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THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2009
Volume 8 Issue 115



MUSIC MAN
SEE PAGE 3

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE MAKE US LAUGH ISSUE

Newsom makes campaign stop in Santa Monica

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SAMOHI He's been making the rounds in cities across the central and northern part of the state, talking about healthcare, education and other issues expected to play a key role in the 2010 election.

On Tuesday, San Francisco mayor and possible gubernatorial candidate Gavin Newsom came into the backyard of Los Angeles mayor and potential contender Antonio Villaraigosa, pacing in the middle of Santa Monica High School's gymnasium before an audience of several hundred people, answering questions about prison reform, the economy and gay marriage.

Santa Monica was the latest campaign stop for the 41-year-old business owner who has been speaking in communities across the state in about a dozen town hall meetings, planning to stop in Palm Springs and Santa Barbara later this week.

Currently in the exploratory phase, Newsom told a group of reporters before the event, called "Los Angeles Area Conversation About California's Future" that he would make a decision about the campaign in the next two months but is leaning towards jumping in the race.

His potential competition includes former eBay chief Meg Whitman, state Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner, and Attorney General Jerry Brown.

When questioned by a reporter about the connections the native San Franciscan has to Los Angeles, Newsom replied that he has been to Southern California about 700 or 800 times and pointed out that his wife, Jennifer Siebel Newsom, is also from the area.

"The issues transcend geography, north south, the central part of the state or coastal communities," he said.

He was later introduced to the audience by Santa Monica Councilman Bobby Shriver, who is also mulling a run for attorney general.

Donning a scarf from the (RED) cam-

SEE NEWSOM PAGE 14



RIDING ALONG

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Spin instructor Bobby Neely demonstrates the 'Green Spin Bike' on Wednesday afternoon at Revolution Fitness on Montana Avenue. A device attached to the front wheel generates electricity that powers the radio, lights, fans and other electrical components.

Businesses remind residents to 'buy local'

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Before purchasing a book online or driving to a mall in another city, shoppers might want to consider patronizing businesses in their own neck of the woods.

That's the message the Bayside District Corp. and City Hall want to send to residents through the new "Buy Local" campaign, hoping to give a shot in the arm to the Santa Monica economy at a time when businesses are experiencing a slump.

The recently-launched campaign will profile 32 businesses over the next eight weeks through segments on CityTV, press releases and advertisements. The marketing initiative also includes a new Web page on Downtownsm.com that will focus on the importance of shopping locally, both in terms of funneling tax money back to City Hall and helping the environment through lowering the carbon footprint.

"This is a challenging time certainly for everybody in Santa Monica and one of the objectives that we hope to accomplish with this program was to remind people that if they spend their money in town, that a significant portion of that money stays in town to help support the community," said Kathleen Rawson, the executive director of Bayside, a private-public management company in Downtown.

The campaign is actually the second in the city since a similar one launched shortly after the terrorist attacks in 2001. The results of that first campaign were positive in helping to activate a stagnant economy at the time, said Jennifer Taylor, a senior administrative analyst with the Economic Development Division in City Hall.

City and Bayside officials looked to similar campaigns in other communities as

SEE LOCAL PAGE 10

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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.
Come read, listen and enjoy free poetry and prose. Everyone and all genres are welcome, with a 1000 word maximum limit per reader. These weekly readings are hosted by Forth Magazine. Go to forthmagazine.com/weeklyreadings.php or call (310) 396-8566 for more information.

Battle of the bands
Rusty's Surf Ranch
256 Santa Monica Pier, 7:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Hot Sauce Records and multiple award-winning electro-pop-vocalist Ellee Ven performs at the Eighth Annual Battle of the Bands at Rusty's. Call (310) 393-PIER or visit www.rustyssurfranch.com 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.

Friday, March 20, 2009

'Into The Woods'
Lincoln Middle School Auditorium
1501 California Ave., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
An ambivalent Cinderella? A blood-thirsty Little Red Ridinghood? A witch who raps? They're all among the cockeyed characters in James Lapine's and Stephen Sondheim's fractured fairy tale. Tickets to this spring musical are $5 for students and $10 for adults. Call (310) 393-9227 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 both beginners and intermediates. After class, enjoy music, mingle and practice your dance moves. $20 buys the 90-minute class and the social party practice. Free drinks included. Call (310) 392-3493 for more information.

Saturday, March 21, 2009

Antique book road show
Ocean Park Branch Library
2601 Main St., 2 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.
Spend an afternoon with old books at the library. Dr. Michael Cahn from UCLA Department of History will share his book expertise. He is a historian of rhetoric and of print. Bring your book treasures to share and compare, and perhaps solve a riddle or two. Cost is free. Call (310) 392-3804 for more information.

Sunday, March 22, 2009

'My Father's Dragon'
Morgan-Wixson Theatre
2627 Pico Blvd., 11 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.
Fantastical animal costumes and audience participation take you to Tangerina and Wild Island to rescue a baby dragon. This performance is based on Ruth Stiles Gannett's 1948 classic children's book and is best enjoyed by kids four to 10. Seats are $6 to reserve. Call (310) 828-7519 for more information.

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.



In studio with Jason Bentley

BY ROB LAWRENCE
Special to the Daily Press

KCRW Headphones in place, the microphone at the right height, Jason Bentley, host of "Morning Becomes Eclectic" on KCRW-FM (89.9), was ready to put his guest to the test.

Tyler Bates, composer for the recently released film "Watchmen," sat directly across from Bentley with his guitar-viol, a custom guitar played with a bow, on his knee. Bentley remained relaxed, but poised, while holding a newspaper in his hands.

Bentley's colleagues watched eagerly from behind the soundproof glass.

"We have some stories I've torn from the headlines," Bentley said to Bates. "I want to challenge you here with a story, if you could score this."

"I've never seen anything like this," a board technician remarked.

Bentley read a story involving a meteor that whizzed by Earth, nearly entering the atmosphere and creating a doomsday-type situation.

Bates took to the request seriously and created a nerve-racking, dramatic score that came with a twist at the end.

"I think it actually hit Earth in that version," Bentley said jokingly.

Once the performance with Bates concluded, Bentley pointed to the crew signaling them to play the final song of the broadcast.

Bentley left the studio and proceeded to run up and down the halls doing what a music director and host of a morning show has to do — work.

"I'll get e-mails from him late at night," Ariana Morgenstern, producer of "Morning Becomes Eclectic" said. "The guy is working nonstop."

Eventually Bentley had time to take a break and reflect on his three months as music director and host of "Morning Becomes Eclectic" since taking over from Nic Harcourt in December.

Response has been "mostly positive" from fans about Bentley's short reign at the helm. Bentley said the morning show is still a "work in progress."

"I'm going to be my own harshest critic," Bentley said. "I can assure people that I'm listening closer than anyone and I'm critiquing."

Bentley paused briefly to reach for a tissue before sneezing.

"I've been really frustrated this week

SEE **KCRW** PAGE 11



WHAT IS THAT?

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Santa Monica College engineering students Simone Castagna (left) and Adam Kaye look at the 'Aerogel' display at SMC's Main Campus earlier this week. Nicknamed 'blue smoke,' Aerogel is 99.8 percent air, making it the least dense solid known; for example, it is 1,000 times less dense than glass. Yet it is a better insulator than the highest quality fiberglass and can support up to 4,000 times its own weight. It was donated to SMC by NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena. Aerogel was successfully used on JPL's Stardust mission to capture comet particles and as a thermal insulator aboard the Mars rover Sojourner. It also has a wide variety of applications and potential applications, including fire protection, drug delivery support, absorption of toxic materials, and energy savings.

