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MAY 9-10, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 159

Santa Monica Daily Press



ANGELS TAKE FLIGHT
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE LET THERE BE LIGHT ISSUE



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

SMILE WHILE YOU CAN: **Santa Monica College students walk across the quad at the main campus on Thursday afternoon.**

SMC's financial future in hands of voters

BY ROB LAWRENCE
Special to the Daily Press

SMC To help balance their check book and avoid cuts, Santa Monica College trustees need voters to support every single proposition on the special election being held May 19.

That's a direct order from SMC President Chui Tsang, who earlier this week presented a tentative budget to trustees for the 2009-10 fiscal year. The proposed budget did little to renew confidence in the stability of the college's financial status given a projected structural deficit of $3 million, and that's if all propositions pass.

The proposed budget of $149 million will leave a $3 million structural deficit (down nearly $1 million from the third quarter of the 2008-09 fiscal year budget) with $9.8 million in reserve. SMC is paying for the deficit with reserve funds. If the propositions don't pass, that could mean a minimum impact of at least $7 million, said Jeanine Hawk, SMC's vice president of business and administration.

"It's difficult [preparing a budget] because we are offering classes in July, so we have to start delivering education to students without fully understanding what level of funding from the state we can expect," Hawk said. "If they make reductions, that gives us less time to pull back."

The college is predicting a welcomed boost in revenue thanks to an increase in enrollment and a 15.9 percent increase in non-resident tuition costs, which represents the college's second largest source of revenue. The state is increasing the amount of money SMC receives because of more students attending, but is holding a portion of that payment — 1.3 percent or $1.2 million — because of budget constraints. SMC receives nearly $94 million from the state.

"It's going in the right direction, but if the propositions don't pass, the deficit factor becomes much larger to a point where we will be going backwards significantly for this year and next year," Hawk said.

Trustees seemed relatively calm when presented with the financial scenarios at the meeting Monday night. The only squabble was over a proposed $2 million in

SEE SMC PAGE 13

Special ed director, take two

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS District officials are looking for a new field of candidates to repair a troubled special education department after the first round yielded no viable prospects.

The position of special education director is one that is believed to be the first major vacancy in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District since the superintendent spot was left open last year when Dianne Talarico departed to head the Burlingame School District.

Former special ed director Ruth Valadez, who was hired by the district in December 2006 and had what some parents described as a contentious relationship with the special education community, resigned in February to take on the same position at the much larger Lynwood Unified School District.

The vacancy comes as the district is in the process of revamping its special education program, which has been the subject of criticism over the past few years for a range of problems, including transparency, leading to feelings of mistrust for parents.

Many believe that it's a crucial time in particular to hire the right candidate because of the responsibility that person will have to institute a series of recommendations recently put forth by the Special Education Collaborative Working Group, which spent several months reviewing old studies, audits and strategic plans.

Since Valadez' resignation, Dr. Jeanne Davis, a retired teacher and administrator with a background in special education, has taken on the director's position in the interim about three days a week, meeting with parents and developing a timeline for putting the working group's recommenda-

SEE SPECIAL ED PAGE 12

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Saturday, May 9, 2009

California Regionalism: Oils on Canvas
California Heritage Museum, Santa Monica
2612 Main St., 11 a.m. — 4 p.m.
With more than 40 original oil paintings by figurehead California Regionalists, the exhibit will be showing at the California Heritage Museum throughout the summer. Artists including Ralph Hullett, Emil Kosa Jr., Barse Miller and Millard Sheets will be on display. A reception will be held on Saturday, May 9 for the opening of the exhibit which is set to run until Aug. 23. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday each week. For more information, call (323) 573-7574.

Third Annual Topanga Children's Festival
Will Geer Teatricum Botanicum
1419 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., 11 a.m. — 4 p.m.
This is the third annual installment of the Topanga Co-Op festival. This all-day, family-friendly event boasts music and theater performances on two stages, snacks, local vendors, and children's arts and crafts activities. Admission is $10 for adults, $5 for kids ages 2 and up, and a family rate is being offered at $25 for two adults and two kids. For more information call (310) 455-3155.

Fresh, new art
Newberry Gallery
1549 Eleventh St., 7 p.m.
Southern California artist and art critic Michael Newberry celebrates the opening of his new gallery, the first exhibition of which will feature the artist and founder's recent work. Future exhibits will showcase contemporary representational artists. Those interested can obtain more information by contacting Newberry's publicist Jody Moon at jodymoon@me.com.

Sunday, May 10, 2009

"Pay Attention"
Santa Monica Playhouse, The Other Space
1211 Fourth St., 6 p.m.
"Pay Attention: ADHD in Hollywood on the Rocks with a Twist" is a hilarious and heartbreaking true story of one Hollywood writer/producer's life as a New York waiter and performance artist who is catapulted into fast track Hollywood TV writing. This unleashes a host of addictions and manias. Event also takes place on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Admission is $25. Call (323) 960-7738 for more information.

Los Angeles BBQ Festival
Parking lot adjacent to Pier
11 a.m. — 6 p.m.
This two-day BBQ Festival will feature authentic barbecue from Texas, Kansas City and St. Louis, in addition to the best pitmasters in L.A. Live entertainment will also be provided. Admission is $10 but does not cover the cost of food. Typically, an $8 meal includes 1/3 to 1/2 pound of meat and a side item. For more information, call (310) 709-3969 or check out www.labbqfest.com.

Mother's Day Brunch
Whole Foods
2201 Wilshire Blvd., 11:00 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Bring your mom in for Mother's Day brunch. A delicious, healthy meal will be served up with a side of music to celebrate moms everywhere. The event is complimentary. Call Kelly Layne at (310) 650-6805 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.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

St. Monica wins a thriller, 4-3

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

MARINE PARK St. Monica's Anthony Yoshinaga picked a great time to come through with the first walk-off hit of his life.

The senior catcher came to the plate in the bottom of the ninth inning, the score tied and the weight of his team's season on his back. He responded with a sharp line drive to right field scoring Daniel White with the game winner against Cathedral High School on Friday at Marine Park. The game's final score was 4-3 in extra innings improving St. Monica's record to 13-9 overall and 9-4 in Camino Real League play.

"I pictured it in my head," Yoshinaga said. "I thought I was going to blow it."

The hit was a bit of redemption for Yoshinaga, who made a bad throw to second base during the fourth inning allowing Cathedral to tie the game at 2-2. He was also involved in a play in the ninth inning that gave Cathedral a 3-2 lead when St. Monica relief pitcher Kyle Schwan threw a pitch in the dirt against Cathedral's Anthony Sanchez. While it was ruled a wild pitch, Yoshinaga had trouble scooping the ball up allowing Matthew Baltazar to score and giving Cathedral a short-lived lead.

"I was down there preparing my tough loss speech," Head Coach Jack White said. "I'm just happy with the way it turned out."

