

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

13 17 22 31 40
Meganumber: 6
Jackpot: \$32 Million

FANTASY 5

13 21 22 33 34

DAILY 3

Daytime: 8 7 7
Evening: 8 3 9

DAILY DERBY

1st: 02 Lucky Star
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RACE TIME: 1:42.85

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Gasoline-sniffer Brian Taylor, 36, was sentenced to three months in jail in March for violating a UK "anti-social behaviour order" by loitering around the pumps at a gas station in Middlesbrough, England. According to evidence of multiple such incidents, Taylor often dangerously reeks of gasoline fumes and is sometimes aggressive in his pursuit of a fix, including jostling gas-pumping customers. Once, he was filmed on a security camera doing an uninhibited dance after taking a huff. He apparently prefers unleaded but will settle for diesel, and denies that he drinks any of it: "I'm daft but not that daft."

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 200th day of 2005.
There are 165 days left in the year.

On July 19, 1985, Christa McAuliffe of New Hampshire was chosen to be the first schoolteacher to ride aboard the space shuttle. (McAuliffe and six other crew members died when Challenger exploded shortly after lift-off the following January.)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious ... the fundamental emotion which stands at the cradle of true art and true science."

ALBERT EINSTEIN (1879-1955)

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Weller trial will likely be put off

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

LAX COURTHOUSE — The criminal trial against the elderly man who crashed through the Santa Monica's Farmer's Market will likely not begin until next year, when the prosecuting attorney on the case returns from maternity leave.

Attorneys said Russell Weller, 88, has been ordered to face a jury on charges of negligence after he killed 10 and injured dozens of people as his car motored through the Farmer's Market two years ago. However, a trial will most likely be put off until Deputy

See **MARKET CRASH**, page 4

LOCAL

Liquor store sting no minor operation

BY ROBERT FATURECHI

Special to the Daily Press

Some local liquor vendors were caught off guard Friday as a minor going undercover for the Santa Monica police made his rounds from one store to the next looking to score some booze.

The sting — which touched 21 Santa Monica liquor stores in one day — was part of a nationwide effort led by Mothers Against Drunk Driving to curb underage alcohol sales.

"It's not about taking fun away from anybody, it's about saving lives," said Tina Pasco, executive director of the Los Angeles branch of MADD.

Results of the nationwide sting were announced Monday at a small press conference outside of the Santa Monica police station.

See **STING**, page 4



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Police escorted some 2,000 people out of Santa Monica Place mall on Monday evening amid repeated bomb threats.

Bomb threat empties SM Place

BY MICHAEL TITTINGER

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — Much of Santa Monica became a dead-end downtown early last evening, when a bomb scare at Santa Monica Place mall prompted police to close off area streets to traffic and pedestrians.

Some 2,000 people were evacuated from the mall after police received news of multiple bomb threats and a suspicious black briefcase, left unattended, was discovered inside the Robinsons-May department store that anchors the mall at Second Street and Broadway.

According to Santa Monica

See **BOMB SCARE**, page 5



Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II/Daily Press

An LA County bomb squad truck sits outside Santa Monica Place on Monday.

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Seek out others, Taurus

Santa Monica Daily Press

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





ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★ You wake up in the morning knowing what you need to do. Take charge and do just that. No one can replace your sense of direction and ideas. Others look up to you, as you instrument changes. Yes, you are going down the right path. Tonight: A must appearance.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ When you wake up, you are inspired to go beyond the obvious and tackle a problem that has baffled you up till now. Investigate and get different opinions on the situation. There's nothing like old-fashioned feedback! Tonight: Seek out others.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★ Others have strong points of view. Now the art of diplomacy needs to come into play. You will be able to understand where others are coming from, even though you might not agree. Be rational and acknowledge others' thoughts. Still, push for what you want. Tonight: Talks.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ You can accomplish a lot by being a follower and not a leader. Your ideas do count, but you will need to weave them with another's concepts. Perhaps you might make this person think it is his or her idea. Tonight: Just don't be alone.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★ You need to stay on topic or on project. Others might be quite distracting. You know how to politely say you are busy, even if you don't want to. Clear out as much as you can. Establish greater understanding with those in your daily life. Tonight: Easy does it.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ You have answers when others don't. Use this ingenuity in areas that make a difference to you. A relationship benefits from a little extra flirtation. You might be delighted by what your touch does. Tonight: Add more spice to your life.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★ Deal with family and personal matters first, so you can handle your responsibilities with a clear head. You might not realize what a toll these issues are taking on you. Build on a strong basis. You cannot function on your highest level otherwise. Tonight: Nestle in.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ What you say makes a difference. Even more so, the questions you ask point others in new directions. Share more of your unique point of view. Others respond to your style. A lunch could turn into a meeting. Tonight: Chat up a storm.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★ You need to take a stronger hold of your finances. Otherwise, you will feel out of control. You have a way of over-indulging, only thinking of the here and now. Think about the long-term as well. You will be happier with yourself. Tonight: Structure a new budget.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ You are in your element with the Moon accenting you. You might wonder what is the best direction to head in. The real question is, What is important to you? Then follow through. Others amaze you with their responsiveness. Tonight: Just wish.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★ Knowing when to pull back might be instrumental to your well-being. Others disclose a lot that you might want to mull over. You don't have the control you would like, but you certainly gain insight. Tonight: Off to the bookstore or library.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ Zoom in and get what you want and think you need. Others will cheer you along, if not actively pitch in and make your wish a reality. Jump over a hurdle. Know what is worth squabbling about. Tonight: You're happiest with your friends.



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LOCAL



Something Bruin



Fabian Lewokowicz/Daily Press
Legendary former UCLA basketball coach John Wooden, 93, autographs a copy of his book for a guest on hand to honor him at the First Christian Church of Santa Monica on Sunday. Wooden led the Bruins to 88 consecutive wins, 10 NCAA championships, 38 consecutive NCAA tournament victories, eight undefeated PAC-8 championships and four undefeated full seasons during his tenure at UCLA.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Here's to your health: UCLA offers free programs

By Daily Press staff

UCLA Healthcare is offering a wide range of free health education programs over the next three months.

July's programs include:

■ Planning for future health care, hosted by UCLA Healthcare's 50-plus program. Tuesday, July 19, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Marisa Leif conference room, 300 UCLA Medical Plaza on the UCLA campus in Westwood. Call (800) 516-5323 for reservations and directions.

■ Advance Healthcare Directives. A free health lecture on Wednesday, July 20, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., OASIS lecture room near Robinsons-May at the Westside Pavilion. For reservations, call (800) 516-5323.

■ Cutting-edge spinal surgery, lectured by UCLA orthopaedic spine surgeon, Nick Shamie. This free program is hosted by UCLA Healthcare. Wednesday, July 20, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1008 11th St. in Santa Monica. Reservations: (800) 516-5323.

■ Healthy eating for one. Hear advice by UCLA dietitian Alicia Trocker at the free community talk sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-plus program on Thursday, July 21, from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Santa Monica Family YMCA, 1332 6th St. Call (800) 516-5323 for reservations.

■ Lymphedema lecture. A free seminar by Dr. Emily Iker at the Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center. Tuesday, July 26, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., room 723 at the med-

See BRIEFS, page 5



Congratulations to Charles Roy, this week's mystery photo winner. Charles was the first to identify that this shot was snapped in the courtyard at First Christian Church of Santa Monica. Look for next week's mystery photo in Monday's edition.



SURF REPORT

The SW swell is expected to back down further to knee- to waist-high. A touch of wind swell is expected around this time, but we're not expecting west-facing breaks to see anything much above knee- to possibly waist-high. Night through morning expect low clouds and fog, otherwise mostly clear. Lows around 60 with highs from near 70.

Today the water is:

69°

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



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
MONDAY	2:13	-0.4	12:44	2.6	8:53	3.4	7:21	6.5
TUESDAY	2:57	-1.0	1:42	2.4	9:35	3.6	8:11	6.9
WEDNESDAY	3:40	-1.5	2:36	2.2	10:15	3.9	9:00	7.2
THURSDAY	4:23	-1.7	3:29	2.0	10:54	4.1	9:49	7.2
FRIDAY	5:05	-1.6	4:22	1.9	11:33	4.3	10:37	7.0

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The Q Line

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The city of Malibu recently made it tougher for filmmakers to secure permits to shoot within their boundaries, adhering to resident complaints of noise and disruption. Many feel a ripple effect could adversely affect filming in bordering cities, like Santa Monica.

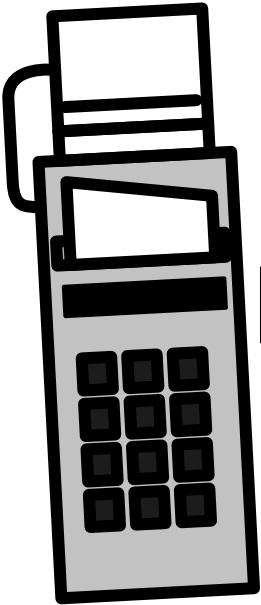
So this week, Q-Line wants to know: **Would you welcome a respite from the ongoing presence of filmmakers in the city, or is it invaluable promotion?**

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your responses in the weekend edition. Please try to limit your comments to a minute or less.

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LOCAL

Police cars used as barriers at market

MARKET CRASH, from page 1

District Attorney Ann Ambrose, who is prosecuting the case, returns from maternity leave.

The District Attorney's office said Ambrose, who is currently working but expecting, has up to a year from the time she gives birth before she would be required to return to her job. She is expected to keep her cases, unless she and

the DA's office decide to transfer them to other attorneys.

