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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2009
Volume 8 Issue 186



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

MAYORS REACH OUT TO GOVERNOR
SEE PAGE 3

THE PROPS TO SKAGGS ISSUE



Photo courtesy Maya Sugarman

IN WAITING: **Former Samohi Viking Cody Decker hopes a strong senior season at UCLA translates into being a MLB draft pick.**

Ticket to the show

Former Samohi Viking and UCLA power hitter Cody Decker hopes this is his year

BY WILL WEISS
Special to the Daily Press

UCLA Cody Decker finally has a reason to smile.

The UCLA senior first baseman and power hitter just finished his final season with the Bruins with a disappointing 27-29 record, and without a playoff berth, but Decker, who led the Pac-10 in home runs with 21 on the season, is expected to be drafted into the major leagues this week.

The former Samohi catcher and first baseman is not at all unfamiliar with the MLB Draft or the rollercoaster of emotions that comes along with declaring.

"I hear things, but I've heard things every year I've been draft eligible," Decker said. "No one has said to me, specifically, round or money. I figure that's just the case. I'm taking everything with a grain of salt."

SKAGGS DRAFTED BY ANGELS

Santa Monica High School's Tyler Skaggs was selected by the Los Angeles Angels with the 40th pick in the Major League Baseball Draft on Tuesday. The standout pitcher was rumored to be headed to the Angels by a number of experts. Initially considered a possible first round selection, Skaggs slipped into the compensation round. He was the Angels' third draft pick of the day. DAILY PRESS

SEE DECKER PAGE 8

City Hall drops charges against local electric car enthusiast

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

AIRPORT COURTHOUSE A Santa Monica resident who was accused of illegally building electric cars following a sting operation last year walked out of court a free man on Tuesday after city officials decided to drop all charges.

During the hearing, the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office dismissed the charge that Paul Pearson, a prop maker in the movie business and electric car enthusiast, was operating without a business license, deciding to resolve the issue after he applied for one several weeks ago.

The more severe of the charges, which alleged that Pearson unlawfully acted as an unlicensed dealer or manufacturer of electric cars, was recently dropped by the Department of Motor Vehicles after the agency changed its policy to no longer require a state license for retrofitting vehicles.

Gary Rhoades, the deputy city attorney, said that all Pearson needed to do was pay the business license fee to put the issue to rest.

"We've been waiting for him to do that since the beginning of this case," Rhoades said.

The two charges were filed as a result of a Dec. 4, 2008 sting operation lead by undercover officers with the DMV and several other local agencies, including Santa Monica Code Enforcement, at Pearson's former garage off Pico Boulevard where he has built several electric cars, including a one-seater he drives every day. He has also modified several vehicles for ZAP Electric Cars.

The investigation began after City Hall received complaints from neighbors about excessive noise coming from Pearson's garage and the matter was referred to the DMV.

Pearson, who became fascinated with electric vehicles several years ago and is a fix-

SEE CHARGES PAGE 9


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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



It's a mystery!
Montana Avenue Branch Library
1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Come join a discussion of "Death of a Red Heroine" by author Xiaolong Qiu. Admission is free. Call (310) 829-7081 for more information.

Ballroom by the bay
Santa Monica Bay Women's Club
1210 Fourth St., 7 p.m. — 11 p.m.
Come for a free lesson at 7 p.m., and stick around after for more dancing for $10. Learn how to waltz, fox-trot, swing and hustle by request. Partners are not required. Parking is available next door. Call (310) 487-0911 for more information.

Green living
Santa Monica Public Library — Multi-purpose room
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Be part of the solution — educate and empower yourself with simple steps that save the environment and save you money. This six-week workshop covers water, energy, waste, chemicals, transportation, travel, shopping and food. The workshop is presented by Sustainable Works. Cost is free. Call (310) 458-8600 for more information.

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Prose and poetry
Novel Cafe
212 Pier Ave., 8 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Come read, listen and enjoy free open prose and poetry readings every Thursday. Everyone and all genres are welcome, including poetry, fiction and non-fiction, as long as there is a 1,000 word limit per reader. Visit forthmagazine.com/weeklyreadings.php or call (310) 396-8566 for more information.

Feral cat tips
West Los Angeles Animal Shelter conference room
11361 Pico Blvd., 7 p.m. — 10 p.m.
This free workshop is supported by a grant from PetSmart Charities. The workshop will cover a range of topics concerning responsible feral cat care including humane trapping, post-operative boarding, long-term managed care and adoptions. Sign up ahead of time; spaces are limited. Call (310) 820-4122 for more information.

Work the pole
Isabelle's Dance Academy
1334 Lincoln Blvd., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Get the best work-out of your life! Pole dancing is a life-changing experience. It will make you stronger at every level, from your body to your spirit and sense of self-esteem. Get in touch with the sensual you at $39 for two hours of fun. Call (310) 392-3493 for more information.

Friday, June 12, 2009

Meet the author
In Focus Wellness Institute
717 Broadway Ave., 6 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Fox Badibanga, author of "Global Warming and Al Gore Faustus Adventures Inside the Earth" invites you to a book signing event. This book explores the idea that the Earth is a living anthropomorphized being with feelings, memory and a spirit and should be treated as such. There are many efforts being deployed to save energy and build pollution-free technologies, but unless we understand the reasons why we should protect the planet, these efforts will remain thin and meaningless to many. Admission is free. Call (310) 576-2062 for more information.

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.

Mayors urge governor to spare cities

JUDY LIN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO The mayors of some of California's largest cities on Tuesday asked Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to avoid undermining local governments as he and lawmakers seek to close the state's $24.3 billion budget deficit.

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa led a group of mayors from San Diego, Sacramento and Fresno who came to the Capitol to meet with the governor. They said the state should repay cities if it takes any of their tax revenue.

Schwarzenegger later said nobody is pleased with the state's fiscal condition but that tough decisions have to be made.

In another development Tuesday, the state Senate leader said Democrats were beginning to form their own plan to address the deficit, including fewer cuts than Schwarzenegger has proposed and closing some corporate tax loopholes.

Part of the governor's proposal to eliminate the shortfall calls for the state to borrow $1.9 billion from property tax collections and reduce the local share of the gas tax by $744 million.

The mayors said taking gas-tax money would be worse than borrowing from property taxes because the state would not be obligated to repay it. The state must repay local governments within three years, with interest, if it borrows local property taxes.

"One of our core principles is that any plan that pulls tax revenues from cities must be accompanied by a plan to get that money back into the coffers of local governments," Villaraigosa said during a news conference.

In addition to taking the gas tax from local governments, the Legislature's budget analyst has recommended siphoning even more local money from gasoline sales. It's unclear whether that proposal will be adopted by lawmakers.

San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders said his city already has cut 18 percent from its $1 billion general fund. The state is threatening to take revenue worth another 7.5 percent.

He said the loss of the gas tax alone would mean 120 fewer police officers and 120 fewer firefighters for San Diego.

"We're here to call on the legislators and to call on the governor to balance the budget without balancing it on the backs of cites, counties and school districts," Sanders said.

Schwarzenegger disputed the claim that public safety would have to be cut if the state reduced gas tax revenue to cities and counties because that money is dedicated for transportation projects.

"One has nothing to do with the other," the governor said.

Michael Cohen, an analyst in the Legislative Analyst's Office, said cities that can defer road maintenance might not be hurt by the state's actions. Others may have to take money away from police or fire services to pay for emergency transportation projects, he said.

Cohen noted that cities still will receive federal money.

Senate Democratic Leader Darrell Steinberg said Tuesday that lawmakers were working on a budget plan that would not require local borrowing.

He said Democrats are working on their own budget plan that closely follows the proposed budget Schwarzenegger introduced earlier this month.

The governor proposed $16 billion in cuts to education, health care, in-home support services, prisons and other core areas of state government. In addition to borrowing from local governments, Schwarzenegger's budget plan calls for a number of other steps to close the deficit.

