



BODYGUARD ATTACKS PHOTOG?
SEE PAGE 10

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE MAD DASH ISSUE

TRANSPORTATION



GET ON BOARD

Big Blue Bus reports growth in ridership

STORY BY DAILY PRESS STAFF PAGE 10

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

GOING UP: A woman enters a bus bound for Santa Monica Boulevard on Friday afternoon at the bus stop on Fourth Street and Broadway. BBB officials say ridership has increased by 2.5 percent over the past three years, which translates into roughly 500,000 more trips taken every year.

Schools get major cash

Board of Education spends \$42M to bolster infrastructure

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS The public middle schools in Santa Monica and Malibu received much needed attention on Thursday when the Board of Education decided to spend \$42 million toward facilities and infrastructure improvements at the secondary institutions.

The allocation includes \$14 million for Malibu Middle School, a decision the school board had previously promised to Malibu parents after a fallout in October over what they alleged was an appropriations disparity strongly in favor of Santa Monica. The dispute arose after the board voted to spend \$57 million for Santa Monica High School — an increase over an original district staff proposal — and fund only Malibu High School for the time being. Malibu parents argued that money

was desperately needed for their middle school.

The funds are all part of a \$268 million pot of money under Measure BB, a construction bond measure passed by voters residing in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District in November 2006.

The vote on Thursday, while addressing the concerns of Malibu parents, wasn't without some debate as some board members felt that John Adams Middle School (JAMS) was being shortchanged compared to Lincoln and Malibu middle schools.

The Measure BB District Advisory Committee recommended that John Adams receive \$12 million to Lincoln's \$16 million.

Board President Oscar de la Torre argued that John Adams Middle School — through which most of the district's socio-economically disadvantaged students matriculate — should receive more of the Measure BB pie, challenging his fellow board members to act on the district's mission of equality for all.

"We talk the talk, we have to walk the walk," de la Torre said.

He suggested that \$1 million a piece be

SEE SCHOOLS PAGE 12

Structures facing changes

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN, SM Local workers and shoppers that currently take advantage of the three hours of free parking at two city-owned parking garages might soon have to pull out their wallets.

City officials are proposing to change the way parking garages No. 7 and 8 — which about the temporarily defunct Santa Monica Place — are operated, shifting from the current method in which cars freely flow through to one where they would be stopped by parking attendants.

The change would bring the garages in line with the rest of the city-owned structures in Downtown, creating consistency in pricing and avoid confusion for the different parking policies, according to city officials. The operational transformation, coupled with facade improvements, is expected to be completed to coincide with the reopening of the mall, which is currently undergoing renovation, in fall 2009.

"It will allow us to better manage parking throughout the downtown, including managing peak parking demands,"

SEE PARKING PAGE 7

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Calendar

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WEEKEND EDITION, MARCH 15-16, 2008

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Dressing up with the Red Cross

101 Wilshire Blvd., 5:30 p.m.

The American Red Cross of Santa Monica's Red Tie Affair promises to be a fun-filled and inspiring evening including fine dining, music, live & silent auctions and entertainment. Awards will be presented to community leaders, the Santa Monica Fire Department and the cast and crew of the hit ABC Television show, "Grey's Anatomy."

For information call, (310) 394-3773.

Rolling with Ray

Westside, 1 p.m.

Novelist Raymond Chandler gravitated to sin and debauchery, so Santa Monica in the 1930s was a frequent stop for Philip Marlowe, one of his most popular characters. From shady doctors to second wives with pasts to crooked cops with a loathing for a mouthy PI, this tour has it all. Chandler's canonization of sin, wealth and sunshine on L.A.'s Westside fed the abiding myths of the American hard-boiled genre and play into the popular conception of the region. For information, call (323)223-2767.

Travelin' Dylan

2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Brentwood, call for times

Skirball's "Bob Dylan's American Journey" exhibit includes handwritten song lyrics, posters, and a recording of his first-ever, never-released concert. Included is an area where you can play drums with Dylan — much like Bono sang with Sinatra. General admission is \$10, \$7 for seniors and students, and free on Thursdays. Visit www.skirball.org for more information.

Reach out and touch someone

1341 Lake St., Venice, 2 p.m. — 6 p.m.

Planet Social Sports games and matches are followed by team gatherings at local bars, which include discounted food and drinks, along with social activities. Men and women must be 21 to play. Check the Web site for specific times and locations www.planetsocialsports.com.

Sunday, March 16, 2008

Get your Monty on

2627 Pico Blvd., Call for times

The Santa Monica Theatre Guild at the Morgan-Wixson Theatre presents "The Full Monty." The show runs March 14 through April 12 (Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.). This musical adaptation of the comedic British film turns the "let's put on a show" genre on its ear, as a group of unemployed steelworkers prepares to present their own Chippendales-style show in working-class Buffalo, New York. For information, call (310) 936-1338.

Improve eclectically

1323-A Third St. Promenade, Noon — 3 p.m.

Westside Eclectic's Level 1 Improv class is an introduction to the art of improv comedy. The intro covers core improv ideals, concepts and vocabulary such as hyper-listening, give and take, yes-anding, efficient communication and emotional response. The WE teaching staff creates a warm and open learning environment that facilitates establishing the foundation of a seasoned improviser. For more information, e-mail classes@westsideeclectic.com.

What's in this Black Box?

12420 Santa Monica Blvd., West L.A.,
8 p.m. — 12 a.m.

Black Box Theatre presents Charles Busch's legendary camp comedy, "Vampire Lesbians of Sodom," follows two vampire lesbians through time. We're not kidding, that's really the plot. For information, call (310) 712-5711.

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.



Critic of City Hall passes

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN Longtime political watchdog Joe Natoli, who became a vocal fixture at City Council meetings as he challenged elected officials to be more accountable to their constituents, died earlier this week of a massive stroke at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center. He was 55 years old.



JOE NATOLI

Renowned for a passion for all things Santa Monica, which often led to confrontational and at times controversial exchanges with City Hall and the Bayside District Corp., Natoli, who lived in the Mid-City area just off Broadway, became known around town as a gadfly who would attend just about any public meeting held, offering his opinions on development, traffic, homelessness, public safety, city finances, schools — basically anything and everything.

“He was all over the place, trying to affect change,” said peace activist and fellow gadfly Jerry Rubin, who became good friends with Natoli during late-night council meetings when they were often the only two left in the room besides those on the dais.

“I am going to miss him and I think even the City Council and Bayside, whom he seemed to blame for everything bad happening in the world, are going to miss him, too,” Rubin added. “Some of the things he said I thought were incredulous, but what he said, he felt passion about.”

Passion is a word many people who knew Natoli used to describe him. Irksome was another, particularly from those who were targets of his criticism.

“In Santa Monica we definitely have a love-hate relationship with our gadflies,

SEE OBIT PAGE 13

Experts say schools flawed

By Daily Press Staff

SANTA MONICA A panel of education experts says California's public schools are fundamentally flawed and need deep changes to properly serve the state's 6.3 million students.

The panel says one way to improve schools is to make the state's education bureaucracy more efficient and accountable. The experts also recommend training teachers better and making preschool universal.

The recommendations are part of a long-awaited report released Friday by the Governor's Committee on Education Excellence. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, who unveiled the report at a press conference at the Milken Institute in Santa Monica, appointed the panel nearly three years ago to overhaul California's edu-

cational system.

“Everyone in this room knows that education, like other state programs, is going to face cuts next year,” Schwarzenegger said. “We would not have to put the schools or the teachers or the entire education system through this agony, through the uncertainties, on this roller-coaster ride where everyone has to hold on for dear life, if we reformed the state budget system once and for all.”

The report says more money is needed, but its release comes as the state struggles with a multibillion-dollar budget deficit.

Schwarzenegger wants to cut education spending by \$4.3 billion in July. Saturday is the deadline for schools to notify teachers that they may be laid off because of budget cuts.

As many as 20,000 teachers, administrators, librarians, school nurses and other support staff could be laid off across California in response to the cuts, state Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell said Friday.

During a visit to Inglewood High School — where more than a dozen teachers could lose their jobs — O'Connell said Schwarzenegger's proposed cuts to education could be devastating for schools across the state.

“We have already learned that for many school districts up and down the state, summer school is going to be significantly scaled back, if offered at all,” he said. “Far too many athletic programs, too many programs in the arts, far too many of our AP (advanced

SEE CUTS PAGE 12



LEARNING THE ROPES

Philip Parks, also known as Rental Man, tells those looking to become him about the challenges of the job, which includes making a fool out of one's self to advertise rental listings. Santa Monica-based Westside Rentals held tryouts to find their next Rental Man on Friday afternoon. The job pays as much as \$60,00 and includes tickets to prime sporting events.

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Who's out of their tree?

Editor:

Bill Bauer's column ("Bill's jabbering slang gets with the times," page 4, Feb. 25) illustrates the challenge of writing a "witty" column at the expense of logic. Sure Mr. Bauer, the rest of the world is laughing at a group of citizens who are making a generous effort to preserve trees in an urban environment. And get this, they're doing it at a time when our environment is obviously stressed and temperatures are rising.

If the "rest of the world" did take notice, it might share a chuckle over why the City Council, which prides itself as environmentally progressive, would willfully cut down and uproot over 50 full growth trees over the objections of a substantial group of their constituents.

If the rest of the world looked a little closer, it might really enjoy a laugh over how us "wackos" are being told to accept the disputed claim that so many trees pose a danger to the public that they must be removed, while there is apparently not one dangerous tree anywhere along neighboring Fifth and Sixth streets.

The only laughable part of this dispute is how a majority of councilmembers are ignoring their constituents' wishes from their ivory tower. And I'll laugh all the way to the voting booth next time, remembering how 40-plus-year-old trees were sold out by their strained reasoning.

I operate a business on Second Street and Santa Monica Boulevard. The trees provide protection from the heavy soot of idling and passing buses (we wipe black soot off our office table surfaces every day). The trees are beautiful and provide welcome cooling in the summer.

The Daily Press has not done a thorough enough job of reporting this story. How did the tree removal become tied to the overall funding of the improvement project? Has there been any recent polling of businesses and citizens in light of this controversy? And who has independently examined the details of this so-called "improvement" project and how it necessitates the destruction of so many trees? SMDP may better serve their readers by raising serious questions rather than offering editorial opinions, glib columnists and pejorative pop quiz queries like, "How far should the Treesavers go to protect the trees?"