PREP SPORTS ROUNDUP

Samohi baseball on the rebound

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

The Santa Monica High School baseball team's season is going as expected.

Head Coach Rob Duron said at the start of the season that his team had yet to develop a second starter to go along with star hurler Tyler Skaggs, and it appears that search is still on.

Alonzo Gonzalez, who is considered a candidate to fill that no. 2 spot in the rotation, was impressive in the season opener against University High School two weeks ago. He allowed just one hit over three innings, prompting some to believe he may be the solution there.

The team went on to string together three wins to begin the season, but losses in two of the past three games, including a 2-7 loss to Mira Costa High School on Tuesday, has the team looking for answers. Gonzalez made the start, but was far from effective.

He couldn't get out of the second inning, giving up three earned runs after walking the bases loaded. The Vikings, 4-2 on the season, will next take part in the Redondo Tournament beginning with a game against Banning High School on Saturday.

CROSSROADS OFF TO HOT START

The Crossroads Roadrunners has certain-

SEE **ROUNDUP** PAGE 12

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Supporting Samohi redesign

Editor:

Dear Mayor Genser and Santa Monica City Council members,

As a planner and designer with a lifelong commitment to creating sustainable communities, I strongly support the visionary plan unveiled March 9 to improve cultural and recreational facilities on the Santa Monica High School campus and open them to more extensive community use. The Civic Center Joint Use Plan offers tremendous benefits to the city, which justify the full participation of the Redevelopment Agency in their realization.

The Joint Use Plan will revitalize the Civic Center area by incorporating and expanding the amazing array of cultural, educational and athletic events at Samohi. The plan solves bicycle, pedestrian and parking problems that have limited community access to the exceptional concerts and performances offered at the Greek Theater and Barnum Hall.

It will also upgrade dilapidated and substandard sports facilities and make them available to students and the community as both participants and spectators.

Specifically, the joint use plan includes the following much needed improvements for community use:

• Michigan Avenue Promenade will reopen pedestrian and bicycle access between Fourth and Seventh streets at Michigan, uniting the Samohi campus and Civic Auditorium Campus.

• Construction of new gymnasium, weight rooms and indoor swimming pool with west-facing glazing and a regulation size lighted soccer field above, adjacent to the new Science/Technology building.

• Construction of CIF track and synthetic turf football field with 3,000 seat stadium to E-W location along Olympic Way. Below the stadium is partially below-grade parking, with entrance off Olympic near Fifth Street`. Provides over 490 spaces per level with direct access to Barnum, stadium, fields and the Greek.

• Construction of softball, baseball and basketball fields on site of former track, gyms and pool, sloping to street level at Fourth Street and landscaped for public view, access and use.

• Greek Theater improvements such as open frame proscenium stage, changing room, loading area.

• Subterranean parking below the baseball and softball fields at Fourth and Pico could provide about 450 spaces per level and could provide parking for Civic Auditorium Campus.

As Transportation Committee chair for Santa Monica High's PTSA, I'm particularly excited at the concept for the Michigan Promenade, which creates a bicycle/pedestrian link aligned with Michigan through campus from Seventh Street to Fourth Street. With a connection through the Civic Center, this improvement provides a missing link between the beach bike path, Civic Center, Samohi and the residential communities to the east of campus.

With a proposed Seventh Street bicycle pedestrian bridge, the joint use improvements will allow Samohi to further increase growing numbers of students cycling to school each day; up over 400 percent since Bike Days started two years ago.

I urge the City Council as the Redevelopment Agency to fully support this unique opportunity to revitalize and expand the Civic Center to include the high school joint use projects. By including youth in the heart of our community center, understanding that we can all benefit from this project, we become a truly sustainable community as we plan for an even brighter future.

Alison Kendall
Santa Monica



Your column here

Lee H. Hamilton — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Is Congress up to the task before it?

I ARRIVED IN CONGRESS IN 1965, JUST AS President Lyndon Johnson's transformation of the U.S. government was getting under way. It was an extraordinary time, as LBJ sent up to Capitol Hill his proposals for Medicare, Medicaid, aid to elementary and secondary education, the Voting Rights Act, and a host of other bills that reshaped Washington and its place in the nation's life. The United States was a different country by the time Congress finished.

We are at a juncture that may be as far-reaching and no less dramatic. With the economic crisis as a backdrop, President Obama has sent to Capitol Hill a budget that places the government more thoroughly in American life than at any time in the past three decades, and eschews the anti-tax, anti-regulatory approach to public policy that has generally predominated in recent decades.

The White House has put Congress on notice that it intends to reform the health-care system, make fundamental improvements to public education, and remake national energy policy. These changes are necessary, it contends, to keep the U.S. economy strong and prosperous.

There is an important difference in the approaches taken by the two presidents, Johnson and Obama. Enjoying the momentum built by his landslide victory in the 1964 elections, Johnson gave Congress specific proposals, like the Medicaid bill and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. He told Congress precisely what he wanted and then helped shape its response.

President Obama, on the other hand, has given Congress the goals he wants to pursue and the concepts he intends to support, then left it up to lawmakers to craft the fine print. As the New York Times put it recently, he is "taking a gamble in outsourcing the drafting of his agenda's details" to Congress.

This is not just a leap of faith on the president's part, however. Given the recent past, it also presents Congress with an exacting test of its ability to function effectively and produce policies that serve the American people well.

Congress has a history of not dealing well with the big issues. Now it's presented with a budget and a presidential agenda that offer no letup in big issues. Its challenge is two-fold: to act at a time of crisis and in an economy that's being reshaped by the day; and, despite the pressure to act quickly, to act in a manner that allows for the deliberation and consensus-building that uphold the democratic process.

How it will respond remains an open question. No sooner had the president's plans landed on Capitol Hill than legislators of both parties and powerful interest groups declared this or that provision badly flawed, seeming to reject the president's proposals without open-minded consideration and debate.

CONGRESS HAS BEEN GIVEN AN EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE UP TO ITS CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

Meanwhile, there is a strong likelihood that the leadership, as it has done far too often in recent years, will choose to deal with the issues before it by bundling them into omnibus legislation that permits very little deliberation and requires an up-or-down vote on a bill of gigantic size and complexity. This may be efficient, but it is hardly democratic.

Congress has been given an extraordinary opportunity to live up to its constitutional responsibilities and to function effectively in the national interest.

While its public standing has been improving of late, it remains damaged by the perception its members care more about catering to donors, playing partisan games, and putting in a three- or four-day workweek than they do about tackling the nation's toughest challenges in a reasoned, comprehensive, and fair way.

Now, at a time when Americans are closely tuned in to events in Washington, Congress is being asked by the president to address a far-reaching agenda. It can do so by reviving the tradition of open debate that enlightens the American people and allows its members to weigh the questions before them as they develop consensus, or it can give in to its recent habits of procedural expediency and partisan tactics. The test for Congress is clear. Let's hope it chooses wisely.

LEE HAMILTON is director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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Meredith Pro Tem

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

Alaska's Camelot crumbles

AMERICA WAS SHOCKED AND SADDENED last week when Star magazine reported that the eldest daughter of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin split from the father of her 2-month-old son.

"It is true that Levi [Johnston] and I are no longer together," 18-year-old high school correspondence student Bristol Palin said in a statement, through her mom's spokesperson, of the 19-year-old high school dropout to whom she had been betrothed since announcing her unplanned pregnancy last fall.

Not since Elvis' daughter Lisa Marie Presley started marrying (taking her first husband at the age of 20, getting hitched to Michael Jackson 20 days after the divorce from her first marriage was finalized, then divorcing him shortly thereafter and dumping her subsequent fiancé when she met Nicolas Cage at a party, to whom she got hitched following a 10-day engagement and divorced following 108 days of marital bliss. She's now married for the fourth time and who among us doesn't feel in our bones that this one will stick) had the world so hoped for a fairy tale ending.

