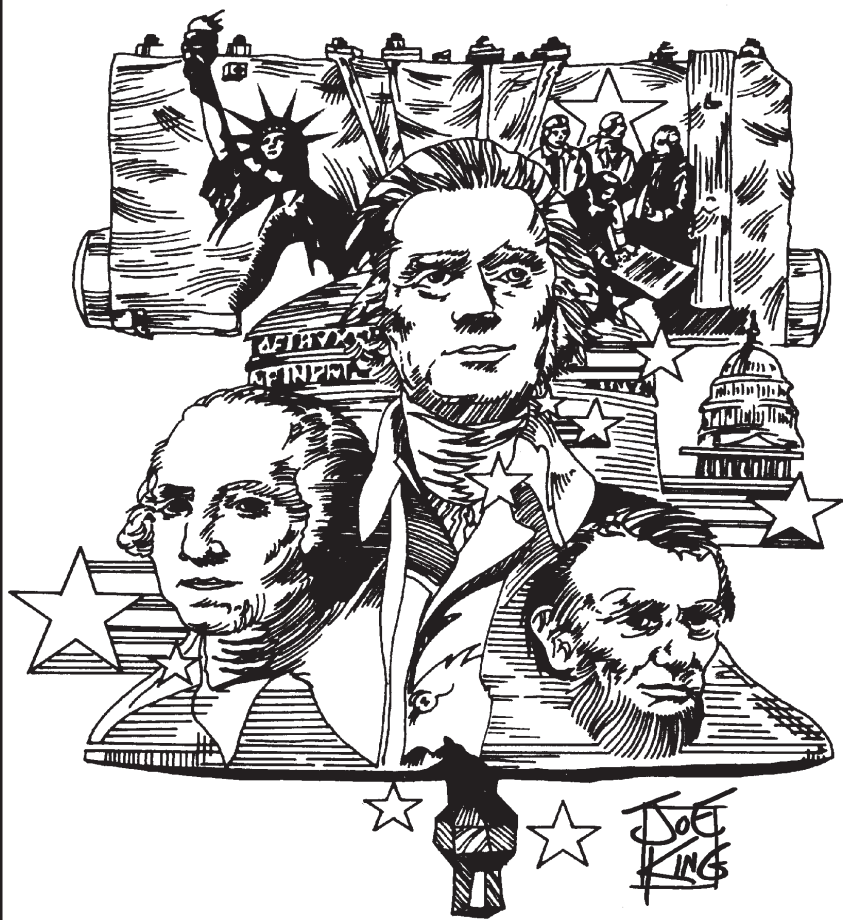
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SMC should stress better mathematics

Editor,

Once again, the Santa Monica College administration is trying to exaggerate its so-called budget problems (SMDP, Feb. 15, page 1). Meanwhile, the misleading headline in the SMDP — "SMC's funding may fall this year" — does not help clarify matters. In reality, under SB 361, the college will receive more money in equalization than ever before. Funding is not cut if the college does not receive \$4 million in additional equalization dollars. Instead, it only means that the college will not receive as much new equalization money this year as it had hoped for. Funding will not fall this year, as the governor is proposing an increase in funding that would bring the college \$5.5 million in new funds. However, it's not a coincidence that the administration is reviving the college budget hysteria. The faculty's last contract expired in August 2004 and salary negotiations for a new contract have bogged down. The faculty have not received a raise since 2002. Meanwhile, in the last two years the college has received \$15.6 million in new funds from COLA and equalization.

If the college budget is really in such crisis, why did the administration give itself a raise last summer?

Lantz Simpson
President
SMC Faculty Association

Columnist wrong to slam the ACLU

Editor,

If Cliff Nichols wants to align himself with those few souls who think that Sheriff Baca is doing a great job of running the jails, that's his privilege (SMDP, Feb. 15, page 4). But his attack on the ACLU is totally unwarranted. Nichols castigates the ACLU for its position that it is generally improper to segregate prisoners by race, but fails to point out that the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled in its favor. And while I'm not a member of and certainly don't speak for the ACLU, I'm confident that virtually all of its members would support temporary separation of racial groups to protect the safety of prisoners and guards.

Equally misleading is Nichols' blasting the ACLU for failing to file lawsuits against gangs like the Crips and the Mexican Mafia because they discriminate based on race. While I doubt that Nichols is serious, readers should be aware that these gangs are private groups, not government agents, and therefore do not violate the Constitution by discriminating.

Paul Bergman
Santa Monica

Constitution doesn't side against homeless



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

As a local pundit, I probably get asked twice a month why the homeless get to "live that way." The starting point to remember with the homeless is that they are citizens of our society just as much as anyone else. Flaming liberals might disagree with this, but there is no law that states that a person has to have a home.

As a society, we do not have to provide people with living spaces. We may wish to, because it alleviates our sense of guilt over our personal good fortune, but there is no constitutional obligation of society to provide for people (other than for prisoners, but that is another kettle of fish.)

When people decry the homeless, what is really being asked is: Why do we have to have them HERE? The answer is that public areas are open to every citizen. The Constitution guarantees each of us the right to live where we want. It does not state that we have to own property to be a citizen. In fact, historically we have amended the Constitution to assure that voting rights were not tied to ownership.

While the Constitution does not require that we own property, it does allow for the government to regulate how we behave on public property. This is why laws against being drunk in public, spitting on the sidewalks and urinating in public are allowed. This is regulation of behavior, and that IS allowed. Frankly, as one who has seen way too many fat white guys get into their Chevy Suburbans, roll down the window and spit, I wish there was stricter enforcement of some of the more sanitary laws.

