

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

2 5 20 22 47
Meganumber: 11
Jackpot: \$27 Million

FANTASY 5

1 10 29 35 38

DAILY 3

Daytime: 9 3 7
Evening: 5 8 2

DAILY DERBY

1st: 09 Gorgeous George
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 02 Lucky Star

RACE TIME: 1:44.90

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

"I don't think I've done more than two days' work in three years," said the New York Liquor Authority's director of wholesale services, Patricia Freund, explaining to the New York Post in December that she is another example of how bureaucracies deal with "problem" workers who are hard to fire. Freund was exiled to an office with no work and no responsibilities (though continuing to draw her \$82,000 salary), which she said was in retaliation for raising a stink about Gov. George Pataki's Christian prayer breakfasts and Jesus-laden mementoes, which she said was discriminatory toward Jewish employees, such as her.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1935, it became illegal for airplanes to fly over the White House.

In 1973, the United States and Communist China agreed to establish liaison offices.

In 1984, a 12-year-old Houston boy known publicly only as "David," who'd spent most his life in a plastic bubble because he had no immunity to disease, died 15 days after being removed from the bubble for a bone-marrow transplant.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The crude commercialism of America, its materializing spirit are entirely due to the country having adopted for its natural hero a man who could not tell a lie."

OSCAR WILDE

IRISH-BORN DRAMATIST (1854-1900).

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John Wood/Daily Press

Lulu Shu, 5, plays by the edge of a large pond in the main parking lot north of the Santa Monica Pier on Monday, as amateur photographer Bob Grossman, 55, tests out a new camera. Heavy rains continued into Monday morning, but gave way to sunshine by midday.

Council steps up to provide new ladder truck for SMFD

(Editor's note: This is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures which appear on the upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agenda. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the city council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.)

BY KIM CALVERT

Special to the Daily Press

COUNCIL CHAMBERS — Elected officials are expected to spend more than \$2.5 million tonight — with almost \$800,000 of that earmarked for the emergency purchase of a ladder truck for the Santa Monica Fire Department.

The remaining funding will go to city employees' renegotiated labor contracts, consultant services for the redevelopment of Santa Monica Place and the downtown area, as well as studying urban development's effect on child care access.

The fire department's new 100-foot tractor-drawn aerial ladder truck became a priority last month when one of the department's two ladder trucks failed to pass a regularly scheduled inspection and certification test. The decertification left the fire department with just one truck capable of performing certain necessary types of firefighting efforts, such as rescues in multi-storied buildings, according to city staff.

The failed truck, manufactured in 1986, can't be repaired in a cost-effective manner, according to the fire department. Although

such expenditures usually require competitive bidding, City Hall can waive bidding when a purchase is an urgent necessity for the preservation of life, health or property, according to city staff.

Tonight's largest expense — at more than \$1 million — will go towards covering the costs associated with a new one-year contract with the Municipal Employees Association, one of nine unions in City Hall that represents non-sworn personnel. Included in that amount is a cost-of-living increase of 2.4 percent for the fiscal year 2005-06. The city also will increase life insurance coverage for MEA members from \$10,000 to \$50,000 per employee, according to city documents.

Santa Monica Firefighters Local 1109 will receive a new contract as well. The new agreement provides cost-of-living increases, an increase to the educational incentive bonus for degrees obtained from an accredited college or university and the establishment of Urban Search and Rescue, which specializes in locating, rescue and medical stabilization of victims trapped in confined spaces. The total cost

See EXPENDITURES, page 6

Home offices catch a break from City Hall

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Hundreds of Santa Monica residents will get a refund check from City Hall this tax season.

After billing more than 700 artists, writers and others who work from home for years of unpaid business license fees, the finance director at City Hall has decided to refund \$275,000 in penalties already paid, and waive another \$25,000.

Many of the residents have worked out of their homes for decades. Some were outraged after receiving bills last month charging them for hundreds of dollars in unpaid business license fees, plus penalties of 100 percent for letting the dues slide.

"We didn't even know we had to pay it. How would we know?" asked Rita Aikey, 52, whose husband, an artist, works out of their apartment and sells up to \$5,000 worth of his works per year. "My God, it's like you're so busy working and paying the bills, and you have to know

See REFUNDS, page 6



File photo

'Gonzo' Journalist Hunter S. Thompson (center) leads a story meeting with Aspen Daily News reporters in 1996 when he appeared as a guest editor for the editorless staff, three of whom now write for the Santa Monica Daily Press. The Aspen Daily News is a sister paper of the SMDP.

Thompson's death marks passing of a literary era

BY TROY HOOPER

Aspen Daily News

WOODY CREEK, Colo. — Hunter Stockton Thompson lived and died in the kitchen.

The hard-living, self-destructive "gonzo" journalist's story instantaneously boomed around the world Sunday evening after he shot himself in the head with a .45-caliber gun and completed the final chapter of his storied life. The 67-year-old writer's 40-year-old son, Juan, told investigators he found his father lying in the kitchen of

See THOMPSON, page 10

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The Request for Proposal (RFP) package contains the informational requirements of the Santa Monica Pier Vending Cart Program and questions for the respondents to address.

Proposal submissions are due no later than:

Friday, April 8, 2005 at 2:00 P.M.

For more information or to request a Request for Proposal (RFP) package be mailed to you, call (310) 451-6030, fax (310) 451-3670, or e-mail your request to:

elana.buegoff@smgov.net



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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)

★★★★★ Even if you think you've lost some of your sparkle and appeal, today lets you know otherwise. Still, be smart and give up being a pioneer for a little longer. Sometimes others need to be top dog, too. Tonight: Chat with someone you respect and want feedback from.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ As much as you can be lazy, sometimes staying close to home could pose a problem. In fact, you might want to bring the day's activities to you. Cocoon, knowing that by late tomorrow you can no longer take a back seat. Tonight: OK — couch-potato night.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You say what you think. Some information you receive could come from a strange source. Verify these facts before giving out wrong information. A partner takes an active role in your public or professional life. Be sensitive to this person. Tonight: Catch up on news.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ A dream involving an investment needs to be checked out thoroughly. A partner you trust would love to assume this responsibility. He or she will go overboard. You'll also gain a new perspective as a result. Tonight: Just don't hassle over dinner. Order in or go out.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ The Moon in your sign signals possibilities. Someone you care about might be confusing. Look at the positive. You spread your happiness. Conversations could be lengthy. Screen your calls if you have to accomplish certain goals in the next 24 hours. Tonight: What would you really like?



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ You might have a lot on your mind. Be careful operating machinery or just running through your day. If you are lost in thought too much, you could be accident-prone. Be aware that you might not fully understand a project. Tonight: Schedule time alone.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You continue to hit home runs, even today. Think about involving others in your plans and ideas more frequently. Teamwork will breed success. Others will be more open if they feel involved or connected to you. Tonight: Celebrate each moment.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Whether you want to or not, you must assume command of the ship. Someone wants you to, possibly because this person is insecure. Don't jump to any conclusions. Research and discuss the possibility of working from or staying at home more often. Tonight: Wind down slowly.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ What you see and think might actually prove to be very different. Think before convincing a family member of the "rightness" of your ways. New perspectives can add to your depth and understanding. Tonight: Plan a trip or schedule a workshop. Feed your inquiring mind.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ A gesture warms up a distressed partner. You will be relieved to see this person more at ease. Communication excels because you say exactly what you want but in a very diplomatic way. Others appreciate your new approach. Tonight: Let someone else choose.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ If you are spending too much, stop quickly. Ask yourself why you are indulging in this behavior. You might discover that the root of the problem is anger. Don't get ulcers; give them — at least for a little while. Tonight: You have more options than you acknowledge.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Your clarity when dealing with someone strategic or with a group brings a fast reaction. Emphasize the quality of your life by focusing on the daily humdrum. Revitalize what has become dull rather than discard it. Tonight: Walk the dog or run some errands.

