

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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Megamember: 3

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FANTASY 5

20 22 24 31 34

DAILY 3

Daytime: 6 9 0

Evening: 4 9 0

DAILY DERBY

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2nd: 05 California Classic

3rd: 02 Lucky Star

RACE TIME: 1.45.60

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In October in Louisburg, Kan., and January in Eau Claire, Wis., cats went missing after hiding behind drywall being installed in houses, eventually getting sealed in. The unnamed Kansas cat was in for three weeks before workers returned and heard an intrawall shuffling noise, and "Mary Poppins" in Wisconsin moved between walls and ceiling for five days before homeowners tracked her down with thermal imaging equipment.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 59th day of 2006.
There are 306 days left in the year.

On Feb. 28, 1849, the ship California arrived at San Francisco, carrying the first of the gold-seekers.

In 1827, the first U.S. railroad chartered to carry passengers and freight, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, was incorporated.

In 1844, a 12-inch gun aboard the USS Princeton exploded, killing Secretary of State Abel P. Upshur, Navy Secretary Thomas W. Gilmer and several others.

In 1861, the Territory of Colorado was organized.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"In science, all facts, no matter how trivial or banal, enjoy democratic equality."

MARY MCCARTHY
AMERICAN AUTHOR AND CRITIC (1912-1999)

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Kevin Herrera/Daily Press

Varsity basketball coach James Hecht conducts practice at Samohi last week. The Vikings square off against Long Beach Jordan in tonight's CIF semifinals.

Vikings win in final minute, look for finals berth tonight

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

SAMOHI — Viking forward Akil Gainer added the exclamation point to a come-from-behind-victory over Long Beach Poly here Friday night, taking a lob pass from teammate Bryan Louff and slamming it home to propel the varsity basketball team into the CIF Southern Section Division A-11 semifinals.

The Vikings, 20-9, seeded 14th in the playoffs, will face the second-ranked Long Beach Jordan Panthers tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Milliken High School in Long Beach.

With Friday's game tied, 48-48, and a little more than a minute to play, Louff picked the pocket of a Long Beach guard, raced down court and tossed the ball up to the 6-foot, 3-inch Gainer for a thundering two-handed jam that brought the capacity crowd at Samohi's North Gym to their feet, Samohi coach James Hecht said.

"That was a huge momentum

swing for us," Hecht said. "The energy in the gym was like I've never seen before in any high school game. The crowd played a huge part in this victory."

"The energy in the gym was like I've never seen before in any high school game."

JAMES HECHT
Samohi coach

After heading into the half tied at 23-23, the Vikings came out flat in the third quarter and soon found themselves down by six points.

"We had been down in situations like that before and we knew that we had a lot of basketball left to

See VIKINGS, page 6

Pier potties proving pricey

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — While rains have put a damper on thoughts of an early summer, the City Council isn't letting a few gloomy days keep it from looking ahead and spending close to \$4 million at the beach and pier.

In addition to a project that replace inadequate pier bathrooms with a larger restroom facility, the council is expected tonight to approve a new

long-term lease agreement with the state that will allow City Hall to have continued influence over Santa Monica State Beach until 2051.

Under the terms of the lease, City Hall would be responsible for the development, operation, control and maintenance of the beach. The department of community and cultural services said City Hall will spend \$3,767,003 on beach

See PIER POTTIES, page 7

New leash on life for SM dog beach

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press staff writer

CITY HALL — Elected officials here want to change state law in order to allow for a dog beach that could be located on a stretch of sand south of Wilshire Boulevard.

The City Council tonight will consider whether or not to support a bill in Sacramento that would allow proponents of leash-free dog beaches to set aside an area at

Dockweiler Beach for man's best friend to run free. The council has drafted a resolution calling for the bill to be amended so that Santa Monica State Beach is included.

California State Parks, which owns the beach here, prohibits dog beaches. The City Council last year instructed staff to work with state officials in authorizing a dog beach pilot program. Those efforts have

See DOG BEACH, page 6

A damper on things



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

A man takes cover under his umbrella on Monday while standing on the public artwork entitled 'The Beacon,' designed by Jody Pinto. The sculpture is located at the California Incline and was dedicated on Veterans' Day 1999.

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HOROSCOPES

Walk to new beat, Cancer

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)

★★★★ Try a conservative approach. At the same time, allow others to have greater say. You don't have much choice anyway, so instead of bucking the trend, work with them. Communicate your concerns in a meaningful way. Tonight: Get some extra sleep. You are going to need it.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Others help point the way to immediate success. Sometimes you might not be too sure of what you want, but not today. Use your sense of direction, luck and innate skill set. Success naturally follows in your path. Tonight: Hang with friends.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Others call on you. Taking the lead, though not always your favorite activity, will seem natural here. Others compliment you on a job well done. Interestingly, the end result will be that you see someone very differently. Tonight: Out late again.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Step back and force yourself to see all the different issues surrounding a problem. You might be surprised by what you realize. Others respond better to a more empathetic approach. Tonight: Walk to a new beat.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Allow others to have their way. You will start to draw the type of results you want only if you relax. Sometimes you cannot run all aspects of the show. Let others act on your behalf. You will like what happens. Tonight: Say yes to an associate.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You will see your alternatives more clearly if you work with the basics. Sometimes you might misread others, perhaps because of wishful thinking! Patience and good communication will make you a favorite. Tonight: Go along with another's request.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You might get entrenched in a problem and not be able to figure out a solution. Much goes on because of your kindness and expressing yourself. You are easily misunderstood. Spell out your thoughts. Tonight: Easy does it.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You delight in creative and intense moments. Others finally understand your intentions. Your feelings warm up, as do another person's. He or she has much to smile about. Loosen up and think positively. Expenses could go overboard. Tonight: Laugh and relax.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You need to think through a decision rather than create an uproar. If you stay calm and directed, somehow you will be able to sort through your priorities. Investigate rather than judge. Stay mum if you are unsure of yourself. Tonight: At home.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ State your case with the feelings and direction necessary. Others respond with sensitivity and caring. Choose your words with gentleness. Honey works better than vinegar. You can prove that fact today. Tonight: Say little.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You might want to rethink a financial decision. Could you be a bit extravagant right now? Be careful not to make quick judgments, as you could easily be wrong. Be careful with new people just the same. Facts and experience count. Tonight: Treat yourself to a relaxing few moments.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Recognize what is important before you act. Spontaneity could backfire on you. You laugh, and another person loosens up. Light and jovial work well -- if you eliminate spontaneity. Let go of tension and serious factors, OK? Tonight: As you wish.

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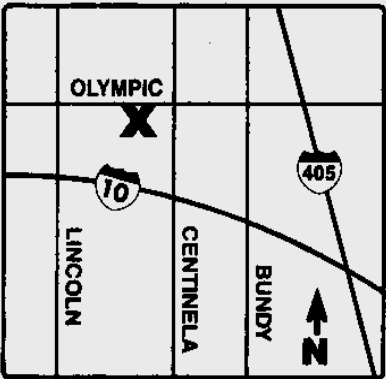
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Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday

Phone: (310) 458-PRESS (7737) • Fax: (310) 576-9913

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LOCAL



Presidential face lift



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

On Wednesday, during an impromptu play at the Santa Monica Family YMCA board meeting, President Jean McNeil Wyner (left), aka ‘Nurse Ratchet,’ uses tongs to extract a wallet from past board president Dave Nelson, while Tara Pamposini, CEO of the Santa Monica Family YMCA, lends a hand. The Santa Monica Family YMCA launched its 2006 Annual Support/Endowment Campaign, ‘Making Tomorrow Possible,’ with a goal of raising \$180,000 by March 28. Contributions can be sent to: Santa Monica Family YMCA, 1332 Sixth Street, Santa Monica CA 90401.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Vintage wheels need volunteer deals

By Daily Press staff

The Center for Healthy Aging is developing a new transportation program for older adults. The program, ITNSantaMonica, is a replication of a successful program in Maine. It is designed to ease the transition for an older adult from the driver’s seat to the passenger seat.

