

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

FANTASY 5

2 6 7 15 37

DAILY 3

Daytime: 1 9 9

Evening: 4 9 2

DAILY DERBY

1st: 08 Gorgeous George

2nd: 07 Eureka

3rd: 01 Gold Rush

RACE TIME: 1:42.49



NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ A Palm Beach Post writer, making the point that America's obesity problem is not limited to humans, reported from the Boca Greens Animal Hospital (Boca Raton, Fla.) in June that "Pumpkin," a 12-pound Chihuahua, was up and moving well after her recent liposuction surgery. However, the 12 ounces of fat she lost still left her among South Florida's overweight pets, said to be two-thirds of their population. As Pumpkin's owner was reminded, surgery is not to be a substitute for sensible exercise and a modest number of treats.

■ Police in Fort Myers, Fla., arrested Carlos Chereza, 17, in April and charged him with hiring a hit man to kill his mother and to make it look like a burglary; as is often the case, the "hit man" was actually an undercover detective, who by the way said Chereza's main concern was to pull off the job without damaging the family's TV set.

■ In March, Thailand's agriculture minister criticized health officials' proposal to embed microchips in the nation's 200,000 fighting roosters, to help deal with the avian flu scare sweeping Asia; the minister's main concern was that the implants would hamper the cocks' aggressiveness.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I want to put a ding in the universe."
— STEVE JOBS

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Carolyn Sackarison/Daily Press

Mechanic John Shipley, far left, on Monday repairs a wheelchair lift on a Big Blue Bus. New wheelchair ramps are just one of many improvements slated for the bus company.

Big Blue Bus to get \$4 million makeover

\$6.4M to be spent on buses, land use and D.C. lobbyists

(Editor's note: This is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures which appear on the upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agenda. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the city council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.)

By Daily Press staff

COUNCIL CHAMBERS — Elected leaders are expected to spend an estimated \$6.4 million tonight for face lifts designed to enhance the city's appearance for the future.

Santa Monica's public transportation system will undergo a \$4.7 million extreme makeover, while the city's land use plan will be nipped and tucked into a new design costing \$1.6 million. Santa Monica's representatives in Washington will be paid \$63,000 to keep injecting the city's needs into the national scope of government.

BIG BLUE COMES OUT LOOKING LIKE NEW

As 88 Big Blue Buses approach their mid-life crisis, the city's public transportation system will be the most expensive expenditure of the night. The \$4,695,526 — paid by state and local tax revenue dedicated to transit funds — will lift the sagging looks and functioning of the buses. New wheelchair ramps, seats, a video security system, new lighting and other amenities will be installed.

The improvements will keep the buses running safe during their 12-year life span, officials said. Six video cameras — four inside and two outside of the buses — will take digital images and archive them. The cameras will be installed in 125 buses and will help reduce vandalism and graffiti, improve security, provide information on driver/passenger disputes and lower false claims made against the transportation system, officials said.

See CONSENT, page 5

Residents and activists join council race

Eighteen people pull papers for City Council seats on Monday; the campaign's formal start officially kicks off

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Two veteran Pico neighborhood activists were among the field of 18 residents who pulled papers to join the City Council race on Monday — the first day the hopefuls could formally launch their campaigns for four open seats.

Don Gray and Peter Tigler said they decided to join the race after watching for decades as elected officials ignored the perceived escalation of violence and other problems plaguing their eastern Santa Monica neighborhood.

"I think Santa Monica is due for a change," said Tigler, 50, a 25-year resident of the Pico neighborhood. "I think we're heading in the wrong direction, and I think I can offer a new

See COUNCIL, page 4

Mailer points to city's problems

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN

Business interests hoping to unseat the local ruling party this fall have launched a new Web site and sent out the first in a series of mailers drawing attention to what it sees as Santa Monica's biggest prob-

See MAILER, page 5

Police looking for potential rapist

By Daily Press staff

Police are looking for a man who broke into a Santa Monica woman's home early Saturday and attempted to rape her.

The suspect, described as a white man in his late 20s, 5'11", 170-180 lbs., wearing a black beanie cap and a gray sweatshirt, broke into the woman's home in the 2100 block of Oak Street at about 6 a.m., police said.

Santa Monica Police responded to a 9-1-1 call from the woman who reported that there was an intruder in her home. The victim told police that the suspect attempted to sexually assault her but when he went to another room in the house, she was able to dial 9-1-1. That's when the suspect fled on foot. Police searched the area, but weren't able to locate him.

Anyone having any information regarding the incident is encouraged to contact the Santa Monica Police Department at (310) 458-8491. Callers who wish to remain anonymous may call the We-Tip national hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME (27463).

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Virgo, work late tonight

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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



♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ What might seem like a crazy idea could be a lot more than that. You might even be tossing unnecessary negatives into your path. Experiment and see how you can make this wild thought happen. Brainstorm with associates and friends. Tonight: Chat up a storm.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You might not have a firm grasp on what is happening at home or at work. Don't worry yourself to death about what might be going on. Keep an eye on your spending, though a certain purchase could be most beneficial. Just limit yourself. Tonight: Your treat.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ People don't relate clearly; also, you might be giving a mixed message. Clarify. Check appointments. You are unusually attractive to those around you. Spend some time socializing. A lengthy lunch might fit the bill. Tonight: Keep smiling.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might not have the handle on your funds you would like, or another's budget. Money slips through your hands like water. Sit back and take a back seat. Someone reveals a heartfelt secret. Don't spill the beans and tell! Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Another person doesn't hear the words you are saying. You might even need to reiterate your words or ideas differently. Remember your long-term goals if you are frustrated; network and let others help you. Tonight: Where the gang is.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You must accept responsibility and take charge. Could you not be getting the whole story, especially about a work- or health-related matter? Others follow your lead. Don't hesitate to delegate. You have a way with people right now. Tonight: Work late.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Don't get tied up in what others are saying or thinking. There could be a bad case of misinformation going around. Do your own research and confirm each detail. Someone cares a lot about you. Reach out and make plans. Tonight: Where the music is.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Work with others individually. You might not be sure what others want. Ask questions and confirm what you are hearing. As usual, you find that one person comes through for you. Let this person know how special he or she is to you. Tonight: Say thank you nicely!

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Others seem to inevitably get messages, appointments and work messed up. Stay easy and work with others. Maintaining a sense of humor helps you fly through problems and wins friends at the same time. Tonight: Enjoy your popularity.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ What appears like a good money idea easily could backfire. Resort to the tried-and-true in the next few days. You will gain by being nurturing and following your conservative streak. Seek out more information before making a decision. Tonight: Get some exercise.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You find solutions while others experience confusion. Let your imagination rock and roll. Expressing yourself and helping others understand your far-out idea could take the whole day. Be imaginative in your communications. Tonight: Romp the night away.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your initial instincts could be off. Act conservatively and check in with your advisers. Your high energy helps you complete whatever you need to do so you can go off and deal with a personal matter. Tonight: Make a special dinner.

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LOCAL



All-Star champions



Photo courtesy

The Santa Monica Pony League Mustang All-Stars earned the championship of the San Pedro-Wilmington Invitational Tournament earlier this month. This is the second year in a row Santa Monica has won the 10 and under title at Bloch Field in San Pedro.

Top row: Joseph Corrigan, Tyler Flynn, Kori Garcia, coach Ray Garcia, Kyle Radenberg, David Tyre-Vigil, Adam Padilla, D.J. Gutierrez and coach Jaime Gutierrez.

Bottom row: Andrew Phillips, Anthony Hernandez and Nick Herrera. Not pictured: Coach Mark Landis, Mason Landis and Dylan Muscat.

SMPD sobriety checkpoint nets DUI arrest

By Daily Press staff

One person on Saturday was arrested for driving under the influence and several others were issued citations after they were stopped in a sobriety checkpoint on Main Street.