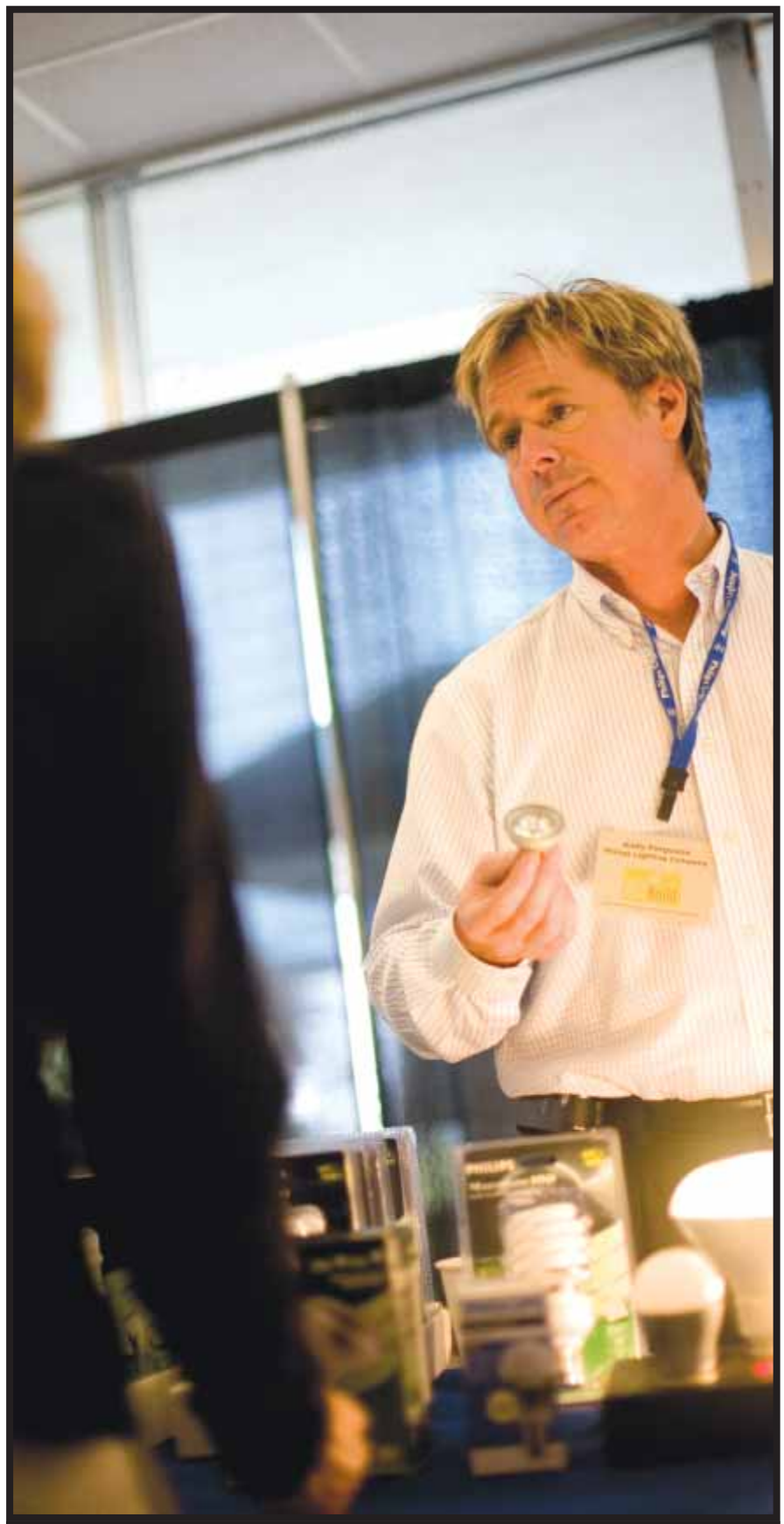
In fact, Jack White was one out away from having to console his team.

After Cathedral scored in the top half of the ninth giving the Phantoms a lead, St. Monica's Brenden Boesgaard began the bottom of the inning by being struck out by Sergio Luna who pitched a complete game in the loss. Hector Santiesteban was then promptly beaned and took first on the play. With Michael Redondo at the plate, Santiesteban attempted to steal second but was gunned down by Cathedral catcher Matthew Baltazar.

With two outs and the prospect of a Mariner comeback looking grim, Redondo too was hit by a Luna pitch, giving St. Monica a second life. He later took second on a passed ball. The good fortune continued for St. Monica as Daniel White reached on an error by shortstop Chris Flores putting runners at first and third.

Cathedral Head Coach Julian Deyer then decided to intentionally walk Jose Munoz loading the bases for Schwan, who earlier entered the game to relieve starter Andy Loef. Luna,

SEE ST. MONICA PAGE 14



BRIGHT IDEA

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Philips market development representative Andy Ferguson discusses the energy saving benefits of the 4-watt LED light bulb at the sixth annual Alternative Building Materials & Design Expo on Friday at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium.

Angel Flight pilots help families stay close

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

SM AIRPORT Dana Harvey knows there is no stronger bond than the one between a mother and her children. With four of her own and a nonprofit in Oakland to run, Harvey can't imagine being away from home for too long.

But having been diagnosed with breast cancer last year, Harvey was forced to travel to Los Angeles for treatment, leaving her family behind. Without the means to fly back and forth, Harvey was facing the harsh reality of staying in Los Angeles for six months, fighting off the life-threatening disease without her most trusted allies.

"I had a lot of responsibilities back home that I didn't want to severe links to," Harvey said during a phone interview earlier this week. "But of course, most importantly, I didn't want to be away from the kids."

Luckily for Harvey, she didn't have to. Harvey hooked up with a local nonprofit called Angel Flight West, which arranges free air transportation for non-emergency healthcare and other needs through volunteer pilots living in 13 western states. Angels, also known as pilots, also transport precious cargo such as organs, blood, tissues and medical supplies. The organization arranges free air support for disaster relief efforts in times of crisis and transports kids with disabilities to summer camps.

Pilots cover flight costs, so there is no charge for a "mission" or flight. The majority of the missions are flown using small, single-engine planes owned by the pilots.

"It's a way for us to show compassion through something we are passionate about," said Angel Flight West Executive Director Alan Dias, a pilot who joined the organization in 1993. "We are going to fly anyway. What Angel Flight provided me … was the opportunity to do something I was passionate about and give back to the community and that happens over 4,000 times a year."

Based out of the Santa Monica Airport,

SEE FLIGHT PAGE 10

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Speak for yourself

Editor:

While Kenny Mack speaks for himself, I'd like to speak on behalf of the church body of believers and our founding fathers who were nearly unanimous in declaring that America was a republic founded on Christian principles. Can Mr. Mack show us any founding document which uses the phrase "separation of church and state?" What I do recall is that Congress shall make no law favoring any one religion or establishing a church-state tyranny. God was recognized by our founders, and the new government was put on notice early to keep out of church affairs.

Can Mack likewise point to any national law which says "two men have the right to enter into a legally-binding marriage contract with each other?" If that were true, then why all the agitation by gay special interest groups to make it a law?

Aric Leavitt
Los Angeles

The right wing is wrong

Editor:

I have to take offense at Joey Allen's gleeful, gloating portrayal of Steve Breen. His background may be similar to many redneck bigots, but all that signifies is that he represents the lowest common denominator of venality and mediocrity.

The fact that Breen is a mailman would seem to indicate that government work is the best job he can get. Charles Bukowski also worked for the post office, but Breen is no Bukowski. Anyone can use a thesaurus to project a phony intellectual facade.

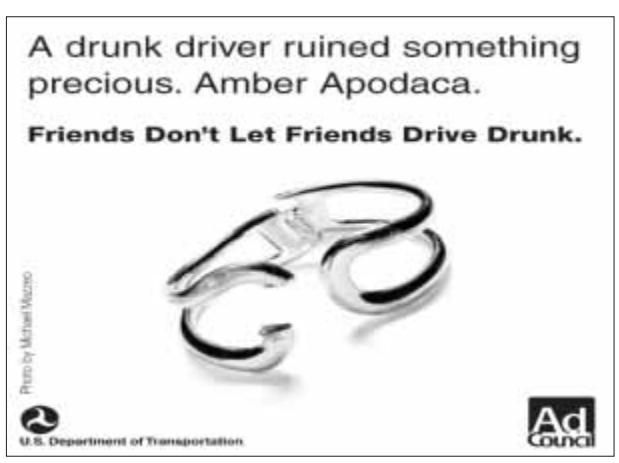
Evidently Allen is a homophobe who doesn't even know how to use spellcheck for the correct spelling of pansy. On the one hand Allen claims that a large percentage of the public is right of center, and then complains that the liberal press dominates the media. Fox News has a far wider audience than CNN. That does not mean they have a corner on truth.

There is no stronger bias than the conservative slant to the news, despite their ludicrous claims of "fair and balanced." Their ad hominem attacks are specious and based on fear, hate and innuendo. Talk radio is dominated by sexist, racists like Rush Limbaugh.

The left directs their hate rhetoric against the war economy, corporate greed and exploitation, while the right direct their vengeful hate against the disenfranchised; women's right to choose, gays' right to marriage, affirmative action, etc. The left is focused on peace, love and brotherhood, while the right wingnuts are focused on hell, damnation and water boarding Muslims. The fascist Christian fanatics fail to comprehend the fact that Jesus was a communist. He preached the "Brotherhood of Man," threw the money changers (running dog, capitalist, pigs) out of the temple, and took a prostitute under his wing.

Allen also fails to understand that newspapers are going broke because the right wing majority would rather get their news online, listen to talk radio, or watch demagogues like Glenn Beck, rather than read the news in depth. They are not interested in substantive coverage; they are fascinated by info-tainment such as US magazine's spread on the Octomom.

