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CATURDAY

Barbara Chang Fleeman, Public Services Librarian

Over 400 cat lovers of all ages turned out for Caturday at the Main Library last Saturday afternoon. Patrons enjoyed a cat-themed storytime, kitty crafts, face painting, photo booths, and a screening of award-winning documentary Kedi (2017). They also visited with adoptable kitties via the Santa Monica Animal Shelter and the Michelson Found Animal Foundation's mobile adoption unit, the Catty Wagon!

City lawyer warns ballot initiative could reset new rents to the 1970's

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

With a statewide referendum on rent control gathering signatures for the November ballot, a city lawyer is arguing Santa Monica needs its own initiative to stop an unintended consequence if it passes: 1970's rent for 2018 move-ins.

The Rent Control Board's (RCB) general counsel is now warning if voters repeal Costa Hawkins in November, the City Charter defines the rent ceiling as the base rent in 1978, meaning a landlord could have to charge any new tenant (without an existing lease) rent as low as $560 for a studio apartment in the Pico Neighborhood.

"As units turn over, this would result in rent rollbacks and could, conceivably, cause significant economic dislocation," wrote J. Stephen Lewis in a memorandum to the RCB. "In the absence of any state law providing for a vacancy rent increase, the Charter appears to include no definition of 'base rent ceiling' other than that which pegs it to the 1978 rent."

The Board will discuss Lewis's memorandum and recommendations at the April 12 meeting at 7 p.m. inside City Council chambers at City Hall, 1685 Main Street.

Supporters of the Affordable Housing Act must gather 365,880 signatures by June 25 in order to get on the measure to reform rent control on the state ballot in November. As of Feb 26, they were 25 percent of the way there. Today was the deadline for volunteer cir-

SEE INITIATIVE PAGE 7

SMC's Corsair Market feeds food-insecure students

DAILY PRESS STAFF WRITER
Angel Carreras

A long line of students snakes its way throughout the Santa Monica College campus every Wednesday around 2 p.m. Pupils of all ages have dark bags etched beneath their eyes, the toll of studying, midterms, and just trying to be a functional student making its mark on their well-being.

With the balancing act of working to pay exorbitant rent amounts, trying to keep an active social life, and keeping grades up to transfer or get a degree, eating something healthy might fall to the wayside.

These students in line are looking for any kind of relief, and at the end of this line, they've found it; a small canopy filled with volunteers stuff fresh fruits and vegetables into bags and boxes that the students bring.

Students say the aid can feed them for weeks and those who happen to be out of work find the help particularly useful.

It's just another Wednesday at the Santa Monica College (SMC) Corsair Market.

The Corsair Market is a weekly, majority student-run farmers market at the campus. Staff started the program after the success of SMC's twice-a-year Students Feeding Students program.

"One of the counselors had the idea of, 'Why don't we do this every week?' They thought, 'We don't

SEE CORSAIR PAGE 7

Isabel A. Ash Esq.
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, April 11

Soundwaves Concert: Jack Wright/Evan Lipson/Zach Darrup

Improvised music by the saxophone, bass, and guitar trio Roughhousing. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Montana Mystery Book Group: The Ice Princess

After she returns to her hometown to learn that her friend, Alex, was found in an ice-cold bath with her wrists slashed, biographer Erica Falck researches her friend's past in hopes of writing a book and joins forces with Detective Patrik Hedstrom, who has his own suspicions about the case. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Commission on the Status of Women Meeting

Regular meeting of the Santa Monica Commission on the Status of Women. Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th St, 7 p.m. www.smgov.net/Departments/CCS/content.aspx?id=31919

Mindful Meditation

Instructor Henry Schipper, graduate of UCLA's Mindful Awareness program, teaches the basics of Mindful meditation. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St, 7 – 8 p.m.

Mini Makers: Ocean Animal Collage

Build sea life creatures from recycled materials and add them to our ocean mural. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St, 3:30 – 5 p.m.

Thursday, April 12

The Transition to College for Athletes

Playing sports in college is very different from playing in high school sports. Learn about the challenges you will face, and how to overcome them, as a college athlete. Presented by Scott Cvetkovski, founder of Positive Sports Leadership and the SAFE (Students Achieving Future Excellence) Academy. Grades 9-12. 7 – 8 p.m., Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

Santa Monica Rent Control Regular Board Meeting

The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations. 7 p.m. City Hall, 1685 Main St.

I Love My Library Craft-ernoon

Celebrate National Library Week with library-inspired crafts. Bring your library card (or sign up for one) to get an added bonus! Ages 4-12. 3:45 – 4:30 p.m. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

Friday, April 13

Citizenship Classes

An ongoing series of classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors, who help students complete and submit their application, and prepare them to pass the official review. Enrollment is through the SMMUSD Adult Center (310) 664-6222. ext. 76203. 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd

Saturday, April 14

Otis Kite Festival Plein Air Session

Join Otis College of Art & Design instructor Mike Cedeno in this lightly guided session of plein air drawing out on the Camera Obscura's north lawn. This three-hour event is hosted by Otis College Extension and offered in conjunction with Otis' annual Kite Festival - extra points for capturing one of the kites in your artwork! Sun protection is recommended; no experience necessary and drawing materials provided. Palisades Park, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/plein-air-drawing-with-otis-college-extension-mike-cedeno-tickets-44491789139

For help submitting an event, contact us at **310-458-7737** or submit to events@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Safety Advocates Focus on Enforcement Efforts During April for Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Drivers are using their cell phones less often while driving, 10 years after "hands-free" became the law, but distracted driving remains a serious safety challenge in California. April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month and safety advocates will focus on education and enforcement efforts statewide.

Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) has joined law enforcement agencies throughout the state to step up enforcement along with awareness efforts by the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to discourage distracted driving. Officers will have a special emphasis this month on enforcing all cell phone and distracted driving laws. The goal is to increase voluntary compliance by drivers, but sometimes citations are necessary for motorists to better understand the importance of a driving distraction.

April 13th is designated as a statewide enforcement date when law enforcement agencies will step up distracted driving enforcement activities. The California Department of Transportation will put distracted driving messages on the changeable message signs on freeways during April.

Traffic officers have issued hundreds of thousands of citations over the past three years to those texting or calling on a hand-held cell phone. Recent legislation now makes it illegal to use your smartphone's apps will driving. Preliminary 2017 data shows nearly 22,000 drivers were involved in distracted driving collisions in California, a decline from the more than 33,000 drivers involved in distracted driving collisions in 2007, the last full year before the hands-free law went into effect.

