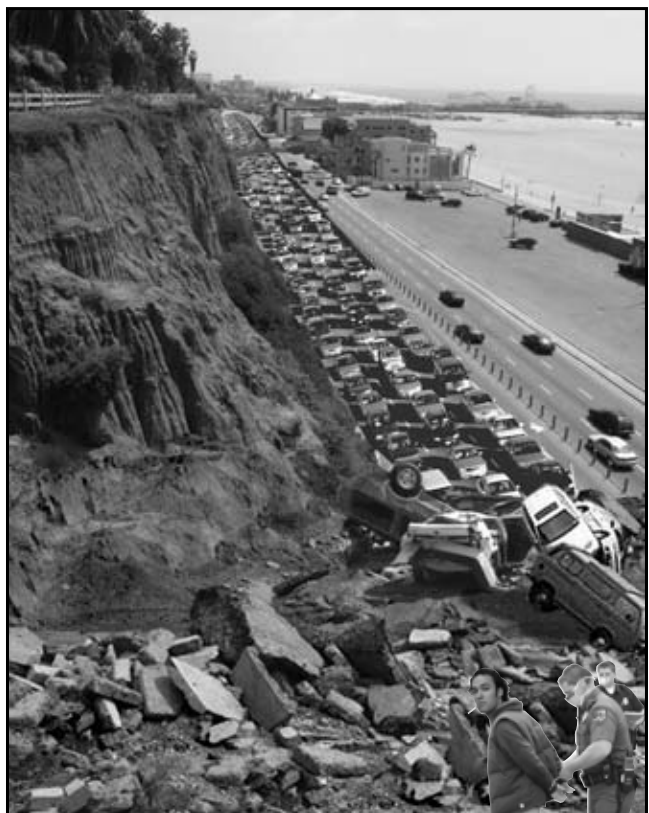


Santa Monica Daily Planet

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Palisades bluffs crumble; PCH closes



Commuters are out of luck for a while

BY SACKA SOMETHING
Daily Planet Slave

The Palisades Bluffs — long feared as unstable — crumbled late Wednesday night and forced the Pacific Coast Highway to shut down, stranding thousands of motorists and displacing hundreds of homeless people who called the area home.

More than 300,000 pounds of rock came crashing down onto PCH at the north end of the bluffs at 11:59 p.m. Miraculously, no one was injured.

Civil engineers and the California State Highway Patrol estimate that PCH will be closed for at least a week. Fearing the closure will further clog the 405 and secondary streets, a barge will transport commuters on the open waters of the Pacific. Although the plan is still being hashed out, motorists will likely be forced out of their cars at the Malibu Pier, where they will be loaded onto the barge and taken to the Venice Pier. A Big Blue Bus will then take commuters to City Hall, where they will pay a \$25 transportation fee. From there, commuters are on their own to get to their final destination.

"People who drive cars will once again have to pay us to get where they need to go. This is an unfortunate accident but we're not going to pay for somebody else's convenience."

— DICKEY BOOM
Santa Monica Mayor

nation.

"People who drive cars will once again have to pay us to get where they need to go," said Santa Monica Mayor Dickey Boom. "This is an unfortunate accident but we're not going to pay for somebody else's convenience."

Local geologists knew it was just a matter of time before the bluffs crumbled. Beyond the fact that the intricate tunnel system dug out by the residentially challenged citizens of Santa Monica had created a hallow facade, a smoldering cigarette which ignited a bush

caused the entire area to fall apart. The burning bush, it turned out, created a burn-out of the bluff's vegetation and the root system gave way, causing the rock to crash hundreds of feet below.

Meanwhile, shots rang out in the Pico neighborhood.

It wasn't supposed to be this way, said City Councilman Fabio Fleastead.

"We have local laws — no sleeping on the bluffs and no smoking in the parks — that are supposed to prevent natural disasters like this from happen-

See BLUFFS, page 11

Dellime Notakampooter/Daily Planet
Traffic headed northbound on the PCH backs up all the way to the 405. To the south, cars were backed up nearly all the way to County Line. The PCH was shut down indefinitely Wednesday night after the Palisades Bluff gave way and crashed onto the highway.

Mayor's tattoo reveals secret past

BY NICHOLAS TEPPER
Special to the Daily Planet

The Mayor of Santa Monica had his left breast exposed in council chambers Wednesday while giving a stirring oratory in support of a proposed ban against all Republicans on local beaches and most areas of the pier.

The "wardrobe malfunction" did not just expose the mayor's teat, however. In a stunning revelation, the ripping of the mayor's shirt also exposed a tattoo below his nipple which reads: "Re-elect Nixon '72."

At the moment of the exposure, Mayor Dickey Boom was

speaking to a packed chamber audience: "Santa Monica should be Republican-free, deserves to be Republican-free and it will be Republican-free from this day forward." Just at that moment, City Councilman Zen Lenser reached around Boom and ripped his shirt open.

"I was trying to get that pen he keeps in his pocket," Lenser said. "I was doing my taxes and my pen ran out. I reached for the mayor's pen and the shirt just ripped open. I guess that tattoo explains why he never takes off his shirt at the council's weekly pool parties or our lunch and massage sessions at the Aquaspa. We

all just thought he had a third nipple or something. We never knew he had a Republican skeleton in his closet."

The ripping of the mayor's shirt and the resulting shockwaves that rocked the audience made Boom change the tone of his speech on the spot. After borrowing a tube-top from a member of his staff to cover himself, the

See MAYOR, page 10

Nicholas Tepper/Daily Planet
It was all shocks when Mayor Dickey Boom's nipple was exposed during a speech in which he advocated banning Republicans on local beaches.



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Happy Birthday Katie

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You tend to be headstrong and deliberate in your actions. Basically you don't give a rat's ass about anyone. Most people hate you but you couldn't care less. You're the type of person who would masturbate at a wedding. Plus, your childish snickering is inappropriate. It's not sexual innuendo, Mickey Mantle really WAS a switch-hitter. Double plus, you have a wild imagination and often think you are being followed by the FBI or CIA.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Warm and caring are your most endearing characteristics. You get on well with most people because you're bisexual. You hardly ever wear underwear and you constantly smell of urine. Plus, you want to make sure your memory is securely placed in your motherboard. Hand soldering each pin in place might be a bit of overkill. Double plus, you are practical and persistent. You have a dogged determination and work like hell.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Your star sign denotes an air of duality in your character. Simply, you're a neurotic schizophrenic. A real weirdo, the type of person who'd kill himself to win a bet. Plus, "This light saber is just a prop" and "Find a tourniquet, stat!" are two phrases you don't want to hear together this week. Double plus, you are quick and an intelligent thinker. People like you because you are bisexual.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

