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THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 127

Santa Monica Daily Press

BRINGING IN THE BUCKS
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE BACK TO REALITY ISSUE

Samohi baseball hopes to end streak

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI Head Coach Rob Duron could easily be pointing fingers.

His Santa Monica High School baseball team is in the midst of a five-game losing streak. The latest setback came Tuesday against Ocean League rival Hawthorne, but the straight-shooting coach is reluctant to assess blame to his players.

He could point out that his offense has scored just eight runs during the slide. He could blame a starting rotation that has yet to find a second starter behind the staff ace. He could even single out his ace, Tyler Skaggs, who has failed to win a single game this season.

But he isn't.

Instead, the second-year coach is squarely placing the blame on himself.

"I'm just not doing a good enough job coaching these guys," Duron said. "I guess we'll just have to stick to the fundamentals and hope we can come out of this."

His Vikings (4-6 overall, 0-1 in Ocean League play) will get a chance to end the slide today against Hawthorne at home. This will be the last game the two teams play against each other this season. Noah Tillipman will take the mound for the Vikings.

Duron said there are benefits to playing a team a second time, but admitted that it could go both ways. The Vikings went undefeated in Ocean League play last season and Duron believes his team has a bit of a target on their backs. He's afraid that the loss to open the league season will show other teams that the Vikings are vulnerable this time around.

To avoid that sort of let down, Duron said his team has to develop an attitude much like last season when the squad felt it could compete with anybody. He feels his players are starting to get down on themselves and wants to instill a killer instinct in them.

If that's to happen, it will have to begin at the plate.

"We're not hitting," Duron said. "it's that simple."

He said that some of the players have been prone to lowering their hands at the plate,

SEE BASEBALL PAGE 13



Photo courtesy Patricia Williams

DOING THE WORK: **A report by Human Rights Watch has revealed that more than 12,000 rape kits in L.A. County have yet to be tested.**

Report: Rape kits go untested

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN More than 12,000 rape kits — the physical evidence collected after a sexual assault — have yet to be tested in Los Angeles County, with 485 in the custody of the Santa Monica Police Department, according to a report by Human Rights Watch.

The 68-page report, "Testing Justice: The Rape Kit Backlog in Los Angeles City and County," found that it can take as long as 12 months for an investigating officer to receive tests results on samples of semen, saliva and other genetic material gathered from victim's bodies following alleged attacks. Other rape kits go untested and are so old that the legal time limit to prosecute has expired in hundreds of cases.

"Women who are raped have a right to expect police to do all they can to thoroughly investigate their case, but in L.A. they often feel betrayed to learn that their rape kits are never even tested," said Sarah Tofte, a researcher with Human Rights Watch and author of the report. "And in some cases, failure to test means that a rapist who could have been arrested will remain free."

To permanently eliminate the backlog, Human Rights Watch is demanding more DNA analysts be hired, along with expanding testing facilities, purchasing more efficient equipment and creating a new DNA evidence tracking system.

The SMPD sends its rape kits to the county's crime lab for processing free of charge, as do other outlying police departments. The report found that 47 police agencies, in addition to the LAPD and the Sheriff's Department, are struggling to process rape kits, with nearly 2,740 sitting untested in storage freezers.

The problem is a national one, as law enforcement agencies struggle to find fund-

SEE KITS PAGE 12

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Group fun
Wokcano Santa Monica
1413 Fifth St., 8 p.m. — 2 a.m.
Wokcano Santa Monica is pleased to host group party evenings throughout the week in Santa Monica. Bring in your intimate group for dinner and drinks to celebrate birthdays, business milestones or friendly gatherings of those in your world amidst a warm and inviting restaurant lounge setting. Call (310) 458-3080.

Hilarious yoga
Shakti's Elements
717 Broadway, 11 a.m. — noon
Laugh your socks off in this form of body-mind exercise for all ages and fitness levels. Class is led by Kim Selbert, a certified laughter yoga teacher. Each person costs $10. Visit www.kimselbert.com or call (310) 849-4642 for more information.

Missed it?
Montana Avenue Branch Library
1704 Montana Ave., 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Come enjoy a free screening of "The Other Boleyn Girl" starring Natalie Portman, Scarlett Johansson and Eric Bana. Popcorn and beverages will be served. Call (310) 829-7081 for more information.

Friday, April 3, 2009

'The Secret Garden'
Morgan-Wixson Theatre
2627 Pico Blvd., 8 p.m.
The Santa Monica Theatre Guild presents "The Secret Garden." Based on the beloved children's story by Frances Hodgson Burnett, this Tony Award-winning musical tells the story of a young girl's journey to England and the discovery of a hidden garden, where she brings those around her back to life. Tickets are $23 for general admission and $18 for seniors and students. Call (310) 828-7519.

Salsa the night away
Isabelle's Salsa/Tango/Pole Dance Academy
1334 Lincoln Blvd., 7 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Friday socials in Santa Monica offer you a friendly, relaxed atmosphere to learn how to dance hot salsa. Two classes are offered for beginners and experienced salsa dancers alike. After class, enjoy a social hour to practice with peers, mingle, enjoy great music and an oak floor. $20 covers the 90 minute class and social practice. Free drinks will be served. Call (310) 392-3493 for more information.

Saturday, April 4, 2009

Jr. Chefs of America
Sur La Table at the Farmers' Market
6333 Third St., 4 p.m. — 8 p.m.
All aspiring young chefs between ages 10 and 18 are welcome to come to the open casting call for the "Jr. Chefs of America first annual WEBISODE cooking contest." Existing Jr. Chefs will also be present for a special cooking demonstration, along with Top Chef Fabio Viviani. Pre-register at www.jrchefsofamerica.com to reserve your audition time. Auditioning is free, and prizes are worth over $500.

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.



Court says man can sue Long Beach

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

PASADENA A Santa Monica man who was wrongfully convicted of rape 21 years ago can sue the city of Long Beach and a police officer for allegedly fabricating incriminating evidence used in the sexual assault case, according to a federal court.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday reversed a lower court's dismissal of the lawsuit filed by Leonard McSherry several years after he was exonerated of rape charges in 2001, claiming that officials with the city of Long Beach and its police department had falsified information leading to his conviction.

Mark Borenstein, the attorney who represented McSherry, did not respond to requests seeking comment.

McSherry was arrested in May 1988 in connection to a kidnapping and rape of a 6-year-old girl from the playground of a Naval base. She was raped and molested before being released several hours after the kidnapping.

He was sentenced to 48 years to life but was released in December 2001 after DNA linked the crime to George Valdespino, who later confessed. McSherry subsequently filed a lawsuit claiming that authorities fabricated the victim's description of the interior of the home where the incident took place along with the girl's identification of the vehicle used in the kidnapping. McSherry also alleged that officials coerced the victim into identifying him as the perpetrator.

Police reports stated that both the victim and her 4-year-old brother who witnessed the abduction identified McSherry as the perpetrator and a yellow Mazda station wagon belonging to his father as the vehicle used in the kidnapping. An adult witness also reportedly picked McSherry out of a lineup as a person she had seen on the day of the incident.

Robert Shannon, the city attorney for Long Beach, said that he is disappointed with the ruling but plans to ask for a reconsideration from the appellate court.

"We felt that the district court was correct dismissing the case," Shannon said.

The appellate court did uphold the lower court's ruling that one of the two officers named in the lawsuit should be dropped.

The police report also stated that the victim's description of the scene where the rape occurred matched a room in the home of

SEE DECISION PAGE 13

Red Tie Affair brings in the bucks

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

The American Red Cross of Santa Monica's annual "Red Tie Affair" fundraiser held at the Fairmont-Miramar Hotel Saturday helped raise nearly $150,000 for the nonprofit that provides health and safety education and assists families affected by disaster.

The 2009 Red Tie Affair saluted the medical profession and emergency medicine. Award-winning KTTV Fox 11 News anchor Christine Devine was master of ceremonies for the gala and celebrity chef, author and TV show host Nick Stellino supervised the preparation of a four-course, gourmet dinner created especially for the event.

Over 400 people attended the event.

Red Tie honorees included the cast and crew of the top-rated daytime television show, "The Doctors." Jay McGraw, the show's executive producer, accepted the American Red Cross Crystal Cross Award for the show's contribution to the everyday understanding of medicine and health issues.

Emergency room physician Dr. Travis Stork; obstetrician and gynecologist Dr. Lisa Masterson; plastic surgeon and reconstructive surgery expert Dr. Andrew Ordon; and pediatrician Dr. James Sears, who is part of the show's cast, were also honored.

The Rick Crocker Spirit of Volunteerism Award was bestowed on Dr. Russ Kino, CEO of Saint John's Emergency Specialists and medical director of Emergency Services. Santa Monica City Councilman Bobby Shriver presented the award.

Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, Nethercutt Emergency Center and Saint John's Health Center Emergency Department also received a Spirit Award.

Celebrities who attended included Dr. Phil McGraw of the "Dr. Phil Show," Kendra Wilkinson from Playboy's "The Girls Next Door," actress Daisy Fuentes, former USC quarterback Matt Leinart and supermodel Jamie King.

Corporate sponsors included One Hope Wine, Fiji Water, Saint Johns Health Center, UCLA/Santa Monica Medical Center, Skyy Vodka, Nestle Waters, C&H Sugars, Pompeian Olive Oil, POM Wonderful, DaVinci Pasta, Fox 11, Maurice Lacroix and the Santa Monica Daily Press.

news@smdp.com



Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

FOR A GOOD CAUSE: **Dr. Robert M. Rey (left), who stars in the reality show 'Dr. 90210' on E!, and his wife Hayley pet SMPD Officer Roberto Villegas' K-9 Partner, Nero, after wining the K-9 ride-along during the live auction Saturday during the Red Cross Red Tie Affair.**

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

EMAIL TO: EDITOR@SMDP.COM OR FAX TO (310) 576-9913

Santa Monica Daily Press — Visit us online at smdp.com

GOTCHA!

