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APRIL 18-19, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 141

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE LOOK US UP ON FACEBOOK ISSUE



HUMOR IN TRAGEDY? SEE PAGE 3



Alex Cantarero *news@smdp.com*

ON THE WAY OUT? **Vidiots assistant manager and artist Patrick McGilligan in front of the video store featuring his colorful window displays.**

Video store told window paintings must go

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

PICO BLVD For the past 10 years, a series of colorful painted window displays have greeted customers who enter a small mom and pop video rental store here, providing an outside preview of the eccentricities that await inside.

Painted by a long-time store employee, those windows feature recognizable characters from popular movies, some linking arms, others inviting patrons.

"Vidiots is a magical place full of movies about wizards, aliens, superheroes, robots, monkeys, cowboys, pirates, cops, and that's just the documentary section," a wizard, who is pointing a wand at an octopus, says in a painted display on a south-facing window.

Those displays might soon have to come down.

On April 1, the 24-year-old business received a letter from City Hall notifying it was in violation of a city code that limits temporary window signage to less than 20 percent of the total frontage glass area during only two, 30-day periods in any calen-

SEE WINDOWS PAGE 13

Hard feelings take root over controversial trees

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

FOURTH STREET Nearly a year since 23 ficus trees were uprooted in a controversial streetscape improvement project, some hard feelings clearly remain.

In a gathering that was billed as a cooperation building workshop between tree activists and city officials about matters related to the urban forest, the discussion on more than one occasion went back to those group of ficuses that created a firestorm in 2007 when City Hall decided to move forward with a Downtown beautification project that included their removal.

The trees eventually came down in May of last year after a series of injunctions and court appeals that eventually sided with City Hall.

"I don't know who thought of it … but to me, it's a very sick feeling for me to walk down Second and Fourth (streets) and see our beautiful ficus trees gone," said Sally Silverstein, who along with her husband, Herb, held a nightly vigil in honor of the ficuses at Palisades Park.

Hosted by the Santa Monica Treesavers, which formed in response to the ficus tree controversy, the meeting featured a pres-

SEE TREES PAGE 10

Local Good Samaritans foil carjacking

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

NORTH OF MONTANA Polly Wilson was enjoying a late-night stroll in Palisades Park with her friend Ashley Olson and their dogs Kegger and Sol when they heard something that made them stop in their tracks.

"We heard a woman screaming bloody murder," Wilson said.

She ran with her St. Bernard across Ocean Avenue toward the woman's screams and found two people struggling inside a parked car on Palisades Avenue around 11:30 p.m. Wilson was witnessing what police said was an attempted carjacking and possible sexual assault.

"I saw this man on top of her and her face was all bloody," Wilson said. "I yelled at him, 'Get off her or else my dog will kill you.'"

The man complied, Wilson said, and Olson called Santa Monica police. Officers arrived on scene to find Wilson, Olson, their dogs and other bystanders surrounding the car, keeping the suspect inside.

The bystanders "stepped it up," and the victim "had the wherewithal and the ability to fight off the attacker," SMPD Lt. Darrell Lowe said in an interview Friday.

Prior to the attack, the woman had been sitting in her car talking on her phone when the suspect approached the driver side door and tried to make contact with the woman. The victim erroneously assumed that the man was a panhandler, waving him off, and it was at this time that the suspect pulled the car door open and began to attack her, Lowe said.

Officers arrested the suspect and he was booked on attempted carjacking charges. Lowe said the case should be presented to the District Attorney's Office on Monday and additional charges could be filed.

Lowe said the SMPD doesn't recommend residents apprehend suspects on their own, saying that each person must decide for themselves if they are willing to take the risk by thoroughly assessing the situation.

SEE ARREST PAGE 14

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Living library

Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Living books will share a significant personal experience or a particular perspective on life. An ex-gang member, a fat activist and a formerly homeless woman are just a few of the people who will be available for a 30-minute personal conversation. Call (310) 458-8600 for more information.

Yoga in the park

Palisades Park
Ocean and Palisades Ave., 10 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.
Come each Saturday and start your weekend off right with an energizing and rejuvenating yoga class in Palisades Park, overlooking the ocean. All levels are welcome to join, and if you've always wanted to try yoga, this is the class for you. The classes are run on donations. Bring your own yoga mat. Call (310) 560-4317 for more information.

Sunday, April 19, 2009

Cinderella to a beat

Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 12:30 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Audiences help romance bloom in this delightful Rudie-DeCarlo musical for kids of all ages, featuring a charming prince, a zany fairy godmother, silly stepsisters and a zealously well-meaning stepmother. Birthday and tea parties are available with every performance of "Cinderella." Admission fees are from $10.50 — $12.50. Call (310) 394-9779 ext. 2 for more information.

Monday, April 20, 2009

Game day

Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 3 p.m.
Play bridge and scrabble for free every day Monday at the library. Have fun, meet new people and challenge your mind. Call (310) 450-0443 for more information.

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.

Laughing in the face of tragedy

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

Believe it or not, there were actually things that took place at Nazi Germany's concentration camps that survivors found humorous years later.

That is the unlikely story that Santa Monica-based filmmaker Jon Kean tells in his poignant, yet surprisingly humorous documentary "Swimming in Auschwitz" that will air on local PBS station KCET on Sunday at 4 p.m.

"The idea started as a study of laughter as a survival tool," Kean said as he was preparing to leave for a screening of his film. "I wanted to know whether there was laughter in concentration camps and how they used laughter to get through it all. That idea didn't work out all that well, it didn't translate that well on film."

The film tells the story of six women who survived what can only be described as one of the worst human tragedies in modern history — the Holocaust. Through personal interviews, Kean digs deep into what kept them alive despite being surrounded by dehumanizing conditions.

One woman, Renee Firestone, was initially put off by Kean's idea to focus on humor.

"I thought he was crazy," Firestone said. "How do you expect to have any humor in a place that you just lost your whole family?

"Of course there was no humor."

But, as she thought of Kean's proposal, she realized that there were things that occurred during those dark days that she looks back on with a bit of a giggle.

In the film, she tells of when she met the infamous Dr. Josef Mengele, a man known as the Angel of Death for his decidedly unethical experimentation on concentration camp prisoners.

The closing days of World War II were at hand and ally forces were closing in on Nazi held lands. Against the backdrop of bombs literally bursting in air, the camp's commander was telling a group of prisoners that the allies may very well win the war, but many of those gathered would not live to see freedom.

It was then that Mengele singled out Firestone and told her that if she survived her internment she would have to have her tonsils removed.

"(After meeting with Kean) I kept thinking about some of the things that happened and I realized that they were not humorous then, but they are funny," she said. "I thought there may be something to his idea.

