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THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 109



Santa Monica Daily Press

GLOBAL WARMING WILL COST US
SEE PAGE 6

We have you covered

THE LOOKING TO MOVE ISSUE

Carpet cleaning company accused of bait and switch

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Accused of false advertising and elder abuse, a carpet cleaning company in the San Fernando Valley was hit with a criminal complaint by the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office this week.

The 16-count complaint against Sharon Gilboa and his company, Woodland Hills-based Clean Dry USA, claims bait and switch tactics in which numerous clients from throughout Southern California were allegedly victimized, including a Santa Monica resident.

The charges, which were filed on behalf of the Los Angeles City Attorney, include grand theft by false pretenses, false advertising and elder abuse. Three of the victims, including the Santa Monica woman, are senior citizens. The Santa Monica City Attorney will prosecute the case.

Gilboa and Clean Dry USA, Inc. are scheduled to be arraigned at the Airport Courthouse on March 17. The misdemeanor charges each carry a maximum sentence of one year in county jail and fine of up to $2,500.

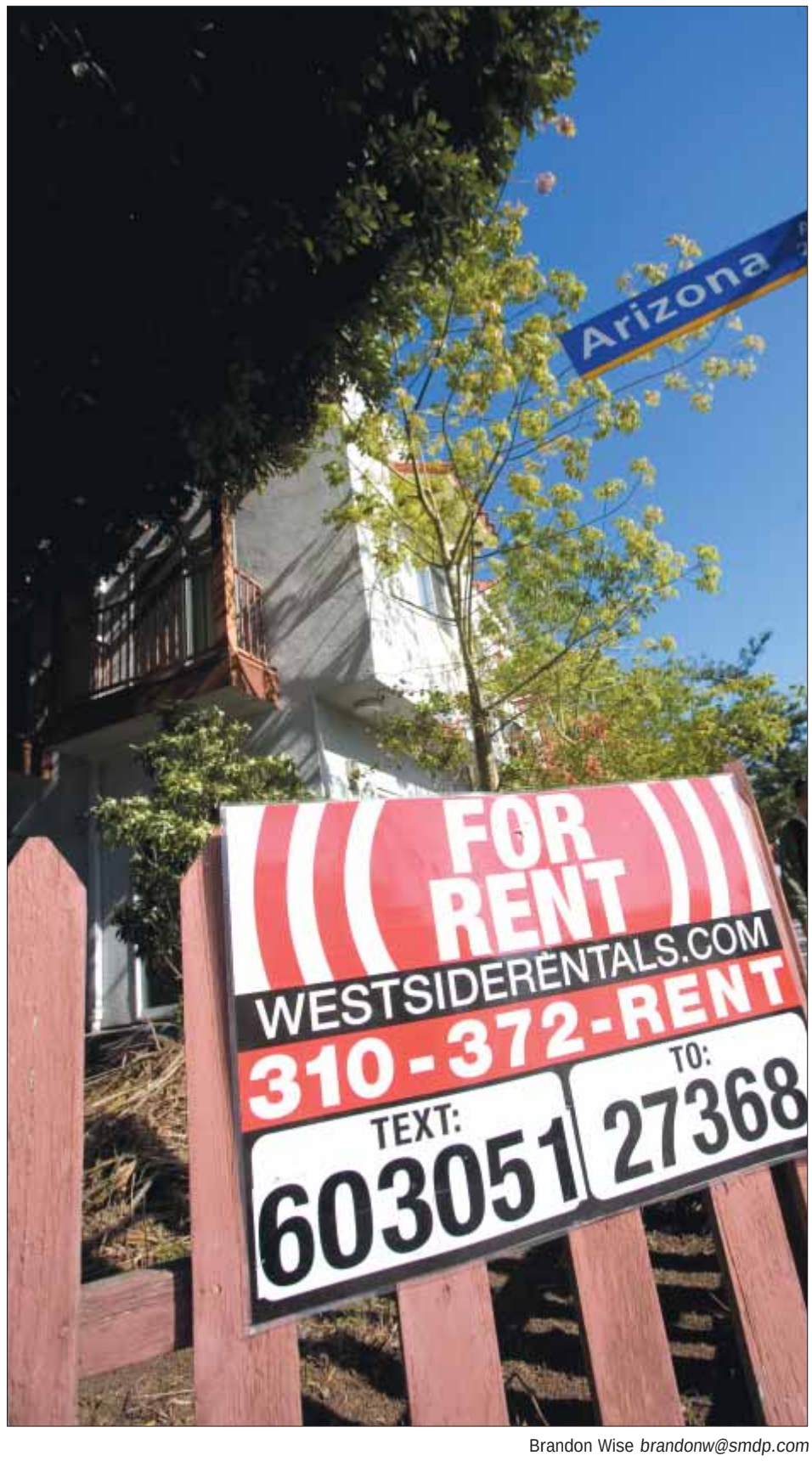
The Consumer Protection Unit with the City Attorney's Office began investigating the company after it received a complaint from a Santa Monica resident in late 2008. Officials ultimately received more than a dozen complaints.

"Our investigation revealed that there were a number of other victims throughout Southern California who had done business with this same company," Deputy City Attorney Adam Radinsky said.

Mark Werksman, the attorney representing Gilboa, refuted the allegations, calling them baseless.

"This case was a result of a huge misunderstanding and misinterpretation of how this company works and what they do for their company," Werksman said. "When all the facts are presented, then it will be clear that there was no wrongdoing on the part of anyone and that what we simply had is a number of customers whose complaints are

SEE CLEANER PAGE 10



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

TIME TO RELOCATE: **A sign advertises an apartment for rent on Arizona Avenue at 26th Street. Apartment hunters are finding more vacancies on the market, many of which are being offered at lower rents than in the past few years, mainly because of the economy.**

Renters are finding more deals, vacant apartments

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE In the short time that Emily Peterson has been looking for a new place to live, there's an undeniable difference she can't help but notice from the search more than a year ago.

"There are a lot of good deals out there," she said.

In a historically competitive rental market where units typically are not only pricey but hard to come by, apartment hunters today are finding more available options and with a surprisingly lower price tag, a change that some in real estate have tied to the economic crisis, forcing tenants facing financial difficulties to move out.

Peterson, who moved to Venice last year, has been looking for a studio or one bedroom apartment in Santa Monica where she works as a publicist, hoping to find cheaper rent and be closer to work.

She believes the rental vacancies could be attributed to the fact that many tenants can't afford some of the more expensive apartments anymore.

"The prices are significantly cheaper," she said. "I don't remember ever seeing anything under $1,100 last year and now there's a good amount."

Mark Verge, the owner of Santa Monica-based WestsideRentals.com, an apartment listing agency, estimates that rent has gone down about 10 to 15 percent in the past year.

But while there are more units coming onto the market, some landlords are still keeping their prices as high as they were about two years ago.

"It's all about price, price, price," Verge said.

He added that more landlords are using a feature on the Web site through which they can directly search for tenants who are registered with Westside Rentals, an action that wasn't necessary before when demand was

SEE RENTS PAGE 11

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Prose and poetry
Novel Cafe
212 Pier Ave., 8 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Read, enjoy and listen to open poetry and prose readings. Everyone and all genres are welcome. There is a 1000 word maximum per reader. Call (310) 396-8566 or visit forthmagazine.com/weeklyreadings.php for more information.

Santa Monica Laughter Club
Shakti's Elements
717 Broadway Blvd., 11 a.m. — noon
Come every Thursday and laugh your socks off in this form of body-mind exercise for all ages and fitness levels. The class is led by Kim Selbert, certified laughter yoga leader. Admission is $10 per person. Call (310) 849-4642 for more information or visit www.kimselbert.com.

Preschool story time
Montana Avenue Branch Library
1704 Montana Ave., 11 a.m. — noon
Listen to stories for free specifically for kids ages three to five.

Pause: A contemplative worship gathering
First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica
1008 11th St., 6 p.m. — 7 p.m.
The community is invited to this new worship experience at the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica at the chapel. Quiet reflection, a retreat from the work-week, peace, meditation, prayer and song are all elements of the gathering. Call (310) 393-8258 for more information.

Friday, March 13, 2009

Jumping the median
The Other Space at Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 8 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Don't miss this mix of theater and live music in this hilarious and unique exploration of love, loss and life as we know it. Admission is $20. Call (562) 547-6207 or visit www.plays411.com/jumpingthemedian for more information.

Salsa the night away
Isabelle's Salsa/Tango/Pole Dance Academy
1334 Lincoln Blvd., 7 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Friday socials offer you a friendly, relaxed atmosphere to learn how to dance hot salsa. Two classes are offered for beginners and intermediates. Enjoy a social hour after class to practice and mingle. $20 buys a 90 minute class and social party practice. Free drinks are included. Call (310) 392-3493 for more information.

Saturday, March 14, 2009

Yoga in the park
Palisades Park
Ocean Ave. and Palisades Ave., 10 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.
Start your weekend off right with an energizing and rejuvenating yoga class in Palisades Park, overlooking the ocean. All levels are welcome. Bring a yoga mat and an open heart. All classes are donation only. For more information, call (310) 560-4317.

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





Rachel Dardashti *news@smdp.com*

1,2,3,4: **Personal trainer Teresa Lance (center) helps her clients strengthen their stomachs during a session at Burn Fitness on the Third Street Promenade. Lance's day often starts before the sun rises, allowing her time in the afternoons to beef up on her studies and check out the nicest restaurants before crowds arrive.Lance left a career as a paralegal to turn her hobby into a fulfilling profession.**

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Teresa Lance, personal trainer

BY RACHEL DARDASHTI
Special to the Daily Press

Well before the sun peaks through the dark night sky and the streets of Santa Monica arise, personal trainer Teresa Lance begins her day. Dressed in tight yoga pants, a T-shirt and tennis shoes, Lance is perfectly attired to take on her first client; it is barely 5:30 a.m. While Lance's day starts before most people are awake, her enthusiasm is apparent as she greets her clients at Burn Fitness with a strong voice and wide grin. It is obvious that she has been awake for some time.

