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FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2008

Volume 7 Issue 152

LION OR LAMB?
SEE PAGE 10

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE PUBLIC INPUT ISSUE

City to give trees another look

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CIVIC CENTER A contested citywide carob tree removal plan, criticized by shade-loving residents skeptical of the evergreen specimens' terminal diagnosis, will get another look by City Hall before they're uprooted.

The announcement came during a community outreach meeting on the project at the Civic Center on Wednesday, city officials agreeing to reassess the criteria used to determine which of the 630 carobs in the city should be removed.

The reassessment could affect the 202 trees that are slated for removal in the second phase of the plan.

> **"IN GENERAL, I THINK THE (CAROB) TREE PLAN IS A REACTIONARY PLAN DRIVEN BY FINANCES AND NOT WITH CONSIDERATION FOR THE VALUE OF THE TREES."**
>
> **Brian Varnum,**
> Resident

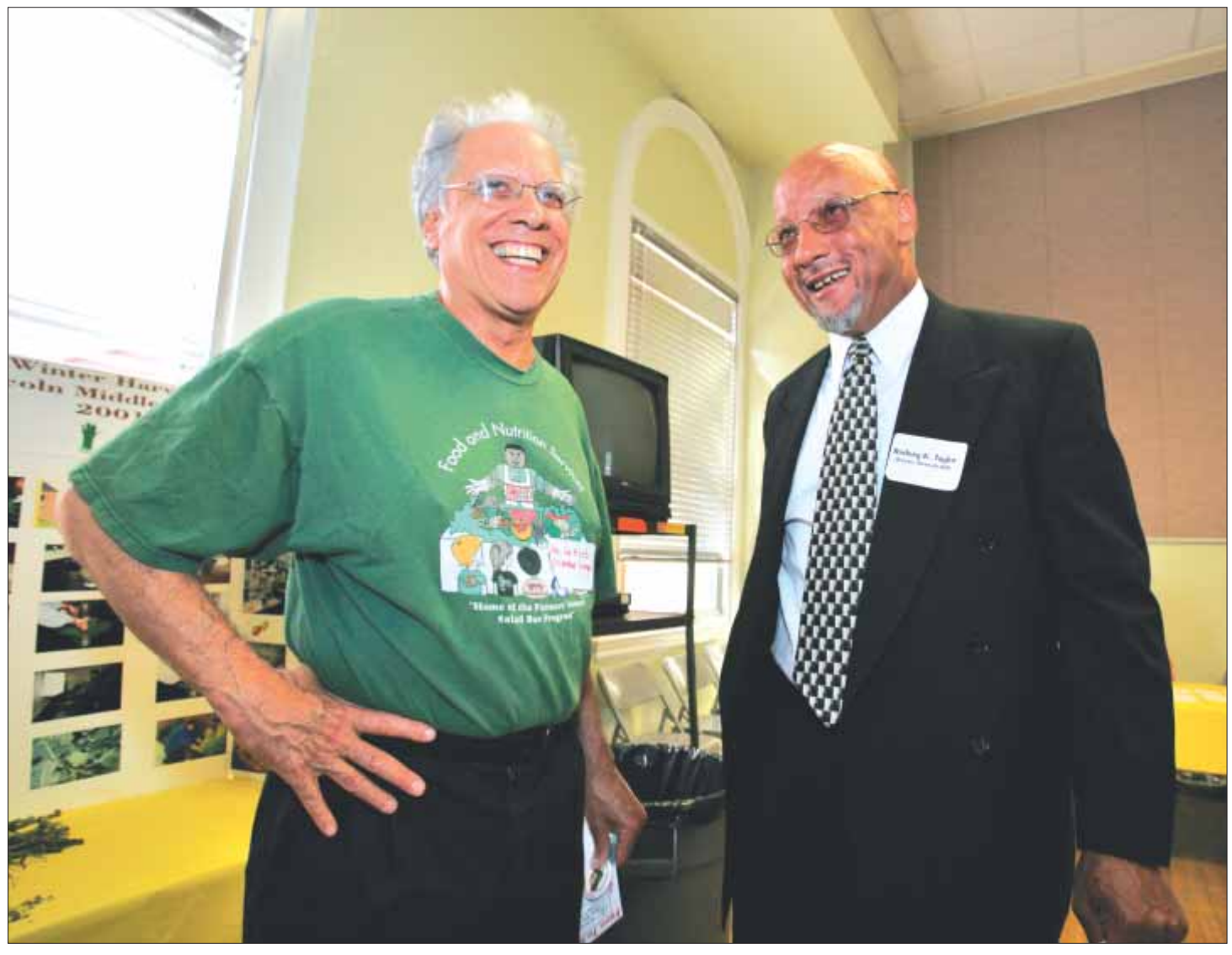
The estimated $395,000 project calls for the removal and replacement of 300 trees identified as having a high probability of failing, 98 of which were tagged as having the highest risk potential and will be removed this month.

The trees were assessed in the study by HortScience, which rated the carobs on a scale of 1-12, the latter as having the highest risk. The 98 trees that will be removed first were all rated above 10, and almost all trees were ranked higher than an eight. Fourteen trees were rated as a seven but are in very poor condition and will be removed.

Residents during the meeting questioned the methodology used in determining the trees that should be removed, pointing out that the carobs that ranked between seven and nine should be reexamined because certain factors might have inflated their score.

Jim Clark, a consultant with HortScience,

SEE TREES PAGE 7



Photos by Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

BIG DAY: **(Above) Bob Gottlieb, director of the Center for Food and Justice at Occidental College (left) and Rodney Taylor, director of food for the Riverside Unified School District, talk about the old days at the 10th anniversary celebration of the Farm to School Program at McKinley Elementary School on Thursday. (Left) Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District's Dona Richwine speaks to parents about the program.**

Remembering a decade of fresh selections

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

MCKINLEY ELEMENTARY Rodney Taylor couldn't believe the sight before him, sitting amongst a sea of children, swarming around a lunch bar, each one carefully assembling a salad on top of their plate, some choosing cucumbers, others opting for the ruby-red beets.

It was the summer of 1997 and the first day of a pilot program that tested a novel idea in the culinary world of schools, incorporating salads using ingredients fresh from the local Farmers'

SEE FARM PAGE 9

Gary Limjap
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It's all about you... The client
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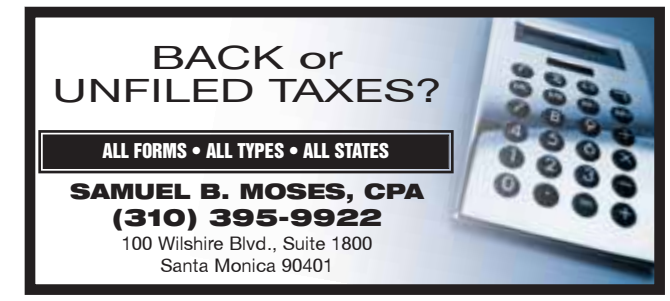

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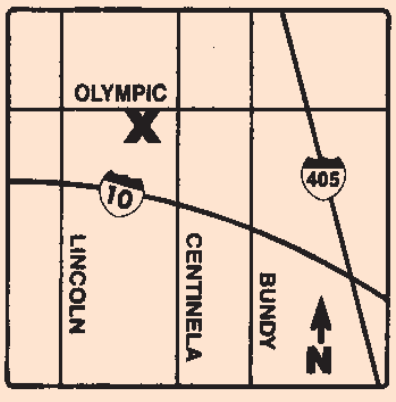

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

More than meets the eye

1323-A Third Street Promenade, 8 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
"The Transformers," a group of Emmy-winning comedy writers from a number of hit TV shows comes together to perform their high-wire improv antics every Friday through August. For more information, call (310) 451-0850.

Calling all sound lovers

13480 Maxella Ave., Marina del Rey, 7:30 a.m. — 2 a.m.
Do you love sound? If you believe in music and the power of sound or simply wonder how sound affects our daily lives, then the Global Sound Conference is for you. The Global Sound Conference is a unique event bringing together key people from the music, film and television industries with pioneers in the areas of sound healing and integrative medicine to show just how affective sound truly is. For tickets and more information, visit www.discoversound.com.

Dancing with Isabelle and Reiko

1334 Lincoln Blvd., 7:15 p.m.
Learn how to dance hot salsa in a relaxed atmosphere with Isabelle and Reiko. There are two classes offered: One for beginners and another for more advanced dancers. Once both classes are over, hang out for a while and socialize with fellow students. For more information, call (310) 392-3493.

Saturday, May 10, 2008

Traveling to Europe?

1436 Second St., 10 a.m.
Hostelling International USA is conducting a World Travel 101 Workshop on Europe. The workshop is geared for the first time traveler. For more information, call (310) 393-3413.

To the max

1343 Ocean Park Blvd., 6 p.m.
Author and film maker James D. Scurlock will screen "Maxed Out" -- his award-winning documentary about hard times and easy credit.