The Santa Monica Police Department conducted a driver's license and sobriety checkpoint in the 2000 block of Main Street between 7 p.m. and midnight. A total of 866 vehicles drove through the checkpoint and 256 vehicles were stopped in a five-hour period.

Funding for the program was provided by a grant from the Office of Traffic Safety, obtained through the California Business, Transportation & Housing Agency. The grant called, "We LEADD," known as "Westside Law Enforcement Against Drunk Driving," is designed to improve traffic safety in the community, police said. The goal of the program aims at educating and bringing awareness to the community, while at the same time detecting and removing drunk and irresponsible drivers from the road, police said.

CORRECTION — The band featured in a photo in the July 10-11 edition was incorrectly identified. The band, Ras Michael, performed at last Thursday's Twilight Dance Series, along with the Wailing Souls, who were not pictured.

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SURF REPORT

On Tuesday look for a mix of leftover SW swell and holding NW wind swell. Northern LA County spots see mostly knee-high waves. Standout NW/combo breaks get some waist-high sets. A new S swell fills in by the late afternoon and into Wednesday with knee- to waist-high surf at the better exposed breaks. Average South Bay spots stay below waist-high throughout the day, with a few waist-high sets at best NW/combo breaks in the north half of the bay. Look for light and variable wind in the morning to build out of the W in the 8-15 knot range for the afternoon.

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

Today the water is:

64°



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	10:37	1.8	N/A	N/A	5:25	3.2	5:33	5.2
SUNDAY	12:53	1.0	11:28	2.2	7:00	3.2	6:15	5.4
MONDAY	1:44	0.5	12:18	2.5	8:13	3.3	6:54	5.6
TUESDAY	2:26	0.1	1:04	2.7	9:06	3.4	7:30	5.8
WEDNESDAY	3:02	-0.2	1:44	2.7	9:45	3.5	8:05	5.9
THURSDAY	3:36	-0.4	2:21	2.7	10:18	3.6	8:39	6.0
FRIDAY	4:07	-0.5	2:56	2.6	10:48	3.7	9:13	6.1

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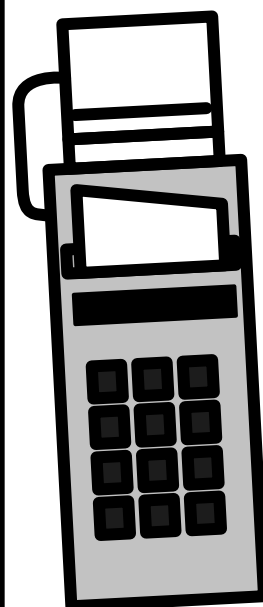
More than a dozen new retail outlets, restaurants and other merchants are expected to open locations in downtown Santa Monica this summer, which officials hope will fuel the Third Street Promenade and its more dormant side streets with new life.

One objection often raised in recent years regarding the Promenade and its surrounding streets is the increasing presence large corporate chains have in this area. City Hall officials struggle to control the mix of merchants, but some say that it is uncertain where the balance of businesses should be. After all, the corporate

chains are the ones that have — and often bring in — the money.

So this week, Q-line wants to know, "What mix of businesses would you like to see on the Promenade and its surrounding areas? Should all businesses have equal access or should City Hall closely regulate the balance of independent owners and corporate chains?"

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



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LOCAL

Endorsements key to council election success

COUNCIL, from page 1

voice and a better view — certainly a resident view ...

"It has to do with all the things that have been in the news for a couple of years, if not more," Tigler added. "But mainly ... it's got to do with the money. We have a huge budget in this city. Where's it going, who's it benefiting and how are we spending it? What are the priorities and where is the money going?"

Gray, 47, accused City Hall of sponsoring "institutional racism" by dumping too many crime-ridden affordable housing projects into the Pico neighborhood.

"I just know that, from my own experience, that I do think there are a lot of Pico residents who have reached the point that said, 'We're not going to get anything from the current administration, so we kind of need to take an active part, if we want the problems of the Pico neighborhood addressed,'" the 14-year resident said.

Also formally entering the race were Mayor Richard Bloom and City Councilman Herb Katz; local doctor Matt Dinolfo; former school board member Patricia Hoffman; peace activist Jerry Peace Activist Rubin, Red Cross spokesman Tom Viscount, and several other concerned residents and activists (see list below).

Those wishing to appear on the ballot have until Aug. 9 to turn in their election materials. Included in candidate packages must be a campaign statement, a petition with 100 resident signatures and financial disclosure materials, said City Clerk Maria Stewart, who on Monday hosted a

candidate forum for some two dozen people.

Contenders will be seeking critical endorsements this summer and fall, especially from Santa Monicans for Renters Rights — long City Hall's ruling party — and the local chamber of commerce, which for the first time has established a political action committee that plans to endorse candidates. The annual SMRR convention, when members will choose which candidates to endorse, is Aug. 1. The chamber doesn't have a set date for its endorsements, but officials expect a decision near Labor Day.

Both endorsements are seen as crucial because the groups likely will pay tens of thousands of dollars to send direct mail pieces to local voters.

Chamber officials were believed to be seriously considering Katz, Viscount and Dinolfo. Still, Tom Larmore, treasurer of the chamber's committee, said the group would meet with every interested party before making a decision. School organizer Shari Davis, who many hoped would run, said Monday she would not join the council race this year.

Five hopefuls will be vying for SMRR's City Council endorsements, said Denny Zane, who helped found SMRR and serves as co-chair. They are Bloom, Genser, Hoffman, City Councilman Mike Feinstein and Pico neighborhood activist Maria Loya. SMRR, whose members pay \$35 annually, will probably spend between \$60,000 and \$70,000 on mailers — their most powerful campaign tool — supporting its chosen candidates this year, Zane added.

"Grassroots fundraising costs a lot, so it sometimes looks like we have a lot more money than is available, because we have to spend so much to raise money," Zane said. "That's the nature of the beast. That's always been the nature of the beast."

Bloom, who hopes to win his third term in five elections, called SMRR's endorsement the single most important one in the city.

"I think SMRR represents the broadest cross section of Santa Monica," he said. "Not the only cross section, but probably the broadest. Their platform reflects my own progressive beliefs, but they won't be the only endorsement that I'll seek."

Katz, who hasn't been backed by SMRR in previous elections and won't seek its endorsement this year, said he hoped the chamber's participation will help change the make-up of the City Council, which for years has been dominated by SMRR members.

"I am sick of being in the minority," he said. "I'd like not to be a minority, and I would be pleased if we could get some fresh blood in there and start working in a different manner," said Katz, who arrived at City Hall at 7:30 a.m. to be the first council candidate to pull papers. "I would like to not be in the minority. This is not fun. This is not what I do in my career. I'm an architect. I'm a problem solver."

What's in a name ...

Eighteen residents on Monday pulled papers to join the race for four City Council seats open this November. They include:

Chuck Allord
Linda Armstrong
Richard Bloom
Matt Dinolfo
Beverly Donaloff
Susan Fraser
Don Gray
Patricia Hoffman
Herb Katz
John Mann
Joe Paolucci
Scott Reiter
Jerry Peace Activist Rubin
Erwin Ruch
Jennie Scheer
*Pro Se
Peter Tigler
Tom Viscount

* (Pro Se pulled papers for himself, Donaloff, Ruch and Scheer.)

Do you have community news?

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LOCAL

Consultants in D.C. keep Santa Monica represented

CONSENT, from page 1

STUDY WILL MAKEOVER CITY LAND USAGE

With the population increasing almost on a daily basis, city officials are hoping to make the most of what land is available for the next 20 to 25 years. City Hall will pay \$1,648,830 to receive an update on how to best frame the land-use and urban design plans for the future.

The update will focus on land issues in Santa Monica's commercial and residential areas, as well as provide an analysis and reshaping of the zoning code. The firm chosen to redesign Santa Monica's land use policy was chosen because of its experience working in other built-out cities such as downtown Chicago and Sacramento.