Lance's clients show up back to back until noon, when her work in the office, or rather the gym, is over. In the afternoon, she studies anatomy, physiology, and physical therapy at home. At 46, Lance has finally achieved the perfect schedule for her temperament.

"When I want to go to a restaurant I go at five when it opens. I never have to wait in line, even for the trendiest restaurants," Lance said.

She was not always a personal trainer. Sixteen years ago, Lance decided it was time for a career change. After 13 years of nylons, suits and paperwork as a legal assistant, Lance admits she was not looking forward to "another 25 years" in her position. At that time she looked for other, more enjoyable, professional endeavors.

"I had heard if you can make your hobby your career it was the best of both worlds," she said.

Today Lance continues her education and offers training for physical recovery, healthy living, and weight loss.

On a recent Tuesday morning Sasha Horowitz trained with Lance to aid her recovery from knee surgery. As Lance guided her through several exercises and goaded her to improve her knee function, her expertise and experience were clear. Utilizing free weights, weight training machines and balance balls, she pushed Horowitz to strengthen her knee and enhance her range of motion. Unlike other trainers who may bear down on their clients like drill sergeants with taunting and criticism, Lance offered encouraging words to motivate Horowitz. Furthermore, she culminated the session with a massage that rivaled a physical therapist.

Lance cares most about improving her client's physical abilities. She revels in her clients' small accomplishments such as Horowitz's ability to complete one more exercise than she did on her last visit. Her

SEE **TRAINER** PAGE 10

Putting his life on the line to rescue youth from gangs

BY E.J. TAMARA
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Far from his son and surrounded in jail by gang members with no future, Alex Sanchez decided to change his life.

At 23 and serving his third sentence, he decided to turn his back on the gang life that he had led since he was 14, which had only brought him misery.

With a past of crime and violence behind him, he is now executive director of Homies Unidos, a nonprofit organization that works to rescue kids from gangs in Los Angeles and his native El Salvador.

Sanchez, 37, has helped form a truce between rival gangs, has testified as an expert in legal cases, lobbies for better intervention and prevention programs and talks to youths about the somber future gangs offer.

From his Homies Unidos office in the largely Hispanic Pico-Union neighborhood, Sanchez also provides services such as assistance to immigrants under deportation

SEE **HOMIES** PAGE 12

Former NBA player McIntosh dies at 60

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Kennedy McIntosh, who played four years in the NBA with the Chicago Bulls and the Seattle SuperSonics, has died. He was 60.

McIntosh died Friday of a stroke at UCLA-Santa Monical Hospital, said niece Dara McIntosh. Born in Detroit, McIntosh attended Eastern Michigan University from 1967-71 where he remains the school's all-time leading scorer with 2,219 points and rebounder with 1,426. His No. 54 jersey was retired in January 2006.

He was selected by the Chicago Bulls in the first round of the 1971 draft. He played with the Bulls for one season before moving on to the SuperSonics. His best season was in 1973-74 when he averaged 7.4 points per game. McIntosh left the NBA in 1975 due to injury.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Sign up

Editor:

I am writing to sincerely thank President Obama for lifting funding restrictions on embryonic stem cell research. I am 57 years old and was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease 10 years ago.

Ten years ago, doctors told me that a cure was 10 years away. Now doctors are saying that a cure is 10 years away. Because of Obama's recent decision, maybe this time it will be true.

While I appreciate the action that President Obama has taken, I recognize that the funds critical for Parkinson's research cannot come from the government alone.

That is why I have chosen to participate in and raise funds for the Parkinson's Beach Brigade Walk-a-thon on April 26 in Santa Monica. Registration is $25 and all contributions support scientific research. I urge others to visit www.ParkinsonsBeachBrigade.org and help fund research for a cure.

Mark Siegel
American Parkinson Disease Association
President, Los Angeles Chapter

New campus should be green

Editor:

Let's all hope green Santa Monica's planned huge, high school artificial turf sports fields do not drain their rainwater and their maintenance water (these need to be washed/cooled) into the storm drains and into our bay (just like parking lots).

The green, award-wining Los Angeles Community College District went that careless route on its many campuses and it just increased the area's already overwhelming urban runoff into Santa Monica Bay. Green would mean catching the water and reusing it on the site, so all the change can be for the better as your article states ("New look for an old school," page 1, March 11).

Cassidy Ford
Santa Monica

A loopy idea

Editor:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on Phase 2 of the Expo Line light rail system. We know the city of Santa Monica looks forward to construction of this needed public transit system. Santa Monica has always placed great emphasis on development of public transportation and I am certain the city will assist the Exposition Construction Authority in any way needed.

I believe that Santa Monica's beach amenities will be the destination for a large percentage of your future ridership. In order to enhance this coastal and city access, which will be the ultimate destination for so many riders, I would like to propose a design enhancement.

One terminus at the Santa Monica Transit Center would provide riders with limited pedestrian access. However, the development of a closed loop light monorail system beginning at Bergamot Station could greatly increase rider access to the coast and beaches, give an enhanced rider experience for the area's many visitors, and have minimal impact to transit times.

Furthermore, this design would minimize or eliminate other issues related to grade crossings, safety, and traffic impedance. These issues might otherwise present more difficulty than normal given our relatively dense urban environment and politically active constituency.

The initial light monorail proposal would be a loop traveling the current Phase 2 alignment and then turning north along Ocean Avenue before returning up Wilshire Blvd. I believe that this option would provide a showcase design while creating a unique benefit for your riders and the local community.

Joseph Palazzolo
Santa Monica



The Rand Stand

Don Watkins — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Anti-smoking paternalism is a cancer on American liberty

FOLLOWING SANTA MONICA'S LEAD, Newport Beach is considering banning smoking in a variety of new places, potentially including parks and outdoor dining areas. This is just the latest step in a widespread war on smoking by federal, state, and local governments — a campaign that includes massive taxes on cigarettes, advertising bans, and endless lawsuits against tobacco companies. This war is infecting America with a political disease far worse than any health risk caused by smoking; it is destroying our freedom to make our own judgments and choices.

According to the anti-smoking movement, restricting people's freedom to smoke is justified by the necessity of combating the "epidemic" of smoking-related disease and death.

Cigarettes, we are told, kill hundreds of thousands each year, and expose countless millions to secondhand smoke. Smoking, the anti-smoking movement says, in effect, is a plague, whose ravages can only be combated through drastic government action.

But smoking is not some infectious disease that must be quarantined and destroyed by the government. It's a voluntary activity that every individual is free to abstain from (including by avoiding restaurants and other private establishments that permit smoking).

And, contrary to those who regard any smoking as irrational on its face, cigarettes are a potential value that each individual must assess for himself. Of course, smoking can be harmful — in certain quantities, over a certain period of time, it can be habit forming and lead to disease or death. But many understandably regard the risks as minimal if one smokes relatively infrequently, and they see smoking as offering definite value, such as physical pleasure.

Are they right? Can it be a value to smoke cigarettes, and if so, in what quantity? This is the sort of judgment that properly belongs to every individual, based on his assessment of the evidence concerning smoking's benefits and risks, and taking into account his particular circumstances (age, family history, etc.). If others believe the smoker is making a mistake, they are free to try to persuade him of their viewpoint.

But they should not be free to dictate his decision, any more than they should be able to dictate his decision on whether and to what extent to drink alcohol or play poker. The fact that some individuals will smoke themselves into an early grave is no more justification for banning smoking than that the existence of alcoholics is grounds for prohibiting you from enjoying a drink at dinner.

Implicit in the war on smoking, however, is the view that the government must dictate the individual's decisions with regard to smoking, because he is incapable of making them rationally.

To the extent the anti-smoking movement succeeds in wielding the power of government coercion to impose on Americans its blanket opposition to smoking, it is entrenching paternalism: the view that individuals are incompetent to run their own lives, and thus require a nanny-state to control every aspect of those lives.

This state is well on its way: from trans-fat bans to bicycle helmet laws to prohibitions on gambling, the government is increasingly abridging our freedom on the grounds that we are not competent to make rational decisions in these areas — just as it has long done by paternalistically dictating how we plan for retirement (Social Security) or what medicines we may take (the FDA).

THE FACT THAT SOME INDIVIDUALS WILL SMOKE THEMSELVES INTO AN EARLY GRAVE IS NO MORE JUSTIFICATION FOR BANNING SMOKING THAN THAT THE EXISTENCE OF ALCOHOLICS IS GROUNDS FOR PROHIBITING YOU FROM ENJOYING A DRINK AT DINNER.

Indeed, one of the main arguments used to bolster the anti-smoking agenda is the claim that smokers impose "social costs" on non-smokers, such as smoking-related medical expenses — an argument that perversely uses an injustice created by paternalism to support its expansion.

The only reason non-smokers today are forced to foot the medical bills of smokers is that our government has virtually taken over the field of medicine, in order to relieve us inept Americans of the freedom to manage our own health care, and bear the costs of our own choices.

But contrary to paternalism, we are not congenitally irrational misfits. We are thinking beings for whom it is both possible and necessary to rationally judge which courses of action will serve our interests. The consequences of ignoring this fact range from denying us legitimate pleasures to literally killing us: from the healthy 26-year-old unable to enjoy a trans-fatty food to the 75-year-old man unable to take an unapproved, experimental drug without which he will certainly die.

