

TRAVEL

VEGA\$, BABY, VEGA\$

Southwest's new flights out of Santa Monica Airport take residents to Vegas, Bakersfield at fraction of LAX costs
STORY BY KEVIN HERRIERE PAGE 9



Fabulous one fabulous@smdp.com

Council errs on side of caution

Despite resident outcry, Douglas Park will remain just that

BY ANITA NEWJOB
Daily Stress Staff Writer

DOUGLAS PARK Following a heated debate that extended into the early morning hours last Tuesday, City Council members narrowly voted to retain the name "Douglas Park" for the open space at Wilshire Boulevard and Chelsea Avenue, dealing a blow to advocates of the more fitting "MILF Park" moniker.

In the end, it was Councilwoman Bam O'Connor who cast the deciding vote, giving MILF proponents something to ponder come election time.

"All we're trying to do is accurately reflect the goings-on of this titillating city park," said Gage Chulmers, chairman of the local chapter of the Concerned Organization Into Trying Unconventional Shagging (COITUS).

Chulmers, who was reached for comment while lurking behind a tree in the park, said the maternal eye-candy at the park each day "was enough to give you cavities."

O'Connor said she sympathized with the group pushing for a name change, as well as her fellow councilmembers who supported the idea, but that she couldn't in all good conscience rename the park after its resident MILFs.

"I like the idea, in theory, but just couldn't strip the sign of the tribute to Douglas Aircraft ... well, that and the term MILF is a little touchy."

Reached for comment, the heirs to Douglas Aircraft said they would be fools to oppose the wants of a heaving city, as MILFs are "fun for everyone." Meanwhile, squirrels in Palisades Park were seen busting nuts, fueling fears that the cute little rodents will bring about a plague on all our homes.



Daniel son grasshopper@smdp.com

HIT IT: A mother leaves the park after the unfortunate decision.

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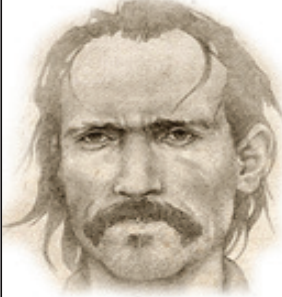
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OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Smart irrigation controller exchange event
Santa Monica Pier, 9 — 11:30 a.m.
Santa Monica residents may be eligible to receive a free 'smart' controller for their landscape irrigation systems. City residents wishing to exchange their old controller for a free state-of-the-art model must reserve a space to be eligible. The controller swap will take at the Santa Monica Pier (across from Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.). Only 150 controllers will be distributed to pre-qualified, registered participants. Residents without a reservation, without their old controller or without a copy of their water bill will be turned away. The exchange event will include a half-hour training workshop. Reservations may be made by calling (866) 728-3229. For more information visit www.bewaterwise.com.

'Charlotte's Web'
2627 Pico Blvd., 11 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.
This production of the E.B. White children's classic is now playing at the Morgan-Wixson Theatre. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. To make reservations call (310) 828-7519. For more information visit www.morgan-wixson.org.

Reed Park community workshop
1133 Seventh St., 1 p.m. — 3 p.m.
Locals are invited to a community workshop on improving Reed Park through landscaping and a larger playground. For accessibility-related questions, call (310) 458-8310.

Santa Monica Relay For Life kick-off party
Santa Monica Place Mall, 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.
An informative meeting on the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life will be held in the Eddie Bauer store. RSVP by calling (310) 628-4191 or by e-mailing santamonicarelay@yahoo.com.

Pacific Park Spring Break 2007
Santa Monica Pier, open daily at 11 a.m., closing hours vary
Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier offers amusement rides, midway games and an oceanfront food plaza. Prices and operating hours are subject to change. Admission to Pacific Park is free. Parking is available along the Pier and in adjacent lots. For more information, please call (310) 260-8744 or visit www.pacpark.com.

'The Scarlet Pimpernel'
1900 Pico Blvd., 8 p.m.
Baroness Orczy's 20th century novel about the French Revolution is playing on the Santa Monica College Concert Hall's main stage. Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$18 for students and senior citizens, \$15 for SMC students and employees (w/ID). For more information, call (310) 434-4393.

Chamber Music Santa Monica concert
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m.
Chamber Music Santa Monica presents a concert of classical, romantic and original works for violin, piano and voice, featuring violinist Milka Krstic, pianist Cody Gillette, soprano Joy Weiser. This event is free to the public and will be held at the Main Branch of the Santa Monica Library.

