

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

■ The first international camel beauty pageant was held in November in the Alxa League area of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous region of China, according to an Associated Press dispatch, featuring nearly 100 dressed-up camels judged (by veteran herders) for the shine of their hair and the uprightness of their humps.

■ The Duke Medical Center Study, announced in December, concluded that doses of nicotine might reduce age-associated memory impairment ("senior moments"), thus adding to the conditions (others: schizophrenia, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder) that can benefit from nicotine.

■ Convicted murderer Robert Ivey continued to tell a court in Montreal, Quebec in December that (contrary to a jury's finding) he is not guilty of killing the 42-year-old victim and that if only he had enough money to challenge the conclusive DNA tests (which showed that his blood was all over the victim's apartment), he would be a free man. A few moments later during his recitation to the court, Ivey asked the judge for credit toward his sentencing because of his conscientiousness in having spent "seven hours" cleaning up the crime scene and the victim's body.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What kind of victory is it when someone is left defeated?"

— Mohatmas Ghandi



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A 'choice' deal: Ranking your candidates at the ballot box

*Study finds voters
not fully weighing
in on local city
council elections*

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Despite high turnout at the polls, Santa Monica isn't rocking the vote.

More than a third of local voters consistently "undervote" in City Council elections, meaning they don't make full use of their ballots, a recent study found.

The biggest discrepancy was in 2000, when at least 43 percent didn't cast votes for all four open council seats. That percentage was only slightly lower in 1998 and 2002, the study shows.

Voters who feel strongly about one candidate may shy away from supporting another because it erodes the chance that their first choice will be elected, said Amy Connolly, co-founder of Santa Monica Ranked Voting, an election reform group that conducted the study.

Connolly, 29, of Santa Monica, formed the grassroots group in January with Julie Waters, who she met while both were graduate students of physics at UC Berkeley. The pair are pushing what's called "choice voting," where voters rank candidates in order of preference. That method is more democratic, they argue.

"Under the current system, if you cast a vote for

your favorite, then a vote for another candidate might actually hurt your favorite," Connolly said. "But if you actually were allowed to rank your candidates first, second and third, then a vote for a second and third candidate wouldn't actually undermine your favorite ...

"In the long haul, we would like Santa Monica to use choice voting for their general elections and in the case where they have a special election, like in 1999 where Mayor (Richard) Bloom was elected, we would advocate that Santa Monica use instant runoff voting ... designed for a single seat," she added.

A commission that reviewed the city charter in 1992 recommended switching to choice voting, and the concept is supported by the local chapter of the League of Women Voters, and City Councilmen Mike Feinstein and Kevin McKeown, Connolly said.

Though choice voting was used in a couple dozen U.S. cities in the early 1990s, it's currently used only by one city — Cambridge, Mass.

Santa Monica's system is called "block voting." Under block voting, each voter is allowed to cast as many votes as there are open seats. The candidates with the most amount of votes win. That method is flawed because it forces voters to vote strategically, the report maintains.

Connolly's group has already attracted a

See BALLOT, page 6

Fallen, but not forgotten



John Wood/Daily Press

Three bicyclists on Memorial Day ride past a Venice mural honoring United States soldiers who have been taken prisoner or gone missing in combat. The 1992 mural, sponsored by the National Veterans Foundation and painted by Peter Stewart, lists alphabetically and by home state the names of 2,273 veterans unaccounted for in Southeast Asia. "You Are Not Forgotten," its banner reads. Stewart, a Vietnam veteran who served with the Air Force, died of HIV shortly after the mural was dedicated, said Shad Meshad, president of the foundation.

Building a future first means laying a foundation

*In less than one year, school
supporters lock in more than
\$75 million for district*

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

While the state of California may have turned its back on schools, the local community continues to rally around them.

For more than two decades, a quiet yet determined nonprofit organization has raised millions of dollars for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. And with the state cutting back its funding even more these days, the local school district relies more on organizations like the Education Foundation than ever before.

The Education Foundation is an organization focused on achievement, dedicated to preserving, supporting and enhancing a comprehensive range of programs in all 16 schools in Santa Monica and Malibu.

Two weeks ago, For The Arts, a campaign of the Education Foundation, held a

three-day event on the Santa Monica Pier. With legendary singer-songwriter Jackson Browne kicking off the weekend with a concert at Santa Monica High School and two days of showcasing students' musical and artistic talents, the event raised \$125,000 specifically for arts programs in the district. For The Arts' goal is to build a \$15 million endowment to support dance, visual arts, music and drama in local schools. Since its inception two years ago, it has raised more than \$1.5 million.

In the past five years, the Education Foundation has raised more than \$1 million for an endowment to support literacy. And every year, the foundation raises about \$100,000 to support programs like arts, science, technology, sports, as well as to enhance existing curricula. The foundation's goal is to ensure an equitable and vibrant education for each child in the district.

The foundation last month awarded grants to teachers representing every school in the district, enabling them to

See FOUNDATION, page 7

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The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★★★-Average
★★-So-so ★-Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Say what you mean, but don't expect others to work with you. Somehow, somewhere, there exists an innate misunderstanding. Check out where it might be. If you can, wait until tomorrow to clear the air. Deal with individuals, not groups. Tonight: Off to the gym or go for a walk.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Investigate what might be happening within a key relationship — business or personal. Someone might not agree, and you have a problem with that. Don't be controlling. Allow others to express their ideas more freely. Confusion involves a boss or work in general. Tonight: Accept an invitation.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Get into a project using all the energy you can muster. Be careful about spending. As you know, there is a tomorrow, and you don't have a money tree in your back yard. Use care around a child or loved one who might need some extra attention. Invite this person to join in. Tonight: Relax.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ The force of your energy sets others back. Others might want to understand more of what is happening within a key relationship than you wish to discuss or hear about. Listen to feedback without growling and carrying on — OK? Tonight: Romp away.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Others confuse you or might handle a situation differently from how you would. You might not be getting a clear perspective, either. Use caution with a personal matter, especially if it involves property or your home. Tonight: Order in.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Visualize and discuss what's on your mind. A friend might be controversial, but he or she has the right answers. Listen, but don't feel that you need to do anything immediately. If you're feeling confused, know that an answer will be forthcoming. Tonight: Out and about.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Expenses could worry you. Realize that you don't have a money tree in your back yard. Let others understand that nothing, even your funds, is endless. Let go of a disagreement, for now. Just don't risk or make commitments. Tonight: Balance your checkbook.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your smile might confuse some, but you actually have an excellent sense of direction. Someone could challenge you because he or she simply doesn't grasp a concept. Find experts. Listen to yourself. Tonight: What would make you happy?



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★ If you don't feel 100 percent sure of yourself, don't take action; instead, hang back. A partner or associate could be frustrated, but you can and will handle it. Don't let confusion get to you. Take your time. Tonight: Play ostrich.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Reach out for others and make what you want happen. A meeting could prove to be instrumental in getting what you want. You find others unusually assertive. Get ready for a round of this behavior. You cannot change anyone. Tonight: Do something you love with your friends.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You're in a take-charge mode right now. Expect some rebellion here and there. Others might not agree with your actions, and they let you know it. Use your high physical energy to achieve your desires. You even surprise yourself with what you accomplish. Tonight: Out late.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ How you visualize a situation and what actually goes down could be two separate issues. Others complicate matters. Try to distinguish the trees from the forest, even if others cannot. An argument with a new friend or loved one could end up in a creative brainstorming session. Tonight: Check out a movie.

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LOCAL



Photo courtesy

A rendering of what a new hotel will look like on downtown LA's Skid Row, designed by a local architecture firm.

Homeless haven to be built on LA's Skid Row

Local architectural firm designer of new hotel

By Daily Press staff

A Santa Monica architecture firm is putting a touch of class onto Skid Row in downtown LA with a new hotel for the homeless.

Killefer Flammang Architects has designed a contemporary-styled 80-unit hotel to serve homeless and low-income residents. Developed by the non-profit, SRO Housing Corporation, the Yankee Hotel, 501 Seventh St., will serve those who earn less than 50 percent of the Los Angeles County median income.