SMPD REMINDS YOU OF THE FOLLOWING SAFETY TIPS:

- If you receive a text message or need to send one, pull over and park your car in a safe location, but 'never' on a freeway. Once you are safely off the road, it is safe to text.
- Designate your passenger as your "designated texter." Allow them access to your phone to respond to calls or messages.
- Do not engage in social media scrolling or messaging while driving.
- Cell phone use can be habit-forming. Struggling to not text and drive? Put the cell phone in the trunk or back seat of your vehicle until you arrive at your final destination.

In April, SMPD will be deploying extra traffic officers with grant-funded resources at locations with higher numbers of traffic collisions. Violators will be stopped and cited with fines set at $162 for first time offenders. This campaign is funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

SUBMITTED BY LIEUTENANT SAUL RODRIGUEZ

SACRAMENTO

Legislation to Increase Bike Access on Buses Passes Assembly Committee

Legislation allowing articulated buses to carry more bikes on bicycle racks passed unanimously out of the Assembly Transportation Committee. The measure, AB 3124, was introduced by Assemblymember Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) and will help facilitate multi-modal travel in California.

"AB 3124 allows transit systems to better accommodate riders who use their bicycles to get to and from transit stops," said Assemblymember Bloom. "Enabling this kind of multi-modal travel is essential to building more sustainable transportation systems and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector."

Transit buses throughout the state are equipped with front-mounted bicycle racks that allow transit riders to transport their bicycles with them while traveling. Until recently, all types of transit vehicles were allowed to be equipped with bike racks extending 36 inches from the front of the bus, enough space to accommodate a two-position bike rack. In 2014, 40-foot transit buses were authorized to have longer bike racks that could accommodate up to three bicycles; the same authorization was not granted to 45-foot and 60-foot buses despite their greater passenger capacity.

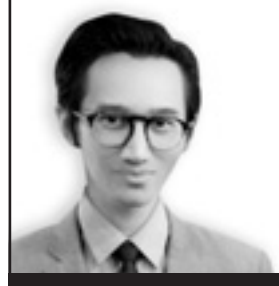
AB 3124 allows 60-foot buses, also known as articulated buses, to be equipped with three-position bike racks that can accommodate up to three bikes. Additionally, to ensure the safe operation of these buses, the measure requires public agencies to establish a route review committee prior to the installation of three-position bike racks; the four-member committee will be responsible for undertaking a field review of proposed routes. Despite the differences in length between a 40-foot and 60-foot bus, both vehicles have a similar turn radius thanks to the articulated bus's accordion design, making longer racks a safe addition to these buses.

"For many people, bicycles provide a first and last mile connection to transit. Increasing the bike-carrying capacity of transit buses will allow more individuals to access this feature and make transit a more attractive option for Californians," said Assemblymember Bloom.

Richard Bloom represents California's 50th Assembly District, which comprises the communities of Agoura Hills, Bel Air, Beverly Hills, Brentwood, Hollywood, Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica, Topanga, West Hollywood, and West Los Angeles.

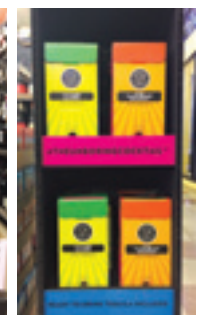
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WINNER

Your Column Here

By Gary Rhoades
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The Fair Housing Act's "Long and Stormy Trip" Fifty Years Ago



Courtesy Photo

MEETING: Dr. King and President Johnson discuss civil rights in 1964.

AT THE SANTA MONICA CITY ATTORNEY'S Office, we have three black-and-white photographs from the civil rights era enlarged to two-feet-by-three-feet prints mounted on poster board. For the start of our annual fair housing rights workshop and to show at once why April is National Fair Housing Month and the gravity of its origins, we bring out these photographs.

One by one.

In the first photograph, President Lyndon Baines Johnson, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Whitney Young are huddled in the Oval Office in 1964 for a strategy session over the first civil rights bill. The meeting marks the beginning of President Johnson and Dr. King's fruitful if sometimes bumpy relationship. Their collaborations would soon result in landmark legislation with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

By early April 1968—exactly fifty years ago—however, Johnson and King were keenly apprehensive for the prospects of a third civil rights bill that they had been working on together since 1966. After addressing discrimination in schools, the polling booth, and public accommodations, the two men had focused legislative efforts on eradicating racial segregation and housing discrimination.

Their hopes were with a fair housing bill that made it illegal to treat applicants for rental housing, tenants, home-buyers, and borrowers differently because of their race, religion, color, or national origin. However, the bill's two-year journey had seemingly come to an unfulfilled end in the Capitol; as of April 4, 1968, it was stuck fast in a legislative committee chaired by a staunch segregationist who had no intention to ever report the bill out.

Our second photograph takes us deeper into the bill's history. It shows Johnson and King in April 1966 in the Cabinet Room for the first top-level meeting over what should be in a law for fair housing (also known as "open housing" back then) and how to get it passed. They anticipated a long fight against segregationists and states' rights advocates.

At that meeting (but not in our photograph) was Congress's godfather of civil rights legislation, New York Congressman Emanuel Celler. Celler introduced a comprehensive fair housing bill (H.R.2516) in January 1967, and the protracted effort began. By March 1968, the bill's supporters had seen it bottled up with a year of neglect in the House and then constant filibusters in the Senate.

But just when H.R. 2516 seemed dead in the water, it would get a breath of life from either the President himself or a hard-hitting civil rights report. For example, Johnson wrote at least two letters to Congress to get the bill moving and demanded in official remarks that the leaders stop "fiddling and piddling" with fair housing. And during another attempt to end a filibuster, President Johnson offered to send an Air Force jet to pick up three or four absent supporters of fair housing.

A jet ride did not grab the Senate's attention the same way as did the Kerner Commission's Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders with its grim picture of race and inequality in America. The March 1, 1968 report, which was a brainchild of Senator Fred Harris of Oklahoma and commissioned at Harris's urging by President Johnson, concluded that "our nation is moving toward two societies—one white, one black—separate and unequal." The Commission further concluded that racial segregation had to be addressed with a comprehensive federal fair housing law.