"He came back and we talked and that's how the film came to be."

For Kean, the process began in 2002 when he first developed the kernel of what would become an award winning documentary. He initially was inspired by a quote attributed to comedian Billy Crystal. The noted funny man said that any time you put two Jewish people in a room together, they would eventually end up telling stories and laughing.

SEE **DOCUMENTARY** PAGE 14



GOOD CAUSE
Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*
Employees of Viacom wash cars for charity outside of Common Ground on Lincoln Boulevard Friday afternoon.

Actors union relents in tentative studio deal

RYAN NAKASHIMA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES The Screen Actors Guild and the Hollywood studios said Friday they have reached a tentative deal on movie and prime-time TV show productions, capping a yearlong battle that ended with the Guild giving up its fight for better Internet compensation.

The Guild said its leaders would recommend approval by the board and ratification by its members, which could be completed next month. The contract would replace one that had expired last June.

The new deal follows the Internet provisions earlier agreed to by writers, directors and another actors union and will expire on June 30, 2011, according to two people who were briefed on the contract. The people both requested anonymity because the details were not supposed to be disclosed before the Guild's board reviews it over the weekend.

The date means SAG's contract will expire around the same time as other unions, maintaining the future threat of a joint strike. That expiration date had been one of the final points of contention.

But in allowing the contract to lapse for nearly a year, SAG actors lost wage increases that the studios said amounted to nearly $70 million so far. Before the stalemate, the studios had offered a 3.5 percent increase on minimum pay in the first year.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

How the SOUTH was lost

Editor:

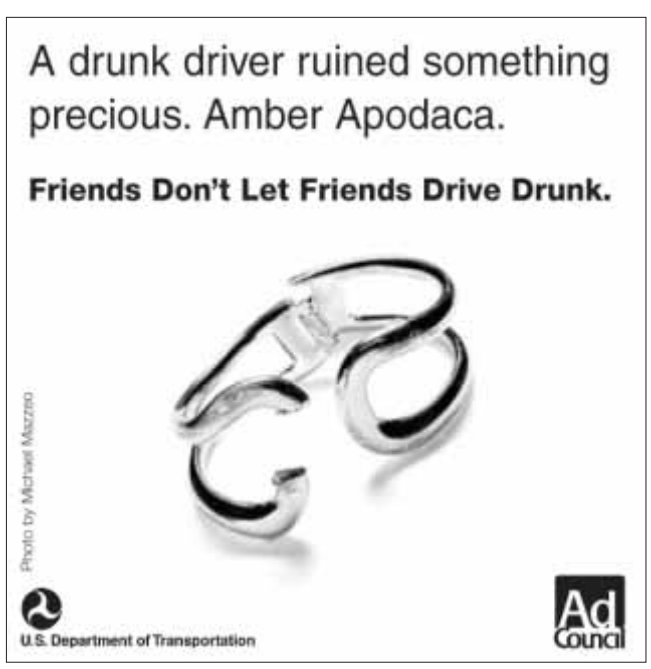
We are sick and tired of a small, very vocal minority in our neighborhood, causing an uproar with regards to the 1-year-old SOUTH [restaurant] at Stanford and Wilshire in Santa Monica. Now, after a year of badgering from a few disgruntled neighbors, a new ordinance is in the works, one which could potentially doom all bar-restaurants to the same fate as the previous tenants of this notoriously high turn-over location. A restaurant is a business, and the fact that SOUTH is far more successful than the previous occupants is something to be happy about. We have new jobs in the area. We have significant tax revenue for our city, all due to a formula that has proven stronger than even the dismal current financial condition affecting most of us.

We have lived in this neighborhood for years, and are pleased that this hard working, entrepreneurial group of guys are investing in our community. We happen to like the place, and apparently so do a lot of other people who frequent SOUTH, hence the success. Yes, there is noise, because a thriving busy bar and restaurant will generate that, but let's not forget, Wilshire is a business district, and living very close by, one is going to hear it. When someone moves in adjacent to such a district, should they have a say in the type and nature of future businesses nearby (the clientele, the crowds they may draw, etc.) that over the years will settle in? Admittedly, a few individuals may even be unduly inconvenienced, due to their proximity. Maybe they don't like the younger crowd, or televised sports at all. But the folks at SOUTH have contributed enormously to keeping the peace here, offering all kinds of solutions as problems have arisen. They care a great deal about their impact on the neighborhood as is evidenced by their repeatedly attending neighborhood watch meetings, hosting the neighbors as guests, sponsoring a Little League team.

Some people have a need, and have a lot of time to complain. In this case, one-sided, myopic views that blatantly disregard the complexities and needs of an entire community are all that is being heard. There is a bigger picture here than a few who are personally inconvenienced. Should this handful (if that many) of individuals be able to dictate guidelines of what is acceptable for the entire community? Is this fair?

So what we suggest is that this group of neighbors get together, open a business that is guided by what placates them for the immediate area surrounding Stanford and Wilshire. They can cater to a crowd that they approve of, set up an establishment according to their own personal preferences, and operate during hours that suit them. Then when that goes south (the route of the myriad businesses who have occupied this particular corner for many years), it would once again open up the space for a sound business formula to move back in and thrive. Until then, meet us at SOUTH for some real southern hospitality.

Lisa Winick and Anita Chagaris
Santa Monica





Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Words from the afterlife

I KNOW IT'S NOT THE SAME AS TOILING in the mines, but writing is hard work. That's why it's so impressive to me when someone is prolific. Thriller novelist Robert Ludlum, author of "The Bourne Identity," among others, is an example. He has written countless books depicting intricate conspiracies, some were turned into movies, he has sold almost 300 million copies, and has had his books translated into 32 languages. But the really amazing thing is that he has published more than a dozen books in the last eight years. Why is that so impressive? He died in 2001.

Ludlum hasn't proved that there is life after death, but he's certainly shown that there can be writing after death. It's not unique for previously unpublished works of a writer to be published posthumously. But the late Ludlum continues to crank these things out year after year. Go to the library or to the Barnes & Noble on the Third Street Promenade and you'll see people picking up Ludlum books. He has fans everywhere who anxiously await the next book written by a dead guy.

Ludlum's executor and his agent say that some of the works have been books that Ludlum wrote, but just weren't published before he passed away. Others have been written by other writers including an old friend of Ludlum's whose name sounds a bit like a Ludlum villain — Eric Van Lustbader. However, it's the Ludlum name that sells books. Van Lustbader wrote "The Bourne Betrayal," but on the book's cover, Ludlum's name is twice as tall as Van Lustbader's.