Bristol's heartbreaking separation from Levi was one that not even the biggest cynics saw coming. The couple, after all, dated for three years before spawning. (And as everyone knows, high school dating years are like the equivalent of cat years.) Plus, when the boy of your dreams, the father of your unborn child, so eloquently pens on his MySpace page that he's a "f---ing redneck" who "doesn't want kids" and courageously announces, "Ya f---k with me I'll kick ass," well, who can blame a girl for falling in love with someone so unabashedly in touch with his emotions?

Relationship experts are bewildered that Bristol let such a hopeless romantic — who has said his interests include "hanging out with [his] buds and playing a good video game," and whom Bristol is rumored to have called "white trash" in recent days — slip through her fingers.

Understandably, no one is more devastated by the break-up than Bristol, but she felt she had no choice. "Unfortunately … many try to 'cash in' on the Palin name. Sometimes that greed clouds good judgment and the truth," she said.

"I'm just flattered that anyone thought I was smart enough to be greedy," Johnston reportedly told family and friends, his eyes welling up with tears. "Really, I'm touched someone assumed I ever had good judgment or can spell 'Palin' and therefore 'cash in' on its good name-ness."

The dissolution of Alaska's Camelot sparked memories of other high-profile, star-crossed lovers such as Romeo and Juliet, Bert and Ernie and Pamela Anderson and her bevy of exes.

Like the day JFK was assassinated or Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon, America will forever remember where it was on Feb. 19, 1995, when Pamela donned a bikini to wed Mötley Crüe drummer Tommy Lee after a 96-hour courtship. Throughout the course of their three-year marriage, Tommy considerately served time in the poky for punching Pamela in the stomach while she was pregnant with one of their two sons, lovingly infected her with Hepatitis C and charmingly made a film of them, uh, coupling and then thoughtfully "lost" the tape, which was "found" shortly thereafter and sold worldwide.

The transitory soul mates filed for divorce twice and reconciled twice before calling it quits for good. After Tommy, Pamela was engaged to a model before dressing in a (presumably different) bikini to get hitched to singer/songwriter Kid Rock, to whom she remained married for less than four months. Following that Cinderella story, she married and separated from another Prince Charming in just under three months.

Like all of America did with Jessica Simpson and '90s boy-bander Nick Lachey, Jessica Simpson and D-list comic Dane Cook, Jessica Simpson and Maroon 5 frontman Adam Levine, Jessica Simpson and pop prince John Mayer and Jessica Simpson and Dallas Cowboys' quarterback Tony Romo, we all hoped and prayed Bristol and Levi would last and were floored when it didn't.

But if the grand dame of relationships (or whatever it is she calls them these days), Madonna, couldn't go the distance with Sean Penn, Warren Beatty, Vanilla Ice, Dennis Rodman, Carlos Leon, Andy Bird, Guy Ritchie, Alex Rodriguez or now a 20-year-old Brazilian model, did Bristol and Levi ever really stand a chance?

Still, as long as 27-year-old Britney Spears is given permission by her court-appointed conservator to wed for a third and/or fourth time some day, there is a flicker of hope that eventually the world will be able to aspire temporarily to at least a few more happily ever afters.

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

The Q Line

Backing Bobby

City Councilman Bobby Shriver has recently said he is mulling a run for state attorney general next year.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Would you vote for Shriver as the state's top cop?

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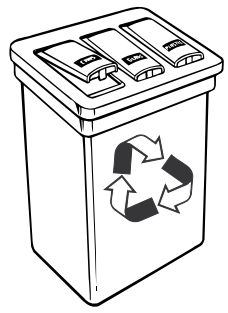



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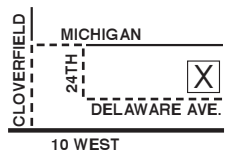


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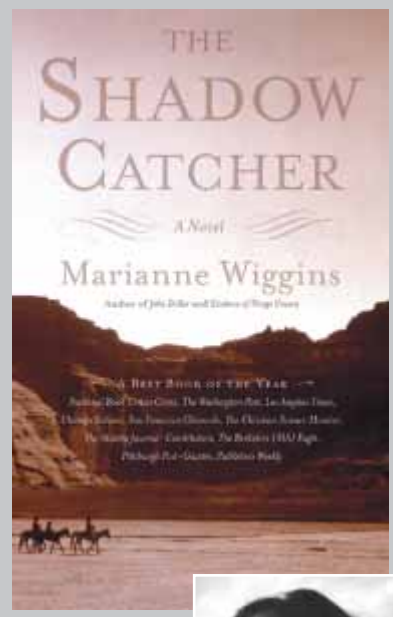


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The Re-View
Merv Hecht
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Getting just a taste

I JUST HAD LUNCH AT THE NEW WHOLE Foods store on Lincoln Boulevard near Rose. There were a lot of people there, but with over one acre of gourmet and top quality produce, it didn't seem very crowded.

First I went to the soup station and asked for a sampler cup, which I was given with a smile.

First I sampled the lobster chowder. The flavor was perfect, but I don't like potatoes in my seafood soups. Then I sampled the Manhattan clam chowder, which was very good, but I'm not really a big fan of Manhattan style chowder. Finally, I tried the chicken gumbo, and it was delicious.

While I was at the soup counter, I noticed the prepared seafoods, so I sampled the large octopus, the small octopus (better), the spicy shrimp, and the seafood mix.

The soup sampler cup was just the right size for each of these samples.

Then I went to the smoked seafood counter and asked for a sample of the "Indian candy." That's a sweet, smoked fish with a yellow color, and it was also delicious.

Then I asked for a sample of a smoked scallop, and it was even better. I'm definitely serving that for dinner soon.

Walking away from the smoked seafood counter, I walked passed the magnificent fresh seafood counter, and promised myself to come back soon to try the salmon rolled around crab salad.

Then I saw a rack with a terrific selection of hot sauces. I'm a sucker for hot sauce, so I found one that I've never seen before, with chipotle peppers and garlic, and bought it for some leftover chicken in the fridge that could be good for chicken chili.

That's a nice feature about this market: you can find products you don't see elsewhere.

Next I walked over to the smoked/BBQ meats section and sampled a piece of the smoked brisket.

Perfect! In fact, it was so good I bought a smoked beef rib to take home for dinner. Then I sampled a smoked chicken wing, also very, very good. I love smoked meats.

By this time I was getting pretty full, so I decided to buy the stuff on my wife's shopping list.

Juice oranges came in a sack, so that was easy. Juicing grapefruits were more difficult; the organic ones come in all sizes, and I didn't know if the bigger the better, or the smaller the sweeter, so I took some of each.

I noticed the fresh nuts and candies section. It looked really tempting, but I followed the list and went for two chocolate bars, one plain dark chocolate and one chocolate with ginger.

The next thing on the list was egg salad, so I asked one of the helpful people that seem to be everywhere, where to go. He walked me over to the fresh dips and prepared vegetables section.

There a nice young lady offered me a sample of an artichoke dip, and I guess I was too obvious in my enjoyment of it because she then sampled me on a couple of other prepared products, and I enjoyed every one of them.

Then she gave me a container of egg salad, but I couldn't resist also taking a small container of hummus home with me.

I walked over to the coffee section in hopes that they had free samples of that as well, but no luck there. But right next to the coffees is the serve-yourself donut counter, and someone had already sampled half of a glazed donut, so I took the remaining half. That was just right for dessert.

I'm going to write to management about the lack of coffee samples, but everything else went nicely.