The report's blistering indictment of white racism shocked many and was so hard-hitting that even President Johnson was taken aback. For several days Johnson refused to acknowledge it. Senator Harris, the last living member of the Kerner Commission, spoke at the Santa Monica

SEE ANNIVERSARY PAGE 5

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

City Attorney's Office Commemorates 50th Anniversary of National Fair Housing Month

The Consumer Protection Division of the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office (CAO) is commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 with several activities in April.

First, the CAO is co-sponsoring the workshop Fair Housing Issues in Rental Housing on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Santa Monica Main Library. The co-sponsors include:

- Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights (SMRR)
- Santa Monica Rent Control Board
- Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles (AAGLA)
- Action Apartment Association

The presenters include Chancela Al-Mansour, Executive Director of the Southern California Housing Rights Center; Jessica Weisman, Partner at the Law Offices of Kimball, Tirey & St. John LLP; Denise McGranahan, Senior Staff Attorney at the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles; and Deputy City Attorney Gary Rhoades and Consumer Specialist Andrea Cavanaugh from the CAO.

Along with an overview of all fair housing law, immigration-related issues in fair housing will be one of the new topics covered in the workshop.

All owners, property managers, attorneys, social-service providers, and tenants are invited to attend, free of charge. A continental breakfast will be provided and parking at the library will be validated.

Pre-registration is required – please reserve your seat here. Space is limited so please register early. Online registration ends on April 20, 2018.

Second, the City Attorney's Office is hosting its popular annual Santa Monica Student Fair Housing Poster Contest. More than 500 elementary and junior high students from Santa Monica participated in the contest this year, creating dynamic posters that feature the 2018 theme 50 Years of Fair Housing For All. A recent panel of judges had the tough but enjoyable task of selecting nine finalists.

The finalists' posters will be on display in the lobby of City Hall during the week of April 23. Four of the posters will also be published as calendars for 2019 and will be part of the City's fair housing newspaper ad campaign. On Monday, April 23, the City hosts the People's Choice Award in which students, teachers, parents and general public are welcome to come view the nine posters from 9 a.m. to noon and 3-5 p.m in City Hall, and cast their votes.

IN ADDITION TO THESE EVENTS, THE CAO HAS HELPED PRODUCE TWO NEW FAIR HOUSING VIDEOS THAT ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE:

- Follow John To Learn About Fair Housing: This unique animation project is a first-of-its-kind collaboration between the CAO, IdeaRocket, and Peter Riedle, a young artist who as a seventh grader last year at St. Anne's School submitted a poster to the poster contest. The sixty-second video brings to life the characters depicted in the poster, including John the wheelchair user, his friends, family and landlord. Follow John To Learn About Fair Housing can be viewed here.
- The Past, Present and Future of Fair Housing: A Symposiom Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act of 1968: The City's symposium on January 18, 2018 featured a blockbuster panel of three speakers, including U.S. Senator (ret.) Fred Harris, the last living member of the 1967-68 Kerner Commission who voted for the Fair Housing Act of 1968; Chancela Al-Mansour, Executive Director of the Housing Rights Center; and Director Kevin Kish, Department of Fair Employment & Housing. The event was filmed and edited by Santa Monica CityTV, and the production has been viewed here over 10,000 times on YouTube.

"Working with the co-sponsors, speakers, teachers and students on these 50th anniversary projects has been one of my favorite experiences at City Hall," said Deputy City Attorney Gary Rhoades. "It's a tribute to both the Fair Housing Act and to our community that so many different and diverse groups and people came together to make the projects possible."

GARY RHOADES, DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY

ANNIVERSARY

FROM PAGE 4

Public Library this January and he lamented the President's reaction and the Administration's attempts to undermine the report.

Harris and the Commission, however, had had the foresight to set up a publishing deal with Bantam Books. The report hit the news media and the nation's bookstores with the force of an Oklahoma tornado. Within three days, Bantam had sold 300,000 copies and the Kerner Report's impact had spurred the Senate to end the filibuster. After a 71-20 vote on March 11, 1968, the bill finally escaped the Senate.

The bill returned to the House for concurrence with several Senate amendments. A hopeful consent request was rejected and then the bill was dealt another blow, a referral to the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee was chaired by Mississippi's William Colmer, a staunch segregationist, and the only quick thing he did with the bill was to defer any consideration of it. The definitive law review article on H.R. 2516's legislative history, by Jean Dubofsky, states that after the second continuance by Colmer delaying action, "fears had increased that the Senate's civil rights bill might die in the Rules Committee."

Upon relating this piece of civil rights history to our Santa Monica workshop participants, we unveil the third photograph, that of President Johnson signing the Civil Rights Acts of 1968 ("Fair Housing Act") on April 11, 1968. He's surrounded by some twenty men, including Harris, Celler, Senator Walter Mondale, the bill's co-sponsor, and future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

Success at last! But April 11? How was it possible for a bill languishing in the Rules Committee on April 4 to suddenly escape that committee and its pro-segregation chairperson, and then get itself and its Senate amendments debated and passed by the House to reach the President's desk within seven days?

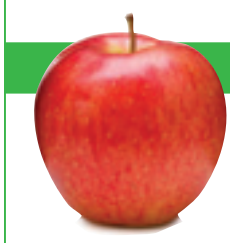
The answer is in—or with who's not in—the photograph from the signing ceremony. King is not in it. Nor would he be in another iconic shot of him shaking hands with and accepting a signing pen from President Johnson. King had been assassinated on April 4 and a shocked nation wanted to do something with its grief. King's death and his April 9 memorial service broke the fair housing bill free. In homage to Dr. King's great commitment and work, in response to the civil unrest, in remorse, and also to just finally do the right thing, the House quickly insisted on action from its own Rules Committee.

Resistant to the end, Chairman Colmer decried the idea of holding a vote during such a tumultuous week and even tried to force a Joint House-Senate committee to build in more delay. However, one of Colmer's key allies switched his vote and the bill passed out of the committee on April 9. The House scheduled its debate on the vote on the Senate amendments for the very next day. On April 10, after the House decided to keep the debate to just one hour, the bill sprinted through a 250-172 vote and then straight to a relieved President.

"Long and stormy" is how President Johnson described the Fair Housing Act's trip, and its passage came with thunder and lightning. We celebrate a 50th Anniversary and National Fair Housing Month in April in recognition of its April 11, 1968 passage into law. But we also honor this achievement in April because it is when, as Johnson put it in his April 5, 1968 letter to Congress, "A man who devoted his life to the nonviolent achievement of rights that most Americans take for granted was killed by an assassin's bullet."