By employing government coercion to deprive us of the freedom to judge for ourselves what we inhale or consume, the anti-smoking movement has become an enemy, not an ally, in the quest for health and happiness.

DON WATKINS is a writer and research specialist at the Ayn Rand Center for Individual Rights. The Ayn Rand Center is a division of the Ayn Rand Institute and promotes the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead."

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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Bringing home the bacon while others may starve

THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE rose to its highest level last month in more than a quarter century, according to government data released last Friday. Financial experts are predicting no end in sight to the diseased economy that's hemorrhaging money like a Nicole Kidman film on opening weekend.

Newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels are rife with stories of homes in foreclosure and businesses permanently shutting their doors. However, in his weekly radio address on Saturday, President Obama implored the nation to "discover great opportunity in the midst of great crisis."

Some companies are already doing just that. Like KFC, Wal-Mart, Phillip Morris and ShamWow, all of whom have found that their cheap, poorly made and often times injurious offerings are as good as bottomless pots of gold during bleak financial times. Which is why they've managed to cheerfully keep their heads above water (or, in the case of ShamWow, literally hold its own water) and remain in the black.

According to Advertising Age, gun manufacturers are also doing gangbuster (ahem) sales of late. Smith & Wesson is reporting a 40 percent increase in pistol transactions and Sturm, Ruger & Co. has seen an 81 percent uptick in firearm revenue. While the rise in gun sales is partly attributed (ironically) to the new Democratic administration and widespread fears of stricter gun-control regulations around the corner, the rise in criminal activity by desperate people trying to make ends meet and therefore the perceived need for increased security is also the reason for the continued employment of the makers of Uzis and other semi-automatic weapons.

The liquor industry is certainly discovering great opportunity as the unemployment rate skyrockets and the Dow continues to tank. Alcohol sales are thriving as people seek home-based entertainment. People drowning their sorrows with a bottle of cheap whiskey or vodka for comfort in the privacy of the houses they fear losing is all the rage these days. Alcoholics Anonymous is rumored to be reconsidering its "no dues or fees" membership policy, thinking it might as well cash in and strike while the suffering of others is hot.

Online gambling organizations are feeling the love lately, too. As people hunker down and imbibe, the likelihood of them switching on the computer to try to turn their luck around with a few dozen hands of cyber poker or several hundred spins at a virtual slot machine is higher than ever. At least sites like onlinesportshandicapping.com are doing their best to protect gamblers with weak constitutions from losing their pants along with their shirts.

"With college basketball's March Madness on tap this month, many novice bettors are preparing to stay home by creating their online gambling accounts and making their college basketball picks," the Web site says.

Fortunately the amateurs will have some help as they get "ready to roll through the full season of NCAA Basketball betting action with expert picks and free picks." President Obama is said to be mulling a Presidential Medal of Freedom for onlinesportshandicapping.com in honor of their thankless efforts on behalf of people everywhere trying to climb out of deep debt.

Religious organizations are also feeling flush with cash while the stock market nose dives. Take, for instance, the Web site and mail order catalogue Kingdom. Billed as "An Inc. 500 Company with a Heart for Ministry!" whose mission is "To glorify God by building a profitable business that advances His Kingdom," it not only shares its technology with religious-minded individuals, but it also has employment opportunities for the right sort of person as well.

Boasting such services as the Messages-To-Go PromoPack (not to be confused the McJesus Value Meal at the Vatican-area McDonald's) and products like an MP3 player shaped like a cross ("Lets you show your faith while listening to messages or music!"), Kingdom is "committed to glorifying God through quality products and services."

And at a time when the effects of the president's stimulus package have yet to hit Main Street, knowing there exists a company promising you can "make a ton of cash by telling people about us" is certainly a welcome sigh of relief to the 651,000 workers who were laid off last month.

The Gadgets on Kingdom's Web site are powered by Google. And a higher power, too (because even He isn't immune during a recession).

E-mail questions or comments to meredithccarroll@hotmail.com.

The Q Line

Does the House System have a home?

There is talk in the school district that the House System at Santa Monica High School may be done away with to save money. Parents recently pleaded with the Board of Education to keep a system they called important to the development of their children.

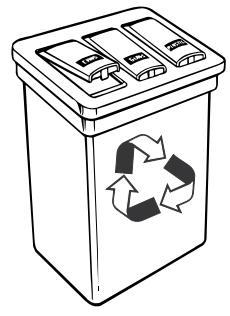
So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Should the district retain the House System or is it time for house cleaning?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. Please limit responses to a minute or less.


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AG Brown says he will follow law on death penalty

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Attorney General Jerry Brown said Wednesday he understands that California's support for the death penalty is now "part of the landscape," even though he opposed executions when he was governor a generation ago.

Brown vetoed the death penalty bill while he was governor from 1974 to 1982, but was overridden by the Legislature at the time.

He also appointed state Supreme Court Justice Rose Bird, who was removed by voters in 1986 for her anti-death penalty rulings.

But the issue has long since been decided, he told reporters after addressing the California Law Enforcement Alliance's 17th annual Law Enforcement Legislative Day conference in Sacramento.

"This is the law. People have voted on it, the Legislature has voted on it. The California Supreme Court has upheld it not once, but dozens of times. So I would uphold that law like I would any other law in California," said Brown, who's considering another run for governor in 2010.

California executions have been on hold since February 2006 because of challenges to the way the state carries out the procedure using a mixture of three drugs.

The state is developing new regulations it says would allow for humane executions.

Even when executions are allowed, Brown noted, California rarely carries out the death penalty.

He said he has not studied proposals to speed up executions.

"I know there are people making proposals, and I'd have to see what they were," Brown said. "It's definitely, you know, it's part of the landscape but it's not free of problems and it's not cheap."

California has the state's largest death row population, with 667 inmates.

The state's Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice found last year that it costs more than $60 million annually, or about $90,000 extra for each condemned inmate.

There are also higher costs for trials, appeals and incarceration.

Global warming to carry big costs for California

BY SAMANTHA YOUNG
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO From agricultural losses to devastation wrought by wildfires, California's economy is expected to see significant costs resulting from global warming in the decades ahead, according to a series of studies released Wednesday.

The reports presented to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's climate advisers illustrate the potential effects of climate change on the nation's most populous state.

Global warming could translate into annual costs and revenue losses throughout the economy of between $2.5 billion and $15 billion by 2050. Property damage caused by sea level rise and more devastating wildfires could push the costs far higher.

The projected financial toll comes from a compilation of 40 studies commissioned by the governor's climate advisers. The reports are intended to provide a comprehensive snapshot of global warming's potential costs to property owners, businesses and state government.

"The numbers indicate that we have a lot at stake," said Michael Hanemann, a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of California, Berkeley. "Californians need to pay serious attention to control our greenhouse gas emissions, and they need to start thinking about adaptation."

The studies were written by scientists from various disciplines based at California universities and research institutions. They include a range of costs from agriculture, wildfires, water supply, flooding and electricity demand. The studies are expected to be released in a comprehensive report by the end of the month.

If nothing is done globally to reduce emissions, hotter temperatures will lead to rising sea levels that will flood property in San Francisco, lead to lower crop yields and water shortages, produce more intense wildfires and cause more demand for electricity to cool homes.

Dealing with those scenarios could cost California between $2.5 billion to $15 billion a year, according to the presentation delivered Wednesday to Schwarzenegger's 16-member Climate Action Team. But even those numbers are conservative, said Hanemann, who reviewed the studies.

For example, lower crop yields are likely to occur during extreme weather when temperatures soar higher than normal. However, the climate models that calculated the $3 billion in potential crop losses used average monthly weather data that is lower than temperatures on the hottest days that cause crop damages.

"The monthly data understates the extreme temperature events — and that understates the damage," Hanemann said.

The annual costs also could be greater at the end of the century, ranging from $14 billion a year to $45 billion in 2085. Total cumulative property losses from wildfires and floods at that time could range from $105 billion to $334 billion.

California's total annual economic output is estimated at $1.8 trillion.

The reports come as California regulators are implementing a 2006 state law that requires greenhouse gas emissions to be cut to 1990 levels by 2020.

Even as that regulatory process plays, emissions have continued to rise in the U.S. Heat-trapping emissions grew nationally by 1.4 percent from 2006 to 2007, according to a draft greenhouse gas inventory released earlier this month by the Environmental Protection Agency.

If emissions are reduced on a global scale, economists say the financial impact on California would be lessened but not eliminated. For example, annual revenue losses for California farmers would be cut in half to about $1.5 billion by 2050, while overall electricity costs actually might be less than today.

Linda Adams, secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency, said the research shows why the state needs to cut carbon emissions aggressively over the next 40 years.

"It will cost significantly less to combat climate change than it will to maintain a business-as-usual approach," Adams said.

Google's openness intensifies focus on e-mail woes

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Google Inc.'s recent pledge to be more open about periodic service outages appears to be drawing more attention to the breakdowns when they occur, even if it's a minor hiccup affecting a sliver of its users.

A prime example of the phenomenon surfaced Tuesday and Wednesday when some of Google's e-mail users couldn't get into their accounts. The outage occurred around 2 a.m. Pacific time Tuesday, with most of the affected users regaining access to their e-mail within 30 minutes.

A "small subset" of Gmail's more than 100 million users were locked out of their e-mail until early Wednesday morning, according to Google. Company spokesman Andrew Kovacs declined to elaborate on how many people couldn't get their Gmail or what parts of the world were affected.

Word of the trouble quickly spread because two weeks ago Google set up a Web page showing the status of all its online applications after a worldwide outage locked people out of their e-mail for 2Ω to four hours. Last month's problems were so severe that Google even gave service credits to businesses and organizations that subscribe to a premium version of its e-mail program.