Sunday, April 1, 2007

Sunday Concert Series at the pier
Santa Monica Pier, 2 p.m.
The Homemade Jam Band — an oldies, but goodies band — will perform a free concert — weather permitting — on the Pier parking deck in the Central Plaza. Limited parking is available on the Pier and in beach lots. For more information, call (310) 458-8901 or visit www.santamonicipier.org.

St. John Passion Cantori Domino
1008 11th St., 7 p.m. — midnight
Cantori Domino, Los Angeles' premiere performer of baroque choral music, will be at the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica to perform its annual Palm Sunday presentation of one of Bach's choral masterworks, the 'St. John Passion.' Maurita Phillips-Thornburgh, founder and artistic director, conducts the fifty-voice choir and full chamber orchestra. Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for students and seniors. For more information or to purchase tickets visit www.cantoridomino.org.

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.





Christina Change newz@smdp.com

RED COATS, TURNCOATS: Homosexuals weren't the only ones outraged by a local tavern's confusing enforcement of a city law.

'No Fags' rule no burning sensation

BY SASHA STONED
De Pressed Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Talk about getting lost in translation.

A large contingent of homosexuals have their panties in a twist over a British pub's efforts to comply with the city's no smoking ordinance. Protesters with a fashionable color scheme and a knack for rhinestone-studded signs have taken to the streets to protest a new sign above the Old King's Ugly Head tavern.

But owner Bangers Mash doesn't see what all the fuss is about, alluding to his 20-foot-by-10 foot sign proclaiming "No Fags Allowed."

"How can I win?" asked Mash in a thick Cockney accent. "The city bans fags and I try to uphold the spirit of the law. Whatever ... you have to be a fool to think you can please all the people all the time.

"If I had my druthers, I'd have fags all over the place, the more the merrier, but this isn't that kind of underground operation."

By the time bystanders attempted to tell Mash that "fag" — which is slang for cigarette in the United Kingdom — actually meant something else here in the United States, the burly bar owner with a leather vest and handlebar mustache shrugged and put on his iPod, tuning in some Juice Newton.

In all fairness to the barkeep, the picketers were adhering to the city's anti-smoking ordinance, taking drags only when they were protesting more than 25 feet from the front door

of the King's Ugly Head, never breaking from their carefully orchestrated walking circles.

"I think it's abhorrent," said "Fancy Shoes" Buehler. "It was bad enough when he [Mash] slapped me 'cause I offered to turn the knob for him while we were heading into the bathroom at the same time.

IF I HAD MY DRUTHERS, I'D HAVE FAGS ALL OVER THE PLACE, THE MORE THE MERRIER, BUT THIS ISN'T THAT KIND OF UNDERGROUND OPERATION."

Bangers Mash, Owner, Old King's Ugly Head

"The guy's really gotta assimilate ... and I'd tell him that, but he'd probably take it the wrong way."

Meanwhile, squirrels in Palisades Park were seen sacrificing sperm to the god of lonely nights, fueling fears that the cute little rodents will bring about a plague on all our houses.

newz@smdp.com

Cheap pot seems like way to go

BY ROLAN GARRISSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

THE BALLOT BOX If voters see fit, the only reason you'll need to hide that bag of cheap pot is out of embarrassment, because the police — they're not even going to be looking for it.

The seeds have been planted for a ballot measure making shake marijuana, also known as "ditch weed," "Mexi-brick" and "generic meds," a lower law enforcement priority than high-grade ganga, commonly referred to as "chronic," "dank," "skunk," "cabbage," "Scooby Snacks," "trees," "turtle," "greens," "wacky terbacky," "airplane," "Mary Jane," "hooch ..."

"We aren't fools. Like the war in Iraq, the war on drugs has failed and it's time to focus scarce resources elsewhere, like ridding the city of genetically engineered plants," said Cheech Chong for Jus' Blaze, an advocacy group for the legalization of marijuana for medicinal purposes.

"It is obvious that shake marijuana is less potent, bitter tasting and harsher on the throat and lungs than some freshly grown cannabis from Humboldt County, which is cultivated to perfection for the most potent dose so that patients do not have to smoke more than one puff or two, saving their lungs," Chong added, as he took a hit from his four-foot bong. "Those who smoke schwag are typically those without medical coverage and cannot afford the best medication available. Why punish them further?"

In the last election, Santa Monicans voted overwhelmingly to make marijuana smoking in the privacy of one's home the lowest law enforcement priority. Police officers are also not allowed to collaborate with federal authorities looking to bust up marijuana dispensaries.

For \$420 a pop, Jus' Blaze is paying professional signature gathers to grab every eligible voter walking out of local pizza parlors, movie theaters, smoke shops, ice cream parlors, and all Frisbee and Swisher Sweets outlets, Chong said through a cloud of smoke.

