

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

12 13 29 49 52
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: \$12M

9 15 22 36 44
Meganumber: 13
Jackpot: \$15M

3 11 20 26 27

MIDDAY: 6 2 2
EVENING: 6 4 7

1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1:43.20

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The Rhode Island Supreme Court in June affirmed a \$400,000 judgment for Charles Lennon, 68, who had sued the now-bankrupt Dacomed company after his Dura-II penile implant remained constantly erect for 10 years. Lennon said embarrassment had forced him to become a recluse.

■ In Waupun, Wis., in June, a 36-year-old man filed a police complaint against a female bartender at the Alcatraz Pub because she injured him by aggressively nuzzling him to her bosom during horseplay at the bar.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 202nd day of 2006.
There are 163 days left in the year.

On July 21, 1861, the first Battle of Bull Run was fought at Manassas, Va., resulting in a Confederate victory.

In 1831, Belgium became independent as Leopold I was proclaimed King of the Belgians.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There is no bigotry like that of 'free thought' run to seed."

HORACE GREELEY
AMERICAN JOURNALIST (1811-1872)

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Squirrels are for the birds

City to recycle rodents as raptor food

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

PALISADES PARK — City Hall's latest plan for the resident squirrels here: Trap them, gas them and feed them to the birds.

Once the population has been reduced to acceptable levels by county officials, the remaining female squirrels' sex organs will be inhibited by a vaccine so they can't

reproduce.

It's not a pretty picture, but a necessary plan, according to city, county and pest control officials. Because the squirrels carry fleas which can lead to bubonic plague, they are considered a health threat, officials said.

And because Palisades Park is overrun with the rodents, City Hall has been mandated by the Los

See **SQUIRRELS**, page 10



File photo
A NUTTY NO-NO: Despite posted signs asking people not to feed the squirrels at Palisades Park, some just can't say no to a fuzzy tailed friend.

Rescuing for dummies



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Kasey Marengo, 11, (far back), Ashley Cardoza, 13, (center) and Tamara Katoni, 12, (foreground) drag a dummy through a tunnel to safety during a confined-space rescue drill on Thursday at Rosie's Girls Camp at the Santa Monica Fire Department training center. Rosie's Girls Santa Monica is based on a national program designed to build self-esteem, leadership and physical confidence in middle school girls.

STATE

No day like today for rent increases

BY ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — Apartment rents across the West's major markets increased in the second quarter compared to the same period last year, as demand for rental housing jumped in

many metropolitan areas, according to a report released Thursday.

The biggest rent increases were concentrated in California, home to four of the 29 markets surveyed by Novato-based real estate research firm RealFacts Inc.

Leading the pack was the San Jose

metro market in Northern California's Silicon Valley, where the average rent climbed to \$1,414, a 9.1 percent increase over the same period last year.

In Southern California, average

See **HIGH RENTS**, page 9

Providing a Sensible alternative

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — Criticized by foes during the last campaign season for being a mouthpiece for the hotel and restaurant industry, members of Santa Monicans for Sensible Priorities are looking to prove themselves as a legitimate, community-based group capable of influencing local politics for the benefit of the people — not big business.

While originally backed by the hotel and restaurant industry, SMSP has received plenty of cash from residents — one personal check at a time, said Seth Jacobson, a political consultant and spokesman for SMSP.

At a recent City Council meeting, members of the group presented elected officials with 5,000 signatures from residents who said they are affiliated with SMSP and support its mission to reduce crime, traffic and the homeless population. The signatures, presented during the public comment portion of the meeting, was an attempt to show widespread support for the group's platform and announce their arrival.

Since then, Jacobson said SMSP has increased its support network to 7,500 and wants to see that number climb to 9,000 or more this summer,

See **SMSP**, page 7

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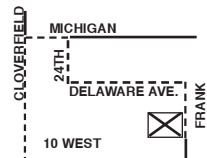
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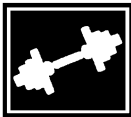
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Horoscopes

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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 have words for nearly every situation. You have a penchant for the unexpected and tend to draw this experience without even trying. Often, you see people and situations far differently than others. Creativity comes through others and brainstorming. Tonight: Easy does it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You might want to try something different, especially if it can make a difference for you financially. Consider your options without making a decision. Reality and good ideas might not mix right now. Understand that fact, and you will relax more. Tonight: Your treat.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Listen to your options, especially in a strange or difficult situation. Consider what is happening with a boss or someone else you need to answer to. He or she might be difficult to understand. Think in terms of gains. Tonight: Ask. Trust your desirability.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Take your time and don't push yourself too far, too fast. A partner or friend has a lot to say and much to understand. A discussion can give you new insight. Think, and take your time making a decision. Tonight: Time off. You're going to need all your energy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Aim for more of what you want. Understand your limits. Think in terms of gains and getting where you want to be. You pull the financial wild card. Your finances could swing from great to terrible if you don't use street smarts. Pick and choose your risks. Tonight: Say yes.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Step up to the plate. Though some might have a strong reaction to what you are doing, you choose the right way. Easy does it. Creativity and imagination can merge, making your day much more rewarding. Tonight: In the limelight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Detach, and you'll find an easy solution. Walk a new path and be willing to try new, different ways. Your imagination colors your day as dreamy if you don't actually expect fantasies to become reality. Tonight: Take off as soon as you can.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ A partner plays a major role in your decision-making process. You don't always have to have a solution or the right answer. Trust that your associates will come through for you. A close loved one might add a touch of excitement with his or her feedback. Excitement becomes your middle name. Tonight: Go along with someone else's plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Others run with the ball. You cannot stop a situation; you cannot change someone. Though on some level you might want to cause a mini revolt, it won't work. Be smart and go with the flow. Tonight: Accept a very nice invitation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Take your time completing work or a project. You could be unusually tired or dragging. What is sure in your mind and what actually occurs could be distinctly different. Money matters look good. Make sure reality is the same way. Tonight: Join a friend. Relax together.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Your imagination easily delights the people around you. You have some very wild ideas that can only draw smiles and a sense of excitement. Not everyone can be as forward thinking as you. Tonight: Easy does it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Pressure might build, and you easily could rebel. You might feel that you have experienced enough of someone's waywardness. Your innovative spirit helps crusade a key cause. Tonight: Head home.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

County doles out \$4.5M for the arts

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica nonprofit organizations this year are getting some much-needed cash. The Los Angeles County Arts Commission has announced it will give out a record \$4.5 million in grants to 228 nonprofit arts organizations for fiscal year 2006-07 through its organizational grant program — \$2 million of which will go to Santa Monica organizations.

In June, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a doubling of the appropriation for grants to nonprofit arts organizations. The 2006-07 grant awards are the first to reflect that increase.

