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Volume 8 Issue 123



Santa Monica Daily Press

NOTHING LIKE GOOD BBQ
SEE PAGE 10

We have you covered

THE SOLO ISSUE

Making progress on the homeless front

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN In a city that long ago developed a reputation of generosity toward the homeless population, given the moniker as the "home of the homeless," a one-year-old approach to pay more focused and proactive attention to the issue has apparently led to noticeable results.

That approach — the Action Plan to Address Homelessness in Santa Monica — was developed and approved in early 2008 to essentially commit to paper some of the steps City Hall had already taken regarding the problem, refocusing some of its past strategies by aligning resources from the general population to what officials deemed as "priority" subgroups that needed more attention.

"We have had a history in our community of supporting and building a number of very successful efforts and yet we hadn't folded it together into an approach that really articulated what we offered," Julie Rusk, the human services manager for City Hall, said this week. "The plan was really an articulation of a new approach that we think is going to lead to more effective results for our community."

The outcome over the past year — whether or not it can be directly attributed to the plan or not — is that progress has been made in tackling the issue, particularly in the area of securing housing and getting individuals off the street.

During the fiscal 2007-08 year, about 375 individuals — representing 10 percent of the population that sought social services — were placed in permanent housing, while another 20 percent received emergency or transitional housing. About 552 people, or about 15 percent, landed jobs that have led to self sufficiency.

More than half of the 131 homeless individuals identified in 2008 as being the most vulnerable have since been taken off the street and placed in either permanent or temporary housing. In January of last year, City Hall, in collaboration with social service

SEE HOMELESS PAGE 14

Narcs bust heroin dealers

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY Santa Monica narcotics detectives, along with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, seized over two pounds of black tar heroin and arrested two people believed responsible for running a drug dealing operation that covered much of the Westside.

Authorities on Friday released the names of the two suspects, Maria Lucia Fuentes and Jose Giovanni Franco, both of Inglewood. The two were arrested Wednesday at about noon in Inglewood as part of "Operation Mama." Fuentes and Franco were transferred into federal custody and were arraigned Thursday on narcotics trafficking charges.

Fuentes was known as "Mama" to her customers and often wore brightly-colored medical scrubs while she personally sold heroin in amounts that ranged from a few grams up to a few pounds, SMPD Sgt. Robert Almada said.

SMPD narcotics investigators arrested Fuentes and Franco as the couple sat inside their car, which was parked inside a parking lot at a neighborhood drug store in Inglewood. The couple was waiting to complete a large heroin sale, police said. After the arrest, narcotics investigators executed a

SEE HEROIN PAGE 16



Nina Furukawa *news@smdp.com*

CAUGHT IN THE ACT: **Disgruntled customers talk with Santa Monica police officers and an employee with Cozi Couch on Wilshire Boulevard on Thursday evening. The customers claim they have not received thousands of dollars worth of furniture they ordered and Cozi Couch owners are trying to leave town without issuing them refunds. Cozi Couch closed its doors Thursday. The City Attorney's Office is investigating.**

Customers catch Cozi Couch trying to split

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN Dusk had fallen when Jaime Seoane, an employee of Cozi Couch Washable Luxury, finally arrived at the store on Thursday. He came with a U-Haul.

The store is now an empty shell, with just piles of haphazardly stacked pillows atop stray bits of furniture and a sky blue sign in the back that reads: "We reserve the right to render great service to everybody … Cozi Couch" in scrawled gold letters.

Customers would claim Cozi Couch chose not to exercise that right when they demanded cash payments on custom furniture orders that never materialized.

At 7:30 p.m. that night, Seoane began removing furniture from the store, packing it into the U-Haul to cart it away to an undisclosed location. Disgruntled Cozi Couch customers and bemused policemen

SEE COZI PAGE 13

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE



OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

The alternative way
380 Santa Monica Pier, 11 a.m.

Pacific Park on the pier is set to electrify the city with a community-driven alternative fuel car rally on the pier upper parking lot while introducing its all-new SIG Alert electric bumper cars. The first 100 drivers will receive free parking on the pier along with fresh coffee and doughnuts. All drivers of alternative fuel cars will receive two free passes to SIG Alert EV from 11 a.m. to midnight. Call (310) 260-8744 for more information.

Where imagination takes flight
Third Annual Santa Monica Airport Art Walk
Airport Avenue, 1 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Join artists who call the Santa Monica Airport home as they give visitors a rare opportunity to see works in progress and purchase pieces, helping to support the local arts scene. Artists participating in the walk this year include noted local artists such as Fielden Harper, Jodi Fuchs, Michelle Oppenheimer, and Greg Gioiosa along with dozens of others. For additional artists whose studios will be open this year as well as images of their work please go to the Santa Monica Airport Art Walk Web site at http://arts.santa-monica.org/AirportArtWalk/AirportArtWalk.htm. Admission is free.

"The Sacred Prostitute"
Church in Ocean Park
235 Hill St., 7:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

The play written and performed by Santo Cervello and followed up by Grace Lebecka presents an ancient ritual performed for thousands of years in the temples of the Goddess of Love. Learn the significance of the ancient wisdom and how it benefits contemporary men and women to live a joyful and fulfilling life. Admission is $20. Call (310) 664-3767 for more information.

Sunday, March 29, 2009

Celebrate for a cure
Roosevelt Elementary School
801 Montana Ave., 9:30 a.m. — 2:30 p.m.

Join Man of the Year candidate Gregory Rutchik for a children's celebration of the arts festival. Enjoy live music, puppet shows, face painting, yoga sessions, acrobats, arts and crafts, a photo booth and healthy food and drink. Admission is $10 for person, children under two are admitted for free. Call (650) 224-2621 for more information.

Fire and spice
Royce Hall at UCLA
10745 Dickson Plaza, 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.

Spanish master of the classical guitar Angel Romero performs his signature piece, "Concierto de Aranjuez." Guest vocal artists will turn up the heat on the classical music experience. (310) 873-7777.

Monday, March 30, 2009

Game day
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 3 p.m.

Play bridge and scrabble for free every Monday at the library. Have fun, meet new people, and challenge your mind! Call (310) 450-0443 for more information.

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Story time for toddlers
Ocean Park Branch Library
2601 Main St., 10 a.m. — 11 a.m.

Join Mr. Jesse for some music, rhymes, stories and puppets for children 24-36 months old accompanied by an adult. Registration is required. Call (310) 392-3804 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.

Getting in the last word for residents

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

EASTSIDE Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, the city's leading political party that holds a majority on the City Council and other elected boards here, is opposed to building a maintenance yard for the Exposition Light Rail line in a residential neighborhood adjacent to Stewart Street Park.

The politically-influential group comprised of several civic leaders fired off a letter to the Expo Construction Authority Friday, the last day to submit public comments on the draft environmental impact report for Phase 2 of the rail project.

Not only is SMRR opposed to a rail yard at a site currently owned by Verizon, the group is also against any project that would displace Bergamot Station, Southern California's largest art gallery complex, located on 9.5 acres off of Olympic Boulevard near Cloverfield Boulevard. The property is owned by City Hall and was originally purchased in the late '80s for $17.3 million to be used as a rail car storage and light maintenance yard.

Dating back to 1875, Bergamot was once a stop for the Red Line trolley that ran from Los Angeles to the Santa Monica Pier. After the trolley cars ceased in 1953, the station began housing several industrial uses, from a celery-packing operation to an ice-making plant and later a water heater manufacturer.

It became a cultural center after Wayne Blank, an art dealer who helped develop the Santa Monica Airport art studios, approached City Hall with an idea to create galleries there.

Now, many in Santa Monica cannot envision a community without Bergamot.

"We believe the Expo Board has to consider other sites," said Patricia Hoffman, chair of SMRR. "I don't think having a maintenance yard that would be operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week is a good plan for this neighborhood. I don't think we should further isolate this neighborhood, which is already located next to the 10 Freeway."

In the letter to Expo, SMRR suggests looking at publicly owned property adjacent to Bergamot, such as the Richlar site and City Yards, as a possible alternative, "especially for an underground facility."

"We urge it be evaluated as an alternative," the letter, signed by Hoffman, states.

SMRR was joined by residents in the neighborhood that could be impacted by the rail yard. A form letter was circulated this week to residents that laid out the opposition. All residents had to do was sign it and send it. Michael Tarbet, a resident in the area, drafted the letter and another circulated it. Tarbet said he received 30 to 40 letters back and planned to send them to Expo Friday.

"It's really painful to have this dropped on a community like this," Tarbet said. "This is a good way to make sure people's voices are heard, particularly those who may not speak English very well. This helps to get the word out."

SEE EXPO PAGE 15



MUSIC MAN

Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

Seventh grader Ben Gelfand, 12, beats the Timpani (also known commonly as kettledrums) during the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's 60th Annual 'Stairway of the Stars' concert at the Santa Monica Convention Center on Thursday. The event highlights the talents of the school district's music students, teachers, and music curriculum. Twenty six bands, orchestras, and choirs dazzled the audience.

Family of slain SM man still searching for answers

BY KEVIN HERRERA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DOWNTOWN L.A. The family of a Santa Monica man who was shot and killed here just weeks before he was to graduate Cal State Northridge are asking for the public's help in identifying the killer, hosting a rally at the murder scene Sunday in hopes that someone will come forward with more information about the crime.



HIBBERT

Clifton Hibbert, Jr., 22, a graduate of Santa Monica High School, was fatally shot along with 23-year-old Kenneth Patterson, Jr. on March 29, 2008 in the 4300 block of Figueroa Street. Family said the friends came to South L.A. from Northridge to stay with friends and were shot in the head.

Sunday marks the one-year anniversary of the murders.

A $75,000 reward has been offered for information leading to the arrest and con-

SEE WALK PAGE 16

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

No place for hate speech

Editor:

In admitting to bigotry, Mr. Pisarra left out half of the definition: "one who treats the members of a group with hatred and intolerance." Through his inaccurate Prop. 8 articles,

Pisarra continues to fling hatred and intolerance toward members of our community with moral/religious beliefs, specifically practicing Jews, Catholics and Mormons (members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints). He ridicules their leaders and goes so far as to print where they live ("The bigot next door, page 4, Feb. 17). By doing so, he inspires retaliation on these families. This is the worst form of journalism.

If the gay marriage issue was about civil rights, people of all faiths would have no problem voting for it. But they see gay marriage as a moral issue with far-reaching consequences for their own families, communities and nations.

Attacking religious people for loving God and protecting their families is unconstitutional and un-American. Mr. Pisarra thinks his stirring words can achieve some grand solution, but his hate speech just exacerbates the problem.

Newell Knight
Santa Monica

The blame game

Editor:

Ms. Shaw you are typical of the average citizen, or rather the average liberal, who has been taught to hate President Bush. I don't blame you entirely, I know most of your news probably comes from Moveon.Org or the Daily Show and of course sprinkled with CNN.

Under Bush, in 2001, his administration began to notice and declare that the size of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae were becoming a potential huge problem.

In 2003 Bush's administration pushed for an entire regulatory overhaul of Freddie and Fannie in order to derail the coming crisis. Guess who stopped them? The Democrats, and leading the charge was Barney Frank. Freddie and Fannie at this point control more than half of all mortgages in the United States. Who has too much power again?

In 2004 Franklin Raines, the CEO of Fannie and longtime Democrat supporter, testifies before the House that "assets are so riskless that the capital for holding them should be under two percent." This in turn enticed the big banks to buy up trillions of dollars of what were worthless mortgages. Later that same year Fannie announced it has overstated its earnings by over 10-and-a-half-billion dollars.