It was probably 30 years ago that I started reading Ludlum's page-turning books of intrigue where there was a new conspiracy in every other chapter. More recently, I often buy a Ludlum paperback at the airport before I fly somewhere. That's what I did on a recent trip. I feel it's fitting for me to read a mystery on an airplane since there is so much mystery involved in air travel these days: Will the plane arrive on time? Will my suitcase be there? Or has happened to me the last time I flew -— will I be stopped by security for possession of yogurt with intent to eat?

The book I chose on my recent trip, "The Sigma Protocol," is thought to have been the last novel written entirely by Ludlum. I didn't know that when I bought it. I was a little suspicious, because on the cover it didn't say, "written by Robert Ludlum," it just said, "Robert Ludlum™." That's right. There was a little "trademark" symbol next to his name. I didn't know you could trademark your own name. Did his estate think that if they hadn't done this, millions of other people would be walking around the world calling themselves, "Robert Ludlum?"

Those who put out his books don't exactly announce that Ludlum is no longer with us. Believe me, it doesn't say, "A book written in the style of the late Robert Ludlum" on any of the covers. But this is not a conspiracy against the great conspiracy theorist. All of this post-death writing is being done with Ludlum's permission and blessing. He wanted his life's work to go on after his life. Well, who doesn't? Wouldn't you like your heirs to continue to receive your paychecks after you pass away while someone else does the work for you? These days, it's hard enough for a living person to make a living, and here's a dead one who's doing a lot better than most of us.

I FEEL IT'S FITTING FOR ME TO READ A MYSTERY ON AN AIRPLANE SINCE THERE IS SO MUCH MYSTERY INVOLVED IN AIR TRAVEL THESE DAYS: WILL THE PLANE ARRIVE ON TIME? WILL MY SUITCASE BE THERE? OR HAS HAPPENED TO ME THE LAST TIME I FLEW -— WILL I BE STOPPED BY SECURITY FOR POSSESSION OF YOGURT WITH INTENT TO EAT?

However, there's no reason to be envious of Ludlum™and Co. The good news is that he has set a precedent for the rest of us. We can all decide that our careers will continue after we pass away. So, if you don't feel like going into work next week, all you have to tell your boss is, "Don't worry. I owe you a week, and I'll make it up the first week after I die." If your boss doesn't buy it, just claim it's a conspiracy against you. And then write a book.

LLOYD GARVER has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Home Improvement" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He can be reached at lloydgarver@gmail.com. Check out his Web site at lloydgarver.com and his podcasts on iTunes.

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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2006. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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The Q Line

Taxing issue

This past week, Q-line asked:

As if times weren't hard enough, the county sales tax recently increased making big purchases all the more difficult while putting more pressure on families looking to save money. Will the sales tax increase cause you to think twice when it comes to making big-ticket purchases?

Here are your responses:

"OF COURSE THE SALES TAX INCREASES will curtail my shopping and spending in general. Only the actual necessities will be purchased. They just shot themselves in the foot. Wait and see."

"WHEN CHOOSING A HIGH-TECH product, such as an automobile, I make up my mind on three manufacturers' brand of automobile I would enjoy owning. Then my work begins. I shop those three dealerships until I am satisfied that I have the best-priced deal available. Ditto on television, refrigerators, stoves and furniture. The less I pay for a product, the less sales taxes I pay. As Ben Franklin said, a 'penny saved is a penny earned.' Although I do not intend to make a million dollar sales taxable purchase, it is interesting to note that the sales tax would be around $100,000. And certain to make Gov. Arney's muscles ripple with delight."

"YEAH, SALES TAX IS RIDICULOUS. SO, I'm not going to buy any big-ticket items for a while. Of course, in October I'll be visiting relatives in Oregon, and since there's no sales tax there I'm going to buy a big screen TV and a whole bunch of other things I need, and save money on the sales tax."

"I, AS WELL AS OTHER BUSINESSES, intend on moving out of L.A. rather than pay the excessive tax. We will not compensate the state for the greedy politicians and public servants who dipped their hand once too many in what they thought was a pot of gold. They inflate their travel expenses, restaurants, entertainment, etc., and they sat behind their desks. Now that California is such a mess they want to collect 'protection money.' Tony Soprano tactics are now legal in L.A."

"OF COURSE IT WILL. HIGH TAXES ARE like rat poison to a republic like ours. To get people to spend that money under the mattress, the state should initiate a flat tax rate of at least 10 percent less on every fee, levy, toll. Businesses would soon follow the state's lead. Also, it would help to have a 10 percent reduction in spending. Our smug leaders have no concept of economics or what sustains a republic. Big taxes and big spending equal a big end to our great experiment in freedom."

"I WILL NOT BE MAKING ANYMORE big ticket purchases. However, it should not bother those with obscene amounts of money on hand. Although they ... are the one's who usually squawk the loudest when it comes to any tax increases."

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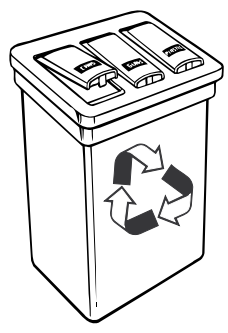
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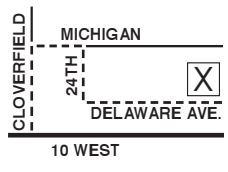
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Kitchen Vixen

Elizabeth Brown — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Going back to nature

BOW TO THE QUEEN OF ... THE FATS. That's how Susan Allport refers to omega-3 fats in her book, "The Queen of Fats." When omega-6's were found to be essential, they were deemed the king for being, at the time, the only truly essential fatty acid. But we all know that behind every man is a strong woman. She doesn't need an iPod to make her feel important. All she seeks is recognition as the true ruler of fats, for in nature she dominates the fat world.

If you read my previous two articles, you learned that ALA (alpha-linolenic acid) is the essential omega-3 fatty acid that we must obtain from the diet. She (ALA) is the mother of EPA and DHA which we associate with fish and marine oils.

Both the omega-6 and the omega-3 fats compete for the same enzyme that converts them to their more usable forms. Omega-6's promote inflammation, the basis of diseases, while omega-3's inhibit inflammation which helps prevent diseases. Although most media attention has focused on simply getting more fish and flax in the diet, the true solution is to decrease sources of omega-6 fats while increasing omega-3's, essentially getting back to nature.

Admittedly, this is not a simple task since the foods we commonly eat contain a combination of both omega-6's and omega-3's with a disproportionately high ratio of omega-6 fats. The imbalance is due to the fact that food manufacturers, in an attempt to decrease saturated fats, replaced them with polyunsaturated fats (PUFA's.) The PUFA's used in processed foods have been altered to purposely contain fewer omega-3 fats as a way to extend the product's shelf life. Omega-3's, while beneficial in the body, are susceptible to oxidation, meaning they hasten food spoilage.