The regulation of behavior is not only allowed, it is perhaps the primary purpose of government. The government regulates how fast I drive, how old I have to be to drink, where I conduct business and what licenses I need.

The Constitution provides all citizens, natural born or naturalized, the same rights — those of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. Under the Constitution, we have the following freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of association, and freedom to express ourselves religiously, among others. These rights are not absolute, however.

As we are all aware, the freedom of speech is a restricted right. I cannot yell "Fire" in a crowded theater. I cannot arbitrarily slander others — these are limits put upon the right to free speech.

Many activists in our community would like to assert that the homeless have an ABSOLUTE right to live in Santa Monica. That would be an inaccurate assessment of one's constitutional rights. We have the right to live some place, so long as we adhere to the laws of that location. There is nothing in the Constitution which provides me or anyone else with the constitutional right to live in Santa Monica free of responsibilities like rent or

property taxes.

Anyone has the right to live in Santa Monica, so long as they pay their way. In much the same way the homeless have the right to occupy public spaces, so long as they pay their rent, which in their case is complying with the laws against littering, defecating in public, being drunk in public, not assaulting others for money and not trespassing on private property.

The heated arguments between homeless activists on the one hand, and the law and order activists on the other, frequently confuse the meaning of "Rights" with "Entitlements". The homeless soapbox standers would have the general public believe that the homeless population is entitled by birth in America, to occupy, in whatever way they choose, public lands. The law and order activists would have the general public believe that the homeless have no right to be on public land because they are assaulting people and causing disturbances.

Neither side is correct. The homeless have the right to be on public property so long as they comply with the local laws.

The two sides need to understand that homeless citizens have some rights, but they are not absolute rights, and they have some responsibilities, which too many of them have been shirking. When the homeless begin to assume their responsibilities, I believe they will find that their arguments, and those of their high-profile supporters, will not fall on so many deaf ears as they currently are.

As the debate rages on what to do with the homeless, and the land at the Veterans Administration is tossed out as a "good solution to provide housing", what everyone is forgetting is that there is a large segment of this population that has no desire whatsoever to have a home. They don't want to live in a regulated environment, one that will require them to pay bills, cook for themselves, live in confined spaces with neighbors who they might like, but more likely than not — they won't like them.

You cannot take a person who wants to live a carefree existence of being homeless, and put them in a dormitory and expect them to be happy. It is arrogant, presumptuous and conceited to think that the way in which we, who live in homes, live, is attractive to those who do not. It is condescension of the highest order to think that we know what is best for others.

Frankly, I find it annoying when someone I don't know tells me how I should cook dinner. I can only barely imagine how insulting it must be, to be told that I should live in a different manner entirely.

The smug, conceited, self-righteous, interlopers should stay out of the business of telling others how to live their lives. They should tend to their own front yard first. Don't they have hedges to cut or something?

(David Pizarra is a business development lawyer in the Santa Monica firm of Pizarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpizarra@pizarra.com or (310) 664-9969.)

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

COMMENTARY



Eating with the stars a satisfying Valentine's



ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

the title implies), Pierce talked about going to Africa to hunt game the old-fashioned way. "Only instead of killing the animal, you shoot it with a dart," explained Pierce. "This lets you place on it a sort of locating device so you can see what your animal is up to, where he's going and whom he's mating with."

Because, of course, elephant mating or what have you is something we're all curious about.

While I really was trying to focus on a nice dinner with my boyfriend with a beautiful view of the ocean and stars, I couldn't help but eavesdrop on the ones literally behind me.

And to my left, apparently, as Jonathan pointed out, Shirley MacLaine was at the table directly next to me.

Not quite as interesting to me, as I haven't seen many of her movies. And let's face it, she's not James Bond.

"The name's MacLaine, Shirley MacLaine." Nope, doesn't have the same ring to it.

She must have thought I was looking at her, though, as I caught her staring "back" at me. Really, I was just spacing out. I thought she of all people would understand that.

Knowing that the stars probably go to Geoffrey's to not be bothered by random fans like myself, we wanted to be as "low pro" as possible. We tried to not bring attention to the photo we wanted taken of us by the waiter for Valentine's Day. Then, of course, my being inconspicuous went out the window when I flashed a bright picture of the glassy fence which reflected in every direction.

Still trying to figure out the new camera I got for my birthday.

While I feel a little bad talking about what the stars have done, they're welcome to eavesdrop on my conversations when they have the chance. Yet, I think I'm safe. Somehow a conversation about blueberry muffins, puppies and low-priced cereal might not be quite as compelling.

(Heidi can be reached at anydyain-la@gmail.com)

Well, I complained about it, and I got it.

In answer to last week's column about more "celebrity" shows, as VH-1 denotes them, my wish came true with Malibu's newest hit series, "Eating with the Stars."

At least that's what it felt like on Valentine's Day (plus one) with Pierce Brosnan's British dialect resonating behind us.

Valentine's Day on February 15 is a beautiful thing. There's no heinous traffic you're sandwiched in that makes for a more angry than lovey-dovey night. You also don't have to wait in line behind 20 other couples and finally realize it's not as cute when other people do it.

AND you get to hear Pierce Brosnan talk about being in "The Matador," at least if you eat at Geoffrey's.

"I just love that scene where you're walking around (like a pimp) in your underwear," exclaimed Ted Danson, who apparently is friends with Pierce, or at least enough to eat dinner with him.

"That scene is so overplayed by the media," responded a nonchalant Pierce. "But I chose the role because there were so many twists and turns with the character that I never knew where it was going to take me."