Primarily conceived for the homeless, "The Yankee SRO (single room occupancy) facility will provide an ambiance to foster hope and self pride," said executive director Anita Nelson, whose firm has developed 22 SRO projects, housing some 1,600 residents.

"In the past 20 years, we have learned that clean, decent and affordable housing has a pronounced salutary impact on those who are without hope and often motivates them to overcome adversity," Nelson added.

SRO tenants come from diverse backgrounds, she points out, adding that many are college graduates who, somehow, get hooked on drugs and/or alcohol and suddenly find themselves on the streets.

One tenant, a former set designer and high school teacher, after a series of setbacks culminating in an arrest for burglary, took up residence in an SRO Housing residence while attending an out-patient drug treatment program.

Today, he works as an associate producer for an independent film company.

In addition to the support services the organization offers — job training, health

screenings, money management and recreational activities — its forthcoming Yankee Hotel will incorporate several new amenities.

Besides providing shelter, explains architect Wade Killefer, the Yankee Hotel will have a contemporary street presence, and its apartments and common areas will be grouped around a landscaped courtyard to provide a tranquil setting in contrast to the industrial buildings which surround the complex. And with some 445 square feet per unit, Yankee units also will be larger than most SRO dwellings.

Moreover, says Killefer, whose firm has designed some 2,000 units of low income multi-family and SRO dwellings, as well as some 2,400 adaptive reuse loft apartments downtown, the construction cost of \$6.7 million will be less than \$100 per square foot.

The exterior of the four-level building — highlighted by glass block infill and balconies and awnings to enliven street elevations — incorporates the brick façade of the original building, said Killefer, a recipient of the LINC Award for distinguished service to the low-income housing community.

A variety of sources provide funding for its projects: The city's Community Redevelopment Agency, HUD, the California Department of Housing and Community Development, the Los Angeles Community Development Department, Federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and private investors, officials said.

Founded in 1984, SRO Housing is the largest provider of affordable single room occupancy housing in the western United States. Its major venue of operations is the city's central city east/Skid Row neighborhood, which encompasses about 50 square blocks between Third and Seventh, and Main and Alameda streets.



SURF REPORT

Look for our mix of NW wind swell and S swell (180-200) to fade further. Most spots drop into the knee-waist high range, while best combo breaks see some chest-high sets. Expect 2-3', knee- to waist-high and fair conditions.

Outlook: Look for the small surf to continue into Wednesday morning.

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

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HIGH TIDES

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SATURDAY	12:35	1.5	12:07	0.8	6:07	3.7	6:45	5.2
SUNDAY	1:21	0.7	12:46	1.0	7:12	3.8	7:14	5.7
MONDAY	2:05	-0.1	1:24	1.3	8:12	3.9	7:48	6.2
TUESDAY	2:50	-0.9	2:04	1.5	9:08	3.9	8:25	6.7
WEDNESDAY	3:37	-1.4	2:45	1.8	10:04	3.9	9:06	6.9
THURSDAY	4:26	-1.7	3:29	2.0	11:00	3.8	9:50	6.9
FRIDAY	5:17	-1.8	4:17	2.3	12:00	3.8	10:38	6.8

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The Q-Line

While pouring over the upcoming year's \$377 million budget, the Santa Monica City Council this week noticed a key expense missing: The living wage.

Council members want to mandate that City Hall workers make a minimum of \$11.50 an hour, and that would include all contractors who have \$25,000 projects or more with the city. The additional cost to City Hall would surpass \$1 million.

City officials already have cut \$2 million from the budget and found ways to increase revenues to close a \$4 million budget short-

fall. Belt tightening is expected for a couple of more years.

So, this week Q-Line wants to know, "Do you think City Hall should pursue a living wage for its employees despite its budget crunch? Why or why not?"

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

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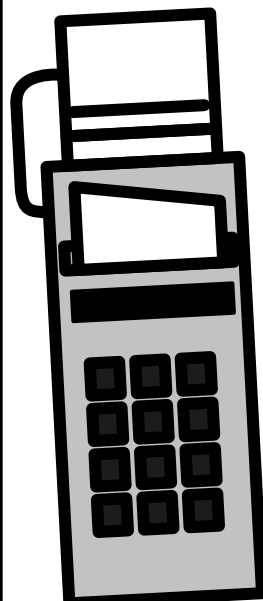


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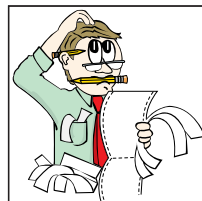
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OPINION

War is never black and white, and often necessary



DOSE OF REALITY

BY MATTHEW GLASSER

While many of you spent Monday celebrating your day off with beer and barbecue, I actually took some time to consider the meaning of Memorial Day.

While our soldiers fight a war in Iraq, many of us back home continue to fight about the morality and necessity of this war.

Take a walk on the Third Street Promenade and you're bound to see a handful of anti-war/anti-President Bush protesters. And then there's the table of the anti-everything bumper stickers. I spent some time looking at that table and I noticed something interesting. There were tons of anti-war, anti-bush, anti-Republican, and peace now bumper stickers. But I didn't see a single anti-torture, rape, mass murder, or totalitarianism one. So I guess Saddam Hussein is off the hook for his sins according to the people who buy these stickers.

And that's my biggest problem with most of the "I don't believe in war under any circumstances" folks. They believe that war is wrong under any circumstances. And I have thousands of years of history to dispute the belief that violence isn't ever necessary.

Did we have a good reason to go to war in Iraq? Absolutely. And the reason didn't have anything to do with weapons of mass destruction. Despite what we tell our children, monsters do exist. They are sociopaths without morality and they will kill, torture and rape without remorse. These people exist and you can't negotiate, reason, or compromise with them. They are without consciences and they derive pleasure in inflicting pain and suffering. And in some cases, these monsters are the leaders of countries.

The worst serial killers in America killed dozens of people. Saddam Hussein has been accused of killing, torturing and raping millions of people. He wasn't going to stop until someone stopped him. He has a history of using chemical weapons on his people. And while it's possible that he didn't have WMDs at his finger tips, don't think for a moment that he wouldn't jump at the opportunity to use them.

As I see it, there were two good reasons for going to war with Iraq. I believe there are certain universal principals that we all must follow. You do not murder, torture and rape under any circumstances. And no, just in case you were wondering, I don't consider armed combat in defense of these principals to be murder. Certain things are worth fighting for, and there is difference between killing and murder in these cases. Saddam wasn't going to stop his campaign of terror until someone stood up to him. For that, I am proud that we did.

As Americans, we are one of the few countries that live under a Bill of Rights. Our democracy teaches us about the concept of "live and let live." Therefore we have an obligation to remember that lesson and liberate those who are being oppressed by tyrants like Saddam.

I know what you are going to say next. Where does it end? It doesn't. The best thing the world could do is create an international military force to rid the world of all the Saddam Husseins. They don't have to replace these dictators with an American style government. Let the people of that country decide on the form of the government. But they do have to wipe out every head of state that authorizes and condones the murder, torture and rape men, women and children.

This brings me back to the "activists" that I always seem to run into on the Promenade. Some people call these anti-war folks liberals or Democrats. But I think that's being unfair to the left. These people are so far left that they've almost come full circle. You know the types I am talking about. These are folks who compare President Bush to Hitler, or claim that he is worse than Saddam Hussein. They are the ones that believe we deserved what happened on 9-11 because of our foreign policy. In fact, some of them have such contempt for our country that they compare our fighting men and women to terrorists.

And they wonder why they are so out of touch with the majority of the population — the United States population. I am sure many of them would fit right in in France. I guess the people who don't believe that violence and war are ever necessary never spent much time studying history.

I am sure Hitler would have eventually changed his mind about European domination and returned to Germany. And I bet the survivors of Hitler's death camps would have preferred to negotiate for their release rather than being liberated by Allied Forces.