The service updates, available at http://www.google.com/appsstatus, disclose problems even if the outages involve fewer than 10 people. But Google makes it difficult to know precisely how many people actually are affected because the Internet leader steadfastly refuses to give those specifics.

By making it easier for the public to see when there's a problem, Google also has made it easier for bloggers and reporters to write about the trouble.

Other major providers of free e-mail services aren't as transparent about their outages.

Microsoft Corp. offers a help center with a community board where users can report problems.

A quick check of that board late Wednesday found numerous complaints about Microsoft's e-mail service being unavailable, with some users asserting they had been cut off from their accounts for three days. Microsoft responded with a post that the service was having "login issues."





Restaurant Snapshot

Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Merv Hecht *news@smdp.com*

HOME COOKING: **The Port Royal Cafe on Broadway offers authentic Jamaican cuisine at an affordable price.**

Nothing like the real thing

NOW THAT WE CAN'T AFFORD TO GO anywhere exotic until the economy comes back, we're looking for foreign experiences here in Santa Monica. Lunch or dinner at The Port Royal Café is a bit like a trip to Jamaica.

WHERE: 1412 Broadway, Santa Monica, (310) 458-4147.

WHEN: Lunch and dinner every day except Sunday.

BEST DISHES: Among the two most popular categories — the jerk and the curries — jerk is the best known Jamaican dish and is a direct descendant of African foods. While the favorite jerk is chicken, at the Port Royal the most ordered, the Mahi Mahi, is a firm textured white fish with a fairly spicy flavor derived from chili peppers. It's moist, but comes without sauce.

I'm a goat meat fan, and I go to several Mexican restaurants for barbacoa (goat stew) on a regular basis. So, of course I tried the goat curry at Port Royal.

While it has a good goat flavor, some of the pieces are tough, and there are bones left in.

If you crave curry, I would switch to one of the terrific Indian restaurants which I review from time to time.

One of the best features of the plates here are the side dishes that come with the main courses such as a delicious sautéed spinach cooked in garlic and onion, authentic "dirty rice," and wonderful thin strips of sautéed plantains.

PRICES: You can eat well here for $15, or splurge like I did last time and get a mixed platter and a fruit drink, which will set you back $20.

BEST FEATURE: Authenticity. The ambiance, the wait staff, and the food all make you feel like you're in a different culture — what a nice break from reality. And no one is talking about Bernie Madoff or the stock market.

WORST FEATURE: Not everyone likes Jamaican food.

WHAT TO DRINK: No alcohol is sold, but some diners bring in wine and beer. Usually I like beer with spicy foods, but the mango fruit drink I had last time I was there was refreshing.

BOTTOM LINE: This is on my list of places to lunch once a month or so.

MERV HECHT, the food and wine critic for the Santa Monica Daily Press, is a wine buyer and consultant to a number of national and international food and wine companies. He can be reached at mervynhecht@yahoo.com

MUSM: miss you so much
BF: boyfriend
OLL: online love
POS: parent over shoulder
WTGP: want to go private?
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Every day, children are sexually solicited online.

Ad Council

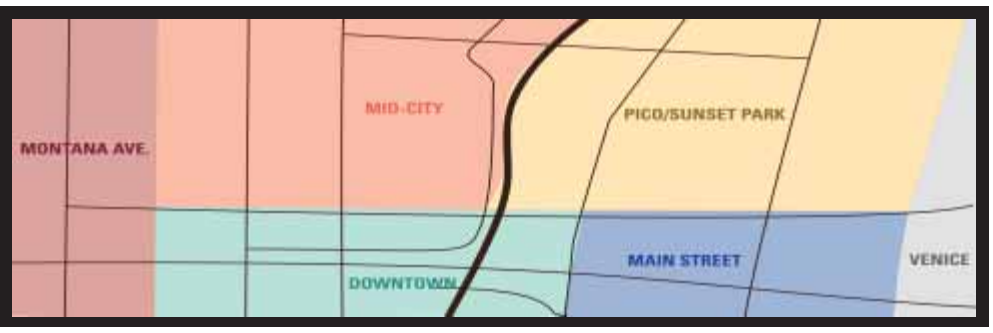
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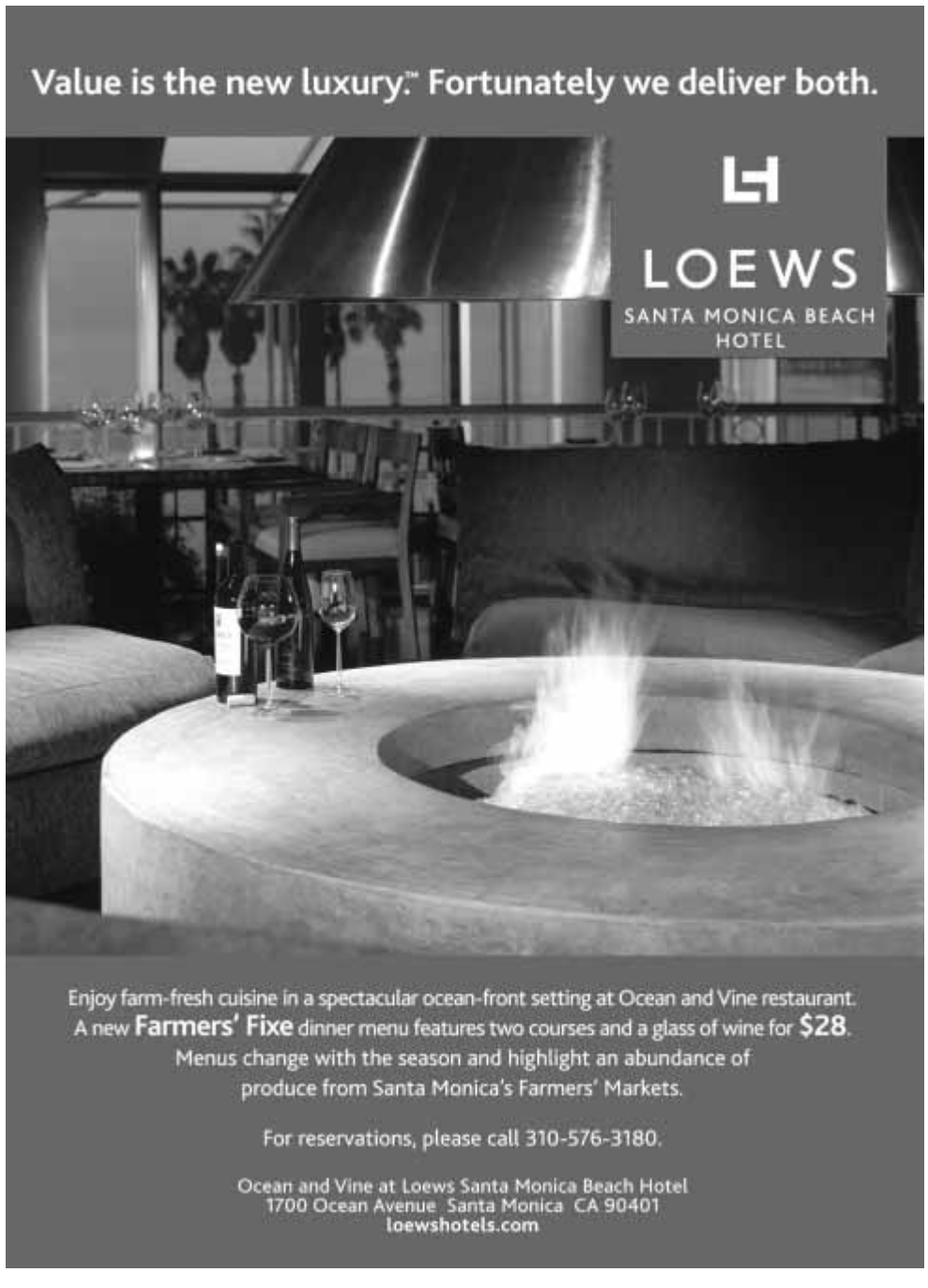


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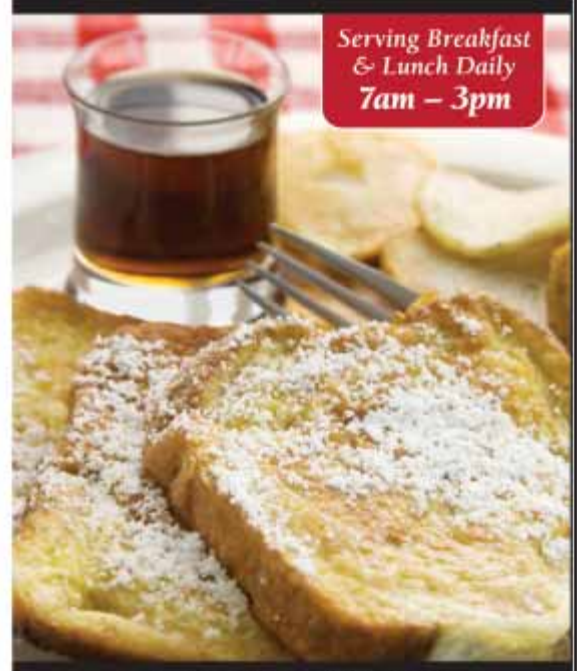
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Hobby becomes career

FROM **TRAINER** PAGE 3

biggest satisfaction, however, comes when she helps someone achieve a meaningful goal.

Lance maintains that the most important part of motivating one's self to live a healthy life is to choose a goal that can be clearly visualized and accomplished. Sometimes it can be difficult to keep clients' objectives attainable and healthy. When encountering someone with an unrealistic body image Lance attempts to work with them to realize their true measurements and discover the reasons behind their unhappiness.

"I always make an effort to bring them back to earth about why they've chosen a particular goal," she said.