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LOCAL



Knee-deep in it



Kim Calvert/Special to the Daily Press

Construction for a new family housing project at 2601 Santa Monica Blvd. looked more like a sinkhole after rains dumped massive amounts of water in a pit dug for the building's foundation. Construction supervisor R. Wheeler said everything was under control, that his team was pumping the water out. A depression in the sidewalk along Santa Monica Boulevard, which had caused the city to tape off the area, was not the result of rain damage at the site, according to Wheeler.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Squeaky wheel gets the grease at City Hall

By Daily Press staff

Dump oil and we all get soaked.

That was the message sent by City Hall earlier this month, during a community event that promoted environmental education and the importance of recycling used motor oil and oil filters. There were more than 100 city residents who attended the event, which took place at the Kragen Auto Parts store on Lincoln Boulevard. More than 30 gallons of used motor oil were collected.

City Hall's outreach effort, designed to reach do-it-yourself oil changers through a variety of outlets, has the same goal — ensuring exposure and increasing behavior change.

City Hall conducted extensive surveys in the Pico neighborhood to collect information on motivations and barriers for environmentally-friendly behavior. Using that information, City Hall developed an outreach plan for the informational materials it has distributed.

City Hall has reached more than 300 businesses and 17,000 residences with the used oil recycling message during the outreach campaign.

To locate other used oil recycling collection centers, call (888) CLEAN LA or visit www.smepd.org. For a free used oil collection container, visit the HHW Center at 2500 Michigan Ave., or call James Conway at (310) 458-8916, ext. 2.

Bank gives back to Santa Monica

By Daily Press staff

Wells Fargo has announced that it awarded \$69,160 to Santa Monica area non-profit organizations last year.

See BRIEFS, page 7



SURF REPORT

The rain may continue today, and models say the southerly wind swell could get bigger and nastier. Once again, it looks unsurfable for about every known foul factor you can think of. As for size, caution is advised for coastal properties as the abnormal high tides could bring the southerly chopped up wind swell to higher levels with 6-8 foot white-capped seas possible.

Today the water is:

60°

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



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	12:13	2.8	1:41	-0.4	6:11	5.0	8:31	3.6
SUNDAY	12:54	2.5	2:10	-0.5	6:52	5.3	8:47	3.7
MONDAY	1:26	2.2	2:35	-0.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TUESDAY	1:56	1.9	2:59	-0.7	7:59	5.6	9:22	4.0
WEDNESDAY	2:26	1.6	3:21	-0.6	8:29	5.6	9:40	4.2
THURSDAY	2:58	1.4	3:43	-0.4	9:00	5.5	10:01	4.3
FRIDAY	3:28	1.2	4:05	-0.2	9:37	5.3	10:23	4.5

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The Line

Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky urged local politicians last week to consider restricting one lane on each side of Wilshire Boulevard for buses only. He said it works in West LA and it's the only way to reduce congestion on the roads.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Would you support closing a lane on each

side of Wilshire for buses only? 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.

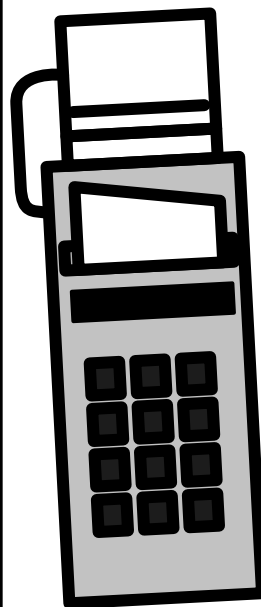


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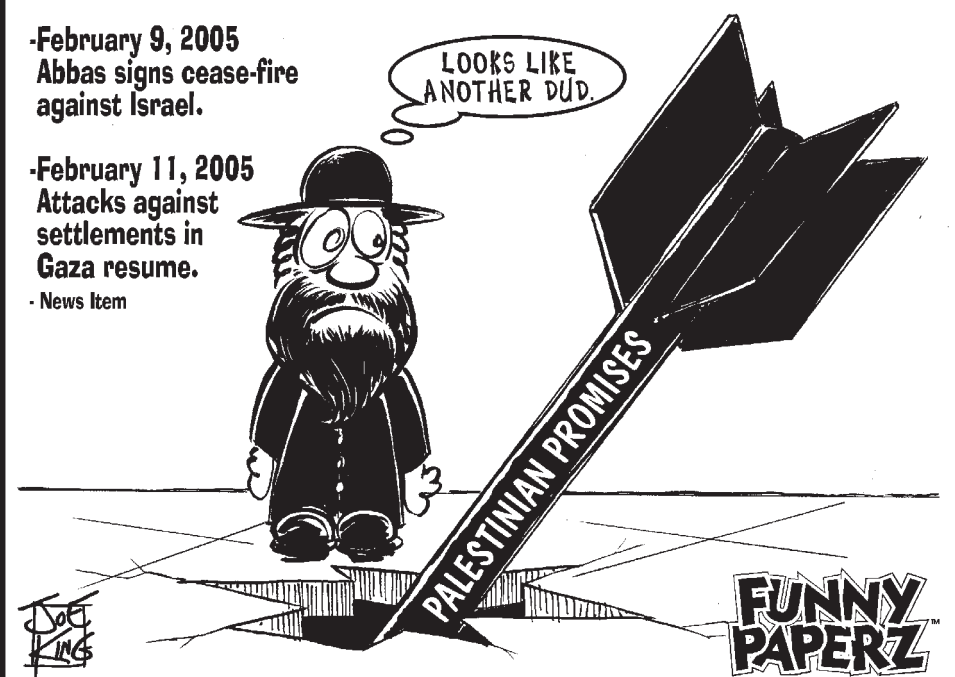


OPINION

-February 9, 2005
Abbas signs cease-fire
against Israel.

-February 11, 2005
Attacks against
settlements in
Gaza resume.

- News Item



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Patience is a virtue, Mr. President

Editor:

Regarding Eric Cooper's letter (SMDP, Feb. 18, page 4) attempting to justify our pre-emptive war against Iraq, I would direct his attention to President John Quincy Adams' 1821 Fourth of July speech, when he stated: "Wherever the standard of freedom and independence has been or shall be unfurled, there will her (America's) heart, her benedictions and her prayers be. But she goes not abroad in search of monsters to destroy. She is the well-wisher to the freedom and independence of all. She is the champion and vindicator only of her own."

In 1954, during the Cold War when the Soviet Union was really a threat to our country, unlike Iraq in 2003, preventive war with the Soviet Union was seriously presented as a police option to President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who replied that this "was contrary to every principle upon which our nation was founded and which it continues to profess."

Similarly, President John F. Kennedy averted WWII during the Cuban missile crisis by exercising patience, something lacking in President George W. Bush and his fellow chicken hawks.

After Gulf War I, the Iraqi army was substantially weakened. In addition, the no-fly zones imposed upon Iraq limited its opportunity to threaten its neighbors. Thus, with a little patience and allowing the U.N. inspectors to complete their job, this unnecessary and wasteful war against Iraq could have been avoided.

Norman G. Axe
Santa Monica

Whose God is it anyway?

Editor:

I thought I would share the message on a bumper sticker I saw last week. "God, protect us from your followers."

Now there is a prayer I would not mind hearing in our schools. The "My God's better than your God" mentality of the world's children, especially the older ones, has killed enough already. When will they grow up?

Roy Persinko
Santa Monica

No class: Our governor reneged on his promises, turned his back on schools



**GUEST
COMMENTARY**
BY EMILY BLOOMFIELD

What is all this talk of broken promises to the education coalition? And why does it matter?

Imagine if last year you agreed with your boss to not only forego a raise (again), but take a pay cut in order to help your company through rough financial times. Your boss promises that, in exchange, he will restore your pay next year, and if the company finances improve, increase it. Additionally, he might finally repay promised foregone salary increases from previous years.

This year rolls around and your boss says he still has not solved his financial problems, even though revenues have risen. You will not get back your foregone salary, not be repaid lost earnings from prior years, but, by the way, you will now have to pay for all of your benefits. You will get some small cost of living adjustment, but, oh, your boss will have the right to cut your salary mid-year, in any year, if the company balance sheet is below forecast.