The Dyett & Bhatia Co. will conduct a two-year study of the sustainability, livability and smart growth of Santa Monica.

Resident involvement will be asked for by creating interactive newsletters, a Web site, and holding community workshops.

SANTA MONICA REPRESENTED IN WASHINGTON

Santa Monica's presence in the nation's capitol will remain firm after tonight's \$63,600 payment to the Ferguson Group, a lobbying consultant

company which has worked on City Hall's federal issues in the past.

The contract for this year asks the group to help City Hall monitor water contamination, and work on issues like community and economic development, as well as housing advocacy. The group also will be asked to advocate for infrastructure improvements such as the Palisades Bluffs stabilization, and transit alternatives such as light rail funding and boulevard improvements.

Chamber plans to send out several campaign mailers

MAILER, from page 1

lems — homelessness, traffic congestion, and the policies and bureaucracies within City Hall.

The critical mailer was the first part of what's been billed as an "educational campaign," aiming to broaden community input on a range of issues. It was sponsored by the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, which for the first time this November will endorse candidates for the City Council.

Critics said the mailer plainly attempts to foster contempt among voters. Chamber leaders defended the campaign, saying residents need to be more involved.

"Whether the concern is vagrancy, traffic or crime, we want to encourage greater dialogue between the community and our elected leaders," said former mayor and current chamber of commerce chairman Nat Trives, in a prepared statement. "We encourage residents to draw their own conclusions. In the end, we think they'll agree that Santa Monica deserves better."

The first full-color mailer, which was sent out over the July Fourth holiday weekend, features a picture of the Santa Monica Pier and the beach on one side, and reads, "This is the Santa Monica we love." The other side says, "This is what we've got" and shows clippings from various news reports about homelessness, traffic and City Hall. It concludes with "Santa Monica deserves better."

Seth Jacobsen, a volunteer spokesman for the business community, said four or five other mailers will follow in the coming weeks, each addressing a particular issue in greater detail.

"Theoretically, it's not endorsing any one candidate, but it's more just to raise the issues we think all the candidates ought to address — that's really what it's about," Jacobsen said.

Tom Larmore, treasurer of the cham-

ber's political action committee, said Monday the committee has raised between \$40,000 and \$50,000 to spend on the election. The first mailer cost about \$15,000 and was sent to about 20,000 households, Larmore added.

"It was primarily based on people who vote frequently and it went to homeowners and some tenants, based on their voting history. Not how they vote, because you don't know that, but whether they are frequent voters," Larmore said.

Launched last week, the Web site at www.santamonica2004.com contains links to dozens of news articles chronicling various hot-button issues, sorted by category. Among the categories are "Vagrancy & Transients," "Traffic & Parking," "Business Climate" and "City Governance."

"We deserve better," the site's home page reads. "Renter. Homeowner. Employee. Business Owner. Student. Professional. Homemaker. Senior. We're all in this together."

Mayor Richard Bloom, an incumbent who will be seeking reelection, has been a vocal critic of the chamber's active role in the coming election. He described the recent mailer as negative in tone, adding it was an unfortunate strategy for the chamber to use.

"I don't believe that either the residential community or the business community is well served by a chamber of commerce that interjects itself into the electoral political process," Bloom said.

Chamber officials hope to fill the four open seats on the City Council with candidates friendly to local merchants. Endorsements will be decided on in the coming months.

"We'll talk with each one (candidate) and make recommendations to the chamber board, which will make the final decision, and my guess is that will come right around Labor Day sometime," Larmore said.

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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Presidential race not a laughing matter

Editor:
Regarding David E. Johnson's take on the Kerry-Edwards ticket, (SMDP, July 8, page 4), I was not aware that the determining criteria for the capability of a potential U.S. vice president was the "late night comedians laugh test." As for Edwards' lack of experience in foreign affairs, George W. himself did not come to office with a heavyweight resume in this area. This has been predominantly provided by Cheney, otherwise known as our acting president. As for Edwards' charisma outweighing Kerry's, that just makes Kerry smart for selecting someone who balances the ticket. And as for Kerry's presumed aversion to Edwards, let's not be naive: Politicians never love their most challenging opponent during the election process. Politics can be, justifiably at times, a pragmatic enterprise. But if Johnson cares to ignore these realities, he can relax and rely on Leno and Letterman for guidance as to how to cast his vote.

Sunny Kreis
Santa Monica

Little League error resolved by district, not parents

Editor:
Regarding the story about Santa Monica Little League (SMDP, July 7, page 1), good article, and extremely accurate.
One point of contention, however, to manager Steve Heineman's quote about the

parents' impact on the reversal of the forfeit.
The parents mobilization had nothing to do with the reversal. In fact, had the national headquarters of Little League in Williamsport had to deal with the group of parents voicing their grievance, the results may not have been favorable at all.
It was the district administrator, Marty Hoy, who was very self-effacing in taking ownership of a poor judgment by district 25, and his subsequent fight to rectify what was a very mismanaged situation. Marty identified that the umpire from the first game had made a hideous error concerning the ejection of Alonzo Gonzalez, and then made certain Santa Monica East was not penalized.
I am part of Santa Monica East Little League and a friend of Steve Heineman, but the truth is that Little League is functional enough to fix some of its own mistakes. Parents will typically make matters worse when involved with that much self interest.
Little League could have never been liable for any misjudgment — the All Star affidavit would absolve them of that.
Just wanted to make sure that the appropriate people at district 25 were given their due for their primary role in making good and that a realistic light was shed on why justice prevailed.

Matt Steinhaus
Santa Monica

See LETTERS, page 7

A tale of two cities makes Santa Monica look like heaven



DOSE OF REALITY
BY MATTHEW GLASSER

The candidate filling period in Santa Monica for those interested in running for the City Council, rent control board, local school board, or community college board began on Monday. Let the fun begin. As usual, most, if not all of the incumbents will run for re-election. And a handful of poor souls will run under-funded and under-resourced campaigns in an attempt to defeat the incumbents.
As usual, the local elections are bound to bring out the "best" in people. That's sarcasm in case you can't tell. For the next few months, be prepared to listen to accusations, complaints, and rantings about the sorry state of life in Santa Monica.
The challengers to the incumbents will argue that the current crop of politicians have let voters down and have failed to respond to the problems plaguing the city. The current elected officials will highlight their achievements and talk about the progress they are making in solving those same problems. And the usual collection of community groups and gadflies will add their two cents to the debate by blaming everyone but themselves.

Before the games begin, I'd like to add my two cents. You are going to hear a lot of people complaining about life in Santa Monica. And you may be tempted to believe that the city is headed for the seventh level of hell. But don't move just yet. It's important to have some perspective when listening to the naysayers and complainers. Sure, Santa Monica has its problems, but you've got to compare it to life outside the coastal enclave. Only then can you really understand how good you've got it.
Less than 25 miles from Santa Monica is another city of the same population. This city will hold its city council elections a few months after the new/old Santa Monica City Council takes office. And like the election in Santa Monica, this community will debate how life in their city can and should be improved.
The city is Compton and a side-by-side comparison with Santa Monica provides a little perspective about life here. Try to remember these comparisons when you hear candidates complaining about the city's shortcomings.
■ In Santa Monica, parents worry that their children will run into the homeless at the park.
In Compton, parents worry that their children will run into bullets at the park.
■ In Santa Monica, the closest thing to political corruption is the Green Party

allegation that Councilmember Mike Feinstein used party funds for his own personal use.
In Compton, the mayor, city manager, and a councilmember were sentenced to jail or probation for misappropriating city funds and double billing taxpayers.
■ In Santa Monica, residents can visit the weekly farmers' market and purchase fresh produce.
In Compton, residents have a difficult time finding a supermarket to buy produce of any kind.
■ In Santa Monica, the graduation rate from high school is 91 percent.
In Compton, the graduation rate from high school is 48 percent.
■ In Santa Monica, students scored 62 percent on the reading and 68 percent on the 2003 CAT/6 standardized test.
In Compton, students scored 20 percent on the reading and 29 percent on the 2003 CAT/6 standardized test.
■ In Santa Monica, the average income per capita is more than \$46,000.
In Compton, the average income per capita is less than \$11,000.
■ In Santa Monica, one or two people are murdered each year.