I never knew that a beef dinner would take me a table in front of Pierce Brosnan either. But I kept this fact to myself. And I imagined it would be weird if a total stranger congratulated me on something I've done.

"I just loved you in "Pavilions" when you bought three boxes of Lucky Charms for only \$6. That was magical."

I'm saying I haven't done as much in my life as Pierce Brosnan. That's why I let the ensemble eating cast praise him for his great role in "The Matador."

Speaking of man-against-animal (as

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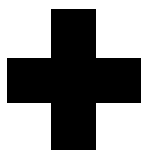
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Getting hot in the kitchen

BEACH CLUB, from page 1

Club, 201 Palisades Beach Road. The meeting is open to the public and begins at 7 p.m.

Homeowners said that if City Hall does not scale back the project and abide by the law, a lawsuit will be filed.

The City Council has been briefed by the City Attorney on the legality of the proposed re-use of the estate, and on the concerns of homeowners.

Last month, Council voted to move forward with the beach club's re-design following the approval of the Recreation and Parks Commission, California State Parks, and The Annenberg Foundation, which has contributed \$21 million to the project.

City Councilman Herb Katz, who is in support of the public beach club, said he will work with his council colleagues to push for the installment of a traffic signal at the entrance to the estate, which homeowners have demanded. But the ultimate authority lies with Cal-Trans.

"We must work closely with the neighbors to create a harmony," Katz, an architect, said. "We are not out to create an entertainment center where people can hold wild parties to all hours of the night ... I believe in the purpose of this project. I think it's excellent that we are creating something for people to enjoy while preserving the history. This will do a lot of good."

The 5.5-acre beachfront estate was built by William Randolph Hearst in the late 1920s for actress and mistress Marion Davies. It was designed by architect Julia Morgan, who created Hearst Castle in San Simeon. The estate had 100 rooms, guesthouses, tennis courts, an elaborately decorated swimming pool and dog kennel.

The property was sold in the 1940s to a private party and converted to a hotel and beach club. The state purchased the property in 1960. Under an agreement with the state, City Hall leased it to a private beach club, the Sand & Sea Club, and later operated it as a seasonal public beach facility.

Damaged in the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, all structures except the beach cafe have been "red-tagged," or designated as unsafe to occupy.

Following an extensive community planning process, in 1999 the council approved a re-use plan that determined the site's potential as an important public resource, leading to the current development proposal.

If approved as is, the beach club design would preserve and restore the original swimming pool, which is constructed of Italian marble tiles with inlaid designs. The north house would also be rehabilitated, complete with interior design touches such as hand-painted bathroom tiles, a mar-

ble fireplace, cabinets and a crystal chandelier.

New facilities would include an entry pavilion, an event house and pool house (More information is available at 415pch.smgov.net).

The event house is of major concern to homeowners as well as supporters of Proposition S, a city-wide referendum approved in 1990 that limited development within a new beach overlay district.

Levey said the event house, which is designed to accommodate 200 guests at public and private functions, is in violation of Proposition S because it will be larger than allowed under the law and will include a kitchen where meals will be served.

City officials said the kitchen will only be a catering kitchen and meals will have to be cooked off site and be transported to the beach club. The event house will not be a restaurant, officials said.

"That's just their way of disregarding the law," Levey said. "The law clearly states that there will be no food-serving facilities over 2,000 square feet. The event house is clearly over that limit. This isn't about us not wanting a beach club. This is about respecting the will of the voters who approved this."

Homeowners are also concerned about security at the estate. The plan calls for around-the-clock security, coupled with surveillance cameras, fencing and lighting.

But Levey said he is skeptical City Hall will be able to afford all of those security measures on top of operating costs for the public beach club, which city staff admits will need to be heavily subsidized for the first year.

"If there is any understanding reached we want it embedded in the documents so it is enforceable," Levey said. "Not only are we worried about what happens when the next budget comes around, but what about the next council? What will they think then?"

The beach club is expected to raise revenue from parking fees, beach concessions and meeting and special event facility rentals. City Hall would be lucky to "break even," according to a city staff report.

A draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the adaptive re-use of the Davies estate is available for public review, and the city's Planning Commission is in the process of evaluating the final EIR. City staff is also in the process of preparing a report to show compliance with the National Environment Policy Act.

City staff will return to the City Council in the fall for approval of the maximum price for redevelopment and to activate the second phase, which will be approving the design-build contract. Construction should begin by this time next year.

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Taking stock in art

ARTS PLAN, from page 1

and that is one thing we will do as part of this cultural planning process.

"The last time the city did a cultural plan was in 1996, so it's been a while since we updated our inventory."

Last week, the City Council agreed to spend \$90,000 to develop the master plan. Cultural Planning + Group, an art consulting firm, has been selected to lead the process. They have developed plans for Pasadena as well as San Antonio, where they instituted a plan that links economic development with the arts.

David Plettner of Cultural + Planning said they will begin soon and will look for the first six months to collect as much information from residents, artists and others in the community on what they would prefer to see developed, whether it be more public art, an expansion of the performing arts or simply more funding spent on cultural programs at local libraries.

"We don't want to create a cultural plan based on expert advice," Plettner said. "We will consult with artists and other players, but our job is really to learn as much as we can about the community, find their goals for the future and implement them."

"This is not rhetoric. I really mean that. The community has the steering wheel."

The planning process should take a year, at which time Plettner and his colleagues will present a final product to the City Council for adoption.