There was no line at one of the counters, and I got right through quickly. The bag boy asked me if everything went well, and I told him what a nice store it was, and he beamed. I hope they give free samples to the employees.

And I hope they get this coffee thing straightened out; I really enjoy a fresh cup of coffee after lunch.

LOCATION

Whole Foods
225 Lincoln Blvd.
Venice, Calif., 90291
Phone: (310) 566-9480
Fax: (310) 566-9487

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

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U.S. orders hoofs off Spanish ham

BY MICHAEL HILL
Associated Press Writer

There's trouble afoot in the world of high-priced Spanish hams. A black foot to be precise.

Less than a year after the U.S. government finally allowed the import of Spain's succulent and exceedingly expensive jamon Iberico de bellota, the cured meat long sought by American gourmets has become caught in a quagmire of regulations and trade wars.

The trouble started just months after the hams — traditionally presented with the distinctive black hoof still attached — began arriving. Someone noticed that the hoofs violated a USDA sanitary rule requiring they be removed.

USDA spokeswoman Peggy Riek says the rule, which also applies to domestic production, is designed to reduce the risk of contamination. So officials began making importers cut off the hoofs. It satisfied the regulations, but irritated eaters.

"In all its glory, it won't be the same without the hoof," says Jonathan Harris, co-owner of LaTienda.com, an online retailer of Spanish wine and food, including the bellota ham.

Meanwhile, the ham also is caught in a trade dispute between the United States and Europe that could double its already exorbitant price. As of April 23, dozens of European foods, from mineral water to chickens, could be slapped with steep new taxes.

The tax — which is 100 percent on cured Spanish hams shipped with the bone — is the latest parry in a long-running quarrel with the European Union over its ban on U.S. beef produced with growth hormones.

"You're just hurting individual businesses," says Taylor Griffin, president of The Rogers Collection, a Portland, Maine-based luxury foods importer. "You're not helping American trade in any way."

The high-end ham is made from pampered free-range pigs fattened on acorns in the forests of southwestern Spain. The acorn diet gives the meat a satiny taste that sets it apart even from other prized Iberico hams. It can sell for $1,400 for a full ham from thigh to hoof and is described without irony as the Holy Grail of ham.

"It's the best ham in the world. It's the caviar of ham. I'm such a proponent of it," says chef Terrance Brennan of the New York restaurants Picholine and Artisanal. "Once you have it, you can't go back to proscuitto ... For me, it's sublime."

Strict regulations kept the bellota and other Iberico hams out of this country until a Spanish company, Embutidos Fermin, built a slaughterhouse that met muster. They began importing Iberico hams to the U.S. last year in partnership with Rogers Collection and chef Jose Andres.

The pending arrival of Iberico hams in the United States made headlines. Even then-candidate Barack Obama indulged in a sample during a campaign stop last year in Philadelphia. He called it "delicious."

There is hope for ham lovers. The tariff covers only hams shipped on the bone, so sliced products won't be affected. And U.S. trade officials already have delayed the tariff from the original date of March 23 to give them time to hash out an "interim solution" with their European counterparts.

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WED | 7:30PM | APR 15, 2009
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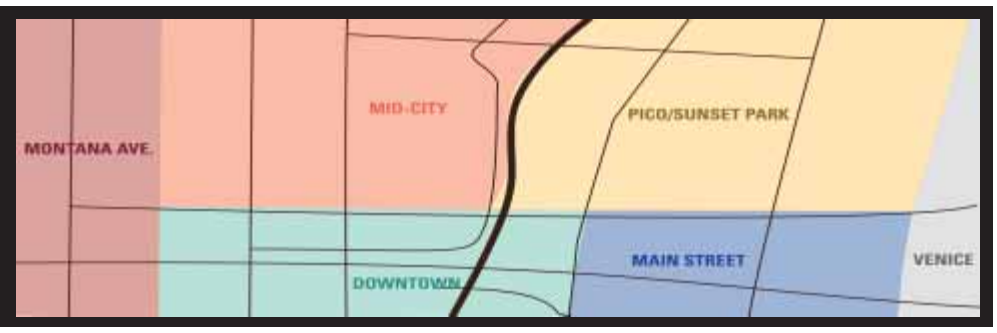
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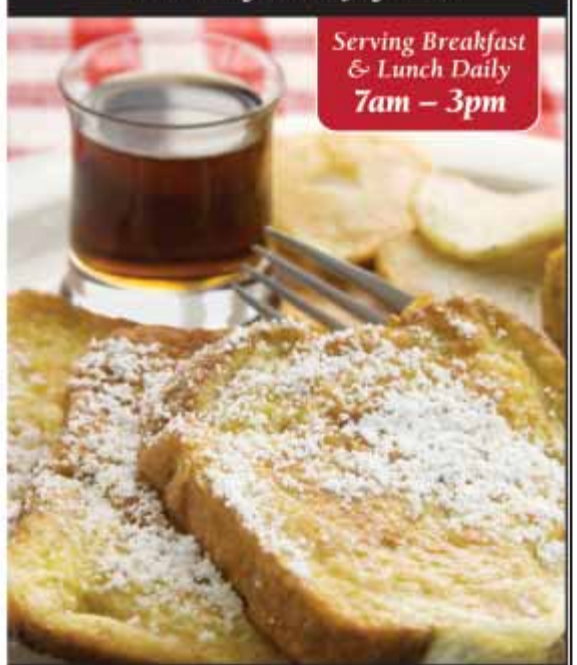
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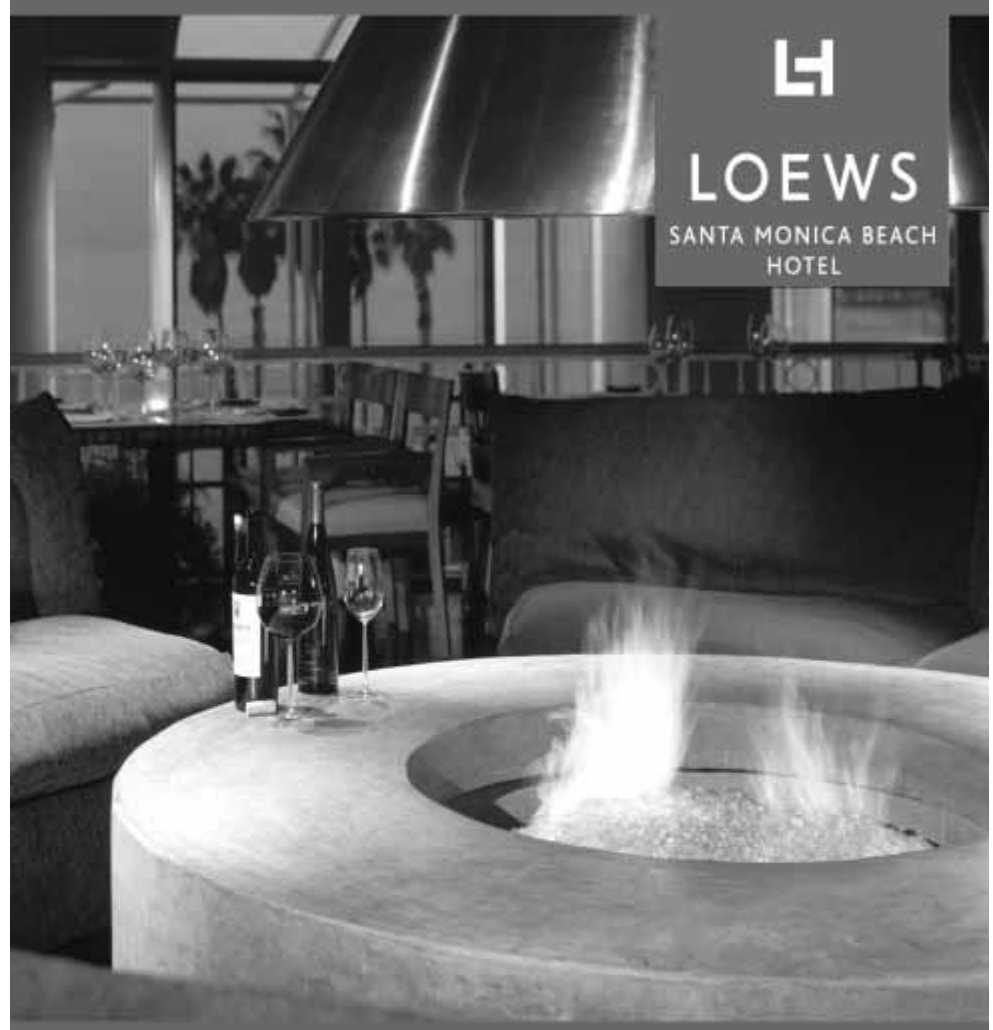
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New campaign will feature 32 businesses

FROM LOCAL PAGE 1

models, including in Berkeley and Oakland.