Destroying mature, environmentally productive shade trees with scrawny replacements seems like a shame rather than an improvement to me, especially if it "opens up" Second and Fourth Streets to the same bland retail chain environment that has consumed the Third Street Promenade.

Ted Bonnitt
Santa Monica

Follow Bob Barker's advice.

Editor:

While many of us were celebrating the passage of the new mandatory spay/neuter law in Los Angeles – a measure that will drastically reduce the number of unwanted dogs and cats in animal shelters – beagle breeders were cheering for Uno, the pedigree named "Best in Show" at the Westminster Dog Show. They're hoping people will be tempted to run out and buy a beagle while those of us who want to stop euthanasia are hoping people won't.

In case anyone wonders why, pedigree animals are susceptible to medical problems that arise from inbreeding – yet millions of healthy, friendly non-pedigree dogs are euthanized in shelters every year simply because there aren't enough good homes for all of them. It's a disservice to them to make any more. If you have your heart set on a beagle, check your local animal shelter – about 25 percent of dogs who enter shelters are purebred – or with a beagle rescue group.

Please also be sure that your dogs and cats are sterilized.

Lisa Lange
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
Los Angeles



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Truth in advertising appears to be dead

I HAD AN ODD EXPERIENCE THE OTHER day. So that nobody will get into trouble, let's just say I went to a restaurant that will be nameless next to an ocean that will be nameless. When I arrived, the parking guy came over to my car and welcomed me. His name tag read, "Bob," and below that, "Mississippi." I knew immediately that something was amiss. I said, "You don't sound like you're from Mississippi." He replied that he wasn't. He was actually a "local," but he was new to the job. They hadn't gotten him his real name tag yet.

WE GET BETRAYED SO OFTEN IN LIFE THAT YOU'D THINK WE COULD AT LEAST TAKE A BREAK FROM DECEPTION AT A FISH PLACE.

I started to walk into the restaurant when I turned to him and said, "Wait a minute. You're probably not even Bob." He replied, "No, I'm Keith." In other words, it was so important to the restaurant management that their employees have name tags that they'd rather have them wear phony ones than none at all. Imagine what that did to my faith in my fellow man and woman. Imagine what that did to my appetite.

Why am I making such a big deal about this? Partially, it's because I tend to obsess about things. But it also just seemed so wrong. Here was a symbol of friendliness, and it wasn't even real. We get betrayed so often in life that you'd think we could at least take a break from deception at a fish place.

Name tags are everywhere these days. You go to a ball game, and the ushers have name tags. You go to get new tires, and the mechanics have name tags. The only place people don't wear name tags is the only place I wish they did: At social events where I get introduced to people and then forget their names two seconds later.

Marketing studies must have determined that customers would like to know the

names of people who serve them. I don't know why. It's not as if I'm ever going to write any of them a letter. Businesses must believe that this is a way to show how friendly they are: "You can trust us. This is my name." For a long time, I placed it in the same category as those waiters and waitresses who say things like, "Hi, I'm Celeste, and I'll be your waitress tonight." In other words, I found it slightly annoying.

But I got used to it. There are even times when I think it's helpful. Let's say the person waiting on you in the shoe store has his back turned for a moment. Instead of waiting for him to turn around, you can say, "Excuse me, Brent. Do these look okay?" Or after you get home from shopping and you call the store to double check a price, you can say, "But that's what Francine quoted me." So, I tried to accept this informality and friendliness. What was so bad about these people telling me their names? I convinced myself that it was kind of nice, a departure from people having to call each other "Sir" or "Ma'am."

More recently, the name tag has evolved to often include the name of the place where the wearer is from — just like the infamous "Bob from Mississippi." I might be buying light bulbs from someone whose tag says she's Kirsten from Switzerland or socks from Wolfgang of Austria. I knew it was probably a marketing ploy to try to make me think that people came from all over the world just to work in the store that I was visiting. Yet, I often fell for it. I'd ask them about their homeland or hometown. It added an interesting element to the retail experience. Until ... the incident at the restaurant.

Now I know that both the names and places that are on so many chests that I've looked at might be just as phony as some of those chests.

And let's face it: "Bob from Mississippi" can't possibly be an isolated case. I wonder how many other people that we deal with every day aren't really who they claim to be. The only silver lining in all this is that it's a good thing our political leaders don't wear name tags. Otherwise, we might not be able to trust them.

LLOYD GARVER has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Home Improvement" to "Frasier." He can be reached at lloydgarver@gmail.com. Check out his website at lloydgarver.com

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STRAY talk

A CENTER-CUT, NO-FAT REVIEW OF WHAT WAS SAID THIS PAST WEEK BY FOLKS RIGHT HERE IN SUNNY SANTA MONICA

“My first reaction to this letter [from Kurt Shaffer, the associate administrator for airports for the FAA] was that it would make a wonderful paper airplane.”

Councilmember Kevin McKeown, about a proposal submitted by the FAA to the City Council regarding safety measures at the Santa Monica Airport.

“For us, it was more than we expected. We knew we were a good team, but people were saying, ‘It’s just division IV, and you’re not playing against division I teams.’”

Frank Gatell, head coach of Samohi’s boys’ soccer team. The team won the CIF-SS State Division I championship.

“In response to the treesavers’ proposal, we intend to wait for the (State) Court of Appeal to hear all the facts and make its decision.”

City Manager Lamont Ewell regarding a settlement offer tendered by local activists that proposed dropping an ongoing lawsuit with City Hall if officials abandoned their plans to uproot the 54 ficus trees from the downtown area.

“I’m no expert but Kristin’s rates seem a little high. But maybe she was a college graduate? You see, kids, whatever field you go into, it pays to stay in school.”

SMDP columnist Jack Neworth wrote in “Laughing Matters” about the cost former New York Governor Eliot Spitzer allegedly paid to a prostitute.

“I’m half Armenian, on my dad’s side, hence the last name: Howsepian. But my mother was what my dad’s parents called an ‘odan,’ a foreigner; she was white, born in Oklahoma, descended from the Scottish clan Campbell of Argyle. And so, I was not christened in an Armenian church, I did not learn to speak the language, I did not go to Armenian private school, I did not minor in Armenian Studies at my alma mater Fresno State, and I married a guy with the last name ‘Rodriguez.’”

SMDP columnist Mariel Howsepain wrote in “West Dressed” about her heritage.

“I have to call out someone I really like ... her name is Tina Fey and I am really mad at her because she went on ‘Saturday Night Live’ and endorsed Hillary Clinton saying, ‘it’s not too late, Texas and Ohio, get on board! Bitch is the new black!’ With those last five words, she single-handedly revived Hillary’s campaign.”

SMDP columnist Kenny Mack wrote in “Word in Edgewise.”

“Go to any cosmopolitan city, New York, Miami, San Francisco, and you will hear a wide diversity of languages from around the world being spoken. So much for the ‘speak English’ only spiel of talk radio hosts.”

SMDP reader Ron Lowe in a letter to the editor.



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The QLine

EDUCATED CHOICES

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Which type of school – public or private – do you choose to send your kids and why?

Here are your responses:

"I CHOOSE TO SEND MY CHILD TO A private school because there is more emphasis on learning, discipline and moral values. What is weeded out are the worst discipline problems and those who cannot or will not learn. And the safety of my child is much better provided for."

"PRIVATE SCHOOLS FOR THE MOST PART cater to the wealthy and students who have a problem adjusting to public schools. Still your question of the week would require complex answers and a volume of case histories to answer quickly. Still my suggestion to students regardless of the school they attend is to stay in school, stay off of alcohol, tobacco and drugs – all three have the capability of running your life no matter how smart or learned you may be."

"WHILE YOUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE pretty good in Santa Monica, they still have one problem that the private schools don't – the private schools can kick out the bad kids, the troublemakers and just teach the good kids. That's why private schools are better. I prefer taking kids to private schools, as long as it's not one of those brain-washing religious ones."

"I SEND MY KIDS TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS simply because our local schools, Santa Monica (Malibu Unified) School District, can't get their act together – they're constantly in disarray."

"OUR CITY HAS THE FINEST SCHOOL district that large amounts of money can buy. The people in charge can't throw enough money at education. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent to upgrade the buildings, the curriculum and the 8 percent raise for its eight month employees – the teachers, 1 percent for

each month they work. I don't know what the workers got. All the right progressive people north of Montana (Avenue) don't have to spend \$30,000 to send their child to a private school. I like St. Monica. The teachers are very dedicated for a third-less the money and the nuns enforce a strict, no-nonsense educational discipline. A great foundation for life. No wonder maids, gardeners and the conservative rich send their children to be educated there."

"THE REASON OUR CITY NOW HAS SO many private schools is because our once great schools are now full of gang bangers. Since Santa Monica for Renters' Rights took over with their low-income housing and allowing kids outside our town, mostly illegally, to attend our schools, there are now many problem kids in our public schools."

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JOINING THE PACK? Parking structures on Fourth Street and Broadway and Fourth Street and Colorado Avenue may soon be just like other structures around the downtown area, requiring drivers to pay after two-hours instead of having three hours free.

City officials consider making changes to parking structures

FROM PARKING PAGE 1

Housing and Economic Development Director Andy Agle said.

Parking is currently free at garages no. 7 and 8 for three hours, after which time a \$47 citation can be issued. The garages along Second and Fourth are free for the first two hours with a \$1 fee each half hour tacked on thereafter. All of the city-owned garages, with the exception of the mall and one north of Wilshire Boulevard on Third Street, is manned by parking attendants. City Hall is currently in the process of installing prepaid parking machines in those garages to better manage the flow of traffic out of the structures.

Adding parking attendants would also enable the structures to have an electronic sign notifying the number of parking spaces available, a feature that is affixed to the other downtown garages.

In addition to converting the garages to attendant parking, the estimated \$4.5 million project also involves enhancing the facade of the two structures, adding solar panels, colored-channel glass enclosed stairwells, public art. The firm of Pugh + Scarpa is designing the transformation.

The project will also include the incorporation of pedestrian and bike-friendly elements, adding a bicycle pathway into the garage and ground-floor retail spaces, large enough to accommodate a floral or newsstand.

The renovated garages could also include valet parking, something that Macerich, which is partnering with City Hall, is seeking for the project, Agle said.

The installation of parking booths, restriping, and possible additions of retail spaces and a bike pathway could lead to a loss of several parking spaces. The parking control changes alone could result in a net loss of 41 spaces.