They include accelerating tax collections — such as those from self-employed people who pay their taxes quarterly — shifting money between various state funds, charging homeowners an average of $48 a year to boost funding for emergency services and allowing limited oil drilling off the coast of Santa Barbara.

Steinberg said Democrats would counter with $13 billion in cuts. He wants to take most of the rainy day fund Schwarzenegger has proposed — $4.5 billion — and apply it to college aid and other programs that otherwise would be eliminated. The governor said Tuesday his rainy day fund is necessary in case the state has a costly wildfire season.

The Democrats' budget plan would prevent the elimination of health insurance for 1 million low-income children, welfare and college fee assistance programs, as Schwarzenegger has proposed.

Steinberg said he will not propose new taxes but would push to close some corporate tax loopholes.

"It would be a mistake, in my view, to lead with taxes," he said.

In February, the Legislature and the governor passed a two-year budget package that contained at least $2.5 billion in corporate tax breaks and credits, including ones for the film industry and a change in the tax formula that will save businesses hundreds of millions of dollars.

Quickly declining tax revenue sent that earlier budget into the red just weeks after it was signed.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Photo courtesy Jimmy Wilson

RAD: **Malibu's Conrad Carr competes in the Red Bull Riders Cup National Championships.**

TRESTLES

Malibu loses national title bid

Malibu High School's run at a national surfing title came to an end in San Clemente over the weekend. The team, one of eight taking part in the Red Bull Riders Cup National Championship, made it as far as the semi-finals before being eliminated by eventual runner-up San Dieguito Academy on Sunday. San Dieguito Academy lost to champion Mira Costa High School in the final on Sunday. DAILY PRESS

MONTANA AVE

Keep it clean

For the next few months those who are unemployed and can prove it will be able to get their dry cleaning done for free so that they can look sharp during job interviews.

Flair Cleaners, which has a location on Montana Avenue, announced Tuesday that through Sept. 2, those who bring their most recent unemployment pay stub and a photo ID can get up to four pieces of clothing cleaned for free each week.

"We wanted to find a way to show our support for those who have lost their jobs and are out there looking for work," said Gary Futterman, owner of Flair Cleaners, which is also offering the same deal at four other locations – Valencia, Burbank, Studio City and Redondo Beach. "Knowing that they're showing up in their best suit; that it's clean, that they look polished and professional, may give interviewees the extra confidence boost they need to help them get a the job."

The offer is part of Flair's community outreach program. Flair has donated thousands of dollars in goods and services to a variety of charitable causes, including silent auctions at dozens of schools, churches and synagogues, according to a press release.

This past December marked the sixth year for Flair's annual Holiday Clothing Drive. Flair Cleaners' customers brought in tens of thousands of garments which were then donated to local charities such as Helping Hands for the Blind and Children's Network International. DAILY PRESS

MID-CITY

Summer school musical

With many schools across the state being forced to cancel summer school, parents are scrambling to identify other options. Saint Anne School hopes it can fill the gaps.

The private Catholic school on Colorado Avenue is offering a two-week session of summer music camp. Saint Anne's Summer Music Campapalooza 2009 offers music instruction, composition and performance opportunities in guitar, recorder, percussion, voice, and includes group jam sessions, Guitar Hero and a Saint Anne Idol competition. The summer session is open to all children entering grades K-8.

The program is an example of the availability of summer programs at Catholic schools as announced on June 8 by Cardinal Roger Mahoney and the Department of Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, making summer session opportunities available to working families who depend on summer school opportunities as a part of their education and child care plan for their children during the summer.

Fees for the program are $310 for the two-week full day session (8 a.m. to 3 p.m.), with half-day sessions available at a fee of $185. For more information, call (323) 936-4987 or (609) 9411-5285. DAILY PRESS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Tragedy waiting to happen

Editor:

Christopher Hartzell ("Cyclists need to follow the law," page 4, May 29) is right about the city of Santa Monica's failure to enforce the "no bicycles on the sidewalk" law and to hold bicyclists to the ordinary rules of the road. Following the law of unintended consequences, City Hall created this situation by making curb cuts, meant for wheelchair access, on every corner. Unfortunately, this allows bikes to fly along smoothly, rather than having to jump up and down curbs, as previously. It is an invitation to ride on the sidewalk. Second, City Hall's main plan for dealing with traffic congestion seems to be to get people out of their cars and traveling by bike or on foot. This means more traffic on the sidewalk than ever. Finally, unlike the city of Beverly Hills, where there is some signage, Santa Monica does nothing to inform people that riding on the sidewalk is illegal.

The result is a tragedy waiting to happen – either an elderly person being knocked down and breaking a hip, or an injury to the cyclist as a result of coming off the sidewalk at unpedestrian-like speed on the wrong side of the street into the path of a left or right-turning car. Admittedly, this may not be City Hall's highest law enforcement priority, but given the increasing risk of injury or even death, continuing to ignore the situation is irresponsible.

Phyllis Sorter
Santa Monica

Law abiding citizen

Editor:

Many readers of the Daily Press send in letters and comments concerning laws related to leaf blowing, bicycling on sidewalks, smoking all over Santa Monica, etc. Here is another one for all of you who are unaware of the leash law regarding owners of those adorable and friendly pets – the family dog! These laws concern the state of California, the county of Los Angeles, and individual cities within the state. Basically this means that all dogs, when outdoors, must be on a leash, not longer than 6 feet, unless they are in a dog park or in an enclosed private residence. Owners are also responsible for cleaning up their dog's poop. I have seen warning signs in various locations in and around the West L.A. area. For instance, in some Beverly Hills parks one stated $500 or six months in jail; while another one in the Olympic-Bundy area stated $1,000 or one year in jail. In the Marina del Rey area along the harbor there are numerous signs posted stating $25–$200 owner's responsibility.

The reason I personally am concerned is because I have seen many dogs off leash with their owners or dog walkers following them and on some occasions talking on a cell phone and not paying attention to the surroundings, including children and/or other dogs. Two months ago, at the end of March, while I was walking a small 13 pound dog on a sidewalk, a 75 pound chow/golden retriever mix suddenly ran out through an open door of an apartment building, off leash, and tried to attack my dog. As I bent over to stop this from happening, I was knocked off my feet, hit the concrete pavement, and sustained some severe and serious injuries. My dog was OK, but I have not fully recovered from that unfortunate accident.

Please check with local laws wherever you are before letting your dog out the door and off your enclosed property without a leash.

Ben Stegall
Santa Monica

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Going Postal

Steve "the Mailman" Breen — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Hoof in mouth disease

A.) SIT DOWN AND SHUT UP.

B.) Keep your opinion to yourself.

The idioms above are the most frequently given answers by liberal energumens dispossessed of any competent rhetoric in support of their fascist arguments. Most astonishing is the fact that allegedly adult Obamaphiles and their scullions actually engage in this sort of junior high school upchuckery as the definitive expression of their academic gravitas.

These are the ones from the Presidential Bowling Team that we've been waiting for!

While liberal lickspittles are easily intimidated by the mano-a-mano of lively debate sans teleprompter, I prefer giving such statists a free-fire zone of intercourse as it provides them jurisdiction in which to demonstrate the vapid impotence of their convictions du jour. There are myriad examples abound throughout the concourse of socio-political discourse that liberal equerries frequently opine upon yet seem distinctly inept to explicate the alleged superiority of their position based upon its own merits. President Obama frequently employs the supplementary answer, (C.) "it's all Bush's fault," to eschew his personal responsibility in assuming the proper powers of his office that are inconvenient to his preening self-importance. He appears to be afflicted with "electile dysfunction."

Let's get a straight look at California's new constitutional amendment on marriage , shall we? For the record, I voted "no" on Prop 8.

Dick Cheney and I hold the concurrent opinion that one should be able to freely engage in the nuptial insanity called "marriage" regardless of the type of outdoor plumbing with which you were encumbered. Dick and I also firmly feel that marriage is a states' rights issue as marriage is not mentioned in the U.S. Constitution as a constitutional "right" which then therefore reverts back to more provincial domains under the aegis of the 10th Amendment. Is it an inconvenient truth that President Obama is a stodgy Christian bedrock believer in the Carrie Prejean marital doctrine and is not as ethically evolved as Dick Cheney nor I?

