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FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2010
Volume 9 Issue 116

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE LET THERE BE DANCING ISSUE

BUSTED OVER BEER
SEE PAGE 7

Bus fare hike troubling to SMC officials

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL A plan to raise Big Blue Bus fares has been delayed after officials at Santa Monica College raised concerns that the proposed price hike could mean the end of its free bus ride program for students and staff.

The City Council had been scheduled to consider raising bus fares this week, but the item was pulled from the agenda after Don Girard, SMC's senior director of government relations, asked for more time to discuss the proposal with City Hall.

"It does put at risk what is the most effective transportation program in Santa Monica," Girard said of the proposed increases. "Nobody wants to do that so there was willingness to discuss this."

Big Blue Bus officials have suggested either doubling the base fare from 75 cents to $1.50 per ride or increasing it to $1.25. The fare increases would generate between $3.4 million and $4.2 million in added revenue for the bus system, which is facing a $7.2 million deficit, according to a City Hall report.

The increases would affect the arrangements that both SMC and UCLA have with the bus system, resulting in about $700,000 in extra expenses for the two schools combined, officials said.

UCLA pays the bus system about $700,000 per year so qualifying students can ride the bus for the discounted rate of 25 cents per ride.

SMC students and staff get free bus access under its "Any Line Any Time" program, which sparked a 60 percent increase in ridership after it was launched in 2008, Girard said. SMC pays the Big Blue Bus $1.2 million per year for unlimited access, about half of which comes from student fees.

Under the fare increase proposal, Girard said SMC would likely have to pay about $1.6 million per year to keep bus ridership free — an amount that "is not something that was foreseen or is possible in the current environment."

Linda Gamberg, a spokeswoman for the Big Blue Bus, noted that SMC could opt to



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

SEE BBB PAGE 8 PAYING UP: **A proposed Big Blue Bus fare increase has Santa Monica College officials scrambling.**

Fundraising efforts save concert series

SM Pier officials plan to hold seven events this summer

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM PIER With $133,000 raised in the past two and a half weeks from City Hall contributions, private donations and sponsorship deals, Santa Monica Pier officials are planning at least seven free concerts this summer.

The Pier Restoration Corp.'s board on Wednesday voted to approve the concerts, collectively known as the annual Twilight Dance Series, and also pledged to keep raising funds with the goal of holding up to 10 shows.

"The bid to save the Twilight Dance Series has been successful and we raised more money than we expected and more money than we needed," said Ben Franz-Knight, the PRC's executive director.

City Hall contributed $85,000 to the series from the City Council's discretionary fund and by making a one-time transfer of carousel revenue. Individuals and corporate sponsors contributed $47,776, the PRC officials said.

Earlier this month, pier officials announced the popular free concert series was in jeopardy because of a decline in corporate sponsorship money and an expensive pier centennial celebration last fall.

In past years, the series has featured 10 free performances with acts that included Patti Smith, Ozomatli, Fishbone and Los Lobos.

The PRC board's vote on Wednesday authorized Franz-Knight to sign an agreement with King & Co., the event's longtime producer.

The first concert is expected to be in July, but performance dates are yet to be announced.

Franz-Knight said in order to add an eighth concert the PRC will have to raise an additional $20,000.

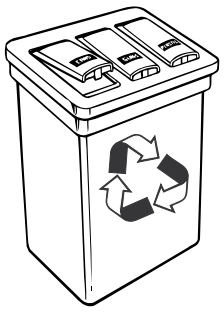
Pier officials were considering the possibility of teaming up with local radio stations to produce the free concert series at a lower cost, however, city officials were concerned that arrangement would lessen the quality and change the spirit of the series. Some critics blasted the fundraising effort, saying city funds could have been spent on more worthwhile causes given a looming budget deficit.

nickt@smdp.com

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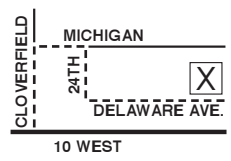


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WHAT'S UP
WESTSIDE
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Friday, March 26, 2010

Stairway to the Stars returns
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
1855 Main St., 7 p.m.
The 61st annual Stairway to the Stars, one of the most popular and longest running musical events in the city, returns, putting the spotlight on the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's music students, teachers and curriculum. Tickets can be purchased at the box office on the night of the performance. Box office opens at 5:30 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are $14.

Larry Karush Quartet
The Edye Second Space
1310 11th St., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.
There will be two performances led by pianist and composer, Larry Karush. The music pulls from jazz, 20th century western, African-based percussion and North Indian styles. Admission is $10.

'The Italian in Me'
Santa Monica Playhouse Main Stage
1211 Fourth St., 8 p.m.
This play follows Dina Morrone as she leaves her overbearing, old fashioned grandmother in Canada and moves to Rome in search of "La Dolce Vita." She quickly learns that the Eternal City is not as holy or as romantic as she imagined — until she meets Federico Fellini at Cinecitta Studios. This chance meeting will forever change her life. The play is written and performed by Morrone.
Admission is $20.

Saturday, March 27, 2010

The National Children's Chorus Create: Fantasy
The Edye Second Space
1310 11th St., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.
This performance showcases Great Britain's opera for kids. This minimalist-staged production transports viewers to a faraway land where fantasy becomes reality. There are pirates, treasure, war on the high seas, troops, a siege, and the invention of a lethal machine by the name of Humpty-Dumpty. For tickets, visit www.nationalchildrenschorus.tix.com or call (800) 595-4849. Tickets are $35.

The people and the history of the beach house
Memorial Park
1401 Olympic Blvd., 2 p.m. -- 5 p.m.
This lecture is part of a series providing stories of the vivid personalities associated with Santa Monica's Annenberg Community Beach House. This particular speech will focus on the Beach House itself, with Christy McAvoy of Historic Resources Group discussing the historic structures and John Berley of Frederick Fisher Partners Architects discussing the rebirth of the site. Admission is $10.

Trapeze and aerial arts show
Santa Monica Pier, 7 p.m. -- 9 p.m.
Residents are invited to join Trapeze School New York, Los Angeles for a free trapeze and aerial arts show on the Santa Monica Pier. There will also be a raffle for free classes.

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.



Hare Krishnas barred from LAX solicitation

PAUL ELIAS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO The state high court ended a long-running legal battle Thursday when it barred the Hare Krishnas from soliciting donations at Los Angeles International Airport.

The unanimous ruling written by Justice Carlos Moreno upheld the Los Angeles ordinance barring solicitations as a reasonable security measure to protect harried passengers rushing to make travel connections at the airport known as LAX.

California's other major airports supported Los Angeles' legal position, and the religious group and other organizations will be barred from soliciting donations in California airports.

"Soliciting the immediate receipt of funds at a busy international airport like LAX is particularly problematic," Moreno wrote for the court. "The problems posed by solicitations for the immediate receipt of funds that arise in any public place would be exacerbated in the often crowded and hectic environment of a large international airport."

The Hare Krishnas are still free to preach on airport property and ask passengers to send in donations later. But the group that has been a fixture at the airport since 1974 and was lampooned in the 1980 movie "Airplane!" is barred from receiving cash and checks on airport property. The ban applies to others groups, too.

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness of California sued in federal court in 1997 when the Los Angeles City Council prohibited the receiving of donations at the city-owned airport. The council later changed the law to allow solicitations in designated areas until the initial federal lawsuit was filed.

U.S. District Court Judge Consuelo Marshall initially ruled in the Hare Krishnas' favor. But the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals asked the California Supreme Court to decide the case because it was a state law rather than federal law being challenged.

The Krishnas' lawyer, David Liberman, said no further appeals appear possible.

"It's pretty conclusive and it doesn't look like there are any loopholes," Liberman said. "As far as I can tell, it's over."



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

HAPPY TIMES: **Samohi's boys celebrate after defeating Colony in the CIF-SS semi-finals.**

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Armload of honors for Samohi's boys team

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI The Vikings' dream season really has legs.

Santa Monica's boys basketball team has capped a wildly successful playoff run with an armload of honors from both the Ocean League and California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section.

All five senior starters were given league honors this week with Soloman Singer taking home the 2010 Ocean League MVP. Corey Walker was named the league's Most Outstanding Player. Fellow starters James Montgomery, Danilo Toskovic and Harry Horn were named to the league's first team.

Samohi Head Coach James Hecht said that it was the first time in his 16 years as coach that all five starters from a given team were named to the league's first team.

"I couldn't be more proud of a group of individuals who came to work every day," Hecht said.

In leading his team to a perfect 10-0 record in league play, Hecht was named the coach of the year.

Aside from the league selections, the All-CIF-SS Division 1A Team is studded with Vikings. The official announcement will be released Monday, but Hecht has already been given word that Singer, Walker and Montgomery have been named to the squad.

The awards come on the heels of a season that saw the Vikings make it to the final of the CIF-SS Division 1A Championships against Leuzinger. The team lost, but was invited to the CIF State Championships. The team progressed to the second round before falling to powerhouse Westchester.

"These guys were very proud to put on that uniform every day," Hecht said. "Not only in games, but in practice, too."

The team's most successful run under the guidance of Hecht was made all the more

SEE SAMOHI PAGE 9

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Pay scale is out of whack

Editor:

Why does Santa Monica have some of the highest paid teachers in the nation? Why does Santa Monica have the highest paid school administrators in the nation? Is it fair that when 12.5 percent of Californians are unemployed, and everyone in the private sector is taking big cuts in pay and benefits, just to keep their jobs, school district employees should be exempt from the realities of today's economy. Teachers' jobs are not threatened by California's lack of funds, they are being threatened because the majority of teachers, and school administrators, are unwilling to accept a fair wage that deals with the reality of today's economy. There is no justification for an increase in the parcel tax.