Buds of opposition are beginning to sprout, with the police officers' union fired up, it's president pledging to spend "as much money as it takes" to fight the measure.

"This is not necessary. Marijuana is already our lowest law enforcement priority," said Sgt. John Taggart, president of the Santa Monica Police Officers' Association. "All this will do is create more paperwork for us."

The City Council seemed divided, with Mayor Dick Doom providing the voice of reason, calling on the council to hire a consultant to study the popularity of schwag versus chronic and whether or not anyone is smoking less potent marijuana in Santa Monica, "a city known for being on the cutting edge, even when it comes to growing some good smoke."

"Let's sit back, inhale, exhale and pass this around," Doom said from the dais last week following a vote to make Zig-Zag the main sponsor at this year's Santa Monica Festival.

Meanwhile, squirrels in Palisades Park were seen consummating their relationship, fueling fears that the cute little rodents will bring about a plague on all our houses.



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Target zeroes in on Santa Monica

BY CAROLINE SACKARIOTSON
Minneapolis Star-Tribune

MINNEAPOLIS Target Corp. is close to reaching a development agreement with the city of Santa Monica to build a 250,000-square-foot retail store in the downtown area in exchange for 140 units of affordable housing, sources close to the deal said Friday.

The development, which could be completed as early as Fall 2009, would be located on land the city recently purchased at the corner of Fourth Street and Colorado Avenue, where it will be part of the Civic Center revitalization, a concentrated effort to breathe new life into the heart of downtown, reconnecting Main Street with the Third Street Promenade shopping district.

In the ultimate use of form and function, the affordable housing units — 40 singles, 35 two-bedroom, and 65 three-bedroom apartments — will be located within the development, incorporated amongst the store, with some units placed on the second floor of particular retail sections, such as women's wear and home appliances, sources said.

"Those without transportation now will never have to worry about that again," said an executive with Target who did not want to be identified because the deal has not been officially announced.

Executives with Target would neither

confirm nor deny the deal. City officials were also tight-lipped, however, three sources, two within Target and a high-ranking official in City Hall, have confirmed such a deal is in the works.

As a courtesy to famed architect Franck Gehry, whose Santa Monica Place mall design will soon be a thing of the past, as the mall's owners look to redevelop the site, the new big box store will be designed by the man who created the Disney Concert Hall in Downtown Los Angeles and other assorted projects that resemble crumpled-up paper.

Word of the deal caught many residents by surprise, but almost all seemed pleased once the shock wore off.

"This is great news for the city and its residents," said Jim Flynn, president of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. "No longer will people have to travel outside of the city limits to find bargains. For many families, saving a few dollars on toilet paper will be as easy as walking out their front doors."

Residents have cried for a discount department store for years, continually complaining about a lack of affordable options for lower-income families. While Wal-Mart has never been part of the discussion because of the company's business practices toward its employees, including falsifying payroll sheets and time cards, Target has been one "big-box" retailer that residents



Frances Casareno production@smdp.com

POOR PEEPS TOO: Franck Gehry's vision for the Santa Monica Target has a familiar feel to it.

have expressed an interest in.

"Target has a great reputation for how it treats its employees, but I really love their commercials," said Stephanie Bradbury, as she shopped along the Third Street Promenade for a velvet painting of Elvis for her husband's birthday.

Not everyone is thrilled that Target is coming to town.

Some local business owners, including

those who sell appliances, electronics, clothing, music, shoes, patio furniture, cookware, beds, exercise and camping equipment, food, and books, among other items.

"This is going to kill me," said Amir Hazan, a shopkeeper downtown who sells men's suits and other accessories. "How can I expect to compete with a major corporation like Target? While they're slashing prices, I'm slashing my wrists."

Councilman is Trimspa's man, and maybe a mac daddy too

BY BLAURIE ROSENSTEIN
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Less than two months after the death of Anna Nicole Smith, diet company Trimspa has announced their new official spokesman — City Councilman Kevan McKeown.

"Don't I look so delicious in these Prada leather pants?" McKeown asked during a press conference on Friday, when he was introduced as the new pitchman for the diet supplement company. "Trimspa can make you look delicious in Prada pants, too."

After learning that Trimspa was looking for a new face for its dietary product, McKeown, who dramatically lost weight a few years ago and has insisted it was due to a change in diet and bicycle riding, admitted to the public it was because of Trimspa.

"I had to put my scrumptious pride aside and take this opportunity to represent a company that has saved my life," McKeown said, with tears welling in his eyes as he reflected on his portlier days.

Meanwhile, squirrels in Palisades Park were seen hitting each other's G-spot, fueling fears that the cute little rodents will bring about a plague on all our houses.