There are times, however, that no amount of logical discussion or coaxing can alter mental conditioning. When a client continually shows up to sessions without eating or has a serious eating disorder, Lance will encourage them to see a therapist or will refuse to train them.

In her own life, she exercises regularly and even prompts herself to drink a homemade green concoction chalk full of vegetables and fruit.

Lance's clients have all been with her for several years and do not plan on quitting any time soon.

"Teresa is the best trainer in the city," said Marla Abari, her client of seven years.

It is Lance's attitude and frankness that make her unimpeachable. She genuinely loves her work.

"Personal training is very one-on-one," said Lance. "You need a certain amount of tact, but also be hard-nosed to push people and motivate them."



Rachel Dardashti news@smdp.com
FACE WITH THE NAME: **Personal trainer Teresa Lance.**

news@smdp.com

Company's lawyer claims charges are groundless

FROM **CLEANER** PAGE 1

groundless."

He added that the company was always careful to be clear and precise as to what it was charging for its services.

According to the company's Web site, Clean Dry USA offers various services including carpet, upholstery and area rug cleaning.

The Better Business Bureau, which has received 51 complaints over the past three years, gave the company an F rating. An analysis on the complaints states that customers complain that the technicians employed "high pressure tactics or intimidation to persuade them to agree to much higher priced services."

Some have claimed that after cleaning, the carpet was visibly the same.

"The company responds to complaints by explaining that the customers were aware that their carpets may not come clean with the dry cleaning method due to heavy soiling, and generally agree to send a technician back to the home for recleaning," the analysis continues. "To address allegations of bait and switch, or overcharging, the company contends that customers did not have to agree to the charges, but did, and provided a breakdown of their charges."

Several dissatisfied customers have posted warnings on sites like ComplaintsBoard.com and RipoffReport.com, some claiming false advertising, others alleging that their floors were destroyed in the cleaning process.

One customer on RipoffReport.com stated that the company refused to honor their satisfaction guarantee to refund their money or return and re-clean the carpets.

"They did nothing to rectify the situation," the poster said. "They use deceptive advertising in their ads."

Customers who believe they have been victimized by Clean Dry USA or an affiliate company known as Target Carpet Care are encouraged to contact the Consumer Protection Unit at (310) 458-8336 or smconsumer.org

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CELEBRATION

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Members of the Santa Monica High School boys baseball team celebrate after centerfielder Vince Lawrence scored the winning run in 9th inning at Samohi on Wednesday. The Vikings hosted Taft High School in a non-conference, CIF game in which Samohi won 6-5 in nine innings. The Vikings scored two runs in the 7th inning to tie the game at four and force extra innings. Taft scored one run in the 8th and 9th and Samohi scored one run in the 8th and then scored two more in the 9th inning to win the game. With this win Samohi improves its record to 3-0.

Rents in Santa Monica still higher than in other municipalities

FROM **RENTS** PAGE 1

higher.

"Owners should lower prices more," he said. "We have owners sitting on (units) for six months."

"They've got to lower their price."

While the presence of vacancies might prompt some prospective tenants to negotiate their rent, Verge warns that any bargaining should be approached only after they visit the apartment and meet the landlord.

Bill Dawson, who is the vice president of Sullivan-Dituri, a property management company in Santa Monica, said that he has seen not only an increased number of vacancies but units that are staying on the market longer. The company owns and manages approximately 200 properties in the city.

The result is better value rent wise for tenants, he said.

"I think in general owners are trying to make their units as competitive as possible with the market," Dawson, who is also the president of the Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles, said.

Bob Kronovet, a member of the Rent Control Board and owner of Kronovet Realty Co., said the current situation also favors tenants looking to upgrade their existing unit because landlords are trying to keep their renters.

"It's now a wonderful time for existing tenants who want to move to ask owners for upgrades," he said. "A lot of owners are motivated to maintain and keep their tenants in place."

Thought she's amassed a list of prospective homes, Peterson said she is hoping to negotiate a rent reduction with her current landlord.

She adds that in a strange way, it's been even more difficult to select an apartment because there are too many options.

"Before it was easier because there were not that many in my price range so I didn't have that many to choose from," she said. "Looking on Craigslist and Westside Rentals a couple of times a day, there are more (listings) popping up all the time."

While there are more vacancies, the rental market in Santa Monica is faring better than in other cities.

"The Inland Empire is getting crushed," said Verge, whose company covers cities from San Diego to Santa Barbara. "We're fortunate to be in Santa Monica."

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Ex-gang member risked life to help others

FROM **HOMIES** PAGE 3

orders, job training and educational programs. Homies celebrated its 10 year anniversary in November.

"Alex is filling a void in the community because there are few people working with youth and even fewer with gang members," said Raul Anorve, executive director of the Institute of Popular Education of Southern California.

Sanchez, who lives with his wife Delia and three children in Artesia, southeast of Los Angeles, is a role model for many, in spite of the fact that he has been jailed and deported.

"Alex was influential in getting me to leave the gangs," said Eliseo Figueroa, a 25-year-old Mexican. "He showed me what the street offered me and the street didn't offer me anything."

Like Sanchez, Figueroa joined gangs when he was still in school. The two met in the street about 10 years ago and Sanchez offered the drug-addicted gang member guidance.

Figueroa's mother followed Sanchez's advice when he told her to send her son to Oaxaca, the state where he was born in Mexico.

"Behind my back, he was talking to my mom, telling her how to handle me," said Figueroa, who returned four years ago from Mexico and now works as a busboy. "He told my mom that if she didn't send me there, I wasn't going to change.

Moving back to Mexico worked. Figueroa turned over a new leaf. He returned to Los Angeles and sought out Sanchez to help him find work. He also offered to help Sanchez in whatever he could do.

Sanchez's own story began south of the border, in a poor neighborhood in El Salvador. He arrived here at age 7 and four years later was flirting with gangs, hanging out with members and dressing and talking like them. In 1985, when he was 14, he joined the Mara Salvatrucha, the gang founded by Salvadorans in Pico-Union.

He was jailed three times for minor offenses and was deported to El Salvador in 1994. In his home country, he had to live on the streets, fleeing death squads and local gangs who threatened to kill him because they believed him a rival.

"Many gangbangers or people deported to El Salvador don't have anyone when they arrive and they have three options: go to shelters, churches or the street, where the gangs and death squads are," Sanchez said.

To take care of his son, who had been abandoned by his drug-addict mother when he was 4 months old, and out of fear of being killed, Sanchez returned illegally to Los Angeles in 1995.

He returned to his neighborhood with a new mentality, he said. He got a job in a sweat shop and when he realized that a year had gone by without getting into trouble, he knew he could make it.

"I had to start to get to know myself and ask myself why I ended up in prison and why I joined the gang. I started to question everything I had done," he said. "My biggest struggle was to show my son that I was a good man. I didn't want my son to remember me as an ex-gangbanger."

In 1996, Homies Unidos was founded in El Salvador and the following year, Sanchez helped establish the Los Angeles office, which has helped remove tattoos from more than 240 gang members.

Sanchez was arrested in 2000 by Los Angeles police and turned over for deportation. He said officers picked him up at an arcade because they knew he was an illegal immigrant who had testified against officers in the Rampart police corruption scandal. Thanks to a community campaign in his favor, he was freed nine months later and in July 2002 received political asylum because his life would be in danger if he returned to El Salvador.

Sanchez knows better than most about why kids join gangs and he suggests they find other alternatives.

"Many see gangs as the way to make themselves men," Sanchez said. "They don't have anything to live for, but something to die for."

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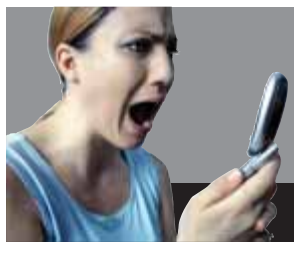


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Can Web site offer homeless man hope?

BY MONICA RHOR
Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON Until a few weeks ago, Tim Edwards was just another one of the men begging for change at a busy Houston underpass, ignored by most drivers who sped on past without a glance.

Now, thanks to an Internet marketing campaign and unlikely allies, Edwards has become the human face of homelessness to thousands of online viewers drawn to his Web site by its deliberately controversial name — Pimp This Bum.

During regular Webcasts, dozens of visitors to http://www.pimpthisbum.com/ ask questions about Edwards' life and his slow fall from office manager with a home, a car, and a future to an outcast short of hope and with little prospect of help.

The Web site also is a venue where visitors can donate money, services and goods to help Edwards yank himself out of homelessness.

Some homeless advocates say it makes Edwards a victim of exploitation, but the organizers say that edgy tone is what makes the project succeed.

"We wanted to insult people's sensitivities so that they would go to the site and see Tim, and people seem to have fallen in love with him. He's funny and doesn't blame the world for his situation," said Kevin Dolan, 55, a marketing specialist from the Houston suburb of Katy who started the Web site with his 24-year-old son, Sean.

If the site had been called "Help the Homeless," many Web surfers might just have clicked on past, says Sean.

The Dolans had initially set out to test an advertising campaign and generate publicity for their new Internet marketing business. They planned to promote a mom-and-pop business, until Sean suggested using the Web site to do some good.

Now visitors to the Web site are getting to know Edwards beyond the stereotype of an anonymous group labeled "The Homeless."

"I'm the world's first online bum," jokes Edwards, a lanky, bearded 37-year-old who talks about life on the streets with a mix of dark humor and unvarnished honesty. "The whole idea of this project is to get people off the street. I'm the pioneer, but I've got friends behind me. If I don't get this right, it ain't gonna work for them."

The Web site features videos of Edwards and a photograph showing him with a hand-drawn, cardboard sign.