GARY RHOADES is a Deputy City Attorney in the Consumer Protection Unit of the Santa Monica City Attorney's office, which enforces the fair housing laws in Santa Monica and promotes public awareness of fair housing. For the city's 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act activities this month, see the accompanying article on this page or visit www.smconsumer.org

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City of Santa Monica

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Curious City

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Not Trump? No, Santa Monica

JACK NEWORTH, FORGIVE ME

Not trying to invade your territory. I know how much this pretender president offends you in every way, as a patriotic and informed American. And how you have made it your mission to satirize him often in your "Laughing Matters" column, not because you are convinced it will make a difference but because you feel we all must do what we can, every moment, to not let his assaults on our system of government and our way of life go unanswered.

I salute you for that, and as someone who feels the same way I have mostly stepped aside from commenting in my column, bowing to your sharper pen. My words usually just come out angry, but using humor is a good device. Except…

I heard a fascinating report on NPR radio this weekend about how such political satire can have the opposite effect: it can make the object of the satire more likable. When we laugh about someone, they don't seem so scary, so bad. Witness SNL's Tina Fey as Sarah Palin (they even appeared together on the show, great for ratings, eh?), and all the hilarious portrayals of Donald J. Trump.

But carry on, Jack. I support your mission. Your satire does not leave him seeming sympathetic. I will continue to defer to you. But on Monday I watched the White House press conference — all 17 minutes of it (George W's averaged 32 minutes, Obama's nearly an hour, even Sean Spicer never held one running less than 25 minutes) — and I just have to say something.

I pretty much transcribed that whole dang thing to be able to remind people of one small part of the assault on normalcy and our government that goes on every day in this tweet-adled administration. The brainwashing deception that never ends. But now I would need another whole column just to hit you with it all.

Preaching to the choir, right? The big problem is the ill-informed who eat it up as fact. So I will just leave you with these scary comments posted below the YouTube video.

"God Bless Sarah Sanders and the Trump Administration"…"Good job, Sarah!" ... "no discretion and/or respect for the White House Press Secretary, clearly obvious by the questions moronic reporters have chosen to ask. You really have to be a special kind of nosey, meddling, manipulating, & stupid, kind of a hypocrite! The LOW-LIFE SCUM!! Who else would re-ask the same question that was just asked?"... "MAGA MAGA MAGA finally we have wonderful president and vice president Mick pence"..."I volunteer to be the one selected to stick a pole with barbed wire up the ***** of most of these democratic libtards who ask such pointless targeted questions of Sarah."

This is a real danger. Citizens so ignorant of how our government works, so manipulated by lies, so willfully ignorant of facts, that they will go anywhere, are the harbingers of fascism. It can happen here. Sarah Huckabee Sanders' soulless performance once again made me shake my head that this could be happening, but knowing there were millions eating it up made me a bit ill.

BUT WHAT ABOUT SANTA MONICA?!

Indeed. What surrounds the sick joke of a White House press conference these days could plunge the world into nuclear war. Not to mention option 2, slower death by environmental disaster.

Here in Santa Monica, we only have to worry about fast-rising serious crime like murder, home invasion, assault, seemingly unsolvable homelessness issues that can be deadly for both victim and community, gridlock, diminishing water reserves, extreme gentrification, climate change issues for a seaside town, the Wall of Lincoln, steeply escalating housing costs, and a City government whose notion of the future of a progressive city by the sea is one that's sold off to developers (cheaply) to build to the sky and to the sidewalks, all supposedly for the sake of a few more "affordable" units to bring more people into a city that's already choking on its own density.

People expect me to write about Santa Monica and I'm glad and privileged to be able to do that, so even when this horror show of a president has caught my attention, I would like to throw out a few, just a few, of the issues we are facing here, in my "Question of the Week" section below. Maybe I can get around to some of them in the next few... years, if we still have a Santa Monica by then that we care about.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK: When they build the 47 apartments (but wait! four, total, one- and two-bedroom units, will be reserved for "low-income families") and 17,000 sq ft of retail at 2903 Lincoln (the southern end of the coming Wall of Lincoln), will there be any problem at all with the 151 cars in their parking garage exiting onto Lincoln, across a sidewalk with pedestrians, bikes and Birds, trying impatiently to get into the dense flow of traffic? Is it in our best interests to cut out Coastal Commission oversight for our own coastal plan, maybe as soon as July? More hotels on the beach! And whatever did happen to the report on parking at the Civic that would have reserved space for a much-need playing field there, after 12 years of the City promising it? They sure got the other reports filed quickly. What about that early childhood center, a glorified kindergarten, that will cost the City millions in subsidies but benefit mostly the children of RAND, SMC and City Hall employees, most of whom probably won't even live in Santa Monica? What are we going to do with all these high-end pensions for City employees that will come due and break our bank — how about caps and farming out some of that work? Keep hiring even more and more at six-figures, for the most bloated city staff in CA? What about the bungled Lincoln Middle School student walkout, kids exercising free speech rights, supporting safe schools? Term limits for the City Council, and how about the SMC board? With whom is the school district and the City sharing our collected data? Does SMRR and Local 11 Union control our politics while resident voices are ignored or rudely shushed? Tip of the iceberg...

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "I am not afraid of an army of lions led by a sheep; I am afraid of an army of sheep led by a lion." — Alexander the Great

CHARLES ANDREWS has lived in Santa Monica for 32 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

INITIATIVE

FROM PAGE 1

culators to turn their petitions into organizers, according to the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE).

In the meantime, the RCB must grapple with a series of "ifs," even if landlord groups have vowed to ultimately defeat the measure.

Layers of local and state laws passed over the last forty years have complicated Santa Monica rent control rules and created drastically different rental rates among neighbors. From 1978 to 1999, the RCB restricted rent to a base ceiling, only raising the rent slightly over time with an annual adjustment every year. The state legislature passed Costa Hawkins in 1999, which established vacancy decontrol throughout California and allowed landlords to charge new tenants whatever they want.

While voters amended the City Charter to align with Costa Hawkins, the wording suggests the system should revert back to vacancy control if the law suddenly disappears. About thirty percent of current tenants still pay rent based on the 1978 ceiling. One landlord recently wrote to the Board she has a tenant paying $540 per month for a 1,300 square-foot, two bedrooms, two bath unit. The market rate for a similar size apartment averages about $2,500 per month if leased today.

Lewis proposes a ballot initiative that would establish a new ceiling tied to the rent in effect on April 1, 2018, or the median rent established over the last three years for a unit of comparable size in the same area of the city. He says an amendment would prevent rollbacks while also "prevent the continuing escalation of rents."