The structures, owned by the Redevelopment Agency, were built in 1979 and have a combined total of nearly 2,000 spaces. The six other city-owned garages in the Downtown Area, one a piece located on the 1200, 1300 and 1400 blocks of Second and Fourth streets, were converted to attendant parking about 15 years ago.

A \$3 flat fee is assessed after 6 p.m. in garages No. 7 and 8 on Thursday through Sunday and the revenue generated is split in half between City Hall and Macerich.

The design concepts were presented to the City Council on Tuesday, which directed its staff to proceed with the plans but to consider adding some landscaping next to the structure on Colorado where there is no retail space slated.

The news that parking attendants would be added was met with mixed reaction by frequent users of the two garages.

Brittany Clifton, who lives in Downtown Los Angeles, said the parking fee, which would have a \$7 maximum daily rate, would still be less expensive than on-street parking, which could run the risk of a parking citation.

"I have to pay everywhere anywhere, so it's not going to make a difference for me," Clifton said on Wednesday. "I'll be back anyhow."

Los Angeles resident Jim Smith said he would actually reconsider coming to the Third Street Promenade, especially with the ongoing construction in the area, opting instead for Westside Pavilion or the Beverly Center where he knows what to expect with the parking situation.

"There is already limited parking here in the city and even if it's three hours free, sometimes it's hard to find spaces," Smith said on Wednesday. "You would have to limit yourself and I just feel this would only drive people away — they would go to other malls."

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Do you know what your kids are up to?

Editor's note: For the next nine weeks, Editor in Chief Kevin Herrera will be writing a first-person account of what it's like to be enrolled in the Santa Monica Police Department's Citizen Police Academy, which is intended to foster better communication between Santa Monicans and police officers, while giving residents a better understanding of what it takes to preserve the peace.

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Editor in the Chief

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY I'm sure most parents haven't thought of filling their 10-year-old's Christmas stocking with condoms, but that might not be such a bad idea considering kids these days are being forced to deal with the topic of sex at an earlier age than their parents did — and even their older siblings.

That's according to Santa Monica Detective Leslie Trapnell, who specializes in juvenile investigations for the Santa Monica Police Department and has seen her fair share of under-age drinking and drug use, as well as teens experimenting with sex without protection or any awareness of the devastating consequences such as teen pregnancy or contracting a sexually transmitted disease.

While the stocking remark was her attempt at humor (and she certainly succeeded), Trapnell, a no nonsense veteran who feels it is her duty to help children through some of the most challenging times of their lives, was trying to drive home the point that parents need to talk to their kids about drugs and sex before they get their education on the streets. That may mean sitting little Jimmy and Janie down for a heart-to-heart.

"I feel we have a huge responsibility to work with these kids," Trapnell said during week three of the academy. "These kids are our future."

Trapnell had some sobering news for the parents in the class. She said she has seen an increase in drug use and alcohol abuse amongst ninth graders at Santa Monica High School this year. She spoke about the kids' belief that neither oral or anal sex should be considered sex and how they believe that by performing these acts they can protect themselves from contracting an STD.

"They have no concept that this is

risky," Trapnell said.

She also spoke about the rise in petty thefts at the large high school, calling out one group in particular — the football team.

"They're stealing from each other," she said. "That's low."

For those parents who have children who may have crossed the line, it's still OK to spank them, that is if you believe in that form of discipline. Trapnell broke down the rules when it comes to discipline. Hitting a child on the bottom with an open hand is OK, just as long as you don't leave a mark. But using that old belt with the steel buckle or a switch from out back isn't cool. It's illegal. So is smacking a kid across the face or beating them.

It's also not OK to verbally abuse kids or to be in and out of jail so much that they have no guidance. In that case, children are taken out of the home and put into protective custody. The Department of Children and Family services steps in and investigates troubled families to see if the child should be returned to their parents, sent to live with another family member or be placed in a foster home.

Trapnell also discussed cyber bullying, warning parents to no longer make jokes about their computer illiteracy but instead get online and become tech savvy so that they can monitor their children's Internet usage.

And if people are curious, Trapnell said that the majority of calls she gets come from public schools, not private, which have zero tolerance for misbehavior.

"It's a privilege to go to that school," Trapnell said. "They just don't tolerate it ... We rarely get calls from those schools."

KEEPING AN EYE OUT

If that wasn't sobering enough, Officer Debbie Anderson gave an extensive overview of Megan's Law and the monitoring of sex offenders in Santa Monica. Anderson's presentation was very thorough and left me feeling sick to my stomach after she showed picture after picture of young victims who were molested, raped and murdered by sick individuals who need not be locked up, but instead sent to death for their perverted crimes. Seeing those photos of Adam Walsh, Jimmy Ryce, Amanda Brown, Jessica Lundsford and other victims helped me better understand why we need legislation

that forces local law enforcement to keep constant tabs on these sexual predators.

I say if they are released, put a microchip in their bodies and monitor every move they make, place zoning restrictions so they cannot live anywhere near families. I say place them all in the desert and let them rot. Harsh — yes, but the crimes committed are some of the most heinous imaginable. The punishment should fit the crime.

On a lighter note, Eric Uller, the SMPD's I.T. guru and all around computer whiz who is responsible for incorporating the latest technology, gave the class a tour of the communications center on the second floor of the Public Safety Facility.

Communications operators are some of the most important people in the department for they are the one's who handle all the emergency response calls coming in and direct the appropriate resources to handle the situation. They must act quickly and be extremely accurate. If not, help may not arrive in time.

Uller, who started off in dispatch, said the job is very intense and can be stressful. Some people manage to stay on the job for decades while others last a day or two, unable to handle the pressure. The first call Uller handled as a dispatcher had to deal with a father who just found his 4-year-old son laying on the floor with a gunshot wound to his head. The father told Uller that his son found his gun and shot himself. In the background, Uller said he could hear the mother's screams.

Through it all, a dispatcher has to remain clam and collected.

"One minute you can spend 45 minutes talking someone out of killing themselves, and then the next call is about a leaf blower," Uller said.

In addition to monitoring phones, the communications center is in charge of monitoring security cameras placed along the Third Street Promenade and the Santa Monica Pier. There are roughly 120 stationary cameras in all.

Next week we'll be treated to presentations about community oriented policing, criminal investigations, gangs and graffiti.

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✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

■ Send letters to editor@smdpc.com

Big Blue Bus reports big gains in ridership

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

CITYWIDE In a region known for being dependent on automobiles, it appears that public transportation is becoming more popular than ever.

Santa Monica-based Big Blue Bus reported a significant increase in ridership in the agency's 52 square-mile service area Friday. The latest data indicates that between 2004 and 2007, ridership increased overall by 2.3 percent, which is higher than the national average. This translates into 500,000 more trips taken every year, BBB officials said.

"I think people are realizing that taking transit makes a lot of sense, especially with gas prices so high and people having to spend so much more of their income now on filling up the tank," said BBB Customer Relations Manager Dan Dawson. "For less than a dollar, you can go almost anywhere the BBB travels in its service area, which includes not only Santa Monica but cities all around Los Angeles."

The agency reported across-the-board increases. Weekday trips grew by 1.3 percent during the same period, thanks in part to large gains in such popular routes as the Crosstown Ride, which increased by 133 percent, Line 13 which was up 46 percent and Line 4, which showed a 22 percent increase.

The weekend figures showed even bigger gains, with ridership figures up by 9.6 percent on Saturdays and 7.3 percent on Sundays. This translates into 4,500 more people taking the bus each weekend.

According to new figures released this month by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), Americans took over 10 billion trips on public transportation in 2007, the highest level recorded in 50 years. APTA noted that public transportation use is up by 32 percent overall since 1995, a figure more than double the 15 percent growth rate of the population.

"We're operating at a higher efficiency than most agencies across the country," said BBB General Manager Stephanie Negriff. "We're committed to providing a safe and efficient mode of transportation for our passengers."

news@smdpc.com

Getting beat down Paparazzo allegedly assaulted by Kidman bodyguard in Santa Monica

By Daily Press Staff

CIVIC CENTER Santa Monica police are investigating the alleged assault and battery of a paparazzo by Nicole Kidman's bodyguard — a incident that can be viewed on a number of Web sites catering to fans of pop culture.

SMPD Lt. Alex Padilla confirmed the investigation, saying the battered photographer from Flynet.com filed a police report from a local hospital shortly after the alleged incident took place.

According to Flynet, the bodyguard, David Michael Garriss, attacked their photographer on Thursday, punching him in the face several times as he sat in his car filming. On the video one can see a man jump out of a black SUV and confront the photographer, telling him to stop following him and Kidman, who was believed to be in the SUV on her way to the gym.

The assault stemmed from an incident on Wednesday, when a fellow photographer was attacked by Kidman's trainer while the 53-year-old photographer was snapping pictures of Kidman and her trainer hiking, according to a statement by Flynet.

The next day, a friend of the photographer was following Kidman and her bodyguard as they were heading to the gym. In a statement from Flynet, the company said:

"Now I know the paparazzi can be annoying, but do they deserve a physical assault of this magnitude? You may respond, 'hey well that's what the guy gets for following someone.' Well, sure that's one way to look at it. But this photographer is just doing his job, giving the people something to talk about while they wait in line at the grocery store, flipping through all of the celebrity magazines that sell millions of copies worldwide. So if you disagree with it, fine. But I don't think a physical assault was justified here. Watch and judge for yourself."

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photo courtesy; governor's office

DEEP CUTS: Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Friday at the Milken Family Foundation released a list of recommendations by a panel of educational experts on how to improve California public schools. The governor has recommended cutting education spending by \$4.3 billion.

School staffing facing major cuts across state

FROM CUTS PAGE 3

placement) classes ... far too many of our resources that we're going to need — technical education — will not be available."

Schwarzenegger said the "out of whack" state budget necessitates cuts across the board, although he lamented the education reductions. He also said he hoped layoffs would be carried out only under a "worst-case scenario."

Schwarzenegger said he wants to overhaul the budget with the goal of creating a "rainy day fund" whenever there is a surplus to bail out the budget when there is a deficit.

According to the California Teachers Association, the proposed cuts would mean the loss of \$560 million for the Los Angeles Unified School District through 2008-2009,

equivalent to \$946 per student.

LAUSD has sent out layoff notices to 3,000 administrative staff members, though none to teachers, according to reports.