In Compton, more than 57 people are murdered each year.
■ In Santa Monica, residents are forced to listen to really bad entertainers on the Third Street Promenade.
In Compton, residents wish they had a shopping district like the Third Street Promenade.
These are but a few comparisons between the two cities. I don't mean to pick on Compton. I certainly feel for those having to endure the life-and-death problems of that city. I hope that their children can someday feel as safe as those living in Santa Monica.
My point is to simply remind Santa Monicans that life in this city is pretty darn good. When you hear candidates for office bad mouthing life in Santa Monica — and you will — remember that the problems of traffic, homelessness, and expensive housing are more desirable than the problems of gangs, nightly murders, and severe political corruption.
A little perspective can go along way. Let's keep that in mind during this next election cycle. And when you hear a candidate complain that Santa Monica is facing Armageddon, have them take a 30-minute drive to a city named Compton.
(Matthew Glasser can be reached by e-mail at mediamattthew@yahoo.com)

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to 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.



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OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 6

Olympic principal shuffle unjust

Editor:

Regarding the replacement of Olympic High School's principal Suzanne Toyryla with a woman who has been promoting President Bush's "No Rich Kid Left Behind" initiative in Southern California and says she is really passionate about her commitment to not having to commute so far (SMDP, July 10-11, page 1).

It is becoming harder and harder for me to observe the levels of hypocrisy practiced in Santa Monica. The latest is how a committed principal of a public school for kids with extra burdens to carry (I hate phrases like "special needs") is so easily pushed out of her job on the basis of undisclosed reasons (even undisclosed to the principal herself) and — this is the hypocritical part — a "progressive" City Council that says it believes in open government and one that just gave the silent executioner (I mean district superintendent) millions on demand to bail out his school system — yet doesn't even raise a squeak about this kind of vindictive behavior.

What kind of message does this send to the students and parents of this school, students and parents who have already seen plenty of arbitrary acts and discriminatory acts in their lives committed against them by government and private enterprise alike? All the bull about justice and fairness taught in their classes must fall on deaf ears when they see how someone who showed her dedication to them can become a non-person overnight. I'll tell you what kind of message it sends: Might makes right.

Forget the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They only apply to people who count.

We should all be ashamed of the way this community shows contempt for those who make the mistake of living a commitment to the less fortunate. No wonder we support a political and economic system that keeps kids poor and then stigmatize them with arrest records so that they will join the military and die in our many invasions and occupations.

I salute you Suzanne Toyryla. You fought for your ignored students and their parents and, God knows, around here they need someone to fight for them and teach them to fight for themselves. I just wish that you would fight for yourself a little harder, while at the same time understanding that when you are under siege by authority you can sometimes become numbed and neutralized.

We should all be ashamed of the way this was done and that it was done at all. I can only think of the parallel of Congress giving power to George W. Bush to do what he wanted to do to people we didn't think deserved justice — and then giving him more and more money to carry on more evil and secretive acts.

With this kind of arbitrary and unjust actions by people who are supposed to be teaching justice and democracy we are spawning a new generation of brutes and a new era of brutality.

Oh, the hypocrisy.

Bill Bolt
Santa Monica

Answers to the \$70,000 question reveal hardly any surprises



LEGAL NEWS & VIEWS

BY DAVID PISARRA

The City Council's vaunted consultants have spoken and the \$70,000 they were paid has garnered us the taxpayers, the recommendation that we have a picture book for our zoning ordinances.

They made some other recommendations — like field inspectors should be in the field — and if you don't have enough staff, you should hire more. Duh.

It is precisely this type of thinking that shows the brilliance of the consultants in all their insightful glory. They suggested that meetings be shortened for the Architectural Review Board and the Planning Commission. That sounds very much like the current lawsuit filed by Councilmembers Katz and Holbrook against the city of Santa Monica. The councilmen filed a suit on the basis that late-night City Council meetings violate the state's open meetings law.

The consultants also suggested that the process be streamlined for administrative approvals. I know how to do that. Let's take away their responsibility for reviewing the single family homes in R-2 zones. Luckily that one is on the City Council's agenda for tonight.

The council tonight reviews, again, zoning ordinances. Embedded in this latest version is a provision that will exempt single-family homes in the R-2, R-3, and R-4 zones from having to go through the

three- to five-month delay that the ARB adds to a simple addition or remodel.

It is possible that this will actually get passed, as the City Council, in theory, must act before the current interim ordinance expires. But you never know, those wily lawyers might find a way to delay the action once again. It doesn't really matter that homeowners like me, who are trying to hire an architect, and a general contractor, and a roofer and a plumber and an electrician and a landscape architect, have absolutely no ability to move forward on our projects. No one really cares that the people we would be employing have to wait an additional few months for their paychecks because we are in a holding pattern.

No, the City Council would rather get on its collective soapbox and spout off about the importance of a living wage rather than allow the members of the public to actually pay one. The living wage is a concept that, if I recall correctly, the voters of the city, rejected. Yet the council decided to implement it at a city level, as a show of good faith, rather than actually doing work that will impact their constituents.

I'd rather they show me good faith and allow me to build a home in a timely fashion. I'm not asking for special treatment, or that we abandon all rules and oversight. Just that a simple second story addition to a tiny home which happens to be in an R-2 zone be approved without having to go to the ARB. It is absurd that an appointed body has the need to review my addition, if in compliance with the applicable codes, just because it can.

It is insane that I cannot even begin design work on my home because no one can give me a definitive answer as to what will be required because the ordinance is either unintelligible or "might change." People at the building and safety department can't even explain what the ordinance requires. That's pathetic and abhorrent to me.

We spend hundreds of thousands of dollars drafting these ordinances and they are unintelligible. I have a degree in mathematics and a law degree. There is a high probability that I am conversant with the English language (though some of my readers might disagree) and I cannot make heads or tails of what is required to build a second story on my house.

Here is why this matters. In economics, a dollar spent is not just a dollar in the economy. If I spend a dollar, it is likely that the person who received that dollar will save 10 cents of it, and spend the other 90 cents. This is in turn done by the people they spend money with. This is called the "Marginal Propensity to Consume" otherwise known as "MPC." It turns out that when money is spent, it generally creates about 10 times the value of what is spent. That means that if my partner and I spend \$200,000 on our second story addition, we have contributed about \$2,000,000 to the economy in general, based on the MPC.

This is why allowing us to build in a timely fashion is important. The money that we will spend in this community will help build the community. Money spent goes to families who then spend it on groceries, school activities, taxes and on their homes.

The council has delayed this ordinance with questions about where contractors will park, among other things. According to the staff report, "The Council expressed concern about the recommendation to prohibit the use of nail-on aluminum windows and suggested requiring a two-inch recess where nail-on aluminum windows are used. The proposed language now requires a minimum two-inch off-set from the face of the exterior wall to the window."

Instead of worrying about "nail-on aluminum windows" the council should get to the heart of the matter, and allow some work to get done.

Enough with the consultants who tell us what we already know. I said months ago I could solve this problem with a carafe of coffee from Peet's and lunch with local contractors.

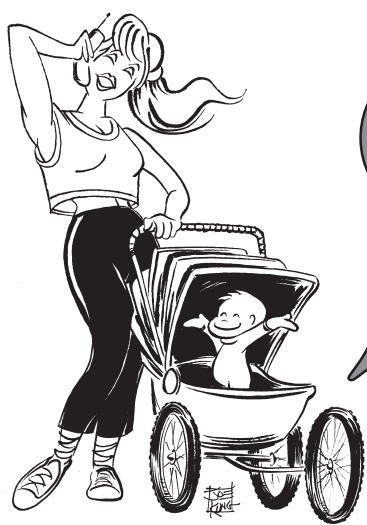
Based on the report from Matrix Consulting, I think I could have saved the city about \$70,000. They offered nothing new and exciting, and only delayed the project long enough to justify their paycheck. I say enough with the pettifogging legislating, enough with the endless delays and re-routing of ordinances.

