

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

4 15 23 26 47
Meganumber: 23
Jackpot: \$26 Million

FANTASY 5

5 9 16 19 28

DAILY 3

Daytime: 8 4 6
Evening: 3 0 8

DAILY DERBY

1st: 07 Eureka!
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 02 Lucky Star
RACE TIME: 1:46.85

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In 1992, News of the Weird reported that artist Janine Antoni carved huge blocks of chocolate and lard using her teeth, but at New York City's "LMAKprojects" gallery in February, artist Emily Katrencik gnawed sections of the drywall separating the gallery's exhibition space from the director's office, for 30 minutes a day, five days a week. Katrencik said she concentrates on thinking of "the things in the wall that are good for me, like calcium and iron." But, she said, "I prefer cast concrete because it has a more metallic flavor."

■ The mother of all of those recreation-room paintings of dogs playing poker is the series of nine originals by Cassius Marcellus Coolidge in 1903, sponsored by a Minnesota advertising company, and in February, two of those masterpieces were sold by the Doyle New York auction house for a total of \$590,400. Explaining the high price, Doyle's director of paintings pointed out that the auction coincided with both New York's Westminster Dog Show and the recent popularity of televised poker.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 147th day of 2005.
There are 218 days left in the year.

On May 27, 1937, the newly completed Golden Gate Bridge connecting San Francisco and Marin County, Calif., was opened to the public.

In 1896, 255 people were killed when a tornado struck St. Louis, Mo., and East St. Louis, Ill.

In 1933, Walt Disney's Academy Award-winning animated short "The Three Little Pigs" was first released.

In 1935, the Supreme Court struck down the National Industrial Recovery Act.

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Council needs justification for hikes

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Elected officials want justification for a slew of utility hikes being proposed for Santa Monica residents.

Santa Monica City Councilmembers said on Wednesday that they need more information to understand why a series of utility rate service fee increases are being

proposed, before they approve them.

The request comes after a May 17 staff presentation in which the finance department proposed to dramatically increase city water, wastewater, stormwater and solid waste fees to shore up City Hall's declining utility funds.

"We are not going to raise the rates without pain, because we are going to have to go through some

pain, too," said Councilman Ken Genser to Craig Perkins, director of the city's environmental and public works management department, which oversees the city's water and solid waste utility services. "What I want to know is, when rate payers pay their check every month, where is that money going?"

The City Council has requested the information before it takes

action on the rate increases on June 14.

Santa Monicans can expect sudden to gradual rate increases in water and solid-waste fees over the next few years because officials said expenditures are exceeding revenues for those services. City Hall's report details how solid waste, water, wastewater and

See UTILITIES, page 10



Fabian Lewkowicz/Special to the Daily Press

Crowds at the beach, like this one last weekend, are expected again over the holiday as warm temperatures are expected to continue.

Authorities gear up for summer

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

As hundreds of thousands of people are expected to head to the beach this weekend — the unofficial start of summer — local authorities are gearing up to handle the influx.

There will be more lifeguards, police, trash collectors and parking officers placed throughout town and its sandy shores to be ready to deal with the increased pressure of people.

Santa Monica Police Department Lt. Frank Fabrega said additional officers will be deployed in high traffic areas, as well as patrolling throughout the city. That means residents and visitors will see more uniformed cops directing traffic, patrolling the beach on ATVs and motorcycling the streets. More park rangers also will be deployed.

For the fifth year in a row,

Santa Monica officers will be directing traffic at key intersections throughout the downtown and beach areas every weekend throughout the summer to keep vehicles and pedestrians moving safely and easily about town.

Fabrega said people should expect delays with the crowds.

"It's going to be busy, so please be patient with pedestrians if you are driving," he said. "And if you are walking, please be patient with vehicles."

The SMPD's traffic division suggests motorists steer clear from the more well-known routes into downtown.

"Lincoln Boulevard and Fifth Street are far less crowded approaches to downtown than Fourth Street," said Lt. Clinton Muir, head of SMPD's traffic division. "We encourage visitors to 'take the Fifth' toward down-

See SUMMER, page 11

Bummer, dude: SM beaches fail the test

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM BEACH — All areas of the beach in Santa Monica got a failing grade this past winter by an environmental group that tracks water quality in the bay.

Heal the Bay, a Santa Monica-based nonprofit group dedicated to cleaning up the bay, released its 15th annual Beach Report Card this week. In Santa Monica, Heal the Bay listed the area off of Montana Avenue as one of the biggest "beach bummer."

Santa Monica Beach at Montana Avenue plummeted from a 2003-04 summer dry weather grade of "A" to an "F" with bacteria levels in June of 2004 far exceeding the threshold for what's healthy.

"What that means, basically, is that bacteria densities were through the roof," said Mark Gold, executive director of Heal the Bay.

That area of the beach received a "D" grade for water quality during the dry months, between April and October of 2004, and an "F" between April, 2004, and March, 2005.

The city of Santa Monica is currently installing a diversion in the area, which should be completed soon. However, in the past year, stormwater runoff has gone straight into the ocean.

"They haven't finished the diversion yet and they are having flows during the summer," Gold said. "Normally, you don't get any flow there at all."

While five other areas along Santa Monica's coast also received "F's" during the wet months — when stormwater runoff pollution is at its highest — during the dry months, Santa Monica beaches varied in grades between "A" and "B."

See BUMMERS, page 10

Trash talk: Agencies send clear message

BY JOYCE CHANG

Special to the Daily Press

Two public agencies are throwing millions of dollars into a campaign aimed at curbing storm water pollution.

The "Don't Trash California" message to be delivered throughout the state will cost \$6.5 million and is headed up by the California Department of Transportation and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

The 22-month campaign will run through September 2006. Caltrans will use \$6.5 million in funding from the gas tax portion of the state highway account. To help reach area residents, the public works department will contribute \$560,000

See TRASH TALK, page 10

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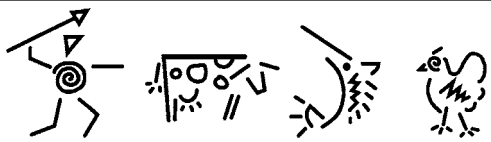
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Be out late tonight, Taurus

Santa Monica Daily Press



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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ You swing from one interest to another. Judge yourself less and just flow with what is happening. A meeting will make a substantial difference in the outcome of your plans. Network and take your time with others. Tonight: Friends provide lots of fun.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ What appears to be only an idea actually develops into a substantial plan, especially if you encourage others' feedback. Laughter happens if you are willing to be less controlling. Others express their respect and interest. Tonight: You could choose to be out late.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Move from working with one person to developing more resourceful ideas. Some of you will dig into new information, find experts or hop on the computer. Experiment with new concepts and let go of preconceived notions. Tonight: Let your mind wander.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Others hold the cards. You could choose to become upset, but the smart move is to let it go. Many people pitch in with their ideas. Rather than judge, collect new concepts, making new friends at the same time. Tonight: Choose who you want to be with.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Get as much done as possible early on. Your efficiency comes through, no matter what you do. If you can, escape for the weekend early. Your social side needs to come out. Even at work, a party starts around you. Tonight: Where the party is.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Find new ways to come up with solutions or to get past a problem or two. Your creativity soars in the morning, and by the afternoon, you are ready to implement new ideas. Make time for errands. Clear out paperwork as well. Tonight: Relax.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You might move slowly into the mood of the day. In fact, you might have a few cobwebs in your brain in the morning. Your creativity sparks by the afternoon. Allow more fun and humor into your daily life. Tonight: Could someone have a crush on you?



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Reach out for others early in the morning. They will take off in the afternoon. You will want some quiet time for yourself as well. Focus on family and prioritize your personal life. Tonight: Play it easy.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Expenses could add up if you aren't careful. In fact, they might even if you are careful. Know that you have the wherewithal to handle what is dropped on your plate. Ask for support. Find shortcuts while running your errands. Tonight: Let off steam with a friend or loved one.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Toss yourself into whatever project you need to do in the morning. You'll accomplish much more during this time. By the afternoon, a more self-indulgent attitude evolves. Why not? You, too, need some time off. Tonight: Time to indulge yourself and those around you.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Move slowly into your day, because by the afternoon, you will be in the limelight. You also have the energy and sparkle to make a difference. Others clearly demand your attention. Indulge a loved one. Tonight: Christen the weekend.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Meetings prove to be instrumental in the morning. Plans made then can be carried out more efficiently than in recent days. If you must, cut yourself off from others, especially in the afternoon. You will want the downtime. Tonight: What works for you.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free English classes offered this summer

By Daily Press staff

Puedes hablar Ingles? If not, you might want to check out Santa Monica College.

