



Santa Monica Daily Mess

April 1-2, 2006

Perhaps it's you that has issues

Volume 5, Issue 120

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

1 2 3 4 5

Megamember: 6

Jackpot: \$92 million

FANTASY 5

6 5 3 2 1

DAILY 3

Daytime: 6 6 6

Evening: 7 7 7

DAILY DERBY

1st: 01 Foot and Mouth

2nd: 07 Elmers Glue

3rd: 02 Feelin' Horse

RACE TIME: 32.16.02

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site: <http://www.calottery.com>



NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

You Might Want to Do Your Shoplifting Elsewhere: Increasingly, police departments and government offices (customs agencies, NASA, even the FBI) rely on state-of-the-art investigation support from the Target Corp. (as in Target department stores), according to a January Washington Post report. Target's world-class forensics lab in Minneapolis is the first choice by many departments for examination of surveillance tapes and other evidence, and it was Target in the mid-1990s that finally moved agencies to coordinate previously incompatible databases of criminals (treating the felon population as a nationwide "inventory control" problem). A Target executive said he works for "a high-tech company masquerading as a retailer."

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 91st day of 2006.
There are 274 days left in the year.

One year ago, George Michael was arrested in a Santa Monica beach bathroom for lude acts against humanity, and singing Wham tunes.

INDEX

Horoscopes

Just die, Gem 2

Snow & Surf Report

Body temperature: That's Hot!° 3

Opinion

Everybody's got one 4

Letters to the Editor

Even bitter than before 5

Style Watch

Too sexy for their own good 7

Loco

Do you smell death? 11

Loco

Bullets over Broadway 12

Classifieds

Your place or mine? 21-23



Boogaloo Shrimp/Daily Mess

Natural gas terminals have been set up and are functioning north of the Santa Monica Pier. The operation is estimated to bring millions upon millions to the city.

LNG comes to Santa Monica

BY SACK JA MAMMA

Daily Mess Maker

DOWNTOWN — City leaders signed a deal Friday with an energy company to build two floating tanker facilities off of Santa Monica Beach to import and process liquid natural gas.

Under the terms of the 25-year contract, Liquefied Energy LLC., will pay City Hall \$125 million a year for the use of its bay, as well as parts of the pier and beach.

The project, which has been a year in the making, has cleared all of the approval hurdles with the U.S. Coast Guard, the Army

Corps. of Engineers and the state coastal commission.

"We have been waiting for this day for a long time," said one official, who preferred to remain anonymous. "We figured it might be better to not publicly discuss the project while it was being reviewed by all of those agencies. Many of us

felt, why muddy the waters?"

Liquid natural gas (LNG) is considered a highly flammable, hazardous material, which has some residents worried that the facility would expose them to vapor clouds if the materials

See **IT'S ONLY NATURAL**, page 9

Who goes there? City out for own

BY THE NEW GUY

Daily Mess Maker

CITYWIDE — Those living out of town are going to have to pay big bucks if they want to drive on city streets.

Following a move taken by London officials, the City Council Thursday approved a law that prohibits anyone from driving an automobile within the city limits if that vehicle is not registered to an address in Santa Monica.

See **STOP IN NAME OF LOVE**, page 17



Boogaloo Shrimp/Daily Mess

Santa Monica traffic officer Yahiro Rodriguez runs through a series of traffic control drills in anticipation of a new law going into effect banning non-residents from driving on city streets unless they register their vehicles in Santa Monica or pay a \$1,000 monthly fee. City Hall hopes to ease traffic in town and increase interest in public transportation, all while protecting the environment.

LOCO

Video gamers aren't too proud for 'Beg'

BY SNICKA' DOODLE

Daily Mess Maker

OCEAN PARK BLVD. — Creative types stuck dreaming their days away, wishing they could get out there and live la vida local, if just for a day or two, are in luck.

Activision, makers of such popular video games as the war-themed "Call of Duty" and "Tony Hawk's" skateboarding offerings are allowing gamers to step inside the reeling minds of Santa Monica's homeless population in the new role-playing game "Beg to Differ."

See **A WORLD A CART**, page 19

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HOROSCOPES

What smells?

Santa Monica Daily Mess



T'LAROKS'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll Have:

★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★ Embrace your sadness. Hey, we all die alone in the end. Cancel the night out with friends and family and attend to your loneliness, it's been calling for so long. No one gets out of this world alive. Tonight: More ramen noodles.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★ Take the bull by the horns, and no, that does not mean pleasure yourself again. Your body is not to be treated like an amusement park. A little moisturizer might soothe all the chafing. Tonight: Put the porn back under your mattress.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★ You are not paranoid. Today, they really are after you. Run! Tonight: Take it easy, hide in your closet and don't answer the door or phone.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★ Your spontaneity at a workplace function catches the eyes and ears of higher-ups, unfortunately it is how your imminent demise takes root. Still, you made yourself laugh and you can chuckle just as much on food stamps as at The Lobster. Tonight: Don't mince words, mince Spam.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★ Things are awesome. In fact, YOU are awesome. Seriously, go check yourself in the mirror, put some sweet gel in your hair, maybe flex a little, and then hit the bars. Everybody loves you, time to roar like the lion you are! TONIGHT: Shake what your momma gave you.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★ The diagnosis isn't in, nor the test results back, but why wait? Life is to be had. Hop the freight train and leave the kids behind. This is your life. Start smoking. What's the difference? Tonight: This wouldn't happen north of Montana.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★ So, should you read your horoscope? Or not. On the one hand, it could be really good. On the other hand, it might tell you you're dead ... hmm ... I should make a list. Do I use the black pen or the blue pen? TONIGHT: Make a list about whether or not to make a list.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★ All bets are off, with the moon in Uranus, don't even think about it! It would be wise to stay home all day today. TONIGHT: Watch your back.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★ Ideas are coming fast and furious. Big deal, the Mohammed coloring book wasn't such a hit. Start over. Your mind is fertile like an organic cow pasture. Proceed to the next one. Gandhi in a bottle sounds like a winner. Tonight: Quit looking over your shoulder.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★ Life takes a sudden turn (for the worse). That promotion you have been waiting for ... well, it is not going to happen. Your significant other tells you it is over. Your friends tell you to quit whining about it all. Tonight: There's nothing worth living for. Jump off a cliff.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★ When the moon is in the Seventh House and Jupiter aligns with Mars, then peace will guide the planets, and love will steer the stars. This is the dawning of the age of Aquarius, the age of Aquarius. Aquarius! Aquarius! Harmony and understanding, sympathy and trust abounding. No more falsehoods or derision's, golden living dreams of visions. Tonight: Mystic crystal revelation, and the mind's true liberation Aquarius! Aquarius!



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★ Today will be the worst day of your life, so be prepared. Strap on the combat boots, fill up a sock with pennies and be on the lookout for anything sinister. Don't take any lip and keep you eyes focused on the prize — a late night rendezvous with your Lazy Boy and a 40 ounce of Steel Reserve.



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LOCAL



Boogaloo Shrimp/Daily Mess

CLOSER TO GOD: The proposed Bloom Buildings soar into the idyllic Santa Monica sky in this artist's rendering. City officials struck a deal this week to erect the towers to create a free-flowing Third Street Promenade through the structures to Main Street, and also because they thought the buildings were 'pretty neat.'

Towers to teeter over Santa Monica Place

BY MONEY T. LAROK
Daily Mess Maker

In an 11th hour decision sure to send both shock and awe throughout the region, elected officials struck a deal with mall owners to raze Santa Monica Place and erect a pair of skyscrapers there instead.

With promises of ground-level open space, partially maintained skyline views and a clear walkway from the Third Street Promenade to Main Street, the tentatively titled "Bloom Buildings" are being hailed as a triumph by both sides.

On Friday, Santa Monica Mayor Rob Holomilk was joined by Macerich senior vice president Randy Brandy outside the Freddy's Fetishes storefront in the mall for a photo-op to unveil the city's lofty intentions to construct the 88-story monstrosities. The two clasped hands and raised their arms in triumph, striking a pose strikingly similar to that of the projected downtown towers, based loosely on the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Architects reason the towers' designs will feel completely original taking into account most Santa Monicans' ignorance of things located outside of the Southland.

"Finally, an engineering marvel that will put the Westside on the map, and doesn't look like a pair of binoculars or something," boasted a proud mayor, as he placed his Freddy's purchase on the ground to use his hands for speaking. "Residents can walk from Wilshire to Main Street and enjoy picturesque sky views framed by phallic steel structures."

Macerich's Brandy added that a set of three 26-square-foot parks located at the base of the buildings will satisfy people wanting parks, open space or "any of that shit."

The three modest green expanses represent earth, wind & fire — one of Brandy's favorite afro-centric bands from the 1970s, his formative years spent in suburban malaise.

While the towers would appear to represent everything most Santa Monicans

rejected in earlier proposals — 36,000 tons of beams, trusses and reinforcement; and 4 million square feet of office space — officials contend the towers represent the ultimate in compromise.

"I'm not crazy about blocking so much of the city's view, and as an architect am unsure if skyscrapers so close to the ocean are even feasible, but look at this ... it's really neat-o," said Councilman Ferb Feline.

Each of the Bloom Buildings will stretch some 1,500 feet into the sky, but the design of the structures will allow for a breezy, open-air Promenade to expand from Wilshire Boulevard, through the towers, along the Civic Center and proposed village area, and connect the entire thoroughway with Main Street. Such a shopping strip has been envisioned for the area for at least a few weeks.

The decision was made by the City Council early Wednesday during its regular meeting after most of the public had gone to sleep.

"If anyone is upset about the height of these buildings, it's nobody's fault but their own," said Gen Kenser. "It's not our fault if people can't stay up until 3 a.m. for the important items on the agenda. But since no one was there to tell us what they thought, we went with it. Plus, the kick-back from the developer was nothing to shake a stick at."