Then there is Joseph Stalin. He murdered millions of his fellow Russians during decades of terror. Do you think we could have negotiated with him to become a nicer, kinder dictator? Men like Stalin only understand violence and only force will remove them from power.

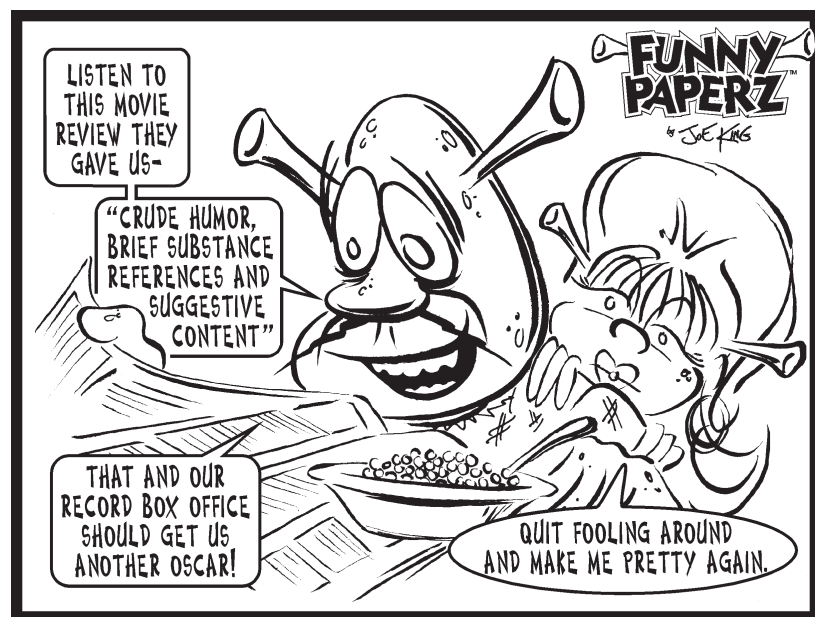
Take a stroll through history and you'll meet hundreds of monsters who should have and could have been removed from the planet. I am sure you'll recognize a few of these notorious names: Mao Tze Dong (China, 1966-69), 11,000,000 million murdered. Hideki Tojo (Japan, 1941-44), 5,000,000 civilians murdered. Pol Pot (Cambodia, 1975-79), 1,700,000 murdered. Kim Il Sung (North Korea, 1948-94), 1,600,000 murdered. Menghitsu (Ethiopia, 1975-78), 1,500,000 murdered and starved to death. Ismail Enver (Turkey, 1915), 1,200,000 murdered.

Does anyone think we should have negotiated with these folks? We should have forcefully removed them from office, strung them up by their toes, and let the families of their victims use them as a piñata. And because the world did not stand up to these lunatics, millions upon millions of innocent people were tortured and murdered. When will it end? When will the world finally stand up to these kinds of sociopathic bullies?

Even the bible teaches us that violence is sometimes necessary when dealing with totalitarian rulers. If you know the story of Passover and Pharaoh, you understand what I mean. Moses asked Pharaoh to free the Jewish slaves. Pharaoh declined and was inflicted with 10 plagues. Blood, frogs, lice, wild animals, cattle disease, skin disease (boils), hail, locusts, and darkness didn't persuade Pharaoh to free the slaves. It took the 10th plague — the slaying of the first born son — to convince him. He only did the right thing when confronted with force and violence.

That's the language that the Saddam Husseins of the world speak. We did the world a great favor by removing him from power. If you think the war in Iraq is unjust and immoral, what do you call turning your back on people who are being brutalized by their so-called leaders? War is never black and white. And it's ignorant to think that talk will change the minds of people who lack a conscience. If you want to protest something, protest the rest of the world for not acting sooner and thank our soldiers for having the courage to do what's right.

(Matthew Glasser can be reached by e-mail at mediamattthew@yahoo.com).



MAY IS NATIONAL CARTOONISTS MONTH!

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Street kid defends lifestyle

Editor:

I am going to give a "little" response/retort to a Mr. Mike Kirwan (SMDP, May 27, page 4).

Mr. Kirwan, it seems your intelligence precedes you, as I pointedly would expect from a greedy businessman's point of view. Judging (like a lot of you "citizens" seem to do) from what you wrote in your letter to the editor, it would seem to me that you are not originally from California. More like ... let me guess, either New York or the Boston area.

Assuming I'm right, let me take the stereotypical approach, to follow your example. You seem to me to be the type of person that would steal from your own mother just to secure a small advancement in your financial future.

I would also like to comment that (and I'm not making any kind of threat to you or your person) you seem to be the type of person that make kids like me snap and strike out in high school.

As for your "boo hoo" comments, you obviously did not read between the lines of what was "quote and wrote" in the issue of the interview done on myself. I never once said I was lazy or did not want to work, and I most certainly did not say I didn't want a boring or repetitive job.

As for "American Idol," I don't want to be remembered as someone who filled your pockets by demeaning myself by being on such a lame show like that ... Also, as I said, I play keyboards — not sing.

Now to end my wasted energy on a response as such, I would like to thank the citizens of Santa Monica for taking the time to hear me out, and apologize at the same time for having to put up with such a rude person as Mr. Mike Kirwan of Venice.

As for the other responses following my interview ... they weren't even worth responding to.

CANCER ALUCARD
Santa Monica

Sticking up for the street life

Editor:

(This letter was originally addressed to SMDP reader Mike Kirwan by Debbie Barron, the fiancé of Cancer Alucard, who was profiled in the SMDP on May 24, page 1.)

You don't know anything.

Why are you doubting someone on the streets? First of all you don't know him and second you are scared. Everybody has some kind of drug problem. I've lived in a house all of my life until a month and a half ago. It's hard to live out on the streets. And it's very hard to find a job when you are on the streets. When you are looking for a job you need an address and a phone number so they can contact you. I think it is very rude of people like you to automatically judge other people just because they are different than you.

Also, if you want you can always offer us homeless people a job instead of looking at us like nothing. Next time reread what you read instead of judging what you read the first time. Plus, there was also a lot of the article that the editor left out that was said in the interview.

DEBBIE BARRON
Santa Monica

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 sack@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.

OPINION



Lawyers, realtors, therapists underpaid by clients



LEGAL VIEWS & NEWS

BY DAVID PISSARRA

Your lawyer is rich. Really rich. So rich that you really shouldn't even have to pay him for the work he did for you, which was not all that much, and he did a bad job that took too long.

Your therapist is rich. Really rich. So rich that you really shouldn't even have to pay her for her time. After all, she just listens to you and you would have gotten along better without her.

Your real estate agent is rich. Really rich. So rich that you really shouldn't have to pay him for listing property, holding open houses and fielding calls. Besides, this is a hot market and you could have sold your home without him.

These professionals are routinely abused by their clients. Professionals are in the unique position of having to provide services that once rendered, are minimized by the client. There is a very good reason for this.

As a lawyer I have certain knowledge. I know how things work, how to get them done, what to avoid. I have tricks of the trade that turn my clients' goals into reality.

Much like the wizard Merlin, a lawyer

drafts a piece of paper, sends it to the other side, files it with the court, and poof, something happens. To the client, this is all a mystery. They're not really sure how it all works and that is the point. They don't know how it works. But they are sure of one thing: Afterwards, it cost too much and wasn't worth the price.

I have a sign in my office that reads, "The value of the service decreases exponentially once rendered." The sign is not for my clients, but for me. It reminds me that the client who is begging me to help them, and to "please, Please, PLEASE take a payment plan on their case," will, upon close of the matter, completely and utterly forget the state they are in right now. The more desperate they are today is precisely how ungrateful they will be in a few months when I have resolved their situation and the bill comes due.

As a therapist, a person sits and listens. They listen intently for signs and signals of what are the underlying causes and conditions. A good therapist can diagnose a person in a few minutes, but it could take years to resolve the root problems. It took years of study and training to know what to look for, but to the patient, it seems like the therapist is just sipping tea and nodding their head. Then when they are told what the problem really is, it resonates and seems so obvious that of course the therapist is overcharging anyone who could see the problem. Except the patient, of course.