There's a "Donate" button where viewers can charge donations to their credit card. And some people have dropped by Edwards' regular panhandling spot to drop off food and fast-food gift cards — or just to shout hello.

This coming week, Edwards is scheduled to enter an alcohol detox program at the Seattle-based Sunray Treatment and Recovery, which is providing the $13,800, 35-day program free of charge. There are plans to air Webcasts as Edwards goes through the program.

Some homeless advocates say the Web site does little to address the underlying issues of homelessness. Even the name makes Anthony Love bristle.

"He is a person. His name is Tim. And to pimp anyone is not something I would endorse," said Love, president of the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County.

The Web site also stirred up an Internet debate over the merits of the Dolans' approach. One blogger named KatDish commented: "Your impassioned pleas for helping Tim get off the street don't hold much weight when you ask him to hold up a sign that says "Pimp this Bum" and let people know he needs a Sharpie and a cheeseburger."

But Edwards says he roared with laughter when Sean Dolan nervously approached him with the idea of the Web site and the proposed name. It was a night in early February when he and several other homeless men were gathered beneath an underpass, "getting drunk like we always do."

At first, he wasn't sure if the Dolans were a threat or just do-gooders bringing food. Now he considers them an answer to a prayer.

"I asked God to make it rain and here come these guys. And I thought this is just crazy enough to work," he said.

Edwards had been mired in homelessness since Aug. 19, 2004 (he remembers the exact date), unable to shake severe alcoholism.

He has become skilled in the art of survival on the street: Keep to your own territory. Beg enough for the bare necessities — food, cigarettes, drink — then get off the corner. Learn who to trust and who to stay away from.

He has seen close friends die from years of addiction, from infections and from simple, intractable hopelessness. And he had come to the edge many times himself, once yearning to lay down and die.

Edwards says he has tried programs aimed at getting the homeless off the streets, but none have worked for him.

"Those programs work for some people, but for some, they don't. We're not 'The Homeless.' Not some monolithic group of people," said Edwards, as he nursed a cigarette and a beer swathed in a brown paper bag. "But this has brought me and my friends a lot of hope. I can't express in words how much hope it's brought us."

Edwards, who says his descent into homelessness began when he "turned his back on God" after the deaths of his mother and grandmother, says he is finally ready to begin detox and find the road back to normalcy. Not just for himself, but for others living on the street.

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Santa Monica Daily Press Visit us online at smdp.com

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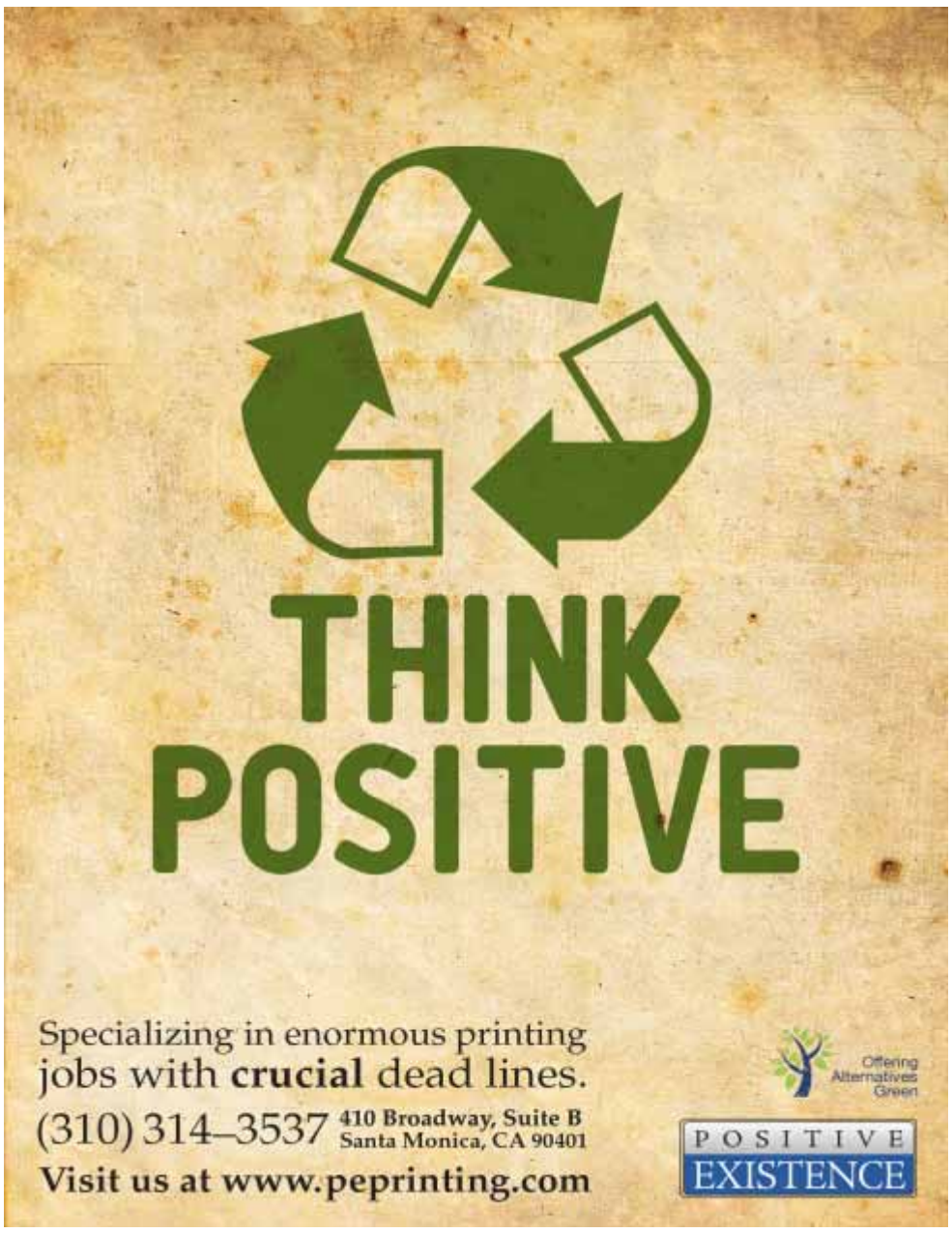
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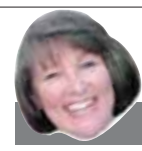
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Play Time

Cynthia Citron — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

It's a family affair

WHEN IT COMES TO TOXIC FAMILIES, John Patrick Shanley's makes Eugene O'Neill's look like the Brady Bunch.

In his virulent family drama, "Beggars in the House of Plenty," currently being reprised at Theatre/Theater in Los Angeles, playwright Shanley portrays his father as viciously cruel, unrelentingly angry, and always violent, and his mother as a classic enabler, standing by wordlessly as her husband bullies his sons.

Shanley, the youngest of five sons in an Irish-American family in the Bronx casts himself as a timid, needy five-year-old continually searching for a sign of affection from his cocky older brother, Joey, his oblivious sister Sheila, and his negligent parents. (The other three of Shanley's real-life brothers are not depicted in this play, presumably because their characters and relationships would only mirror and intensify the ongoing pain.)

As the play opens, Sheila (Lena Georgas), her father's "pet," appears in her wedding dress, euphoric to be escaping the family, to tell Johnny (Chris Payne Gilbert) that he must not expect to see her anymore, as she will not be visiting her childhood home very often. And, true to her word, she disappears from the play at that point.

But not before the arrival of the blustering Joey (David Gail), returning home after a stint in the Navy. Handsome in his sailor's uniform, he is full of inflated plans for his future. But his father soon takes the wind out of his sails by scorning him for having dropped out of high school. And Johnny, starved for attention, burns the house down.

As the play progresses and a decade passes, we see the devastating effects that the parents (Jack Conley and Francesca Casale) continue to have on their sons. Joey, still fulminating with his extravagant plans for the future, is a completely broken spirit, cowering in terror at the sight of his father.

But Johnny, grown to manhood in this loveless household, is determined to make a meaningful life for himself in spite of all the violence and mixed messages he has endured since childhood. In the end, he is able to confront his father and chide him for not recognizing the potential for happiness within his own family and making his children "beggars in the house of plenty."

Larry Moss, who has taught at Juilliard and Circle in the Square in New York, and is currently the Artistic Director of the Edgemar Center for the Arts in Santa Monica, directs his cast with a maximum of sturm und drang and a slight sprinkling of humor. Shanley, who went on from this autobiographical 1991 play to win an Oscar, a Tony, and a Pulitzer Prize for "Moonstruck" and "Doubt" furnishes ongoing proof that a toxic childhood needn't cripple one for life.

"Beggars in the House of Plenty" will continue at Theatre/ Theater, 5041 W. Pico Blvd., in Los Angeles Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. through March 29th.

Call (800) 838-3006 for reservations.

CYNTHIA CITRON can be reached at ccitron@socal.rr.com.

Filmmaker plans to shoot with tiny camera in eye

BY HOLLY FOX
Associated Press Writer

BRUSSELS A one-eyed documentary filmmaker is preparing to work with a video camera concealed inside a prosthetic eye, hoping to secretly record people for a project commenting on the global spread of surveillance cameras.

Canadian Rob Spence's eye was damaged in a childhood shooting accident and it was removed three years ago. Now, he is in the final stages of developing a camera to turn the handicap into an advantage.

A fan of the 1970s television series "The Six Million Dollar Man," Spence said he had an epiphany when looking at his cell phone camera and realizing something that small could fit into his empty eye socket.

With the camera tucked inside a prosthetic eye, he hopes to be able to record the same things he sees with his working eye, his muscles moving the camera eye just like his real one.

Spence said he plans to become a "human surveillance machine" to explore privacy issues and whether people are "sleepwalking into an Orwellian society."

He said his subjects won't know he's filming until afterward but he will have to receive permission from them before including them in his film.

