

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

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DAILY LOTTO

Daytime: 7 7 0

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DAILY DERBY

1st: 10 Solid Gold

2nd: 01 Gold Rush

3rd: 08 Gorgeous George

RACE TIME: 1:43.10



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Two child prodigies from India made the news in June. A boy named Bharanidharan, 13, backed by several adult disciples, declared himself a Hindu holy man and founded a monastery in Salem in Tamil Nadu state, until his parents had him abducted and brought back home. (A judge released the boy back to his ashram and will later conduct a hearing on his rights.) And Akrit Jaswal, 11, acclaimed as a genius by Indian and international organizations, recently spent two months at the Tata Cancer Institute in Mumbai, working with researchers on cancer and AIDS, and at the recommendation of doctors, Akrit's parents sold most of their belongings to finance a research lab for him in New Delhi.

TODAY IN HISTORY

ON JULY 20, 1969, Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin became the first men to walk on the moon as they stepped out of their lunar module.

■ In 1810, Colombia declared independence from Spain.

■ In 1861, the Congress of the Confederate States began holding sessions in Richmond, Va.

■ In 1871, British Columbia entered Confederation as a Canadian province.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Somehow a bachelor never quite gets over the idea that he is a thing of beauty and a boy forever."

— HELEN ROWLAND,
AMERICAN WRITER AND HUMORIST

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Local man pleads guilty to illegal dumping

Shop owner faces civil lawsuit from man who was burned by chemical

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN STREET — A local furniture stripper accused of nearly killing a sewer worker by letting an untreated toxic chemical run down his drain may have acted unintentionally, according to a plea agreement signed Monday.

Michael Miller, 41, owner of

Stripper Herk on Main Street, pleaded guilty to a reduced misdemeanor charge of negligently discharging a toxic chemical into the sewer, along with a felony charge of storing barrels of hazardous waste without a permit. He will be sentenced in October.

Prosecutors targeted Miller after Vicente Valenzuela, a city-contracted sewer worker, crawled 20 feet beneath Stripper Herk and came into contact with the chemicals. He went into full cardiac arrest. The worker was revived and taken to a special burn center,

where he was treated for third-degree burns covering more than half of his body.

Though Miller initially was charged with a felony for deliberately dumping wastewater containing methylene chloride and oxalic acid, he apparently was able to convince prosecutors the leak was a mistake.

"We were able to show the government, to their satisfaction, that to the extent that there was any discharge, that was not intentional — Mike would never do that," said Alan Rubin, Miller's criminal

defense attorney. "They recognized that this wasn't a polluter who was intentionally dumping into the system."

"This was unfortunate, but an accident," added Rubin, saying Miller is not what officials would call a "midnight dumper." "What's sort of sad about the whole thing is that if anyone helps the environment, it's Mike. He's the only licensed stripper in Santa Monica. If he's not available to do these things, then people will be doing them by themselves, and

See HERK, page 4

A pac of their own: City employees enter politics

BY SHRADDHA R. JAISWAL

Special to the Daily Press

CITY HALL — There's a new committee in town that could change the face of City Council elections, and they're saddling up in time for this November's race.

More than 1,000 Santa Monica city employees have banded together to form their own political action committee,

which will endorse an unknown number of City Council candidates in the months to come.

Although decisions have not yet been made on who the PAC will support in the race for City Council, representatives said they are willing to endorse any candidate — incumbent or new — who will work for city employee issues.

See PAC, page 4

Film show to stay in SM

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — The world's biggest film tradeshow will return to Santa Monica through 2008, attracting thousands of industry professionals and pumping tens of millions of dollars into the local economy, it was announced Monday.

Called the American Film Market, the eight-day tradeshow has been held in Santa Monica for 14 years. It attracts some 7,000 buyers and exhibitors from more than 70 countries, who ink about

\$500 million in film deals, tourism officials said.

With many of Santa Monica's 3,700 hotel rooms booked solid during the tradeshow, City Hall earns between \$250,000 and \$300,000 annually in hotel bed taxes. For local merchants, the influx of visitors translates into untold millions of dollars in meals, sales and cab rides. As much as \$17 million is funneled into the local economy during each tradeshow, officials estimate.

"The revenue AFM brings each year

See AFM, page 4

Local teachers join forces, endorse school board candidates

BY JOHN F. MULLER

Special to the Daily Press

MID CITY — With local election campaigns heating up, a group of teachers and faculty announced Monday it will endorse three candidates for the upcoming school board race.

Santa Monica's Education

Team was formed earlier this year to back candidates for November's election for both the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District School Board and Santa Monica College's Board of Trustees. The group will endorse SMMUSD board incumbents Jose Escarce and Maria Leon-Vasquez, and newcomer Kathy Wisnicki, a

Malibu parent who has been active in school and city politics. Mike Jordan, the third incumbent up for reelection, will not run because of health reasons.

The team last month announced it would endorse Doug Willis and Susan Aminoff for the SMC Board of Trustees.

While teachers and faculty

members have traditionally voiced support for candidates in the two races, they have never unified to back candidates as strongly as they have this year. Previously, the district's teachers association and the college's faculty association gave endorsements separately and waited until the fall before the election.

See SCHOOLS, page 5

Bumper cars



Crill Hansen/Special to the Daily Press

Traffic backed up for miles when police closed Interstate 10 as a result of a shooting near Centinela Avenue and Bundy Drive in West Los Angeles late Sunday night. It's unknown whether anyone was injured.

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Out and about tonight, Pisces

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 have played enough! Now start focusing on the real task at hand or the business of the day. Information comes out that might have you rethinking work-related decisions. You actually might be startled or surprised, at best. Tonight: Think “exercise.”

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You're full of options and ideas. Others could be taken aback by your suggestions, extravagance and willingness to risk. Sometimes you might even shock yourself. Others react differently to the new you. Tonight: Kick up your heels.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Hang in there and watch. Bosses turn events topsy-turvy from out of the blue. You might want to be just an observer, though your perspective is likely to change. A family member could go way overboard — or is this you? Tonight: Do your own thing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Ideas fly through your mind as if you were a walking encyclopedia, which might surprise you. Brainstorm with others and test the applicability of these ideas. Be open to a friend sharing a fear or vulnerability. Tonight: Yap the night away.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Review finances with care. You could be spending in a careless and carefree manner if you're not careful. Don't persuade yourself that you are really working toward a long-term goal. Try more realism. An associate's reaction could bowl you over. Tonight: Pay bills.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You might have a lot on your plate, but you are quite capable of dealing with what comes down. A boss or superior waves you along your chosen path. Others act up or certainly manifest odd behavior. Tonight: Just ask, and expect to receive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Know when to pull back. Office gossip could be a bit overwhelming. Do your best to check out what is what by asking subtle questions. You might be surprised by a new technique or innovation. Learn to use this new system to improve your work. Tonight: Take a personal night.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You know where you are heading, but others might test your limits in ways you had not thought of. Your ingenuity and another person's kindness come through for you. Work with each person individually in order to achieve success. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Others demonstrate their good will; meanwhile, there might be substantial uproar at home. Know when you have had enough. You might opt to stay away and focus on work for a while. Put in extra hours. Tonight: Out on the town.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ When the unpredictable occurs, you sometimes have a difficult time adjusting. You like life to be orderly and under control. Detach rather than get upset. You are in a period when you are learning to flex. Tonight: Choose a relaxing activity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Finances go up and down. You might not like what you hear and see. You need to relax and give your imagination license to think positively. Cut back any negativity. A partner or associate proves most helpful. Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your unpredictability could upset many, though a family member really seems to understand. As a result, your roommates are most indulgent. Think of others before you act out. Try to explain where you are coming from. Tonight: Out and about.

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LOCAL



'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest' revived at Samohi

BY DANIELE HAMAMDJIAN

Special to the Daily Press

The classic "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest" by playwright Dale Wasserman has been revived in an inaugural production by a Santa Monica High School alumni-based organization called "The Viking Underground."

The new theatre company, a sister company of the Santa Monica Civic Light Opera, has reopened the newly renovated Barnum Hall Theater with the American classic that was made famous by Jack Nicholson in a 1975 film production.

"The development of new works and innovative takes on classic plays will drive the 'Viking Underground's' commitment to building a valuable creative outlet for Westside audiences and theater artists," said co-founder and producer, Ryan Hurst.