With additional grant funds, the Arts Commission was able to provide a greater degree of assistance to local arts organizations in several ways simultaneously: Grants were made to 29 more arts organizations than in 2005-06 (a 15-percent increase); the average grant size increased, and for the first time, two-year commitments were made to organizations with budgets exceeding \$100,000.

Approximately half of the grantees have received two-year awards for 2006-07. Two-year awards will enhance organizational stability and reduce the administrative burden for arts organizations, county officials. The remainder of the grantees will receive two-year awards in the next grant cycle, with all grantees receiving multi-year awards by 2007-08.

“These arts grants are an investment in intellectual creativity,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky said. “They fund employment opportunities and afford access to cultural experiences for all county residents, regardless of their economic circumstances. The arts foster understanding, insight and empathy — a field of endeavor that doesn’t just produce financial wealth, but increases our value as individual human beings and as a community.”

Organizational arts grants by Los Angeles County for 2006-07 broken down by size of organization:

Small budget organizations (under \$100,000): 70 grants totaling \$513,200.

Mid-size budget 1 organizations: (\$100,000-\$500,000): 82 grants totaling \$816,700.

Mid-size budget 2 organizations: (\$500,000-\$1,500,000): 43 grants totaling \$1,176,300.

Large budget organizations: (more than \$1,500,000): 33 grants totaling \$2,011,800.

Grant size ranged from \$2,000 to \$254,800. All are two-year grants.

In addition, 55 organizations in the small budget category will receive \$174,500 in 2006-07, for the second year of their two-year grants awarded in 2005-06. With the new grants, 283 arts organizations will receive county funds this fiscal year.

Santa Monica grantees:

18th Street Arts Complex: \$15,100

To support creation and exhibition of new work by mid-career artists.

American Youth Symphony: \$14,500

To support the development and expansion of the outreach program.

Apollo Amused: \$26,600

To support season expansion, which includes the addition of two performances (Messiah, St. Mathew Passion;) workshops for musicians; expansion of educational outreach.

California Lawyers for the Arts: \$12,100

To support for administrative staff for expanded programs, including forums on the arts and new youth internships.

Highways: \$14,800

To support a development associate to expand corporate, foundation and individual fundraising.

Los Angeles Chamber Ballet: \$6,400.



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SURF REPORT



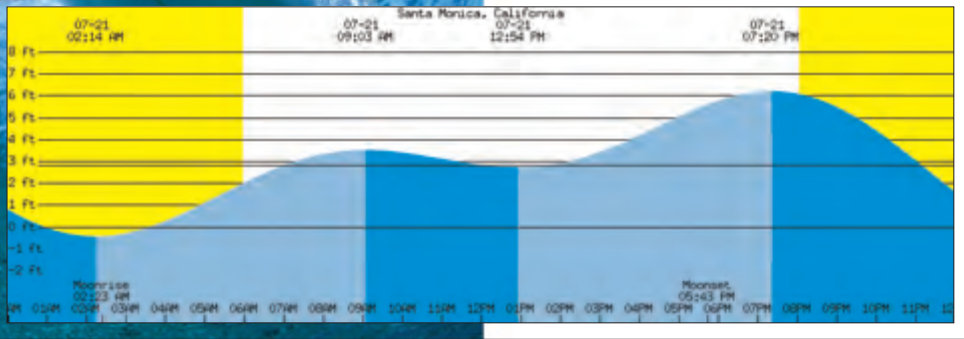
SURF CONDITIONS

SWELL FORECAST (3-4 FT)
TODAY WILL STILL HAVE SOME SOUTHERN HEMI SW WITH WAVE HEIGHTS RUNNING WAIST TO POSSIBLY CHEST HIGH AT TIMES. NW WIND SWELL IS LOOKING NIL.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
SWELL ON THE WAY FROM HURRICANE DANIEL...
SOUTHERN HEMI SWELLS FOR END OF THE MONTH...
TRACKING BIGGER SW SWELLS FOR 2ND AND 4TH...

WATER TEMP: 67°

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



The QLine

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Market on the rebound ...
Last week marked the three-year anniversary of the Farmers' Market crash, when an elderly driver plowed through the bustling market on Arizona Avenue, killing 10 people and injuring more than 50 more. The criminal and civil cases against the driver, Russell Weller, have been delayed numerous times, with a September trial date now scheduled.

This week, Q-Line wants to know:
“From what you know of the case, what is the best possible scenario for the defendant, the victims, the city and the Farmer’s Market to close this painful chapter in the city’s history?”

Call 310 285-8106 or leave your post at smdp.com/forum and we'll print your responses in the weekend edition.



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- Clean appliance exteriors
- Clean inside microwave
- Clean range top
- Damp wipe cabinet doors
- Clean counters
- Hand wash floor
- Load dishwasher

BATHROOMS

- Clean sinks, counters; change towels
- Clean, disinfect toilets, tubs, showers
- Hand wash, disinfect floors

ALL ROOMS

- Pick up & straighten
- Dust sills, ledges, wall hangings
- Remove cobwebs
- Dust/vacuum furniture
- Vacuum floors, carpets
- Vacuum stairs
- Vacuum under beds
- Change linens, make beds
- Empty trash

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- Clean window over kitchen sink



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EDITORIAL

Turn tail and run with it



With shootings in the Pico neighborhood, a constituency increasingly up in arms over the homeless population, Farmers' Market lawsuits, a defecting chief of police and overcrowded schools revving up, city officials once again find themselves preoccupied with the humane treatment of and euthanasia debates surrounding its squirrels.

The pesky little rodents have again burrowed their way into the public consciousness, and City Hall's purse strings, by continuing to do what squirrels do — dig burrows, scavenge for food and procreate. Would we expect any less? The problem is they do it well and haven't really taken a liking to the city's subtle persuasion tactics to have them treated for fleas and disease, and for their human counterparts to halt the handouts. They continue to reproduce in Palisades Park at a rate that is both alarming and threatening, according to LA County health officials.

If city leaders leaned any further left in trying to appease the residents and animal rights groups pressuring them to treat the dangerous squirrels rather than eradicate them, they would be doing cartwheels. In effect, they are. City Hall faces the same rampant rodent population and their accompanying threat to human health it did before attempting to stave off the county with a pilot program, whereby they treated the animals for fleas, posted signs in the parks instructing the public not to feed the squirrels and handed out literature on the pitfalls of sharing morsels with fuzzy tailed friends.

Six months after entrusting Mary Cummins from Animal Advocates to enforce the education and birth control program, there is no accounting for how many squirrels were treated.

City Hall has essentially exhausted its options of non-lethal solutions and worn out its welcome with a county health department threatening to sue. Santa Monica is the first city that fought bucked-tooth and claw with the county over having to be compliant with the latter's code on rodent population control.