You have a business-like attitude to life and a knack for making money. You're an unscrupulous bastard who would sell your relatives' limbs to buy a mobile phone. You are likely to be murdered. Plus, feigning color blindness might not give you free reign to pinch every butt on St. Patrick's Day, but it might be worth a try. You are always putting things off. That is why you will always be on welfare and won't be worth shit. Everybody in prison is a Cancer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

The adventurous type, always looking for thrills and willing to try anything. In other words, stupid. You have the IQ of a garden snail and will never amount to anything. Most Leos are living on welfare. Plus, your promise to get more exercise was not fulfilled by the "Virtual March," despite the fact you were logged in for three hours. Double plus, you consider yourself a born leader. Leo people are thieves who enjoy masturbation more than sex.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You like the good things in life and you know how to enjoy them. But you're prone to bull "talking" and you're cheap. Virgo men are usually queers and the majority of Virgo women are whores. Plus, you'll finally find the source of your spontaneous rebuts this week. Double plus, you are the logical type and hate disorder. Your picky attitude is sickening to your friends and co-workers. Virgo make good bus drivers and pimps.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Unless the plumber normally dresses in chains and latex, it would be naive to think your wife is being completely faithful. Plus, you are the eternal optimist, seeing the best of any situation. You have no grasp of reality and live in a dream world. Most people consider you to be the greatest living moron. You will fail continually. You're a prick. Double plus, you are a pioneer type and think most people are losers. You are quick to reprimand, impatient and scornful. You are a prick.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

That's not "spring" in the air. That's asbestos. Please clear the building. You are the forgiving type and you don't bear grudges. This makes you a jerk. For your entire life people will make a complete prick out of you. Nobody will go to your funeral. Plus, you are the artistic type and have difficult time dealing with reality. If you are a male, you are probably a queer. All Libras die of venereal disease.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

A wise Irishman once said, "Drinking your weight in green beer is really not a good idea." Plus, you are sharp, a quick thinker and good at puzzles. However these are your only good traits. You screw small animals and love picking your nose. You should become a stunt performer with no helmet. Double plus, the worst of the lot. You are shrewd in business and cannot be trusted. You are a perfect jerk. Most Scorpio's are murdered.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

The current craze of reality shows gets your hopes up for finding a mate, but it's doubtful that "Marry and Deflower the Forty-Year Old Virgin" will be on the prime-time schedule next year. Plus, you are the romantic mushy type, soft-hearted and a lover of the arts. You are likely to import Dutch pornography and sex toys. Double plus, you are optimistic and enthusiastic. The majority of Sagittarius are drunks.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Though fashion tends to repeat itself, there's little hope for your collection of Mötley Crüe T-shirts making a comeback. Plus, you are deep and personal in your thoughts, the quiet type. A mean self-centered person and a closet homosexual. Your best friend is probably an altar boy. There has never been a Capricorn of any importance. You should stay home, out of the way of everybody else.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Avoid your 10-year high school reunion. While you may drive a Lexus and work for Sun Microsystems, you're still a complete dork. Plus, you are the academic type and will probably end up working in the legal system. This means you are an absolute pervert, at the least a transvestite. Your ideal sexual partner is a Labrador puppy wearing fishnet tights. Double plus, you have an inventive mind and are inclined to be progressive. Everyone thinks you are a big jerk.

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LOCAL



Santa Monica City Hall to pay homeless \$57M

BY MORNING WOOD
Daily Planet Slave

Facing a class-action lawsuit over the comfort of public parks in Santa Monica, local officials agreed Wednesday to pay \$57 million to the city's 2,000-strong homeless population.

The settlement agreement calls for City Hall to issue a \$28,500 check to each homeless man, woman and child, and guarantees each transient a new, portable cot. It also forbids jogging, picnicking and other non-homeless park activities before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m.

Local officials lauded the settlement, saying it was the only way to stop a "slam dunk" case before it went before jurors.

"We were facing one of the biggest lawsuits in the history of the city," said Santa Monica Mayor Dickey Boom. "With this historic step forward, I think we'll see less homeless people on our streets."

The 27-page settlement was hashed out after weeks of intense negotiations. It was met with mixed reviews.

"I was hoping we could get some better food, too," said Kyle Coinshaker, 37, a regular panhandler on Broadway. "I mean, these church people come to the parks all the time with their brown bag lunches, expecting me to be so grateful — well I don't eat bologna, man."

Similar sentiments were echoed by other veteran members of Santa Monica's homeless population, who said they were reluctant to approve the settlement. In the lawsuit,



Alex Thebiyatch/Daily Planet

When Santa Monica's homeless population settled their lawsuit against City Hall for \$57 million, some transients went straight for the bling.

the homeless group also had demanded downtown hotels and merchants on the Third Street Promenade give 75 percent discounts to all local transients.

"They can afford it," said Buford Benchwarmer, 59, homeless in Santa Monica for the past 14 years. "I mean, look at all those fancy hotels and all those fancy shops — they're all so fancy."

Meanwhile, shots rang out in the Pico neighborhood.

Residents on Wednesday said they were glad the lawsuit finally settled, and grateful they weren't banned from the park outright.

"I always felt bad jogging past those people sleeping so early in the morning," said Fanny Featherfoot, 29, a market-

ing executive. "I could hear my feet going 'pit pat, pit pat' on the pavement and I knew it must be driving them wild — especially the hungover ones."

The lawsuit was levied in 2002, when the City Council outlawed sleeping in doorways downtown. Homeless advocates argued the ordinance drove the transient population to spend more time in Santa Monica's parks, where they quickly realized they were being subjected to conditions that were uncomfortable, sometimes even unhealthy.

"It's not just about civil rights," said Carrie Somuch, a local lawyer who worked on the lawsuit for a 30 percent contingency fee. "It's about holding City Hall accountable."

surf report

Tropical conditions throughout Santa Monica today, with one caveat — a toxic red tide is approaching and threatens to disfigure everything that enters the ocean.

Otherwise, surf looks good, with perfect overhead barrels breaking at all area point breaks and crowds light. Beach breaks in the bay are rated A+ today for hepatitis and exposure to hypodermic needles. Wind is light.

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

98°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	8:40	1.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SUNDAY	10:25	0.8	N/A	N/A	1:02	4.1	N/A	N/A
MONDAY	11:29	0.4	11:01	3.0	3:01	4.0	7:10	3.4
TUESDAY	12:10	0.1	11:52	2.6	4:33	4.2	7:12	3.7
WEDNESDAY	N/A	N/A	12:42	-0.1	5:32	4.6	7:22	3.9
THURSDAY	12:28	2.0	1:09	-0.3	6:18	4.9	7:37	4.2
FRIDAY	1:03	1.5	1:35	-0.4	6:58	5.1	7:55	4.6

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The Q Line

The history of "April Fool's Day" or "All Fool's Day" is uncertain, but the current thinking is that it began around 1582 in France with the reform of the calendar under Charles IX. The Gregorian Calendar was introduced, and New Year's Day was moved from March 25-April 1 (new year's week) to

Jan. 1.