During the press conference, McKeown also made another shocking announcement — he is the father of Smith's 6-month-old daughter, Dannielynn. He joins the list of men who claimed to be the girl's father, including Howard K. Stern, Larry Birkhead and Mr. Zsa Zsa Gabor.

The former Playboy Playmate and McKeown met four years ago at an Overeaters Anonymous meeting in the



Daniel Marchuleta marchon@smdp.com

GEARED UP: It was a nice ride while it lasted.

Bahamas during a two week recess from the City Council. At the time, McKeown told his foolish colleagues that he was taking a vacation in the Bahamas.

The two began a love affair that lasted until January 2006 when they parted ways because McKeown was not happy with Smith's drug addiction.

"I was the one who introduced Smith to Trimspa," McKeown said. "If it weren't for me, she would've died really fat."

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BY HANNAH HYMEN

Daily Ish Staff Writer

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY Tired of the stereotype that police officers are a threatening and brutal force, the Santa Monica Police Department enlisted the help of 15 up-and-coming designers to create their new police uniforms on the reality hit "Project Runway."

In an episode that aired last week on Bravo, the aspiring fashion designers were given the task of designing the new SMPD uniforms or face being beaten with a rubber hose.

"We're tired of the stigma associated with wearing this uniform," a very exasperated Chief Tiny-Tim Jackmon said last week. "We're the police ... and we're fabulous."

The contestants spent two hours creating the designs. A panel of judges — comprised of former Chief Jimmy Buttz, "Project Runway" alum and Santa Monica resident Vincent Lobotomy and Ralph Lauren — unanimously narrowed the field to three finalists.

Meanwhile, squirrels in Palisades Park were seen jacking the sack, fueling fears that the cute little rodents will bring about a plague on all our houses.

The panel unanimously selected Karina Davidson of Sioux City, Iowa, as the winner, praising her for her innovative design of placing the holster in the boot and the SMPD police badge on the derriere.

The only problem? Some SMPD officers weren't too pleased with the winning entry.

"I'm not sure about having the holster on the boot," said Lt. Alen Padilla. "I guess it will somehow make it easier to shoot midjets, or perhaps some squirrels."

Frances Casareno production@smdp.com

ALL HANDS ON DECK: It was pretty apparent who the big winner was after Santa Monica police opened up their uniform redesign to reality TV.

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Squirrels, a tough nut to crack

BY ALFRED FINKLEGUY

Daily Mess Staff Writer

PALISADES PARK Following repeated failed attempts to give the squirrel population in Palisades Park birth control, city officials have decided to release natural predators in the popular park to reduce the furry fiends' numbers.

The squirrels' natural enemy — cassowaries — have been flown in from Mission Beach, Australia, in great numbers to significantly reduce the rampant population of squirrels seen scavenging for sustenance at the popular bluffs overlooking the pier. While they may seem altogether friendly and chipper, there are those in city government that believe the critters may be harboring the renowned "Black Plague" virus and should be eliminated.

"They have been known to carry plague germs and are not to be trusted," said Nigel Forbes, a spokesman for the Urban Wildlife League.

The pilot program, which began two months ago, has had a fair share of success, but there seems to be one unexpected result. It seems that the squirrel population is diminishing in numbers, but cassowaries are running rampant at the park. There also seemed to be an increased number of other wild species introduced to the region.

"They brought the pandas to eat the cassowaries, but they don't seem to like eating them at all," said one homeless man who refused to be identified. Meanwhile, some of the few squirrels left at Palisades Park were seen practicing Kama Sutra moves on each other, fueling fears that the cute little rodents will bring about a plague on all our houses.



HANDLE IT

The renowned 'Stairs' at the end of Fourth Street have been retrofitted for apathetic athletes.

Daniel Starchuleta stiffy@smdp.com

Bums look to secede from crazy homeless

BY LYNN BRONSENTHAL
Daily Pest Staff Writer

THE BACK ALLEY "We're lazy and proud."

Those were the words of more than 20 bums who came before the City Council during its meeting on Tuesday to demand that they be allowed to officially secede from the city's homeless population.

There are more than 2,000 people in Santa Monica who are classified by City Hall as being "homeless," as in people who technically don't have a place to live. Of those 2,000 "homeless" people, 980 are "bums," according to David Itburns, a Santa Monica bum veteran of more than 30 years.

Meanwhile, squirrels in Palisades Park were seen doing the horizontal polka, fueling fears that the cute little rodents will bring about a plague on all our houses.

In the petition, the bums are demanding that the city designate Reed Park as a place where they can frolic together. Along with the designation, the bums would like the installation of table cloth stick bag racks, cauldrons for cooking their Hobo stew and a renovated box car for impromptu howling at the moon sessions.