ITNSantaMonica will provide door-through-door and arm-through-arm transportation for older adults in Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades and Brentwood, and will enable persons who no longer drive to remain involved with their communities.

ITNSantaMonica is looking for persons interested in driving older adults in those areas. Volunteer drivers are people who enjoy the company of older people, and the opportunity to give something back to the community. Volunteers drive their own cars and determine their own hours. While a typical volunteer will drive for three hours, once a week, volunteers can drive as little as once a month or as frequently as three or four times a week.

For more information about ITNSantaMonica, contact Nicole Kaplan at (310) 576-2550, ext. 239 or Ellen Blackman at (310) 576-2550, ext., 223.

Santa Monica resident puts pedal to mettle

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica resident Rachel Dearborn will bicycle from Providence, Rhode Island to San Francisco this summer with Bike & Build, a nonprofit organization that mobilizes young people to raise money and awareness for the affordable housing cause.

Dearborn will be departing from Providence on June 1 with 29 other young adults from across the country. The group will be traveling for more than two months and

See BRIEFS, page 6

SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 24" - 60"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 18	LIFTS OPEN 10/12
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed				

JUNE MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 1"	BASE DEPTH 72" - 96"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 35	LIFTS OPEN 6/6
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 96" - 120"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 150	LIFTS OPEN 22/28
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

MOUNTAIN HIGH

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12" - 36"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 10:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 17	LIFTS OPEN 8/16
CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed, Hard Packed				

MT. BALDY

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

SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 24" - 60"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 6:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 18	LIFTS OPEN 14/14
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed				

SNOW VALLEY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 36" - 12"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 12	LIFTS OPEN 6/11
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 57°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (5-10 FT)

Tomorrow we'll see similar junky WSW swell with a slight boost in size towards slightly overhead.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

WSW storm surf arrived Monday with rain...

Westerly swell due by weekend, but possible rain as well...

Tracking long-period southern hemi swell for Monday the 6th but..

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

MONDAY				
LOW TIDE	2:10AM	1.0FT	3:07PM	-1.5FT
HIGH TIDE	8:20AM	6.6FT	9:23PM	4.9FT
TUESDAY				
LOW TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
WEDNESDAY				
LOW TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
THURSDAY				
LOW TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
FRIDAY				
LOW TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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

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The Q Line

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The Santa Monica-Malibu School District is on the hunt for its next superintendent now that its current superintendent, John Deasy, has announced that he is moving on. The school board hopes the selection process will be completed before school resumes in the fall.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, **“What major problems does the new superintendent need to address within the district?”**

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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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Either get involved or shut up

Editor:

In his “My Write” column (SMDP, Feb. 20, page 4), Bill Bauer derided the expenditure of city funds to support neighborhood organizations, which he feels poorly represent community sentiment. I offer in reply the following thoughts:

1. As the self-appointed vox populi of Santa Monica, Mr. Bauer has often lamented that City Hall turns a deaf ear to the wishes of residents, as in the plans for Euclid Park or the parking variance for the Unitarian Church. So why then would he object to City Hall spending roughly \$50,000 per year, a small fraction of its annual expenditures of hundreds of millions, to foment community participation in civic affairs and to organize a collective voice for residential neighborhoods? And if he’s perturbed by the existing system, where’s his proposal for an alternative means “to represent neighborhood thinking?”

2. Mr. Bauer argues that neighborhood organizations cannot represent neighborhood thinking, since their membership numbers are less than the local population. Santa Monica For Renter’s Rights cannot presume to represent all renters and the Chamber of Commerce can’t purport to present the views of all business owners, yet these organizations have a disproportionate influence on the course of civic affairs. What’s wrong with seeking to empower neighborhoods so they have a similar stake in what transpires at City Hall?

3. Like a facile movie publicist lifting the choice portions of a review (as in a critic’s “Worth watching if you enjoy a poke in the eye with a sharp stick” morphing into the blurb “Worth watching!”), Mr. Bauer took out of context my words in a letter to www.surfsantamonica.com and then misquoted me to boot.

What I wrote in reply to Frank Gruber’s assertion that Ocean Park Association (OPA) presumed to speak for the whole of Ocean Park was “We no more purport to be the voice of all in Ocean Park than the NRA can claim to speak for all gun owners or AARP can assert to be the voice of all seniors or the Vatican can presume to represents all Catholics.”

We realize it would be presumptuous for us to claim to represent all 13,000 Ocean Park residents and the diversity of their opinions, as the chances of every woman, man and child in our neighborhood joining OPA are about as slim as the odds of the Pulitzer committee ringing up Mr. Bauer with the good news of his nomination.

Instead, we represent our membership and believe it offers a fair sampling of neighborhood thinking. Yes, our numbers are not yet what we want them to be, although the 100 members cited by Mr. Bauer are actually more like 200. But I think we’re doing pretty darn well for an organization that’s been in existence for little more than a year. And if the city-sponsored mailer serves its purpose, our membership could easily approach 500 before we complete our second year, which would be a significant proportion of the Ocean Park population which votes in local elections and cares about civic affairs.

Rather than push for someone’s political agenda, we try to collect neighborhood opinion to the best of our ability. For instance, we solicited input from more than 600 Ocean Park e-mail addresses on the city’s budget priorities. And our signature effort to get City Hall to fund safety and beautification improvements on Ocean Park Boulevard was almost universally approved by the hundreds who have been asked to sign our petition endorsing this concept. So perhaps when we feel that walking safely across this street at rush hour is hazardous, we’re actually in tune with our neighborhood. In fact, the city’s open space element calls for Ocean Park Boulevard to serve as a recreational pathway and its parks master plan encourages narrowing and green-

ing of streets, so our goals are even in tune with city policy.

4. It’s unfortunate that Mr. Bauer didn’t perform some basic due diligence and attend one of our meetings — they’re open to one and all — or at least contact me to seek some insight into our goals and methods. Instead, he seems to have prejudged OPA based on his own subjective bias. And if Mr. Bauer is really unhappy with the operation and direction of Wilmont, his own neighborhood organization, why not join it, get involved and change it for the better? Perhaps it’s easier to armchair quarterback and simply criticize the volunteer efforts and good intentions of others.

Ted Winterer
President, Ocean Park Association

No one is entitled to park it here

Editor:

I am writing this letter in response to recent articles I have read about a variety of parking issues in Santa Monica.

There is no right to parking. Public street parking is a service commodity that the city of Santa Monica should sell to the highest bidder. They should increase the amount of metered parking they offer and the fees collected by these machines. If an area, neighborhood or business is asking for parking, they should be ready to pay for this service. The city should see this as an opportunity to increase its revenues and not give away for free or next to nothing what rightfully belongs to the general public.

The parking problems that exist today are from several sources. One is the acceptance of development, both commercial and residential projects, that does not adequately provide for parking on private land. Variances should not be given to any new projects or remodels without addressing the need for parking at that location.

Another is the use of preferential parking zones. Preferential parking zones do not work. They move the problem up and down the streets, encourage fraud and add stress to neighborhoods. Besides why should a tenant or an employee have preferential access to a public street over anybody else needing parking such as a guest or customer?