The 1994 Samohi graduate has taken the lead role of "McMurphy" under the guidance of long-time friend and director, Frank X. Ford. Hurst is best known for his breakout performance as the captain of a football team opposite Denzel Washington in Disney's "Remember the Titans," and for recently starring with Tom Hanks in the Coen Brother's remake of "The Ladykillers."

The play features a cast of 20, including "General Hospital's" Emmy award-winner Stuart Damon and 28-year-old Hurst, amongst a dozen other Samohi graduates. Ford, who also is artistic director of the Santa Monica Civic Light Opera, is directing the production which is scheduled for 12 performances over the next two weeks. Ford has headed theatre and film at Samohi for the past 17 years.

"As students, Ryan and I were very fortunate to have amazing teachers and mentors at Santa Monica High School and it's our hope to give back both educationally and theatrically to the school and community," added Molly Cookson, co-founder and producer of Viking Underground.

"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" is based on a novel written by Ken Kesey. Set in an Oregon State Mental Hospital, the play humorously depicts a rebellious patient's struggle with the ward's domineering head nurse. By exploring the human psyche, Ford and his team have re-imagined a production that relates the play's themes to contemporary issues. The original Broadway production opened at the Court Theatre in 1963 with actor Kirk Douglas starring as "McMurphy."

"There are two movie screens on each side of the stage," explained 1999 Samohi graduate and co-producer Jayme Mechur. Mechur said she believes the additional sound and visual affects will shed a new light on the production, and allow for an unique experience for audience members.

"It was his idea and his dream," she said. "With the help of Frank Ford, they were able to bring it to life."

Hurst's previous work includes Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan," and "We Were Soldiers" with Mel Gibson.

Barnum Hall Theater is located on the Samohi campus, 601 Pico Blvd. Tickets for Thursday and Sunday performances are \$20, and \$25 on Fridays and Saturdays. For information, call (310) 458-5939. Additional information is available at www.smclo.org. The play runs until July 31.



Photo courtesy

(Left to right) Stuart Damon as Dr. Spivey and Cynthia Marty as nurse Ratched confront McMurphy, played by Ryan Hurst, in 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest,' at Santa Monica High School.



SURF REPORT

The swell picked up Sunday evening and held strong through Monday, though the low tide in the morning made things difficult. Overall winds stayed light early and if we're lucky the SW swell won't back off too much today. Enjoy the warm water.

Today the water is:

68°

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



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	4:38	-0.5	3:31	2.6	11:17	3.8	9:46	6.1
SUNDAY	5:08	-0.5	4:07	2.6	11:46	3.8	10:19	6.0
MONDAY	5:38	-0.4	4:46	2.5	12:16	3.9	10:52	5.8
TUESDAY	6:08	-0.2	5:30	2.5	12:48	4.0	11:28	5.4
WEDNESDAY	6:38	0.1	6:23	2.5	N/A	N/A	1:21	4.2
THURSDAY	7:09	0.5	7:28	2.4	12:09	4.9	1:56	4.4
FRIDAY	7:42	1.0	8:50	2.2	1:00	4.3	2:36	4.6

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The Line

Los Angeles County health officials recently posted warnings at area parks that West Nile Virus could be in the area.

Officials recommend residents avoid spending time outside during dawn or dusk, drain any puddles of water where mosquitos gather, and wear bug repellent, shoes, pants and long sleeves when mosquitos are most active.

Though the sometimes-fatal disease hasn't been detected in Santa Monica, it is moving westward, and officials expect it will infect all

areas of LA County by the end of the year. There have been no reported deaths in California.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "How concerned are you about West Nile Virus? What steps, if any, should the city take to protect residents?"

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

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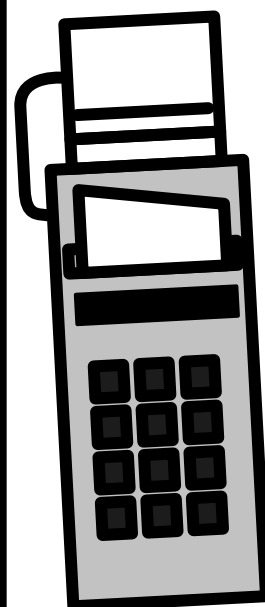


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LOCAL

Main Street merchant to be sentenced in October

HERK, from page 1

they really will be going into the sewer.”

In an interview with the Daily Press after his arrest, Miller called the leak accidental, adding a makeshift plug connected to the drain deteriorated without his knowledge. He questioned the injuries sustained by the worker, saying he and the workers in his five-man shop regularly work with the diluted wastewater and never have suffered any injuries.

In addition to the illegal dumping

charge, Miller, a Santa Monica High School graduate who has run the shop since the 1980s, pleaded guilty to a felony charge of storing approximately 20 55-gallon barrels of hazardous waste behind his shop. By law, hazardous waste must be hauled away within 90 days. Prosecutors said some of Miller's barrels were six months old. Miller said he was waiting to have the barrels taken away because it costs about \$500 a barrel and he was struggling to make ends meet

at his business.

Assistant United States Attorney Dorothy Kim declined to discuss the case. Under the terms of the plea agreement, Miller faces up to six years in jail and \$350,000 in fines. It's unknown what prosecutors will push for.

Rubin said he's confident Miller won't serve the maximum sentence, adding he will argue for no jail time, just probation.

While civil lawsuits have been filed against Miller by Valenzuela and the

insurance company that paid his worker's compensation claim, Rubin added there were several questions outstanding about the sewer worker's injury. Among the most important, he said, is why the worker wasn't wearing protective gear.

"I think there's a lot more to the story than people realize. We think there's a substantial amount of contributory negligence in his injury," Rubin said. "Basically, this is not a simple matter of the stuff got into the sewer and it hurt this guy."

"It's way more complicated than that."

PACs have not yet made candidate endorsements

PAC, from page 1

The founder of the PAC is the Coalition of Santa Monica City Employees, an organization comprised of more than 1,400 city workers who aren't sworn into their positions.

Members include city employees ranging from park maintenance workers to clerical staff, bus drivers, analysts and supervisors, to name a few. The only groups not a part of the coalition are Santa Monica's policemen and fire fighters who are represented by their own organizations.

The PAC is a sub-committee of the coalition and membership is voluntary. Members' political activities are separate from their jobs, a coalition representative said.

The coalition of nine city employee bargaining units gave birth to their own PAC this past fall in hopes of giving a voice to city employees in the political realm of Santa Monica.

"The coalition got started three years ago, and it's been a natural progression that we've gotten more and more involved in political issues," said Lauralee Asch, president of the coalition.

The non-sworn employees were initially brought together because of their common concerns with the city changing health care providers.

The coalition's PAC was formed in response to concerns about possible layoffs due to budget cuts in city services, as well as general budget issues and ensuring that the City Council keep its discre-

tionary control over the budget.

The city employees' PAC is not the only new group looking to support council candidates. Also new to the political endorsement arena this year is the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

The chamber, which has never endorsed City Council candidates, established a political action committee last year to find office seekers who will advocate for business owners' and residents' interests.

Both PACs will join the established Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, which has been City Hall's ruling party for decades and who will choose their candidates on Aug. 1. The police and fire unions both have political action committees that endorse their own candidates.

The chamber and the city employees' PACs have not set a date for announcing their support of candidates.

As of Monday, 31 Santa Monicans have pulled papers indicating their interest in running for one of the four open seats on the City Council.

Those wishing to appear on the ballot have until Aug. 9 to turn in their election materials. Included in candidate packages must be a campaign statement, petition with 100 resident signatures and financial disclosure materials, according to City Hall officials.

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

Along with financial backing, members of the coalition also will volunteer to help their endorsed candidates' campaign by "doing some of the leg work, the phone

calls, and the canvassing of the neighborhoods," said Asch. "The things that they do in all of the campaigns."

PACs have generally had a strong impact on election outcomes and are not uncommon in cities like Santa Monica and Los Angeles. However, because of the multitude of groups involved in politics in Santa Monica, political observers doubt whether or not the city employees' PAC will make a significant difference in local campaigns.

"Santa Monica is a different type of election because Santa Monica citizens pay a lot of attention to what's going on," said Bob Stern, president of the West Los Angeles-based Center for Governmental Studies, a campaign finance research organization. "(The PAC) would have less of an impact in Santa Monica than in other cities because there are other groups involved."