In 2006 McCain called for GSE regulatory reform warning: "If Congress does not act, American taxpayers will continue to be exposed to the enormous risk that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac pose on the housing market, the overall financial system, and the economy as a whole."

Anyone who thinks that the liberal policies surrounding these toxic loans had nothing to do with this crisis is just ignorant to the facts and blinded by the truth.

Now here we sit today, with an amateur in the White House with the most liberal voting record. He ... has created the largest deficit in the history of our nation in a matter of about a month in office. Him and his people are clueless.

If you want to help this economy you let the banks fail, you let GM fail, you let them all fail. You cut taxes to everyone, including business ... .

Blaming the banks for wanting to make a profit is not going to help. They were essentially lied to by a government-backed entity into buying into a worthless investment.

I know of one guy in the private sector, Madoff, who will be going to prison for essentially the same thing. So I wonder if the head of Freddie will see the same fate?

Billy Woody
Santa Monica



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Fly me to the ... Wal-Mart?

NASA, THE OFTEN MALIGNED, SOMETIMES forgotten space agency has a galaxy-sized headache. To try to get more people interested in space exploration, NASA sponsored an online contest in which people could vote on a name for a new room to be added to the International Space Station. The choices on the ballot were Serenity, Legacy, Earthrise, and Venture. However, the winner was "Colbert," named for Stephen Colbert, host of Comedy Central's, "The Colbert Report." He asked his viewers to vote for him, and they did. Now what does NASA do? Do they overrule the 115,000 people who voted for "Colbert" or stick with the popular choice and become the laughingstock of the already giggly world of astrophysics?

Can you name any of the astronauts who are up in the International Space Station? I couldn't either until I did some research for this column. Things have certainly changed in the half-century since the heyday of the original seven Mercury astronauts. Back then, "everybody" not only knew the astronauts' names, they knew what their favorite foods were. These days, we've become awfully blasé about the space program. Do teachers have their students watch every space launch on the school's TV set? I don't think so. And I assume that enthusiasm for spending money on space exploration went down as unemployment rates and AIG bonuses went up. So right when NASA comes up with a nice gimmick to get people involved in the space program again, they get outgimmicked by, well, a goofball.

Colbert tried to get people to vote for him for president — as many comedians have in the past — and that fizzled. But for some reason, this caught on. Since NASA is an agency of the federal government, there was, naturally, a "weaseling out clause" in the contest. They reserve the right to overrule the popular vote if they want to. Kind of reminds you of the 2000 Presidential Election, doesn't it?

So far, NASA is being mum on whether they will go with "Colbert" or one of the more reasonable, and boring, names. John Yembrick, a NASA spokesman, says they'll make a decision sometime in April. My advice to Yembrick: go with the joke.

I guarantee if "Colbert" wins, Colbert will spend even more time publicizing NASA and space exploration on television. More people will get interested, and that was the original idea of the contest. And it usually doesn't hurt if a governmental agency demonstrates a sense of humor.

I know the dangers of going along with this joke. It's a very slippery slope. Other TV shows will probably want to get their names in space. Some agent's bound to think that "Dancing with The Stars" is a natural. Other shows are going to want to have their names up there, too. Will the next space shuttle be called, "Late Show With David Letterman?" Will the next galaxy astronomers discover be called, "America's Biggest Loser?"

When it comes to naming things and publicity, money always seems to enter the picture. Therefore, I have to admit that I worry a little that the heavens might suffer the same fate as that of so many sports venues. If there can be a "Petco Park," a "U.S. Cellular Field," and a "Staples Center," isn't it just possible that astronomers might change the planets' names, too? And if so, are we really going to be happy when our children's children learn that "Alpo" is the fourth planet from the sun, and the one with the two big moons is called, "Hooters?"

SO RIGHT WHEN NASA COMES UP WITH A NICE GIMMICK TO GET PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE SPACE PROGRAM AGAIN, THEY GET OUT-GIMMICKED BY, WELL, A GOOFBALL.

Despite these caveats, I still think NASA should go along with the popular vote. They should be able to draw the line and avoid catastrophic commercial consequences. And if they are worried about making the seemingly smug Stephen Colbert even smugger, the joke might actually be on him. One of the functions of the soon-to-be-named part of the space station will be to house a machine that turns astronauts' urine into drinking water. Would you really like to have that room named after you?

LLOYD GARVER has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Home Improvement" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He can be reached at lloydgarver@gmail.com. Check out his Web site at lloydgarver.com and his podcasts on iTunes.

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The Q Line

Keeping it local

This past week, Q-line asked:
Are you inclined to spend locally to help the ailing economy, and why?
Here are your responses:

"I WOULD GO WHEREVER THE SALES and motel taxes are lowest, the parking is free and we are not asked to pay a dollar for a glass of water. This economy is hard on all of us."

"I ONLY BUY LOCALLY WHEN IT'S AN absolute necessity, like Vons, Rite-Aid and Barnes & Noble. I don't go near any of the other stores in Santa Monica – too much traffic, no parking, too many people, too many bums and Santa Monica is a dirty looking city and who needs these moronic, upscale stores."

"I SHOP FOR MY GROCERIES, GASOLINE and dry cleaning in Santa Monica. I honor both Vons and Pavilions with my physical presence. One-hour dry cleaners on Wilshire Boulevard do a great job. I purchase my gasoline on Lincoln Boulevard south of Ocean Park Boulevard. For my automotive repair needs I use Santa Monica Ford. Santa Monica Ford does a great job and they are pleasant to deal with. For big ticket items, I shop the sales, wherever the sales may be."

"OUR SANTA MONICANS FOR RENTERS' Rights City Council wouldn't allow a Target Downtown. All of our reasonable shops have closed or were forced out by extremely high store rents and now only the movie stars and tourists can afford to shop here. The silly council always strangles apartment landlords to get reelected but really care nothing about us. They need the tax money from expensive stores and tourists to support their socialist agenda."

"YES, YES, YES I'M DEFINITELY INCLINED to shop locally, whether it's for groceries or going to restaurants like Swingers and Rae's or the Newsroom or Lucy's on Lincoln. I enjoy going to the hardware store named Busy Bee on Santa Monica Boulevard and Trader Joe's and the 99 Cent Store and the Co-Op on Broadway. Santa Monica is the place to go. I prefer to walk because it is getting very crowded in Santa Monica if you drive around."

"IT'S TOO HARD TO BUY LOCAL BECAUSE everything seems to be made in China these days. Maybe if they put high taxes on Chinese imports things from local areas would be much cheaper than all that Chinese garbage."

"I AM DEFINITELY INCLINED TO SPEND locally. For example, I take the bus from Venice all the way to Printland on Wilshire and Sixth Street even just to photograph one copy because the clerks there are so friendly and helpful and efficient. I support them so they won't go out of business."

"I WOULD BE INCLINED TO SPEND locally if the local stores would make their prices more reasonable for people."

"I THINK THE BEST THING TO HELP OUR ailing economy in this town is to cut 25 percent off the $567-million, bloated budget. Cut all taxes, fines, assessments, bum support, City Hall managers, buses, pier restoration, low, easy income housing, Pam O'Connor light rail, green bay rip-off, City Council honorarium retirement speeches. Buy what you need if Santa Monica's cheaper. Great, but you have to remember the added costs of driving somewhere else. I bought my new car in Santa Monica instead of saving $1,500 buying in Ventura. I should not have had to make that sacrifice. Lower taxes will still stimulate a lackluster town and council."

"I SUSPECT THIS P.R. CAMPAIGN WOULD be a useless waste of money. Most people who live in Santa Monica would be shopping in Santa Monica anyway. And their habits won't change because of an expensive PR campaign. What would be useful is if we can continue to keep fares of Big Blue Bus low and have more and more frequent service so that people who live in Santa Monica and work in Santa Monica and visit Santa Monica will have easier access, no parking problems, and enjoy their visit and look forward to coming to Santa Monica. And when they are here, I'm sure they will spend their money."

"OF COURSE I AM GOING TO SPEND locally. First I think I will go over to Target at Fifth and Santa Monica ... oops. The City Council didn't want them. Maybe I'll go over to Utopia and get some good ... oops. They're not on Third Street anymore. Well, maybe I'll have breakfast at 16th Street cafe on Montana ... oops. They're gone aren't they? I guess I can't spend locally. Maybe I'll have to go out of town."

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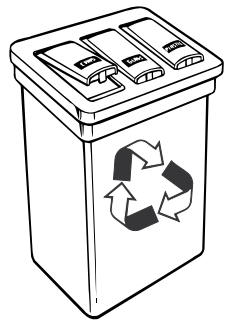
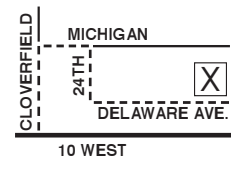
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Pair plead guilty to money laundering in L.A. election

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Two owners of a Miami business who tried to get airport concession contracts have pleaded guilty to laundering campaign contributions to Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's 2005 campaign.

Sean Anderson and Richard Manhire, owners of Travel Traders, each pleaded guilty Friday in Los Angeles County Superior Court to one misdemeanor count of improperly identifying a campaign contributor. Both men were sentenced to two years of probation.

Villaraigosa's campaign reported the suspected money laundering after prosecutors say $45,000 was delivered by employees and associates of the defendants' company. The employees were reimbursed from company accounts.

Prosecutors say the men told employees they wanted contributions to Villaraigosa to obtain airport contracts.

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SIP: Wineries uncork recycling effort

MICHELLE LOCKE
Associated Press Writer

NAPA, Calif. Something fresh is popping up in wine country, a save-the-cork effort that puts a new twist on recycling.

"All of a sudden we found that we had a product that had another life in it," says Roger Archey, program manager of the ReCORK America program that has signed up nearly 200 wineries, restaurants and retailers on the West Coast.

At issue is what happens after a cork is yanked out of a bottle of wine. Turns out corks can be ground up and turned into other products, including flooring and wall coverings.

But it takes a lot of corks to create much of anything useful. About 300,000 corks make up a ton. Collecting and gathering all those corks can be costly and time consuming.

Getting around that was the impetus for ReCORK, which is sponsored by Amorim, a major Portuguese cork manufacturer.

The group, which collects natural corks only, asks wineries, restaurants and retailers to serve as collection centers, gathering not only their own corks but also those of shoppers, diners, even employees. It's often as a simple putting as a big box in a corner.

The program began as a pilot effort in Oregon about 18 months ago and interest has picked up in recent months, says Archey, who is based just north of San Francisco.

Currently about 100 wineries are participating, mostly from California. About 80 restaurants in the San Francisco Bay area are collecting corks, along with Northern California stores of Whole Foods Market, which also is exploring ways to expand the effort.

The program appears to have tapped into bottled-up recycling desires.

"We have people coming in with bags and saying, 'Here are the corks I've been collecting for 10 years. Please do something responsible with them,'" says Adesina Stewart, regional green mission specialist for Whole Foods.

For wineries, the program is a chance to save surplus corks from bottling lines, used corks from tasting rooms and even corks employees bring in from home.

"Our employees have been very positive about it. It's great to get that chance to do one more good thing for the environment," says Allison Simpson, spokeswoman for Foster's Wine Estates, which has a number of wineries participating, including Beringer Vineyards and Chateau St. Jean.

The next step for Archey is finding more commercial uses for the corks in the United States. (What they won't be used for is sealing bottles, that's a one-and-done thing.)