An additional source of parking scarcity is our dependence on our cars for transportation. Anyone driving around these days with gas hovering at \$3 a gallon can afford to pay for parking. If a city wants to encourage the use of public transportation, they should restrict the access to free or privileged parking. Increased parking fees and revenues could eventually fund buses, light rail and other transportation infrastructure without depending upon the state or federal government.

Destinations that charge high fees for parking are not suffering from a lack of use. Downtown Los Angeles, Century City, Beverly Hills, Dodger’s Stadium, the Rose Bowl, the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Disneyland, USC, UCLA, the state beaches and most other desired destinations are all examples of how high popularity can equal high parking rates and increased revenues.

These higher costs shift the burden of choice to the consumer and away from the politicized process of decision making by the city.

John Brown III
Santa Monica

Seeing forest through trees is nice place to be



WHAT’S
THE POINT?
BY DAVID PISARRA

I was at Kensington Park this past weekend, letting my little dog enjoy the free run area, and as he sniffed, dug and romped with the bulldogs and pugs, I read the latest edition of the SeaScape. The SeaScape is the local government’s self-published newspaper. In it are articles about the goings on about town, the happenings at City Hall, the long-range agenda items that the City Council is eventually going to deal with, and listings of the various services that the city provides.

There is a wealth of information available in this publication. A profile of the new City Manager, Lamont Ewell is featured, along with the grand opening of the new Main Library that was attended by children’s book authors Jamie Lee Curtis and Rhea Perlman. A week later, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium was dedicated at the Main Library. I know that MLK was a great man. And I don’t have any resentments against him, but doesn’t he have enough stuff named after him? Can’t we find someone else who is also a great American to honor? Perhaps someone who has a

closer connection to Santa Monica? There has to be someone who did something great from our community. Do we always have to default to the easy icons of our society? It would seem that City Hall is lacking a certain creativity in that regard.

But the city has much going on and offers much to its citizenry. For example, in this edition is the usual informational pabulum, stuff like toilet rebates, and a reminder from Mr. Butts (The Doonesbury character — not the chief of police) that all the beaches and parks are no smoking zones. But City Hall has programs that also give back to those who want to get a piece of the public pie.

We all want to know where our tax dollars are going, so here is one area that might be of interest to landowners who want to re-landscape. Santa Monica has a program available for “Green Garden” grants that will provide up to \$20,000 for gardens that are environmentally friendly. I’m not sure what an environmentally unfriendly garden would look like, but it must exist. The grant application is a nine-page form that can be downloaded from www.smeprd.org and it applies to residential or commercial properties that want to reduce their non-native plant population, use drought friendly plants and a few other categories that most people don’t care about. The grants are good for up to 50 percent of the costs of landscaping.

There also is a ton of arts and entertainment events that are funded by City Hall. Sometimes they are collaborative, like in the Virginia Avenue Park area where residents are invited to participate in three projects that are creative writing based, video art and performance based. Then there are the free concerts and plays throughout the city at various theaters and art centers all over the city.

City Hall also pays for, or subsidizes, hundreds of classes for people to partake in. You can learn yoga, take swimming lessons, play tennis, sharpen those volleyball skills, become a ballerina, and experience what cardio-kickboxing is.

We have a city program for all ages. Seniors can partake in food programs, bus trips, get a lift to the store, and have their own recreation center in Palisades Park. There is a directory of services designed and dedicated just to the seniors in our community. They even have a prom with a 17-piece big band orchestra. I might have to get a new fake ID for that one.

At the other end of the spectrum, we have mommy and me yoga, gymnastics, daycare and summer camps. Sports programs for all kids, along with computer classes, cooking, boxing, and field trips are all available through the Police Activities League.

Then there are the volunteer opportunities in our community. With so much going on, there is always a need for us to pitch in and help. Santa Monica has an office that is

dedicated to coordinating those efforts, and the staff handling the programs can be reached at (310) 458-8300. There is work to be done at the animal shelter, the Special Olympics, and you can meet a police officer or fireman while helping the city.

As a city we have a lot going for us: The beach, the weather and the pier are all assets that keep up a major destination. But we also have a great community. We have community rooms that become gathering places for various social groups, people rent them for a child’s birthday party, and they are used to get fledgling movements off the ground.

Residents of our fair city can take classes at half the cost of non-residents. We have facilities available, grants to make our world better, and a community that cherishes its young and old alike.

Sitting in a park, reading about all that is going on, I can only feel proud to be a small part of the much greater whole that makes up our community. Even though I’m not fond of property taxes, and I disagree with many of the ways in which they are spent, I must say that we do get a lot for our money — if we take advantage of it.

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



On the road to ruin with LA commuters

ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL



Drivers in LA are terrible. It's like watching "Jerry Springer," because you never know what stupid move they are going to come up with next.

Sure, there's no throwing of chairs and getting jiggy with a goat, usually, but the list of dumb stuff people think they can do, and end up doing, never ceases to amaze me.

It reminds me of Dr. Suess' "Green Eggs and Ham," only I'm the curmudgeonly guy that keeps complaining, and the drivers that annoy me are all plopped into one character:

I Am Bad Driver. Bad Driver am I.

That Bad Driver, that Bad Driver, I totally dislike that Bad Driver.

Try it. Try it and you may I say. Heck I do it every day.

Yes, yes you do.

Would you like to cut people off? Would you like to swerve every time that you cough?

I would not like to cut or swerve. To ask me you have quite some nerve.

A turn lane, from a turn lane! Could you, would you from a turn lane?

To cut across four lanes of traffic would be completely insane.

A street, park your car in the middle of the street! Getting sworn at would be so neat!

Because there are open spaces, but blocking traffic just can't be beat?

Then the side, try to merge from the illegal side. Making your own lane of traf-

fic always shortens the ride.

To do that would be suicide.

An accident! Check out the accident! Could you slow down and keeping staring at the accident?

Could you keep moving so my car doesn't get bent?

Could you would you drive through a red light? Could you would you when the cops are in sight?

No, but to watch you get caught would be a delight.

Could you burst into traffic from a street parking spot to almost hit someone only to turn into an alley seconds later? Could you do that on a day-to-day basis?

That doesn't rhyme, like, at all.

Could you, would you block someone in?

Maybe if I wanted my bumper dented in.

Could you almost hit pedestrians within an inch of their life?

You actually do that sort of thing driving with your wife?

Yes I do. Could you block off both lanes of traffic so that nobody can pass?

No because people who do that are total ... jerks.

A bus! What about a bus! Getting your lane taken away within an inch of your life from a bus is always must!

Can you just look where you're driving without causing a fuss?

Could you would you stop and start? Burst into traffic to go the same speed as a shopping cart?

Storybooks are always better when they're not based in reality, or at least when the reality doesn't have to do with bad driving.