Jeff Segal
Santa Monica

Quit your whining

Editor:

From reading your newspaper's letters to the editor on a regular basis, I have come to the conclusion that most of these writers are the biggest bunch of whiners, cry babies, intolerant, holier-than-thou people, who feel as if it isn't what they want or believe, it is wrong and must be done away with. Now you have Neil Macaulay writing in wanting all readers to boycott any business that allows someone carrying a gun to enter their business. I don't carry but I have lived in Santa Monica for 60 years and have never seen anyone showing a gun, other than armored car guards delivering money or security guards. As for civilians carrying guns, how does he know they are civilians? There are many peace officers, private, city, state, and federal along with arson investigators and private security officers who wear plain clothing. Does Neil know why so many food places give free or discounted food to public safety personnel? It is because they want them and their guns around as a deterrent to criminals.

Kent Cullom
Santa Monica



Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

At sixes and sevens

LAST SATURDAY MARKED THE SEVENTH anniversary of the Iraq War. In 2003, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld boldly predicted that the war would last, "Six days or six weeks, but certainly no more than six months." Rumsfeld sounds like "Carnac the Magnificent."

The seventh anniversary and the sixes in Rummy's prognostication reminded me of the expression "at sixes and sevens." Among various definitions it means, "confused state created by surrounding madness." In 1375, Chaucer referred to a dicing game where trying to throw a six and seven was considered exceedingly reckless. By that standard, the Bush administration was "at sixes and sevens" but the madness wasn't surrounding them — it was them.

Many historians consider Iraq to be our worst foreign policy blunder, ever. (Cheney would say, "So?") I had hoped this infamous anniversary would be marked by nationwide demonstrations. Instead, people were consumed with Jesse James' cheating on Sandra Bullock or Tiger Woods' latest "sext (sexy text message)."

Apparently Tiger's missive to his mistress was so lurid that Elin moved out of the house, again. Elin must have a Bekins truck on retainer. It's a shame they don't live closer or she could have lent it to Sandra Bullock.

The Iraq war is the second longest conflict in American history and counting, but not many are outraged. Maybe Jack Nicholson was right in "A Few Good Men." We can't handle the truth.

The truth in this case is that Bush and Cheney longed to invade Iraq years before the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. PNAC, Project for the New American Century (a name that drips with arrogance) acknowledged that to achieve their goals politically we "needed another Pearl Harbor." (Voila, 9/11.) Except that the Japanese did bomb Pearl Habor whereas Iraq had nothing to do with 9/11. But Bush and Cheney never let facts get in their way.

Hours after 9/11, George Bush confronted terrorism czar Richard Clarke, demanding to know Iraq's involvement. When Clarke informed him that there was none, Bush jammed his finger into Clarke's chest, "Look again." The results were Clarke had a sore chest but Iraq had zero culpability. The neo-cons moved to Plan B.

Fear mongering is the one thing Bush and his sycophants did well. Via Fox News, they talked non-stop about WMD's, Niger uranium, and nuclear mushroom clouds. To sway votes in Congress they cooked pertinent information and whited-out whole passages. They testified that the war would cost $50 billion when it's likely to cost $5 trillion (factoring the lifelong care we rightfully owe many injured vets). The Bush estimate was off a mere $4.950 billion, which would shame even Carnac.

And when honorable people spoke the truth they were punished. General Sincheki requested 400,000 troops in Iraq and he was forced to retire. Ambassador Joe Wilson debunked the Niger uranium claims and the administration leaked that his wife, Valerie Plame, was a CIA agent. Even the Mafia leaves wives alone but not Scooter Libby. (What 60-year-old man still calls himself "Scooter?")

If it's true that those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it, we're in deep doo-doo. We didn't learn from Vietnam or there never would have been an Iraq war. In Vietnam, we had the Gulf of Tonken, which escalated the war (except it never happened). In Iraq, it was WMD's.

EVEN THE MAFIA LEAVES WIVES ALONE BUT NOT SCOOTER LIBBY.

Bush and Cheney were so desperate to find a connection between Saddam and 9/11 they authorized "enhanced interrogation." (How's that for a disturbing euphemism?) Among other slight problems was that the vast majority of suspected terrorists weren't terrorists. Cheney encouraged waterboarding (still brags about it) even though it's illegal in American and international law. Plus, after WW II, we prosecuted the Japanese for war crimes for waterboarding! Hypocrisy, anyone?

Colin Powell used information gained from waterboarding in his infamous speech to the U.N. Powell rues the day he gave that dreadful speech, but it's too late for conscience now. Please rent the Oscar-winning documentary "Taxi to the Dark Side" to see what horrors were inflicted in your name (not a popcorn movie). To those justifying our inhumane tactics by citing those of our enemy, I note that we didn't beat the Nazis by becoming Nazis.

Here's the seven-year Iraq War tally: 4,385 GIs dead (as of March 18). Wounded: 32,242 with 320,000 vets suffering from brain injuries. Suicides: 18 per day. (And yet, reflecting on his presidency, Bush said, "Laura and I had the time of our lives.") Cost: $1 trillion and $280,000,000 daily. Civilian Iraqi deaths: Conservatively, 100,000 and millions displaced. Overall result: We're far less safe. By removing Saddam, we empowered "axis of evil" Iran and created generations of new terrorists. (But it was great for Halliburton, British Petroleum and Exxon.)

That's my rant until the next anniversary. But I worry that, until those responsible for the Iraq War are held accountable, we'll forever be at sixes and sevens.

Please go to YouTube and type "Cheney 1994." In the meantime, **JACK** can be reached at Jackneworth@yahoo.com.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
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Your column here

Jon Coupal

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Time to draw the line on energy tax

IN 2006, CALIFORNIA EMBARKED ON a great experiment by passing its own law to reduce global warming. But Assembly Bill 32, "The Global Warming Solutions Act," is hardly a "solution" if you ask any economist, employer or taxpayer group. Gov. Schwarzenegger inexplicably signed the bill into law, perhaps searching for some sort of legacy for his ill-fated administration.

Notwithstanding the fact that much of the law has yet to be implemented, its mere potential for inflicting massive damage on the California economy has already had a negative impact on businesses and employment. Ironically, there are no positive environmental outcomes as a trade-off for all this economic damage.

AB 32 WON'T AFFECT GLOBAL WARMING ONE IOTA BECAUSE CALIFORNIA IS ONLY A SLIVER OF THE GLOBAL PIE, ESPECIALLY COMPARED TO CHINA, INDIA AND RUSSIA.

AB 32 won't affect global warming one iota because California is only a sliver of the global pie, especially compared to China, India and Russia. Greenhouse gases, to the extent they have any negative environmental impact at all, have no respect for political boundaries. In short, the Earth only has one atmosphere. But AB 32 will dramatically alter every facet of life in California — whether you're a business, a family, a taxpayer, or a consumer.

AB 32 will do nothing but increase energy costs for consumers. In fact, California taxpayers already have spent a lot of money to produce a plan. More than 200 new state employees and contractors were hired by the California Air Resources Board to draft the state's global warming reduction strategy at a cost of more than $100 million. The bureaucratic burn rate will continue at roughly $50 million or more per year into the future. However, administrative costs are really the tip of the iceberg for the actual price tag for AB 32.

Here's what AB 32 will really cost you:

• A 60 percent increase in your electricity bill, according to the Southern California Public Power Authority.

• An 8 percent increase in your natural gas bill, according to CARB's economic analysis.

• $50,000 more for the price of a new home, according to an analysis by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

• $3.7 billion a year more for gasoline and diesel, according to Sierra Research.

• A $1,000 to $3,000 additional cost for a new car, according to CARB and automaker studies.

On top of all that, food processors, winemakers, colleges, utility districts and various manufacturers will be forced to pay an AB 32 auction tax estimated at $143 billion over eight years for the right to continue operating in California. That's the equivalent of increasing gasoline taxes by more than 50 cents per gallon or increasing the average family's electricity bill by hundreds of dollars per year.

A study conducted for the California Small Business Roundtable found that AB 32 regulations would cost small business alone nearly $200 billion, and would result in more than 1 million lost jobs.

And on the subject of those so-called "green jobs?" A UC Labor Center Study found that AB 32 might produce a modest amount of "green" jobs, but would threaten more than three million jobs in manufacturing, energy and other industries. Many of these are jobs that provide good salaries and good benefits to California workers (both white- and blue-collar workers) who are suffering an effective unemployment rate of nearly 20 percent.

When the final accounting is done, this experiment in politically correct, overreaching environmental mandates provides no demonstrable benefits at a price tag of hundreds of billions of dollars. It will cut an already staggering economy off at the knees.

The good news in all this is that a broad-based coalition is forming rapidly to support a statewide initiative measure that would suspend the implementation of AB 32 until such time as our abysmal employment situation improved significantly. In addition to business groups — both large and small — this battle will be joined by taxpayer and consumer organizations.

To learn more, go to www.jobs2010ca.com. A downloadable petition is also available for this effort. Help stop the energy tax by signing the petition to get this measure on the ballot. Download a petition and mail it back today.

Together, we can stop the energy tax.

JON COUPAL is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, California's largest grass-roots taxpayer organization dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13 and the advancement of taxpayers' rights.

The Q Line

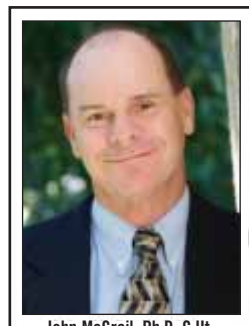
Preserving permits

Los Angeles school officials want to dramatically reduce the number of kids who leave their district to attend schools in places like Santa Monica. Local officials are concerned the plan will cost the district money and disrupt students' education.