Groupies for gay marriage, however, please see answer (A.). Just don't ask or tell either, OK? We don't want to distract the president from "what's really important to the American people." You don't count yet.

And as far as the recent decision upholding Prop. 8 and its broad electoral consensus that marriage in California exists only between a man and a woman, the only opinion that truly matters is not Perez Hilton's childish exhibitionism of politically correct misogyny or Barack Hussein Obama's cultural cowardice, but the slamdunk 6-1 ruling opinion by the California Supreme Court.

Dear Mr. Hilton et al., please see answer (B.).

Speaking of Dick Cheney, the Democrat punditocracy are vexedly perplexed that the former V.P. is torquing the tighty-whiteys of the Obama administration over its inability to initiate a coherent policy concerning violent jihad. The renewal of Bush-era military tribunals by the Obama administration is seen as a complete betrayal of the campaign promises made to the fatuously naive human rights rabble. Nothing is more comical to me than hearing Candidate Obama rail about the "failed policies of the last eight years" while President Obama brazenly adopts them wholesale in what is obviously becoming a cosmetically enhanced third term of George W. Bush regardless of Obama's nifty little speech recently teleprompted in Cairo. Amnesty International and their inbred ilk can pick freely from the "ABC" trifecta above. All would reasonably apply.

IT IS ALWAYS THE INTELLECTUALLY INCONVENIENCED WHO PREFER TO QUAFF FROM THE EMPTY VESSEL OF HIVE-MINDED COLLOQUY RATHER THAN FROM THE ROBUST JEREBOAM OF RAUCOUS DEBATE AS IT REQUIRES SO LITTLE SAGACIOUS VINTAGE.

Free speech, as enshrined in the First Amendment and enforced by the Second, is not a "right," per se. I consider them both a "practice" as one rarely becomes proficient in any given endeavor unless one is willing to "practice, practice, practice." Modern liberals who chose to employ the more pubescent ABC methodologies listed above are obviously deficient in the practice of saltpeter supported free speech. Any opinion that does not conform to their own, regardless of relative merit, is somehow unworthy of their haughty and uniformly uninformed inanities that masquerade as cogent design. These indecent idiots of ideology subscribe to the vacuity that their self-inflicted silliness is its own self-serving reward and that one should just then pirouette off the popularity precipice with the rest of the like-minded muridae. The myth of "global warming" immediately vaults into ridicule, as an example.

In the more visceral applications of answers (A.) and (B.), one can find the roots of King George III admonishing his rambunctious colonial subjects with Hessian mercenaries or Bill Clinton lecturing his critics concerning the more carnal techniques for humidifying cigars. For despotism to reign, all critique must be abolished. Liberal-statists are addicted to their bloody "A-B negative" ichor like Nosferatu is addicted to erythrocytes.

It is always the intellectually inconvenienced who prefer to quaff from the empty vessel of hive-minded colloquy rather than from the robust Jereboam of raucous debate as it requires so little sagacious vintage. Of course, dyspeptic liberal amorphism is merely symptomatic of an injudicious over-consumption of large, piping hot bowls of "stupid" fortified with their own proprietary blend of vitamins of (A.) and (B.).

STEVE BREEN isn't laughing at liberals but is conservatively chuckling nearby in an undisclosed location and is still "the best looking mailman at the U.S. Post Office." He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Courts must decide on gay marriage

I LOVE THAT CALIFORNIA IS THE HIPPEST, most progressive state in the country, but I hate that our Constitution can be amended by a majority of voters. In the Golden State, the people have the power to recall our governor regardless of job performance, to initiate government programs without any thought as to how they'll be paid for, and our Supreme Court ruled we can restrict the rights of groups of people we don't like. That's how $2 million from Rep. Darryl Issa put Arnold Schwarzenegger in office, how the state government ran up an $11 billion deficit, and how a loose affiliation of liars conspired to legalize discrimination by passing Prop. 8.

I like participating directly in our democracy and knowing my vote counts. As a man of the people, I know that not everyone can do the same because with the pressure of work and family, sometimes there aren't enough hours in the day. I don't like that my vote counts as much as the vote of someone who doesn't quite get the issues at hand and I was counting on our Supreme Court to beat back the bigots and re-affirm the fundamental right to marry for all couples. I'm sorry to say that through some ridiculously circular logic, they got it wrong.

About a year ago, the California Supreme Court struck down a law stating "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California" on the grounds that it was discriminatory. This law started in 2000 as a ballot initiative called Prop. 22 (passed with a margin of about 1.6 million votes) and is known as the California Defense of Marriage Act. In his majority opinion, Chief Justice Ronald George wrote, "An individual's sexual orientation — like a person's race or gender — does not constitute a legitimate basis upon which to deny or withhold legal rights." Essentially, the court ruled that the D.O.M.A. (made up of only 14 words) was unconstitutional in California and rejected it. With that, Prop. 8 was born.

The most important thing to remember about Proposition 8 is that its wording is identical to the D.O.M.A. It says, "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." The key difference is that Prop. 8 sought to change the state Constitution, not state law. By allowing the bigots behind this effort to exploit the California quirk that allows the ballot initiative to be a check on the three branches of government, the state Supreme Court basically legalized discrimination over the objection of the Legislature, the chief executive, and the court's prior ruling.

The effect of this decision is that the court has reversed itself on the meaning of 14 words in the span of 12 months. Last year, we were told there is a fundamental right to marry that must extend to gay couples since legal rights cannot be denied to a person because of sexual orientation. This year, we're told that the voters of California can deny the same rights to those same people on the same basis if they want to. Obviously, this makes no sense.

The sticking point is the question of "amending" versus "revising" our Constitution. An amendment can be placed on the ballot with either a two-thirds vote in the Legislature or as few as about 700,000 signatures. A revision needs two-thirds of the Legislature and a majority of voters because it's a "substantial change to the entire Constitution, rather than … a less extensive change in one or more of its provisions." The premise is clear: if the change to the Constitution is far-reaching in scope, then it needs overwhelming approval. Prop. 8, now the law of the land for over 35 million people, was passed with a margin of about 600,000 votes. The fact that we're only talking about 14 words (that the ruling refers to as a "single, simple section to the Constitution") seems to have made the four justices in the majority believe this change doesn't amount to much. They say, "The act of limiting access to the designation of marriage to opposite-sex couples does not have a substantial or, indeed, even a minimal effect on the government plan or framework of California that existed prior to the amendment." That may be true, but same-sex couples in California who could file their federal taxes jointly, collect each others' Social Security and veteran's benefits, or sponsor one another to immigrate before Nov. 4 no longer can.

The court upholding Prop. 8 means the issue has gone from discrimination (the illegal denial of rights based on sexual orientation) to designation (whether or not a same-sex partnership can be called "marriage") over the course of a year. But the real matter at hand — the key word that Prop. 22 and Prop. 8 have in common — is "recognition." By no longer recognizing gay partnerships as marriage, the court has created a second and third class of Californians: gay/married before Prop. 8 and gay/no right to marry.

Not exactly hip or progressive if you ask me.

KENNY MACK is a multi-platform content provider living in Santa Monica who thinks the U.S. Supreme Court will get this right, even if California's didn't. His past columns are archived at www.ifyoumissedit.com and he can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com

The Q Line

Reading into it

City leaders are considering building a new library in the Pico Neighborhood. There are currently two proposals on the table. One calls for having the library placed in Virginia Avenue Park. Others think it should be elsewhere on Pico Boulevard.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Where should the new library be located and why?

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Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Value goes a long way

ONE OF THE DEFINITIONS OF "VALUE," per Merriam-Webster, is the relative worth, utility, or importance of something. Using the value definition framework, we can explore how an apartment house owner can add value to a property.

