

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Planet

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Santa Monica Pier's ferris wheel spun out of control and fell into the sea Sunday. Remarkably, only two were injured.

Ferris wheel on pier spins out of control

BY BOSSMAN FURYCOW
Daily Planet Slave

In an unprecedented chain of events, the Santa Monica ferris wheel spun off its axle and rolled down the pier into the ocean on Sunday, injuring two.

The solar powered Ferris wheel was apparently over fueled by unusually strong ultraviolet rays over the weekend.

Witnesses watched in shock as the giant wheel rolled in slow motion to the end of the pier, where its forward motion took it splashing down in a movie-like fashion, only to stay half submerged under water.

In a prepared statement, officials said that the "greenhouse" effect increased the level of ultraviolet rays taken in by the solar panels to dangerous levels. Because the ferris wheel is 100 percent powered by solar energy, the engine throttle responded to the excess energy level fueled by the increased ultraviolet

rays and spun the wheel out of control. "This is a tragedy," said mayor Mikey I'mdoingfine. "All the more reason for electric cars. Electric cars are very cutting edge."

"This is a tragedy. All the more reason for electric cars. Electric cars are very cutting edge."

— MIKEY I'MDOINGFINE
Mayor of Santa Monica

Officials also mentioned that they could have "never predicted the impact of excess ultraviolet rays on the system."

See WHEEL, page 13

Parking enforcement officers to triple in size

'We're just not fast enough,' city says

BY A. FIXTURE
Daily Planet Slave

In a "cutting edge" move to fill the city coffers, officials have decided to triple the number of parking enforcers on area streets.

Herb Walknomore, director of the city's parking citation bureau, appeared before the city council last week to testify that his staff is too small to catch the rampant disobedience of parking rules going on throughout the city.

"We're just not fast enough," said Walknomore. "Right now there are meters that haven't been paid, there are cars that have been left on side streets way longer than the maximum two hour limit, and even on my way here tonight, I saw cars parked in 15-minute loading and unloading lanes far longer than they should have been."

Walknomore wants to double his paltry staff of 450 metermaids, parking enforcement officers and bureaucrats to well over a thousand in order to assign one parking enforcement officer for every five city blocks.

With a high saturation of enforcement Walknomore said, "nobody will dare to park irresponsibly" in Santa Monica.

The cost of tripling the parking

enforcement office staff will cost almost \$13 million, but Walknomore said the city can recoup part of the cost by creating preferential parking districts on every block in the city and charging residents \$1,250 annually for city parking permits.

"It's the price they'll have to pay for the peace of mind that comes with knowing your vehicle is safe from ticketing," Walknomore said on April 1, a traditional day for pranks.

Walknomore also encouraged the city to raise the amount charged for parking tickets. Illegally parking on a side street during street cleaning should be a \$100 fine, not feeding a meter should be an \$80 fine, while illegally parking in a loading and unloading zone should be a \$85 ticket, he said.

The higher parking tickets will help offset the cost of more parking attendants, as well as act as a deterrent to any scofflaw, Walknomore said.

The city council unanimously approved Walknomore's proposal, hoping the improved parking enforcement staff would be able to handle the large number of parking violations that go on in Santa Monica in a single day.

"This is a fine proposal, and I wish somebody would have tried something like this years ago," said Councilman Bob Wholeriver. "Actually, I think we should be hiring even more parking enforcement staff so that when any one meter expires

See PARKING, page 13



Plan on seeing a lot of these parking cars around town. The city just beefed up its arsenal of 'cutting edge' parking enforcement vehicles.

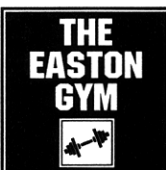
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QUOTE of the DAY

"Everyone's a fool on April fools day."

— Anon M. Ass



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LOCAL



City sells pier to media giant, making it a chain town

BY SLACKARIASTONE
Daily Planet Slave

The city has sold its coveted pier to an entertainment conglomerate so it can be turned into a major theme park, it was announced over the weekend.

City officials have thrown in the towel trying to keep local businesses afloat — they have decided going all chain is a strong plan during these economic times.

Wall-to-Wall Drisney has bought up the last of Slanta Monica's character as officials handed over the rights to the pier Sunday. A dedication ceremony will take place today, April 1.

"Let's face it, Slanta Monica is a chain town so let's show the world that through our largest symbol — the pier," said Mayor Mikey I'mdoinfine. "We lost our flavor long ago so let's all just embrace the wonderful world of Drisney."

Wall-to-Wall Drisney plans to level the existing pier and start over with a multi-plex of cinemas and plenty of retail shops to sell its long line of softgoods.

"There are plenty of views ocean elsewhere," said council moaner Rich Croom. "We decided that we wanted Slanta Monica to be the first city by the sea that com-

pletely blocks out the Pacific Ocean from its view. It's cutting edge."

Officials from the company said they will let inner city children paint murals of the ocean on the buildings' interior to give them a sense of place.