On Monday, the DA's office couldn't confirm whether or not the case will be transferred to another prosecutor. Ambrose didn't return calls seeking comment.

Meanwhile, Weller's attorney, Mark Overland, said his aging client continues to be in deteriorating health.

"With all of his health problems, he's

not going to be getting any better," Overland said of Weller.

Attorneys on both sides met for a pre-trial conference on Monday. Another conference was set for Oct. 18.

Weller faces 10 counts of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence, which were filed by the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office several months after the July 16, 2003 catastrophe. If convicted on all counts, Weller's sentence could range from probation to 18 years in prison, according to the DA's office. Weller has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Federal safety investigators ruled last year that Weller mistakenly stepped on the gas rather than the brake as he drove west on Arizona Avenue. Investigators ruled out mechanical failure, weather, alcohol or drugs, and fatigue.

Weller traveled 995 feet through the market at speeds of up to 60 mph, avoiding parked cars but hurling pedestrians into the air before stopping, a 900-page California Highway Patrol report said. The 10 people killed ranged in age from 7

months to 78 years old.

Days after the crash, Weller issued a statement saying he was distraught and heartbroken. His attorney called it an accident.

Meanwhile, at least 63 civil lawsuits have been filed against the city of Santa Monica and the Bayside District Corp., which manages downtown Santa Monica, according to Jeanette Schachtner, chief deputy city attorney. Those civil proceedings are on hold until the criminal trial is complete. There also are dozens of civil lawsuits filed against Weller, as well as the Los Angeles County's agricultural commissioner and the state of California.

Attorneys representing the plaintiffs argue the city of Santa Monica should have had protective barriers situated at both ends of the market. The City Attorney's Office argues that Santa Monica officials maintain that it was a tragic accident that couldn't have been foreseen.

Police vehicles now man both ends of the market.

City scores big with MADD for keeping minors sober

STING, from page 1

Two of the 21 Santa Monica liquor stores visited as part of the sting sold alcohol to the undercover minor, a 90 percent enforcement rate, which is considerably better than the national average of 82 percent, according to MADD.

"You can't complain with a 90-percent compliance rate," said Pasco, whose 21-year-old sister was killed by a drunk driver. "The rest of the country needs to aspire to what Santa Monica is doing."

Undercover minors prepped and monitored by local police forces flooded nearly 900 liquor stores in 21 cities — from Dallas to Honolulu — as part of MADD's "Night of Compliance" event marking the 21st anniversary of the current minimum drinking age law, which was passed during the Reagan administration.

The two local liquor stores cited for underage alcohol sales — which police declined to name — were both first-time offenders and will likely be fined up to \$3,000 apiece. The establishments won't lose their liquor licenses, said Rudy Flores, a vice detective with the SMPD.

"Usually, all you'll have to do is issue a citation and they'll get the message," said Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts Jr.

A second offense would likely result in liquor license suspension, a third in revocation.

"Drunk driving is a big problem that affects us all," said Juan Azcarate, a MADD spokesperson.

Azcarate was hit by a drunk driver in 1984 after he pulled onto the emergency lane along the 405 freeway. Though more than two decades have passed since the accident, reminders of the late-night crash cover much of Azcarate's body. The loan consultant rolled up his sleeves as he addressed the small crowd of TV broadcasters and cameramen gathered at the morning press conference to reveal massive scarring along his forearm.

"I will always have these scars," Azcarate said after the press conference, before leaving for work.

Though he said little can be done to stop teen drinking, Azcarate hopes that with education, young people would call a friend or their parents for a ride rather than driving while intoxicated.

"I'm not going to say 'don't drink,' that's like saying 'don't have sex,'" he said. "But at least we can stop (minors) from drinking and driving."

Representatives from MADD took a different approach, stressing the importance of keeping liquor out of the hands of minors.

"It's not about taking fun away from anybody, it's about saving lives."

-- TINA PASCO
Executive director,
Los Angeles branch of MADD

"The law says you have to be 21 years of age to consume alcohol. MADD supports the law," Pasco said. "MADD doesn't put forth a mixed message."

MADD — currently one of the nation's largest nonprofit organizations with more than 600 chapters across the country — was started in 1980 by a group of women frustrated with lax drunk driving laws.

Many of the group's founders have since left MADD, complaining that the organization has moved away from its original goal of combating drunk driving, adopting instead a "neo-prohibitionist" agenda.

Friday's sting in Santa Monica was funded by a \$100,000 grant geared toward curbing alcohol sales to minors. Much of the funding — which was awarded last year by the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control — is used to educate local liquor shop employees and young people about underage drinking laws, said Cody Green, a vice detective with the SMPD.

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LOCAL



Downtown a dead end amid mall bomb scare

BOMB SCARE, from page 1

Police Lt. Frank Fabrega, the mall’s security received five or six bomb threats throughout the day on Monday, finally contacting the SMPD around 4:30 p.m. when the briefcase was discovered.

Police closed off area streets to traffic and pedestrians between Ocean Avenue and Fourth Street, from Colorado Avenue to Broadway, and a quarter way up the 1400 block of the Third Street Promenade, between Broadway and Santa Monica Boulevard.

Numerous stores and eateries along the adjacent Promenade also closed shop as a safety precaution, leaving pedestrians and tourists at a loss, surrounded by closing businesses and thwarted at several turns by bright yellow police tape.

Traffic personnel assisted those whose cars were in the parking structure adjacent to Santa Monica Place, ushering them out quickly

It wasn’t until 7:45 that the Los Angeles

County Sheriff’s Department bomb squad deemed the briefcase wasn’t a threat, allowing businesses inside the mall to reopen.

Ali Khan, an assistant manager for Giorgio Vasari clothing, opted not to reopen following the bomb scare, as the mall was due to close by 9 p.m.

Khan said his store was the last to close shop in the mall amid the threats.

“I was with a customer, busy selling, when security walked in and told us something was going on,” he recalled. “Finally, a cop came in and said ‘You have to go.’”

Giorgio Vasari operates two stores in the mall, directly across from one another, in addition to a branch on the Third Street Promenade, from where Khan recalled the events that preceded the store closures.

“There was a whole flow of people shuffling out of the mall — exits away from Robinsons-May,” he said. “But everything was very calm, smooth.

“Maybe it was a customer who was unsatisfied with Robinsons or something.”

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

ical center, 1250 16th St. in Santa Monica. Reservations: (800) 516-5323.

■ Uncovering causes of incontinence, UCLA geriatrician Michelle Eslami and UCLA physical therapist Melinda Guttry offer a free health talk hosted by UCLA Healthcare. Wednesday, July 27, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., OASIS lecture room at Westside Pavilion, call (800) 516-5323 for reservations or more information.

■ Making sense of menopause. UCLA gynecologist Russell Rapoza offers a free health lecture presented by UCLA Healthcare’s 50-plus program. Thursday, July 28, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Marisa Leif conference room 300 UCLA Medical Plaza on the UCLA campus in Westwood. Reservations and directions: (800) 516-5323.

August’s programs include:

■ Dancing to the beat of better health. A free class hosted by UCLA Healthcare’s 50-plus program offered Tuesday, Aug. 2, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., Santa Monica/Westside YWCA, 2019 14th St. Call (800) 516-5323 for reservations.

■ Smart girls do dumbbells, with Judith Sherman-Wolin. UCLA exercise specialist and author of “Smart Girls Do Dumbbells,” offers a lecture on Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., OASIS lecture room at Westside Pavilion. To reserve your space or for more information, call (800) 516-5323.

■ Diabetes discussion, with Dr. Vikram Kamdar. The UCLA endocrinologist will give a free community talk presented by UCLA Healthcare’s 50-plus program. Tuesday, Aug. 9, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at community room at Santa Monica Place mall. Reservations: (800) 516-5323.

■ Osteoporosis and exercise. Listen to UCLA physical therapist Mark Glavinic at a free health talk hosted by UCLA Healthcare. Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., OASIS lecture room at Westside Pavilion. Call (800) 516-5323 for reservations.

■ Intelligent financial planning, Tuesday, Aug. 16, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Marisa Leif conference room, 300 UCLA Medical Plaza on the UCLA campus in Westwood. For reservations or more information, call (800) 516-5323.

■ Look good, feel better, a free program offering the advice of licensed cosmetologists to women coping with appearance-related side effects of cancer treatment. Participants receive free cosmetics. Monday, Aug. 22, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., classroom B at the medical center, 1250 16th St. Call (310) 319-4642 for reservations.

■ Medicare 101, a free lecture presented by UCLA Healthcare’s 50-plus program. Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., OASIS lecture room at Westside Pavilion. Reservations: (800) 516-5323.

■ Lifestyle and nutrition: key cancer combatants, a free health talk hosted by UCLA Healthcare featuring UCLA urologist Dr. Christopher Saigal. Tuesday, Aug. 30, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the community room at Santa Monica Place. Call (800) 516-5323 for reservations.

Program offerings in September include:

■ Osteoporosis update, a free health talk by Dr. Aurelia Nattiv, family and sports medicine physician and director of the UCLA Osteoporosis Center. Friday, Sept. 9, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1008 11th St. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (800) 516-5323.

■ Medical planning for long-term care. A free talk sponsored by UCLA Healthcare’s 50-plus program. Tuesday, Sept. 13, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the community room at Santa Monica Place mall. Call (800) 516-5323 for reservations.

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OPINION

GUEST COMMENTARY BY EMILY BLOOMFIELD

Governor is ruining public education and doesn't care



Governor Schwarzenegger's special election in November includes a measure that many parents are calling "The Destruction of the Public Schools Act," since it essentially eviscerates constitutionally protected Proposition 98 school funding guarantees. With his broken promise to repay "borrowed" school funds from last year and his insistence on dismantling the voter-approved Proposition 98 minimum school funding protections in the upcoming special election, this governor is continuing the process of starvation that has crippled California's public schools for the last 30 years.