At their March 22 public meeting, the RCB appeared unlikely to pursue immediate reform for the 2018 election because of time constraints. The repeal of Costa Hawkins would give cities the first opportunity in decades to expand rent control to new construction. While they kept the door open for discussion, the Board did not have a consensus on what reform would look like.

Lewis told the Daily Press after the public meeting he began to consider what would happen if the RCB does nothing and voters repealed Costa Hawkins. He looked at the Charter and saw the loophole where a tenant could move into an apartment and argue for a rent reduction.

"That's not a frivolous argument based on what the Charter (currently) says. I think it would be irresponsible for me to take note of the issue and then keep that to myself," Lewis said. He said the city of Berkeley (which also has a City Charter and a progressive rent control history) is looking at their own potential need for an initiative.

The board's top staffer, Tracy Condon, says staff is moving forward "out of an abundance of caution." It is ultimately up to the City Council to place local initiatives on the ballot, so the RCB would need to make their recommendation by June to give the Council enough time to finalize any measure.

During the March meeting, Board Member Todd Flora sought to assuage landlord concerns over any actions the RCB may take to reform local laws, saying at one point "I don't think we do this with the knowledge that there's going to be rollbacks. I think that would be fairly crippling to a number of people who've invested money."

Ironically, Lewis discovered, it's actually inaction that could lead to rollbacks.

kate@smdp.com

CORSAIR

FROM PAGE 1

need healthy food twice a year, we need this as often as we can,'" Ferris Kawar, SMC's Sustainability Project Manager said.

Working in tandem with the Westside Food Bank and Food Forward (a food waste prevention nonprofit), student and school staff volunteers sift through leftover fruits and vegetables from the morning's Santa Monica Wednesday Farmers Market and buy leftover food from the food bank, bringing what would've been wasted produce back to students at SMC.

"We've identified that students are most food insecure in environments where they can't always access healthy food," Natalie Flores, garden manager of the school's Organic Learning Garden said. As the garden manager, Flores teaches students the "lost art" of cultivating their own produce for self-sufficiency. Additionally, she volunteers at the Corsair Market.

Flores says the goal of the program is to provide students with nutritious food options as well as to provide "healing" and "a community" to students who may be attending the college with less than modest means.

According to Flores, around one in five students at SMC are food insecure, meaning they don't have consistent means of accessing food, particularly food that's nutritious.

"If you're a student and you have five bucks, you're not going to buy a head of lettuce," Flores said. "You're going to buy a burger and whatever that can fill you up for cheap."

Since its inception nearly two years ago, Flores says the Corsair Market has consistently fed around 170-200 students per week, giving away about 1,500 - 2,200 pounds of produce weekly as well.

One student who has benefitted from the offerings of this program is Natalie Ramos.

Moving from the valley, Ramos came to Santa Monica College to accompany her sister and finish her education. However, the transition to a new, more expensive city and college caused struggle.

Ramos shares a room with her sister in a house filled with roommates, two people per room to make rent more affordable. She's a full-time student at SMC that works anywhere from 25-30 hours a week for minimum wage, living paycheck to paycheck.

Financial aid helps some, Ramos says, but doesn't provide enough money to pay bills, purchase living necessities, and, as a vegan, always procure healthy food options that fit in line with what she can eat.

That's where Corsair Market comes in.

"Financially, it's (Corsair Market) been so helpful," Ramos said in a phone call. "Groceries are expensive, especially with organic produce, vegan options. With the market, I can come home and fill my fridge, even share with my roommates when I can."

Ramos now has one less thing to worry about, she says, a godsend for the struggling student. She's since become a volunteer herself, handing out food beneath the Corsair Market canopy, giving back her time to the program that provided for her in a time of need.

"The smile on people's faces when you fill their bags with produce is so positive," Ramos said. "This has been so hopeful and such an amazing opportunity, it's fulfilling."

The Corsair Market open for all SMC students and takes place at SMC in front of the Organic Learning Garden every Wednesday from 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. during regular Fall and Spring semesters.

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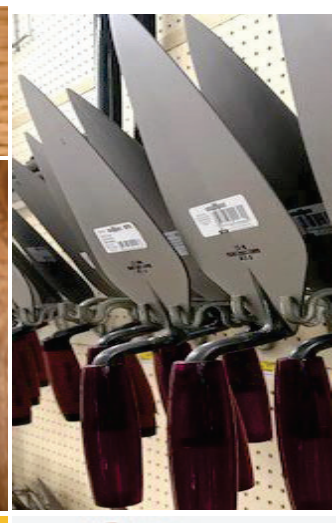
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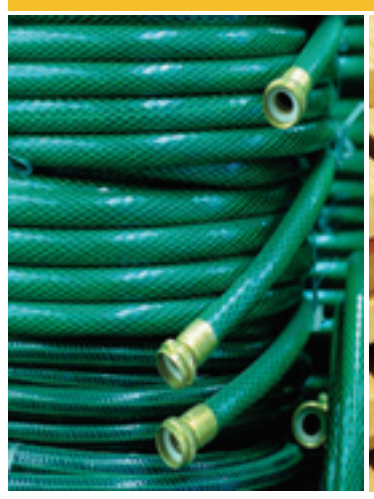
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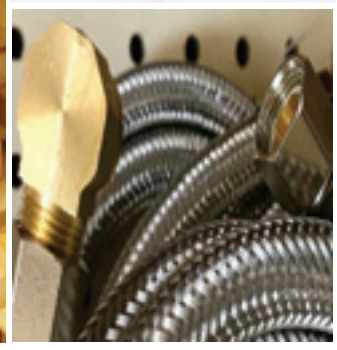
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SW/S swell mix for exposures. Small windswell.

THURSDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-3 ft** ankle to waist high
Small SW/S swell mix and traces of NW windswell.