This is why attorneys work on retainers and real estate agents get paid out of escrow.

Not all clients are ungrateful. In fact, most clients are very good about paying their bills and are happy with your work, even if they lost their case.

Just about every realtor I know has a story of a seller who is resentful and bitter about paying the commission. This kind of seller always forgets about the commissions until escrow, then they are claiming that the agent didn't really do all that much and she wasn't worth the 3 percent, or he didn't hold enough open houses, or failed to find a better buyer. The list is endless, but the fact is the seller is just being greedy. They don't want to give up "their" money.

Of course that same seller wouldn't have been caught dead sitting at an open house on a weekend. And they don't have the ability to list on the Multiple Listing Service, and wouldn't pay for an ad in the paper. But they are sure that the real estate agent should have done more.

I imagine that therapists get the shortest end of the stick the most. Because most people who go to a therapist don't see results immediately, they tend to believe that there was little work done. This is not really true. For any lasting change to take effect in someone's life, it is a slow and gradual process and the therapist is there to facilitate that change — to help with the backsliding and to foster a safe environment for the change.

The patient will believe that they did it all on their own, which is really just their way of weaseling out of paying their bill and justifying the guilt they feel.

The weaseling client is everywhere. You can tell who they are because they come into your office all nice and cheerful, carrying a picture of their new baby, telling you what a great guy you are, and you're always so nice. That's the key word. It's the tip-off of trouble. When a client calls you "nice," get ready because the next words out of their mouth will be, "About your bill, I just don't feel ..."

This is the abuse. This is why attorneys demand large retainers upfront. It's not your fault, but the guy who just left, the one who begged your lawyer for help, then bailed on the fees. He's to blame. The woman who pleaded with your lawyer to take his fees out of escrow, then the sale fell through, and she doesn't want to pay him. Because of her, you have to come up with a big retainer.

Ask a lawyer how much money he is owed or has written off. Ask a real estate agent how many times he's had to fight for his money. But please leave the therapists alone, they have enough pain already.

(David Pissarra is a business development lawyer in the Santa Monica firm of Pissarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpissarra@pissarra.com).

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LOCAL

Cambridge voters only ones to rank candidates

BALLOT, from page 1

following, including representatives from neighborhood groups, City Hall officials and leaders from various nonprofit organizations.

The fledgling group has met monthly in a coffee shop on Montana Avenue. Connolly said there are about 23 people actively involved online, and a handful show up at meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for the evening of June 8 in a coffee shop at Wilshire Boulevard and 11th Street.

"We're interested in getting to be more involved with (the business community), but we haven't reached out to them yet. We haven't been able to ... although I think they would be interested in this idea, because it might bring more representation to them," Connolly said.

The group has no offices and no fund-

ing. Connolly and Waters both work other jobs — Connolly at UCLA, studying high energy neutrinos in Antarctic ice. Waters works with a science professor.

The impetus for Santa Monica Ranked Voting was the 2000 presidential election, when a lot of problems with the election system became apparent. Choice voting, Connolly said, would allow people to vote for third-party candidates without hesitation, as well as foster more positive campaigning and hopefully lead to a majority of voters electing the next president.

"Right after the 2000 elections I decided to do something," Connolly said. "One of the things that I thought was important but was not well publicized was the problem with the voting system itself — that people were afraid to vote their conscious because that ultimately could lead to a candidate being elected that they didn't support."

'Undervoted'

Santa Monica voters consistently vote for fewer City Council seats than are available. Here is a breakdown by year of election and votes cast.

YEAR	SEATS OPEN	BALLOTS CAST	POSSIBLE VOTES	VOTES CAST
1998	3	33,026	99,081	74,654
2000	4	42,659	170,636	115,800
2003	3	30,853	92,559	70,777

Source: Santa Monica Ranked Voting

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LOCAL



Expect to see more canvassing from school supporters

FOUNDATION, from page 1

enrich existing programs and create new ones for their students for next year. The grants, which total more than \$32,000 annually, are funded through a raffle every spring, said Linda Gross, the foundation's executive director.

The foundation also distributes \$50,000 every year to update library materials at all the district's schools and to promote literacy-based activities. Another program, the "Bells of Books of Knowledge," is a \$2 million campaign to support literacy, science, technology and math in all of the schools. And a summer school program run by the foundation and the PTA Council of Santa Monica-Malibu, will begin June 28.

BUILDING A FOUNDATION

The Education Foundation was created in 1982 by Betty Denitz, who used to teach in the district. Aware that her city, Beverly Hills, had its own foundation, she and her husband helped create one for Santa Monica and Malibu.

It was at a time when the effects of Proposition 13 were being felt — money to local schools was being cut dramatically all over the state, said local architect Ralph Mechur, a staunch supporter of schools and who is on the foundation's board of directors.

"Over time, all curriculum was cut," he said. "The Education Foundation was started as a way to supplement programs."

By the 1990s, it was evident that the schools were going to be in a world of hurt for many years to come unless something was done on a local level.

"This community and the state came out of the shock of Prop. 13 and then realized that the state would not be in a position to fund education," Mechur said, adding it was going to take between \$20 and \$30 million to bring schools back to a normal level in terms of programs and curriculum.

Since then, a broad-based group of community activists, many of whom are parents, have rallied to raise money. They successfully campaigned to get Measure S passed — a parcel tax that generates roughly \$6.5 million annually for the local school district through a flat \$225 fee on each of the 32,400-plus pieces of property in Santa Monica and Malibu. The tax, passed last June, will expire in six years.

Mechur helped spearhead that campaign, as well as the most recent one levied by a large group of school activists, "Community for Excellent Public Schools," which essentially forced City Hall to give at least \$6 million annually to schools for the next five years.

"It's a core group of education activists who realize this all ties together," Mechur said. "It's the realization that we have to do it ourselves if we want our education to be what we want it to be."

"We asked the community to reach into its own pocket," he added.

And it has reached deep. Between the parcel tax and an increased financial commitment from City Hall, the school district will get \$75 million in the next six years. But it's still not enough.

"Believe it or not, with all the money raised, it really only allows (the district) to maintain the programs," Mechur said.

SANTA MONICA STANDS ALONE

There are more than 400 education foundations throughout California, and thousands throughout the country. But few of them have endowments. Schools superintendent John Deasy, who came from Rhode Island as an educator, said he's never seen anything like what the Santa Monica and Malibu communities do.

He pointed out that the Education Foundation supports programs that the state will never fund, and is focused on teacher development. The foundation also

gives to every school, eliminating equity issues where one school may benefit more because of its ability to fundraise in an affluent part of the city. And For The Arts is the type of endowment effort where the money will always be there, Deasy added.

"The Education Foundation is remarkable," he said. "Nothing even comes close to this."

In its early days, the foundation began raising money the traditional ways — through events like golf tournaments, dances and other fundraisers. Today's foundation does that as well, but also has moved on to direct solicitation to reach directly into people's pocketbooks.

"Five or seven years ago, without any professional help, we embarked on an endowment for literacy and raised \$1 million," Gross said, adding she and her counterparts capitalized on their longtime relationships with community members, local businesses and parents to fundraise.

"Five of us raised it," Gross said.

Direct solicitation is the focus for For The Arts, as well. Started by local parents, Greg and Carol Coote, they reached out to community members to donate. It was no small feat — they helped raise \$1.5 million during a recession.

"They come from an entertainment industry background and they said to us, 'we can do this,'" Gross said.

It was at that point that "the foundation got smart," according to Gross, and asked City Hall to help in the campaign. City officials agreed to give \$225,000 toward the effort.

"We hired a campaign consultant and

he really broke apart how to run a campaign," Gross said.

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Developing campaigns should be the crux of future fundraising for the foundation, Mechur added.

The Education Foundation's goal now is to expand its reach to involve the entire community — even residents who don't have children. Only between 15 and 18 percent of Santa Monica's population has children. But as Mechur points out, a strong school district means a strong community, including rising property values.