"It took a lot of work to make this all happen so quickly. Tomorrow is our future. Very cutting edge."

— MIKEY I'MDOINGFINE
Slanta Monica mayor

"It's a win-win for all," said company spokesman Gubba Hump, who used to work for Maramount. "It gives kids a sense of pride to see that they can create the ocean views as Mother Nature intended — the Drisney way."

Slanta Monicans will be encouraged to wear mouse ears as a symbol of the city's pride.

Some of the planned themes around the pier will include Drisney's core competencies like music, concept stores, movie studios, network programming, retail stores and making a lot of dough.

Sources close to the deal say the city is in negotiations to sell everything east of 20th Street as well. A logical buyer would be Wall-to-Wall Drisney, they say.

"Look, they would just take all of that for their office space and the city would rid itself of that part of town," said the Deep Throat. "They only need to be concerned with the downtown core. They think it will be good for the media octopus to wrap its tentacles around the city limits to shield it from any outside pressures."

But in an effort to make sure the community's needs are balanced, the city council has decided to create a new mall along Fourth Street that features discount stores like Wal-Nart, the 98 cent store and K-Fart.

The PromeNOT, as it's called, will be the town's gathering place, officials believe.

"We need to still be able to shop locally and that's what is affordable," said Mayor I'mdoinfine. "It took a lot of work to make this all happen so quickly. Tomorrow is our future. Very cutting edge."

Slanta Monica wins prestigious coffee award

BY BOSSMAN FURRYCOW
Daily Planet Slave

The city has won the equivalent to the Academy Awards of the coffee world.

Last Friday, the International Association of Coffee Houses (IACH) awarded Slanta Monica with the coveted Blue Ribbon Award in five separate commercial zones.

The Blue Ribbon Award is awarded to areas of cities that have an unusually high concentration of coffee shops. Only 20 awards were issued nationwide, five to Slanta Monica.

"It's a very prestigious award ... very cutting edge," said IACH chairman I.M. Shakey. "The competition is fierce ... we had over 1,000 applicants, but Slanta Monica seems to always shine more than any other city."

A panel of judges travels throughout major metropolitan areas seeking out worthy areas. Each year the panel changes, as the rigors of the selection process leads to dehydration, sleeplessness and hypertension.

"Typically, our judges only last one

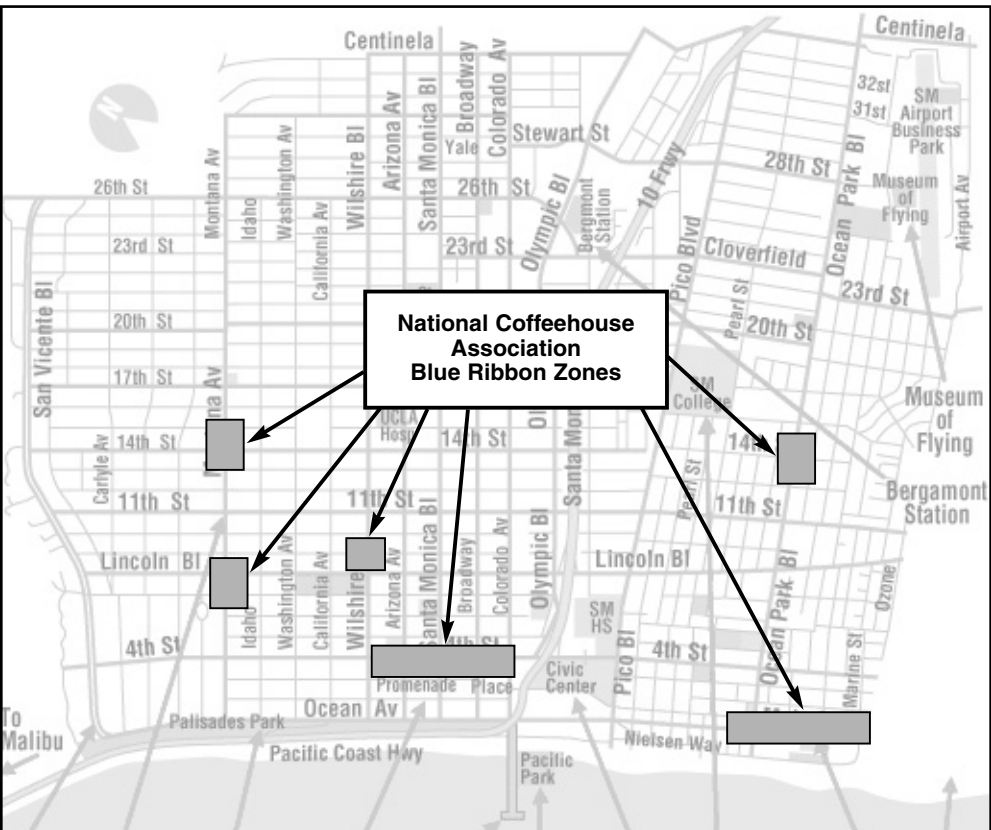
year, but that keeps the process honest and unpredictable," Shakey said.