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DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department Responded To 382 Calls For Service On Apr. 9.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Traffic collision Main / Pacific 12:14 a.m.
Trespassing 700 block Wilshire 12:29 a.m.
Burglar alarm 1400 block Montana 12:31 a.m.
Burglar alarm 100 block Broadway 12:44 a.m.
Abandoned vehicle Ocean / Bay 2:46 a.m.
Transport prisoner 300 block Olympic 3:25 a.m.
Drunk driving 2700 block Santa Monica 3:56 a.m.
Trespassing 1200 block 6th 4:30 a.m.
Auto burglary 2200 block Colorado 4:35 a.m.
Burglar alarm 1300 block Georgina 4:44 a.m.
Prowler 1300 block 7th 6:22 a.m.
Identity theft 300 block Olympic 7:13 a.m.
Traffic collision Yale / Wilshire 7:21 a.m.
Burglar alarm 1600 block Euclid 7:41 a.m.
Grand theft 3100 block Ocean Park 8:36 a.m.
Domestic violence 3100 block Wilshire 8:45 a.m.
Burglar alarm 500 block 19th 8:51 a.m.
Prowler 200 block Bicknell 9:27 a.m.
Burglary 2300 block Pier 9:33 a.m.
Bike theft 3100 block Wilshire 9:35 a.m.
Person down Ocean / Santa Monica 9:47 a.m.
Burglary 1400 block 5th 10:20 a.m.
Indecent exposure 1500 block Ocean 10:24 a.m.
Petty theft 1400 block 3rd St Prom 10:29 a.m.
Burglar alarm 2300 block 27th10:32 a.m.
Elder abuse 1300 block 20th 10:55 a.m.
Trespassing 2800 block Pico 11:09 a.m.
Petty theft 1100 block Lincoln 11:11 a.m.
Trespassing 800 block Arizona 11:22 a.m.
Panic alarm 2500 block Broadway 11:26 a.m.
Battery 2200 block 29th 11:48 a.m.
Elder abuse 1000 block Ocean Park 11:49 a.m.
Traffic collision 27th / Pearl 11:54 a.m.
Grand theft 1900 block Ocean 11:56 a.m.
Public intoxication 1300 block Georgina 12:59 p.m.
Identity theft 400 block Lincoln 1:09 p.m.
Grand theft 1700 block Stewart 1:09 p.m.
Trespassing 2500 block Beverley 1:30 p.m.
Burglary 1500 block Berkeley 2:08 p.m.
Bike theft 1300 block 10th 2:19 p.m.
Burglar alarm 1200 block Sunset 2:32 p.m.
Prowler 200 block Bicknell 2:34 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department Responded To 27 Calls For Service On Apr. 9.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Emergency medical service 1200 block 4th 12:06 a.m.
EMS 2000 block 20th 12:51 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1300 block 16th 2:01 a.m.
EMS 800 block of 14th 6:40 a.m.
EMS 400 block Expo 6:47 a.m.
Traffic collision Yale / Wilshire 7:23 a.m.
EMS 4th / Colorado 7:35 a.m.
Automatic alarm 2500 block Broadway 9:22 a.m.
EMS 800 block Pico 9:26 a.m.
Automatic alarm 2000 block Santa Monica 10:27 a.m.
EMS 2200 block 29th 11:53 a.m.
Traffic collision 2700 block Pearl 11:55 a.m.
EMS 1400 block 16th 12:29 p.m.
EMS 2600 block 32nd 1:18 p.m.
Automatic alarm 0 block Pico 2:44 p.m.
EMS 5th / Colorado 2:52 p.m.
EMS 1000 block 11th 3:57 p.m.
Traffic collision 11th / Maple 4:00 p.m.
EMS 500 block Colorado 5:05 p.m.
EMS 700 block Santa Monica 7:20 p.m.
EMS 700 block Santa Monica 7:34 p.m.
EMS 700 block Hill 7:39 p.m.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SACRAMENTO

Major Plastic Pollution Legislation Clears First Hurdle

Legislation that begins confronting plastic microfibers, the most pervasive type of plastic pollution in our oceans and waterways, cleared the powerful Assembly Natural Resources Committee on a 6-4 vote. The bill, AB 2379, by Assemblymember Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) requires that all clothing made primarily of polyester include a label that warns of plastic microfiber shedding and recommends handwashing the item in order to reduce the impact.

"Plastic microfibers are making their way from washing machines into our seafood and even into the water we drink," said Bloom. "Similar to climate change, the science is staring us in the face, waiting for us to act. If we don't, the problem will only get worse."

Plastic microfibers shed from synthetic fabrics during regular washing, and because these tiny plastic fibers are small enough to get past filters, they're ending up in waterways and the ocean. In a recent survey that compared 150 tap water samples from locations in five continents, microscopic plastic fibers were found in nearly every sample, with 94% of the United States water samples containing plastic microfibers. Studies in the last few years in the San Francisco Bay and the Great Lakes tributaries also confirm the significant presence of plastic microfibers coming from wastewater treatment facilities.

According to research from University of California, Davis which sampled fish and shellfish sold at local California fish markets, a quarter of fish and a third of shellfish contained plastic debris, with the majority of the plastic debris being microfibers. Alarmingly, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's 2014 report on the future of plastics estimated that the world's oceans will contain more plastic than fish by 2050.

"This bill will educate the public so that they can do their part in stemming this alarming environmental and public health discovery," added Bloom, who also authored the 2015 landmark California plastic microbead ban that was eventually applied nationally a year later through federal legislation signed by President Obama

The bill was co-authored by Assemblymembers Lorena Gonzalez-Fletcher (D-San Diego) and Mark Stone (D-Scotts Valley) and supported by Californians Against Waste and the Story of Stuff. The bill will now head to the Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials.

Richard Bloom represents California's 50th Assembly District, which comprises the communities of Agoura Hills, Bel Air, Beverly Hills, Brentwood, Hollywood, Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica, Topanga, West Hollywood, and West Los Angeles.

SUBMITTED BY NARDOS GIRMA, OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYMAN RICHARD BLOOM

DAILY LOTTERY

Powerball
Draw Date: 4/7
2 17 20 38 39
Power#: 20
Jackpot: 89M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 4/6
16 33 51 54 67
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: 50M

Super Lotto
Draw Date: 4/7
13 16 24 38 39
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 25M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 4/9
4 5 11 14 34

Daily 3
Draw Date: 4/9
MIDDAY: 7 3 3
Draw Date: 4/9
EVENING: 3 8 5

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 4/9
1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 06 Whirl Win
RACE TIME: 1:48.84

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WORD UP!

balladmonger

1. an inferior poet.
2. a seller of ballads.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Stories for the Waiting Room

■ Until the 1700s, the preserved dead of ancient Egypt were considered to be a kind of therapeutic. Specifically, by consuming powered mummy one could cure ailments from epilepsy to vertigo. The demand for medical mummy was so great that pyramid schemes and other cons were common, and warnings were issued to avoid "white mummies," who were actually more recently departed travelers to Africa who had been temporarily buried in the Sahara's desiccating sands.