Fundraising for schools should be comprehensive, meaning sports teams shouldn't have to hold car washes to pay for their uniforms.

"What we are trying to do is build a consensus that we can do more," Mechur said. "Asking the same corner store for money is not as effective."

And the key to success for any organization is to raise its profile and garner more support, Gross said. That means more community partners who can donate their time, resources and money to schools. The foundation needs more people to directly solicit donations, as well as a person who is able to write grants.

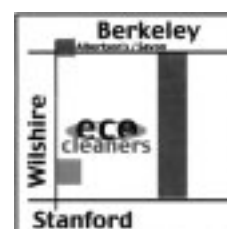
"We need to grow and become more community oriented," she said. "My goal is that people in the community become so familiar with the Education Foundation that they think of it immediately ... You are only as successful as the people in the organization."

THIS WASN'T ON THE DUMMY??!?!?



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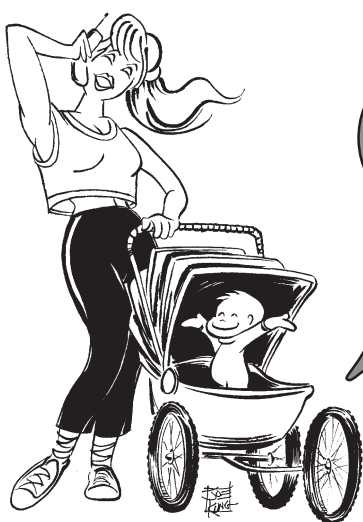
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How Much Is Enough?

By Jean Illsley Clarke, Ph.D.

The difference between too little and enough is obvious. Too little hurts. Enough feels satisfying. More than enough can be a feast, and a feast is an experience of abundance. But if there is always more than enough, the feast becomes meaningless. It becomes too much or overindulgence.

So, how do we learn about how much is enough? I never saw a college class labeled "Enough 101." Or a high school option (and it would be an option, wouldn't it?) called "Learn About Enough." We didn't have Tuesday morning modules on "Enough" in grade school. So, how do we learn?

Enough is one of those concepts that is taught informally, when the occasion arises, often outside of awareness. Ask 10 different people how they learned about enough and you will probably get nine blank stares and one story about the discomfort of a time when having had way too much

was distressing.

So, there it is. We picked up the concept of enough here and there along life's journey. But not all of us got it. Adults who had been overindulged as children were surveyed in the three studies. Their most frequent complaint about being overindulged was not knowing what was enough. They reported not knowing what was enough food, clothing, recreation, cars, work, alcohol, excitement, sleep, money, sex, amounts to put in recipes, you name it. Some said, "There were too many things but not enough love."

This is a very debilitating situation. One interviewee stated plaintively that she hopes before she goes to her grave that she has one afternoon when she knows what is enough of just one thing. Anything. This is not the impact parents plan to have on their children's lives. But it is a result of having had too much.

In part, the concept of enough is learned, and one that parents teach as children grow. At times, it is easy to let a child have too much in order to avoid dealing with the child's frustration. But teach about enough we must. So, in the car on the way to the toy store we say, "You may choose one toy today. I will decide if the price is right and if you may have it." When our child begs for another, we say matter-of-factly, "You already have your toy. That is enough. If you continue to beg we will put this one back." And if that happens, we carry through. Lucky is the child whose parent is not swayed by tears, begging, pouting, or shouting.

Sometimes this is hard for parents to do. The media and other people are constantly

telling your child she will be more OK if she has more and new things. But parents need to be in charge of the family. If it's hard for you, you can practice the following:

■ In front of a mirror, practice saying "no" without looking mad or scared or guilty. Find a firm look, not critical, but with no smile or laughter. Smiles encourage children to continue misbehaving.

■ Still in front of the mirror, practice saying, "That is all," and "You have had enough for now."

■ March around the house saying, "I am the parent." Children do not need parents who are friends, they need parents who are friendly. Say, "I am more powerful than the media. I am firmly in charge. I am teaching my child about enough."

■ Make lists of things your child wants or you want to give and then you decide what is too little, enough, abundance, or too much. Give enough always in so far as you can, give abundance sometimes. Remember that too much is not better than abundance. It is worse. Much worse.

(Jean Illsley Clarke Ph.D., Connie Dawson Ph.D., and David J. Bredehoft Ph.D. are co-authors of "How Much is Enough? Everything You Need to Know to Steer Clear of Overindulgence and Raise Likeable, Responsible, and Respectful Children." Jean can be reached at jiconsults@aol.com. To read more about overindulgence go to www.overindulgence.info).

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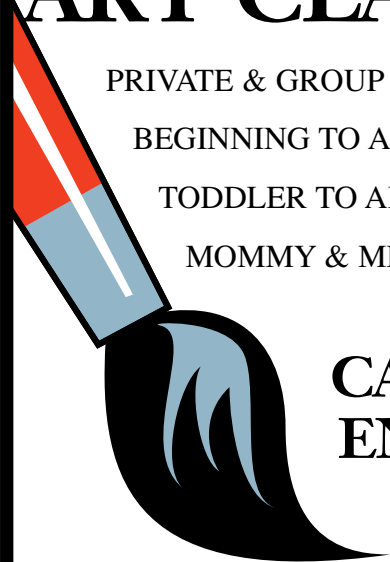
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SPECIAL EVENTS

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

14TH Annual Children's Nature Institute - KID'S NATURE FESTIVAL
10:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Temescal Gateway Park, 15601 Sunset Blvd, Pacific Palisades
A day to play and learn about nature for babies to 8-year-olds and their families. Over 30 Activity Booths, Silent Auction, Nature Store, Costumes and more!
Visit www.childrensnatureinstitute.org or call 998-1151 for more info.

The YWCA is currently accepting registration for a variety of summer programs for women and children including Mommy and Me, Pilates, dance, crafts, tumbling and more. Pick up a brochure for more info. 2019 14th St., 452-3881

SUMMER CAMPS, SWIM and COMMUNITY CLASSES offered by the City of Santa Monica. The city provides children of all ages with a variety of recreation enrichment activities including camps, sports, dancing, crafts and yoga. For details pick-up a brochure at Joslyn or Reed Park, or call 458-2239.

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms sponsored by:

"Saved!" showing June 1.
11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms

Storytelling

MAIN LIBRARY

Toddler Storytime at Reed Park; 10:00 & 10:30 a.m. Stories for two year olds with adult.

Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.

Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., April 27 – June 1. Six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds with adult.

Lap Time – 11:00 a.m., April 27 – June 1. Six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant and Family Support Programs.

Twilight Story Time -7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.

Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.

Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.

Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 24-36 month olds with adult. Register now for the next session beginning June 8th.

Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis
Themes change weekly; for ages infant to 3.

11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, www.storyopolis.com
Barnes and Noble at the Grove
Storytime for ages 2 – 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA

10:00 – 11:00 a.m and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Thursday nights 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.

Itsy-Bitsy Yoga at Ocean Oasis Day Spa, 1333 Ocean Ave.

Tots (crawling to 24 months) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.; Babies (6 wks. to pre-crawling) – 11:30 – 12:30 a.m. On-going 6-week series; \$120. Pre-register at 458-8190; visit www.khefri.net for more info or contact khefri@earthlink.net.

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381 – Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) – 10 – 11 a.m.; Pre-natal yoga – 7- 8:15 p.m.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Mommy Care – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd, at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

The Walking Stick Coffee Lounge – 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052 10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4 at this neighborhood coffee shop.

Fairview Branch Library

2101 OCEAN PARK BLVD – 310-450-0443.

Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m., April 28 – June 2; six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult.

Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.

Lap Time - 10:00 & 10:30 a.m., next session begins June 2; for children ages 0-2.

Toddler Story Time – 11:15 a.m., next session begins June 2; for 2 year olds.

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. –392-3804.

Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144

Border's, Westwood – 11am – 310-475-3444.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381 – Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) – 10 – 11 a.m.; (infants only) – 1 – 2 p.m.. Pre-natal yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15

Ocean Oasis Day Spa, 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN – 408-1717

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Other

Puppetolio – 1:00 p.m., 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

THURSDAY

Storytelling

Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590 10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.