Jonathan Mann
Santa Monica





Modern Times

Lloyd Garver — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Barbie gone wild?

I'VE BEEN SO DISTRACTED BY MINOR but flashy news stories this year like the NCAA Finals, the nation's finances, and the new Obama administration, I missed the big story of 2009. To help celebrate Barbie's 50th birthday, Mattel came out with "Totally Stylin' Tattoo Barbie." She comes with a set of tattoos that kids can place on that iconic body. The doll also comes with a tattoo gun so children can stamp these washable stickers on themselves. Barbie with tattoos? I know what you're thinking, "What's next, Hooker Barbie? Pothead Barbie? Premarital Sex Barbie?"

Many parents had exactly this reaction when the doll came out a few months ago. They felt this would encourage kids to think prematurely about getting real tattoos for their real bodies. They thought that Barbie with tats was too slutty for their children. They were outraged that a "role model" like Barbie had sunk so low. Meanwhile, it became a big seller.

This wasn't the first time that some adults have objected to Barbie. Some have felt that her unrealistic figure has made young girls yearn for an unrealistic figure of their own. Some parents believe that tattoos for Barbie continues this obsession with one's body rather than other more important characteristics of a woman.

If you go to the archives of some universities, I'm sure you'll find more than one thesis called something like, "Barbie and Body Image: The Downfall of American Womanhood." I admit I was somewhat shocked when I heard about Barbie and body art. My first reaction was, "Now parents of 7-year-olds are going to have to deal with them wanting tattoos."

But then I did something uncharacteristic for me — I started thinking. Maybe anti-Barbie papers aren't the only theses in those dusty university archives. Maybe there are some with titles like, "Relax, Folks. Barbie Isn't a Role Model. It's Just a Toy." Or if there aren't any, there should be.

When you were a kid, weren't you able to tell the difference between a toy and something real? When you played "war" with a friend, didn't you know you were just playing? And did your putting on temporary tattoos make you get real ones? Besides, isn't it a bit ironic that the anti-Barbie-ites who feel that the doll puts too much emphasis on appearance are concerned with the appearance of tattoos?

So it's possible that the actual reason that Tattoo Barbie has some parents' (old-fashioned) underwear in a bunch is because this kind of thing wasn't around when they were kids. Maybe it's like adults in the 1950s who were shocked by Elvis and convinced he would destroy our civilization. Or maybe they're like parents like me who, in the '90s, thought video and computer games would ruin children forever. (I'm still not sure I was wrong about that one.)

Tattoos don't have the same connotations today that they had when I was a kid. Back then, it seemed like only sailors, truck drivers, and other "tough guys" had tattoos. Certainly, we never saw a woman with one. Today, your doctor or your kid's teacher is more likely to wear a tattoo than a hat.

AS A FUDDY-DUDDY, IT'S NOT EASY FOR ME TO ACCEPT CHANGE, BUT I DO — EVENTUALLY. I ACCEPT TEXTING, CARS THAT TALK, AND MILK IN CARTONS. SO I CAN CERTAINLY ACCEPT BARBIE WEARING TATTOOS.

I confess that I'm still getting used to looking at tattoos without making any kind of knee-jerk judgment about the wearer. Whenever I go on vacation where there's a swimming pool, I'm still a little surprised by the fact that the nice couple we sat next to at dinner the night before has more tattoos than a basketball team. And guess what? Barbie's the same age as that couple. She's 50 now. She might not look like it, but many 50-year-old women don't look their age these days. So maybe it's fitting that 50-year-old Barbie has broken out the tattoos.

I also realized that mothers who have real tattoos might be embracing Tattoo Barbie. Maybe the doll helps their children understand that their mother is someone who just found a way to express herself rather than someone who hangs out with a gang during their naptime.

As a fuddy-duddy, it's not easy for me to accept change, but I do — eventually. I accept texting, cars that talk, and milk in cartons. So I can certainly accept Barbie wearing tattoos. But I do think you have to draw the line. Where? I'll tell you where, and this is a warning to the people at Mattel: Don't even think about making a Ken doll with pierced nipples.

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.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR
EMAIL TO: EDITOR@SMDP.COM OR FAX TO (310) 576-9913
Santa Monica Daily Press — Visit us online at smdp.com

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Melody Hanatani
melodyh@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Meredith Carroll, Kenny Mack, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Taylor Van Arsdale, Dane Robert Swanson, Ryan Hyatt, Steve Breen, Elizabeth Brown, Merv Hecht, Ron Scott Smith Mike Heayn, Brian Hepp Mariel Howsepian, Cynthia Citron, Amanda Cushman, Steve Parker and Phyllis Chavez

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Fabian Lewkowicz

NEWS INTERNS
Catherine Cain, Ashley Archibald, Rob Lawrence, Teddy Leshnick
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERNS
Raymond Solano, Rachel Dardashti
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Julie Martinez
juliem@smdp.com

Grace Wang
gracew@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC FACILITATOR
Amber Kessee
amberk@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Robert Summa
summa@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
A newspaper with issues

410 Broadway, Suite B
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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The Q Line

Eternal question

This past week, Q-line asked:

City officials are considering a plan to lift the residency requirement at Woodlawn Cemetery. Cemetery officials say it would help raise funds to maintain the facility. Do you think Woodlawn should be reserved for residents or do you think opening it up to others is a sound decision given the current economic slump?

Here are your responses:

"WOODLAWN CEMETERY IS LARGER than it appears and your question of the week indicates that business is slow, perhaps due to cremation, a choice that many families make these days due to burial costs. I see little harm in opening the cemetery. I am certain that those now residing in Woodland Cemetery will not mind."

"WOODLAWN CEMETERY AND ALL others should be closed. Dead bodies should be sent to medical schools for the benefit of mankind. What good does it do to rot or be burnt to ashes?"

"WOODLAWN CEMETERY SHOULD BE open to residents only. Period. Let the city administration find the money to maintain it when necessary. We can find, or I should say THEY can find, money to feed, clothe, house and entertain the bums from all over the country. Do something for the residents once in a while. Remember us? The taxpayers?"

"THAT CEMETERY MUST BE PRETTY popular. People are just dying to get in."

"YES, THE CEMETERY SHOULD BE restricted to residents only. The only thing is, every day I walk around Santa Monica, running errands and just getting some exercise, I see more and more moving vans with people leaving Santa Monica and more and more for rent, lease signs or for sale that never seem to move. How many residents will soon be left, unless the city counts the growing population of bums and freeloaders from all over California and the country? But then they will have to pay for their internment, much like they, or rather the taxpayers, pay for everything else. It's a bit of a dilemma isn't it?"

"I THINK WOODLAND CEMETERY should just be reserved for Santa Monica residents. If they're having problems getting people to know about the cemetery, they just need to advertise and get the message out there that they have plots to sell."

"I AM AMAZED THAT THE CITY OF Santa Monica hasn't been hauled into court regarding its exclusivity policies at Woodlawn Cemetery. I live near 914 Fourth St. which has just been purchased by the Community Corporation of Santa Monica with taxpayer funds. The Community Corporation does not reserve most of its units for residents of the City of Santa Monica, and I'm surprised given the fact that the taxpayer funds are involved with Community Corporation that there should be any expectation at all that Woodlawn Cemetery should be reserved exclusively for Santa Monicans."

"THIS TOWN REMINDS ME OF "Saturday Night Live," once funny 25 years ago, now just sad. Last week's brilliant idea was a forced day off for city workers, supposedly to help balance our bloated half-billion dollar a year budget. Now we are going to sell space to dead people to balance the budget. How pathetic have we become? Let me repeat. This town is all about someone else. Light rail for L.A., beach club for tourists and East L.A.-ers, new schools for non-resident students, whole car lanes for weekend bike riders, overzealous funding for numerous nonprofits, a fiscal black hole pier, a concert hall for entertainment literati, one lane expensive politically correct big brother buses to control the herds. Now outside dead people are going to support all of this. I can hear it now: "Santa Monica, the place to be by the sea in your mound, under the ground." What a great town."

"NO, I THINK THE PEOPLE OF SANTA Monica should be buried at Woodlawn. We're a small community and I think we should have our own cemetery. I have a plot there. It's small, it's quiet and who wants to go to these other places? No. Leave it to Santa Monica."

"CITY HALL MUST DEVELOP EVERYTHING. Now it wants to develop the cemetery even further. Residents need only think of the long line of hearses and the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by the crematorium should this thing go commercial. It is absolutely the wrong idea."