Omega-3's are found in highest concentrations in leafy green vegetables as well as flax seeds, walnuts, canola oil and seafood. Green vegetables contain omega-3 fats in their chlorophyll which helps them harness energy from the sun. The plant's seeds (beans, nuts, legumes and grains) contain the majority of omega-6 fats. Omega-6's provide stored energy for the plant. With obesity on the rise, most people do not need to eat foods that help their bodies store more energy as fat.

Omega-3 fats are found in higher concentrations in plant foods that live in harsh climates such as leafy greens that can grow in cold weather like spinach or romaine lettuce as well as greens from the ocean. Cold water under various pressures, it doesn't get harsher than that. Sea animals that eat these sea greens have the highest concentration of omega-3's in their cells so that they can survive the same harsh, cold, high pressure ebb and flow oceans.

Flax and purslane, two omega-3 rich plants, actually thrive in the hot sun. There's something about these omega-3's that helps plants and animal persevere. Omega-3's can do the same for you.

Omega-3's can be incorporated into your cell walls making each cell more flexible, adaptable and better able to convert food to energy. Of course, being active helps too. By getting more omega-3's in your diet, you may find it difficult to sit still. You will have more zing in your step, more get-up-and-go, more energy overall.

To ensure you have omega-3 rich cells, eat lots of vegetables and fruits, especially leafy greens. Use grains, beans and animal proteins as "compliments" to your vegetables. Choose seafood or grass-fed, free-range animals when you eat animal protein. Buy omega-3 rich eggs with 400 to 600mg per egg. The more omega-3's, the less likely saturated fat will increase cholesterol. Use flax, canola or walnut oil to make dressings. Olive oil has 12 grams of omega-6 fats for every one gram of omega-3's. Our goal is a ratio of four omega-6 fats for every one omega-3. Decrease processed foods overall.

The Queen's Biscuits

2 omega-3 rich eggs
2 tbs. canola oil
1 1/2 cups almond milk
1/2 cup ground flax
1/2 cup honey
1/4 cup molasses
1 cup brown rice flour
1 cup oat flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 1/2 tsp. ground or 3 tsp. fresh ginger
3/4 cup chopped walnuts

Mix ingredients. Place cookies on baking sheets lined with parchment paper. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes.
Makes 60 cookies, per 2 cookies, 100 calories, 4g fat, 2 to 1 ratio omega-6 to omega-3 fats.

ELIZABETH is the queen of Omega-3 Fat information. She can be reached at eat2liv@earthlink.net.

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Don't be like Piven

MICHAEL HILL
Associated Press Writer

It might sound like Jeremy Piven is telling a fish story.

The actor known for playing uber-agent Ari on "Entourage" blamed mercury poisoning from eating too much fish for his sudden exit from the Broadway play "Speed-the-Plow" in December.

Now Piven is defending himself against a grievance complaint filed by the play's producers who — like some other observers — are dubious of the I-ate-too-much-fish claim.

Medical researchers say it's possible Piven's case — which heads to arbitration in June — could hold water. Mercury can indeed pose a serious health threat to people who eat too much fish and seafood.

But before you swear off sushi, consider the caveats.

Fish, on balance, is recommended by doctors because it is high in protein and heart-healthy omega-3 fatty acids. Mercury levels in fish are typically minute, and they vary among different types of fish. And unless you're eating catch from polluted waters, you usually have to eat an awful lot of fish for quite a while before showing signs of mercury poisoning.

"For the vast majority of people, it's not a real issue, because the vast majority of people don't eat fish more than once a week," says Dr. Michael Gochfeld, professor of environmental and occupational medicine at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. "It's for those people that we call the high-end consumers that we're most concerned with."

Piven, 43, has disputed reports that he was overeating sushi, but he also told The New York Times that he had been eating fish twice a day for 20 years. Medical experts say adults who eat that much seafood can indeed risk mercury poisoning.

Mercury occurs naturally in the atmosphere and humans pump even more of it into the air through pollution. When it lands on lakes, rivers and oceans, mercury can be transformed by microorganisms into a more toxic form called methylmercury. That's the danger for seafood eaters.

Trace amounts of methylmercury can build up in fish and shellfish. And it can build up in the animals that eat those fish, including humans, who then can experience neurological problems. Symptoms can include tingling sensations around fingertips, toes and lips, a lack of coordination, vision problems and trouble articulating words. In extreme cases, mercury poisoning can cripple, kill and cause birth defects.

Health officials are most concerned about the danger to developing brains and nervous systems and issue strict consumption recommendations for children, pregnant women and women of childbearing age. But all adults are advised to watch their seafood consumption.

The Institute of Medicine of the National Academies recommended several years ago that healthy adult men who consume more than two servings of seafood a week eat different varieties of fish to lessen risks of loading up on a single contaminant. The rule of thumb is the lower on the food chain, the lower the mercury level. Salmon and flounder will tend to have lower levels than larger predators, such as shark and swordfish.

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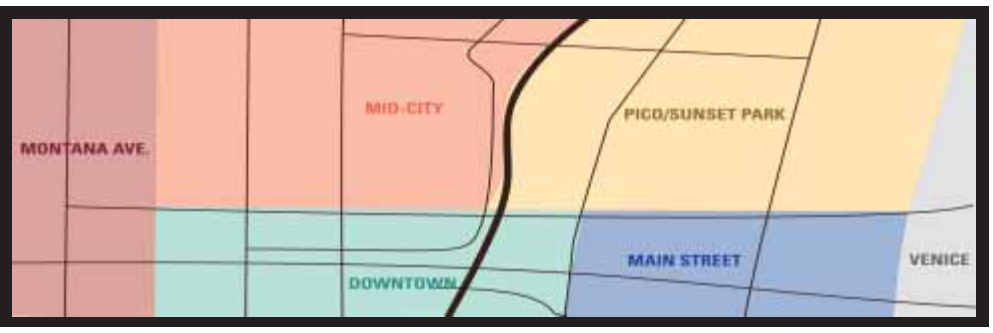
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Treesavers and City Hall meet in cooperation building workshop

FROM **TREES** PAGE 1

entation and question and answer session with a panel of city officials, including Joan Akins, the community maintenance director, Randy Little, the public landscape manager, and Walt Warriner, the community forester.

Jerry Rubin, one of the co-founders of the Treesavers, said he felt a cooperation building meeting between residents and city officials was an appropriate next step following the City Council's decision earlier this month to create a task force that will advise city staff on the creation of an Urban Forest Master Plan.

"I think that is the thing everyone would want to do," Rubin said about the two sides working collegially. "It goes without saying that people in Santa Monica, the residents and the business community, would say it's better to work cooperatively than adversarial."