Citywide Reads

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m.
Trained volunteer facilitators lead free public book discussions featuring the Santa Monica Citywide Reads selection "The Highest Tide," by Jim Lynch. No registration is required.

Come try it on

2627 Pico Blvd., 11 a.m.
"The Hundred Dresses " is a stage adaptation of the 1944 book, a timeless story about the "in" crowd, the painful consequences of teasing, and what is known today as "fashion bullying." Bring the kids to this special theatrical experience.

Santa Monica on two feet

1436 Second St., 10 a.m.
The Santa Monica Conservancy leads a two-hour tour that explores more than 130 years of Santa Monica history from its wild west frontier beginnings to the metropolis of today. Starting from the 1875 Rapp Saloon, the route includes many landmarks and concludes at the 2003 NRDC building. For information, call (310) 496-3146.

Does the slipper fit?

1211 Fourth St., 12: 30 and 3 p.m.
"Cinderella" is an original Rudie-DeCarlo musical for kids 2 to 102, featuring a charming prince, zany fairy godmother, silly stepsisters and a zealously well-meaning stepmother. For more information, call (310) 394-9779 ext. 651.

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.

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

WORTHY CAUSE: **Food collected by postal carriers will be delivered to the Westside Food Bank in Santa Monica, which provides food to 65 local agencies with food assistance programs. The public is asked to leave non-perishable food in a bag next to their mailbox on Saturday.**

Extra special delivery

Postal carriers to collect food for the needy

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

CITYWIDE While delivering the mail is a postal carrier's most important duty, on Saturday that will take a back seat as these federal employees participate in the nation's largest, one-day food drive, collecting canned goods and other edibles along their routes.

Food collected from the area stretching from Malibu to the South Bay, will be delivered to the Westside Food Bank in Santa Monica, which provides food to 65 local agencies with food assistance programs. Nearly half of the food provided by the Food Bank goes to local children in need, said Bruce Rankin, Westside Food Bank's executive director.

The 16th Annual National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive comes at a time when many Americans are watching the price for basic items like milk, rice and wheat increase.

Studies have shown that hunger in America is a much more serious problem than most people realize. The number of Americans who depend upon food banks, directly or indirectly, is estimated at 30 million people, or 10.4 percent of the population. Nearly 14 million children live in homes rated "food insecure," meaning they were hungry or at risk of hunger.

"We have never before seen the combination of Westside income shortages, home foreclosures and food cost inflation that is forcing even families who have thought of themselves as middle class to seek food pantry assistance," Rankin said. "Truly, the local need for food assistance is soaring while the face of need is changing."

With more local families than ever before seeking food assistance, Westside Food Bank is counting on the local community to give generously to the food drive.

The public is asked to leave non-perishable food in a bag next to their mailbox on Saturday. Their letter carrier will do the rest. The food is brought back to the Post Office and distributed to Westside Food Bank and other local charities who in turn give it to people in need.

Last year, through a lot of hard work, dedication, compassion and the support of the communities they serve 70.7 million pounds of food were collected across the

SEE **FOOD** PAGE 7

MySpace to let users share data with Yahoo

BY RYAN NAKASHIMA
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Social networking site MySpace said Thursday it will soon enable users to quickly share profile data with Web sites operated by Yahoo Inc., eBay Inc. and others.

MySpace aims to save its users keystrokes and allow them to export their photos, videos and lists of friends.

"There's this concept that social networks are walled gardens," said Amit Kapur, MySpace's chief operating officer. "We're taking those walls down."

Other sites that can receive the MySpace data include Twitter and Photobucket. Like MySpace, the photo-sharing site Photobucket is a unit of News Corp.

The participating sites have a total of 150 million users and reach 85 percent of the Internet market in the United States.

Many users of the sites already have accounts with MySpace, the world's largest social networking site, with 117 million members in more than 20 countries.

MySpace will roll out the new feature in the next several weeks. Among other things, MySpace users could have their default photo and music interests appear in Yahoo Instant Messenger or enrich their eBay profiles to improve exchanges between buyers and sellers.

"By injecting MySpace data, you're able to get a little bit more context about that person. As a result of that, you can make a more informed purchase decision," Kapur said.

MySpace users can control what data is provided to other Web sites. The move is in line with a broader push to make the online profiles of Internet users compatible with multiple Web sites. Last June, five companies including Google Inc., Microsoft Corp. and Yahoo formed the OpenID Coalition to create a single username and password for people to use across the Internet.

Google, Yahoo and MySpace also announced in March the creation of the OpenSocial Foundation to create a common coding standard for social networking applications that work across the Web.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What's wrong with this picture?

Editor:

It's pretty pathetic when the narrow minded citizens' prefer trees over the child molestation that's going on at Lincoln {Middle School]. I went to this school in the '40s. How many other schools could this be happening in? I haven't seen one letter regarding the molestation so that shows where the citizens' priorities are. Also that narrow minded postal worker using the SMDP for his ranting and raving about Obama. Give us a break. Find another subject.

Jacqueline Kestler
Santa Monica

Board needs to reconsider super

Editor:

RE: Is school staff running amuck?

I think [Bill] Bauer's question should be, "Is the school board and its superintendent running amuck?" When a school superintendent comes before a City Council prepared with information "according to the rumor mill" you have to know there is a real lack of competence. To compound that embarrassment, she stated a need to leave early because of "oodles of work to do." What work was more important than presenting an open and honest school district to the city in pursuit of badly needed funding to the tune of $ 5.29 million?

When the school district bowed to the city's demands for that significant amount of money does it make sense that "staff" would then be the sole responders to that agreement? I would think the school board and its superintendent would surely be on top of something that important not only for the money, but to repair the district's continuing tarnished image. How can four school board members be contacted on this issue and the superintendent can respond based on rumor? No, it is not "staff" that is running amuck.

A school board that hired a superintendent who immediately made a mess with negotiations that ended in the loss of Winston Braham (who you correctly stated was vindicated) should be questioned. A school board that tolerates continuing messes such as the current one should be questioned. And the first question should be why does the school board continue to retain a superintendent that repeatedly casts the district in an ill light and apparently has nothing concrete to show for her time in this community. From what I hear, this is a superintendent who rarely visits school sites and spends little time in the district offices. And that's about as good as it gets.

So, who's running amuck, a disconnected school board tolerating an incompetent superintendent? And like Winston Braham before him, Tim Walker will take the hit while Superintendent Talarico and the school board will go on as though all is well.

Roland Young
Santa Monica

Your column here

Mark Klein

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Traveling on the road to recovery

Re-entry into the mainstream for many psychiatric patients is difficult but important for many of us. After many years of treatment, both in the hospital and as an outpatient, I can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Today, I am taking steps to get off federal and state disability benefits and supplementary support from my family and make my sedentary lifestyle a thing of the past. My goal is to get back to work and become self-supporting. I realize that this will take some time and help from knowledgeable people, but I think integration back into normal society is a good objective and I want this badly.

Going back almost 30 years, when I was an undergraduate at the University of California at San Diego, studying literature, I became particularly interested in writing. Since then, I have taken classes and had tutoring to develop this skill.

At one point, a UCLA writing professor, with whom I was studying, suggested that I try to make money for my efforts, and do this full time. A counselor in my church who got to know me well and my work also made this suggestion.

Overall, I have received some encouragement and am taking steps to make such an end possible.

Work builds self esteem and removes the crippling stigma that comes with mental illness. This positive change occurs in the mind, but outside forces also make life more enjoyable because of employment and a focus.

Most relationships improve, as the working person has more to talk about than his or her illness and treatment.

I believe in the back of many people's minds is the expectation that everyone must contribute something to society. Hence, the unemployed mental patient suffers rejection on two fronts: The stigma that comes from having a serious illness and being unemployed. Working is key to re-entry and a good life.

Integration into the community is best achieved if the recovering mental patient provides a service in the economy.

The most current research shows that many mental patients, with effective treatment and rehabilitation, can go back to work and lead productive and meaningful lives. Many can regain acceptance from a demanding society.

I was blessed with great parents, who always wanted the best for me, and gave me almost everything that I really needed to be successful and independent. I blame no one for my difficulties and situation; rather, I take responsibility for mobilizing resources, services and supports to realize my goal to get back into the mainstream.

By regularly contributing articles to Step Up on Second's Brainstorm newspaper, I am building my foundation as a writer. I feel increasingly legitimized as a person as my articles appear in Brainstorm and in other publications, such as The Santa Monica Daily Press.

WORK BUILDS SELF ESTEEM AND REMOVES THE CRIPPLING STIGMA THAT COMES WITH MENTAL ILLNESS. THIS POSITIVE CHANGE OCCURS IN THE MIND, BUT OUTSIDE FORCES ALSO MAKE LIFE MORE ENJOYABLE BECAUSE OF EMPLOYMENT AND A FOCUS.

I am fortunate for this beginning opportunity to join the world and not suffer the stigma and alienation that comes from simply floundering.