So, were you fooled? If you don't know by now, the Santa Monica Daily Press' April 1 issue was our annual April Fool's Day edition in which we riff on issues that challenge Santa Monicans every day. The Daily Press believes it is important to be able to laugh at ourselves, especially during these trying times. It was not our intention to offend anyone and hope people can take a joke.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Homelessness is no joke

Editor:

Dear Mr. or Ms. McCarthy and the staff of the Santa Monica Daily Press,

I am writing in reference to the "Lowes offering free rooms to the homeless" article posted in your paper [April 1, 2009]. I cannot believe that a Santa Monica newspaper is writing an article that so blatantly mocks homeless individuals and additionally gives these individuals a sense of hope in a world which is so filled with hopelessness, especially in this economy.

As an employee at a local social service agency, I am completely outraged. After personally witnessing individuals getting their hopes up, thinking that they would have a roof over their head tonight and a warm bed in which to rest, I am asking you to please remove this article from your Web site. To the homeless individuals who read this article, this was their lucky break. I overheard clients talking this morning about how they would get a good night's sleep for the first time in months due to this amazing opportunity. This disgusting joke has given false hope to individuals who are struggling to obtain basic needs.

I, along with the individuals who have been greatly disappointed, would appreciate a public apology. Thank you.

Virginia Levanas
Santa Monica

Both parties are to blame

Editor:

A letter to the editor from Mr. Mann in Fantasy Land, complains about GOP propaganda. The fact is the Democrats controlled both houses of Congress before the last election. They are both responsible for the economy. Both parties voted to give and continue to give our president a blank check to spend trillions of dollars on wars we cannot afford. Both parties stopped any oversight of the housing market. Democratic Senate Majority leader Harry Reid said in 2005, "While I favor improving oversight by our federal housing regulators to ensure safety and soundness, we cannot pass legislation that could limit Americans from owning homes."

All regulation by nature will limit bad credit risks from owning homes – fail senator, fail voters for reelecting him, fail letter to editor from fantasy land.

David Alsabery
Santa Monica

No way to treat volunteers

Editor:

City Hall surely will reconsider giving volunteers (people who donate their time, that is, they work for free) free parking after reading "City Hall a parking pooper?" page 3, March 30.

To provide such a valuable service as beach cleanup for free and not be given the minimal perk of parking free for a couple of mornings out of a year should rightly embarrass City Council and staff. Frankly, this decision is asinine.

Penalizing volunteers is hardly an effective way to encourage carpooling or using alternative transportation. And if someone is both carpooling and volunteering for a beach cleanup, I'd think City Hall would want to encourage them for their efforts in a small way – free parking.

"... (B)each cleanups are environmental events and participants shouldn't attend by driving personal vehicles" was one comment by a city employee. Of course she probably drove to work to draft this goofy parking denial. She and other city workers need to understand their jobs are not to determine when an individual should drive a personal vehicle – talk about overreaching.

Until gasoline is appropriately priced to discourage driving and a sensible rail system is in place, people will drive. In other words, broad public policy – not silly posturing – is needed.

Blaine Ivy
Santa Monica



That Rutherford Guy

John W. Whitehead — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Teaching children to live in a totalitarian society

UNDER THE GUISE OF PROTECTING AND controlling young people, school officials have adopted draconian zero tolerance policies, which punish all offenses severely, no matter how minor. In fact, under the present system of mandatory punishment, an elementary school student is punished in the same way that an adult high school senior is punished. And a student who actually intends to harm others is treated the same as one who breaks the rules accidentally. Students are labeled as "drug dealers" and "weapon wielders" due to purely accidental circumstances and are punished for actions that hardly qualify as transgressions of the rules, let alone dangerous crimes.

School systems began adopting these tough codes after Congress passed the 1994 Gun-Free Schools Act, which required a one-year expulsion for any child bringing a firearm or bomb to school. Zero tolerance rules in many states also cover fighting, drug or alcohol use and gang activity, as well as relatively minor offenses such as possessing over-the-counter medications and disrespect of authority.

In the wake of the Columbine school shootings, nervous legislators and school boards further tightened their zero tolerance policies, creating what some critics call a national intolerance for childish behavior. In some jurisdictions, carrying cough drops, wearing black lipstick or dying your hair blue are expellable offenses.

These one-strike-and-you're-out policies have been heavily criticized by such professional organizations as the National Association of School Psychologists: "Research indicates that, as implemented, zero tolerance policies are ineffective in the long run and are related to a number of negative consequences, including increased rates of school drop out and discriminatory application of school discipline practices."

Despite mounting criticism, zero tolerance policies have proliferated, creating a vortex that sucks in otherwise innocent children. The public school crime blotter is teeming with examples. For instance, Tawana Dawson, a 15-year-old African-American student at Pensacola High School in Florida, was expelled for the 1999-2000 school year for possession of a "weapon" in violation of the school's zero tolerance policy. The weapon in question was a nail clipper with a 2-inch metal nail file.

In Columbus, Ohio, a second-grader was suspended for drawing a paper gun, cutting it out and pointing it at classmates. A 12-year-old Florida boy was handcuffed and jailed after he stomped in a puddle, splashing classmates.

Incidents like these have made zero tolerance policies the subject of great debate and even ridicule. What has become apparent, however, is the fact that zero tolerance policies fail to decrease the number of students bringing weapons to school, victims of violent crime and students trying alcohol, cigarettes and other illegal drugs.

Some zero tolerance cases have made their way into the courts, but the judiciary has done little to rectify what most people would consider to be miscarriages of justice. A common pattern that has emerged in many zero tolerance cases is the judiciary's tendency to allow school bureaucracy to triumph over common sense and the Bill of Rights. One case in particular come to mind.

IN THE WAKE OF THE COLUMBINE SCHOOL SHOOTINGS, NERVOUS LEGISLATORS AND SCHOOL BOARDS FURTHER TIGHTENED THEIR ZERO TOLERANCE POLICIES, CREATING WHAT SOME CRITICS CALL A NATIONAL INTOLERANCE FOR CHILDISH BEHAVIOR.

The first case involves a young kindergartner from Sayreville, New Jersey, who was suspended for engaging in a make-believe game of cops and robbers on the school playground (he used his finger as a pretend gun). While the school district claimed to have no official written policy mandating "zero tolerance" of violent behavior or threats, the actions by the Sayreville school officials were consistent with those of many other school districts that have adopted such blanket policies. A lawsuit seeking to have the suspension expunged from the boy's school record made its way through the courts — all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, in fact, only to be dismissed at every turn.

Students throughout the country in urban, suburban and rural schools are being subjected to similar searches in the so-called quest to make the schools safer and drug-free. Indeed, there has been a move in Congress in recent years to legitimize strip searches in schools by teachers and other school staff.

The impact of these draconian zero tolerance policies on our young people cannot be understated: it renders them woefully ignorant of the rights they intrinsically possess as American citizens. What's more, they grow up believing that they have no true rights and government authorities have total power and can violate constitutional rights whenever they see fit. In other words, the schools are teaching our young people how to be obedient subjects in a totalitarian society.

Constitutional attorney and author JOHN W. WHITEHEAD is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute. He can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org. Information about The Rutherford Institute is available at www.rutherford.org.

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OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 410 Broadway, Suite B, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.



Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Deep fried in the Deep South

UNLESS THEY'VE PAID UPWARDS OF 5K a week to be pulled, poked and panicked into a more wholesome lifestyle at an über fancy fat farm like Pritikin, or north of 6K a week for a shi-shi spa like Golden Door where the food is low-cal but no one notices because they're otherwise occupied with customized beauty treatments, massages and bath tubs filled with Evian, 24 karat gold flakes and rose petals, most people probably don't take vacations with the intent to shave a few inches from their waistlines.

Then again, most people probably don't think there's a chance their cholesterol levels might soar higher than the value of Rick Wagoner's retirement package while they're away, either.

The Kashi GoLean Roll Bar I ate the morning my family left to visit my husband's mom, brother and sister-in-law in Louisiana last month should have ensured an auspicious beginning to the eating part of the vacation.

However, when we landed in Dallas to make our connecting flight to Baton Rouge, a Popeyes was immediately spotted right across from our gate as we deplaned. Since I met my husband more than five years ago, he has regularly lamented the distinct lack of a Popeyes where we live.

Every time he sees an advertisement for it his eyes widen, his mouth waters and the stories of Popeyes meals past inevitably commence.

So barely three hours into the trip, any pretense of health was shattered as we laid claim to an order of catfish, popcorn shrimp, chicken tenders, red beans and rice, biscuits and fries (and a Diet Pepsi, you know, so as to not be gluttonous). Never mind that it was 10:30 in the morning. It was fried o'clock somewhere.

The next morning we went to the Acme Oyster House to watch LSU play in the opening round of the NCAA basketball tournament. The excursion started off innocently enough with a half dozen raw oysters. It then devolved into a half dozen chargrilled oysters, which certainly sounded healthy. And they tasted even better. (Although adding butter, garlic and pecorino cheese to a dirty sneaker would probably make it taste better, too.) The Abita Strawberry Harvest Lager just before noon complimented the oysters — the bonus being, of course, that after the beer I only needed one more fruit to satisfy that portion of the day's food pyramid.

Then it was on to the po-boys. Deciding to order light, I just got half of one with a salad. In hindsight though, I should have just gotten the full sandwich since the remoulade dressing on the salad probably had more calories than the fried shrimp on the po-boy.

On the way to Avery Island a few days later, we bypassed several Popeyes in favor of several firsts at the Tabasco General Store. It was my first-ever experience with jalapeno ice cream. It was also the first I'd ever heard of boudin (ground meat and rice in a sausage casing). And it was the first time I'd ever seen meat with a built-in holder that wasn't wrapped in deep fried corn bread. As I tasted the boudin and then took a bite of the spicy sausage planted firmly on the sharp wooden stick, I feared a Richard Simmons intervention might be just around the corner.