The one thing I have personally noticed is that many people would rather pay for something over time instead of paying the full price upfront. We are a country that loves financing everything from our cars, to sofas, to appliances. Paying a small amount over time with interest is how financing works. How does an apartment owner create value while still satisfying a tenant?

Now producing a win/win situation is optimal when renting an apartment to a tenant. Apartment owners must remember that they are providing a service, albeit one that falls under the basic necessities category of shelter, but a service nonetheless. One way to add value is to offer "upgrades" with the unit that cost the tenant a small amount of money each month.

Many apartments today do not come with refrigerators or other appliances. An owner could increase the rent $50 a month and offer a fridge. If the fridge costs $600, the owner recaptures that expense and the tenant does not have to deal with putting up the money to own or the hassle of moving it later. Of course, if the tenant stays longer than a year and the fridge is in fact $600, the owner has newfound dollars each month.

Obviously, there is a limit to what an owner can charge and what a tenant will pay for upgrades, but if an owner runs the numbers, both the tenant and owner maybe able to find a middle ground that allows for both parties to win. Locating that middle ground can lead both parties to find value.

At the time of writing this article, the Los Angeles rental market on the Westside had a high inventory of supply.

Some owners are offering little or no deposit on apartments; however, this is a foolhardy strategy. As stated in previous articles, deposits are the only real monetary collateral owners have to protect themselves from tenant damage. Even if a tenant means well, life happens and unintentional accidents take place. Many owners do not mind the cost of repairs from tenants — assuming normal wear and tear is a cost of business. However, it is when a tenant maliciously damages a unit that an owner finds out the true cost of apartment house ownership. Deposits are not an item an owner should ignore. A better strategy would be accepting a deposit over time.

Some owners have decided to give rent concessions, such as a month free. This strategy is fine, but an owner should consider the fact that a tenant will most likely leave after a year and find another unit for the same or cheaper price in this type of rental market.

Instead of offering deposit or rental concessions, an owner could add value to the unit. However, instead of offering an upgrade, the owner offers this value added item as part of the apartment. One item which is in high demand is high speed Internet. An owner could offer Internet and give a free wireless modem with move-in. An owner may be able to justify an additional $50 each month in rent, which simply wipes out the cost of the Internet, but the benefit comes from renting the unit faster since the value added item is in high demand and differentiates the owner from the competition.

SOME OWNERS HAVE DECIDED TO GIVE RENT CONCESSIONS, SUCH AS A MONTH FREE. THIS STRATEGY IS FINE, BUT AN OWNER SHOULD CONSIDER THE FACT THAT A TENANT WILL MOST LIKELY LEAVE AFTER A YEAR AND FIND ANOTHER UNIT FOR THE SAME OR CHEAPER PRICE IN THIS TYPE OF RENTAL MARKET.

One of the best ways to add value is by saving time. Today many banks offer Internet banking and some even give owners tools to deposit checks remotely.

If you do not like collecting rents, you can offer a small discount on rent to your tenants in return for automatic transfers. Most large banks allow transfers from one account to another. If you offer a $5 discount to tenants who pay their rent on the first day of the month who transfer the money, you may be surprised how many will pay on time. Of course, an owner has to decide if this loss of income is worth their time.

Adding value does not have to cost a lot of money. Sometimes just thinking outside the box is all that is needed. Win/win situations can be created between owners and tenants. The only limit is an owners imagination and of course, what the market will bear in terms of price.

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GOVERNMENT

Democrats push health coverage proposals

DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON Democrats at both ends of the Capitol accelerated their drive to enact health care legislation on Tuesday, outlining proposals to extend coverage to uninsured millions but omitting most details on plans for raising more than $1 trillion needed to cover costs.

The White House said President Barack Obama told a delegation of House Democrats he will soon outline as much as $300 billion in additional savings from Medicare and Medicaid to help pay for the bill. "We are going to be deficit-neutral — even — over five or 10 years," said Peter Orszag, the administration's budget director.

A first-ever tax on employer-provided health benefits also figures prominently among options under consideration in Congress, but Obama campaigned against that last year and its inclusion in the bill would require him to reverse course.

Given the uncertainty as well as the political sensitivity over raising taxes or cutting Medicare, Senate Republicans prodded Democrats to fill in the blanks before the scheduled beginning of committee work next week.

At their core, a 316-page partial draft bill released by Democrats on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and a three-page outline circulated by senior House Democrats were largely identical.

Individuals would be able to purchase insurance from new exchanges operated by the states or federal government. Private companies would be barred from denying coverage or charging higher premiums because of pre-existing conditions.

Both bills would require individuals to purchase insurance if they could afford it, with waivers available in hardship cases. The Senate measure provides for an unspecified penalty for anyone refusing to obey the so-called mandate, and House Democrats are considering a similar approach.

Similarly, the House approach would require employers to purchase insurance for their workers or pay a penalty. Senate Democrats left that issue for a final decision later this week or next week, but it is expected to be included.

Additionally, both approaches include steps to emphasize preventive care, an attempt to reduce the cost of treating disease.

To cut down on the ranks of the uninsured, the Senate bill stipulates that children up to the age of 26 could remain on their parents' insurance policies.

On a hotly contested issue, the emerging House plan would give individuals the option of buying insurance provided by the federal government.

Democrats on the Senate committee embraced a similar provision last week, but omitted it from the draft released Tuesday in what Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., said was a gesture to Republicans who oppose it.

Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., the top Republican on the health committee, responded derisively. He said Democrats did so "because they know we're not going to like what they've written and they don't want us to have any time to comment."

His remarks were not the only evidence of partisan maneuvering during the day, and an industry group, America's Health Insurance Plans, issued a statement saying that "a government-run plan would dismantle employer-based coverage, significantly increase costs for those who remain in private coverage and add additional liabilities to the federal budget."

While that suggested the White House's goal of a bipartisan bill was growing more distant, there were attempts to seek a compromise on the issue. Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., floated a proposal for nonprofit cooperatives to offer insurance without direct government backing.

Senate Republicans on two committees most involved with health care urged Democrats not to move ahead without detailed cost information. "Paying for health reform in a responsible and sustainable way may be the most single difficult element of our efforts," they wrote.

But after months of preliminary effort, Democrats made clear they intend to move ahead on their own timetable, one that calls for passage of legislation in the House and Senate by early August. A final compromise would wait for September or later in the fall, according to a schedule the party's leadership established weeks ago.

"This is the year we have to do it," said Rep. Henry Waxman, the California Democrat who chairs the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Waxman was one of several senior Democrats who outlined proposed legislation to the party's rank and file during the day.

Numerous senior Democrats now aging and ailing have worked their entire careers on health care, but no one is more identified with the issue than Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, the Massachusetts Democrat first elected to the Senate in 1964. But in a poignant announcement during the day, Dodd said Kennedy, diagnosed a year ago with a brain tumor, will be unable to attend the working sessions of the health committee he chairs.

Obama has made an overhaul of the health care system a top priority of his first year in office, both to assure coverage for the uninsured and also to slow the rate of growth in health care nationally.

Outside groups representing hospitals, doctors, drug companies and others have pledged to work with the White House on that objective, but it is not clear how much money their efforts would yield in savings to the government.

That leaves lawmakers with the difficult chore of agreeing on a series of tax increases and spending reductions if they are to cover the costs of the legislation.

Obama met with a group of House Democrats at the White House during the day, and Orszag said the discussion centered on the administration's recent announcement that it is willing to try to find as much as $600 billion in Medicare savings, double what the president requested in his budget last winter.