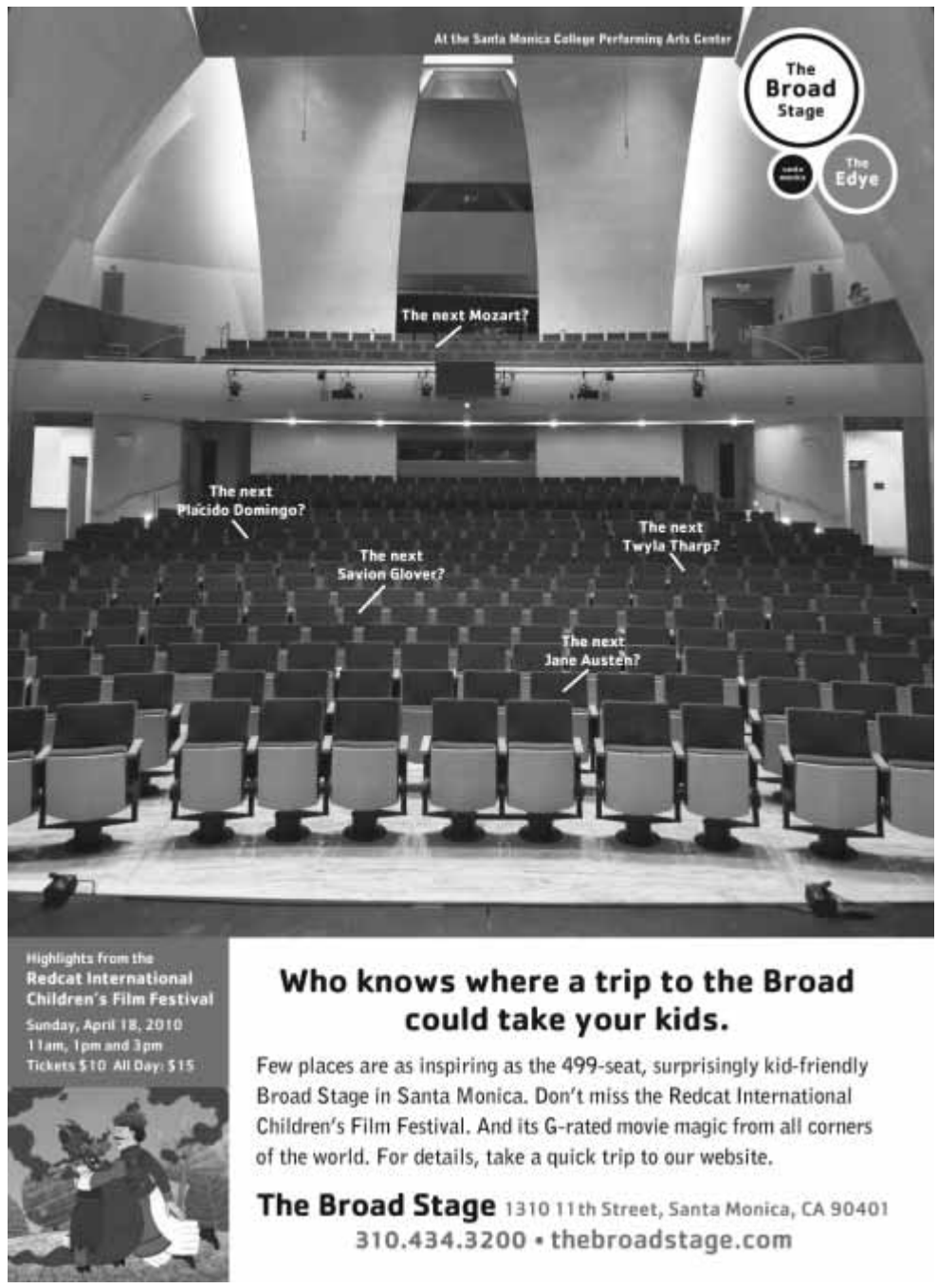
So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Should Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District officials fight to keep those students or are they a drain on the budget to begin with?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press.









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City of Santa Monica

Public Meeting Notice

The City of Santa Monica will be holding a Public Meeting to update the community on planned improvements for the Resource Recovery Center.

City staff and the consultant team, along with representatives from Southern California Disposal and Allan Company, will provide the community with an update on the public/private partnership and improvements to the transfer station and recycling facility.

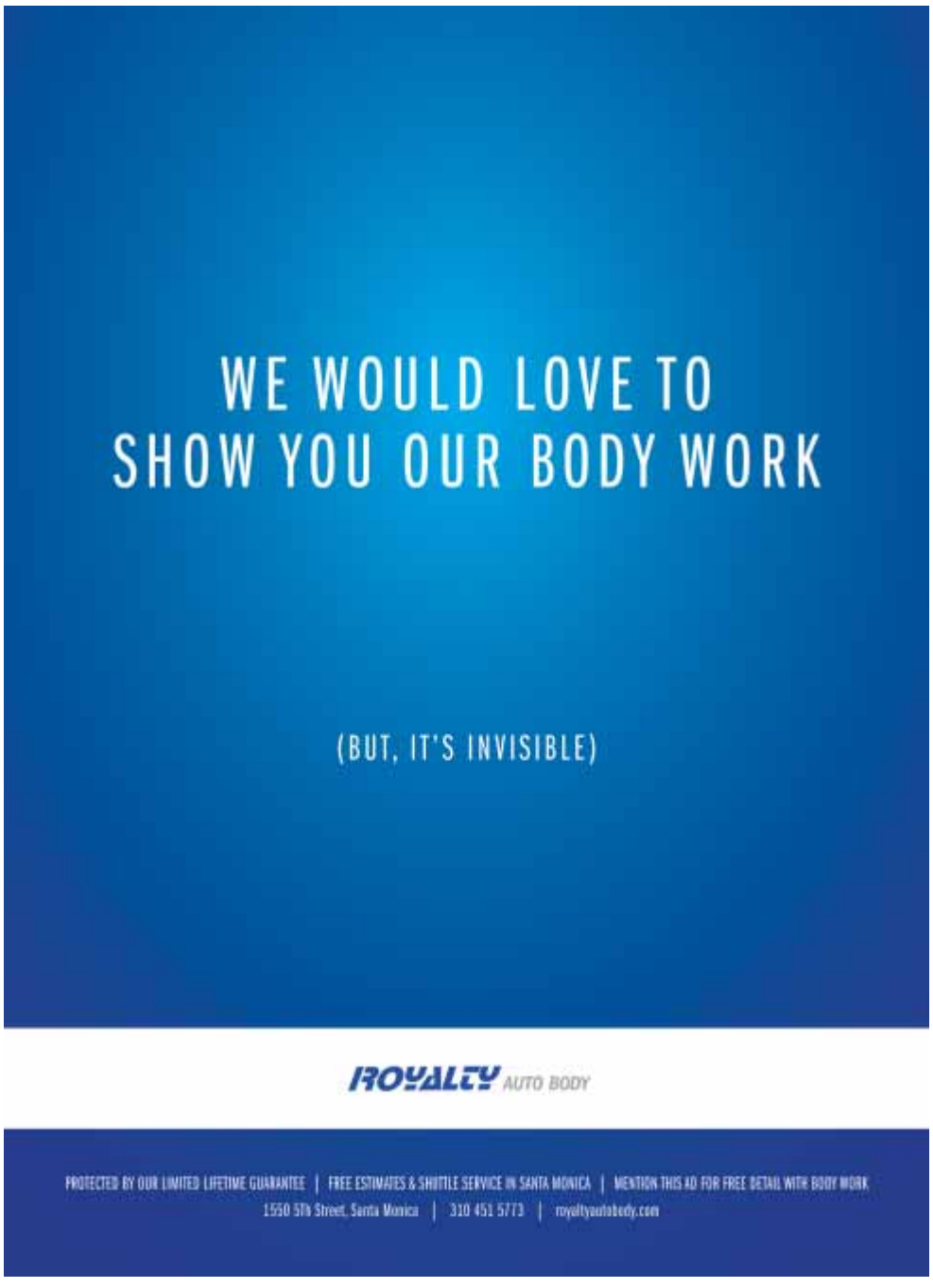
Meeting Date & Time:
Monday, March 29, 2010, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Meeting Location:
Virginia Avenue Park – Thelma Terry Building
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Organized groups on both sides of pot vote

LISA LEFF &
MARCUS WOHLSEN
Associated Press Writers

SAN FRANCISCO Now that a proposal to legalize pot is on the ballot in California, well-organized groups are lining up on both sides of the debate. And it's not just tie-dyed hippies versus anti-drug crusaders.

So far, the most outspoken groups on the issue are those affiliated with California's legal medical marijuana industry and law enforcement officials who vehemently oppose any loosening of drug laws.

But the campaign that unfolds before the November election could yield some unusual allies: free-market libertarians joining police officers frustrated by the drug war to support the measure, and pot growers worried about falling prices pairing with Democratic politicians to oppose it.

Others believe legalizing and taxing the drug could improve the state's flagging economy.

"We spend so much time, our police do, chasing around these nonviolent drug offenders, we don't have time anymore to protect our people from murders and child molesters," said Jack Cole, president of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, a group that plans to champion the California proposal between now and the election.

The initiative, also known as the "Tax Cannabis Act," received enough signatures this week to qualify for the November ballot. If it is approved, California would become the first state to legalize marijuana for recreational use by adults. The measure would also give local governments the authority to regulate and tax pot sales.

According to campaign finance records, nearly all of the more than $1.3 million spent on the campaign to qualify the question for the ballot came from businesses controlled by the proposal's main backer, Oakland medical marijuana entrepreneur Richard Lee.