In December, Archey shipped 1.7 million corks to a recycling facility in Portugal. About another 1 million have gone to Napa Recycling and Waste Services, which has been experimenting with whole corks in its compost. The recycling company now is looking into getting the special grinder needed to pulverize corks, says company public education manager Tim Dewey-Mattia.

Don't live on the West Coast? Other companies also are making it easy to give new life to old stoppers.

New Jersey-based TerraCycle Inc., for example, invites companies and consumers nationwide to mail in their used corks, synthetic or natural. The company turns the corks into, logically enough, corkboards.

Saving the corks from landfills is worth it, says TerraCycle spokesman George Chevalier. "Any case where you can pick up some efficiency by reusing, it's a great gain."

Lawsuit against AIG seeks return of bonuses, perks

GREG RISLING
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES A lawsuit filed on behalf of shareholders of American International Group Inc. is demanding company executives return millions of dollars in bonuses, dividends and other perks.

The lawsuit, which seeks class-action status, also seeks unspecified damages as well as the removal of AIG's top brass. It claims shareholders have lost $200 billion because of AIG's gross mismanagement and corporate waste over the past 8 1/2 years.

Freedom Watch, a nonprofit organization that advocates for ethics in government, filed the lawsuit Thursday in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles. Among the defendants named in the suit are former Chief Executive Officers Maurice Greenberg, Martin Sullivan and Robert Willumstad, as well as current CEO Edward Liddy. The suit also targets 10 AIG board members, including Liddy.

AIG spokesman Joe Norton said Friday the company had no immediate comment.

The defendants "have seriously undermined and damaged AIG's financial health and valuable past reputation by systematically causing and/or permitting the company to engage in a litany of highly risky, detrimental and reckless business dealings," the lawsuit states.

The company also gave misleading and false assessments when it reported earnings in 2006 and 2007, according to the lawsuit.

Continuing to pay a dividend and even raising it at one point in mid-2007 shows the defendants were either trying to misrepresent the financial stability of the company or derelict in their management and oversight, the lawsuit states.

The filing follows the recent revelation that AIG employees got $165 million in bonuses after AIG received $182.5 billion in government aid.

The bonuses were given to employees of the financial products division, a global unit that issued derivatives called credit default swaps, which drove AIG almost to collapse last year.

The government intervened to provide support for AIG because of fears that a collapse of New York-based company would trigger hundreds of billions of dollars in losses at financial institutions worldwide, further crippling the already battered credit markets.

Larry Klayman, chairman and general counsel of Freedom Watch, said the problems at AIG have "gotten under the skin of the American people."

"A lot of information has come to light," Klayman said. "It's an issue the American people want dealt with right now."





Kitchen Vixen

Elizabeth Brown
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Fuel for the day

WHILE MOST ARTICLES DEFINE superfoods as those foods with the highest antioxidant activity, I choose my favorite superfoods based on antioxidants and the ability to perform multiple tasks in the diet and in the body.

Pomegranates, acai and gojis are great, but they have limited uses when compared to this list of superfoods: flax seeds, nutritional yeast flakes, eggs, grass-fed beef, canned salmon, tofu, lentils, quinoa, brown rice, spinach, mushrooms, broccoli, sunflower and pumpkin seeds, strawberries, parsley, basil and cinnamon.

What makes these foods so super is their nutrient density. They provide a lot of nutrients or a great deal of one particular nutrient relative to their calorie content.

Eggs, salmon and quinoa have been dissected in previous articles. Each week I will discuss the other ingredients and tell you exactly why these foods are so "super." For now, here is a day's worth of superfoods. Enjoy!

ELIZABETH BROWN is a registered dietitian and certified holistic chef specializing in weight management, sports nutrition, disease prevention and optimal health through whole foods. She can be reached at eat2liv@earthlink.net.

BREAKFAST
Strawberry Smoothie
1 cup fresh or 1/2 cup frozen strawberries
4 ounces silken soft tofu
1 tbs. sunflower seeds
2 tsp. honey
1/8 tsp. cinnamon or more to taste

Put everything in a blender and blend. Add water as needed to reach desired consistency.!

SNACK
Flax Bar
Need a food processor.
Throw in:
3/4 cup almond butter
1 cup Scottish oats
1 cup wheat germ
1 cup raisins or any combination of chopped dried fruit
1/2 cup prunes or dates
2 tbs. honey
1 cup Flax seeds (measure whole, then grind in coffee grinder before adding to food processor).
Process on high speed until everything is mixed together. Place a sheet of wax paper across the bottom of a casserole pan or cookie sheet. Put the mixture onto the wax paper. Place another sheet of wax paper on top and press firmly to evenly distribute the mixture. Place in refrigerator for 2 or more hours to allow to firm. Slice into 20 even pieces. Store in the refrigerator in an airtight container. Per serving: 155 calories, 8g fat (1.5g Omega-3 fats from ALA), 5g protein, 17g carbohydrates, 4g fiber

LUNCH
Salmon Salad (divide into two servings)
Six ounce can wild salmon, drained and mixed with 2 tbs. yogurt or vegan mayo plus 1 tsp. Dijon mustard, 1 tsp. horseradish, 1 tsp. fresh chopped parsley and the juice of one half lemon. Mix with a fork and serve on top of a bed of spinach with chopped shiitake or mitake mushrooms.

Pumpkin Seed Pesto on quinoa and lentils
1/2 cup pumpkin seeds
2 cups fresh basil
3 cloves garlic, chopped
1/2 lemon, zested and juiced
2 tbs. nutritional yeast flakes
1/4 cup olive oil
Mix 1 tbs. pesto with 1/2 cup rice and lentils

DINNER
Marinated Beef & Vegetables
8-12 ounces lean beef (free range, grass fed, organic) cut into 2-inch pieces or tempeh for vegans
4 cups chopped vegetables of your choice

All Purpose Marinade
1/3 cup canola oil
1/2 cup tamari
1/4 cup water
1/4 cup maple syrup
2 tbs. minced garlic
2 tbs. paprika
1 tbs. chili powder
1 tbs. dried thyme
1 tbs. ground cumin
1 tsp. curry powder
1 tsp. dried oregano
1 tsp. fresh ground black pepper
1/2 tsp. cayenne

Blender everything in a blender. Pour some marinade in the bottom of a baking dish or container. Place the meat, poultry, fish or tofu in the marinade. Marinate in the refrigerator for two to 24 hours.
While meat is marinating, make savory sauce & chop vegetables

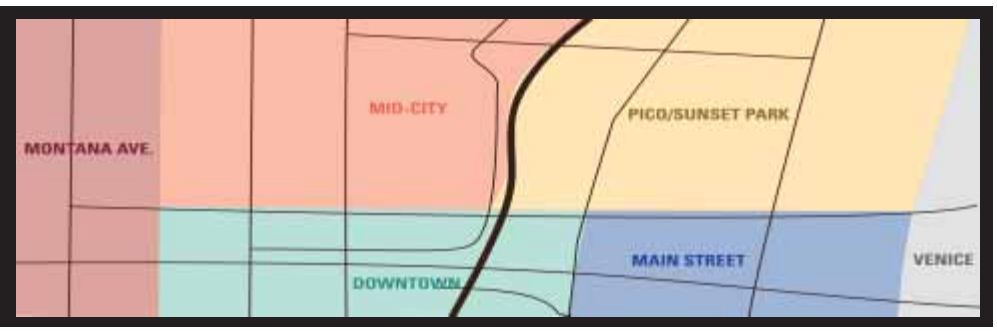
Savory Sauce
1/2 cup olive or canola oil
1/4 cup tamari
2 tbs. nutritional yeast flakes
1/4 tsp. dried basil
1/4 tsp. oregano
2 cloves garlic, minced
12 oz package firm tofu
Juice of one lemon

1/4 to 1/2 cup water to reach desired consistency
Place all ingredients in a blender & blend well. Should be like a thick, creamy dressing. Store in a jar, label & date. Good for up to 10 days.
Use a large skillet to cook the meat in the marinade liquid. Cook until no longer pink in the middle. Remove meat from pan. Add the chopped vegetables and steam sauté in the marinade until the vegetables are crisp tender. Serve the meat and vegetables on a small bed of brown rice or quinoa. Top with savory sauce.



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El Texate 316 Pico Blvd. (310) 399-1115
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Ocean Park Pizza 2819 1/2 Ocean Park Blvd (310) 450-9949
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Hotel Casa Del Mar Restaurant 1910 Ocean Way (310) 581-5533
The Hump 3221 Donald Douglas Loop South (310) 390-3177
The Hungry Pocket 1715 Pico Blvd (310) 458-5335
Il Forno Caffe & Pizzeria 2901 Ocean Park Blvd (310) 450-1241
Josie Restaurant 2424 Pico Blvd (310) 581-4201
La Playita 3306 Lincoln Blvd (310) 452-0090
Lazy Daisy Inc 2300 Pico Blvd (310) 450-9011
Le Pain Du Jour 828 Pico Blvd #2 (310) 399-4870
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Restaurant Snapshot

Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

No blues at this BBQ

I JUDGE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN A CITY by the quality of its barbecue and the number of chocolate stores within or close to the city limits. I haven't checked all the candy stores yet, but I've had some mighty good BBQ, and so far my favorite is Baby Blues.

WHERE: 444 Lincoln Blvd., Venice, 90291: (310) 396-7675.

WHEN: I like a BBQ that's open every day of the week so I go as soon as I get the hankerin'! Monday — Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; and Sundays, 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. Too bad they're not open for breakfast.

BEST DISHES: That's pretty easy here because everything is so good. The ribs are great. I prefer the Memphis, a bit more dry and spicy.

The pulled pork is just right. Even the shrimp are exceptional. But the unexpected treat is in the side dishes: real okra and whipped sweet potatoes like Ida Mae used to make back home.

Macaroni and cheese on the side and, of course, corn bread.

PRICES: The platters run from $13 to $25, and it's plenty for two. A whole chicken is only $12.95. You can eat well for under $15, but I usually order too much and take enough home for a couple of meals.

BEST FEATURE: The food, the service, and the three great BBQ sauces: one full of vinegar, one slightly sweet (good with the shrimp) and one pretty hot and spicy (especially good on the pulled pork).

WORST FEATURE: Clearly the pictures on the wall, all of which are for sale and, I suspect, always will be.

WHAT TO DRINK: They have a special sweet iced tea, and now I heard that they serve beer, but I didn't see any last time I was there.

BOTTOM LINE: It's worth a visit once a week or so, after several days of dieting.

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.



Merv Hecht *news@smdp.com*

FINGER LICKIN' GOOD: **Baby Blues BBQ in Venice offers some of the best ribs in town, along with cornbread, chili and okra, just like Ida Mae used to make back home.**

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Model#FA1656EW. Lease: $159.98 + tax per month for 36 mo.$2,495 due at signing, $0 Sec. deposit. 12K miles per year $0.15 per mile excess. On approval credit. Offer expires 3/29/09.



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1 @ This Payment VIN# 001604

Model#FA3625ENAW. Lease: $199.98 + tax per month for 36 mo.$3,495 due at signing, $0 Sec. deposit. 12K miles per year $0.15 per mile excess. On approval credit. Offer expires 3/29/09.



2009 HONDA **CR-V EX 2WD**
Lease for: $229.98 Per Mo Plus Tax For 36 Mo.
4 @ This Payment VIN# 006446, 700825, 006993, 700717

Model#RE3858JW. Lease: $229.98 + tax per month for 36 mo.$3,495 due at signing, $0 Sec. deposit. 12K miles per year $0.15 per mile excess. On approval credit. Offer expires 3/29/09.