The time has come to shake the sand out of our hair and rub our eyes amid the sun. Stepping back into reality, there is a population of uncontrolled rodents overtaking our parks and threatening public safety.

Let's take our nuts and go home. City leaders have fought the good fight, but the squirrels that they've struggled to save haven't cooperated. It's not in their nature.

We commend City Hall on its efforts on behalf of concerned residents and animal rights activists, as well as its own council members, but the time has come to do what's best for the whole population. The vaunted bluff atop the PCH weakens with every additional burrow. The squirrels carry fleas thought to cause bubonic plague. Their access to humans' discarded food creates an unnatural ecosystem in which they were not intended to thrive, for they have no natural predators to contain them ... enter the county health department.

To its credit, City Hall has turned tail and reverted to its original plan, to essentially, trap, gas and feed — trapping the squirrels in containers, euthanizing them humanely with carbon monoxide and recycling them as food for injured birds set to be released into the wild. Working in conjunction with the wildlife center at Cal State Bakersfield, the method is that preferred by both the American Veterinary Association and the USDA Wildlife Service.

It's time to let those charged with keeping our parks and open spaces safe do their jobs. Let's allow the county to enforce its health code. Let's allow the city to comply. And let's allow Lefty "I'm not a bad guy" Ayers of Heritage Wildlife Management to do his job rounding up the rodents without fears of sabotaged traps and activist obstacles.

After all, it's in our nature to foster an environment in which we can thrive, too.

GUEST COMMENTARY BY PETER SCHWARTZ

Confusing democracy with freedom is deadly

America to blame for empowering Hezbollah

Hezbollah, which has been waging war on Israel, and America, for years, is the immediate cause of the current fighting in the Middle East. The broader cause, though, is the United States government.

When Washington declared that freedom could be advanced by elections in which Hezbollah participated, and by which it became part of Lebanon's government, we granted that terrorist entity something it could never achieve on its own: Moral legitimacy.

We gave legitimacy to Hezbollah — just as we did to such enemies as Hamas in the Palestinian Authority and the budding theocrats in Iraq and Afghanistan. These people all came to power through democratic elections promoted by the U.S. But a murderer does not gain legitimacy by getting elected to the ruling clique of his criminal gang — nor does anyone gain it by becoming an elected official of an anti-freedom state.

The premise behind the Bush administration's policy is the hopeless view that tyranny is reversed by the holding of elections — a premise stemming from the widespread confusion between freedom and democracy.

The typical American realizes that there ought to be limits on what government may do. He understands that each of us has rights which no law may breach, regardless of how much public support it happens to attract. An advocate of democracy, however, holds the opposite view.

The essence of democracy is unlimited majority rule. It is the notion that the government should not be constrained, as long as its behavior is sanctioned by majority vote. It is the notion that the very function of government is to implement the "will of the people." It is the notion espoused whenever we tell the Lebanese, the Iraqis, the Palestinians and the Afghanis that the legitimacy of a new government flows from its being democratically approved.

And it is the notion that was categorically repudiated by the founding of the United States.

America's defining characteristic is freedom. Freedom exists when there are limitations on government, imposed by the principle of individual rights. America was established as a republic, under which the state is restricted to protecting our rights. This is not a system of "democracy." Thus, you are free to criticize your neighbors, your society, your government — no matter how many people wish to pass a law censoring you. You are free to own your property — no matter how large a mob wants to take it from you. The rights of the individual are inalienable.

But if "popular will" were the standard, the individual would have no rights — only temporary privileges, granted or withdrawn according to the mass mood of the moment. The tyranny of the majority, as the Founders understood, is just as evil as the tyranny of an absolute monarch.

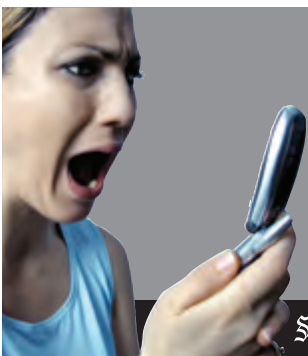
Yes, we have the ability to vote, but that is not the yardstick by which freedom is measured. After all, even dictatorships hold official elections. It is only the existence of liberty that justifies, and gives meaning to, the ballot box. In a genuinely free country, voting pertains only to the means of safeguarding individual rights. There can be no moral "right" to vote to destroy rights.

Unfortunately, like President Bush, most Americans use the antithetical concepts of "freedom" and "democracy" interchangeably. Sometimes our government upholds the primacy of individual rights and regards one's life, liberty and property as inviolable. More often, however, it negates rights by upholding the primacy of the majority's wishes — from confiscating an individual's property because the majority wants it for "public use," to preventing a terminally ill individual from ending his painful life because a majority finds suicide unacceptable.

Today, our foreign policy endorses this latter position. We declare that our overriding goal in the Mideast is that people vote — regardless of whether they value freedom. But then, if a religious majority imposes its theology on Iraq, or if Palestinian suicide-bombers execute their popular mandate by blowing up Israeli schoolchildren, on what basis can we object, since democracy — "the will of the people" — is being faithfully served? As a spokesman for Hamas, following its electoral victory, correctly noted: "I thank the United States that they have given us this weapon of democracy... It's not possible for the U.S. ... to turn its back on an elected democracy." All these enemies of America — Hamas, Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed Shiites — abhor freedom, while adopting the procedure of democratic voting.

If we are going to try to replace tyrannies, we must stop confusing democracy with freedom. We must make clear that the principle we support is not the unlimited rule of the majority, but the inalienable rights of the individual. Empowering killers who happen to be democratically elected does not advance the cause of freedom — it destroys it.

(Peter Schwartz is a distinguished fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine. The Institute promotes Objectivism, the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead.")



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Landlords hike rents when tenants drop

LAUGHING MATTERS

BY JACK NEWORTH



In "Macbeth," Shakespeare wrote, "Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow, creeps in this petty pace, from day to day to the last syllable of recorded time. And all our yesterdays have lighted fools the way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!"

Willie had quite a way with words, eh? Among other things, he seems to be saying that life is way too short. Unless of course you're in line at the DMV, in which case it's way too long.

I've lived in the same apartment complex for 30 years. Landlords call that rent control's "golden handcuffs." Over that time one sees all stages of life: Babies are born, people get married — usually in reverse order — and sadly, neighbors pass on. Such was the case years ago with my friend Lenny. I was chosen to tell the landlord and I'll never forget his grief-stricken reaction, "Did Lenny have a one-bedroom or two?"