Going nowhere is common for many people suffering from a severe mental illness, but this doesn't have to happen. As I increasingly interface with the commercial world, my feelings of acceptance and self-confidence increase.

I know others with mental disorders who may also have a chance to seek and gain employment and lead much better and normal lives; unfortunately, they may lack confidence, motivation and know-how for moving toward that goal.

I can't say that I'm totally out of the woods, but I have a pretty good idea now about what it takes to be successful and fully integrated into the community. I want to give back to others what so many have given me. As I succeed at each step along the way, I hope my achievements and improved quality of life will inspire others with mental disabilities.

My goal is to do this with my writing. As a start, I have decided to write about what I know best; namely to describe my struggles with my illness and how I have made progress on the path toward recovery and re-entry into society.

It's a long journey and the path is not yet entirely clear, but as they say, every journey begins with a single step. My first step is "putting pen to paper" and writing articles such as this one. It feels good and my instincts tell me I'm on the right path.

MARK KLEIN is a member at Step Up on Second, a Santa Monica-based organization that involves individuals with severe and persistent mental illness in developing opportunities to reintegrate into the community. Klein is a regular contributor to Brainstorm, a newspaper featuring articles written by Step Up members. For more information about Step Up on Second and Brainstorm, go to www.stepuponsecond.org.

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The grass gets greener as we unpave paradise

DON'T LOOK NOW BUT SUMMER'S JUST around the proverbial corner. When I moved to Santa Monica 33 years ago (as a mere child, well, not quite) summer was my favorite season. But each year the beach gets more congested and noisier. On a typical summer day, hordes of skateboarders bang their wheels on anything that doesn't move, while helicopters buzz the beach like a scene from "Apocalypse Now."

I sound like a grouchy Andy Rooney, but one of my biggest gripes is the battery model cars that people race in the parking lots. The high pitched whine from those cars could make coyotes howl. Years ago in Panama, we blasted rock music to harass Manuel Noriega into surrendering. The process took weeks. With these model cars, Noriega would have sprinted out of the Presidential Palace, hands over his ears, screaming "No, mas!"

Gripe No. 2 is the ATVs the police use on the beach. They're loud, stinky and have the look of storm troopers. There are plenty of lifeguards, and these days everybody's got a cell phone so I question the need. Some surfers jokingly call the ATVs the "Bikini Patrol." At least why couldn't they be solar-powered? I try to enjoy the solitude of the beach, but when I hear the ATVs approaching, it sounds like Daytona raceway. And when they head back to base, they open the throttle full-bore like it's a sand dune drag race.

There's a bright spot this season, however, and it's the color green. Part of the beach parking lot north of Ocean Park Boulevard was recently covered with grass of a type that can hold up under the weight of cars. Other than Memorial Day, July 4, and Labor Day, this lot is hardly used, so it was an ideal candidate for this pilot project.

On May 18 (a week from Sunday) the city will celebrate the grand opening of "Beach Green" from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. They're encouraging residents to bring a picnic lunch to have on the grass. Activities will be geared to small children with bicycle decorating, soccer clinic, gymnastics/tumbling and possibly even a chalk artist to work with the kids. The other day, looking at the lush grass I found myself thinking, "What a great idea," not an expression I recall using too often lately.

The idea began in 2002 with the Parks and Recreation Commission. In 2003 the city applied for a grant from the State Water Resources Control Board and in 2004 it was awarded $698,830. That sounded like a lot for some grass, but in fact it was a fairly big deal tearing up the parking lot and preparing the area for turf. I love that it's the exact opposite of the Joni Mitchell lyric "Big Yellow Taxi," "They paved paradise for a parking lot." And I also love the notion, that, instead of being re-paved with asphalt from time to time, the lot will only have to be mowed.

After four years of parking data was analyzed to demonstrate to the public, and the Coastal Commission, that a portion of this lot was not used during the vast majority of the year, the project got final approval. Work began on Oct. 9, 2007.

A total of 83 asphalt vehicle spaces were converted to turf, an area 85 feet wide by 320 feet long, which is longer than a football field.

And no, this doesn't mean L.A. is finally getting a pro football team. The area will be used for picnics, Frisbee, kite flying and informal ball playing (And, for me, napping on Sunday afternoons).

On the summer holidays the grass will be used again for parking. So far everyone seems to like the idea, even the neighborhood dogs. I haven't had actual conversations, but I'm guessing they'll much prefer grass to a parking lot, for obvious reasons.

Here's another bonus. The turf will filter runoff from rain and can demonstrate how to improve Santa Monica Bay's water quality. Monitoring will measure pollutant levels before and after passing through the turf. At the west end of the Beach Green is a fancy looking solar powered irrigation controller. The project is so green, Al Gore, Leonardo DiCaprio and Ed Begley, Jr. are going to arm-wrestle to see who officiates the grand opening (Okay, I made that part up).

I hope the Beach Green is a big success and the city tries it in other lots. Then each year we'd have more green to look at (Not that asphalt isn't aesthetically pleasing). For me, I enjoy that grass isn't exactly conducive for skateboards or model car racing. Now if only the city would just do something about the helicopters and the police ATVs, I wouldn't have to sound like Andy Rooney.

JACK NEWORTH can be reached at Jackneworth2003@aol.com.

The Q Line

Through the roof

With the price for seemingly everything on the rise, people are having to make tough decisions to cut corners and save pennies.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:
What are you doing to offset the cost for everyday goods and services?

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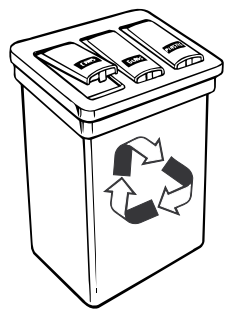
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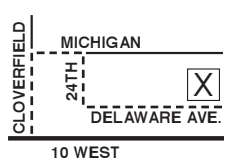

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BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Cat nipped in the bud

Crime Watch is a weekly series culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

SATURDAY, MAY 3, AT 1:20 P.M.,
Santa Monica police officers responded to the 1800 block of 20th Street regarding a fight in progress. When officers arrived they saw two people arguing over a cat; one of the suspects was armed with nunchucks. During their investigation, officers smelled the strong scent of marijuana. After receiving permission to enter the suspect's residence, officers found several marijuana plants and a small prescription bottle containing hashish. The suspect was arrested for felony possession of marijuana with intent to distribute. He was identified as David H. Cox, 29, of Santa Monica. His bail was set at $30,000.

FRIDAY, MAY 2, AT 4:40 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 2800 block of Wilshire Boulevard – Magnolia Audio Video – regarding a report of an assault with a deadly weapon. When officers arrived, they spoke with store employees who said the suspect walked into the store and began to act irrationally, screaming and yelling. Employees asked the suspect to leave the store. That's when the suspect allegedly grabbed a six-foot-long metal pipe and threatened to strike employees. He eventually left the location and was arrested about a block away. The suspect was booked for assault with a deadly weapon. He was identified as Larry Henderson Black, 50, of Inglewood. No bail was set because the suspect was on probation, police said.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, AT 11 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 600 block of Santa Monica Boulevard – The Bookmark Cafe– regarding a robbery that just occurred. When officers arrived they made contact with employees at the cafe who said the suspect walked in and grabbed money from the tip jar and fled. Employees followed the suspect while calling the police using their cell phones. They were able to direct the officers to the suspect's location. When offices arrived, they tried to detain the suspect, who refused to cooperate and took a fighting stance, police said. Eventually the suspect complied with officers and was arrested for robbery, resisting arrest and violating the terms of his probation. Police said the suspect was still clutching the $2 he stole in his hand when he was arrested. The suspect was identified as James Michael Roberts, 64, a transient. His bail was set at $50,000.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, AT 1:40 A.M.,
Officers responded to an apartment complex in the 1700 block of Pico Boulevard regarding a report of an assault with a deadly weapon. When officers arrived they saw the alleged victim leaning outside a window yelling for help. Officers noticed that the victim had injuries to his face and a cut on his forehead that was bleeding. Officers detained the suspect as he tried to leave the apartment. Officers said the two were fighting over unpaid rent when the suspect picked up a cordless phone and struck the victim several times on the head. The suspect was booked for assault with a deadly weapon. He was identified as Erick Stephen Owens, 44, of Santa Monica. No bail was set because Owens was on parole, police said.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, AT 1:40 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 2600 block of Lincoln Boulevard – Albertsons – regarding an armed robbery that just occurred. When officers arrived they made contact with store employees who said the suspect walked into the store and grabbed a pint of Smirnoff Vodka before walking out without paying. Employees confronted the suspect in the parking lot and that's when he allegedly pulled out some box cutters and threatened to stab the employees. Employees called police and the suspect was apprehended a short distance away from the store. The suspect was booked for armed robbery. He was identified as Harlan Deanne, 27, a transient. No bail was set.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, AT MIDNIGHT,
Officers responded to the corner of 19th Street and Pico Boulevard regarding a purse snatching that just occurred. When officers arrived they made contact with the victim who said she was walking down the street when the suspect came from behind her and grabbed her purse. The victim spotted a Santa Monica College officer and he alerted police. Officers located the suspect behind some dumpsters and placed him under arrest for grand theft. The suspect was identified as Rigoberto Ruiz, 52, of Cuba. His bail was set at $25,000.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, AT 6 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 1100 block of 18th Street after receiving a report about a possible break-in that just occurred. When officers arrived they spoke with a resident who said he heard what sounded like two juveniles trying to kick his door in and gain access to what they may have thought was an abandoned apartment. Officers fanned out in search of the suspects and detained two juveniles near the corner of 17th Street and Wilshire Boulevard. Officers said the suspect's shoes matched prints found on the victim's door. The juveniles were transported to juvenile hall for burglary. *news@smdp.com*

Editor in Chief Kevin Herrera compiled these reports.