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Lease for: $279 Per Mo Plus Tax For 36 Mo.
2 @ This Payment VIN# 9C005753, 9A062860

Model#CP2636EW. Lease: $279 + tax per month for 36 mo.$587.48 due at signing, $0 Sec. deposit. 12K miles per year $0.15 per mile excess. On approval credit. Offer expires 3/29/09.



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2002 Chevy Tahoe Z71	Loaded, 4x4, 3rd Row Seating, Alloys, VIN#2R230804	$9,991
1987 Mercedes Benz 560SL Raodster	Convertible, Rare Classic, VIN#HA073509	$9,991
2002 Toyota RAV4	Auto, White, VIN#20159077	$11,551
2004 Toyota Camry LE Sedan	Power W/L, CD, Cruise Control, 43k miles, VIN#4U792846	$11,881
2005 Volvo S60 2.5T Sedan	Leather, Moonroof, VIN#52426899	$11,883
2006 Honda Accord EX Sedan	Auto, A/C, Leather, Moonroof, Alloys, VIN#6A020596	$12,994
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PILE UP

Byron Kennerly *news@smdp.com*

Several motorists were hurt Thursday night in two collisions on Pacific Coast Highway in Santa Monica, but none suffered life-threatening injuries, authorities said. The collisions involving five vehicles occurred in the 500 block of PCH, near Marguerita Avenue, about 9:30 p.m. Six motorists were taken to hospitals with injuries ranging from minor to moderate. All the victims were expected to survive. The circumstances of the collisions were under investigation.

Location of store owners unknown

FROM COZI PAGE 1

reported to the scene only to watch as Seoane left, dealing a blow to their hopes of recovering their furniture or their cash.

Cozi Couch, located at 700 Wilshire Blvd., recently came under investigation by the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office as complaints began pouring in from the community about alleged fraud on the part of the company.

The City Attorney's Office reached out to the state Department of Consumer Affairs Bureau of Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation in the course of the investigation. The state agency is granted greater access by the California Business and Professions Code to pursue records and furnishings than are local authorities.

Their investigation is proceeding and has gained a sense of urgency as a result of recent developments at the store.

"I've been doing this for 15 years and I never tell people what I'm going to do next," said Rick Diamond, enforcement field manager with the bureau. "We are certainly wanting to try to get to the bottom of what is going on with this business."

Unfortunately for Diamond and his inspectors, that's the bottom of a deep hole indeed.

Cozi Couch is actually a fictitious name registered to Slip Covers Sofa, Inc. in Irvine. The only currently viable business, and the one registered with the Department of Consumer Affairs is Cozi Sofa Inc., registered to Cory Iturribarria, a man who identified himself as the Santa Monica store manager.

Arman Hazarian is the owner of Cozi Couch (Headquarters), the Santa Monica store, according to the Better Business Bureau.

At this point, state investigators confess they don't know who owns the company that sold furniture to Santa Monica residents, nor do they know where that company keeps its factories, another key point in the investigation.

Investigators haven't had any luck in contacting people connected with the store, and are hunting shadows as rumors swirl that the owner, Hazarian, allegedly left the country.

The plot became murkier with the sudden closure of the Santa Monica store on Thursday, the last of the Cozi Couch outlets in Southern California. According to real estate agent Rudy Quintanar of Lee & Associates, Hazarian was plagued by rent problems that led to the company's eviction.

"He was behind several months," Quintanar said. "The landlord tried to give him a break, but after all this other controversy, he didn't want to deal with it."

Both the City Attorney's Office and the Department of Consumer Affairs stress that victims need to get their complaints filed with their agencies to help the investigation.

"The main thing is to get us their paperwork. Our office has a form that we can get out to people immediately," said Adam Radinsky, deputy city attorney in charge of the Consumer Protection Unit. "There's some urgency because the business is in a volatile state right now. We want to get as much information as soon as possible."

The Cozi Couch store operated without issue in Santa Monica for several years. Tal Cohen, a Beverly Hills resident, only came to the store because her sister-in-law had a positive experience with the company. Although her furniture had been late, the company gave her a complimentary ottoman to make amends.

Cohen would not be so lucky. She ordered furniture from the store in December 2008, and was asked to pay up front in cash.

"The moment they said 'Cash only,' I should have known," Cohen said. "But you get so many discounts if you pay in cash!"

The sense from Cozi Couch customers is not only one of indignation, but of embarrassment that they were caught in what many consider a scam.

"They prey on housewives — kind, nice, decent people — and play on their heartstrings," said Joan Blackman, a Malibu resident. Blackman came to Santa Monica clutching a pillow she hoped to match to an ottoman to replace the one the store never gave her.

"You get so angry!" Blackman said.

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Officials say homeless problem far from solved

FROM **HOMELESS** PAGE 1

providers conducted, a survey in Santa Monica and identified those they considered as being vulnerable and chronically homeless adults, placing them in a newly created service registry through which they're assigned to an agency. One person has died since the registry was launched.

"We think it's important for our community to understand that we're not trying to bear the burden of this solely here within our city borders," Rusk said.

In fiscal 2007-08, City Hall paid more than $3 million to fund seven core programs, including $75,000 one-time money to OPCC related to the relocation of its Access Center and $255,000 to the CLARE Foundation to assist the rehabilitation of the Women's Recovery Center. In the same time period, the Santa Monica Housing Authority provided about $2.2 million in rental subsidies using federal assistance funds.

John Maceri, the executive director of OPCC, which runs a network of shelters and programs, said the plan has led to a higher level of collaboration between first responders, social service agencies and hospital emergency rooms. He sees the service registry as being one of the greatest success stories of the plan.

But he said it isn't because of the plan that work is being done.

"The work happens on the ground," he said. "I think what the plan has done is helped people from a variety of stakeholders focus attention and give a clear direction and I think that has been very useful."

Officials also point to progress being made in addressing homelessness on a regional level. Earlier this month, Upward Bound House, a nonprofit organization founded in Santa Monica, broke ground on a new housing project in Culver City that will serve homeless individuals from various communities.

More than a year-and-a-half after a trio of dormant buildings in the West L.A. VA campus were designated for homeless services, New York-based Common Ground and developer McCormack Baron Salazar were selected to rehabilitate Building 209 to operate therapeutic and supportive services for veterans.

Rebecca Isaacs, the executive director of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, said that one of the changes taking shape in cities across the county is the shift from short-term solutions to more long-term, including finding permanent housing.

"Santa Monica has been committed to that as well," she said.

City Hall was among 15 cities who participated in the countywide homeless count in conjunction with LAHSA's survey. More than 250 volunteers in January spent one long night physically tallying individuals living on the streets, finding an 8 percent drop in the final figure from the 2007 survey. The community of Hollywood also participated.

"(Cities) that opted in to me was a sign they were interested in taking ownership of the homeless in their own communities," Isaacs said. "That is a different number from years ago when some communities said they didn't have any homeless people."

The Santa Monica Police Department has also seen improvements being made in their efforts to secure help and housing for homeless individuals. The department last year contracted West Coast Care to supplement efforts of the Homeless Liaison Program (HLP), which was established in 1991 to address community's concerns regarding the issue.

The HLP team today consists of six officers who not only work to enforce the law, but collaborate with different agencies to help the homeless, said Chief Tim Jackman.

For the past year, a team under the direction of West Coast Care, which is operated by former San Francisco minister Ron Hooks, has gone out five days a week to areas in the city where the homeless typically congregate, talking to individuals who are ready to change their lives, Jackman said.

Since March 2008, the team has contacted more than 1,100 individuals. About 239 of them have either been placed in programs or reunited with families, approximately 70 percent of whom remain in homes.

The contract, estimated at about $250,000, was recently renewed by the council.

"This is the first real outreach we have," Jackman said. "A lot of homeless providers are so overloaded that they don't have time to go out and look."

CHANGE IN THE WAY THE PROBLEM IS VIEWED

In the course of crafting a marketing initiative that would advise visitors donate money to social service providers rather than directly to homeless individuals, City Hall decided to take a different approach earlier this year.

The change came after the consultant — GMMB — tested a number of anti-panhandling concepts with a focus group and found that the perception about the homeless problem had changed.

"They felt that there was a growing and significant perception of success in that the impact of homelessness in public spaces has decreased," Danielle Noble, a City Hall senior administrative analyst for homeless services, said in February.

The new approach will focus on homelessness in general, informing the community about the successes of social service providers and educating on how to get involved, whether it's donating time or money.

The view of homelessness today is mixed.

Heather Palleiko, a 34-year-old Santa Monica resident, said that at least in Reed Park, which is known for its congregation of homeless, the population seems smaller than three years ago.

"It seems like they're moving more to the north," she said.

Eva Borbasov, 34, who works as a nanny, said that she believes the problem is increasing.

"Everyone should have their freedom, but it's not safe for us," she said. "It's easy for us to say, 'OK, they're homeless,' but what would we do if we didn't have jobs? Probably end up under a tree in this park.

"So I don't judge, but it's not safe."

While much progress has been made, officials are quick to admit that the problem is far from solved and could get worse given the economic situation.

"The problem we're facing right now in this economy is a great fear that we will see a lot more homeless," Jackman said. "The best time to rescue someone from homelessness is when it first happens.

"If they become comfortable with the lifestyle (on the street), it becomes increas-

SEE **ACTION PLAN** PAGE 15



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

HELP NEEDED: **Women walk past a homeless man sleeping at Palisades Park on Friday afternoon.**

More families hurting

FROM **ACTION PLAN** PAGE 14

ingly difficult to get them permanent housing."

Maceri said that he has seen an increase in families seeking assistance, including visits to the food pantry.

"Some families are not yet homeless but are teetering on edge," he said.

City Hall also faces the challenge of maintaining its homeless court, which was founded in 2007 to give individuals a chance to clear their records of petty crimes in exchange for entering treatment programs and receiving case management. The program was initially funded by the county, which provided $458,000 to pay for the program for 16 months through December of last year before adding another $180,000 to extend it through June. But with the economic crisis, there's a possibility that the program might not continue next year, Rusk said.

"We're trying to determine if there's not continued funding available, if we can carry on the lessons learned through other existing projects," she said.

The second year of the action plan, which the council approved earlier this week, will essentially be the same as the first, continuing to focus on the priority populations and securing permanent housing.

"It's just extremely important that we continue to be more effective at getting those people help," Rusk said. "What we learned and what we know is that the only way to do that is through very strong and effective collaboration.

"There is no one entity that can do it on its own."

melodyh@smdp.com. ASHLEY ARCHIBALD contributed to this report

Expo Board to meet April 2

FROM **EXPO** PAGE 3

The neighborhood is comprised of ethnically and racially diverse renters and homeowners with low to moderate incomes. Some feel they have been unfairly targeted because they are not wealthy. They point to the freeway and nearby waste transfer stations as proof that their neighborhood has shouldered its fair share.

Joining the letter writing campaign are artists and gallery owners at Bergamot. Blank met with Bergamot tenants earlier in the week to encourage them to contact the Expo Board, which includes Los Angeles City Council members and supervisors, as well as Santa Monica City Councilwoman Pam O'Connor, who is backed by SMRR.

A spokesman for Expo said Bergamot is not being considered as a site for the maintenance yard, but that hasn't done anything to calm some of the nerves of Bergamot tenants, Blank said. Tenants hope Bergamot can be the anchor for a future light rail stop.

"It's always a case of it's not over until the fat lady sings," when it comes to dealing with local government, Blank said. "Our campaign will not stop … until [the Expo Board] actually votes."