Standing next to Rubin during the meeting was a white board on which a greeting was written in green marker — "Treesavers 'cooperation building' meeting. Welcome!"

A peace sign was drawn into the "O" in welcome.

But the meeting wasn't so peaceful at times as several residents criticized the recent colored lighting of the ficus trees on Second and Fourth streets, some arguing that the bolts fastened into the trees were hurting the leafy specimens. Some Treesavers grumbled and shook their heads as they listened to city officials, others whispering to each other.

"It's like New Orleans; carnival time," Silverstein said of the new lighting scheme. "I am really heartsick that this has happened to our trees."

Warriner explained that when placed in an urban environment, the trees, much like other living things, learn to adapt to all the elements that come with it, including underground utilities and sidewalks. He said that different trees respond to excavation, root pruning and attachments to certain ways, calling the ficus "resilient."

"By putting a bolt into the tree, the tree will compartmentalize that wound and it doesn't inhibit the trees' growth," he said. "It doesn't create a wound it can't tolerate."

He likened it to how the human body reacts to an ear piercing, to which one Treesaver responded by shouting it was a "terrible analogy."

"No, it's not," Warriner said.

Before the question and answer session started, city officials updated residents on the formation of the task force, which could take about four weeks.

The master plan is expected to act as a guide for City Hall when it comes to maintaining and replacing trees in Santa Monica.

"This master plan we hope will develop in it the care of trees, the maintenance of them and the programs and polices and goals and objectives that will last approximately 50 years," Akins said.

Little said the plan will also include coordinates for every planted tree and vacancy in town.

Officials said they expect a permanent tree commission will be recommended to help enforce the master plan.

Warriner encouraged residents to attend community meetings to have their voices heard, noting that it was one way to build cooperation between City Hall and the public.

"It's not going to be just us talking to you, it's you talking to us," he said.

Warriner added that there was a very low turnout during the community meetings several years ago when the Downtown streetscape plan was presented.

"We would have much rather heard that (input) at the design process," Warriner said. "We would've taken it into consideration."

Several Treesavers said they were grateful for the city officials appearance at the meeting, hoping that everyone would be able to move on from disagreements in the past.

"I have gone through the emotional negativity and difficulty in this process," Marissa Rubin, who is married to Jerry Rubin, said. "I want us to be flexible now to say we're in a different place historically."

Lily Helbig, a Santa Monica resident, said after the meeting that she felt Akins, Little and Warriner were caught in the middle of the controversy.

"This was the council's baby," Helbig said of the beautification plan. "I like all those (council) people personally, but they blew it. They just blew it."

Susan Hartley, a City Council candidate last year who also co-founded the Treesavers, said she believes the cooperation needs to come more from City Hall with the residents than vice versa.

"Whenever there was a focus on residents cooperating with the city, the city was doing what the residents didn't want," she said.

Hartley said she has seen hints of City Hall working with residents.

"I think there could be cooperation but I still think that the Treesavers' role is to be vigilant and to be vigilantes when they see things are being done to harm the trees," she said.

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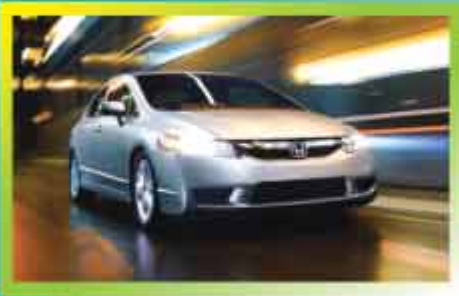


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Petition over window displays draws more than 300 signatures

FROM **WINDOWS** PAGE 1

dar year. The business was warned it could receive a $250 fine and face other repercussions if it doesn't comply by May 1.

"My reaction was why now, it's been here for 10 years," Patricia Polinger, one of the co-owners of Vidiots, said.

Polinger was ready to remove the displays when she received the letter but was instead encouraged by her husband, who is an architect, to measure and see whether it falls under the 20 percent threshold, which she hasn't determined.

"I don't know if I have the grounds to fight it," she said.

Vidiots was one of the many businesses that were monitored during a recent sweep by City Hall's Code Enforcement Division, which has been conducting proactive check-ups on businesses periodically on the major thoroughfares, including Wilshire and Pico boulevards, focusing on compliance with the sign ordinance.

"The city has a long standing sign ordinance that helps protect against visual clutter," Jack Leonard, the building official with City Hall, said. "It ensures the quality of life for the citizens."

Members of the community have recently brought the issue of excessive signage to the attention of the City Council and other officials, Leonard added.

"Santa Monica is not Las Vegas," he said. "They are really concerned about their community and we listen."

Officials plan to follow up with the video store during another sweep to see if it's in compliance.

Vidiots recently placed a petition on the counter of the store, inviting customers who enjoy the painted windows to show their support. About 300 people signed the petition in the first four days.

Cathy Tauber, the other co-owner of Vidiots, said she might submit the petition to City Hall. The paintings are the work of Patrick McGilligan, who started working at Vidiots about 15 years ago as a clerk and now serves as the assistant manager.

He changes the artwork every four months and is given creative freedom to paint whatever he wishes, spending about two to five days completing a project.

"I just do whatever I feel like doing, whatever comes out of my sick little head," McGilligan said.

His favorite was a painting of an underwater scene that he completed several years ago.

"The customers love the windows," he said. "I had a girl who told me that she has grown up with my windows.

"She is about 20 now and said 'your windows are my total childhood.'"

The store was founded by two long-time best friends who have known each other since they were three years old, growing up in Los Angeles and graduating together from Hamilton High School. Tauber's father used to own the bowling alley located just one block away. Vidiots has a collection of more than 40,000 DVD titles and is known for its selection of independent and foreign films.

The owners said they have not decided what actions to take and whether to appeal or scale the paintings down.

"Everybody loves those signs and people are always commenting on them," Tauber said. "They add so much fun to the look of the store."

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John Muir Flea Market

April 4 & 18
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1st & 3rd Saturday of the month
2510 Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica
(corner of Ocean Park Blvd. in the school parking lot)

- Collectibles
- Jewelry
- Vintage Clothing
- Real Deals and Real Finds
- Delicious Food



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johnmuirptafair.org

LIVING LIBRARY PROJECT
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Saturday, April 18
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.
Registration begins at 10 a.m.
www.smpl.org

Living books will share a significant personal experience or a particular perspective on life. An ex-gang member, a fat activist, and a formerly homeless woman are just a few of the people who will be available for a 30 minute personal conversation.

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY
Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library

Documentary to air on local PBS station

FROM **DOCUMENTARY** PAGE 3

From there, he thought of the most interesting room you could possible put Jewish people in and he came to the conclusion that the Holocaust was that setting.