But hundreds of teachers around the Southland have already received notices that their jobs were in jeopardy — including 400 in the Anaheim and Santa Ana districts and 150 in Inglewood.

"School districts up and down this state are sending out pink slips to tens of thousands of hard-working, dedicated teachers, administrators and school staff, not because our state faces a spending problem, but because we face a priorities problem," O'Connell said.

Associated Press contributed to this report.

news@smdp.com

Board concerned about infrastructure

FROM SCHOOLS PAGE 1

taken from Lincoln and Malibu's allocation and be reappropriated to John Adams, somewhat leveling the field.

Board member Ralph Mechur said that rather than taking money away from the two other middle schools, \$2 million be pulled from the unallocated funds and added to John Adams. The suggestion was supported by board member Maria Leon Vasquez.

But the rest of the board said they weren't comfortable with pulling money from the unallocated pot without having a better understanding of how that money would exactly be used at JAMS.

The board instead directed its staff to identify additional areas where JAMS could use money.

"As much as I am real concerned about equity, I'm also concerned about allocating monies without any real direction," Board member Barry Snell said. "I cannot support adding \$2 million without any real understanding as to where and why we are allocating."

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✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Send letters to editor@smdp.com



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Council critic will be missed

FROM OBIT PAGE 3

and Joe was definitely a gadfly" said Patricia Hoffman, a community activist and member of the Bayside District Corp. board of directors. "It's sad and sort of shocking that he's gone. He will definitely be missed."

Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bloom remembered Natoli as a determined man who never shied away from speaking his mind.

"He was single-minded in his activism," said Bloom, who had many conversations with Natoli while on the dais and in the halls of City Hall following council meetings. "He really believed in the ability to interact in the democratic process ... He was quite a character."

Aside from politics, Natoli, who grew up in a modest home in the small town of

was always reading and discussing politics. He could keep me on the phone for hours talking about Santa Monica.

"I think Joe recognized the lack of common sense in politicians," Crisafulli said. "Joe just felt there was a lack of common sense and too much going on behind close doors. He felt residents were not being kept in the loop."

While Natoli was constantly on the lookout for the next issue to confront, he was also known for being a jovial man with a good sense of humor, almost childlike at times. He could often be seen at City Hall with his trademark blue hat, sweatshirt and black belt pack, sitting in a hallway watching television on a portable TV, cracking jokes about celebrities.

He was always trying to get the attention of anyone who would listen, often bursting into the newsroom at the Daily Press, demanding more coverage of the council or Bayside. He was also a big flirt.

That said, Natoli did not reveal much about his private life. Very few people knew how old he was, where he lived or what he did to make ends meet.

"He was pretty guarded," Crisafulli said. "He didn't want anybody to know about him and didn't see any purpose in it. He wasn't hiding anything. He just felt that were more important things to discuss than what was happening to him personally. He was always about exterior things."

Natoli will be remembered for his dedication to the democratic process and for his seemingly never-ending supply of criticism.

"He was the kind of man who cared deeply," Mayor Herb Katz said. "I think that's the nicest thing you can say about someone."

Rubin is planning to hold a celebration of Natoli's life at City Hall on March 25 before the next council meeting.

Natoli is survived by four sisters and two brothers.

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✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

**HE WAS THE
KIND OF MAN
WHO CARED DEEPLY. I
THINK THAT'S THE NICEST
THING YOU CAN SAY
ABOUT SOMEONE."**

Mayor Herb Katz

Oswego, New York with nine brothers and sisters, was very interested in photography and handwriting analysis. Natoli made a living analyzing handwriting samples for attorneys, as he tried to determine the demeanor of jurors. Natoli would use his skills at analysis to entertain people at parties and on the street.

He also took publicity photos for actors and for an acrobatic troupe. He was a voracious reader who had an extensive library at his home, said Dan Crisafulli, a lifelong friend of Natoli's.

"Some people looked at Joe and thought that he wasn't very intelligent, but in fact he





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NEW RELEASES

REVIEW BY TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE

A dark work told with clarity

William Maher's beautifully shot, character-driven directorial debut, "Sleepwalking," focuses on the familial bond that haphazardly develops when James Reedy (Nick Stahl) is forced to care for his 11 year-old niece Tara (AnnaSophia Robb) after her mother, Joleen (Charlize Theron) skips town.

The story opens with Joleen being tossed out of her apartment when her loser boyfriend is arrested for selling dope. With no place to live, Joleen moves herself and her daughter into her brother's desolate apartment adjacent to the railroad tracks. It's not long before Joleen ditches out with a trucker – and if you had to live in Reedy's dismal abode, trust me, you'd bail too – leaving a cryptic note behind that promises she's got a "plan," and intends to return by her daughter's upcoming birthday.

Joleen is the type of woman who looks for a man to solve her problems, and her "plan" is never made crystal clear.

"The 'plan' was to leave her daughter there for a month or so, so she could find 'the guy,' hook 'the guy' and come back with 'the dad figure,' but I never wanted to put any of that on

film," Theron said during an interview.

Coupled with the film's fine performances, this nebulous ambiguity works in the context of the story and is an enjoyable aspect of "Sleepwalking." The viewer is presented with several dark situations; a glimpse into a very real and tortured family, but the film always allows the audience to draw their own conclusions as to the reasons behind the character's actions.

Robb is terrific as the distraught young girl, who struggles with an absent mother, while on the run from the law with her n'er-do-well uncle. A quirky scene of her jumping, into a pool, while fully-clothed and wearing roller skates, imparts the transition of her character: Now ready to leave her childhood behind.

"Once she dives in, she's in a protective little bubble ... seeing the world from a different angle ... from that point you know she's going to make different choices than her mother," Robb said of her character.

Robb conveys this smart, troubled child with subtlety and grace.

"Emotionally tapped into this story [of a family with a tumultuous past]," said Theron, who worked both as a

producer and an actor in the film.

As always, she's engaging and believable. Stahl's performance is so visceral and authentic that some scenes, particularly the ones in which he's in physical and emotional pain, are difficult to watch. You really feel for his character. Dennis Hopper is frightening as the abusive father, and Woody Harrelson (always enjoyable) adds just the needed amount of lightness to the otherwise dark undertone of the piece.

With Joleen out of the picture, James, who can barely take care of himself, must now also fend for Tara. Behind on his bills and seemingly incapable of making choices that would be in Tara's best interest, he ultimately loses her to foster care. Not to give away the entirety of the plot, let's just say, things really take a heinous turn for the worse when he decides to hole up at his father's ranch. If you're looking for an interesting film that gives you a lot to ponder, this is it.

TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE is a writer/producer and movie reviewer for the Daily Press. She can be reached at Tailfish@roadrunner.com



Photo courtesy Kerry Hayes

ENGAGING DRAMA: (Left to right) Charlize Theron and Nick Stahl star in Overture Films' 'Sleepwalking.'



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'Old Times' is a timeless work

BY CYNTHIA CITRON | Special to the Daily Press

In my view, Harold Pinter is to theater as Salvador Dali is to art. Both are merchants of memory. It is not by chance that Dali's most famous work, the melting pocket watches dripping off a table and draped on the branches of a barren tree, is called "The Persistence of Memory." Similarly, Pinter's works (some 29 plays, reams of poems, screenplays, speeches, et al) are fixated on the vagaries of memory. As Pinter has said, "The past is what you remember, imagine you remember, convince yourself you remember, or pretend you remember." And both artists' works are, uncompromisingly, what you make of them as they meld with your own body of memories.

And so we have "Old Times," a quirky little play in which three people whose lives have been intertwined try to sort out their mutual memories. Director John Pleshette has mounted this 1971 Pinter play in a fine new production at The Lost Studio in Hollywood.

Dan Cowan plays Deeley, a peripatetic film director whose work often takes him away from his rural home and his enigmatic wife. Cecelia Specht plays the wife, Kate, with a vacant stare, a vast indifference, and smothering silences, which Deeley tries relentlessly to penetrate.

Their mostly monosyllabic exchanges are ruptured by the boisterous arrival of Anna (Cerris Morgan-Moyer), Kate's one-time roommate and only friend. Anna serves as the catalyst for unlocking memories that both Deeley and Kate claim to have forgotten. And yet, she, too, has her own protective wall against a mutual history that they recall.

Deeley claims to have met her at the Wayfarer's Tavern in London some 20 years earlier. She denies it, but adopts an intimate, flirtatious posture with him and, in a burst of conviviality they take turns singing lines to each other from the popular ballads of their youth. In fact, the romantic music of the '40s that embellish the silences provide some of the play's best moments.

But the unspoken questions raised are never answered. Did Deeley and Anna have a sexual connection? Were Anna and Kate more than platonic friends? What is the meaning of the recollection of the crying man? Why is Kate so intent on maintaining her inscrutability, neither confirming nor denying the divergent images that Deeley and Anna have of her? As Anna notes, in defense of her own memories, "There are some things one remembers even though they may never have happened."

In typical Pinter fashion, "Old Times" also deals with the themes of loneliness and abandonment, a lifelong concern of the playwright. As Pinter's biographers contend, these themes were instilled in him when, as a young boy, he was sent away from his family to protect him from the bombs and ravages of wartime London.

In more recent times, Pinter has played an ever-expanding role in the political arena, speaking out most vociferously against what he sees as American barbarism. He expounded this theme most publicly in his 45-minute acceptance speech of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2005. It was a most flagrant contradiction to his playwrighting style, in which the audience is invited to fill in the long silences with what they presume are the unspoken thoughts of the protagonists. But, although Pinteresque pauses and silences are the creative hallmarks of his work, he remains, at 78, an outspoken and influential voice for peace and justice. No ambiguity there.

"Old Times" will run Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, through April 13 at the Lost Studio Theatre, 130 South LaBrea Ave., in Hollywood. For reservations, call (800) 595-4849.