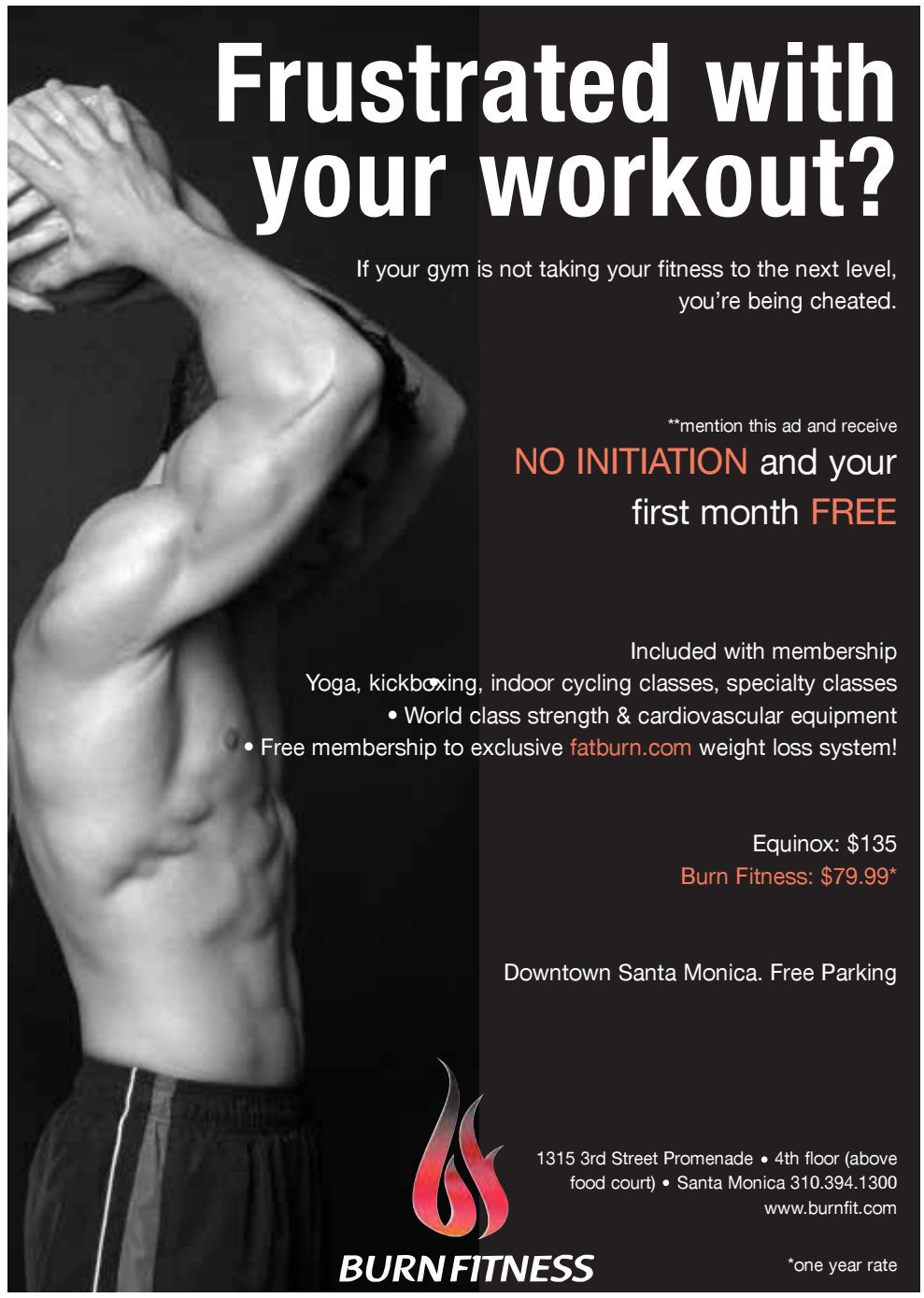
"What I want to be very clear about is, at worst this will be deficit-neutral," the president said. "And then to the extent that these changes succeed in altering the practice of medicine in the way that experts have long believed that they will, the result will be much better than that."

In both the House and Senate, Democrats want to provide subsidies to families with incomes of up to about $88,000 a year to help them pay for insurance.





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Deputy City Manager Elaine Polachek (at podium) speaks in front of the media on the Third Street Promenade Tuesday morning about the future beautification improvements to the downtown area. One of the main goals for the district was the Downtown Ambassadors project.



Photo courtesy UCLA Athletics

POWER NUMBERS: **UCLA's Cody Decker led the Pac-10 with 21 home runs this year.**

Decker hopes to land with Dodgers

FROM **DECKER** PAGE 1

Decker, who declared for the draft after his senior season in Santa Monica and following his junior season at UCLA, has yet to receive his call.

While most players of his caliber are drafted after their third year of college, Cody's junior season was not one that warranted attention.

During the 2008 season, Decker hit .218, the lowest during his UCLA career, and at the exact time he needed to be on top of his game.

"It was awful," he said. "Once I started slumping I got depressed, and it was like quicksand; it kept getting worse and worse and worse. The next thing you know I'm having the worst season of my entire baseball life."

Decker attributes the poor performance to a number of factors including the opinions of professional scouts, which he said added unneeded pressure and affected his mentality at the plate.

But this year, with the pressure off, Decker has thrived.

He finished the season batting .322 with slugging percentage and RBI figures that are nearly double what they were a year ago.

"Somebody will give Cody a job," said Matt Hattabaugh, area scout for the Colorado Rockies, adding that this year's draft is weak, which he said is good for Decker.

But Decker wasn't able to turn his hitting around overnight.

At the end of the 2008 season he opted to

SEE **DECKER** PAGE 10



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

PROUD BUILDER: **Electric car enthusiast Paul Pearson stands with his hand-built Neighborhood Electric Vehicle sprint car in front of his garage on Pico Boulevard earlier this year.**

Santa Monican to open electric car business in nearby Van Nuys

FROM **CHARGES** PAGE 1

ture at the Fourth of July Main Street parade, received a call from a man — an undercover DMV agent — late last year inquiring about converting a vintage Ford Thunderbird to operate on electric power.

The man, along with another individual, visited Pearson on Dec. 4 and reportedly asked about purchasing several vehicles that were sitting at the garage, including one that was being built for Pearson's wife and the one-seater he uses every day. Pearson refused both offers, reportedly stating that the car he was building for his wife was not yet certified by the California Highway Patrol.

Both parties then reached an agreement for the price of the Thunderbird conversion, upon which a group of officers from the local fire and police departments and Code Enforcement Division packed into the garage. During a previous interview, Pearson said that he estimated about 16 individuals total were involved with the sting operation.

The charges were based on an inspection of Pearson's garage and his offer to convert the Thunderbird for approximately $18,000, the City Attorney's Office said.

Pearson said on Tuesday that the case just shows how new the electric car industry is and the absence of regulations as a result.

"I understand the need for regulation but what I think happened here was someone thought there has to be a law against this so they wrote the misdemeanor citation thinking there has to be a law and in actuality there was not," Pearson said. "In the end they never had a case."

Pearson added that while he has paid for a business license, the specific category of electric vehicle businesses is not on the books at City Hall.

Previously calling himself an electric car hobbyist, Pearson said he is now in the process of starting a business at his new garage in Van Nuys.

"I think the electric car conversion business is making a transition from being really a backyard hobby for people into an actual business," he said.

The issue garnered worldwide attention as Pearson appeared on radio shows as far away as Japan. Andrew Cappelletti, a filmmaker from Marina del Rey, also produced a documentary chronicling Pearson's battle with City Hall in a piece titled "Govt. vs Green." The film was screened last weekend at the Santa Monica Public Library.

Cappelletti said he plans to update the end of the film with the most recent news of the charges being dismissed.

"All of a sudden, it's become a historical piece, which is delightful to me," he said.

Pearson said he believes city officials decided to drop the charges because of the documentary.

But Rhoades said the film played no role in the decision, noting that Pearson applied for the business license "finally after five months claiming he was just a hobbyist."

"He saw the evidence showing he was operating as a business," Rhoades said. "He applied for the license and the DMV changed its policy."

The issue has also caused some to question a municipality that prides itself on being green but prosecutes a resident who creates and retrofits vehicles to run on electric power.

"The last thing we want to do is hinder the development of electric vehicles, but we treat all businesses the same and this is a new business," Rhoades said. "With businesses, we have to play by the rules and he had not even applied for his business license yet with us.