"We feel businesses are really struggling and it's important to bring as much awareness as possible to help them and encourage people to think locally first," Taylor said.

Bayside released a list of reasons why shoppers should stay local, pointing out at the top that for every $100 spent on Santa Monica businesses, about $45 stays in the community in the form of sales taxes.

The campaign also stresses the environmental benefits of staying in the community, which can allow shoppers to ditch their cars in favor of their bikes and legs.

Among the Business Improvement Districts that could participate is the Pico Improvement Organization, which represents merchants along Pico Boulevard.

Bob Kronovet, the chairman of the PIO, said that while the board has yet to make a decision on whether to be involved, he was sure that the organization would participate.

Business on the boulevard has remained stable over the past few months, during which time turnover has remained relatively low, Kronovet said.

"This is a chance for all of the BIDS to work together and promote businesses to folks coming into Santa Monica," he said.

Jeremy Berman, the co-owner of Vanilla Bake Shop on Wilshire Boulevard, said that the campaign could lead to a trickle down effect in which shoppers in Santa Monica will hit the stores before catching a meal and then maybe a movie.

"Everyone benefits by everyone coming out locally," he said.

The bakery, which opened in 2007, has seen an increase in business over the past year, but not by as much it should be experiencing, Berman said.

> **"WE'RE ALL NEIGHBORS AND BUSINESS PARTNERS AND I THINK SUPPORTING EACH OTHER IS A REALLY GREAT IDEA."**
>
> **Doug Rausenberger**
> General manager, Border Grill

"We are affected by it but not as dramatic as everyone else," he said of the sluggish economy. "We should've been growing stronger than we have."

Business has also been stable at Border Grill, a Mexican restaurant on Fourth Street.

"I think everyone was quite surprised at the end of last year with the sharp downturn and we were cautious budgeting," said Doug Rausenberger, the general manager. "While it's not where I would like it to be … we are doing OK relative to the general business levels of other restaurants that I've heard."

The restaurant has also instituted a "Locals Club" which offers discounts to patrons from the area.

"I love the idea of really just reminding people to think locally first," he said. "We're all neighbors and business partners and I think supporting each other is a really great idea."

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Photo courtesy Drew Ressler

BENTLEY

Bentley redefines KCRW's sound

FROM KCRW PAGE 3

because I've had this cold and it's something that affects my on air sound, demeanor and energy level," Bentley said. "It's something that's sort of out of my control, so it's kind of frustrating."

Bentley joked that his new status at the popular KCRW radio station that broadcasts from a studio beneath Santa Monica College has made him a celebrity.

"[KCRW is] going to South by Southwest [SXSW] and I fully expect to be treated like a king," Bentley said jokingly about his upcoming live broadcast from the South by Southwest music festival in Austin, Texas today and tomorrow.

Bentley hopes his status will allow him more realistic applications.

"My biggest fantasy is being able to get into a bar in Austin," Bentley said with a chuckle.

Bentley will be having some special guests in his studio during the broadcast from SXSW. Peter, Bjorn and John on March 19, and PJ Harvey and John Parish on March 20.

Beyond the live broadcast, Bentley is using his position as music director to plan a large dance party called RadioActive, which happens on April 11 at the Legendary Park Plaza in Downtown Los Angeles. The party will feature most of KCRW's DJs, who will be spinning tunes in four different rooms.

"This is the first time we've intentionally organized and produced a dance music event," Bentley said with enthusiasm. "It's always been like the after effect or by accident or 'oh my God, people are dancing, what's going on?' It's definitely a part of KCRW's personality. It's what I have brought to the station over the years."

Digging into his past Bentley took a moment to reminisce on his former evening show and his love of electronic music, which he featured regularly.

"People do have a legitimate gripe with the fact that I was such a champion of electronic music and there's not really — that sound isn't really available, it just sort of went away all of the sudden," Bentley said. "I know, I get it, but it's not something that is appropriate in the morning so I don't know what to do. I love that music too but it's just not a 'Morning Becomes Eclectic' thing."

What Bentley did set out to do from the start was to make the morning show more inclusive than it was before. Broadening the audience and the music was among his major goals.

"I think just the change from the last music director to me has meant a different definition of eclectic," Bentley said. "That's going to bring in more listeners."

Bentley has added more world music, jazz, classical, folk, and some electronic music to attract more listeners. He did acknowledge it is hard grab people's attention because KCRW is not "spoon feeding you pop music."

When Bentley selects music for his morning broadcast he tends to follow his instincts. He just gets that "gut feeling" that tells him the hits from the misses. He always makes sure to steer away from songs that feel "too polished" or "too mainstream" for KCRW.

Once the microphone is turned off, Bentley appears to be a very approachable person who works well with the staff at KCRW, whether it's an assistant or another on-air personality. Bentley seems to have time to trade jokes and stories with anyone in the hallways of KCRW.

"He's very empowering to the staff and very encouraging to the DJs," Morgenstern said, adding that he is also funny on and off the air.

Bentley feels very comfortable in his new role and enjoys being able to work in the area where he grew up.

Before his time at KCRW is up he hopes to establish two different benefit concerts for the station. One would be a continuation of RadioActive every spring and a concert during the winter holidays.

"For the here and now I'm really happy and it's a great job," Bentley said. "It's a lot of work, it's challenging but I wouldn't have it any other way."

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Diamond notes

FROM ROUNDUP PAGE 3

ly earned the nickname with its sprint to a perfect 4-0 record.

Wins over Vistamar, Oakwood, New Roads and Viewpoint have Crossroads sitting pretty as it heads into a game against Beverly Hills High School today at 3 p.m. Beverly Hills is in the Ocean League, along with Samohi.

PACIFICA CHRISTIAN HITS THE DIAMOND

Pacifica Christian, a school that is fielding its first-ever varsity baseball team this season, has been surprisingly competitive for a squad comprised of just 11 players with eight of those being freshman.

The Seawolves are off to a 1-1 start in Mulholland League play. The young team lost to Wildwood in the season opener on March 5, but followed that disappointment with a 11-9 victory over Pacific Lutheran, a team considered one of the most talented in the league.

The Seawolves will take on Shalhevet on the road today at 7:15 p.m.

VIKINGS SOFTBALL PREPARES FOR TOURNEY

Samohi's softball team is gearing up to take part in the High Desert Classic tournament beginning Friday in Lancaster.

The Vikings, 4-2 on the season, will take on Lancaster in the first round of the tournament, which includes 32 teams split between two divisions. The Vikings are playing in Division 1, which includes more competitive teams.