The SMC’s Continuing and Community Education Program has announced that it is offering free English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) classes beginning July 5. Registration is ongoing.

Classes are offered at the beginning, intermediate and advanced levels and cover listening, speaking, reading, writing and conversation.

“We’re excited to be offering these noncredit classes to the huge population of non-native English speakers in the Los Angeles area who want to improve their English for careers and a wide variety of reasons,” said Erica LeBlanc, assistant dean of continuing and community education.

Classes are offered days, nights and Saturdays at SMC’s new Airport Campus, slated to open this summer. The Airport Campus is located at 3171 S. Bundy Dr., Los Angeles. Parking is free.

For more information, call (310) 434-3400.

Sense of community being built at St. Monica’s

By Daily Press staff



St. Monica Catholic High School requirements go beyond biology and calculus — it extends to serving the community.

Christian Service, part of St. Monica’s religious studies curriculum, is a requirement for all of the school’s 600 students. During their four years, students log a minimum of 100 hours of community service.

The Community Service requirement for freshmen starts with 20 hours for the academic year, and includes outreach with a parish, synagogue, mosque, temple or other religious community. Sophomores also log 20 hours, but the challenges are ratcheted up. Focusing on helping young people, students care for drug-addicted babies and those with AIDS, work with at-risk youth, and provide tutoring in approved programs. Upperclassmen must log 30 hours a year, with juniors spending at least 20 of their hours working with the elderly, or disabled. Seniors must work at least 20 hours with the poor.

Students quickly learn they can’t take the easy way out meeting their service requirements. Unacceptable projects include working on charity drives, participating in dance-athons or doing office-clerical work. Service must involve direct interaction with the target population so that students “see the faces” of those they serve.

“People gave us hugs when we served them food,” said senior Marissa Parker, 17, who has been serving meals at the SAMOSHEL homeless shelter. “It made me appreciate what I have.”

At St. Monica Catholic High School, the classroom can be as big and challenging as the city. Students leave their desks and go to hospitals, nursing homes, homeless shelters — any place where they can help to “transform the world” while they’re learning.

Principal Tamara Martinez-Payne said Christian Service, applied throughout the school year, helps to create St. Monica High School’s “phenomenal community.”

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How to Secure Super-Low Downpayment Home Loans When You Buy A Home

WESTSIDE - A new report has just been released which identifies a foolproof 3-point plan which any homebuyer can use to secure the best financing rates when they buy a home.

When you’re looking to buy a home, the first thing most homebuyers do is start the process of househunting. However, experience proves that this is one of the last steps you should be taking if you want to get the most home for the least amount of money. In fact, shopping for the best financing should start long before you start shopping for a home.

The experience of thousands of area homebuyers has been summarized in a new report entitled “Best Financing: A 3-Point Plan” This report outlines 3 critical steps you must take to obtain the absolute best financing rates when you buy a home. It tell you where you should go, what questions you should ask, and how to manage the process to your personal advantage.

To read a brief message about how to order your free copy of this report, visit www.westsidehomesource.com. Visit this site now to learn how to obtain the best financing rats when you buy your next home.

This report is courtesy of Steve Matilla, Matilla Realty, Not intended to solicit properties currently listed for sale. Copyright ©1997.



SURF REPORT

The holiday weekend starts off small and foggy.

Friday looks like another small surf day with no NW to speak of, and some light SW in the knee- to waist-high range.

Today the water is:

62°

Write us at alex@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	2:40	0.0	1:54	1.4	8:44	3.8	8:17	5.9
SUNDAY	3:18	-0.6	2:26	1.7	9:33	3.8	8:47	6.3
MONDAY	4:00	-1.0	3:00	1.9	10:23	3.7	9:22	6.5
TUESDAY	4:44	-1.3	3:37	2.1	11:16	3.6	10:02	6.6
WEDNESDAY	5:33	-1.4	4:18	2.3	12:14	3.5	10:46	6.5
THURSDAY	6:25	-1.3	5:08	2.6	1:17	3.4	11:36	6.2
FRIDAY	6:57	-1.0	5:29	2.4	1:42	3.1	12:02	6.0

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Santa Monica College is looking for a new president to replace Dr. Piedad Robertson. A search committee has been formed to find the best candidate. Meanwhile, Tom Donner is serving as interim president until the end of this year.

SMC in the past has had a tumultuous relationship with City Hall, with many elected leaders and community members accusing the college of disregarding the fact that the institution is growing at a rapid rate, therefore negatively affecting residents’ quality of life here.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, “What qualities should the next president of SMC possess and what issues will he or she need to address?”

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we’ll print your responses in the weekend edition. Please try to limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.



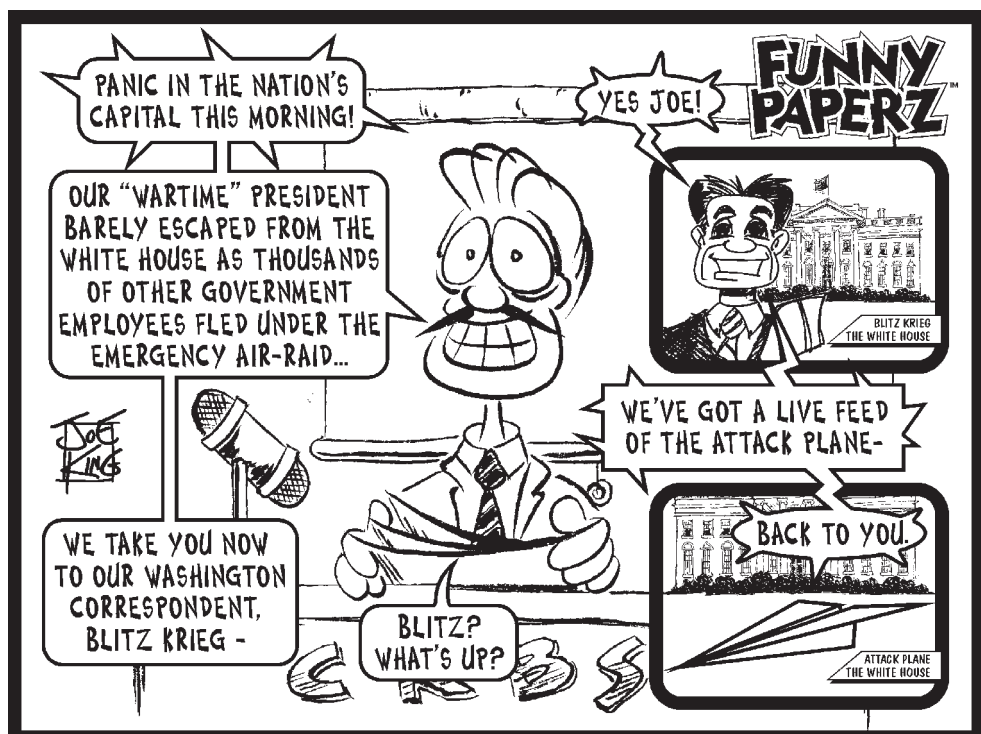
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OPINION



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't unleash the beach

Editor:

I read with interest and amazement the Daily Press' most recent letter to the editor written by a small vocal group of activists pushing for an unfenced, off-leash dog run at Santa Monica State Beach (SMDP, May 23, page 4), which the Santa Monica City Council is considering.

In support of their position, this small vocal group pretends that they have analyzed all necessary data concerning the safety, cleanliness and costs of a dog beach. In fact, there are few, if any facts to support a dog beach in the Santa Monica Bay, and far more that caution against it.

With regard to water quality, no study has been conducted that shows pathogens in dog waste are not harmful to humans or to the Santa Monica Bay. In fact, researchers that study water quality for a living believe that the opposite is true. And with by far the greatest number of people accessing the Santa Monica Bay over other ocean waters for recreation, this is one reason why federal and state regulations related to water quality in the Santa Monica Bay are possibly the strictest in the nation.