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City officials meet with residents to discuss tree plan

FROM **TREES** PAGE 1

explained that the 12-point rating system was based on three factors, each of which were ranked on a scale of one to four — the tree's likelihood of failure, the size of the tree or limb most likely to fail and the type of activities and objects on which the tree or limb might fall. The score for each factor was added for the final rating.

"We know a tree with a 43-inch diameter would do more damage than a tree (a few inches) in diameter," Clark said.

Brian Varnum, an outspoken critic of the plan who lives in the north of Montana Avenue neighborhood, pointed out some possible weaknesses in the formula, noting that some trees slated for removal might be big but have a low potential for failure.

"Any large tree in this city is doomed," Varnum said.

The meeting was the first public outreach gathering that the City Hall has held since the ficus tree fiasco erupted last summer, a plan that has been tied up in court. The trees are part of a larger beautification project in Downtown that includes improving sidewalks, extending curbs and enhancing lighting along Second and Fourth streets.

Jerry Rubin, one of the leaders of the Santa Monica Treesavers, a grassroots effort formed in response to the ficus tree issue, said the community forum should've occurred long ago.

"It would've served the community well before the Second and Fourth streets ficus process," Rubin said.

The news of the carob tree plan surfaced more than two weeks ago when a funding allocation request for the project was placed on the City Council agenda. The item was pulled shortly before the meeting commenced to give the public more time to comment. Several residents attended a press conference hours before the council meeting to express their concerns about the project, questioning the necessity of their removal.

More than 60 carob limbs and trees have failed in the city since 2001-02, more than half of which have occurred since the beginning of 2005-06, according to Community Forester Walt Warriner.

City Manager Lamont Ewell took responsibility for placing the plan on the fast track, urging that criticism expressed in the past several weeks be directed at him, not Warriner.

"When I saw it reported that 98 trees were rated that high ... I had to make a call and I put it on the council (agenda)," Ewell said.

The meeting included an overview of the project and a panel discussion featuring experts in urban forestry, such as Glenn Flamik, who oversees urban forestry for the California Department of Fire and Protection; George Gonzalez, the chief forester for the city of Los Angeles; and Gordon Mann with the Sacramento Tree Foundation.

The experts mostly agreed that one of the toughest choices that an arborist faces is removing a tree, adding that all foresters are tree-lovers, but have to weigh that with public safety.

Several of the arborists had seen a copy of the report and defended Clark in his assessment. Flamik, who works with cities across the state, said he had personally checked out some of the carob trees tagged for removal.

Some residents complained of lost shade on their homes if the trees were removed, pointing out that the carobs serves as the only barrier between them and the sun.

"I'm going to have sun just hitting the front of my house," said Doris Sosin, who has a carob tree rated as an eight. "It's a problem to lose a great canopy and I think we here in Santa Monica want that canopy."

City officials stressed the risk that City Hall faces in knowingly keeping trees that do have a high risk, pointing out that legal fees in lawsuits are paid by taxpayers. Many of the trees, while appearing healthy on the outside, are structurally deficient on the inside, they said.

Varnum said he felt the meeting was a step in the right direction and hopes City Hall will follow through on reexamining the 202 carob trees.

"It's a rare thing to happen for them to work with the citizens," Varnum said. "In general, I think the (carob) tree plan is a reactionary plan driven by finances and not with consideration for the value of the trees."

melodyh@smdp.com

Postal carriers collect food

FROM **FOOD** PAGE 3

nation by letter carriers, said Larry Dozier, spokesman for the U.S. Postal Service in Los Angeles.

That was the fourth consecutive year their efforts have exceeded 70 million pounds.

"Every year the carriers get pumped up for this," Dozier said. "Some of them finish their routes come back and help other carriers. It's a great opportunity to help those around you. These postal carriers are out there and see first hand how hunger affects families."

Food banks and other charities find that their supplies of food dwindle as summer approaches, but the need for food is great during the summer because many children are not in school and do not get school breakfasts or lunches. This year, the need is especially high for protein foods like peanut butter, canned tuna, and meaty soups and stews.

news@smdp.com

The Santa Monica Municipal Employees Association would like to salute City electrician Ernesto Torres for his great work to power Santa Monica facilities

Ernesto Torres

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CELEBRATING A FRESH ALTERNATIVE: **Students and faculty of the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Farm to School Program with a special salad bar at McKinley Elementary School on Thursday.**

Program serves as model for other school districts

FROM **FARM** PAGE 1

Market into the daily lunch at McKinley Elementary School.

Taylor, then the director of food and nutritional services at the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, was a skeptic of the program but decided to participate in the lunch on the first day, surprised to see the level of interest by students, each methodically choosing the ingredients of their salad.

Ten years and thousands of salads later, the Farm to School Program is credited with revolutionizing the school lunch, its Farmers' Market-purchased fresh salads duplicated in district programs across the country.

On Thursday, the district celebrated the 10th anniversary of the program at the place where it all started, an event that brought out the key players in the program's formulation and the staff that have brought it to the level of success experienced today.

The idea was spawned by then school parent Robert Gottlieb whose children attended McKinley and often complained about the quality of the produce at the school.

"They felt the salad in the program was not fresh," Gottlieb said.

Gottlieb at the time was working at the Pollution Prevention Center at UCLA where researchers were looking to introduce programs at schools where students would have access to salads using ingredients purchased from the local Farmers' Market.

> **"IT IS THRILLING TO GO TO A SALAD BAR AND SEE KIDS PILE THE VEGETABLES ON THEIR PLATE."**
>
> **Dona Richwine,**
> Nutritional Specialist
> Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

But Taylor was unsure about the program, feeling that students would likely ignore the salad bar and opt for the hot food menu items instead.

"Being in Santa Monica and Malibu for 9.5 years, what I learned was that the affluent aren't accustomed to being told no," Taylor joked, referring to why he decided to test the program.

Taylor has since moved to the Riverside Unified School District where he serves in a similar capacity. He has introduced the farmers' market program at the district.

"Bob was ahead of his time," Taylor said.

The program expanded to all the schools in the district within the first four years. Today, nearly 1,000 salads are served every day in the school district. The ingredients are purchased every Wednesday and Saturday at the Downtown Farmers' Market.

"There is a real interest in buying local," Dona Richwine, the nutritional specialist for the district, said. "This is a true Farm to School Program."

The district is credited with being the first in the country to launch such a program and has been a model for other districts across the country and the world. Richwine said she often receives calls from schools in Japan and Sweden.

"It is so exciting as a nutritional specialist," she said. "It is thrilling to go to a salad bar and see kids pile the vegetables on their plate."

About one-third of the meals served in the school district come from the salad bar, about half on some days, according to Orlando Griego, the director of food services.

"At first the kids were so-so about the meals, now it has the highest participation after pizza," Griego said.

Laura Avery, the director of the Farmers' Market, said that with the talk about obesity and making sure children eat well, it is incumbent on school districts to make sure children have the ability to eat nutritional foods like fresh salads.

"The only way to get it on the diet for the kids is to put it on the plate at school and make the choice accessible to them, not to make it optional," Avery said. "Once they're able to taste it, then they'll decide on their own to continue eating it."