MAIN LIBRARY – REED PARK

Toddler Storytime at Reed Park; 10:00 a.m. for 2 year olds.

Preschool Story Time at Reed Park; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.

FAIRVIEW BRANCH LIBRARY

2101 OCEAN PARK BLVD – 310-450-0443.

Toddler Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; April 29 – June 3; for ages 2 –3.

La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.

MONTANA AVENUE BRANCH LIBRARY
1704 MONTANA AVE – 310-829-7081.

Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., next session begins June 3; for 2 year olds.

Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m.; for 3-5 year olds.

OCEAN PARK BRANCH LIBRARY

2601 MAIN ST. – 310-392-3804.

Lap Time – 9:20 & 10:20 a.m., May 6 – June 10. 6-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant and Family Support Program.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA
7:30 – 8:30 p.m.; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Tuesdays at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381 – Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) – 10 – 11 a.m.; Pre-natal yoga – 7- 8:15 p.m.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Mommy Care – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd, at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista – meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call 310-390-2529 for info. (next meeting May 14)

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381 – Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) – 10 – 11 a.m.; (infants only) – 1 – 2 p.m.. Pre-natal yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Ocean Oasis Day Spa, 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness – noon – 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN – 408-1717

Prenatal Breath and Movement – a Continuum Movement and Yoga-based program designed to support women through various sound and movement explorations that celebrate pregnancy and labor as powerful rites of passage. 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. With Deborah Raoult at the Continuum Studio, 1629 18th St., #7. For more info call 625-3739, www.openskymovement.com. \$108 for a six-week session.

SATURDAY

Storytelling

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade

– Kid's Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144.

Children's Book World – 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., 310-559-BOOK.

Yoga & Exercise

Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. 1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonica-yoga.com

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381; Prenatal yoga – 9:15 – 10:45 a.m., \$13

Mommy Care – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd, at the Dance Factory, West LA, 394-6711; Pregnancy Exercise – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Ocean Oasis Day Spa, 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness – noon – 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN – 408-1717

Other

Snowwhite, a brand new musical for kids of all ages, at the Santa Monica Playhouse

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru Sept. 26, \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 1 for reservations, www.santamonica-playhouse.com

Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

Magiopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime

Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.

Breastfeeding

Working Mother's Support Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd. - 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., \$12 fee, led by Ilka Sternberger, certified lactation educator. Call 826-5774 for more info.

SUNDAY

Snowwhite, a brand new musical for kids of all ages, at the Santa Monica Playhouse

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru Sept. 26, \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 1 for reservations, www.santamonica-playhouse.com

Main Street Farmer's Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.

Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

Magiopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, 9:30 a.m., Jan. 5 – June 4 (no class May 31). Ages 0-24 months with adult in conjunction with the Infant and Family Support program of SMMUSD.

"Family Connections" – 10:00 a.m., immediately following Lap Time - a series of discussions related to early childhood development and growth. Children welcome, free.

OCEAN PARK BRANCH LIBRARY

2601 MAIN STREET, 310-392-3804.

"Spanish for Little Ones", 11:15 a.m., call for next session dates.

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774 - no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15

Yoga Garden, - Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal – 6:30 p.m., 310-450-0133. www.yogagardenstudios.com

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381 – Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) – 10 – 11 a.m.; (infants only) – 1 – 2 p.m.. Pre-natal yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Ocean Oasis Day Spa, 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness – noon – 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN – 408-1717



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STATE

Wi-Fi popularity breeds huge security hole at home

BY MATTHEW FORDAHL

AP Technology Writer

SAN JOSE — With a laptop perched in the passenger seat of his Toyota 4Runner and a special antenna on the roof, Mike Outmesguine ventured off to sniff out wireless networks between Los Angeles and San Francisco. He got a big whiff of insecurity.

While his 800-mile drive confirmed that the number of wireless networks is growing explosively, he also found that only a third used basic encryption — a key security measure. In fact, in nearly 40 percent of the networks not a single change had been made to the gear's wide-open default settings.

"They took it out of the box, powered it up, and it worked. And they left it alone," said Outmesguine, who owns a technical services company. He frequently goes out on such "wardrives" in search of insecure networks. And while Outmesguine says he doesn't try to break in, others aren't so benign.

While Wi-Fi is hot, security is not.

Even the makers of Wi-Fi routers, access points and other gadgets privately say that as many as 80 percent of home users don't bother to enable basic encryption or other protections against connection theft, eavesdropping and network invasion.

Experts say that while Wi-Fi hardware makers have made initial setup easy, the enabling of security is anything but. Meanwhile, average users are no longer tech savvy. The gadgets are mainstream,

appearing on the shelves of Wal-Mart and other mass retailers.

During his wardrive, Outmesguine counted 3,600 hot spots, compared with 100 on the same route in 2000. Worldwide, makers of Wi-Fi gear for homes and small offices posted sales of more than \$1.3 billion in 2003, a 43 percent jump over 2002, according to Synergy Research Group.

The result? A lot of wide-open networks that offer anyone within range of the Wi-Fi signal free access to a high-speed Internet connection. Any hacking is unlikely to be noticed, while illegal activity would be traceable only to the name on the Internet account.

To make matters worse, users who don't secure their networks are often the very people who don't keep their computers up to date with the latest security patches and antivirus software.

"What we probably really have here is a whole bunch of very vulnerable systems exposed to attack or infection over a network that has no access control," said Al Potter, manager of technical services at the security firm TruSecure's ICSA Labs.

Companies that sell Wi-Fi products want their hardware to be simple and interoperable, especially as more than just computers — wireless TV monitors, digital music receivers, DVD players and game consoles, for example — are wirelessly connecting to home networks.

At the same time, they want to keep support calls and returns low, so they turn off security by default.

"We've been putting friendly front

ends in front of technology for a long time," said Peter Evans, vice president of business development at AirDefense Inc., a wireless security firm. "I'm not sure why the industry has not yet made those tools much easier to use."

Yet even knowledgeable consumers find it frustrating to set up security. It can involve punching in dozens of characters as the passphrase for each connected device, and navigating screens filled with a dizzying set of acronyms for encryption and authentication.

Typically, there isn't much explanation about what they are and why they're needed.

Problems grow when consumers try to mix a laptop wireless card from one vendor with a Wi-Fi access point from another. With security turned off, everything works fine. With basic encryption turned on, the headaches begin.

Because his Linksys access point and Gateway notebook used different techniques for generating the "key" to scramble and unscramble the data, Victor Miller of Princeton Junction, N.J., learned he had to twice punch in dozens of characters using the hexadecimal numbering system.

That process is prone to typing errors, which aren't apparent since Windows XP doesn't display the characters as they're entered. Also, Miller said, the user guides did not say that the computer would require a restart.

Miller, who is a cryptography expert, eventually got it working.

"I'm not sure many people would have the fortitude to actually copy down 26 hex digits twice," he said. "They'd just say, 'To hell with it.'"

Some manufacturers are beginning to tout security features as a selling point, just as they market faster speeds and greater signal range. Microsoft Corp., for instance, made the transfer of keys fairly easy by copying the key and other settings

to a floppy disk that could then be used to configure wireless laptops. The company, though, announced in May that it was getting out of the Wi-Fi hardware business.

Buffalo Technology Inc. has introduced a one-touch security system that exchanges keys between wireless devices and the wireless access point within a two-minute window after a button is pressed. Critics point out, however, that the system requires the manual entry of keys on non-Buffalo devices. And not all of Buffalo's products support the technology, called AOSS.

Meanwhile, Broadcom Corp., the leading supplier of Wi-Fi chips, has announced a software feature called SecureEZSetup that generates the encryption key based on answers to simple, easy-to-remember questions. Still, any device that's not supported must be manually set up, and only one vendor — Belkin Corp. — has so far publicly committed to using the technology.