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

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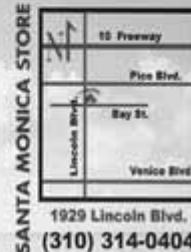
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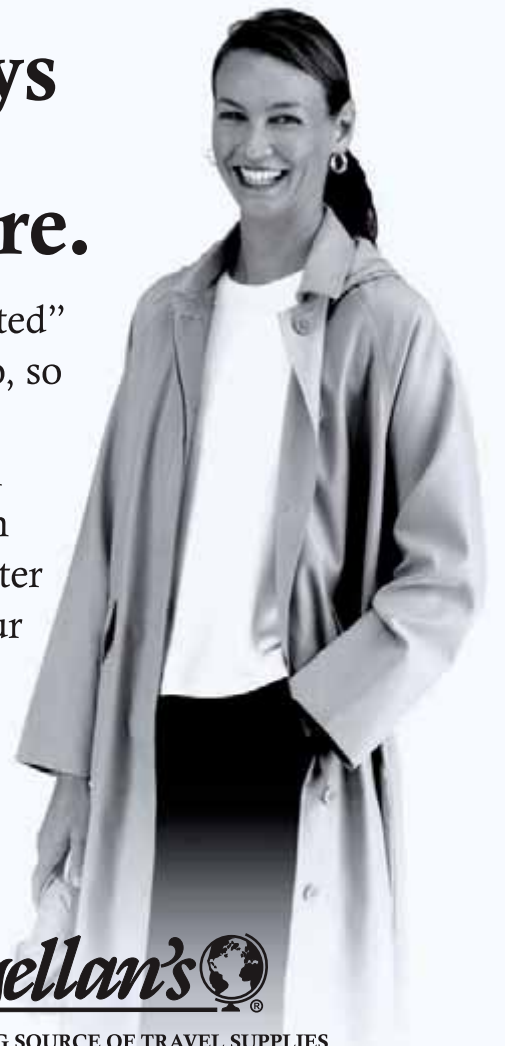
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Lifeguards wade in on doggie debate

DOG BEACH, from page 1

been unsuccessful, according to city staff.

“We are hoping so much that it will pass,” said Georja Umano Jones, president of Unleash the Beach, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating a dog beach in Santa Monica. “Most of us live here because we love the beach. We also love our dogs and consider them a part of our family, but we are not allowed to take them to the beach ... I used to walk on the beach all the time before I got my dog, but now I almost never do because I can’t just leave my dog at home.”

Jones, who has been fighting for a dog beach for years, said she and others have had to drive to Long Beach or Huntington Beach, cities that have created off-the-leash dog beaches.

Opponents of Unleash the Beach’s proposal said they will ask the City Council to vote against supporting the dog beach bill, AB 359, which has lingered in the state Senate, where it is currently await-

ing action in the Natural Resources and Water Committee.

“We are concerned about a variety of issues, but the most pressing of which has to do with protecting the health of the bay,” said Alan Reed, chair of the Surfrider Foundation, Malibu Chapter, which covers the Ballona wetlands up to the northern Los Angeles County border. “We’re also concerned about enforcement. If there are no fences to keep the dogs in, who is going to protect against them running wild?”

“We are not anti-dog,” Reed added. “Many of our members are avid dog owners, but there are just some basic environmental and safety issues that have to be addressed.”

LA County lifeguards are opposed to dog beaches because they do not want to be responsible for policing the dogs and their owners when it is their primary job to protect swimmers. Dog poop can also cause a problem, lifeguards said.

As it is currently written, AB 359

would authorize the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Coastal Commission and the county and city of Los Angeles to develop a one-year, off-leash dog beach at Dockweiler.

The bill calls for all costs associated with it to be paid for by private sources and that funding be available before any costs are incurred. Those interested will have to report to the Legislature on the evaluation of the program within six months of its conclusion.

The bill includes several criteria for evaluation and includes language that protects the state, commissions, county and city of Los Angeles from any liability. The bill also includes a provision that prohibits the creation of the dog beach on any part of the coast that is home to an endangered species, such as the Snowy Plover, which nests at Dockweiler.

Supporters of the bill said other cities have opened dog beaches and they have had no problems keeping the area clean, nor have there been any problems with

beachgoers coming into contact with dogs off their leashes.

The Long Beach Dog Zone is about three acres of beach marked off by cones and in the area nearest to the water. It has specific hourly and seasonal operational times.

Supporters said since there are 175,000 licensed dog owners in the county and only one dog beach (Long Beach), they feel they are being underserved.

“If they would just let us use a part of the beach ... that is currently called the desert, and is pretty much abandoned most of the year, we would do fundraising to pay for not only the cleaning of a nearby storm drain, but also the cleaning of the beach,” Jones said. “We already have 100 volunteers who have promised to clean and monitor the beach for one hour each week. We feel we are responsible enough to handle this. We want it very badly.”

“There are thousands of us who want it and are willing to take care of it if we are given the opportunity.”

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Vikings looking for revenge, finals berth against Panthers

VIKINGS, from page 1

play and that we had to just make a stand and climb back in one possession at a time,” Hecht said.

Following Gainer’s late dunk, the visiting Jackrabbits took the ball down court and launched a shot that banged off the rim. Vikings center Will Freedman grabbed the rebound and was fouled, converted his two free throws to put the Vikings ahead by four.

“You can never relax and hopefully your players don’t relax because anything can happen at the three-point line,” Hecht said of the late lead.

After inbounding the ball, the

Jackrabbits had just enough time to loft a three-point shot that rang true, but was too little too late as the Vikings celebrated a 53-52 victory — and their first semifinal appearance in more than a decade.

The game against Jordan is a highly-anticipated rematch, as the Panthers beat Samohi in the fourth game of the season. The Vikings are ready for revenge.

“It would be sweet,” said point guard Terrance Boozer during a practice last week. “They caught us early in the season when we weren’t playing our best ball. Now we’re a total different team. We are really starting to play as a unit. It’s going to be a tough game.”

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

will help build affordable housing in five locations, including Lawrence, Kan., and Hopland, Calif. In order to participate in the trip, each rider must raise at least \$4,000 to help fund student-led affordable housing efforts nationwide.

“Bike & Build is an innovative organization that encourages young adults to get involved in the affordable housing cause in an exciting way,” said Bike & Build Executive Director Amelia Hanley. “Our riders are motivated and driven to succeed, and these are just the type of young people we need leading the way to eradicate poverty housing.”

The program offers five trips each summer departing from cities on the Eastern Seaboard and ending in four West Coast destinations. On bicycles, the 18- to 25-year-olds will see first-hand the affordable housing need in the country and meet with local officials and community members along the way.

“I’m extremely eager to challenge myself physically, as well as make a positive community impact,” Dearborn said. “I think the magnitude of a cross-country trip on a bicycle underlines the magnitude of the affordable housing crisis our country faces. I welcome the challenge and am very excited to fundraise for the cause.”

Dearborn is a graduate of Marlborough School in Los Angeles and is in her third year at Brown University in Providence. She is studying English literature and is involved in the community as a Peer Leader in her residence hall. A member of the women’s crew team, she is a national scholar athlete, and has competed in the varsity event in two NCAA championship regattas, winning the championship as a freshman in 2004. In the future, Dearborn hopes to continue her passion for athletics and community involvement by coaching high school athletes.

Based in New York City, Bike & Build is a non-profit organization that encourages young adults to address the country’s affordable housing crisis through organizing cross-country bicycle trips. Trip participants support the affordable housing cause through fundraising and building efforts. Since 2001, Bike & Build has contributed \$442,804 to housing groups to fund projects planned and executed by young adults in the U.S.

Sex crimes do in LA deputy

By Daily Press staff

DOWNTOWN LA — A deputy with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department was convicted Monday of three federal criminal civil rights offenses for raping a woman, forcing another woman to perform oral sex, and fondling a third woman's breasts, all while on duty.

Gabriel Gonzalez, 38, of Chino Hills, was convicted today by a federal jury in Los Angeles following a two-week trial.

The evidence at trial showed that Gonzalez pulled over one woman for an alleged traffic violation, drove her to a secluded location, and raped her. Gonzalez stopped another woman for jaywalking, drove her to an alley and forced her to perform oral sex. The evidence showed that Gonzalez stopped a third

woman for an alleged traffic violation and fondled her breasts under the pretense of searching her for drugs.