The project should also satisfy "those pesky" affordable housing advocates as well, says Brandy, with several floors set aside for section 8 housing. Tenants will also be able to make their way across the Skybridge — connecting the towers at the 41st and 42nd floors — where they will be able to shop the day away at such mid-tower retailers as Starbucks, Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, Diedrich's, Peet's Coffee and British costume rentals.

Even still, the size and scope of the project doesn't sit well with all Santa Monicans, many of whom worry about increased traffic, shortage of parking and

See **TOWERS**, page 13

SNOW AND SURF SEXY REPORTS

CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 36" - 72"	LIFT HOURS Open 4 U	RUNS OPEN 69	LIFTS OPEN 12/12
CONDITIONS: Hard Packed, six pack.				

MOUNTAIN OF A MAN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 96" - 120"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 50	LIFTS OPEN 6/6
CONDITIONS: Man Groomed				

MAMMARY MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 168" - 192"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 150	LIFTS OPEN 25/28
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

MOUNTING THIGH

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12" - 48"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 10:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 42	LIFTS OPEN 9/16
CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed, Wet				

MR. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 24" - 36"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 20	LIFTS OPEN 4/4
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed				

SNOW CUMMIT

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 36" - 72"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 6:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 26	LIFTS OPEN 14/14
CONDITIONS: Wet				

BOY VALLEY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 36" - 72"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 26	LIFTS OPEN 5/11
CONDITIONS: Packed				

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: Too Hot To Handle°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (3-8" and rising!)

Watch it out there, it's a wee bit nippley. The surge in the tide and the powerful thrusting of the ocean today should keep the swells coming at increasingly frequent intervals. The cool water of the ocean might feel nice, and necessary, after a day spent sweaty and muscular under the arid sun.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

Yes. Please. :-)

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

SATURDAY				
LOW TIDE	12:47PM	-0.9FT	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE	5:37AM	5.4FT	7:20PM	4.1FT
SUNDAY				
LOW TIDE	12:30AM	1.6FT	1:23PM	5.7FT
HIGH TIDE	6:33AM	-1.0FT	7:45PM	4.7FT
MONDAY				
LOW TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TUESDAY				
LOW TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
WEDNESDAY				
LOW TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

SURF AND SNOW QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? EMAIL ALEX@SMDP.COM



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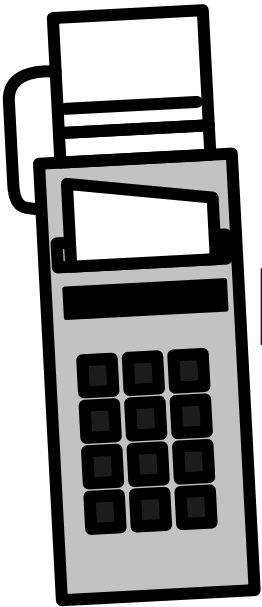
The Q Line

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 Mess' special projects manager at (970) 948-5642.

Ask for "Newlon."



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OPINION

EDITORIAL

On a positive note ...



So many times we focus on the negative. So this week, we'll focus on the positive ...

Sour for real change: Ready for second run



**I'M NOT
RIGHT**

BY STILL SOUR

I've decided to run for City Council, again. The first time I ran, two years ago, I got my behind kicked. That won't happen again.

I'm not going to make the same mistakes I made before. I was wrong to run on a platform for change. It's perfectly obvious the majority of voters like things just the way they are.

The same old politicians who don't solve problems such as homelessness, overdevelopment, parking and traffic get reelected over and over by the people who complain about overdevelopment, homelessness, parking and traffic.

The first thing I'm going to do is change my name to Roosevelt Kennedy Clinton because being associated with powerful political families is good for 6,000 votes and oodles of dollars.

How about a sex change? Maybe as a woman, I'd get the feminine vote which should add a few thousand more votes to my tally. I'll get a good tan, too. No telling what that might do for the exercise crowd.

I'll go after the Santa Monica for Renters' Rights endorsement.

Actually, I know I'm in good graces with SMRR because I praised Kevin McKeown in my column three weeks ago. Kevin should be SMRR's key council candidate in the upcoming election. I'm confident SMRR Co-Chair, Denny Zane will get their endorsement for me, too.

I can see it now. "McKeown, Bauer. O'Connor." I mean, "McKeown, Clinton. O'Connor: Your 2006 SMRR Team!" A SMRR endorsement is good for a couple hundred grand in campaign swag and eight thousand votes. Hot!

But if SMRR's endorsement doesn't happen, I'll go to the business community and do what a Council candidate did in 2002: change my message, resort to my back-up plan and nail down their support.

I better start saying nice things about the Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee and Santa Monicans for Sensible Priorities. Endorsements from them would bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars and at least a dozen votes.

Fellow citizens, I promise big pay raises and generous benefits packages for the police, firefighters and municipal employ-

ees. Endorsements from their bargaining units would bring in hundreds of votes. And I'd double, no, triple the city's contribution to the school district. There's no need to worry about where the money will come from. Promises cost nothing.

I'd embrace hotel workers and labor groups. Support from key unions and their rank and file would put me on the dais. I'd even support the "living wage." I'd hug trees for the environmental vote. I'd kiss dogs for the PETA vote. There's almost nothing I wouldn't do for votes.

I'd definitely campaign on helping the homeless. If Councilman Herb Katz can get elected advocating for a "homeless tent city on the beach," I promise a permanent soup kitchen with 24 hour service in Palisades Park with a Cordon Bleu chef and a wine list. Paul Grymkowski wouldn't have to haul vegetarian chili for "homeless" picnics from his Topanga ranch any more.

Nothing is too good for our drunks. In addition to free housing, I'd hold a city-wide "happy hour for inebriates" with nickel shots of Grey Goose Vodka, Patrone Tequila and Heineken Beer, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily.

If Santa Monica is to become Miami Beach West, we need more and bigger hotels.

Why should all the luxury high rise condominiums get built in Las Vegas? They don't have an Ocean, we do. Donald Trump: Santa Monica welcomes you and your developer friends.

I promise our streets will become worldwide models for "Green" sustainability and recreation when bike paths, hiking trails, skateways and pedestrian walkways replace vehicle rightaways on all major boulevards.

I'll solve the parking problem once and for all by instituting an army of valets to park resident and visitor vehicles alike in Beverly Hills. Need a ride? Just whistle. One of my valets will whisk your environmentally friendly Prius to you. No tipping, please.

Good people of Santa Monica, I need your vote. I'll end homelessness, parking problems, traffic and the debate overdevelopment because when I get through with development, there will be no debate.

Sign up as an official supporter by contacting my election committee — Citizens Rebelling Against Politicians. Then you can tell your friends and neighbors, "Bauer's (Roosevelt Clinton's) campaign

(Email address: big.crap@yahoo.com)

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Santa Monica Daily Mess



OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Drink your MtBE like a man

Editor:

I'm writing to take issue with all the blowhards that can't handle their MtBE. When I was a college junior I drank a case and a half of Busch beer in one night of partying. In addition, I won \$16.25 by chugging a 6 oz. jar of spicy, chunky salsa (Pace Picante, I believe) and never got sick. I may even have had a shot or two of Jagermeister. Never heaved.

Now I'm reading about people getting all up in arms about fluoride in their water? Take it like a man, already. Try stomaching a jar of deliciously roasted peppers and cayenne after a night of out-and-out debauchery. At least your teeth will be white. Mine, not so much.

Frank "Moose" Quarters
Santa Monica

Cycle of fear: Two-wheelers are just too annoying

Editor:

I would like to voice my constant frustration with the city of Santa Monica. The city continues to punish drivers by rewarding those who choose to ride a bike or a bus. Just because they are helping the environment, they should get their own lane? I dream of a day when bike lanes are used to make the car lanes wider and when bus lanes are turned into SUV lanes. The air might not be as clean, but driving to Starbucks in my Hummer will be so much nicer.

Buzz Rodell, founder of Big Cars For A Better Tomorrow
Santa Monica

Back where we started

Editor:

Backwards letter a write to wanted always I've. Point a illustrate to so doing only I'm. Was it what sure really not I'm Now. Government the about it's say can we. Backwards things do to seem they. Happy now I'm. Mime a was I, annoying more be to used I.

Celencio
Santa Monica

Mr. mayor, tear down these walls

Editor:

I was appalled by the design of the new Main Library on Santa Monica Boulevard. As a nearby resident, I agreed that it looked like a prison, and still does. But once "Shawshank" opened its doors to residents and visitors alike, I was further appalled. It is a prison for sure, what with all its rules and book-lined walls keeping one another from the general population.

After serving seven years in Folsom State Penitentiary, I know a thing or two about a thing or two. Okay, we get it, there are a lot of books in the world, but where are we supposed to play cards for cigarettes? Where do we work out and show off our tats? Furthermore, the cafe isn't even open to serve us tin plates of strained food-stuffs.

I cannot begin to express my disappointment in the city and the library as a public gathering space. Don't smoke. Don't talk. No burpees. What are we supposed to do there all day. It's very anti-social. I'm trying to reintegrate here.

I know one thing -- this would never happen north of Montana.

No. 3698752
Santa Monica

City be the sea needs more lofty ideals

Editor:

I think people in Santa Monica should wake up to the treasure they have in Bergamot Station, albeit an underutilized treasure. A recent stop at the former train station/present day artist colony proved what I was thinking: What a perfect place for condominiums. Developers could boot out the artists and make some really neat loft-style luxury apartments, in which pseudo artists could live and pretend they are artists as well.

Sign me up for one. I have this huge blank canvas I bought at Glick on Santa Monica going on three years ago and could hang that on an exposed brick wall or something. I still have paint and stuff like that still in their wrappers. Scatter 'em about and voila!.