"It's a very prestigious award ... very cutting edge."

— I.M. SHAKEY
IACH chairman

The areas awarded the prestigious honor include two areas of Fontana Avenue, the downtown core, Main Steet in its entirety and certain blocks of Ocean Park (see photo).

Next week the National Dry Cleaners Organization will announce its prestigious People's Choice Award for highest density of dry cleaners per capita. Slanta Monica is favored to win.



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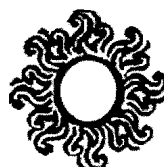


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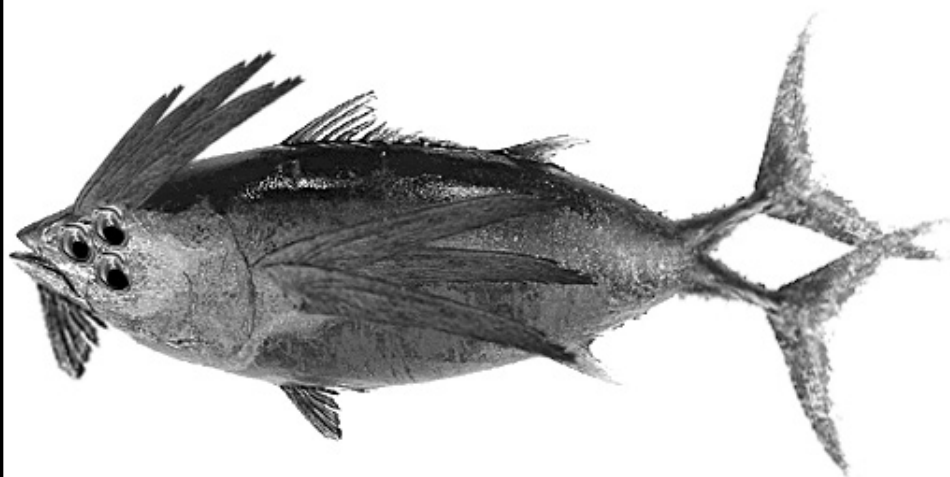
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LOCAL

Pollution rears its ugly head



This tuna is the victim of urban run-off in the Santa Monica Bay. Fishermen have been alerted to these new species. They have been told to stay away from the highly toxic 'pescado.'

Banks to consumer: We pay you for your bizness

BY JAKE ROCKLANDER

Daily Press Slave

In a turn of events local economists termed both "stunning" and "unprecedented," a consortium of banks have decided to pay you — the Santa Monica consumer — when you use their ATMs located within city limits.

"We felt there was a lot ill-will toward us on the part of the community since, well, let's just say lately," said consortium spokesman Y.A. Right. "We just wanted to give something back."

The limited-time offer applies only to Santa Monica residents, who will be paid \$1.50 per transaction when they use automated teller machines owned by Banc of America, Washington Mutual, Banque of California and several lesser known credit unions, firemen pension plans and Swiss banks, Right said.

The amount paid out cannot exceed \$10 per day, he said, and customers must use ATMs from banks where they do not have accounts. The fee will not apply if customers use ATMs owned by banks where they have accounts.

"That way we won't be taken to the cleaners," Right said, chuckling. "And we're also hoping to get some business."

Much of that business was lost because of a flap over ATM fees last year between banks that do business in Santa Monica and the city's political leadership. At that time, the Santa Monica City Council voted to forbid banks from charging customers for using other banks' ATMs located within city limits.

That action touched off a flurry of righteous protest from banks, who called city officials "Communists" and

"Draconian" and, perhaps worse, "Bad for business." But the council refused to back down, so the banks told customers they could use only ATMs from banks where their accounts were located.

ATMs in Santa Monica from other banks would be off-limits, making it difficult for local residents and tourists alike. And that's the way it stayed.

Until now.

Right said he didn't know when the offer would end, but added that it could be "later."

On the street, the offer was greeted

with both disbelief and happiness, skepticism and derision.

Santa Monica Mayor Mikey I'mdoingfine called it "generous to a fault."

"I didn't believe it at first," he said. "But it's true! I've already, like, made fifty bucks off 'em."

**"We felt there was a lot
ill-will toward us on the
part of the community
since, well, let's just say
lately. We just wanted to
give something back."**

— Y.A. RIGHT
Consortium spokesman

"Get out there and take these guys for all you can get."

Dean Dance, a self-employed Santa Monica writer said he didn't care if banks were going to pay him for using ATMs.

"I don't want their dirty money," Dance said.

Gina "Harry" Potter, 26, in line to see a movie last night on the Third Street Marmalade refused to believe

banks would adopt such a policy, however temporary.

"There's no way," Potter said. "They're bankers. They don't give away money."

However, after a visit to a nearby ATM, Potter flashed a receipt confirming \$1.50 credit to her account.