Lee operates a medical marijuana dispensary and cafe in downtown Oakland and is the founder of Oaksterdam University, which trains people to run their own medical marijuana businesses. According to the school, more than 5,000 students have completed their programs.

The largest donations from an individual not connected to the marijuana business came from George Zimmer, founder and chief executive of the men's clothing chain Men's Wearhouse.

Television viewers know Zimmer as the Fremont-based company's longtime pitchman in commercials. But he is also known as a longtime supporter of efforts to liberalize the nation's drug laws.

Opponents contend that the legalization effort will pit a few wealthy individuals against regular Californians who will provide the groundswell needed to defeat the measure.

"You have rich dilettantes who want to legalize drugs and ordinary people who consider the ramifications of legalization on their communities and their families," said John Lovell, a lobbyist representing several law enforcement groups opposed to the initiative.

Lovell pointed to the lopsided defeat of a 2008 ballot issue that would have pushed treatment instead of prison for drug offenders as a sign of voters' leanings. Supporters of the measure heavily outspent opponents, but it was defeated 59 to 41 percent.

The anti-legalization campaign has not reported any contributions yet, but workers are reviewing what they believe are major flaws with the ballot initiative. They say the proposed law would allow pot to be grown in public parks and fail to prevent people with prior drug convictions from selling pot.

Meanwhile, some well-known liberals have come out against it, including the state's presumptive Democratic nominee for governor, Attorney General Jerry Brown.

Brown, who was seen in the 1970s as an icon of California's counterculture, told the San Francisco Chronicle earlier this month that he was "not going to jump on the legalization bandwagon."

"We're going to get a vote of the people soon on that, but I'm not going to support it," he said.

Legalized marijuana in California, the nation's most populous state, would represent a sea change in the nation's drug laws and put the state in direct conflict with the federal government because pot is still illegal in the eyes of federal officials.

On Thursday, a Department of Justice spokeswoman said it was too soon to speculate on whether federal authorities would sue to keep the measure from becoming law.

The administration relaxed its prosecution guidelines for medical marijuana last year, but President Barack Obama's drug czar has said the White House strongly opposes any efforts to legalize pot.

"Marijuana legalization, for any purpose, remains a non-starter in the Obama administration," Gil Kerlikowske, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, said last year. "It is not something that the president and I discuss. It isn't even on the agenda."

California in 1996 became the first of the 14 states that have legalized medicinal marijuana. Many jurisdictions around the country have also decriminalized marijuana to the point that low-level possession offenses are not prosecuted.

States such as California and Colorado have also been struggling to deal with an explosion in the number of medical marijuana dispensaries in recent years, a trend that has made pot readily available to the public.

A decision by California to legalize pot could lend momentum to the entire legalization movement, just like its historic 1996 law did for medical marijuana.

Legislators in Rhode Island are considering a plan to decriminalize pot, and a group in Nevada is pushing an initiative that marks the state's fourth attempt in a decade to legalize the drug.

Lawmakers in Washington state recently killed a plan to legalize the sale and use of marijuana, though lawmakers there did expand the pool of medical professionals who could prescribe the drug for medicinal use.

The ballot measure in California would allow people 21 years and older to possess up to one ounce of marijuana, enough for dozens of joints. Residents also could grow their own crop of the plant in gardens measuring up to 25 square feet.

The proposal would ban users from using marijuana in public or smoking it while minors are present. It also would make it illegal to possess the drug on school grounds or drive while under its influence.

Proponents of the measure say legalizing marijuana could save the state $200 million a year by reducing public safety costs. At the same time, it could generate tax revenue for local governments.

CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is a weekly series culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Suspect busted for stealing beer

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, AT 7:46 P.M.,
Santa Monica police officers responded to the 2300 block of Ocean Park Boulevard – Lee's Market – regarding a report of an assault with a deadly weapon. When officers arrived, they made contact with an employee at the store who said a customer with a tab came in and picked up a beer and asked to add it to his tab. As the individual walked outside, he dropped the bottle on the ground and broke it. The suspect came into the store later in the day and grabbed a 40-ounce bottle of Olde English 800 and asked the cashier to put it on his tab. The cashier informed the man that he had reached his limit and had to pay up. The suspect became angry and allegedly went behind the counter and threatened to strike the cashier with the bottle. A witness came to the cashier's aid. The suspect became angry and stole the witnesses' hat before fleeing on foot. Officers were able to locate the suspect a short distance away and he was placed under arrest for robbery and assault with a deadly weapon. He was identified as Ahmad Raza, 63, of Santa Monica. His bail was set at $50,000.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, AT 11:58 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 500 block of Bay Street regarding a report of an assault with a deadly weapon. When officers arrived, they made contact with the alleged victim who said he saw two men carrying two long, wooden skateboards through the courtyard of his apartment building. As he approached his apartment, the victim told officers that one of the suspects turned toward him and became verbally aggressive, using derogatory language while questioning the victim's sexuality. The suspect charged the victim, pushing him to the ground and hitting him with a skateboard. The other suspect pulled his friend off the victim and the two fled on foot. Armed with a description, officers were able to locate the suspects a short distance away and placed the two under arrest. One suspect, Jonathan Cy, 29, of Santa Monica, was booked for assault with a deadly weapon, damaging the victim's cell phone, violation of civil rights via threats and for being drunk in public. The second suspect, Nicholay Semendeieff, 28, of Santa Monica, was busted for public intoxication. Their bail was set at $30,000 and $250 respectively.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, AT 8:22 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 1400 block of the Third Street Promenade regarding a suspicious person identifying himself as an FBI agent. When officers arrived, they made contact with the individual and determined he was not affiliated with the FBI. Further investigation revealed that the suspect gave a false name to the officers. As officers tried to obtain the individual's information, officers located a bottle of prescription drugs that did not belong to the suspect, police said. The suspect, Christopher Zewe, 21, a transient, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and providing false information to a police officer. His bail was set at $10,000.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, AT 2:25 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 1900 block of 17th Street regarding a report of domestic violence. When officers arrived, they made contact with the alleged victim who told them that her husband had pushed her to the ground. The suspect, Oliver Pacheco, 66, a transient, was arrested for battery on a spouse. His bail was set at $20,000.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, AT 10:37 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 2600 block of 28th Street regarding a report of unknown trouble. When officers arrived, they made contact with the alleged victim who said the suspect had assaulted her, took her purse and fled the location. Officers located the suspect in Los Angeles and he was placed under arrest for robbery, burglary and domestic violence. He was identified as Oussama Mellouli, 26, of Los Angeles. His bail was set at $50,000.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, AT 1:30 A.M.,
Officers on routine patrol near the area of Third Street and Pier Avenue observed a driver commit several vehicle code violations. Officers conducted a traffic stop, believing that the driver may be under the influence of alcohol. Officers made contact with the driver and had her perform a series of balance and coordination tests. Upon completion, officers believed that the driver was drunk and placed her under arrest. She was identified as Tori Schmidt, 32, of Santa Monica. She was booked for DUI and a probation violation. Her bail was set at $5,000.

MONDAY, MARCH 15, AT 10:30 P.M.,
Officers were on routine patrol in the area of Lincoln Boulevard and Colorado Avenue when they were flagged down by the victim of vandalism. The victim said he was driving by his parked car when he saw a suspect kick the rear of the vehicle. The victim stopped and confronted the suspect, who fled on foot. As the victim was following the suspect, he flagged down officers. Officers apprehended the suspect and placed him under arrest for kicking the car and cracking the left rear turn signal. The suspect was identified as Kevin Barnes, 47, a transient. He was booked for vandalism. He also had warrants for his arrest, police said. His bail was set at $6,937.

Editor-in-Chief **KEVIN HERRERA** compiled these reports.

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Sunset Park	=	$1,099,000	$595,000
Ocean Park	=	$1,547,000	$542,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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Council to decide new BBB fares April 27

FROM BBB PAGE 1

cover the cost of the fare increase by requiring its students and staff members to pay a discounted fare for each ride, as UCLA does.

Girard, though, said keeping the bus free is a priority at SMC.

"It has been a real change in getting people out of their cars because the ridership numbers have increased dramatically and the congestion around the college has decreased dramatically" since SMC started offering free bus rides, he said.

In postponing the council's decision on the fare increase, City Manager Rod Gould said he wanted to "give the council the most up-to-date view" of the state's contribution to local transportation funding, which he said is in flux because of a dispute over whether the state can use transportation money for other purposes. He said he also wanted to have further discussions with SMC and UCLA.

"We need to revise our projections and provide three scenarios of local transit funding for the council as it considers fare increases," Gould said.

The council is expected to make a decision about increasing bus fares April 27, BBB officials said. The bus company expects to begin charging the higher fares Aug. 29, Gamberg said.

In a development this week that could take some budget pressure off the bus company, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a statewide transportation funding bill that will give the Big Blue Bus $3.1 million by July, restoring about half of the BBB's expected $6 million in state transit money that was diverted for other purposes this fiscal year, according to City Hall.

Gamberg said bus company officials are not planning to change their fare increase proposals because of the latest transit funding bill.

"It's helpful but it's not significant considering the overall operating deficit of our overall budget," she said.

> **IT DOES PUT AT RISK WHAT IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM IN SANTA MONICA."**
>
> **Don Girard,**
> SMC's senior director government relations

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Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

DRIVING: **Samohi's Harry Horn drives to the lane against Leuzinger in the CIF-SS final.**

Historic season capped by numerous awards

FROM **SAMOHI** PAGE 3

sweeter by the level of community support the team received. As the season progressed and it appeared that the Vikings were in the midst of something special, crowds of students, faculty and area residents packed the school's gym.