However, coalition representatives believe their PAC will be very influential in the November race.

"Elections in Santa Monica are often won by very small margins," Asch said. "We have a lot of employees and family and friends who live in the city, and we believe we'll be able to make a difference in the outcome."

Candidates will be able to court the coalition by first writing a response to questions solicited by the PAC and then eventually meet with the members and elaborate on their answers. After a review of the candidate's position on city-employee related issues, the PAC's endorsement committee will gather input from the members and decide who will get their stamp of approval.

AFM signs on for 4 years

AFM, from page 1

provides a welcome boost to our economy and contributes to the year-round success of smaller businesses that rely heavily on tourism dollars," said Misti Kerns, executive director of the Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau, in a prepared statement.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, the film market will be held in November for the first time this year. According to the deal announced Monday, it will return to the Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel each November through 2008.

Before this year, the event had been held every February. Officials moved it so it would be on schedule with other major film events, and not conflict with the Academy Awards.

Already more than 250 exhibitors have lined up for the Nov. 3-10 tradeshow, a stronger showing than in February.

Jonathan Wolf, managing director of AFM and executive vice president of the Independent Film and Television Alliance, a trade association of producers and distributors, said he was pleased officials agreed on terms to keep the event local.

Hundreds of independent companies, including Miramax, New Line Cinema and Lion's Gate Films, have attended previous AFM events. The movies are screened at all 23 theaters on the Third Street Promenade. Loews acts as a sort of tradeshow floor, where executives view clips and sell distribution rights. Past popular favorites from the market include "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" and "Slingblade," among others.

The 342-room luxury hotel is transformed into offices for movie executives during the event. Beds and furniture are removed, and desks and other office furniture are brought in.



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LOCAL

Team backs three local school board candidates

SCHOOLS, from page 1

The joined efforts of the two faculty groups will include campaigning, fundraising and voter outreach activities, team spokesperson Kelly Hayes-Raitt said. She attributed the combination to the activism of an outraged SMC faculty that had lost confidence in its board of trustees after the board cut eight vocational programs at the college last year as a result of cutbacks by the state. That activism enlisted the support of the local teacher association, which has long been trying to establish a professional working relationship with the board of education, said Jenny Lipson, a teacher at Grant Elementary and chair of the SMMUSD teacher's association's political action committee.

"We've joined so that both professional associations can elect board members who are pro-student, pro-academic and pro-faculty and teacher," Hayes-Raitt said. "We really felt that Santa Monica voters should really hear from the people in the classrooms dealing with the decisions these officials make."

Wisnicki beat out retired teacher Jim Jaffe and Pico neighborhood activist Ana Maria Jara among others for the team's endorsement. Wisnicki has been on the district's financial oversight committee for seven months and a group of other education related committees. Wisnicki chaired the campaign for Measure S last year, which will bring \$6.5 million annually to the schools through a \$225 parcel tax. She said her experiences in research methods and applied statistics by getting her doctorate in education would allow her to process large amounts of information and use them to improve the schools.

"I will serve as a liaison between the two cities to broaden communication

between them," she said. "I will work to improve special education and work to make more efficient use of the limited resources we have."

Wisnicki also spoke on the importance of closing the achievement gap and identifying those students with special needs in the district. This will be her first time running for public office.

Leon-Vasquez, who didn't get the endorsement of the teachers association when she first ran for the local school board four years ago, said she's proud of the board's performance over her term and hopes to continue fighting for the inclusion of all students.

She said she will continue pushing for the creation of a seventh house at Santa Monica High School, which she said needed improvement in including all students. The six-house system at Samohi divides students into different "houses" in an effort to create smaller communities within the high school and provide students with more personalized instruction.

Leon-Vasquez said her track record will make her attractive to voters.

Escarce was unavailable for comment because of a family emergency. He said in a statement that he hopes to devote more attention to special education and improve programs and achievement among disadvantaged students.

In addition to Escarce, Leon-Vasquez and Wisnicki, Jara has taken out papers from the city clerks' office to run for one of the three seats open on the SMMUSD school board.

Incumbent Margaret Quinones leads a list of candidates who have taken out papers for the SMC board of trustees that includes Charles Donaldson, Tonia McCoy and Rob Rader in addition to Willis and Aminoff.

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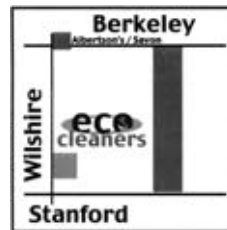
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Another read required

Editor:
In your July 15 letters section, a couple of letters caught my attention. Both Jan Keller and David Saunders wrote to complain about Phil Hendricks and his criticisms of the Santa Monica College administration. Both expressed an inability to understand Phil’s criticisms of the college administration — the administration, by the way, not the college. “I have never seen one thing from Hendricks that made any sense,” wrote David, and Jan accused Phil of writing “an opinion piece blaming SMC for only God knows what.” This lack of understanding is itself telling, since Phil’s letters have spoken to specifics, whereas both Jan and David avoided specifics, choosing instead to make ad hominem attacks. Perhaps they should re-read Phil’s letters. They are concise and detailed enough for even non-SMC graduates to understand.

It’s easy enough to state that “ what Phil Hendricks says is not true,” but it’s something else to cite his statements and produce facts to refute them. Jan may “know some of the trustees and administrators,” but what about the employees that were laid off and the classes that were canceled? Free fireworks are nice, although not really free, since that money came from somewhere. To paraphrase a well-known author, there is no such thing as free fireworks.

David wondered what Phil had ever “personally done to help the college.” Well, I know what he hasn’t done. He did not layoff classified employees. He did not cancel programs. He did not ... well, you get my drift. What he has done is fight for the rights of the classified staff at the college, the staff who keep things running, the staff who were present and working while Jan enjoyed the free fireworks.

“I’ve never seen anything he’s written that’s nice about SMC.” Well, we never lack for cheerleaders. The courage to criticize, however, is rarely greeted with praise, as we’d rather not hear about anything that disturbs our complacent vision of things as we wish them to be.

LeRoy Lauer
Santa Monica

Not a fan

Editor:
It’s obvious that SMDP columnist Bill Bauer hates everything in Santa Monica. Every Friday I can expect a column of complaints. What a sad act.

Pamela Swanson
Santa Monica

How ironic

Editor:
The great irony called America.
We’re the country where the president can claim to liberate the people of another nation, then on the same day campaign to deny freedom and equality to his fellow citizens — gay civil marriage.
A nation where our media conglomerates act irresponsibly in the name of profits and in the name of freedom of the press, while corporate executives build guarded, gated communities so that they can feel safe — promotion of graphic violence.
In California, most of our elected representatives claim that responsible workers should pay higher taxes for the good of the community, yet these same legislators fail to pass a reasonable budget on time and often throw away our tax dollars for their own benefit — career politicians in musical chairs of appointments and glad handled through elected positions by special interests.

In Los Angeles, the entire city seeks respect for its art, its culture and its business achievements but its residents easily flip the bird and beep their horns at the endless number of incompetent drivers — sound familiar?

This is the great “Irony called America,” the land of the free and the home of the brave.

As I sit here at the end of my day, I realize how many times and in so many ways, I chose to withhold my love from my neighbors, rather than giving it freely.

So when we’ve had enough and just can’t take it anymore, the real irony is that it is up to us to change ourselves first.

Ed Sharrow
Santa Monica

Take another read

Editor:
It’s obvious that Maria Sirotti (SMDP, July 17-18, page 4) did not bother to read my letter.

As I stated, SMC “... provided this event free of charge.” How does that statement translate into her accusation that I “... have yet to learn that nothing is free?” I walked in to Celebrate America without getting charged. That means it was free of charge.

What don’t you understand?

Sirotti’s ridiculous letter begs the question: Why did she write it in the first place? Does she realize whose letter she responded to? Or perhaps she simply wanted to go on and on about how wonderful Bob Gabriel and Herb Katz is. Can you say sycophant?