Because today is a day of pranks and hopefully a good-old-fashioned sense of humor, it's all in the fun. But if you do have comments or concerns about today's content, or are offended, please call the Daily Planet's headquarters at (970) 925-2220.

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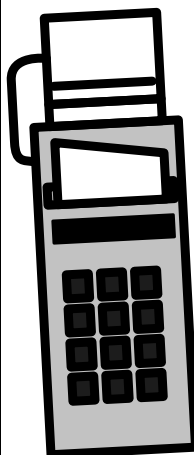


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OPINION

LETTERS

Those buses will kill you

Editor:

You know those liquid natural gas buses the city likes to use? Well here's a news flash, Walter Kronkite — those buses are spewing toxic chemicals all over Santa Monica.

That's right, LNG is great when it's used for fuel but can be toxic when breathed. It makes us light-headed, confused and downright weird. Please, tell the city to stop LNG before it's too late.

Pammy Parannoyed
Santa Monica

How dare you!

Editor:

You call the Daily Planet a newspaper? More like a ruse paper. How dare you publish no real news today — you're a joke. And not even a funny one.

Stephen Stiffleg
Santa Monica

Sexual favors?

Editor:

There is favoritism going on in parking ticket department. My friend told me yesterday that she has gotten out of several tickets after she traded sex for a waive of the fines she had racked up. I mean, really. I know that sex is more powerful than money, but have you seen some of these "meter maids?" I would rather pay triple. It's appalling that the City Council allows this to happen in our fine city.

Clara Conserveme
Santa Monica

Is this for real?

Editor:

I just wanted to share a little joy with our community. I am so proud to be a citizen of Santa Monica. I was just on the Third Street Promenade today and my cup runeth over with happiness. It was so clean and quiet there — not a vagrant in sight. Not once was I approached for money or food, no nutcases screaming at my children or harassing other patrons. No traces of urine in the air, just a beautiful day. I didn't see anyone sifting through the trash or stumbling around drunk. It's so unlike Malibu! As I walked to my car, which was parked right on the street in a meter-free, permit-free area, I couldn't help but bask in the beauty of the sky and mountains. My view was totally unobstructed, just wide open. I love that our schools have nothing to worry about financially, that our City Council is so dedicated to the needs of residents. As I drove back to my \$2500-a-month studio

apartment, I didn't hit any traffic or hear any noise from construction. I was nothing but thankful. Let us all thank the city for being so full of bliss.

Joan Idontexist
Santa Monica

No more palm trees

Editor:

Did you know that all the palm trees in Santa Monica were planted exactly 99 years ago? Well did you know that palm trees only live for 105 years? What's going to happen when all those beautiful palm trees start falling over? What then? Huh?

I propose we cut down the palm trees and plant new ones. If we don't get started soon, Santa Monica may soon be without shade. What kind of a city has no trees? Ridiculous.

Alan Arbotries
Santa Monica

Celebrity scandal

Editor:

I never use the public restrooms downtown, but last night I just had to duck into one after seeing "The Passion of the Christ," because it's so damn long. Anyway, you'll never believe what I saw. There was actress Jamie Lee Shirtless and she was, well, she was orally satisfying Jorge Michael! I swear it's true. I think we need better bathrooms and a little dignity so that all those people can use the can in peace.

Paula Peepers
Santa Monica

Smut-filled newspaper

Editor:

I have been an avid reader of the SMDP for decades, and nothing has ever appalled me more than the cover of March 30th photo! This is a family paper! There are children who could be reading it! Photos of curvy, sexy, saucy Penthouse models soaked in tofu from top to bottom. Tofu in their luscious mouths, cupping their bodies so gently, like a mom would a newborn babe. Tofu slowly working itself underneath their skimpy suits, begging to touch their soft skin and to join as one! I've never been more tempted to burn your paper, and what the heck is PETA?

Your article made no sense to me, or I'm sure any other readers. You are smut-peddling pigs using your powers to corrupt Santa Monica residents, and I'd like you to stop delivering your filth to my doorstep!

Lucas Skyewalkerstein, Jr.
Santa Monica

Santa Monica City Council tries bold new experiment

INCITES

By Ed Silverstein, Steven Glass & Jayson Blair

In a move being closely watched by San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York and other major cities, members of the Santa Monica City Council turned over their jobs to a group of homeless people for a period of 24 hours.

Candidates for the provisional council were selected to represent a cross-section of the homeless population. Chosen were three substance abusers and three individuals with severe mental problems (who weren't existing council members), however attempts to find a person who is homeless due to the lack of a living wage or being forced from their home by an unethical landlord, failed.

Ultimately Charles Springer, a columnist who writes for the Santa Monica Daily Planet and has no evident reason for living on the streets, was chosen. Gray Davis was briefly considered, but was dismissed when it was learned that the former Governor does, in fact, have a home, just no longer in Sacramento or in politics.

In its first order of business, the Homeless Council slashed social services

funding by 40 percent. The Council said this action was justified and necessary because many of the services were ineffective, poorly run, had no system of accountability, thus promoting rather than curing homelessness.

In addition, the council ordered Police Chief Barney Buttocks to suspend all public feedings because, in their words, "The food really sucks." Any organization caught feeding the homeless will be sent to bed without their dinner.

The city legislators declared that the savings from social service programs would be redirected into education budgets recently slashed by the "Education Governor," Darnold Schwarzenegger. It is the council's belief that an improved education system is a far more effective method for keeping people off the streets, than current programs that turn the streets into a Tijuana bed and breakfast.

Santa Monicans Everywhere are Always Right, the ruling party of Santa Monica, blasted the decision. A spokesperson for the group railed against the provisional council for being insensitive to the needs of the homeless population and declared that SMEAR will no longer give any of the new council members loose change to buy drugs or booze.

Meanwhile, shots rang out in the Pico neighborhood.

In other business, the Homeless

Council, after consulting a report written by a Franklyn Elementary school fourth-grader, ordered all traffic calming measures dismantled. The report had concluded that, as any 10 year old can plainly see, the measures had done little more than increase traffic, pollution and driver stress.

In a related decision, the council ordered pedestrian safety islands removed on Wilshire Boulevard and all other Santa Monica thoroughfares. According to Councilwoman Mary Nolasname, "These islands are stupid and a waste of money. Pedestrians, especially around sunset, blend into the palm trees making it hard for drivers to see them. And the tire impacts that blacken every single island is a clear warning that these are a bunch of accidents waiting to happen."