It's only human nature, but for Santa Monica landlords the death of a tenant might be expressed in three little words: Fair market rate. A new tenant might pay as much as four times the deceased's rent. If you're curious, go to: <http://4.36.254.85/mar/> and type in your address and you can see what everybody in your building is paying for rent.

I know time is money, but at my building sometimes it seems like the dearly departed are barely cold as they go out one door while the painting crew comes in the other. Then the carpet crew, the drapery crew, all followed by a cheerful, yuppie tenant pleased with his or her luck that an ocean view apartment suddenly came on the market.

In 1999, our building was for sale. A rumor spread that the new buyers had hired actuaries to estimate how long each of us had to live. Gulp. When escrow finally closed some of the more superstitious tenants took it as a bad omen. The actuaries were basical-

ly saying, "don't buy any green bananas."

In the past seven years, the number of fair market tenants here has gone from zero to 300, while surviving rent-control residents number around 230, and dwindling, daily. Some rent-control residents have moved because they had a baby and needed a house; some were evicted for sub-leasing or ordinance No. 3304, which states second residences are not allowed under rent-control protection; and some "moved" because the actuary was right. Second gulp.

Don't get me wrong, my landlord has been great to me, that is, until they see this column. They put in a gym, totally refurbished the lobbies and painted the 17-story exterior, which was no easy feat. The old, weathered paint had always given the buildings that cheerful East Germany look. Recently, they put in rather hideous, dark brown carpeting in the hallways that at first I thought was padding. But I'm not complaining. Or maybe I am?

And each summer, management caters a party at the pool, free to residents. I don't mean to be ungrateful, but I notice as delicious as the food is it's always a tad on the rich side, as in loaded with cholesterol. I wouldn't be surprised if one day rent-control tenants received complimentary breakfast at their door each morning, say, artery-clogging bacon and eggs? I can envision an older tenant, in mid-bite keeling over, and moments later a "Now Leasing" sign goes up out in front. Last gulp.

I wonder what Shakespeare might have said about rent control? Perhaps ... "A different cause, says he, the same effect may give, poor renter fears, that he shall die, his landlord, that he may live." I also wonder what Shakespeare might have said about green bananas, but I'll spare us both that groan. In the meantime, until my next column ... "Out, out, brief candle."

(Jack Neworth is a freelance writer who has lived in Santa Monica since 1976. He loves everything about his apartment except for the carpeting in the hallways. Unless you are his landlord, he can be reached by e-mail at Jackneworth@yahoo.com.)



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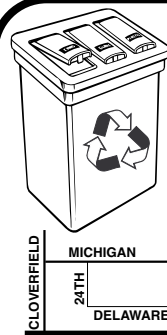
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CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Prostitute tries to cop a feel

On Friday, July 14, at 5 p.m., undercover vice officers with the Santa Monica Police Department were in the area of Lincoln Boulevard and Grant Street when they saw a female walk up to a vehicle and engage the driver in a conversation, police said. When the driver left, the undercover officers pulled up to the female and began to speak with her. After a brief conversation, the woman got into the officers' car. Once inside, she asked the officers if they wanted to have sex for money, police said. She was arrested and transported to the Santa Monica Jail, where she was booked for prostitution. She was identified as Shaquayia Montgomery, 23, from Portland, Ore. Upon further investigation, officers learned Montgomery had two prior arrests for loitering with the purposes of prostitution, police said. Her bail was set at \$2,000.

On Wednesday, July 12, at 11:10 p.m., officers responded to the 300 block of the pier regarding a robbery investigation. When officers arrived, they spoke to the alleged victim, who said two men approached him and began to chase him. He ran, leaving behind a backpack and a bag containing his belongings. The officers quickly located the suspects, recovered the items believed stolen and returned them to the alleged victim. The suspects were placed under arrest and booked for robbery. They were identified as Lawrence Rosenberg, 55, a transient, and Brian Michael Martinez, 34, also a transient. Bail was set at \$50,000.

On Monday, July 10, at 2:59 p.m., police responded to the 2800 block of Lincoln Boulevard after receiving a report of unknown trouble. When they arrived on scene, officers spoke with a man who said he witnessed two men rummaging through another man's pockets while he was passed out on the sidewalk. The men then walked away and were detained a short time later by the responding officers. After a search, officers located a wallet that belonged to the alleged victim. The two suspects were arrested for grand theft. They were identified as Robert John Radzikowski, 20, a transient, and Brandon James Mills, 19, also a transient. Bail was set at \$25,000.

On Tuesday, July 11, at 4:26 a.m., officers arrested a woman in the 1700 block of the beach for camping in public, a violation of the municipal code. While in jail, a search was conducted, at which time officers found a small amount of methamphetamine. A charge of possession of a controlled substance was added. The woman was identified as Cynthia Renee Schroeder, 45, a transient. Her bail was set at \$10,000.

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SMSP mails it in before elections

SMSP, from page 1

allowing them to become a force in the November election, which includes races for the council (three seats); school board (four seats); Santa Monica College board of trustees (four seats) and the rent control board (three seats), in addition to the state Assembly.

"We want to be a legitimate organization," Jacobson said. "We want to have influence and we think ... we will be very powerful in terms of endorsing candidates or being involved in candidates' activities."

That could include raising funds or hosting political forums, Jacobson said.

At some point, the group will consider whether or not to make endorsements and campaign for a slate of candidates. However, at this point, increasing membership is SMSP's main focus, Jacobson said.

That's hard for some to believe, particularly SMSP's main political rival, Santa Monicans for Renters Rights (SMRR).

Over the last few months, SMSP has distributed two mailers highlighting City Councilman Kevin McKeown's voting record. McKeown is a member of SMRR and a 30-year renter in Santa Monica.

One mailer praised Mayor Bob Holbrook, Mayor Pro Tem Bobby Shriver and Councilman Herb Katz for their work on homelessness, but failed to mention efforts made by other council members who have been backed by SMRR, including City Councilman Richard Bloom, who has been very active in coordinating homeless efforts.

The other mailer targeted McKeown specifically, pointing out his lone vote against a downtown parking plan that includes the addition of more than 1,700 parking spaces. McKeown said he voted against the plan because it was based on increased development in downtown, something many residents oppose.

Former mayor and SMRR co-founder Denny Zane said SMSP is nothing more than "AstroTurf," claiming to be grass-roots. He said the group is the voice of two major hotels — Casa Del Mar and Shutters, and not residents.

"They've been created exclusively for the purpose of attacking progressive City Council members and candidates," Zane said. "This year, they clearly have a coordinated effort to attack Kevin McKeown because Kevin is the hardest working council member, who makes defending residents and their neighborhoods ... his top priority."

Zane said McKeown backed a living-wage ordinance for hotel workers and has been a voice for residents concerned about over-development, putting him directly in the crosshairs of the hotel industry and big business.