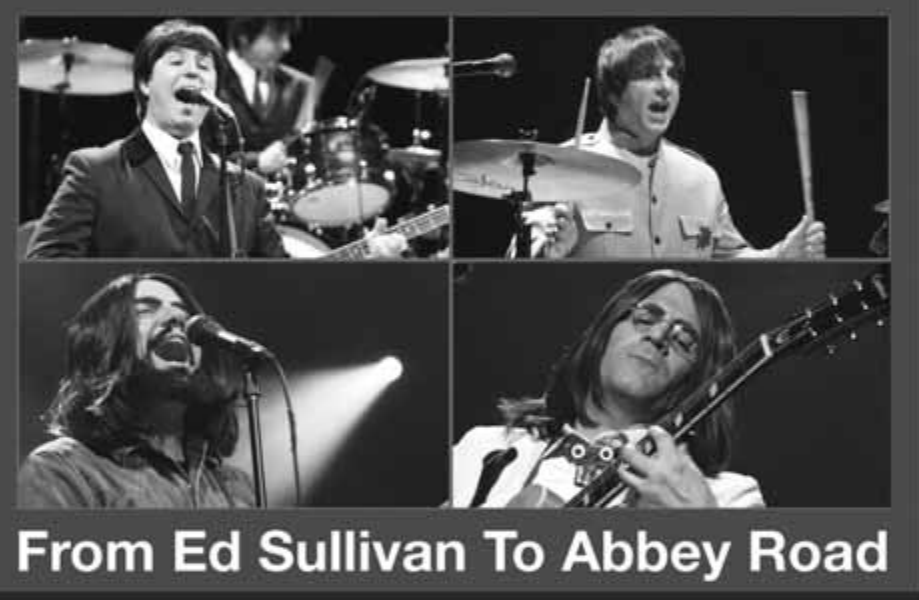
The Expo Board is expected to debate the issue as well as the rail line's alignment on April 2.

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Family looking for closure, justice

FROM **WALK** PAGE 3

viction of whoever killed the two men. Police said the men may have been robbery victims, according to previous reports. There were no suspect descriptions provided and no weapons were recovered at the scene, police said after the shooting.

Hibbert's sister, Ayanna Parker, said her brother was studying law with hopes of becoming a civil attorney. Family and friends are organizing the "Justice Walk" to empower the community and raise awareness about the murders. The walk will begin at 10:30 a.m. near 4207 S. Figueroa St.

"No one has come forward," Parker said. "People may not be aware or they might be scared to speak."

Hibbert's mother, Donna Brown, told the Los Angeles City Council in April 2008 when it approved the reward that she always encouraged her son to "make a difference in life."

"I prayed every day that God would keep him safe and that he would stay focused on school," Brown said.

Anyone with information was asked to call detectives in the LAPD's Southwest Division at (213) 485-6571 or (877) LAW-FULL.

kevinh@smdp.com



Photo courtesy SMPD

JACKPOT: **Santa Monica narcotics officers seized over two pounds of black tar heroin, valued at over $25,000. The two suspects arrested Wednesday were believed responsible for distributing the drug in Santa Monica, Culver City and Venice.**

Duo dealt in SM

FROM **HEROIN** PAGE 1

search warrant at the Inglewood residence of Fuentes and Franco and additional heroin was seized.

Investigators said the heroin seized was worth in excess of $25,000. It is believed that Fuentes and Franco ran a "prolific heroin-selling operation that provided delivery service to customers." The two operated throughout Santa Monica, Venice and Culver City.

On Tuesday Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies arrested 48 alleged gang members as part of an investigation of an international heroin trafficking ring. The suspects were accused of distributing heroin trafficked from Mexico to Los Angeles, San Diego and Ventura counties.

The operation had been netting $2 million a month, Los Angeles County sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore said. Authorities seized 15 kilos of heroin and $100,000 in cash. Fourteen children found at raided homes were taken into protective custody.

news@smdp.com

PREP SPORTS ROUNDUP

New Roads pieces together streak

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

NEW ROADS After beginning the season 0-6, the Jaguars baseball team has pieced together a two-game winning streak.

The most recent victory came against Chatworth's Sierra Canyon High School. New Roads won the road game, 5-4.

Max Chilkov paced the offense, going two-for-four and scoring a pair of runs. He also stole a base in the winning effort. Anthony Carrillo tossed four innings of shutout ball, notching seven strikeouts.

Next up for New Roads is the Vasquez Tournament, which begins April 11.

Crossroads begins strong

The Roadrunners baseball has amassed an impressive 7-1 record, with the most recent victory coming Thursday against Vistamar.

Crossroads pitchers have allowed just two earned runs in the previous three games.

Following spring break, the Roadrunners will return to action April 6 at the Santa Ynez. tournament.

Samohi baseball routed

The Vikings appear to have fallen on hard times. After a 3-0 start, Samohi has lost four of five with the most recent loss coming at Palos Verdes Peninsula Thursday. The Vikings lost the road game, 0-8.

The Vikings have scored just three runs during the past three games combined. Peninsula jumped out to an early 4-0 lead in the first inning and never looked back. Peninsula's starting pitcher, Christian Torres, tossed a complete game shutout, allowing just two hits.

With the loss, Samohi's record falls to 4-4. Next up for the Vikings is Mira Costa at home today. The game is a part of the Redondo Tournament.

Slide continues for St. Monica

The Mariners baseball team continued its current slide with a 2-5 loss to Grace Brethren on Thursday.

The loss is St. Monica's fourth in a row after starting the season 3-1.

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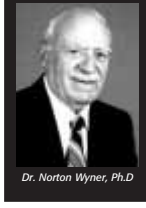
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Spokane residents rebel over dirty dishes

NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
Associated Press Writer

SPOKANE, Wash. The quest for squeaky-clean dishes has turned some law-abiding people in Spokane into dishwater-detergent smugglers.

They are bringing Cascade or Electrasol in from out of state because the eco-friendly varieties required under Washington state law don't work as well.

Spokane County became the launch pad last July for the nation's strictest ban on dishwasher detergent made with phosphates, a measure aimed at reducing water pollution. The ban will be expanded statewide in July 2010, the same time similar laws take effect in several other states.

But it's not easy to get sparkling dishes when you go green.

Many people were shocked to find that products like Seventh Generation, Ecover and Trader Joe's left their dishes encrusted with food, smeared with grease and too gross to use without rewashing them by hand. The culprit was hard water, which is mineral-rich and resistant to soap.

As a result, there has been a quiet rush of Spokane-area shoppers heading east on Interstate 90 into Idaho in search of old-school suds.

Real estate agent Patti Marcotte of Spokane stocks up on detergent at a Costco in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and doesn't care who knows it.

"Yes, I am a smuggler," she said. "I'm taking my chances because dirty dishes I cannot live with."

(In truth, the ban applies to the sale of phosphate detergent — not its use or possession — so Marcotte is not in any legal trouble.)

Marcotte said she tried every green brand in her dishwasher and found none would remove grease and pieces of food. Everybody she knows buys dishwasher detergent in Idaho, she said.

Supporters of the ban acknowledge it is not very popular.

"I'm not hearing a lot of positive feedback," conceded Shannon Brattebo of the Washington Lake Protection Association, a prime mover of the ban. "I think people are driving to Idaho."

Steve Marcy, manager of the Costco in Coeur d'Alene, about 10 miles east of the Washington state line, estimated that sales of dishwasher detergent in his store have increased 10 percent. He knows where the customers are coming from.

"I'll joke with them and ask if they are from Spokane," Marcy said. "They say, 'Oh yeah.'"

Shoppers can still buy phosphate detergents in Washington state by venturing outside Spokane County, but Idaho is more convenient to many Spokane residents.

Phosphates — the main cleaning agent in many detergents and household cleaners — break down grease and remove stains. However, the chemicals are difficult to remove in wastewater treatment plants and often wind up in rivers and lakes, where they promote the growth of algae. And algae gobble up oxygen in the water that fish need to survive.

While traditional detergents are up to 9 percent phosphate, those sold in Spokane County can contain no more than 0.5 percent.

The Washington Lake Protection Association has launched a campaign to encourage people to give the environmentally friendly brands a fair chance. The group suggests consumers experiment with different brands or install water softeners to help the green detergents work better.

"Clean lakes and clean dishes do not have to be mutually exclusive," said association president-elect Jacob McCann.

Phosphates have been banned in laundry detergent nationally since 1993. Washington was the first state where the Legislature passed a similar ban against dishwasher detergents, in 2006. The ban is being phased in, starting with Spokane County.

"It's nice to be on the cutting edge," Spokane resident Ken Beck, an opponent of the ban, said sarcastically.

VA: 16 patients of problem clinics infected

BILL POOVEY
Associated Press Writer

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. Viral infections, including hepatitis, have been found in 16 patients exposed to contaminated equipment at Veterans Affairs medical facilities, a department spokeswoman said Friday.

So far, 10 colonoscopy patients from the VA medical center in Murfreesboro, Tenn., have tested positive for hepatitis, VA spokeswoman Katie Roberts told The Associated Press. In a later e-mail, she reported six patients at the VA's ear, nose and throat clinic in Augusta, Ga, tested positive for unspecified viral infections.

The number of reported infections could rise.

More than 10,000 veterans were warned to get blood tests because they could have been exposed to contamination at those two facilities plus a medical center in Miami. All three sites failed to properly sterilize equipment between treatments, and the problems dated back for more than five years at the Murfreesboro and Miami hospitals.

Roberts said the department doesn't yet have results from most of the veterans it warned.

A VA alert to patients said they "could have been exposed to body fluids from a previous patient."

Roberts said four Tennessee patients have tested positive for hepatitis B and six have tested positive for hepatitis C. No one has tested positive for HIV, she said.

Hepatitis is a viral infection of the liver. The most common form, hepatitis C, is potentially life-threatening and can cause permanent liver damage. Both the B and C forms are spread by contact with the blood or other body fluid of an infected person, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Roberts stressed that the source of the infections isn't known and may never be identified.

"There's no way to scientifically, conclusively prove they contracted this due to treatment at our facility," Roberts said.