"The business licenses are registered so we know where they are and where to find them when the complaints come in."

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Decker had strong season



Photo courtesy UCLA Athletics

RUNNING HARD: **Cody Decker put up big numbers at UCLA.**

FROM **DECKER** PAGE 8

stay home from summer ball and train at UCLA for the coming season, working closely with assistant coach Rick Vanderhook, a recent addition to the Bruin coaching staff.

"I got my head back in place," Decker said of the summer training. "Coach Vanderhook and I really clicked. I really liked how he went about his business."

Decker explained that Vanderhook's coaching style includes a lot of criticism and very few compliments, but at this point, he can handle the heat.

Now, with all the pieces together, Decker has been preparing himself for the transition into professional ball, a switch that his teammates and coaches think he is prepared to handle.

"He's a complete hitter," said UCLA coach John Savage. "He's more than a guy who can hit the ball out of the park. You talk about a guy who has four years experience in the Pac-10; he saw first round pitching. I think he's going to do well."

Savage explained that Decker's experience in the Pac-10 and at UCLA will give him a leg up on some of the other players he'll face in the minor leagues, citing Decker's ability to prepare for opponents and to bounce back from tough losses among the traits that will help him in the near future.

"Throughout his career at UCLA, Cody had made a lot of adjustments," said Brent Dean, a graduate assistant for the UCLA baseball team and a former teammate of Decker's. "Any transition to the next level is going to be OK for him. The guy is just a workhorse and I think he'll be able to handle the switch to professional ball fine."

But with so much emphasis on his ability to hit the ball, the question arises as to where he will find a place on defense.

"He's a bit more versatile than people give him credit for," Savage said. "Catching could be part of his future; he's capable of doing that."

Decker said that his hopes are still high for getting picked up by either the Dodgers or the Red Sox, his two favorite teams growing up, but he added that he would be thrilled to play anywhere at this point.

Even still, Decker said he feels blessed to have grown up in Santa Monica, and said he'll miss it if he doesn't end up playing in Los Angeles.

"I've probably played more games at Jackie Robinson [Stadium] than anyone else ever. I am very familiar with that place. It's like a home to me," Decker said, reminiscing on his years in little league when he would come to watch UCLA play and steal homerun balls during batting practice. "I just grew up here. I've had my share of fun at UCLA. I've had a great time, but it's time to move on."

Despite the likely change in location, Decker said there's one thing he will never change.

Since little league, Decker has coined a lengthy pre-bat ritual, complete with a bit of bat wiggling and six hard stomps.

"I'm the first to admit it is just the dumbest, most ridiculous thing in the world but I do it every single at bat, and I'm not stopping," he said. "If I get up there, I'm doing it in the bigs and I can't wait for everyone to make fun of it."

Given Samohi's proud tradition of parental involvement on the baseball field, a profile of Decker would not be complete without a few words from his mom.

"We couldn't be more thrilled and more proud," she said of the impending draft. "Going pro is something he has worked for his whole life. He has literally wanted this since he was 2 years old, and I know a lot of kids want it, but he has worked at it since he was two. We just want his dream to come true."

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JOHN HANNA
Associated Press Writers

WICHITA, Kan. George Tiller's slaying has accomplished what anti-abortion activists had tried to do for decades: The doors to his Kansas clinic will shut forever.

The announcement Tuesday from Tiller's family was a tainted victory for the nation's anti-abortion movement. For years, it made Tiller the focus of protests, legislation and legal attacks. His death reignited a public debate over some abortion opponents' tactics and left many wondering how it will transform the abortion battleground.

Now that Tiller and his clinic are gone, the epicenter of the anti-abortion movement is less clear. Kansas has long been a lightning rod in the hot-button social issue — and in 2002, the leader of the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue even moved his organization to the city to wage an aggressive campaign. With the clinic's doors closed, the movement loses one of its key protest symbols.

"Part of what is a tragedy about this is that violence has achieved its objective," said Nancy Northup, president of Center for Reproductive Rights. "There is a concerted, ongoing effort at harassment and restriction with an aim to make doctors leave the field."

Operations at Women's Health Care Services Inc. were suspended following Tiller's death last month. In a statement released by his attorneys, Tiller's family said relatives had chosen to honor him with charitable activities instead of reopening the clinic.

"We are proud of the service and courage shown by our husband and father and know that women's health care needs have been met because of his dedication and service," the family said in the statement. They did not elaborate on their reasoning to close.

Tiller, who had said women with access to prenatal testing needed options in case those tests uncovered severe fetal abnormalities, was shot to death May 31 while serving as an usher at his Lutheran church. Prosecutors have charged abortion opponent Scott Roeder, 51, with first-degree murder and aggravated assault in Tiller's death.

For now, Operation Rescue has no plans to leave Wichita and the group's leader, Troy Newman, called the family's decision to close the clinic "bittersweet." He said his group wants to close abortion clinics but, "I want to see them close through peaceful, legal nonviolent means."

Tiller's clinic had long served as a rally point for abortion opponents. Most protests were peaceful, but his clinic was bombed in 1986 and he was shot in both arms in 1993. In 1991, a 45-day "Summer of Mercy" campaign organized by Operation Rescue drew thousands of abortion opponents to Wichita and there were more than 2,700 arrests.

Tiller's clinic was one of a handful of clinics across the country that perform third-term abortions. Kansas state law allows abortions on viable fetuses after the 21st week only if carrying the pregnancy to term would endanger the mother's life or cause a "substantial and irreversible impairment" of a major bodily function. Courts have interpreted a "major bodily function" to include mental health.

Colorado doctor Warren Hern, Tiller's longtime friend who also performs late-term abortions, called the closing an "outrage." He said he knows that for the rest of his life, he will be a target of the anti-abortion movement.

> **"PART OF WHAT IS A TRAGEDY ABOUT THIS IS THAT VIOLENCE HAS ACHIEVED ITS OBJECTIVE. THERE IS A CONCERTED, ONGOING EFFORT AT HARASSMENT AND RESTRICTION WITH AN AIM TO MAKE DOCTORS LEAVE THE FIELD."**
>
> Nancy Northup
> President of Center for Reproductive Rights

"How much can you resist this kind of violence?" he said. "What doctor, what reasonable doctor would work there? Where does it stop?"

At least one doctor, LeRoy Carhart, had expressed an interest in reopening Tiller's clinic. Following the family's decision to shut it down, the Nebraska doctor said he wouldn't abandon his effort to make sure third-term abortions are available but did not elaborate on his plans.

"I completely understand and sympathize with this decision," he said in a statement. "I am currently exploring every option to be able to continue to make second and early medically indicated third trimester abortions available."

