

Santa Monica Daily Planet

Printed on paper cut from old growth forests

Beaches closed to public

BY SACKASOMETHING

Daily Planet Slave

SM BEACH — Three surfers were attacked on Thursday by an unknown ocean species just off the coast of a local surfing spot known as "P Block," leaving two local men hospitalized and local officials up in arms.

The mysterious maneater, now believed trapped in a network of buoy cages between the Santa Monica Pier and Ocean Park Boulevard is proving to be an enigma to the team of oceanographers flown in from across the country to identify the species. One theory floated has been that the unusual species may have been spawned from the tsunami that befell southern Asia late last year.

All Santa Monica beaches have been closed indefinitely.

"It really couldn't come at a worse time," said Scott Scheider, a Santa Monica lifeguard. "With the Santa Ana winds moving in, the beaches were gonna be stacked."

Meanwhile, the Santa Monica Harbor

See **MANEATER**, page 11



Alejandro Cesar Oh Why Bother II/Daily Planet Slave
Belgian tourist Mikael Shrevned writhes in pain on the beach shortly after being dragged in from the water. Shrevned was hospitalized after suffering multiple bites from an unknown species.

Parking tickets to take a hike

BY RIDIN' HIGH

Daily Planet Slave

A move to double parking fines has Santa Monica residents on red alert.

The Santa Monica City Council will be discussing a measure at Tuesday's meeting to double parking fines and multiply late payment fees, a city staff report said.

City officials said the move is intended to shore up funds for a \$90 million downtown parking overhaul plan, yet to be financed by City Hall. The move has been credited to City Councilman Bobby Coniver.

If approved, parking tickets will be increased from \$47 to \$94, which has outraged some Santa Monica residents who've said they already are heavily penalized by citywide parking constraints. In addition, motorists who fail to pay their parking tickets on time will be charged up to \$25,000 for every day they are late.

"I have experience with this thing," Coniver said. "I know what it's like to face a \$25,000 a day fine. A parking plan like that will really motivate you to get you out of your car, you know?"

The city report said revenues from the increases would provide Santa Monica with an additional \$50 million in the next five years to develop the city's transportation plan.

However, some city insiders said in off-the-record interviews that the real pur-

See **PARK IT**, page 6



Alejandro Cesar Oh Why Bother II/Daily Planet Slave/Daily Planet Slave
Some of the more than 10,000 migratory rats who descended on Santa Monica this week overrun part of the Third Street Promenade. Residents are urged to seal openings to their homes.

Rat Pack plays Santa Monica: City sustains rodent infestation

BY SACKASOMETHING

Daily Planet Slave

Rats have migrated to Santa Monica.

The Los Angeles County Department of Health yesterday issued a warning to all residents: stay indoors and seal all openings to the outside.

Due to recent rains, the large rodents — who predominately live in the mountains — have retreated to the coastal area.

All of downtown was overrun with more than 10,000 rats and mice on Wednesday night.

"I was sleeping on a bench and it was pitch black and I all could hear was this loud scurrying," said Seth Seatwarmer. "I flicked my lighter on and I couldn't believe what I saw — they were crawling

all over me and my stuff as they were marching down Ocean Avenue."

Fumigators trucked in 18-wheelers full of rat poison that was to be sprayed at dawn, hoping that would wipe out the spreading population. The National Guard is setting up a 20-foot-tall perimeter at the city's boundaries to prevent more rats from entering. The exterior side will be covered in oversized custom-made rat traps — a move that was credited to City Councilman Bobby Coniver.

If that doesn't work, he said he's got connections to Peter Piper, who lives somewhere in Europe.

"I'll fly him out at my own expense if I have to," Coniver said. "I didn't move to

See **OH, RATS**, page 7

Jacquie Banks

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You're such a loser, Gem

Santa Monica Daily Press

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



- Aries (21 March - 19 April)**
★ Unrelated incidents may cherry bobsleigh rambunctious you today. Blimey, you ain't harf as wot you used to, ain't it?
- Taurus (20 April - 20 May)**
★★ The heavens are unpredictable for laymen, yet I am truly the seer or seers. Bow before me and tremble in fear that my wrath may cause you stubbed-toes.
- Gemini (21 May - 21 June)**
★ You may develop a sudden interest in the backs of things today.
- Cancer (22 June - 22 July)**
★★ Only with your amazing skills were you able to find this horoscope, and for that you will be rewarded with only good news. When the morning is done, you will have your sweet reward.
- Leo (23 July - 22 August)**
★★ Reality TV shows are not crying out for someone like yourself. You are not photogenic and could probably do with setting your sights much lower. You think "pink", but you buy "blue". This is why you're confused a lot of the time. Bowie is like you are: gentele, robust, always ready to pop back in the charts by providing backing vocals to pretty much any old schmuck. The similarities between you and Bowie are pretty much endless.
- Virgo (23 August - 22 September)**
★ Love makes the world go round, and peaches make a very nice accompaniment to sweetcorn.

- Libra (23 September - 23 October)**
★ Just desserts is a damn good name for a dessert company. Which is why approximately 90 firms are currently trading under that name. Chunks of meat will plague you today...or give you the plague. The mystics are being terribly vague on this one.
- Scorpio (24 October - 21 November)**
★ Bevels. You like bevels - both the word, and the effect. However, the bevel may cause you distress today as it takes away your dignity in some random manner. Any joke you have to seriously think about today is not worth 'getting'.
- Sagittarius (22 November - 21 December)**
★★ Even in the darkest places you can find yourself - although you may break your nose on a door.
- Capricorn (22 December - 19 January)**
★ Your selfish ways will not improve this week as you win a sizeable jackpot on the lottery.
- Aquarius (20 January - 18 February)**
★★ If you think it's my job to tell you good news, you're wrong pal. You're going down! The Americanisation of many words often gets you angry. However, don't get upset about such trivial things - it is evolution of a sort and doesn't actually affect you in the slightest. Color center.
- Pisces (19 February - 20 March)**
★ A lot of your work will be undone today as someone evil and vicious sets about making your life less nice. You will be glad of a loved one's ability to almost painlessly remove splinters from your backside.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL



Photo Courtesy

In a surprise attack, Republicans storm the beach to wrest away control of Santa Monica.

The elephants have landed!

BY RIDIN' HIGH

Daily Planet Slave

DOWNTOWN - Republicans from across the nation stormed the beaches of Santa Monica on Wednesday in a move to redistribute political power on the West Coast.

The United States Army 182nd Airborne Division and other military forces began an amphibious assault on the Santa Monica shore shortly after sunrise on March 31, 2005, putting in motion a military campaign sources said the Bush Administration has been planning secretly since the controversial invasion of Iraq,

more than two years ago.

Executive order GW05Yey! went into effect yesterday, authorizing U.S. military forces to secure California coastal cities inhabited mostly by Democrats. Called Operation Red Dawn, Republican leaders backed by the Air Force, Army, Marines and Navy have begun repatriating large numbers of Republican party loyalists onto the West Coast to oppose those who oppose the occupation of Iraq, President George W. Bush said yesterday during a press regularly-held press conference in

See RED DAWN, page 15



SURF REPORT

Surfers, swimmers and beachgoers beware: Some sort of gnarly, unidentified seagoing creature is on the prowl in the bay. It maimed one surfer Thursday and scared the stoke out of another, and authorities don't know what it is or where it's from. Still, the water, and the weather, is warming up, the swell is double overhead, and the real hardcore P-Block surfers won't be deterred. At least not any more than when poop floaties are bobbing about in the lineup after any rainstorm.