Hecht said that the family atmosphere that surrounded the team helped energize his players, giving them a true home court advantage. The high point came during the CIF-SS semi-finals against Colony at Santa Monica College. The gym was filled to capacity with a number of fans forced to stand.

"When you talk about representing your school and your community, they did an outstanding job," Hecht said of a squad that was anchored by 10 graduating seniors. "They really took pride in representing our school."

daniela@smdp.com

LAPD officer killed in Afghanistan

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A Los Angeles SWAT team officer, who was on active duty as a U.S. Marine Corps sergeant, was killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan, police officials said Thursday.

Sgt. Maj. Robert J. Cottle, 45, died Wednesday in the blast that killed another Marine and seriously injured two more, the Police Department said.

Cottle and the other Marines were traveling in an armored truck in the Marja region of Afghanistan, LAPD Capt. John Incontro said. No other details of the incident were immediately available.

Cottle, a 20-year veteran of the Police Department, had been deployed on active duty since August 2009. He served with the 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, based at Camp Pendleton.

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa released a statement praising Cottle's dedication to public service.

"Very few people know what it truly means to every day have the courage to unflinchingly march forward in the face of danger," the mayor said. "Yet Officer Cottle did so with not only a steadfast commitment to the safety of this city, but with a strong sense of pride and duty for his country."

Los Angeles Police Protective League, the city's officers' union, said Cottle was the first Los Angeles police officer to be killed serving in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

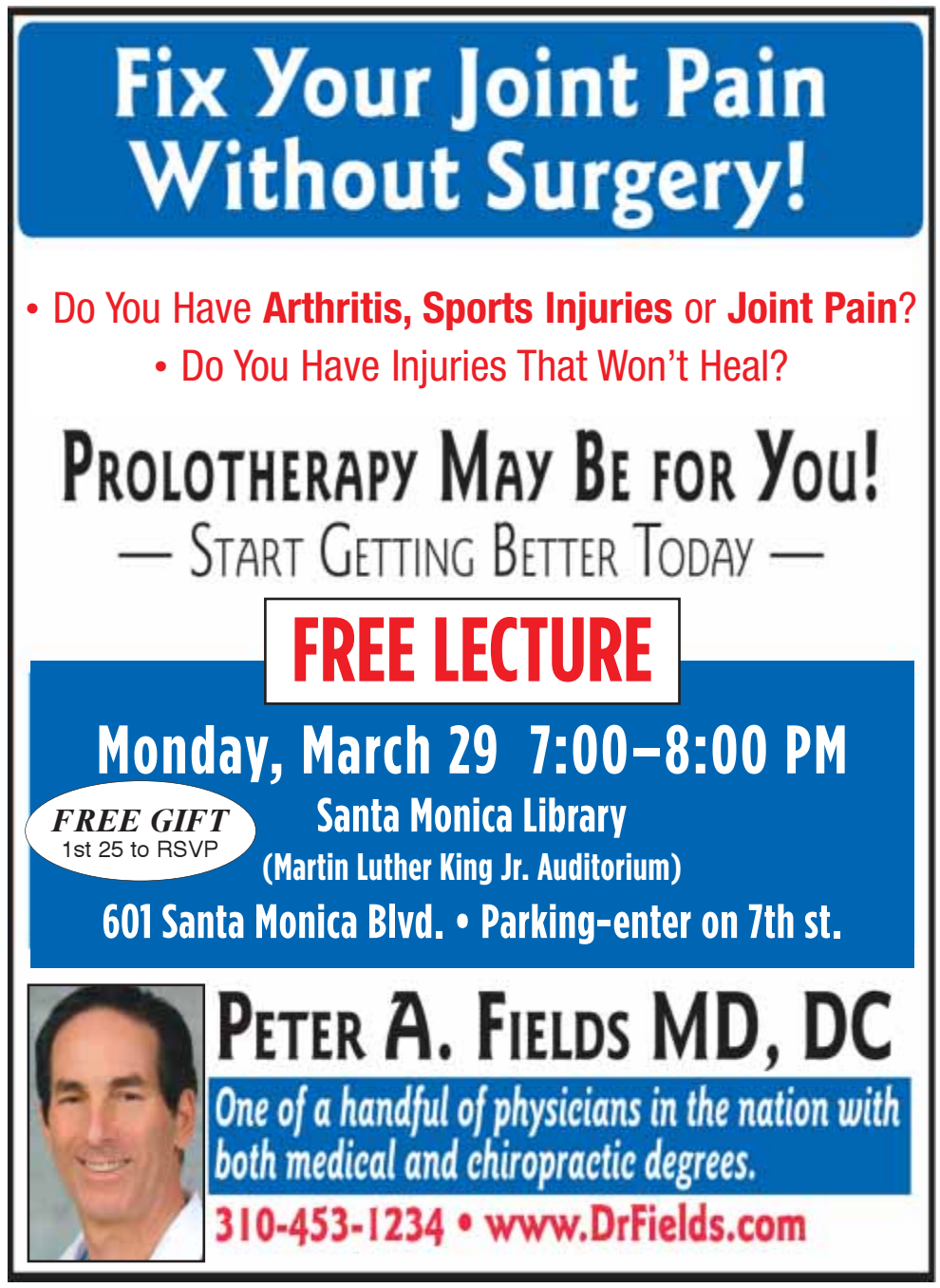
"As a SWAT officer, R.J. was a tactical genius. His military service gave him unique skills that he generously shared with fellow officers," league president Paul M. Weber said in a statement. "His ultimate sacrifice is an immeasurable loss for the LAPD and his friends and family."

Cottle is survived by a wife and daughter.









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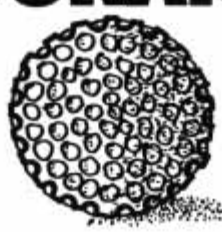
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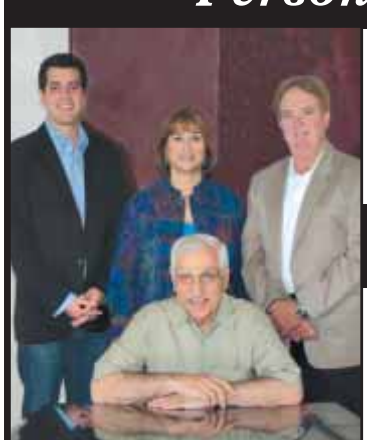
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NYC's St. Vincent's Hospital struggles to keep doors open

VERENA DOBNIK
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK St. Vincent's Hospital in Greenwich Village has fought to save lives for more than 160 years, treating everyone from survivors of the Titanic in 1912 to New Yorkers fleeing the terror attack on the World Trade Center.

The hospital founded by four Roman Catholic nuns in a Greenwich Village brownstone was also ground zero in the battle against AIDS.

Now, like dozens of others conceived as charity hospitals to treat the poorest patients, St. Vincent's is fighting for its own survival — faced with a $700 million debt that has led to salary cuts of up to 25 percent and hundreds of layoffs.

"They're out of time, and they're out of money," said David Sandman of the New York State Health Foundation, a nonprofit that seeks to increase public access to health care.

Experts like Sandman say the nation's health plan will help hospitals in the long term because millions more people will have the insurance to pay for services. But unless a partner is found, it may be too late for St. Vincent's, which defaulted on payments last year from a bankruptcy reorganization in 2005.

St. Vincent's uniqueness starts on the ground floor: solid oak doors like an Old World hotel, worn multicolored tiles that lead to corridors free of antiseptic hospital smells. There's a Jewish hospitality space, a Muslim prayer room and a chapel graced by Tiffany-style windows.

And in a little room on the ground floor, a sleeping white poodle named Chablis. The dog has been a therapy pooch since 1997, after he was brought to a comatose man with a gunshot wound in the head. The dog licked his face, and the man started to awaken.

"There's a sense of deep loss that New York City, this self-proclaimed capital of the world, has no room for a private, not-for-profit hospital dedicated to caring for all people regardless of ability to pay," said Dr. Daniel Sulmasy, a longtime St. Vincent's staff physician and Franciscan friar who teaches medicine and ethics at the University of Chicago. "That's tragic."

Four Sisters of Charity nuns opened St. Vincent's in 1849 with 30 beds in an East 13th Street brownstone that first took in victims of a cholera epidemic, then served generations of poor immigrants. In 1911, it treated the survivors of the city's worst fire, the blaze at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory where 146 young women died.

On 9/11, the hospital closest to the World Trade Center treated more than 800 people injured as the towers collapsed.

Located in Greenwich Village, famed for its avant-garde art and music, the teaching facility is the last Catholic-affiliated hospital in New York City; seven others have closed in recent years.

Patients often bypass closer hospitals in the city to go to St. Vincent's. Some come from other cities or as far away as Israel, to see specialists. There are 1,000 physicians and 770 nurses affiliated with St. Vincent's but dozens of resident physicians from New York Medical College have been laid off. Beds have been cut from 800 a decade ago to about 400.

PBS, NPR stations get $10M infusion for local coverage

BRETT ZONGKER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Public radio and TV stations across the country will receive more than $10 million over the next two years to boost local news coverage as newspapers decline.

On Thursday, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting announced the creation of local journalism centers in five regions. NPR and PBS stations in each region will collaborate on covering key issues, including immigration, agribusiness, the economy and health care. They will jointly hire about 50 multimedia journalists.

"This is a commitment to journalism," said Patricia Harrison, president and CEO of the Corporation, which is a nonprofit organization created by Congress. "As we look at this environment and the impact on newspapers, we just felt we had to ... try something innovative and ensure that we hired real journalists as part of this initiative."

Experienced journalists shed by failing newspapers could provide a pool of applicants, she said.