Other culinary highlights while we were in the Deep South included fried oysters the size of my fist, pasta jambalaya with Gulf shrimp, andouille sausage, oven-roasted duck and chicken morsels, soft shell crabs smothered in crawfish étouffée, and Zapp's Cajun Potato Chips.

And then there was breakfast. My mother-in-law, bless her heart, cooked breakfast every morning as if she knew there was a cardiologist somewhere in need of work. Liberally buttered toast, waffles, fried eggs, Canadian bacon, fried ham, sausage in a blanket (the breakfast cousin of the pig in a blanket) were among the offerings. Somewhere a Denny's was put to shame and out of business.

We spent our last evening in Baton Rouge at the new Alex Box stadium on the LSU campus watching the baseball team play Harvard. The home team was victorious, but we felt like the winners with our Tiger burgers, nachos, a slice of cookie pizza, an ice cream cone and cotton candy (and a bottle of water, because water is an essential part of any healthy diet).

As we journeyed home after a lovely visit, we planned on eating at the same Popeyes in the Dallas airport. But we saw a McDonald's after deplaning and dined there instead, deciding that at more than a dozen gates away, the Popeyes was too far a walk. When the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declared Mississippi the fattest state in the U.S., they must have thought we were visiting at the time.

E-mail questions or comments to meredithccarroll@hotmail.com.

The Q Line

More student bodies?

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District officials are considering increasing class sizes to cover budget shortfalls.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you feel that increased class sizes would negatively impact students or do you believe that it is necessary in light of the current economic situation?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. Please limit responses to a minute or less.


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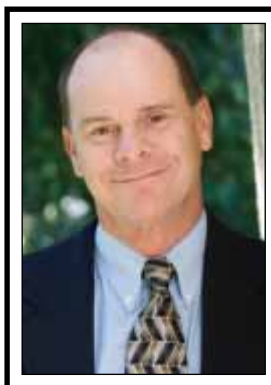


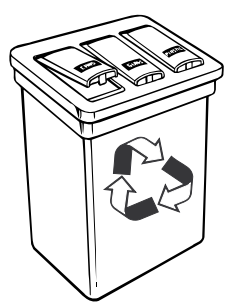
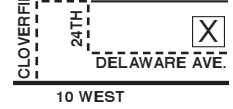
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Craving carbs during Passover?

BY JULIE WIENER
For The Associated Press

NEW YORK Passover can leave Jews hankering for a carb fix. That's because during this eight-day celebration marking the ancient Israelites' liberation from slavery, many Jews abstain from grains, including most wheat, barley, rye, spelt and oats, as well as rice, most other grains, corn and legumes.

Which is one reason more Jews are embracing a newly popular (yet quite ancient) grain-like product — quinoa, a nutrient- and protein-rich and increasingly popular food first cultivated thousands of years ago by the Incas of South America.

"On Passover the No. 1 thing you're really missing is grains, and quinoa is such a great substitute," explains Susie Fishbein, whose "Passover by Design" cookbook includes several quinoa recipes. While technically a seed, quinoa (pronounced keen-wah) takes on a grain-like consistency when cooked, and also can be ground into flour. It's been a mainstay of the natural foods world for a while, but now is catching on in the mainstream.

"The fact that you almost never hear people calling it 'kin-owa' anymore says something" about its emergence onto the American food scene, says Cynthia Harriman, director of Food and Nutrition Strategies for the Whole Grains Council.

According to Harriman, quinoa flour is an increasingly common ingredient in processed foods. And ConAgra Foods recently unveiled a line of quinoa flour. It's also a popular wheat alternative with those who can't eat gluten. Sales of quinoa have grown more than tenfold since 2003 for Bob's Red Mill, a Milwaukie, Ore.-based grains company.

Lorna Sass, author of the cookbook "Whole Grains for Busy People," praises quinoa for being both easy (her basic preparation, in which she boils it like pasta in a large pot of water, takes about 15 minutes) and versatile.

"You can use it every which way," she says. "One day I'll make it Southwest style. Another day Mediterranean or Middle Eastern."

Echoing Sass, kosher cookbook author Fishbein calls quinoa a "blank canvas for almost any flavor you want to add." Many kosher chefs are turning to quinoa for pilafs, breakfast cereals, salads and desserts.

Despite its growing popularity, quinoa is not universally accepted as kosher for Passover in Orthodox Jewish circles.

Star-K, the Chicago Rabbinical Council and several other U.S.-based kosher supervising agencies, have come out with statements in the past decade approving use of quinoa, with the caveat that it be processed on separate equipment from other grains.

Wineries uncork recycling effort

MICHELLE LOCKE
Associated Press Writer

NAPA, Calif. Something fresh is popping up in wine country, a save-the-cork effort that puts a new twist on recycling.

"All of a sudden we found that we had a product that had another life in it," says Roger Archey, program manager of the ReCORK America program that has signed up nearly 200 wineries, restaurants and retailers on the West Coast.

At issue is what happens after a cork is yanked out of a bottle of wine. Turns out corks can be ground up and turned into other products, including flooring and wall coverings.

But it takes a lot of corks to create much of anything useful. About 300,000 corks make up a ton. Collecting and gathering all those corks can be costly and time consuming.

Getting around that was the impetus for ReCORK, which is sponsored by Amorim, a major Portuguese cork manufacturer.

The group, which collects natural corks only, asks wineries, restaurants and retailers to serve as collection centers, gathering not only their own corks but also those of shoppers, diners, even employees. It's often as a simple putting as a big box in a corner.

The program began as a pilot effort in Oregon about 18 months ago and interest has picked up in recent months, says Archey, who is based just north of San Francisco.

Currently about 100 wineries are participating, mostly from California. About 80 restaurants in the San Francisco Bay area are collecting corks, along with Northern California stores of Whole Foods Market, which also is exploring ways to expand the effort.

The program appears to have tapped into bottled-up recycling desires.

"We have people coming in with bags and saying, 'Here are the corks I've been collecting for 10 years. Please do something responsible with them,'" says Adesina Stewart, regional green mission specialist for Whole Foods.

For wineries, the program is a chance to save surplus corks from bottling lines, used corks from tasting rooms and even corks employees bring in from home.

"Our employees have been very positive about it. It's great to get that chance to do one more good thing for the environment," says Allison Simpson, spokeswoman for Foster's Wine Estates, which has a number of wineries participating, including Beringer Vineyards and Chateau St. Jean.

The next step for Archey is finding more commercial uses for the corks in the United States. (What they won't be used for is sealing bottles, that's a one-and-done thing.)

In December, Archey shipped 1.7 million corks to a recycling facility in Portugal. About another 1 million have gone to Napa Recycling and Waste Services, which has been experimenting with whole corks in its compost. The recycling company now is looking into getting the special grinder needed to pulverize corks, says company public education manager Tim Dewey-Mattia.

Don't live on the West Coast? Other companies also are making it easy to give new life to old stoppers.

New Jersey-based TerraCycle Inc., for example, invites companies and consumers nationwide to mail in their used corks, synthetic or natural. The company turns the corks into, logically enough, corkboards.

Saving the corks from landfills is worth it, says TerraCycle spokesman George Chevalier. "Any case where you can pick up some efficiency by reusing, it's a great gain."

Better together: What to drink with asparagus

BY VICTORIA BRETT
For The Associated Press

Asparagus is a sign of spring — a perennial in the lily family and the unlikely relative to onions, leeks, garlic and orchids. And that can make it a finicky dinner companion when sorting out what to drink.

The pointy green shoots often are challenged when it comes to wine, but go down smoothly with Belgian-style beers.

A dubbel Belgian or saison, also known as a farmhouse ale, are a good match with asparagus, says Matt Simpson, who runs the Web site thebeerexpert.com and teaches a course on beer education at Emory University.

"These beers work well, not only because their spicy characters would play well with a fragrant vegetable, like asparagus, but also because they're sufficiently light in body and flavor as to not overpower it," he says.

In the case of the farmhouse ale, notes of light citrus, coriander and orange peel complement the asparagus.

John Fischer, associate professor at the Culinary Institute of America, also suggests trying Hennepin, a Belgian-style brew made by Brewery Ommegang, which is based in Cooperstown, N.Y.

"The saison is better with food than your average Coors Light," says Fischer. "It has more complexity, goes very well with vegetable dishes, and will hold up against grill flavor."

Pan Roasted Asparagus with Toasted Garlic and Parmesan

Start to finish: 20 minutes
Servings: 4 to 6
3 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon unsalted butter
2 pounds thick asparagus (about 2 bunches, stalks about 1/2 inch thick), tough ends trimmed
Salt and ground black pepper
2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
1 lemon, cut into wedges

In a 12-inch skillet over medium, heat the oil. Add the garlic and cook until crisp and golden brown, about 5 minutes. Use a slotted spoon to transfer the garlic to a paper towel-lined plate. Set aside. Add the butter to the skillet and set over medium-high. When the butter has melted, add half of the asparagus with the tips pointing in one direction, and the remaining spears pointing in the opposite direction (this improves browning). Sprinkle the asparagus with 1/4 teaspoon of salt. Using tongs, arrange the spears in an even layer (they won't quite fit into a single layer). Cover and cook until the spears are bright green and still crisp, about 5 minutes. Uncover, increase heat to high and continue to cook until the spears are tender and well browned along one side, about another 5 to 7 minutes, using tongs to move spears from the center to the edge of the pan to ensure all are browned. Season with salt and pepper, then transfer the asparagus to a serving plate. Sprinkle with the toasted garlic and Parmesan cheese, and serve with lemon wedges.





Simple Real Food

Amanda Cushman
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Tastes like a winner

I RECENTLY ENJOYED A MEAL AT A NEW restaurant in the Palisades called Taste. Located on Palisades Drive in a small shopping center, it seemed to be doing well as it was quite crowded when we arrived at 6:30 p.m..