His special election "reforms" hinge upon convincing voters that spending roughly \$5,400 per pupil — a mere 2.1 percent increase over last year — is fair and appropriate, despite compelling evidence provided in a recent RAND report which clearly correlates the decline in funding for public education since the passage of Proposition 13 in the 1970s and California's public schools plummeting from No. 1 in student achievement compared with other states to at or near the bottom in most objective measures. It's reform, not money, he protests.

Interestingly, Schwarzenegger has a high school in his neighborhood that has undertaken many of the reforms promoted by his hand-picked "education coalition." It is a locally-controlled charter school with an impressive master plan calling for "small learning communities" with personalization for students; teaching to the rigorous state standards; thematic academies that prepare students to meet the standards and gain exposure to the 21st century workplace skills; family outreach and involvement; accountability through testing; and narrowing the academic achievement gap between poor, minority and English language learners and their more affluent white counterparts. Yet, despite having access to this model public high school, he has opted for a private school that will cost him \$23,500 per child next year — a 9 percent tuition increase from last year, as compared with the 2.1 percent increase he is offering to public schools on about one fourth of that base. Why?

His choice begs the question: Could the governor believe that \$23,000 per year buys more than \$5,400? Is it because despite Pali High's ambitious program, the governor's children would be learning with at least 30 students in each of their core classes at Pali, compared with a maximum of 18 students at

their private school?

Pali High has five counselors and one college counselor for its student body of 2,400. That could worry the governor when it comes time for his children to select classes and apply to college, not to mention handle any difficulties they might encounter during the school day when he is unavailable to take their call. Could it be because he realizes that in public school it is challenging to stretch the annual per pupil funding, even with a little extra federal and state aid of up to \$2,000 on top of the base, to meet the needs of poor children — about one third of Pali High's students are classified as "socio-economically disadvantaged, defined as a household of four earns less than \$34,000/year — and children with special education needs, roughly 10 percent of the school, ranging from speech impairments to severe autism, mental retardation and other challenges that sometimes require expensive non-public school services. Private schools do not have to accept or pay for services for children with special education needs. \$23,000 can go a long way without those extra challenges.

So what could possibly be the explanation for Schwarzenegger choosing private school for his own children over Pali High? Could it be that in his heart he knows that money does matter, despite what he's telling Californians? Has it crossed his mind that even if a school has an ambitious reformist program and visionary leadership — even if merit pay is introduced and tenure time frames are expanded — schools require adequate funding to ensure that class sizes are manageable, children have access to counselors, arts, sports programs, and other services critical for success?

Actions speak louder than words and so does hypocrisy. Clearly the governor knows that he is out of his depth on education issues or he would have been front and center at the Governor's Education Summit in February rather than skipping it to raise money for a multi-million dollar ad campaign trying to convince voters and his deep-pocket donors that \$5,400 per year is adequate to educate California's children. We all know it is not — and the \$23,000 plus per year that Gov. Schwarzenegger spends to educate each of his own children is proof that he knows that too.

(Emily Bloomfield is the president of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education.)

Religion has established itself as the enemy of science



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

Stem cells — those wondrous cells that are the chameleon of biology. From these magical cells it is anticipated that man will finally fulfill his scientific destiny and be able to cure disease, create non-rejected organs for donation, and achieve wonders not thought of yet.

So why does President Bush hate them so? After all, as the president of the country, shouldn't he have our best interests at heart? Shouldn't he be funding any research that can save lives, improve the quality of life and build a better future for all the children his administration is not leaving behind? Try again, the reason is easy, religious fundamentalists hate the thought of science proving things.

Religious fundamentalists don't like reality. It really does not matter if we are talking about Islamic fundamentalists, Southern Baptist fundamentalists, Mormons or Scientologists. The fact is that the fundamentalist leaders of any religion are scared to death of science.

The reason why is basic. To be a believer in a religion, one must have faith in a leader. Once a leader has been chosen, the believer must now follow what the leader says, because not to follow would mean that the leader is not making the "right" decisions, and thus the believer would have chosen the "wrong" leader, and no one likes to be wrong. The leader, to maintain his status, now must prove his worth by showing how wrong every other leader is.

Effective fundamentalist leaders prove their worth, by creating fear in their followers of "the other." They do this by creating a worldview that demands blind acceptance of the leaders "truth."

This "truth" takes many forms, such as the Catholic church's belief that they are the "one true church." And the Church of Latter Day Saints' belief in time travel. The best one though is the Scientologists belief in the existence of extraterrestrial beings, though they deny the validity of psychiatry, and their refutation of science. Why are they called Scientologists?

"Truth" becomes a flexible tool in the hands of religious leaders. For example, the Islamic fundamentalists of this world created a story they tell their followers of the evils of Americans. By convincing their followers that Americans want to annihilate the Muslim culture, they have created a sense of fear and anxiety that allows them to get some of their followers to do absurd things, like suicide bombings.

If you asked the average American what they thought of Muslims prior to Sept. 11, most of them would say they had never thought about it. Post 9/11, the response is likely to be, "kill them all."

The fringe Islamic fundamentalist leaders have created a reality that wasn't there prior to the bombings. The bombings created a wholesale hatred which in turn created the reality of what Islamic

fundamentalist leaders had been telling their followers for years.

The 9/11 bombings were important to the fringe Islamic fundamentalists, not so much as a strike against America, but as a galvanizing force to make Americans hate Muslims, in order to prove the fringe leadership was right to their followers.

It is this ulterior motive that is behind the religious right's opposition to stem cell research in this country. They couch it in terms of right to life, "every human life is important," and "voiceless human beings," but at the end of it all they just need a demon.

So long as they are trying to move their agenda forward they must have a demon to push against. The bigger the demon, the more money they raise, they more headlines they grab, and that translates into followers, which becomes money again.

Science, on the other hand, can move forward absent a demon. The only demon known to science is ignorance.

Unfortunately, ignorance is the most useful tool in the religious leaders toolbox. Ignorance is what allows for the wholesale judgment of others, commonly called "bigotry."

Ignorance allows each of us to feel superior to someone else, whether we are right or not.

Science is scary to religious leaders because when it answers questions, it creates conflicts between what the scientists have proven, and what the religious leaders have preached.

For example, when science finds a "gay gene," it will ruin all those sermons on the immorality of homosexuality — it's no longer a choice. Suddenly the gays are just like the blacks, at least from a philosophical standpoint. The "gay gene" becomes an "immutable characteristic" and that means Constitutional protections, but is also means that the gays are part of God's plan, and the religious fundamentalists can't deal with that, because the Bible is infallible — except for those parts that are conveniently forgotten.

The best way to protect against scientific discovery is to stop research however and whenever you can. This is why religion is the enemy of science.

Once the scientists get involved and start proving that the Bible is a little off, the whole religious thing falls apart.

Which is much like the president's stand on stem cell research. On the one hand, he's against the loss of human life of a cell (mostly because the Baptists are against it, and they have a lot of money), on the other, he is beholden to a whole passel of biotech companies who gave him money.

That's why he took this, "use the ones you've got, but no more" waffle stand. In a twist of philosophical irony, the president is trying to split the baby to make everyone happy, and by doing so, he's satisfying no one.

(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.)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sipos trying to create hysteria

Editor:
Thomas M. Sipos should calm down and take another look at his history book. His hysterical essay (SMDP, July 12, page 4) is misinformed.
The idea that our nation’s founders intended private property rights to be sacrosanct is just plain wrong. The founders seized the private property of British sympathizers and never provided compensation because they didn’t like the politics of their enemies, not because there was any “public purpose” for the takings.
The Kelo case in New London was the product of a long, drawn-out public process, not the result of “back room deals” by “politically-connected developers.” In our democracy, voters elect representatives to define things like “public purpose” and if the voters don’t care for the resulting decisions, they are free to elect somebody else at the next election.

Alan D. Buckley
Newbury Park, Calif.

Segways dominating the path

Editor:
The front page of the July 8 edition of the Santa Monica Daily Press features a photograph of a man on a Segway — that cool two-wheeled motorized vehicle one sees on Santa Monica sidewalks (where bicycles are prohibited) scattering pedestrians at its somewhat menacing 10 mph speed — leading a group of five other Segway riders along the beach bike path. The caption reads: “Jason Stemmler, tour guide and instructor for Segway Los Angeles, leads a group of visitors on a tour from Santa Monica Beach to Venice Beach and back.”
From the perspective of somebody like me who actually uses the bike path for, of all things, riding a bicycle, people like Mr. Stemmler and his students are a real pain in the rear tire. Not only that, Segways, motorized bicycles, motorized scooters, motorized anything on the beach bike path are prohibited by the Santa Monica municipal code, which states, in pertinent part: “3.12.560 Prohibited vehicles in the area where bicycle riding is permitted by section 3.12.550, no vehicle of any type shall be permitted except unicycles, bicycles, bicycles with training wheels, wheelchairs, and single-person tricycles operated by a person 18 years of age or older.”
This ordinance, along with other regulations, is posted at numerous locations along the beach.
I’ve witnessed SMPD beach patrol officers enforce this ordinance against various scofflaws driving motorized vehicles on the bike path. Evidently Mr. Stemmler and his students have thus far escaped their notice. Perhaps someday soon they won’t.