"I think I'm going to be withdrawing a lot more money in the near future," she said.

Right said that while it may go against the "popular stereotype" of Scrooge-like bankers hovering over

giant piles of gold coins, customers will indeed be paid the money. In fact, it will be automatically credited to their account, provided the banks have a Santa Monica address on file for the user.

LOCAL



City zoning commission outlaws 'mom & pop'

BY JAKE ROCKLANDER
Daily Planet Slave

In an effort to stamp out Mom and Pop businesses in the city for good, the Slanta Monica Planning Commission voted overwhelmingly last night to alter zoning on the Third Street Marmalade.

From now on, any new business that wants to relocate to space on the popular four-block shopping row must represent a franchise or chain-store. No exceptions allowed. Chain restaurants, such as Blubba Gump or Planet Hollyweird are okay.

"We just figured, hey, if it's good for the businesses in this town, then it's good for us," said Bruno Talbot, planning commission chairman. "And this is gonna makes lots of money for lots of people. I consider this plan cutting edge."

Talbot deflected all questions about his murky purchases last month of several luxury houses in Las Vegas and a 100-foot yacht in Florida to his lawyer, who didn't return a phone message.

In order to be considered a franchise or chain-store, a business must have at least ten other similarly-named businesses currently operating here or abroad.

The commission voted 5-2 in favor of approving the new zoning law, which will now be forwarded to the Slanta Monica City Council. The council is scheduled to take-up the measure at next week's meeting.

Dinah Blinkey, one of the two dissenting members of the commission, was in tears after the final vote.

"I'm weeping for small businesses everywhere," she said. "I feel as if I've been mortally wounded."

During debate before the vote, Blinkey regaled the audience with tales of a childhood spent in the 1930s in her father's small business -- a tavern/brothel located on Ocean Avenue. The stories, which were chided as inappropriate by some of her colleagues, were mostly about the sisterly antics between Blinkey, then a child, and the in-house prostitutes and the drunken sailors who patronized and lived at the legendary house of ill repute.

Still, such nostalgia was not enough to sway her colleagues, who seemed to agree that times had changed.

"The bottom line is, landlords can get a hell of a lot more money from these national chain corporations, or whatever they are, than from some schmuck who wants to open an art gallery," said planning commission member Hanson R. McReynolds. Another member, Prentice Nutt, agreed, saying that most "regular people" don't even want to shop at stores with names out front they don't recognize because they are usually dirty and offer inferior merchandise.

"We just figured, hey, if it's good for the businesses in this town, then it's good for us."

— BRUNO TALBOT
Planning commission chairman

"Which would you rather choose -- Aberslombie or Elvira's Witchery Shoppe?" Nutt said. "I mean, I think you can see my point."

The new ordinance goes into affect next year and will serve to gradually weed out the non-franchise, non-chain businesses currently existing on the Marmelade. For example, when one such business closes, it can only be replaced by a franchise. Also, the ordinance allows landlords to increase the rent on existing non-franchise businesses by up to but not exceeding 33 percent per year.

Cleo Simona, owner of Cleo's Recycled Fashions on the Marmelade, said she was disappointed and saddened by last night's outcome.

"I don't feel my voice was heard," she said. However, Flak O'Hooker of the trade group, Samenness Is Good, considered the new law a victory. "Finally we can have a uniform code of conduct for businesses along the Marmelade," O'Hooker said. "Now if we could just get rid of all those annoying street performers and, of course, the people who don't bathe regularly."

Slanta Monica accused of lacking Vaseline maintenance

WHEEL, from page 1

International ferris wheel consultant, Garrett Reuss was commissioned to determine the cause of the axle failure. Reuss has studied ferris wheel construction for the past 40 years and is considered to have the final say on issues related to ferris wheels.

"In my 40 years studying ferris wheels, I have never seen anything like this," Reuss said. "If only they used more Vaseline, the friction would have never gotten so severe. Ferris wheels need lots of Vaseline."

Reuss contends that the obvious disregard to Vaseline maintenance is the culprit. However, city officials claim that it was in the always in the budget.

Meanwhile, the city has quietly budgeted an extra \$50,000 next year for procurement of the slippery, petroleum jelly.

Officials believe that it will be weeks before they can bring in a crane large enough to extract the wheel from the Pacific Ocean.

City Engineers have expressed interest in using the large crane currently erected behind City Hall.

However, a private engineering firm has already decided that the crane just won't stretch that far.

"It cannot reach over the Rand Buildings," said private engineer Dawn Kopecki.

The city engineers only replied, "Yes, it can."

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LOCAL

Flock of seagulls as alternative fuel?

BY A. FIXTURE
Daily Planet Slave

The city is being considered for a federal program that would build a refinery to turn seagull and pigeon feces into fuel. The Federal Department of Energy and Fisheries created the program shortly after scientists found enough combustible methane gas can be extracted from bird poop to run automobiles and electricity generators.