Today the water is:

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	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	3:14	0.3	3:14	0.4	9:16	4.9	9:27	5.5
SUNDAY	3:52	0.1	3:36	0.9	9:55	4.5	9:52	5.6
MONDAY	4:34	0.0	3:58	1.3	10:38	4.0	10:20	5.7
TUESDAY	5:23	0.0	4:20	1.8	11:33	3.4	10:54	5.6
WEDNESDAY	6:26	0.1	4:40	2.3	12:54	2.9	11:39	5.4
THURSDAY	7:51	0.2	4:24	2.7	4:06	2.7	N/A	N/A
FRIDAY	8:17	0.3	5:02	2.4	1:22	2.6	1:47	5.8

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The Q Line

The history of "April Fool's Day" or "All Fools 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 special projects manager at (970) 948-5642. Ask for "Newlon."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jacko will fit right in

Editor:

I was very perturbed to hear Thursday that the Michael Jackson trial is moving from Santa Maria to the Santa Monica courthouse starting next week. Just because the jury couldn't hack it up in Santa Barbara County doesn't mean the pop-star circus should head our way. I just pray I'm not chosen for jury duty.

Ellen Swellin
Santa Monica

Maybe we should live at school

Editor:

I am shocked to hear Santa Monica College is opening a satellite campus in June at the airport.

It seems like the college gets a green light on all of its expansion projects. Meanwhile, I've been trying to get a permit from the city to build an addition to my master bedroom for the last 10 years.

What's going on?

Steve Seething
Sunset Park

For what it's worth

Editor:

Can you spare some change? Maybe just a buck so I can get something to eat? I've been a little down on my luck since the dotcom bubble burst, you know? My wife left me. Took my house, my kids and my ferret. I need an operation and a new accordion. I'm also deaf. And maybe blind. Did I mention I'm a veteran? God bless.

Dan Handler
Third Street Promenade

Chiefly speaking, cops look nice in blue

Editor:

What's with the crime rate in the Pico Hood? Why can't the police do anything? I live North of Montana so it doesn't affect me at all, but I just want to be up in arms about the whole shebang anyways. Well the cops can't all be to blame, they look great in uniform. What I wouldn't to give the chief some pubic input myself.

Fredericko Schultz
Santa Monica

From one alley cat to another

Editor:

Why yall folkz be buggin about the stench of homeless catz up in the city of SM. "Run the homeless out!! The alleyz smell." Hell yeah the alleyz smell!!! They're alleyz hellooo???? Atleast yall can walk down alleyz in Santa Monica. \$10 to the next brave yuppie that would walk an alley off Avalon and Watts.

Reverend Al Dullton
Santa Monica

Let's keep it brief, and wrap it up, and concise, and ...

Editor:

Why the bloody hell are your briefs so damn unbrief? I only have but a few snippets in my day to read what's going on in my community, but noooooooo, it's like reading Tolstoy, your damn briefs are. I saw a business brief that spanned four pages. Get your act together. It makes no sense. Your editor must be so non-sequitor.

Robert Bentley
Santa Monica

Hold me closer, tiny dancer

Editor:

My sister is getting married in a couple of weeks and I, being the maid of honor, agreed to book exotic dancers for her bachelorette party. As I was browsing through the yellow pages, I discovered The Midges "little people" exotic dancing. I thought it was so hilarious and so I decided to play a prank to all the guys attending the party by booking a "little person."

I requested two male dancers for Saturday, March 26, 2005. To my surprise, Verne Troyer, AKA Mini-Me from Austin Powers shows up as one of the dancers. I was so shocked. I thought this guy was a huge little celebrity in Hollywood. As it turns out, he filed bankruptcy because he could not find work in Hollywood. He claimed that after Austin Powers he was tagged as a midget and he was overlooked for serious roles. As it turns out, he took dancing as a way to make fast money. Is there any way we can help this poor midget?

Consuelo de Guadalupe Jones
Santa Monica

Council meeting little more than child's play



OUR TOWN

BY ELEANOR WINTERER

My daddy had to go away for a while so I'll be writing "Our Town" this week.

It all started when Dad revealed in this column his resolutions for the New Year: to spend less time listening to Pacifica Radio and more time trimming the hair that sprouts out of his ears. The first part was easy, especially when he discovered what a hottie Ann Coulter is. But the ear hair trimming soon grew into an insatiable obsession with personal grooming. My mother started to worry when she saw all the bills for nail salons.

To make a long story short, last week Dad locked himself in the bathroom with Mom's Lady Epi, a gross of teeth whitening strips and a year's worth of "GQ" magazines. It took two fireman and a pry bar to help us with the intervention and now Dad's in rehab at the Beau Brummell Metrosexuality Clinic in Barstow. He'll be back soon and hopefully the slovenly schlub he used to be. But if you see him, do me a favor: Don't say anything about the large goiter on his neck. That's where the trouble began.

Before he left, Dad asked me to write his column and I figured, why not? It's easy to complain about everything without solving anything. I do it all the time in my blog about that mauve menace Barney.

So looking for something to kvetch about, I went to a City Council meeting. I'd seen them before, as when I was a colicky newborn my father used to hold me in his arms in front of the CityTV broadcasts. The steady drone of our elected leaders debating the finer points of a squirrel feeding ordinance would inevitably soothe me back to sleep.

So I thought I knew what to expect: More of Herbed Krust opining against excessive development and soon I'd be sawing logs in the back row. Things didn't turn out quite that way.

Council meetings start at 5:45 p.m. and usually go on into the wee hours of the night. I was a little late and got there just after 6. Much to my surprise, Mayor Ham O'Thronner ended the session shortly thereafter. Apparently the only agenda item was an ordinance regulating gum chewing in day spas, a move that has been credited to Councilman Bobby Coniver. But as Mayor O'Thronner later told me, "We realized it was none of our business." Mayor O'Thronner announced that

the next City Council meeting would be in September, as there was no pressing business to consider until then.

The council members were all in good spirits (you would be too if you got dental insurance for only two meetings a year) and, since I'll be eligible to vote in 2023, they all took the time to debrief me on the latest turn in civic affairs. Apparently the changes began when Benzy Drane, the eminence grise of Santa Monicans for Righteousness and Rules, had an epiphany in Trader Hoe's: "The world's going to hell in a handcart anyway, so why waste our time trying to change it?"

But not in Santa Monica.

"I don't have any information but I can tell you that everything is peachy in this city by the sea," said City Hall public information officer Trudy Ramblinon.

Bub Halebloke explained that the council had recently downzoned all lots in the city to one story, with height bonuses for green buildings and for affordable housing and service establishments. No more huge developments means traffic and parking won't get any worse.

"Then we cut the zoning ordinance and municipal code down to two pages apiece and contracted a lot of city services out to private enterprise," revealed Zen Bender.

"Now we don't need nearly so many people working at City Hall, so we used the money to make sure our schools are the best in the nation and house the homeless in all that extra office space," divulged Coniver.

"And here's the kicker," said Ricardo B. Loom with a devilish grin. "We enrolled all the homeless at Santa Monica College to keep them off the streets during the day. The college has been a pain in the ass since day one, so let them deal with those troublemakers."

"We've solved all our problems so the burgers are on me," exclaimed Craven McNuggets, passing around a platter of In-N-Out's finest. "Eat meat three times a day and you'll live to be 90, I always say. And don't worry about all that packaging. We've got plenty of landfill space."

Our town's future looks pretty bright to me, so I don't know what Dad will grouse about when he gets back. Probably the weather.

In the meantime, now that I'm fully vested in the Daily Planet's generous pension plan, I'm done writing for this rag. I'm nobody's fool.