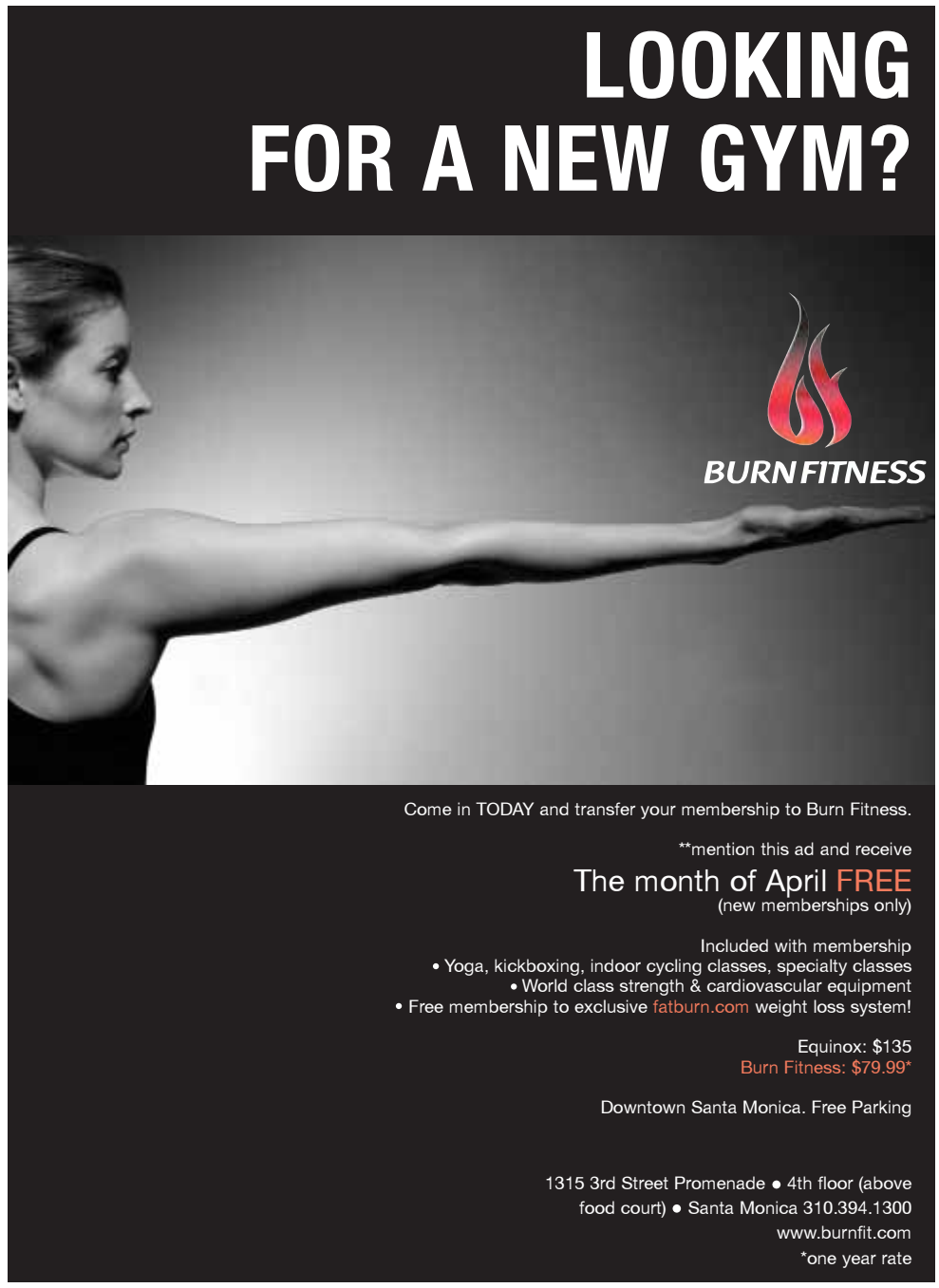
But the VA will make sure those who tested positive "get the best possible treatment," she said.

The VA's inspector general office has started a review, spokeswoman Joanne Moffett said Friday.










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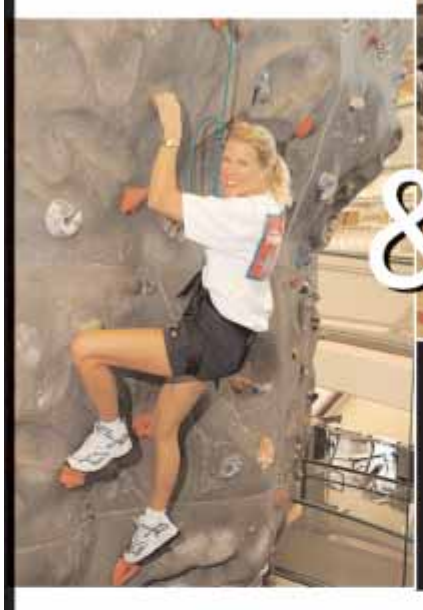
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NEW DVD RELEASES

BY RANDY WILLIAMS

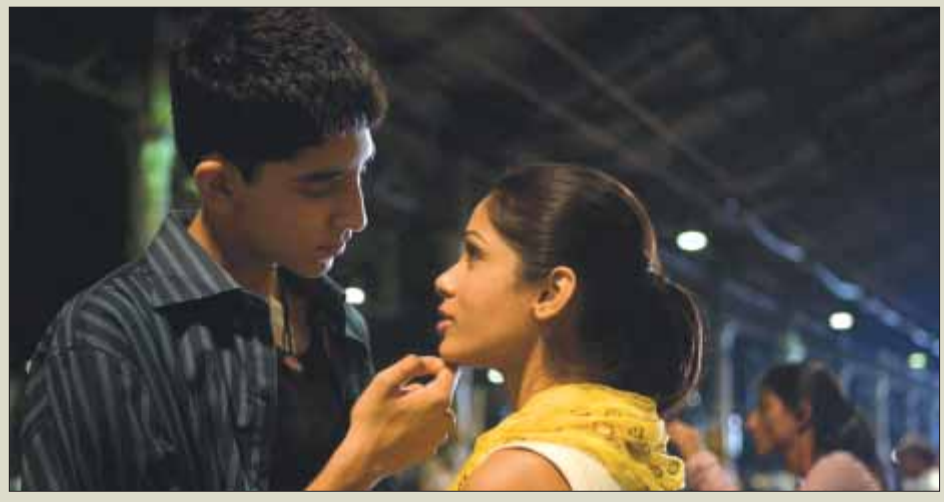


Photo courtesy Fox

'Slumdog Millionaire'

Winner of eight Oscars including Best Picture at this year's Academy Awards, Dev Patel stars as a Mumbai teen who grew up in the slums and becomes a contestant on the Indian version of "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?" He is then arrested under suspicion of cheating, and while being interrogated, events from his life history are shown, which explain why he knows the answers. (Fox)

'The Odd Couple'

As part of Paramount's Centennial Collection comes this two-disc set featuring that memorable pairing of Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau as two divorced men sharing a New York City apartment. Both slip into their roles like a hand in a glove with Lemmon as the fussy and fastidious Felix Unger and Matthau as the slovenly and sloppy Oscar Madison. The film, which begat a popular television show of the same name featuring Tony Randall and Jack Klugman in the respective roles, was originally released in 1968. The two-disc set includes commentary by the late actors' sons as well as several never-before-seen special segments. (Paramount)

'To Catch a Thief'

The beautiful French Riviera is the backdrop for this Alfred Hitchcock classic. Cary Grant plays a reformed jewel thief suspected of returning to his former occupation, so he must ferret out the real thief in order to prove his innocence. Grace Kelly co-stars in this picture that won an Oscar for Best Cinematography. Also part of Paramount's Centennial Collection, this two-disc version provides many brand new features with segments on writing and casting, fashion design, making-of and an interactive travelogue. (Paramount)

'Pinocchio'

A comparatively dark and edgy animated film from the early days of Disney Studios, this moralistic fable features a puppet who learns that there is more to being a kid than fun and games. Premiering 70 years ago, the picture also marks the screen debut of one of Disney's signature characters, the fast-talking, wisecracking Jiminy Cricket. (Disney)

'USC: 2009 Rose Bowl Game'

Here is the complete game of the USC Trojans' dominating victory over Penn State in the 95th Rose Bowl. Their third straight Rose Bowl crown not only includes the stirring performance by Pete Carroll's squad, but also post game interviews with the coach and game MVP Mark Sanchez, who threw four touchdown passes and a career-high 413 yards against the Nittany Lions. (ESPN/Genius)

'F1 Racing: Luck Does Not Come Into It'

This is the official review of the 2008 FIA Formula One World Championship season. And what a season it was. The two-disc set takes us through an amazing season that saw seven drivers from five different teams win races, while four drivers headed to the championship standings. But after 5,000 miles of racing Britain's Lewis Hamilton took the checkered flag capping a brilliant 18 race season. Five up close and personal features along with nearly four hours of highlights are included here. (Kultur Video)

'Imperial War Museum: Desert Victory'

Winner of the Academy Award for Best Documentary (1943), this film was made by the British Army and R.A.F. to capture the Battle for El Alamein as it happened. The two-disc collector's edition also includes four bonus films covering desert survival, early victories against the Italians and two different perspectives on the siege of Tobruk. (Koch Vision)

'Shaw Brothers Collection'

From one of the largest Chinese film collections which includes over 750 films produced between the 1950s and 1990s, comes this four-title box set of popular Kung Fu movies. The Shaw Brothers Studios have long been part of the Hong Kong film industry. Digitally remastered with the inclusion of an English dub track, the selections are: "The Heroic Ones," "The Battle Wizard," "The Duel of the Century" and "Two Champions of Shaolin." (Well Go USA)

RANDY WILLIAMS can be reached at writtenbyrw@yahoo.com

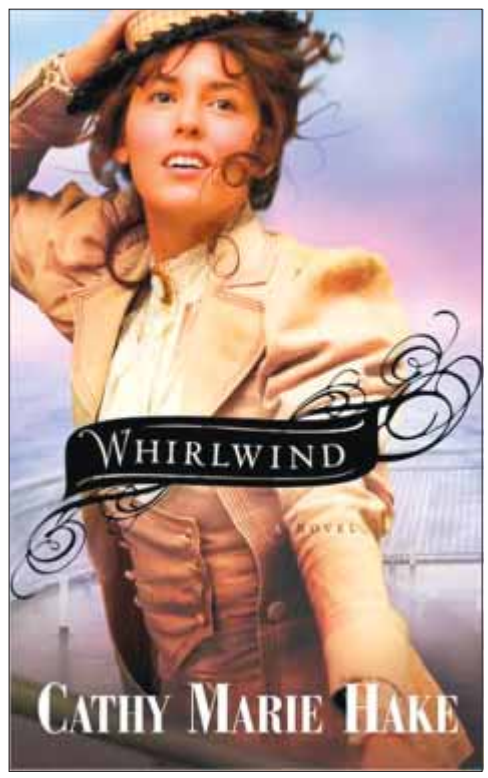
BOOKREVIEW

BY DANE ROBERT SWANSON



‘Whirlwind’

Cathy Marie Hake • Bethany House



We are interested in immigrants. Now we find our immigrants coming by plane or other means, but, we must remember that it wasn’t too long ago when our immigrants came by boat and were filtered through Ellis Island.

It wasn’t easy in 1892 to be employed as a nanny. Your charges have been sent away to boarding school and your services are no longer needed.

But if you were Millicent Fairweather, who saw everything as bright and cheerful, you could adjust and go to America with your sister and her husband. It is a land of new beginnings. You may not know what lies ahead, but you know you can survive.

But there is one problem for Millicent.

She is not married and an outbreak of chicken pox on board the ship may keep her and her sister from entering America. Adding to the problem is that the husband has died of a case of chicken pox, leaving the sister widowed.

On the journey, Millicent is lucky to be needed as a substitute nanny for the son of a widower who is relocating his mercantile business to America.

Upon reaching Ellis Island she discovers she has chicken pox. She can’t enter.

Then she discovers she must have a husband to keep from being sent back on the next boat. And her sister must have sponsorship. A whirlwind wedding takes place. Daniel, the husband, also sponsors the sister.

Millicent finds she inherits a mercantile. The store is a mess. No one seems to have kept records. On top of that the brother has been stealing from the business.

And her husband seems not to have time for romance.

“Daniel may be cutting deals, but she wanted their marriage to be the very best one he’d ever made.”

Soon things start to get in the way of their marriage. “I vowed to be his help meet. It doesn’t matter that the marriage is one of convenience; if anything, that makes it even more imperative that I put him before all others. He’s done so much for us and asked nothing in return. The least I can do is be true to the promise I made him.”

Author Cathy Marie Hake offers us a story with humor and romance. She has researched the time period and offers a seamless tale of what it could have been like to be an immigrant back in 1892.