This is analogous to Gov. Schwarzenegger's proposal for public education. Last year, a statewide coalition of educators — PTA, teachers, school boards and administrators — like the employee above, played the good citizen, stepping up and agreeing to do their part to help the state work its way out of a large budget deficit. The coalition last year voluntarily made an agreement with the governor that public school children would forego \$2 billion owed to them under Proposition 98, a voter-mandated guarantee of funding for public education, thus suspending Prop. 98 for that year alone. Actually, as the state owed schools another \$900 million from previous years of under-funding according to Prop. 98 formula, the reduction was more like \$2.9 billion. In exchange, the governor promised the education coalition that this year, as the economy continued to grow and revenues rose, he would repay this amount. He would also return to the Prop. 98 guarantee which mandates that 40 percent of state revenues go to K-14 public education. Our students in public schools were counting on this because, including cuts prior to the governor's arrival, California

schools have suffered more than \$9.8 billion in cuts (+\$1,500/pupil) over the last four years.

This year, in presenting his budget, Gov. Schwarzenegger has broken his word. He has announced that even though revenues have increased, he does not intend to repay the \$2 billion. Furthermore, he proposes to suspend Prop. 98 again and hold increases in spending to below the inflation rate, thus denying districts another \$2.4 billion owed to them as a result of General Fund revenue growth. Additionally, he wants to shift the state's share of contribution to teachers' retirement funds to school districts, thus including them under Prop. 98. This amounts to an additional \$469 million cut. Adding insult to injury, he proposes gutting what is left of Prop. 98 by introducing a devastating and destabilizing Constitutional amendment that would weaken school funding protections by allowing multiple rounds of mid-year, across-the-board cuts with no hope of repayment.

Why does it matter? Unlike in the example of the maltreated employee, who can seek work elsewhere, our children cannot switch states. They are bearing the brunt of these cuts in the form of overcrowded classes, fewer course offerings, cuts in the number of teachers, guidance counselors, nurses, librarians, the arts, sports, remedial programs, tutoring and more.

A report by the Public Policy Institute of California identifies California as ranking highest in academic standards and accountability systems, but lowest in financial resources. RAND Corp.'s recent study of California's K-12 school system shows that it has fallen from a national leader 30 years ago to its current ranking near the bottom in every objective category, including per-pupil funding, class size, teacher salaries and test scores — though thankfully not the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. It is ironic that when we should be aligning our funding with our high standards, the governor proposes moving in the other direction. He needs to keep his promise. Rather than targeting our children — and our future workforce — for continued cuts and weak performance, he could establish his legacy as being a man of his word and rebuilding California's once great public education system.

(Emily Bloomfield is the president of the board of education for Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.)

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 sack@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.



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COMMENTARY



All women and men are not created equal, and that's OK



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

The president of Harvard was speaking at the National Bureau of Economic Research, and in his off-the-cuff remarks, he managed to spark a firestorm. By stating that possibly one of the reasons why there are so few women in the top tiers of science and engineering is there might be differences in the abilities of the genders.

This was all in the context of a much greater discussion about the effects of discrimination on the one hand, and the mad dash for success in America that requires people to work 80 hours a week to be successful.

He repeatedly mentioned the need by employers for hard driving, dedicated people who are willing to sacrifice their personal lives to get ahead. He pointed out that there are fewer American-born cardiac surgeons these days as a consequence of the hours it takes to become a successful one. The fact that he singled out the immigrant population as a rising tide in this field was not deemed as insulting to Americans, or as pandering to the immigrants.

In his talk, Mr. Summers made mention of the fact that there is a definite lack of white men in the NBA. As a short, fat, white guy, I don't find that offensive. I find it to be a statement of fact. Based on the population of all NBA players, there

is a vast majority who are black. There also is a dearth of players who are under six feet tall. As a person who falls into that category, I am not offended by the recognition of the fact that taller people have a much greater aptitude for basketball than I do.

Summers repeatedly emphasized that he was "guessing," attempting to provoke discussion and hoping to proven wrong. Here's what he really said, according to the transcripts that were released:

"So my best guess, to provoke you, of what's behind all this is that the largest phenomenon, by far, is the general clash between people's legitimate family desires and employers' current desire for high power and high intensity," Summers said at a National Bureau of Economic Research conference in Cambridge.

"In the special case of science and engineering, there are issues of intrinsic aptitude, and particularly of the variability of aptitude, and that those considerations are reinforced by what are in fact lesser factors involving socialization and continuing discrimination," he said.

I know that it's politically incorrect to state that someone, or a group of people, have "less ability" to do anything these days. In this age when everyone is trying to make everyone else feel good about themselves, it's simply not done to point out that someone has a deficiency, or is less capable.

Frankly, it's a crock. There are differences and we need those differences to make life interesting. Rather than run from them, or try to avoid acknowledging them, we should embrace them, and recognize how important they really are.

Men and women are profoundly different, and to make believe that all women are just as good as all men is to ignore reality and attempt to create a society of such boring equality and blandness that is best equated to Miracle Whip on Miracle Bread, which is not a miracle meal by anyone's measure.

There are women who are good at math and women who are horrible at it. There are men who are geniuses at math, and men who can't figure out that they are spending more than they are making, and that is a bad thing.

Genius women are all around us. Just open up the Sunday LA Times and read the Parade insert, look for Marilyn vos Sant. She's a freak of nature in how smart she is.

Stupid men are all around us. We could look to our elected officials for some fine examples there, but why beat a brain dead elephant?

The list of accomplished women in science is small relative to men, but it is highly celebrated. For example, Marie Curie was a double Nobel Laureate, known for her work with radium. Dorothy Hodgkin was a Nobel Laureate for her work on molecular identification. Barbara McClintock also was a Nobel Laureate in Medicine for her work on genetics.

Clearly women are not intellectually incapable of success in science and mathematics, however, in general they use their intelligence in other areas. It's much the same way as there are men who excel in traditionally female endeavors of homemaking, fashion design and food styling. For example Christopher Lowell,

Tommy Hilfiger or Emeril Legasse are all stars in their respective areas of focus.

The point though is that there are differences. Women are much more intuitive and in touch with their emotions. I had a male friend once, he was even gay, who in all honesty said, "I can't describe my feelings, because half the time I don't even know I have them."

It will be a cold day indeed when I go to Mack the contractor for emotional support, or to Meredith the therapist to redo the foundation in my house. Which is not to say that either one couldn't do the job, just that each is better suited for something else.

When a person of the stature of the president of Harvard says something, people are going to listen. But unfortunately, people have a nasty habit of listening for what they want to hear, not for what is being said.

Economic drives by employers, societal drives by our families, and plain old biology will effect whether particular careers are more densely populated by men or women. Acknowledging that is not wrong. Ignoring it is.

It's wrong to make sweeping assertions about the limitations of entire races, or genders, but at the same time, it's just as wrong to live in a false state of "we're all equally capable, in all endeavors, at all times" when that is clearly not the case.

(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.)

Some like it sticky: Sex gum sales hard to swallow



ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

I thought I was seeing the waning influence of sexual enhancers, until a clerk shot me a pack of sex gum in the middle of the day.

There it was. Sexual advertising once prevalent in car, cologne and male enhancement commercials now permeated the candy aisle of the local convenient store.

I couldn't believe my eyes. Candy aisles that used to be the bastion of caramel and tooth decay now included trashy Passion Gum. Is nothing holy?

I didn't know whether to cover up the gum with Snickers or whistle the Enzyte commercial. Nothing is sacred anymore if I can't buy a pack of Bubble Yum without viewing the more erotic alternative first.

I gave the clerk a hard time, asking him what the heck was Passion Gum. I thought it was funny but he turned bright red. To end the conversation (and his embarrassment) he shot me a pack of Passion Gum and told me to try it myself.

Well, shoot, I just wanted to make fun of him for it. Now I have a box of nude gum, apparently burning a ring of desire in my back pocket.

I've gotten free stuff from clerks before. But if it's gum, it's usually under the Extra persuasion. I have to admit, no gum prior to this interaction included the claim "all natural aphrodisiac."

Does anyone else think this is odd?

Sure, I can see lingerie or ripped abs as a turn on. But someone looking for gum to put them in the mood, I don't they think need any coercing. Their mind is probably already set on what they're doing that night.