We had very good service and proceeded to order a lovely bottle of wine and two appetizers. The appetizers were both very good; a roasted beet salad with goat cheese on a bed of arugula and a tuna tartare with crostini and a spicy aioli sauce. I would order both of these dishes again as they were seasoned well and the portions were large. For the diner who's not starving, you can definitely split both appetizers or order this as a main course.

We then decided to try one of the specials, which was a chicken breast on top of creamy mashed potatoes with cipolline onions and a brown butter sauce, as well as one of their regular menu items, a pork chop with macaroni and cheese and sugar snap peas.

I ordered the special and was very happy with my dish. It was quite rich though so I couldn't finish it. Maybe go a little lighter on the butter, but the chicken was cooked perfectly and the onions were amazing in texture and flavor.

My husband was less thrilled with his pork — it was a bit over-cooked and overly smoky, once again leading me to wonder if liquid smoke had been used. We had this same overly-smoked meat last week at another place. The problem with that is you can't taste the meat. He enjoyed the snap peas, cooked beautifully with quite a bit of snap left in them.

The mac and cheese was another disappointment as it was heavily flavored with truffle oil. I am definitely the wrong person to serve truffle anything to because I find it so over-powering but I also feel it needs to be paired with something more elevated than macaroni and cheese. This dish would have been better left alone and who doesn't love a great macaroni and cheese once in a while?

The menu had many items with the loathed truffle flavor, which is something I would rather see less of. We also felt the portions to be a bit large and would rather have seen less food on the plate.

The manager suggested we try their chocolate bread pudding with vanilla ice cream for dessert and it was perfect! Truly the best bread pudding I have ever had — moist and creamy egg batter binding the bread together and just enough chocolate. It was served with a crème anglaise sauce, which was also just right. I highly recommend trying this dish when you visit Taste.

The atmosphere was cozy and comfortable but be forewarned that it is family friendly so if you want to dine without children around you, come later.

Satisfied with the salad, I wanted to share with you my own version in hope that you will make it at home and then venture to Taste to compare. Enjoy!

AMANDA CUSHMAN is a culinary educator who has cooked professionally for 25 years. She teaches privately for groups of two to 20 students. She has developed hundreds of recipes for cookbooks as well as food magazines and Web sites. She can be reached amandascooking@gmail.com.

Warm Beet Salad with Endive and Goat Cheese
Serves 4

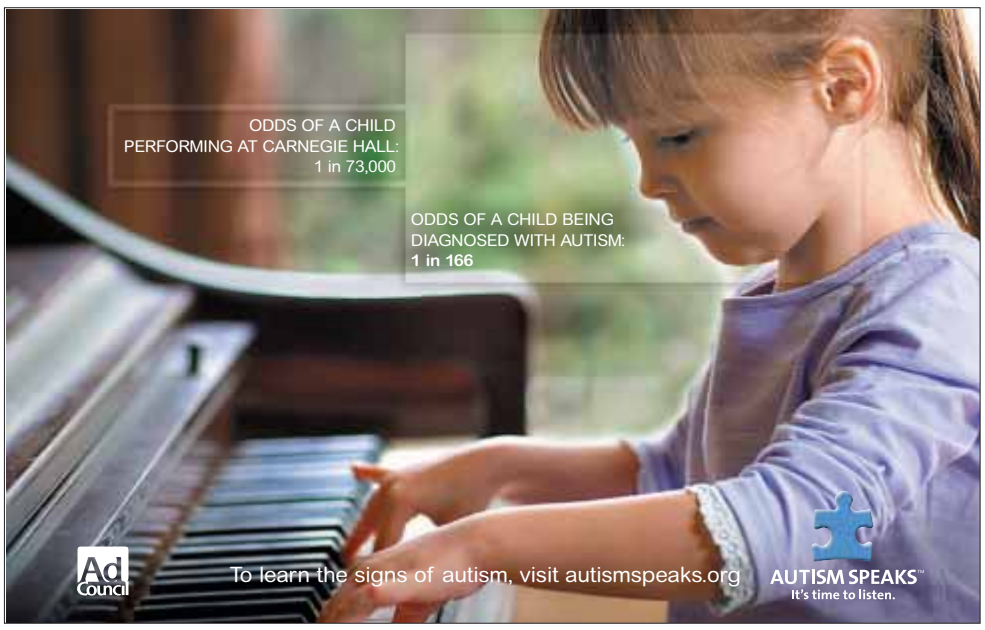
Ingredients
2 pounds beets, washed and quartered
1/2 cup fresh lemon juice
3 tbs. olive oil
salt, pepper, to taste
6 tbs. minced mint
1 tsp. lemon zest
2 heads endive, sliced into thin julienne strips or 1 head frisee can be used
1 bunch watercress, tough stems removed
5 oz. goat cheese

Procedure
Heat the oven to 400 degrees. Place the beets on a baking sheet and toss with olive oil, salt and pepper. Roast until tender about 25 minutes. Remove from the oven and allow to cool.

Meanwhile, combine the lemon juice, olive oil, salt, pepper, mint and lemon zest in a medium bowl and whisk. Taste and adjust seasoning. Reserve 3 tbs. of the dressing in a medium bowl.

Peel the beets and dice and add to the reserved dressing, toss.

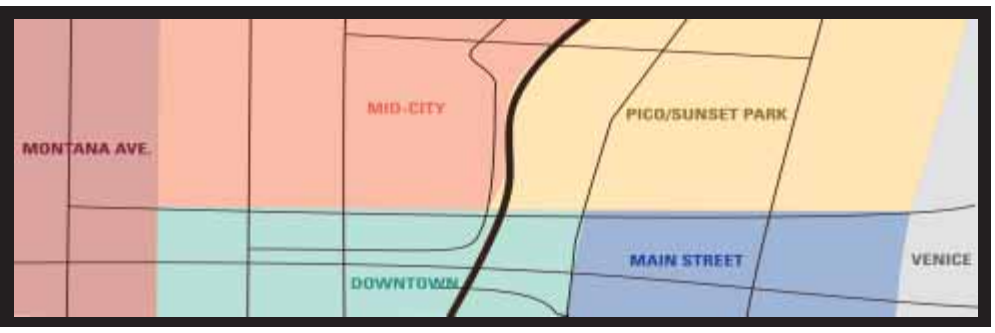
Add the endive and watercress to the larger bowl of dressing and arrange on salad plates. Top with the beets and crumble the goat cheese over the top, serve warm or at room temperature.





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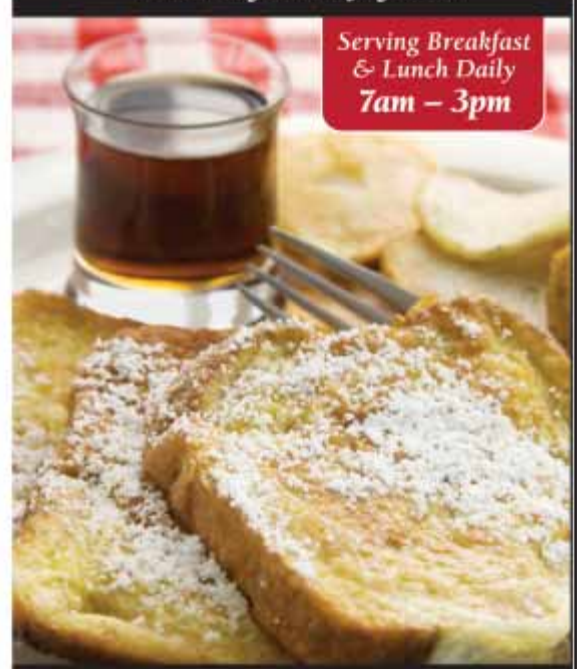
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Layoffs lead to lots of extra time to fill

BY JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer

NEW YORK A few days after she was laid off last month, Dina Schipper's husband asked if she could make sure the dry cleaners came to pick up his shirts.

It was a perfectly routine domestic request, something she'd have done without thinking twice while she was working. But now it sent Schipper, who'd been media relations director at a New Jersey science museum for a decade, into a tailspin of self-doubt. "I was thinking, 'Oh no, is this what I have become?'" she says.

The recession claimed more than 650,000 jobs for a record third straight month in February, and similar painful losses are expected when the government releases March figures on Friday. Unemployment, already at a 25-year peak at 8.1 percent, is expected to rise to 8.5 percent. More than 4 million have lost jobs during the downturn.

For all but the very luckiest ones, the overriding question is, "How will I support myself and my family?" But along with that comes another immediate question, more mundane but vexing nonetheless: "How do I spend my time?"

"Losing your job is akin to identity theft," says Nancy Collamer, a career counselor in Connecticut and author of layoffsurvivalguide.com. "You're robbed not only of a sense of who you are, but of what you were supposed to be doing on a daily basis."

That's something Joe Urbanski has struggled with every day for the two months since he lost his job as a computer programmer for a security company in O'Fallon, Mo. He had no severance payment, and is now trying to live on $135 a week in unemployment benefits.

To make things worse, three days after he was laid off, Urbanski's girlfriend of three years ended the relationship. Now Urbanski, 54, needs to find both a job and a new apartment.

He spends about three hours a day online, searching job sites. Beyond that, there's little to do. "I feel aimless, empty ... worthless is also a good word to describe it," Urbanski says. "I've had jobs for 30 years. It's devastating."

Urbanski says he spends some time reading science fiction books, and some time watching TV. "But honestly, sometimes I just sit and stare out the window," he says.

Andrew Lisy, laid off from a Wall Street job two months ago, counts himself among the luckier ones. At 24 and with nobody to support, the Manhattan bond trader was just beginning his post-college career. He figures he has the savings and severance pay to tide him over for six months.

His approach has been to immerse himself in new projects as he ponders the next step. He spends many hours each day on a social networking site he's created, The Free Agents (freeagentnet.com), where members can meet others recently unemployed, and swap tips on life between jobs.