"I'M CALLING ABOUT WHETHER THE cemetery should be left to the citizens of Santa Monica or not. The City Council people will need money forever so now we'll give the cemetery to the outsiders and then the City Council will decide that maybe it's about time for somebody else to move into our homes. There's never an end with them."

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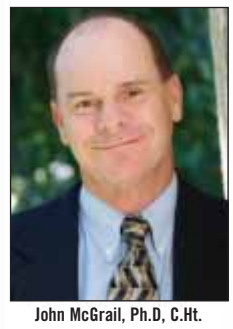

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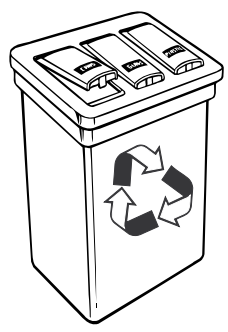
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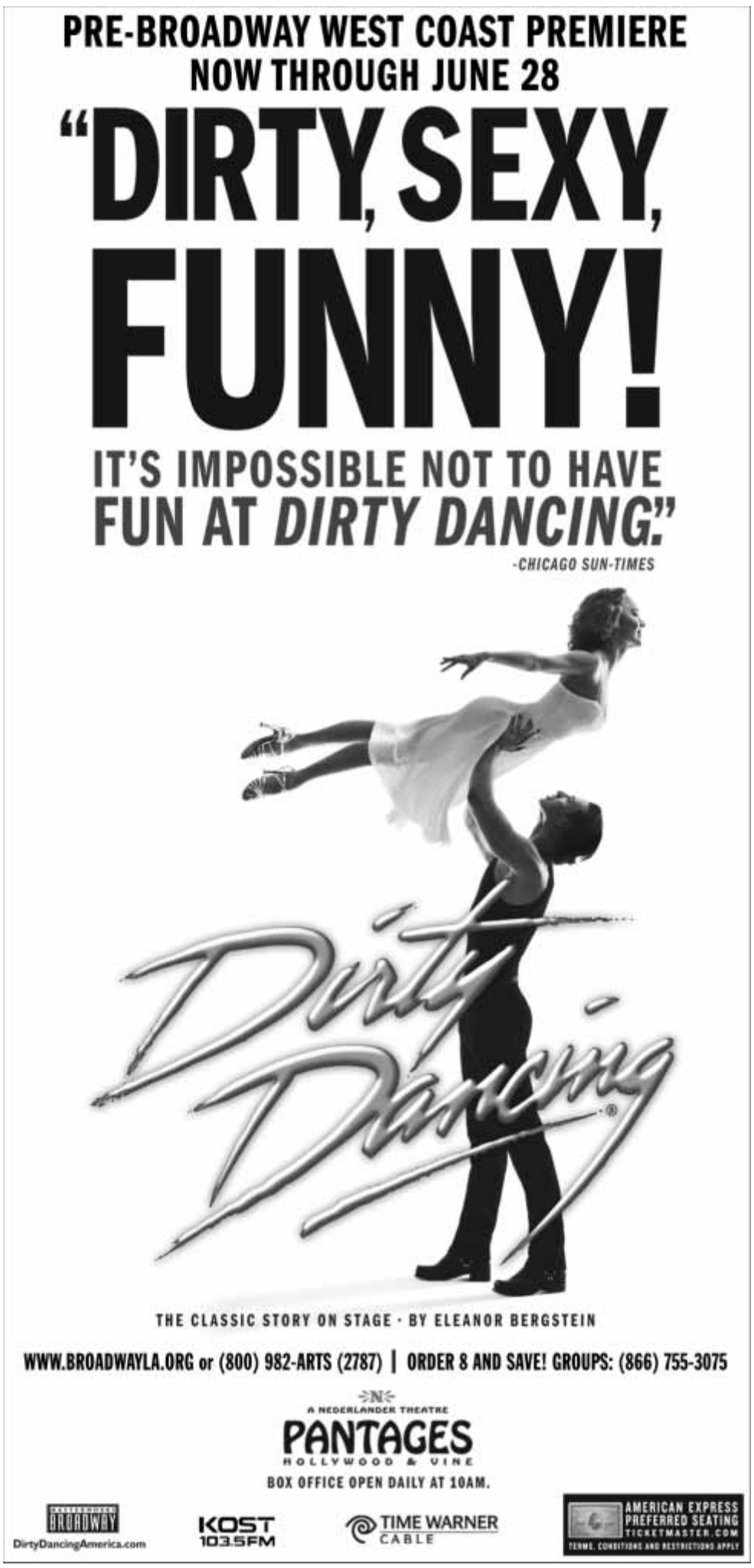

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White House aide resigns over NYC flyover incident

PHILIP ELLIOTT
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON A top White House aide resigned Friday for his role in Air Force One's $328,835 photo-op flyover above New York City that sparked panic and flashbacks to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Louis Caldera said the controversy had made it impossible for him to effectively lead the White House Military Office. "Moreover, it has become a distraction in the important work you are doing as president," Caldera said in his resignation letter to President Barack Obama.

The sight of the huge passenger jet and an F-16 fighter plane flying past the Statue of Liberty and the lower Manhattan financial district sent panicked office workers streaming into the streets on April 27. Obama said it would not happen again.

Caldera's office approved the photo-op, which cost $35,000 in fuel alone for the plane and two jet fighter escorts. The Air Force estimated the photo shoot cost taxpayers $328,835.

White House officials said the flight was designed to update the official photo of the plane, known as Air Force One when the president is aboard. The White House released a photo of the blue-and-white plane high above the Statue of Liberty, with New Jersey in the background.

The White House released the report late Friday afternoon via e-mail, with a short written statement from White House press secretary Robert Gibbs. There was no statement about the matter from Obama, who last month declared the embarrassment a "mistake" and vowed it would not be repeated.

The White House report indicated the operation was fraught with missed messages.

Deputy military director George Mulligan said he first told Caldera about the proposed photo shoot on April 20 — a week before it was scheduled to take place. The same aide also said Caldera should notify deputy chief of staff Jim Messina because it was an unusual move.

Caldera told officials he didn't recall the conversation.

Caldera also told officials that he didn't read an e-mail detailing the flyover plans until it was over. Mulligan, Caldera's second-in-command, sent him an e-mail message on April 24 advising him again to tell Messina and Gibbs about the photo shoot.

Caldera said he hadn't seen the e-mail because he has two official accounts. He also said he was suffering from severe muscle aches and had been prescribed pain medication.

Separately, in a May 5 letter to Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., Defense Secretary Robert Gates said planning for the mission began in late March 2009 and resulted in numerous teleconferences to coordinate and finalize the flight.

Gibbs said Obama has ordered a review of how the White House Military Office is set up, and how it reports to the White House and the Air Force.

That review, to be conducted by Deputy Chief of Staff Jim Messina and Defense Secretary Robert Gates, will also offer recommendations to Obama designed to ensure that such an incident will not happen again, Gibbs said.

Caldera, a former Army secretary, has headed the office that coordinates presidential travel on Air Force jets.

When Obama appointed Caldera to the job during the presidential transition, the then president-elect hailed Caldera as having a resume that was second-to-none. Obama said then: "I know he'll bring to the White House the same dedication and integrity that have earned him the highest praise in every post."

His resignation takes effect May 22, but he is done at the White House Military Office now — not just as director, but in any part of the office's work. He said he will use the two weeks of his employment to complete the necessary steps to leave the White House.

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The Re-View

Merv Hecht

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Serving 12,000 meals a day

USUALLY WHEN I WRITE ABOUT A restaurant it's a restaurant that serves about 100 to 300 meals a day. A few might serve 500 meals on a special day, or some fast food places might serve 1,000 people on a busy day. But I'm on the Queen Mary 2 in mid-Atlantic, and on this ship they're serving about 12,000 meals a day! That's a lot of food to serve when you can't even go out to the market to shop.

For those of you that have never been on an ocean liner, it's quite an experience. Some passengers go on long cruises for the itinerary to see exotic places. Some go just to get from one place to another, which is one reason to take the Queen Mary from England to New York. Some go for the on-board spa, which here is operated by the famous Canyon Ranch Spa. But, when you get right down to it, the main attraction turns out to be the food and drink.

And the food is fantastic!