"All natural aphrodisiac." I couldn't stop thinking about this. I had to look on the back of the box to see what ingredient was giving chewing gum such a sensual allure.

Gum base and glucose — wow, sexy. Citric acid and glycerin — taking my breath away ...

Red 40 and titanium dioxide. OK, now I see what they're talking about. I'm guessing it has something to do with ginseng, seeing that it's highlighted on the box's cover, and listed in obnoxious font below is the word "PASSION."

I've heard ginseng was potentially helpful for reducing stress and improving alertness but never that it "puts you in the mood for love." One site I came across did mention it enhanced blood flow, and with any stretch of the imagination, I suppose you could then box it and label it as a "love enhancer."

But then we get back to the reality that it's just gum. I doubt there's enough ginseng in a piece to help someone remember their grocery list, let alone jump start their love life. People have \$80 therapy sessions for that.

Just to make sure I wasn't missing the boat, I opened that little pack of Passion and tried a piece for myself. Tangy, acidic, slightly unappetizing, but um, no, I felt no magic. I'm sorry to say I didn't knock over the first guy I saw on his cell phone and maul him right then and there, although it would probably significantly

help in gum sales.

I think it's a sad indication on the state of LA that any store would sell "love" gum. Most of us might be young and single, but there are other ways to meet people besides Trident and Hubba Bubba. Never let gum direct your love life, and

when it comes to that, join a cooking class or book club instead. Just say "no" to gum, and "yes" to the freeing life without gum-based sex appeal.

(Heidi is a freelance writer and can be reached at anydayinla@gmail.com.)

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Slippery slope



John Wood/Daily Press

A motorist navigates around a small mudslide on the Ocean Avenue Extension in Santa Monica Canyon on Monday. The heavy rains also caused several small slides onto Pacific Coast Highway, and crews closed the right northbound lane, as well as the on-ramp from Ocean Avenue.

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Waving home business fees in hands of Council

REFUNDS, from page 1

everything. It's frustrating."

Officials discovered the unpaying businesses by comparing the city's business license database against state tax returns, documents they've had access to since legislators passed AB 63 in 2001, according to Steve Stark, City Hall's director of finance.

Stark put forward the idea to pursue unpaying businesses in the spring of 2004, as the city contemplated scaling back services and laying off employees due to an anticipated budget shortfall. The negative reaction it spurred among some residents was reminiscent of the public relations debacle last year over hedge heights, when City Hall threatened hundreds of residents with fines of up to \$25,000 a day for letting their hedges grow too tall. The city later reversed its policy in that instance as well.

Any business that grosses less than \$60,000 a year in Santa Monica must pay an annual \$75 licensing fee, plus \$20 for having the fee processed. Businesses that earn more than \$60,000 pay a percentage depending on the services they offer.

MBIA, an outside consultant, was hired last year to bill unlicensed businesses under a contract that entitled the consulting firm to 30 percent of any revenue collected. Businesses were billed for unpaid licenses dating back to 2001, plus penalties of 100 percent.

Not just home businesses were targeted, according to Stark, who said any unlicensed business that turned up by comparing the two documents was billed for back fees. Though there are exceptions for things like garage sales and lemonade stands, nearly any business that generates revenue requires a license.

For Mark Humphrey, 52, a writer for syndicated radio programs who has worked for many years out of his Ocean Park apartment, the unpaid bills added up to more than \$700.

"If you want to make friends with constituents, this is not a great way to

do it," Humphrey said Monday. "I'm sure that the city has to find creative ways to tax people, but I'm thinking there are also ways to do that and not make people upset, or make them relatively less upset. None of us really want to pay more taxes, but if you start with a point of saying, 'This is a law in Santa Monica ... Maybe you didn't know about this law, so let's start (enforcing it) today.'"

Humphrey complained to City Hall and found a sympathetic ear in City Councilman Kevin McKeown, who pushed to retract the penalties, a move formally taken this month.

McKeown applauded the city's decision to drop previous penalties for businesses that didn't pay their fees, but said he would like to see the dues waived entirely for small home businesses.

"That fits with my philosophy overall," McKeown said Monday. "I'd love to see us have a non-corporate, local economy. People who work at home spend at local stores and restaurants, and with the traffic problem we have, work-at-home is a great alternative to the commute-and-pollute lifestyle."

Waiving the fee for small home businesses would require a council direction, and McKeown said he would push to put the matter before his colleagues sometime this spring.

Dropping back penalties didn't require a council vote, however. Stark made the decision to refund the 100 percent penalties after being inundated with calls, e-mails and letters from residents upset over the penalty but willing to pay the tax.

"Most of the people said, 'You know, I'm a citizen here. I live here. I work here. I pay taxes. If I had known I needed a business license, I would have gotten one,'" Stark said.

"They were willing to pay for the business license, they just felt that the penalty was excessive," added Stark, who said the grace period lasts until April 15, after which penalties again begin to accrue. "We listened to the complaints and tried to be responsive."

City coughing up more for downtown designs

EXPENDITURES, from page 1

for the one-year contract is \$261,400, retroactive for the fiscal year 2004-05.

The third labor contract renewal goes to Management Team Associates employees. The agreement calls for a 2.4 percent cost-of-living increase, bringing the total cost in fiscal year 2004-05 to \$111,500.

Continuing with plans to redevelop Santa Monica Place, the City Council is expected to approve between \$150,000 and \$250,000 to fund contracts with two different consulting firms. Moore Iacofano Goltsman, Inc. will help design and create an outreach program that focuses on communication with the community. Keyser Marston Associates, Inc. will provide fiscal impact studies. The actual amount spent will be finalized once the scope of the public outreach work is determined and when there is a better understanding of what is needed to com-

plete the economic analysis, according to city staff.

City Hall also is modifying its contract with ROMA Design Group to cover additional services ROMA provided to the city's new downtown design. The original contract was not to exceed \$150,000, but because the scope of the work expanded, City Hall is adding \$45,000 for additional services.

City Hall is also expected to amend an existing contract with Keyser Marston, providing an additional \$18,000 to complete a study that now will cost \$113,000. KMA is researching the relationship between urban development in Santa Monica and access to child care. Santa Monica's Child Care Master Plan of 2000 noted a critical shortage of available child care in the city. The report cited the increase in new commercial development as a possible reason because non-residents may be using most of the child care resources.

LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

Wells Fargo funded 18 non-profit organizations that support community development, education, human services and cultural/civic projects throughout the community. These groups included the Santa Monica City College Foundation, Los Angeles Chamber Inc., Saint Monica's Church, Heal the Bay, CLARE Foundation, the Santa Monica Special Olympics, the John Wayne Cancer Institute Auxiliary, the Liberty Hill Foundation, Performing Arts for Children and Reprise.

For the third consecutive year, Wells Fargo contributed more than \$10 million to non-profit organizations in Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara and west San Bernardino counties in 2004, making it the largest corporate contributor to non-profits in the greater Los Angeles area. In addition, Wells Fargo team members contributed almost 16,000 hours in volunteer time to work on community projects throughout Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara and west San Bernardino counties.

Nationwide this year, Wells Fargo awarded \$93 million to more than 15,000 non-profit organizations, an increase of almost \$10 million over 2003. For the last two years, BusinessWeek magazine has ranked Wells Fargo in the Top 10 of its list of America's Biggest Corporate Givers.

Lessons to live by at SMC

By Daily Press staff

Ever wondered about the environment at Santa Monica College?

SMC's spring "Environmental Issues Lecture Series" will feature a range of topics including water resources and ecotourism.

The series is sponsored by SMC's Center for Environmental and Urban Studies. The center, which is open to the public, features displays, a library and information center, video collection, native garden, and other services and activities related to environmental and urban studies.

All lectures are at 6:45 p.m. in science lecture hall 145, 1900 Pico Blvd. They are free and seating is on a first-arrival basis. For information, call (310) 434-4743.

Medical center gets \$50K, for kids' sakes

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center was selected as the local organization to receive a \$50,000 donation from the CRESTOR Charity Challenge at last week's 2005 Nissan Open at the Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades.