David Stoughton
Santa Monica

Dog park idea has legs

Editor:
Are people and dogs in Los Angeles dirtier and dumber and more irresponsible than the people and dogs in all the other coastal cities in California? Nope. So if over 50 dog beaches up and down the coast are splendidly working, there’s no reason to think a dog beach wouldn’t work in our fair city with our fair dogs. And what I mean by “working” is that people and pooches are frolicking on the dog beaches in peaceful harmony, and the sand and sea are just as clean as the human-only beaches.
In fact, and I do mean “fact,” since I’ve seen a ton of studies the local dog beach organizations have collected, sand and sea quality at a lot of the dog beaches is even better than the nearby non-dog areas. This is mostly due to dog owners not only picking up after their fine canines, but also picking up the after the not-so-fine humans who litter and degrade the beach. And there are more than 2,000 residents who have already signed up as volunteers to clean and monitor the proposed dog beaches in

Santa Monica and Playa Del Rey.
I’d also like to briefly respond to a published letter written by Frank Lubick. In his letter, he states reasons to oppose a dog beach such as “the unbridled predatory nature of dogs toward both threatened and non-threatened indigenous birds and wildlife, threats to humans from bites and animal defecation and overall blight to a natural resource.” Simply put, the existing California dog beaches have not had these problems. While Mr. Lubick can talk about problems he feels might occur, it is wiser to stick to the facts of what in actuality has occurred.
While myself and others can keep debating back and forth about whether a dog beach will be a good thing or a bad thing, the only definitive way to find out is to try it out. We could kick the tires and have a little test drive. We could try it out on a trial basis, perhaps a month or two. It could also be restricted to a few hours a day. And, as the dog beach organizations propose, the area in Santa Monica is a mere one-tenth of one mile. That area is also very under-utilized by people and it’s very un-pristine. There’s certainly no harm in trying it out there.
I say we should be a little open minded and give our LA pooches a chance to prove they are just as good as all the other California canines who have made their dog beaches a very positive addition to their communities.
And here’s a late breaking news flash: The Los Angeles City Council has just given unanimous support to the state legislation (AB 359) permitting a dog beach in Playa Del Rey. Councilman Bill Rosendahl stated, “The time for an off-leash dog beach in Los Angeles County is long past due. Supporting this bill is the right thing to do.”

Greg Mancuso
Santa Monica

Homeless are homeless by choice

Editor:
So sorry Mr. Randy Walburger, but you missed the point (SMDP, July 8, page 4), or you were afraid to write the quote from the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:13 “we must always retain our faith, hope, and love.”
Instead, you proclaimed a program that is a total failure in Santa Monica. It is also implied that all we need is shelter, when most have been in homeless shelters or programs numerous times only to return to their addictions and the streets.
Try listening one more time. It’s not the low living wages or health care or affordable housing that keeps us homeless — it’s us. Our inability to strive for a better life. Our so-called homeless newspaper that does nothing but rag on police, the citizens and the politicians, instead of directing us positively on how to solve our personal problems in a Christian way.
Lastly, we have a great police force in Santa Monica, and thanks to them and other higher officials, they are here to protect and serve. If the elderly lady in the alley is drunk, or high on drugs, then yes, she should be arrested or cited. If, however, she is unable to help herself, any kindhearted policeman or park ranger would try their best to help her.
Mr. Walburger, I am a 63-year-old former Marine from the 1960s. I am not addicted to anything except coffee in the morning and trying to improve myself and others through Jesus.
If you ever see an “old” lady in an alley and pass her by, give me a call, I’d love to meet you face to face and discuss your personal crisis of ignorance, repugnance and lack of love all but yourself and the profit of your company.
I accepted your challenge of logging on to the Web site that you constantly referred to in your last, and other, editorials, and I noted with interest that you own the trademark for the modules that you believe will help “solve” the homeless problem here in Santa Monica.

Milton Billingsley
Santa Monica

Finding a normal roommate in LA may require importing one



**ANY DAY
IN LA**

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

Once you find that paradoxically inexpensive Santa Monica apartment with standardized rent control, you’ll never want to leave it. Unless you’re my roommate, and just need to get as far away from me as she can.
Thus Kristen packed up all her belongings last Saturday and U-hauled herself to Pasadena. In a one bedroom completely outside the Los Angeles border, I think she may have got the distance she wanted.
When she first got her job in Pasadena in early March, I half expected it.
“Are you sure the drive isn’t going to

be too much for you?” I asked.
When she oddly asked to meet for dinner a month back, when we never meet for dinner, I had the feeling something was up.
“I’m leaving the apartment,” she said as she laid out her reasons. The commute was too hard, she would save on gas money, be closer to her parents, etc. A tear came to her eye. I felt like she was breaking up with me.
I was mortified. Where in LA was I going to find a normal roommate?
My college friends had already moved back to Huntington Beach, Sherman Oaks or stayed planted in the armpit of the civilization, Calabasas. With no prospects, I toyed with the idea of finding someone online, much to my mother’s concern.
“My boyfriend will be moving out here from Pennsylvania also. He doesn’t have a job, but I guess it’s OK if he doesn’t sleep over every night.”

Next.
“I want to be best friends with my new roommate. It’s always been that way, and I’d really appreciate it if I could have that with my new one.”
Yeah it sounds sweet, but she told me this quite demandingly and slightly beligerent.
Next.
“Wow, you’re beautiful.”
Geez, I wasn’t sure if she was trying to hit on me or just very flattering. Either way, there’s no need for questions before you’ve even started to live together.
I laid awake that first night trying to figure what in the heck I was going to do. Even if people seemed completely normal on the phone, who’s to say they wouldn’t end up roasting lamb kabobs in my bed sheets?
Out of nowhere it came to me. My freshman/sophomore year roommate was

moving from New York back to Las Vegas. Although we were good roommates and best friends in college, we’ve had a little trouble keeping in touch since then.
I sent her an e-mail, slightly joking she should move out to Santa Monica and live with me instead, silently pleading she’d consider Proposition A. “A” stands for Adrianna. I sure as hope you come live with me, and save me from boyfriend girl and her motley kabob skewing crew.
Well, as I type at my alley-found kitchen table, sitting on my lawn chair with a phone book for a cushion, I know that I’ll eventually find real furniture again. And even good roommates in LA aren’t impossible to find, especially if they come from Las Vegas.
(Heidi can be reached at anydayin-la@gmail.com.)



STATE

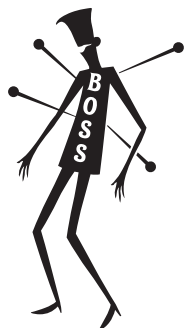


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STATE BRIEFS

Man extorts mom for drug money

By The Associated Press

GLENDORA — A 24-year-old man was arrested for allegedly faking his own kidnapping and demanding \$750 ransom from his mother.

Investigators said Shane Reynolds needed to settle a drug debt. Reynolds allegedly telephoned his mother on her cellular phone early Saturday and told her he and his girlfriend had been kidnapped and the abductors were demanding a ransom for their release, Sgt. Jamie Caldwell said.

During a series of telephone calls, Reynolds' mother was allegedly given details of the kidnapping and asked by her son to put the \$750 in an envelope and place it under a trash can in her driveway.

Officers staked out the mother's home and watched as the girlfriend, Sarah Madison, 22, of Covina approached Reynolds' mother, who handed her an envelope.

Madison then got back in a car and it sped away.

"Officers stopped the car and found four people inside, including (Reynolds)," Caldwell said. "After officers interviewed the suspects separately, they determined that the kidnapping was not real."

Madison and Reynolds have a history of drug use and the mother thought the \$750 would be used to settle a drug debt, Sgt. Tim Staab said.

Orange Line should get some juice

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Transportation officials are optimistic the San Fernando Valley's new 14-mile Orange Line busway will lure commuters now crawling to work on congested Highway 101.

"Unless you enjoy playing Russian roulette with traffic on the Ventura Freeway, the busway is the best possible solution we can have in our lifetime," said Councilman Dennis Zine, who drives each day from the west valley to downtown.

From Warner Center in Woodland Hills, a bus will take about 38 minutes to reach the Red Line subway stop in North Hollywood. It takes another half-hour to get downtown for a total trip that slashes up to 30 minutes off the drive time during the morning commuter rush.

"The 101 is making me crazy," Zine said.

The \$350 million Orange Line busway is expected to open in late October and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority said it will operate much like a train, running mostly on an exclusive, two-lane road across the San Fernando Valley.

It will cost \$3 per round trip, and less with a monthly pass. MTA officials said they expect 22,000 people to ride the Orange Line each weekday by 2020.

"Total time from door to door is the No. 1 factor people use when selecting a mode of transportation," transit planning consultant Ryan Snyder said. "Beyond that, cost is very important and everything else is secondary: safety, comfort, ability to read."

Rangers look out for reptiles

By The Associated Press

JOSHUA TREE — Rangers are stepping up their hunt for reptile and plant poachers in Joshua Tree National Park.

Thieves are collecting snakes, tortoises and lizards — "anything that moves" — as well as desert plants, ranger Jeff Ohlfs said. One man was caught with 23 lizards stuffed in a fanny pack and cereal boxes.

Poachers are caught nightly during certain peak periods. Ohlfs didn't know how many poachers have been caught so far this year, but the poaching season is about to peak and rangers are beefing up patrols.

A major reptile expo this summer in Reno, Nev., is expected to bring thousands of snake and lizard enthusiasts to the region. Ohlfs said it's a perfect opportunity to make a side trip to Joshua Tree National Park and stock up on reptiles.

Ohlfs wouldn't provide details about the reptile show or park ranger preparations.