Santa Monica is already far ahead of most cities when it comes to supporting the arts, experts said. It has developed a comprehensive arts education plan and a cultural plan. The council also sets aside money to purchase art to be hanged in public buildings. Every time a public improvement project is done, the council sets aside money for a sculpture or mural.

"There has been a trend to allow artists to become part of the design team, so that from the beginning to the end of the project there is an artist there helping with the conceptual design," said Jan Williamson, a member of the city's Arts Commission and co-executive director of the 18th Street Arts Center, a non-profit which provides subsidized work space for artists.

Williamson said the arts community in the city is in its "early 20s."

"It's young, but it's been through those rough teenage years," she said. "If you compare us to some place like Bakersfield, we're way ahead. But compared to Manhattan (New York), there is plenty of work yet to be done."

Cusick said City Hall spent a little more than \$1 million funding the arts last year, including organizational support grants totaling \$270,000, and community arts grants of about \$70,000. City Hall also spent \$12,000 on transporting students and other groups to art galleries and performances, and another \$65,000 on the Santa Monica Festival.

"And then there are lots of other things



Kevin Herrera/Daily Press

Barry and Ellen Blum, who own and operate Art Concepts in Bergamot Station, have been frustrated by the art gallery's low profile among tourists and residents alike.

we do and give support to," Cusick said. "The council members will at times give money out of their discretionary fund for events."

Cusick said some of the major cultural assets in the city include Bergamot, the 18th Street Arts Center, Santa Monica Playhouse and others like it, the Santa Monica Museum of Art, not to mention the many murals, sculptures, design firms and post-production houses.

"I think all of those things represent a starting point and now we will move forward from there in identifying what else the city has to offer," she said.

Artist Michelle Danner of the Edgemar Center for the Arts said if one thing can

come out of the cultural planning process it should be more money for programs, and to bring more exhibits such as Ashes and Snow, a photography exhibit in the Nomadic Museum near the pier, which is on display until the middle of May.

"To approve of something like (a cultural plan) is inspiring," Danner said, "especially when the government is constantly cutting programs for the arts ... Often, when people think of Santa Monica they think of the Third Street Promenade. We want to show them that there is so much more and hopefully with this (cultural plan) we can blow people away."

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Mini-mart battle waged

JAPANESE MART, from page 1

joining stores that opened in December in Westwood and last summer in West Hollywood.

The firm eventually hopes to roll out stores in New York and other parts of the country.

But Famima faces a marketing challenge as it tries to carve out a niche with its difficult-to-define format in a highly competitive sector.

Jack Kyser, chief economist for the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp., said Famima will fight for customers on several fronts.

It will get squeezed by an increasingly competitive convenience store industry that includes players like 7-Eleven, which has been owned by parent 7-Eleven Japan since last year. Britain's dominant supermarket chain, Tesco PLC, announced this month that it's entering the U.S. market with a string of mini-marts it plans to start opening on the West Coast in 2007.

Meanwhile, the \$142.4 billion fast-food industry, dominated by McDonald's Corp., is trying to offer healthier, more sophisticated menu items. The \$457.4 billion supermarket sector is selling more prepared foods to differentiate itself from huge retailers like Wal-Mart. And a growing number of gas stations are offering food marts.

"Stores are figuring out you make more selling a 12-oz. cup of coffee or a 12-oz. bottle of water than you can selling a gallon of gas," said Jeff Lenard of the National Association of Convenience Stores in Alexandria, Va.

Famima is reluctant to call its shops convenience stores because of the low-rent, hot-dog-and-soda association.

It's also wary of identifying its stores as Japanese imports because sushi and rice bowls only make up part of the menu. It

doesn't want to ward off customers looking to lunch on a sandwich or salad, said Hidenari Sato, the Famima executive overseeing the U.S. expansion.

In a prospectus for potential franchise owners, Famima dubs itself a "sophisticated store concept ... enhanced with upscale delicatessen and premium foods tailored for the savvy American customer."

"We're trying to be somewhere in the middle of a premium grocer and a quick-service restaurant and a convenience store," Sato said. "If you can find a really good word for what kind of industry that is, I think we would be very eager to pay for it."

The chain is mindful of this country's ongoing fascination with the popular culture of Japan and doesn't want to squander that advantage, Sato said.

"In the beginning, we didn't have as many Japanese products, but there were so many requests from non-Japanese customers saying they wanted more Japanese items" such as sweets, stationary and comic books, he said.

The Family Mart chain is part of Itochu, a huge conglomerate with interests ranging from retail to natural resources and banking.

The company won't release sales figures for its U.S. stores but does say sales at its first branch in West Hollywood have increased by about 20 percent since it opened last summer.

Famima hopes entrees such as pork medallions with steamed vegetables and salmon eggs over rice will attract busy, affluent customers who don't have time to prepare meals and want something healthier and more sophisticated than fast food.

"It's great," customer Donald Driver, 40, said as he read the print on a small tin of green-tea flavored breath mints. "They have really high-quality things. Things you don't see anywhere else."



DEAR DORIE

Should have named her baby 'Chuck'

Dear Dorie,

My toddler seems to enjoy eating, but continues to throw things off the high chair. I'm more than willing to give him appropriate things to throw in the right place, but why does this continue to happen?

Floor Sweeper

Dear Sweeper,

Child development can be incredibly complicated, but on the this one, I'm going to go out on a limb and say he's probably just having fun. You may want to offer him other opportunities to throw things in a safe and fun environment – try moving the high chair outside, for example, with a pile of cheerios or a bowl of blueberries. He could also be exploring cause and effect in that particular setting and you can let that happen without breaking your back in clean-up.