The donation will help fund vital cardiac-monitoring equipment for the medical center's pediatrics unit. Santa Monica-UCLA has the city's only dedicated pediatrics unit to ensure that infants, children and adolescents receive age-friendly care when they need to be hospitalized.

The CRESTOR Charity Challenge, a season-long competition now in its second year, recognizes and rewards the tournament leader entering the final round at 35 PGA Tour events this season. CRESTOR, an AstraZeneca pharmaceutical product, donates \$50,000 to that player's favorite charity, as well as a matching amount to a local charity. This year, AstraZeneca will donate \$3.5 million through the program.

Santa Monica-UCLA has provided emergency first-aid services at the Nissan Open for more than 20 years.

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DEAR DORIE

Parents chapped over lip-licking

Dear Dorie,
My 8-year-old son continues to lick his lips until they're severely chapped — even to the point of a brown ring below the lip. In an attempt to stop the behavior, my husband is warning him that his lip is going to be permanently marked or affected. While I'm not particularly fond of this approach, I don't have any other options. Any suggestions?

Chapped Child's Mom

Dear Mom,
Lately, the dry weather has been brutal on the lips and skin. Young children aren't aware that the burning sensation on their lips is related to this so they lick away for temporary soothing. I'm not a pediatrician, but common sense says increase the intake of fluids and go get lip balm, preferably not petroleum-based as it can add to the dryness.
Another thing to consider is the repetitive oral motion. More than likely, this is the behavior that is bothering your husband. Nail biting brings out the worst in most parents, and this is something similar. If you think this is the case, mention it to your son. Provide some oral alternatives (sugar free lollipops, for example) and repetitive motion options (yo-yos, squeeze balls, etc.).
As far as the spouse scare tactic — anyone remember the warning: "Don't cross your eyes or they'll stay like that?" Eight-year-olds are pretty savvy. Tell your husband that if he keeps trying to scare him like that, his relationship is going to be permanently marked. Good luck.

(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).

Saying 'good job' to your kids may not be good enough in end



"Good job!" has a nice ring to it. It's frequently used as a compliment in the Zeb family. However, mother and father Zeb have noticed that it doesn't necessarily encourage children to do better. When teenage Zeb passes his driver's test and the family shouts "good jahab!" he starts telling how often he will need the car. When fourth-grade Zeb passes his spelling test, the reward is "good job!" She thinks, OK, that was good enough. I don't need to study more and bring my score higher. If 2-year-old Zeb puts three crayon scribbles on his paper, big sister says, "good job!" But little Zeb throws the paper aside, puts two marks on the next paper, looks up for his reward, and reaches for another clean sheet.

So why doesn't "good job!" motivate children to achieve? Probably because it tells them that we like what they did instead of telling them what they did well, or finding out what they think.

But, you say, "I say good job all the time because I want to encourage my child." Certainly you do, because you care, you love your children and you want them to be successful. Your intentions are good, but try reading each of the following pairs of responses aloud. Say each of them

with pride and pleasure in your voice, and think about how they might strike a child.

Teenager: "Good job!" Or, "You must be learning how to set priorities in order to get that long term paper done so well"

School age: "Good job!" Or, "Hey, you got an A on that paper. Tell me how you did that."

Four-year-old: "Good job!" Or, "I like the way you colored the flowers in your picture. What do you like?"

Two-year-old: "Good job!" Or, "You brought three books to me. Which one shall we read first?"

One-year-old: "Good job!" Or, "You got out from under the table all by yourself."

How was that? Did it help you understand that a constant barrage of "good jobs" can create praise-junkies where children perform to get praise rather than to enhance their own skills and learn to develop their own internal reward system?

Other thoughts about "good job!"
■ "Good job!" is appropriate if we are teaching specific standards for a specific skill. Even then we need to point out why it is well done.

■ "Good job!" is a way of telling a child to feel good about what he did. What if he doesn't feel good? Need he act like he does to please us?

■ Too much praise can program children to expect to be praised for everything they do. That is debilitating for them and boring for the rest of us.

■ "Good job!" is well meaning, but it is lazy parenting.

■ We can say we like something without telling the child she must like it. "I love the valentine you made for me. How did you know I would like a lace border?"

OVER-NURTURE

Adults who have been over-indulged as children (participants in the first of three studies supporting the How Much Is Enough? book) told us their parents had given them "too much love." We call that over-nurture. What parents meant to be helpful has turned out to be a liability, not an asset. So, let's remember that saying "good job!" is for our need, not the child's. Whose needs are being met is one of the "Test of Four" ways to assess whether something is overindulging or not.

Whenever we want to say "good job!" let's hold fast to our good intentions and remember that our job is always to encourage growth and, only when necessary, to evaluate.

(Jean Illsley Clarke Ph.D., Connie Dawson Ph.D., and David J. Bredehoft Ph.D. are coauthors of "How Much Is Enough? Everything You Need to Know to Steer Clear of Overindulgence and Raise Likeable, Responsible and Respectful Children — From Toddlers to Teens." Clarke can be reached at jiconsults@aol.com. To read more about overindulgence go to www.overindulgence.info.)

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SANTA MONICA PARENTING

CLASSES FOR SANTA MONICA PARENTS AND PARENTS TO BE

SPECIAL EVENTS – FEBURARY is BLACK HISTORY MONTH

CITY OF SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY CLASSES – Registration is underway for a variety of classes including Parent and Me classes for infants and toddlers, and kid's and youth sports, dance and theatre. Most classes begin in March or April. For details see RecScape in the latest issue of SeaScape or call 458-2239. www.RecEnroll.smgov.net.

FAMILY ROOM at the GETTY

Tues. – Thurs., Sun. – 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Fri. and Sat. – 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Make a mask, build a sculpture, draw an insect, relax and read on a period bed or play with camera lenses and a wall of mirrors. Ages 4 -14, FREE!, \$5 parking. 1200 Getty Center Dr., LA, 440-7330, www.getty.edu

WEDNESDAYS, FEB. 23, MARCH 2 & 9 – 3:15 – 5:45 p.m.

“MOON MAGIC: GROWING UP and LOVING IT.” What's good about being a girl? How does the moon affect your life as a girl and woman? What are some of the emotional and physical changes that occur as you grow? This free workshop for girls aged 11 – 13 explores the answers to these questions and others. Part of the YWCA Santa Monica/Westside Girls in Action program. YWCA, 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881 to register. FREE! Registration required, space is limited.

SUNDAY, FEB. 27

HINAMATSURI DOLL FESTIVAL at HUNTINGTON GARDENS

1:00 & 2:00 p.m. Children dressed in colorful kimonos perform Japanese songs and dances. A display of elaborate dolls representing the imperial court and their attendants will be on display thru March 7. Free with museum admission, \$12.50 adults, \$10 seniors, \$8.50 ages 12-18, \$5 ages 5 – 11, free under 5. 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, 626-405-2100.

KORHOGO MUD CLOTH WORKSHOP, 2:00 & 3:00 p.m.

Zimmer Children's Museum. Children can paint designs on cloth to make beautiful artwork. All ages. \$3 plus admission; \$5 adults, \$3 children, free ages 2 and under. 6505 Wilshire Blvd., LA, 323-761-8998, www.zimmermuseum.org.

MONDAYS - NEW KARATE CLASS FOR AGES 4-5; 3:00 – 3:45

This class will teach basic Karate, awareness, Stranger Danger and how to call 911, while helping kids improve their discipline and concentration. Classes are taught in a fun, age-appropriate and uplifting manner. Cost is \$70 per month. For more info call Maria at 394-3544. Japan Karate Association, 1218 5th St.

MONDAY, FEB. 28 – CPR TRAINING – 6:00 p.m.

For ages 16 and up. No charge for class or certificate. Santa Monica Airport, free parking. Call for info and reservations – 393-7758, Dr. Harris.

THE WIGGLES LIVE! SAT. & SUN. APRIL 9 & 10, 1:30 & 5:00 p.m.

Tickets on sale now! Universal Amphitheatre, Universal City. Tickets available at the box office or at www.ticketmaster.com.