With regard to safety, we can consider the problems reported last year at the Long Beach dog beach. Official reports from the Long Beach dog beach reported incidents of dogs chasing or aggressively approaching people, dogs causing injuries to cyclists, and dogs attacking other dogs. Other significant problems included dogs outside of the designated dog beach area and more than one dog per owner.

With regard to costs, we again can consider the problems reported last year at the Long Beach dog beach. Long Beach officials envisioned volunteer participation in managing the dog beach, but found this did not occur. The officials recommended enlisting animal control, marine patrol, lifeguards, and park rangers to assist in the management. Are taxpayers in Santa Monica prepared to fund government agencies to supervise the Santa Monica dog beach once volunteer management fails?

An additional problem with locating an unfenced, off-leash dog beach in Santa Monica is that the area is adjacent to an area designated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as a critical habitat for a threatened species of bird, the snowy plover, which migrates to the beach in winter months — October through April. The dog activists concede the published studies that show the non-native dog on the beach disrupts the nesting of this native species, but adopt a "let them eat cake" attitude toward the tiny bird. They justify the introduction of a dog beach on the basis that less than two dozen snowy plovers have been sighted in Santa Monica.

The activists also state that the area for the proposed off-leash dog beach is approximately a half mile from the area where snowy plovers have been sighted. This might make some sense if the dog beach were fenced or if studies reported that the snowy plover, finishing its southern migration, would be able to recognize life-guard tower 11 from lifeguard tower 12 and know to stay north of tower 12. However, neither of these assumptions are reality. We also have official reports from Long Beach that found a significant problem at the dog beach was dogs outside the designated area. It doesn't strain the imagination to envision dogs outside the Santa Monica dog beach area chasing snowy plovers.

The bottom line is that Santa Monica, along with a few other beach areas like Dockweiler and Hermosa, are the few beach areas in the Santa Monica Bay designated as critical habitat for the snowy plovers. There are many other beach areas in the Santa Monica Bay, including Manhattan, Redondo, and Torrance, that are not critical habitats. Doesn't it make more sense for the dog activists to introduce the notion of an unfenced dog beach at one of those beaches?

We urge all citizens to join with Heal the Bay, Save the Sand, the Audubon Society, the State Department of Parks, the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors, the LA County Lifeguards, the Natural Resources Defense Council and urge your elected officials to prevent this potentially disastrous plan.

Ben Jacobs
Save the Sand Committee

Write and wronged: Are leaders listening?



OUR TOWN

BY TED WINTERER

It will surprise no one who has read any of my columns that I'm one of those know-it-all gadflies who frequently sends e-mail to my elected officials on topics which stick in my craw.

I e-mail the president. I don't expect him to actually read my e-mails, as I imagine he only reads "Sports Illustrated" or the latest Harry Potter book. But I always get a pleasant form letter acknowledging my missive and in my sunnier moments, I pretend the White House is paying heed to me, even though GW's policies clearly indicate I'm being roundly ignored.

I also send e-mails to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and likewise get a prefab reply. I always know the Governor hasn't personally penned the response as the syntax and grammar are too refined. But once again it's nice to be heard by someone in Sacramento.

When I write to Sens. Boxer and Feinstein and Congressman Waxman, I elicit even better responses. I might opine about drilling for oil in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge or restoring the Hetchy Hetchy Valley. All three elected officials will reply with a personally-addressed e-mail explaining their position on the issue. Sure, some staffer at the Capitol has cut and pasted a standardized response, but at least my federal representatives are tallying public sentiment and encouraging participatory democracy.

And I send e-mails to our City Council. Lots of them, in fact. You can too, as the city makes it easy by providing a single e-mail address which is forwarded to all seven of our elected leaders: council@smgov.net. Wouldn't it great if our various boards and commissions could be contacted with similar ease? Instead one has to cut and paste individual e-mail addresses from the city Web site.

I regularly get replies to my ramblings from three council members. And in the last two weeks, a fourth crossed a personal Rubicon and engaged me in a cyber dialogue about a particular topic. But I've never heard back from the three remaining people on the council, not even a quick "Thanks for your thoughts" or "Go away, you rabid crackpot."

And I suspect I may get a better response rate than most Santa Monicans. I've been persistently spamming the council for years — eventually wearing some of them down. Who among us hasn't succumbed to the temptation to every so often opening an e-mail touting low rate mortgages or cheap Viagra?

Sadly, we cling to an antiquated form of public participation in our town: If you want to make sure the City Council

acknowledges your input, you have to schlep over to City Hall for a council meeting, endure hours of tedium as the controversial topics seem to be placed towards the end of the agenda and then speak for no more than two minutes — lest a loud clanging rudely interrupts you. Consequently, large portions of the electorate, including those with night jobs, child care responsibilities, narcolepsy, early wake-up calls and social lives, are effectively disenfranchised. Instead, the same hardy souls who can find the time and inclination to speak at council meetings have a disproportionate influence on what is gleaned to be public opinion.

It seems to me that in a city which ostensibly cherishes public input there ought to be a better way, that we should be able to communicate with our council and know our opinions are heard.

It seems to me that in a city which ostensibly cherishes public input there ought to be a better way, that we should be able to communicate with our council and know our opinions are heard. Now, I don't expect individual council members to reply to every e-mail and letter they receive, as their positions are underpaid part-time gigs. But couldn't the council have its own staff to answer calls and read e-mails and letters, reply to each one personally, gauge public sentiment accordingly and then report, for instance, the percentage of folks favoring and opposing allowing dogs at the beach?

In fact, an autonomous staff for the council could do much more: by providing independent research and analysis, a council staff could provide checks and balances to the influence over civic policy currently vested in those hired by the city manager. For instance, if city staff recommends pay raises or advises against privatizing trash hauling, wouldn't you like your City Council to hear a second opinion on these matters?

Sure, a staff for the council would cost money, although much could be accomplished with interns and volunteers. But perhaps when we can't get our street trees trimmed or sidewalks fixed but planning for new municipal offices in the Civic Center at a cost of \$20 million is a priority, it's time to direct more of the city budget towards serving the public.

(Ted Winterer is a writer who lives in Ocean Park. He can be reached at ourtownsmdp@aol.com.)

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

COMMENTARY



GUEST COMMENTARY BY PETER SCHWARTZ

Morality can exist without religion

Does morality depend upon religion? Most people believe it does, which is a major reason behind the appeal of the religious right. People believe that without faith in a supernatural authority, we can have no moral values — no moral absolutes, no black-and-white distinctions, no firm demarcation between good and evil — in life or in politics. This is the assumption underlying Justice Antonin Scalia's recent assertion that "government derives its authority from God," since only religious faith can supposedly provide moral constraints on human action.

And what draws people to this bizarre premise — the premise that there is no rational basis for refraining from murder, rape or anarchism? The left's persistent assault on moral values.

That is, liberals characteristically renounce moral absolutes in favor of moral grayness. They insist that America is morally equivalent to its enemies, with our own policies having provoked the Sept. 11 attacks and our "unilateralist" actions in Iraq being no different from any forcible occupation of one nation by another.

Repulsed by such egalitarian, anti-"judgmental" absurdities, many people disavow what they regard as leftism's essence: secularism, and turn to religion.

But this is a false alternative. Secularism is simply a viewpoint that disclaims religion. What it embraces, though, may be rational or not. And the absurdities of the left stem precisely from its irrationality — its pervasive emotionalism, its insistence on doing whatever "feels right," its contention that there are no fixed truths, its credo that morality is anything one wishes it to be. The left maintains that no objective principles exist to validate moral judgments. From its multicultural equalization of all societies — savage or civilized — to its belief in an indefinable, "evolving" Constitution, the left rejects the logic of objective standards and enshrines the arbitrariness of subjectivism. Thus, what the left's opponents should disavow is not secularism per se, but rather the replacement of a religious variant of unreason — blind faith — with a secular variant: blind feelings.

The real alternative to the leftist claptrap is a morality of reason. Such a morality begins with the individual's life

as the primary value and identifies the further values that are demonstrably required to sustain that life. It observes that man's nature demands that we live not by random urges or by animal instincts, but by the faculty that distinguishes us from animals and on which our existence fundamentally depends: rationality.