Gonzalez, who was an eight-year veteran of the sheriff's department when he was suspended in August 2004, is scheduled to be sentenced by United States District Judge Christina A. Snyder on May 22. As a result of the two felony and one misdemeanor convictions, Gonzalez faces up to life in federal prison.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It was prosecuted by attorneys from the Public Corruption and Civil Rights Section of the United States Attorney's Office in Los Angeles and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

'Backbone' gets braced

PIER POTTIES, from page 1

operations this year.

The pier bathroom project, which began in November of 2003, is budgeted at \$1,839,981, with \$248,000 expected to be spent tonight on a design and engineering contract with AZ Architect Studios, Inc.

THE CONTRACT

City Hall first entered into a beach lease agreement with the state in 1949.

In 1981, City Hall and the state entered into a 25-year agreement to provide for supervision of the beach. That agreement expires on Dec. 31, according to a report by City Hall staff.

The new agreement would be essentially the same as the old, with City Hall still obligated to maintain and operate the beach, including all public parking and beach concessions. Any rules and regulations that City Hall adopts must be consistent with those approved by California State Parks, according to city staff. In addition, substantial improvements made are subject to approval from the state and must be in accordance with state construction standards.

City Hall contacted the director of State Parks in January 2005 regarding the creation of an off-the-leash dog park at the beach, but the state enforces a strict "no dogs" policy on all beaches in the Angeles District, according to a report from city staff (See related story, page 1).

NEW TOILETS

With approximately 3 million people visiting the pier each year, the City Council feels the time has come to upgrade its restrooms.

The bathroom replacement project will include new toilets, a commissary, storage area for vendor carts, and a retail kiosk. Improvements to the pier's structure will also be made in order to support the new facility.

AZ Architecture Studio was chosen after a two-month search. The company has designed beach restrooms for San Diego and has received positive reviews from past clients who said the company was cost-efficient and completed projects on time, according to a city staff report.

In March 2004, AZ conducted design meetings with the Pier Restoration Corp., pier users, merchants and city staff, during which time the need for a commissary and storage area was identified.

On Nov. 3, 2004, the restroom design was approved. The roof of the central facility will have a curved roof to mimic the roller coasters at Pacific Park. The existing central restroom will be converted to storage and the rear portion of the existing bike rental shop will be converted

into a commissary where food carts can be stored and cleaned in accordance with health and safety codes.

SUCH WASTE

In addition to improving the pier's bathrooms, the council is also expected to spend \$800,000 of federal grant money to repair and enhance the city's sewer system.

Damaged in the Northridge Earthquake, a sewer main that serves as the "backbone" for the city's downtown area is in need of repair.

The main runs along Colorado Avenue and under the old RAND Corp. property before connecting with a new main under Ocean Avenue. That section of sewer handles roughly two-thirds of the wastewater flow in that area, according to city staff reports.

To repair it, city engineers have recommended that a new main be built to run alongside the older one. Once the new line is constructed, the existing main will be rehabilitated. Eventually, both of the mains would work in tandem.

The proposed location of the new project requires that City Hall acquire an easement at 120 Colorado Ave., which is home to a Holiday Inn. City staff is currently negotiating with the owners of that property, Felcore Hotel Assets Company, LLC. If the easement can't be obtained, city staff will request the City Council to use eminent domain to acquire the easement.

The council has spent \$94,000 so far, including \$20,000 for a feasibility study and \$74,000 for the preliminary design.

BUS FAIR?

To cover additional costs associated with billing for the BruinGO! Program, the City Council is expected to raise fares it charges UCLA students, faculty and staff who travel on Line 10.

The new fares will be \$.69 for local service, an increase of 6 cents, and \$1.67 for express service, a bump of 11 cents.

In September 2002, as part of a one-year pilot program with the goal of reducing the demand for parking on campus, UCLA requested Big Blue Bus enter into the BruinGO! Program. Anyone with a Bruin identification card may pay for the use of a Big Blue Bus by simply swiping the card across the electronic farebox, which identifies the rider as a Bruin participant and then bills that fare to the university.

In the first year of the program, ridership increased by 40 percent amongst Bruins. Last year, there were over 1.2 million passengers.

The change in fares is to help offset costs associated with the new, electronic billing technology.

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Monday, February 27

- 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- Santa Monica Main Library, Multipurpose Room on the 2nd floor, 601 Santa Monica Blvd (use Lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10)

Wednesday, March 1

- 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- Virginia Park, Thelma Terry Center, 2200 Virginia Ave, Santa Monica (use Lines 5, 7, and 11)

Thursday, March 2

- 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm
- UCLA Athletic Dept., J. D. Morgan Center, Press Room (use Lines 1, 2, 3, 8, 12, and Super 12)

Saturday, March 4

- 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
- Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th St, Room 100 A-B, Santa Monica (use Lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10)





Parents need not buckle under



HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?

BY JEAN ILLSLEY CLARKE PH.D.

“Fasten your seat belt,” dad calls as he backs out of the driveway. Mason, 4, continues to bounce around the back seat. Half way down the block, dad’s friend Cliff says, “Umm, Al, Mason isn’t belted.”

“Mason, please buckle up, OK?” Dad’s pleading voice is drowned out by Mason’s loud singing. Dad pulls a piece of candy out of his pocket and holds it up, rattling the plastic wrapping. The singing ceases.

“If you’ll fasten your seat belt, you can have this candy.” Mason grabs the sweet and fastens his belt. Cliff’s curiosity overcomes him. “Did you just happen to have candy in your pocket?”

“Oh, no. I always carry candies. It’s the only way I can get Mason to buckle up. Some trips take three or four before we get home.”

This good dad knows that safety is important and that the rule about seat belts is important. The question is whether Mason is learning that wearing a seat belt is important or is he learning how to get candy. Maybe both.

Adults who were overindulged as children complained to researchers in the Overindulgence Studies about not having had rules or not having to follow them. They said it made their adult lives more difficult. It may make life more difficult for the rest of us too.

Imagine, if things continue like this, how Mason will act at 18. How would you feel

- If you were his classroom teacher?
- If you were his boss at the fast food shop?
- If your daughter announced she is going to marry him?

Cliff thinks about his own situation. His parents live 500 miles away and Cliff’s family visits regularly. To Cliff, seat belts are no problem. He thinks, “The kids were belted from the day they came home from the hospital. It’s not an option. It’s just part of life.”

But what if, like Al, you didn’t start early and now you have to teach the buckle-up rule? Three things:

Tell the kids the buckle-up rule is to be followed at all times from now on. If they are old enough, talk about the safety reasons. Never, ever drive again when someone has an unfastened seat belt.

What if the kids are hassling about wearing them? Find the intervention that works for you.

Chuck says, “Think about the next time you want to go somewhere. Do you think your acting like this is likely to have me want to drive you?”

Marie pulls over to the side of the road, and says, “This car does not go until all seat belts are fastened.”

Mary stops the car and waits, silently, until all belts are fastened.

Joe says in a very commanding voice, “Buckle up!”

Pamela says, “Who gave you the privilege of not following the rules?”

Kelly says, “Anyone who is not wearing a seat belt has the choice to buckle up now or to get out here and walk.”

Richard says, “It’s the law. Everyone has to wear a seat belt. I’m not a law breaker so I’m stopping the car.”

Learning to follow the buckle-up rule (without candy) teaches kids to be safe and responsible.