Annie Warhole
Santa Monica

Santa Monica's cup runneth over

Editor:

This is just a note of thanks to the residents of Santa Monica and readers of the Daily Press for their continued cooperation and support. Yours is a community that still welcomes fresh-brewed ideas and upstart entrepreneurs. Yours is a community chock-full of warmth and well-being. The negatives of doing business here don't add up to a hill of beans.

As a result, doing business here day in and day out has proven to be a rush, and quite addictive.

Joe Starbucks
Seattle, Wash.

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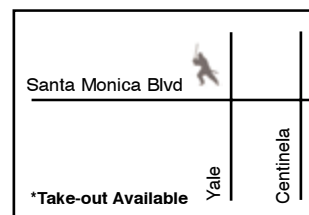
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Photo Courtesy

Combattants from the Angry Rich pummel their liberal enemies at the fourth annual 'Class Bash' at a local park. They really pummeled some liberal butts, according to witnesses.

Rich anger wins again

BY SACK JA MAMMA AND MONEY SURF
Daily Mess Makers

UPTOWN — It was pretty apparent the Angry Rich were angrier than ever.

They clearly kicked some serious liberal ass during the fourth annual Class Bash on Friday, holding down the lefties once again at the tennis courts along Oppressor Park.

The traditional "West Side Story" style street brawl became a tradition four years ago as a way to continue the deepening divide of Santa Monica's already-entrenched classes.

In years' past, both sides have chosen their weapons of choice, which have ranged from German luxury cars for the rich to logic and reasoning from Santa Monicans Everywhere Are Always Right (SMEAR), the city's most notorious ruling party who know all.

This year, the two sides agreed to go back to basics. They went for an old school, bareknuckle brawl in the park, a setting of Shakespearean relevance.

"There was no question that we would win," said millionaire Hugh Bitter, who has been pissed off since he made his fortune. "There was no way they could match us. Just from our sheer rage alone, we knew we had them."

Because the event has grown so large over the years, officials in all of their wis-

dom decided that the fight had to be moved to a more appropriate venue.

Of course, this would never happen north of Montana.

"The tennis courts are a far more reasonable place than the treacherous curves of Adelaide Drive or the labor union headquarters," said City Hall spokeswoman Foodie Fanz. "Plus, the residents near Oppressor Park are used to fights."

Leaders of the SMEAR campaign took advantage of the bareknuckle rules this year, attempting a peaceful resistance attack, whereby the non-combatants sat in silence in the middle of the battleground.

The approach was not successful.

The Angry Rich squad, comprised mostly of bitter millionaires who've since retired to vegetate, took it out on the SMEAR side, pummeling them over and over and over and over and over and over again.

In an ironic sidenote, some Angry Rich people waiting to get in a game of tennis before the afternoon chill moved in, became irate at having to wait to use the tennis courts. The fight dissipated soon after the angry players chased away their fellow Angry Rich with the use of their racquets. City park rangers assisted with the removal of the SMEAR team mem-

See **CLASS BASH**, page 18

Nose the difference: 'Essense' is out

BY SACKA JA MAMMA
Daily Mess Maker

A new improved version of designer fragrance, "Essence of Santa Monica" will hit major department stores and fashion boutiques across the country today.

Originally launched on April 1, 2004, the perfume was a blend of back alley urine, sea salt, cigarette smoke with a hint of old trash dumpster, homeless body odor, human feces and bad breath. But creators realized their creation had been missing something vital: Elevator citrus smell.

"It's absolutely essential that we get Santa Monica's essence down to a science," said Stephen Stylish, a 30-year resident and entrepreneur. "And what's been missing is the familiar smell of being in

an elevator in any of the city's parking structures and wondering if it is urine or oranges that you smell.

"But with our new blend, you'll realize it's both," he continued while admiring himself in his new skinny jeans, the latest rave among maladjusted Angelenos. "But unlike many in the city, we want to embrace the smells of Santa Monica, not mask it."

The new fragrance will be called the "Epitome of Santa Monica," and will retail for \$140 a bottle.

Stylish has been working with his partner Jean Franco le Pierre, who has captured the scents of cities like Santa Fe, Paris and Aspen.

Even so, the rent on a studio apartment in Santa Monica is \$1,500, even south of the 10. Street parking is not included.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Even so, a studio in SM goes for \$1,500

By Mess Makers

NORTH OF MONTANA — City Councilman Rob Coniver last night announced his candidacy for governor, staging a political war within America's royal family as he seeks to unseat his brother-in-law.

Coniver believes he can beat his sister Maria's husband, Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenflogger, by following the same strategy he used to win a seat on the City Council — coffee.

"If I can just get in front of these people, maybe buy them a latte, I can do my thing and charm them into voting for me," Coniver said as he ran his fingers through his rich, silver mane. "Arnold was never very much of a charmer. Whenever he came to the family compound he was always making off-color remarks, as if he was on a movie set. I'll zero in on his weakness and strike. It's not personal, it's political and my relatives know the difference."

The announcement was made during an intimate party in the canyon, where many low-profile high profile people were present, including Uto'o's BaBono, who Coniver is working with to end hunger in Santa Barbara.

Even so, the rent of a studio apartment in Santa Monica is \$1,500, even south of the 10. Street parking is not included.

CITY HALL — City Councilman Iam Starvin' fell off his diet and was seen eating political rival Councilman Herb Fatz. The incident was witnessed by city clerk staff in the wee hours of the morning, shortly after the City Council meeting. "I got hungry and needed a late-night snack," Starvin said from the dais. "Fatz just looked so satisfying. I didn't care about the calories nor the possibility of jail time. I was more concerned with where I put the salt."

In other political news, Mayor Rob Holemilk has decided to officially change his name to "Shriver" in order to win this fall's election for City Council. Holemilk figures if he has name recognition, it'll promise at least 10,000 votes.

And Gen Kenser's first public statement since his liver transplant: "Now I can piss away even more city money."

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE — Investigators looking into allegations of corruption in San Diego's City Hall have discovered e-mails thought to have been erased that show City Manager Dupont Jewel has a second job as a salesman for Mary Kay cosmetics.

One e-mail shows Jewel made over \$5 million in sales last year, becoming the leading rep in the state. Those who reach this distinction automatically win a new pink Cadillac and a year's supply of cosmetics.

The e-mails were addressed to a Lamont Ewell, which investigators said was most likely Jewel's alias, a name he used to hide his second job from his employers.

When confronted with the news, Jewel said he did sell Mary Kay cosmetics for several years while working as a City Manager and as a fire chief in Oakland, but that he has recently given up the job now that he has saved up enough money to buy a house in Santa Monica.

"It was rough working two jobs, but I needed the money to live in the cities where I was working," he said. "I had plenty of expenses, including college loans, dry cleaning, car polish for the

Cadillac. It's hard keeping that thing pink."

Elected officials who hired Jewel said they are glad he quit, but would not have prevented him from earning a living as long as it didn't interfere with city business.

Even so, the rent of a studio apartment in Santa Monica is \$1,500, even south of the 10. Street parking is not included.

EVERYWHERE — No matter where he goes, activist Gerry Rubin is attracting a crowd. It's not because of the witty slogans he prints on bumper stickers, and he isn't on a hunger strike to prove his latest belief system. Rubin is getting people to gawk by simply getting dressed in the morning.

For years Rubin has been seen at City Council meetings and selling merchandise on the Third Street Promenade, always wearing track shorts.

Sensing the need for change, Rubin is now wearing pants, and not just slacks, but blue jeans and corduroy as well.

"It's a drastic change, but I feel right now change is necessary, particularly in the White House," he said, as a truck with out of state license plates passed by with one of Rubin's bumper stickers pasted onto the rear bumper that read "Nothing happens north of Montana."

"At first it was a little restrictive and itchy, but I'm getting used to the extra protection against the elements," Rubin said of his new britches. "I think I'll wear pants more often. They're very slimming."

THIRD STREET PROMENADE — The International Tourism Association awarded Promenade Maintenance Manager Edward Suburb the "Pride in Performance" award for "outstanding service to community by emphasizing cleanliness and courtesy."

His work was especially appreciated north of Montana, where you could practically eat off the street it's so clean.

"NOMA is easy, nothing much happens over there," he said.

The news came as a surprise to Suburb, who for the last 15 years has never received a raise nor recognition from his supervisors.

"They never have anything good to say, not a word," Suburb said of his bosses. "All they do is bitch and moan about the bathrooms or a stain or the mess made by those damn Jacarandas, making my life worse than those who lived through the blitzkrieg. You know Winston Churchill once said ..."

Officials with the ITA presented Suburb with a plaque, \$10,000 and a gift certificate for free maid service for a year.

Even so, the rent of a studio apartment in Santa Monica is \$1,500, even south of the 10. Street parking is not included.

KIWANIS, YMCA, ROTARY, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB, ETC. — Eddie Superboian has decided to copyright his face. After deliberations with a Hollywood branding agency, he realized that every time he was featured in newspapers, magazines and online, he should be receiving royalties. "Every little bit counts," he said at a press conference in front of his jewelry store. Superboian plans to donate all of the proceeds to local charities. He also received a national award last month for the person to win the most awards for community serv-

ice. "I don't do it for myself," he responded.

11TH STREET — John Bourgeoisie is opening a new restaurant in town called the "perfect lemon drop." Bourgeoisie has been in search of the special recipe for over 10 years, and was inspired recently after watching a recent episode of Will and Grace. He is so confident that this lemon drop recipe is so good that he is not serving anything else on the menu. He is also proposing that the city place port-o-potties outside the bar to mitigate any illegal lemon pickers from loitering outside, soliciting drinks.