See LETTERS, page 7

Personal attacks do nothing to foster public debate



DOSE OF REALITY
BY MATTHEW GLASSER

One of the best things about being a newspaper columnist is the flood of e-mails I receive in response to my columns. While I always appreciate the e-mails that praise my work or support my ideas, I especially enjoy the letters that express disagreement with my point of view. I’ve always believed that if you don’t upset people from time to time, you don’t really stand for anything. Dissent and debate is a healthy part of living in a democracy.

Unfortunately, in many cases, debate has been replaced by mean spirited and vicious personal attacks. It’s no longer good enough to say someone is wrong. Now you have to insult them, question their morality, and curse their home and family. And while many liberals claim that conservatives are the most mean spirited of them all, I’ve found that the most venomous attacks are coming from the so-called progressives or liberals.

You’ve heard the old adage, “hell hath no fury like a woman scorned.” Well, hell really hath no fury like an upset Santa Monican liberal. The residents of Santa Monica are certainly not shy when it

comes to sharing their opinions. And when they are upset, they make sure you know it. But the far left wing of the Santa Monica populist tends to be the nastiest when it comes to expressing their disdain for a particular point of view.

I’ve been called a fascist, communist, liberal, conservative, humanitarian, racist, a Bush lover and a Bush basher. Apparently, opinions are also in the eye of the beholder. In response to one of my columns, I was both a war mongering conservative and a do-gooder liberal. Two people read the same words but had two very different perspectives on what I was trying to convey.

But it’s not the opinions expressed in these e-mails that I find most interesting. It’s the tone and language that the writers use. I love to debate public policy issues. I grew up debating politics around the dinner table and I am happy to debate different points of view when the arguments are based on facts. But the majority of the correspondence that I receive would rather attack me personally than engage in an intellectual debate of the issues.

I’ve been called names, been accused of racism, and even had my morality questioned.

It’s not enough for these people to tell me that they disagree with my point of view. These folks have to attack me personally in order to attack my opinions.

This leads me to believe that they can’t support their argument factually. So instead, they hurl insinuations and epithets my way.

I have a thick skin and I can handle the attacks. In fact, I find them amusing. But that’s not really the point. We have a lot of problems in this world and we need intelligent debate to develop solutions. The left, center, and right are going to have to be civil with each other and agree to compromise on solutions. As long as we live in an “us versus them” world, we’ll never get beyond accusations and name calling.

Here are just a few examples of the kind of responses I’ve received in regards to my columns:

■ When I questioned the filmmaking techniques of Michael Moore, several readers called me a Bush lover. One was upset because, in the exact words of the reader, the “truth pisses you off because your (sic) on the wrong side of it. You’re just mad because your boy in the White House got creamed.”

First, Bush is certainly not “my” guy. I actually voted for Gore. And second, questioning the techniques that a filmmaker uses to get his point across is not an endorsement for a particular point of view. It’s a reminder that we shouldn’t believe everything we see and hear. But more to the point, this type of response is typical of the letters I receive. This sort of

demagoguery does nothing to address the problems that Moore addresses in his film. It’s simply a cowardly personal attack that adds nothing to the “market place of ideas.”

■ When I wrote a column comparing the problems of Santa Monica to Compton, I was accused by one reader of being a racist because I didn’t mention that Compton is mostly black and Santa Monica is mostly white. The point of the column was to remind Santa Monicans that life in the city by the sea isn’t so bad and other cities have much worse problems. I didn’t mention race because I didn’t want to insinuate that Compton’s problems were a result of a certain racial group. Isn’t the reader’s insinuation that a particular racial group is the source of city’s social problems more of racist commentary than my initial omission?

These are two examples of a much larger problem. Let’s stop calling each other names. Being on the left doesn’t mean you’re always right and it certainly doesn’t mean you are morally superior to people with different opinions. Next time you are tempted to hurl insults at someone with a different perspective, you might want to reconsider. Perhaps you should use that energy to actually make a difference on the issues you claim to care about.

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

OPINION



There was no beating around the Bush this time...

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‘Wimpy’ state budget fattens college system



GUEST COMMENTARY
BY SHEILA KUEHL

(Editor's note: This is the sixth article in a series by Sen. Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) on the ongoing state budget crisis).

There are three systems of public higher education in California: The University of California (UC) system, the California State University (CSU) system and all the community colleges. The master plan for higher education in California, adopted in 1960, established a percentage system so that every Californian wishing to attend a public college in the state and qualified to do so would be admitted. It was, and remains, the underpinning of California's promise to its high school graduates.

UC is supposed to take the top 12.5 percent of graduates, as well as the top 4 percent of graduates from each high school. UC also is the primary state-supported academic agency for research of all kinds and for research and instruction in the professional fields of law, medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine. CSU is supposed to take those who place in the top 33.3 percent of high school graduates and the community colleges are to educate everyone else.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's January budget: UC and CSU:

In the budget sent to the Legislature in January, in addition to deep cuts already taken and fee increases already made in the 2003-04 budget, Gov. Schwarzenegger proposed deeper cuts to higher education.

■ New freshman enrollment was to be reduced at UC and CSU by 10 percent (about 7,000 freshmen) by “redirecting” these qualified students to the community colleges. These students were to be promised admission in some UC or CSU campus as juniors.

■ Even though we will see a 2 percent increase in those graduating from high school this June, the budget contained no

additional funding for growth. This means an additional 5,000 freshmen at UC and more than 16,000 students will not be admitted at CSU.

■ Although the budget proposed a cap for increases of student fees at 10 percent per year (more than doubling the 2004 fee by 2013), Gov. Schwarzenegger proposed much higher increases over the next two years. Although the Regents and the Trustees must vote on fee increases, Gov. Schwarzenegger simply reduces the budgets by the amount he proposes they recapture by raising fees.

■ Although the budget increases the costs for students to attend UC and CSU, there is a significant reduction in financial aid, the first time these issues have gone in different directions. Under long-standing practice, when fees are raised one-third of new revenue is devoted to student aid, so that students qualified to go but unable to pay can still get in.

Gov. Schwarzenegger proposed that only 20 percent of the new revenue generated by increased student fees would go to financial aid, shutting out more families unable to pay the increased tuition, which at UC would go over \$6,000 a year and, at CSU, would go over \$2,200. Graduate student fees were increased far more, by 40 percent, (in reality a further cut to the university since many graduate students' fees are waived if they serve as teaching assistants).

■ Outreach to underrepresented students was eliminated.

■ Student-faculty ratios were increased so classes would be larger.

■ Professional schools were supposed to move toward privatization — no public funding-full funding by fees and/or research.

■ The proposed budget reduced support for libraries by 7.5 percent.

Although the community colleges, unlike the UC and CSU systems, did not receive any mid-year cuts in the 2003-04 budget, Gov. Schwarzenegger's budget proposed another increase in student fees. In 2003-04, the fees went from \$11 per unit to \$18 per unit, and the new budget raises them to \$26 per unit. Students who

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 6

Either way, Maria, I strongly suggest you check your meds, because you're making no sense.

Jan Keller
Santa Monica

A historical note

Editor:

Thank you so much for including a series about historic landmarks in Santa Monica (SMDP, July 14, page 8). Our city has a rich tapestry of historic landmarked buildings, trees, and signs that remind us of our past and that can be enjoyed today and in the future through the landmarking process. Residents and visitors alike will benefit from your feature.

Your readers should also know about the Santa Monica Conservancy, a non-profit, all-volunteer organization, was founded a few years ago to be a voice and resource for preserving our irreplaceable historic and cultural heritage. We offer educational programs and architectural tours, as well as working to improve laws and incentives that encourage voluntary preservation in our community. For those interested in learning more about preservation and our organization, we have a Web site at www.smconservancy.org <<http://www.smconservancy.org>>. We look forward to reading more of your series on historic landmarks. Keep up the good work.

Joel Brand
President, Santa Monica Conservancy

Going for the gold

Editor:

A wonderful story on Ronda Rousey (SMDP, July 17-18, page 1). She is a great young woman with amazing talent. We are praying for her at St. Anne's. She is an inspiration to our youth at the parish. Keep up the stories on wonderful people in our area.

Fr. Michael Gutierrez
Pastor, St. Anne's Church and Shrine

already have a BA in anything but want further education in the community colleges would pay \$50 per unit, presumably burdening those re-entering the workforce or participating in job re-training programs.