With reason as its cardinal value, this code of individualism espouses fixed principles and categorical moral judgments. It demands, for instance, that the initiation of force — the antithesis of reason — be denounced and that an unbridgeable moral chasm be recognized between the criminal and the non-criminal.

Since life requires man to produce what he needs, productiveness is a moral value — thereby making moral opposites out of the industrious worker and the parasitic welfare recipient. Since life requires man to use his own judgment rather than submissively accept the assertions of others, independence is a moral value — making moral opposites out of the person (or nation) acting on his own rational convictions and the one deferring to the consensus of his neighbors (or the U.N.). Since life requires the mind, man's political system must allow him to use it, i.e., freedom is a moral value — making moral opposites out of America, the defender of liberty, and America's enemies, who seek liberty's destruction.

A morality of reason counters the relativism and the indiscriminating "tolerance" of the left.

It also counters a morality of faith, and establishes a genuine "culture of life." Individualism upholds your sovereignty over your life — and refuses to subordinate the preservation of that life to, say, the preservation of embryonic stem cells in some petri dish. Individualism defends your inalienable right to your life, including your right to end it — and evaluates, say, opposition to assisted-suicide as a desecration of human life, since forcing someone to live who wishes to die is no less evil than forcing someone to die who wishes to live.

There is indeed morality without religion — a morality, not of dogmatic commands, but of rational values and of unbreached respect for the life of the individual.

(Peter Schwartz is chairman of the board of directors of the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine.)

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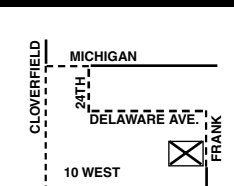
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LOCAL
CRIME WATCH
 By Daily Press staff

At 1:35 p.m. on May 20, the Santa Monica Police Department responded to the 1500 block of Ocean Avenue regarding a strong arm robbery. When officers arrived to the scene they spoke to the victim, who said he was picked up at the Los Angeles Convention Center by a driver who was purporting to be a taxi cab driver. When the victim got into the vehicle, described as a Lincoln Navigator, the suspect told the victim the trip to Santa Monica would cost \$50. The victim said he was hesitant and suspicious because the vehicle did not have a taxi permit and was not yellow. When the victim arrived in Santa Monica he was asked to pay the \$50 and when he removed his wallet to pay, the suspect attempted to grab his wallet. The victim was able to retain his wallet, but the suspect fled, taking his briefcase. A short time later, Edward Earl Rue, 60, male, of Hollywood, was booked for robbery. Bail was set at \$100,000.

At 6 p.m. on May 19, the SMPD’s narcotic investigators were in the 2000 block of Pico Boulevard to serve a search warrant. While at the location, they saw a vehicle approach a male and conduct some type of transaction. After the vehicle drove away, officers followed the vehicle, and additional officers stopped the male who was involved in the transaction. During their interview, the male subject said he had just purchased some methamphetamine from the driver of the vehicle. Officers stopped the driver of the vehicle in the 2800 block of Ocean Park Boulevard. David Warren Chestra, 31, of Pacific Palisades, was arrested for the possession and sale of narcotics, parole violation and possession of a syringe. No bail was set.

At 11:06 a.m. on May 20, the SMPD responded to the 1900 block of Wilshire Boulevard regarding a theft investigation. When officers arrived to the scene, they spoke to a security officer who said he arrested a female employee for embezzlement. Apparently the employee was using customer receipts that were left behind and submitting them for refund. Loss is estimated at \$205. Monica Michelle Gomez, 23, of Santa Monica was booked for petty theft. Bail was set at \$1,000.

At 5:38 p.m. on May 20, the SMPD responded to the 1300 block of the Third Street Promenade regarding an embezzlement investigation. When officers arrived to the scene, they spoke to a security officer, who said he became suspicious of an employee when he noticed his cash register had money missing. The employee was watched via close circuit TV and was seen taking money form customers and placing it in a drawer, not a cash register. The employee was later seen taking the drawer containing the money and walking to a back room. When the employee was confronted by the security officer, he admitted to the theft and also indicated he had stolen on prior days totaling \$600. Steven Molina, 22, of Reseda, was arrested and later transported to Santa Monica Jail where he was booked for embezzlement. Bail was set at \$20,000.

This report was prepared by Daily Press staff writer Ryan Hyatt.

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LOCAL



PTA embraces new president

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica-Malibu Council of PTAs held its annual installation and awards breakfast at the Boarder Grill in downtown Santa Monica. Besides eating, the purpose of the breakfast was to introduce next year's slate of PTA council officers, including incoming council president, Laura Rosenbaum.

Local schools have been the focus of Rosenbaum's volunteer activities in the time she's lived in Santa Monica since moving from Cleveland. A professional in the financial services industry, she most recently has been moonlighting as co-president of the SMASH PTSA and co-first vice president of communications for the PTA Council.

As president of Santa Monica-Malibu PTA Council, Rosenbaum will promote the continuing unity of parents, teachers, students and the community at large to ensure that children are recognized to be everyone's special interest.

"The student of today is called on to be an adult in a more complex and global world than ever before," she said. "It will be through the combined effort of all of us, joining together with one voice on behalf of every child, in accord with the PTA mission, that our children — our community's children — will be successful and important members of the world we will all inhabit."

Rosenbaum in June will replace two-term president Maria Rodriguez. Rodriguez's presidency has been marked by extraordinary accomplishments in community outreach, education and advocacy, school supporters say. She led a legion of PTA volunteers through a successful advocacy effort for 2003's Measure S campaign for school funding. In 2004, the PTA Council partnered with Community for Excellent Public Schools in its signature-gathering campaign to qualify the Excellent Public Schools Charter Amendment on the city ballot. That effort resulted in an historic funding agreement between the city of Santa Monica and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. And in 2005, the Santa Monica-Malibu PTA Council, under Rodriguez's leadership, provided key financial and logistical support for the statewide Caravan for Kids, which culminated in a PTA rally on the steps of the State Capitol in Sacramento.

Rodriguez's presidency also has seen tremendous efforts in communication, during which time the PTA Council Web site was launched, www.smmpta.org. The PTA is distributing its third community newsletter next week as an insert in Santa Monica and Malibu newspapers, to students district-wide, and will be available in public locations throughout the cities. The newsletter highlights further news and accomplishments of the Santa Monica-Malibu Council of PTAs and its schools.

In 2005-2006, the Santa Monica-Malibu Council of PTAs has worked toward substantive goals in the following areas:

- Regular monthly meetings and reports to enhance communication among the PTA Council, parent leaders, PTA units, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District administration, the Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association, SEIU and the SMMUSD Board of Education.

- Published two community newsletters, which had distribution of 42,000 in the Santa Monica-Malibu community.

- Organized with the League of Women Voters School Board candidate forums.

- Hosted two events to celebrate successful parent/school partnerships among district administrators, site principals and parent leaders.

- Coordinated the district-wide "Reflections" arts competition.

- The Council's Communication Committee kept the issue of public education in front of the public through press releases and articles.

- The council's Web site (www.smmpta.org) was launched as a resource of information to its members and the community.

- In partnership with Community for Excellent Public Schools, organized hundreds of volunteers around the state to rally for education in Sacramento — Caravan for Kids.

- Wrote a grant to pay for students to participate in Caravan for Kids.

- The Council's Legislation Committee met monthly with representatives from each school, and advocated for the health and welfare of all children.

- Provided to all units legislative information and materials regarding local and state PTA legislative positions.

- Registered parents to vote.

- Represented Santa Monica-Malibu in the California State PTA's 106th Annual Convention in Sacramento.

- Made a financial contribution to juvenile camps for at-risk youth.

- Made financial contributions for safe graduation celebrations at Santa Monica High School, Malibu High School and Olympic High School.

- Provided scholarships for Santa Monica High School and Malibu High School graduates.

- Co-sponsored with The Education Foundation of Santa Monica-Malibu the Summer School Adventure program and expanded the program to include middle school.