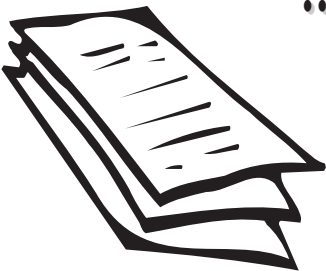
(Eleanor Winterer is 3 years old and far too busy to respond to e-mails and phone calls from a bunch of malcontents without lives, so don't even bother trying to contact her.)

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Santa Monica Daily Press



Camelot ushers in to Santa Monica's rescue

BY SACKASOMETHING
Daily Planet Slave

Realizing he's over his head, City Councilman Bobby Coniver has called in the cavalry.

Calls were placed to Kennedybuckport this week in a last ditch plea from Coniver to come help bail him out of the political nightmare he's been living since he took office in December.

"I thought I was going to be able to make a difference here but then I realized that I've become one of them," Coniver said from his new home in the Pico neighborhood, where he's been trying to cleanse the troubled area for the past month. "Politics sure isn't what I thought it was going to be, I should have listened to Uncle Teddy."

On Thursday morning, Arnold, Teddy, Maria, Bobby Jr. and Caroline were seen riding into town on white horses, waiving the American flag and chanting "One for all and all for one!"

Political observers were wary of Coniver's ability to make a difference early on in the campaign.

"A name will only get you so far but I figured with his connections, it won't matter," said longtime political activist Inew Iwasright. "And now I know my assumptions were correct."

Sources close to the family said they'll shack up at old Marion Davies Estate on the beach, where Coniver was able to convince the state government to spend its last few hundred million to redevelop it into a castle.

"It's fit for royalty now," said city historian Reece Memberme. "It's fitting that that mansion be used by all generations of America's royal family. Nobody else deserves it but them."

City officials and residents weren't surprised by the move.

"Ever since he was elected four months ago, Coniver has shown signs of wear and tear," said Santa Monica Ditzzy Speared. "But if there is one thing he has done for me, Coniver made me care about the petty and trivial things this city is all about. Before, all I cared about was strutting my stuff for the paparazzi in Palisades Park and my stupid little dog."

Despite the political rescue, everything still appears to be fine in Santa Monica.

"I don't have any information about that but I can tell you that everything is peachy in this city by the sea," said City Hall public information officer Trudy Ramblinon.

The first order of business for Camelot will be to protect Coniver from the harsh realities of the political arena. He will be shielded from public comment, criticism from his colleagues and granted immunity from any ill-conceived decisions he's made thus far.

"Clearly, he didn't know what he was doing and that's probably my fault for not spending more time with him, grooming him for office," Uncle Teddy said while sipping a martini from the rooftop deck of his newly acquired mansion, where his brother once frolicked decades ago.

For years Camelot had been Coniver's ultimate reprieve, a tapestry of resources



Photo courtesy
RFK Jr., Teddy and Arnie posed for portraits after they rode into Santa Monica to save the day.

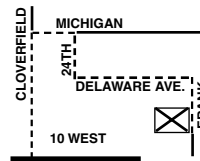
and fond memories when could look back on a time that was before his trouble with hedges.

The second priority for Coniver is tutoring the newbie on basic PR 101.

"Never refer to an idea, agenda item or citizen as a 'thing,'" Coniver's tutor said as they drank Zimas on Camelot's balcony and played Uno.

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WANT TO TICKLE YOUR FUNNY BONE?
CHECK OUT THE COMICS ON PAGE 16!

LOCAL



Rand study finds no problems in Santa Monica

BY QUIRKY FEELING

A special slave to the Daily Planet

After five years of extensive research, the Rand Corp. announced Thursday that rampant homelessness and gridlocked traffic are actually not problems in Santa Monica after all.

In a newly-released, 16-volume study featuring more than 20,000 pages of highly-technical language, the think tank concluded the effects of both issues are “minimal at best” and “a drop in the bucket when you really think about what is going on in the world.”

Although just elected to the City Council in 2004, first-term Councilman Bobby Coniver was credited for commissioning the five-year study.

Compiled by a team of 200 analysts, researchers and engineers, the study surveyed what residents perceived to be problems in the city and compared them to issues Rand employees determined Santa Monicans should actually be worried about.

While homelessness and traffic topped the residents’ list of perceived troubles, the issues ranked a meager 204 and 205 on Rand’s 206-point list of actual problems, the study showed.

Only a severed finger found in Wendy’s chili was considered less of a threat to Santa Monica’s population.

Contents of the report revealed that Santa Monica is not only perfectly equipped to handle its homeless popu-

lation, it should also be recruiting vagrants from surrounding areas.

While the city has a homeless population 75 percent larger than any other area in the county, it also has the highest percentage of dumpsters — more than enough to accommodate the large load of homeless within the city.

The current dumpster to homeless ratio is 15 to 1, said Rand researcher Ian Eagor. That ratio could increase to almost 40 to 1, he said, before area dumpsters became so crowded they would begin begging for food at a rate which would force residents and tourists to experience any unreasonable feelings of guilt and annoyance.

The study also found sustaining a sizable homeless and vagrant population to be vital to the mental health of the Santa Monica’s taxpaying residents.

According to Rand scientist Mark Frak, viewing the less fortunate is an excellent daily reminder for the upper-middle class of just how successful they are.

Santa Monica resident and real estate broker Douglas Dirlpimp agrees.

“Some days when my Blackberry is running low on batteries and my kid’s Guadalupe nanny calls to say she can’t go to my son’s little league game because she’s having cataracts surgery, it’s nice to see there are people

in this world a lot worse off than myself,” he said. “It’s refreshing.”

Past Rand studies have concluded that cities with the lowest percentage of homelessness nationwide also have the highest depression levels.

“Everyone in Santa Monica is extremely happy,” said Rand researcher Mary Lamb.

As for other non-issues in Santa Monica, Rand found that the city’s traffic is flowing along nicely.

Rand surveyor Evan Doolittle charted Santa Monica’s traffic every day for a year, and said it was not atypical to see cars flying by at 28 mph. In the state of California, traffic is not considered a problem until it slows to 6 mph, he said. At this rate, Santa Monica will not reach any real gridlock for at least three years, “and by that time research shows us most of the current population will have moved to Arizona,” he said.

The study results were bittersweet for 35-year veteran Rand researcher Hurbert Wizard.

“After half a decade of studying the city’s biggest problems, we have found that they aren’t problems at all,” he said. “Obviously, this is good news for the city but kind of distressing within for us because we just spent five years on this for nothing.”

Rats may feel love in air

OH, RATS, from page 1

Santa Monica to live amongst rats.

“One of the most important things I have learned since I entered local politics is that the fundamental underpinning of this city is to live by the language in its city charter: ‘Santa Monica is a happy place for happy people.’ People aren’t happy with rats.”

Despite that Santa Monica is shut down and infested with rats, everything appears to be fine.

“I don’t have any information on that but I can tell you that everything is peachy in this city by the sea,” said City Hall’s public information officer Trudy Ramblinon.

There is a certain amount of urgency to the problem, as city officials are concerned that if the rats stay here too long, they might begin mating with the massive squirrel population that lives on the Palisades Bluffs.

“Can you imagine what would happen?” asked City Councilman Devon McQueen. “I have been trying to get rid of those damn squirrels for years, even with a local law which was battled out at the Supreme Court for millions of dollars of taxpayer money, and now this.”

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LOCAL

Johnnie Cocky's last confession

BY RIDIN' HIGH

Daily Planet Slave

The truth is out about O.J. Apparently, he did do it. It was discovered just yesterday that charismatic Los Angeles attorney Johnnie Cocky left a diary page open on his nightstand. On a small corner of a page, there were phrases such as "If the glove fits, he sits" and "If you convict, I'll sleep at night." Upon further examination, those phrases apparently were alternatives to Cocky's chosen courtroom slogan, "If the glove doesn't fit, you must acquit."