Cathy Marie Hake attempts to capture a unique glimpse of life and how a man and woman can overcome obstacles motivated by love. She does a great job. This book is highly recommended.

Contact DANE at smdp_review@yahoo.com.

Lions Gate cuts another 8 percent of work force

RYAN NAKASHIMA
Associated Press Writer

SANTA MONICA Boutique movie studio Lions Gate Entertainment Corp., which is in the midst of a shareholder battle with billionaire Carl Icahn, is cutting 8 percent of its work force, adding to job cuts in November, according to a person familiar with the matter.

The studio behind the “Saw” horror franchise will eliminate 45 positions by laying off 27 people and leaving 18 jobs unfilled, said the person, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak about it publicly.

Combined with a move last year to trim 41 staff positions, the cuts will save $15 million to $20 million a year off corporate overhead of about $135 million, the person said.

The reorganization began last summer with a hiring freeze.

Icahn, who has increased his stake in Lions Gate to 14.5 percent, has offered to buy up $325 million in convertible bonds issued by the company. Lions Gate’s board has taken a neutral stance on the offer.

If Icahn chose to convert the bonds into common shares, his stake in the studio would reach about 30 percent, though he has denied any intention to do so. Converting the debt would cost $14.28 per share on one group of bonds and $11.50 per share on another at a time when Lions Gate stock is trading around $5.

Mark Rachesky, Icahn’s former chief investment adviser, has also boosted his stake in Lions Gate to 19.999 percent and is in talks to have a representative placed on the company’s board.

The company is working with investment bank Morgan Stanley and law firm Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen and Katz to mount its takeover defense.

Lions Gate shares fell 33 cents, or 6.1 percent, to $5.08 Friday.



Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 55°

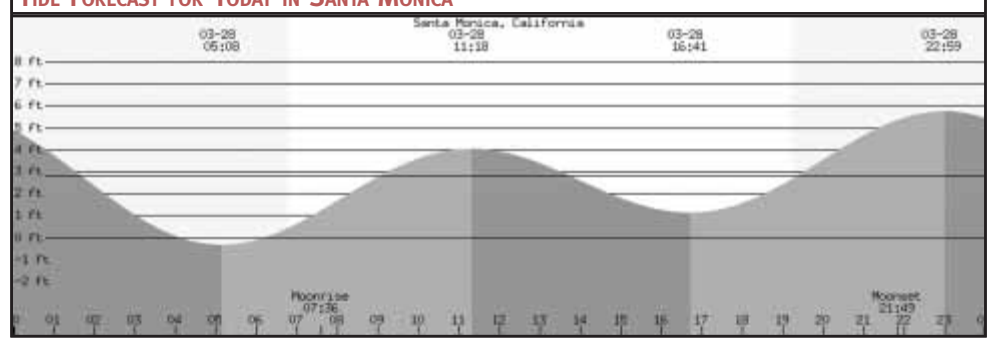
Swell Forecast (2-4 FT)

Saturday the 28th the NW wind swell should back off. Most all breaks are looking at knee to waist high waves, although standout west facing breaks may see some chest high set waves now and again. Sunday the 29th should see some infrequent, waist high WNW swell come in from the Western Pacific.

Long Range Synopsis

Monday the 30th we may see some NW wind swell move in.

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 24, 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 -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 34 / 2
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 11 / 0

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

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

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

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

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

Saturday, March 28
The Matrix Triology (NR)
5:00

Saturday, March 28
The Matrix Triology (NR)
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Fuel (NR) 1hr 55min
1:45, 7:00

Super Capers (PG) 1hr 30min
11:30 a.m., 4:35, 9:55

Coraline (PG) 1hr 40min
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Last House on the Left, The (R) 1hr 49min
11:30 a.m., 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50

Taken (PG-13) 1hr 33min
12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10

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

Duplicity (PG-13)
10:20am, 1:15, 4:15, 7:20, 10:10

Sunshine Cleaning (R) 1hr 42min
11:10am, 12:30, 1:40, 3:00, 4:10, 5:30, 6:45, 8:00, 9:20, 10:40

Race to Witch Mountain Closed Captions (PG) 1hr 39min
12:15, 2:40, 5:20, 7:50

Gran Torino (R) 1hr 56min
10:20

Monsters vs. Aliens (PG) 1hr 34min
10:00am, 12:20, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:30

Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG) 1hr 34min
11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

Race to Witch Mountain (PG) 1hr 39min
12:15, 2:40, 5:20, 7:50

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

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

Sin Nombre (R) 1hr 36min
1:45, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30

Moscow Belgium (NR)1hr 42min
11a.m.

The Secrets (R) 2hr 7min
11 a.m.

Harvard Beats Yale 29-29 (NR) 1hr 44min
11 a.m.

The Education of Charlie Banks (R) 1hr 40min
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

Tokyo Sonata (PG-13) 1hr 59min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

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

I Love You, Man (R) 1hr 50min
11:50am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50, 12:00am

Knowing (PG-13)
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

Watchmen (R) 2hrs 43min
1:20, 5:00, 8:30

12 Rounds (PG-13) 1hr 48min
11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40, 12:20am

Haunting in Connecticut, The (PG-13) 1hr 32min
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10, 12:30am

Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG) 1hr 34min
11:10am, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30

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

Treat yourself, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ What has been a bone of contention can be leveled out. Direct communication works, especially with a sensitive issue. Do choose a private spot to chat. If you get a strong feeling — especially financially — act on it. Tonight: Your treat.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Your smile finally has the impact you desire. Travel, long-distance communication and a renewed perspective mix. Be willing to adjust your plans. Something whispered in your ear could be significant. Tonight: A friend pushes you hard.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★ Play the day low-key, with the exception of a child or younger friend. Be honest about your needs. If you must, deal with a difficult elder. A partner relaxes and finally opens up. Tonight: Go for private and discreet.

CANCER (June 21-July 2)
★★★★★ Friends let you know in no uncertain terms that they would like your company. The real question remains whether a key partner can let go of jealousy or a need to be possessive. Information comes in from afar. Do you need to adjust your plans? Tonight: Is a trip in the near future possible?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Others want your attention. Easily, you could be on overload. A demanding partner could only add to the pressure. Adjust your pace and be willing to change plans. Flexibility could make events and people easier to deal with. Tonight: In the limelight.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Take an overview and decide what will work best. Your creativity gives plans and people an infusion of happiness and energy. Be open to an unusual idea or thought. Communication flourishes between you and another person. Tonight: Go for offbeat.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Togetherness is earmarked by excellent communication. Someone wants to be the apple of your eye and have your attention, no matter what. New beginnings come from relating this closely to a special friend or loved one. Tonight: Dinner for two.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Clearly others want you involved. Make it your pleasure to be involved. Share a favorite pastime or hobby with a younger friend or child. You need more of an outlet. Take up a new physical sport or pastime. Tonight: Sort through invitations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Share more with a loved one or child. Talk about feelings and share a favorite pastime. It really doesn't matter what you do, as long as you do it together. A family member also wants to enlist you in a project. Tonight: Be a couch potato.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Honor your feelings and desires. You feel the beginning of spring, if not have a case of spring fever. Laugh and relax with those who are lighthearted. If someone acts aggressively, know that you could chose to respond differently. Tonight: Turn on the heat.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Deal with familial and domestic matters. You might want to bypass another's demands and do more of what you want. A talk or phone call evokes very strong feelings. Do nothing halfway. Check out a purchase that could impact the quality of your life. Tonight: At home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You won't allow a situation to die down. Your fiery nature emerges in a conversation. Could you have been sitting on some anger? Express your feelings before they hit this level. Tonight: Out and about.

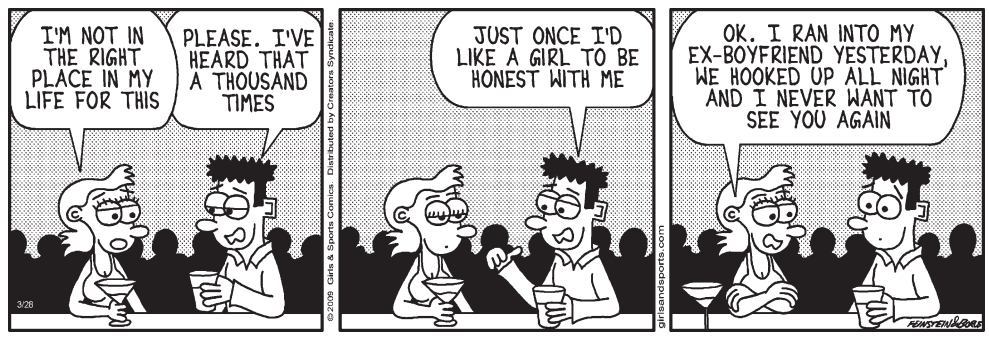
Happy birthday

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

This year, keep finances a key priority. Know that you are being smart, but do avoid being obsessive. Your options might be somewhat limited by a conservative streak or an unwillingness to change perspectives. Discussions in private open doors. Know that you don't need to act on new ideas until you are ready. If you are single, you meet people with ease. Friends try to introduce you to good catches. You could opt to keep your private life more private than in the past. If you are attached, you learn to be more intimate and share your feelings. You can only become closer. TAURUS understands you very well.

Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



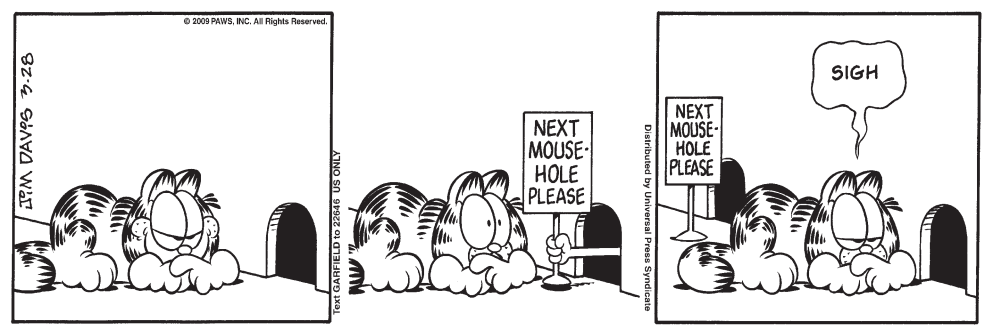
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield

By Jim Davis



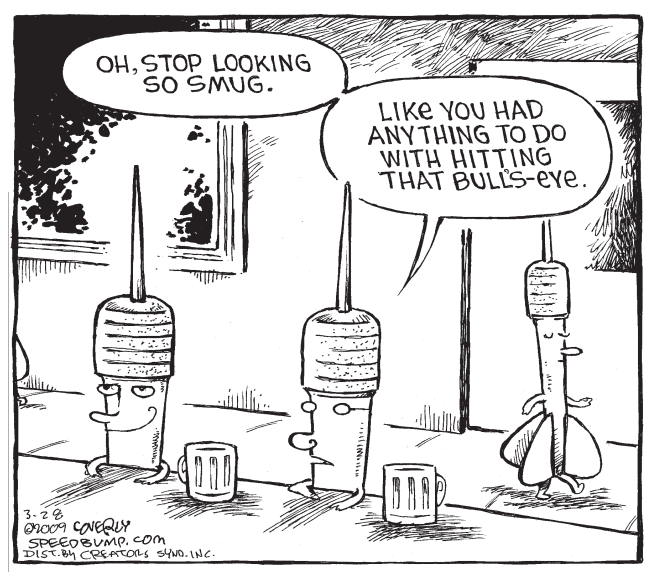
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