Jacobson said the mailers were not attacks, but rather information items educating voters about SMSP and critical issues affecting residents.

"We are just pointing out that there are clearly differences on the council between the priorities of Kevin and some of his supporters and Bob Holbrook and others, even (Council member) Pam O'Connor and others," Jacobson said. "We are pointing out that there is a real division and wouldn't it be great if everyone could agree on a unified strategy, particularly around the homeless issue?"

Jacobson said SMSP spent roughly

\$20,000 last year on surveys to see what the public believes are the top priorities. That, he said, demonstrates the group's commitment to speaking for residents. If SMSP was just a puppet for hotels, it would have spent that money on campaign literature, Jacobson said, and not on research.

Jacobson said SMRR feels threatened by SMSP, and prefers the politics of division over the politics of inclusion.

"SMRR is trying to use us as a whipping horse to get their people excited," Jacobson said. "We're happy to work with (SMRR) if there are issues we think we can join together on. That would be great."

Holbrook, who looks to benefit the most from SMSP's existence, said he doesn't know much about the group except that members submitted 5,000 signatures of support. He said SMRR has engaged in mailers like SMSP's in the past, including those that he said unfairly distorted his voting record.

"(Mailers) just seem to be part of the fabric of Santa Monica politics," Holbrook said. "Many groups have come up over the years and have become involved in politics, from the (Committee for Excellent Public Schools) and the Lifelong Learning Community, to those that have been around forever like the League of Women Voters."

Holbrook said almost anyone can form a group. He added that he is focused solely on running his campaign and can't worry about mailers.

"If a group is offering an endorsement, then I'll go talk with them," Holbrook said. "But there does come a point when you have some groups who shouldn't be giving endorsements. I guess there's just an overwhelming urge to support a candidate and if you don't fit in anywhere, then I guess you just start your own group."

McKeown said SMSP is misrepresenting his voting record and that he stands by his decisions on the dais.

"My council votes reflect concern for the quality of life of residents, so it's vexing to see my recent votes against unplanned development and the privatization of public outdoor space misrepresented as they have been," McKeown said. "As always, the name of the game in Santa Monica stealth politics is, 'follow the money.' I've held the line on too much commercial growth, and stood for affording local workers the dignity of a living wage. Could some developers and hotel owners be holding a grudge?"

SMSP plans to hold its first town hall meeting in August where voters will be able to get a glimpse of the group's leadership. In the meantime, those with Internet access can go to the group's Web site at www.cityhall-stories.com, Jacobson said.

"We've had an overwhelming response from the community," Jacobson said. "It's been staggering. To be honest, we never thought that we would get 5,000 people."

With the election still several months away, it remains to be seen what impact SMSP can have, said Bob Stern, president of the Center for Governmental Studies, who has watched Santa Monica politics evolve over the years.

"You never know ... until you see the final votes, but clearly (SMSP) is a counterpoint to SMRR and its tremendous influence," Stern said. "There were counter organizations to SMRR several years ago and they still won several seats."



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VIOLET—At Violet restaurant the atmosphere is casual, comfortable, and, like its cuisine, is uncluttered. Chef Jared Simons' flavorful small plate fare has something to suit everyone, from light eaters to those with a taste for a more robust fare. The Braised Short Ribs with Shallot Potatoes (\$14.50) melt apart while the Multi-Colored Beet Salad with Eel delights with Kumquat and Ginger Vinaigrette (\$9) and the favorite among the regulars is the Baked Macaroni and Gruyere Cheese with Serrano Ham (\$7.50). Unique selection of new and old world wines by the bottle, glass or flight as well as an impressive list of domestic & imported artisan beers. Hours: Lunch: Tuesday–Friday, 11:30am–2pm. Dinner: Tuesday–Friday, 6pm–10pm & Saturday and Sunday, 5:30pm–10pm. 3221 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. www.violetrestaurant.com (310) 453-9113.

THE SLICE—A true neighborhood pizzeria serving authentic New York pizza & buffalo wings. We also offer a selection of hot & cold subs, pastas and salads. You can also create your own calzone. Eat in, take out, or delivery. Catering is available. Hours: open daily 11am–9pm. Visit one of our three locations: 915 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica (310) 451-7542, 1622 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica (310) 399-4060, 13151 Fountain Park Drive, Playa Vista (310) 437-7499.

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SANTA MONICA ART PALETTE
MAKING ARTS AND CULTURE COME ALIVE IN SANTA MONICA

It's another big week for theatre in Santa Monica. This weekend we've got several new theatrical offerings. The Powerhouse Theatre will be closing its production of John Patrick Shanley's "Danny and the Deep Blue Sea" and "Agamemnon" plays its last weekend at City Garage. "Pericles, Prince of Tyre" and "King Lear" continue their runs at the Miles Playhouse; "Bye Bye Birdie" is still packing them in at Morgan Wixson Theatre, while "Don We Now (Our Gay Apparel)" by Tara Redepinning will be performed Sunday night at 7 p.m. at The Next Stage New Play Festival on Morgan-Wixson's outdoor stage. And if that's not enough for you, well read on and you'll find a whole assortment plays for you and the whole family. And be sure to read the last paragraph of this week's edition for a special treat.



Since 1969, the New Playwrights Foundation is a nonprofit foundation working to aid, nurture and develop lesser-known local writers. Tonight the foundation opens its doors to present a reading of "The Gift," a full length musical adaptation of O. Henry's famous short story, "The Gift of the Magi." Visitors are welcome to attend tonight's free reading. To reserve a spot, e-mail mailto:dialogue@newplaywrights.org. Or give them a call at (310) 393-3682 for directions and other information. Log onto <http://www.NewPlaywrights.org>.



Into the Woods
The Santa Monica College Theatre Department presents this contemporary classic American musical at its Hangar Stage at the Santa Monica Airport. With music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, "Into The Woods" tells the stories of Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack the Giant Killer, Rapunzel and the Baker and His Wife. It all begins as a lively irreverent romp through fairy tale land but winds up teaching an important lesson about community responsibility and the legacies we leave to our children. For tickets, call (310) 434-3000.

Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 1 p.m.
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2800 Airport Ave.
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The Four Man Plan
The Ruskin Group Theatre has a new production on the boards, a solo performance by Cindy Lu which presents her theory on dating and why you should always date four men at once. Her treatise on the topic includes charts and graphs, lots of humor and a bit of bawd. But the end result is a formula for love that can be useful for dysfunctional Cinderellas of all ages. The performance is directed by Paul Linke.

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All The World's A Stage
Santa Monica Playhouse has brought back its premiere production of "All The World's A Stage," packed full of fairy tale misadventures and mixed up stories. Audiences can join forces with Frivolio, Pyramid, Frisbe and other denizens of the endangered realm of Hamelot to assure that all's well that ends well.