Phobia of the Week

■ Athazagoraphobia: Fear of being forgotten or ignored — hey, are you paying attention?

MYSTERY REVEALED

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Rebel Harrison correctly identified the photo as the new Mel's Diner at Lincoln and Olympic. She wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

N	E	S	S	■	S	P	A	I	N	■	O	M	N	I
C	A	N	T	■	H	E	N	C	E	■	N	E	O	N
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B	O	A	T	■	P	A	S	T	■	L	A	B	E	L
A	R	R	O	W	■	M	A	R	■	F	R	A	M	E
T	E	E	T	H	■	B	L	U	E	■	D	A	T	E
■	■	■	H	O	G	■	M	E	N	U	■	■	■	■
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L	E	I	S	■	O	N	A	T	A	N	G	E	N	T
L	E	V	I	■	W	A	G	E	R	■	A	U	T	O
A	R	I	D	■	T	R	E	A	D	■	I	C	E	D
H	Y	D	E	■	H	E	S	S	E	■	N	E	R	O

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.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

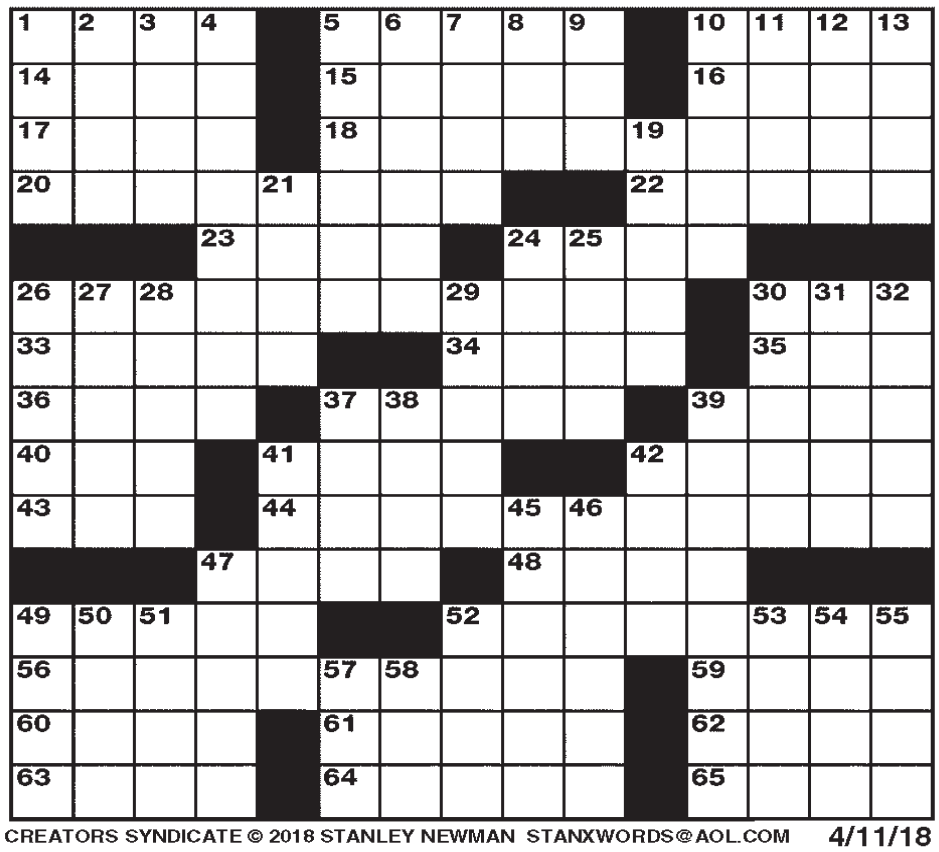
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		7	5			1		
			7	9	1			
		1			6	7		
4	8		6					2
			3		5			4
	2	6		7				

Newsday Crossword

FAMOUS PEOPLES by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Sugar amts.
5 Checkers and 64 Across
10 Immediately, in a memo
14 Ramble around
15 Missouri's ___ Mountains
16 Tall rural building
17 Operatic solo
18 Comedian known for his insults
20 Break a sweat
22 Unexpected obstacle
23 Possess
24 Graceful long-necked bird
26 Serbian tennis great
30 Letters on tanning lotion
33 Major German river
34 Batman's hideout
35 Long fish
36 The Big ___ Theory
37 $100 bill, familiarly
39 Golfer's warning
40 Angry feeling
41 "High" time of day
42 Stop for a moment
43 Fuel for freeways
44 *Citizen Kane* star
47 At no charge
48 Uttered, as opposed to written
49 Fold in some skirts
52 Pre-meal prayer
56 "Hit the Road Jack" singer
59 Scent
60 Fencer's weapon
61 Soul-seller of legend
62 Pest on a poodle
63 "Hey, you!"
64 32-piece pastime
65 Admit guilt, with "up"

DOWN
1 Golf hazard
2 Hot under the collar
3 Twosome
4 Breaking into bits
5 Chocolate named for a horsewoman
6 Portuguese island group
7 Zebra's neck hair
8 Goof up
9 Glide down slopes
10 Request to enter
11 River sediment
12 Actor Baldwin
13 Luxurious
19 Stunt driver's movie job
21 Walk back and forth
24 Venetian blind strip
25 "___ got to stop meeting . . ."
26 The head guy
27 *Gone With the Wind* surname
28 Middling poker pair
29 Money-saving, in brand names
30 Korean metropolis
31 As such
32 Gets away in a hurry
37 Apple leftover
38 Wine's aroma
39 Decreases, as revenue
41 Up, on a map
42 Stew veggies
45 At least that much
46 Takes forcibly
47 Gem surface
49 Make ready, informally
50 Swimming pool exercises
51 Examines closely
52 Cookie Monster's color
53 Not being used
54 Turndowns
55 Mardi ___
57 Division of the KC Chiefs
58 Old-school cheer



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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 11)