To participate in a new study on overindulgence and relationships log onto our Web site at www.overindulgence.info.

(Jean Illsley Clarke Ph.D., Connie Dawson Ph.D., and David J. Bredehoft Ph.D. are co-authors of “How Much is Enough? Illsley Clarke can be reached at jiconsults@aol.com.)



DEAR DORIE

Just say ‘no’ to nannies

Dear Dorie,

I have two questions about child care. What is your advice regarding a nanny at home versus a child care center for a working parent? And, how do you feel about different gender baby-sitters?

— Figuring It All Out

Dear Figuring,

I applaud your search for answers and encourage you to keep asking questions. While no parent ever figures it all out, it is our job to keep informed about the latest research and opinions regarding the development of our children.

I’m going to assume that you have an infant or toddler as you mention “child care” versus preschool, which usually begins around 3 years old. It is my opinion — and the operative word here is opinion — that a licensed home-based child care is preferable to a nanny and here’s why.

In this country, we have no licensing or accreditation systems for a nanny. We do have a few nanny referral agencies that will, for a hefty fee, do a background check but that’s it. There is no guarantee of child development knowledge, no confirmation of education and, quite frankly, an abundance of cheap labor. This is a nightmare for early childhood experts as our most treasured resources can be placed in a daily care situation with non-professionals who, often with the best interests at heart, can harm our children.

Ask yourself: Are you hiring a nanny rather than paying tuition so you can save money? Your child’s education is the most important investment you’ll ever make. Are you looking to have someone do some housecleaning? Try cleaning your own home with an infant or toddler around, it’s next to impossible when they’re awake. If you can’t do it, how can they?

Take a look at a quality, licensed, home-based child care center. I think you’ll like what you see.

On your second question, a quality caregiver is a quality caregiver no matter what gender. What you are comfortable with and what your child needs will indicate the answer. 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.)





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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 work-out 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.rhythmchild.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

Puppetollo – 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.

An advanced 10-week parent education course. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

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. ww.childsplayonline.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-B00K.

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, www.santamonicayoga.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 work-out 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

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

Magycopolls – 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.



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STATE BRIEFS

Parish comes down on gay pastor

By The Associated Press

PASADENA — An openly gay Lutheran pastor who formalized his relationship with another man at a church ceremony faces disciplinary action ranging from an admonition to dismissal from his ministerial post, church officials said.

A five-person panel will meet next month with pastor John Kaufman, 53, and members of his Altadena congregation to decide how to discipline him after the Feb. 18 ceremony.

Some members of Kaufman’s denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, said his homosexuality and the same-sex union contradict the church’s teachings.

“The denomination needs to practice tough love,” said pastor Rev. Roy Harrisville, a conservative member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Kaufman insists he was “born to be a pastor.” Still, he offered his resignation to his congregation in October, but parishioners voted 49-1 not to accept it.

The panel will make its recommendation to Bishop Dean Nelson, who leads the denomination’s Southern California Synod. Nelson said the three options for discipline are an admonition, suspension or removal from the ministry.

Nelson said he’s not personally opposed to having Kaufman continue as a minister, but his duties as bishop may require him to mete out discipline. The denomination’s constitution says practicing homosexuals are precluded from ministry in the church.

Deal with LAX lacked foresight

By The Associated Press

EL SEGUNDO — City officials are discovering a downside to a settlement with Los Angeles International Airport that pays for soundproofing of area homes: Some angry residents have already spent their own money to insulate.

The city’s deal with the airport provides millions of dollars to insulate as many as 5,000 homes against airport noise. About 250 homeowners paid for improvements before the city reached the agreement.

“They all have a sense of unfairness and arbitrariness, which is inevitable in this,” El Segundo Mayor Kelly McDowell said.

McDowell said city officials raised the issue during negotiations with the airport but couldn’t agree on reimbursements. Officials didn’t want to jeopardize a final settlement by pushing the issue, she said.

The city is compiling a list of residents who soundproofed and looking for ways to address their concerns. The city is barred from simply repaying them because doing so would constitute a gift of private funds, which is prohibited by state law.

Critics contend money spent on delta has produced little

BY DON THOMPSON

Associated Press Writer

STOCKTON, Calif. — Frustrated members of Congress vented their anger at efforts to save California’s most crucial water source on Monday, saying millions of dollars have been spent to study problems in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta with little to show for it.

Water managers have spent 15 years “spending literally hundreds of millions of dollars, and billions of dollars in lost economic activity, and none of that has worked,” U.S. Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Tracy, said during a field hearing focused on the delta’s problems.

Pombo, chairman of the House Resources Committee and a critic of the federal Endangered Species Act, called the hearing to focus attention on the decline of four key delta fish species. The plight of the fish has raised concerns that the overall health of the vast estuary is being jeopardized by pesticides, agricultural pumping, invasive species and other problems.

The delta is the linchpin of California’s water supply, draining 42 percent of the state’s land mass and providing drinking water to two-thirds of the state. It also is the key water source for one of the nation’s most fertile farming regions.

Scientific studies cost \$2 million last year and are projected to cost \$3.7 million this year in an attempt to find a cause for the historic drop in the number of delta smelt, striped bass, longfin smelt and threadfin shad.

Implementing steps to save those species could cost millions more, according to state water officials, and could disrupt plans to divert more of the delta’s water for Central Valley agriculture and Southern California water agencies.

Criticism of the attempts to solve the delta’s many problems — and reconcile the needs of the farmers, fishermen and municipalities that depend on it — was bipar-

tisan during Monday’s hearing.

“After all the time being under the microscope, you’d think we’d know more than we do,” said U.S. Rep. Grace Napolitano, D-Norwalk.

She said answers are needed “not two years from now but hopefully this year.”

U.S. Rep. Dennis Cardoza, D-Atwater, said blame has centered variously on the pumps that divert water to farmers and cities, on power plants, on invasive species, on a decline in the food chain and on toxic contamination. He said the lack of answers has been disappointing.

“Instead of seeing improvements, the problem seems to be getting worse,” Cardoza said. “Shutting down the pumps has wasted money and water and time.”

Fishermen, environmentalists and political opponents of Pombo also attended the hearing in this port city south of Sacramento and said water diversions are primarily to blame for the delta’s environmental decline.

U.S. Rep. George Miller, D-Martinez, criticized state and federal water managers for proposing an increase in pumping without first studying whether it will further damage the delta.

Biologists’ previous recommendations to reduce pumping in an effort to save fish species have sometimes been ignored or delayed, said Miller, a former chairman of the committee.

“We really don’t know yet” the effect of the pumping on fish, said Mike Chotkowski, a fisheries biologist with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the agency that runs the federal pumps. “We’re working on it.”

The delta is a complex ecosystem with many annual variables in water flow, temperature, pumping and other factors, Ted Sommer, chief of the California Department of Water Resources’ aquatic ecology section, said in response to the criticism leveled Monday.

“We still have a lot of questions that we need to answer over the next couple of years,” he said.

Liner notes: Oceanic scientists enlist cruise ships to collect data

BY TARA GODVIN

Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — Ocean scientists are enlisting cargo and cruise ships to measure water temperatures, ocean currents and even the height of clouds as the vessels ply their regular routes, in a program that they hope will help reveal some of the oceans’ secrets.

“They’re going to change our view over the next few years of the way the ocean actually looks,” said Peter Ortner, chief scientist with the Atlantic Ocean Marine Laboratory of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The long-term data that commercial ships can furnish are what has been historically difficult to obtain, said Thomas Rossby, professor at the University of Rhode Island’s Graduate School of Oceanography.