He's working out more, and has thrown his energy into becoming a better cook. "The other day I bought a vegan cookbook," he says. "I'm not a vegan, but I'm trying to cook all vegan to challenge myself. It's easier than you might think." The one luxury he allows himself: More sleep. He used to get up at 5 a.m for work. Now he sleeps 'til 9 or 10.

That's a luxury parents of young children don't have, of course. So Schipper, the former public relations executive, still gets up between 6:30 and 7 to get her 7-year-old off to school and her 3-year-old to daycare.

It's a similar story elsewhere: data from the government's American Time Use Survey show that when women are unemployed and looking for a job, the time they spend on child care and housework is far greater than that of unemployed men. (Not surprising, since employed women spend more time on child care and housework than employed men do.)

Schipper spends more time now at her daughter's school. She carpools kids to rehearsals. She recently attended her first Brownie meeting. Those are the positives. The negative is the continuing struggle to maintain a sense of purpose and structure to those hours between 9 and 3.

"Everyone says to me, 'This is the best thing that's ever happened to you,'" says Schipper, who's working on forming her own PR business. "But what about on Monday morning, when I wake up and say, 'OK, now what do I do?' It's been a mixed experience."

Mixed for her, but a boon to the household: "I feel like I always need to be doing something," she says. "So I'll vacuum. I'll mop the floor. What next? OK, I'll polish the silver!"

Peter Sterling has also found an outlet for his energies in both child care and household work. The 43-year-old advertising executive was living and working in Los Angeles when news of his layoff came in a call from the New York office. The very next day, he gave notice on his rented condo and planned a move to Phoenix, where his young children were living with his ex-wife and where he owned a house.

"That was the best therapy, to take definitive action right away," Sterling says. After the move, he focused on renovating his house by day and spending time with his kids, ages seven and 12, in the evening. "I guess I didn't realize how miserable I was not seeing my kids every day," he says.

Sterling is also actively seeking work, and he's learned that spending the day online is a temptation to be avoided. "It's tough to stay away from that computer," he says. "You can end up reading blogs all day. Suddenly it's time to pick up the kids." Soon, he found ways to get out of the house for in-person networking, such as attending meetings of local job networks.

And there's always Starbucks with the laptop. "It's really just like being home on the Internet, but at least you get to see different neighborhoods," he says.

Where Sterling found fulfillment with family, other find it with volunteer efforts.

Eric Shutt, 23, was recently laid off from a nonprofit organization in Washington, D.C. He's getting by on unemployment benefits, which cover his rent, and some family help. While he looks for a job in communications, he's volunteering for Artomatic, which stages free art displays and other cultural events in unfinished indoor spaces.

Shutt says he took the news of his layoff "as a good thing, which is partly a defense mechanism and partly real." Mostly, he says, "I wasn't going to let this thing take me down." He hopes his volunteer experience will spark new opportunities as he gets his career going.



Feeling stressed in these troubled times?



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Photo courtesy Patricia Williams

EVIDENCE: **Santa Monica Police are in custody of 485 rape kits that have not been tested to date.**

SMPD creates cold case unit to address backlog

FROM **KITS** PAGE 1

ing to increase their DNA analyst staff. The most recent federal Census of Publicly Funded Crime Laboratories — released in 2008 using data collected in 2005 — shows that during 2005, public crime labs saw their DNA backlog double from the beginning to the end of the year, and that public crime labs across the country would need to increase their DNA analyst staff by 73 percent just to keep up.

Nowhere is the backlog more severe than in Los Angeles County. The accumulation of rape kits in Los Angeles County is due to a combination of police discretion regarding which rape kits get tested; a lack of financial commitment to testing; and the length of time it took officials to acknowledge the nature and extent of the problem, Human Rights Watch said.

The backlog grew even as police received millions of federal dollars from the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant, a program Congress created to address rape kit backlogs, Tofte said.

"Failing to test rape kits denies justice to women who've suffered sexual violence," Tofte said. "If officials had spent federal money to test more kits, they might have prevented future rapes and allowed for prosecution in cases that are now beyond the statute of limitations."

Some law enforcement agencies, including the SMPD, questioned the way Tofte calculated the figures, which agencies provided in response to her requests under the Public Records Act.

SMPD Lt. Dan Salerno, who overseas the Criminal Investigations Section, said the figure listed in the report — 485 — represents the total number of kits in SMPD's evidence room, not the total number of kits still to be tested. Salerno put that number around 270. Some are kits that will never be sent to the crime lab because the alleged victim may have recanted their statement and the case was dropped. Salerno said the SMPD did not have the personnel to accurately count the number of kits to be tested when the records request was submitted.

"I would prefer not to have a detective spend a week or so just to get the numbers [rather] than work on cases," Salerno said.

To address the backlog, the SMPD over a year ago created a cold case unit specifically dedicated to sex crimes and homicides. A detective has also been assigned to comb through those rape kits that still fall within the statute of limitations to bring the backlog down. The SMPD also has the option of sending new kits to a private lab in Orange County for processing using grant money, Salerno said.

The SMPD also has a policy to send out kits for DNA testing immediately as opposed to in years past when DNA testing wasn't as advanced and therefore not as crucial to investigations.

"The best we could get back then was blood typing," Salerno said. "Investigations then really relied on whether or not the victim could identify [their attacker.] "

With advances in DNA technology, Salerno and his team of officers are making sure to send kits out quickly and aggressively investigate new cases to see if there are links. Using a semen sample, officers were able to recently connect a man in custody to at least two attacks.

There were 21 reported rapes in Santa Monica in 2008, 30 the year prior, according to figures released by the SMPD.

Gail Abarbanel, director of the Rape Treatment Center at the Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, said the amount of untested rape kits represented a "public safety emergency," that needs to be addressed immediately in order to remove dangerous sex offenders from the streets.

Failing to test the kits has "devastating consequences" for victims, who must make the difficult and personal decision to report the crime and be tested, only to feel betrayed when the evidence is not processed.

"It just shows how we still have so much discrimination against rape victims in the criminal justice system," Abarbanel said. "It's low on the priority list."

Organizations like Human Rights Watch have helped raise awareness about the severity of the issue, Abarbanel said, and should lead to reform.

Abarbanel said the SMPD has been responsive, working closely with the center to investigate rape cases quickly.

"Every police department doesn't send a detective right away," she said. "Santa Monica is on it. They really do outstanding work."

It is Human Rights Watch's goal to not only address the backlog, but change the way sex crimes, particularly rape, are investigated.

For the complete report, go to www.hrw.org/node/81826.

kevinh@smdp.com

Long Beach officials plan to appeal court ruling

FROM **DECISION** PAGE 3

McSherry's grandparents. She described several elements of the room, including a picture of the kidnapper on the wall, a small brown television sitting on a gray dresser, a twin-sized bed with blue sheets and a mirror on the wall, the report said.

Authorities with a search warrant visited the suspected home and noticed a bird in the living room area and a dog barking in the backyard. During a follow-up interview, the victim said she had heard a bird, according to the police report.

After McSherry was exonerated, the victim denied giving a detailed description of the residence.

Shannon said that if unsuccessful once again with the appellate court, he is prepared to try the case before a jury.

"We just don't believe they are correct and we believe we will convince the jury the officer acted in good faith," he said.

melodyh@smdp.com

Samohi takes on Hawthorne

FROM **BASEBALL** PAGE 1

resulting in a high number of pop ups. He and his staff are addressing it and hope it will remedy itself with time.

Winning a couple of ball games won't hurt either, Duron said.

"I don't know where that attitude is coming from," he said during a break in classes. "It's my job to figure it out."

He did praise shortstop Ricky Gomez for his work at the plate and hopes the rest of his hitters will come around with a little instruction and a touch of determination.

While he stopped short of saying that good can come of this losing streak, he did see a silver lining.

"When you lose five in a row, there isn't a whole lot working," Duron said. "This is what they call character building time."

daniela@smdp.com

A drunk driver ruined something precious. Amber Apodaca.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.



Photo by Michael Mazzeo

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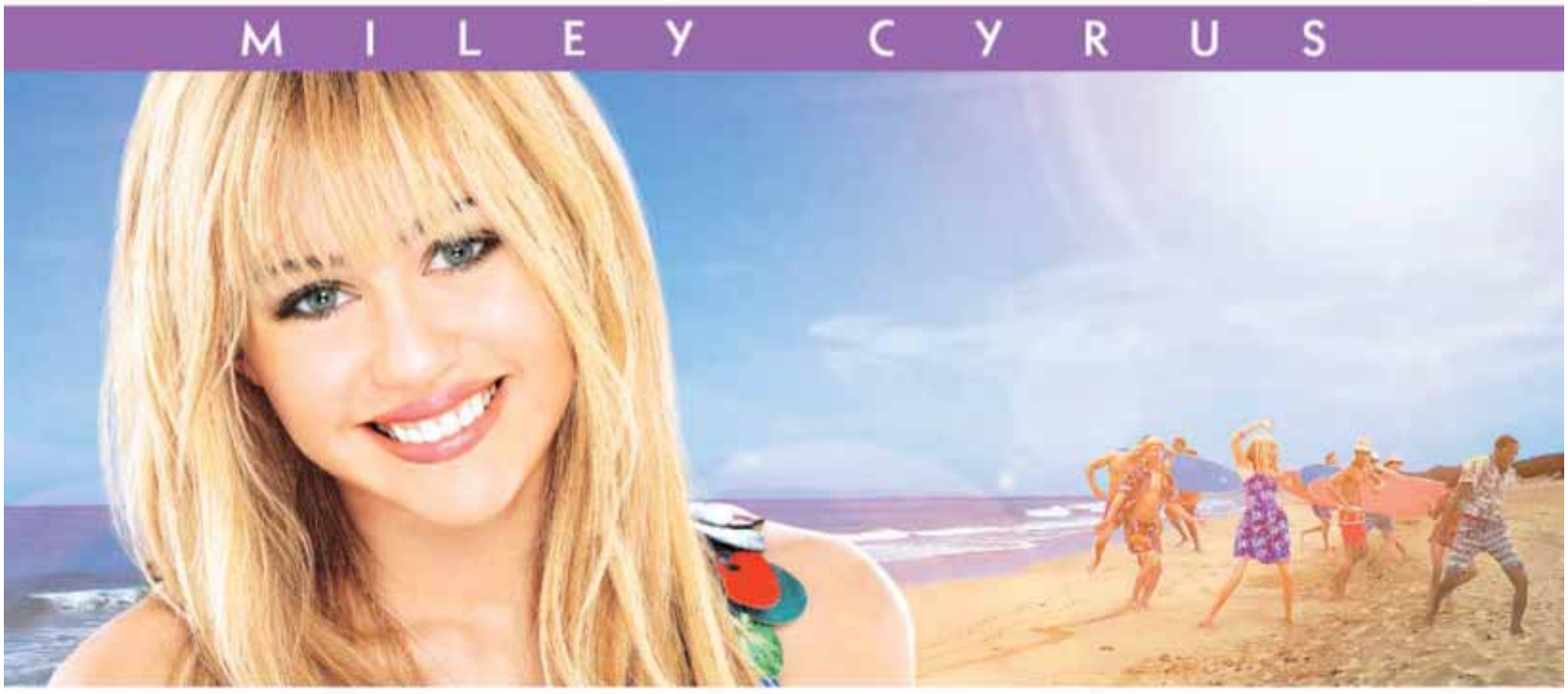
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Play Time