These people were elected to get a job done, it's about damn time they did it and tonight is the perfect opportunity to tell them so.

(David Pizarra is a business development lawyer in the Santa Monica firm of Pizarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpizarra@pizarra.com or (310) 664-9969).

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Santa Monica

A weekly look at events and programs for

GUEST COMMENTARY BY DEBORA TRICKETT

Doulas: The oldest new trend in childbirth

A young mother-to-be came to me last week scared to death of giving birth. The whole birthing process overwhelmed her. I assured her that she is not alone and there is help. I told her what women across America are discovering — that a “doula” may be just what she needs to give her physical and emotional support throughout the experience.

Doulas are specialized birthing assistants who guide new mothers before, during and just after childbirth. They have been gaining a great deal of popularity and media attention lately, though their value and even their title go back to ancient Greek times. The doula referred

to the most important female servant in the Greek household.

Presently, they are found at upscale hospitals and private facilities, though they are often hired directly by mothers who are looking for psychological and physical support, information and compassionate attention. A doula serves as a filter for the overwhelming amount of information the expectant mother and family must absorb, helping them make the right decisions. She serves as a confidant and an advocate for both mother and child during times when strength may waiver.

The acceptance of doulas in maternity care is growing rapidly with the recogni-

tion of their important contribution to the improved physical outcomes and emotional well-being of mothers and infants.

Among the things a doula does:

- Facilitates communication between the mother, her immediate family and care providers.

- Provides emotional support, physical comfort measures, an objective viewpoint and assistance to the woman.

- Provides the newborn with basic care and nurturing in support of the mother.

- Accommodates the family immediately after the birth and can go home with the family to provide consistent emotion-

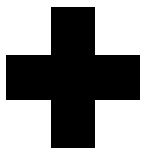
al and physical support to both the new mother and baby.

After explaining all of this to the mother-to-be, she was relieved and found that childbearing is not as scary when you have a friend.

(Debora Trickett, RN, MSN, C-FNP is the founder of Like Family Private Nursing Services which provides doulas, private duty nurses, and other home healthcare professionals committed to the health and well-being of the patient and family. For more information call (310) 395-4788, or www.likefamilyhome-nursing.com).

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New NICU plugged in at Saint John's

By Daily Press staff

In the joy of pregnancy, few expectant parents anticipate a premature delivery and subsequent stay in the neonatal intensive care unit. For Mary and John Covert of Santa Monica, the early arrival of twins Alicia and Amy was unexpected and traumatic.

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“There was no sign that the twins would be premature,” said Mary Covert who delivered her twins at Saint John’s Health Center almost 15 weeks before her due date. “I had chosen Saint John’s because of the nursing staff, and I liked that it was a small hospital. We ended up spending 15 weeks in the NICU, and my children are healthy, strong and vibrant because of the commitment and skill of the doctors and nurses.”

With the opening of the new inpatient pavilion this fall, parents like John and Mary will continue to have access to the latest in neonatal care. Relocated to the fourth floor of the pavilion, alongside all other women/maternal and child health services, the Saint John’s NICU will provide medical and nursing support in a dedicated environment. The NICU in the new facility is able to care for up to six infants at any time.

The NICU also is configured for flexibility in the event an infant needs immediate emergency care, hospital officials said. Portable ventilators, monitors and crash carts are instantly available, and can be clustered around an infant’s bed in a matter of seconds.

Alicia and Amy Covert needed to stay in the hospital’s NICU for several weeks before they could go home.

“Those were hard weeks,” said John Covert. “We learned so much. We were fortunate that we live close to the hospital, so one of us could be with the babies at all times.”



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SPECIAL EVENTS

THURSDAYS thru SEPT. 2 – TWILIGHT DANCE SERIES

The Santa Monica Pier's "Twilight Dance Series" is back for its twentieth year. This week check out The Young Dubliners and local favorite Venice. 7:30 p.m.

If the crowds are too much for your young children, have a picnic on the beach near the pier and enjoy the music.

SATURDAYS, JULY 17th and AUG. 7th– RHYTHM CHILD DRUM CIRCLE

Families are invited to discover drumming at this monthly jam session. For all ages. 4:30 p.m., \$15, 11911 Washington Blvd., Culver City, 204-5466. www.rhythmchild.net.

PAVILION of WINGS (ongoing)

Stroll through a live butterfly habitat on the south lawn of the Natural History Museum. Featuring 30 species of butterflies and moths. For all ages. 900 Exposition Blvd., LA, M-F 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sat. & Sun – 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. \$3 adults, \$1 children. 213-763-DINO, www.nhm.org

WEDNESDAYS in JULY – MS. BETSY'S STORYBOOK TREE

12:30 – 1:15 p.m. Meet the new school on the block! The Delphi Academy is sponsoring a free storytime for children ages 3-8, featuring quality children's books and a craft activity. Parents can join their children or take advantage of the EARLY READING WORKSHOP for PARENTS in the room next door. 1610 Broadway, 526-2700.

THE MAGIC of MUSIC for CHILDREN – THE DELPHI ACADEMY

Children will share in the fun they create with Grammy award-winner David Spear. Call 526-2700 to schedule a time and date. 1610 Broadway.

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.

SUMMER SOUNDS at the HOLLYWOOD BOWL Mondays, 10:00 and 11:15 a.m. shows. This program introduces kids to a variety of musical styles and cultures. Ages 3 – 10. Shows: \$5 per person, \$30 a series. After the performance, kids can get creative in the Fine Arts Outdoor Studio - \$3 per child. 2301 Highland Ave., LA, 323-850-2000, www.hollywoodbowl.com

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms!

"Super Size Me", documentary, not rated. 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/reelmomms. Filmmaker Morgan Spurlock conducts a month

long experiment in which he eats only items from the menu of fast-food giant McDonalds.

Storytelling

Main Library

Toddler Storytime at Reed Park; 10:00 & 10:30 a.m. thru August 17. For 2 year olds with adult.

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

Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., June 22 – Aug. 10. Six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds with adult.

Lap Time – 11:00 a.m. June 22 – Aug. 10. 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. Next session is July 27 – Aug. 31, required registration begins July 14th. **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

Summer Activity Programs at the Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave.

Tuesdays thru August 10th at 2:30 p.m. (no program Aug. 3rd).

Programs are approximately 45 minutes, appropriate for ages 4 and up.

July 13th – Cowgirl Christy – Christy Lewis demonstrates rope tricks along with stories of the Old West.

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 Talking 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., June 23 – Aug. 11; 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., for children ages 0-2. Next session begins July 21st.

Toddler Story Time – 11:15 a.m., for 2 year olds. Next session begins July 21st.

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.

Summer Activity Programs at the Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St.

Wednesday, July 14th and 28th at 2:30 and 3:00 p.m. Tickets are required and must be picked up on day of program.

July 14th – "Come and Get It" – Chuckwagon stories for cowboys and cowgirls; ages 4 and up.

July 28th – "Comic Cowhands" – stories and puppet show with Mr. Jessie and Lester, ages 3 –7.

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.; thru Aug. 19th. For 2 year olds with adult.

Preschool Story Time at Reed Park; 10:30 a.m.; thru Aug. 19th. For ages 3-5.

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

Toddler Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; June 24 – Aug. 12; 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., 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. ,next session July 8 – Aug. 12. 6-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by SMMUSD Infant & 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.

Other

July 15th - Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute) – 10 a.m., Sostice Canyon, 3455 Solstice Canyon Dr., Malibu.

Reservations required - 310-998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org

Twilight Dance Series thru Sept. 2 – free concert on the Santa Monica Pier. 7:30 p.m. **The Young Dubliners and Venice will perform this week.**

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-B00K.