"Just like how there are differences between Orientals, like Japanese and Chinese, there are differences between the homeless and bums," a very supportive Councilman Kevan McKeown said.

Bush to speak at Arlington West

BY ALLAN FINKLEDUDE
Daily Mess Staff Writer

SM BEACH President George W. Bush has decided to let bygones be bygones and has decided to visit Arlington West, the tribute erected each Sunday on Santa Monica Beach to honor soldiers killed in Iraq since the beginning of the conflict in 2003.

Members of the White House publicity office have been in steady contact with both Veterans for Peace and Santa Monica officials since the announcement was made last week

by Tony Know, the White House's Press Secretary. According to city officials, the White House has ordered that a banner be unfurled behind him reading: "Are you happy now?"

City officials passed a resolution last week earmarking \$40,000 for crowd control during the visit scheduled to take place May 3. Yet, during the same meeting, they also passed a resolution that officially damns the visit.

Meanwhile, squirrels in Palisades Park were seen bumping uglies recently, fueling fears that the cute little rodents will bring about a plague on all our houses.

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SPRAY talk

A CENTER-CUT, NO-FAT REVIEW OF WHAT WAS SAID THIS PAST WEEK BY FOLKS THE WORLD OVER AND RIGHT AT HOME

“My ‘neighbors’ were always a pain in the ass, telling us to turn down the music and stop frolicking on the beach ... probably ‘cause we never invited the buzzkills to our party.”

— Marion Davies, actress and 415 PCH dweller

“I don’t suffer from low self-esteem.”

— Santa Monica resident Rob Schwanker responding to an invitation to join a karate club to bolster his self-confidence

“In my heart, I do love all things UCLA. I could’ve received a superior education at a fraction of the cost I paid to attend USC.”

— USC alumni K’von Herrera

“We connected with one another through song. We are different no more.”

— President Bush on the extraordinary meeting he had with Congress, at which Vice-President Cheney led everyone in a round of ‘Kumbaya.’ Both Democrats and Republicans vow to keep the message of that song in their hearts as they decide whether or not to end the war in Iraq.

“Meanwhile, two squirrels in Palisades Park were seen taming the bald-headed mouse, fueling fears that the cute little rodents will bring about a plague on all our houses.”

— Daly Mess editor Michael Rippinger, embedded with L.A. County health officials

“I don’t want to date women anymore. It’s too much work.”

— Comedian and TV show host Ellen DeGeneres on becoming heterosexual

“Check out my ad.”

— Kate Brandsfeld, #1 Santa Monica Prudential Realtor

“I don’t want her to work anymore. She works too hard.”

— Bill Gates, announcing that he’s giving away half his estate, valued at \$3.5 trillion, to Annie Kotock, local resident. It has yet to be understood why.

“I never thought my mid-life crisis would involve purchasing a go-cart.”

— Santa Monica newspaper publisher, Ross Furrykawa, on purchasing an electric car in his late, late 30s. He can be seen zipping around town in his little car, grinning gleefully.



I’m So Wrong

Bill Bauer

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

City Council goes deep for reform

OUR CITY POLITIC IS A WACKY WORLD

of wonder and amazement. Take for example some of the recent actions of the City Council and Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District school board.

Six weeks ago, the City Council approved Cannabis sativa as our “official city plant.” I have an issue with that because there are a number of subspecies and varieties of Cannabis. So which one is the city’s plant species?

Acapulco Gold? Mexican Brown, Saskatchewan Blue? Would we name the official Santa Monica herb plant after a Mexican city or a Canadian province? Admittedly, there’s no subspecies called “Santa Monica Smoke,” so what’s a good city to do? Personally, I’d sit down, fire up a doobie and ruminate on it.

Casa del Mar and Shutters hotels are under new management. The City has purchased both luxury beachfront hotels from the Edward Thomas Management Company for \$425 million. But, the new properties won’t be resorts for the rich and famous much longer. Plans are to convert the hotels into housing for some of Santa Monica’s most chronic homeless. Councilman, Tevin McKeown is thrilled. But, will other cities take Santa Monica’s lead?

Yeah. Right.

Our “green” thinking parking and traffic management folks have come up with a spliffy idea: Biodegradable parking permits. Instead of plastic hang cards, the city will issue parking permits on tree bark, beginning next year. The new permits will be sliced, diced, stamped, embossed and emblazoned with the appropriate permit numbers and addresses. Motorists will be advised to avoid parking where there’s termites or beavers. Using an excuse such as, “A squirrel ate my permit,” won’t get you out of a parking citation.