His first move was to visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, where a directory of all survivors living in America can be found. He discovered that there were nearly 1,200 people who lived within 20 miles of Santa Monica who had lived through the ordeal. He sent letters out to each of them asking them if they would be interested in participating in the project. He was surprised when 300 contacted him back.

Of the initial 300 respondents, he chose 18 who he interviewed on camera. There was a total of eight men and 10 women. Once he completed the initial photography, he reviewed his 50 hours of footage and realized that the story of the Holocaust had never really been told through the female point of view.

It was then that he decided to focus on the stories of his female subjects and discovered that it was a novel approach to what has become a well documented time in history.

"I did not set out to make a film about women's experiences," Kean said. "It just ended up being the best angle to take for the film."

daniela@smdp.com

Suspect could face more charges

FROM **ARREST** PAGE 1

Residents are encouraged to always be aware of their surroundings, especially when walking alone at night.

"I often hear people say that because they are in Santa Monica, living north of Montana or on Main Street, that they think it's safe," Wilson, a life-long resident, said. "Well, it's not. People need to watch their backs. You never know who can jump out at you."

kevinh@smdp.com

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Boris Brott, Conductor

Arnaldo Cohen, piano

April 26, 2009, 4:00 pm

Barnum Hall on the Campus of Santa Monica High School

Kodály *Dances of Galánta*

Liszt Concerto No. 1 in E-flat Major

Bartók Concerto for Orchestra

Tickets from $20-$100

This concert is part of the 2009 Westside Gala Benefit honoring Eugene Levy, Emmy Award Winner, Comedic Actor, Writer & Director. To purchase gala tickets, call 310.678.2644. The 2008/2009 Masterpiece series is sponsored by Sandra and Jordan Laby



TICKETS ON SALE NOW: 1-866-766-8400

www.NewWestSymphony.org

Limited pre-paid parking available or Park at Civic Center lot on 4th Street



Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 55°

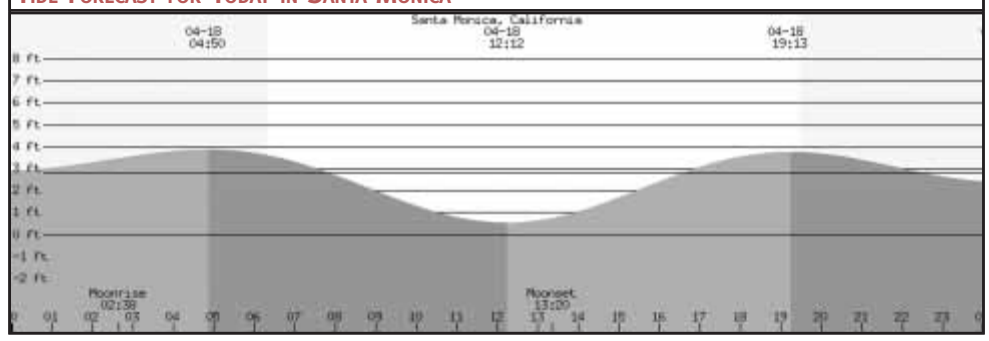
Swell Forecast (2-3 FT)

Saturday the 18th looks smaller, perhaps knee to waist most everywhere. Sunday the 19th should see a smidgen of southern hemi come through as NW drops to nil.

Long Range Synopsis

Monday the 20th looks similar, perhaps waist high max at south facing breaks, and knee high max at west facing spots.

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 **April 14, 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 -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 0
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 10 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by simplehuman, The 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 Lechusa 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 Pierce 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	A	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+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	C	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	D	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A	ns
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)	C	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	C	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	D	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	A	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	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	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

Mary Poppins (1964) (NR) 2hrs 20min
3:00

Witness (1985) (NR) 1hr 52min
7:30

Mosquito Coast, The (1986) (NR) 1hr 57min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Dragonball: Evolution (PG) 1hr 25min
11:00 a.m., 1:10, 3:20, 5:35, 7:45, 10:05

Fast & Furious (PG-13) 1hr 39min
12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:30

Sleep Dealer (PG-13) 1hr 30min
12:15, 2:30, 4:50, 7:00, 9:15

Sunshine Cleaning (R) 1hr 42min
11:30 a.m., 2:00, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50

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

Duplicity (PG-13)
1:10, 4:00, 7:20, 10:15

Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) 1hr 42min
11:00 a.m., 1:35, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

Observe and Report (R) 1hr 46min
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:30

Watchmen (R) 2hrs 43min
12:45, 6:50

Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG) 1hr 34min
RealD 3D
11:20 a.m., 1:40, 4:15, 6:40, 9:20

Crank High Voltage (R) 1hr 25min
Special Engagement
11:55 a.m., 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10

Fast & Furious (PG-13) 1hr 46min
11:10 a.m., 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40

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

Adventureland (R) 1hr 46min
1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50

Enlighten Up! (NR) 1hr 22min
1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

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

Sugar (R) 1hr 54min
1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 10:00

Great Buck Howard, The (PG) 1hr 27min
11:00 a.m.

Harvard Beats Yale 29-29 (NR) 1hr 44min
11:00 a.m.

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

I Love You, Man (R) 1hr 50min
1:20, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30

Knowing (PG-13)
12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50

State of Play (PG-13) 1hr 58min
1:10, 3:30, 4:10, 7:10, 9:10, 10:10

17 Again (PG-13) 1hr 42min
12:00, 1:00, 2:30, 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 10:00

Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG) 1hr 34min
RealD 3D, Special Engagement
1:30, 4:00, 6:40, 9:00