Scientists have narrowed down the possible locations of their experimental generator to Kennebunkport, Me., Sand Isle City, Md., Ottawa, NS and Slanta Monica. But officials at the federal agency said they were impressed with the high ratio of birds to excrement matter in the city.

"To be honest, we've never seen so few birds leave such a mess," said Joe Whitecoat, a scientist at the DEF. "We don't know if its something in the water or fertilizers used on the lawns, but the birds sure have to go a lot."

City officials said on April 1, a traditional day for pranks, that they are excited at the possibility of being chosen for such a prestigious federal program.

"This really came out of nowhere," said Scott Scoopalot, the city's director of clean-up. "But it really makes you think how wasteful we've all been by not utilizing the birds in this way before."

City council moaners said the refinery could create many badly-needed jobs that pay a real living wage. Some elected officials are already insisting if Slanta Monica is chosen for the program, the refinery would have to be unionized.

"We already goofed by not insisting all the luxury beach-front hotels unionize before opening up 20 years ago," said

Kev McKonan. "This time let's think ahead and protect our workers from jobs that pay too little and don't provide good enough free health benefits."

In fiscal year 2000-2001, the city spent \$1.111 million cleaning up bird feces on sign posts, park benches, and city-owned vehicles. Now officials say that money can be used to make electricity for its residents.

The program comes with a \$5 million grant to help the host community buy land for the refinery, hire consultants to help in the planning and create an entire new city department to oversee the refinery's operations.

City maintenance crews will collect the bird feces already being left around the city and deliver it to the refinery where special chemicals will be added to separate out the methane gas.

The methane will then be siphoned off to storage tanks for later use while the left over feces will be used as fertilizers in city parks and around public buildings.

But some residents are skeptical of the city spending any tax money on such an experimental "green" energy.

Slanta Monica has a long tradition of experimenting with alternative fuels. Currently, less than 10 percent of the city's fleet is run on gasoline — everything else is powered by natural gas, solar power and corn oil.

City officials say no specific locations have been chosen for where the new refinery would be built, though areas in Ocean Part, North of Fontana and the Sicko neighborhood are being explored.

"But if you ask me, we'll just put it somewhere in Sicko," Scoopalot said. "I mean, that's where we put everything that's loud and creates a lot of foul smells."



LOCAL



Donuts, dry cleaners and Chinese food

BY JAKE ROCKLANDER
Daily Planet Slave

In a boon for fried dough, harsh chemicals and grease-hauling companies, the Slanta Monica City

Council passed several new amendments to its building code during last night's weekly meeting that some deemed "cutting edge."

From now on, by city law, all newly-built or freshly renovated strip-mall developments within the city limits must contain a donut shop, a dry cleaners and a discount Chinese food restaurant.

"It was a hard-fought battle," Council moaner Brett Jarvis, said after the marathon meeting finally ended at 2 a.m., "but I think we -- as a community -- all won in the end."

Some of his colleagues, however, weren't so sure. "Yes it's true these things are nice to see on every street corner in town, I agree," said Councilwoman Molly Veracose. "However, I'm very worried about my arteries -- my children's arteries -- and what this

could do to our environment in the long run."

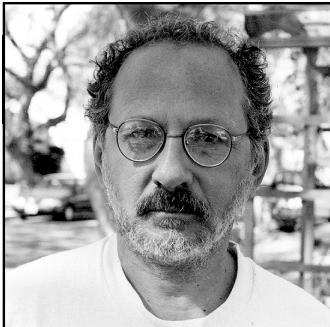
The city will set up a special fund, paid for though an increase in food tax passed by voters last November under the guise of a now-defunct city program that fed the poor, to subsidize landlords who must keep space vacant for one of the chosen businesses.

"The leadership of this city will be regarded as visionary in a hundred years," said Don Ut, president of the United States Donut Growers Association. "They didn't choose bagels or croissants or scones, no! They chose donuts!"

"And for that, we are thankful." But longtime Slanta Monica resident Mona Longhair, 48, was anything but thankful.

"This makes me sick, sick, sick!" Longhair said, spitting on the sidewalk for emphasis. "Yet again we -- the little people of this city -- have been sold down the river in favor of so-called 'business interests.'"

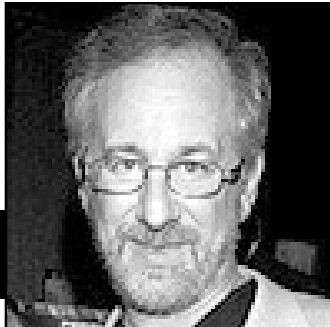
Separated at birth



Jerry Rubin



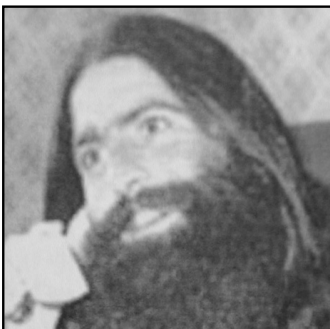
Steven Spielberg



Michael Feinstein



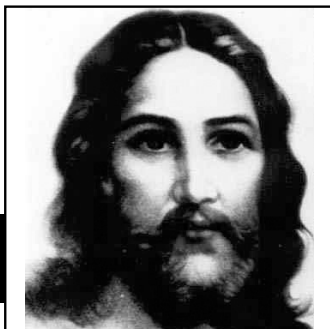
Michael Bolton



Kevin McKeown,
1977



Jesus



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- Wilshire Boulevard
- Lincoln Commercial District.