From the other perspective, you're definitely on the right track with getting him the correct objects to throw in a safe environment (aka, carry a squishy ball with you everywhere and have it handy to re-direct. Memorize your own version of, "It looks like you want to throw something, try this" and stick with it. Whether this is his idea of entertainment and/or a development phase, as my mother would say, "this too shall pass." Support it and enjoy it to the best of your abilities. Good luck.

Dorie

(Dorie Meek is director of the Infant & Family Support Program, provided by Saint John's Health Center in partnership with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Meek answers questions concerning children ages birth to 5 years old. Submit your questions to "Dear Dorie" at meek@smmusd.org, or call (310) 452-6132; fax (310) 452-6392).

Fighting cancer starts now

A new milestone in the fight against cancer is documented in an annual American Cancer Society report released last week. It shows that the actual number of Americans who died of cancer dropped below the count for the previous year, based on records from 2003 and 2002, the most recent data available. This drop in actual cancer deaths in the recent headlines report that cancer deaths fell for the first time since 1930. A closer look at the statistics indicates that the decrease is insignificant.

I suggest we place this into the correct context. Think of it this way — for more than 75 years, cancer deaths have climbed every single year. And this recent study that proclaims we are winning the war on cancer is jumping to unjustified conclusions.

After spending \$400 billion on drug research, we are losing this war big time.

The decrease in cancer for men could essentially be attributed to smoking less, and the study states that while cancer only slightly decreased in men it actually increased slightly again in women. The point being that the front page of the New York Times gives the false impression that cancer is on the decline and, secondly, that diet has nothing to do with cancer. Both of those concepts are totally false.

The health care industry is not winning the war on cancer. In fact, the World Health Organization (WHO) predicts a doubling of the cancer rates in the next 20 years. Of particular interest here is the science that demonstrates that the current epidemic of adult cancers and other diseases is closely linked to what we eat in the first quarter of life, not mostly from what we consume as an adult.

It is childhood diets that create adult cancers and, according to scores of research articles, our children are eating a worse diet than ever before. With the lowering of smoking rates we should have seen a large drop. The tiny decrease denotes nothing.

Bottom line, in spite of modern medical care, we are still losing the war on cancer. It may not be cigarettes leading the charge any more, but our growing waistlines show food addiction is just as serious as cigarette smoking because as we are smoking much less, cancer has hardly budged in 75 years.

Let's face it, Americans are digging their graves with their knives and forks. They eat only 9 percent of total calories from the anti-cancer health foods —fruits, vegetables, beans, avocados, raw nuts and seeds. It is not the fat content that causes cancer, it is the low antioxidant and phytochemical levels in the American diet. Animal products and processed foods that comprise the vast majority of caloric intake simply do not contain the symphony of phyto-chemicals that the human animal requires for excellent health.

Does Diet Have Anything To Do With Cancer?

Last week's news blared crazy headlines. The New York Times, for instance, says that a "Low-Fat Diet Does Not Cut Health Risks, Study Finds." The conclusion of their article was that dietary improvements do not lower risk of heart disease or cancer. This recent study published last week in JAMA does not reveal anything new. There have been many other similar studies that have demonstrated "low fat" is not the key factor in disease causation.

I am curious why they had to waste over \$400 million on this silly project. First of all, this study compared two groups that both ate unhealthy diets, if you look closely at the data we see that the researchers compared a typical, disease-causing American diet, with one that was just marginally better, but still terribly unhealthy."

According to the study's authors, the women in the low fat group actually wound up eating 29 percent of calories from fat, not much different from the 35 percent eating in the control group. This is just about one more serving of fruit or vegetable per day. The two groups consumed about the same number of calories.

Eating a diet heavy in bread, pasta, white meat and processed foods can be low in fat, but is a very poor source of the anti-cancer micronutrition, especially phytonutrients, that contribute mightily to overall health. Furthermore, the study was of post-menopausal women.

The later in life dietary improvement are made, the smaller effects dietary interventions can have. It would not have worked much even if the participants had successfully dropped their fat intake much future. Fat is not the key factor in cancer causation.

High phytochemical intake, including critical antioxidants in (high-fat) nuts, seeds and avocados contain heart disease and cancer fighting compounds. Eating more low-fat foods such as egg whites, chicken and pasta does not expose us to the disease-fighting compounds in berries, seeds, nuts, cruciferous vegetables, tomatoes and carrots. But to expect dramatic reductions in cancer incidence these positive diet change must occur when we are younger.

When we are children, our cells are growing and the DNA is exposed to the damaging effects of high saturated fat, low nutrient and low phytochemical intake. The low consumption of fruits, vegetables, beans and nuts results in our unstoppable and growing cancer epidemic.

Research scientists have been forced to accept the idea that the causes of cancer are usually set into motion more than 50 years before diagnosis. Our big artillery in the war on cancer is truly in our kitchen; but we must start feeding our kids right to unleash the big guns.

(Joel Fuhrman, M.D. is the author of *Disease-Proof Your Child*. Discuss these issues with him on disease-proof.com)

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THURS., FEB. 23
RHYTHM CHILD ACOUSTIC at THE GROVE – 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
See and play along with the Rhythm Child Band. 189 The Grove Dr., LA, 575-9372.

ICE-AGE GARDEN at the LA BREA TAR PITS
Researchers have created three different ecological settings of what So. Cal may have looked like 10,000 – 40,000 years ago. FREE with admission, for ages 3 and up. 5801 Wilshire Blvd., LA, 323-934-PAGE.