Cocky used the diary to write his secret feelings of the drama that unfolded in what's been dubbed the "trial of the century."

When he died this week, his personal effects were

gathered and shared with the public, which was at his request — but the idea came from City Councilman Bobby Coniver. The diary had "O.J. did it" scribbled inside.

Cocky, who died of a brain tumor on Tuesday, defended O.J. Samsung in the '90s, a retired football player accused of the murder of his wife.

Samsung was legally vindicated, although discovery of the diary may re-open a case authorities once considered settled.

Cocky also disclosed secrets he evidently wanted to share with the public, such as his gold suit was his favorite — and he preferred chicken over steak.

Samsung had no comment about the diary, except to say he shot a 74 at the Breakers in Palm Beach the other day.

Newspaper gets award for barking up the right tree

By Daily Planet slaves

The Santa Monica Daily Planet was recently honored for its environmental practices, specifically for using paper from the Sequoia National Forest.

More than 100,000 people showed up to City Hall's Environmental Quality Awards Extravaganza last week to learn exactly what it takes for a business to rape the planet and be recognized for it.

"We have never bought into this sustainability thing and recycling is a waste of time and money," said SMDP publisher Boss Furrycow. "I'm so honored but even more importantly, I am so proud of this city for its cutting edge philosophies on using gross amounts of resources — it's the right thing to do, in terms of being business friendly."

Hoping to enlarge its environmental footprint, the city of Santa Monica is encouraging all businesses to employ measures that will produce the most waste and use the most resources.

Despite that such practices may be harmful to the quality of life here, city officials maintain that everything is fine.

"I don't have any information about that but I can tell you that everything is peachy in this city by the sea," said City Hall's public information officer Trudy Ramblinon.

Once the redwoods are cut down and the Daily Planet continues to expand, it will venture out into the Rainforest and the backwoods of Kentucky. When the Daily Planet gets really desperate, it will use the branches from the city's hedges — a suggestion made by City Councilman Bobby Coniver, whose idea it was.

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LOCAL



Liquor store owners lap up profits from homeless settlement with City Hall

BY SACKASOMETHING

Daily Planet Slave

Apparently a \$57 million lawsuit settlement between the homeless population and City Hall last year has tipped the economic scales in a toxic way.

When 2,000 homeless people received their \$28,500 checks last April 1, they immediately blew it on feel-good luxuries to celebrate. The windfall fell onto local liquor store owners, who upon learning of the down-and-out's new fortunes, immediately jacked up their prices on Steel Reserve and Boon's.

"Our sales were steady, usually at the beginning of the month when the government doled out the checks, but we never imagined a city pay-out would make us this rich," said Moonshine Liquor Store owner Getting Udrunk. "But beyond the money, I'm just glad we could contribute to the city's philosophy of keeping Santa Monica 'a happy place for happy people.'"

City Hall decided to settle with every homeless man, woman and child, after they sued over the comfort of public parks. As part of the settlement, each transient got a new portable cot and new laws were passed to forbid jogging, picnicking and other non-homeless park activities before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m.

Despite that he wasn't in office yet, last year's settlement has been credited to City Councilman Bobby Coniver.

When asked whether they regretted blowing all of their cash, most transients agreed that it was all worth it.

"It's been a great year," said Kyle Coinshaker. "I mean, I don't really remember much of it but people tell me I was much happier."

Once decked out in gold chains and rings, and sport-



Alejandro Cesar Oh Why Bother II/Daily Planet Slave/Daily Press Slave
(Top) Local liquor store owners sport the bling bling after record sales this past year, which they attribute to transients pocketing \$28,500 settlements from City Hall.
(Bottom) The transients aren't faring as well. This vagrant is down to his last bottom dollar and bottle of vodka.

ing Luis Vuitton luggage, Coinshaker said he had to trade it for booze with liquor store owners because the money ran out.

"Life always seems to come full circle," he reflected. "But I'm banking on another lawsuit, because as the civil liberties lawyers have advised us, City Hall is known to crumble when it comes to our rights, which are trampled on day in and day out."

Despite that comment, everything appears to be fine in Santa Monica.

"I don't have any information about that but I can tell you that everything is peachy in this city by the sea," said City Hall public information officer Trudy Ramblinon.

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Shopping cart lane promises loads of fun



Alejandro Cesar Oh Why Bother II/Daily Planet Slave
New city signs are being posted along Wilshire Boulevard. If deemed successful by city staff, more shopping-cart only lanes will begin to be utilized throughout the city's most traffic-invested thoroughfares.

BY RIDIN' HIGH
Daily Planet Slave

A brand-spanking new shopping cart lane that opened yesterday is expected to pave the way for higher retail sales, eliminate congestion and reduce cars versus transient accidents.

The four-foot wide shopping cart lane will run east and west along Wilshire Boulevard between the bus and bike lane, city officials said. Costing a paltry \$1 million for the city to construct, the new lane is intended to spurn a shopping bonanza for Santa Monica businesses located on the Wilshire corridor.

The new lane also help the homeless transport their belongings to and fro from the beach to Seedy Park, on Lincoln Boulevard.

"Area shoppers will now have the chance to flaunt their newly-purchased wares, as we help the homeless get around, too," said Councilman Devon McMeat, a proponent of expanded opportunities for people of all socio-economic classes.

To encourage use of the new shopping cart lane, the Federal Government has given an additional \$20 million to give users the chance to customize their own carts.

"Confidence only comes with style,"



Alejandro Cesar Oh Why Bother II/Daily Planet Slave
Santa Monica shoppers have been taking advantage of the new closed-to-traffic shopping cart lanes outside area supermarkets.

said city mass-transit director Jerry Incline. "By decorating their own carts, Santa Monicans, housed and unhoused alike, will be more inclined to make full use of this opportunity."

Cart themes are already available and include the "Big Pimpin' Deals on Wheels," a gold-gilded cart with a lavender child's seat strewn with Mardis Gras beads, and the "Holiday Hummer," a motorized shopping cart that has monster wheels, travels 50 miles per hour and is decorated with Christmas lights and tin-

sel. A Fourth of July customized cart and a Veteran's Day cart is in the works, for those who relish in all that America has to offer and to symbolize what they fought for — the ability to be a country that has treated them so well.

"At least we can do for them," said President Georgie W. Shrub. "I might not be able to fund that 10-year plan to end homelessness, but I can sure help the residentially-challenged get around safer. A safer America is why you picked me to serve this fine country."

City Hall's 'Continuum of Care' will soon include free beer, burritos

BY SACKASOMETHING
Daily Planet Slave

As part of its \$200 million "continuum of care" for Santa Monica's vagrants, city officials have made a series of improvements to its social service programs.

The improvements, which were credited to City Councilman Bobby Coniver, are not designed to help get people off the streets but rather to make them more comfortable here.

"Let's be real, our efforts were never designed to lift people out of poverty," said City Hall's social service director Betty Bleedingheart. "So in an effort to be more transparent, we've decided to openly share our plans with the public."

The first cause for relief will be a new debit card issued by City Hall that can only be used at area liquor stores.

After meeting with the city's 11,679 liquor store owners during his campaign, Coniver came up with the idea to distribute debit cards for the homeless to make sales and consumption easier.

"It streamlined the process for both parties and it was really a win-win situation for them," Coniver said. "Instead of having to carry around all that cash, just one swipe with that card allowed them to consume with more ease and the store owners didn't have to deal with complicated transactions because as we all know, our transients don't keep their money in gold clips like mine; it's usually all crumpled up."