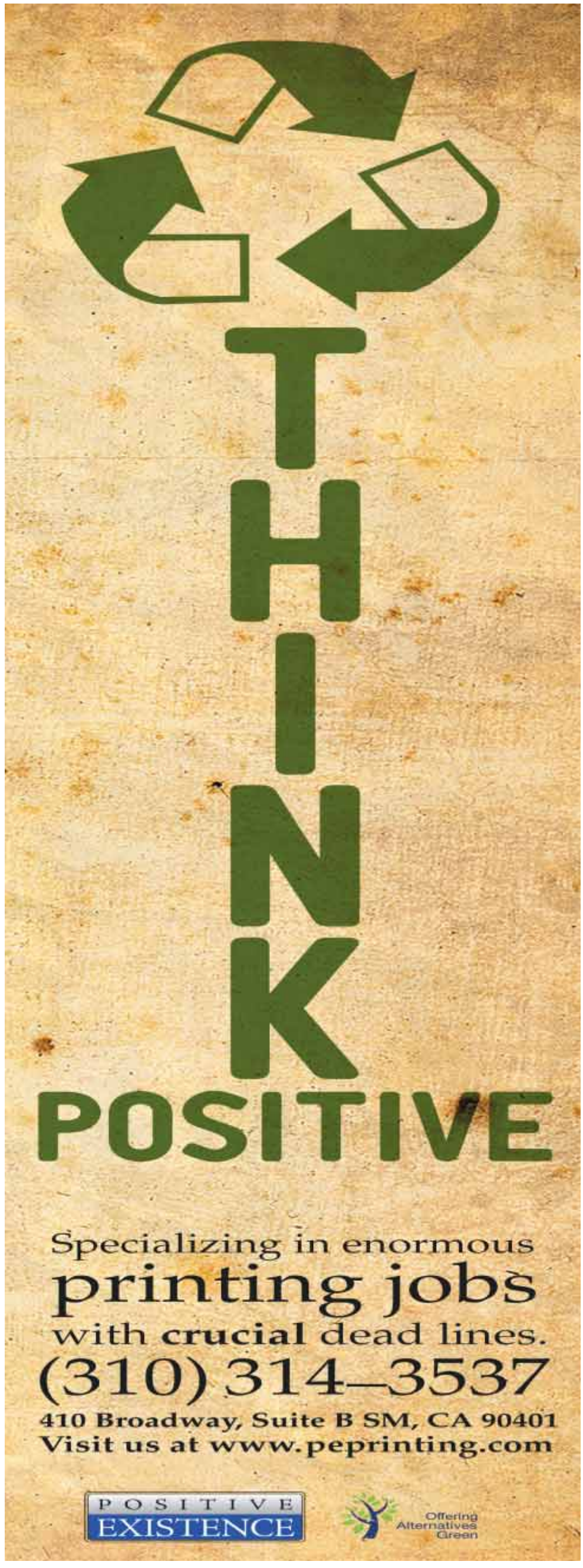
Reaction to the clinic's closing ranged from sympathy from abortion rights supporters to relief from some anti-abortion groups. Planned Parenthood Federation of America saod the decision to close was difficult for the Tiller family, while Randall Terry, who founded Operation Rescue before a falling-out with the organization, said "good riddance" when he heard about the closing.

"If his replacement was going to continue to kill late-term children, the protests would continue, the investigations would continue, the indictments would continue," said Terry, who stopped using the Operation Rescue name following numerous lawsuits in 1990. He said history would remember Tiller's clinic as it remembers Auschwitz and other Nazi concentration camps.

Others were more subdued. Mary Kay Culp, executive director of Kansans for Life, said it was "really tragic" to have violence close the clinic when the state's medical board was pursuing a complaint that could have cost Tiller his license.

The complaint before the State Board of Healing Arts, which licenses and regulates doctors in Kansas, alleged Tiller violated a state law that required him to obtain a second opinion from an independent physician, and it accused him of engaging in unprofessional or dishonorable conduct. A board spokeswoman has said since the shooting the case probably will be closed.

Said Newman in an e-mail: "Operation Rescue was just two months away from getting Tiller's medical license revoked, and that would have accomplished the same goal."





SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 62°

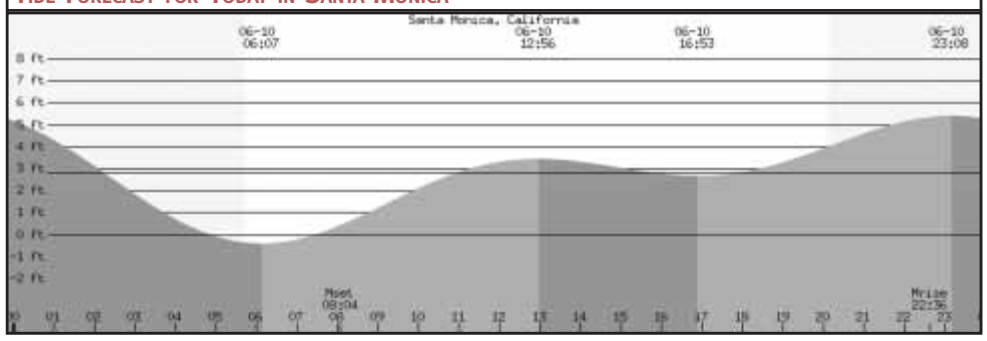
Swell Forecast (1-2 FT)

Wednesday the 10th looks weak as the southern hemi swell drops off, perhaps knee to waist high around south facing breaks. West facing breaks should still remain weak with knee to waist high waves.

Long Range Synopsis

Thursday the 11th is when our next southern hemi swell is due, but nothing much above waist high is expected. Some light wind swell should help west facing breaks with some knee to waist high waves.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of: **June 2, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 0
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 40 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by simplehuman, Goldhirsh Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, Ford

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	C	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	F	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pierce Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	B	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	C	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	ns	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	B	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	ns

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone
WET – grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
ns -- no sample taken

Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card® is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A–F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

Heal the Bay

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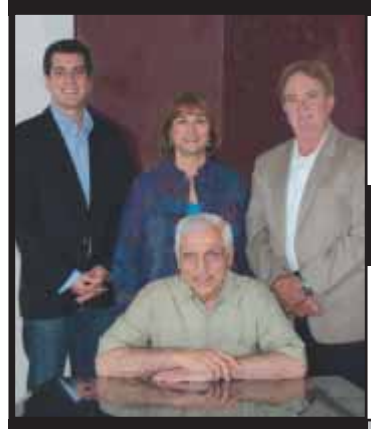
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MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
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(323) 466-FILM

Call theatre for more information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Drag Me to Hell (PG-13) 1hr 39min
12:45, 2:00, 3:15, 4:30, 5:45, 7:00, 8:15, 9:30

The Hangover (R) 1hr 36min
2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45

Land of the Lost (PG-13)
12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:00

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

Up (PG) 1hr 36min
1:20, 4:00, 6:30, 9:10

Up (Digital 3-D) (PG) 1hr 36min
2:15, 4:55, 7:30, 10:10

Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (PG) 1hr 45min
12:25, 2:55, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25

Angels & Demons (Digital) (PG-13) 2hrs 20min
12:50, 4:05, 7:10, 10:15

Star Trek (2009) (PG-13) (CC) 2hrs 06min
1:10, 4:25, 7:15, 10:05

The Hangover (R) 1hr 36min
12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

Land of the Lost (PG-13)
1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

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

The Brothers Bloom (PG-13) 1hr 49min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

Every Little Step (PG-13) 1hr 36min
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45

Easy Virtue (PG-13) 1hr 33min
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15

Downloading Nancy (NR) 1hr 57min
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40

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

Terminator Salvation (Digital) (PG-13) 1hr 54min
11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20

X-Men Origins: Wolverine (PG-13) 1hr 47min
1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10

Dance Flick (PG-13) 1hr 23min
12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:30, 9:40

The Soloist (PG-13) 1hr 49min
1:00, 4:10, 7:00, 10:00

Terminator Salvation (PG-13) 1hr 54min
1:10, 3:50, 6:40, 9:20

My Life in Ruins (PG-13) 1hr 38min
11:50am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:50

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

Kick back, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ A must performance pushes you to go that extra mile. Pressure builds around work and communication. A friend roots you on; let this person know how much you appreciate his or her support. Try to understand what is going on with someone who might not make complete sense. Use your intuition. Tonight: Make it early.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Stretch to a new level of understanding and attempt to do something totally offbeat. Recognize what is happening. Realize what you need to do in order to calm down a boss. Tonight: Listen to a great piece of music.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Someone plays into your hand. Know what is going on behind the scenes. Get extra opinions. You could be surprised by what you hear. Digest the information, and you might make sense of it all. Tonight: Say yes to an invitation.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Your ability to integrate many people comes forward. Realize anything could happen. Maintain a sense of humor, and you'll discover how much you could be smiling. Listen to news. Tonight: So many choices.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ How you deal with someone could be totally different from what you intended. Review a situation with open eyes and a readiness for change. A key relationship embodies a revolutionary tone. Your ability to answer and respond emerges. Tonight: Choose a favorite relaxing activity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Your creativity emerges when dealing with children, loved ones and ideas, adding a twinkle to your eye. How you feel about someone and the choices you make are somewhat more perceptive than normal. Tonight: Midweek break!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Pressure builds as you attempt to juggle various concerns. Your family and home become even higher priorities! Consider a home office, especially if you desire to spend more time at home. Tonight: Kick back.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Reach out for others, even if someone has been defiant, difficult or remote. The smart Scorp will work with issues rather than walk away. Screen calls if you would like to finish up a project. Tonight: Speak rather than hold back.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ An unexpected twist causes a problem out of the blue. Understand what is happening within your immediate circle. Your ability to understand and break past issues emerges, especially concerning finances and security. Tonight: Others share their opinions, whether you want to hear them or not!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Listen to feedback with the knowledge of what you want and believe. Investigate possibilities in a positive manner. Though you fly a steady path, others will do their best (so it seems) to toss obstacles in your path. Tonight: Act empowered, and see what happens.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Kick back and understand. Acting right now might not be the smartest move. Listen to concerns, handle what you must and move forward. Investigate alternatives that surround your finances and instincts. Tonight: Return calls.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Focus on your long-term needs and goals. You might opt for another route. Listen to feedback about a child or loved one with care. Curb a tendency to overthink things and worry. Incorporate more dynamic thinking. Tonight: Where the gang is.