MEMORIAL PARK — Mike Spawn has called upon resident to ban to all extreme sports. "They are just too darn dangerous," says the former skateboarder and motocross rider. His second thoughts started when he stubbed his toe on the way to his pedicure.

"If these types of accidents can happen in the middle of the day, just imagine what could happen at the city Skatepark." He has suggested a newly invented bubblewrap suit for all that choose to put their bodies in harm's way.

CITYWIDE — Spyros Deported has decided to run for mayor after decades of citizen's suggestions. The unofficial mayor of Santa Monica wants to be the official. To prepare for the rigors of election, Deported has decided to permanently eliminate his Greek accent. "If I'm going to run for mayor, I'll need to be a little less charming, and that means no more accent," Deported stated in perfectly non-accented English. Sypros plans to make his entrance into the political area on a platform of attendance to mixers, fundraisers and any event that involves shaking hands and kissing babies.

UPTOWN — Gene McNeil Whiner has joined the board of her 1,000th non-profit, shattering the previous record of Shedonates Heritime, set in 1933. Her involvement in "Cause and Effect," a nonprofit that effects changes in the community is yet another start-up group of liberal, like-minded thinkers.

Industry insiders compare this record to the 2003 Barry Bonds shattering of Mark Maguire's home run record. "I have been training for this my entire life," says McNeil-Whiner. When asked by reporters if she used steroids to achieve this monumental feat, Whiner abruptly stated, "no comment." An awards banquet will be held in her honor, yielding yet another rubber chicken dinner with the usual suspects.

PENMAR GOLF COURSE — Retired pro golfer Pill Prawson is training to win the longest drive contest at every charity golf tournament this year. Prawson has been training with Tiger Woods' former trainer for over 6 months, sources say. "I've been lifting, and working on my core strength," admits Prawson, while eating a high protein energy bar. "Most people from Tennessee can't spell golf, so I figure I'm ahead of the game." When asked if he were using any performance-enhance drugs, Prawson quickly responded, "nothing except the city's flouridated water."

Even so, the rent of a studio apartment in Santa Monica is \$1,500, even south of the 10. Street parking is not included.

Style Watch



A jaw-dropping affair: Local socialites Jan Saladspun (1); Gene McNeil Whiner (2); and Hank "A Team" Nowaya (3), elegantly stroll the runway at the 101th annual Santa Monica High Profile Celebrity Awards held at the prestigious "Pretentious Place" hotel.



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Boogaloo Shrimp/Daily Mess

HARD OUT HERE FOR A CHIMP: 'Tonsils,' who finished third at Friday's surfing contest staged solely for chimpanzees, rides it home en route to a one-wave record 8.9 banana points. 'Goobers' (inset), wowed the crowd, and himself, all day with a rave-whipping performance that seemed to bely his limited experience.

Chimps in the mist

By Daily Mess Makers

SM BEACH — No dawg, that wasn't your average surf sesh yesterday.

Dogtown Z Boys don't have nothing on a group of monkeys who were spotted riding waves off the P-Block break on Friday.

"Dude, we were all bundled up in our Hurley hoodies smoking a doob when I looked up and saw chimpanzees in the water," said surfer Corey Slater. "And I thought to myself, we're not north of Montana anymore ..."

"And that this was some really righteous weed."

Slater wasn't alone in his aghastness as the city of Santa Monica staged the world's first Chimp Surfing Contest just south of the pier, where the break is a quick close-out, perfect for the monkeys' short, little legs.

The event is the realized dream of Dan Fossy, the burnout son of the famous scientist who devoted her life to work with endangered gorillas somewhere misty. The younger Fossy always seemed to prefer Chunky Monkey ice cream to working with the animals, but credits a recent hallucinogenic delusion with giving him this epiphany, and really a goal in his mostly detached existence.

And so there they were on Friday — eight chimpanzees, eight banana-hue surfboards, and a crowd of 38 people who seemed both incredulous and a little fearful, in turns.

"This is like some 'Planet of the Apes' shit, huh?" said Woody Mourning, shaking water out of his ear annoyingly while he was being interviewed. "I mean, I guess it's cool and all, but it's way creepy too."

"This would never happen north of Montana," he added.

According to Fossy, the idea struck him on his sofa as he slept one off after gnoshing on Cool Ranch Dorritos. It's all about them having opposable thumbs and DNA estimated to be between 97 and 99 percent the same as humans.

Fossy then called his famous mother, who thought the idea bogus and urged him to go back to San Diego State University, but in the end he couldn't shake the idea of making chimpanzees surf in front of his paid-for beachfront condo.

"We are breaking all barriers down," said Fossy, who smelled a lot like pachuli oil. "Think of it, if we can get trained animals to do our activities for us ..."

Fossy seemed to lose his train of thought.

Regardless, the stage was set for the competition, and entrants came from as far away as Hancock Park. But when all was said and done, when the chimps had all dropped in on at least 15 waves apiece, it was a local chimp — Goobers, of Sunset Park — that captured the critics' eyes and hearts.

Goobers, shaking off a rough opening set, dropped in on wave after wave of chest-high breakers that wooed and scared the early morning crowd at P-Block. Then for the cout-de-gras, Goobers showed a flair for showmanship on his last wave, seamlessly rotating to his front legs and shaking his monkeymaker at the bystanders.

Fossy seemed pleased with what he had created, agreeing to allow the winning chimp a free weekend at his apartment, rent-free. No word on whether or not the owners can accompany Goobers there.

Even so, the rent on a studio apartment in Santa Monica is \$1,500, even south of the 10. Street parking is not included.

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IT'S ONLY NATURAL, from page 1

were released by accident or by an act of terrorism.

"This is literally right in my back yard," said Jim Smith, a resident who lives along the beach. "It's in all of our back yards. I can't believe this is happening. I am in shock, total, utter dismay."

The facility is expected to deliver more than 200 billion cubic feet of natural gas to California annually, or 25 percent of the state's residential energy needs. California currently imports more than 80 percent of its gas supply from producing basins outside of the state, officials say.

"The economic opportunities for Santa Monica are enormous," said Alan Greenspunk, who has been working as a consultant for City Hall since he retired from the Federal Reserve in January. "The analysis and forecasting that I've done so far shows prosperity of epic proportions."

It would be the first LNG transfer station on the West Coast to use existing facilities. The station is described as floating offshore vessels with three spherical storage tanks. The LNG would be pumped into tanks from transport ships that will import the gas purchased on the international market.

LNG, which can be compressed to 1/600 of its volume, is a form of natural gas that has been refrigerated to minus-259 degrees Fahrenheit. It then becomes an odorless, colorless and clear liquid.

LNG, in a process called "regasification," is converted back to its original gas state by being pumped through a heat exchange system. After the regasification at the Santa Monica station, the natural gas would then be transferred onshore via a 500-yard pipeline built along the ocean floor. That pipe would then be connected to Santa Monica's sewer system, where it would reach its final resting place, the Charnock Fields, the city's main water treatment facility.

Charnock, which had been shut down since 1996 from a MtBE water contamination, was redesigned and rebuilt according to specification from Liquefied Energy LLC., which now controls the facility.

Santa Monica mayor Rob Holemlk said the benefits outweigh the costs in both converting the water treatment facility and selling out to a big energy corporation.

"Our bay was trashed anyway," he said.

High ho!



Boogaloo Shrimp/Daily Mess

Two students from the University of Spoiled Children land at the Santa Monica Place mall after riding on the first helicopter taxi ride into the city. Those looking to beat the bumper-to-bumper traffic notorious on Saturday and Sunday afternoons can now take a ride through the friendly skies for \$15 one way, \$30 for stops in between. The service, a first in the region, has been hailed as "the hottest thing in retail," by celebrities like Paris Milton. An average ride from Centinela Avenue to the Promenade takes less than three minutes.

"Might as well make some money off of it and increase city services ... We'll get those alleys cleaned up in no time."

A lawsuit is expected to be filed on Monday by Feel the Bay, a non-profit environmental group that has for the past 20 years worked its ass off to clean up the bay to no avail.

The suit seeks to stop production immediately.

"This operation will destroy everything we've worked for," said Feel the Bay director Gray Greene. "Water quality was just starting to make the grade ... I haven't seen a plastic six-pack holder floating in months."

Residents on the north side of town say they'll see little effect on their quality of life.

"This would never happen north of Montana," said Gregory Greenback. "That's why I live here. I am unaffected."

City officials will climb aboard the vessels during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday. They'll be issued gas masks, suits designed to sustain massive heat and protective eye wear.

"Although our new addition to the bay isn't exactly accessible to the community, I can assure you that it is for the public benefit," said City Councilman Wan Sandforit. "I am absolutely certain that once the community understands how vitally important this is to me, and them, of course, they will embrace the idea."

Even so, a studio apartment in Santa Monica is \$1,500, even south of the 10. Parking is not included.



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Photo Courtesy

The remains of a poisoned squirrel lies in the grass just below Palisades Bluffs. County and city officials have been forced to kill them since dozens of people have fallen ill.

Plague takes bite out of city park dwellers

BY SACK JA MAMMA
Daily Mess Maker

Two dozen Santa Monicans have died in the past six days and dozens more have fallen ill due to their contact with the massive squirrel population in Palisades Park.

It appears that health officials' worst fear — bubonic plague — has become a reality in Santa Monica.

"We have been warning the public for years that this could happen but of course the residents of that city by the sea, in all of their infinite wisdom, chose not to believe us, even though we are the experts," said County Health Director Terry Itoldu. "Now instead of the squirrels dying, people are dying. This is not good."

City Hall was ordered by the county months ago to kill off the squirrel population with poison but it acquiesced to the citizenry, whose liberal values prevented them from supporting such a move, whether it was in the interest of public safety or not.

The first case was reported last weekend, when a homeless man came to the emergency room complaining of uncontrollable itching.