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NEW DVD RELEASES

BY RANDY WILLIAMS

Photo courtesy MGM

'Lions for Lambs'

Robert Redford, Meryl Streep, and Tom Cruise star in this thriller that explores the consequences of taking a stand. An idealistic professor in California (Redford) attempts to inspire a student to do more with his life, while a charismatic senator in DC (Cruise) pitches a new Mid East strategy to a probing journalist (Streep). Their lives intersect as two of the professor's former students are fighting for their lives behind enemy lines in Afghanistan. A legacy of United Artists, a Redford commentary, and a script-to-screen segment are part of the bonus features. (MGM)

'Indiana Jones' The Adventure Collection

One of Hollywood's most iconic characters is now available for the first time as a triple feature package. "Raiders of the Lost Ark," "Temple of Doom," and "The Last Crusade" come together as the fourth edition, "The Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" arrives in theaters. Harrison Ford is brilliant as archaeologist and adventurer Indiana Jones. The set offers a treasure trove of special features plus new introductions by Steven Spielberg and George Lucas. Over a dozen all-new segments include: The Mystery of the Melting Face, Indy's Women Reminisce, Snakes Alive!, and The Birth of an Action Hero. (Paramount)

'First Knight'

This sweeping romantic drama is a different vision of the tale of King Arthur's Camelot and the love triangle between King Arthur (Sean Connery), Lady Guinevere (Julia Ormond) and Sir Lancelot (Richard Gere). Directed by Jeff Zucker ("Ghost," "Airplane!"), the disc offers commentary about the Arthurian Legend, how the knights were trained, deleted scenes, outtakes, and a segment on the production design of the film. (Sony)

'Chak De! India'

Winner of two Filmfare Awards (the Indian equivalent of the Academy Awards), this is the story of a disgraced former field hockey star now coaching a ragtag bunch of girls. It is a fight to instill in his temperamental players pride, integrity and the possibilities despite all the hurdles life throws at them. It is about the simple love of the game. Shahrukh Khan is the coach and one of India's superstar actors. The two-disc offering provides special features like deleted scenes, a making-of segment, and a photo gallery. (Yash Raj)

'Friday Night Lights' Season 2

Here is the sophomore edition to the television-version follow up from the book and film shining its own bright light in this four-disc collection. This critically-acclaimed look at the families, friendships, and faiths of residents in a closely knit Texas town also includes interviews with the ensemble cast. (Universal)

'Red Sox Memories'

Boston's wild successes, long bouts of losing, and rosters full of memorable characters are legendary in the annals of baseball history. Stretching from 1903 when the team won the first-ever World Series to 2007 when a seventh World Series trophy took up residence at Fenway Park, this documentary film provides unparalleled access to the players who made it possible. From profiles, interviews, and commentary by and about such key players throughout the 100 plus year history like Cy Young, Ted Williams, The Yaz, Carlton Fisk and David Ortiz, this is a rich offering of a storied franchise. (Shout Factory)

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West Dressed

Mariel Howsepian
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Keeping it nice and covered up

Models at last Saturday's MoFash runway show did their little turns on the catwalk without being too sexy for their church, too sexy for their church. . .

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is behind the MoFash organization, but "Mo" isn't short for Mormon.

MoFash promotes modest clothing, and the organization's Web site has links to fashion designers with a MoFash seal of approval. Gone are the days when a virtuous girl was forced to buy sinful, skin-baring clothes, and layer long slips, tank tops, and cardigan sweaters with her heathen attire. Today, it's as easy as the click of a mouse to shop for clothes that tell the world you're not a hoochie.

Approved designer Funky Frum carries a product called "Sleevies," which are ... well, sleeves. They're three-quarters length, and come in virginal white, apocalyptic black, ranch brown, and heavenly light blue. According to Funky Frum, Sleevies "comfortably grip the upper arm" and eliminate "any unnecessary bulk." It's not easy being righteous when you're worried about unnecessary bulk.

For dresses that have their own sleeves, shop Shabby Apple. MoFash approves Shabby Apple, even though the company offers "flirty" dresses. This is confusing to me because the dictionary defines modest as "not drawing attention to or discussing sexuality, and so unlikely to offend or arouse others." Isn't the whole point of flirting to arouse others?

It might be hard not to arouse others in one of Vintage Hem's slips. The slips range from $19 to $28, and come in blush, black with white polka dots, camouflage, black tulle, white tulle, gold tulle, white eyelet, ivory eyelet, and "Eyelet Tower" which has not one, but three lacy layers.

On Vintage Hem's homepage, a girl sits on a stone wall, sunlight filtering through the leaves of an orange tree. She wears a little dress, blue tights, banana yellow wedge-heeled sandals, and she sits in a very un-ladylike pose to show off a few extra inches of her white slip. The effect is Lolita-esque.

But then again, clothing company Sexy Modest wants girls to know, "sexy modest is 'the true sexy!'"

MoFash approved clothes are sluttastic compared to the ankle-length, polyester pastel dresses worn by the women of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (FLDS).

One month before the MoFash runway show, Texas officials raided El Dorado's Yearning for Zion ranch, headquarters of FLDS. An investigation of Yearning for Zion was sparked by the call from a girl, identifying herself as a 16 year old named Sarah, told officials that she was being abused by her 49 year old husband.

Officials removed 464 children from the ranch. At least 41 of the children had broken bones, and officials believe that some of the boys had been sexually abused.

More than 30 of the 53 girls aged 14 to 17 are currently pregnant or have children, and just last week, one of the girls gave birth. I don't understand. All of the girls were dressed so modestly in their tennis shoes, prophet-mandated underwear, and pioneer-style dresses made of synthetic fabric.

I grew up watching movies from the Disney vault, and as a little girl, my bathing suits were one-pieces. When I asked my mother why I couldn't have a bikini – all the other girls had bikinis – my mother explained to me that Walt Disney didn't allow Annette Funicello to show her belly button, because good girls didn't show their belly buttons. Well, if Annette didn't show her belly button, I didn't want to show mine either. (I didn't own my first bikini until I was 18, opting in my teens for retro-styled one pieces with halter straps.)

Now, Annette has been replaced by Miley Cyrus wrapped in a satin sheet.

If I had a daughter, what would I say to her about bikinis? I want you to have one more summer thinking of your body as something that can run and swim and play, and one less summer thinking of your body in comparison to other bodies.

And then I'd get online and order her a one piece.

MARIEL HOWSEPAIN digs black coffee, fairy tales and a man in coveralls. She lives in Santa Monica and can be reached at Mariel_Rodriguez@antiochla.edu.

Bridal collections offer something for all

BY SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP Fashion Writer

NEW YORK For every woman who has her heart set on a pouffy princess wedding gown, you'll find another who wants a sleek sheath. The good news for next year's brides is that there is a gown out there to suit any taste.

Designers recently previewed the styles that will arrive in salons this fall and Brides magazine editor-in-chief Millie Martini Bratten saw something for everyone.

Ballgowns in light fabrics? Check. Strapless dresses with pleated bodices? Check. Formfitting gowns that flare out at the bottom? Got 'em.

"There was either sleek and bling, or soft and minimal – that could be the goddess influence from fashion," says Bratten.

The green movement also has reached the bridal industry with gowns made of organic cotton and hemp, and vegetable-dyed silks.

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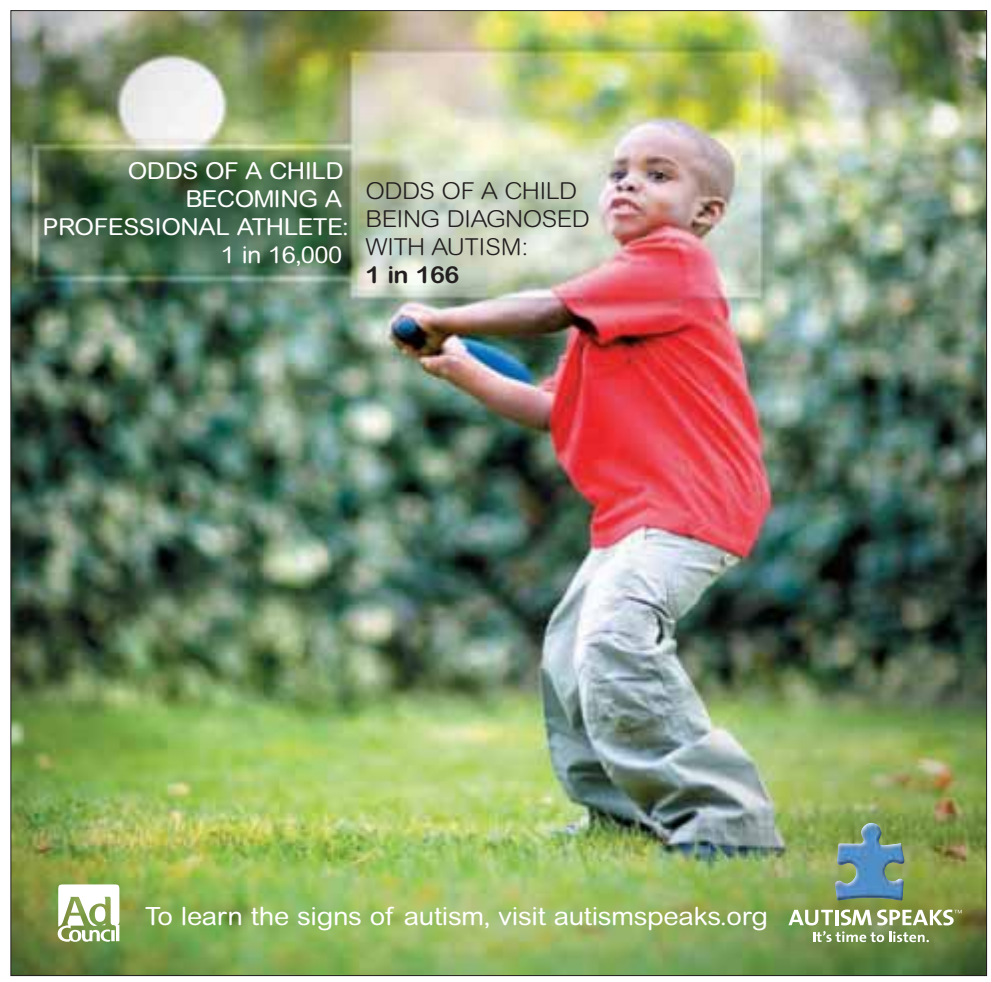