You'll be spotlighted for something you do beautifully; then you'll be connected with others who have related talents. You'll co-create something you all will be proud of. The financial deal you make in June will be great for your personal life, too, as long as you consider people for their character and heart above all else. Libra and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 27, 9, 16 and 40.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You want to be in the conversation, not the star of it. You want to be seen, not feared. You want to serve and be served, not acquiesced to. Aim to hold your own and you'll stay right where you want to be.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
It is natural to want to bask in the indirect glory of a friend's win, a partner's achievement or a child's accomplishment. But you are more likely to celebrate people for who they are, not for how successful they are.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
When people don't live up to our hopes, the fault is usually in our expectations. People are generally just being themselves and cannot help if that doesn't match up with others' incorrect notions.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
You won't always make the right decision. And when you're the leader, it's even harder to recover from a poor decision. But you're doing your best. That's the important thing. Also important: Don't waver, and don't get defensive.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Your load is heavier because of a relationship. Is that fair? Maybe not. But you agreed to this arrangement, either verbally or implicitly. There may be a way to change the arrangement and still keep your word.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You don't have to try to be unique. You're effortlessly original. You'll love what happens when you take the pressure off of yourself to be anything other than that which you can't help but be.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
It's mostly going just fine, but for the small part that isn't, you'll take responsibility. You know you can't control what others do, so you'll work on your part of it. That's more than enough to make a difference.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
You'll hear stories of adversity overcome. The reason you identify with the heroes is that you are one, too, and more than capable of the same sort of victory.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
It's always a pleasure to watch another person grow, but when that person is older than you, it's even more touching: maybe because it's unexpected; because it gives you faith in the ever evolving nature of humanity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Your tendency lately is to be stricter than you need to be, especially with yourself. In a sense, it keeps you on track, but over time this could inspire a rebellion. Consider easing up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You'll observe a lot of waste around you, mostly because people are ignorant, misinformed or haphazard in their management of resources. They need you. Give it your best shot.

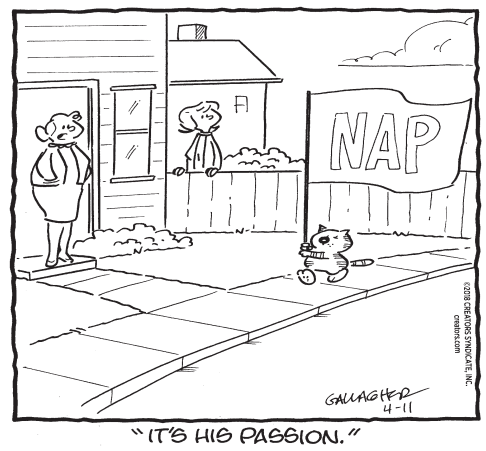
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and yet it's also the most difficult to swallow. It's weird to observe people trying to be like you. Hopefully you won't mind it too much when it happens today.

Sun-Square-Pluto Situation

Social scientists prove time and again that most people don't know themselves as well as they think they do. We judge ourselves based on how we've behaved before, which can be an extremely poor indicator of what we are capable of and what we'd be like in different conditions, such as the ones emerging while the sun squares Pluto.

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Heathcliff
By PETER GALLAGHER

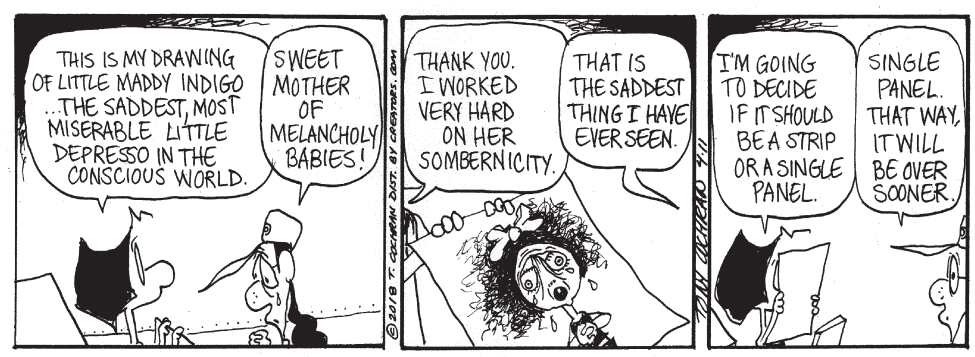


"IT'S HIS PASSION."

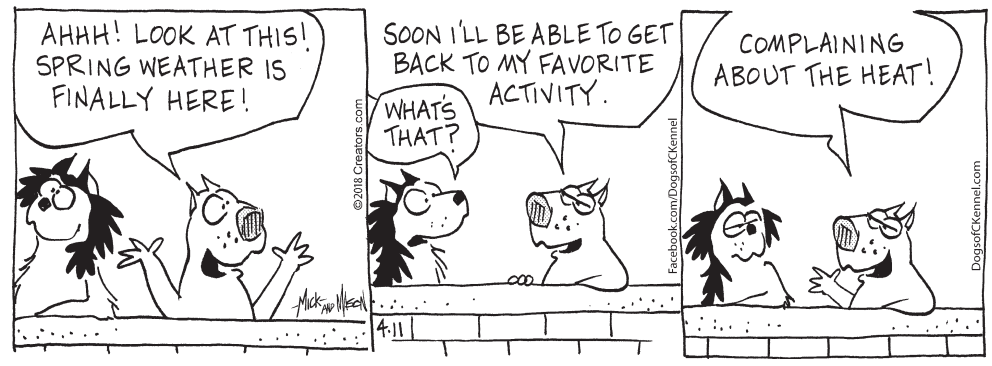
Strange Brew
By JOHN DEERING



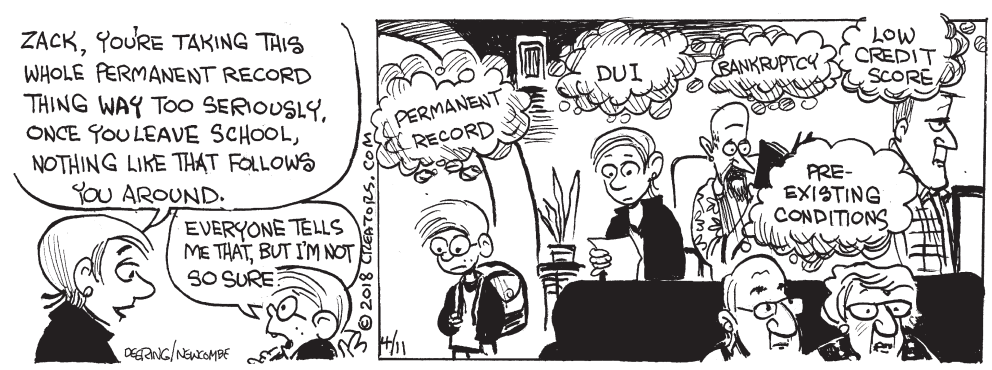
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