City Hall also plans to implement new rules in area parks and public spaces, designed to allow the city's less fortunate dominate areas for longer periods of time.

"When we surveyed our transient population, the hassle of them having to move around frequently was at the top of their pet peeves list," said City Hall's parks director Humpy Hindsight.

Beginning today, joggers won't be allowed to use area parks from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and baby strollers and mothers are strictly forbidden at all times of the day.

"Looking at those pathetic families all day constantly served as a reminder of where my life could have gone," said Lester Laydowner. "I hate normalcy and thankfully the city is starting to realize where its priorities are."

As part of a new Meals on Wheels program, Roach coaches will be set up at every intersection that will only serve burritos and beer. On weekends, tequila shots will be offered from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. City Hall will cover all of the costs.

Asked where the money will come from, City Hall's public information officer Trudy Ramblinon said: "I don't have any information about that but I can tell you that everything is peachy in this city by the sea."

Mayor Ham O'Thronner read a proclamation at last week's City Council meeting that summarized the new direction: "Whereas, the city of Santa Monica cherishes its transient population for all that it contributes to society; and Whereas the city of Santa Monica wouldn't at all have the same character without the transient population and Whereas our reputation as the homeless capital of the world would diminish if we don't embrace and enable our transients, we will continue with our continuum of care, thereby making life much more accommodat-ing for them here."

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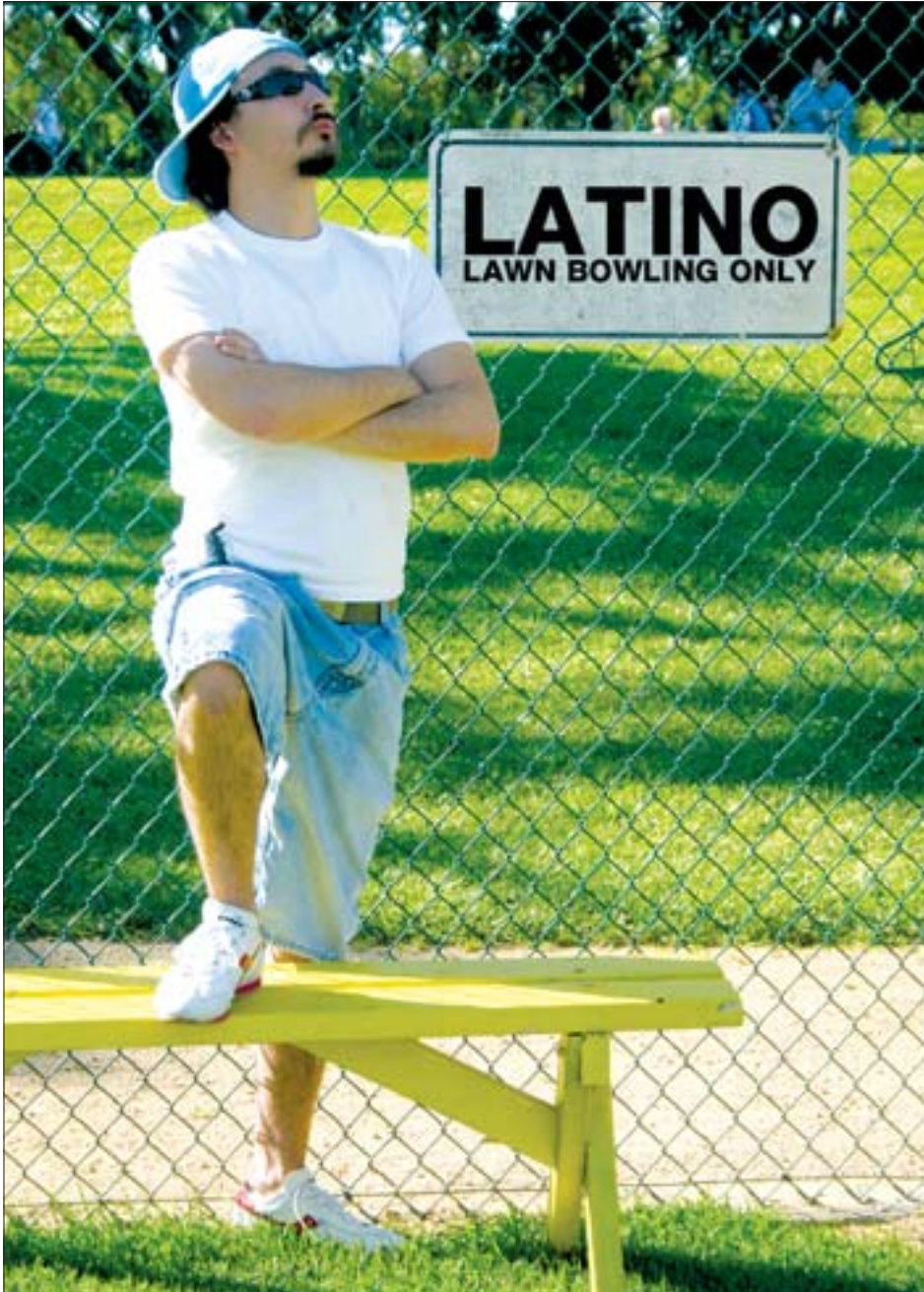
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From lawnmower to lawn bowler



Alejandro Cesar Oh Why Bother II/Daily Planet Slave

"Refried" Rick Juarez poses defiantly after capturing the title as the city's newest minority lawn bowling grandmaster at Douglas Park. Juarez is credited with breaking down ethnic barriers in a sport suddenly sweeping up the nation's urban youth. Santa Monica has established a new youth league in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Department.

Santa Monica under siege by young GOPs

BY RIDIN' HIGH

By Daily Planet Slave

CITY HALL — A platoon of Simi Valley Young Republicans unloaded from a black minivan yesterday, sacking City Hall and capturing three councilmen.

Six boys and six girls, all sworn future leaders of the Republican Party, were driven by a desperate housewife to Santa Monica's city headquarters Wednesday morning as part of a broad effort underway to re-populate the West Coast with Republicans.

The Simi Valley youth came to City Hall to greet fellow Reds expected to arrive from Alabama, Kansas, Kentucky, Texas and West Virginia — but were greeted instead with a regularly-scheduled City Council meeting still in session from the previous evening. Bored out of their mind, the youth demanded video games until the council meeting ended, or until more of their Republican forces arrived to liberate them from the clutches of liberal bureaucracy.

The City Council wouldn't grant the request on the grounds councilmen were also bored out of their minds at meetings and would rather be playing video games themselves, but had a job to do. So the kids from Simi Valley took the council hostage.

"They came, they saw, they kicked some ass," said Santa Monica Police spokesman Hank Imtellinya, describing from Main Street the Simi Valley coup as he gazed at the lawn they set ablaze outside City Hall.

Imtellinya said the fire was intended to prevent hostages from escaping the building, or perhaps to prevent the SWAT Team from moving in to confiscate the young Republicans' weapons, mostly ninja stars which had been outlawed since the '80s.

"This is a peculiar moment in history, and I'm glad to be part of it," Imtellinya said.

The Simi Valley Young Republicans, wearing a combination of red, white and blue athletic wear and cheerleading uniforms, looked like they had just been set loose from a Nazi summer camp, or maybe a Frederick's of Hollywood clothing store, said members of the media at the meeting.

The City Council denied the children's request for political reasons.

"It's up to you to entertain yourselves like any adult citizens who come here must," said Councilman Ricardo Zoom. "Just ask the woman next to you."