■ The true situation at the community colleges remains unclear, however. Last September, the community colleges reported that 90,000 fewer students accessed the colleges than might have in 2003-04. The Legislative Analyst's office says it was really “only” 17,000 who decided, because of fees, or because of their inability to access classes that were cut from the curriculum or oversubscribed and closed, not to even apply. Growth was not funded so the colleges were forced to provide fewer classes. Although the master plan does not allow capping enrollment, the actions of closing classes and raising fees has caused a decline in the numbers of students.

• The “re-directing” of UC qualified students to community colleges displaces thousands who could have gone.

Gov. Schwarzenegger's decision to freeze certain amounts in the May revision also affected higher education. Fearful that the Legislature, which was attempting to restore monies to the UC and CSU budgets, would be unsuccessful, the president of the UC system and the chancellor of the CSU system met with Gov. Schwarzenegger and agreed to:

■ Swallow more than \$700 million in cuts in the next budget year.

■ Push the regents and the trustees to adopt a 14 percent increase in student fees.

■ Increase graduate fees by 20 percent, not the proposed 40 percent.

Gov. Schwarzenegger agreed to:

■ Boost UC and CSU's base budgets by at least 3 percent starting next year and

through 2011.

■ Back away from strict enrollment limits.

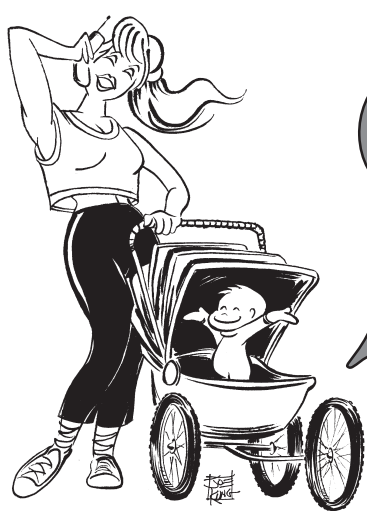
■ Provide funding for 5,000 more students at UC and 8,000 for CSU starting in the 2005-06 budget.

(Some called it the “Wimpy” budget, recalling the Popeye character who was known for saying “I will gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today.”)

The Legislature is not a party to the “deal” Gov. Schwarzenegger apparently struck with UC and CSU, and is, in no way, bound by it. Rather, adamant that higher education is one of the drivers of the greatness of California, not only in the development, retention and success of its high-tech businesses but also in its promise of a college education to every qualified high school graduate, the Legislature voted to reject many of the proposed cuts and the “deal.”

The changes adopted by the Legislature go into the Budget Conference Committee and negotiations with the Governor continue. Members of the Legislature in both houses are extremely critical of the proposed cuts to higher education and are committed to restoring funds for these programs without further harming social services or health programs. Obviously, this requires cuts in other programs (prisons, tax credits which are not serving their purported purposes), as well as an increase in fees and, perhaps, some taxes.

Interestingly, the greatest burdens of the proposed budget fall on working- and middle-class Californians. They might even refer to their increased financial burdens as taxes. The Governor has indicated that all will share the pain equally. The discussions of just what that means will continue.



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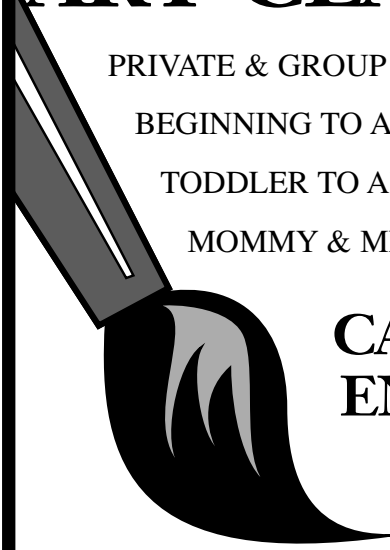
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No hair gel? Consequences that stick

How Much Is Enough?
 By Jean Illsley Clarke



Justin's friends laugh and talk and tease each other. They hang out together and wear their hair gelled straight up in the center front. Besides hanging out and playing soccer with his friends, 10-year-old Justin has lots to do. He asks questions, runs about, asks questions, notices, asks questions, follows his imagination, and asks questions. His incessant questions and creative insistence on getting things his own way and his clever reasons for getting out of chores often result in his parents giving in and doing things his way.

Homework, if it is on his priority list at all, is rather low. His unpredictable imagination and his endless, urgent supply of questions frustrate his teacher. She wants him to just read. Her "failing reading and disruptive behavior" note gets Justin's parents attention. They also want him to read. What to do with this bright, super active son? "He's quick as a cricket," his father shook his head, half in admiration and half in exasperation. "You never know what he will think of next. He is always coming up with something. His questions are amazing. But he has no time for reading."

"We've let him have his way too often," his mother lamented. "But we can't let him not learn to read."

His parents had Justin tested. They were told there was no neurological impairment to his reading. The problem was how to get this young cricket to sit still and focus.

Justin's parents pondered. They had heard about natural and logical consequences. Natural consequence? Let him grow up not reading and find out how limiting and painful that is? Not an option. Logical consequence? No TV until homework is finished? Justin didn't mind. There was always something else to do. No Game Boy? Justin was out the door. No playing with friends? Justin's room was full of games so he played alone. Neither of Justin's parents could think of a logical consequence that seemed logical or that worked.

At a lecture by Connie Dawson his parents heard, "You have to be able to tolerate your child's discomfort. If he is not doing what is best for himself and the family, the family must discomfort him."

"OK," his mother pondered, "so neither natural nor logical consequences works in this case. His disruptive behavior at school and his not learning to read causes us great discomfort. How can we discomfort

him? What is important to him? Not to us, but to him?"

Hair gel!

He and his friends all use hair gel to hold their hair straight up in a sharp point in front. Sometimes the gel is so thick his dad thinks his cap must stick to it. Justin spends his allowance money on hair gel, some weeks almost all of it. Being deprived of hair gel would certainly cause the boy discomfort.

Justin's parents thought about needs and wants. Children need food, shelter, clothing and love. They need the space to explore and be creative, but they also need safe structure and skills. One of the skills Justin needs to get along in his life is the skill of reading. And he wants hair gel.

Justin's parents set a new firm structure. They talked with him about the difference between needs and wants. They said that often "wants" have to be earned.

Now, each evening, Justin earns the privilege of using next morning's hair gel by doing his homework and reading four pages aloud. He also is in imminent danger of having flat hair if there is another "disruptive behavior note" from the teacher. Is Justin experiencing some discomfort? Yes, but hair gel is worth it to him. Wise parents. Sticking to their values and their rules until they found the non-harmful consequence that would motivate their son to do what will benefit him. The pain and the handicap adults with low reading skills face far outweigh Justin's current discomfort.

Justin is not only learning to read. He also is learning about the difference between needs and wants. Supportive parents with rules are something Justin needs. And he has that now. His parents are always there for him. Hair gel is something he wants. In this case he can earn what he wants by doing what he needs to do.

Holding firm structure, setting the rules and carrying through with discomforting consequences, can be demanding of parents. However, the "How Much Is Enough?" book reports that many adults who were overindulged as children complained about the painful results of soft structure. As adults, they did not appreciate having grown up with lax or no rules.

Tips for parents:

■ Use natural consequences if they are safe and workable.

■ Use logical consequences if they have a logical connection to misbehavior.

■ If the child discomforts the family, the family finds safe and reasonable ways to discomfort the child.

■ Parents tolerate the child's discomfort so he can learn what he needs to learn.

To participate in a new study on overindulgence and parenting styles log onto 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." Clarke can be reached at jiconsults@aol.com. To read more about overindulgence go to www.overindulgence.info.)

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SPECIAL EVENTS

THE CIRCUS is in TOWN!
RINGLING BROTHERS and BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS – the Greatest Show on Earth features trapeze performers, animal acts and clowns. For all ages.
July 21 – 23 at 7:30 p.m.; July 24 at 11:30 a.m., 3:30 and 7:30 p.m.; July 25 at 1:30 and 5:30 p.m. \$13 - \$75; LA Sports Arena, 213-748-6131.
Also at the Arrowhead Pond of Anaheim July 28 – Aug. 8, 714-704-2500.