Cynthia Citron
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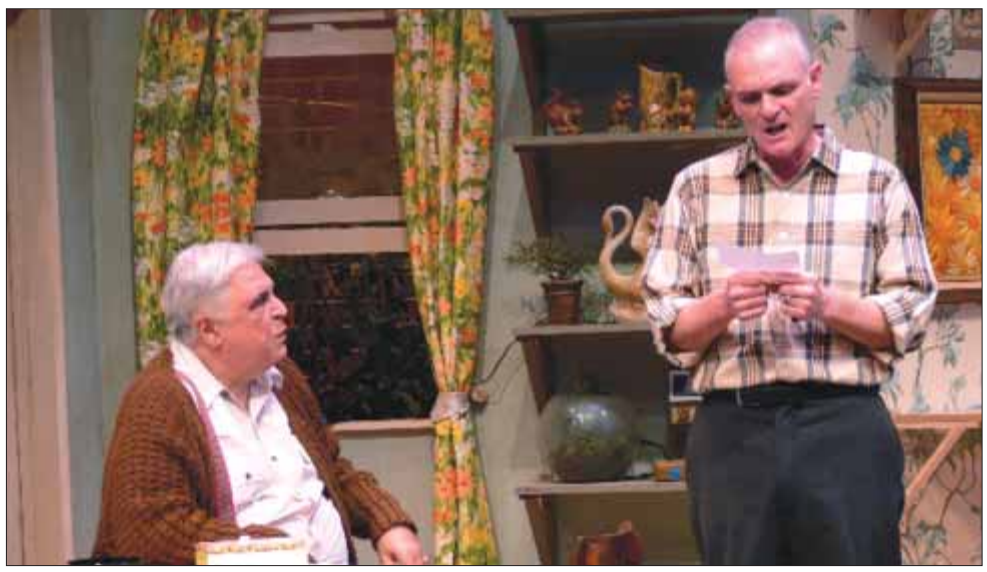


Photo courtesy Cheryl Games

QUALITY CAST: **Charlie (John Capodice) and Leo (Joe Regalbuto) in 'Everybody Say 'Cheese!"**

Divorce, Garry Marshall style

APPARENTLY GARRY MARSHALL AND NEIL Simon were twins separated at birth. Each plumbs the vicissitudes of relationships with a like-minded comic sensibility and an exaggerated appreciation of the absurd. They are two of the best comedic dramatists writing today. Which Garry Marshall proves once again with the West Coast Premiere of "Everybody Say 'Cheese!'"

This farcical play is set in 1965 in a cheesy apartment in the Bronx, where "perfect housewife" Harriet Keenan (DeeDee Rescher) has suddenly been caught up in the undertow of the women's movement. Restlessly, she pursues the few options open to her: a canasta club, a possible affair (!), or meditation. (Even though she oms well, she worries that her third eye is off center.)

Her husband Leo (Joe Regalbuto), meanwhile, is bemused by her emotional struggle. He can't understand why she didn't cut up his banana for him when she prepared breakfast, and he is enraged when she prepares to use "his" newspaper (he is a truck dispatcher for the New York Daily News) to line the bottom of the cage of their bird, Murray. Unable to conceive of dealing with the world outside their seedy apartment, he spends his spare time building shelves, which fill, in multiple layers, every wall in the house. More shelves than even she can fill with tchotchkes.

Inevitably, Harriet decides she wants a divorce. At 50, she tells him, "I'm ready to live and you're ready to die ..." Which drives him out of the apartment to try to calm down. Not to take a walk around the block, but to ride up and down in the elevator.

She is determined, however. She has already contacted a lawyer, Artie Hazeltine (Joel Johnstone), who has informed her that the only grounds for divorce in the state of New York at that time is adultery. Not to be dissuaded, she agrees to his sending over a "professional" who will coax Leo into a compromising position so that he (Artie) can rush in and snatch a photograph of them. (On this occasion, will everybody say "Cheese"?)

Hurt and angry, Leo disappears into the bedroom to "dress for the occasion" and returns in a top hat and tails. When Harriet suggests that this isn't exactly the appropriate clothing for an illicit rendezvous in his own living room, he responds defiantly, "This is what I wore for my wedding, and this is what I'll wear for my divorce!"

Enter Roberta Valderrama as Lee Lynn, the hooker, who immediately becomes the hilarious center of the action. Her intimate conversation with Harriet, her matter-of-fact approach to Leo, and her sweet urgency to get home to her kid, exudes warmth and wit and wisdom.

Words of wisdom are also supplied by John Capodice as Charlie Walsh, the lonesome neighbor who talks about why it isn't a good idea for an old widower to live with his married children. And a temporary diversion is supplied by daughter Karen (Valderrama again) and her dopey, tongue-tied husband Barry (Cyrus Alexander).

Heather Corwin rounds out the cast as Gail, the other Keenan daughter, who serves as narrator to introduce the plot and bring it to its final conclusion.

Though Marshall's script lags a bit from time to time, director Steve Zuckerman keeps his cast moving through one of the ugliest rooms ever seen on stage. It's a masterpiece of screamingly bad taste — green wallpaper of birds and bamboo stalks, a faded blue area rug, and all those damn mismatched shelves! Keith Mitchell should win an award for designing it.

"Everybody Say 'Cheese!'" will run Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m. through April 11 at the Falcon Theatre, which was founded and built by Garry Marshall, at 4252 Riverside Dr. in Burbank. Call (818) 955-8101 for tickets.

CYNTHIA CITRON can be reached at ccitron@socal.rr.com.



SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 56°

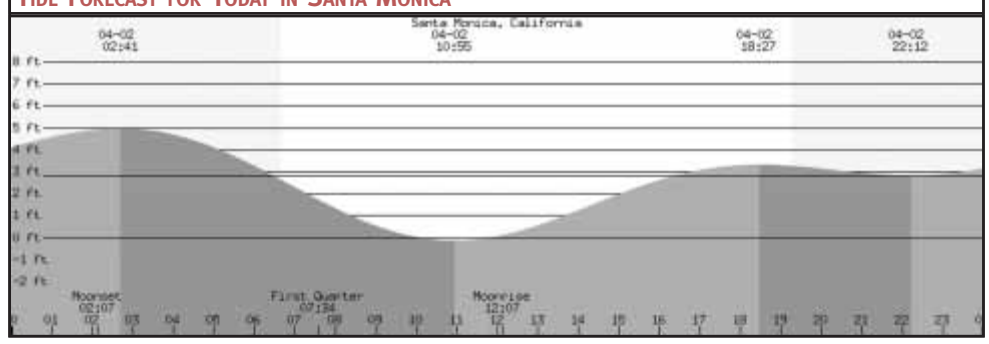
Swell Forecast (4-6 FT)

We should see wind swell start to build, but this would likely only be waist to chest high for west facing breaks, and is heavily dependent on how the next approaching low behaves.