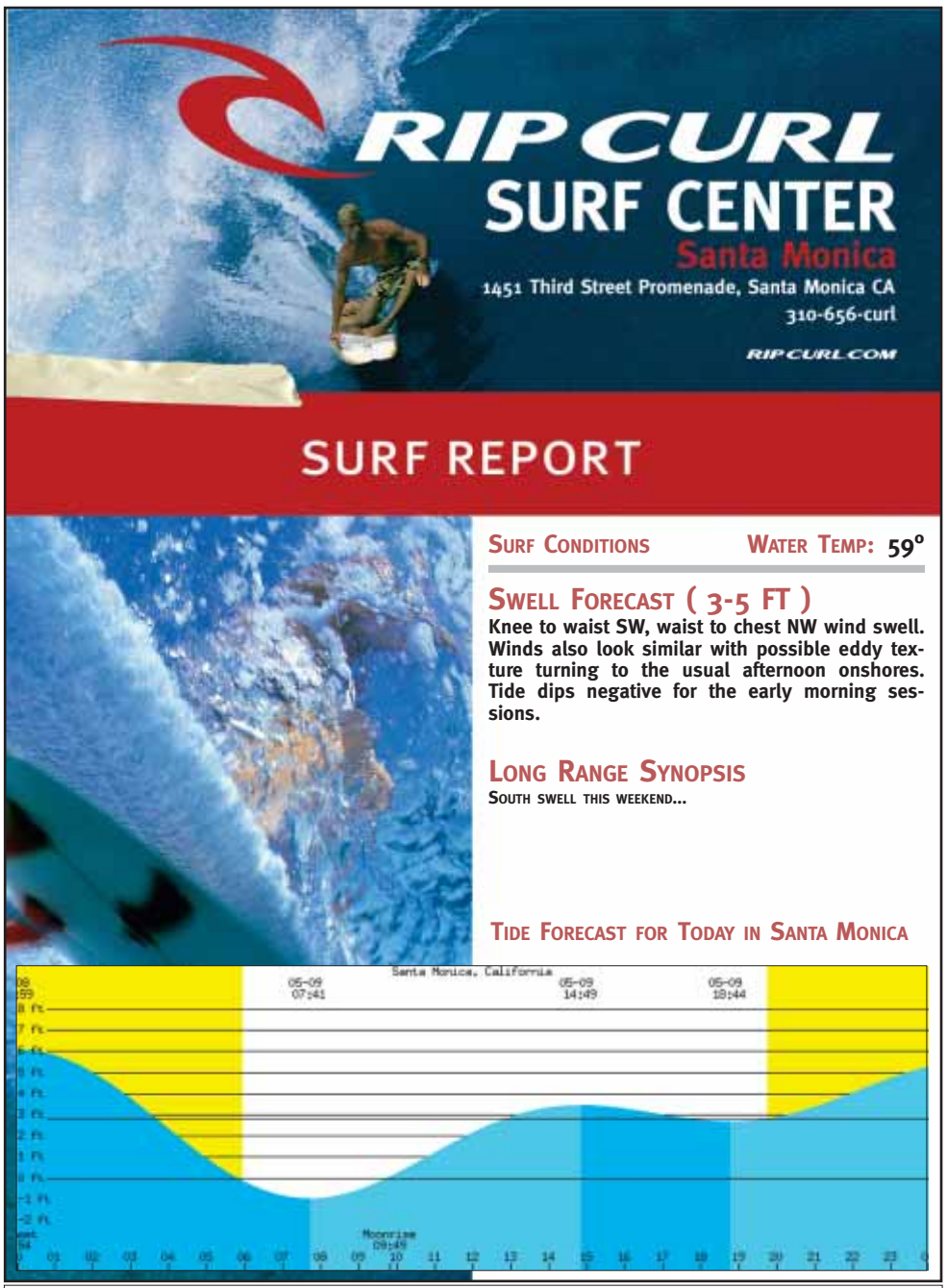

BOOKREVIEW

BY DANE ROBERT SWANSON

'Just Who Will You Be?'

Maria Shriver • Hyperion

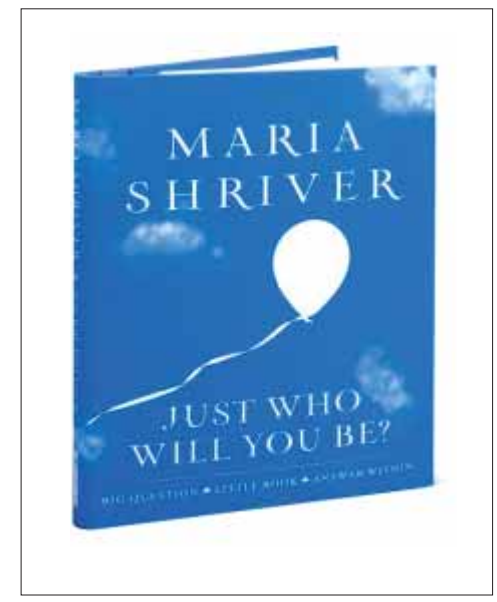

Photo courtesy Hyperion

How many of us remember the commencement speech given when we graduated from high school? Of those who do, how many wish they had the transcript? Not that the speech was anything great, but maybe you wanted to have one to be able to refer back to and see how far you have come.

Mostly we remember the time it took sitting there and wishing we were someplace else. Remembering our high school commencement speech was not a top priority. The question to ask is: Of all that has been said at graduation is there ever anything new to say?

"I don't know what I want to be when I grow up?" Have you ever said that to yourself?

Maria Shriver asked the question – in the presence of her teenage daughter no less – and responded, "This is it for you. You are all grown up. You're cooked!"

That incident brought about this little booklet of 91 pages. It is a record of the speech Shriver gave as a graduation speech to a high school class. It all began when her nephew asked her to give the commencement speech at his high school graduation and she accepted.

That is an important question to ask. I am glad that someone has given a grownup permission to ask that. It doesn't matter how old you are. It is a question that needs to be asked and answered by all, even baby boomers.

Shriver states, "Who you are and who you will be has everything to do with your heart and soul." The premise of this speech as recorded here is that we are all a work in process. Who we are is not based on what we do but on what we are inside.

Is this book necessary? Do we really need another feel good inspirational tome?

Sometimes it seems that the speakers called to give these speech at graduations are those who have already achieved and the hope seems to be on the part of the teachers that it will somehow rub off on the students. For Shriver, who is mostly known as the governor's wife, was it worth it to let the reader know that it is OK to be who you are? She used to be a news anchor woman. She has a history in politics. Yet at the moment she is none of these. She just is. She can look back and see the many books she wrote. But this isn't her. She reminds us we are not what we do or who we know. It is who we are inside. This booklet may be something that can be referred back to from time to time.

She closes this work with the 10 things she pledged to herself. Then she leaves a space for the reader to put down 10 things they can pledge to themselves. This alone would be a reason to get this booklet, just so you can have a record of the 10 things you pledge to your self.

Feedback is always appreciated. DANE ROBERT SWANSON can be contacted at smdp_review@yahoo.com.

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 29, 2008**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 3
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 37 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 9 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 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
Los Cerrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	C	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los 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	B	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	F	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	F	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	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)	B	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	F	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	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
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)	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	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.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed bids for:

BID #2949: FURNISH AND DELIVER FIVE (5) NEW AND UNUSED FRONT LOAD REFUSE PACKER UNITS WITH DEDICATED CNG ENGINES.

BID #2951: FURNISH AND DELIVER TWO (2) NEW AND UNUSED 37-FOOT INSULATED HYDRAULIC TELESCOPIC ARTICULATING AERIAL DEVICES.