"We were unsure of his condition but we didn't probe much further because he has no insurance or money so we sent him away," said Dr. Ryan Bother, director of emergency services. "He certainly wasn't from north of Montana."

The patient eventually wound up at an urgent care center, where it was discovered he had fleas, the first sign that he has been in contact with a contaminated squirrel. From there, it went from bad to worse. The symptoms were clear: swollen lymph nodes (buboes, hence the name), high fever, and delirium.

"Those evil squirrels are passing the disease onto humans through their fleas," said Dr. Kenneth Cure, a specialist with the Center for Disease Control.

Officials are fearful that anyone and everyone who frequents Palisades Park has been exposed to the disease. Within two days of the first case reported, dozens of people began showing up in hospitals delirious.

"We thought at first that it was just all of the mentally ill, deranged folk coming in off the street," said Dr. Bother. "But then we noticed that some of these patients were wearing Prada shoes and



Photo Courtesy

A recent picture of a victim who has succumbed to the Bubonic plague, which has broken out in Santa Monica as a result of sickly squirrels.

Cartier jewelry."

They put two and two together and realized that walkers and runners from north of Montana neighborhoods were falling ill at the about the same time the homeless were.

"Think about it, they are stepping over them all of the time," said Itoldu. "I'm afraid this is going to become a widespread pandemic."

In the worst case, the lungs will become infected and the pneumonic form will spread from person to person by coughing, sneezing, or simply talking.

From the time of infection, death is expected in less than one week.

Right now, officials are figuring out their next move. They have come up with nothing so far.

"There hasn't been a plague since the 17th century," said City Councilman Sevin McDearin. "I hate to say this but I think it's

See A PLAGUE UPON YOU, page 13

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Red Cross has vested interest in Pico 'hood

BY SACKA JA MAMMA
Daily Mess Maker

Anticipating that all hell will break loose sometime in the near future, the local chapter of the Red Cross will be handing out bullet-proof vests to residents of the Pico neighborhood.

The Saturday-only event — underwritten by residents living north of Montana — is in response to the recent announcement that the local police department has gone on strike. Lower-ranking officers, many of whom just left the womb, walked off the job late Thursday for fear that they, too, will be shot by outsiders.

The Twentysomethings represent most of the force so their lack of participation has virtually crippled the department.

“I have my whole life to look forward to and I’m not about to waste all of that by patrolling an 8-block pocket full of trouble,” said officer Dan Imbad, behind his mirrored sunglasses while puffing out his chest. “I took this job because I thought being a police officer in Santa Monica would be a cake walk. When I was recruited, they said Santa Monica was affluent, predominately white and there shouldn’t be many problems beyond the occasional homeless man ejaculating in a wheelchair.

“But all this violence, I didn’t sign up for this.”

The Pico area is an eastside neighborhood that covers much of the south, north and west sides of the city. It has been plagued by gang violence and drug dealing for years — a phrase that doesn’t sit easy with residents. Nevertheless, the area is always the source of debate in the community.

“This would never happen north of Montana,” said Mimi Weewee, a longtime resident. “But thank God for

Water quality: F ... Family Fun: A+



Boogaloo Shrimp/Daily Mess

SLIP, SLIDE AND OY VAY: It was cold water temperatures be damned on Friday as Jorge Sanchez, wearing sweat pants, and friends took advantage of the new Whatever Water Park on the Santa Monica Pier. City officials issued a statement on Thursday that said, more or less, “If people pay a buck a bellyflop ... whatever.” Pier officials are considering moving the park further in after eight would-be splashers were hooked in the face by Pier fishers.

the Red Cross, their efforts locally are so crucial. They really are a Godsend.”

However, not everyone is pleased with the humanitarian effort, particularly the usual suspects.

“We are not victims,” said Oscar the Grouch. “We will rise up and fight these vests. Our message is clear and anyone who doesn’t think so hasn’t been listening.”

In order to get a vest, Red Cross volunteers will require residents to prove their residency by either a driver’s license, a past due city utility bill or a bullet wound.

The idea of bullet proof vests came from City Councilman Robby Coniver, who stomped heavily in the Pico neighborhood during his 2004 campaign.

“I told them that I would do something for them and I have finally been able to achieve at least one goal in the nearly two years I’ve been in office,” he said. “There, but for the grace of God, go I.”

Even so, the rent on a studio apartment in Santa Monica is \$1,500, even south of the 10. Street parking is not included.

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Boogaloo Shrimp/Daily Mess

CHI-CHI-CHEER YA: In a bit of unexpected whimsy, city leaders called one another and conspired to change the familiar dinosaur hedge things on the Third Street Promenade with likenesses of their favorite Chia Pets. Councilman Herb Catz chose the (Puppy Chia above), councilwoman Spam Nomatter liked the Bovine Chia, while Councilman Rob Coniver tapped the Ram Chia.

LOCAL



Babel on: Towers are two tickets to 'paradise'

TOWERS, from page 3

overdevelopment.

"It's a godforsaken, modern-day Tower of Babel," said an irate Flo Moser, a parishioner at the Rollers Most Holy

church in Sunset Park, "only with our city officials, it's a Tower of Babble. Get it? Tower of Babble."

Moser and company were mollified somewhat when developers agreed not to complete the first tower before starting on

the second, lest one tower alone appear too phallic.

"I'll tell you one thing, this would never happen north of Montana," she added.

An interesting footnote, another proposal for the site would have seen a wholly new kind of construction take hold at the former Santa Monica Place mall — the "mantle-scraper," a new Frank Gehry concept of building deep into the earth in efforts to preserve above-ground open space.

An early plastic model, complete with

little plastic people figurines of homeless people mulling about, depicted a 68-story subterranean structure that might have provided office dwellers and tenants with exclusive window views of the earth's liquid core of nickel iron, but city officials worried about the lowest floors being spontaneously incinerated.

"That really could have been something special," noted Feline, "but this is nice."

Even so, the rent on a studio apartment in Santa Monica is \$1,500, even south of the 10. Street parking is not included.

Lost leader



Left D. Capon/Daily Mess

A 34-year beach bum leads a family from Cincinnati, Ohio, along the bike strand just south of the pier. Under a new program launched by the Chamber of Commerce and the Convention and Visitor's Bureau, longtime transients are now getting paid \$11.50 an hour — City Hall's living wage threshold — to serve as ambassadors of the city. Officials figured they could tap into the wanderers' knowledge of the city, and show tourists those 'out of the way' places known only to veteran locals.

Squirrel activists tell critters to lay low as plague fears grow

A PLAGUE UPON YOU, from page 11

important to be honest at this point since we all might be meeting our maker ... we have no idea what the hell to do."

In the meantime, City Hall officials are killing all of the squirrels throughout the city.

"Anyone who has a problem with that can go to hell, oops ... that might not be a good thing to say at this juncture in time, please don't print that," City Hall spokesman Dean Dimplomatic.

Officials with vector control conducted several raids on residences and found many homeowners harboring the diseased squirrels.

"Under no circumstances will we tolerate citizens saving these ravaged animals," said Police Chief Johnny F'in Law. "If anyone is caught harboring these squir-

rels, they will be shot on the spot."

Some residents aren't too concerned about the consequences.

"They are nuts if they think they can kill these innocent creatures," said Feona Fillthy, who has had pet squirrels living in her north of Montana home. "My children were practically raised by them. They are part of my family. I will die before I let anything happen to them."

Officials have asked anyone who is feeling nauseous or delirious to report immediately to City Hall, second floor, down the hall to the right.

"That's city council chambers, where we feel it's appropriate to put all of them at this point," McDearin said.

Even so, rent for a studio apartment in Santa Monica is \$1,500, even south of the 10. Street parking is not included.

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LOCAL

The waxes of evil



Boogaloo Shrimp/Daily Mess

In following with the traditions of Iraq and other countries that have suffered under oppressive regimes, President Bush has allocated \$40 million in emergency funds to construct statues of himself in high traffic areas of cities where he received less than 10 percent of the vote in the last election. A spokesman from the White House said that the statues are part of a nationwide effort to identify with voters, hence the surfboard and shorts Bush is sporting.

Homeless man shoots friend while two are hunting pigeons

BY MONEY T. LAROK

Daily Mess Maker

SM PIER — One homeless man has been hospitalized and another ostracized by his fellow transients following a tragic pigeon hunting accident over the weekend. Dick Grimey has been missing from his usual post south of the Santa Monica Pier since accidentally firing on his friend, Dick "Two Teeth" Crittington.

Crittington is due to be released from St. SeanJohn's Hospital on Monday after being treated for lacerations from glass shards to the face, chest, neck and rectum. Still, the former attorney now down-on-his-luck is eager to rejoin his tentmates beneath the pier.

According to police, who were curiously not informed of the accident until days later, the two longtime pigeon hunting friends were at their usual locale beneath the pier, knee-deep in stagnant runoff to elude detection from the pesky pigeons, when Crittington unexpectedly crossed the firing line, unbeknownst to Grimey.

Just then, Grimey spotted a chequered rock dove — the so-called "Holy Grail" of urban pigeon-hunt folklore — meander within feet of the firing line. Without hesitation, Grimey cocked his arm and let his broken Pabst Blue Ribbon bottle bottom fly.

From his hospital bed, Crittington acknowledged the shot would have been dead-on — decapitating the feral pigeon with its metallic lustre of a neck on full display — had it not been for his own mistake in crossing the agreed upon safety line. The Pabst remnant shattered upon impact on Crittington's two teeth and shards went scurrying in search of a softer landing elsewhere on his exposed, encrusted flesh.

Grimey, who is still wanted for questioning by police, is believed to be in hiding, possibly undercover with a tattered Army jacket, natty facial hair and a stained duffel bag. Anyone with information is asked to call the WE-TIP police hotline.