THURSDAYS thru SEPT. 2 – TWILIGHT DANCE SERIES
The Santa Monica Pier's "Twilight Dance Series" is back for its twentieth year. This week check out Gypsy music from Les Yeux Noirs, considered one of today's finest musical groups, and L.A.'s own Latin group Quetzal. 7:30 p.m. If the crowds are too much for your young children, have a picnic on the beach near the pier and enjoy the music.

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

THE MAGIC of MUSIC for CHILDREN – THE DELPHI ACADEMY
Children will share in the fun they create with Grammy award-winner David Spear. Call 526-2700 to schedule a time and date. 1610 Broadway.

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

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

SPECIAL NOTE – Yoga Baby Studio in Venice is operating on a limited schedule for Mommy and Me and pre-natal classes. Call 306-9381 for a current schedule.

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms!
"What the *&\$\$ Do We Know?!", starring Marilee Matlin, Elaine Hendrix and Robert Bailey. Not rated.

11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable.
www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms.
Part documentary, part story and part elaborate and inspiring visual effects and animations. The protagonist, Amanda, played by Matlin, finds herself in a fantastic Alice in Wonderland experience when her daily, uninspired life literally begins to unravel, revealing the uncertain world of the quantum field hidden behind what we consider to be or normal, waking reality.

Storytelling

Main Library
Toddler Storytime at Reed Park; 10:00 & 10:30 a.m. thru August 17. For 2 year olds with adult.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., June 22 – Aug. 10. Six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds with adult.
Lap Time – 11:00 a.m. June 22 – Aug. 10. Six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant and Family Support Programs.
Twilight Story Time -7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 24-36 month olds with adult. Next session is July 27 – Aug. 31, required registration begins July 14th.
Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis
Themes change weekly; for ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, www.storyopolis.com
Barnes and Noble at the Grove
Storytime for ages 2 – 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

Summer Activity Programs at the Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave.
Tuesdays thru August 10th at 2:30 p.m. (no program Aug. 3rd).
Programs are approximately 45 minutes, appropriate for ages 4 and up.
July 20th – Animal Tales

Yoga & Exercise
Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA
10:00 – 11:00 a.m and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Thursday nights 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.
Itsy-Bitsy Yoga at Ocean Oasis Day Spa, 1333 Ocean Ave.
Tots (crawling to 24 months) – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.; Babies (6 wks. to pre-crawling) – 11:30 – 12:30 a.m. On-going 6-week series; \$120. Pre-register at 458-8190; visit www.khefri.net for more info or contact khefri@earthlink.net.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Mommy Care – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd, at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

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

Coming Up
July 27th - Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute) – Closed/Full, waiting list only
10 a.m., Temescal Canyon, 15601 Sunset Blvd, Pacific Palisades.
Reservations required - 310-998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling
The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge – 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4 at this neighborhood coffee shop.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m., June 23 – Aug. 11; six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Lap Time – 10:00 & 10:30 a.m., for children ages 0-2. Next session begins July 21st.
Toddler Story Time – 11:15 a.m., for 2 year olds. Next session begins July 21st.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. –392-3804.
Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144
Border's, Westwood – 11am – 310-475-3444.

Summer Activity Programs at the Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St.
Wednesday, July 28th at 2:30 and 3:00 p.m. Tickets are required and must be picked up on day of program.
July 28th – "Comic Cowhands" – stories and puppet show with Mr. Jessie and Lester, ages 3 –7.

Yoga & Exercise
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
Ocean Oasis Day Spa, 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN – 408-1717

Breastfeeding Group
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, first class free,

\$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Other

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

THURSDAY

Storytelling
Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590 10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.
Main Library – Reed Park
Toddler Storytime at Reed Park; 10:00 a.m.; thru Aug. 19th. For 2 year olds with adult.
Preschool Story Time at Reed Park; 10:30 a.m.; thru Aug. 19th. For ages 3-5.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Toddler Story Time – 10:30 a.m; June 24 – Aug. 12; for ages 2 –3.
La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., for 2 year olds.
Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m.; for 3-5 year olds.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Lap Time – 9:20 & 10:20 a.m. ,next session July 8 – Aug. 12. 6-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Program.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA
7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Tuesdays at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Mommy Care – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd, at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

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

Other

Twilight Dance Series thru Sept. 2 – free concert on the Santa Monica Pier. 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

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

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15. Ocean Oasis Day Spa, 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness – noon – 1 p.m Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN – 408-1717
Prenatal Breath and Movement – a Continuum Movement and Yoga-based program designed to support women through various sound and movement explorations that celebrate pregnancy and labor as powerful rites of passage. 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. With Deborah Raulot at the Continuum Studio, 1629 18th St., #7. For more info call 625-3739, www.openskymovement.com. \$108 for a six-week session.

SATURDAY

Storytelling
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144.
Children's Book World, 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., 310-559-B00K.
Village Books, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m. – 454-4063.

Yoga & Exercise

Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. 1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonicaayoga.com
Mommy Care – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd. at the Dance Factory, West LA, 394-6711; Pregnancy Exercise – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
Ocean Oasis Day Spa, 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness – noon – 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN – 408-1717

Other

Snowwhite, a brand new musical for kids of all ages, at the Santa Monica Playhouse
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru Sept. 26, \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 1 for reservations, www.santamonicaaplayhouse.com
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Family Fundays at the Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum (also Sundays)
Ages 4 and up, 11:00 a.m., \$8, 1419 N. Topanga Blvd., Topanga Canyon, 310-455-3723.

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

[ciousprintsstudios.com](http://www.preciousprintsstudios.com) for more info.

Breastfeeding

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

SUNDAY

Snowwhite, a brand new musical for kids of all ages, at the Santa Monica Playhouse
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru Sept. 26, \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 1 for reservations, www.santamonicaaplayhouse.com
Main Street Farmer's Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Family Fundays at the Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum (also Saturdays)
Ages 4 and up, 11:00 a.m., \$8, 1419 N. Topanga Blvd., Topanga Canyon, 310-455-3723.

July 25th
Birdwatching for Parents and Young Children – a short walk to introduce children to feathered friends. Free! Binoculars provided, 10 a.m., Malibu Lagoon, 393-6205.

MONDAY

Storytelling
Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, 9:30 a.m., thru July 26th. Ages 0-24 months with adult in conjunction with the Infant and Family Support program of SMMUSD.
"Family Connections" is on summer break. Check back here for the fall start-up date.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804.
"Spanish for Little Ones", 11:15 a.m., next session is July 12 – August 16.
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

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

Yoga & Exercise
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
Yoga Garden, - Restorative yoga for pre/post-natal – 6:30 p.m., 310-450-0133. www.yogagardenstudios.com
Ocean Oasis Day Spa, 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness – noon – 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN – 408-1717

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CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Something stinks in San Pedro

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Kinder Morgan Terminal, an 11-acre San Pedro fuel storage facility, will shut down because of odor complaints and pressure from air quality officials to install a \$2 million control system.

"Right now we're considering our options," Kinder Morgan spokesman Rick Rainey said about the site's future.

The Air Quality Management District on July 7 ordered Kinder Morgan to install a \$2 million odor control system or cease operation. Kinder Morgan officials decided the cost was too high and have agreed to empty the tanks by November.

"It was a horrible smell," said Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council president John Greenwood.

Residents want the company to sell the north Gaffey Street property so it can be rezoned for residential or commercial use.

Councilwoman Janice Hahn is urging Kinder Morgan to consider selling the property near the Department of Motor Vehicles and the old DiCarlo Bakery.

"We're going to work with them to see if we can't make them realize this is not the best place for them to have this operation," Hahn said. "Things have changed in San Pedro. That used to be the outskirts. Now, it's a residential community with Little League fields. It's not compatible."

Clergy on the street beat

By The Associated Press

PASADENA — Members of the clergy are now riding on patrol with police officers in an effort to familiarize church officials with encounters officers face on the street.

The clergy ride-a-long program is the first of several efforts to make ministry leaders a liaison between the police and the community. The two groups have joined to find solutions to community violence after the April 24 officer-involved fatal shooting of Maurice Clark.

Some blacks didn't believe police officials who said Clark fired at a pursuing officer before being shot to death.

Police Chief Bernard Melekian said the department needs to regain the trust of some residents.

Cmdr. Marilyn Diaz said the clergy outreach efforts "are attempts to try to bridge that gap, promote better understanding, to make us look at ourselves through the help of community members."