LOW-COST BIRTH DOULA SERVICES – DONA (Doulas of North America) Trained doulas seeking to attend births to fulfill certification requirements are available to you in exchange for completion of required paperwork and a minimal fee (\$50 - \$100) to cover expenses. Please call Nina at 310-395-7321 for more information.

What is a doula? “A woman experienced in childbirth who provides continuous physical, emotional and informational support before, during and just after childbirth.” (Klaus, Kennell and Klaus in *Mothering the Mother*)

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms! Feb. 22 – Meet the Fockers starring Robert DeNiro, Ben Stiller,

Dustin Hoffman, Blythe Danner and Barbra Streisand. Comedy, Rated “PG-13.”

11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 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 – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.

Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m. For 2 year olds with adult.

Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.

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

Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds with adult. Next session begins Mar. 1.

Lap Time – 11:00 a.m, six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Programs. Next session begins Mar. 1.

Twilight Story Time -7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.

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

Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.

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

Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 24-36 month olds.

Next session begins Feb. 22, registration required.

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 (1-3 years) – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Infant & Me, Transitional Group (7 – 14 mos.) – 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.; Infant & Me (0-12 mos.) – 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.; classes in partnership with the Infant and Family Support Program. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA

10:00 – 11:00 a.m and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Thursday nights 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 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)

Itsy Bitsy Yoga – Tots (crawling to 24 months) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Baby (6 weeks to pre-crawling) – 11:30 – 12:30 a.m. With Khefri Riley at Ocean Oasis, 1333 Ocean Ave. Register at www.khefri.net or call 323-549-5383.

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., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

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.

Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult.

Next session begins Mar. 2.

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

Lap Time - 10:15 & 11:15 a.m., ages 0-2. Next session begins Feb. 23.

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

Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144

Border's, Westwood – 11am – 310-475-3444.

Classes

Rhythm Child Parent & Me Rhythms, Santa Monica Studios, 3025 Olympic Blvd., 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Current session thru March 5. Children explore rhythms through drum play. Ages 6 mos. – 3.5 years; \$100 for 8 weeks. Call 204-5466 or visit www.rhythmchild.net for more info.

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Parent Support (3 – 5 years) – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Infant/Toddler and Me (0-12 mos.) – 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.; Parents of Adolescents Support Group – 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$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., 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, 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

Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590

10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.

Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.

Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m.; for 2 year olds with adult.

Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.

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

Toddler Story Time – 10:30 a.m; for ages 2 –3. Next session begins Mar. 3.

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.

Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., for 2 year olds. Next session begins Feb. 24. Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m.; for 3-5 year olds.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years) – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. and 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.; classes in partnership with the Infant and Family Support Program. Parent Support (3 – 5 years) – 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA

7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also

Tuesdays at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 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 Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

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.childisplayonline.net

La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista – meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call 310-390-2529 for info.

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 (1-3 years) – 9:20 – 10:20 a.m.; Parent Support (1-3 years) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Mommy and Me Dance– celebrate the wonderful world of imagination Fridays at the Electric Lodge. 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. ages 14 - 24 months; 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. ages 2 – 4.

6 classes for \$75 or \$14 per class. First class free! 1416 Electric Ave, Venice, 306-1854.

Yoga & Exercise

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 – 12:15 – 1:45 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.

Other

Baby Attuned - Fridays, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00

p.m., A new program promoting sensitive parenting and developmental awareness. Parent-completed developmental screening, with review and feedback from a licensed clinical developmental psychologist and experienced pediatric nurse practitioner, Eileen Escarce, PhD, MSN. (PSY 18819). Introductory fee: \$15 per screening with feedback. 1137 2nd Ave, Suite 213. By appointment only 310-367-1155.

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., 310-559-B00K.

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

Yoga & Exercise

Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonica yoga.com

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

Snow White at the Santa Monica Playhouse

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. (thru April); \$12 adults, \$10 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

Magicopolis – 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.

Breastfeeding

Working Mother's Support Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd. - 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., \$12 fee, led by Ilka Sternberger, certified lactation educator.

Call 826-5774 for more info.

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

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

Snow White at the Santa Monica Playhouse Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. (thru April); \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 9:30 a.m. A series for babies up to two years old. (No lap time Feb. 21)

“Family Connections” – 10:00 a.m., immediately following Lap Time - a series of discussions related to early childhood development and growth. Children welcome, free.

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

“Spanish for Little Ones”, 11:15 a.m.

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

MOMS Club of Santa Monica – New Mother Group – for new moms with babies ages 0-6 months. Meet for conversation, support and playtime. All new Moms welcome!

Call Clare at 395-7422 for time, location and more info.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents – Toddler & Me (1-3 years) – 9:20 – 10:20 a.m.; Parent Support (1-3 years) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, 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 – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15 Yoga Garden, - Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal – 6:30 p.m., 310-450-0133. www.yogagardenstudios.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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NATIONAL

‘Gonzo’ journalist marched to beat of own drum

THOMPSON, from page 1

the fortified compound known as Owl Farm after hearing what sounded like a book crashing to the floor.

Anita, the writer's wife of almost three years, was not at home at the time. Thompson's 6-year-old grandson, William, was the only other person in the house.

"I can't believe it. It just doesn't make sense that Hunter would do this. But we all know there were a lot of times Hunter didn't seem to make sense," said Gaylord Guenin, a Woody Creek Tavern chieftain and neighbor of Thompson who knew him for 36 years. "He was an intricate part of the valley. It takes something like this to make you sit back and really appreciate it."

Ever since moving to the rural, funky neighborhood of Woody Creek in 1967, Thompson's kitchen at Owl Farm

served as his office, his gambling parlor, his political war room, his rehabilitation clinic and, simply, a place to hang out.

Pitkin County Sheriff Bob Braudis, a regular gambling partner and close friend of Thompson's, described the kitchen as "a salon reminiscent of Paris in the 1920s. It was full of artists, politicians, winners, losers — and Hunter made the house rules, especially when it came to wagering."

Whatever the situation, the counterculture author known best for the 1972 classic "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" spent much of his time perched on a stool behind the kitchen counter that supported the typewriter he used to create some of his best work. In recent years, Thompson began to spend more and more time there.

He suffered a broken left leg in December 2003 at the

Kahala Mandarin Oriental Hotel after he "executed a sharp turn at the mini-bar" and fell on the polished floor of his ninth-floor suite. Up until his last days, Thompson's leg continued to plague him with pain. He also has an artificial hip and he recently had back surgery.

"I knew he was dying from a distance. It hurt him being in so much pain," said Jimmy Ibbotson, a longtime neighbor and former singer-guitarist of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, who, like others before him, had been 86'd from Thompson's kitchen for poor behavior. Ibbotson isn't the only one to feel Thompson's wrath.

Behind "Keep Out" signs and the security personnel who stood guard at Owl Farm's front gate, Thompson's family and close friends comforted one another.

"The family is hugging, huddling and supporting each other through a difficult time. There has been literally hundreds of phone calls from friends, admirers and people all over the world," the sheriff said.

Presidential historian Douglas Brinkley, who has been in the midst of archiving Thompson's material for Tulane University, was en route to Aspen on Monday night to set up a media command post for the Thompson family.

Over at the Woody Creek Tavern, one of Thompson's favorite haunts, a grubby mix of ex-cons, alcoholics and drug addicts exchanged shots of Chivas Regal and wild stories about their famous neighbor who lived up the road.

"I haven't ruled out this is all part of an elaborate hoax," said Ibbotson half-jokingly. "There are times when you've had enough of fame."

Talk also turned to Thompson's fascination with firearms. He kept an arsenal of weapons in the house and enjoyed experimenting with explosives. On Super Bowl Sunday, a bomb technician from the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office had to respond to his home to remove an old, potentially explosive keg of gunpowder.

But at the end of the day, all stories led back to Thompson's kitchen.

"Dr. Thompson indelibly transformed journalism with his gonzo flair, but we should remember that his best stuff was rooted in reporting and sharp-eyed observation," remarked Walter Isaacson, former managing editor of Time magazine and one-time chairman of CNN.

Like many in the mainstream media, Isaacson had spent time in Thompson's kitchen, where groundbreaking prose flowed as freely as the whiskey and wine.