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

Fun and games, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Someone might have a very different idea for plans. You do need to clear out your work. Take off for a day trip, or explore a new area of town. Tonight: Where people are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ A must-do situation allows you to move in a new direction. You could be overly worried or overthinking an idea. Let go, and visit with others in the p.m. An older friend enjoys your attention and time. Try not to go to work. Tonight: Out late.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance. Consider planning a meeting halfway. You understand a lot more than you realize. Change settings, and you'll see a worry disappear. Walk through a new door, and try a new type of entertainment or cuisine. Tonight: Where there is music.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Work with a loved one on an individual level. Realize what is happening behind the scenes. Make a safe place for this person and others to display their vulnerabilities. A friend doesn't mean to interfere with a relationship. Tonight: Let someone else determine plans.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Use your unique people skills to draw out others. You could be uncomfortable as to the split when going out with others. Be clear and direct ahead of time in order to prevent difficulties. Tonight: Where the action is.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You could be quite hard on someone without intending to. Listen to what is being shared without judgment. You could like what you hear. Your ability to zero in on what others cannot separates you from many. It is just your style of letting others know your thoughts. Tonight: Remember, honey works better than vinegar.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Allow your imagination to wander through many different paths and curves. You could rediscover how much you enjoy being a kid again when interacting with a child or loved one. Just let it all hang out. Relax. Tonight: Fun and games.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ You are coming from a very solid position and could actually be stuck. Learn to be less controlling. A friend could think he or she is giving you good advice. Say thank you, but follow your instincts. Tonight: Entertain from home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Keep communication flourishing. If you are having a problem with someone, start up talks now. If you give this person space, he or she will be far more willing to open up. Just by being yourself and available, opportunity strikes. Tonight: You don't have to go far.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Refuse to be coerced into doing something; rather, be direct and forthright. Your laughter helps melt someone else's resentments. Someone at a distance has a very strange way of approaching a problem. Tonight: Let go of negativity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You naturally make the right move. Others seek you out, but a key friend or partner could feel left out. Be sensitive to this person. Although you love your friends, he or she does make a significant difference in your life. Tonight: Learn to mix both.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Take off by yourself. Perhaps some time alone will help revitalize your perspective and mood. Communication might seem more worrisome than in reality. Give yourself the space to see events differently. Tonight: Hang out.

Happy birthday

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

Friendship stars in this year's events. Your pals often make all the difference. Understand your goals completely. Through verbalizing your long-term desires, you will be taking the first step in making your desires reality. Learn to adjust and let go. Often what you thought would happen professionally is a lot different from what goes down. In some other way, you will invigorate your daily life with a new pastime or hobby. If you are single, a friendship could become a lot more. You suddenly note that you have feelings. If you are attached, be more understanding of your sweetie. AQUARIUS understands you far better than you think.

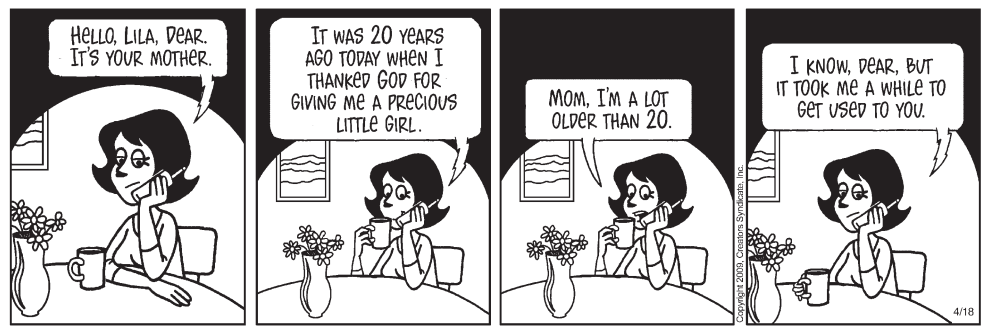
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



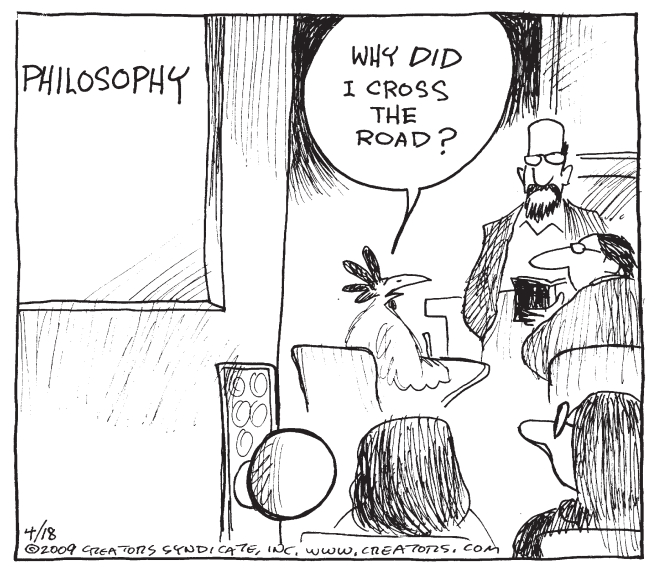
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Strange Brew

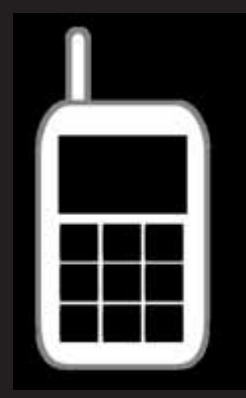
By John Deering



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

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

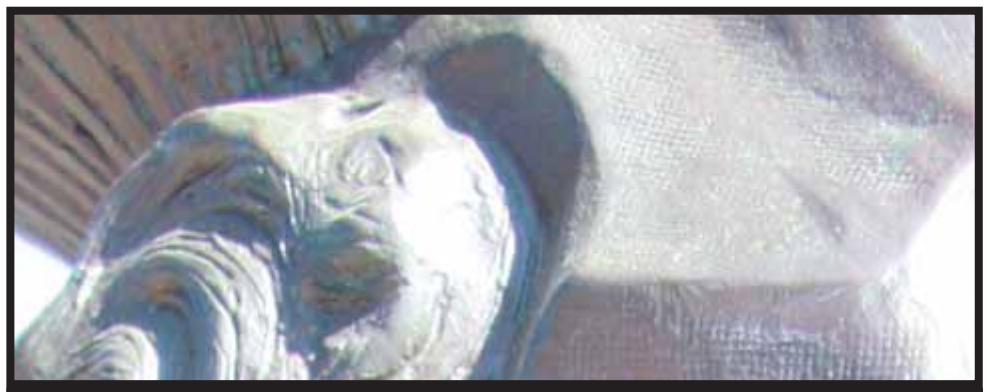
6	1	4	9	8	2	7	3	5
9	3	5	7	6	4	1	2	8
2	7	8	3	5	1	6	4	9
7	5	2	6	4	9	8	1	3
8	6	9	1	2	3	4	5	7
1	4	3	5	7	8	2	9	6
5	2	1	8	9	6	3	7	4
4	9	6	2	3	7	5	8	1
3	8	7	4	1	5	9	6	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/17

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Soraya Danesh news@smdp.com

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Expenses
6 Learns about
11 Massenet creation
12 Catherine's "Chicago" co-star
13 "— Black" (1997 film)
14 Snail trail
15 Entirely
17 Got together
18 Scoundrel
19 Guacamole base
22 Bond, for one
23 Annual
24 Part of Wahlberg's former name
25 Like Berg's music
27 Manmouse link
30 Scowl
31 Auction signal
32 Little devil
33 Begin to like
35 Yoga position
38 Parish head
39 Slacker
40 Brighten
41 Rockies resort
42 Massage targets