Additional circulation points include:

- Major Hotels on Ocean Avenue
- Retail businesses on the Boardwalk and Santa Monica Pier districts
- Commercial zones on Pico and Ocean Park Boulevard.

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LOCAL

People: 'Leave us alone, don't take our money'

PARKING, from page 1

in this city there is an enforcement officer there immediately to write a ticket."

Other council members hoped the higher parking ticket prices would make Slanta Monicans more environmentally friendly.

"People need to know there will be a price to pay not only to drive, but to park, too," said Councilman Kev McKonan.

Business owners are furious with the city's actions because they believe more stringent parking enforcement will drive away shoppers, many of whom already stay away because of the lack of valet parking.

They said the city needs to support their businesses more and leave the parking situation downtown alone.

"I've been the manager of this Kiwi Republic for four years, and I know many of my customers are going to Kiwi Republics in other cities because they don't enforce their parking rules there," said Sandra Compote. "They need to stop picking on the businesses in town with all of these ridiculous rules."

Many residents applauded the higher level of parking enforcement taken by the city.

"Yeah, like, I live in an apartment building by the beach and there's like never any parking," said Daniel Stoner. "And I think \$13 million is a small price to pay for having a place to put my cherished car."

Other residents said the new parking enforcement efforts weren't important.

Free parking in city on Thursdays starts this month

BY A. FIXTURE

Daily Planet Slave

With double the amount of parking enforcement on the horizon, the city council voted unanimously last week to have parking free for every man, woman and child each Thursday.

From this moment on, parking at all city meters, parking lots and side streets on every Thursday will be free.

"Free Parking Thursdays will let people know that even though we are merciless when it comes to writing parking tickets, we at least have a sense of humor."

— WOLF BLINTZER
Council moaner

Council moaners said while they want to crack down on illegal parking, they also want Slanta Monica to retain its easy-going and fun atmosphere.

"Free Parking Thursdays will let people know that even though we are merciless when it comes to writing parking tickets, we at least have a sense of humor," council moaner Wolf Blintzer said April 1, a traditional day for pranks.

The free parking also will bring outsiders into the city for a day of shopping at local stores and eating at downtown restaurants, officials said.

"Parking is the number one complaint we hear from shoppers," said Candy McPhearson, a member of Slanta Monicans for Consumer Rights. "Now they won't have to worry about whether they put a coin in the meter or if they double parked their Jag on their way into The Smottery Urn. This is a very cutting edge idea."

Officials said they chose Thursday because parking is already free on

Sundays and it sounded better than Free Parking Fridays or Free Parking Wednesdays.

"We want to encourage people to drive their cars as much as possible so we can condition them into relying on their car all the time," said Councilman Kev McKonan. "Then, once they are conditioned, we'll snag 'em with our beefed up parking enforcement the rest of the days."

Many residents said the free parking on Thursday would plunge the city into complete chaos.

"Um, I don't think that's fair because I live here and I should get better treatment than some outsider," said Douglass Geezer. "Now nobody will be able to find parking on Thursdays."

Other residents thought free parking wouldn't help them.



The new free parking sign is a welcomed sight. City officials decide to cut the people a little slack as an act of goodwill.

LOCAL



Squirrels drink MTBE, creates genetic mutation

True effects of the gasoline additive now becoming more apparent

BY SLACKARIASTONE

Daily Planet Slave

State and local environmentalists have discovered a disturbing side effect of Methyl tertiary-Butyl Ether that is to blame for the city's contaminated water — area squirrels are becoming way too well endowed.

Several squirrels have been found in Palisido Park with enlarged genitals and experts say it's because of the MTBE.

Slanta Monica had to close its water wells to prevent contaminated water from getting to the public. But somehow, the squirrels still had access. Some officials believe the city used the wells to water the lawns around town and the squirrels ingested the chemical. Do you know what day it is?

Although not sure what the process entails, scientists estimate it takes one to two weeks for the transformation to manifest itself. There is speculation that the feared that MTBE chemicals are causing the sexual body parts to swell.

"We knew something terrible was going to happen but we had no idea it would have this result," said Scrom Humplap, director of environmental affairs for Slanta Monica. "I was actually the one that found the problem as I was walking near the river."

Humplap said that while he was ambling along the park, a macho-acting rodent came charging at him and

latched onto him.

"Apparently they have way too much testosterone," he said, wiping the sweat from his brow. "We have been trying to catch the animals so we can castrate them."