The council also addressed the mounting budget crisis. The grossly over-priced \$70 million new main library was put on indefinite hold as were all projects with price tags of over \$1 million that benefited less than .0001 percent of Santa Monica residents. Among the revenue producing measures passed was the garbage in, garbage out, proposal reinstating advertising on beach trash receptacles. By the end of the session the homeless council had slashed over \$23 million from the budget, added \$12 million to education, cut property taxes, improved the business climate and ended up with a \$5

million rainy day fund with absolutely no discernible loss of services.

In a last minute flurry of activity, the council passed several new ordinances. Smoking will now be banned everywhere in Santa Monica except the high school boy's bathrooms. Citing the failed lawsuit to force banks to lower ATM fees that cost the city \$1 million, the new council elected to spend \$100 per month placing advertisements in Santa Monica papers listing ATM rates of all local banks. These ads will allow customers to choose banks with lowest fees, benefit local businesses and save the city \$998,800 per year in legal fees. And in a final unanimous vote, the council enacted a new ordinance banning locking devices on the wheels of shopping carts.

Public comment was not permitted and the meeting, which began at 7:05 p.m. was adjourned at 7:27 p.m., having covered all items of the provisional council's ambitious agenda.

LATE BREAKING NEWS: In a last minute emergency session, the homeless council, citing poor writing, inane subject matter and boring content, passed a law banning Incites, a weekly column by Ed Silverstein. Sacka Something, editor of the Santa Monica Daily Planet, wrote an editorial supporting the decision and declared that she'd use the savings to buy a new toothbrush. Calls to the author were unreturned.

LOCAL



Nickel-only meters to be installed on every street in SM

(Editor's note: This is the third article in a series examining the multi-million business of parking tickets in Santa Monica.)

BY MORNING WOOD

Daily Planet Slave

In their ongoing quest to fuel city coffers, officials announced this week they will install 24-hour-a-day parking meters on every residential street in Santa Monica.

"Alleys are next," said Linda Loosechange, City Hall's parking boss. "I can't believe nobody thought of this before."

The ambitious plan entails more than 80,000 new parking meters, which will be phased in over the next month before the busy tourist season this summer. Meter rates will be jacked up to \$2 an hour. Only nickels will be accepted.

Manufactured by Walleectomy Inc., an aerospace company, the new meters scan vehicle license plates as a car pulls up and automatically issue a ticket when the meter expires. It also issues tickets for cars that stay longer than one hour in a single spot.

"I don't know what I'm going to do," said Gladys Achinback, 86, who's lived near the beach for 86 years. "When I was a girl, these roads weren't even paved."

Achinback was one of thousands of residents who for years has relied on a preferential parking zone around her home, where only residents can park. Those zones will be abolished as the parking meters are installed over the next month. Meanwhile, shots rang out in the Pico neighborhood.

While the move is expected to cost City Hall more than \$40 million, it will easily pay for itself. Meter revenue is expected to exceed \$10 million a year and tickets will generate an estimated \$60 million to \$80 million each year. But that may not be enough.

Officials said by 2009 they plan to take over all public parks and turn them into metered parking spaces too.

"Soccer fields, jungle gyms, the pond at Douglas Park — these places are just sitting there," Loosechange said Wednesday. "I mean, the city's isn't making one penny from any of them."



Dellime Notakampooter/Daily Planet
Before you can say 'parking ticket,' 24-hour-a-day meters will be on every residential street in Santa Monica. The new meters will only accept nickels.

Compact parking spaces equal discrimination

By Daily Planet slaves

Local residents are sick and tired of the condition of the streets in Santa Monica, and this time, they're taking it to the mayor.

Laura Masters, founder of Santa Monicans Against Narrow Parking Spaces That Don't Accommodate Large Vehicles, says that this problem is clearly an act of discrimination, and that SUV drivers in this community aren't going to take it lying down, literally.

About 40 SMANPSTDALV members stood in Mayor Dickey Boom's path as he tried to enter City Hall 15 minutes after last week's City Council meeting had started.

City Clerk May Kexcuses said Dickenbloom's dentist appointment had been running late. His SMANPSTDALV adversaries, meanwhile, accused him of sneaking off to repaint the parking spots at the Civic Center parking lot, making them even smaller.

"I wouldn't be surprised," Masters said. "The mayor's political dealings have shown us that he is quite sympathetic to cars of the compact variety."

During the public comment section of the council meeting, Masters viciously attacked Dickenbloom for having remnants of a paint-like white substance stuck underneath his fingernails and asphalt on his slacks, saying they were conclusive evidence of his discrimination against large-framed vehicles.

Dickenbloom denied the allegations, saying the dirt under his nails was merely a fluoride treatment.

"I pick at my teeth, so what?" Boom pleaded. "I'm only human."

By that time, Masters' one-second speaking limit had expired. She then enlisted the 1,039 other SMANPSTDALV members, her husband and five children to address the council in support of appointing a task force on the state of large-sized vehicles in the city. The meeting lasted well past 5 a.m. the next morning.

The SUV group's members brought forth a wide variety of issues and appeals.

Parking spots have shrunk by almost 80 percent in the past decade, a SMANPSTDALV independent analysis shows, member Larry Statsman said.

The average spot went from 10 feet wide in 1994 to only 2 feet wide now, Statsman said. Compact parking spots measure only 1 foot wide.

"Only 1 foot? That can't even accommodate me, and I don't have doors or a chassis," Statsman said.

Meanwhile, shots rang out in the Pico neighborhood.

The council needs to establish a parking commission to more fully serve the needs of the car-owning community, said resident Eyehav Avan.

"It's not fair that everybody else gets a commission," Avan said. "I want one too, mommy — I mean mayor."

In a heated exchange, Masters' youngest daughter, 2-year-old Carseet, said the council is being anti-family when it designates parking spots specifically for compact cars.

"Absurd!" responded City Councilman George Heytschids, while petting daschund George Jr., whom he had brought to the meeting in lieu of a child on Bring Your Daughter to Work Day.

Heytschids reminded Carseet that, according to 2000 U.S. Census data, more than half of Santa Monicans lived alone, not in a family. "So I'm not being discriminatory at all, SUV lover."

"If I am an SUV, do I not bleed?" Carseet concluded.



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DID YOU KNOW?:

Today is a good day to pull a prank on your friend ... It's April Fool's Day!

LOCAL

'Uggs' wearer shocked to find she is not in Aspen

BY SOREN BUFFICO
Daily Planet Slave

In the heat of the sun, her sweaty feet dried quickly.

"I had been sipping on hot cocoa and sitting with one leg up, like I'd had a skiing accident and my leg was broken. Then the clouds parted and something just came over me," PEDI SWEATY recalled. "I just had to rip off those Uggs, I just had to."

Gingerly removing her shapeless brown booties, a Santa Monica High School student Wednesday became the first local resident to announce she is a victim of the infamous Style-less Amnesius.