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‘Madagascar’ one funny tail

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

“Madagascar,” the latest computer-animated comedy from Dreamworks, is an efficacious fusion of state of the art technology and old-fashioned cartoon style. Unlike the exceptional realism that is the hallmark of the “Shrek” movies — the company’s most celebrated effort in this area — the animators of “Madagascar” used their supercomputers to pay homage to the classic animation of the World War II era. The animals that populate “Madagascar” certainly look lifelike in

Review

repose, but when the action heats up they get squashed and stretched and snapped back into shape to hilarious effect. In many ways, this IS your grandfather’s cartoon, yet it feels fresh and new and exciting. Alex the Lion (Ben Stiller) is the main attraction at an idealized rendering of the Central Park Zoo. He spends his days preening for adoring throngs, and his nights palling around with a hypochondriac giraffe named Melman (David Schwimmer), Gloria the hippo (Jada Pinkett Smith) and best bud Marty (Chris Rock), a zebra who’s come down with a serious case of wanderlust. With the help of some renegade penguins, Marty breaks

out of the zoo and goes looking for “the wild” in the urban jungle that is Manhattan. His friends come looking for him, and before long the whole lot of them is captured and put on a boat destined for a wildlife preserve in Africa. After the mischievous penguins commandeer the boat, Alex et al find themselves washed ashore on the exotic island for which the movie is named, where they must figure out how to survive without their morning paper and scheduled feedings. That last bit proves especially challenging for the steak-deprived lion, who soon begins to see his friends in a whole night — meatier — light. The vocal talent is on the mark here,

though the above-mentioned stars are clearly outshined by Sacha Baron Cohen, aka Ali G, as the frenetic party animal Julien, king of the ring-tailed lemurs who adopt the displaced New Yorkers. Delivering the film’s funniest lines with an accent that defies categorization, the lovable goofball Julien ranks among the best animated characters ever. Cedric the Entertainer also induces several belly laughs as Julien’s sage second-in-command, Maurice.

(Rated PG for mild language, crude humor and some thematic elements. Running time: 86 minutes)

A little ‘Face’ time proves to be good thing

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

“Parents Just Don’t Understand” was a big hit for Will Smith back in the days when he was an up and coming rapper. Now that he’s a major Hollywood playa, the former Fresh Prince revisits that theme as producer of the predictable yet enjoyable

Review

comedy, “Saving Face.” Joan Chen and Michelle Krusiec are ideally cast as a mother and daughter both trying to cope with repressive traditional values that stand in the way of true happiness. Wil (Krusiec) is an overworked medical resident in Manhattan who hails from a very traditional Chinese-American family in a tight-knit ethnic community in Flushing. Her widowed mother Ma (Chen) and meddling grandparents are pressuring Wil

to marry, but that ain’t going to happen because Wil digs chicks. Carrying on a clandestine affair with a sexy dancer, Vivian (Lynn Chen), is easy enough for Wil, that is, until her mother shows up on her doorstep with suitcase in hand. Turns out the 48-year-old Ma is preggers, and has been turned out of her parents’ home for refusing to reveal the identity of the father. Thrown together by all too conveniently concocted circumstances, the two

acknowledge their secrets, butt heads and ultimately come to understand each other. Though the characters are underdeveloped, Chen and Krusiec are charming together, and writer-director Alice Wu manages to mine some fresh humor out of the overworked generation gap theme.

(Rated R for some sexuality and language. Running time: 98 minutes)



THE IMBIBER

BY DAN DUNN

Partying like a champ

Special to the Daily Press

LAS VEGAS — On many occasions your liquor-nipping correspondent has partied like a champ, but until this week the Imbiber had never actually partied WITH one. But anything’s possible here in this effulgent desert-dry den of iniquity, especially in the wee hours of the morning in the Shadow Bar at Caesar’s Palace, which is where I found myself hunkered down in a private booth next to the one and only Sugar Ray Leonard. The Hall of Fame pugilist hasn’t fought professionally in quite some time, his last win coming back in 1989 against Roberto Duran. But the guy appears to be in tip-top shape, and I suspect that if push ever came to punch he’d mop floor with any of the young boxers from his TV show, “The Contender” or, without a doubt, a mouthy out-of-shape newspaper columnist. So it

was with a fair amount of trepidation (and beer muscles) that I called the champ out on what I observed to be some surprisingly lightweight drinking habits. “No mas!” I shouted, hearkening back to Ray’s most memorable encounter with Duran, though I was referring to the Cape Codders he kept ordering. “What’s wrong with a Cape Codder? I really enjoy them,” the champ replied, instantly topping my list of Top 10 Things I Never Thought I’d Hear a Guy Who Kicked Marvin Hagler’s Ass Say. “You’re one of the toughest fighters of all time, man. You should be drinking something harder than Cape Codders!” “Well,” he said, “I like merlot, too.” It dawned on me that it was only a matter of time before the words “Shirley Temple” came out of the mouth of the guy who once KO’d Tommy “The Hitman” Hearns, and I didn’t want to see Ray go out like that. Word was spreading that Justin Timberlake was in the bar, and I’d be damned if I was going to sit idly by while Sugar Ray Leonard professed a love of boy bands.

(E-mail comments or suggestions for the Imbiber to ddunn@metro.us)



Photo courtesy
From left to right: Photographer Lyndie Benson, Michelle Danner, executive director of the Edgemar Center for the Arts, and Cindy Crawford, were on hand last week for the opening of Benson’s ‘Moments’ photography exhibit.

Photo exhibit attracts celebs

By Daily Press staff

MAIN STREET — Hundreds turned out last week at Edgemar Center for the Arts for the debut of a local photographer’s exhibit of work. Those who attended the opening exhibit of “Moments” by photographer Lyndie Benson were super model Cindy Crawford and hockey legend Wayne Gretzky. “Photography is an opportunity for me to capture the truth of a moment,” says

Los Angeles-born Lyndie Benson whose portfolio as a celebrity/lifestyle photographer has grown in recent years. Her list of subjects include Sugar Ray Leonard, Gretsky, Rob Lowe, Jane Goodall and her international superstar husband Kenny G. Benson — who has been a contributing photographer to famed “L.A. Confidential” magazine since 2003 — first expressed interest in photography in the mid-1990s, after several years as a work-

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Beethoven's 9th on tap by Concert Chorale

BY D'LYNN WALDRON

Special to the Daily Press

The Santa Monica Concert Chorale will be part of two musical events in the coming weeks.

The Concert Chorale will be featured with the Santa Monica Symphony Orchestra in a free performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony, the "Choral," with "Ode to Joy," on Sunday, May 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium.

The Beethoven 9th will feature the Santa Monica College Concert Chorale, Dr. James E. Smith, director, and the combined choirs of Occidental College, Dr. Jeffrey Bernstein, director.

The performance of the Beethoven 9th celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Santa Monica Symphony, and marks the 75th anniversary of Santa Monica College.

On stage for the Beethoven 9th will be a full symphony orchestra, a combined chorus of 200 singers, and four soloists, all under the baton of music director and conductor, Allen Robert Gross. The concert will open with orchestral excerpts from Wagner's "Die Meistersinger." There will be a pre-concert talk in the meeting room at 6:45 p.m. by professor Raymond Knapp of UCLA.

The acclaimed soloists will be Elin Carlson, soprano, Tracy Van

Fleet, mezzo-soprano, Jonathan Mack, tenor, and Jinyoung Jang, bass-baritone.

The Beethoven 9th is the most popular symphony ever written and many say the greatest. Beethoven wrote nine symphonies, of which "The Choral" with its "Ode to Joy" is his last and greatest achievement. The amazing thing is that Beethoven wrote his magnificent ninth symphony after he had gone completely deaf, and at the premiere he had to be turned around to see that the audience was giving him a standing ovation.

Staging the Beethoven 9th is a major undertaking for any orchestra because it requires a huge chorus, four talented soloists, and virtuoso instrumentalists. Maestro Gross performed this symphony 10 years ago for the 50th anniversary of the Santa Monica Symphony.

The Santa Monica Symphony's admission-free concerts are made possible by the generosity of the city of Santa Monica and the symphony's corporate and private sponsors, so that the people of Santa Monica can still experience live performances of the great classical and exciting contemporary symphonic music at a time when tickets to other symphony orchestras have become prohibitively expensive for many families.