Saturdays and Sundays at 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.; through Sept. 24
<http://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com>.

Cinderella

And just in case you thought you'd make it through this edition without another mention of "Cinderella," you'd be wrong. The single most requested Santa Monica Playhouse Family Theatre musical on three continents and voted playhouse audience favorite for the 11th year in a row, "Cinderella," a delightfully romantic original classic, featuring a handsome prince, a zany fairy godmother, silly stepsisters, a zealously well-meaning stepmother and "an enchanting Cinderella," according to the L.A. Times, returns to the playhouse stage with new songs, new scenes and a new look as a summer time 6 p.m. show.

Fridays and Saturdays at 6 p.m.; through Aug. 27.
For reservations, call (310) 394-9779, ext. 2.

The Cultural Affairs Division of Santa Monica is currently undertaking a significant project, the development of a new map for the future of the arts and culture in our city, called Creative Capital. Log onto <http://santa-monica.org/creativesanta-monica> for news about the plan and to learn ways that you can participate. Another element of the plan is the Creative Santa Monica Directory. The online Creative Santa Monica Directory will help the creative community connect with one another, develop new work opportunities, and communicate with decision-makers. It also will support the development of Santa Monica as a creative community and economy. Log onto <http://santa-monica.org/creativesantamonica/directory.html>.



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Photo courtesy

Barnum Hall alive with 'The Sound of Music'

By Daily Press staff

This weekend, the hills are alive with the sound of live theater.

The Santa Monica Civic Light Opera (SMCLO) presents Roger and Hammerstein's "The Sound of Music." The troupe will perform tonight at 8 p.m., on Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and will close on Sunday, with a 2 p.m. show. The venue is Barnum Hall, the 1,200-seat, newly restored main stage performance space. The SMCLO cast from The Sound of Music is comprised of professionals, Samohi theatre alumni, and current high school students. Since 1989 the SMCLO has been producing full-scale summer musicals in Barnum Hall every summer.

For those not sold on the merits of the musical itself, the movie "The Sound of Music" starring Julie Andrews won five Oscars, and the Broadway show ran for 1,443 performances and garnered six Tony awards.

Following the close of The Sound of Music in Santa Monica, the troupe will give an encore performance of The Sound of Music on Wednesday, July 26 at 7 p.m. in the historic Avalon Casino Theater, and the following night they present a 90-minute, one-act, cabaret-style, musical revue, called "Showstoppers" on Thursday, July 27 at 8 p.m. in the Avalon Ballroom.

Tickets are \$20 and \$25 for matinees, and \$25 and \$30 for Friday night. For additional information, call (310) 458-5939, or visit SMCLO online at www.smclo.org.

Aero can't stop the music

By Daily Press staff

A local movie theater is delivering the classics this week.

The American Cinematheque presents Can't Stop the Musicals from July 20 through July 30 at the Aero Theatre, co-presented with Outfest.

In the wake of "Moulin Rouge" and "Chicago" — two blockbusters that served to re-ignite audience interest in movie musicals, and following in the path of the series presented at the Egyptian and Aero Theatres the past three years, this is a look at an era not normally thought of as rich territory for filmed musicals: the 1970s and 1980s.

All ticket buyers get a chance to win a New York goodie package. All screenings are at the Max Palevsky Theatre at the Aero Theatre, 1328 Montana Ave.

FRIDAY, JULY 21

A 7:30 p.m. screening of "Tommy," (1975, Sony Repertory, 111 min.). Having already brought an outlandish, hellzapoppin' quality to such films as "The Devils," director Ken Russell was the perfect choice to helm The Who's landmark rock opera, transforming it into a stream-of-consciousness catalog of wild performances from the likes of Roger Daltrey, Ann Margret, Oliver Reed, Tina Turner, Elton John, Keith Moon, Jack Nicholson and others.

SATURDAY, JULY 22

A 7:30 p.m. double feature. First up is "Jesus Christ Superstar," (1973, Universal, 108 min.) directed by Norman Jewison. Adapted from Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's landmark rock-opera, and featuring such standout numbers as "I Don't Know How to Love Him," "What's the Buzz?" and "Jesus Christ, Superstar" performed by an extremely talented cast including Ted Neeley as Christ, Yvonne Elliman as Mary Magdalene and the late Carl Anderson in a standout role as Judas Iscariot.

Next on the same bill is "Hair," (1979, Sony Repertory, 121 min.). More than 10 years elapsed between the initial Broadway run of one of the most controversial musicals ever produced, and its cinematic incarnation. Claude (John Savage), a young soldier on his way to Vietnam, meets a gang of hippies headed by Berger (a very winning Treat Williams), who teach him about love and flower power. Under the skillful direction of Milos Foreman and choreography by Twyla Tharp — the same team behind Amadeus — every musical number, including "Aquarius," "Let The Sunshine In," "Hair," and many more, work beautifully.

SUNDAY, JULY 23

A 7:30 p.m. screening of "Pennies From Heaven," (1981, Warners, 108 min.) directed by Herbert Ross. Dennis Potter's beautifully melancholic musical unspools against eyepoppingly amazing production design.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

A 7:30 p.m. screening of "Flashdance," (1983, Paramount, 105 min.) directed by Adrian Lyne. Fiesty Alex (Jennifer Beals) is a blue-collar worker by day and aspiring dancer by night.

LANDLORDS LAPPING IT UP

A look at average rents in major Western markets and the percent change from previous year:

Los Angeles/Orange counties: \$1,510, 6.8 percent
 Ventura County, Calif.: \$1,416, 7.3 percent
 San Francisco/Oakland: \$1,402, 5.9 percent
 San Jose, Calif.: \$1,414, 9.1 percent
 San Diego: \$1,276, 3.1 percent
 San Bernardino/Riverside counties: \$1,110, 5.7 percent
 Solano County, Calif.: \$1,089, 2.4 percent
 Sacramento, Calif.: \$933, 1.9 percent
 Seattle: \$945, 6.3 percent
 Denver: \$855, 0.5 percent
 Las Vegas: \$847, 5.3 percent
 Reno, Nev.: \$832, 4.3 percent
 Portland: \$773, 3.6 percent
 Phoenix: \$783, 7.4 percent
 Fresno, Calif.: \$757, 4.0 percent
 Colorado Springs, Colo.: \$708, -0.4 percent
 Boise, Idaho: \$709, 0.7 percent
 Salt Lake City: \$694, 3.6 percent
 Albuquerque, N.M.: \$676, 2.9 percent
 Tucson, Ariz.: \$633, 2.3 percent

Source: RealFacts Inc.