Zoom pointed to Lisa Haley, a Simi Valley mother and part-time children's chauffeur who was drawing the Governor's testicles on a notepad, which she titled. One nut depicted the Governor's testicles before — and the other after — his alleged steroid use.

No one from Major League Baseball who recently attended a Congressional hearing on steroid use didn't comment much on their testicles.

Having been denied their video games, the Simi Valley Young Republicans proceeded to Plan B.

"Be sure to nab the Kennedy!" Barker shouted.

The Simi Valley youth, hearing the words of Darth Rumsfeld in their head, were triggered B.F. Skinner-style into video game/action mode. They pulled out sling shots and Ninja stars, and rounded up three councilmen without a hitch. In a brief but often serious struggle, Councilman Kev McQN, Robert Holiday, and Mayor Pam O'Thronner managed to flee City Hall unharmed, while Councilman Burp Fast, Zoom, and Bobby Coniver were taken hostage, Imtellinya said.

Unknown ocean species leaves two injured, officials perplexed

MANEATER, from page 1

Patrol is working alongside the Coast Guard and crack nautical types to put a name with the species' face. Observers have concluded the carnivore is sick, however, due to discoloration, persistent vomiting and a developing sinus infection that might be attributed to urban runoff in the bay.

The attack occurred during Dawn Patrol in Ocean Park. Just as the case on Wednesday when two great white sharks were spotted in the line up in San Onofre, just north of San Diego, the Santa Monica maneater was first seen swimming along a crest about 200 feet from shore here.

"We should be so lucky as San Onofre," remarked William Brody, spokesman for Heal the Bay. "At least with a shark, you know what you're with. With this ... this ... I don't even know what to call this thing."

About 50 surfers rode the wave to shore, or paddled in, once word spread in the water that a series of attacks had occurred. But, unfortunately, two novices didn't make it out in time.

"I swore I would never go in the ocean because it freaks me out what's underneath," said Paula Whittingham, who just moved here from Fort Lauderdale, another

coastal city dealing with a shark problem. "So the first time I'm in the Pacific Ocean, I get chased by a fish with ill-intent. It's bogus."

While Whittingham managed to get out of the water unscathed, her boyfriend, Jim Connor, was rushed to a local hospital, where's he being treated for leg, torso and arm injuries. Doctors will have to re-attach his limbs, which Whittingham bravely dove back into the water to retrieve.

"It will be at least an 18-hour surgery and we've got our best team in place," said UCLA head surgeon Connie Sticher. "We are confident Jim will be able to surf again."

Doctors aren't as confident in repairing Connor's gaping hole in his side, which extends several inches wide and several inches deep.

"It's a side issue that we're not sure we can deal with," said Sticher. "Only a fool would think they can fix it."

A third victim, Mikael Shrevned, was pulled to safety by his two companions, with whom he was visiting Santa Monica from Belgium. Shrevned sustained multiple bites to his shapely, athletic legs before being tugged into shore.

"Mikael has been a chum of ours for a long time," said Greta Hornschart. Her friend, Lily Vilander, could only smile in



Kim Calvary/Special slave to the Daily Press

Harbor Patrol officers spray chum into the water to keep the mystery species healthy.

agreement. "Some chum," she added.

Baywatch lifeguards were getting coffee when the attack occurred, which has prompted high ranking captains and sergeants within the Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors Department to investigate.

"We had a suspicion that their work ethic left something to be desired, but we didn't think anything bad would come of it," said Lifeguard Capt. Mitch Buccannon.

"We're laid back, but when it comes to safety, it should come before coffee."

The beach has been closed to the public and police are keeping people away.

Despite the attack in area waters, everything is fine, according to city officials.

"I don't know much about that but I can tell you everything is peachy in this city by the sea," said City Hall public information officer Trudy Ramblinon.



Major airline to relocate hub in Santa Monica

BY QUIRKY FEELING

A special slave to the Daily Planet

"Don't Ever Leave The Airport" Delta Airlines announced this week it will move its West Coast hub from Los Angeles International to the Santa Monica Airport.

The airline said it expects to operate both domestic and international flights out of Santa Monica by the spring of '06, after the airport undergoes massive expansion to accommodate its new tenant.

Delta spokesman Guy Mann said due to Santa Monica's close proximity to the center of the Earth, it proved to be a perfect alternative to LAX, which he called "not so nice."

"LAX is such a pain the ass," he said. "I mean really, have you been there lately? You have to wait 30 minutes just to get an iced coffee at Stealbucks."

With the airline experiencing severe financial troubles, Mann said Delta is hoping to draw in new customers and increase revenue by advertising the relative ease of using a small, non-commercial airport.

"The wait for Stealbucks will be like two minutes here, and if it gets longer,

we'll build more if we have to," he said.

The expansion doesn't bother nearby residents, some of whom live within one foot of the runway.

"The bigger the better in terms of jets," said Nina Nimby. "I'm not concerned at all, Delta is a reputable airline and I'm sure there will be no accidents."

Delta has been in talks with the city since 2003, but council members declined to make any public decisions until after last fall's election. But after winning re-election — and speaking with representatives from the airlines, the FAA and the environmental task force — the City Council approved the airline's plans to construct a 5 million-square-foot hub last week.

First-term City Councilman Bobby Coniver has credited himself with bringing the airline to Santa Monica, even though the negotiations began before his term.

"This whole thing was my idea, but don't tell 'the others' I said that, OK?" he said.

The airline will pay the city \$20 million for the use of the airport, plus an annual rent that has not been disclosed. An airport executive speaking on the condition of anonymity said the deal is said to

be worth more than the airport itself.

"Suckers," he said, adding that he got Delta to convert all airport toilets from manual to automatic. "Now our bathrooms can finally compete with John Wayne in Orange County."

According to construction plans released by Delta, the operation will require a year-long construction period staggered into two phases. Phase one will include demolishing entire sections of the airport and rebuilding them vertically.

"We are planning to rely heavily on the use of escalators," said architect Bob Buildit, who will design the new building. Buildit said he has employed a team of designers to read Feng Shui for Dummies and place furniture inside the finished building accordingly.

The second phase of construction will include building hangers and extending landing strips for the Delta's fleet of 757s. Because of the airport's location in a dense neighborhood, Delta is considering buying out the owners of neighboring homes — giving them a lifetime supply of free in-flight headphones and drink vouchers in addition to market rate for their homes.

Not all residents were happy with the announcement or the airline's offer.

"They don't even give you free food on planes these days. You have to pay for 'snack packs' and Delta isn't even offering us that much," said nearby resident Frank Snapple.

Already upset with the traffic coming through the airport, many residents were adamantly opposed to the Delta move.

"Just because we decided to buy a house right next to the airport doesn't mean we should have to hear airplanes," said resident Seenno Evile.

"This is an outrage," said Ian Wontbudge, president of the neighborhood group of Enemys of the Airport. "If the airline does not reconsider I will cancel my Delta miles MasterCard and apply for a Visa American Airlines card instead."

Since Delta's announcement earlier this week City Hall has received bids from both United Airlines and Air Canada.

When asked for details, City Hall public information officer Trudy Ramblinon said, "I don't have any information about that but I can tell you that everything is peachy in this city by the sea."

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Straight thinkers: Traffic problem is solved

BY KIM COWHERD

A special slave to the Daily Planet

Feel like you're going around in circles in Santa Monica?

Getting around will soon be easier thanks to the City Council and citizens who participated in a recent Santa Monica Traffic Planning Commission workshop last month.

"We took traffic issues to the people and the people have spoken," said City Council newcomer Bobby Coniver, whose been credited with the ideas.