❑ **SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR BOTH BIDS IS: MAY 30, 2008 AT 3:00 PM PDT.**

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from Kimberlie Nimori at the City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, by calling (310) 458-2211, or by e-mailing your request to kimberlie.nimori@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

Vendors interested in doing business with the City of Santa Monica are encouraged to register online at http://www.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/

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MOVIETIMES

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Ave.
(323) 466-FILM

Lawrence of Arabia (1962) (PG) 3hrs 42min
7:30

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

The Babysitters (R) 1hr 30min
1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:05
The Fall (R) 1hr 57min
2:05, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15
Nim's Island (PG) 1hr 35min
1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:05
Speed Racer (PG) 2hrs 15min
12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:55

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

21 (PG-13) 2hrs 03min
1:00, 4:00, 7:05, 10:00
Baby Mama (PG-13) 1hr 36min
10:50 a.m., 1:15, 3:35, 6:00, 8:20, 11:00
Harold & Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay (R) 1hr 42min
11:30 a.m., 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45
The Forbidden Kingdom (PG-13) 1hr 53min
10:45 a.m., 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40
Forgetting Sarah Marshall (R) 1hr 51min
12:00, 2:35, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45
Speed Racer (PG) 2hrs 15min
11:00 a.m., 1:10, 2:10, 4:20, 5:20, 7:30, 8:30, 10:35, 11:35

LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
1332 Second St.
(310) 394-9741

Redbelt (R) 1hr 39min
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30
Then She Found Me (R) 1hr 40min
1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55
The Visitor (ZPG-13) 1hr 48min
1:30, 4:20, 7:25, 10
Smart People (R) 1hr 33min
1:55, 4:40, 7:35, 10:00

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Iron Man (PG-13) 2hrs 06min
11:00 a.m., 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:05, 5:00, 6:00, 7:10, 8:00, 9:00, 10:10, 11:00, 12:00 a.m.
Made of Honor (PG-13) 1hr 41min
11:50 a.m., 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10
What Happens in Vegas (PG-13) 1hr 39min
11:10 a.m., 12:10, 1:40, 2:40, 4:15, 5:10, 6:40, 7:40, 9:20, 10:20, 11:50

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

Live for today, Aquarius

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ You certainly add steam and fun to most situations. You could also be unusually assertive when dealing with a child or loved one. A reversal could only be temporary, but not as short as you would like. Tonight: You will need all the rest you can get.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You see many other people differently than the majority do. Don't push a family member or roommate, unless you want a bigger problem. Understanding comes forward when talking with an expert. Tonight: Adapt plans.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ See what is going on with a partner before you make a decision. You could be making mountains out of molehills. Listen to feedback and be graceful about accepting criticism. Verbal sparring becomes more likely. Tonight: Treat yourself well.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision. Consider options that come forward when investigating different ways of handling a problem. Use care with spending. Understand your limits. Tonight: Get into the Friday-night celebrations.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You suddenly decide enough is enough and opt for a different path. How you deal with someone could change dramatically. Anger and frustration start surfacing. Look for the most appropriate way of dealing with this issue. Tonight: Take some downtime.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Stop and check in with yourself. What was OK previously might no longer be. Is it possible your focus on a loved one is so great that you cannot see clearly? Romance could be active if you are single. Tonight: In the midst of gaining new insight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ A friend might push you hard. Anger easily could be the end result if you aren't careful. Prioritize, and you will feel much better. Learn to say no as well. A must appearance demands your attention. Tonight: Pickup where others let off.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Someone might push you beyond your limits. He or she could be very sorry, but ultimately so might you. Detach as soon as you feel uncomfortable and gain deeper insight. Your sense of humor will help. Tonight: Follow the music.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Work with someone directly. Do necessary digging. Look for the story behind the story. You'll find answers quickly and effectively. Tonight: Dinner with a favorite person.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You might want to defer to others. Some people might be difficult to deal with, especially one particular person who might have a heavy influence on you. Tonight: Sort through your options.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Someone comes in hard, fast and possibly angry. You might wonder what you did to deserve this attitude or behavior. Lie back and do your thing, knowing that you cannot control someone else. Tonight: Off to the gym or get some exercise.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Let your creativity speak, and you'll come up with many ideas. Mobilize now to take action. What others think might not be that important. Review facts. Tonight: As if there is no tomorrow.

Happy birthday

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

New beginnings and good news come from detaching, intellectualizing and remaining open. The more willing you are to identify with others, the better your year could be. Travel, education, writing and maybe the law could play significant roles this year. You might see some change and disruption on the home front. A move or remodeling an old home could be possible. A parent or family member could become extremely difficult as well. If you are single, you might want to date but not formalize a tie until next year. With so much change in your immediate life, a live-in commitment could be hard. CANCER enjoys bouncing ideas off you.

SEND US YOUR ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS!
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Recipient of the California PTA Golden Oak Service Award for outstanding service to the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District and the community as a whole.

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HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!!!!!

Love,
Noah, Hilary, Eve and Hobbes

Janric Classic 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 Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

Difficulty
SILVER

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

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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

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

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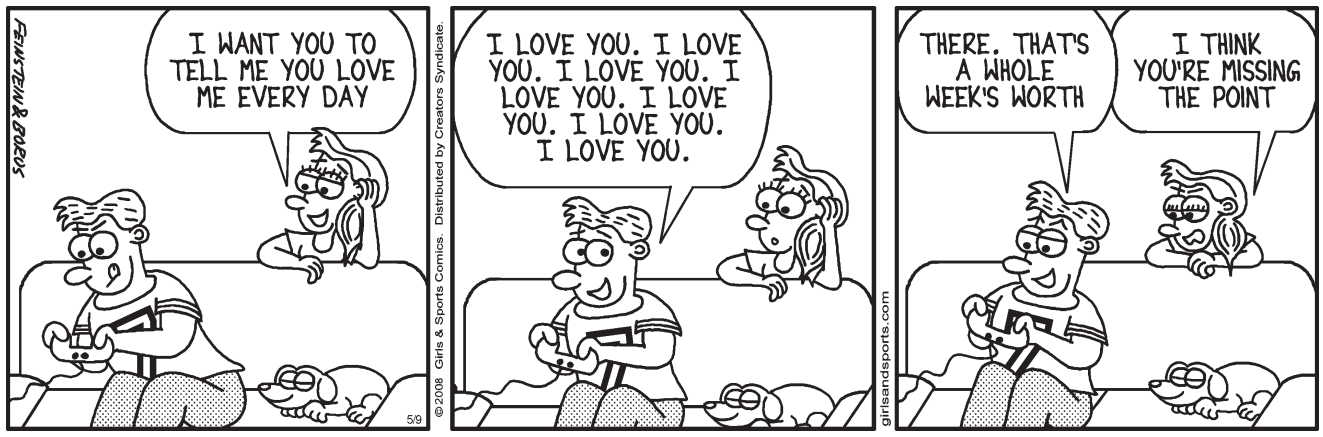
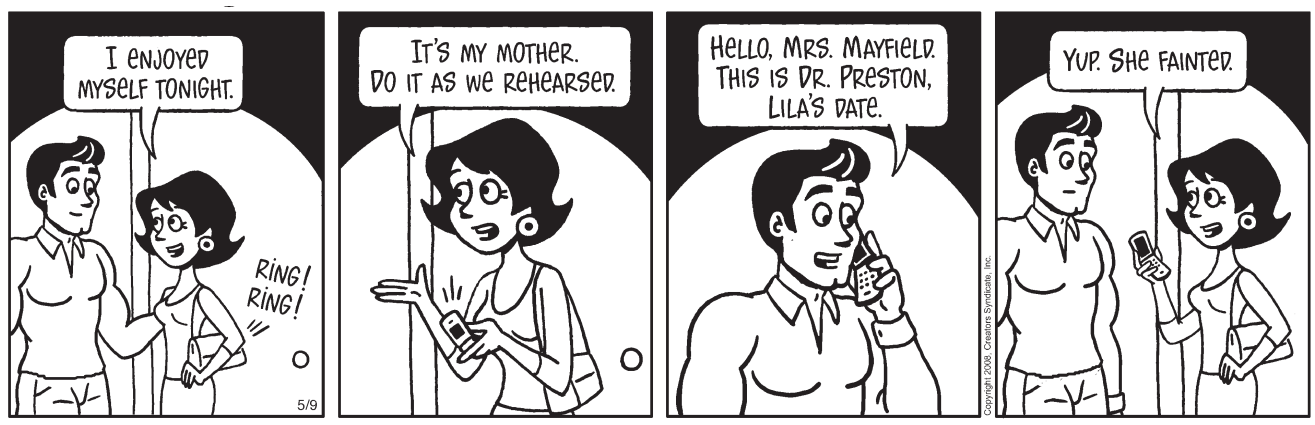
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside

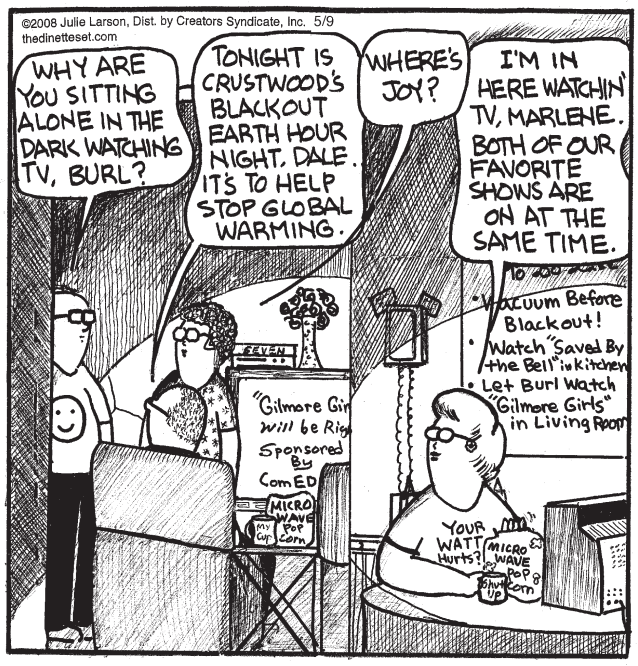
Garfield

By Jim Davis

Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew

By John Deering

Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

The first one to identify where this shot was taken wins a prize from the Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Needs a massage
6 Fills parts
11 Barber's job
12 Hawaiian greeting
13 Rid of rind
14 Allude
15 Cease
16 Ignored a diet
18 Tango need
19 Original
20 Gift from Santa
21 Pale
22 On the agenda
24 Helgenberger of "CSI"
25 Batman villain
27 Horn sound
29 Cruise ships
32 Spots
33 "Lost" character
34 Fixed
35 Use a stool
36 Curator's topic
37 Application
38 Physics bits
40 Select group
42 "M" star
43 Soda purchase
44 Lock
45 Field starters