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STATE



Dueling drug measures has proved to be costly

BY BETH FOUHY

AP Political Writer

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger called a November special election last month to push several initiatives aimed at reshaping state government.

But the fall ballot's costliest political skirmish so far has nothing to do with the governor's "year of reform" political agenda. Two competing prescription drug initiatives — one sponsored by consumer groups, the other by the pharmaceutical industry — already have attracted tens of millions of dollars.

The vast majority of that money has flowed in from the nation's major drug companies, who have a multibillion market in the state. They also don't want a successful consumer initiative in trend-setting California to trigger a wave of similar measures across the country.

Both initiatives are designed to reduce prescription drug prices for low-income residents and the uninsured, but they differ over how many people would receive coverage and how the drug companies would be compelled to participate.

Those differences have led to an initiative campaign expected to be the costliest in state history, surpassing the \$66 million spent by Indian tribes in 1998 to legalize casino gambling on tribal land.

The drug industry is pushing Proposition 78, a measure based on legislation Schwarzenegger supported last year to allow residents making \$28,000 or less or a family of four earning up to \$56,000 to buy prescription drugs at a discount.

Participation by drug companies would be voluntary, but most major manufacturers have indicated they are willing to take part. The measure is based on a similar program established earlier this year in Ohio, a compromise crafted by labor unions and drug companies.

The other measure, Proposition 79, is backed by a coalition of consumer groups and unions. It would expand the pool of Californians eligible for the drug discounts to individuals making up to \$37,000 and families of four making up to \$75,000.

Proposition 79 also would penalize companies who refuse to provide the discounts by discouraging their participation in the state's \$4 billion Medicaid program. That provision and another allowing citizens to sue drug companies for "illegal profiteering" have sparked fierce opposition from the nation's pharmaceutical industry.

"Proposition 79 is the wrong proposition for the people of California," said Jan Faiks, vice president for government affairs at the Washington, D.C.-based Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association of America. "We will spend as much as it takes to educate the voters. It is that important to us."

In the last month alone, pharmaceutical giants Pfizer, Merck & Co. and Glaxosmithkline each made identical contributions of nearly \$8.4 million to the California Initiative Fund, an industry-controlled campaign account.

Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Amgen, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Eli Lilly and Co. have contributed nearly \$4 million apiece.

All told, the fund has collected more than \$53 million, a figure that is expected to rise significantly as the special election draws near. By contrast, the pharmaceutical industry spent a total of \$9.4 million to affect federal elections in 2004, according to an analysis by the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Responsive Politics.

Supporters of the consumer initiative said they are not intimidated by the amount of money the industry has said it will spend, said Anthony Wright of Health Access California, the consumer group that drafted Proposition 79.

He said widespread anger over high drug costs will steer voters their way.

"The amount they've collected is breathtaking, and it shows how scared they are and how much trouble they think they're in," Wright said. "Is this a David and Goliath fight? Yes. But there are lots of Davids out there who are suffering through high drug costs — and remem-

ber, David won."

Voters can say yes or no to either or both of the initiatives. If both pass, the measure that receives the most votes becomes law.

A statewide Field poll released last month showed voters favoring both initiatives, with 64 percent saying they support the industry initiative and 54 percent supporting the consumer measure.

Even as the political war is about to be unleashed, both sides have tried to negotiate about ways to head it off. Last week, pharmaceutical association president Billy Tauzin flew to Sacramento to meet privately with Schwarzenegger and top Democrats. Little progress was reported when he departed.

The obstacle to a deal, both sides say, is that the propositions can't be removed from the Nov. 8 special election ballot.

Even if a compromise were reached among the parties, it would have to be placed on the ballot and forced to compete with the other two — a recipe for voter confusion.

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DEAR DORIE

Having a 'sleeper' would be a dream

Dear Dorie,

I've noticed my infant gets really fussy around bedtime. It's almost as if she's confused and upset with everything. Nothing seems to calm her down until she's passed out, and by that time, I'm a wreck. It takes me at least an hour to unwind and then she's up again a few hours later. I'm willing to try anything. What should I do?

— Bedtime Blues

Dear Blues,

There is no doubt that sleep deprivation is a critical and rarely discussed component of parenting. Less than 10 percent of the parenting population are lucky enough to get what I call a "sleeper." That is, a baby that sleeps through the night at about two months old and takes regular naps over an hour in length. It's what we all want and what very few of us get. The majority, myself included, do any tap dance necessary to get our little ones all cuddly and quiet at night and then help Starbucks prosper during the day. While there is no magical cure for this, there are a few tried and true suggestions.

Set a regular bedtime, even for an infant. Establish your own nighttime ritual for at least 30 minutes prior to the desired sleep time (pathetically, mine was 90 minutes so don't be discouraged if it takes a while in the beginning). This ritual should include a bath, some stories and/or lullabies and your own goodnight exchange. Ours is taken from John Irving and goes, "Goodnight you Princesses of the Pacific, you Queens of California, you Cinderellas of Santa Monica." If your baby fusses at this point, go for the rocking, swaying or swinging. Keep talking during the crying, they may not hear you, but it will keep you calm. Above all, remember what my mother always said, "This too shall pass."

Good luck.

— Dorie

(Dorie Meek is director of the Infant & Family Support Program, provided by Saint John's Health Center in partnership with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Meek answers questions concerning children ages birth to 5 years old. Submit your questions to "Dear Dorie" at meek@smmusd.org, or call (310) 452-6132; fax (310) 452-6392).

Managing money payments for chores is parent's chore



How Much Is Enough?

By Jean Illsley Clarke Ph.D.

"Chores are just part of growing up and kids shouldn't be paid for doing them."

Barbara couldn't understand why the argument. Ken was adamant.

"They get an allowance and they need to learn that money isn't free, they have to earn it," Barbara acquiesced reluctantly, but only when Ken agreed to be totally in charge of the payment arrangements.

So far, so good. Ken approached the children with his plan. He explained that they needed to learn about earning money. The kids quickly let him know that chores were not cool, but being paid was, and they started negotiating prices. The discussion was getting nowhere when Zach stood up and announced, "Meet me at my computer in 10 minutes."

His list of possible chores was 15 lines long and included jobs he had not yet done. Jobs with hefty prices. Dad, son and daughter hassled over each item. Sister Jane was fairly quiet until Zach recommended that he be paid more for some of the jobs because he was older and needed more money than she did. After a noisy sibling interchange, Ken put his foot down and declared that the pay would be the same for both.

Did the arrangement work? It seemed to. However, Ken felt his blood pressure rise every time Zach approached him with a printout of "the list" and demanded an increase on common items or added an item he had always done which he thought, in all fairness, he should be paid for now.

Soon Ken and Barbara noticed that there were times that some of Zach's chores didn't get done. The week he did nothing, Barbara called a big meeting. Ken dithered, "I don't understand. I never hassle about paying." Barbara backed Zach into a corner. "What's going on? Give me a straight answer." Zach's tone was placating.

"Thanks for reminding me about the chores but I don't need any money this week so I'm not doing them," he said.

Barbara's solution was simple. "No pay for chores.

None. Zip. Nada. You do chores because you are a family member. You already get your pay in your room and board. You get an allowance because you are a family member, and I'm going to start teaching you how to handle your money."

Ken thought otherwise. He overruled Barbara because the plan was working well with sister Jane. Ken continued to try to teach Zach about earning money. Zach wound his dad tight around the pole — the pole of Ken's vulnerability, his failure to recognize that what works with one child may not work with another, and his lack of recognition that he was a party to Zach's game.

Remember, the major resentment expressed by adults in the overindulgence research studies was "They did things for me that I should have been doing for myself, and I didn't have to do chores." Not doing chores left holes in their skill sets, holes that caused inconvenience and pain in their adult lives.

What works for you and your children? Do you focus on earning or contributing?

Some parents say:

■ "Chores are children's work. They get paid."

■ "I don't get paid for my chores. I do them to make the family work. Children should do the same."

■ "My children don't get paid for their regular chores, but they do get paid if they do something I would have paid to have done."

■ Can't make up their minds and their kids wind them around the waffling pole.

Remember that any time our children wind us around a pole, we have let them do that, and we can pick up our parent power and put a stop to it by being willing to "be the parents." There is more about how easy it is to let the children start calling the shots and what to do about it in the book "How Much Is Enough?"

To participate in a new study on overindulgence and relationships log onto our Web site at www.overindulgence.info.

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

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SPECIAL EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20

TIA! & TIA'S QUACKER TUNES – 6:00 p.m.
Hear toe-tapping children's songs for FREE!
Westside Pavilion, 10800 W. Pico Blvd.

JULY 20 – 24 – RINGLING BROS. and BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS

Various times. Enjoy the Greatest Show on Earth at Staples Center, 1111 S. Figueroa St., LA, \$10 - \$85, 213-742-7340.

THURSDAY, JULY 21

TWILIGHT DANCE SERIES – 7:30 p.m.

Enjoy the 21st season of this great musical event on the pier presented by LACarGuy.com. This week enjoy blues with the Chicago Blues Reunion. Families with small children – I recommend bringing a picnic to the beach just south of the pier where the kids can run around and you can still enjoy the music. This is truly one of Santa Monica's best events. For more info visit www.twilightdance.org.

THURS. – SAT., JULY 21 – 23 – 7:00 p.m. – ALADDIN, JR.

The magic and wonder of the award winning score come to life in this stage version of the Disney movie. Ages 4 and up, \$10 adults, \$7 children. Linwood E. Howe Auditorium, 4100 Irving Pl., Culver City, 838-8024.