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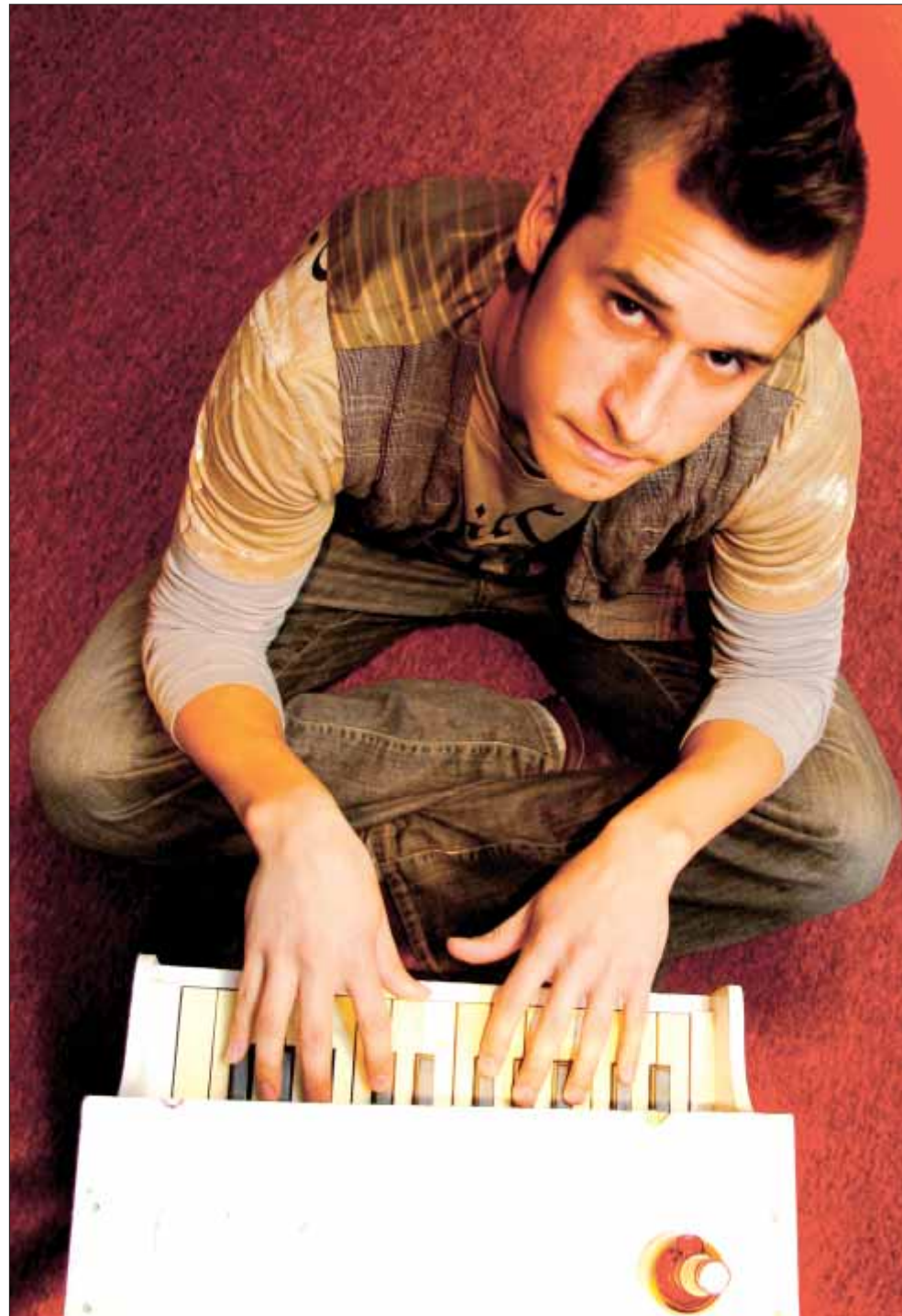


Photo courtesy Pamela Luedeke

MUSIC MAN: Matthew Santos will play The Roxy in Hollywood on March 19.

Santos hopes hit song helps propel solo career forward

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA

MANAGING EDITOR

A hit record can do wonders for a career. It thrusts solo artists into the spotlight and helps attract fans to their body of work. But, what if an artist appears on somebody else's smash?

For Matthew Santos, who sings the hook on Lupe Fiasco's "Superstar," he just hopes it gets him noticed. With the song a crossover hit, it presents the indie crooner an opportunity to gain attention from fans that wouldn't otherwise listen to his brand of music.

"It feels good [to have a hit]," Santos said just as he got off stage performing with Lupe Fiasco at MTV's Spring Break festivities in Panama City, Fla. "It gives me a lot of exposure. I have such a good time doing this stuff with Lupe. He's really schooling me about the industry."

While Santos has parlayed "Superstar" into numerous TV appearances and countless live dates, he's happy to get the opportunity to set out on his own and perform some of his own material. Recently, he's had the opportunity to break off during their appearances together and play something from his own repertoire.

He'll be performing at The Roxy in Hollywood on March 19 along with Santa Monica-based John West.

"I think people are recognizing the versatility in the music I'm trying to make," Santos said. "I've done [one of my own songs while performing] with Lupe and it translated curiously well. The crowd really dug it. They were really into it. Lupe's fans are open minded."

Considering that Santos is riding a wave of popularity these days, it seems

an opportune time to set out and do some solo shows.

"Whenever I get a chance, I try to play a little," Santos said. "I've done a handful of shows across the country recently and things are going well. I've played L.A. once and the people were really responsive. I hope for more of the same when I play [The Roxy]."

The show gives Santos a chance to showcase his original compositions that tend toward the acoustic side of the musical world. He's released two solo albums thus far, "As a Crow Flies" and "Matters of the Bittersweet," and is currently working on material for a third.

"I have so many songs, the problem is trying to put together a record that makes sense," Santos said of his forthcoming album. "It's going to be pretty diverse. I'm going for a more cathartic album instead of a fun summer album."

To date, he's recorded a number of songs and has collaborated with some noteworthy artists. He recently completed a song with iconic Indian violinist L. Subramaniam and Sam Butler Jr. from the Blind Boys of Alabama. He's not sure if the songs will make it onto the next album, but he said he's better off for having worked with musicians he holds in high regard.

"If they don't make the album, I may just post them on my Web site or sell them on iTunes for a dollar," he said jokingly.

If Santos does decide to post the songs on his site, it certainly wouldn't be the first time he has turned to the Internet to drum up interest. He currently has a number of videos on YouTube that have generated thousands of downloads. He's also used his MySpace page to further promote upcoming shows.

"It makes the music so accessible," he said of the Internet. "I love what YouTube has done because it gives an intimate showcase for my songs. People are thirsty for this kind of music."

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ON THE SHELVES

CD REVIEWS BY RANDY WILLIAMS



Photo courtesy Capitol

Joe Cocker, 'Classic Cocker'

The gravelly-voiced Englishman who has established himself as one of contemporary music's most distinctive figures with his soulful sound and hyper-kinetic stage presence, offers 19 tracks of his best. While many artists shined writing their own material, Cocker won international acclaim offering his idiosyncratic interpretations to such songs as the Beatles' "With a Little Help from My Friends", and "She Came in Through the Bathroom Window." Both are presented live here. A brilliant concert performer, Cocker also presents "The Letter" and "Feelin' Alright" as live versions on this album. Other tunes include "Up Where We Belong" (a duet with Jennifer Warnes), "When the Night Comes," and "You Are So Beautiful." (Capitol)

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Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, 'Lago Brazil'

A leading American instrumental ensemble, the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet is one of the most charismatic groups performing today. Popularly known as the LAGQ, these four virtuosi bring a new energy to the concert stage with their eclectic programs and dynamic musical interplay. Their critically acclaimed transcriptions of concert masterworks provide a fresh look at the music of the past, while their interpretations of works from the contemporary and world-music realms continually break new ground. This album is an extension of that vibe that is part of their musical exploration offering 15 tracks taking you deep into the home of the samba and the band's influence of the music from Brazil. (Telarc)

Katrina Karlson, 'Here and Now'

A long awaited follow-up to her sparkling 2003 project, "Untucked," that yielded four major hits. Katrina's first single here is a cover of the Howard Jones hit, "No One is to Blame" that features Jones helping out with vocals and piano. The cream of her album include, "First to Say Goodbye," "Feel for Me" and the title track "Here and Now," each have a heightened ability to connect emotionally. (Kataphonic)

'Malt Shop Memories'

Break out those bobby socks and school sweaters. The search for those rare gems of '50s music is over. Some 150 jukebox classics and hard-to-find hits are offered here in 10 discs entitled: All I Have To Do Is Dream, Save the Last Dance, Top Down Convertible Sound, Juke Box Gems and Street Corner Symphonies. Packaged in a clever collector's box, it also includes the lyrics to all the songs. The Four Seasons, Dion and the Belmonts, Elvis, The Drifters, Connie Francis, and Fats Domino are just a few of the dozens of performers included. (Time Life)

David Russell, 'Air on a G String'

Grammy-winning guitarist David Russell returns with "Air on a G String," baroque masterpieces by Bach, Couperin, Saint-Luc, and Weiss performed on guitar. World renowned for his superb musicianship and inspired artistry, Russell continues to show why he has won global acclaim. Upon hearing him playing in London, the great Andrés Segovia wrote, "My congratulations on your musicality and guitaristic technique." High praise indeed. (Telarc)

Dave Koz, 'Double Feature'

A romantic celebration of classic movie music, Koz, who had two no. 1 albums last year on the Billboard Top Contemporary Jazz chart, offers fans a lot of material here. Not only are there 14 tunes on the CD but there is also a DVD in the package produced by Phil Ramone that offers footage of Koz recording 10 of cinema's most memorable themes with special guests, Barry Manilow and Johnny Mathis among others. Movies titles represented here include "The Wizard of Oz," "Casablanca," "Breakfast at Tiffany's," "The Way We Were," and "Alfie." Anita Baker, Vanessa Williams, Donna Summer, and Peter White also perform. (Capitol)

RANDY WILLIAMS can be reached at writtenbyrw@yahoo.com



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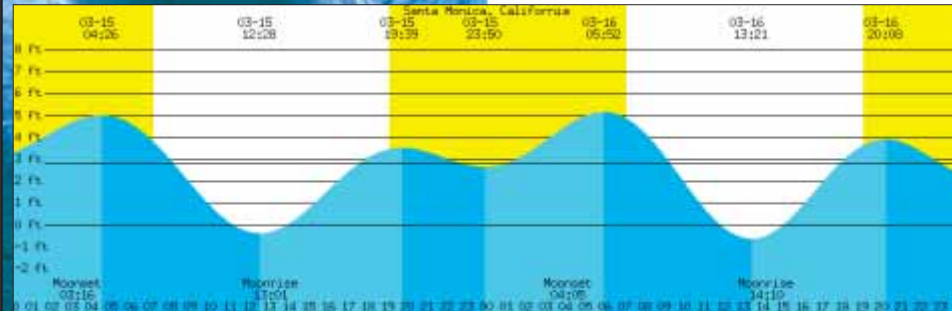
SURF CONDITIONS**WATER TEMP: 55-60°**

SWELL FORECAST (8-12 FT)

Saturday we could see a good amount of NW ground swell from a system that's been coming at us from the Western Pacific this past week. Sunday should be a heavy wind swell day as a strong fetch forms near the coast in response to the incoming low, and high pressure riding behind it (west of the low), tightening the gradients, and causing the expected wind fest Saturday afternoon and evening.