Head Coach Debbie Skaggs said she secretly would like to play Crescenta Valley High School, a team that eliminated her squad from the California Interscholastic Southern Section Playoffs last season. Both teams would need to win at least one game to guarantee a matchup.

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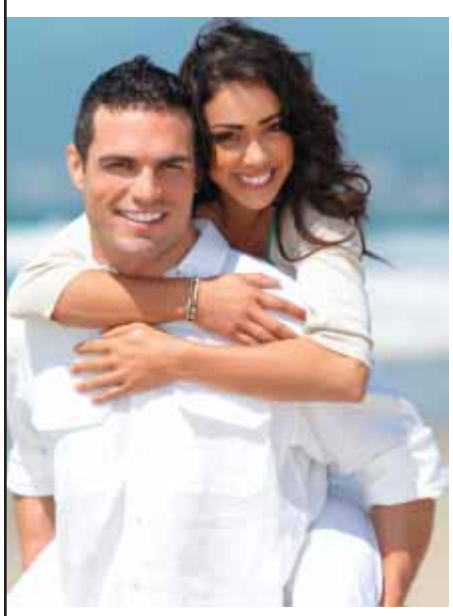
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To answer questions on the procedures used to select vendors for the bidding process or for more information, contact Barbara Valdez, Supplier Diversity Program Director, Nordstrom, Inc., Seattle, Washington, 206.373.4382 or Christine Young, Supplier Diversity Program Manager, Nordstrom, Inc., Seattle, Washington, 206.373.4383.

Nordstrom, Inc. is one of the nation's leading fashion specialty retailers, with 171 U.S. stores located in 28 states. Founded in 1901 as a shoe store in Seattle, today Nordstrom operates 109 full-line stores, 58 Nordstrom Racks, two Jeffrey boutiques, and two clearance stores. Nordstrom also serves customers through its online presence at nordstrom.com and through its catalogs. Nordstrom, Inc. is publicly traded on the NYSE under the symbol JWN. Nordstrom is an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to providing a diverse environment.

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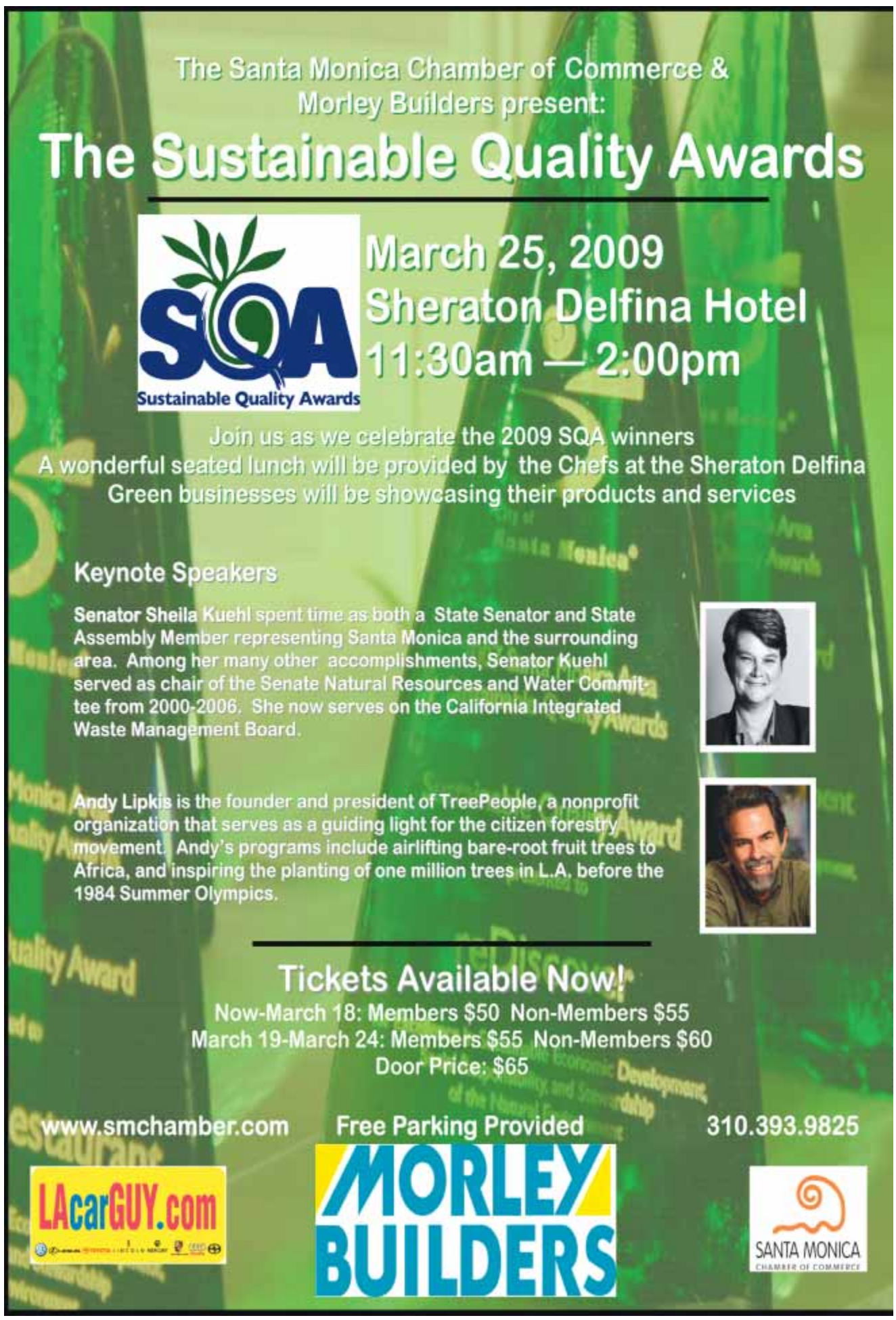
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San Francisco mayor spends evening in SM

FROM **NEWSOM** PAGE 1

paign and jokingly thanking Newsom for allowing him to promote the nonprofit organization he co-founded, Shriver spoke of how many of the state's issues are also local to Santa Monica, issues that include homelessness, affordable housing, environmentalism and the economy.

"Santa Monicans are really happy to have you here and Santa Monica is a very political community," Shriver said.

Newsom identified the three key issues in his campaign as healthcare, education, and the environment, pointing to his record in San Francisco where plastic bags have been banned, and medical services and preschools have been universalized.

Following his election, Newsom formed a task force to tackle the issue of universal healthcare. Today about 65 percent of people previously uninsured in San Francisco have access, he said.

"I don't think it can be done, I know it can be done," Newsom said about expanding universal health in the state.

He stressed the importance of education in a state that consistently ranks among the bottom in the country for per pupil funding, an issue likely to resonate in a city where the school district is currently battling funding cuts from Sacramento.

"To turn this state around, we have to reconcile this education issue," he said.

The state deficit inevitably came up when a woman in the audience asked the gubernatorial hopeful about the California law that requires a two-thirds majority in the Legislature to pass the budget and how he would respond if the "Republicans hold the budget hostage."

California is one of three in the country that require a two-thirds majority, Newsom said, describing himself as an advocate for the "50 percent plus one" model.

"This is getting absurd," he said. "I can't see a legitimate argument of the status quo, the tyranny of the minority."

The audience included students from nearby universities and community colleges, including one who asked Newsom about the increase in tuition over the past several year at the public institutions for higher education, to which he responded that he would not raise fees and would fight to rollback hikes.

Then there was the issue of gay marriage.

Newsom gained some notoriety in 2004 when he began allowing gay and lesbian couples in San Francisco to apply for marriage licenses despite the passage of a proposition in 2000 that prevented the state from recognizing same-sex marriages. He garnered some more attention last year when the mayor was featured in a anti-gay marriage ad that featured a speech in which Newsom said, "It's going to happen, whether you like it or not."