Long Range Synopsis

Friday the 3rd we could see quite an increase in NW wind swell. As mentioned in the synopsis above, models are not in full agreement on how this will develop.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **March 24, 2009**

HEAL THE BAY - 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - www.healthebay.org - brc@healthebay.org - 800 HEAL BAY

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 0
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 34 / 2
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 11 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by simplehuman, Goldhirsh Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, Ford

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Las Alisos creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	F	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	F	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	A+	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	C	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	C	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	F	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	F	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	B	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	F	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	D	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	B	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	B	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A	ns

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone
WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
ns -- no sample taken

Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

Heal the Bay

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Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card® is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A–F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(323) 466-FILM

Autistic-Like: Graham's Story (NR) 50min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Fuel (NR) 1hr 55min
2:25, 7:00

Super Capers (PG) 1hr 30min
5:00, 9:35

Coraline (PG) 1hr 40min
2:00, 4:20, 6:45, 9:10

Last House on the Left, The (R) 1hr 49min
1:45, 4:15, 6:50, 9:20

Taken (PG-13) 1hr 33min
2:40, 4:55, 7:15, 9:30

AMC 7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

Duplicity (PG-13)
1:15, 4:15, 7:20, 10:10

Sunshine Cleaning (R) 1hr 42min
11:00am, 2:10, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00

Fast & Furious (PG-13) 1hr 39min
11:45am, 12:45, 2:20, 3:30, 5:00, 6:15, 7:45, 9:00, 10:20

Monsters vs. Aliens (PG) 1hr 34min
12:20, 2:45, 5:15, 7:55, 10:20

Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG) 1hr 34min
11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

Monsters vs. Aliens (PG) 1hr 34min
Closed Captions
12:20, 2:45, 5:15, 7:55, 10:20

Race to Witch Mountain (PG) 1hr 39min
11:15am, 1:50, 4:20, 6:40, 9:15

Laemmle's Monica Fourplex
1332 Second St.
(310) 394-9741

Gomorrah (Gomorra) (NR) 2hrs 17min
1:40, 4:50, 8:00

Sin Nombre (R) 1hr 36min
1:45, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30

The Education of Charlie Banks (R) 1hr 40min
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

Tokyo Sonata (PG-13) 1hr 59min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

Mann's Criterion Theatre
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

I Love You, Man (R) 1hr 50min
11:50am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50, 12:00am

Knowing (PG-13)
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

Watchmen (R) 2hrs 43min
1:20, 5:00, 8:30

The Haunting in Connecticut (PG-13) 1hr 32min
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

12 Rounds (PG-13) 1hr 48min
11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40, 12:20am

Haunting in Connecticut, The (PG-13) 1hr 32min
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10, 12:30am

Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG) 1hr 34min
11:10am, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30

For more information, e-mail news@smdp.com

Head home, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ New beginnings stem from your inner resourcefulness. Demands are high on the familial and domestic front, forcing a revision of plans. Embrace your work ethic, as you have little to no choice. Tonight: Mosey on home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Your words don't fall on deaf ears, though many might have problems swallowing what they hear. Take others through your logic, step by step. They will be more supportive. Tonight: Out and about.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You might feel unusually awkward about a situation and wonder why you have allowed yourself to tumble into it. Rethink decisions with an eye to the future. You also need to consider the best way out of your present bind. Tonight: Splurge a little.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Be open to different people and ideas. Your way of handling a problem might not be the only one, but it seems like the easiest. Communication could be confusing. If you proceed step by step, you'll be less likely to hit a snafu. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★ Step back for now. Your mind could be like ticker tape, but the less said right now the better. Easily, you can see how someone could misread your words, as you could be hyper. Reach out for someone at a distance or an expert. Tonight: Get some extra sleep.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You can only push so hard without someone's support. Do you feel as if you have the world on your shoulders? You also might, in the same context, have the world at your beck and call. Tonight: Reverse a trend. Be different.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Pressure builds at work, and your approach might become a bit chaotic. You do understand the chain of command, but you might want to weave around it. Use care with a child, loved one or new friend. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Reach out for a unique perspective. Reach out for the eccentric. If you seek out unusual views and they work, you might have to take another look at the principle you and many others have adopted. Tonight: Surf the Web.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Work with one person at a time. Others' egos will love the attention. Creativity merges with intellect, making nearly anything possible. Someone has great expectations — at least so it seems. Tonight: A cozy meal for two.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Defer, and suddenly you'll see what you felt or thought about a situation emerge. Pull back and don't close off your mind. Actually, do the inverse and open up to new ideas. Be neutral when observing both a foe and a friend. Tonight: Visit with friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ An easy, laissez-faire attitude could go far in healing distanced friends and associates. Still, one person has difficulty revealing his or her real self. Rebuild trust slowly by being receptive and willing to grow. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Your imagination fills in the gaps, for better or worse. Your thoughts, if upbeat, could reflect in a positive manifestation. If negative, you could be undermining yourself. Learn to clear out thinking that hinders. Tonight: Touch base, if not partake in dinner, with a loved one.

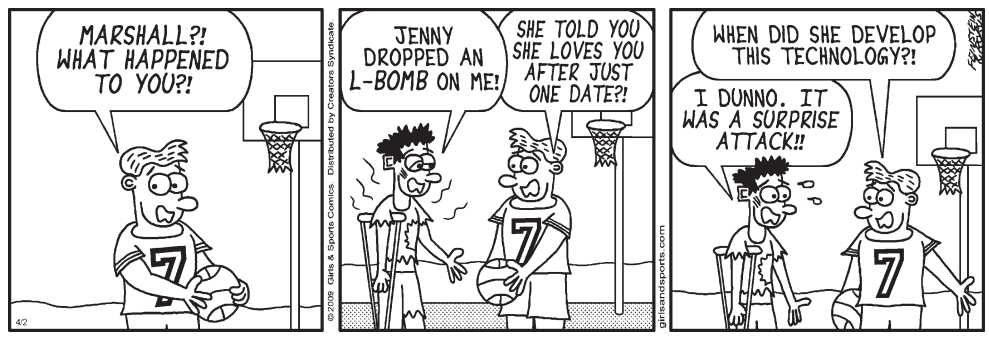
Happy birthday

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

Tap into your personal history and learn how to harness events and situations. You will be empowered once you detach. In some fashion, you serve as a role model to those in your immediate circle. Not everything is easy, but you tackle one goal after another. If you are single, the person you begin the year with might not be the same one you end it with. Your transformation could be reflected in your amorous selection. If you are attached, greater sensitivity will open new vistas. CANCER can be an anchor.

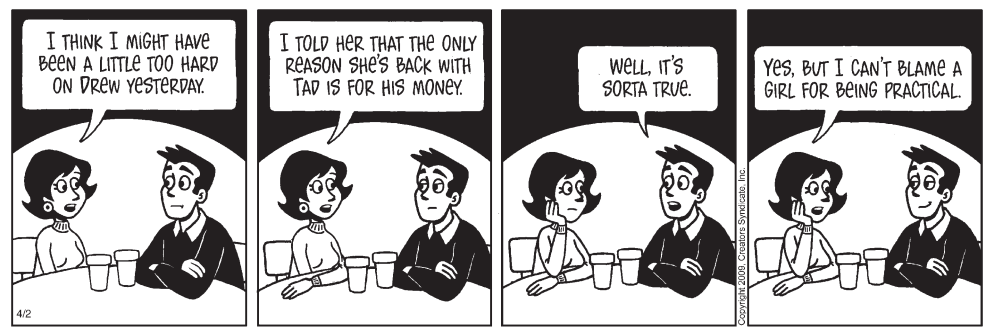
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



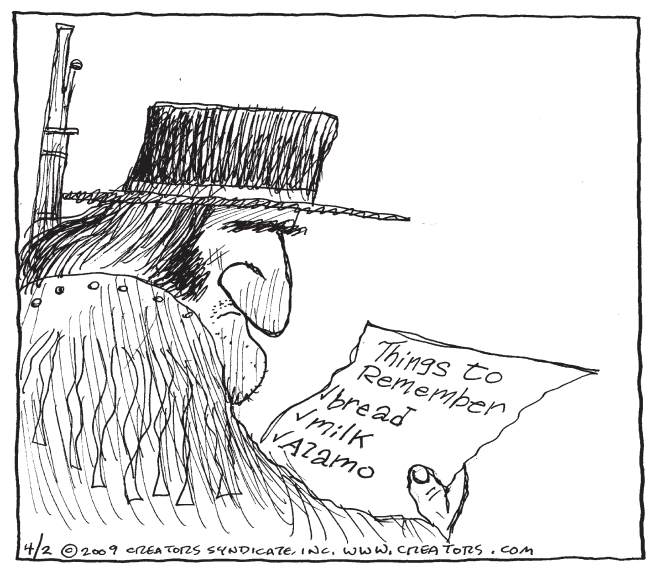
Garfield

By Jim Davis



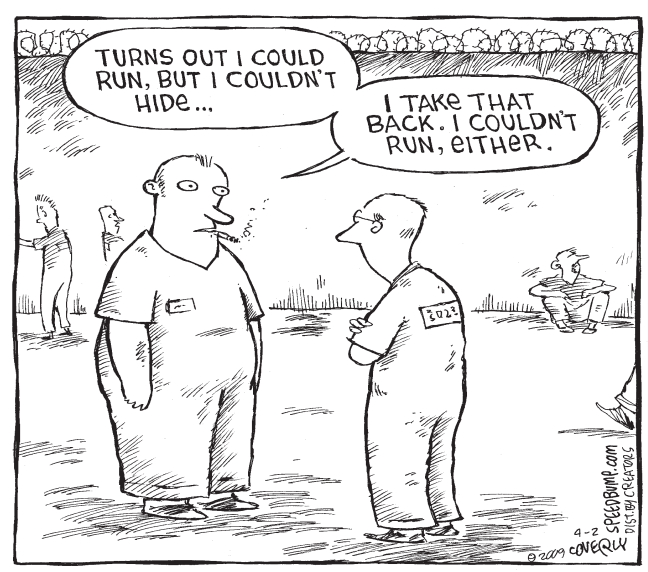
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from ★ (easiest) to ★★★★★ (hardest).

Difficulty Level ★★★

7		8			9			
	9	1		6			5	
					3			6
						5	4	9
8	1	3						
6			2					
	4			9		1	3	
			4			9		8

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

There are many strategies to solving Sudoku. One way to begin is to examine each 3x3 grid and figure out which numbers are missing. Then, based on the other numbers in the row and column of each blank cell, find which of the missing numbers will work. Eliminating numbers will eventually lead you to the answer.