SATURDAY, JULY 23

BIG! WORLD! FUN! FAMILY SERIES at the FORD Today's performance is from the Gullistan Dance Theatre presenting the Iranian tale of Princess Firuza and the Horse Prince. Ages 4 - 11, \$5. John Anson Ford Theatre, 2580 Cahuenga Blvd., Hollywood, 323-461-3673, www.fordamphitheatre.org

SAT. and SUN., JULY 23 & 24

CINDERELLA at the Santa Monica Playhouse 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. The most requested SMP Family Theatre musical on three continents. \$12 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com, 1211 4th St.

SUNDAY, JULY 24

SUMMER CONCERT and DRUMMING CIRCLE – 3:30 p.m.
Percussionists Rhythm and Green perform; kids can join in a drumming circle at the pre-show. FREE! Crestwood Hills Park, 1000 Hanley Ave., Brentwood, 472-5233.

FAMILY FUNDAY at the WILL GEER THEATRICUM BOTANICUM

Peter Alsop entertains today. All ages, \$8. 1419 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga, 455-3723.

NOW THRU AUG. 27

SUMMER YOUTH TRIATHLON PROGRAM – Saturdays, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
SoCal Jr. Elite presents this program to introduce more youths to the sport of triathlon. Designed for ages 9 – 18, no previous triathlon experience is required. For info and application visit www.socaljrelite.com or email questions to socaljrelite@adelphia.net. Space is limited. Crossroads School Pool, 1715 Olympic Blvd. (not affiliated with Crossroads Summer Camps – do not call the school)

SPECIAL NOTE – Kids' Yoga Circle is closed from July 10 – 31. Check back for the summer schedule that resumes Aug. 1.

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms! 11:00 a.m., Loews Cineplex Broadway Theatre, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms for details.

Storytelling

Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.

Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m. For 2 year olds with adult.

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

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

Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds. **Lap Time** – 11:00 a.m., six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Program. Current session June 21 – Aug. 9 for both. **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.

Summer Activity Program – 2:30 p.m., thru Aug. 16, ages 4 and up.

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

Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 2 to 3 year olds. Next session is July 26 – Aug. 30 (register now).

Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis 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

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years, (Mon – Fri); Infant & Me Class – 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. and 1:30 – 2:30 p.m., 0 – 12 months; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

YMCA – Attachment Parenting Classes - 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., 1332 Sixth St., 393-2721 (ask for Shelana Philip-Guide or Audrey Meyer). This new class for mothers/dads and babies up to 12 months is presented by Karol Darsa, PsyD, a licensed psychologist with extensive experience working with children and families. Fees: Members – 1 class - \$40, 5 class pass - \$180; Non-members - \$50, 5 class pass - \$200.

BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

An advanced 10-week parent education course. Culver City/Westchester, \$30 per class/\$40 materials. Also Thursdays, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., West LA, \$40 per class/\$40 materials. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

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.

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 – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end) **Itsy Bitsy Yoga** – Tots (crawling to 24 months) – 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Baby (6 weeks to pre-crawling) – 11:00 – noon. With Khefri Riley at Ocean Oasis, 1333 Ocean Ave. Register at www.khefri.net or call 323-549-5383. **Stroller Strides Fitness Class** – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

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.

Toddler Story Time – 9:30 a.m., for two year olds.

Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult. Current session thru Aug. 10 for both.

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

Lap Time - 10:15 & 11:15 a.m., ages 0-2. Current session July 20 – Aug. 24.

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

Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5. Summer Activity Program – 2:30 p.m., thru July 27, ages 4 and up, tickets required.

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

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

Classes

Rhythm Child Parent & Me Rhythms, Santa Monica Studios, 3025 Olympic Blvd., 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Children explore rhythms through drum play. Ages 6 mos. – 3.5 years; \$100 for 8 weeks. Call 204-5466 or visit www.rhythm-child.net for more info and session dates.

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years; (Mon – Fri); 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15 **Fitness for Moms** – Babies Welcome! Step Aerobics, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

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

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

Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.

Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m.; for 2 year olds with adult.

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

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

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

Summer Activity Programs – 2:30 p.m. thru Aug. 4, ages 4 and up.

Youth Chess Club – 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. All levels welcome.

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

Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., for 2 year olds, next session July 21 – Aug. 25.

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 and 10:20. Ages 0 – 2. Current session thru Aug 11.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years; (Mon – Fri); 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

An advanced 10-week parent education course. West LA, \$40 per class/\$40 materials. Also Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Culver City/Westchester, \$30 per class/\$40 materials; Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

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 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.

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group

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

FRIDAY

MOMS Club of Santa Monica – New Mother Group – for new moms with babies ages 0-6 months. Meet for conversation, support and playtime. All new Moms welcome! Call Cassandra at 451-1827 for time, location and more info.

Parent's Night Out at Child's Play, 2299 Westwood Blvd., 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.

Kids get a night of supervised fun with pizza, games and more while parents go out. Ages 3-10, \$9 per hour, \$7 siblings, 3 hour minimum. Reservations required, 470-4997. www.child-splayonline.net
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.
Planetarium Show at SMC's John Drescher Planetarium, 7:00 p.m. - Night Sky Show, 8:00 p.m. – featured program. \$5 adults, \$4 children. Pico and 17th St., 434-3000.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years; (Mon – Fri); 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! **Indoor Cycling**, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.

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

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Other

Baby Attuned - Fridays, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., A new program promoting sensitive parenting and developmental awareness. Parent-completed developmental screening, with review and feedback from a licensed clinical developmental psychologist and experienced pediatric nurse practitioner, Eileen Escarce, PhD, MSN. (PSY 18819). Introductory fee: \$15 per screening with feedback. 1137 2nd Ave, Suite 213. By appointment only 310-367-1155.

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., 310-559-800K.

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

826LA, 685 Venice Blvd, 2nd Floor, Venice – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., ages 3-6, RSVP to info

@825LA.com or 310-314-8418. (826LA is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write).

Classes

YWCA – Toddler & Me every other Sat. (July 23), 9:45 – 10:45 a.m., \$15 per class; Parent Enrichment once per month (July 23), 11:00 a.m. – noon, \$15 per class, \$25 per couple.

Yoga & Exercise

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

1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonica-yoga.com

Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.(babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:00 a.m., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Other

Emerging Artists Family Workshop - 10:00 a.m. – noon.

Program varies, ages 6 and up, \$12. Santa Monica Museum of Art, 2419 Michigan Ave, 586-6488, ext. 32.

Cinderella at the Santa Monica Playhouse

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, July 23 & 24; \$12 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com, 1211 4th St.

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

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

Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime

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

Lakeshore Learning Stores "Free Crafts for Kids" – Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., 8888 Venice Blvd., 559-9630.

SUNDAY

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.

Cinderella at the Santa Monica Playhouse

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, July 23 & 24; \$12 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com, 1211 4th St.

Family Funday at the Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum – 11:00 a.m Live music and theatre for all ages. \$8, 1419 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga, 455-3723, www.theatricum.com.

Breastfeeding

Working Mother's Support Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd. - Call 826-5774 for more info.

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 9:30 a.m. A series for babies up to two years old, July 18 only. ("Family Connections" is on summer break.)

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

"Spanish for Little Ones", 11:15 a.m., July 11 – Aug. 15.

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

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years; (Mon – Fri); 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

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.

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STATE

Video game sex hack puts heat on industry

BY RON HARRIS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Shooting. Killing. Vehicular mayhem. Sexual conquests. Teenagers can experience it all through today's almost-anything-goes breed of video games, primarily among those rated "M" for mature. The Entertainment Software Rating Board is responsible for that rating system, and this self-regulating videogame industry group has suddenly found itself on the hot seat. Critics say the board's guidance is toothless and does little to help parents trying to protect impressionable children from questionable content.

"There is no doubting the fact that the widespread

availability of sexually explicit and graphically violent video games makes the challenge of parenting much harder," said Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, who asked the Federal Trade Commission last week to investigate one of the most violent titles, "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas." In this "M" rated game — last year's top-seller among console games — the main character seeks bloody vengeance on gang-filled streets, firing automatic weapons and picking up scantily clad women. But what really riles family-oriented media watchdog groups are additional scenes in which nude "girlfriends" join in explicit sex acts in the PC version. The scenes become "playable" with the help of a freely available download created by a Dutch programmer.

"Grand Theft Auto" publisher Rockstar Games says the game's designers did not create that content. Not so, says the programmer, Patrick Wildenborg. He insists his "mod" merely unlocks code that was already hidden in the game's retail version.

Had such sexually explicit content been clearly a part of the retail version, it would likely have earned the game an "adults-only" rating. And that would have potentially cost Rockstar Games millions in lost sales.

The ESRB's president, Patricia Vance, cautions the public not to jump to conclusions while the board investigates the case.

"I think it is very important for people to realize that this game is rated 'M' for mature," Vance said. "This game is not a game that was rated for children. Regardless of what if anything was modified, it's a game that the ESRB has made as clear as it can that it was not intended for anyone under the age of 17."

The ESRB is accustomed to pressure — it was formed 11 years ago under heat from Congress to crack down on violent videogames. The board now issues ratings for more than 1,000 game titles each year.

As part of the process, game makers must submit a lengthy form describing the most extreme content, and turn over visual samples and scripted dialogue as each game nears the final stages of development.

The ESRB then hires everyday New Yorkers to test the games and recommend ratings, from "E" for everyone to "AO" for adults only. At least three testers try each game, and recommended ratings are delivered within five days, Vance said.

"At the end of the day, what they're looking at is not how fun this game is," Vance said. "We're looking for objective, independent feedback ..."

That feedback is ultimately delivered to a board comprised of executives from the largest videogame companies, including heavyweights like Microsoft Corp., Nintendo of America Inc. and Electronic Arts as well as Take 2 Interactive, the parent company responsible for

the Grand Theft series.