Only days after the misfire, which Grimey dubs "one of the most melancholy days of my life," the shooter made contact with the press, submitting a prepared statement to conservative Daily Press columnist Brett Legume — with whom he was sure he'd receive fair and balanced coverage — to offer his side of the events that transpired that fateful day.

"Honestly, my eyes were on the prize ... I mean, who could blame me? A feral pigeon just jutting its neck out like nobody's business," explained Grimey, alluding to not seeing Crittington, who had eerily forgot to don his circa-1977 L.L.Bean all-weather turrain, seersucker wrinkle-free vest that morning. "When I saw Dick fall flaccid on the sand, all bloodied up like that, I was in a panic. I even kicked over my MGD 'forty' in my haste to flee.

"Looking back, I probably should have checked to make sure Dick's jugular wasn't severed and splaying in the sand, but he'd have done the same."

This week, a weary Crittington admitted he'd have done the same.

Meanwhile, the case has brought the topic of pigeon hunting and drinking back to the fore of public discourse, a debate as old as Santa Monica itself. In deference to the sport's rich history on the Westside, City Council is expected to spend about 20 seconds discussing it on Tuesday. Most insiders predict officials will let stand current legislation protecting bottle-piece hunting, but propose restrictions on smoking cigarettes while in the act.

"This would never happen north of Montana," said Ion Myhighorse.

After all that has happened, Crittington hasn't lost his sense of whimsy.

"Maybe now they'll call me 'Glass Jaw Dick,'" he offered with that contagious, deep cavity smile of his. "I was never fond of 'Two Teeth.'"

Even so, the rent on a studio apartment in Santa Monica is \$1,500, even south of the 10. Street parking is not included.

LOCAL



A downward spiral



Boogaloo Shrimp/Daily Mess

After 24 hours of debate, with hardly any breaks, city officials finally voted to rename the California 'Incline' the California 'Decline.' The moniker was changed after commuters said they got confused driving up an incline.

Smokers go underground after council bans tobacco

BY THE NEW GUY
Daily Mess Maker

Not to be outdone by their neighbors to the north, the City Council has banned smoking and the sale of tobacco throughout town.

No longer will anyone be allowed to light up within city limits, as the law, passed last night, prohibits smoking cigarettes or pipe tobacco in private residences, businesses as well as all public spaces.

"Take that Calabastards," Mayor Rob U. Blind said, as he burned a copy of the City of Calabasas' law outlawing smoking in public places, which went into effect two weeks ago. Calabasas took the lead on the no-smoking issue, as it was the first city in the country to outlaw smoking in public.

"We have a reputation for being on the cutting edge, of going so far that we even we don't know how we got there," the mayor said as he choked on smoke from the burning paper in his hand. "There was no way in hell we were going to take a back seat to those snooty S.O.Bs, who just love to copy what we've done here. So we beat them to the punch with the most far reaching law imaginable. Put that in your pipe and smoke it — but not in Santa Monica."

The law goes into effect Monday.

Those caught selling or smoking tobacco will be subjected to public stoning, and have their teeth permanently stained a hideous yellow-brown, akin to a scarlet letter, informing the public the violator has no will power and is a slave to big tobacco. Any business found to sell tobacco products or allow smoking will be shut down and converted into a massage parlor, according to the law.

The ban seems to signal the end of a 10-year battle against smoking. Three years ago City Hall prohibited smoking in all public buildings, parks and the beach, following state law enacted to protect against the dangers of second hand smoke. City Hall took the law one step further last year when it banned smoking anywhere outdoors, which had many workers jumping into their cars to light up during coffee breaks.

Some business owners and residents began to open up their doors to smokers, creating smoking clubs where

tobacco enthusiasts could pay a monthly membership to sit in cramped, hazy rooms and inhale large amounts of flavored tobacco smoke. The clubs became such a hit, council members said, that second-hand smoke was wafting into the homes of neighbors who didn't smoke, poisoning their air. Therefore, a stronger law was needed.

Smokers and tobacco shop owners are outraged and said they plan to sue City Hall.

"Where do they get off telling me what I can and cannot sell. I've been selling cigars here before most were an inch in their daddy's pants," said Ned Gropin, owner of The Fire Trap, Santa Monica's oldest and most respected supplier of all things tobacco, including rare pipes, ashtrays and lung cancer. "This law is ridiculous, punitive and just what I'd expect from these communists."

Council members said they approved the law because they wanted to protect the public health, improve air quality and increased tourism by remaining the most progressive beach community in the country.

"We're not trying to hurt business owners or residents," said Jan Iware-Blac O'Donner. "We're trying to get them to give up smoking, improve their quality of life and help business owners transition into a more community-friendly market. Plus we couldn't let Calabasas steal our thunder. This is our issue. We own it."

With only two days left before the ban takes effect, some smokers have decided to give up the disgusting habit.

"I've quit smoking and started chewing sunflower seeds, see," Tom Notact said, as he revealed a batch of chewed sunflower seeds stuck on his tongue and the shells stuck in his teeth. "Now I won't be afraid to approach women because I think they'll be turned off by the smell of cigarettes. It's a win-win."

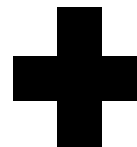
Other smokers are going nuts. "I don't know what I'm going to do," said Paul Mall, who smokes three packs of cigarettes an hour. "I'm going to have to move I guess. Maybe I'll try chewing tobacco. I hear Skoal is tasty."

Virginia Slim, a smoker for 36 years, said she is going to smoke regardless of the law. She said no one will tell her what she can do in her own home.

See FIRE IN THE HOLE, page 19

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LOCAL

MYSTERY PHOTO

The streets have no name



Boogaloo Shrimp/Daily Mess

The first person to accurately describe where this photo was taken will win a free dinner for 12 at Lé Kim Che, one of the most exclusive and expensive Korean French, or French Korean, eateries in Santa Monica. E-mail answers to ddanforth@aol.com and demand your prize.

Trash pickers get zapped by new wired garbage bins

BY THE NEW GUY
Daily Mess Maker

CITYWIDE — Tired of seeing recycling revenues drop due to aggressive trash picking by the homeless, the City Council Tuesday approved the purchase of thousands of new trash cans that will be electrified, sending 50,000 volts through whomever tries to open them without permission.

Residents and business owners will each be given a personalized security code which they will use before opening their trash cans.

The move was bashed by homeless advocates who chastised city officials for being too greedy.

It is estimated that \$23 million a year is lost as a result of people removing recyclables from trash cans.

"This goes against everything Santa Monica has stood for — a home for the homeless," said Los T. Coz, of Bringing U Meals, or BUM. "This is not a win-win situation for anyone. The city will no doubt get sued, and those who make a living recycling will be killed in record numbers. All this will do is increase the level of trash that is not recycled, leading to more trash being dumped locally, causing our ground water and our air to become

Coz said residents rarely recycle despite living in a city that makes it easy for them. The homeless pick up the slack, Coz said.

Councilman Dick Doom said the new trash cans were the only way to stop people from removing recyclables, and while he is sensitive to the needs of the homeless, he is also a firm believer in filling city coffers so there is more money to waste on pet projects, such as a shelter for

poor attorneys specializing in family law.

"We've tried everything from providing free food toe polluted, eventually leading to our early demise. It's all connected," installing lifts to raise trash cans off the ground, even finding residents who will adopt the down and out, and nothing has worked," Doom said. "Electrocution seemed to be our only option. It's only 50,000 volts, which staff has ensured us is very humane. They did say that right? I'll have to go look at the staff report."

The trash cans will be installed beginning Monday. Each will cost \$5,000, with a total cost estimated at \$4.5 million, much of which will be paid for by grant money intended to fund after-school programs. All cans will be clearly marked with a sign warning the public that the cans are electrified.

"This would never happen north of Montana," said a resident Wil Thee. "Our illegal immigrant servants haul our trash with them after working 12 hours a day under the table.

"We give them our recycles as a bonus," he added.

City Hall takes in roughly \$40 million a year from recyclables thanks to increased efforts at educating the public as well as the city's Recycling Ambassador Program, in which recycling supervisors visit homes and businesses once a month to see if they are separating their garbage into four piles — paper, plastic, glass and unrecyclables. Those who do not are required to perform 200 hours of community service, which often includes working at the city dump or picking up trash at the beach.

Even so, rent on a studio apartment in Santa Monica is \$1,500, even south of the 10. Street parking is not included.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Santa Monica now The Big Cheesy

By Daily Mess staff

CITY HALL — City officials on Friday officially adopted New Orleans as its first “Step Sister City.” City Hall has close relationships with many cities throughout the world that are considered sister cities but there has never been one that has a designated lower status.

“Let’s face it, we don’t have that much in common with New Orleans,” said Slyvia Sheltered, executive director of City Hall Sister City Program. “But their stories are so pathetic we felt compelled to help.”

But seeking aide from Santa Monica isn’t a slam dunk.

“Step Sister cities may ask for help but that doesn’t mean we give it to them,” Sheltered explained. “It just means we give them hope.”

Even so, the rent on a studio apartment in Santa Monica is \$1,500, even south of the 10. Street parking is not included.

Ice rink allows residents to chill out

By Daily Mess staff

MID-CITY Seizing an opportunity to buy a swath of land between 17th and 18th streets, City Hall has snagged a three-acre parcel so it can build its long-time dream of a professional ice arena. However, there are no plans to get an ice hockey team in Santa Monica.

“We had some extra money so we looked at our wish list and found hockey as a community asset, so we said ‘why not?’” said Al Makeubroke.

Residents were furious with the move, citing they have parking issues as it is, especially with the damn church expanding.

“This would never happen north of Montana,” said resident Mark Meddler.