The Wi-Fi Alliance, an industry group that certifies Wi-Fi-labeled gear, has posted educational videos on its Web site and recommends that vendors use automated setup tools in their products. But it has stopped short of mandating specific interfaces, said Frank Hanzlik, the group's managing director.

In addition, not all vendors agree there's a major problem.

"Key to our strategy is consumer education," said Darek Connole, media relations manager at D-Link Systems Inc. "If the consumer knows why it's important, why it's easy to do, it becomes something they implement."

That's no excuse for not making setups more simple, objects Potter of TruSecure.

"The right instructions, the right help screens that ask the right question at the right time can go an awfully long way to keep those eyes from glazing over," he said.



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WORLD BRIEFLY

Violence rings out in holy city

By The Associated Press

KUFA, Iraq — Fighting raged in the Shiite holy city of Kufa early Monday, further eroding a deal to halt clashes with followers of a radical Muslim cleric. A strong explosion rocked Baghdad near the so-called green zone and early reports said there were a number of casualties.

Ambulances rushed to the scene of the blast — apparently a car bomb — in Baghdad's Harithiyah district. At least one body was covered at the site and body parts could be seen lying by the side of the road.

U.S. troops fired into the air to disperse the crowds. Police Capt. Hikmat Amer said that at least one woman was killed and 13 people were injured.

As the Kufa fighting began Sunday, attackers ambushed a patrol with small arms fire, killing one U.S. soldier, and fired a rocket-propelled grenade on a tank, killing another American. The fighting also killed an Iraqi and injured eight others, hospital officials said.

Future of Israeli government murky

By The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon threatened to fire Cabinet opponents of his Gaza withdrawal plan and remake his government with moderates after failing to muster a majority during a tense seven-hour meeting.

The meeting ended without a vote, but with growing uncertainty over the fate of Sharon's government. Some Cabinet ministers tried to find a compromise that would rescue the U.S.-endorsed plan and mend ties between Sharon and his main political rival, Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The plan — or a compromise — might come up for a vote at next Sunday's Cabinet meeting, but even that is not certain, said Justice Minister Yosef Lapid.

"In any case, there is not at the moment a clear picture of where the things are going," Lapid, head of the moderate Shinui Party, told Associated Press Television News.

Sharon wants to withdraw Israeli soldiers and settlers from all of the Gaza Strip and evacuate four West Bank settlements. His hard-line Likud Party rejected the proposal in a May 2 referendum, enabling some ministers — who had reluctantly supported the plan — to shift sides.

Stench of drugs, alcohol drip down from the top

By The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The weekend arrests of a prominent judge and a state education leader on drug charges prompted Gov. Bill Richardson to promise redoubled efforts to stamp out the "scourges" of drugs and alcohol.

Judge John Brennan, chief judge of state district court in Albuquerque, and Patricia Mattioli, head of the

state Commission on Higher Education's Gear-Up program, were arrested on drug possession charges early Saturday after Brennan allegedly tried to elude officers conducting a DWI checkpoint.

"This incident shows the pervasiveness of the DWI and drug problem that exists today," Richardson said in a statement released by his office Sunday. "We must deal with these problems aggressively, regardless of the status of any individual."

Police said Brennan, 57, appeared to be "extremely intoxicated" when he was pulled over just after midnight. Officers found what they believed to be cocaine in his vehicle.

Brennan, who also was charged with evidence tampering, was released Saturday on his own recognizance. A charge of drunken driving was pending results of a blood-alcohol test. His passenger, Mattioli, 43, was released Saturday after posting a \$2,500 bond.

Sash-toting church goers denied communion

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Parishioners who wore rainbow-colored sashes to Mass in support of gays and lesbians were denied communion in Chicago, while laymen in Minnesota tried to prevent gay Roman Catholics from getting the sacrament.

Priests at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago refused to give the Eucharist to about 10 people wearing the sashes at Sunday Mass. One priest shook each person's hand; another made the sign of the cross on their foreheads.

"The priest told me you cannot receive communion if you're wearing a sash, as per the Cardinal's direction," said James Luxton, a Chicago member of the Rainbow Sash Movement, an organization of Catholic gay-rights supporters with chapters around the country.

An internal memo from Chicago Cardinal Francis George that became public last week instructed priests not to give communion to people wearing the sashes, which the group's members wear every year for Pentecost.

In St. Paul, Minn., people wearing the rainbow-colored sashes were given communion Sunday despite protests from some parishioners who kneeled in front of the altar blocking their way.

The Rev. Michael Skluzacek said in a written statement that both sides were "mistakenly using the Mass and the Eucharist to make their own personal statements."

Bikers roll straight into the White House

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Members of the Rolling Thunder motorcycling group revved their engines on the White House driveway Sunday during a visit with President Bush, who took about 10 bikers in jeans and leather jackets for an Oval Office tour.

The roar from bikers on the Mall

nearby could be heard on the South Lawn as eight motorcycles, headlights illuminated and American flags jutting off the rear seats, rolled up the driveway to the South Portico where Bush was waiting to greet them.

Bush shook hands with Artie Muller, president of the veterans' advocacy group, and kissed Muller's rider, singer Nancy Sinatra, a veterans' supporter. Later, Bush addressed, via a telephone hookup, a Rolling Thunder rally at Robert F. Kennedy Stadium in the capital.

The president noted the letter of endorsement he received from the group last week. "Artie, I thought you were going to offer me riding lessons," Bush joked, thanking Rolling Thunder for backing his re-election campaign.

Rolling Thunder is an organization that seeks to create awareness of POW/MIA issues and promotes increased veterans' benefits. It has 70 chapters and over 7,000 members.

Kerry kicks it in D.C.

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry enjoyed a quiet day off the campaign trail before Memorial Day, riding a bicycle through the city's Georgetown neighborhood that he calls home.

In celebration of Monday's holiday in remembrance of those who died serving the country, Kerry was to fly to Portsmouth, Va., to participate in the city's 120th annual Memorial Day parade.

The visit to Virginia would be Kerry's first since his campaign announced last week that he would begin advertising there, despite the state's solid record of voting for Republican presidential candidates.

Campaign aides say population shifts over the past few years have made Virginia more attractive to Democrats. They also say Kerry — a decorated Vietnam veteran — can appeal to voters along the Virginia coast, where there is a heavy military presence in such places as Portsmouth and Norfolk.

China figuring out its U.S. war game plan

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — China is reassessing how it would counteract the U.S. military in a potential conflict over Taiwan, based on what it saw in the U.S. invasion of Iraq, the Pentagon says.

Chinese leaders have taken note of the speed with which American ground forces captured Baghdad in April 2003 and the prominent role that was played in Iraq by U.S. special operations commandos.

In its annual report to Congress on developments in the Chinese military, the Defense Department said China is rethinking the concept that American airpower alone is sufficient to prevail in a conflict.

The report is an annual assessment to Congress of Chinese military power and strategy.