"He sure stomped the earth, but he also knew how to write sentences that, because of their deft embedded clauses and personal riffs, and the way they were juxtaposed with short declarative eruptions, had a syncopated rhythm that delighted the ear," Isaacson said.

"He was a wonderful talent. The whole gonzo journalism thing and the idea of inserting himself into the story was something he legitimized," agreed Larry Kramer, former Chairman and CEO of MarketWatch, now an executive for Dow Jones.

Kramer was executive editor at the San Francisco Examiner during the 1980s when Thompson was a weekly columnist for the paper.

"He made the stories more real," said Kramer. "He was a larger-than-life character, but it really was him. ... By making it so entertaining, and by making it so outrageous, he captured a very broad constituency. He did it at a time when there was a lot of social activism and he would call a spade a spade and go further. He'd say things a lot of people thought, but would never say."

Aspen resident Tim Mooney, a former manager for musicians Jimmy Buffet and John Denver, reminisced about his times in the kitchen.

"The kitchen was the center of the family business. The nourishment was intellectual ideas: sports, gaming, current events, politics, sex, drugs and rock and roll," said Mooney. "The family business ran 24 hours a day, eight days a week, and it was as relevant to be as close to the refrigerator and the ice machine and the toaster oven as it was to be next to the phone, next to the typewriter, next to the drawers full of the tools of the lifestyle."

"Hunter could watch the front door and the back door at the same time. Nobody could sneak up on him. He could perch himself eye-level with a constant revolving bulletin board full of information. He was constantly re-layering his thoughts ... The scene was totally controlled by Hunter because he was the one who had the deadline," Mooney said. "Everybody else was there for amusement, either Hunter's or their own."

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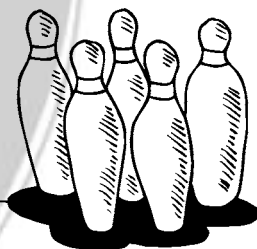
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INTERNATIONAL



Bush faces Iraq critics, calls for greater trans-Atlantic unity

BY TOM RAUM

Associated Press Writer

BRUSSELS, Belgium — President Bush dismissed the rift with Europe over Iraq as a “passing disagreement of governments” on Monday and urged greater trans-Atlantic cooperation, including more support for the fledgling Iraqi government.

“Now is the time for the established democracies to give tangible political, economic and security assistance to the world’s newest democracy,” Bush said in a speech intended for both European and American consumption.

Bush began a five-day European trip in Brussels, home to both the European Union and NATO. He also planned to dine privately here with French President Jacques Chirac, one of his most outspoken critics on the Iraq war.

Despite his appeal to bury past differences, divisions remain over postwar Iraq, how to confront Iran’s nuclear ambitions, a European proposal to end a 15-year arms embargo with China and a treaty on global warming spurned by Washington.

Aides conceded that much work needed to be done. But the president’s words were clearly conciliatory. And his advisers said it was hoped they would lead to greater,

and cooler, dialogue.

“As past debates fade, and great duties become clear, let us begin a new era of trans-Atlantic unity,” Bush said in a prepared speech. Excerpts were released before delivery.

“No temporary debate, no passing disagreement of governments, no power on earth will ever divide us,” he said.

The site for Bush’s speech was the Concert Royal, a 19th century government building used for banquets and meetings.

Before the speech, the president planned to make courtesy calls on the king and prime minister of Belgium and the NATO secretary-general.

Bush attends meetings of both the European Union and NATO on Tuesday, visits Germany on Wednesday and, on Thursday goes to Slovakia, where he will meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Putin has alarmed Western leaders with his crackdown on political dissent and rolling back of some democratic reforms.

“Our greatest opportunity, and our immediate goal, is peace in the Middle East,” Bush said in his speech.

“We seek peace between Israel and Palestine for its own sake,” said Bush, who supports a separate Palestinian state alongside Israel.

“We also know that a free and peaceful Palestine can

add to the momentum of reform throughout the broader Middle East.”

In calling for more “tangible” support for Iraq, he said, “All nations now have an interest in the success of a free and democratic Iraq, which will fight terror, be a beacon of freedom, and be a source of true stability in the region.”

The president reprised some of the themes he sounded in his inaugural address when he began his second term in January, vowing to work to spread democracy and freedom through the world.

“We ... have a call beyond our comfort: we must raise our sights to the wider world,” Bush said. “Our ideals and our interests lead in the same direction. By bringing progress and hope to nations in need, we can improve many lives, and lift up falling states, and remove the causes and sanctuaries of terror.”

An alliance of 88 environmental, human rights, peace and other groups planned two days of protests in Brussels to demand “no European complicity” in a U.S.-designed world order.

Brussels police readied 2,500 officers — 1,000 more than the usual number for the three or four summit meetings that bring European Union leaders to the Belgian capital every year.

Marines, Iraqi security forces crack down on insurgents

BY JAMIE TARABAY

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. Marines broke down doors and raided houses Monday on the second day of an offensive aimed at cracking down on insurgent activity in several troubled cities west of Baghdad.

The forays occurred as Shiites of the winning United Iraqi Alliance met in Baghdad to hash out a final prime ministerial candidate for the newly elected 275-member National Assembly.

Debate has intensified among the members of the alliance, who formed a 21-member committee to decide on two nominees for the job because they could not agree on a candidate.

The two main candidates so far had been the former Pentagon favorite Ahmad Chalabi, a secular Shiite, and Ibrahim al-Jaafari, the interim vice president.

The race may get more complicated following reports that the Shiite’s initial pick for prime minister, Finance Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi, could return as a compromise candidate. Abdul-Mahdi, who has close ties to Iran, dropped out Feb. 16.

Gunmen in the northern city of Mosul abducted an Iraqi television presenter, an official from her network said Monday. Raiedah Mohammed Wageh Wazan was abducted by several masked gunmen Sunday night while she was returning home, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The U.S. military said insurgents targeted the local TV station “several times in the past week because they have been broadcasting programs that highlighted the negative effects of insurgent activity. Those programs have had rapidly growing support from Iraqi citizens and therefore have caused the station to be targeted.”

The U.S. announcement added that “insurgents contacted the station and threatened to continue to target employees.”

Two Indonesian journalists and their Jordanian driver missing since last week were freed by militants and arrived safely Monday at the Iraq-Jordan border, according to a spokeswoman for Metro TV, their employer. The three were abducted last week outside Ramadi, west of Baghdad.

A video delivered anonymously to Associated Press Television News in Baghdad on Monday apparently showed the two journalists — Meutya Viada Hafid and Budiyanto — shaking hands with a militant before they were released.

A masked person in the video, reading from a notebook, said, “Based on the good will they showed, and respecting the feelings of brotherhood and Islam between the two countries, and respecting the Indonesian anti-occupation role, we decided to release the two journalists without any conditions and ransom.”

Indonesia was critical of the U.S.-led 2003 invasion of Iraq, and has refused to send troops to the country.

In Ukraine, which did send troops, more than 2,000

protesters rallied Monday in front of the president’s office in downtown Kiev to demand the immediate withdrawal of 1,650 Ukrainian soldiers from Iraq. President Viktor Yushchenko, who took office in January, told the crowd that that the soldiers “fulfilled their mission,” but added that a pullout had to be coordinated with allies.

Six explosions boomed through the capital before midday. The cause of the blasts was not immediately known. Footage from Associated Press Television News showed U.S. troops treating an American soldier apparently injured in one of the blasts, which overturned a Humvee in the southern Doura neighborhood.

In Ramadi, U.S. Marines fanned out across the city, setting up checkpoints, searching cars and sealing off areas to prevent people from entering or leaving as they carried out raids. The operation came one day after launching the operation and putting in place a nighttime curfew.

Iraqi Maj. Abdul Karim al-Faraji said troops detained a prominent Sunni Muslim sheik, Mohammed Nasir Ali al-Ijbie, who heads the al-Bufaraj tribe, along with 12 of his relatives.

The new operation was under way in several other Euphrates River cities in Anbar, including Heet, Baghdadi, Hadithah and the provincial capital Ramadi, the military said.

Hadithah residents reported parts of the city were bombarded by coalition aircraft overnight. There was no word on casualties.