Members of the Santa Monica/Malibu Unified School District Board of Education have turned down an opportunity to take a suite of basic business courses that would give them the tools to better manage the school district. So, no classes in Accounting 101, Budgeting 1A and Beginning Bookkeeping which they so desperately need. Dodging classes is probably why they call them the “bored of education.”

Some readers have commented on the recently unveiled city tourism slogan which is “What goes on in Santa Monica doesn’t go on

in Vegas.” One Daily Mess reader suggested, “Welcome to Santa Monica and enjoy the gridlock.” Another reader suggested, “Santa Monica — where you can be a bum.” My favorite is: “Where the crap hits the ocean.”

The Renter’s Rights leadership is proposing a “Santa Monica Landlord Month.” Renters have been calling August, the month in which the Rent Control Board announces annual rent increases, “Landlord’s Month,” anyway.

My hat’s off to the Bayside District Corporation for hiring greeters for the Third Street Promenade. Soon, we’ll have young, attractively dressed men and women escorting tourists through the downtown (Bayside) area. It’s just what we need — personal guides to squire out-of-towners past the vagrants and panhandlers. I wonder if they’ll also hand out face masks so visitors won’t have to smell the stinky alleys.

The BDC is also hiring it’s own Homeless Outreach Team. The HOTs will also consist of young, attractively dressed men and women who will escort vagrants and panhandlers past the well-heeled tourists and direct them to critical services such as finding the best trash cans to loot for recyclables, identifying the cheapest places to buy Steel Reserve 40s, pointing out the best street corners for panhandling and hooking them up with purveyors of the “official city plant.” They’re even going to host a cheap, rot gut wine tasting. I’ll bet a red carpet is on order — for sleeping on, of course.

Lastly, groups like Critical Mass are proposing “Vehicle-free Santa Monica Sundays.” They want one day a week when gasoline powered vehicles would be outlawed on Santa Monica streets. Residents and visitors alike would have to ride the bus, peddle bicycles, push skateboards, sport roller blades or just plain walk.

Nonresidents will have to leave vehicles in West Los Angeles. Vehicles on the 10 Freeway could pass through but wouldn’t be allowed to stop in the City including Santa Monica’s beaches. I think it’s a “mahhh-vel-uuss” idea. I hope the City Council will make exemptions for hybrids, nonpolluting vehicles and veterans of the Spanish-American War.

I asked my neighbor to ride her bike for me. She said she’d be happy to pedal her butt all over town for a dollar.

Complainers can E-mail Mayor@SantaMonica.com if they don’t like this column.

GOT NEWS?

TELL IT TO SOMEONE WHO’LL LISTEN, WE’RE ALL FULL UP.
WE DON’T REALLY CARE.

CALL 310 YOUR-MOM

Ruben's bid for infamy falls short

BY CLEVERLY CONN

Daily Myrrher Staff Writer

1969 — Jerry "Perpetual Peace Activist" Ruben announced that he must withdraw from the 2014 election and scrap plans to die and resurrect himself for peace to protest National Guard actions in South Dakota, due to fears he will not be able to achieve a Guinness world record because he is being stalked by a bitter rival.

Ruben, who is six days shy of shattering the mark for consecutive days of not wearing traditional long pants, fears his march into immortality could be spoiled by the very man whose record he is trying to surpass.

A frustrated Ruben remarked on Friday that the actions of Jackson Brow — who has taken to squirting Nair on Ruben's legs and turning down the heat in his home in efforts to make Ruben cold, and therefore, prompt him to wear pants — have him running in support circles.

"It's chilled me to the bone," Ruben described the personal space violations. "People talk about global warming, but dang if it hasn't been chilly out here with pants this foreboding spring. Even still, it would be foolish to ditch the record for personal pursuits like the resurrection thing."

Ruben seemed paranoid on Friday while hawking his pro-Bush and "Heston was a martyr" bumper stickers along the Third Street

Promenade, looking from side to side for his stalker and laughing about how strapping his stickers over every inch of his exposed legs and violently ripping them off his activist skin, thereby extracting all his leg hair and thusly making him feel a draft, just might make him don pants. Ironically, Brow admitted he had pondered such an approach as he looks to throw his rival off his short-sporting game.

For his part, Brow shrugs off the accusations that he's being really creepy as easily as he shrugs off capri pants and the like. Bedecked in inappropriate banana huggers, Brow said this week that he'll do what it takes to make "that guy put some freakin' pants on."

Brow is currently wanted for questioning by the SMPD. His legs are described as having alabaster skin, with scattered curly hairs and Achilles tendons "that go all the way up," according to Lt. Frank Forgetya, a spokesman within the department.