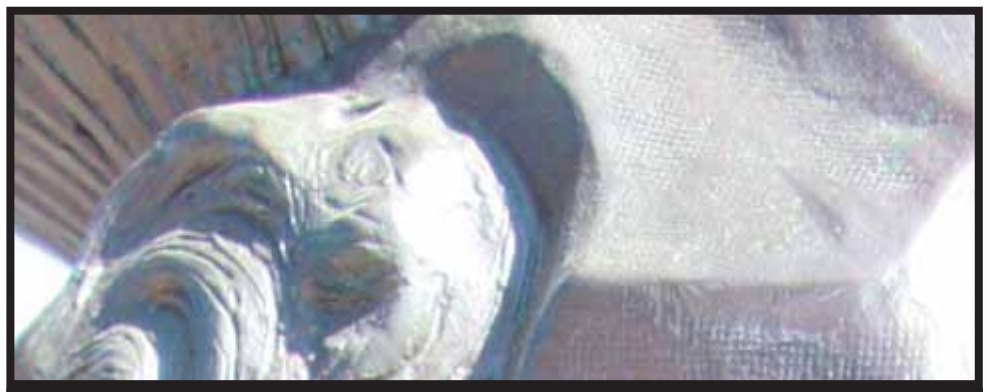
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

1	2	9	6	5	3	4	7	8
7	6	4	2	8	1	9	3	5
8	5	3	4	9	7	6	1	2
4	9	1	5	7	6	8	2	3
5	8	2	9	3	4	7	6	1
6	3	7	1	2	8	5	9	4
9	1	5	8	6	2	3	4	7
3	4	8	7	1	9	2	5	6
2	7	6	3	4	5	1	8	9

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Charity
5 Night lights
10 Drenches
12 Apartment window sign
13 Handyman's job
14 Cartoon genre
15 Mine matter
16 Rainbow mnemonic
18 Station worker
20 Reduce drastically
21 Kitchen pests
23 "Lost" character
24 Doting
26 Niger neighbor
28 Sermon subject
29 Criticize harshly
31 Fury
32 Wears away
36 Israeli city
39 Maze runner
40 Forsaken
41 Gladden
43 Metal fastener
44 Recap
45 Worries
46 Interstices

DOWN

1 Concerning
2 River through Nantes
3 — out (used to the limit)
4 Enjoy Alta
5 Remain
6 Secret society
7 Cave raider of story
8 Made dance records
9 Director Soderbergh
11 Maroons
17 Be decisive
19 Sack
22 Kerchiefs
24 Like a cabin at night
25 Bob Marley song
27 Insurance grp.
28 Indian lutes
30 Island gift
33 Inge creation
34 Relish
35 Flight makeup
37 Fresh
38 Dog docs
42 Galoot

S	H	A	R	E	D	■	S	C	A	R
R	E	M	E	D	Y	■	A	R	G	O
O	R	A	N	G	E	■	L	I	E	D
■	■	■	T	E	D	I	U	M	■	■
D	I	P	S	■	■	S	T	E	A	L
E	R	R	■	P	A	L	E	R	M	O
L	E	I	■	E	Y	E	■	A	M	I
I	N	M	A	T	E	S	■	T	A	R
S	E	E	M	E	■	■	G	E	N	E
■	■	R	A	Y	G	U	N	■	■	■
D	I	A	Z	■	A	R	O	U	S	E
O	C	T	O	■	S	A	M	S	O	N
T	E	E	N	■	P	L	E	A	D	S

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	■	■	5	6	7	8	9
10				11	■	12				
13					■	14				
15			■	16	17					
18			19			■	■	20		
■	■	■	21			22	■	23		
■	24	25			■	26	27			■
28			■	29	30			■	■	■
31			■	■	32			33	34	35
36			37	38			■	39		
40					■	41	42			
43					■	44				
45					■	■	46			

4-2

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Meganumber: 29
Jackpot: $54M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 4 7 17 31 33
Meganumber: 1
Jackpot: $33M

Fantasy 5: 14 19 23 28 31

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 1 0 3
EVENING: 2 4 0

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1.47.98

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ **News That Sounds Like a Joke:** (1) The venerable 17th-century astronomer Galileo Galilei was honored at a gallery in Florence, Italy, in February to mark the 400th anniversary of his transformative work, which was widely discredited at the time (as contradicting the Bible) and which subjected him to vicious slanders. The exhibit includes Galileo's only preserved body part: one of his middle fingers. (2) London's Royal Opera House announced in February that its next biennial original production will be a libretto based on the life of the late Anna Nicole Smith.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1513 Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon landed in present-day Florida.

1932 aviator Charles A. Lindbergh and John F. Condon went to a cemetery in the Bronx, N.Y., where Condon turned over $50,000 to a man called "John" in exchange for Lindbergh's kidnapped son. (The child, who was not returned, was found dead the following month.)

1968 the influential science-fiction film "2001: A Space Odyssey," produced and directed by Stanley Kubrick, had its world premiere in Washington.

1974 French president Georges Pompidou died in Paris.

1982 several thousand troops from Argentina seized the disputed Falkland Islands, located in the south Atlantic, from Britain. (Britain seized the islands back the following June.)

1986 four American passengers were killed when a bomb exploded aboard a TWA jetliner en route from Rome to Athens, Greece.

2005 Pope John Paul II, who'd led the Roman Catholic Church for 26 years, died in his Vatican apartment at age 84.

WORD UP!

jape \JAYP\, *noun*, *verb*:
1. A joke or jest.
2. A trick or prank.
intransitive verb:
1. To joke; to jest.
transitive verb:
1. To make fun of; to mock.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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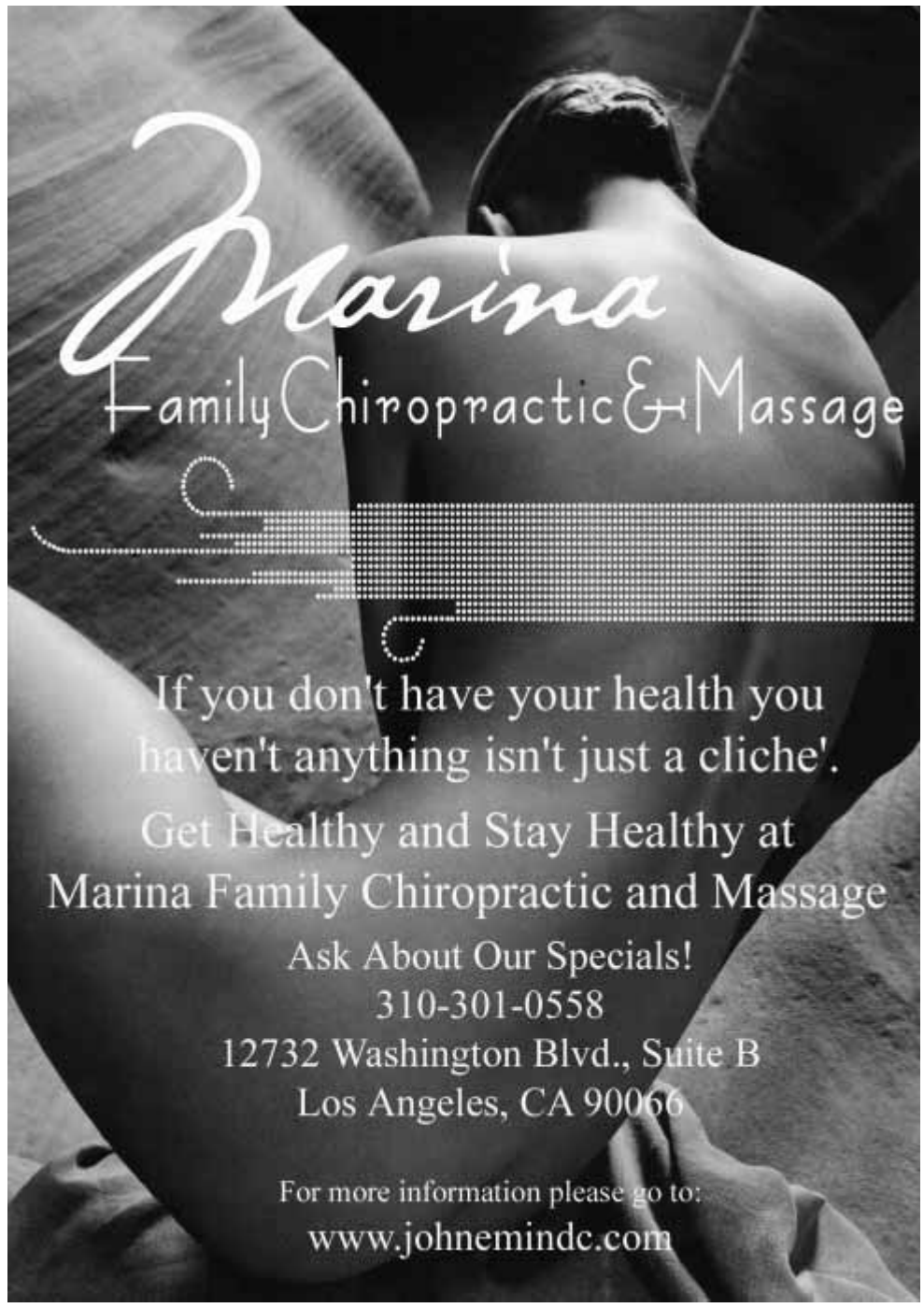
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Santa Monica, CA

I Will Provide You With This Information At The Begining of Each Month...Hope You Find It Helpful!

North of Montana ~ Single Family Homes

First Three Months of 2008 compared to First Three Months of 2009

	Previous Period 1-1-08 thru 3-31-08	Current Period 1-1-09 thru 3-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	9	2	-78%
Average Days on the Market	43	64	49%
Lowest Price	$2,100,000	$2,786,000	33%
Median Price	$2,400,00	$3,253,000	36%
Highest Price	$3,050,000	$3,720,000	22%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$1,013	$690	-32%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	98.37%	95.94%	-2%

North of Wilshire ~ Condo's & Townhomes

First Three Months of 2008 compared to First Three Months of 2009

	Previous Period 1-1-08 thru 3-31-08	Current Period 1-1-09 thru 3-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	18	23	28%
Average Days on the Market	96	53	-45%
Lowest Price	$402,000	$340,000	-15%
Median Price	$590,000	$659,000	12%
Highest Price	$1,140,000	$1,799,000	58%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$610.84	$575.83	-6%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	96.71%	96.45%	0%

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