Village Books, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m. – 454-4063.

Yoga & Exercise

Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonicaaplayhouse.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.santamonicaaplayhouse.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.

Family Fundays at the Will Geer Theatrical Botanicum (also Sundays)

Ages 4 and up, 11:00 a.m., \$8, 1419 N. Topanga Blvd., Topanga Canyon, 310-455-3723.

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.santamonicaaplayhouse.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.

Family Fundays at the Will Geer Theatrical Botanicum (also Saturdays)

Ages 4 and up, 11:00 a.m., \$8, 1419 N. Topanga Blvd., Topanga Canyon, 310-455-3723.

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, 9:30 a.m., thru July 26th. Ages 0-24 months with adult in conjunction with the Infant and Family Support program of SMMUSD.

"Family Connections" is on summer break. Check back here for the fall start-up date.

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

"Spanish for Little Ones", 11:15 a.m., next session is July 12 – August 16.

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.yoga-gardenstudios.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 BRIEFS

Cats dropping like flies

By The Associated Press

TORRANCE — Someone is apparently poisoning wild cats at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

Three dead cats were found during a seven-day period this month at the Los Angeles County hospital where feral cats have been a problem. Authorities said they were apparently poisoned.

Nuclear medicine technologist Jeannie Young, who has been tending to the cats for 12 years, found two of them on July 3. They were in the open and had obvious symptoms of poisoning, she said.

“This looks like poisoning and the vet agreed with it. If they were sick, they probably would have hidden under a building,” Young said.

Hospital animal lovers and administrators have been working together to ease the problem of feral cats roaming the hospital grounds. Young said there were about 75 cats at the hospital, down from a high of about 200.

“We had been working in a very polite and wonderful way,” said Bill Dyer, a regional director for In Defense of Animals. “We don’t know who is doing this, but I’m sure the administration doesn’t like it either.”

Law enforcement has been notified and whoever is responsible can face felony prosecution, authorities said.

CHP officers injured on I-10

By The Associated Press

UPLAND — Two California Highway Patrol officers were among four people hurt when a tow truck crashed into a patrol car and a disabled van on Interstate 10.

CHP Officers Antonio Arriaza and Reynaldo Avalos were treated at a hospital for cuts and were released hours after Sunday’s 4:58 a.m. incident. The CHP cruiser was destroyed and the van had major damage, investigators said.

The CHP cruiser was struck from behind as the officers responded to a call near the shoulder of the eastbound I-10 near Euclid Avenue, CHP Sgt. John Lessentine.

Benjamin Barnow, 39, of Northridge was critically hurt and Kevin White, 37, of Northridge suffered moderate injuries. The men were standing outside their 1994 Dodge Ram van at the time of the crash.

Investigators said tow truck driver Carlos Arevalo, 22, of Long Beach was traveling east on the freeway at about 65 mph when his truck drifted into the patrol car, Lessentine said. Arriaza and Avalos were seated in their patrol car and wearing seat belts when the cruiser was hit.

Riverside to be dialed in with new area code

By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE — Burgeoning western Riverside County is getting a new telephone area code.

Starting Saturday, the 951 area code will debut along the border of San Bernardino and Riverside counties, leaving western San Bernardino County and portions of Los Angeles County custody of the 909 area code.

Although the change takes effect Saturday, callers can use the 909 area code until Oct. 30. After that, callers must dial 951.

The 760 area code in the eastern portions of Riverside and San Bernardino counties remains in use.

The California Public Utilities Commission voted in November to create the new area code to deal with a shortage in phone numbers.

The Public Utilities Commission’s Loretta Lynch said Riverside County is embracing the change.

“They wanted to be distinct from San Bernardino,” she said.

The 909 area code was born when western Riverside County and San Bernardino County split from Orange County’s 714.

Arizona crackdown pushing immigrants to Texas, New Mexico

BY JACQUES BILLEAUD

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — Violence and misery highlight the illegal immigrant trade that drives so much crime in Arizona, the busiest illegal crossing point along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Now, with a massive immigration crackdown in progress in Arizona, smugglers are expected to take those problems to other spots along the 2,000-mile boundary.

“If you squeeze a balloon in the middle, it will expand in some other place,” said Dennis Smith, a spokesman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Del Rio, Texas.

The heavy flow of illegal immigrants that has dogged Arizona in recent years has already shifted somewhat to New Mexico and is expected to move to Texas, targeting a central corridor along the Rio Grande, experts and some local officials said.

Experts said the crackdown may deter some would-be crossers, but illegal workers will continue to come here as long as they can make more in an hour in the United States than they can in a day at home.

Smugglers who earn \$1,500 to \$5,000 for each customer will also continue to find remote and dangerous migration routes where enforcement is weaker, a tactic that contributes to hundreds of deaths each year, experts said.

This isn’t the first time migration patterns have shifted. Immigrants funneled into Arizona when the government tightened enforcement in El Paso, Texas, and San Diego during the mid-1990s, leading to a mass of problems for Phoenix and the state.

A new shift has already begun into southwestern New Mexico. Police in the Lordsburg area, where immigrant apprehensions have doubled over the last year, attribute the influx largely to stronger enforcement in Arizona.

“We have always had (illegal immigration). But they know that Arizona is closed, so they are coming here,” said Lordsburg Police Chief John McDonald.

The Arizona crackdown also will likely push more illegal crossings into Texas, said Rep. Silvestre Reyes, D-Texas, a former Border Patrol chief credited with dramatically reducing illegal crossings in the El Paso metro area in the 1990s.

The likelihood of a shift into California is less clear. Apprehensions in San Diego are up, though it isn’t clear whether that is related to the Arizona crackdown. Arrests are down in southeastern California, said David Kim, spokesman for the Border Patrol’s El Centro office.

Mario Villarreal, a spokesman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Washington, D.C., said the Southwest will experience a shift, but he wouldn’t predict future hot spots. However, he said the government has the flexibility to move resources to where they are needed.

More than 40 percent of the 340 migrant deaths along the Southwest border last year were in Arizona. Ranchers complain that immigrants damage their fences and litter land with water bottles and other debris.

Police said kidnappings and killings tied to smuggling rose last year in Phoenix, a hub for transporting illegal immigrants to different spots across the country.

The high profits and low overhead of the illicit business were so attractive that smugglers started kidnapping rival smugglers’ customers so their families in Mexico, Central America or elsewhere could be extorted.

Last year’s most violent turf dispute, a shooting involving two moving vehicles on Interstate 10 south of Phoenix, left four people dead and several more wounded.

As smuggling violence soared, the federal government launched its crackdown, similar to ones used against organized crime, late last year. Officials said it lowered crime rates in Phoenix and forced smugglers to move parts of their operations to other cities, such as Los Angeles.

Still, people continued crossing illegally into Arizona, so a new border offensive that’s bringing in more manpower and technology was launched in March.

It will likely cause migrant deaths to decline in Arizona and rise elsewhere if the crackdown remains strong, said Nestor Rodriguez, co-director of the University of Houston’s Center for Immigration Research.

The types of deaths could shift. More people could drown in rivers and suffer heat exposure while crossing dense brush in south Texas, Rodriguez said.

“It’s a very unfriendly area for people who don’t know the terrain,” said Rodriguez.

Advocates on both ends of the debate said tighter security alone won’t solve the country’s immigration problems. The economy needs to improve in Mexico, where the minimum wage is about \$4 a day.

U.S. policies also must change, they said. Advocates for limiting immigration say the government must remove incentives for illicit crossings by going after businesses that hire illegals; immigrant supporters say the United States should make it legal for would-be crossers to work here temporarily and let their families visit.

“The pull of those who work here and live here is strong, and it will trump whatever we do otherwise,” said Angela Kelley, deputy director of the pro-immigrant National Immigration Forum. “It’s just basic human nature to build a better life and to be with the people you love.”