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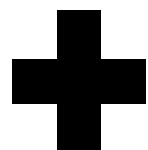
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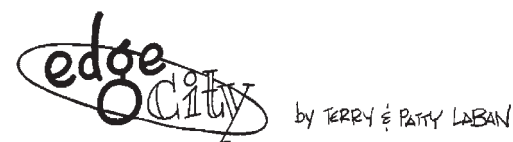
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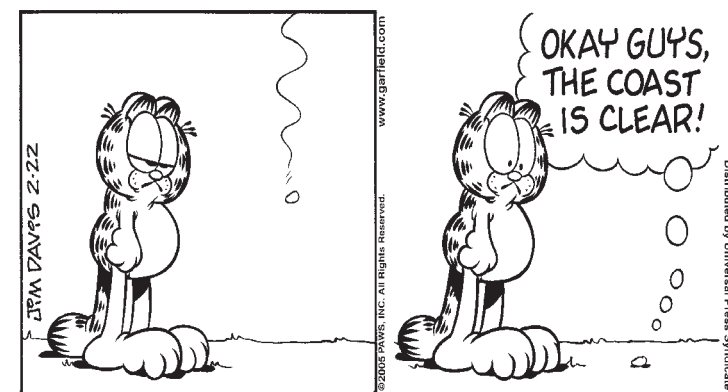


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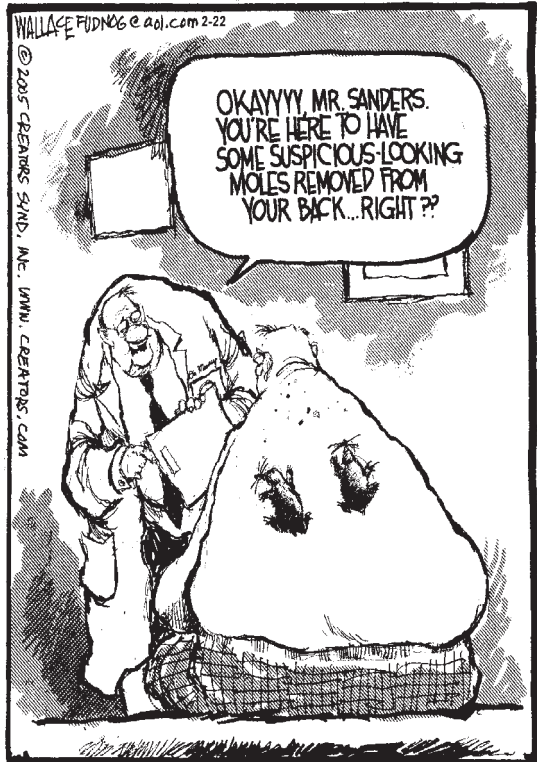


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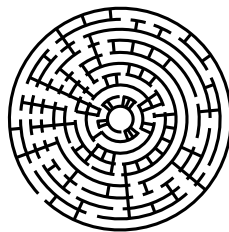
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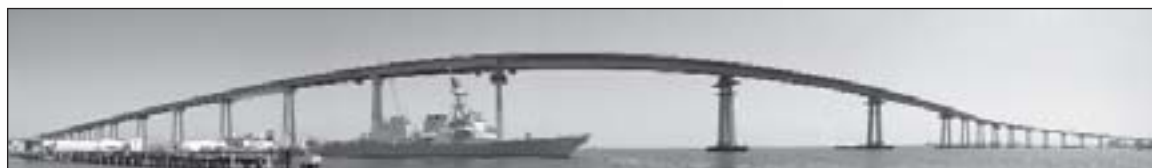
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Role over and play dead: For Strong, it's a living

By The Associated Press

RADNOR, Pa. — Brenda Strong, who plays the deceased Mary Alice Young on ABC's "Desperate Housewives," has a long history of playing dead.

"I must have Haley Joel Osment as my agent, because he only sees dead parts," joked Strong, referring to the actor whose character in "The Sixth Sense" is able to see the dead.

In "Desperate Housewives," Strong's character has shot herself to death but she still watches over the women of the upscale suburb and narrates their activities.

According to TV Guide's Feb. 20 issue, Strong was in several movies and nearly 100 TV appearances before "Desperate Housewives." They included roles playing a dominatrix killed by a machine gun and a character cut in half by the door of a spaceship.

In the show "Everwood," her character's death prompted her grieving family to move to rural Colorado to rebuild their lives.

But she isn't complaining about her dead-but-not-gone "Desperate Housewives" character.

"In a weird way, I have the most job security of anyone on the show," she says. "They can't kill me, my husband can't divorce me, and they definitely can't move me out of the neighborhood, so I'm here for good!"

DOHA, Qatar — Tennis star and magazine cover girl Maria Sharapova says she's well rested and set to make her first appearance at the Qatar Open after missing two weeks with the flu.

The Wimbledon champion is seeded second behind Amelie Mauresmo of France for the \$600,000 event, which starts Monday. The 17-year-old Sharapova landed here Saturday to restart her season.

"I was down with flu and not feeling 100 percent health-wise and that is why I pulled out of the Paris

Orleans VooDoo game. "Two, three or maybe four years and I'll be done and I'll be looking to do something to stay in sports and the AFL's a great avenue for that.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The celebration of George Washington's birthday is also a day to honor the late civil rights leader Daisy Bates.

Gov. Mike Huckabee signed legislation during "Black History Month" four years ago, making the third Monday in February a state holiday in her honor.

Bates served as adviser to nine black high school students — now known as the Little Rock Nine — who broke the color barrier at Little Rock's Central High in 1957.

Her home, where the students often met with her to strengthen their resolve, is designated a National Historic Landmark.

Bates was born Nov. 11, 1914, in the small sawmill town of Huttig. She died in 1999, at age 84.

The University of Arkansas at Fayetteville celebrated its third annual "Celebrating the Life of Daisy Gatson Bates" on Sunday.

On Sept. 4, 1957, a mob of whites protested outside Central High — not far from Bates' home — and Arkansas National Guardsmen, on the order of Gov. Orval E. Faubus, blocked the nine black students from entering.

Three weeks later, after negotiations between Faubus and President Dwight D. Eisenhower failed to resolve the issue, the president sent in troops to escort the students to class.

NEW YORK — New York Giants running back Tiki Barber has been exploring the possibility of becoming an Arena Football League owner.

Barber said he attended a Los Angeles Avengers game with owner Casey Wasserman recently.

"I know I'm not going to play in the NFL forever," Barber said Sunday while serving as a guest analyst in the AFL on NBC studio for the Philadelphia Soul-New

Orleans VooDoo game. "Two, three or maybe four years and I'll be done and I'll be looking to do something to stay in sports and the AFL's a great avenue for that.

"It's an awesome opportunity for me if I get in at an early stage to see a league grow and develop," he said.

DENVER — Singer Patti LaBelle said she takes it as a compliment when younger musicians like Nelly and Kelly Rowland take on her music.

"Whenever they do my songs, I know I'm in the land of the living," she said outside Michael Jordan's party this weekend before Denver's NBA All-Star game.

Jordan, who threw the party to launch the Air Jordan XX, planted a kiss on the rhythm 'n' blues diva on the red carpet. Fans cheered LaBelle, whose latest hip-hop collaboration resulted in a video with Outkast.

Before the party, LaBelle, who lost three sisters to cancer before they were 44, received an award from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. She has worked with a number of charitable organizations on issues like cancer, AIDS, diabetes and Alzheimer's.

"Thank God people are listening," LaBelle said.

TORONTO — Chris Landreth may be going to the Oscars, but he knows that's no guarantee of success: His film honors an animation pioneer who made his own trip to the Academy Awards before landing on the streets here, panhandling.

Landreth's animated short film "Ryan" is a tribute to animator Ryan Larkin, who created groundbreaking animated films in the 1960s and 1970s before falling on hard times with addictions to cocaine and alcohol.

Part documentary, part animation, "Ryan" uses computer animation that peels away skin and bone to reveal fluctuating collapsed skulls, decayed bodies and whittled skeletons as a visual metaphor for personal and psychological scars.

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