“Presently, we basically depend on archived historical data to make inferences about change over a long time. ... You’re hostage to the data available in the past,” Rossby said.

The volunteer programs are also cheaper, considering the cost of renting a dedicated research vessel for a single day could exceed \$15,000.

Scientists spoke about the project last week at the biannual ocean sciences meeting of the American Geophysical Union.

With instruments affixed this year to the Norrona, a ferry that makes a roundtrip every week stopping in Denmark, Scotland and Iceland, Rossby hopes to learn more about the cold waters emptying out of the Arctic seas into the northern Atlantic Ocean.

Scientists also have been using instruments attached to the cargo ship Oleander since 1992 to monitor the Gulf Stream as the vessel passes between Port Elizabeth, N.J., and Bermuda. And the Nuka Arctic has been helping since 1999 to give scientists a look at the Gulf Stream along its path between Denmark and Greenland.

With such information regularly collected over a long period of time, researchers hope not just to observe a particular change but to gain an understanding of how the ocean behaves over time, Rossby said.

Working with the University of Miami, cruise ship operator Royal Caribbean International built Explorer of the Seas with oceanographic and atmospheric laboratories for scientists and a science learning center for passengers.



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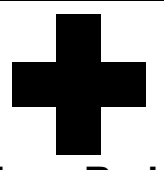
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A conscientious decision to honor U2

By The Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile — Members of U2 were honored with Amnesty International’s “Ambassador of Conscience” award for 2005.

The ceremony was attended by President-elect Michelle Bachelet, Chile’s first female leader, whose inauguration is next month.

“You are a reminder to all of us that the world is not changed only by politicians and governments,” Bachelet told the musicians. “The world is changed by all of us.”

The award was given to Bono, The Edge, Larry Mullen Jr., Adam Clayton and manager Paul McGuinness.

After the Sunday ceremony, Bono met with relatives of political dissidents who disappeared during the 1973-90 dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

It was not the only distinction for Bono dur-

ing U2’s stop in Chile for a concert Sunday night before a crowd of nearly 80,000 people expected in Santiago’s main soccer stadium.

He also received the country’s highest award for the arts, which is named after the late Chilean Nobel Prize laureate Pablo Neruda.

LONDON — A trio of young stars from “Billy Elliot,” the musical tale of a miner’s son who wants to dance, stole the show at Britain’s prestigious Olivier stage awards.

James Lomas, George Maguire and Liam Mower, the three young actors who alternate in the title role, eclipsed “Star Wars” star Ewan McGregor to win best actor in a musical Sunday.

McGregor was nominated for his turn as New York gambler Sky Masterson in an acclaimed revival of “Guys and Dolls.”

The gritty story line and energetic tunes of “Billy Madison” have made it a critical and

popular hit, and it took awards in three other categories at the lavish London ceremony. Elton John’s music and the book and lyrics by Lee Hall won “Billy Elliot” the best new musical category, and it also scooped best theater choreographer and best sound design.

The Laurence Olivier Awards, Britain’s equivalent of the Tonys, honor achievements in theater, musicals, dance and opera.

Though McGregor lost out, his American co-star Jane Krakowski took the award for best actress in a musical for her performance as Miss Adelaide.

A revival of “Hedda Gabler” by Henrick Ibsen was the most successful production of the evening.

Eve Best took best actress for her role as Ibsen’s heroine, best director and best revival went to Richard Eyre, and “Hedda Gabler” also took best set design.

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Santa Monica Daily Press
MOVIEGUIDE
SHOWTIMES FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2006

Broadway Loews Cineplex
1441 Third St.
(310) 458-6232

The Matador
2:15pm 5pm 7:45pm 10pm
Running Scared
1:45pm 4:30pm 7:30pm 10:30pm
Walk the Line
1pm 4:05pm 7:15pm 10:15pm
Transamerica
1:30pm 4:15pm 7pm 9:45pm

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

Neil Young: Heart of Gold
11:40am 2pm 4:30pm 7:20pm 9:40pm
The New World
1:40pm
Firewall
12pm 2:30pm 5:10pm 7:40pm 10:10pm
Munich
11:20am 2:50pm 6:30pm 10pm
The Pink Panther
11:10am 3pm 4:40pm 7pm 7:50pm 9:30pm
Tyler Perry’s Madea’s Family Reunion
11am 12:15pm 1:30pm 4:20pm 5:20pm 7:10pm 9:50pm 10:20pm

AMC7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

Eight Below
1:20pm 4:10pm 7pm 9:55pm
Doogal
1:15pm 3:20pm 5:25pm 7:30pm 9:35pm
Capote
7:10pm 10pm
Curious George
1pm 3:10pm 5:15pm 7:20pm 9:30pm
Final Destination 3
2:20pm 4:40pm 7:15pm 9:40pm
Nanny McPhee
1:50pm 4:30pm
Date Movie
1:10pm 3:15pm 5:20pm 7:25pm 9:45pm
Freedomland
2pm 4:50pm 7:40pm 10:15pm

Nuwilshire Theatre
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
(310) 281-8228

Brokeback Mountain
12:15pm 3:45pm 7pm 10pm
Tsotsi
12pm 2:30pm 5pm 7:30pm 9:55pm

Laemmle 4-Plex Theatre
1332 Second St.
(310) 394-9741

Matchpoint
1:10pm 4:05pm 7pm 9:55pm
The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada
1:40pm 4:25pm 7:10pm 10:05pm
Tristram Shandy: A Cock and Bull Story
1:10pm 3:25pm 5:40pm 7:55pm 10:10pm
Good Night, and Good Luck
1:15pm 3:30pm 5:45pm 8pm 10:15pm

Questions or comments? Email calendar@smdp.com

MORE TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1951, the committee headed by Sen. Estes Kefauver, D-Tenn., issued a preliminary report saying at least two major crime syndicates were operating in the U.S.

In 1953, scientists James D. Watson and Francis H.C. Crick discovered the double-helix structure of DNA, the molecule that contains the human genes.

In 1974, the United States and Egypt re-established diplomatic relations after a seven-year break.

In 1975, more than 40 people were killed in London’s Underground when a subway train smashed into the end of a tunnel.

In 1986, Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme was shot to death in central Stockholm.

In 1993, a gun battle erupted at a compound near Waco, Texas, when Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents tried to serve warrants on the Branch Davidians; four agents and six Davidians were killed as a 51-day standoff began.

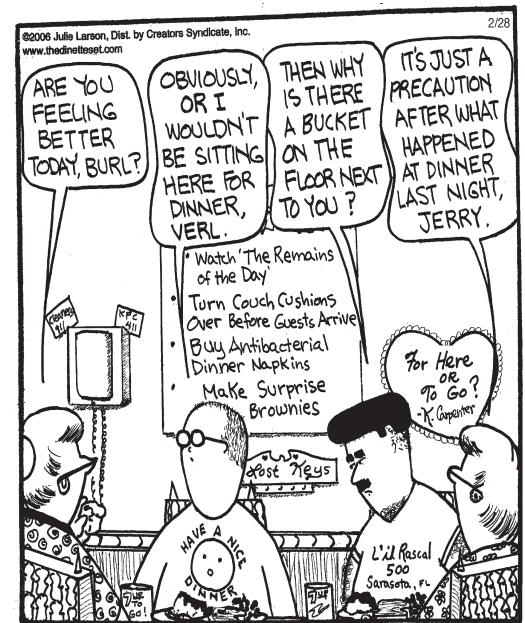
In 1995, Denver International Airport opened after 16 months of delays and \$3.2 billion in budget overruns.