Happy birthday

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

This year, you rapidly rip through many different concepts. You could be changing your mind without realizing it. Your ability to process and consider multiple ideas will change mainly because of a partnership or several key relationships. You work with many theories, sometimes testing them out on others. Sometimes you feel as if you have too many experts! Certainly, with no convergence of ideas, you might feel a bit overwhelmed. If you are single, a relationship increases in significance. As a result, you might move too quickly or jump into a relationship — careful. If you are attached, the two of you spend a lot of time together. CAPRICORN has a totally different style.

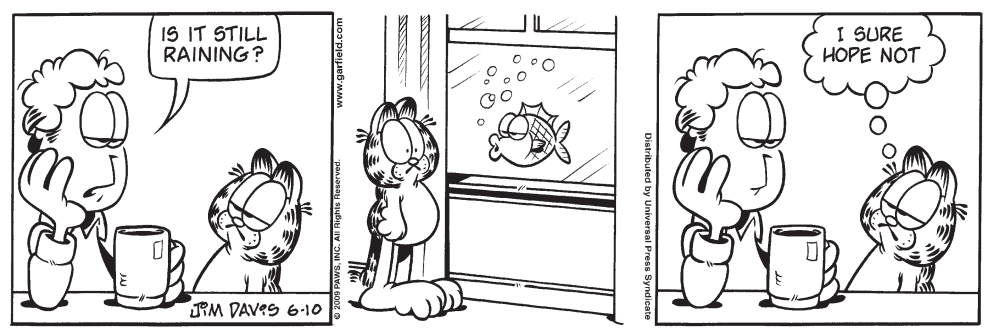
Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



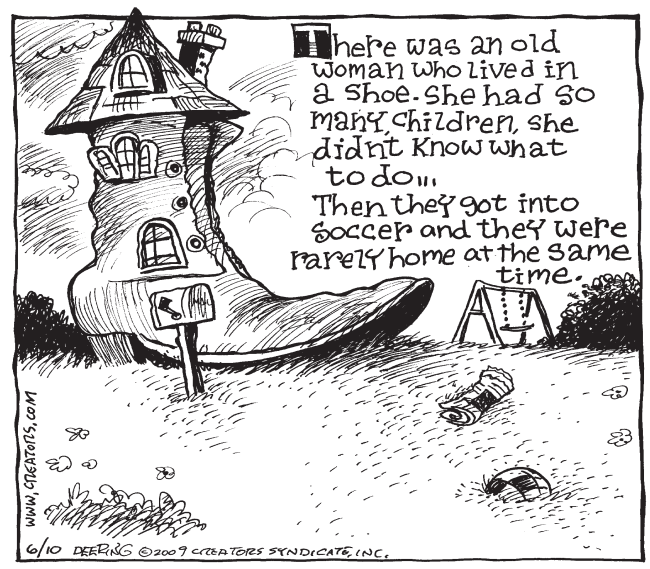
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from ★ (easiest) to ★★★★★ (hardest).

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

There are many strategies to solving Sudoku. One way to begin is to examine each 3x3 grid and figure out which numbers are missing. Then, based on the other numbers in the row and column of each blank cell, find which of the missing numbers will work. Eliminating numbers will eventually lead you to the answer.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Cushy
5 Increase
11 General Bradley
12 Comfortable
13 Refuse
14 Buck
15 — Arbor
16 Leave at the altar
17 Modern messages
19 Deep hole
22 Subway patron
24 Classic 1953 western
26 Golfer's choice
27 Formerly
28 Showy
30 Movie barbarian
31 Leaf lifter
32 Wed in haste
34 Wheedle
35 "CSI" evidence
38 Multi-spouse crime
41 Spot for laps
42 Tooth layer
43 Artist's inspiration
44 Lead ore
45 Underworld river

DOWN

1 Fizzy drink
2 Sign of trouble
3 Spread wide
4 Attempt
5 Circle spokes
6 Ring islands
7 Dissolve
8 Bud
9 Much of N. Amer.
10 According to
16 Pickle buy
18 Patch up
19 Succeeded
20 Early Peruvian
21 New driver, often
22 Latvia's capital
23 Turkey neighbor
25 Court ring
29 Naval clerks
30 Rowing team member
33 Eric Clapton hit
34 Arrived
36 Prone to prying
37 Baseball's Rodriguez
38 Plead
39 Words with pickle, stew or jam
40 Guy's date
41 Eves.

L	E	D	S	■	■	B	A	S	I	E
A	R	E	A	S	■	A	L	A	N	S
S	A	L	T	M	A	R	S	H	E	S
E	S	E	■	O	U	T	■	A	V	A
R	E	T	U	R	N	■	P	R	E	Y
■	R	E	S	E	T	■	E	A	R	S
■	■	■	U	S	E	R	S	■	■	■
S	T	A	R	■	L	O	O	P	S	■
L	A	D	Y	■	L	O	S	E	I	T
I	K	E	■	M	E	T	■	O	N	E
P	E	P	P	E	R	U	P	P	E	R
O	T	T	O	S	■	P	O	L	A	R
N	O	S	E	S	■	■	L	E	D	A

Yesterday's answer

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

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

6-10

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 5 20 38 41 52
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: $25M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 12 29 31 37 47
Meganumber: 3
Jackpot: $30M

Fantasy 5: 4 5 24 25 33

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 5 2 7
EVENING: 2 4 0

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 01 Gold Rush
RACE TIME: 1.41.54

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Kailash Singh, 63, who lives in a village near the holy city of Varanasi, India, told reporters in May that he had not bathed in the last 35 years, but for a good reason: remaining water-free would improve his chances of fathering a male instead of a female. (It hasn't worked, and he has moved on to a new cause, shunning baths until India's social problems are resolved.) Singh previously owned a shop, but became a farmer because customers increasingly declined to approach him.

■ Recurring Theme: According to a March dispatch in London's Observer, activists in Mauritania have protested the new military government's support for an African tribal tradition of forcibly fattening up adolescent girls to make them appear "healthier" for early marriage (traditional in, among other countries, Nigeria, mentioned in News of the Weird in 1998). In the custom of "leblouh," the size of the female indicates "the size of her place in her man's heart."

■ Ms. Nour Hadad, 26, was arrested in Orland Park, Ill., in April and charged with (and, according to police, confessed to) beating her 2-year-old niece to death while baby-sitting, and, as usual, police publicly released her booking photograph. However, Hadad's husband, Alaeddin, immediately complained that her photo, without her head scarf, was an "insult" to Islam. Said a Muslim activist, "They should respect the modesty of the accused."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1964 the Senate voted to limit further debate on a proposed civil rights bill, shutting off a filibuster by Southern senators.

1977 James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., escaped from Brushy Mountain State Prison in Tennessee with six others; he was recaptured June 13.

1978 Affirmed won the Belmont Stakes and with it, horse racing's Triple Crown.

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