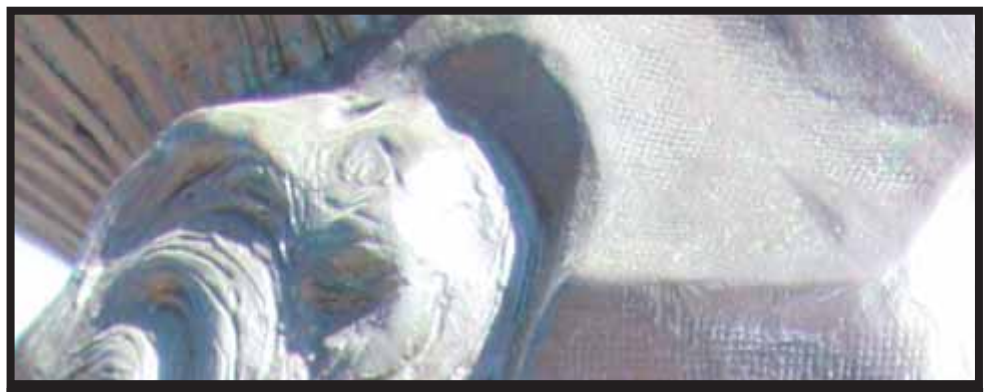
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Soraya Danesh 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 Poker game
5 Rough guesses
10 Oil paint buys
12 Stampede cause
13 Make law
14 Buddy
15 Signing need
16 Melody
18 Game piece
19 Fructose and lactose
21 Zorro attire
22 Pub order
24 Suggest
25 Bar sign
29 Con holder
30 Cover
32 Swimming unit
33 Sulky state
34 Milne youngster
35 Knock for a loop
37 Writer Calvino
39 Band output
40 Space sighting
41 Giraffe features
42 Combines

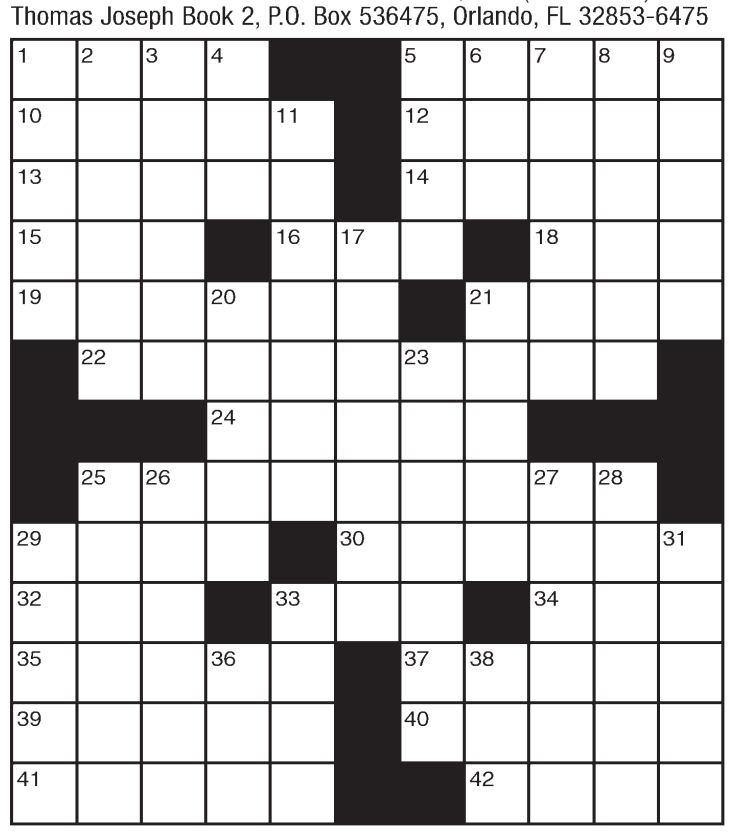
DOWN

1 Flight makeup
2 Garage job
3 River to the Congo
4 Last mo.
5 Rigging support
6 Small topper
7 Creature
8 Galoot
9 Tea cake
11 First-string player
17 U-235, e.g.
20 Brat's opposite
21 Spiteful
23 Nut
25 Return to the Enterprise
26 City opposite Juárez
27 Angular home
28 Combined
29 Dollars, in slang
31 Alex Haley book
33 Chest muscles
36 Pimple, in slang
38 Highway rescue

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

Yesterday's answer

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



3-28

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 4 25 34 43 44
Meganumber: 45
Jackpot: $34M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 3 7 23 31 36
Meganumber: 16
Jackpot: $30M

Fantasy 5: 4 8 15 22 23

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 5 6 3
EVENING: 4 5 4

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 02 Lucky Star
RACE TIME: 1.43.20

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

■ **We Welcome Our New Monkey Overlords:** Researchers recently revealed that they had observed monkeys (1) planning future combat and (2) perhaps teaching their young to floss. A researcher from Sweden's Lund University, writing in the journal Current Biology, described a daily ritual of a 30-year-old chimpanzee that loathes his human visitors at a zoo north of Stockholm and thus begins every morning by roaming his enclosure to collect stones and place them strategically in handy piles for subsequently hurling at irksome visitors. And a researcher at Kyoto University's Primate Research Center told Agence France-Presse in March that he had observed mother long-tailed macaques in Thailand flossing their teeth (with strands of human hair) more frequently if their young are present and hypothesized that they were teaching dental hygiene.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1896 the opera "Andrea Chenier," by Umberto Giordano, premiered in Milan.

1898 the Supreme Court, in United States v. Wong Kim Ark, ruled that a child born in the United States to Chinese immigrants was a U.S. citizen.

1930 the names of the Turkish cities of Constantinople and Angora were changed to Istanbul and Ankara.

1939 the Spanish Civil War effectively ended as Madrid fell to the forces of Francisco Franco.

1941 novelist and critic Virginia Woolf died in Lewes, England.

1942 during World War II, British naval forces raided the Nazi-occupied French port of St. Nazaire in Operation Chariot.

1969 the 34th president of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, died in Washington at age 78.

1994 absurdist playwright Eugene Ionesco died in Paris at age 84.

WORD UP!

feckless \FEK-lis\, *adjective*:
1. Ineffective; having no real worth or purpose.
2. Worthless; irresponsible; generally incompetent and ineffectual.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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MAR VISTA: 11932 Courtleigh Dr. unit 10, $1150/mo. 1+1 stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, granite countertop, wood/tile floors, utilities include, intercom entry, laundry, gated, parking, no pets. $400 off move-in (310) 737-7933 jkwproperties.com

PALMS 3346 S. Canfiled #205 $1075 1+1 upper, stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, on-site laundry, garage parking, intercom entry no pets.$400 off move-in (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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Santa Monica $1895.00 2 Bdrms, 1Bath NO pets, stove, refrigerator, parking 1935 Cloverfield Blvd., #15 Open daily for viewing 9am-7pm. Additional info in unit manager in unit #19

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Venice 608 Santa Clara 2+ 1 1/2 bath townhouse style, newly remodeled, bamboo/marble floors, washer/dryer, stove, refrigerator, granite countertops, blinds, parking, pets OK $2250 (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

WESTCHESTER 6707 W. 86th place B, 2+ 2 upper, bright unit, newly remodeled hardwood floors, tile, carpet d/w microwave,blinds, laundry, tandem gated parking no pets $1595 (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

WLA, OCEAN VIEW. Hilltop/upper 2bedroom. Private driveway, sundeck, front patio. $2095/mo. 310-390-4610.

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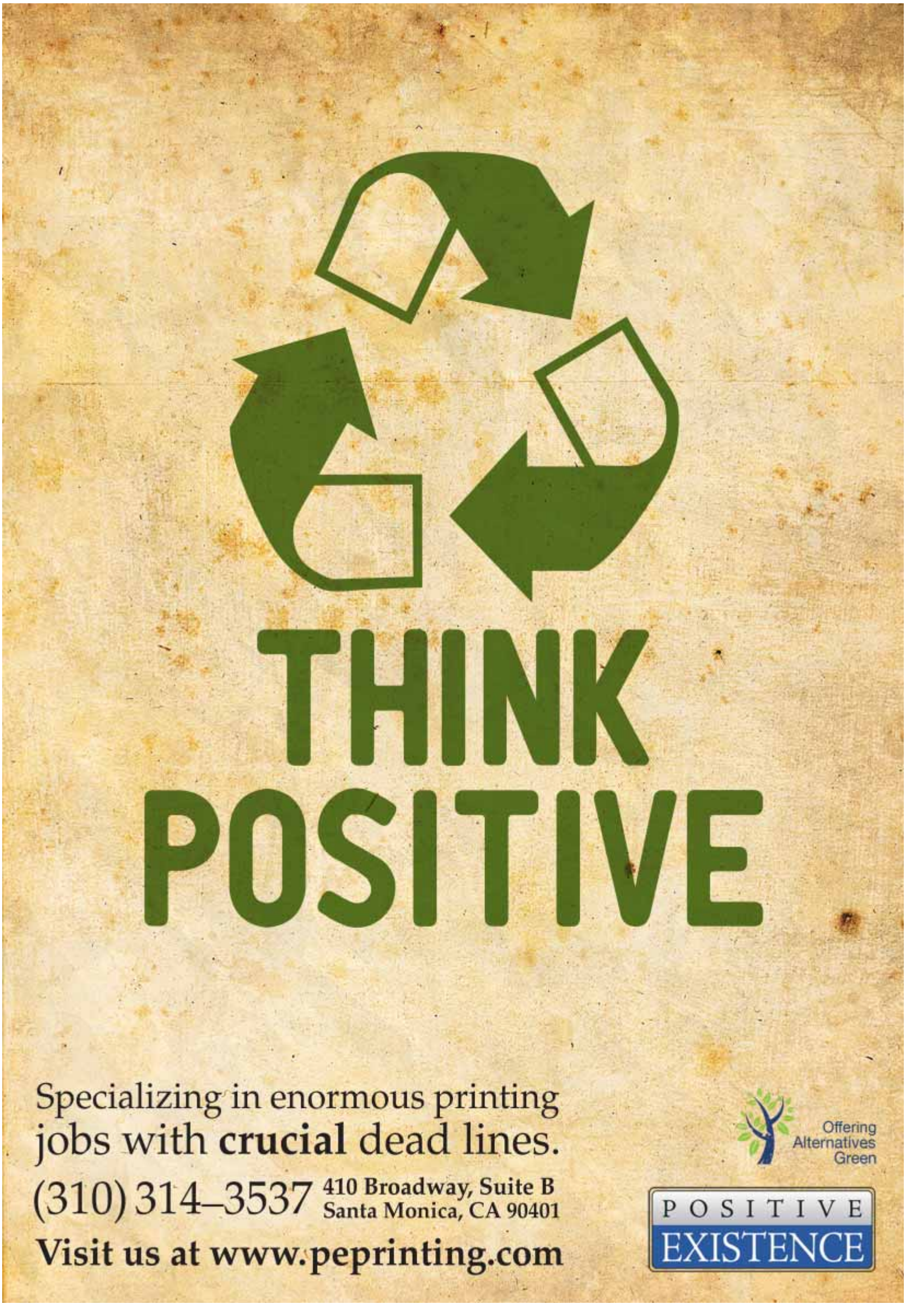
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	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	$2,295,000	$1,695,000
North of Montana	$3,130,000	$1,198,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,995,000	$779,000
South of Wilshire	$899,500	$759,000
Sunset Park	$1,161,500	$699,000
Ocean Park	$1,282,000	$836,500

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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