In the few minutes before her lunch break ended, Sweaty, 17, stood in front of an audience of five friends and unceremoniously replaced her \$500 — she bought them on eBay — shearing Uggs with a pair of rubber flip-flops.

Experts call that "something" that came over Sweaty "the sun." In less technical terms, Sweaty's feet were feeling very, very hot.

"At that moment, I looked around me and realized I wasn't sitting in some cushy ski lodge in Aspen," Sweaty said. "I'd forgot that I was in Southern California."

Meanwhile, shots rang out in the Pico neighborhood.

Even while prominent local officials

"I had been sipping on hot cocoa and sitting with one leg up, like I'd had a skiing accident and my leg was broken. Then the clouds parted and something just came over me."

— PEDI SWEATY
Fashion victim

praised her as Santa Monica's very own Magic Johnson or Michael J. Fox, Sweaty said she had made it a personal goal to eradicate the disease from the city by June.

"We can't let women accumulate that much sweat around their ankles and feet, it's appalling," Sweaty said. "Have you seen how prune their toes have become?"

Until about six months ago, Style-less Amnesius was a rare variety of amnesia that left its victims disenchanted with their surroundings, devoid of basic human responses to heat and cold and, most severely, numb to their fashion sense.

Then it hit Southern California. Sociologists say the area is a prime breeding ground for the disease.

"When mummy and daddy are at work, these youngsters with money in their pockets have no one to look to for guidance except horrendous fashion victims like Jessica Simpson," said sociological expert, Santa Monica resident and

"Lambs-wool lined boots, even when matched with a mini-skirt and barely-there tank top, could have lasting repercussions on our female population here in the city," said Dr. Wara Slipper of the Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center. "It's like wearing socks to bed in the summertime — simply uncomfortable and simply inconceivable."

Unless they see "the sun," millions of females ranging in age from pre-teen to post-menopausal will be at risk, Slipper said.

Sweaty, her mind finally situated back in Santa Monica where it belongs, agreed.

"Sand and sun go with sandals. It's common sense," Sweaty said, "Isn't it?"

Public comment gets messy



Sacka Something/Daily Planet

A local college student passes out while sitting outside council chambers at City Hall, waiting for her turn to speak publicly. But because the marathon meeting lasted until 6 a.m., the student fell asleep and sadly wet her pants because she feared that by going to the restroom, she would miss her turn to speak about the lack of parking at school. The council ultimately decided that the school should be torn down and be replaced with a massive, 10,000-space parking garage. Local politicians agreed parking is a much more lucrative and important commodity in Santa Monica than educating a bunch of teenagers with bladder control issues. Meanwhile, shots rang out in the Pico neighborhood.

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LOCAL



'One paycheck away' becomes reality for local population

BY SACKA SOMETHING
Daily Planet Slave

An emergency homeless shelter will open Friday in the exclusive neighborhood north of Montana Avenue to house an influx of down-and-out residents whose luck has suddenly run out.

Nearly 86 percent of Santa Monicans found themselves without a paycheck this month, which left local politicians scrambling to find a way to accommodate them.

"All along we've said that everyone is one paycheck away from being homeless and now it's happened," said City Councilman Ian Toldyouso. "No one thought it would happen to them but reality has delivered a blow to our hard working citizens."

Santa Monicans — of every age, race and socio-economic class — were denied their pay after the CEOs of all the banks in Southern California took off to the islands of Thailand with their cash. Local employers, who were already strapped because of the poor economy and increasing worker's comp costs, were left with no options.

"Hey, it's not our problem if these workers didn't have a savings account or any assets," said Brook Needleme, a local business owner. "Maybe they should have thought about that before they decided to live and work here, it's not like it's a place for the average Joe Shmoe to live comfortably."

A worker, whose name actually is Joe Shmoe, said by the time he paid all of his bills, including his \$5,000-a-month studio apartment, there was hardly any money left to eat or drink with.

"I mean, I come from a good family and have a decent work ethic," he said. "I cannot believe that I now have to turn to a homeless shelter ... oh well on the positive side ... it's the closest I'll ever get to living north of Montana."

Meanwhile, shots rang out in the Pico neighborhood.

The City Council voted in the wee hours of the morning when most of the public was asleep, to build the emergency shelter on Marguerita Avenue. One of the reasons they decided on Marguerita Avenue was because most of the residents in the area were predominately against the living wage measure that was defeated last fall. They reasoned that it's time for that segment of the population to pay for the ills of society, some of which they created.

"They are part of the problem," said City Manager Len Rulethworld. "They can't keep the man down and then expect them to stay off the street forever."

Lifeguard towers are set ablaze



Dellime Notakampteer/Daily Planet

A disgruntled smoker leaps from a lifeguard tower after setting dozens of them on fire in protest against the anti-smoking city he lives in.

By Daily Planet slaves

Fuming over the new smoking ban at the beach, a group of smokers Wednesday night set ablaze all the lifeguard towers in Santa Monica.

"This ban is wrong and we're not going to take it," said Bernie Inmylungs, organizer for Citizens Against Non-representative Community Enforcement Regulations (CANCER). "We're fight-

ing back — how you like us now, City Council?"

CANCER feels there is nothing wrong with smoking. It has pledged to continue wreaking havoc on local beaches until politicians decide to reverse the ban.

What's more, CANCER has pledged to take their arson-based protestations to area parks, bars and restaurants until City Hall changes its ways.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Jesus Christ ... at the movies



BY JESUS H. CHRIST
Son of God

Every day I receive millions of questions from people all over the world asking the same thing: "What would Jesus do?"

That's a fair question. But now that I'm a bonafide movie star I thought I'd come down from heaven and answer another question: "What would Jesus view?"

Here are my quick takes on what's on the silver screen these days.

■ **Starsky & Hutch:** I'm more of a Nancy Drew kind of guy when it comes to mysteries, but this one was still OK. It's funny. It's not Old School/Caddy Shack/Day At

the Races/Blues Brothers-quote-the-lines-from-the-movie-while-you're-drinkin'-beers-with-your-bros-on-the-golf-course funny, but it's funny. At least worth renting on DVD.

■ **Dawn Of The Dead:** I could make this happen so watch out and keep it real.

■ **Jersey Girl:** A Benniffer without a Jennifer is like a conifer without the pine. A fun piece of fluff that should make lots of teenage first date lists.

■ **Scooby-Doo 2:** Poo! I think it's funny how humans go around picking up the poop from their dogs. When I made man and dog that particular eventuality never came to mind. And neither did this movie. Not appropriate for anyone over the age of 10.

■ **Taking Lives:** There are people in this world who are inherently wrong. These people are all going to go to hell and burn for eternity. Those of us who are not one of those people must use our lives to

make sure evil wrongdoers do as little harm on this earth as possible. This is a movie about a serial killer. Watch it and then go out and do some good. Sorry to get preachy — but it is my nature, after all.