SAT, FEB. 25
NUTRITION for NANNIES – 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

This class for nannies and caregivers is presented by nutritionist and national lecturer Debra KW Topham, MS, CNS. She will discuss the basics of nutrition and child developmental issues. Co-taught in Spanish by nutrition educator Isela Chavira. Call for reservations and costs. Homemade Baby, 10335 W. Jefferson Blvd., 559-2300.

SUN., FEB. 26
PICASSO'S FAIR – 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
This is the first in a series of weekly festivals full of art, music and food in the hills of Topanga Canyon. The fairgrounds feature more than 40 vendors. Topanga Canyon, 455-9977.

MON., FEB. 27
DINNER with BLUE (BLUE'S CLUES) – 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Kids get to dine and play with one of their favorite characters. Ages 3 – 8, call 473-6090 for reservations and costs. Creative Kids, 11301 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 110, www.mycreativekids.com.

ONGOING CALENDAR BELOW

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms! 11:00 a.m., Loews Cineplex Broadway Theatre, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms for details.

Storytelling
Main Library – 601 Santa Monica Blvd. – 458-8621

Currently on break, check back for session dates. Baby Time – 10:15 & 10:45 a.m., babies up to 2 years.
Spanish and Bilingual Stories – 11:20 a.m. Ages 2 – 5.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 450-0443.
Toddler Story Time in Spanish – 10:00 a.m., ages 2-3, next session dates Feb. 28 – Apr. 4.
Baby Time – 11:00 a.m., babies to age 2, next session dates Feb. 28 – Apr. 4.
Twilight Story Time -7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 829-7081.
Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.
Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis
For ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, www.storyopolis.com
Barnes and Noble at the Grove
Storytime for ages 2 – 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – 12 to 36 months; Infant & Me Class – 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. and

1:30 – 2:30 p.m., 0 – 12 months; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

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Yoga & Exercise
Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. 393-2721for more info.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:30 – 1:55 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 - drop-in, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

MOMS Club of SM South Playgroups – Newborn group – call for time.
4:30 p.m., separate groups for children born in 2000 and 2001. Call or email Alison at 393-4481/riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling

The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge – 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052

10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4 at this neighborhood coffee shop.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.

Story Time for Twos – 9:30 a.m.
Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; ages 3-5. Next session Mar. 1 – Apr. 5 for both.

Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Baby Time - 10:15 & 11:15 a.m., ages 0-2. Next session Feb. 22 – Mar. 29.

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. –392-3804.
Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144
Border's, Westwood – 11a.m. – 310-475-3444.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., 5 to 36 months; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
Rhythm Child Parent & Me Rhythms, Santa Monica Studios, 3025 Olympic Blvd., 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Children explore rhythms through drum play. For toddlers. \$100 for 8 weeks. Call 204-5466 or visit www.rhythmmchild.net for more info and session dates.
Enchanted Lunchtime Theatre at Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., 394-9779 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. For ages 3 – 5 with parents. This theatrical adventure includes story time, theatre games, crafts, play building and lunch. Reservations required 24 hours in advance, \$19.50 includes lunch for child and lunch.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m., \$15
Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Step Aerobics, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon.

– Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981, drop-in, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Other

Puppetolio – 1:00 p.m., 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

THURSDAY

MOMS Club of SM South Playgroup – 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. for children born 1/02 – 2/03; 3:30 p.m., for children born 3/03 – 12/03, Call or email Alison at 393-4481/riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling

Main Library – 601 Santa Monica Blvd. – 458-8621

Check back for next session dates for:
Story Time for Twos – 10:15 & 10:45 a.m.
Preschool Story Time – 11:20 a.m. Ages 3 – 5.

Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.

La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.

Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.

Story Time for Twos – 10:15 a.m. Next session Feb. 23 – Mar. 30.

Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m.; ages 3-5. Ongoing.

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.

Baby Time – 9:20 & 10:20 a.m. Babies to 2 years. Session dates Jan. 26 – Mar. 2.

Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590 10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m and 10:45 – 11:45 a.m., 12 to 36 months; Parent Support Group – 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., age 3 – 5 years; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

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Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:30 – 1:55 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Groups

La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista – meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room of the Westchester Municipal Bldg., 7166 W. Manchester Ave., corner of Lincoln and Manchester. Call 310-390-2529 for info.

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 - drop-in, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

MOMS Club of SM South Playgroups

11:00 a.m. - playgroup for children born 10/04 – 5/05. Call or e-mail Alison at 393-4481, riversalison@hotmail.com for more info.

Parent's Night Out at Child's Play, 2299 Westwood Blvd., 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.

Kids get a night of supervised fun with pizza, games and more while parents go out. Ages 3-10, \$9 per hour, \$7 siblings, 3 hour minimum. Reservations required, 470-4997. www.child-splayonline.net
Planetarium Show at SMC's John Drescher

Planetarium, 7:00 p.m. - Night Sky Show, 8:00 p.m. – featured program. \$5 adults, \$4 children. Pico and 17th St., 434-3000.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – 12 – 36 mos.; Playtime/Parent Support - 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881 for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Kid's Yoga Circle Class at Exhale Spa – 3:30 p.m., for ages 5 – 11, 1422 2nd St., 260-2736 or yogaforkids@hotmail.com.

Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Indoor Cycling, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:30 – 1:55 p.m., \$15.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

SATURDAY

Storytelling

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am, 310-260-9110

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5, 310-475-4144.

Children's Book World, 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., every other Sat., 310-559-800K.

Village Books, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m., 454-4063.