His special equipment will consist of a camera, originally designed for colonoscopies, a battery and a wireless transmitter. It's a challenge to get everything to fit inside the prosthetic eye, but Spence has had help from top engineers, including Steve Mann, who co-founded the wearable computers research group at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The camera was provided by Santa Clara, California-based OmniVision Inc., a company that specializes in the miniature cameras found in cell phones, laptops and endoscopes.

Zafer Zamboglu, staff technical product manager at OmniVision, said he thinks that success with the eye camera will accelerate research into using the technology to restore vision to blind people.

"We believe there's a good future in the prosthetic eye," he said.

The team expects to get the camera to work in the next month.

NCAA

Fragrant foul: Malodorous mascots in March madness

BY JOE KAY
Associated Press Writer

CINCINNATI Clumps of Abby Strietmann's red hair cling to her forehead as she slips out the zippered back of her Blue Blob mascot costume. She slides her 5-foot-1, 125-pound frame wearily to the floor and leans her sweat-soaked back against a cinderblock wall.

Ah, a little cool air.

Xavier's nationally ranked basketball team has just dashed off the court for halftime. With a double-digit lead, the Musketeers would probably rather keep playing.

Not Strietmann. She needs this timeout.

"This is warmer than normal," she says, sticking out her tongue. "Still, it's a lot of fun. I love it."

She's got plenty of sweaty company now that it's tournament time.

Hundreds of college students are climbing into costumes of blobs and Billikens, panthers and peacocks, demon deacons and founding fathers, and heading to far-flung arenas for their own version of March madness.

Like the players, they are fit, they vie for a competitive job, and some even get all their tuition paid.

They're at center court for the best moments of the season — and some of the most grueling, given that teams can play on three or four consecutive days in conference tournaments.

Consider the Hawk, mascot at Saint Joseph's in Philadelphia: As he roams the arena floor, tradition dictates that he also flap his wings during games. Constantly.

The further his team advances, the more the Hawk starts to stink like he's been at the gym for days with no shower.

"All our coaches always joke with me about how bad I smell," said Tim Klarich, the current Hawk.

But like Strietmann, who will accompany Xavier's women at the NCAA tournament, students consider it the coolest thing they've ever done.

"It opens opportunities that normal college kids don't usually have access to," said Steve Klarich, Tim's older brother, who was the Hawk from 2001-03.

Tim Klarich called it "the next best thing to playing."

Just like the athletes, mascot candidates have to make it through demanding tryouts. They must be able to handle an intense cardiovascular workout in a bulky, heat-retaining costume.

Nobody just walks off the street to become an eagle or an anteater — at least not usually — although there's the occasional understudy-becomes-star story.

Tennessee coach Bruce Pearl was an administrative assistant at Boston College in 1981, when the Eagles made the NCAA tournament. The mascot got sick, so Pearl was ordered to put on the beak. He took the role to heart, doing everything he could to distract the Ball State players, even using a ladder behind the basket to wave obnoxiously during free throws.

"They had a meeting after the game and they were going to throw me out. I broke like five NCAA rules," Pearl joked.

There are specific requirements for how those in costume do their jobs. For instance, all Brutus Buckeye mascots at Ohio State are trained to move and pose alike.

"You walk with a purpose," said senior Andrew Aten, one of five Brutuses this year. "You walk with clenched fists. Your arms are kind of slightly bent. Whenever you're standing, it's in a strong posture. That's our persona."

> **"ALL OUR COACHES ALWAYS JOKE WITH ME ABOUT HOW BAD I SMELL."**
>
> **Tim Klarich**
> Hawk mascot at Saint Joseph's in Philadelphia

Mascots of both feather and fur agree the most difficult part of the job is the costume, which sometimes can be unbelievably awkward. Vision is limited through the eye holes — like looking through a mesh-covered periscope.

The most unpleasant part?

There's no delicate way to put it: After absorbing about 10 pounds of sweat each game, the costume really stinks. Fabric sprays and dry cleaning don't help. Mostly, the students just get used to the smell.

Costumes, which can cost thousands of dollars, get careful treatment. The Nittany Lion outfits at Penn State have been handmade by a local tailor for about 20 years. When a feather falls from The Hawk during a game, it's quickly collected.

Mascots also must be on their best behavior, because they are one of the school's most visible representatives. Sometimes, strange things happen anyway.

At a women's NCAA tournament game in 2006, the Stanford tree — the school's unofficial mascot — was ejected for not leaving the court fast enough after halftime. At the men's 1994 Final Four, Arizona's wildcat mascot got tangled with Arkansas' razorback — a red, furry pig — resulting in a knee injury and a lawsuit.

A more common challenge is keeping up with classes. Like players, mascots also feel the pressure at tournament time.

"It can be pretty exhausting," said Ohio State's Aten, a biology/premed major who had to study for exams on immunobiology and Greek art and archaeology, and write a paper on global organ trafficking. "You have to figure out when you're going to type papers or study between games."

There also are perks.

Some schools give their mascots stipends. The Hawk at Saint Joseph's gets tuition covered — a $32,710 benefit for his dual role as team manager and mascot. Penn State's Nittany Lion also gets a free ride.

Some even turn their mascot days into careers, going on to fill costumes for professional teams.

And like every player, they dream of making the Final Four.

Jason Zicchino got to do it in 2000, filling the role of Sparty while Michigan State beat Florida to win the national championship. The experience overwhelmed him.

"I just tried to take a step back for every game and appreciate the moment," said Zicchino, who works in the insurance industry in Texas. "By the time we got to the national championship game, I was in tears. I was crying in the last three minutes of the game."

Every mascot would love to get the costume wet that way.



Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 57°

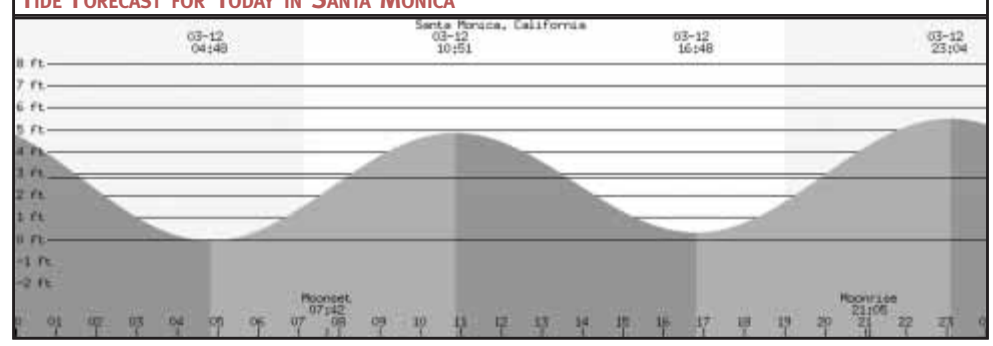
Swell Forecast (3-5 FT)

Thursday the 12th is looking like the peak day for this modest NW/SW combo. West and south facing breaks are looking at waist to chest high surf with a few pluses at standout west facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

Friday the 13th the NW swell should back off to waist high. The southern hemi from Wednesday should back off as well.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of: **March 3, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 16
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 42 / 5
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / 42

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Las Cumbres Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	C
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechuza and Las Arlas creeks	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	F
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	F
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	C
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	F
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	A+	F
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A+	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	F
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	B	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	F
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A	C
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	B
Tuna Canyon	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	F	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	D	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	C
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	F

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

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

MOVIE TIMES

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

Donald E. Westlake Tribute — Double Feature:
The Hot Rock (NR) 1hr 41min
Cops and Robbers (NR) 1hr 29min
Films start at 7:30 p.m.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Milk (R) 2hrs 08min
1:00, 4:05, 7:05, 10:00

Fuel (NR) 1hr 55min
1:35, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li (PG-13) 1hr 36min
2:15, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55

The Reader (R) 2hrs 02min
1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30

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

Frost/Nixon (R) 2hrs 02min
1:20, 4:10, 7:05, 9:50

Coraline (PG) 1hr 40min
1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:25

The Pink Panther 2 (PG) 1hr 32min
2:45, 5:15

Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) 1hr 52min
1:30, 4:15, 7:20, 9:55

Friday the 13th (2009) (R) 1hr 35min
7:45, 10:05

Fired Up (PG-13) 1hr 30min
2:30, 4:50, 7:15, 9:30

Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience (G) 1hr 16min
1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45

Gran Torino (R) 1hr 56min
1:45, 4:25, 7:10, 10:00

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

Slumdog Millionare (R) 2hr 1min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

The Class (Entre les murs) (PG-13) 2hrs 08min
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

Gomorrah (Gomorra) (NR) 2hrs 17min
1:40, 4:50, 8:00

Toyo's Camera (NR)
1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30

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

Taken (PG-13) 1hr 33min
12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 9:50

He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13) 2hrs 09min
12:50, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

The International (R) 1hr 58min
1:10, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20

Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail (PG-13) 1hr 43min
11:40 a.m., 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10

Watchmen (R) 2hrs 43min
1:30, 5:00, 8:30

Watchmen, Digital projection (R) 2hrs 43min
12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30