The church leaders can ride with regular patrol officers or with the gang unit, which some members of the community have accused of using excessive force. It was a gang officer who shot Clark. Diaz said the goal is to send one a week to observe police activity.

Lake Avenue Church associate pastor Andy Bales rode with Officer Marco Tudic on July 9.

"There's a lot more going on in Pasadena than people often know and these guys are putting their lives at risk every night," Bales said. "I've always appreciated police, but it gave me a lot more appreciation for them after riding with them that night."

Political favors alleged at Van Nuys Airport

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Companies that submitted competing proposals to operate the jet center at Van Nuys Airport filed complaints alleging billionaire David Murdock, a key contributor to Mayor James K. Hahn, got the lease because of political connections.

At least two of the eight companies that submitted proposals to Los Angeles World Airports to run the 7.3-acre site alleged favoritism in their formal protests with the city attorney and airport commissioners.

They want the city Airport Commission to put aside Murdock's proposal and recommend another company.

"While we were hopeful that LAWA might have changed its ways, we feel that political influence still characterizes contract awards by the Los Angeles Department of Airports," PBQ Aviation manager Alexander Furlotti said in a statement to the Los Angeles Times.

"The Murdock venture fails to meet the city's own published guidelines," Furlotti added.

Murdock, owner of Dole Food Co. and developer Castle & Cooke, was one of the biggest donors to Mayor James K. Hahn's 2002 campaign against a San Fernando Valley secession.

Other competitors also made political contributions, including a \$10,000 donation that James Thomas, a principal in one of the other proposals, made to Hahn's anti-secession campaign.

The airport's jet center has three hangars, two office buildings and a fuel farm.

An airport selection panel recommended Murdock's Castle & Cooke Aviation Services Inc. even though its proposal failed to comply with requirements set forth by the airport agency and without interviewing the eight firms that submitted proposals, some competitors said.

Among the contested issues is Castle & Cooke's proposal to pay an annual rent that is about 75 percent less than that offered by at least one other company and plans to build a facility that exceeds zoning limits.

The allegations of political influence come amid a joint county-federal "pay to play" probe of whether city officials traded lucrative contracts for political donations.

Airport officials deny they are showing favoritism toward Murdock.

"The evaluation process was fair and thorough. It led conclusively to the recommendation to designate Castle & Cooke for the proposed development," Paul Green, the airport agency's chief operating officer, said in a statement.

NATIONAL



NNSA, DOE begin assessment of Los Alamos lab

BY RICHARD BENKE
Associated Press Writer

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. — Deputy Energy Secretary Kyle McSllarrow spent several hours Monday at Los Alamos National Laboratory as part of a comprehensive assessment of security problems that shut down nearly all work at the nuclear weapons lab.

By midafternoon Tuesday, McSllarrow and Linton Brooks, director of the National Nuclear Security Administration, had left Los Alamos without making any public statements. Brooks had arrived in Los Alamos for his part of the review Sunday.

Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham ordered Brooks and McSllarrow to oversee an inquiry into the disappearance of two electronic data storage devices containing classified information that were reported missing earlier this month.

Lab Director Pete Nanos on Friday called for a stand-down on all but the most essential national security activities. The University of California, which manages the lab for the Department of Energy, ordered him to halt classified work a day earlier.

On Monday, even the lab's museum and cafeteria

were closed.

Lab spokesman Jim Fallin met Monday with public affairs staff members to make sure they understood "this is not situation normal."

Every lab staff member can expect "eyeball-to-eyeball meetings" with managers, who will assess each employees' understanding of policy and "willingness to subscribe to those standards," Fallin said.

Fallin and lab spokesman Kevin Roark said only a small minority of workers are unwilling to follow security and safety rules. "They will be identified," Fallin said.

Roark said colleagues may be reluctant to blow the whistle everything they see "and that's the cultural issue." He suggested that will change with the assessment.

Fallin said senior managers worked all weekend, and lab divisions reported progress on the stand-down Sunday during a series of executive meetings. "It was almost a war room type setting," he said.

Los Alamos is going back to the fundamentals and "everything that happens at this lab is being looked at with fresh eyes," he told his staff.

"Folks, this is serious stuff," Fallin said.

But, he said, the assessment is not punitive and does not suggest a lack of trust.

Brooks' visit came as the lab responded to an unconfirmed report by the Project on Government Oversight, or POGO, which said unnamed sources reported classified information had been sent over the lab's unclassified e-mail system 17 times in recent months.

POGO said the most recent incident occurred Thursday "when a Los Alamos lawyer sent a classified e-mail from his home computer to multiple people at Los Alamos."

The lab, in a response Sunday, declined to discuss specifics but said all incidents involving unclassified e-mail and classified information have been reported to NNSA "and were immediately and properly mitigated to prevent significant risk to national security."

Roark, also without commenting directly on the allegation, said a typical error might be when a worker combines ideas and phrases that by themselves would be fine, but "when you create context" can become classified.

Nanos has said officials will review every department's activities and recommend work resume only when all compliance issues have been addressed. Some departments will go back to work earlier than others at the 36-square-mile lab, which has about 8,000 employees and about 4,000 employees who work for contractors.

Lessons learned from Arizona fires

BY ANANDA SHOREY
Associated Press Writer

PINETOP-LAKESIDE, Ariz. — The efforts in an area devastated by the largest wildfire in Arizona's history are a leading example of how land can be protected from future blazes and restored from past ones, said Bush administration officials Monday.

Jim Connaughton, president Bush's senior environmental policy adviser, and Mark Rey, the head of the U.S. Forest Service, toured the areas burned by the Rodeo-Chediski fire in 2002 to see what has been done for rehabilitation and prevention here.

They also were shown what the local Forest Service plans to do when a contract for logging being offered by the administration is granted by the end of July.

"The grade I would assign now will be an 'A' for effort," Rey said. "This is the definition of being on the right track."

At least 150,000 acres of land in eastern Arizona will be thinned here under a 10-year contract. It is one of about 60 contracts planned nationwide this year. The one here is the largest to date.

Under the so-called "stewardship" contracts, the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service will allow contractors to cut large and commercially valuable trees in exchange for clearing smaller, more fire-prone trees and brush.

The contract here — an area devastated by the 2002 fire — is an example for other community logging contracts, said Connaughton.

Haas victorious at Mercedes Benz Cup

Local Sports

BY TOM A. MCFERSON
Special to the Daily Press

In the first all-German final since 1994, unseeded Tommy Haas beat compatriot Nicolas Kiefer, 7-6 (8-6), 6-4, to win the Mercedes-Benz Cup at UCLA on Sunday.

After missing all of last year due to a problematic shoulder, Haas has put his fellow tour players on notice that he is back in form. This was the seventh career title for Haas, who pocketed \$52,000 with the win. Kiefer won \$30,600.

The 2004 Mercedes Benz Cup, which officially kicked off the men's summer tennis hard-court circuit, had suffered an unprecedented wave of player withdrawals and injuries prior to its start. More than seven top players sent their regrets, and even the appearance of top-seed Andre Agassi was uncertain, given the severe hip

injury that has plagued him the last couple of months.

Agassi did make it to Los Angeles and appeared to be on his way to the title before running into the Haas buzz-saw Friday evening. In the match of the tournament, Haas battled Agassi for over two hours before winning the quarter-final match-up in three sets.

Kiefer, who also has seen his play improve recently, is now 0-3 in finals this year. He lost at Scottsdale and Memphis.

It was first time since 1973 that the final here featured two unseeded players. Last year's defending champion Wayne Ferreira was beaten in the first round.

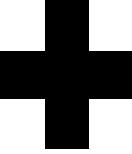
With the victory, Haas will move up 18 spots to number 33 in the world. Kiefer will jump five spots to number 25.

The doubles draw held more to form, with the top rated team in the world, Bob and Mike Bryan, claiming their fifth title of the year, beating Wayne Arthurs and Paul Hanley, 6-3, 7-6(6).