826LA, 685 Venice Blvd, 2nd Floor, Venice – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., ages 3-6, RSVP to info @825LA.com or 310-314-8418. (826LA is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write).

Classes

YWCA – Toddler & Me - 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.; Parent Enrichment once per month, 11:00 a.m. – noon, call Barbara Olinger at 452-3881 for rates and dates.

Yoga & Exercise

Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, [\[monicayoga.com\]\(http://monicayoga.com\)](http://www.santa-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.(babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:00 a.m., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Other

Barnyard Madness at The Santa Monica Playhouse

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru March 12, \$12.50 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com

Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

Magiopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime

Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.

Lakeshore Learning Stores “Free Crafts for Kids” – Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., 8888 Venice Blvd., 559-9630.

“A Faery Hunt” – 10:30 a.m., every Saturday at Franklin Canyon Park. An interactive children's show, searching for fairies and other enchanted creatures in the magical canyon and finding them! \$10, call for reservations – 818-324-6802. www.faeryhunt.com. Meet in the parking lot of the Sooky Goldman Nature Center, 2600 Franklin Canyon Dr., Beverly Hills.

SUNDAY

Main Street Farmer's Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.

Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

Magiopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Barnyard Madness at The Santa Monica Playhouse

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru

March 12, \$12.50 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com

MONDAY

MOMS Club of SM South Playgroups

9:30 a.m. – for children born 1/04 – 9/04; call or email Alison at 393-4481/riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110
“No Baby Time or Family Connections today, Feb. 20.

Baby Time – 9:30 a.m. Storytelling for babies up to age two. Followed by Family Connections. Joslyn Park Craft Room, 633 Kensington Rd.

Family Connections – 10:00 a.m. Learn about child development, family relationships and many other parenting topics from well-respected experts in fields related to early childhood development and growth. This series is presented FREE! by the SMMUSD's Infant and Family Support Program. This is a great chance for moms with young babies to socialize and meet other moms. For moms with babies up to age two. Come at 9:30 a.m. for Baby Time Storytelling. Joslyn Park Craft Room, 633 Kensington Rd.

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – 12 – 36 mos.; “Playtime –A combination play time and parent support time”, 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 - drop-in, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:30 – 2:00 pm, \$15
Yoga Garden, - Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal – 6:30 p.m., 310-450-0133. www.yoga-gardenstudios.com
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

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MySpace a mighty big concern

BY MATT APUZZO
Associated Press Writer

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — On MySpace.com, teenagers can find kindred spirits who share their love of sports, their passion for photography or their crush on a Hollywood star. They can also find out where their online friends live, where they attend school, even what they look like.

And so can adults.

Parents, school administrators and police are increasingly worried that teens are finding trouble online at sites like MySpace, the leader of the social-networking sites that encourage users to build larger and larger circles of friends.

Police in Middletown, Conn., are investigating recent reports that as many as seven local girls were sexually assaulted by men in their 20s who contacted them through MySpace pretending to be teenagers.

One girl allowed a man into her room while her parents were home, police said, underscoring just how in the dark parents often are about one of the most popular Web activities for teens today.

There are other reports like these scattered around the country, prompting some parents and schools to equate the likes of MySpace with the Internet's red-light district, even as many experts believe that the worries are greater than the actual dangers.

Joseph Dooley is among those who has heard it all before. A retired FBI agent who supervised the agency's first undercover Internet task force in New England, Dooley remembers when America Online chat rooms were the rage. Teens posted detailed profiles of themselves and chatted with any of AOL's subscribers.

Chat rooms soon gave way to services like MySpace, but Dooley said the rules haven't changed and parents need to become more engaged.

"Let the kids know, on the Internet, you don't know who you're talking to," Dooley said. "Parents aren't the friends of their kids. Parents need to know and observe what their kids are doing."

That can be daunting for working parents. Keeping tabs on the kids used to mean knowing where they went after school, not whom they talked to in their bedrooms.

So when they hear of a new fad among teens, their instinct is to worry.

And the horror stories are indeed terrifying.

Last month, for example, 14-year-old Judy Cajuste was found strangled and naked in a Newark, N.J., garbage bin. Police seized a computer from her bedroom after friends said she told them of a man in his 20s she met on MySpace. The death remains unsolved.

Beyond the threat of abduction, bullies who once made the rounds on playgrounds are using Web logs and home pages to spread rumors and lies faster than the schoolyard grapevine ever could.

MySpace profiles have been used to threaten classmates and in at least one case, to mock a school principal.

Many schools have responded by restricting Internet access from school computers. One private school in Newark, N.J., ordered students to remove all personal blogs from the Internet, even if accessed from home, to protect them from online predators.

Some parents, like Ululani Stauffacher of Eureka, Calif., forbid their children from using MySpace. Stauffacher said her 17-year-old daughter ran off for two days with a 19-year-old man she met online.

"I was going crazy," Stauffacher said. "I was just hearing things about MySpace and incidents of girls missing and some don't get returned to their families. All that I was thinking about was that my daughter was going to be another statistic."

The concerns aren't limited to MySpace, but the News Corp. unit gets the attention because of its sheer size — 54 million users, a quarter of them registered as teens.

MySpace forbids minors 13 and under from joining and provides special protections for those 14 and 15 — only those on their friends' list can view their profiles. Nonetheless, kids lie when they sign up, and many of their profiles carry photos of themselves in suggestive poses, along with personal information against the site's recommendations.

"They're licking their lips and arching their back for the camera because they can, and they have no idea of the consequences," said Parry Aftab, an Internet safety expert.

But Aftab said most MySpace users aren't getting themselves in trouble.