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NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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March 11, 2008

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QUICK STATS

(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 1

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0

Number of wet days -- 8

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 36 / 19

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 7 / 24

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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
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	B	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso 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+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	F	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	F	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	B
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A+	A+
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	B	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	B	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	C
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	D	A
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	B	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	C	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	B	D
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	D

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



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Heal the Bay

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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.

Baseball officials build relationships

BY STEPHEN WADE
AP Sports Writer

BADALING, China Building the Great Wall took centuries.

Major League Baseball hopes creating its foundation in China won't take that long.

Baseball's first big pitch began Thursday, an outing by the San Diego Padres to a twisting, hilly stretch of the country's most famous monument just north of Beijing. The Padres and Los Angeles Dodgers practice Friday in Beijing's Olympic baseball venue, with MLB's historic first two games in China on Saturday and Sunday.

It's all part of trying to give baseball a profile in China, cracking the sports market and — maybe — eventually finding the baseball version of basketball's Yao Ming.

"The popularity of basketball here just went off the charts when Yao Ming got to the NBA," Padres manager Bud Black said. "That's what baseball is looking for."

“ONE DAY WE’LL LOOK BACK ON THIS – MAYBE A LANDMARK EVENT – AND SAY IT WAS THE START OF MANY GREAT YEARS OF BASEBALL HISTORY IN CHINA.”

Trevor Hoffman
Padres closer

Baseball's main pitchman Thursday was Padres closer Trevor Hoffman, who hiked up the Great Wall alongside Chinese tourists who had no idea who he was. He mugged for TV, stretched his arms wide as if he were about to soar off the wall, and answered questions from local reporters with a faint grasp of the game, which is called "bangqiu" — stick ball — in Chinese.

"Look at the view," Hoffman said. "Take a look. It's unbelievable, isn't it? I think I'd feel pretty safe on this wall in the day when Mongolia was coming after em."

Selling baseball will be tough in China, where the game has few roots and players. However, MLB can see the potential in a country with 1.3 billion people, where incomes are rising and the NBA and European soccer teams have already shown the way.

"One day we'll look back on this — maybe a landmark event — and say it was the start of many great years of baseball history in China," Hoffman said. "You think of all the emperors and dynasties they've had. This had a beginning. I'm sure building the wall felt equally daunting when they started."

Getting attention was easy. Chinese tourists snapped photos of some of the

unknown players, and young girls ran by giggling "hello" and "xie, xie," — Chinese for "thank you." Save for their larger stature, players like Hoffman, Adrian Gonzalez and Kevin Kouzmanoff would have been largely ignored.

The star was the Padres mascot — "The Swinging Friar." Hundreds mugged for photos. Some thought it was a promotion for McDonald's restaurants.

"Here they don't know anything about baseball, they don't know who is who," said Michael Grace, who donned the mascot's garb. "The friar looks friendly, it's an oddity."

A bit like baseball, which is hoping to draw crowds in Beijing over the weekend. The game has been dropped from the 2012 Olympics in London, but could be reinstated for 2016.

Chinese tourist Cen Wei was asked what he knew about the American pastime, and the 24-year-old waved a rolled up newspaper he was carrying — more like swinging an ax than a bat — and said he'd like to see a game.

"It's good for eyesight, flexibility, speed and teamwork," he said. "I'm interested, but I don't think I can see it on TV."

Hang Ziaohong, a young woman standing nearby, was asked the same question.

"Absolutely nothing. I have no idea," she said.

The games are important promotions, although both teams have brought just a handful of starters, leaving most of their top pitchers in the United States.

Traipsing to the apex of the twisting wall was a test of fitness. Becky Moores, the wife to Padres team owner John, made it to the highest rampart. She arrived several days ago in the polluted air of Beijing, welcoming the clean air of the countryside.

"Now I can breathe, my chest is open," she said.

Betsy Gonzalez, the wife of first baseman Adrian Gonzalez, managed to get three-quarters up the wall wearing 3-inch high heels.

"I'm always in high heels so I'm used to it," she said.

Replied her husband: "It would be like me going three times as far as I went. That's incredible to climb all the way up there in high heels."

Kouzmanoff said he tried to keep the sun off his shaved head with a straw hat — the conical-shaped types worn by rice farmers in southern China.

"I wore one for a while but it just kept blowing off my head," Kouzmanoff said. "Too much trouble."

Sandy Alderson, the Padres CEO, predicted a China-born player might make the major leagues in the three years, but he said it was more likely a "six to eight year project."

"The games will put us on the map a little bit but, look, it's a big photo op," he said.

"This is really going to take time, money and personnel. You can't develop the sport over night when we have three or four people in China compared to the NBA with several hundred."

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India's top court suspends arrest warrant against Gere

India's top court suspended an arrest warrant Friday against **RICHARD GERE**, wanted for allegedly breaking public obscenity laws by kissing Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty at a public AIDS awareness event last year.

"Gere is allowed to come and leave. He can't be arrested," said Anil Grover, an attorney for Shetty, after attending the Supreme Court proceedings.

Chief Justice K. G. Balakrishnan and Justice

R. V. Raveendran indefinitely stayed the arrest warrant issued against the actor last year by a court in the northwestern Indian city of Jaipur, Grover told The Associated Press.

Gere embraced and kissed Shetty on her cheek at the public AIDS awareness event in New Delhi on April 15 last year, prompting Hindu hard-liners to allege the pair had offended the sensibilities of India's conservative culture.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DRIVER HAS A BUMP

MINNIE DRIVER says she's got the bump.

The 38-year-old actress and singer confirmed during an appearance Thursday on NBC's "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno" that she's pregnant.

Leno joked that she appeared to have gained weight.

"Are you calling me fat? You've noticed my tummy, haven't you?" Driver said.

"Are you pregnant?" Leno replied.

"Yes, I am," she said.

Driver said she loves being pregnant but is frequently sick.

"I don't know why they call it morning sickness," she said.

AP

Reach out to loved one, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Emphasize what is positive in your life as opposed to what you need to do. Lightness and fun blend together. A child or romantic attachment becomes testy. Tonight: You don't have to go far!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Your perceptions change radically with new information. Process what a respected boss or authority figure presents. Agreement; yes or no is not the objective. Tonight: Say yes to an offer.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Investigate opportunities with an open mind. Financial matters need your attention. If you don't have enough funds, just say so. Tonight: Say yes to sharing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ The words you choose are important, and so are your expressions and delivery. If someone reacts negatively to what you consider a positive, step back and think. Understanding comes forward. Tonight: Easy does it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ What you see and what you think might be best kept to yourself. Remember, your mood and your perspective could be coloring issues. Your finances need a stronger hand, especially if you are feeling insecure. Tonight: Your treat.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Examine what is going on with your immediate friends. You could feel that too much is happening too quickly. Don't shut down because you feel overwhelmed. Listen to your inner voice with care. Tonight: Aim high.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Someone could be quite difficult or insistent that he or she needs to have his or her way. If you can, loosen up and relax in the company of a friend or two. Tonight: Reach out for a friend or loved one.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Take a stand, yet accept what is going on. Your ability to understand someone well makes many people want to draw in closer to you. Tonight: Go with the flow.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ A partner or close friend might need to know that he or she is right, which could look like you agreeing with this person. You might need to jump through your share of hoops to make a point, as others don't hear you at the moment. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Defer to others, especially as it appears you have no other choice. Maintaining a sense of humor could help your mood. Recognize the freedom you gain when others want to run the show. How nice is that? Tonight: Say yes to living.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ You might be weighed down by obligations and what others see as a must. Lighten up and make the most out of an opportunity that heads in your direction. Tonight: Incorporate exercise into your plan.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ You are unusually upbeat. In a sense, your great mood points to how out of kilter others are. Tonight: Your mission is to have a great time.

Happy Birthday

You have a unique style that others like and respond to. Be careful: At times others could see you as flip-pant and become hard. If you meet an obstacle, look within, and you'll find answers. Sometimes a little diplomacy goes a long way. Open up to possibilities rather than problems. Network and broaden your circle of friends. If you are attached, add to your friendship, and the romance could become steamier. If you are single, don't separate love and friendship; they need to go together. **CANCER** provokes a lot of imaginative ideas.

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★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average



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Janric Classic 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 Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

Difficulty
GOLD

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

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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

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

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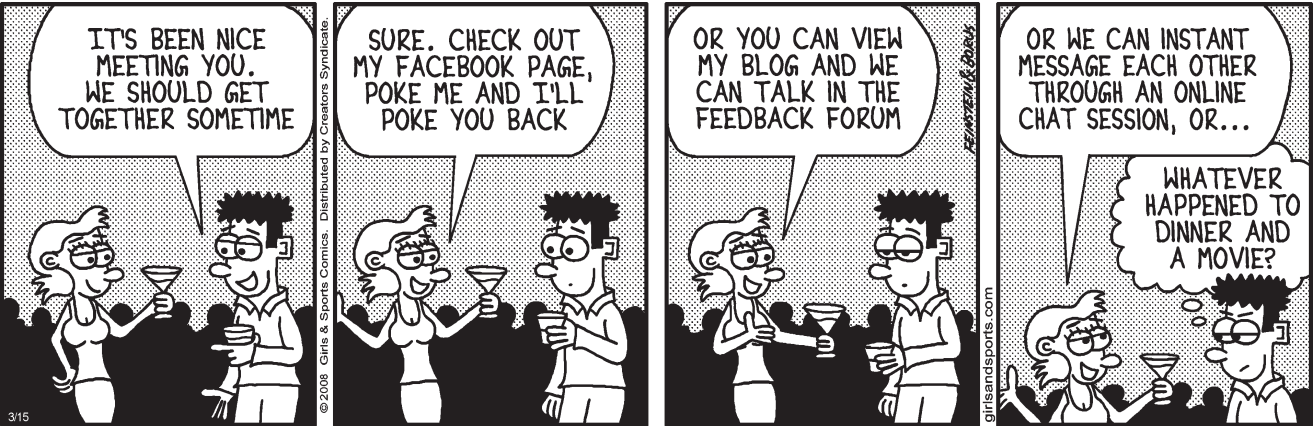
Residential