Some see the whole world record debacle as a clever scheme by Ruben to deflect attention away from his failed resurrection bid, which seemed to fizzle after POM Wonderful pulled their corporate sponsorship of the event upon learning that it was this Jerry Ruben, and not the namesake who authored the book "Do it."

Meanwhile, two squirrels in Palisades Park were seen doing the hairy leg slide, fueling fears that the cute little rodents will bring about a plague on all our houses.



RAND gets transparent, brings think tank outside

By Allan Finkleberg

Daily Pest Staff Writer

MAIN STREET Weary of the perception that RAND is boring and, at times, elitist, officials of the Santa Monica-based think tank have decided to add some transparency to the work that they do here.

"We want the world to know that, aside from postulating upon the latest conundrums facing our planet, we at RAND can kick up our heels when the time is deemed appropriate," said Roger Idle Rodgers III, official spokesman for the research and development giant.

In keeping with the spirit of the move, he's decided to go by the moniker "Jolly Roger Idle Rodgers III" when addressing the press from now on.

Instead of stuffy offices with room after room of critical thinkers wrapping their heads around the troubles of the day, the organization — which does extensive work for the United States government — has developed a theme park of sorts. The main attraction of the new facility is a massive glass think tank where, for a fee, the public can peer into the inner-world of RAND's top flight experts as they ponder various topics of study.

There are multiple observation decks sur-

rounding the massive Plexiglas and steel creation to allow a multitude of visitors the ability to watch the thinkers at work. Souvenir and refreshment stands are scattered throughout the facility that will open its doors to the public sometime in early May. An older structure on the grounds of RAND's Santa Monica headquarters was razed to make way for the decidedly sober theme park.

"It's good to see the folks at RAND finally take steps toward welcoming the public instead of just conducting its business mostly in secreted obscurity," said Riccardo Bloom, Santa Monica's on-again, off-again mayor.

Conveying the notion that RAND is an organization of international stature, the think tank will be decorated with plastic replicas of landmarks the world over. The theme will rotate depending on the topic currently being debated and researched.

The first topic the public think tank will tackle is scheduled to be global warming. To match the motif, the tank will be decked-out with scale models of the Giza pyramids and will be kept at a constant temperature of 100 degrees.

Meanwhile, squirrels in Palisades Park were seen giving each other reach arounds, fueling fears that the cute little rodents will bring about a plague on all our houses.



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EASTER CANCELLED

The Easter Bunny met an untimely demise under the wheel of an LA County lifeguard truck.

Dan Arches danielawoo@smdp.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DP needs some sensitivity

Editor:

I don't know if I'm alone in thinking this, but some of your headlines are a little too risqué and offensive. A good example can be found in your recent issue, "Union OKs workers to walk out of Albertsons" (Feb. 29, page 3). My mouth dropped open in horror when I read your extremely insensitive headline. What about the employees who can't walk? Did you ever consider their feelings? I'm not in a wheelchair and I can walk perfectly fine – in fact, at 50 years old, I can outrun a puma – but I still found your headline to be very cold and mean. Shame on you.

Stan Wannabe
Santa Monica

Brother from streets in your pantry

Editor:

Where is the angry commentary on the homeless epidemic in Santa Monica? It's been missing from the paper for several months now. Come on folks, this is not the Santa Monica Daily Stress we know and love!

I've never really understood why so many Santa Monicans are angry at the homeless taking up space all over the city. They're concerned with how it makes the city look to tourists and yet they're not willing to take an active approach. The solution to the problem, I believe, is to do what I have done. I've adopted one.

"Jonesy" is a great addition to our family. He makes for an amazing babysitter when we're in a pinch. The kids are entertained for hours by his multiple personalities and discussions with invisible friends. In fact, my children's invisible friends have become fast friends with Jonesy's. Leftovers in our house are a thing of the past. We no longer throw any food away ... sustainable living!

Don't think of it as hiding the problem, but more of a win-win situation for everyone.

Annie Vazquez
Santa Monica

Chief can't hold predecessor's holster

Editor:

I deplore police Chief Timothy Jackmon's idea of cutting out portions of the city, mainly the Pico Neighborhood, and letting them become unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County just so we can cut down the crime rate and compete with the greatest police chief the city ever had – Chief James T. Buttz. It's obvious that after only a few months on the job, Jackmon can't hold Buttz' holster. Buttz was not only good looking, intelligent and determined, but one hell of a statesman.

Go back to the drawing board, chief. This idea is not right for Santa Monica.