There are at least eight restaurants on board. The main restaurant seats almost 1,000 people, and serves breakfast, lunch, and two seatings at dinner.

Then there's a British pub serving dishes such as fish and chips, shepherd's pie, and various other pies. There are two other gourmet dining rooms, and four buffet style venues, one Asian, one sandwiches and salads, one Italian, and one "carvery." Somewhere there's always a large piece of British beef served with Yorkshire pudding, and usually there's a chicken, turkey, or duck carved to order.

Drinking is a favorite pastime on board, and there must be at least one dozen bars scattered around the ship, some around the various swimming pools and outside sundecks, some where the jazz and dance music is played all day and night, and some near the large auditoriums where movies, Las Vegas type shows, and classical concerts are scheduled on a daily basis. And of course on the way to dinner one passes a champagne bar and several others where friends meet for a pre-dinner drink. And then after dinner for an after dinner drink. And later for a nightcap.

But the most unexpected part of the trip for me is the discovery of an international sub-culture that I didn't know existed: cruisers. Some of the passengers on board spend nine months out of the year on large cruise ships. Some cruise one to three months every year and have done so for 20 years or more. One British woman told me that it's cheaper for them to close up their house for three months in the winter and go on a cruise than it is to pay the heating bills in the north of England.

FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT HAVE NEVER BEEN ON AN OCEAN LINER, IT'S QUITE AN EXPERIENCE. SOME PASSENGERS GO ON LONG CRUISES FOR THE ITINERARY TO SEE EXOTIC PLACES. SOME GO JUST TO GET FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER, WHICH IS ONE REASON TO TAKE THE QUEEN MARY FROM ENGLAND TO NEW YORK.

I could get used to this lifestyle. The service is excellent, and it's like having your own private chef. You don't have to drive anywhere, and you don't need any cash. I walk to meals, entertainment, my daily computer class, my daily ping-pong tournament, my duplicate bridge game, and a number of interesting lectures and musical events. And while I expected the food to be like hotel food, I've been surprised that in fact it's much better than that. I've had top quality beef, lamb and pork dishes, salmon en croute, beef Wellington, excellent risotto, pasta and pizza made to order any time of the day or night — really all my favorite dishes.

Take a break from the local restaurants and try a cruise.

MERV HECHT, the food and wine critic for the Santa Monica Daily Press, is a wine buyer and consultant to a number of national and international food and wine companies. He can be reached at mervynhecht@yahoo.com

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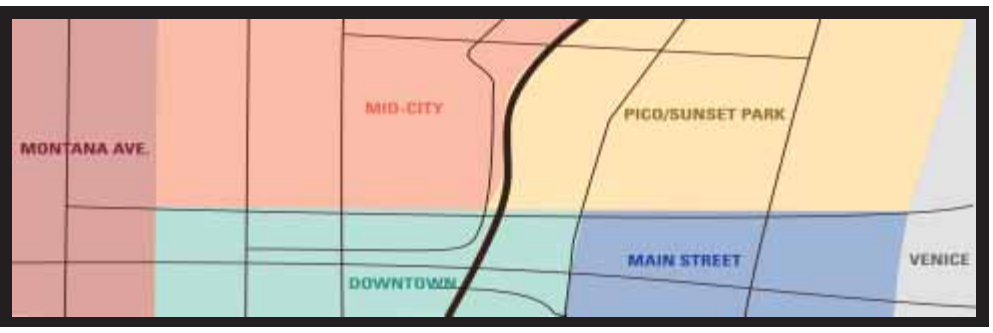
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Local pilots giving back

FROM **FLIGHT** PAGE 3

Angel Flight West was founded in 1983 by a group of pilots with a philanthropic spirit. In the first full year of operation, pilots flew 12 missions. In 2008, pilots donated their time and funds to fly 4,196 missions. The goal is to fly 5,000 in 2009.

"It's a goal we are going to meet, but it's a challenge," Dias said.

The number of people requesting flights has dropped, mainly because people are losing their jobs and health insurance coverage, forcing some to give up treatment or cut back. Hospitals are also struggling with funding, with some no longer offering treatment for certain illnesses, Dias said.

"At a time when you'd expect to see more people using our services, we've seen a decline and we are committed to getting the word out, talking with social service agencies and hospitals to make people more aware that we exist," he said.

Dias will be happy when he enters a room and no one confuses him with Angels Flight Railway in Downtown Los Angeles or Angel's Flight homeless shelter for teens.

If Harvey had it her way, everyone would know about the nonprofit that she credits with helping her get her cancer in check. While she isn't completely cancer free, Harvey will be celebrating Mother's Day Sunday because of the help she received from Angel Flight.

"A big part of healing, especially with a terminal illness, is just really being around people who love you. That is medicine as well," said Harvey, who runs the nonprofit Mandela Marketplace, which focuses on community leadership training and is in the process of incubating a worker-owned grocery store.

"Just to be able to hold my children, smell them, those little things you forget because you take them for granted every day," Harvey added. "That was really critical."

Not only did the flights allow Harvey to be with her family, they provided her and her children with positive memories. Instead of her children remembering the summer as the time when she was diagnosed with cancer, Harvey said her children will look back on it as somewhat of an adventure.

Some patients use flight time as a way to forget their illness. When they are up in the air gazing at the clouds or the beautiful scenery below, they are focused on more than just their treatments, said Angel Flight pilot Rob Ross, a Santa Monica resident who joined the nonprofit in 1991.

"It's not just about getting them to where they need to go, but also about the boosts they get off the ground and see how things look from there," Ross said.

During some flights, pilots and patients talk non-stop, building up a long-lasting relationship, while others are too wiped out from chemotherapy to carrying on a conversation and prefer to sleep. Either way, pilots do their best to make patients feel as comfortable as possible. Some provide music while others offer blankets and teddy bears, which are donated to Angel Flight.

Because pilots often fly the same patients

SEE **FLIGHT** PAGE 11







Photo courtesy Angel Flight West

STAYING TIGHT WHILE A MILE HIGH: **Dana Harvey and her daughter Nadira during one of their Angel Flight West missions. Angel Flight, a nonprofit based out of Santa Monica Airport, arranges free flights for those who need to travel to and from medical facilities.**

Pilots donate own time to missions

FROM **FLIGHT** PAGE 10

multiple times, they see first-hand the effects of a devastating disease. It can be emotionally difficult for some, particularly when a frequent flyer dies.

"I've been to all the dusty airports in the western U.S. picking up people and you see them month after month," Ross said. "Some look better after a month, while others we see go down hill. It's been tough. I've seen a lot of people who make it and a lot of people who don't."

Harvey is one of those who did make it through treatment and is winning her fight with breast cancer.

She is grateful for Angel Flight and is an advocate in her own way.

"There are a lot of really good nonprofits out there, but this one is an amazing organization," she said. "If people ask where they can contribute, I say Angel Flight even before my own nonprofit. I really cannot say enough good things about them."

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Parents want an understanding special ed director

FROM SPECIAL ED PAGE 1

tions into practice.

She has worked with districts across Southern California and has been doing mostly consulting since her retirement. Her most recent assignment was with the Whittier Area Cooperative Special Education Program as the administrator for the Special Education Local Plan Area, which is a state-mandated organization of school districts that are located near each other.

The Whittier Area Cooperative Special Education Program serves more than 5,700 students in three communities.

Davis said she has no interest in the permanent director position in Santa Monica-Malibu.

"My impression is this district deserves an experienced, creative … director and that the board and cabinet are demonstrating their support of the special education program," she said.

Approximately 40 people applied for the position during the first round, which was screened by a panel of parents, teachers and administrators who are together conducting the first interviews before forwarding recommendations to the superintendent and senior cabinet members for a second look.

District officials said they will take a different approach during the next round, actually asking key educators in the state for recommendations.

> **"MY IMPRESSION IS THIS DISTRICT DESERVES AN EXPERIENCED, CREATIVE … DIRECTOR AND THAT THE BOARD AND CABINET ARE DEMONSTRATING THEIR SUPPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM."**
>
> **Dr. Jeanne Davis**
> Interim special education director

"We're getting a little bit more strategic because our first round didn't give us a strong pool," Superintendent Tim Cuneo said.

He added that other superintendents are indicating that they are experiencing similar issues with finding good candidates.

"It's a tough job," he said. "You have to deal with some really difficult issues and a lot of people are saying I'd rather not be in an administrative position where I have to deal with those kinds of issues and confrontation."