Interiors

Commercial

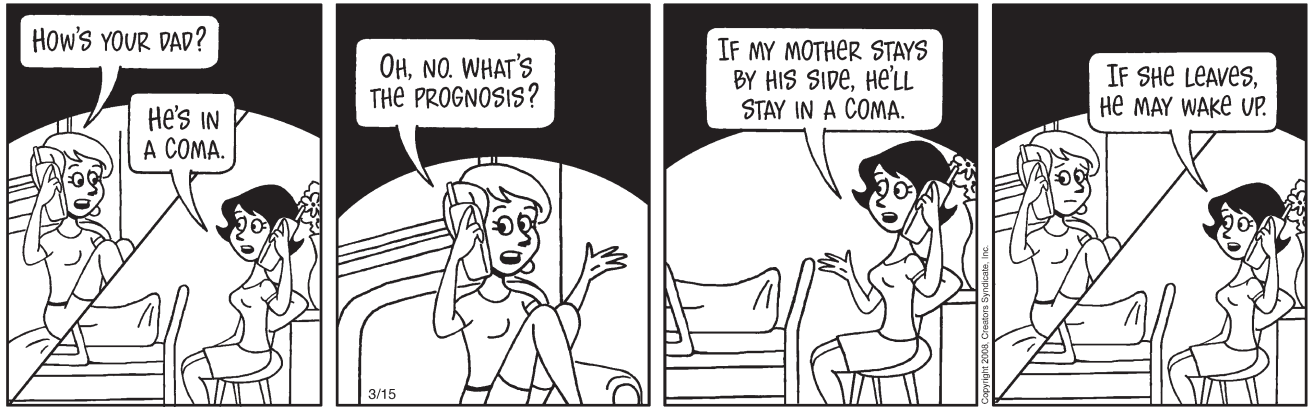
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



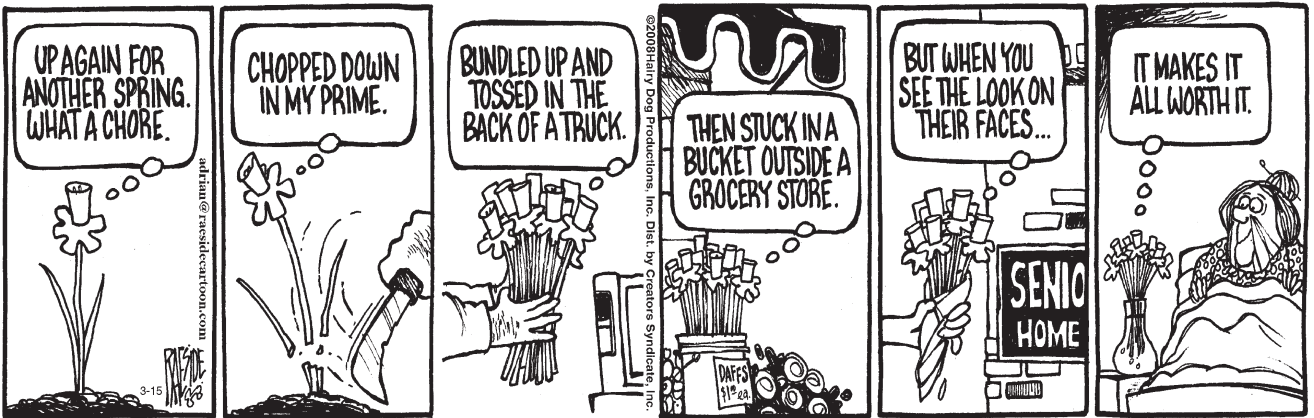
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



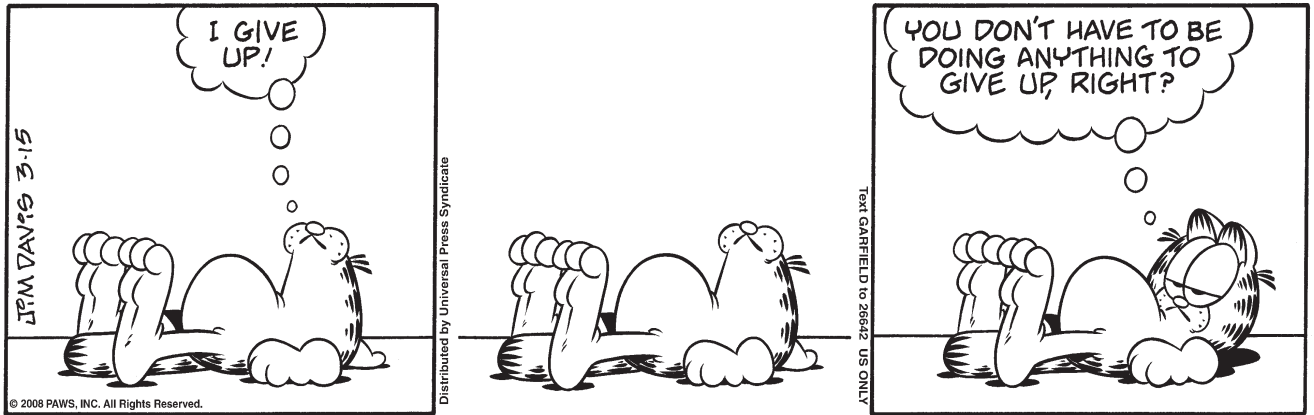
The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