LA, Orange rents up

HIGH RENTS, from page 1

rent in an area of Ventura County including Oxnard and Thousand Oaks rose 7.3 percent to \$1,320, while rents in the inland counties of San Bernardino and Riverside accelerated 5.7 percent to \$1,110, the firm said.

Apartment dwellers in the market spanning Los Angeles and Orange counties faced the West's highest rents at an average of \$1,510, a 6.8 percent hike over the same period last year.

The lowest average rent in the West was in Tulsa, Okla., at \$532, unchanged from last year. Demand for apartments has been rising as fewer people find they can afford to buy a home after the real estate boom of the past five years.

While home price increases have started to slow in many markets, mortgage interest rates have been creeping higher, making it more expensive for would-be homeowners to afford a home loan and driving more people to the rental market.

Apartment occupancy rates were up in the second quarter in all but one of the Western markets covered by RealFacts.

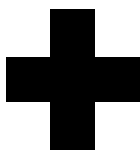
The Fresno metro area was the only market to have an average occupancy rate below 90 percent during the quarter, the firm said. Several regions had average occupancy rates of 95 percent or higher, including metro areas around Albuquerque, N.M.; Boise, Idaho; Las Vegas; Los Angeles; Oklahoma City; Oxnard; Portland, Ore.; Reno, Nev.; San Diego; San Francisco; San Jose; Seattle; and Tucson, Ariz.

An average occupancy rate of 95 percent typically fore-shadows higher rents.

In addition to Tulsa, several metropolitan hubs saw average rent remain essentially flat during the quarter, including the Denver metro area, up 0.5 percent to \$855; the hub of Dallas-Ft. Worth, up 0.4 percent to \$764; Colorado Springs, Colo., down 0.4 percent to \$708; and, the metro area around Boise, Idaho, up 0.7 percent to \$709.

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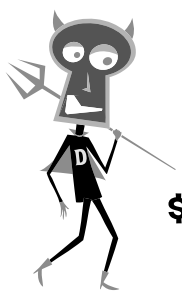
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City Hall Information Desk at the main entrance-(1685 Main St.)
 Ken Edwards Center (1527 4th St.)
 All Public Libraries (601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1704 Montana Ave. and 2601 Main St.)
 Legal Aid Santa Monica Office (1640 5th St. #124)
 Virginia Avenue Park-Center Office (2200 Virginia Ave.)
 Access Center (1616 7th St. entrance in rear of building)
 New Directions on the Veterans Administration campus (11303 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles-VA Building 16)

All applications must be mailed to the following address:
 Santa Monica Housing Authority
 P.O. Box 90608
 Industry, CA. 91715-0608

Applications must be post marked no earlier than July 24, 2006 and no later than August 14, 2006. Only original applications will be accepted. Information is available by calling toll free 1-888-628-7597. Home bound and disabled applicants can request that an application be mailed to them by calling the toll free number.

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City intends to put squirrel problem on ice

SQUIRRELS, from page 1

Angeles County Health Department to kill them. If City Hall fails to comply, it could be sued.

The situation is not new. City Hall has been out of compliance before and the growing squirrel population has been an ongoing issue for several years. Acting on residents' concerns over the ethical treatment of the animals, city staff have pursued alternatives in reducing the population without killing the squirrels.

But those methods have failed. The squirrel

population has increased 200 percent between February and June, according to city officials.

In January, City Hall was served a summons from the county health department regarding non-compliance with the health and safety code. City Hall was ordered to kill the squirrels or face legal action. The squirrels were poisoned with aluminum phosphide, which began on Feb. 6 and lasted for four days.

Immediately following, a pilot program aimed to control the rodent population without killing them was introduced, according to city officials.

The education and birth control program created by Mary Cummins from Animal Advocates called for the treatment of remaining squirrels for fleas to prevent disease, installing signage to advise against feeding the animals and distributing immuno-contraceptives.

But in the eyes of county health inspectors, it hasn't worked. During a routine inspection in Palisades Park last month, they found the ground squirrel population well above acceptable numbers.

As a result, county and city officials met last week to devise a plan to reduce the squirrel population this summer.

"The park is in violation and something has to be done," said Gail Van Gordon, supervisor of the county's Vector Born Disease Surveillance Unit.

She added that her staff presented options to Santa Monica officials and highlighted plans that have worked in the hundreds of other areas the county health department oversees. City officials have apparently reverted back to their original plan, which was developed by Lefty Ayers, who owns Heritage Wildlife Management, a pest control company based in Kern County.

Ayers will catch the squirrels through live traps placed throughout the park, euthanize the animals with carbon monoxide in large chambers off site and place them in plastic bags on top of dry ice so the fleas won't spread. He will then transport the dead rodents to a wildlife rehabilitation center at Cal State Bakersfield, where they will be stored in a freezer and fed to raptors before they are released into the wild.

It is the preferred method by the American Veterinary Association and the USDA Wildlife Service, officials said.

"I believe I've come up with a solution that is very humane and equitable ... That is why the city chose to do this," Ayers said, adding that the dead squirrels provide much-needed food for the raptors. "Using the squirrels gets the birds back into hunting and here is a place that can utilize these carcasses."

Ayers didn't use that plan in February when he helped eradicate the squirrels in Palisades Park. He said that because of the pressure from animal rights activists and the media, he instead placed fumigation tablets in the burrows, and the humidity turned it into gas, which killed the squirrels.

"We were forced into it because the people were saying 'don't do this, don't do this,'" Ayers said of when he attempted to carry live animals in traps out of the park.

"I don't kill animals for the sake of killing animals," he added. "There are people who oppose this, but these are rodents who could have diseases."

Even though, in effect, he is killing the squirrels, Ayers said he tries to be as considerate as possible during the process. His traps are larger than most manufacturers — 24 feet by 24 feet by 8 inches tall — to prevent overcrowding. The squirrels are given water, and the cages are covered with a black cloth to reduce the stress. If an animal other than a squirrel gets trapped in the cage, "I'll open the door," Ayers said.

LOST THAT LOVING FEELING

After the first round of squirrels are killed, city officials and Ayers hope to avoid having to do it again. Ayers and city staff are currently researching studies that indicate an immuno-contraceptive vaccine could reduce the squirrel population without killing them.

The squirrels would be trapped and injected with the vaccine, which would inhibit the female's ability to give birth.

"Once the population is down, it looks like the city will help me research it," Ayers

said, adding the vaccine would last 1 1/2 to 2 years. "But it's very labor intensive and costly ... if people just stayed out of it, it will be two years before we have to do something again."

AN ANIMAL LOVER

"I'm not a bad guy," Ayers said, adding that his work becomes much more expensive when people interfere with it. Routinely, the traps are tampered with — a violation of U.S. Fish and Wildlife laws. Ayers said he has been hassled by people while trying to do a job that has been mandated by the county health department. His biggest cost is monitoring the traps.