Cuneo said he is looking for a candidate who has good interpersonal skills, has the ability to work with a variety of staff to align all the programs together and carry them out in the direction set by the Board of Education, knows how to deal with difficult negotiations, and has a strong knowledge of laws and programs concerning Individualized Education Plans, which outline the services a student will receive during the school year.

The first screening is scheduled for early June and Cuneo said he hopes to have someone on board by the beginning of the school year, if not earlier. The school board will have the final say over the hire.

Parents in special education said they would like to see a director with whom they can work collaboratively, which some said was an issue with the past director and her predecessor, Tim Walker, both of whom are said to have had contentious relationships with the special education community.

Ken Haker, the chairman of the Special Education District Advisory Committee, said the right candidate will have the ability to balance the needs of the children with the district's, giving students what they require to be successful in the classroom.

"They should also have an interest in developing at the site level well-trained teams that will work successfully with the children and also the parents," he said.

He added that the director should also have a sound knowledge with how the IEP process works. The process has drawn criticism from parents, specifically regarding the confidentiality clauses within settlement agreements that were reached with parents when disputes arose. A moratorium has been put into place on confidentiality clauses.

Craig Hamilton, a special education parent, said the director should be a person who not only is creative about developing programs, but also delivers them in an open way, all while working with the community.

"Whatever the selection process is, it should engage the special education community at some level because it is very important to them," Hamilton, a member of the working group, said.

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Increasing non-resident tuition to help offset cuts

FROM SMC PAGE 1

reserve funds that the budget subcommittee recommended being placed into a Joint Powers Authority revocable trust. Their reasoning was to earn interest, which could be used to pay their active and retiree health benefits.

However, given a possible budget crises some of the trustees grew concerned about the funds transfer.

"The concern is if the college gets in more serious trouble in the fall, because of what Sacramento is unable to do, or failed to do, or what the people failed to do on the 19th of May … ," Trustee David B. Finkel said. "There are some who say, 'If we were to do that we would be threatening the money set aside for a specific purpose.' In that sense there are competing values being expressed by different stakeholders."

Hawk explained that the revocable trust provides the flexibility to draw it back into the reserve in case of a financial emergency.

A financial emergency is just what SMC wants to avoid and Tsang made sure to remind everyone in attendance that the budget presented is the "best of all scenarios … and that's ignoring the $8 million possible hole, or even larger."

Only after the special election will the trustees be able to completely know where they stand. During the next trustee meeting, scheduled for June 2, the board plans on having a revised budget based on the election.

Trustees must pass a tentative budget by July 1.

news@smdp.com. Editor in Chief KEVIN HERRERA contributed to this report.

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St. Monica has title within reach

FROM ST. MONICA PAGE 3

who struggled with his control late in the game, walked Schwan bringing home the tying run in the form of Redondo.

With the sacks still juiced, Yoshinaga came to the batter's box with the game on the line. He wasted little time stroking the third pitch he saw to right with the thrilling game winner.

"It was just lovely," Yoshinaga said.

Next up for the Mariners is a two-game set with Bosco Tech. The two teams are currently tied for first in league and the series will decide the Camino Real title.

"We control our own destiny," Jack White said. "All we have to do is win."

daniela@smdp.com



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Volunteers are sought to assist Woodlawn Cemetery staff

9am-1pm
Memorial Day, Monday, May 25

to serve as greeters to guests attending this special 71st annual public observance of Memorial Day at Woodlawn Cemetery in Santa Monica.

If you are feeling thankful for those who serve our country, this is a chance to show your appreciation by volunteering. Volunteers will assist in welcoming guests arriving by shuttle buses and providing directions to the service, and providing other assistance to staff as needed.

Some highlights of the program include patriotic music provided by a local talented school choir and high school marching band, an exciting flyover of military aircraft, a dove release, 21-gun salute and keynote address by Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca.

Volunteers will be able to enjoy the ceremony. .
Training and orientation will be provided in advance of the event.

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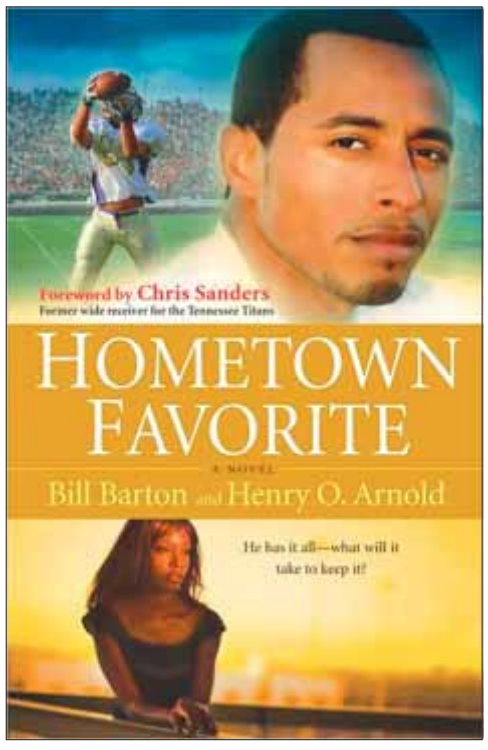
BOOK REVIEW

BY DANE ROBERT SWANSON



'Hometown Favorite'

Bill Barton and Henry O. Arnold • Revell



At last, a book for men. There are quite a few out there in the audience.

"You believe people can change?"

Play the game right and you can be a hero. You could also be the next hall of famer. Step out of line and you have no future. For a black athlete the game was your ticket.

There are three fundamental story lines in existence. The first is man against nature. The second is man against self. And the third is man against man. In this story we have a good example of man against man. And it is not just one man but several.

The pressure intensifies. How much pressure can a person take before he breaks? Flying high one day and shot down the next. For Dewayne Jobe, high school football hero and now college pick for best player of the year, it was a big drop. He starts out with friends; Sylvester "Sly" Adams, Jesse Webb, Jake Hopper , his football couch, and a mother who believes in him, Cherie Jobe. Add to that a wife who believes in you. His football rival is Colby Stewart who wishes nothing more than to see Dewayne defeated on the football field.

Dewayne ends up with very little. He loses his friends and his wife through a trumped up murder charge. His chance to be someone on the football field is gone. The tension is maintained throughout the book.

The story really gets going when Dewayne marries his sweetheart, Rosella. He has it good. He could turn out being a real star. Soon Rosella discovers she has a long lost sister, Bonita. The sister turns out to be a drug addict with two children, Bruce and Sabrina.

This confronts Dewayne with poverty and the drug culture. Out of the goodness of his heart Dewayne gets involved with them. The daughter, Sabrina, is dating a lowlife, Tyler, who aims to bring Dewayne down. The nephew,

Bruce, wants to protect his mother from drugs. "He had to rid his family of this evil" So he makes plans. "He had hidden his mother's secret stash of drugs – leaving her with an ample amount to keep her incapacitated long enough to carry out his mission – so she would call her dealer and get him to come to the apartment to replenish her supply." Bruce attempts to stop Tyler with a baseball bat.

"It worked up to the point that Sabrina grabbed him from behind. He never anticipated his sister trying to stop him, working against him, aiding and abetting the enemy."

Bruce gets hurt instead and sent to the hospital. Tyler ends up in jail only to be paroled. That is just the first half of the book. The second half has Dewayne destroyed. To do this Tyler worms his way into good graces of everyone then proceeds to take away from Dewayne all his possessions. Tyler's computer skills remove all the money from the back account of Dewayne Industries into an overseas account. Next Tyler is successful in having Dewayne arrested for the murder of Bonita, Bruce, Sabrina and his own son. Dewayne can't defend himself as he doesn't remember anything. He was found in his car in a locked garage with exhaust fumes seeping in. How he is cleared and restored is handled in a way that is satisfying and complete.

The theme is endurance under stress. There is a book in the Bible called Job. This story reminds the reader of that classic tale.

Once again the best looking book reviewer in Santa Monica is eager to get feedback. Send comments to smdp_review@yahoo.com.