DOWN

1 Newspaper feature
2 Police order
3 Door tender
4 Jazz combo
5 "The Realms of Being" writer
6 Day pts.
7 Long fish
8 Zoo inhabitant
9 Fix
10 Handle
16 Ham it up
20 Feature of some military awards
21 Bellow
24 May honoree
25 Protects, in a way
26 Pinnacle
27 Like some garages
28 Turn
29 Cherishes
30 Rita Hayworth film
34 Metric mass
36 Arles article
37 Capitol Bldg. VIP

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

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				

4-18

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 4 11 22 48 50
Meganumber: 42
Jackpot: $109M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 7 18 34 35 43
Meganumber: 25
Jackpot: $10M

FANTASY 5: 1 5 14 21 24

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 8 7 9
EVENING: 4 0 6

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1.48.27

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Fine Points of the Law: (1) New Zealand's Employment Relations Authority ruled in February that a worker who, in a fury, tells his boss to "stick his job up his arse," has not officially resigned unless he follows up the incident with a formal notice. (2) Two competitors vying to sell the same type iPhone application (arrays of sounds of breaking wind) are embroiled in a trademark dispute, according to a March Denver Post report. The developers of Air-O-Matic's "Pull My Finger" claim that InfoMedia's "iFart" application improperly uses "pull my finger" in its own marketing. InfoMedia said that the phrase is generic and not trademarkable.

■ From an advertisement in the News Reporter of Whiteville, N.C., placed by attorney C. Greg Williamson on Jan. 5, 2009, to give legally required pre-adoption notice to the unknown father of a girl (about whom the mother apparently recalled very little): The father "was about 5 feet 7 inches tall, with a light brown complexion and 'funny' shaped eyes," and the "date and place of conception" were during December 2002 "at a house in Bolton, N.C., thought to be the second house on the left after turning left on the street just past Bubba's Club as you head east from Lake Waccamaw." Under state law, that man had 40 days from the placement of the ad to challenge the adoption of the child, now age 5.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1978 the Senate approved the Panama Canal Treaty, providing for the complete turnover of control of the waterway to Panama on the last day of 1999.

1980 the independent nation of Zimbabwe, formerly Zimbabwe Rhodesia, came into being.

1983 63 people, including 17 Americans, were killed at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, by a suicide bomber.

WORD UP!

ephemeral \ih-FEM-er-ul\, *adjective*:
1. Beginning and ending in a day; existing only, or no longer than, a day; as, an ephemeral flower.
2. Short-lived; existing or continuing for a short time only.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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sullivan-dituri.com

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MAR VISTA 11916 Courtleigh Dr. unit 8 one bedroom/one bath $1085 stove, fridge, carpet blinds utilities included parking laundry room no pets on site manager $400 off move-in (310)737-7933 jkwproperties.com

MDR STUDIO 3rd floor city view, utilities Also for sale @ $2,760.000 Call (818)359-2073

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MAR VISTA 12610 CASWELL ave.unit 7, 1bdrm/1ba $1075/mo. stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, parking,laundry, no pets.$500 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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SANTA MONICA / Mar Vista/Palms Adj. $1200.00 to $2150.00 1 Bdrm, 2 Bdrms, w/appliances, parking For list of our vacancies, see manager at : 1935 Cloverfield Blvd. #19, Santa Monica move-in-special available

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WESTCHESTER 6707 W. 86th place B, 2+ 2 upper, bright unit, newly remodeled hardwood floors, tile, carpet d/w microwave,blinds, laundry, tandem gated parking no pets $1575 (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20090406261 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as WORLD FLOORING, 2929 MAXSON RD, #C, EL MONTE, CA 91732, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : HUEY LAM, 2929 MAXSON RD, #C, EL MONTE, CA 91732 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: HUEY LAM
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 3/20/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 4/18/2009, 4/25/2009, 5/2/2009, 5/9/2009

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Ad Council AHRQ

LOL: laughing out loud
BRB: be right back
MUSM: miss you so much
A/S/L: age, sex, location
BF: boyfriend
OLL: online love
LULAS: love you like a sister
POS: parent over shoulder
WTGP: want to go private?
LMIRL: let's meet in real life

HDOP: help delete online predators

Every day, children are sexually solicited online.

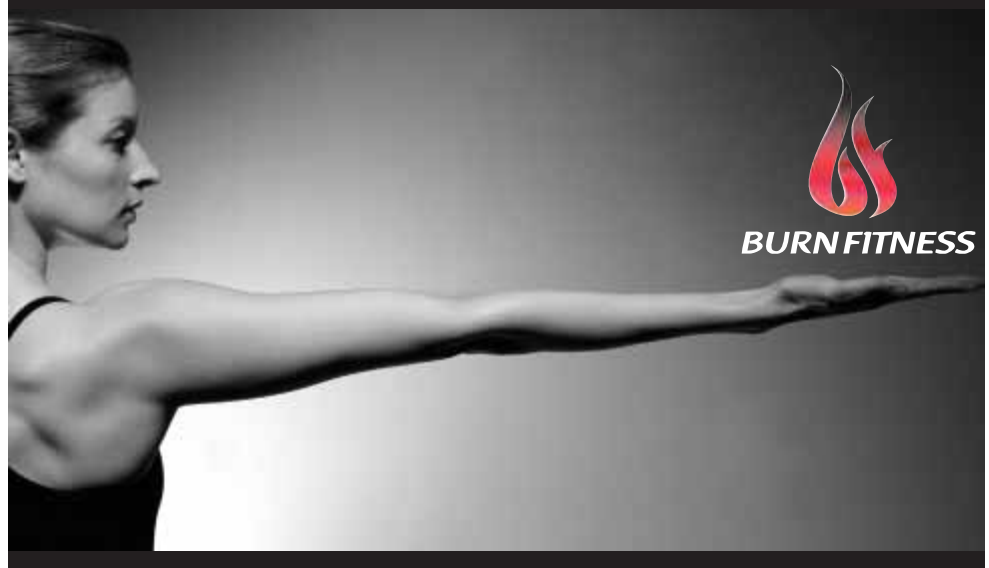
Ad Council You don't know what your kids are saying online. Or who they are saying it to. A lot of times neither do they. Protect your kid's online life. To get a full list of acronyms or report an incident, call 1-800-THE LOST or visit cybertipline.com. HDOP: help delete online predators
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Santa Monica Canyon	$2,295,000	$1,695,000
North of Montana	$3,407,000	$1,295,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,895,000	$799,000
South of Wilshire	$1,050,000	$650,000
Sunset Park	$1,215,000	$698,000
Ocean Park	$1,199,000	$938,250

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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