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

Expect the unexpected, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You could be more vested than you would like to think. You attempt to make an impression with someone else or a partner. Note a tendency to go to extremes. Tonight: Act as if there is no tomorrow.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Your easygoing pace works for many; however, someone has an expectation that you will produce more. Assume more responsibility, and gain professionally. You have a way of getting past a problem if you relax and work with others. Tonight: The unexpected could be a theme.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Your playfulness emerges, even at work. Others who are more serious-minded could have an issue with what you say and share. Try to detach and recognize that perhaps all matters are harder for others than for you. Tonight: Plans could change at the last minute.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Reach out for others. You might be confused by a conversation. You could be hearing the other side of an issue. Knowing that both can be right, attempt to find an appropriate path. Tonight: Opt for the offbeat.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Saying what you feel doesn't mean hurting someone's feelings; it is sharing where you are coming from. You could be surprised by how this seemingly simple approach draws some strong results. Tonight: Hang out with a friend.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Others surprise you with their actions. Just when you believed everything was copasetic, you discover otherwise. What is happening between you and a key associate? Perhaps you are not seeing an internal transformation. Tonight: Go along for the ride.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Work with others directly. Someone appreciates your efforts and thoughtfulness. A surprise around work or your daily life might have you running or putting in overtime. All will be handled. Tonight: Be that lovable Libra — flirt away.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Know what to do and follow your intuition. How you handle a problem could change dramatically as new information floats in. A child, loved one and/or creative project could be full of surprises. Tonight: Keep a secret.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Aim for more of what you want. Choose not to do anything halfway right now, as you could be setting yourself up for a tremendous backfire. You could say too much though, so pick and choose your words. Then a situation will fall more to your liking. Tonight: Be where many people can be found.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Be willing to step up to the plate one more time. One specific person adores your leadership characteristics. This person lets you know in no uncertain terms where he or she is coming from. Tonight: Weigh the pros and cons of splurging.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance. You could be overwhelmed by everything that heads your way. Beware an unexpected expenditure or splurge. A risk where you can handle a loss might be OK. Tonight: Let your imagination make the plans.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Work with individuals as opposed to groups. You could be overwhelmed by everything that you need to absorb. Ask a partner to slow down or chip in. His or her support will make all the difference in the end results. Tonight: Continue the theme of togetherness.

Happy birthday

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

This year, you have the unique ability to get past problems because of your willingness to listen to the other side. This quality becomes much stronger this year. With a partner, you can instrument big changes if you both so choose. Trust your instincts, and you'll come out on top, no matter what. Your sixth sense often kicks in. If you are single, though you work best in a partnership, don't become "coupled" too quickly. If you are attached, the two of you benefit from weekends spent together. Add that romance. LIBRA helps you in any way he or she can.

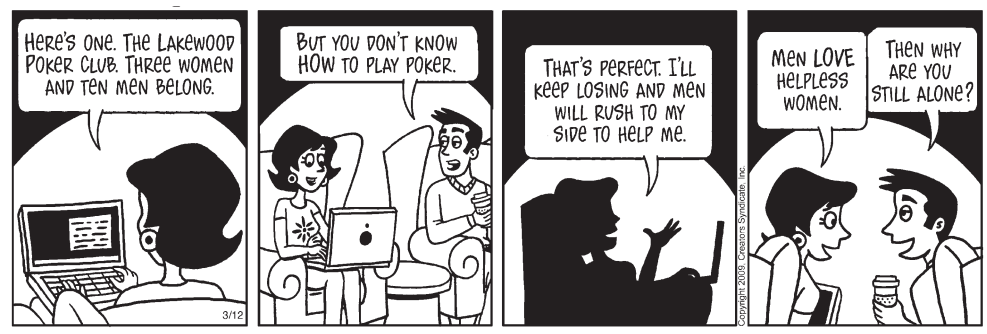
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



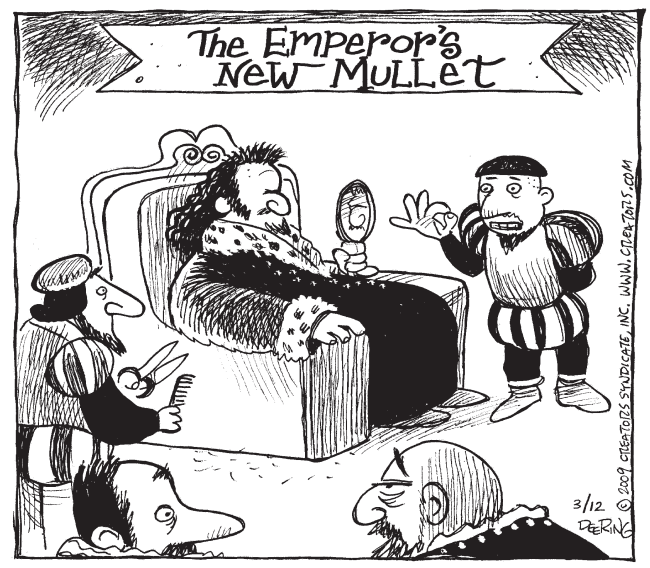
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from ★ (easiest) to ★★★★★ (hardest).

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Rachel Dardashti *news@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Schlemiel
6 Small herring
11 Stayman, for one
12 Sharp-clawed marsupial
13 Sender's need
14 Subordinate to
15 Settlement
17 Shuttle astronaut Jemison
19 Sanctuary
20 Scatter seeds
23 South American ruminant
25 St. Peter's section
26 Storage
28 Snobbish behavior
29 South Pole feature
30 Soaked
31 Supporting
32 Stammering sounds
33 Source of acorns
35 Sound studio creation
38 Spreads for breads
41 Seething
42 Singer Crystal
43 Suit part
44 Suburb of Baltimore

DOWN

1 Spanish article
2 Select
3 Sci-fi traveler's stop
4 Sailors' saint
5 Supplant
6 Smelly critter
7 Seven-ounce bottle
8 Swell, to surfers
9 Stout
10 Sea dog
16 Speech
17 Showy parrot
18 Sherman who coached the Giants
20 Separator producers
21 Statuette for Streep
22 Sobs
24 Silly goose
25 Simian
27 Skinflint
31 Sets right
33 "Seven" star
34 Sighed cry
35 Shred
36 Stat for Clemens
37 Supply with crew
39 Shout to the torero
40 Scandal subject

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

Yesterday's answer

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

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	10
11					■	12				
13					■	14				
■	■	15			16			■	■	■
17	18		■	19			■	20	21	22
23			24			■	25			
26						27				
28				■	29					
30			■	31			■	32		
■	■	■	33				34		■	■
35	36	37			■	38			39	40
41					■	42				
43					■	44				

3-12

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 2 27 31 39 40
Meganumber: 23
Jackpot: $26M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 17 34 39 40 46
Meganumber: 4
Jackpot: $18M

FANTASY 5: 1 15 30 31 39

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 2 3 8
EVENING: 2 1 2

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 06 Whirl Win
RACE TIME: 1.48.01

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In January 2008, London's The Sun found a practitioner of a new art form in which a design is inked, with a tattoo needle, into the sclera, which is the white part of the eyeball. That volunteer (from Canada) may well be the only daredevil, or one of a tiny number, but Oklahoma state senators were alarmed enough that they passed legislation out of committee in February to ban the practice in their state. "If we can stop ... one person from doing it, we've been successful," said Sen. Cliff Branan. An Oklahoma City tattoo artist told KSBI-TV that the law is useless, in that "common sense" will prevent the problem. (So far, only the senators from Oklahoma seem to believe they have constituents who might actually ask for ink to be inserted into their eyeballs.)

■ A member of the Singapore Parliament, Loo Choon Yong, attracted worldwide attention in February when he proposed that his already legendarily hard-working countrymen add Saturdays as a workday, to improve productivity to cover for a declining birthrate. "We should accept that, as a people, our procreation talent is not our forte," he said, and move from a five-day workweek to six.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1938 the Anschluss merging Austria with Nazi Germany took place as German forces crossed the border between the two countries.

1947 President Harry S. Truman established what became known as the Truman Doctrine to help Greece and Turkey resist Communism.

1968 President Lyndon B. Johnson won the New Hampshire Democratic primary, but anti-war Sen. Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota placed a strong second.

1969 Paul McCartney married Linda Eastman in London.

1989 some 2,500 veterans and supporters marched at the Art Institute of Chicago to demand that officials remove an American flag placed on the floor as part of a student's exhibit.

WORD UP!

ululate \UL-yuh-layt; YOOL-\, *intransitive verb*:
To howl, as a dog or a wolf; to wail; as, ululating jackals.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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joey16:	16, male, Hackensack, NJ
robbieW:	38, male, Daytona, FL
b-ball_tommy:	15, male, Pocatello, ID
tu_tu:	16, female, Burlington, VT
duffme:	44, male, Minneapolis, MN
QTpie:	30, male, Chicago, IL
ty1989:	15, female, Naperville, IL
harrys_grl:	12, female, Appleton, MN
slugger20:	17, male, Jackson, MS
qtrback21:	26, male, Brooklyn, NY
suzie14:	14, female, Portland, OR
hiphopper:	13, female, Plano, TX
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2 Bed, 2 Bath
Fabulous City & Ocean Views
Beautifully Remodeled 2008
$1,299,000
Call for Appointment
Easy to Show



2721 Washington Avenue
Charming 2 Bed, 1 Bath
Or
Build Your Dream Home!
Approved Plans & Permits
Included in Purchase Price!
$1,499,000



1135 Berkeley Street
5 Bed, 2.5 Bath
Single Family Home
$1,500,000
Easy to Show
Call for Appointment



11479 Rose Avenue
5 Bed, 3.5 Bath
Craftsman
$1,349,000
Open Sunday,
March 15th
From 2:00 to 5:00 pm

Featuring Your Home First

- To find out how I get your home 500% more exposure online on over 100 websites
- To find out the most up-to-date Santa Monica real estate information
- For a Virtual Tour & multiple photos of these Properties

Visit:

www.SantaMonicaListings.com

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

	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	$2,295,000	$1,695,000
North of Montana	$3,195,000	$1,335,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,995,000	$794,000
South of Wilshire	$1,010,000	$759,000
Sunset Park	$1,299,500	$699,000
Ocean Park	$1,365,000	$825,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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