The Santa Monica Civic Auditorium is located at 1855 Main St., just north of Pico Boulevard. There are no reservations and it is first-come, first-seated, until the auditorium is filled, so guests are asked to arrive early. Parking is \$8 in the city's Civic Auditorium parking lot, which can be entered from Main Street. For more information, log onto www.smsymphony.org.

The SMC Concert Chorale was founded 30 years ago by Smith, a long-time resident of Santa Monica and chairman of the Santa Monica College music department.

Chorale members are selected from among the students of SMC and members of the community, so they range in age from teens to seniors.

The concert chorale is a course offered through the music department in association with SMC's continuing community education, and it gives performances throughout the school year. Students can take the course for credit and others can audit it, paying the same tuition fee, but without getting a grade or college credit.

Rehearsals are held Wednesdays from 7:15 p.m. to 9:50 p.m. in the choral room, No. 27, of the John Adams Middle School at 17th Pearl streets. Open auditions for the fall 2005 semes-



ter will be held at 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 31, in the choral room. Those accepted will then enroll in the music department course "Music 55- Concert Chorale," for college credit or otherwise.

The chorale will be part of a gala festival of music conducted by Smith in the First United Methodist Church at 1008 11th St., on Sunday, June 5 at 7:30 p.m.

The phone number of the music department is (310) 434-4323. The SMC Web site home page is www.smc.edu where links to information on tuition and enrollment procedures are listed.

Photographer's show runs until July

EDGEMAR, from page 8

ing actress in Los Angeles throughout the 1980s.

"I started with photography as just a hobby in the early '80s while on the road with Kenny," she said, adding she initially took album cover pictures for her husband.

In 1994, the G family was invited to the White House during the Clinton administration where they got to spend the night on the famous Lincoln bedroom. As a gift of thanks to the President and Mrs. Clinton, Benson took a portrait of their dog Buddy. The photo of Buddy stirred interest in Benson's work and in addition to selling many copies of the por-

trait, it also was used as part of a campaign for the 2003 AIDS fundraiser PAWS. Benson's work can be seen at her Web site: www.lyndiebensonphotography.com and on display at the Edgemar Center for the Arts until July 14.

Edgemar Center for the Arts is host to many up and coming artist from different mediums. Each exhibit lasts for approximately eight weeks. They are pleased to announce their up-coming exhibit "Moments" by photographer Lyndie Benson.

Michelle Danner, executive artistic director of the Edgemar Center for the Arts, hosted last week's event. She is a member of the Directors Guild of America and Women in Film and has served as an Ovation Award voter.

Edgemar Center for the Arts, located in Frank Gehry's architectural landmark building, 2437 Main St. is host to theatre productions, jazz and cabaret shows, revolving art exhibitions, film festivals and public arts programs serving underprivileged children in the Westside community.

Students and seasoned professionals perform side-by-side — their work is a culmination of workshops, rehearsals, and collaboration across disciplines.

Once a cavernous hangar, the building now houses a 99-seat theatre, a 65-seat theatre, and an art gallery.

Playing through June 11, is the cabaret "The Night of the Black

Cat" themed after the opening of the French Cabaret "Le Chat Noir" in Paris 1881, featuring poetry, dancing and music. Experience a taste of "Le Chat Noir," home and watering hole to many of the world's most influential artists. "The Night of the Black Cat" is one of the most mystical, magical, and sensual nights you will ever experience, its critics say.

"The Night of the Black Cat" is directed by Deborah LaVine and produced in association with ECA by Dana Koellner and Raquel Brussolo.

Tickets are \$22.50 for general admission and \$18.50 for students. For tickets, call (310) 392-7327 or visit www.edgemar.org.

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City: Programs may not come cheap

UTILITIES, from page 1

stormwater fund balances have been decreasing to varying degrees over the last four years and need to be corrected to keep the bonds that support the funds in legal compliance.

In order to restore the funds to a healthy level, staff has proposed to the City Council a rate schedule that would allow a “timely,” “intermediate” or “extended” recovery of the revenue stream over the next few years, depending on the rate increase.

TAKING OUT THE TRASH

City Hall’s solid-waste fund is responsible for citywide refuse and recycling collection, and includes street sweeping and beach and Promenade maintenance. It also is used to support City Hall’s environmental programs.

The solid waste fund — \$4.5 million in 2002 — is estimated to have fallen more than \$500,000 since then. To prevent this decline from reaching a \$1.2 million deficit within the next year, city staff is suggesting rate increases for the service by July.

That means the average household bill of \$62 for solid waste removal would jump to \$74 for the one-year plan, and to as much as \$82 for three years.

Staff explained to the council that the primary factors contributing to the depletion of the solid waste fund had to do with landfill disposal fees, salaries and fringe benefits for employees, and vehicle maintenance and fuel costs.

According to staff, 18.4 percent of the solid waste fund’s operating costs account for landfill fees that the city has to pay. Those costs have gone up 40 percent since 2001, which is rapidly depleting the fund, officials say. In addition, landfill rate increases are expected to be about 18 percent each year in the foreseeable future.

“The landfill has reached a critical stage,” said City Manager Susan McCarthy. “It presents a whole other series of issues we’re going to be grappling with, and what will be required to deal with a significant instability at this point.”

Salaries and benefits account for 47 percent of operating costs, and there has been a 10-percent increase for the past three years that’s been eating into the fund, according to staff. Vehicle maintenance and fuel costs make up another 17 percent of operating costs, which also have gone up about 10 percent over the past three years.

Elaborating on expenses, Perkins explained that a pilot program the city of Santa Monica has in place which allows businesses to save their solid food waste is more costly than what was predicted. The city collects the food waste for compost, which is re-used.

“The program is more expensive than we thought,” Perkins said. “We are not going to be able to expand it right away.”

Councilman Kevin McKeown, a proponent for sustainable measures, suggested City Hall consider adding vegetable oil waste to the list of recyclable material in the program.

He said excess vegetable oil could be used to help fuel biodiesel vehicles. He added that moves to increase the use of recyclable material, perhaps through more education, also may help reduce the need to use landfills and might save on costs.

McCarthy said part of what might be contributing to solid waste and other utility service increases, however, are costs associated with the city’s myriad of environmental programs and education, which are supported by the utility funds.

“Education for environmental programs has an effect on rate standards,” McCarthy said. “The community doesn’t get it for free.”

WATER WHOPPER

The water fund supports the treatment, storage and distribution of water in Santa Monica, as well as provides fire protection through hydrants and sprinkler connections. It is operated by three booster stations, four reservoirs and a water treatment plant.

The fund also is used to support City Hall’s environmental programs.

The fund — \$17.5 million in 2002 — has fallen to about \$5 million.

Staff suggests the average household water bill in Santa Monica needs to be raised from \$52.09 to \$68.24 for one year, to as much as \$76 under the three-year plan and \$89 under the four-year plan.

The water rate increases are expected to go into effect in January of 2006.

In addition, staff said the city’s wastewater and stormwater rates will soon have to face similar hikes in July, and the next

few years, respectively.

The wastewater fee increase would mean rates would jump from \$37.33 to \$46.66 for one year, to \$49.43 for two years, and up to \$49.67 for the three-year plan.

Councilman Bobby Shriver said one way the city might address its stormwater funding needs in the future — which staff said needs more than 10 years of updated fees and infrastructure — is to introduce a bond measure to voters which could raise funds.

Shriver said the move could be similar to Proposition O, recently passed in Los Angeles for the same reason.

“People are willing to spend money so they won’t get sick when they swim,” Shriver said.

Shriver referred to budget information indicating 16 tons of debris have been recouped from the Santa Monica Bay due to the city’s environmental measures.

“If you can tell people X-amount of money will collect X-amount of debris and bacteria, people may be willing to pay for that, when there is a quantitative benefit,” Shriver said.

City staff at the meeting, while not able to answer all of the council’s immediate questions concerning the need for the rate increases, attempted to explain some of the context behind the proposed fee increases.

“We set higher goals for ourselves,” McCarthy said. “So if we have been under-performing (for our own objectives), we have been out-performing other communities.”

Canyon beach a clear winner

BUMMERS, from page 1

The areas Gold was most impressed with were at the Pico/Kenter storm drain and Santa Monica Canyon areas.