Actress realizes she’s ‘not all that’

By Daily Mess staff

MONTANA AVE. — Fledgling barista Illeana Moss, born Eileen Moyer in Toledo, Ohio, debated quitting her job on Friday amid a smoke break, realizing not only had she not landed any roles since moving to Los Angeles to pursue acting, but in all honesty, she really wasn’t “all that and a bag of chips” as she was told after capturing her middle school’s homecoming crown eight years ago.

“Nobody told me how hard the journey might be,” she said, reflecting on three months of toil over vanilla soy lattes and those machines in coffee shops that go “whoosh.” “I mean, everybody out here is naturally beautiful. How do you compete with that?”

Of course, in the light of day, the imperfections of the 5’10”, blonde surfer girl/pre-med student were perfectly apparent. Anyone in the “industry” worth their salt would have told her to quit wasting her time weeks ago, and to go back to the refugee orphanage where she volunteers during her free time — what with her non-detached earlobes, healthy in appearance build and spontaneous fits of joyous laughter.

Moss’ low self-esteem was justly reinforced by a Grande Mocha regular forced to wait, rolling his eyes, until he was given a recycled cardboard cup sleeve.

Even so, the rent on a studio apartment in Santa Monica is \$1,500, even south of the 10. Street parking is not included.

Exalted Ruler taken down a peg

By Daily Mess staff

DOWNTOWN — At the urging of the ACLU, authorities took into custody DeShawn Jackson, as a preemptive measure to avoid a hate crime. Jackson is the newly appointed Exalted Ruler of the Most High for the local Santa Monica Elks chapter, a title deemed to sound “somewhat racist” by civil rights groups and worthy of removing from the general population.

“I don’t know about you, but Exalted Ruler sounds like some KKK crap to me,” said John Duke,

See BRIEFS, page 19

Move it or lose it

Photo Courtesy

SEE YA: More than 2,000 low-income residents were forced to move out of their rent-controlled apartments as a result of a new, federal formula that requires city officials to evict those who make in excess of \$12,000 a year. The new standard will be set at \$9,500.

Feeling non-sequitur? Free Segway rental in the offering

STOP IN NAME OF LOVE, from page 1

Known as “Save Our Streets and Our Sanity,” (SOSOS) the law allows drivers to pay a monthly fee of \$1,000 for unlimited access, including all alleyways, or \$500 for limited access, which is meant to assist employees who need to drive to and from work, or those who simply can’t get enough of the city’s wide array of restaurants and coffee shops.

A free Segway rental is included in every purchase.

“We think this is the best way to get the residents off our backs, and maybe make a little money in the process,” Councilman Merv Gatz said as a man driving a car with Tennessee license plates passed and made an obscene gesture. “They’ve been pestering us for years about traffic congestion, so following in the footsteps of our forefathers, we went full speed ahead and somehow ended up here. It seems to work in London, so why not here?”

In 2003, London officials imposed a daily \$11 fee to those who wanted to drive in downtown. The intent was to lessen the number of cars on city streets, encourage the use of public transportation, and create tax revenue to fund road maintenance and repairs.

So far the program has generated \$45 million for the city, according to Victoria Ann Elizabeth, a traffic enforcement manager for London’s Motorcar Management Division.

“Right off we had a bit of the old swiffer, but as the blokes got used to it they began to fancy the whole bit,” Elizabeth said. “Everyone’s been getting pissed ever since. Now if we could get our hands around that bugger, we’d be top drawer.”

Residents seemed to welcome the new law with opens arms.

“Finally I’ll be able to play street hockey in front of my house without having to worry about dying,” 14-year-old Timmy Toogood said.

“Good riddance, the bastards,” 89-year-old Grum P. Oleman said, as he sat on a plastic chair in front of his home on La Mesa Drive. “We don’t have to worry much about traffic north of Montana, but when I want to drive into town to get my hemorrhoid medication, I don’t like to sit too long in traffic if you know what I mean. I need quick relief, and this law brings it.”

Business owners and elected officials disagree.

“What this will do is make life harder for everyone, residents included,” said Phil Thee Rich, a real estate

developer. “If workers can’t get to the city without a hassle, they’ll go elsewhere, if businesses can’t get deliveries, how are we to get our caviar and cases of Moët? Our quality of life is at stake here, and I haven’t even talked about those living below the 10 Freeway. Can you imagine if the 99 Cent Store just went out of business?”

Los Angeles Mayor Tony Vila Grosa said cutting off Santa Monica would create massive traffic congestion for the westside. Cars will be backed up for miles, he said, causing disruption in the local economy to the tune of \$35 million per day.

“And that’s not all,” Vila Grosa said at a press conference attended by one gadfly. “Can you imagine the amount of road rage that will happen? People will be splitting heads open right and left. If Santa Monica goes through with this, we’ll be forced to file suit in the interest of preserving public safety.”

Councilwoman Jan Iware Blac O’Donner said the council will move forward with the law, which she said provides relief that residents need, while balancing the interests of businesses.

“With money that we generate from this program, we can invest more in public transportation that is sorely needed, OK kiddo?” O’Donnor said, as a woman driving a Miata with Arizona plates passed and shouted obscene comments. “If the City of LA wants to contribute to help out their residents as we are doing for ours, they are more than welcome, but we will not be intimidated by anyone, including the Democrats’ rising star, Mr. Vila Grosa. OK kiddo?”

A source in City Hall said there is some concern that the law will be too difficult to enforce, and that the Santa Monica Police Department may become overwhelmed and not be able to perform crucial duties, such as arresting drunks, prostitutes and the occasional disabled man masturbating in a wheelchair.

“They’re mostly young bucks looking for action, not to be handing out tickets,” the source said. “Their attention needs to be focused elsewhere. We’ll see how long this thing lasts before all goes to hell.”

Currently there are not enough parking spaces immediately outside of the city limits, so officials are considering constructing three parking structures in high traffic areas and charge a daily rate of \$20. Further studies are expected in the coming months.

Even so, rent for a studio apartment is \$1,500, even south of the 10. Street parking is not included.



Oprah on hand to check out council gadfly's new digs

BY THE NEW GUY
Daily Mess Maker

SM BEACH — Talk show icon and honorary therapist for depressed, middle-aged women Oprah Winfrey joined Mayor Bob Offdahook as he handed over a half-million-dollar mobile home to gadfly Joy Fullofit as part of a deal that bars the disruptive City Hall-critic from attending city council meetings for life.

Wearing her trademark red bonnet and blue wool coat, Fulmer broke down in tears as Oprah handed her the keys to her new home, a state-of-the-art, 1,500 square-foot mobile home, complete with a Ford F150 and a year's supply of gas.

"Finally," Fullofit said, standing in front of her trailer with a tattered City Council agenda held tightly in her hands. "I'm so happy. All I've ever wanted was a little trailer and some wheat bread. The poor used to get all the wheat bread before the homeless came. Now we don't get anything at all."

Oprah was on hand to donate furnishings from her favorite local retail store, Room With A View.

"Since I was in the neighborhood shopping, I thought I'd stop by and check out the new crib," Oprah said. "And after 20 years of being on the air, five days a week, you'll make a show out of just about anything."

Fulmer will certainly have a room with a view, for she is welcome to park her home on a small strip of beach just south of the Santa Monica Pier, Offdahook said.

The trailer was donated by local businesses frustrated with the length of council meetings, which are known to drag on until 5 a.m., even when there are very few items to be discussed. The business community as well as neighborhood councils have blamed elected officials for rambling, but much of the anger is reserved for a group of gadflies who must comment on everything.

"Every meeting it's the same people with nothing new to say," said Realtor Rich E. Rich as he polished the pennies in his loafers. "They just love to hear themselves talk. Others are just crazy and have no idea what they're



Boogaloo Shrimp/Daily Mess

Talk show icon and book critic Oprah Winfrey was on hand Thursday to present City Council gadfly Joy Fullofit with a mobile home with furnishings from Oprah's favorite local retail spot, Room With A View. Business leaders donated the mobile home in exchange for Fulmer agreeing to never attend another council meeting again.

talking about. It's no to security cameras one minute and then the next they're complaining about something that happened to them at a party in 1975."

After learning of Fullofit's wish to own a trailer, the business community rallied and purchased the mobile home and the pick-up truck, but with the condition that Fullofit can no longer attend council meetings. She agreed.

"I don't remember what I've babbled about over the years," Fullofit said laughing. "I just drank a bottle of scotch before every meeting and went in there like a bull in a china shop, pointing fingers at anyone I saw, cursing,

the whole bit. It was all part of the plan. I thought if I was annoying enough, somebody would throw me a bone."

If Fullofit breaks the agreement, she will be stripped of the mobile-home, the truck, along with her red bonnet and wool coat.

"We had to put that in to make sure the deal had some teeth," Offdahook said. "She'll risk the truck, house, anything but her bonnet and that coat."

Even so, rent on a studio apartment is \$1,500 in Santa Monica, even south of the 10. Street parking is not included.

Stalker's services no longer needed

STRAWBERRY PERSPECTIVE

BY D. STRAWBERRY



The antiquated rotary phone on her otherwise empty desk rang suddenly — after she stared at it for three hours and 17 minutes — breaking the silence and jarring her in her chair like a frying pan full of kielbasa to the back of the head.

"Was it him?" she must've asked herself. "Could it be? Would he be so bold as to call before the time we scheduled on our calendars following our darling last convergence? Oh, my, he is a cad deep down, is he not?"

Nausea soon ensues, hearing in my mind her paralyzing self-reflections from clear across the state. For, according to the courts, she wasn't to come within 500 feet of me. Still, I couldn't help but shudder thinking of her sitting at home, scrawling "Mrs. Strawberry" over and over and over again on her forehead with white-out. Her world is like "The Shining" fighting against "Memento" ... only nobody wins. Everybody loses.