Coniver explained the council took all of the suggestions submitted at the workshop, fed the data into a CALTRANS computer and came up with a solution that took everyone's two cents into account in an effort to finally unclog the city's car-clogged streets.

"The computer we used for this is similiar to the one that controls the space shuttle launches," Coniver said about the megacomputer that was loaned to Santa Monica by NASA. "Allievating traffic congestion isn't rocket science and you can't argue with something this sophisticated. The Los Angeles Department of Transportation has been using this same system to ease traffic congestion along the 405 Freeway at Sunset, Wilshire and Santa Monica Boulevard — and we know how well the traffic moves along in those areas."

The new traffic regulations will go into effect starting

Rush Limbaugh to give SMC commencement address

BY MICHAEL FUSS

A special slave to the Daily Planet

Calling all ditto-heads. Conservative talk show host Rush Limbaugh has accepted an invitation to be the commencement speaker Santa Monica College's class of 2005 May 31 graduation ceremony.

Limbaugh will receive a large, but unspecified honorarium for the engagement that he will donate to a cause of his choosing, according to SMC spokesperson Bruce Jones.

Senior administration and faculty members at the college are discounting claims of insensitivity and poor priority setting made by local community-based groups that represent women, minorities and the homeless.

"Limbaugh has made a fortune at the expense of the less fortunate," said Galvin Forthright, director of Santa Monica's Home Ownership for All. "Inviting him to step foot in this city is a sacrilege and completely negates the message that Santa Monica has broadcast to the nation — that Santa Monica is the place to come when you've run out of other options."

Other groups were critical of Limbaugh's sarcasm and the "degrading slang" he uses in his on-the-air skits and monologs.

"We resent Limbaugh's insensitive diatribes against the feminists and environmentalists," said Moe Fweggie, director of the Santa Monica Coalition for Environmental and Social Justice. "They often start with a musical bumper of a popular song with lyrics that have been rewritten to make light of the struggles we face today."

Another anti-Limbaugh organization, the Vegetarians for Peace, plan to disrupt Limbaugh's commencement address by showing up early and taking a dominating presence in the front rows dressed in costumes depicting fruits and vegetables.

"I think a row of chanting, angry carrots, up in the front and in his face will keep him from being able to spew any of this toxic waste," said Saul Menellow, the group's vice-president.

Despite that sources said the move was credited to City Councilman Bobby Coniver, SMC's Young Republican Club acknowledged the idea to invite Limbaugh to give the commencement address originated with them and required a great deal of lobbying to get approval from the school's administration.

"We have every right to have a speaker that reflects our values," said Donna Maven, rotating president of the

April 1 and according to Coniver, will cut traffic congestion by 183.692 percent.

The new regulations call for both left and right hand turns on Montana Avenue, Santa Monica Boulevard and Wilshire Boulevard to be restricted between 26th Street through Ocean Avenue between the hours of 1 a.m. through 11 p.m.

To reach destinations located on south-north running streets such as Lincoln Boulevard and Second through 25th streets, commuters will need to enter from designated turn lanes located on San Vicente Boulevard and Olympic Boulevard. Once commuters are on those streets, they must return to Olympic Boulevard or San Vicente Boulevard to make left or right hand turns on to east/west running streets.

"We're really looking forward to a tremendous drop in traffic and we have found that if we can make it as difficult as possible for people to drive, they eventually will give up," said Santa Monica Mayor Ham O'Thronner. "Sure, it might require a bit of a sacrifice, but the aggregate result will be a level of traffic we haven't seen in this city since the 1950s."

O'Thronnor said the new rules would also apply to bicycle riders, who have found to be just as much of pain in the ass as motorists.

But still, everything appears to be fine in Santa Monica.

"I don't have any information on that but I can tell you that everything is peachy in this city by the sea," said City Hall public information officer Trudy Ramblinon.

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Private school crossing guards found drunk

Busier intersections, safer crossings found at public schools

BY MORNING WOOD

Freed Daily Planet Slave

MID-CITY — Two crossing guards at an elite Santa Monica private school were discovered drunk at their posts Thursday morning, concerned parents and administrators said.

The guards at Better Junctions were seen slurring their words and walking jaggedly in the road before morning

classes began, according to Principal Steve Morgan.

Roughly 1,200 elementary and middle school students use the two crosswalks to reach the private school each day. No students were hurt in the mishap, though several later said they thought the guards' behavior was "funny."

"They couldn't even hold the 'Stop' signs above their heads," chuckled 7-year-old Amanda Stevens, a fourth grader at Better Junctions. "They were acting really silly. So we just waited for a break in the traffic and then ran across. It was cool."

Parents weren't so amused. Several said they would push the well-heeled school to hire crossing guards away from

Santa Monica public schools, where the pay is about half.

"We're not just going to sit back and wait for news," Marsha Edwards said from her car on Thursday afternoon as she picked up her twin daughters, both third graders. "I think we're going to try and get those crossing guards from John Muir (Elementary School) or Lincoln (Middle School). They look really professional over there, and the streets are so much busier."

The guards reportedly had been celebrating a recent pay raise from \$29 an hour to \$30 an hour by drinking 40-ounce bottles of malt liquor. Two empty bottles were found next to the guards' folding chairs, which at midday were still laying on their sides beside the school's two major crosswalks.

Principal Morgan said the crossing guards, an unidentified man and woman, were immediately taken off the street and brought into the nurse's area, where they napped until sober.

"This behavior is inexcusable," added Morgan, who was received "too many calls to count" from angry parents all day and into the evening. "The safety of our students comes first."

The move has been credited to City Councilman Bobby Coniver.

Morgan said the female guard seemed "a little buzzed" but the male guard was "downright hammered" when school staff pulled him from his crosswalk. Back in the school's nurse area, Morgan said the guards resisted his staff's help.

"(The male guard) kept trying to stand up from his cot," Morgan said. "He'd say, kind of blending his words together, 'I'm fine man, really. I'm not drunk. Can I buy you a drink?'"

Both of the guards eventually passed out, Morgan said, sleeping deeply until about 2 p.m., when they were escorted off campus. The incident may have ended their tenure at Better Junctions.

"They won't guard crosswalks here again," Morgan said. "I'll tell you that much right now."

Despite the bad image the drunkards have excuded onto the city, everything appears to be fine.

"I don't have any information on that but I can tell you that everything is peachy in this city by the sea," said City Hall spokeswoman Trudy Ramblinon.

Beef jerky, gun assoc. to represent at lecture

SCHOOLS, from page 13

10-member Republican organization. "When you live in a place like Santa Monica, all you hear is the liberal perspective — and that's not what getting a balanced education is about. It's important to at least listen to different points of view — something that seems to forgotten too much not only on this campus, but the entire Santa Monica community."

However, city bureaucrats maintain that everything is fine.

"I don't have any information about that, but I can tell you that everything is just peachy in the city by the sea," said City Hall public information officer Trudy Ramblinon.

When asked whether the attendance would be large enough to justify the large honorarium that would be paid to Limbaugh, Maven said she has already received offers of financial support from the Orange County Republican Student's Club as well as their assurance that all seats in the SMC auditorium would be filled.

Maven said she also received offers of support from the Leatherman's Beef Jerky Distributor's Association, which markets its products at gun shows throughout the Southwestern United States.

Maven said the SMC administration and campus security would work with her to insure that pro-Rush supporters would not be seated next to any anti-Rush demonstrators.

"I've been a history major here for the last ten years," Maven said, "and we've never tried to create this kind of havoc during the numerous times that there's been a left-leaning speaker at our commencement ceremonies. But now that we're finally going to have our say, we're going to make his message gets out loud and clear."



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Republicans vow to pull out in three months

RED DAWN, from page 3

Washington, D.C.