The funding initially targets the Southwest, the Plains states, the upper Midwest, upstate New York and central Florida. Proposals also are being accepted from stations in the South and Northwest, and Harrison hopes to expand the effort.

It will involve 37 local stations, though at least 100 applied. To date, 13 radio stations, 13 joint ventures operating both radio and TV outlets, and one stand-alone TV station have signed on. Stations were selected on the basis of a business plan that included an outline for becoming self-sustaining within two years.

"The idea of pulling together radio and television for content that is broadcast and online ... this is going to be our template going forward," Harrison said.

The Corporation will provide $7.5 million of the investment for the project, while the stations involved contribute $3 million.

Funding also was announced to create a technology platform to be administered by NPR for all public broadcasters to collaborate and share content.

In total, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting has invested $90 million in new journalism initiatives over the past two years.

The new regional news desks could feed content to national news shows on PBS and NPR, as well as to local stations, officials said.

PBS recently announced it will begin airing a new news program called "Need to Know," anchored by Alison Stewart and Newsweek editor Jon Meacham, on Friday nights in May. It has also revamped the "PBS NewsHour," hosted by Jim Lehrer.

The local news effort must be self-sustaining within two years, Harrison said.

"If it's of value to the community, there's potential to get foundation support or individual support," she said, "even in this troublesome economy."



Play Time

Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Shenanigans at the World Bank

ALAN ROSENBERG IS TOO CHARMING TO play a world-class villain. And so he makes neo-con Paul Wolfowitz almost likeable.

The play is "Influence," and it takes place during the time when Wolfowitz was head of the World Bank and was detested by almost everyone he worked with. Rosenberg plays him as not the shiniest nickel in the roll, a man who admits he has "made some mistakes," but continues to pursue a political agenda despite the upheavals to the countries he is "helping."

His nemesis is a Swede named Rolf (Christopher Curry) who is trying to thwart his plan to set up small micro-loans to banks in Iraq and other underdeveloped countries. Rolf is also trying to get one of The Director's own staff to undermine him. This young man, Brenden (Ian Lockhart), has been intellectually seduced into supporting The Director, even though his own political views are in direct opposition to his boss'.

Brenden, who is a bright young Yale man from a working-class background, has an idealistic girlfriend, Sally, from a wealthy family with an ultra-liberal orientation. Sally (Kate Siegel) is a woman who habitually screams her opinions and thinks that The Director is the devil incarnate.

But Brenden is flattered to be noticed by the higher-ups and is influenced by the mysterious gangster-like Marty (Robert Cicchini), an apparatchik who speaks in spurts of Brooklynese and apparently serves as The Director's chief of staff.

The political argument rages back and forth and is sometimes hard to follow, but in the end The Director, like Wolfowitz, is undone by his personal life: he has used his position to procure a glitzy, high-paying job for his girlfriend. This woman, Carmen (Cameron Meyer) runs a foundation that is presumably willing to fund one of Sally's idealistic schemes to save the world.

Award-winning playwright Shem Bitterman defines The Director as a "tree-shaker" and Carmen identifies him as someone "who always wanted a seat at the table." The Director agrees, adding, "At least then everybody would know I was invited."

The cast of "Influence" is uniformly good and the characters are interesting. Director Steve Zuckerman, who is collaborating here with playwright Bitterman for the fifth time, uses a minimum of props to move the players expeditiously from Brenden and Sally's apartment to The Director's office, to a rendezvous in a restaurant. And set and lighting designer Jeff McLaughlin has designed a large gray-painted series of recognizable Washington buildings as an attractive background for the action.

This world premiere production launches the Katselas Theatre Company's 2010 season. It will continue at The Skylight Theatre, 1816 North Vermont Ave., in Los Angeles, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m. through April 4. For tickets, call (310) 358-9936.

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

An idiosyncratic 'Menagerie' probes Williams' past

MICHAEL KUCHWARA
AP Drama Critic

NEW YORK There's something off-kilter in the Roundabout Theatre Company's idiosyncratic revival of "The Glass Menagerie," Tennessee Williams' classic memory play that's now 65 years young.

Director Gordon Edelstein has intriguingly framed the production, which opened Wednesday at off-Broadway's Laura Pels Theatre, with the author at center stage. Tom, the dissolute son (a stand-in for the playwright himself), is sitting in a dark, dingy hotel room, drinking, writing and conjuring up memories of the unhappy home life he has left behind.

And when that memory kicks in, out of the shadows step Amanda Wingfield, Tom's dominating mother played by Judith Ivey, and his shy, emotionally damaged sister, Laura, portrayed by the lovely Keira Keeley.

Ivey's unsubtle, magnolia-scented Amanda drips Southern charm by the bucket-full and more than a few mannerisms. She prattles on about her own past, the parade of gentlemen callers who vied for her favors and the disappointing man she finally married — and who later disappeared. "He was a telephone man who fell in love with long distances," says his abandoned son.

Amanda nags Tom as a perennial underachiever, trapped in a dead-end warehouse job that will not be the family's economic salvation.

The woman's foolishness is played strenuously for laughs, robbing the play of some but fortunately not all the poignancy and steely drama inherent in Williams' heartbreaking story.

In a way, Amanda is as much a prisoner as her daughter Laura — a mother trapped in the antebellum days of her youth — while her child is confined to their dreary St. Louis apartment with only a few tiny glass animals and the phonograph records of her long-absent father to provide some joy.

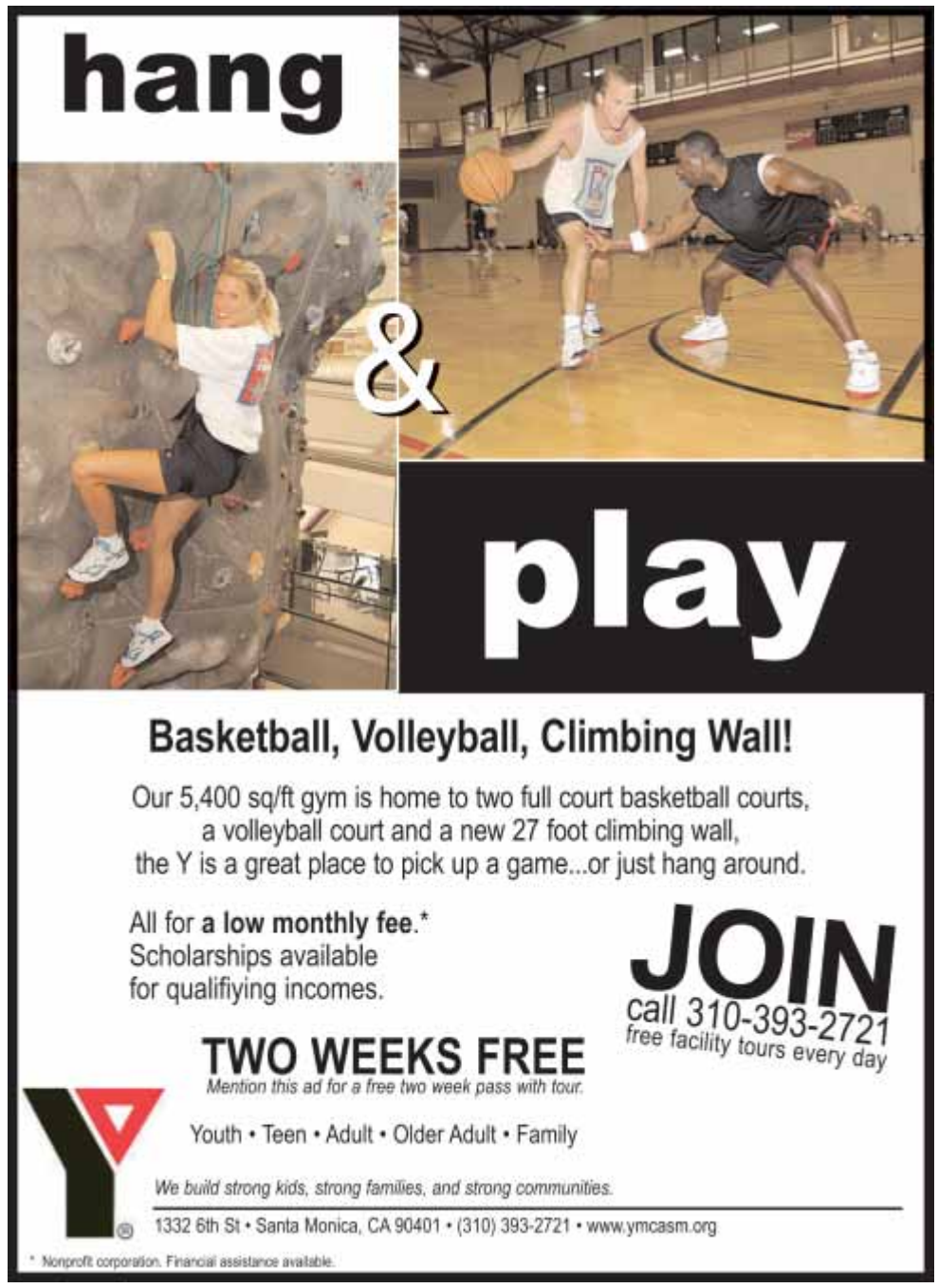
It's up to Keeley to provide the pathos that propels much of the production's lengthy second half. And those moments of sorrow are most apparent in Laura's touching, candlelit meeting with Jim, a gentleman caller Tom brings home for dinner. Their scene together brings out the best in Williams' writing, an honest emotionalism that doesn't descend into sentimentality if played right.

And Keeley and Michael Mosley, as the invited guest, do just that. Mosley displays an unaffected bravado, perfect for this one-time high-school golden boy who has begun to tarnish later in life. He also has a surprising courtliness that makes this gentleman more gallant than one might expect.