Just pick up the phone, I said to myself.

In all reality, I shouldn't be calling her. But even stalkers need friends.

At first, I was flattered, being followed about town by a blonde woman can boost a middle-aged ego, but then it all hit the accelerator too hard. There were the coincidental sightings of her at the movies. Then we were suspiciously hitting the same noontime lunch spots. But the hour-plus run-ins at the laundromat, bound to be in the same room washing her panties and whatnots, were too much to take. Was a restraining order really too far behind? No, it wasn't really. Looking back, I was more than happy to help jump-

start her car in the parking structure that night. I know how that can be. But I really thought that would be the end of it. I guess being a Good Samaritan in Southern California can be misconstrued as an all-encompassing, loin-wetting, destructive desire to have an obsessive tryst. I have since taken bolt cutters to those jumper cables.

I realize that in those treatment facilities they encourage their "guests" to be creative and use their imaginations in order to free their minds, but encouraging them to the point of delusion is just plain wrong.

"I don't know if we should be meeting like this," she said to me while I waited in line to buy tickets for "Tsotsi" for my wife and I. My wife, to my chagrin, was over buying popcorn and Goobers. "What if she were to find out about us?"

Of course, my wife could probably just read this woman's column every week in the newspaper, in which she details her bouts of delusional relationships and "chance meetings" and pretend peccadilloes with yours truly.

Ultimately, enough is enough, and I'm trying to call her to tell her that her column will no longer run in the newspaper. But she won't answer. I know she's sitting there in her favorite red parachute pants, argyle socks and Easter hat ignoring the call.

I can hear her now.

"The phone's persistent ring harkens me back to school days of yore. Our romance plays out in the school recesses of our minds. I am giddy as a girl. What if he beckons I come right away? What if he has already sent the horse-drawn carriage to my house to usher me there? ... What if I added chicken bullion cubes to beef broth?"

Well, maybe she'll just read this column that's appearing where hers once did.

LA LA LA LA LA LA.

(Mr. Strawberry is a reluctant columnist and the target of a stalker.)

Pacifists get pummeled on courts

CLASS BASH, from page 6

bers, who really never knew what hit them.

"Do I feel bad about it? No, not really," admitted Buckminster Fullofself. "I mean, we came here to fight, and fight we did.

"They think they know everything, but I'm not sure they knew how their bloody tongues tasted. Now they do."

In attempts to regroup, the SMEAR squad got together at their favorite watering hole to drink water and talk about their performance out there, as well as their feelings. The setback represented the second year in a row that the SMEAR team were felled by those Angry Rich types.

The pacifist approach was a throwback to years past, when the team deployed logic and reason to get all medieval on their asses. The idea of placing soy bean traps was ditched shortly before this year's tussle, but some acknowledged it may have come in hand on the tennis courts.

The ugly beating is already being re-dubbed as "No Love Lost while Courting Disaster along the Nets of Deceit While Reading Between the Lines," since shortened to NLLWCDATNODWRBTL for ease of use.

"The bloody pulp of what was remaining on the tennis courts really put the bash back into 'Class Bash,'" said Gage Chlumsky of the pissed-off Angry Rich squad. "It just feels good to come out on a beautiful Southern California day and take it out on those granola munchers.

"We'll be back next year, believe you me, and we'll have plenty more to be angry about."

Even so, a studio apartment in Santa Monica costs \$1,500, even south of the 10. Street parking not included.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 17

spokesperson for the local chapter of the ACLU. “I know these Elk guys get eyeglasses for little mulatto kids or something, but we can’t have them running about town scaring the bejeezus out of the rest of us.”

In a related story, a really old Elk handed a plaque to a younger Elk — though not “young” by everyday standards — for giving back to the community, or something or other.

‘Jets on the Juice’ hits with bang

By Daily Mess staff

PICO NEIGHBORHOOD — Excerpts from a book yet to be published are already raising eyebrows, wherein former Daily Mess staff writer Ryan Hyatt alleges that a “substantial majority” of gang members during the years between 1998 and 2003 were on the “juice,” or anabolic steroids.

As a result, any statistics kept and tallied during those years will be inflated as compared to those compiled in another era. The tell-all book has been, in turns, hailed and derailed, the latter mindset spearheaded by literary critics and gang aficionados who call it “unnecessarily sensational” and “a tabloid money grab.”

Still, Hyatt stands by his reporting, alluding to case after case of notorious gang members bulking up, and in many cases requiring bigger sized do rags, from season to season.

“It just takes away from the integrity of the numbers,” said Hyatt, as he shaved his rapidly sprouting back hair. “In the old days, bangers had to work out with whatever they could find — manhole covers, rebar, stacks of discarded literature — whatever.”

Hyatt will be signing copies of his book “When you’re a Jet on the Juice” at the Midnight Special bookstore on Saturday, from 1 a.m. until opening.

Even so, the rent on a studio apartment in Santa Monica is \$1,500, even south of the 10. Street parking is not included.

Smokers watch butts

FIRE IN THE HOLE, from page 15

“If I can’t smoke, I will gain 50 pounds and we can’t have that if I am going to continue living on the westside, where your body is everything,” Slim said, sounding like Lucille Ball in her later years. “I’ll smoke on my toilet with all the fans on and 50 Glad Plug-Ins, Lavender Mist.”

Liquor store owners said they have seen a dramatic increase in business as customers have swarmed looking for tobacco. Customers that normally don’t smoke Backwood cigars are buying them by the hundreds because many stores have run out of cigarettes.

Stores outside the city limits have seen an increase as well.

“We’ve got these crazy, sun-tanned yuppies running through here with their flip-flops all clacking, just dying to buy a carton of whatever we got,” said Brad Babasaheb Ambedkar, an employee at a 7-11 in Venice.

There is a concern that some will resort to selling homemade cigarettes, creating an unregulated and potentially dangerous underground market, said City Attorney Sally SoSume. “That wouldn’t happen north of Montana Avenue, but there is concern about the rest of the city,” SoSume said.

Police already have arrested one resident, who resembled the Marlboro Man, for manufacturing cigarettes. Authorities said the cigarettes confiscated contained a deadly mixture of 50 percent imported tobacco from Mexico, and 40 percent recycled Santa Monica Mirror and Westside Chronicle newspapers.

City Hall plans to increase enforcement by diverting state grant money collected from tobacco taxes and investing it into more police officers.

“This may seem crazy now, but in a few years you’ll thank us,” Mayor Blind said. “Think about how many more years you’ll have to enjoy the Santa Monica sunsets.”

Even so, the rent on a studio apartment is \$1,500, even south of the 10. Street parking is not included.



Boogaloo Shrimp/Daily Mess

GOT BEER? A Playstation gamer trying the new ‘Beg to Differ’ video release by Activision waits while his player ‘Shaky Steve’ sleeps one off on a Santa Monica street corner before re-engaging in society.

Gamers out there and loving it

A WORLD A CART, from page 1

due in stores this summer for Xbox and Playstation 3 consoles (retail \$49.95).

As the tagline on the box cover states: “Pitch a tent and stay awhile.”

Featuring the voices of actors Nick Nolte, Sam Elliott, Tara Reid, Suzanne Pleshette, the late Katherine Hepburn and other husky, smoker’s voice Hollywood luminaries, “Beg” takes its players on a maniacal journey like no other through the alleys, easy-picking tourist spots and closed-for-the-night storefronts of Santa Monica.

Players can choose from a multitude of characters in which they traverse the city’s seedy underbelly — the ranting lunatic with grease-formed dreadlocks, the threatening Vietnam vet, the young red-haired Hacky Sac player, the girl who looks like she may have been hot four years ago, the masturbating man in the wheelchair, and many, many more.

With a booming soundtrack by the likes of the Soggy Bottom Boys, the Butthole Surfers and Celine Dion, players traverse the alleys collecting cans and bottles from city-owned dumpsters, filling their “borrowed” grocery shopping carts and alluding the SMPD’s finest. Sure to be a popular feature are the “bumfights” wherein players will be told to “put up their dukes” when their carts collide with one of the many, many others sweeping through the alleys. But have no fear, a player whose energy level teeters on the obsolete can get a boost by attending public feedings in the park, or preferably, shaking down tourists on the Promenade, near the Pier and anywhere else they spot people with clean clothes and a camera. Players get extra energy for crossing the north of Montana line. For every minute you stay NOMA, you get an extra 1,000 points.

Oh, and don’t forget to catch some Zzz’s for your overall health meter. Just stop and drop anytime, anywhere.

“Honestly, I’m not typically much of a gamer, but I thought I’d give ‘Beg to Differ’ a whirl as I was scheduled to attend a conference in Santa Monica this summer,” said Harley Heareng, of Baltimore, Md. “This was quite an eye-opener. I may have canceled my trip to that infested city, but the game is quite a ride.

“You should have seen the bonus points I got last week for discovering all the empty liquor bottles in the bins behind Hank’s Liquors,” he beamed. “My character just laid there for hours. It’s ridiculous. I’m hooked.”

Primed to capitalize on the instant success of “Beg to Differ,” programmers at Activision are already working on next year’s installment, “Home Is Where the Cart Is,” in which the stakes will be raised considerably. During gameplay of “Home Is Where the Cart Is,” gamers can join ranks online and form a gang on the lawns of City Hall and Palisades Park, from where they will launch a multi-faceted campaign of fear on residents in efforts to take over the city, or at least influence city officials to appease them at every turn.

Taking the game’s rising stature among the 18-35 demographic into account, the city’s Convention and Tourism Bureau is working in conjunction with Activision on next year’s version.

“We just want people across the country to come away with a realistic version of the wonderful city of Santa Monica,” said Eileen Left, of the SMCTB. “This part of the population is part of the overall experience. We wouldn’t want it any other way.”

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