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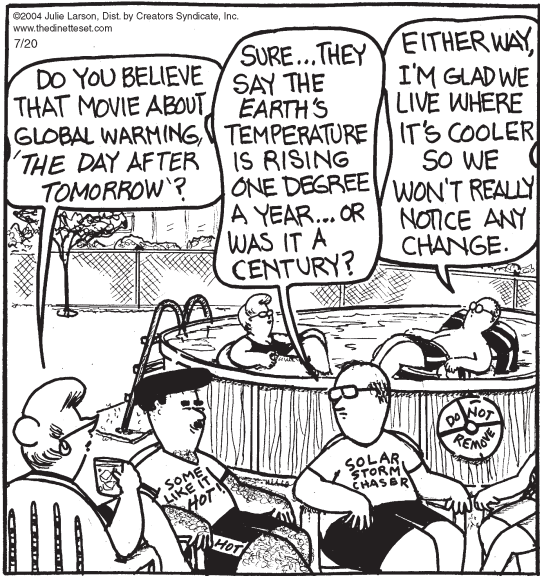
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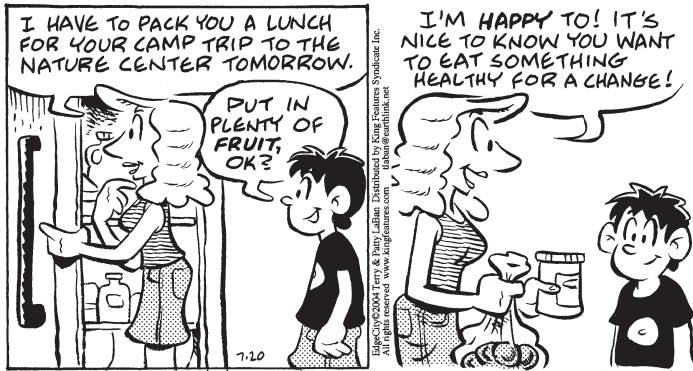


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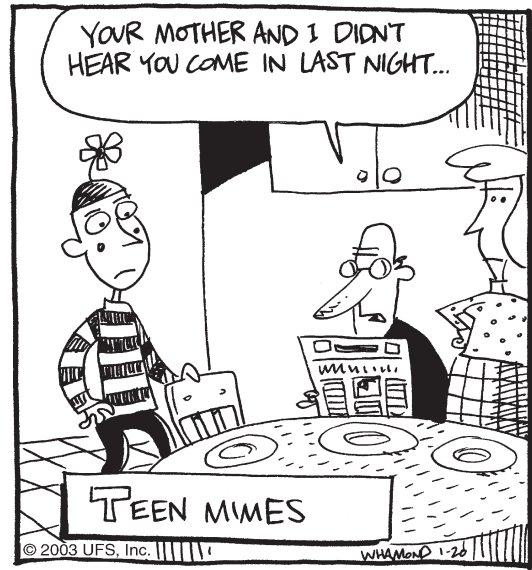
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 - 22 Subdued hue
 - 24 French friend
 - 25 Agreeable response
 - 26 Zodiac cat
 - 27 Millionth of a meter
 - 29 Sound of surprise
 - 30 Archaic pronoun
 - 31 Facial feature
 - 32 Nerdy
 - 34 "Let's avoid that topic!"
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 - 41 Salem's state
 - 42 Forest creature
 - 43 Faked a signature
- DOWN**
- 1 Fire remnant
 - 2 Brewed drink
 - 3 Jerry Stiller's son
 - 4 Hire
 - 5 Mixes up
 - 6 Secret society
 - 7 Everyone else
 - 8 Foot feature
 - 9 Road goo
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Yesterday's answer

- 17 Writer Segal
- 19 Map collection
- 20 Gaggle members
- 21 River stopper
- 22 Corral
- 23 Cut off
- 25 Inexperienced
- 28 Network item
- 29 Chipmunk's cousin
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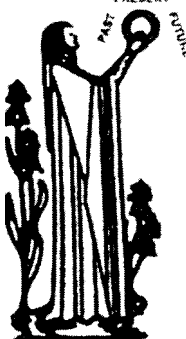
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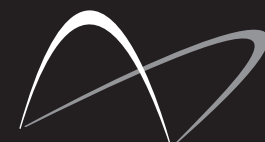
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

'9-11' fans in Waco going whacko over Moore film

By The Associated Press

WACO, Texas — Michael Moore's documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11" about President Bush is a hit nearly everywhere. Moore and some peace activists want to change that by screening the film somewhere around Crawford.

Even the side of a barn will do, activists say.

Waco area theaters in the largest city closest to the president's ranch aren't showing Moore's film about Bush's decision to go to war in Iraq after the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Skip Londos, who founded Friends of Peace, said his group would love to host the movie in Crawford, about 20 miles west of Waco.

It would be a fund-raiser for the activists' group that helps support the Crawford Peace House. GOP members would be invited to come for free, he said.

"We don't want to play it just for people who already know what it says and already agree with it," Londos told the Waco Tribune-Herald in Monday's online edition. "We want to play it for people who don't read the progressive news wire and that sort of thing ... and encourage some sort of dialogue. ... We want to invite anyone who shows a Republican registration card to enter for free."

Moore contacted the newspaper after a column last month pointed out that his documentary wasn't being shown in Waco and urged the filmmaker to send a copy of the movie.

SEATTLE — To photographer Harvey Drouillard, nakedness is about sex and nudity is about art.

So, during a visit to promote his show, The Spirit of Lady Godiva, he persuaded eight volunteers to go nude for 15 seconds Sunday afternoon at an intersection just south of the downtown area and north of Qwest Field, home of the Seattle Seahawks.

Drouillard, 39, of Ann Arbor, Mich., focuses on unclothed people among the clothed, often by landmarks and in everyday circumstances.

"It normalizes the nudity, it takes away the sexuality of the nudity," Drouillard said. Other than art, he says it's about having fun and "not much deeper than that."

Drouillard said he had gone to 15 cities around the country, advertising for volunteers in local newspapers rather than seeking professional models, since he took up the theme about nine years ago.

He said he got the idea while renting out a club he owned for a photo workshop with nude models. Looking out the window, he saw people walking on the street and came up with the idea of photographing nude people interspersed with the clothed.

In one of Drouillard's stunts, a waitress in Chelsea, Mich., was arrested on a charge of indecent exposure in May 2001 when she tried to mimic Lady Godiva's famous 11th-century ride in Coventry, England.

No one was arrested Sunday.

In a training session before the shoot, Drouillard drilled his corps in stripping and dressing within 10 seconds.

Also covered were a few hand signals — a pat on the head or gesture above the ears to indicate police approaching, a touch to the thigh for children nearby and thumbs up for the all-clear to take it all off.

When they did, one passer-by whistled, others yelled, Drouillard snapped his photos and his subjects got dressed and walked calmly away in various directions.

"I thought it was a total trip," said Dave Voorhees, 54. "I would do it again in a heartbeat."

PERTH, Scotland — Jay Kay, lead singer of pop band Jamiroquai, pleaded guilty to driving over the speed limit.

The musician, whose full name is Jason Kay, didn't appear in court Monday in this city in central Scotland. He was represented at the hearing by his lawyer, John

McLaughlin, who said the singer was in New York for a recording.

Kay, who has previously been convicted of driving offenses, faces losing his license for the speeding incident.

In a letter to the court, Kay explained why he overtook a string of cars on a road near Perth on Feb. 26, exceeding the 70 mph speed limit. Police officers recorded that his four-wheel drive vehicle was traveling at 105 mph.

"I'd set out early in the morning but had become stuck behind slow moving traffic on the single-carriage-way road," the 34-year-old said in the letter.

"That meant I had been traveling for four hours at an average of about 30 miles an hour by this stage. I was not driving a fast sports car but a four-wheel drive vehicle which meant I wanted to make the most of this over-taking opportunity."

"I appreciate the maximum penalty for this offense could lead to the loss of my license and this is a matter of grave concern to me," Kay wrote.

Sheriff Michael Fletcher ordered that Kay appear before the court in person for sentencing on Sept. 6.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Duke University Chapel Dean William Willimon, one of the nation's top theologians, has been elected United Methodist bishop for North Alabama.

Willimon, 58, who was consecrated Saturday in Birmingham, has written more than 50 books on church practice that have often criticized liberal theology and decline in the second-largest U.S. Protestant denomination.

A member of the Duke Divinity faculty since 1976, Willimon takes office Sept. 1 as head of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church, which has 157,862 members in about 860 churches.

Willimon was elected as a bishop Wednesday during a meeting of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church at Lake Junaluska, N.C. .

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