He continues to be vocal in his support for gay marriage, arguing that much like in the Brown v. Board of Education, "separate is not equal." In 1967, African-American and Caucasians were not allowed to marry in 16 states, Newsom said, adding that approximately 70 percent of Americans during that year opposed interracial marriage.

Newsom said that one of the reasons why he is a Democrat is because he will fight for what is right, even if it's against majority opinion.

"Guys like me come and go but principles transcend," he said.

His speech made an impression on some.

"He seems to want to push the envelop on progressive issues and doesn't seem afraid to talk about issues that most politicians are careful about," said Stacy Cohen, a Los Angeles resident.

melodyh@smdp.com

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed bids for:

BID #2971 – FURNISH AND DELIVER THREE (3) NEW AND UNUSED SEWER JETTER TRUCKS

- **Submission Deadline is April 2, 2009 at 3:00 PM PACIFIC TIME.**

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, by calling (310) 458-2211, or by e-mailing your request to kimberlie.nimori@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

Vendors interested in doing business with the City of Santa Monica are encouraged to register online at http://www.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/



Metro Briefs

WESTSIDE/CENTRAL

Now...Go Metro with TAP

Metro is replacing all of its paper passes with TAP, the eco-friendly fare card you can use again and again. TAP recently replaced Metro's disposable paper Day Pass. Please remember that Senior, College/Vocational and Students need to submit an application for a TAP card to continue receiving their discounts. Learn more at *metro.net*.

$950 Million In Stimulus Funds Sought For LA County

Metro moved swiftly to secure up to $950 million of stimulus funding to preserve and create jobs for LA County under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 recently signed by the president. The Metro Board called for a 135-day deadline for submitting all highway and transit projects which began March 3.

Out All Night? So Are We

Working or playing late? Metro Night Owl service offers reliable options between Downtown LA and points west. We're there throughout the night in places like West Hollywood, Hollywood and Downtown. So whether it's 1am, 3am or 5am, depend on Local Lines 10, 14, 37 and 38 to be there. Check *metro.net* to plan your trip.

It's The Right Time To Save. Go Metro.

In these uncertain economic times, you can create your own stimulus package by going Metro. Studies estimate you can save $8,416 annually by using public transit in LA instead of paying for gas and parking. LA is among the top 20 cities where you can save the most by taking public transit. Find your best route with the Trip Planner at *metro.net*.

Sign Up For Bike To Work Day

It's time to put away the rain coat and get out the bike helmet. Start training now for Bike To Work Day on Thursday, May 14. Pledge to join in and be eligible to win biking accessories and other prizes. You and your bike also ride free on Metro that day. To register or learn more, visit *metro.net*.

Metro

If you'd like to know more, please call us at 1.800.464.2111, or visit *metro.net*.

WSC-11-09 R10 ©2009 LACMTA



SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

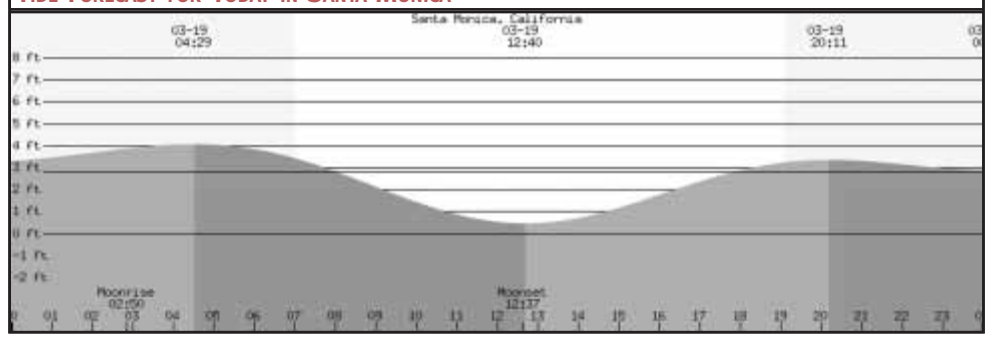
Swell Forecast (3-4 FT)

Thursday the 19th this southern hemi should fade further to waist+. The Gulf NW is likely to fade to waist to chest around west facing spots able to work its steep, 320-degree angle.

Long Range Synopsis

Friday the 20th looks smaller as both swells fade. Most all breaks are looking at knee to waist high surf. Winds should be light and variable in the AM, and onshore in the afternoon to 15 mph.

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 10, 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 -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 13
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 35 / 5
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 11 / 40

The Beach Report Card is made possible by Goldhirsh Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, simplehuman, 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
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A	C
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Arlos 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 Dan Blocker County Beach	A+	F
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth	C	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce 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	A	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	B	F
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	C	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	D	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	F
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	D	B
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	D	F
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	F
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	B	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	D	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

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.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Bound for Glory (PG) 2hrs 27min
7:30

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

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

Fired Up (PG-13) 1hr 30min
2:15, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55

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

Coraline 3d (PG) 1hr 40min
1:50, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30

Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) 1hr 52min
2:20, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50

Gran Torino (R) 1hr 56min
1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:50

The Last House on the Left (R) 1hr 49min
1:55, 4:30, 7:05, 9:45

Miss March (R) 1hr 30min
2:15, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40

Race to Witch Mountain
2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 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

Shermans Way (NR) 1hr 37min
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45

Cherry Blossoms (NR) 2hr 4 min
11a.m.

Man on Wire (PG-13) 1hr 34min
11 a.m.

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
11:50 a.m., 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00

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

Pay bills, Sagittarius

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You might think you don't care about others' judgments. Friendship helps you remember what really is basic, giving you a sense of what is important. Stay open to other ideas. Tonight: A must appearance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Events pressure you to see beyond your normal scope. Avoid the negativity of others. Listen to suggestions, but ultimately do find the experts. Avoid excessive indulgence. Tonight: Relax to a favorite piece of music.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Work with individuals rather than groups. You could feel more strongly about a key friend or associate. Push to see different issues and get past a problem. You might go overboard when encouraged by a friend! Tonight: Visit over dinner.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Give up thinking that you are in control. Others seem destined to do whatever it is they deem necessary. A key associate might try to explain his or her actions. Just let it be, Tonight: Decide who, where and when.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Relax with others, and you will find that much more gets done. Your intellectual curiosity continues to push you to break into new types of thinking. Brainstorm with people you consider intellectually challenging. Curb over-indulgence. Tonight: Let's be disciplined. Exercise time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Taming your endless imagination just cannot happen. Remain sure of yourself, even if an idea or two doesn't hold up. Invite a loved one out for an early dinner, as your mind probably won't be on business. Tonight: Acting like it is the weekend, and do you care?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Get down to fundamentals. Your mind keeps putting you into another land of thought. Try to focus; jot down random thoughts to keep them under control. Tonight: Happily head home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ How you deal with someone could change radically because of what you hear and see. A family member knows how to push your buttons, and will do just that. Remain centered and direct. Tonight: Hanging out could be fun.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Be aware of what others are asking. You have a way that draws many. Be aware that people around you might not be looking at you, but at what you have to offer. You might not want to change this outlook within business circles. Tonight: Pay bills.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Your winning ways carry you far and help you get past many problems. Stay on topic and focus on what must be done. Laugh and relax. Dabbing personality into the mix works better, especially as many people are not driven like you. Tonight: All smiles.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Know when to pull back and question more. What do you want and desire? You have a way that makes everyone think you are his or her friend. Be willing to make your own inroads right now. A quiet meeting could be more fruitful. Tonight: Do your thing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Don't hesitate to zero in on what is important. Negativity between you and another person could produce a coldness that you would prefer not exist. Consider a way of getting around this barrier. Discuss it with an understanding person. Tonight: Where the gang is.