Similar ratings for movies have been determined since 1968 by the Motion Picture Association of America under a system that is also voluntary.

But video games are much more complex than movies by their very design — they usually have layers of content, and sometimes there are "hidden" areas that can be unlocked with special codes. Often, software patches and add-ons available for download can modify video games — either made available by the original publisher or created by fans as modifications, or "mods."

Further complicating matters, games' final ratings can sometimes be of little use to parents and gamers deciding on a purchase.

For example, THQ Inc. offers two versions of "The Incredibles" for PC — one rated "E" and the other "T" for teen — each described simply as containing "cartoon violence." And "Chris MoneyMaker's World Poker Championship" from Valu Soft is rated "M" for its "simulated gambling," while Hoyle's "Poker Series" gets an "E," also for "simulated gambling."

Then there's Atari's "F/A-18: Operation Iraqi Freedom," which allows the player to "Kick some Ba'ath" by dropping bombs on targets deep inside Iraq. It's rated "E" for everyone, just like Her Interactive's "Nancy Drew: The Secret of Shadow Ranch."

Dennis McCauley, who runs GamePolitics.com and follows hot-button industry issues, says the ESRB generally does a good job of determining ratings, but only answering to itself is a problem.

"My primary issue with it is that it's not accountable to anyone. It's kind of a closed loop," McCauley said. "They need to have some kind of mechanism to interface with the public, and not necessarily the government because some people would see that as censorship."

But a good dose of government oversight is exactly what is needed, says Rep. Joe Baca, D-Calif. He has been trying for three years to get legislation passed that would require the FTC to determine if the video game industry's labeling practices are unfair or deceptive.

Baca says parents are being misled — he thinks videogame publishers seek the "M" rating even when they know a game includes content that should be in "Adults Only" territory.

"They know very well that if it said 'Adults Only' these would not be displayed at a Target, at a Wal-Mart or any of the other videogame (retailers), because they wouldn't be sold," Baca said in an interview.

And these games are having a real, detrimental impact on young minds, Baca said — "In a videogame, you're actually pursuing and simulating a person. You're under hypnosis. You're a person that is dramatizing, that is living the example of what is going on."

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NATIONAL

What does Google know about you?

BY ANICK JESDANUN

AP Internet Writer

NEW YORK — Google is at once a powerful search engine and a growing e-mail provider. It runs a blogging service, makes software to speed Web traffic and has ambitions to become a digital library. And it is developing a payments service.

Although many Internet users eagerly await each new technology from Google Inc., its rapid expansion is also prompting concerns that the company may know too much: what you read, where you surf and travel, whom you write.

"This is a lot of personal information in a single basket," said Chris Hoofnagle, senior counsel with the Electronic Privacy Information Center. "Google is becoming one of the largest privacy risks on the Internet."

Not that Hoofnagle is suggesting that Google has strayed from its mantra of making money "without doing evil."

Rather, some privacy advocates worry about the potential: The data's very existence — conveniently all under a single digital roof — makes the Mountain View, Calif.-based company a prime target for abuse by overzealous law enforcers and criminals alike.

Through hacking or with the assistance of rogue employees, they say, criminals could steal data for blackmail or identity

theft. Recent high-profile privacy breaches elsewhere underscore the vulnerability of even those systems where thoughtful security measures are taken.

Law enforcement, meanwhile, could obtain information that later becomes public, in court filings or otherwise, about people who are not even targets of a particular investigation.

Though Google's privacy protection is generally comparable to — even better than — those at Microsoft Corp., Yahoo Inc., Amazon.com Inc. and a host of other Internet giants, "I don't think any of the others have the scope of personal information that Google does," Hoofnagle said.

Plus, Google's practices may influence rivals given its dominance in search and the fierce competition.

"Google is perhaps the most noteworthy right now by the simple fact that they are the 800-pound gorilla," said Lauren Weinstein, a veteran computer scientist and privacy advocate. "What they do tends to set a pattern and precedent."

The concerns reflect Google's growing heft. As startups get bigger and more powerful, scrutiny often follows.

Google says it takes privacy seriously.

"In general, as a company, we look at privacy from design all the way (through) launch," said Nicole Wong, an associate

See **GOOGLE**, page 15

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Cattle call: First new shipment from Canada rolls into the U.S.

BY LIBBY QUAID

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The first new shipment of Canadian cattle rolled into the United States on Monday, four days after a federal appeals court ended a ban related to mad cow disease.

The livestock shipment crossed the border into Niagara Falls, N.Y., Agriculture Department spokesman Ed Curlett said. He could not say who the shipper was, how many animals were shipped or where they were headed.

More shipments were possible Monday, Curlett said. Last Thursday, a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a Montana judge's decision that had kept the border closed.

The United States banned Canadian cattle in May 2003 after Canada's first case of mad cow disease. The U.S. was poised to lift the ban in March, but U.S. District Judge Richard F. Cebull granted a preliminary injunction to ranchers suing to keep the ban in place.

The trial in the case is scheduled for July 27 in Billings, Mont.

Search engine knows all about it, and you

GOOGLE, from page 14

general counsel at Google.

That means product managers, engineers and executives — not just lawyers — consider the privacy implications as new technologies are developed and new services offered, Wong said.

She also said that Google regularly seeks feedback from civil liberties groups such as the Center for Democracy and Technology and the Electronic Frontier Foundation, both of which credit Google for listening even if it doesn't always agree.

Google's privacy statements specify that only some of its employees have access to personal data — on a need-to-know basis — and such access is logged to deter abuse.

Google Chief Executive Eric Schmidt says a tradeoff exists between privacy and functionality, and the company believes in making fully optional — and seeking permission beforehand — any services that require personally identifiable information.

"There are always options to not use that set of technology and remain anonymous," Schmidt told reporters in May.

But what is meant by personally identifiable information is subject to debate.

Google automatically keeps records of what search terms people use and when, attaching the information to a user's numeric Internet address and a unique ID number stored in a Web browser "cookie" file that Google uploads to computers unless users reconfigure their browsers to reject them.

Like most Internet companies, Google says it doesn't consider the data personally identifiable. But Internet addresses can often be traced to a specific user.

Here's just some of the ways Google can collect data on its users:

■ One of Gmail's selling points is its ability to retain e-mail messages "forever."

■ Google's program for scanning library books sometimes requires usernames to protect copyrights.

■ The company is testing software for making Web pages load more quickly; the application routes all Web requests through its servers.

■ Google also provides driving directions, photo sharing and instant messaging, and it is developing a payments service that critics say could add billing information to user profiles.

Because storage is cheap, data from these services can be retained practically forever, and Google won't specify how long it keeps such information.

Without elaborating, Google says it "may share" data across such services as e-mail and search. It also provides information to outside parties serving as Google's agents — though they must first agree to uphold Google's privacy policies.

Much of the concern, though, stems from a fear of the unknown.

"Everybody gets worried about what they (Google) could do but what they have done to date has not seemed to violate any privacy that anyone has documented," said Danny Sullivan, editor of the online newsletter Search Engine Watch.

Eric Goldman, a cyberlaw professor at Marquette University, believes the focus ought to be on the underlying problem: access by hackers and law enforcement.

"We still need to have good technology to inhibit the hackers. We still need laws that make hacking criminal. We

still need restraints on government surveillance," Goldman said. "Google's database doesn't change any of that."

Anne Rubin, 20, a New York University junior who uses Google's search, Gmail and Blogger services, says quality overrides any privacy concerns, and she doesn't mind that profiles are built on her in order to make the ads she sees more relevant.

"I see it as a tradeoff. They give services for free," she said. "I have a vague assumption that things I do (online) aren't entirely private. It doesn't faze me."

Google's privacy statements specify that only some of its employees have access to personal data — on a need-to-know basis — and such access is logged to deter abuse.

Larry Ponemon, a privacy adviser, says research by his Ponemon Institute found Google consistently getting high marks for trust.

By contrast, Microsoft, whose software sometimes crashes and regularly gets violated by hackers, didn't fare as well despite what Ponemon and others acknowledge are improvements in its approach to privacy.

"People confuse customer service with obligations to maintain privacy," Ponemon said. "Google has a product that seems to work. It gets almost like a free ride on privacy."

That's changing.

Google, a perennially secretive company, may share some of the blame. It goes out of its way to strip its privacy statements of legalese so they are easier to read. But the statements remain vague on how long the company keeps data.

In an interview, Wong said Google had no set time limits on data retention; such determinations are left to individual product teams. She said the information helps Google know how well it is doing — for instance, are users getting the results they want in the first five, 10 or 100 hits?

"We keep data that's collected from our services for as long as we think it's useful," she said.

Google says it releases data when required by law, but its privacy statements offer few details. Wong said Google doesn't surrender data without a subpoena, court order or warrant. But she would not offer any details on how many requests it gets, or how often, and federal law bars Google from disclosing requests related to national security.

For civil lawsuits, Wong said, Google warns users before it complies so they can file objections with a court — a fact the company doesn't publicize.

Mark Rasch, who was a Justice Department prosecutor in the 1980s and has since advised companies on getting data from Internet companies, says electronic records will only become more relevant for investigators searching for evidence of intent and knowledge.

"As Google becomes more involved in parts of your lives including chats and blog, then it's going to get lots more subpoenas," he said. "It's a lot more than just a search tool."

Police and government workers gunned down

BY ANTONIO CASTANEDA

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Insurgents killed 18 police and government workers in a series of shootings across central Iraq, and the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff said Monday the recent wave of suicide bombings won't derail progress toward democracy.