In an effort to be humane so they don't anger any animal rights activists, officials are opting for castration instead of killing the animals.

But biologist Fawn Bleeding believes that method will do more harm than good.

"The entire food chain is going to be messed up," she said. "Their aggressiveness is the only thing that is going to save them, you take away that and they'll be out of luck. Leave them alone. Haven't we done enough?"

Still, the homeless continue to praise Slanta Monica for protecting their rights and making them feel at home.

Parks manager Hack Greed believes the squirrels are actually enjoying themselves.

"The animals are roaming the town with grins from ear to ear," he said. "I don't see what the problem is."

Scientists are now examining the possibilities of human reactions to the MTBE. Apparently, they have signed up a few locals as guinea pigs for testing.

"It's been going on for a while, I mean I know it is LA and everything, but all you have to do is walk around and see how many people now have larger body parts," said Pee Sassin, a People's Republic environmental staffer. "The response to testing has been overwhelming, people are running to the environmental health department to sign up. They seem to be the ones who still believe there is hope."



Recently spotted north of Wilshire, this genetically mutated squirrel is the result of the mix of gasoline and the Slanta Monica water supply.

Porn company buys Slanta Monica clock tower

BY A. FIXTURE

Daily Planet Slave

A Slanta Monican icon nearly destroyed in the 1994 Southridge Earthquake will get a new life as a movie studio.

Vixxxen Entertainment has purchased the boarded up white clock tower for use as the company's headquarters and studios for shooting their adult industry videos.

Harold Whinestein, longtime owner of the clock tower, declined to say how much the entertainment company paid for the building, but he added, "These two lovely women came in and made me an offer I couldn't refuse."

A Vixxxen company spokesman said the Van Guys-based company was tired of working in the San Fumundo Valley and company officials felt relocating closer to the beach would breath new life into Vixxxen's videos.

"The tower is very phallic, so we figured it would be a good fit for us," said company spokesman Randy Dan Johnston. "And you should see the views up there, it'll provide great oceanic backdrops for our new 'Paula Pumps the People's Republic' video series." (Do you know what day it is?)

Johnston said the company also likes the idea of shooting on locations throughout Slanta Monica, including on the beach, the Pier, and the Third Street Marmalade.

Bayside Delapidation District leaders applauded the entertainment company's purchase of the clock tower because the

building's boarded up windows and inoperable clock were an eyesore for shoppers.

They also said the company would bring new workers downtown that would likely eat at local restaurants and shop in local stores, boosting the downtown economy.

"This is a win-win deal," said Porshe Freedmont, a Bayside Delapidation representative. "The porn business is huge and they spend lots of money, so why shouldn't they spend it in Slanta Monica — a very cutting edge city."

City officials said they are excited at attracting a new industry to the city, and they hope more adult entertainment companies will follow.

One city council moaner cheered the industry's strong union and propensity to pay a real living wage.

Already, mainstream Smoglywood entertainment companies have studios in the People's Republic. And the city makes an estimated \$50 billion a year in taxes and from issuing filming permits for public streets and parks.

Many residents said they would welcome having Vixxxen downtown, and they believed the adult entertainment industry gets a bad rap in the media.

"I think they will make a great neighbor downtown," said Charlie Watson, a Fontana Avenue resident. "Adult entertainment companies do a lot of good and their employees can often be found volunteering in the community."

Another resident was more critical.



CrimeWatch

For April 1, 2002

■ Dozens of homeless were arrested for gathering illegally and potentially inciting a riot.

People's Republic police responded to Stray Street where several dozen of the Republic's homeless gathered on the street and blocked traffic with a sign reading, "Santa Monica: No Place Better to be Homeless!" Two dozen homeless were arrested for parading without a permit and general loitering. Yesterday marks the 10 year anniversary of the fist ever Homeless Feast held on a People's Republic bluff overlooking the ocean.

■ A woman was shocked and traumatized by an attacker at the Third Street Marmalade.

People's Republic police responded to the 140,000 block of the Marmalade at about 2:30 p.m. last Wednesday and located the victim, Crissy Trustfund, 28, of Snooty Hills. Trustfund told police that the attacker approached her abruptly and asked for a dollar. Trustfund refused to give a dollar but instead offered the man a job.

The man then argued back "I don't want a job, I want a dollar for food, I'm starving," said Trustfund.

■ A People's Republic meter reader vehicle was car-jacked yesterday, and resulted in a 13-minute low speed pursuit with police.

At roughly 2:15 yesterday afternoon the unnamed meter reader was waved down by a motorist parked in Ocean Avenue's metered parking. The motorist explained he was out of change, but needed to run up to his friend's apartment to pick up a book. When the motorist returned the meter reader was giving his vehicle a ticket.