"Gallant" would not be the word to describe Tom, particularly in Patch Darragh's portrait of the artist as a frustrated — both creatively and sexually — young man. Darragh's Tom is brimming with anger, and his hostility flowers when it goes up against his formidable, perpetually badgering mother. Yet here their bickering evokes laughs from the audience.

And it's that aggressive comic tone here — and in other moments of the play — that ultimately undermines this "Glass Menagerie," removing much of the devastation and sense of loss one should feel when Tom leaves this stifling environment for good.

BECOME A FAN ON facebook Santa Monica Daily Press







Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

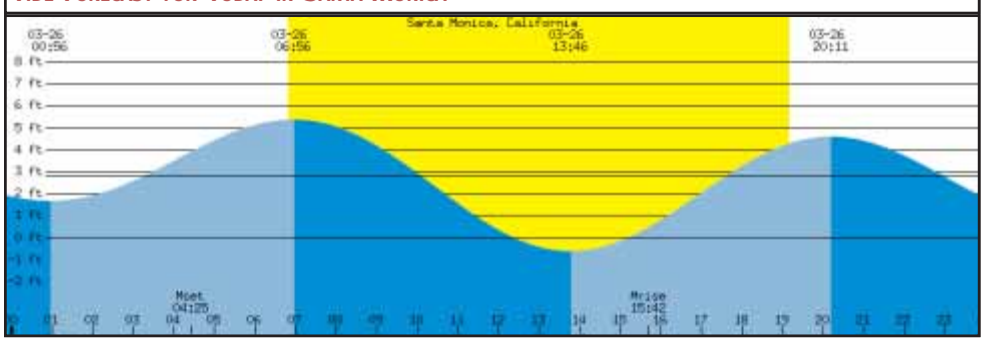
Swell Forecast

SW backs off further to knee to waist. NW ground swell is expected to run least chest to head high at west facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

The NW should linger, mostly chest high with some head high pluses at west facing breaks. SW energy looks nil.

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 30 days up to the ending date of **March 16, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills - 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 12
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather - 40 / 32
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / 11

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation; simplehuman; SIMA

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Las Cornilla Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Alisos creeks.	A+	A+
Escinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	F
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	B	B
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	F	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	B
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	A+	C
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	F	D
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	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.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	D	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	C	A
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A+

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

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'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.

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

Heal the Bay

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MLB

Padilla to open season for Dodgers

BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

GLENDALE, Ariz. Vicente Padilla has earned an accolade he's never experienced going into his 11th major-league season — being the opening day starter.

Padilla will get the nod for the Los Angeles Dodgers in their opener April 5 at Pittsburgh, five months after a gunshot wound to his leg nearly ended his career.

Manager Joe Torre said Thursday that Padilla's performance in the playoffs last season helped land him the spot.

"I'm very happy he had the confidence for me to pitch the first game," Padilla said through a translator. "I'm really grateful."

The right-hander allowed just one earned run over 14 1-3 innings in his first two career playoff appearances for the Dodgers before losing Game 5 of the NL championship series to Philadelphia.

"We just had to pick somebody and he was the one," Torre said. "Am I going to say he's better than the other guys? I can't do that. We just decided to line them up that way."

Padilla got a one-year deal worth more than $5 million with the Dodgers in January after being signed as a free agent late last season. He went 4-0 with a 3.20 ERA in seven starts, bolstering the NL West champions' inconsistent roster.

"I wasn't really expecting it, but whatever role he gives me, I'll try my best," he said. "This is something really big for me."

Padilla was injured Nov. 3 in his native Nicaragua while, he said, practicing with a handgun that jammed. He said a friend was trying to fix the problem when the gun accidentally fired, striking Padilla's upper right thigh. The bullet came through the back of his leg.

He has shown no ill effects this spring from the incident. He is 1-1 with a 4.50 ERA in three starts.

"Thank God I was able to maintain my health," he said, noting that he's been bothered only by tightness in his right forearm, something he experienced last spring, too.

Padilla said he's not nervous about opening the season, adding, "I had more pressure in the first game I pitched with the Dodgers (in the playoffs) last season because I had to win that game."

The Dodgers are off April 6. Left-hander Clayton Kershaw will start April 7 against the Pirates, followed by right-hander Chad Billingsley, and right-hander Hiroki Kuroda on April 9 at Florida.

A fifth starter has yet to be named, and Torre said that won't happen until late next week.

"I have a pretty good idea what I want to do," he said, "but I think it's unfair if I don't just take in the rest of the information that we're going to have."

MLB

Hughes picked as Yankees' fifth starter

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TAMPA, Fla. Phil Hughes was selected Thursday as the New York Yankees' fifth starter, beating out Joba Chamberlain and three others.

"It was what I set out in the spring to do," Hughes said manager Joe Girardi announced the decision. "I grew up a starter in high school, minor leagues, even my first couple partial seasons in the big leagues. It was something that I really wanted and I feel like I'm ready for the challenge and ready for the season that lies ahead. "

Girardi said Chamberlain will be given an opportunity to pitch out of the bullpen and is in the mix for the eighth-inning setup role for closer Mariano Rivera.

Chamberlain was at the Yankees' complex about an hour before Girardi announced the winner and said "You go with the flow. That's what I've done."

Hughes and Chamberlain spoke briefly at Steinbrenner Field.

"He just said 'congrats,'" Hughes said. "I think we all trust in the front office and the coaching staff to make the right decisions. We just get paid to go out and throw the ball. There's no bitterness or anything like that. We're all pulling for the same goal, to do what we did last year. The roles might be switched but we're pulling for each other."

Hughes made seven starts at the beginning of last season, then was moved to the bullpen after Chien-Ming Wang got hurt. Chamberlain was in the rotation during the regular season, then was shifted in the postseason to the relief role, which appeared to suit him better.

Hughes might be limited to around 170 innings this season.

"That is the next thing we will iron out," Girardi said. "We'll probably try to do that in the next few days, exactly how we'll attack it. You learn from last year, in a sense, but every guy's different. Phil Hughes is different than Joba.

The other contenders were Sergio Mitre, Alfredo Aceves and Chad Gaudin, released earlier Thursday.

"I felt like everyone had been given an equal opportunity," Hughes said.

Gaudin, who turned 27 on Wednesday, will receive $725,410 in termination pay rather than the non-guaranteed $2.95 million salary he and the team agreed to in January to avoid salary arbitration.

"I'm disappointed. A great team to be with," Gaudin said. "I enjoyed every minute with these guys. I'm sure I'll land somewhere on my feet."

Cashman said sending Gaudin to Triple-A was not an option because of his salary.

"It'd be nice to have insurance like that, but it's not realistic," Cashman said.

New York acquired Gaudin from San Diego in August for cash, and he went 2-0 with a 3.43 ERA in six starts and five relief appearances for the Yankees last season. He was on the roster for all three rounds of the postseason but appeared in just one game, a one-inning relief appearance against the Los Angeles Angels in the AL championship series.

Also, Alex Rodriguez declined comment for the second straight day on his pending meeting with federal investigators regarding his possible connection to a Canadian physician.

The Yankees third baseman is scheduled to meet with officials Friday in Buffalo, N.Y.

Expected Yankees opening day starter CC Sabathia allowed seven runs and seven hits over 3 2-3 innings in a Triple-A game against Philadelphia ace Roy Halladay.

"Felt normal, just my location was bad," said Sabathia, who threw 88 pitches. "I have one more start to try and fine tune little things and be ready for Boston."

Halladay gave up two runs and seven hits in seven innings. Jorge Posada, who caught Sabathia, had two hits in three at-bats.

MOVIE TIMES

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

Double Feature
An American in Paris (NR) 1hr 55min
The Young Girls of Rochefort (NR) 2hr
7:30pm

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Chloe (R) 1hr 36min
12:20pm, 3:00pm, 5:25pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

Greenberg (R) 1hr 47min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:55pm, 7:40pm, 10:20pm

Our Family Wedding (PG-13) 1hr 30min
12:10pm, 2:35pm, 5:00pm, 7:20pm, 9:50pm

The Runaways (R) 1hr 45min
11:15am, 1:45pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

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

Diary of a Wimpy Kid (PG) 1hr 33min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:15pm, 6:45pm, 9:15pm

The Bounty Hunter (PG-13) 1hr 46min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Alice in Wonderland (in Disney Digital 3D) (PG) 1hr 49min
11:30am, 1:20pm, 2:20pm, 4:10pm, 5:10pm, 7:00pm, 7:55pm, 9:50pm, 10:40pm

Shutter Island (R) 2hrs 18min
12:30pm, 4:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm

She's Out of My League (R) 1hr 44min
11:35am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:35pm

Hot Tub Time Machine (R) 1hr 40min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

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

The Eclipse (R) 1hr 43min
1:00pm, 3:15pm, 5:30pm, 7:45pm, 10:00pm

The Ghost Writer (PG13) 2hr 23min
1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:10pm

A Prophet (R) 2hr 44min
1:50pm, 5:10pm, 8:30pm

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (NR) 2hr 49min
1:00pm, 4:30pm, 8:00pm

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

Repo Men (R) 1hr 51min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:50pm, 7:40pm, 10:20pm

Green Zone (R) 1hr 55min
11:40am, 1:10pm, 2:20pm, 3:50pm, 5:10pm, 6:40pm, 7:50pm, 9:20pm, 10:30pm

Remember Me (PG-13) 1hr 53min
11:10am, 1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:10pm, 9:50pm

How to Train Your Dragon (PG) 1hr 38min
12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) 1hr 38min
11:00am, 1:30pm, 4:05pm, 6:30pm, 9:00pm, 11:30pm