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NATIONAL



Bush defends Iraq invasion; concedes WMDs don't exist

BY DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press Writer

OAK RIDGE, Tenn. — President Bush defended his decision to invade Iraq even as he conceded on Monday that investigators had not found the weapons of mass destruction that he had warned the country possessed.

Allowing Iraq to possibly transfer weapons capability to terrorists was not a risk he was willing to take, Bush said.

"Although we have not found stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction, we were right to go into Iraq," Bush said after inspecting a display of nuclear weapons parts and equipment, including assembled gas centrifuges for uranium enrichment, from Libya.

The hardware was shipped here in March as part of an agreement with Moammar Gadhafi to end his country's nuclear weapons program.

"We removed a declared enemy of America who had the capability of producing weapons of mass murder and could have passed that capability to terrorists bent on acquiring them. In the world after September 11th, that was a risk we could not afford to take," Bush said.

The president offered a broad new defense of the March 2003 invasion of Iraq three days after the release of a Senate report that harshly criticized unsubstantiated intelligence cited in the run-up to the war in Iraq, a crucial battle in the war on terrorism.

The key U.S. assertions leading to the 2003 invasion of Iraq — that Saddam Hussein had chemical and biological weapons and was working to make nuclear weapons — were wrong and based on false or overstated CIA analyses, a scathing Senate Intelligence Committee report asserted Friday.

Intelligence analysts fell victim to "group think" assumptions that Iraq had weapons when it did not, the bipartisan report concluded. Many factors contributing to those failures are ongoing problems within the U.S. intelligence community, which cannot be fixed with more money alone, it said.

Without directly acknowledging the intelligence was flawed, Bush said a wide array of government leaders, from mem-

bers of the Clinton administration to lawmakers to the U.N. Security Council, had studied the same intelligence and "saw a threat."

During the Clinton administration, official U.S. policy toward Iraq became "regime change" — a stance that sought the ouster of Saddam Hussein, he noted.

Saddam refused to open his country to inspections, Bush said.

"So I had a choice to make: either take the word of a madman or defend America. Given that choice I will defend America."

Bush has used similar rhetoric in speeches for months, but the words took on added significance in light of the latest report condemning the Iraq intelligence.

Bush seen as moving U.S. toward exit strategy in Iraq

BY SONYA ROSS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush's words about the war in Iraq have moderated since the feisty "Bring 'em on!" directed at those who would attack U.S. forces and undermine creation of a free government.

Consider his remarks on June 28, when he said that Iraq's prime minister and president had told him "that their goal is to eventually take full responsibility for the security of their country. And America wants Iraqi forces to take that role."

Those words signaled that Bush has begun working up to the moment when the United States officially makes its move toward the door — leaving Baghdad.

Few expect the Bush administration to acknowledge it is packing up to leave Iraq. The temporary government has just taken over and is trying to steady itself.

Bush, mindful that terrorist would wel-

come a haven in a weakened, abandoned Iraq, has taken pains to avoid giving the impression of a full-fledged American pullout.

"Iraq today still has many challenges to overcome. We recognize that," Bush also said June 28 while in Turkey for a NATO summit.

Foreign policy analysts see some recent U.S. actions as reflecting a decided shift toward an exit strategy. They say the United States is showing more deference to the United Nations and to NATO allies that have agreed to train Iraq's military.

A government in exit mode engages in "the so-called Vietnamization process," said James McCormick, political science chairman at Iowa State University. Major decisions about security are left to local officials or the incoming leadership, with offers to help when needed.

"That was the classic part of the exit strategy that the Nixon administration

tried" in Vietnam, McCormick said. "We're seeing some of that, but the problem is the Iraqi security forces are not sufficiently developed for that turnover to take place."

Last week, U.S. envoy Nicholas Burns told reporters in Belgium that the administration expected NATO instructors to begin training Iraqi security forces this summer. There is "every reason now for us all to help" the Iraqis, Burns said.

Analyst Norman Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute noted that Bush allowed U.N. envoy Lakhdar Brahimi to determine who would run Iraq in the short term and expressed a willingness to leave Iraq if the interim government made that request.

"That does not seem, to me, to fit the standard-issue definition of tough and resolute," Ornstein said. "They're clearly changing their policy today in Iraq. It's radically different than it was a year ago, or six months ago, and it's clearly changed in response to the environment and political circumstances."

Bush declared an end to major combat in Iraq on May 1, 2003. On July 2, 2003, Bush promised that the United States would stay in Iraq until it had completed the creation of a free government there. To those who would attack U.S. forces in an

attempt to deter that mission, Bush said: "My answer is bring 'em on."

Since then, Bush has had to bow to a few realities, such as an insurgency that has killed or wounded more American soldiers than anticipated, and his inability to get large-scale troop commitments from other countries to ease the load on the U.S. military.

The United States set a June 30 deadline for transferring power in Baghdad and beat its own deadline by two days. Other signs of an exit, such as timelines for drawing down U.S. forces, are not yet evident, said Cato Institute analyst Christopher Preble.

"You can't have an exit strategy without that," Preble said. "It is essential that the Bush administration go public with such a plan, so that the Iraqi government can take prudent measures to prepare for their own defense."

On the day of transfer, Bush said the United States and Iraq were "moving forward on every element of our five-part plan" for Iraqi self-rule. He committed the United States to being there for the Iraqis, hunting down insurgents and protecting the country's infrastructure as Iraq's new leaders prepare for elections.

Still, the president said, "The struggle is, first and foremost, an Iraqi struggle."

Illegal immigrants flying home in pilot program

BY AMANDA LEE MYERS

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — More than 120 illegal immigrants were being voluntarily returned to the Mexican interior aboard a commercial airliner Monday under a program designed to curb repeated immigration attempts.

The flight was to leave Tucson Monday afternoon, beginning a pilot program of returning immigrants to their hometowns.

The vast majority of illegal immigrants from Mexico are simply fingerprinted, administratively processed and driven back to the border, often penniless and far from home.

Under the Department of Homeland Security's Interior Repatriation Program, illegal Mexican immigrants can be voluntarily returned to either Mexico City or Guadalajara on free commercial flights with Mexican airlines. From there, the Mexicans are bused to their hometowns.

"This is a well-coordinated, crucial step that is necessary for both humanitarian and law enforcement reasons," said Asa Hutchinson, the undersecretary for border and transportation security, in a written statement.

"The deaths of so many in the desert

are a tragedy that must end," he said.

The program is scheduled to run no later than Sept. 30. At its conclusion, the department and the Mexican government will evaluate it and determine future plans.

The new program follows a more controversial one in which border officials returned 5,600 migrants caught in Arizona to Mexico through border ports in Texas.

The program, which lasted about three weeks in September, was designed to move the immigrants far from their smugglers and reduce their chances of re-crossing the border. Immigrants rights groups said the program was expensive, ineffective and simply delayed migrants; some officials in border cities complained they were left unprepared.

Robin Hoover, president of Humane Borders, a group that puts water in the desert for illegal crossers, said he has concerns about the new program.

"Overall, I would say this is a ridiculous way to approach this problem. It uses a phenomenal amount of resources and achieves little results," he said.

He conceded, however, the program could benefit some immigrants.

"It may actually save a few lives and we have to give them credit for that," he said.