“I’m tired of all the whining I hear from all of those people wearing their sunglasses and acting all cool in California,” Bush said, sipping a Starbuck’s coffee in the White House as he spoke candidly to reporters about his decision to open a second front on the war against terror, this time in California. “The lefties out in L.A. need to realize I’m not the enemy. Saddam Hussein is.”

Executive order GW05Yey! authorizes Congress to take \$15 billion from the federal education budget so “hard-core” Republican families - mostly from Alabama, Kansas, Kentucky, Texas and West Virginia - can be re-established on the West Coast.

Operation Red Dawn, the military campaign intended to clear a path for the new Republican settlers, is expected to last three months, depending on how long it takes for U.S. military forces to sniff out liberal agitators believed to be residing mostly in Los Angeles and San Francisco counties, Pentagon officials said.

Santa Monica residents, many of them jogging on the beach or surfing Wednesday morning, said they spotted two destroyers and one aircraft carrier approximately one mile offshore when the attack began. The destroyers bombarded the city for an hour, laying waste to the Santa Monica Pier and pulverizing a slew of businesses and residential high-rise buildings on Pacific Avenue.

The bombardment was followed by the first-wave of the invasion. Republican leaders reaching the shores of Santa Monica - mostly Caucasian men in their mid- to late- 50s dressed in gray suits and black boots and resembling Imperial commanders from Star Wars: the Empire Strikes Back - led 10 battalions of general infantry, Marines, Navy Seals and Storm Troopers using 100 amphibious assault vehicles to claim the city’s shore.

Meanwhile, F-16s and X-Wing fighters destroyed targets believed to be crucial to a mobilizing resistance, called Santa Monicans for Renters’ Rights Fighters, or SMRRFs. Among the Republican targets were any affordable housing units in Santa Monica.

The Republicans easily claimed the beach, scaring off the few residents - most of them homeless - who survived the bombardment by getting drunk and covering themselves in blankets.

Within 30 minutes ashore the Republicans were joined by their imminent leader, Darth Rumsfeld. The Republicans marched toward City Hall and were ambushed by 100 SMRRFs waiting for them on the grassy field south of Colorado Avenue.

The SMRRFs were out-manned by the thousands. They were also out-gunned, since their only weapons were bricks from destroyed low-cost apartments, which they tossed at the Republicans. But that didn’t stop the SMRRFs from putting up a well-spirited, but otherwise pathetic fight. To make the fight more fair, Rumsfeld offered to go head to head with the SMRRFs’ greatest champion, a wise and respected man who was one of the city elders, Go Geeser.

Rumsfeld told Geeser that a winner in a duel would determine the political fate of Santa Monica. Unfortunately, that’s not what happened. Geeser wrestled Rumsfeld to the ground, but the Republicans still sacked City Hall.

“If there is no room for us (liberals) on the West Coast, where can we go (that we can afford)?” Geeser cried, as Rumsfeld and the rest of the Republican horde marched on to Main Street.

A CITY UNDER SIEGE

Republican officials said Santa Monica will serve as a springboard for the acquisition of other liberal cities on the California shore as they are joined by citizens from inland communities fed up with the liberal tradition dominating the Golden State. Community leaders from Simi Valley, Yorba Linda and Palm Springs have all pledged troops to Operation Red Dawn and the Republican cause.

“I’m glad to see the administration taking a proactive role in its relationship with California, many in which state live inland and have been led to believe for years they were citizens in a country separate from the United States,” said Tim Swanson, 54, a Pal Springs real estate agent and active Rotarian. “This shows California hasn’t been forgotten yet. Now if we can only stop the invasion of Mexico, I’d be more than willing to send some of my boys to L.A. to restore a little law and order.”

Jeremy Tunis, 27, a Democratic fund-raiser from Washington, D.C., said he was in town this week to assist Los Angeles mayoral Jim Hahn’s re-election campaign and awoke with a hangover at the Hotel California on Santa Monica beach Wednesday when the onslaught began.

“I thought it was an earthquake,” Tunis said. “I was dreaming about the last time I ate an In-N-Out burger when I felt a rumble in my stomach. I woke up, and the room was shaking. I stood up, feeling like I had to throw

up, and I looked out the window and saw a deli across the street explode. Then I looked offshore and saw the (expletive) ships.”

“I thought, ‘Great, this probably means my flight will be delayed.’”

Many Santa Monica residents witnessed what would be dubbed the Battle for Santa Monica, but most of them were wearing sunglasses and driving their Mercedes and talking on the phone and quite frankly, too busy to get involved in a political quagmire.

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LOCAL

Palisades buff: Women in SM bare all at the beach

BY QUIRKY FEELING

A special slave to the Daily Press

Returning to its liberal roots, Santa Monica is taking it all off — literally.

Citing mass resident complaints regarding plans to section off a portion of Santa Monica's beach for dogs to roam off-leash, the City Council voted last Tuesday to scrap the K-9 area and institute a topless beach in its place.

The beach, which is between Montana and Arizona avenues opened this morning with little fanfare.

The unanimous City Council decision was reached after City Hall received more than 400 calls from angry Santa Monica residents complaining about potential problems a dog beach could bring to the community.

After reviewing the complaints, the council agreed that a topless beach would be more "appropriate" for the city and a less controversial use of the space.

"The dog beach was just too much of a headache," said Councilman Bobby Coniver. "I mean, this thing, this idea can't be bad. I mean, what kind of environmental problems can a group of half-naked women pose?"

Coniver, who's been credited with the move, said the dog beach idea has left him scratching his head.

"I canvassed all 84,000 residents here during my campaign and not one of them

thought we should let this city be thrown to the dogs," he said. "I decided that once I was elected, I would make it happen."

However in reality, the initial plan to isolate a 100,000-yard swath of sand for dogs to roam free faced mass opposition among environmentalists, cat owners and those with an aversion to feces.

According to files obtained from the City Clerk's office, 150 residents called City Hall worried about the effect dog feces and old chew toys would have on the natural environment, while another 50 called complaining that a dog beach amounted to discrimination towards owners of cats and other small house pets.

City officials did acknowledge that the number of complaints is slightly inaccurate, as 20 calls were attributed to related concerns over West Hollywood's recent ban on plastic surgery for pets, and another 10 were from residents asking that dogs be served up on platters in local Chinese restaurants.

Open to the public seven days a week, the city has decided to expand the beach's hours past sundown so as "not to discriminate against our more modest beachgoers," said parks and recreation spokesman Sandy Dune.

Coniver said having Los Angeles County's only topless beach will serve as an economic stimulant in the city, as topless enthusiasts from around the world are drawn into Santa Monica.

"I know I have traveled all the way to



Photo Courtesy

Model-type women flock to Santa Monica's newest beach, a clothes-optional stretch of sand ideal for jigging and full-body suntans.

France for a topless beach," he said, adding that he estimates at least 5 million other Americans have as well.

But City Hall's Director of Creative Financing Reeve Park said he is not so sure having a "nudy" beach will improve the economy substantially.

"The only thing we can say for sure at this point is that the sale of sunscreen will go up but that's a pretty miniscule part of our sales tax revenue," he said.

A marketing campaign designed to promote the beach throughout the country with advertising and product licensing is

already in the works.

Ronald McDonland, hired by the city to direct marketing efforts, said the campaign will include the use of 3-D billboards, local cable and radio stations. All ads will be individually targeted to cities around the country.

Atlanta will be among the first cities to receive the ads. While he declined to reveal many specific marketing strategies, McDonland said the campaign will include billboards along highway I-95 reading "Let your Georgia Peaches lay out in sunny Santa Monica."



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