Operated by the city of Los Angeles, the Santa Monica Canyon system is able to divert virtually all of the dry weather flow away from the ocean.

Last year, Santa Monica Canyon’s runoff system went from a “D” grade to a “B” in one year. This year, it received an “A” during the summer months.

“The Santa Monica Canyon diversion seems to be faring quite well, and has improved upon its 2003-04 grade of ‘B’ to score its first full-fledged ‘A’ this year during the summer dry weather time period,” the report says. “When one considers the year-round dry weather grade for Santa Monica Canyon is an ‘F,’ beachgoers are definitely benefiting from improved water quality during the summer months with the diversion in place. Other locations with diversions in place also fared well during the summer dry weather time-period like Santa Monica Beach at Ashland Avenue, Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter ...”

The Pico/Kenter area had problems last year partly because the elevation in the sand lends itself to ponding easily. City staff over the last year has worked on timing the diversion better when it rains so the flow doesn’t go directly into the ocean. City staff also has improved the system so the debris trapped in the filter was be pumped directly into the city’s recycling treatment facility underneath the pier a few hundred feet away.

“Seeing Pico with an ‘A’ was great,” Gold said.

The report card grades about 350 locations year-round and about 460 locations in dry weather from April to October on an A-F scale, based on the risk of adverse health effects to swimmers and surfers. The grades are based on daily and weekly fecal bacteria pollution levels in the surf zone.

Water samples are analyzed for bacteria that indicate pollution from numerous sources, including fecal waste. The higher the grade a beach receives, the lower the risk of illness to ocean users.

The 2004-05 Annual Beach Report Card shows that most beaches had very good water quality, with 278 of 346, or 80 percent of the locations receiving very good-to-excellent (A and B) grades for the year during dry weather. There were also 30 C’s (9 percent), 11 D’s (3 percent) and 27 F’s (8 percent). California’s overall good-to-excellent dry weather grades were just slightly below the average of 82 percent, with Southern California’s grades even a few more points below the average (78 percent A’s and B’s).

As in past years, there continues to be a great disparity in water quality between dry and wet weather conditions. 2004-05 was one of the worst wet weather years on record. The enormous amount of rain throughout the state resulted in 90 percent of the 346 locations monitored during wet weather receiving fair-to-poor grades. Last year was the most polluted wet weather season on record since the statewide beach monitoring program began in 1999.

Still, Gold believes it’s incumbent upon local, county and state governments to develop policies and appropriately fund them so that water quality is improved

Large portion of LA trash makes way into ocean

TRASH TALK, from page 1

to the \$580,000 that Caltrans has already committed to support LA County-based advertising.

It’s estimated that LA County residents generate more than 200 tons of litter each year, with a large portion of that going straight into the ocean, especially during the rainy season. Thousands of gallons of fluids from automobile leaks, hazardous wastes, commercial solvents and urban runoff enter storm drains and flow into local rivers and the ocean, officials said.

“Litter is a problem and there’s things you can do personally,” said Mike Flake, chief of storm water policy for Caltrans. “Stop littering or encourage others to stop through peer pressure.”

The multimedia campaign includes radio and television advertisements, billboards, bus and bus shelter posters, cinema slides and trash can wraps. Campaign materials will be bilingual, in both English and Spanish. The program also involves special events and community outreach such as participation in community fairs and festivals. Through partnerships with sports teams, information booths about the campaign will be set up at the games of several teams, including the Anaheim Angels and the Los Angeles Galaxy.

Research indicates that litter in LA County predominately comes from

pedestrians, drivers, household garbage cans, commercial dumpsters, construction sites, loading docks and uncovered trucks, officials said. The No. 1 item found along California freeways is cigarette butts, according to Caltrans. Flake said people also sometimes inadvertently litter when they don’t cover the loads that they’re hauling in their trucks.

Flake suggested that although improving water and air quality are important and related, a campaign focused on improving the environment through eliminating litter was more feasible for the agency.

“Not littering is probably the most basic message,” he said. “Telling people to buy a more efficient car doesn’t really sell. This is a message that anybody in any demographic can adapt and react to.”

Mark Gold, executive director of Heal the Bay, a Santa Monica-based nonprofit organization dedicated to cleaning up the bay, said changing people’s behavior takes much more than just making them aware through one campaign.

“If we can ever get the state of California and the local cities to coordinate their campaigns, it would be much better,” he said. “For everyone to do their own campaigns, it’s not as effective.”

Flake said although the campaign

See TRASH TALK, page 11

even in wet months.

“It’s a matter of how serious the cities and the counties are taking wet weather pollution when they consider their poli-

cies,” he said, adding recently approved legislation mandating clean-up efforts is a step in the right direction. “It’s now the law to clean up Santa Monica Bay.”



Lifeguards staffing up for holiday weekend

SUMMER, from page 1

town, and beachgoers to take Fourth south to Pico to the south beach parking lots if arriving after 11 a.m., when parking becomes scarce on or near the pier."

Parking is less — \$6 all day or \$1 an hour for a 2-hour maximum stay — in south beach lots accessible from Pico Boulevard and Barnard Way, with free shuttle service to the pier and Promenade.

At the beach, city staff have been preparing for the crowds this past week. The snow fence that prevents the sand from drifting inland from the winter weather has been removed and more garbage cans are being placed along the shore, said Elaine Polachek, City Hall's open space manager.

After a holiday weekend, solid waste collectors pick

up tons of garbage — much of which doesn't make it into garbage cans.

"We hope (the public) realizes what a precious resource we have and they need to protect it," Polachek said.

Los Angeles beaches see about 50 million visitors every year, making it one of the busiest in the world.

Lifeguard towers, which have been dormant all winter, are being moved to permanent summer locations on the sand, the buoy line south of the pier has been put up and on-call lifeguards are being brought in when the beaches fill up.

Memorial Day weekend attracts about 500,000 people to the beach between the northern limit of Santa Monica and Marina del Rey. Lifeguard captains stationed at the headquarters next to the Santa Monica Pier monitor

dren before they develop bad behaviors.

The Don't Trash California campaign is based on Caltrans' three-year, public education pilot program in the Fresno metropolitan area completed in 2003. Survey results indicated that people had heard the educational messages, made changes in their behavior and encouraged others to stop polluting. The success of the pilot program convinced Caltrans that the campaign would be worthwhile to put into effect statewide.

beach activity and estimate how big the crowds are. When they see people arriving in droves, they start calling in their part-time recruits.

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At Santa Monica Beach in front of the historic merry-go-round, just below & southeast of the pier.

This location has been here since 1902

Talking trash

TRASH TALK, from page 10

theme was targeted for Generation Xers and males in the 18-24 age range, who are predominantly part of the problem, they also want to reach the general public and chil-

Tips to prevent pollution, courtesy of the "Don't Trash California" campaign:

■ Always carry a litter bag in your car: This will help you when you are tempted to toss litter from your window. You now have somewhere to dispose of it.

■ Securely cover open loads on all trucks: Much of the debris on the highway comes from trucks that don't have their loads covered. Place a tarp on your load and tie it down.

■ Clean out your pickup truck bed: Random trash left in the back of your pickup can easily blow out onto the street. Remove trash daily before you start your journey.

■ Set an example for others: Children often copy what they see. You can prevent bad behavior by pick-

ing up after yourself and not littering.

■ Take your car in for regular tune-ups and oil changes: This helps to ensure that oil or other fluid leaks are identified and corrected, so that these fluids don't potentially wind up in highway storm drains.

■ Put your butts where they belong: The ashtray in your car was made to hold cigarette butts and ashes. Don't be afraid to use it.

■ Foster a clean freeway: Adopt a section of the highway to provide for litter patrols. This is a good way to help keep your community clean.

■ Get active: Volunteer to help an adopt-a-highway sponsor who picks up trash on your local highways. Help support clean-up events and/or help educate business leaders and neighborhood associations about the importance of keeping storm drains clean.