Experts say that banning children from using social-networking sites is akin to forbidding them from going to the mall or the movie theater for fear they'll be abducted.

"I wish I could hover over my children 24-7, but the best I can do is teach them that there are ways to keep themselves safe," said Steve Jones, a communications professor who studies new media at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

In a statement, MySpace said it has developed safety tips for parents and children and devotes scores of employees to monitoring the site around the clock. The site also has ways for users to report inappropriate behavior. The company says it removes inappropriate images and closes accounts that violate its rules.

Chris DeWolfe, MySpace's chief executive, encourages parents to talk to their kids about Internet safety, but Aftab said many parents ignore advice until it is too late.

Connecticut Chief State's Attorney Christopher Morano, who has strictly limited the information his 10- and 12-year-old children put on the Internet, said he was surprised to learn that they had been contacted by strangers they believed were pedophiles. His kids ignored it, Morano said, but parents need to closely monitor Internet activity.

"You wouldn't leave your kid on the side of the highway without supervision," Morano said. "You shouldn't put them on the Internet highway without the same type of supervision."

Arab firm's control of U.S. port operations sparks security debate

BY WILL LESTER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Members of Congress and the Bush administration are at odds over whether security is compromised by an Arab company's takeover of operations at six major American seaports.

Some lawmakers expressed concern Sunday that the safeguards are insufficient to thwart infiltration of the vital facilities by terrorists.

At issue is the purchase last week of London-based Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co., by Dubai Ports World, a state-owned business in the United Arab Emirates, or UAE. Peninsular and Oriental runs major commercial operations in New York, New Jersey, Baltimore, New Orleans, Miami and Philadelphia.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff defended the U.S. security review of DP World in various television interviews Sunday.

"We make sure there are assurances in place, in general, sufficient to satisfy us that the deal is appropriate from a national security standpoint," Chertoff told ABC's "This Week."

The government typically builds in "certain conditions or requirements that the company has to agree to make sure we address the national security concerns," he said on NBC's "Meet the Press," but added that details were classified.

Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said later he wasn't as sure.

"I'm aware of the conditions and they relate entirely to how the company carries out its procedures, but it doesn't go to who they hire, or how they hire people," King told The Associated Press.

"They're better than nothing, but to me they don't address the underlying conditions, which is how are they going to guard against things like infiltration by al-Qaida or someone else? How are they going to guard against corruption?" King said.

Critics have cited the UAE's history as an operational and financial base for the hijackers who carried out the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. In addition, they contend the UAE was an important transfer point for shipments of smuggled nuclear components sent to Iran, North Korea and Libya by a Pakistani scientist.

A Miami company, Continental Stevedoring & Terminals Inc., has filed suit in a Florida court challenging the deal. A subsidiary of Eller & Company Inc., Continental maintains it will become an "involuntary partner" with Dubai's government under the sale.

Michael Seymour, president of the North American arm of Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation, said in a statement that company lawyers would have to examine the lawsuit before he could comment on it.

He noted, however, that his company "is itself a foreign-owned terminal operator that has long worked with U.S. government officials in charge of security at the ports to meet all U.S. government standards, as do other foreign companies that currently operate ports in the United States."

"We are confident that the DP World purchase will ensure that our operations continue to meet all relevant standards in the U.S. through ongoing collaboration between the port operators and American, British, Australian and port security officials throughout the world," Seymour said.

Lawmakers from both parties questioned the sale as a possible risk to national security.

"It's unbelievably tone deaf politically at this point in our history," Sen. Lindsay Graham, R-S.C., said on "Fox News Sunday." "Most Americans are scratching their heads, wondering why this company from this region now," he said.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., told CBS' "Face the Nation": "It is ridiculous to say you're taking secret steps to make sure that it's OK for a nation that had ties to 9/11, (to) take over part of our port operations in many of our largest ports. This has to stop."

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6 Will Smith movie

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 and business address(es) of the seller(s)
 is/are: RANDY FOLLAND 1518 MON-
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 Doing business as: CAFE LE PEW
 All other business name(s) and
 address(es) used by the seller(s) within
 the past three years, as stated by the
 seller(s) is/are: CAFE DE LA PLAGE
 AND PROVENCE 1518 MONTANA AVE.,
 SANTA MONICA, CA 90403
 The name(s) and business address of the
 buyer(s) is/are: LGO HOSPITALITY,INC.
 1518 MONTANA AVE., SANTA MONICA,
 CA 90403
 The assets being sold are generally de-
 scribed as: FURNITURE, FIXTURES,
 EQUIPMENT, LEASEHOLD and is lo-
 cated at: 1518 MONTANA AVE., SANTA
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 The bulk sale is intended to be consum-
 mated at the office of: BUSINESS TITLE
 ESCROW, INC., 4311 WILSHIRE BLVD,
 STE 307, LOS ANGELES, CA 90010 and
 the anticipated sale date is MARCH 9,
 2006
 The bulk sale is subject to California Uni-
 form Commercial Code Section 6106.2.
 The name and address of the person with
 whom claims may be filed is: BUSINESS
 TITLE ESCROW, INC., 4311 WILSHIRE
 BLVD, STE 307, LOS ANGELES, CA
 90010 and the last day for filing claims by
 any creditor shall be MARCH 8, 2006,
 which is the business day before the an-
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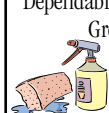
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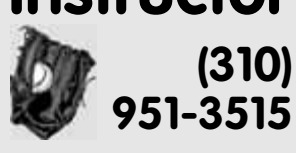


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