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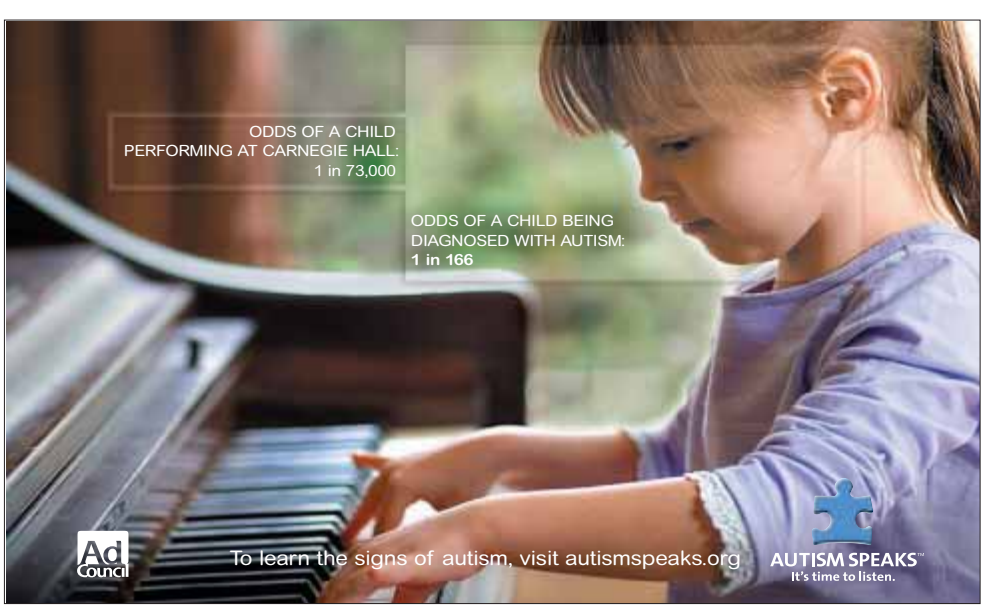

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 60°

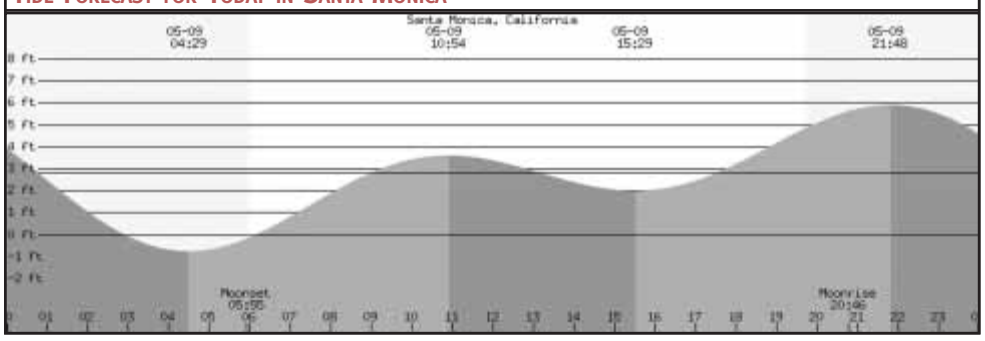
Swell Forecast (3-5 FT)

Saturday the 9th the WNW ground and wind swell combo should back off as the southern hemi remains. Sunday the 10th it looks like all swells will back off, leaving most all breaks in waist to chest high waves.

Long Range Synopsis

Monday the 11th the swells back off further, leaving most all breaks in waist high waves max.

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: **May 5, 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 -- 42 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / 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	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	C	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pierce Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	D	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	D	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	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

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)	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.

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Boris Brott, Conductor
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Barnum Hall on the Campus of Santa Monica High School

Tchaikovsky Waltzes from *Eugene Onegin*
Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4 in F minor, Opus 36
Tchaikovsky *Capriccio italien*, Opus 45
Tchaikovsky 1812, *Oventure solonelle*, Opus 49

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Easy Virtue (NR) 1hr 33min

The Black Stallion (NR) 1hr 58min
4:00

The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert (NR) 1hr 43min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) 1hr 42min
11:30 a.m., 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45

I Love You, Man (R) 1hr 50min
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:35, 10:15

Love 'N' Dancing (PG-13) 1hr 33min
10:20 a.m., 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10

Star Trek (PG-13) 2hrs 6min
10:00 a.m., 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

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

Earth (G) 1hr 30min
11:30 a.m., 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:45

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

Fighting (PG-13) 1hr 45min
1:45, 4:15

Obsessed (PG-13) 1hr 40min
11:55 a.m., 2:40, 5:15, 8:00, 10:35

Star Trek (2009) (PG-13) 2hrs 06min
10:45 a.m., 12:15, 1:45, 3:15, 4:45, 6:15, 7:45, 9:15, 10:45

Ghosts of Girlfriends Past (PG-13)
11:40 a.m., 1:45, 2:30, 4:15, 5:00, 6:45, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00

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

Little Ashes (R) 2hr 7min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

Sin Nombre (R) 1hr 36min
4:30, 9:30

Ballerina: A Portrait of Five Exceptional Russian Ballerinas (NR) 1hr 20min
11:00 a.m.

The Dalai Lama Renaissance (NR) 1hr 36min
11:00 a.m.

Tyson (R) 1hr 45min
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

The Merry Gentleman (R) 1hr 50min
1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 9:45

Lemon Tree (NR) 2hr 1min
1:40, 7:00

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

17 Again (PG-13) 1hr 42min
1:40, 4:30, 7:00

X-Men Origins: Wolverine (PG-13) 1hr 47min
12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 9:30

State of Play (PG-13) 1hr 58min
1:10, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10

The Soloist (PG-13) 1hr 49min
12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50

Next Day Air (R)1hr 24min
12:20, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:40

X-Men Origins: Wolverine (PG-13) 1hr 47min
Digital Projection
1:30, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00

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

Get wild, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Your instincts play out and give you a sense of direction. The unexpected occurs, as you realize someone might have pulled the wool over your eyes. You might want to detach if you feel triggered. Tonight: Togetherness works.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You still might be recuperating from the Full Moon. Others could be emotional and touchy. Friends do their best to upset the apple cart. They want to pull you along in their plans. Let happiness happen. Tonight: Go along with existing plans.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Take today off to complete errands and perhaps get past a problem. Express your liveliness in a constructive manner. Information floats in from experts or those who are savvier than you. Open up to different opinions. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You certainly are in weekend mode. Listen to a child or loved one who knows how to kick up his or her heels. You might want to nap before you join this person. Unexpected news floats in from out of left field. A partner is inspired to spend! Tonight: If you want, make it an early night.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Stick around home, and you'll get a lot done, and quite quickly at that. Giving a family member extra time and attention makes that person's day. Why not? When playing with a child, let your inner child out. Tonight: Fun and games.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ It might not be easy to be open, but it also might be a smart move. You will ultimately gain as you gain a bigger perspective. Discover new and more dynamic ways of looking at life. Tonight: Hang out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Curb a need to be possessive and to have your way. Remember, you cannot own anyone, and trying to control another person could be barking up the wrong tree. Schedule a late get-together for the afternoon. Tonight: Wild thing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Use the daylight hours to the max. How you see someone and what you do could change dramatically. Curb judgments and just live. More news and information will be forthcoming. Tonight: Your treat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Split today and do what is important or what you desire most. If you need to, go alone. You will feel like a new person when you return. Sometimes just taking care of yourself also helps your interpersonal relationships. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Meet friends and get out and socialize. You could be overwhelmed by everything that is happening. Worry less and just dive into whatever you want. Use good sense financially. You will be much happier ultimately. Tonight: Entertain at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Vagueness surrounds a project or community function. You might have difficulty explaining exactly what is on your mind. You still might be in the creative phase. Make plans with friends late this afternoon. Tonight: Fun and games.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Hop into the car. Go for a day trip or try something very different. Your imagination emerges when you can relax and not always be on call. You cannot avoid a must appearance. Greet others. Somewhere there is a misunderstanding, be it concerning a friend or plans. Tonight: Wherever you want to be.

Happy birthday

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

This year, you make a difference. Your footprints are on many projects, professionally, within your community or at home. The real question remains — how are you going to juggle all of the needs, demands and requests of others? You will do your best, though be willing to let go of a dysfunctional tie. If you are single, meeting the right person is likely to happen through a friend. If you are attached, agree to disagree. Refuse to see situations as black-and-white — there are only hues. SAGITTARIUS sees through any games to your motives.