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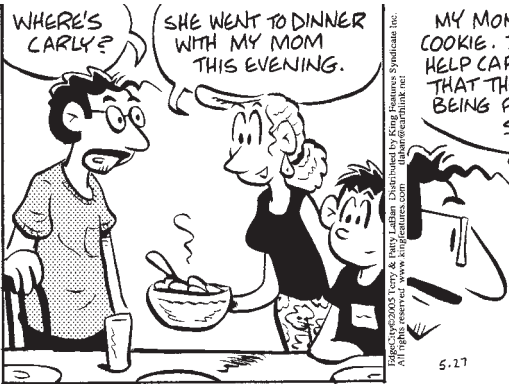


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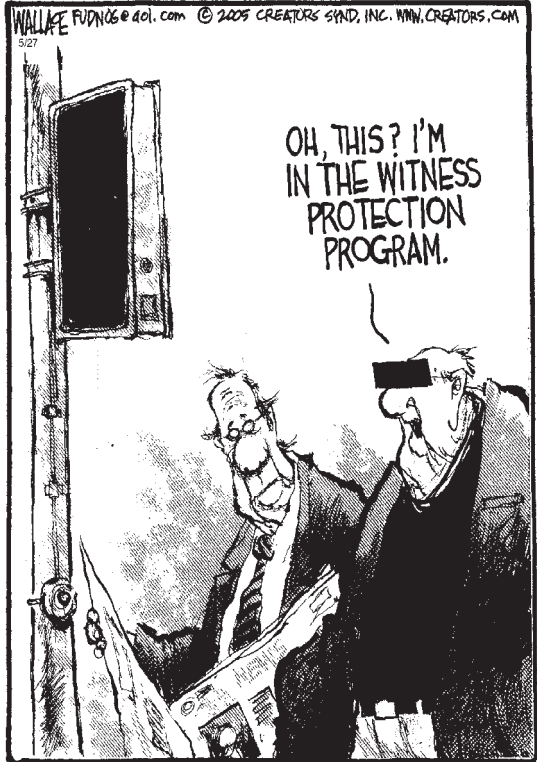


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ACROSS

- 1 Pays to play
- 6 Arrive
- 11 Perch
- 12 Make amends
- 13 Central
- 14 Nation east of Fiji
- 15 Decline
- 16 Score evener
- 18 Outback runner
- 19 Amigo
- 20 Fleet letters
- 21 Demand
- 23 Conviction
- 25 Rockies tree
- 27 Clean the carp
- 28 Censor
- 30 Noah count?
- 33 Pigeon sound
- 34 Potent brew, slangily
- 36 Mischievous one
- 37 When the beach is biggest
- 39 Spot
- 40 Red as —

41 Book

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- 43 Code name?
- 44 Belief
- 45 Mails
- 46 Hinds' mates

DOWN

- 1 Gotten up
- 2 Generic
- 3 Some orchids
- 4 Jargon suffix
- 5 Bra part
- 6 Table type
- 7 Harrow rival

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Yesterday's answer

- 8 Tricky phrase
- 9 Eat
- 10 Ap-proaches
- 17 Tub
- 22 Game piece
- 24 Bolt's partner
- 26 Speaks from memory
- 28 Goof
- 29 Tablet
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- 33 Shop holder
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- 38 Check out
- 42 Author Levin

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Announcements

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GARAGE SALE: 2484 Purdue Ave, Los Angeles. Women's clothes, household stuff, toys. May 28, 29. 8:30 to 2

YARD SALE! First United Methodist Church 1008 11th St, Santa Monica. Sat. June 04, 2005 at 8a.m-1p.m North of Wilshire, South of Montana. Not accepting yard sale donations please! Furniture, Household items, Small appliances, Electronic equipment, and more.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 0805135 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as JNH Designs, 1777 Westwood Blvd., #200, Los Angeles, CA 90024. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Jerod Helt, 1804 Industrial St., Los Angeles, CA 90021 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)4/1/2005. /s/: Jerod Helt This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 4/1/2005. 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 5/6/2005, 5/13/2005, 5/20/2005, 5/27/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 0795292 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as The Abbott Group, 1271 Stoner Ave, #303, Los Angeles, CA 90025. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Loronjac, Inc., 1271 Stoner Ave., #303, Los Angeles, CA 90025 This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)10/8/1996. /s/: Loronjac, Inc., President, Jack Brown This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 10/8/1996. 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 5/6/2005, 5/13/2005, 5/20/2005, 5/27/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 0868103 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Magic Lantern Screening Room, 7966 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : David P. Garonzik, 1229 12th St., #7, Santa Monica, CA 90401 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)3/21/2005. /s/: David P. Garonzik This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 3/21/2005. 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 5/13/2005, 5/20/2005, 5/27/2005, 6/3/2005

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 0878898 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as True Spirit Records, True Talent Worldwide Music, 1245 S. Orange Grove Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90019. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Richard C. Callaway, 1245 S. Orange Grove Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90019 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)4/15/2005. /s/: Richard C. Callaway This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 4/15/2005. 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 5/13/2005, 5/20/2005, 5/27/2005, 6/3/2005

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NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Sealed Bids will be received by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Construction Division, for the repair of an existing outlet structure, construction of 24-inch and 54-inch reinforced concrete pipes, concrete collars attached to concrete piles, and other appurtenant work under Project ID No. FCC0000962, Project No. 248, Montana Avenue Storm Drain Repair, in the City of Santa Monica.

The Bids must be submitted at the Cashier's Office, located on the Mezzanine level, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803-1331, before 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 14, 2005. The Bids will then be publicly opened and read in Conference Room A or at the location posted in the main lobby.

The Work shall be done in accordance with the Plans and Specifications on file and open for inspection at the County Board of Supervisors Executive Office and the Department of Public Works. The Work is estimated to cost between \$300,000 and \$350,000 and shall be completed in 45 working days. The Work requires a Class A or C42 contractor's license. Prebid questions regarding the Plans and Specifications should be directed to Mr. Joseph Li at (626) 458-7839.

The Bids must be submitted on the Proposal forms included in the Bidder's package of the Contract Documents, which may be purchased for \$15, if picked up at the aforementioned Cashier's Office, (626) 458-6959, Monday through Thursday between 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., or for \$19, if mailed, which includes postage and handling.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, or surety bond payable to Los Angeles County in an amount equal to at least 10 percent of the Bid to guarantee that the Bidder will enter into the Contract if it is so awarded.

All persons performing the Work shall be paid not less than the General Prevailing Wage Determination made by the Director of Industrial Relations pursuant to the California Labor Code. Copies of these wage rates are available at the Department of Public Works.

The Bid must provide full disclosure of False Claims Act violations, labor law/payroll violations, debarments, and civil/criminal legal actions as provided for on the forms included as part of the Proposal. Failure to complete these forms may result in a determination that the Bidder is nonresponsive and/or not responsible.

The Contract, if awarded, will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible Bidder; however, the Board of Supervisors reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

A responsible Bidder is a Bidder who has demonstrated the attribute of trustworthiness, as well as quality, fitness, capacity, and experience to satisfactorily perform the Contract. It is the County's policy to conduct business only with responsible contractors.

The successful Bidder will be required to fully comply with all applicable State and Federal reporting requirements relating to employment reporting for its employees and comply with all lawfully served Wage and Earnings Assignment Orders and Notice of Assignment and continue to maintain compliance throughout the duration of the Contract. Failure to comply may be cause for termination of the Contract or initiation of debarment proceedings.

The successful Bidder will be required to submit a faithful performance bond, payment bond, liability insurance, and workers' compensation insurance with the Contract.

As provided for in Section 22300 of the California Public Contract Code, the Contractor may substitute securities for any monies withheld by the Department of Public Works to ensure performance under the Contract or enter into an escrow agreement for payment of such monies to an escrow agent.

Each person by submitting a response to this Notice Inviting Bids certifies that such Bidder and each County lobbyist and County lobbying firm, as defined by Los Angeles County Code Section 2.160.010, retained by the bidder, is in full compliance with Chapter 2.160 of the Los Angeles County Code.

Para mas informacion con relacion a esta noticia, por favor llame a este numero (626) 458-3118. Nuestras horas de oficina son de 7 a.m. a 5 p.m. de Lunes a Jueves.

The County supports and encourages equal opportunity contracting.

By order of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, State of California.

Dated May 17, 2005.

Violet Varona-Lukens
Executive Officer
of the Board of Supervisors

Santa Monica Daily Press
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