■ **Hidalgo:** A horse in the desert, a big sand storm and a true story. Pass the popcorn and keep your feet off the seat in front of you. Love a good horse story. Not as good as Seabiscuit but better than those 'Gus the field-goal-kicking mule' Disney flicks from the '70s.

■ **Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind:** Only you earthlings would think up such a plot. Erasing people's minds because of a tryst gone wrong? What is this? Well, I like the sounds and the sights of this flick, anyway — it kept me entertained.

■ **Passion Of The Christ:** A little gory but I enjoyed it.

— J.C. At The Movies

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Drunken revelation: 'My life sucks'

By Daily Planet slaves

While eating a tuna fish sandwich last week on the site of the new Rand Corp. building downtown, Jim Treble of Van Nuys was overcome by deep pangs of depression, co-workers said.

Treble, 36, who is known for throwing back three or four beers before work and then again at lunch, suddenly freaked out and stormed off the construction site, they added.

"He threw his sandwich down on the ground," co-worker Jerry Bass said, "and screamed, 'I hate tuna fish. Every damn day it's tuna fish and crackers, tuna fish and crackers. Well I hate tuna fish and crackers. And I hate this job. My life sucks.'"

Co-workers said Treble then got up and walked off the site, cursing everyone as he went. Treble has not contacted the project's managers or been back to the site since his Wednesday outpouring. Friends said he is very depressed and drinking heavily. Treble lives alone and makes his own lunches, they added.

Meanwhile, shots rang out in the Pico neighborhood.

The incident is not expected to delay completion of the unique Rand Corp. building sometime in the unforeseeable future, officials said.

New fee for stair climbers

By Daily Planet slaves

The cost of getting a fit in Santa Monica is going up.

City officials approved a 25-cent fee for athletes wanting to run up or down any of the staircases in Santa Monica.

Starting next week, a city staffer will be stationed at the top and bottom of both staircases in the Santa Monica Canyon, as well as the stairs that run from Palisades Park to the beach. The 25-cent fee will be charged for each trip up and each trip down.

"It's about time we found a way to charge those people," said planning director Ursula Underfire. "They were getting all that exercise without paying a dime. This should send a clear message to all of you riding on the bike path and swimming in the ocean — nothing is free in this city. Nothing."

Kiss the sand goodbye

By Daily Planet slaves

Much of the sand on Santa Monica beach was sold to French real estate tycoon Ahmed Agbar Wednesday for \$4.2 billion, officials said.

Agbar said he bought the beach sand from the Santa Monica Pier to the Venice Pier to use in a "wonderland" theme park development on eastern Catalina Island. With the removal of the sand, the ocean will reach the boardwalk at high tide.

Surfers in the area were particularly excited about the project because it was expected to create a "wave paradise." Strong ocean currents created by the removal of the beach sand will ensure a minimum of six-foot swells each day.

Local surfer Pat Donefor said he was ecstatic about the developments.

"The beach was always just a one big sleeper party for the homeless — now we are guaranteed of the best waves in Southern California, every day," he said.

Construction on the project is slated to begin this summer and is expected to last until the end of 2008. A spokesman said oil tankers will carry the sand to Catalina twice weekly.

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Seven-figure 'hood'



Dellme Notakamptooter/Daily Planet

In the neighborhoods North of Montana Avenue, signs like this will be posted all over the 'Yellow Zone,' where families with seven-figure incomes are welcome, but others aren't allowed.

Santa Monica's grit bottled

By Daily Planet Slaves

The "Essence of Santa Monica," a new designer fragrance will be sold for the first time this week in major department stores and fashion boutiques across the country.

When tested on local subjects on the Promenade, many agreed that it smelled like a mixture of back alley urine, sea salt and cigarette smoke with a hint of old trash dumpster, homeless body odor, human feces and bad breath.

Stephen Stylish, an entrepreneur and 30-year resident of downtown Santa Monica, has been working on the fragrance for nearly a decade. Stylish has worked with fragrantologist Jean Franco le Pierre, who has captured the scents of cities like Aspen, Santa Fe and Paris, for several years to perfect the essence of our city for mass production.

According to le Pierre, the new cologne will be for men and women, an idea popularized by Calvin Klein's ONE.

"It is the mixture of the sea, air, wind and city," according to la Peirre. Meanwhile, shots rang out in the Pico neighborhood.

Class Bash hailed a success

Socio-economic classes ready to rumble

BY SACKA SOMETHING

Daily Planet Slave

The fight is on.

Still bitter from their loss last year in the First Annual Class Bash, members from the city's ruling political party, Santa Monicans Everywhere are Always Right, are ready to kick some rich people's asses.

The traditional "West Side Story" style street brawl became a tradition last year in the First Annual Class Bash as a way to continue deepening Santa Monica's already-entrenched divisions.

The Angry Rich, who obliterated SMEAR fighters last year with their weapon of choice — German luxury cars — are poised to keep their title as the mean-

est, toughest and angriest people in town.

"We can't be messed with and you can't bring us down," said Richard Thanyou. "Those sissies tried to fight with their reasoning and words, but we knew it would only take a few tire tracks across their backs to get in their grills."

The Second Annual Class Bash will take place at high noon on Saturday. A flip of the coin decided the battle's location — this year the Angry Rich won and chose the treacherous curves of Adelaide Drive — the desired spot last year but they lost out to SMEAR's choice of Virginia Avenue Park.

Meanwhile, shots rang out in the Pico neighborhood.

This year, SMEAR will try a new tactic.

"We're bringing organic soy milk," said Shara Thelove, a SMEAR fighter. "One taste of that stuff and they'll be shitting their pants."

Little league brawl at park

By Daily Planet slaves

A brawl erupted between two team dads at Los Amigos Park Saturday during a little league baseball match between the Santa Monica Angels and the Santa Monica Orioles.

Nobody was seriously injured in the fist fight, though several youngsters said they "never want to play baseball ever, ever again."

The scuffle started at the end of the eighth inning when a fly ball was ruled caught by the Angels' right fielder. A father dressed in Oriole blue jumped up in the bleachers and ran onto the field and shouted, "He didn't catch it — it bounced. He's cheating."

As the umpire tried to calm the riled father, another dad — wearing a red Angels baseball cap — stormed onto the field.

"A call's a call," the second father shouted. "And you lost it. Why don't you go back to your little spot on the bench and watch your sucky kid lose again."

Meanwhile, shots rang out in the Pico neighborhood.

The Orioles team Dad then took a swing at the Angels father. The two exchanged a series of blows before the stunned youngsters. The midday brawl eventually was stopped by two umpires, but not before the Angels' dad suffered a black eye.

After the Orioles won the game by a score of 2 to 1, the Angels team dad screamed off in his car and shouted, "We'll get you next time, you cheaters."