Ten years ago: President Clinton and the Congress agreed on a sanctions bill aimed at driving foreign investors from Cuba. Britain’s Princess Diana agreed to divorce Prince Charles. Alanis Morissette’s “Jagged Little Pill” won best rock album and album of the year at the Grammy Awards; Seal’s “Kiss from a Rose” won for record and song of the year.

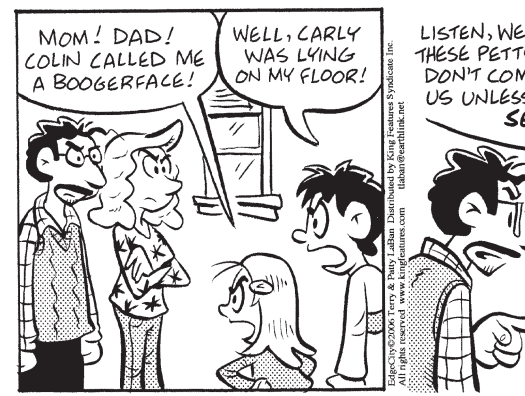


COMICS

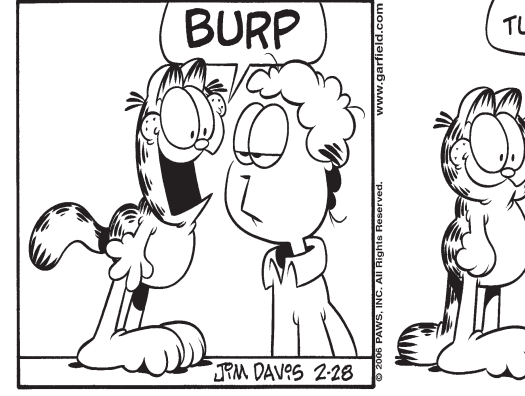
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Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



Mikey ... I think it's time that you faced up to the fact that ... well ... you may not ever be adopted."

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- Put more film into
- Not quite closed
- Make up for
- Long tale
- Making a god of
- "— Lucy"
- Oliver's request
- Spheres
- Tooth-paste holder
- Prize-filled target
- Anger
- Angry
- Young fox
- Strut
- Richard of "Chicago"
- Villain's look
- Letter openers
- Poca-tello's state
- Enlightenment
- Zap in a microwave, in slang
- Bullfight beast
- Some bucks
- Doped up

DOWN

- Cool, to surfers
- Eden name
- Oahu souvenir
- Burning
- Spry
- Art —
- Toward the rear
- alai
- In the past
- Operated
- Dodge
- Wall painting
- Portly
- Cookie creator
- Mixes up
- Frank McCourt book

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Yesterday's answer

- Settle the bill
- Had lunch
- Gras
- Future cow
- Florentine painter
- Com-mand-ments verb
- High cards
- Termi-nate
- Bill word
- Mamie's hubby
- Charged particle
- Refinery supply
- Ap-proval

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Chandler, 78, changed along with Times

BY GARY GENTILE

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Otis Chandler, who as publisher of the Los Angeles Times during the 1960s and '70s turned a narrow, conservative publication into one of the nation's most distinguished and influential newspapers, died Monday at 78.

Chandler, who had been suffering from a degenerative brain disorder known as Lewy body disease, died at his home in Ojai, said Tom Johnson, who succeeded him as publisher and retired as chairman and chief executive of CNN News Group.

Chandler was the scion of a family that wielded financial and political power in the Los Angeles area for decades. As publisher, he spent most of his career chafing against what he sensed was an East Coast bias against Los Angeles and fought to elevate the Times and put it on par with its Eastern rivals.

The Times won seven Pulitzer Prizes during Chandler's tenure.

"No publisher in America improved a paper so quickly on so grand a scale, took a paper that was marginal in qualities and brought it to excellence as Otis Chandler did," David Halberstam wrote in his 1979 book "The Powers That Be."

Arthur Sulzberger Jr., publisher of the New York Times, said Chandler helped the Los Angeles Times grow "in its journalistic scope and reputation."

With his blond hair, weightlifter physique and love of surfing and hot cars, Chandler was a quintessential Californian of his generation. He was an avid hunter as well as a collector of antique cars and motorcycles.

Chandler resigned as the paper's publisher in 1980 following 20 years at the helm. He remained mostly quiet about the paper's operation after he left as chairman and editor in chief in 1985. But he returned as a newsroom hero in 2000 when he publicly berated the newspaper's management for deep cost-cutting and a scandal involv-

ing an advertising arrangement with a sports arena.

Soon after, the Chandler Family Trust sold the newspaper's parent company, the Times Mirror Co., to the Tribune Co., publisher of the Chicago Tribune.

Otis Chandler was born in 1927, the son of Times publisher Norman Chandler and great-grandson of Times founder Harrison Gray Otis.

His mother was Dorothy Chandler, the philanthropist and arts patron who led a campaign in the 1950s to save the financially troubled Hollywood Bowl and a drive to build a permanent home for the Los Angeles Philharmonic — the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

Chandler was groomed from an early age to take control of the family's newspaper. He worked as a printer's apprentice, reporter and in the advertising and circulation departments. He succeeded his father as publisher in 1960 at age 33.

The paper then was considered parochial and partisan, a mouthpiece for conservative political causes. Almost immediately, Chandler set out to make the paper one of the country's best. He moved it toward the political center and angered conservative allies — and family members — by publishing a series on the right-wing John Birch Society.

He hired more reporters, raised salaries, opened overseas bureaus and beefed up the paper's coverage of Washington.

Chandler also expanded the reach of Times Mirror, starting a news service with The Washington Post and acquiring newspapers, TV stations and other media outlets.

"What Otis Chandler was able to do was see this area had the potential to be great and it needed a great newspaper," said Michael Parks, editor of the Times from 1977 to 2000.

"He was a strong leader and dedicated his paper to excellence as well as financial success, and there weren't many of those," said Ben Bradlee, vice president at large and former executive editor of The Washington Post.

Louis D. Boccardi, retired chief executive of The

Associated Press, called Chandler "a beacon for quality journalism."

"In his determination to bring the Los Angeles Times to the front rank of the nation's newspapers, Otis Chandler came to stand for the best of what we journalists believe in," Boccardi said.

While serving on the board of Times Mirror until 1998, Chandler approved the hiring of Mark Willes, a cereal company executive with no newspaper experience, to run Times Mirror in 1995 when the company was mired in sagging profits.

Chandler remained silent while Willes shuttered New York Newsday, a paper Chandler had opened, and began to lower the walls traditionally separating the business operations of the company from the editorial side.

That policy culminated in the 1999 publication of a special Sunday magazine section on the newly opened Staples Center, the sports arena. It was later revealed that the paper split about \$2 million in advertising revenue with the arena. The deal led to unrest in the newsroom, and the paper later issued a front-page apology.

In 2000, disgusted with the direction the paper was headed, Chandler dictated a statement that was read aloud in the newsroom: "I have reluctantly decided that I can no longer sit idly by and watch a very serious decline in the morale of people throughout the Times." Chandler railed against "this unbelievably stupid and unprofessional handling of the Staples special section."

He also criticized the management for staff cuts and reductions in the size of the paper, which he said threatened its credibility.

"Respect and credibility for a newspaper is irreplaceable," Chandler wrote. "The trust and faith in a newspaper by its employees, its readers, and the community is dearer to me than life itself."

Survivors include his wife, Bettina, sons Harry and Michael and daughters Carolyn Chandler and Cathleen Chandler. A memorial service is scheduled for March 6 at All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena.

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