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

Enjoy yourself, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Recognizing everything that must be accomplished could be overwhelming. Return messages, schedule meetings for next week and clear your desk and mind. Communication flourishes and ideas emerge in a brainstorming session. Tonight: Go off and enjoy yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ If you can work from home, do. In any case, you are finishing off a lot of projects and meetings. Take needed time to put together or complete a project. Your reflections about a situation are right-on. Tonight: Home is where the heart is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Keep conversations moving, knowing you are finally clearing the air. At work, a meeting could be more important than you realize. Conversations open up better understanding, finally, including in your personal life. Tonight: Leave before you get caught up in one more project.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Be careful about spending or OKing an expenditure. Within a day, you could change your mind. What was acceptable might no longer be. A boss has many great ideas; work with them. Focus on getting work done. Tonight: Get out early.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You have others listening and responding. Now might be the time to move a project along and take the high road. Find experts and draw in others' opinions, and the end results could be exceptional. Start thinking "vacation." Tonight: Whatever makes the Lion roar.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ You sense that something is happening behind the scenes, though you might not be totally clear as to what that is. Do less reacting and more listening. Note what isn't being said. Play the sleuth, and find answers. Gain greater knowledge of those around you. Tonight: Do your thing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Focus on the big picture, not the details. Others have a lot to say and are full of details. You might wonder when this all will end so you can get going or move on a project. Maintain a high profile in key matters. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ A must appearance could take a while. In a meeting, a boss or associate helps address the many questions coming forward. Delegate and get as much done as possible, knowing it is Friday. Clear your desk, allowing for some much-needed downtime. Tonight: Visit with an older friend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You have difficulty staying present in the moment. What is going on around you might not interest you. Perhaps you are ready for some time off. If you can, work on a project of interest, and you will gain. Tonight: Try a new spot.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ A partner might have many ideas. Your mind could be on a personal matter, home or a real-estate investment. Gather more information, but take your time. Sometimes the most important detail could be missed. Tonight: Be a duo.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Others seek you out, be it at work or at home. Invitations lead to excellent networking opportunities, if at work. Your life certainly is far from dull when everyone is hovering around. Make choices that function well for you. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might escape work overload by asking for help from a sensitive associate or friend. You tend to get quirky at times. You are exhausted by everything that is on your plate. Defer to others, but say "no" to taking anymore on. Tonight: Put your feet up. Call it a week.

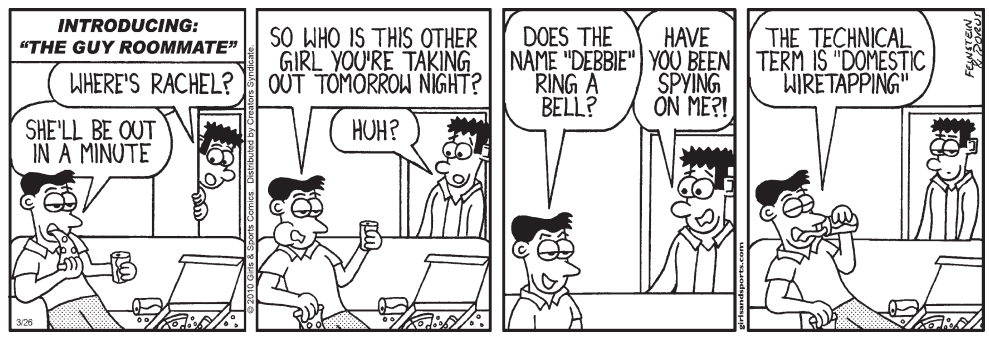
Happy birthday

This year, you express a clarity and sensitivity that draws many people. With your building popularity, you have many more options. Your creativity helps you through any problem, though you are often uncomfortable with risks. You are lucky this year: You will land on your feet. If you are single, guard against getting involved with someone who is unavailable or married. If you are attached, as a couple you'll gain through weekends away together. Plan on as many as possible. PISCES understands.

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

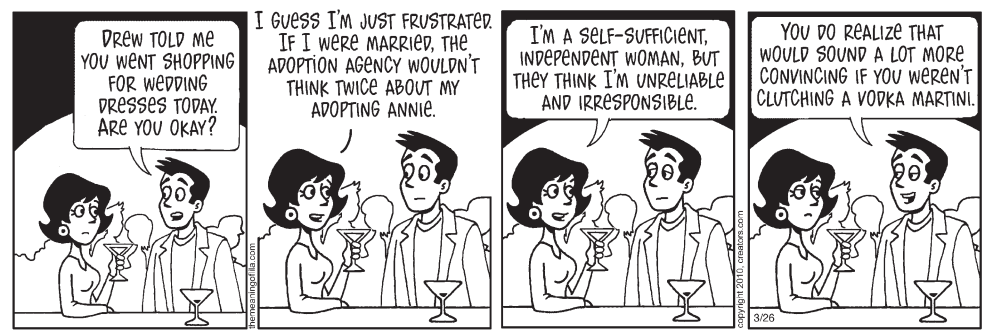
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



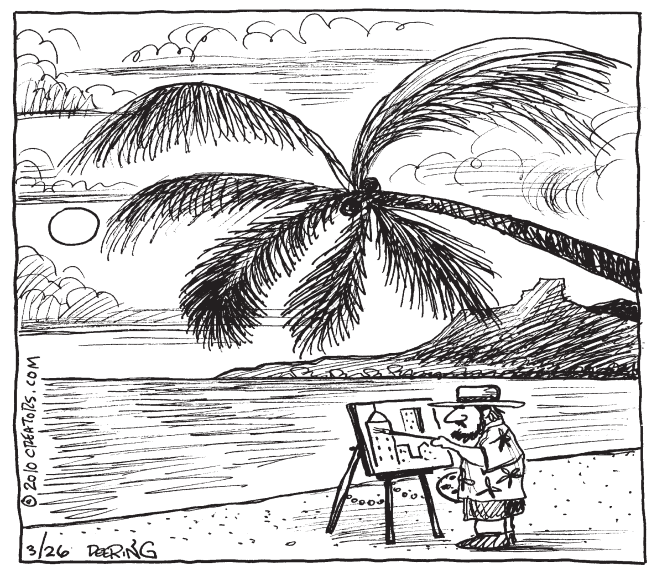
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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1527 4th St.
Santa Monica, CA

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 ★★★★

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

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

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

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
www.samhsa.gov

Ad Council



MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@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 Remote locales?
6 Emerges
11 Ticked off
12 Moral system
13 European fashion center
14 Tenor's pride
15 Campaign pro
16 Be frugal with
18 Yale student
19 Dawn goddess
20 — -de -France
21 Monthly expense
23 River from Dijon
25 Woolen cap
27 Was inactive
28 Tennis star Becker
30 Gangster's gal
33 Soak up
34 CDs' forerunners
36 Shark's home
37 "The Friendly Island"
39 Crone
40 Desert plant
41 Future raisin
43 Kitchen gadget
44 Keyed up
45 Prom group
46 Core feature

DOWN

1 Smile coyly
2 Jim Palmer, once
3 Become clear
4 — loss
5 Detect
6 Dreams up
7 Physics bit
8 Bring up to snuff
9 Tom's ex
10 Theater bit
17 Ring wins, for short
22 Old salt
24 Descartes conclusion
26 Farmers, at times
28 Dance at the disco
29 Sauna site
31 Bounded
32 Some beers
33 Bright
35 Weary sounds
38 Roasting spot
42 Reuben base

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, 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					■	46				

3-26

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 3 25 28 29 40 Meganumber: 13 Jackpot: 40$M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 13 20 25 29 39 Meganumber: 21 Jackpot: 31$M

Fantasy 5: 1 4 8 17 35

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

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 01 Gold Rush 2nd: 02 Lucky Star 3rd: 04 Big Ben RACE TIME: 1:47.27

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

■ Animals With Issues: (1) Ashley Saks' 2-year-old basset hound Roxy was resting comfortably in Jacksonville, Fla., in November following a vet's removal, one by one, of the 130 nails she had compulsively swallowed. (2) The polar bear Aisaqvaq produced two cubs in December at Quebec's Zoo Sauvage de Saint-Felicien. Aisaqvaq had given birth to another the previous December, but had eaten it. (3) In November, maritime rescuers were called to ocean waters off the coast of Darwin, Australia, to rescue an adult cow that was dog-paddling around and, according to a seaman, "not in a good mood."

■ Natural Selection: (1) Female cane toads are choosy at mating, according to a recent article in Biology Letters. A desirable male is permitted to hop onto the female's back and start the process, but the female is also able to inflate sacs in her body to bloat herself so large that males slide off before completing insemination. (Also, to test the strength of the male's grip, the researchers encouraged necrophilia: The scientists doused dead female toads with pheromones to measure males' horniness.) (2) Female short-nosed fruit bats in China's Guangdong Province show their preference for certain males by fellating them, according to an October journal article. Researchers observed that licked males were able to copulate longer, thus improving the likelihood of insemination. (The scientists also confirmed that bats mate while upside down.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1026 Pope John XIX crowns Conrad II as Holy Roman Emperor.

1484 William Caxton prints his translation of Aesop's Fables.

1552 Guru Amar Das becomes the Third Sikh Guru.

1636 Utrecht University is founded in the Netherlands.

1808 Charles IV of Spain abdicates in favor of his son, Ferdinand VII.

WORD UP!

lucre
\LOO-kuhr\ , noun;
1. Monetary gain; profit; riches; money; -- often in a bad sense.

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North of Montana	$3,225,000	$1,395,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,995,000	$802,000
South of Wilshire	$989,000	$645,750
Sunset Park	$1,099,000	$595,000
Ocean Park	$1,547,000	$542,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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