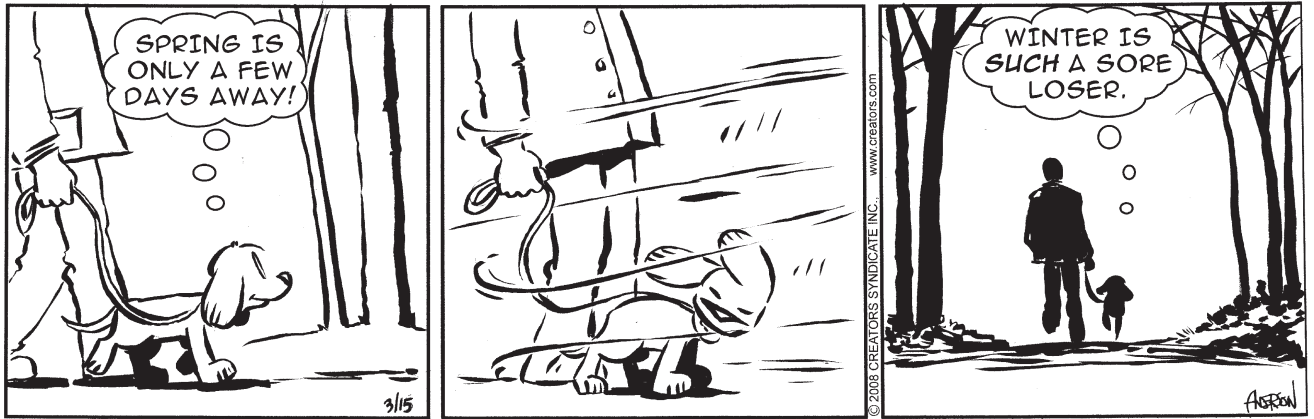
Garfield

By Jim Davis

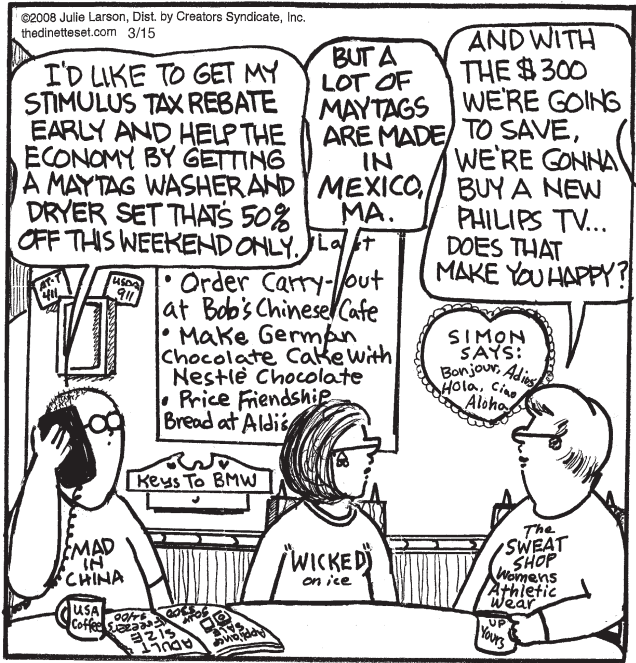


Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

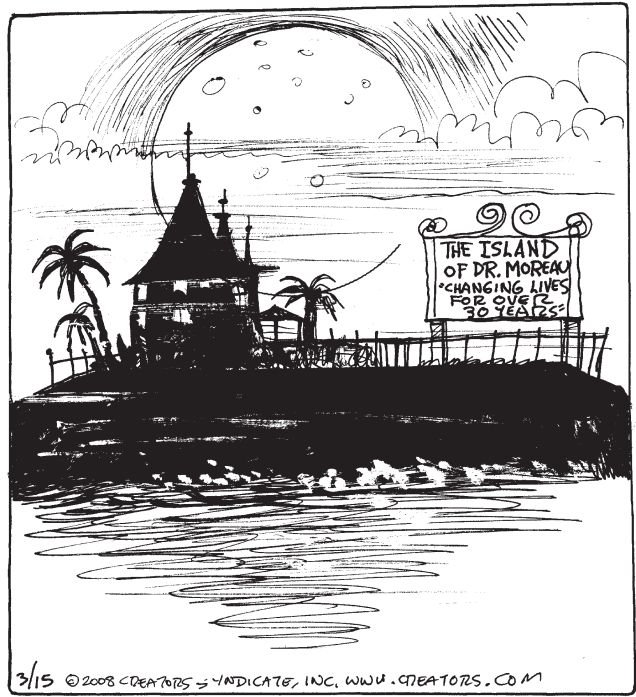


The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew

By John Deering

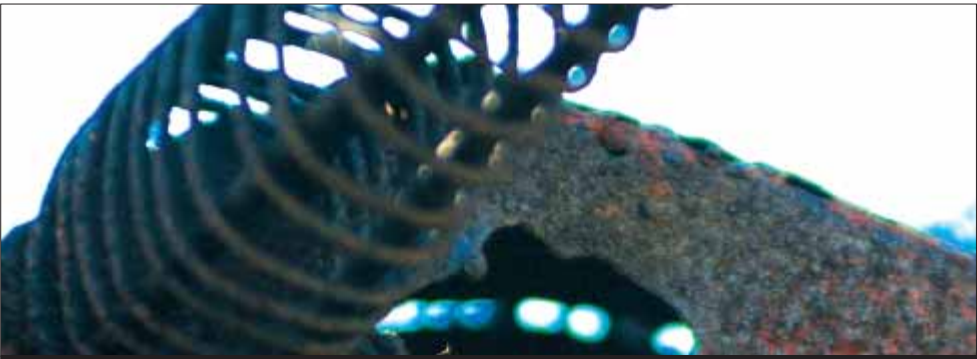


Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY REVEALED

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

Big Blue Bus employee Benjamin Steers correctly identified the image in this photo. It is off a cast-iron sculpture of a steer that adorns the front of L.A. Farm restaurant on Olympic Boulevard near Stewart Street.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Expensive spread
- 7 Fling
- 11 Right, in a way
- 12 Land in the ocean
- 13 Did somersaults
- 14 Make headway
- 15 Retiring
- 16 Heavenly strings
- 17 First father
- 18 Read
- 19 Fishing need
- 21 Jar part
- 22 High-school VIP
- 25 Fiction
- 26 Young seals
- 27 Marked down
- 29 Brit's pound
- 33 Egg part
- 34 Mushrooms, e.g.
- 35 Hoopla
- 36 Contributed, as dues
- 37 Homecoming guest

DOWN

- 38 Show up
- 39 Roger of "Cheers"
- 40 Gardener, at times
- 1 Magna —
- 2 Skirt
- 3 "Scooby Doo" girl
- 4 Neither here nor there
- 5 Like some wines
- 6 Like some wines
- 7 Corona, e.g.
- 8 Generally

P	O	M	E	S		L	I	M	E	S
A	T	A	L	L		I	N	A	N	E
N	O	R	M	A		M	A	R	C	H
D	O	C		S	A	P		C	O	O
A	L	E		H	I	S		E	R	R
S	E	L	L	E	R		G	L	E	N
			M	E	R	M	A	I	D	
S	L	A	T			A	N	N	U	L
T	A	R		B	I	T		C	A	W
E	T	C		E	L	F		H	U	E
P	I	E	T	A			A	C	A	R
O	N	A	I	R			R	E	M	I
N	O	U	N	S			M	O	P	E

Yesterday's answer

- 9 Mentions
- 10 Prepared for trouble
- 16 Excited
- 18 Annoyed state
- 20 Sufficient
- 22 Tiny opening
- 23 Leftover stuff
- 24 Title of respect
- 25 Pack promise
- 28 Molecule's makeup
- 30 Ruined
- 31 Words of surrender
- 32 Casual eatery
- 34 Cab cost
- 36 Fox foot

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					

Comics & Stuff

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS	3 12 18 25 25 Meganumber: 21 Jackpot: \$59M
Super LOTTO	10 16 19 21 39 Meganumber: 15 Jackpot: \$15M
Fantasy 5	5 15 26 38 39
DAILY 3	MIDDAY: 1 2 8 EVENING: 9 8 2
DAILY DERRY	1st: 12 Lucky Charms 2nd: 09 Winning Spirit 3rd: 04 Big Ben RACE TIME: 1:48.23

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In December, street performer John Domingue said the Huntington Beach, Calif., police have finally stopped hassling him for soliciting tips at the city's famous Pier Plaza when he demonstrates his skill at hammering nails into his nose without serious injury. (Some bleeding results, which is why police said they stopped him in the first place.) The American Civil Liberties Union said it is watching the case, citing Domingue's constitutional right to perform his nose-nailing, sword-swallowing and fire-eating acts for donations.

■ Geraldine Magda, 44, was arrested in Austin, Minn., in January, following a nursing-home visit to hold the hand of her dying sister in her final hours. Magda was charged with stealing the wedding ring from her sister's finger during the hand-holding. (2) A Chicago man traveled to Sheboygan, Wis., in December to finally meet the 18-year-old woman who was his biological daughter, but during the same visit, he was arrested and charged with sexually assaulting her while she was sleeping.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1311 Battle of Halmynos: The Catalan Company defeats Walter V of Brienne to take control of the Duchy of Athens, a Crusader state in Greece.

1493 Christopher Columbus returns to Spain after his first trip to the Americas.

1545 First meeting of the Council of Trent.

1672 Charles II of England issues the Royal Declaration of Indulgence.

1776 South Carolina became the first American colony to declare its independence from Great Britain and set up its own government.

1781 American Revolutionary War: Battle of Guilford Courthouse - Near present-day Greensboro, North Carolina, 1,900 British troops under General Charles Cornwallis defeat an American force numbering 4,400.

1783 In an emotional speech in Newburgh, New York, George Washington asks his officers not to support the Newburgh Conspiracy. The plea is successful and the threatened coup d'etat never takes place.

1820 Maine becomes the 23rd U.S. state.

1827 The University of Toronto is chartered.

WORD UP!

bedizen \bih-DY-zuhn\, *transitive verb*: To dress or adorn in gaudy manner.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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All classified liner ads are placed on our website for FREE! Check out www.smdp.com for more info.

Obituaries

SANFORD BERLIN died at home on March 11th in Santa Monica. Sandy was born in 1927 into a large, close-knit Jewish family in Norfolk, Virginia. He served in the Navy in World War II. In the late 1940's and 1950's, he worked in factories, was a union steward and organizer. He later accepted a management position, and much of his business career was in audio manufacturing, with such companies as Harman Kardon, JBL and Mark Levinson. Since his formal retirement in 1999, Sandy was active in community affairs in Santa Monica. He was a reading tutor with first graders at Will Rogers Elementary School. He was on the board of directors of Pico Youth and Family Center and served on the program committee of the YMCA. He was very active in the early efforts to establish a Lifelong Learning Community in Santa Monica. He is survived by his wife, Joanne Berlin, his daughter Nancy Berlin, in Los Angeles, his son Paul Berlin in Hartford, Connecticut and two granddaughters. A memorial service will be held Sunday, March 16th at 2 PM at Church in Ocean Park, 235 Hill Street, Santa Monica.

Creative

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CHIROPRACTORS POSITION available, fully equipped office with front office staff. Fax resume to 323-525-1140, or email mindy.rosenman@yahoo.com

LEXUS SANTA Monica, the premier member of Mike Sullivan's LA Car Guy family of dealerships, is recruiting 2 exceptional sales consultants. Amazing Opportunity for individuals who are extremely professional, posses Luxury Automotive Sales experience and who have career goals identified. Please fax Resume w/cover letter to 310-401-2906

Employment

COOK OCEAN HOUSE, an elegant senior living residence in Santa Monica, is looking for an ideal candidate for it's line cook position. Duties include participating in the daily menu production, preparing and coordinates daily breakfast, lunch and dinners from standardized recipes. Working line shifts daily to ensure speedy service. Ensuring kitchen equipment is clean, operable, and properly maintained on a daily basis. This is a full time position with benefits after 3 months, medical, dental, vision. 401(k) plan and meal plan as well. If you have a great attitude and enjoy working on a great team, please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave., SM,CA 90405 or fax a resume to (310) 314-7356.

CUSTOMER SERVICE FULL TIME-\$15/hour+benefits. Telephone services company in WLA with free parking. Experienced preferred but will train quality applicants. Great language skills and reliability a must. Call 310-281-8888 for recorded details.

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DISHWASHER UPSCALE retirement community in Santa Monica is looking for a part time dishwasher to assist washing dishes and cleaning kitchen in the evenings. If interested, please come to 2107 Ocean Ave. and fill out an application.

FIT FEMALE MODEL WANTED FOR FIGURE DRAWING BY ARTIST. No experience necessary call. (818) 501-0266

FRONT OFFICE receptionist wanted for a friendly and professional physical therapy office, full-time. We are seeking a bright self starter with strong multi-tasking organizational, computer, and people skills. Job description includes answering phones, scheduling appointments, verifying insurance benefits, ordering supplies, filing and clerical duties. Call (310)828-2188 or fax resume to (310)829-1379

GIVE OF YOURSELF volunteers wanted at the discovery shop. Help us contribute to the American cancer society by spending 4 hours per week assisting in our resale shop in Santa Monica. Contact Terry or Shaunna at (310)458-4490

IMMEDIATE POSITIONS available in the Environmental Services Department. Looking for part time housekeepers/ floor techs. Hospital Experience preferred. Call (310)829-8431 for interview.

PART-TIME OR FULL-TIME Driver. Must have own car, need to be familiar with L.A. have Ca. driver's license, English speaking. Can earn up to \$100/ a day. Submit resume to bsberkowitz@aol.com

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LOOKING FOR A GREAT PART TIME JOB? A leading Market Research Company is looking for Hosts/Hostesses for its Los Angeles Focus Group facilities located in Santa Monica. Must have previous experience in Hospitality, Hosting, Hotel or Wait Staff or in Market Research or related field. Interested applicants must be computer literate, responsible and flexible, well spoken and have previous experience with direct client interaction both in person and on the telephone. Job responsibilities include greeting clients, meal serving/clearing, audio & video recording as well as basic office and reception duties. Please email with "CSR Position" in subject line for consideration to mnmorris@focuspointeglobal.com.

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PART-TIME SALES position for legal secretaries. Our attorney service is looking for referrals to law firms. Referrals result in ongoing commissions. Submit resume to bsberkowitz@aol.com

PETITIONERS WANTED To gather signatures for registered voters to qualify ballot measures. You decide when/where to work. No experience nec. Up to \$200/day or more. 24 hr. hotline (310)281-7529 or Leave message (310)412-4888 (Special petition right now for Santa Monica residents to circulate)

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12610 CASWELL ave.unit 4, 1bdrm/1ba \$1175. Lower, stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, parking, laundry, no pets. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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DBAS

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This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 2/15/2008. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 3/15/2008, 3/22/2008, 3/29/2008, 4/5/2008

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