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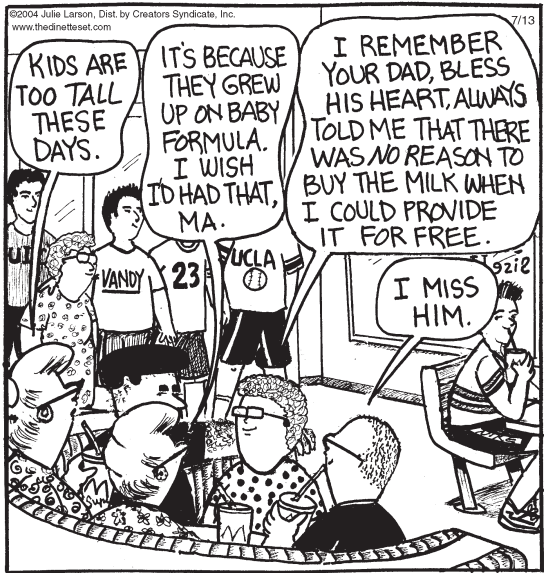
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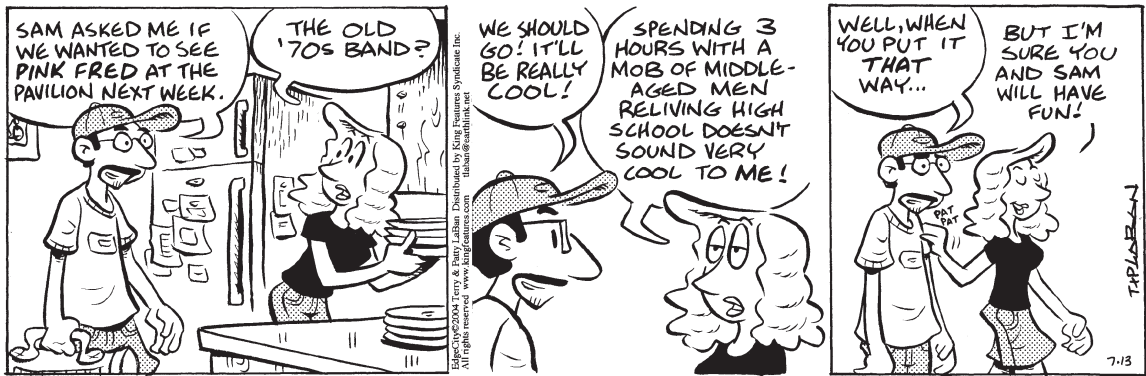


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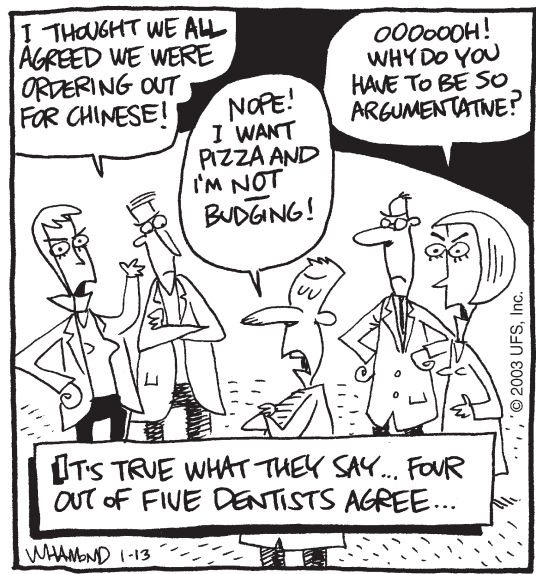
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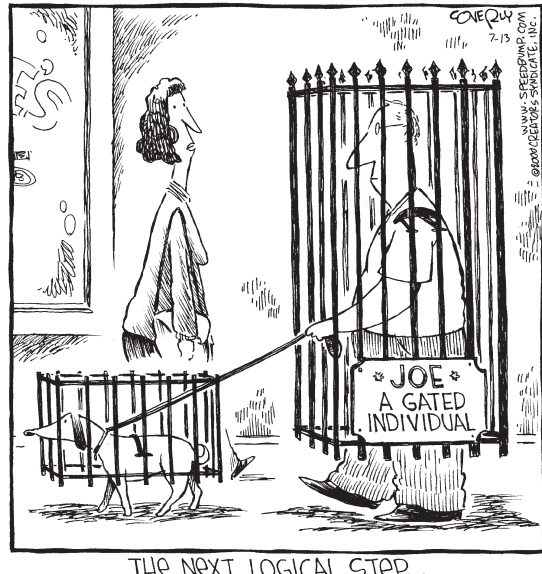
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7-13

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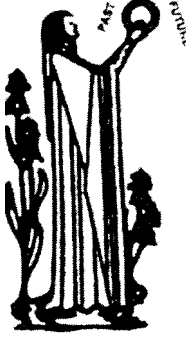
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Pat O'Brien says good-bye to tabloid television

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — “You will never hear me ask what someone is wearing again,” says Pat O'Brien, talking about his new syndicated entertainment show, “The Insider.”

O'Brien confirmed to The Associated Press that he'll host Paramount Domestic Television's new nightly half-hour newsmagazine, which premieres Sept. 13.

“It was time to move on,” the former “Access Hollywood” co-anchor said in a phone interview. He had been with the show since 1997.

“The Insider” will be “more newswy, unpredictable, with longer interviews,” O'Brien said. “It will not be tabloid. If it gets tabloid, you'll see me get in my pickup truck and leave town. You can hold me to that.”

A former CBS sportscaster, O'Brien, 56, will cover the Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece, for MSNBC and NBC late-night programming.

Billy Bush, the East Coast correspondent for “Access Hollywood,” will join Nancy O'Dell as co-anchor starting Aug. 12 from the Summer Olympics, executive director Rob Silverstein said Friday.

“Nancy and Billy are unequivocally Hollywood's ultimate insiders,” Silverstein said in a statement. “The team is set, production is ready, summer ratings are spiking, let's get it on.”

Bush, 32, has been with “Access Hollywood” for nearly three years. His father, Jonathan, is the brother of former President George H.W. Bush.

Radio City Music Hall in a benefit concert for The Juilliard School and London's Royal Academy of Music.

The concert will feature John and his band performing with a full symphony orchestra conducted by James Newton Howard and made up of young musicians from both schools.

Proceeds will support scholarship programs and promote their joint artist programs.

The evening will include a special appearance by Renee Fleming.

NEW YORK — In Will Smith's new sci-fi thriller, “I, Robot,” his character drives a motorcycle. But in real life, Smith says he's driven by fear.

“What people believe is my self-confidence is actually my reaction to fear,” he tells Parade magazine in its July 11 issue. “All it takes is just one person telling me I can't do it, and I'll use the fear of failure as fuel.”

In the article, Smith recounts a day in Jamaica when he was about 20 years old, watching people jump off a high cliff into the ocean.

“I can't swim, and I was terrified,” he said. “So for about three minutes, I stood there, thinking, ‘This is ridiculous.’ Then I jumped off the cliff, feet first, and went in the water.”

Now 35, Smith has lived through going broke, after making millions, and a failed marriage. He's had success in music, television and film, and has been married to actress-singer Jada Pinkett Smith since 1997.

“I keep going because I doubt myself,” he said. “It drives me to be better. I've learned that the mastery of

self-doubt is the key to success.”

“I, Robot” opens in movie theaters Friday.

MANILA, Philippines — A Manila court rejected a lawsuit by former first lady Imelda Marcos to keep a documentary about her flamboyant life off the country's movie screens.

Mrs. Marcos, 75, claimed she approved “Imelda” as a school project and not as a commercial movie. She also said it was full of “malice, inaccuracies and innuendoes.”

Judge Maria Cristina Comejo denied Mrs. Marcos' petition Monday, saying that contrary to her claims, she had signed a permission document to release the film.

Sandra Coronel, a lawyer for producer Ramona Diaz and distributor Unitel Pictures Inc., said the court order means the film can be shown in the Philippines.

In a statement Monday, Mrs. Marcos, widow of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, said she'd drop the lawsuit if the word “documentary” was removed from the film's title. But with the court ruling already out, it's unlikely to have any effect on the case.

Diaz said that “Imelda” — a portrait of the woman who dazzled the world with her beautification projects and an enormous shoe collection while her country languished in poverty — is balanced.

She said young Filipinos should be able to see the movie about the most recognized Filipino figure abroad, because many of them were born after Ferdinand Marcos was ousted in a 1986 “people power” revolt. He fled with his family into exile in Hawaii, where he died three years later.

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