Happy birthday

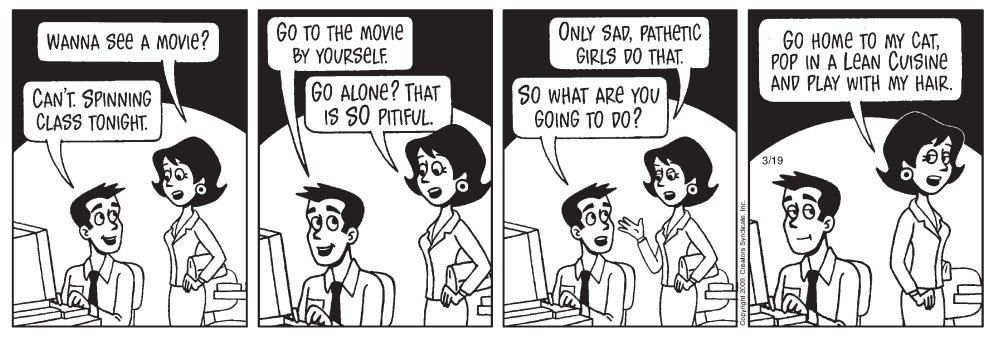
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★ Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

Be aware of what you have to offer. Sometimes you sell yourself short. Don't. On the other hand, be aware of what doesn't work for you anymore. Try to make a needed adjustment. If you simply cannot tinker with a situation and adjust it, you might have to let it go. If you are single, do check out anyone you want to hook up with. Give a relationship a year before you decide this is it. You might be surprised by what comes out within a year. If you are attached, spend more time together as a couple. You will enhance your relationship as a result, especially with additional respect. CAPRICORN has your best interests in mind.

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



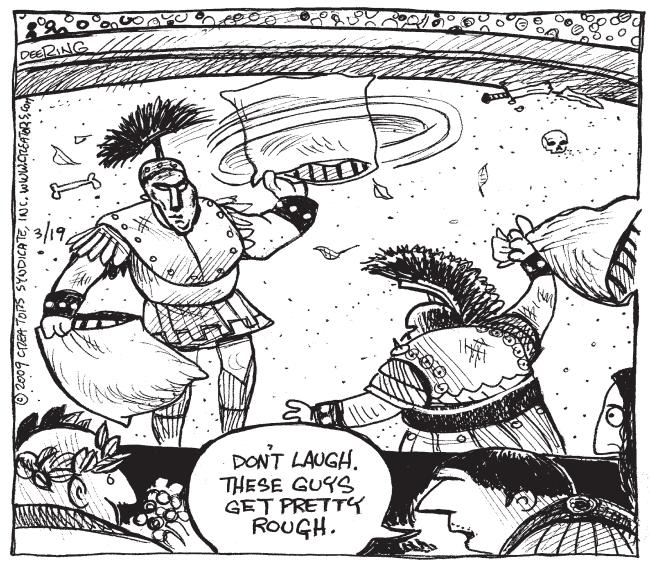
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



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 ★★★

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

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

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/18

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Rachel Dardashti *news@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Flock holders
5 History division
11 Golfer's choice
12 Wipes off
13 Center
14 Orderly sets
15 Requested
17 Lingerie item
18 Crew member
22 Irascible
24 Cache
25 Old card game
26 Disencumber
27 Some singers
30 Starkers
32 Trattoria sauce
33 Planet
34 Kitchen staple
38 Strand
41 Olden days
42 Driven out
43 Dust Bowl character
44 Fix
45 Gorbachev's nation

DOWN

1 Print unit
2 Aphrodite's son
3 Heavy footwear
4 Contemptuous looks
5 Unable to hear
6 Blunders
7 Prop for Bugs
8 Simile center
9 Susan of "L.A. Law"
10 Twisty turn
16 German article
19 Holders of class exercises
20 American lake
21 Funny Foxx
22 Thunder sound
23 Part
28 "My Favorite Year" star
29 Flew alone
30 Election Day mo.
31 "Who — kidding?"
35 Role for Harrison
36 Eye part
37 Lewd look
38 Sea, to Simone
39 Log chopper
40 Brink

B	A	C	H	■	C	E	L	L	A	R
A	L	O	E	■	A	M	O	E	B	A
S	T	O	P	■	D	I	A	D	E	M
H	O	P	■	S	E	N	D	■	■	■
■	■	E	L	A	T	E	■	C	O	B
C	O	R	A	L	■	M	O	O	S	E
R	O	A	M	■	■	■	R	O	L	E
A	Z	T	E	C	■	V	A	P	O	R
B	E	E	■	A	G	I	L	E	■	■
■	■	■	G	R	A	M	■	R	A	D
T	H	E	W	I	Z	■	T	A	X	I
E	U	G	E	N	E	■	O	G	L	E
T	H	O	N	G	S	■	M	E	E	T

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						■	45			

3-19

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 9 15 24 28 31
Meganumber: 17
Jackpot: $16M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 26 37 38 44 45
Meganumber: 9
Jackpot: $22M

FANTASY 5: 2 8 21 30 37

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 0 2 9
EVENING: 2 4 1

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1.42.19

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

■ Americans' Special Relationship with "Taxes": It is not just that the secretary of the Treasury owed back taxes for years, or that two other presidential cabinet-level nominees owed back taxes. In January, federal prosecutors revealed that District of Columbia Council member Marion Barry, who was already on probation after a 2005 conviction for failing to file tax returns for the years 1999 through 2004, and subsequently almost tauntingly failed to file a return for 2006, has now doubled-down the taunt by failing to file for 2007. And in March, a Georgia state senator proposed punishment for the 22 members of the legislature who either owed back taxes or had failed to file returns for at least one year since 2002. The 22 were not identified, in compliance with privacy laws, but the Senate's Democratic leader, Robert Brown, outed himself as one of the 22 in the course of calling his scolding colleague a "bloodsucker."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1945 during World War II, 724 people were killed when a Japanese dive bomber attacked the carrier USS Franklin off Japan; the ship, however, was saved. Adolf Hitler issued his so-called "Nero Decree," ordering the destruction of German facilities that could fall into Allied hands.

1953 the Academy Awards was televised for the first time; "The Greatest Show on Earth" was named best picture of 1952.

1976 Buckingham Palace announced the separation of Princess Margaret and her husband, the Earl of Snowdon, after 16 years of marriage.

1987 televangelist Jim Bakker resigned as chairman of his PTL ministry organization amid a sex and money scandal involving Jessica Hahn, a former church secretary.

2003 President George W. Bush ordered the start of war against Iraq. (Because of the time difference, it was early March 20 in Iraq.)

WORD UP!

elucidate \ih-LOO-si-dayt\, *transitive verb*:
To make clear or manifest; to render more intelligible; to illustrate; as, an example will elucidate the subject.

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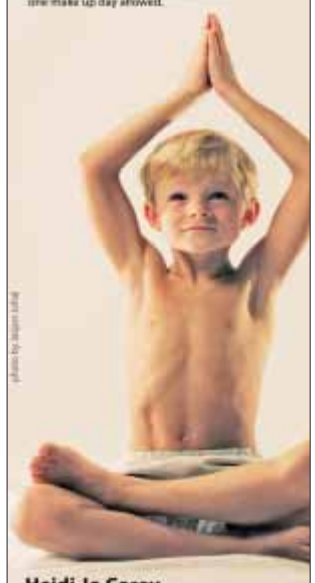
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South of Wilshire	$899,500	$759,000
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Statistics Updated Every Monday

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