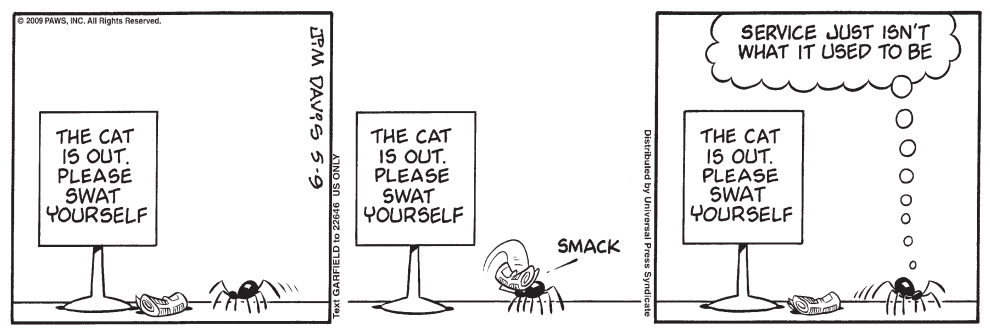
Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



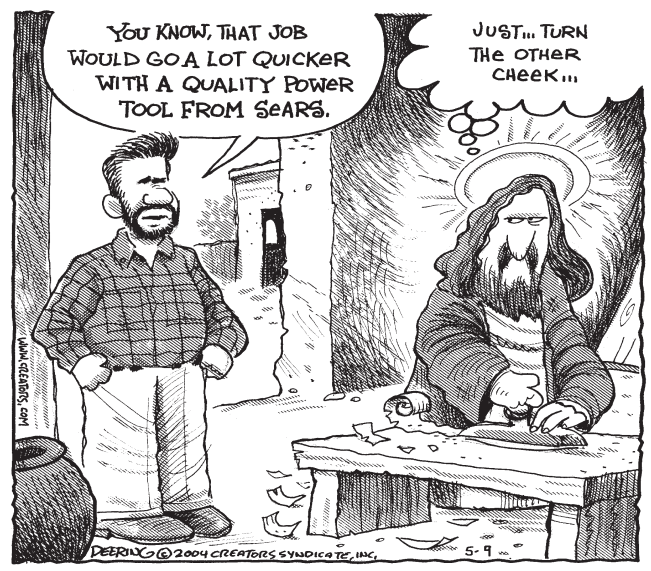
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



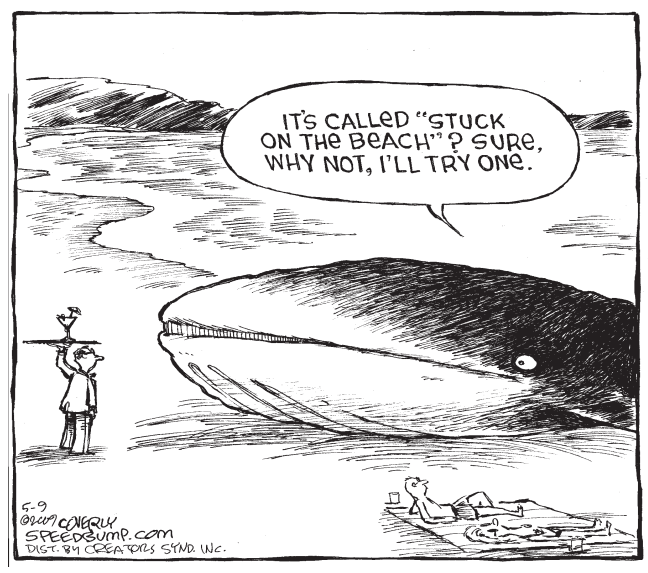
Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
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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 ★★★★

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

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise brandonw@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 Bed cover
7 Go on a binge
11 Broad way
12 Jacob's son
13 Metal fasteners
14 Olympian fighter
15 Pick
16 Derisive sound
17 Be bold
18 "— ergo sum"
19 Refrain bit
21 Palindromic nickname
22 Movie venue
25 Dupe
26 "Orinoco Flow" singer
27 Besides
29 Mariners
33 Act the popinjay
34 For real
35 Arabic letter
36 Border city
37 Complaint
38 Laundry worker
39 Throws in
40 Larder

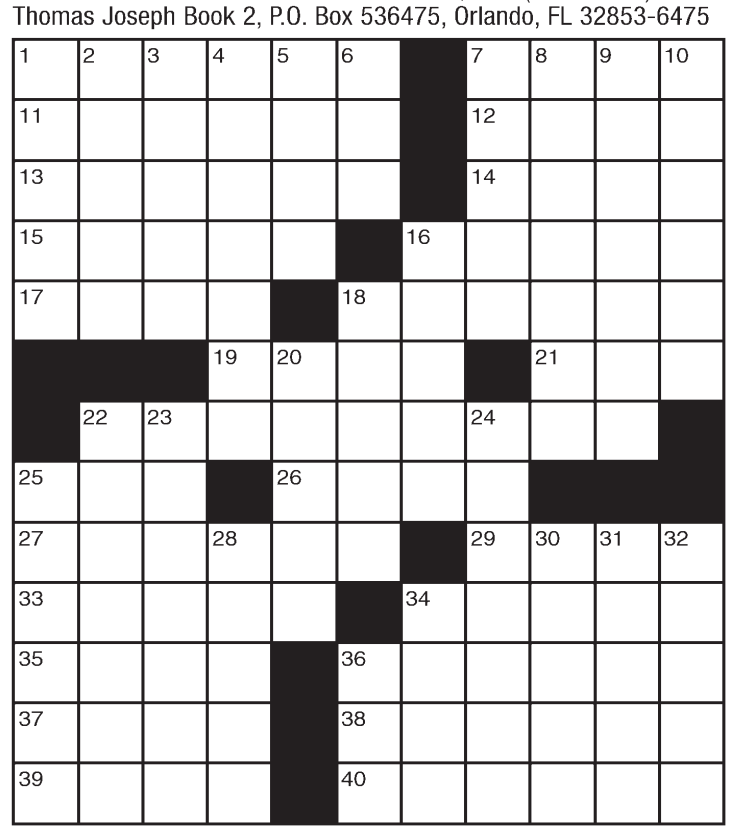
DOWN

1 Gave a darn
2 Spanish city
3 When pigs fly
4 Amoeba makeup
5 Green stroke
6 Agreeable response
7 Informal talk
8 Jane Eyre, e.g.
9 Strain
10 Engine part
16 Lathered up
18 Singer Black
20 Bothered
22 Blotchy
23 Not yet tested
24 Subsequently
25 Winter melon
28 Peeved states
30 Deal maker
31 Bill add-on
32 Yarn
34 "Tomb Raider" heroine
36 Sassy talk

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

Yesterday's answer

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5-9

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Meganumber: 11
Jackpot: $10M

FANTASY 5: 14 25 26 33 37

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

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1.49.29

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

■ The Web site InformationAgePrayer.com offers, for people too busy to speak to God themselves, a daily service of invocations (using voice-synthesizing software) for Catholics, Protestants, Jews or Muslims. Starting each day "reciting" the Lord's Prayer (or the Islamic Fajr) is $3.95 a month. Hail Marys are 70 cents a day for 10. A Complete Rosary Package is $49.95 a month. Each prayer is voiced individually, according to a March report on LiveScience.com, with the subscriber's name on the screen, and for Muslim prayers, the computer's speakers point toward Mecca.

■ A 2008 report on crime at U.S. colleges listed the University of California, Davis, as having the fifth-worst rate in the country, and among the University of California system, Davis' rate of sexual assaults was higher than the other schools' rates, combined. Nevertheless, in February, according to Sacramento's KTXL-TV, the school's Student Judicial Affairs organization boasted of the record, claiming that it demonstrates the "openness" of the campus, in that students feel "comfortable" enough to report sex crimes.

TODAY IN HISTORY

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 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.

1982 the musical "Nine," inspired by the Federico Fellini film "8½," opened on Broadway.

1987 183 people were killed when a New York-bound Polish jetliner crashed while attempting an emergency return to Warsaw.

WORD UP!

aliment \AL-uh-muhnt\ , *noun*:
1. Something that nourishes or feeds; nutriment.
2. Something that sustains a state of mind or body; sustenance.

transitive verb:
1. To give nourishment to; to nourish or sustain.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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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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South of Wilshire	$970,000	$599,999
Sunset Park	$1,199,000	$629,000
Ocean Park	$1,099,000	$924,745

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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