DOWN

1 Trembling trees
2 Designer Coco
3 Place to find nuts
4 Planning time
5 Under
6 "The Price Is Right" host
7 Pub product
8 Set of programs
9 2007 Ken Burns documentary
10 Island wrap
17 Nursery occupant
23 Service reward
24 Stag party guests
26 Door toppers
27 Igneous rock
28 Book worker
30 Took ten
31 Takes the wheel
33 Army sites
39 Bridal title
41 Fiction

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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

5-9

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 4 21 46 53 54
Meganumber: 26
Jackpot: $145M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 17 26 35 42 45
Meganumber: 4
Jackpot: $23M

FANTASY 5: 4 8 33 37 38

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 6 9 1
EVENING: 4 0 3

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 09 WINNING SPIRIT
2nd: 03 HOT SHOT
3rd: 12 LUCKY CHARMS
RACE TIME: 1.49.11

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

■ What Housing Crisis? "This is heaven on earth," said one resident living on burned-out lava rocks about a mile from the oozing Kilauea volcano near Kalapana, Hawaii, explaining the lure that he and his neighbors feel, having built houses by hand, collected rainwater to drink, installed solar panels for power, and planted vegetables between the rocks for food. Said one of the semi-hermit residents, to an Associated Press reporter in March, "I'm more scared of people than I am a volcano."

■ Least Competent Criminals: (1) In March, Christopher Koch, 28, became the latest, in March, to attempt to rob someone who was pumping gas (at a Smith's store in Santa Fe, N.M.). The customer, Ms. Bernie Garcia, 83, calmly sprayed Trujillo with gasoline, sending him fleeing (but he was soon arrested).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1883 Spanish philosopher Jose Ortega y Gasset was born in Madrid.

1936 Italy annexed Ethiopia.

1945 U.S. officials announced that a midnight entertainment curfew was being lifted immediately.

1958 "Vertigo," Alfred Hitchcock's eerie thriller starring James Stewart and Kim Novak, premiered in San Francisco, the movie's setting.

1961 FCC chairman Newton N. Minow decried the majority of television programming as a "vast wasteland" in a speech to the National Association of Broadcasters.

1974 the House Judiciary Committee opened public hearings on whether to recommend the impeachment of President Nixon.

1978 the bullet-riddled body of former Italian prime minister Aldo Moro, who'd been abducted by the Red Brigades, was found in an automobile in the center of Rome.

1980 35 people were killed when a freighter rammed the Sunshine Skyway Bridge over Tampa Bay in Florida, causing a 1,400-foot section to collapse.

WORD UP!

moiety \MOY-uh-tee\, *noun*:
1. One of two equal parts; a half.
2. An indefinite part; a small portion or share.

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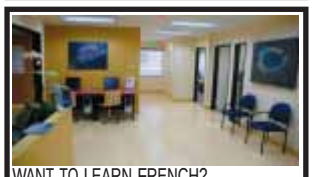

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD DRAFT RESPONSE PLAN EXTRA SPACE - 1707 CLOVERFIELD PROPERTY Santa Monica, California PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: May 9 - June 9, 2008 WHAT'S BEING PROPOSED?
The California State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites public comment on the draft Response Plan for the 1707 Cloverfield property in Santa Monica, California.During environmental investigations, trichloroethylene (TCE) was detected in soil samples at levels that may pose a health risk.There is no immediate health risk because the contamination is beneath the ground surface and is not accessible to the public; however, DTSC recommended a plan be developed to remove the contaminated soil to protect future occupants of the property.The draft Response Plan proposes to install a soil vapor extraction system (SVE) beneath the ground surface to pull the contamination into the SVE through vacuum-like probes where it will be

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Notices

treated Once the vapor is treated, a blower will disperse the treated vapor into the air according to requirements established by the South Coast Air Quality Management District.DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This project is considered exempt since it will not have a significant negative impact on the human health and the environment because of short duration; will prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate, or eliminate the release or threat of release of a hazardous waste or substance.The SVE will not result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.This system will not require onsite use of a hazardous waste incinerator or thermal treatment unit, and will not require the relocation of residences or businesses.TCE will not be released into the environment as defined in Health and safety Code section 25123.6 [if applicable: except for small scale in situ soil vapor extraction and treatment systems which have been permitted by the local Air Pollution Control District (APCD) or Air Quality Management District (AQMD)]

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?
This notice provides the community an opportunity to learn more about the project and provide comments to DTSC about the proposed cleanup during the public comment period. Your participation is encouraged.Comments concerning the draft Response Plan may be submitted in writing to Yvette LaDuke, Public Participation Specialist, DTSC, 9211 Oakdale Avenue, Chatsworth, Ca 91311, e-mail address: yladuke@dtsc.ca.gov, and must be postmarked or e-mailed by June 9, 2008.

WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?
A copy of the draft RAW, and other project documents are available at the Santa Monica Public Library, 2101 Ocean Park Boulevard, Santa Monica, and the DTSC fileroom at the address listed above.For more information about the DTSC, please visit our website at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov.

CONTACT:
Yvette LaDuke, DTSC Public Participation Specialist 1-866-495-5651, press 3, then press 2 Robert Krug, DTSC Project Manager (818) 717-6562Jeanne Garcia, DTSC Public Information Officer (Media Contact) (818) 717-6573

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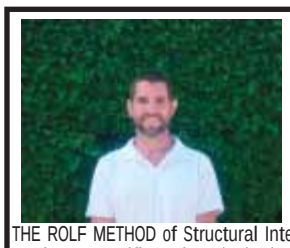

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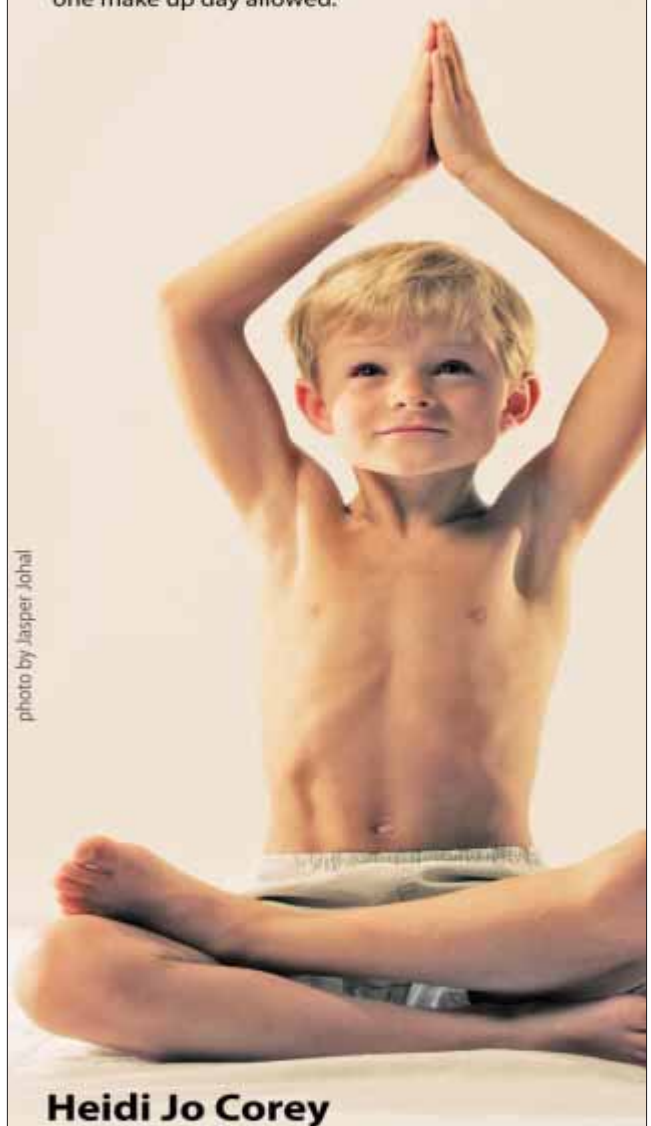

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