Republicans who smoke are forbidden to enter SM

MAYOR, from page 1

mayor finished his speech to a silent audience.

"Yeah, that's right, I used to be a Republican," he told the hushed throng. "Now that everyone knows my dirty little secret, perhaps we can all start treating each other as human beings and not just as members of one party or another. I am going to change my mind about this ordinance to ban all Republicans from our beaches and pier and hope all of you do the same."

Meanwhile, shots rang out in the Pico neighborhood.

After the mayor's speech, the floor was open for public comment.

"I saw your breast and I saw your tattoo, Mr. Mayor, and I do not support either," said 81-year-old Santa Monica resident Phyllis Shmegegel. "I came here tonight to support this ban. But after seeing your chest I have had a change of heart. The mayor's breast has taught me to be more tolerant and for that I am eternally grateful to it. God bless your breast Mr. Mayor. God bless your hairy male breast."

"I am a 36-D, all natural, your honor," said 29-year-old Santa Monica resident Ester Puffengrass. "I too thought it was best to ban the Republicans from Santa

Monica. But after seeing what I've seen I've changed my mind. Let the Republicans come. It can't be any worse than what we've seen tonight. It just cannot be."

After three more hours of similar sentiment from the public, the measure to ban all Republicans from Santa Monica's beaches and pier was put to a vote and unanimously defeated. After the vote many in attendance spontaneously took off their shirts in a gesture of support for the mayor.

Boom refused to confirm or deny the rumor that he also had a tattoo of former presidents Reagan, Ford, Bush and Hoover in a Mount Rushmore setting on his right buttock.

"Those men were patriots," he said. "How I choose to honor them, if at all, is my own business."

After the vote and just before the meeting was adjourned the council took two minutes to debate and then pass an ordinance forbidding the entry into Santa Monica of all Republicans who smoke.

"I fully support this ban," Boom said after the meeting. "I may or may not have a cigar tattooed on my person, but until such time as that tattoo is exposed, I will continue to vehemently oppose the inclusion of all Republican smokers in Santa Monica. It simply sets too bad an example

Here's to Corona

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Happy Birthday
Katie Wech
Special to the Daily Planet



LOCAL



Cigarettes cause of bluffs slide

BLUFFS, from page 1

ing," he said. "I know we've taken a lot of heat in the past over these laws, but now the public must realize how ignorant they were in thinking we didn't know what was best for everyone."

Emergency crews responded to the scene within an hour of the natural disaster — due to traffic calming. But when authorities found no one injured, they headed to the next emergency call, knowing it would take at least another hour to get to the Mid-City area where a group of Republicans had assembled and looked suspicious.

"Wilshire Boulevard is a real clusterf---k," said Fire Chief Saul Thehorn. "But in the name of having traffic calm in our progressive city, our response time is secondary."

Osama bin Laden captured in SM

BY SACKA SOMETHING

Daily Planet Slave

Public enemy No. 1 — Osama bin Laden — was captured by Santa Monica authorities last night, after he emerged from the rubble of Palisades Bluffs.

bin Laden, who had been living amongst the homeless population in an intricate tunnel system in the cliffs above PCH, miraculously survived the collapse. The terrorist was found sprawled out on the shoulder of the PCH, screaming, "Mama, mama." Visibly shaken and stirred, bin Laden was immediately taken to a padded cell in the \$500 million new Santa Monica Jail.

"After we checked him for cooties and cavities, we threw him in a straightjacket," said Police Chief Barry Buttocks. "Once again, we got our man ... It took special forces to get Saddam and our little police department by the sea nabbed Osama single handily."

Meanwhile, shots rang out in the Pico neighborhood. Apparently bin Laden had been living in the bluffs for a year and was protected under the watchful eye of Santa Monica's most notorious homeless people. They maintained 24-hour watches, fed him from the food lines above them at Palisades Park and bathed him under the cover of darkness at the beach.

A source close to the capture said a group of cracked-out Afghanistan vagrants, addicted to opium, had been flown to Santa Monica after the U.S. invaded their country. Santa Monica, widely known as the dumping ground for transients from governments all over the country, is now recognized as the official place to put displaced people. City Hall has been apparently accepting money for bums from all over the world since the U.S. first invaded the Middle East.

"Look, we are humanitarians here and every single soul on this planet is our brother," said City Councilman Boris Bleedingheart. "I don't care if they are terrorists, or your former first grade teacher, somewhere they lost their way and I couldn't sleep at night if I knew we weren't doing everything we could to help them back into society."

bin Laden had created miles of tunnels that led to hundreds of caves. As authorities sifted through the rubble that once towered above PCH, remnants of Bin Laden's life here became clearer. It appears he had a penchant for Cracker Jacks — as dozens of cases were found in select locations. Next to those were hundreds of pictures of virgins and a life-size mannequin of Kobe Bryant.

"It appears that all of what he claims was wrong with America, this Cracker Jack worshipped," said Ronald Dumsfeld, head of the country's War on Terror. "We had heard chatter that he was holed up in some liberal place where they wouldn't notice him because they had other important things to deal with. We were close to finding him, but then Mother Nature stepped in. God works in mysterious ways."

Meanwhile, local politicians were planning an elaborate celebration to congratulate themselves for the capture.

"If we don't pat ourselves on the back, no one will," said City Councilmember Al Aboutme, who was touching up his makeup for his next T.V. interview. "Santa Monica once again is on the map. Bring on the news crews."

Cleanliness is Godliness



Sacka Something/Daily Planet

After years of being accused of not providing enough public bathing facilities, local politicians have opened the Freako storm drain to citizens. One local citizen, pictured above, took advantage of the new public pool last weekend. She reported that while it was refreshing, she actually smelled better before she went in. Officials in the public works department said they are still working out the "kinks" in the filter system.

Food lines get A+ with health department

BY BOSS FURRYCOW

Daily Planet Slave

The feeding lines at Palisades park, under recent pressure from the city to clean up its cleanliness, received an "A" grade from the LA county department of health.

Beverly Hills Church organizers and well-doers were ecstatic about the food line rating.

"We try hard to keep this process humane, you know, for the good Christians out there," said Not N. Mybackyard, a Beverly Hills resident and activist.

Joe Schmucker of Pacific Palisades said that his feeding line is cleaner than most local kitchens.

"Why should these folks have to deal with dirty eating environments?" said Schmucker. "If we don't take care of them properly here, they might make their way to the Palisades, so we play by the rules."

Schmucker was recently awarded a local humanitarian award for "beautification of the community parks" by the Pacific Palisades Homeowners Association for his feeding efforts in Santa Monica.

Meanwhile, shots rang out in the Pico neighborhood. Until recently, the food lines were not regulated by any government, until last year when the Santa Monica City Council decided to pass an ordinance to regulate the food lines in an effort to create a "safe and sanitary" eating environment for the area's homeless.