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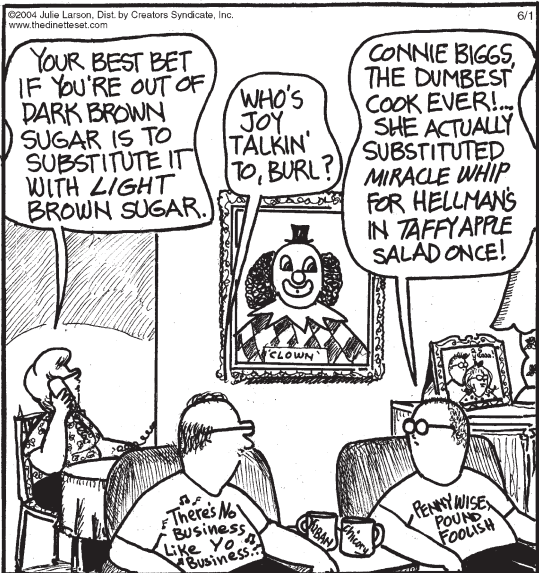
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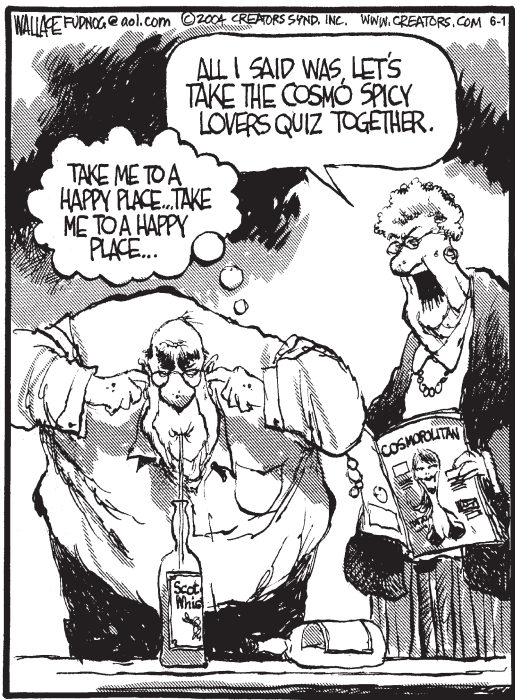
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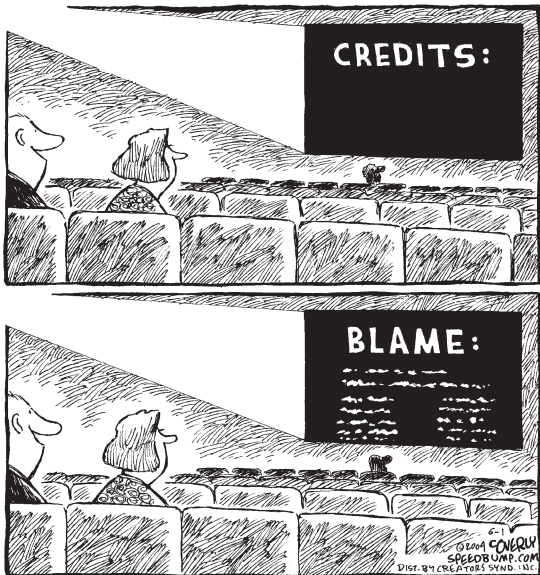
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- 1 Active words
- 6 Casino guest
- 11 Shark's place
- 12 French river
- 13 Targets of dry-erase markers
- 15 Junior
- 16 Skill
- 17 Superlative suffix
- 18 Emulate Boitano
- 20 Batter of verse
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- 38 Pod item
- 41 Movie-planning sketches
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- 45 Reek
- 46 Burning crime
- 47 Waco setting

DOWN

- 1 Swears
- 2 Canyon sound
- 3 Horse strap
- 4 Cave resident
- 5 Furtive
- 6 Cave
- 7 Cry of insight
- 8 Twist's request
- 9 Finishes
- 10 Remainder
- 14 Bikini top
- 18 Letter stroke
- 19 Tests
- 20 GI's bed
- 21 Commotion
- 22 Boston team, for short
- 24 Vagabond
- 25 "... man mouse?"
- 26 Pallid
- 30 Coloring tool
- 31 Without markup
- 33 Wane

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Yesterday's answer

- 34 Movie dog
- 35 Rating unit
- 36 Blubbers
- 38 Grand —
- 39 Writer Ferber
- 40 Inquires
- 42 Little hopper
- 43 Had lunch

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Celebrities drive Indianapolis 500 to new speeds

By The Associated Press

■ **INDIANAPOLIS** — Actor Morgan Freeman drove the pace car. Pop star Jessica Simpson sang the national anthem. Television host David Letterman co-owns the team that had the winning driver, Buddy Rice.

Some of the celebrities at the Indianapolis 500 had local roots. Letterman, former NBC "Today" host Jane Pauley and Rupert Boneham of "Survivor" fame are Indiana natives.

Also attending the race were chef Wolfgang Puck, actors James Garner, Judge Reinhold and Patrick Dempsey, and New York Giants quarterback Jesse Palmer, who recently finished his stint as "The Bachelor."

"It's been wild, been great," Palmer said Sunday. "It's one of the biggest events in sports and now you can see why."

■ **CHARLESTON, W.Va.** — Country singer Kathy Mattea has a personal interest in this week's fund-raiser for the Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute. Her mother, now 83, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in the late 1990s.

"When I go home and visit my mother, I always have a period of grief," Mattea said. The Cross Lanes native said her family has rallied around their mother in the years since her diagnosis. Still, Mattea worries that the disease, which runs in her family, will strike her.

On Friday night, two-time Grammy Award winner Mattea and her husband,

songwriter Jon Vezner, will be part of a black-tie benefit at the Charleston Civic Center to raise money for the institute at West Virginia University named for the late mother of Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va. She battled Alzheimer's disease for nearly 10 years before her death in 1992.

■ **TORONTO** — He banged, they cheered.

William Hung butchered "Take Me Out To The Ball Game" during the seventh-inning stretch of Sunday's matchup between the Toronto Blue Jays and Texas Rangers, much to the delight of 22,225 at SkyDome.

The American Idol reject best known for his hyperactive, tone-deaf rendition of Ricky Martin's "She Bangs," shrugged off a brief smattering of boos and belted out the baseball classic off-key while fans egged him on. Some even joined in.

■ **THORNTON, Colo.** — President Bush plans to get a second helping of Dan Tang's Chinese food this week.

Tang, owner of the Heaven Dragon Chinese restaurant in the Denver suburb, said he was asked to deliver duck, chicken and shrimp dishes to the President and about 20 traveling with him on Tuesday. He first served the president in 2002.

"I feel excited, even more excited than the first time," Tang said. "He came back like a return customer."

The first meal was made possible by Colorado Sen. Wayne Allard. Tang told Allard that he dreamed of cooking for the

president and Allard, who enjoys Tang's cooking, passed along the request.

Tang and two other chefs are preparing the presidential meal, which will include Peking duck, sesame chicken, Hunan chicken and crispy shrimp. Bush will give the commencement address at the Air Force Academy on Wednesday near Colorado Springs.

■ **NEW YORK** — Linda Ronstadt says today's music industry values sex appeal more than talent.

"It puts a huge amount of pressure on kids" who are aspiring performers, said Ronstadt, 57, whose singing career began in the 1960s.

"If you are someone like Beyonce who happens to be gorgeous and talented, well, great. But there are a lot of people who are not paid attention to because they don't look like a fashion model," she told the Daily News.

Ronstadt, a native of Tucson, Ariz., was a sex symbol herself, with such hit albums as "Heart Like a Wheel" and "Simple Dreams." She no longer plays those recordings, though.

"I never go back. I never listen to them," said Ronstadt, who is scheduled to perform Tuesday at the Beacon Theatre. "Music is a work in progress. On a record, it gets frozen in time, and it's oddly unnatural."

■ **MIDLAND, Texas** — "Baby Jessica," who held the attention of the nation as a toddler when she fell into an

abandoned well 17 years ago, is now a high school graduate.

Crews struggled for 58 hours to rescue Jessica McClure from an 8-inch-wide pipe in October 1987.

Now 18, McClure joined more than 100 other seniors at Greenwood High School near Midland in receiving their diplomas Friday night.

"We're just trying to get back to having a normal life," said her mother, Cissy Porter, commenting on her daughter's behalf.

The case of 18-month-old Jessica created a nationwide sensation. Emergency crews rescued her after digging a parallel shaft and then breaking through the wall of the well.

■ **FLINT, Mich.** — Missed the Sundance Film Festival in January? Couldn't get a hotel room in Cannes?

Consider Flint. Don't expect to rub elbows with native son Michael Moore while you're here.

The blue-collar city of 125,000, the backdrop for Moore's 1989 documentary "Roger & Me," is preparing for its inaugural Flint Film Festival.

It begins Friday with an opening gala and concludes Sunday with an awards party. Festival-goers will have their choice of 29 works by independent filmmakers from as far away as Germany.

"People who've never been to a film festival will quickly find out this is the real heart of film making," said festival chairman Greg Fiedler.

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