J.T.B.
Inglewood

Green living techniques made easy

Editor:

Thank you so much for running the announcement for the Green Living Workshops in Santa Monica last week. I just about lost my marbles in a stew of parsnip punch I was so excited! How lovely to mingle with interior decorators who share my passion for the most peaceful color of them all.

But when I showed up, Lord Almighty, what did I see but a bunch of those environmental folks getting all riled up about something. I was a tad bit confused about why one of the ladies kept bringing up all these concerns about air quality during our discussion of green space. Perhaps she was referring to how the window treatment might billow a bit if we let too much of a breeze come in. Oh, those curtains looked so crisp along the celery accent wall next to those elegant sconces. Yes, I do understand that a bit of foliage could spice up a holiday wreath or garden bouquet lining a window sill quite nicely, but this lady was overly excited about plants.

At least the rest of the group was able to continue relatively undistracted with our series on how to decorate our homes with the latest shades of spring green. By the way, forest green is out, hunter green is in. So spread the word to all your readers! I saw some flatware in a lovely Kelley green – simply to die for!

Glenda Sage
Santa Monica



Maudlin Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

City's moniker ain't cutting it

I CONFESS. WHEN I USUALLY ATTEND A meeting of the Santa Monica City Council, I'm mostly excited by the free refreshments, not by the thrill of seeing democracy in action. However, this was not the case at last Tuesday's (March 27) meeting.

The council struck yet another blow against religious oppression in the city, and I applaud them for it. Councilmember, Hobby Shiver started the meeting by reading a letter from a resident who pointed out that the name of the city, "Santa Monica," was a Christian name (named for a Catholic saint), and thereby was not representative or inclusive of all the citizens of our city. The letter writer (who asked to be anonymous) suggested that the name of our city be changed.

Councilmember Tevin McKeown thought the suggestion was ridiculous. "There are many places that have 'Saint' names," he said. "How about, Santa Barbara, San Francisco, and San Quentin? Should all those be changed, too?"

Councilmember Slam O'Connor said, "Just because other places do it, doesn't make it right. Other cities let their citizens smoke outdoors, but that just isn't right for us."

Shiver was obviously moved by the letter writers' unhappiness. I hadn't seen him so animated since the great "Hedge Controversy." He talked about his Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu, and Shinto neighbors and how uncomfortable they might feel with the Christian-only name of "Santa Monica." He suggested that from now on, the city should be known simply as, "Monica."

Some on the council pointed out that when people hear the name, "Monica," they often think of a certain White House intern.

"Do we really want our city to be associated with a sex act?," Mayor Richard Blum asked.

After a long pause, the council members responded, "Uh, no."

McKeown continued to object to the name change. He pointed out that Santa Monica was the mother of Saint Augustine, and is primarily known for saving her son from a self-destructive life. In fact, she became the patron saint of, among other things, alcoholics, disappointing children, and victims of verbal abuse. "Doesn't that make her the perfect saint for our city?" he asked.

Herb Fatz thought that McKeown made some good points, "and I'm sure this Monica was a nice lady and a heck of a mom." But he agreed with Shiver that it is time for the city to have a different name. He suggested, "Temple City." When told that there already is a place with that name, he responded, "That just proves it's a good name."

Councilman Robert Holberg pointed

out that "Santa Monica" didn't represent atheists, and it was therefore probably offensive to them. He suggested, "Godless City," but for some reason, that name wasn't greeted with much enthusiasm.

Councilman Ken Gender read a letter from the Santa Monica Agnostic Society. It said, "We're not sure if there should be a name change or not."

IT WILL BE "SANTA MONICA" FOR THREE MONTHS, THEN "ABDULLAH TOWN," THEN "LITTLE TEL AVIV," "ASHWATTHAMA VILLAGE," "ATSUKO CITY," "FONG BY THE BAY," "CREATIONISTS ARE CRAZY CITY," AND THEN "WE JUST DON'T KNOW TOWN."

The Council made the most progress during their break, when they consumed cream cheese and bagels, hummus and PETA, and a nice selection of herbal teas. They decided that the name of the city would rotate every three months.

It will be "Santa Monica" for three months, then "Abdullah Town," then "Little Tel Aviv," "Ashwatthama Village," "Atsuko City," "Fong By The Bay," "Creationists are Crazy City," and then "We Just Don't Know Town."

The measure was passed unanimously. The rotation goes into effect April 1 with good old "Santa Monica" being the name of Santa Monica for the first three months. This means that we'll all have some time to get used to the new system.

This also means that many residents will be celebrating Christmas when our city will be called, "Little Tel Aviv." How much more inclusive can you get?

LLOYD GARVER has written for many television shows, ranging from "After MASH" to "Three's a Crowd" and "Joey." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Maudlin Times" column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com

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