While most of the feeding lines feature light appetizers (chilled) and usually a warm main course, it's been the dessert tray that has been creating problems for most of the recipients accepting free meals in the park. Last week, three homeless residents reported upset stomachs from the raspberry crème brulee that was not properly refrigerated for more than 30 minutes.

"This is inhumane" said Stoopid Steve, an area homeless resident that has eaten at the park every day since the Reagan administration was in office. "I was to the point of nearly throwing up after that damn dessert. Plus, we have had four days straight of raspberry crème brulee. We're humans, you know."

Some of the warm appetizers that are served nightly

are also suspect.

Another homeless person named Clever Trevor claimed that he got sick from the seared foie gras from the week before.

"I was throwing up violently for hours," said Trevor. "It could have been from the 12 pack of malt liquor, the bottle of Nyquil or the three painkillers I took that night, but I am pretty sure the apple reduction in the foie gras was bad."

Zagat, a well-known restaurant review publication plans to determine whether the feeding lines will be rated in the 2005 Los Angeles Restaurant Guide based on how many reviews are submitted on its website.

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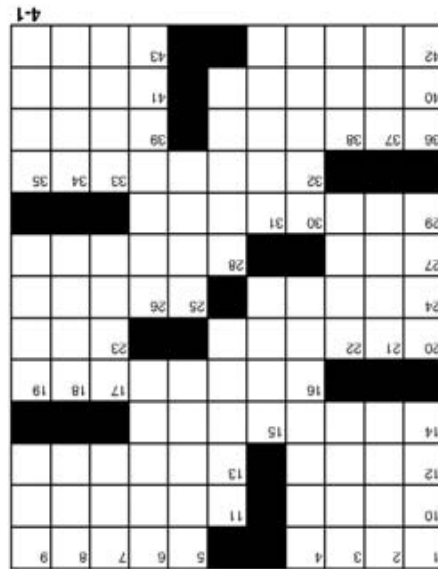
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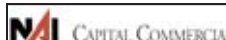
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Obituaries

LOIS ODLE, age 84, died on
January 14 in Portland, Oregon.
She was born in Pittsburgh on
March 4, 1919. She received a
B.A. in Music from Carnegie
Mellon University when she was
19. Her husband Sydney Nash-
ner died in 1955, and she
raised her three children
Marjorie, Lewis, and Robert. At
the age of 50 she earned a
Master's degree in Public
Administration at UCLA and
worked as a Human Relations
Management Consultant. She
was an accomplished concert
pianist and performed at
chamber music and other
recitals in Los Angeles and
Santa Monica, where she lived
for 30 years with her partner
Kark Kreuter. She leaves her
three children, her sisters Sylvia
Lilley and Jeanne Perlman, two
grandchildren and two great-
grandchildren.

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HAPPY APRIL FOOL'S DAY

Pulitzer awarded to Santa Monica Daily Planet

BY MORNING WOOD

Daily Planet Slave

The Santa Monica Daily Planet has been awarded the Pulitzer Prize for an article detailing the covert connection between Al Qaida terrorists, ousted Iraq leader Saddam Hussein, the local ruling party Santa Monicans Everywhere are Always Right and fluoridated water.

It took a team of 25 embedded reporters more than six years to ferret out the illicit relationship, which for years had escaped all the major news outlets in the United States — and the rest of the world.

"It was worth it," said Daily Planet editor Sacka Something. "It's like I always say — quality over quantity. Plus, we're a start-up and we needed to make a name for ourselves. Money wasn't an issue."

Working out of bureaus in Washington, D.C., Baghdad, Kabul and on The Third Street Promenade, the team of Daily Planet reporters pieced together what was described

as a "dumbfounding network of payoffs, camouflage and corruption that threatened to euthanize democracy."

"It was worth it. It's like I always say — quality over quantity. Plus, we're a start-up and we needed to make a name for ourselves. Money wasn't an issue."

— SACKA SOMETHING

Daily Planet editor

"I've never seen anything like it," said Pulitzer judge Eywerk Fortimewarner. "They tried to disqualify the

Daily Planet. They said the Daily Planet wasn't a 'real paper.' Well I'll tell you what — this may be the finest example of reporting in the modern world, other than Oprah Magazine."

Meanwhile, shots rang out in the Pico neighborhood.

This is the first Pulitzer Prize for the fledgling paper, which is one of the few independently owned daily newspapers in the country. Previously, it had been nominated for its "earth-shattering" coverage of the local school district finances, and its "groundbreaking expose" of items on the consent agenda of meetings of the Santa Monica City Council.

The Daily Planet also was a runner up in the category of flawless production, for putting out a paper devoid of any typos each dy.

"We get calls, e-mails, faxes from our readers all the time," Daily Planet editors said. "People are just amazed at how mistake-free our paper is. They've never seen anything like it."

Chain stores fold to local 'mom and pop' merchants

BY SACKA SOMETHING

Daily Planet Slave

More than a dozen mega chains — including P.C. Fangs and Smottery Barn — announced this week that they are closing their doors, saying the business climate has forced them out of Santa Monica.

"We just couldn't compete with the local mom-and-pop shops," said Sue Sellout, a flack for Smottery Barn. "I can't believe it, Santa Monica is so anti-chain store. We just didn't see it in our business plan at all."

Long heralded as being different than most of Los Angeles, Santa Monica has prided itself on staying as unique and indi-

vidualistic as possible.

"We have fought long and hard to make sure locals get what they need," said Derek Wingnut, the city's economic development advisor. "I knew all along that trying to control the market by regulating how many chain stores versus local businesses there were here would be a moot point. I mean, let the consumers decide for themselves."

Local leaders added that the chain stores served their purpose, but are now a thing of the past.

"They were worth the money we made them pay to set up shop here and lord knows we needed their sales tax dollars, but they

are clearly on their way out," said Mayor Dickey Boom. "They served a purpose but now it's time to get back to our roots."

Meanwhile, shots rang out in the Pico neighborhood.

City Hall is offering a \$1,000 cash bonus to any local resident who wants to set up shop here. Expecting an exodus of chain stores in the upcoming months, City Hall officials are worried there will be plenty of empty space to be filled.

"Nice," said Higherme Fornothin, a local waiter who is thinking about opening a supply store for Sherpas. "If I can get a grand out of City Hall just for open-

ing a business in Santa Monica, then I am living the American dream, man."

With the increasing rent costs for a storefront on the Third Street Promenade, large chain store complain they just can't compete with the deep pockets of "mom and pop" shops.

"I don't care how many spring rolls we sell, there was no way we could compete with Folly's Cries across the street," said P.C. Fangs flak Amanda America. "They had the high-tipping senior citizen market cornered. People in Santa Monica want substandard food, then so be it. Clearly we had this market all wrong."

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