The motorist screamed an obscenity, jumped into the meter reader's three wheeled cart and took off north on Ocean Avenue. Police ensued in a low speed pursuit that took them careening around corners and zipping through parking lots. The motorist evaded police at Stray Street where several dozen homeless people blocked the street but allowed the small cart to pass. Police located the vehicle last night on the beach. It was covered in honey and feathered with hundreds of unwanted parking citations.

APRIL FOOLS!



COMICS

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"WHOA!"

Horses evicted from Will Rogers stables - News Item

Saudia Arabian woman raped then jailed for having sex

by Chuck Shepard

• A Saudi Arabian woman who was found by a court to have been raped by her sister's husband was sentenced to six months in jail and 65 lashes because she had thus had sex (Jeddah, February).

• A Mexican immigrant in his 20s, who was returning a purse and cell phone he found to their owner, was shot to death, allegedly by the owner's brother-in-law, who thought the Samaritan's \$50 reward request was too high (Whittier, Calif.).

• A Dallas-area public school system announced it would sell permanent naming rights to dozens of its buildings and facilities (e.g., \$1 million for a soccer field), but at least would not sell to corporations (Highland Park, Texas).

STUMPED?

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ACROSS

2 Fuss
3 Dismember
4 Concocting
5 German
6 "Jaws" comedy
11 Mexican threat
12 Like some farewell
13 Extinct rugs
14 Make birds
15 Composer Jerome amends
16 Umbrella setting
17 Misery part
18 They may fathom
19 "Would you?" nected
20 Money to you? maker
21 Getting together serpents
22 Actor Ken part
23 Start, as a computer
24 Cargo amounts
25 Foot or part
26 Cats and dogs
27 Slight color
28 Witly saying
29 Nary a soul
30 Constitu- tions
31 — Paulo feature
32 Make booties
33 Concert performers
34 — Ark
35 Nile
36 Revue
37 Trig function
38 Continue
39 Aspen aficionado
40 Greek vowel
41 Playing marble
42 Exist
43 Foot
44 Finish

DOWN

1 Craze
2 Fuss
3 Dismember
4 Concocting
5 German
6 "Jaws" comedy
11 Mexican threat
12 Like some farewell
13 Extinct rugs
14 Make birds
15 Composer Jerome amends
16 Umbrella setting
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39 Aspen aficionado
40 Greek vowel
41 Playing marble
42 Exist
43 Foot
44 Finish

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly

Reality Check

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Natural Selection

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The Dinetto Set

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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PRINT CLEARLY:

001	Announcements	200	For Sale	500	Vehicles for Sale
010	Meetings	250	Wanted	600	Services
020	Legal Notices	300	For Rent	650	Health/Beauty
100	Employment	400	Real Estate		



BACK PAGE

Communists set up shop on the Marmalade

BY JAKE ROCKLANDER
Daily Planet Slave

The American Communist Party plans to open a store on the Third Street Marmalade that will not only impart its brand of socialist dogma, but will also sell tourist trinkets.

"I can't think of a better spot than Slanta Monica to open our party's first business venture," said Larry Larube, American Communist Party president. "They don't call it the People's Republic of Slanta Monica for nothing do they?"

"I expect to be welcomed with open arms."

The "cutting edge" store will sell T-shirts of historical figures like Joseph Stalin, V.I. Lenin, John Lennon and Che Guevara, as well as hammer-and-sickle lapel pins, shot glasses and lifesize recreations of Lenin's Tomb, Larube said.

"We'll also dispense wisdom," he said.

The store, to be called the Hammer and Sickle Emporium, should be open by the end of the summer.

Rumors about the ACP have been swirling around the Marmalade for weeks, with some businesses displaying hand-written signs in the front windows reading, "The Communists are coming!" and "Red Menace II."

Jocko Firebeam, 46, manager of the Cheesy-Brand Bluejeans store next door to the spot rented by the ACP, said that the presence of the Communists is "offensive

and un-American."

Furthermore, he wondered, "Didn't they lose?" Larube admitted Communism didn't work for the Russians, Pole, Czechs, Romanians, Lithuanians, Bulgarians or Albanians, "but hey, look at China. And Cuba too."

"I can't think of a better spot than Slanta Monica to open our party's first business venture."

— LARRY LARUBE
American Communist Party president

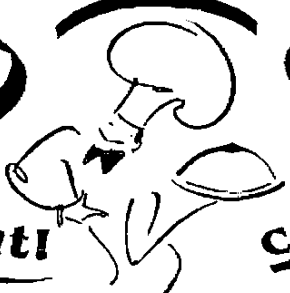
On the other side of the Hammer and Sickle Emporium, Liza Smith-Jones, manager of Liza's Candles and Scents, said she hopes the Communists will be good neighbors.

"As long as they're peaceful and they don't mind the smell of lavender, I'm really okay with them," Smith-Jones said. "But I'm not a Communist or anything. I don't think."

Hazardous to your health



Swimming in the Slanta Monica Bay is bit more risky than it used to be. Clearly, as this sign indicates, recreational water sports are not to be taken lightly anymore.

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