Insurgents killed eight policemen in a gunbattle in the western Baghdad neighborhood of Khadra, police said. It was not clear if any insurgents were killed.

Gunmen also killed six police officers, including a colonel, in five attacks in Baghdad, police and hospital officials said. Another policeman died in a shootout between insurgents and security forces just north of Baghdad in Taji, police said.

A police colonel was fatally shot while driving his car in Samarra, 60 miles north of the capital, according to police Capt. Laith Mohammed.

In a visit to Berlin, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard Myers, said a recent spike in suicide bombings in Iraq wouldn't derail the drafting of a new constitution or progress toward democracy. But he warned of more violence ahead.

"Every major milestone has been met. That will continue, in my belief, to happen," Myers said.

Insurgents also attacked government employees Monday, killing a worker for the Iraqi Trade Minister in the southern neighborhood of Dora, Dr. Muhanad Jawad of the Yarmouk hospital said. A municipal worker was also killed and another wounded in a drive-by shooting on a highway between the cities of Samarra and Balad north of Baghdad, Mohammed said.

U.S. forces said Monday they killed four insurgents preparing to launch mortars in the northern city of Tal Afar. A fifth suspected insurgent in the same area was killed by U.S. troops during a raid.

U.S. and Iraqi forces seized a large weapons cache Monday in western Mosul, including more than 1,000 mortar rounds, 450 rocket-propelled grenade rounds, and 150 rockets, the military said.

In Jordan, Iraq's planning minister criticized the massive shortfall in donations pledged by foreign countries to rebuild his country, telling a global reconstruction conference that most aid had been spent on security.

Barham Salih said of \$32 billion in loans and grants pledged two years ago, Iraq has received only \$7 billion.

Al-Qaida in Iraq reported Monday that one of its "field commanders" had been killed by coalition forces in western Iraq, the terror group purportedly said in a statement posted on a Web site used by militants. The statement did not say when the man, Abi Salih al-Ansar, was killed.

The government said Monday a stolen fuel tanker was used in a suicide attack last week that killed over 90 people in Musayyib, 40 miles south of Baghdad.

The truck was stolen by insurgents two days before the attack, an Oil Ministry spokesman said. However, there were conflicting accounts of the attack: most witnesses said a fuel tanker was moving slowly in the center of the town when the blast occurred, but a tanker truck in the area was mostly intact Sunday.

In southern Baghdad, Iraqi police found the body of an unidentified man with multiple gunshot wounds dumped on a highway, police 1st Lt. Thaer Mahmoud said.

Iraq's most powerful Shiite clergyman, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, is deeply upset by the upsurge in suicide attacks, said Vice President Adil Abdul-Mahdi, a top Shiite politician, after meeting with the cleric on Sunday.

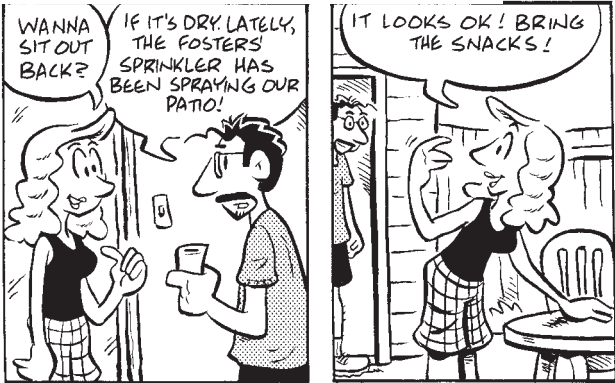
The cleric urged the government to protect the people in "this genocidal war," Abdul-Mahdi said. At least 170 people have been killed in suicide bombings throughout Iraq in the past week.

In a BBC interview scheduled for broadcast Monday, radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr said the continuing violence in Iraq was based in part on the presence of U.S. and other foreign forces.

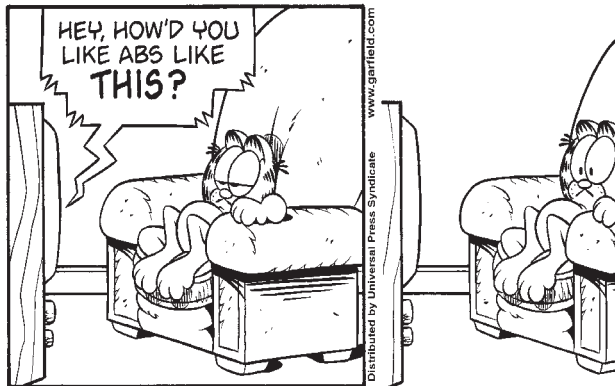


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- 7 Pod fill
- 11 Rival of Athens
- 12 Hindu hero
- 13 "Today" co-star
- 15 Beauty parlor
- 16 Slender
- 18 Enthusiasm
- 21 "— well that ends well"
- 22 Royal clown
- 24 Big snake
- 25 "Gnarly!"
- 26 Put down
- 27 Enticement
- 29 Lion's pride
- 30 Feeling of hunger
- 31 Punch ingredient?
- 32 Sane
- 34 "Dawson's Creek" co-star
- 40 Eye part
- 41 "Ah, Wilderness" playwright
- 42 Bedouin's home
- 43 Somewhat

- 2 Masseur's place
- 3 Bowler, e.g.
- 4 Decisive moment
- 5 First-string players
- 6 Salt, chemically
- 7 Trims
- 8 Elephant feature
- 9 French friend
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- 16 Sailing vessel
- 17 Andean beast
- 19 Map book
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- 21 "Lost" network
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- 39 Crafty

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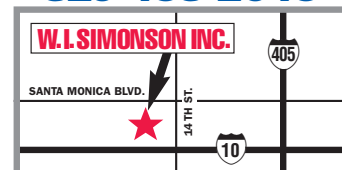


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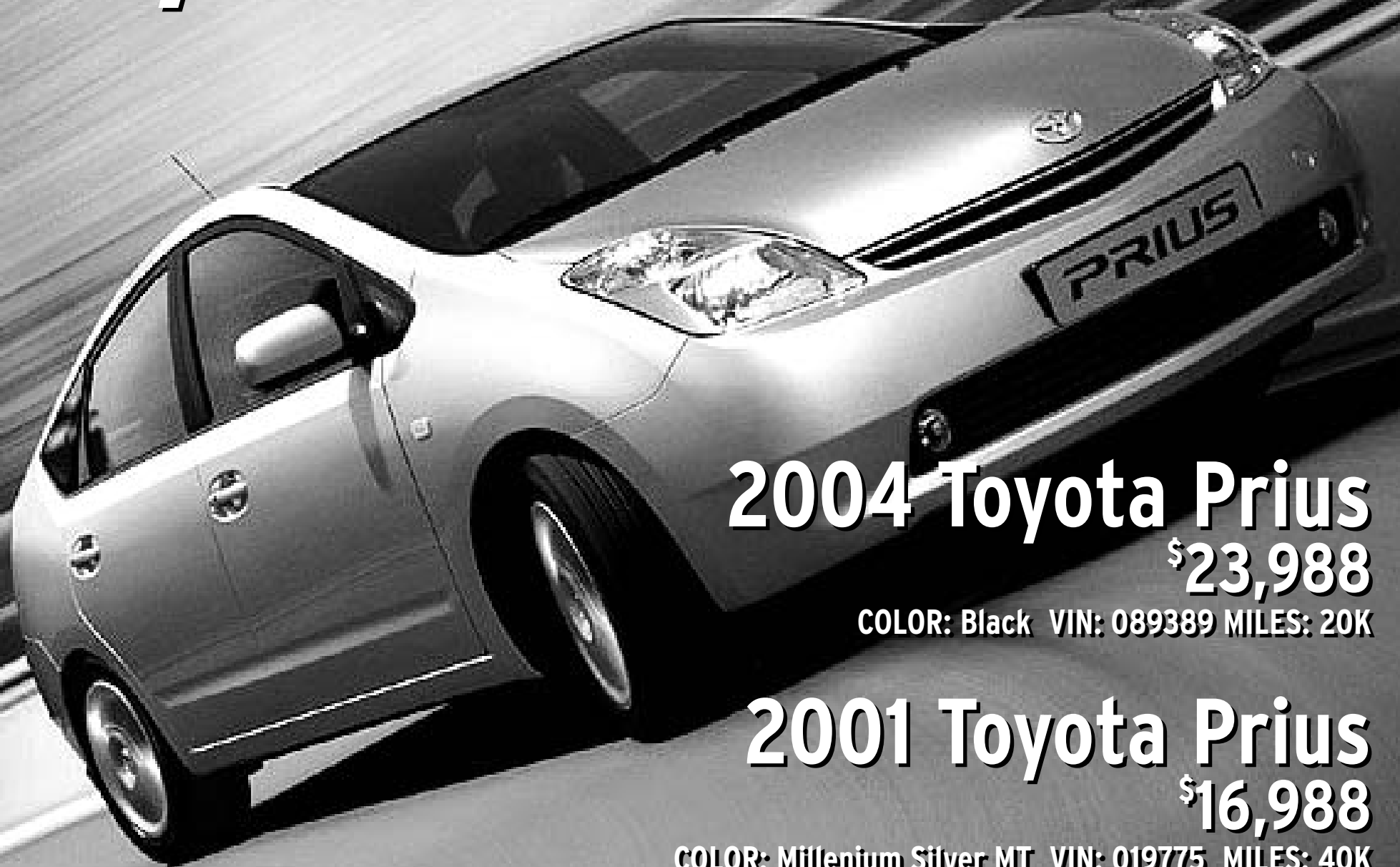


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