"People can't stay out of it, they won't leave it alone," he said. "We have to baby-sit this job."

"Our No. 1 issue is people interfering, that's our biggest hurdle."

He has been threatened by animal advocates and cast in a negative light in the media for his previous work in Santa Monica.

"Fortunately, the city has tried to protect me," Ayers said. "But I have to be careful."

A self-professed animal lover — Ayers said he owns horses and dogs on his ranch — he doesn't want to kill the squirrels. But he realized there was a need for it in the marketplace so he started his business more than a year ago. He works with many cities, counties and school districts to help them reduce their ground squirrel populations and reduce their exposure to disease.

"It's not a welcomed profession," Ayers said. "But I'm trying to help the city do a job ... it's a nasty job, but someone has to do it ... I'm not ashamed of my profession."

PALISADES BUFFET IS CLOSED

Ayers will meet with city officials by the end of the month to determine the next course of action. City Hall has budgeted \$30,000 to reduce the squirrel population, said Elaine Polacheck, City Hall's open space manager. Polacheck said Cummins' plan unfortunately didn't pan out like her staff had hoped. It was supposed to be a one-year pilot program, but lasted just five months.

"Unfortunately, she just wasn't as reliable out there as we would have liked, Polacheck said. "She was not responsive for what we needed ... we didn't even know how many she (treated for fleas) or what the concentration was spread out in the park."

Cummins could not be reached.

There has been enormous opposition by residents, politicians and animal advocates to the killing of squirrels in Santa Monica, which is an anomaly for county health officials.

"From the county health department's perspective, they've never had a municipality out of compliance," Polacheck said. "Santa Monica is a very unusual community in that respect."

Van Gordon agrees.

"Most open space managers and park managers understand the problem and have acceptable levels," she said, adding Palisades Park is one of the most heavily populated areas in the county. That's because there are a plethora of food sources, including human feeding, as well as plants and grass.

The acceptable number of ground squirrels is no more than three visible per every two acres, Van Gordon said. On June 1, when an inspection was conducted in Palisades Park, 175 squirrels were counted in the 1.5-mile stretch.

"They (City officials) do have their work cut out for them," Van Gordon said.

Polacheck hopes the public can understand as well.

"They are rodents, cute rats, and there are too many," she said. "And people need to know that there is an actual corresponding health risk here."

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Boston	58	36	.617	—	New York	57	38	.600	—
New York	55	37	.598	2	Atlanta	45	50	.474	12
Toronto	52	42	.553	6	Philadelphia	43	50	.462	13
Baltimore	44	53	.454	15 1/2	Florida	42	51	.452	14
Tampa Bay	39	57	.406	20	Washington	40	56	.417	17 1/2
Central Division					Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	64	31	.674	—	St. Louis	53	41	.564	—
Chicago	58	36	.617	5 1/2	Cincinnati	50	46	.521	4
Minnesota	54	40	.574	9 1/2	Houston	46	50	.479	8
Cleveland	42	52	.447	21 1/2	Milwaukee	46	50	.479	8
Kansas City	32	62	.340	31 1/2	Chicago	37	57	.394	16
					Pittsburgh	34	62	.354	20
West Division					West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	50	45	.526	—	San Diego	50	44	.532	—
Angels	48	46	.511	1 1/2	San Fran	48	47	.505	2 1/2
Texas	49	47	.510	1 1/2	Arizona	47	47	.500	3
Seattle	45	50	.474	5	Dodgers	47	48	.495	3 1/2
					Colorado	45	49	.479	5
Friday's Games					Friday's Games				
Oakland (Haren 6-8) at Detroit (Verlander 11-4), 4:05 p.m.					Atlanta (Smoltz 7-5) at Philadelphia (Lidle 6-7), 4:05 p.m.				
Minnesota (Silva 5-9) at Cleveland (Sabathia 7-5), 4:05 p.m.					Chicago Cubs (Prior 0-4) at Washington (Hernandez 6-8), 4:05 p.m.				
N.Y. Yankees (Wright 6-5) at Toronto (Burnett 1-3), 4:07 p.m.					Houston (Buchholz 6-7) at N.Y. Mets (O.Hernandez 5-8), 4:10 p.m.				
Baltimore (Bedard 11-6) at Tampa Bay (Fossum 3-3), 4:15 p.m.					Milwaukee (Capuano 10-5) at Cincinnati (Ramirez 3-6), 4:10 p.m.				
Angels (Colon 1-4) at Kansas City (Hernandez 1-4 or Wellemeyer 0-2), 5:10 p.m.					Pittsburgh (Maholm 3-8) at Florida (Olsen 7-4), 4:35 p.m.				
Texas (Wasdin 2-2) at Chicago White Sox (Buehrle 9-7), 5:35 p.m.					Colorado (Cook 6-7) at Arizona (Vargas 7-6), 6:40 p.m.				
Boston (Snyder 1-1) at Seattle (Moyer 5-8), 7:05 p.m.					San Diego (Peavy 4-9) at San Francisco (Cain 6-6), 7:15 p.m.				
					St. Louis (Suppan 6-5) at Dodgers (Penny 10-3), 7:40 p.m.				
Saturday's Games					Saturday's Games				
Oakland at Detroit, 10:20 a.m.					Houston at N.Y. Mets, 10:20 a.m.				
Boston at Seattle, 1:05 p.m.					Chicago Cubs at Washington, 10:20 a.m.				
N.Y. Yankees at Toronto, 1:07 p.m.					Atlanta at Philadelphia, 1:05 p.m.				
Minnesota at Cleveland, 4:05 p.m.					Pittsburgh at Florida, 3:05 p.m.				
Texas at Chicago White Sox, 4:05 p.m.					Milwaukee at Cincinnati, 3:10 p.m.				
Angels at Kansas City, 4:10 p.m.					San Diego at San Francisco, 6:05 p.m.				
Baltimore at Tampa Bay, 4:15 p.m.					Colorado at Arizona, 6:40 p.m.				
					St. Louis at Dodgers , 7:10 p.m.				

SPORTS BRIEFS

BASEBALL

Blue Jays cut Hillenbrand loose

TORONTO — Shea Hillenbrand was cut by the Toronto Blue Jays after he was chastised during a team meeting and refused to sit in the dugout with his teammates. Hours before, Hillenbrand criticized the organization and said he expected to be traded. The designated hitter and corner infielder was upset because he wasn’t in the starting lineup for the second consecutive game and nobody in Toronto’s front office congratulated him on adopting a baby girl last weekend. Hillenbrand was designated for assignment during the game and was not in the locker room afterward.

Padres let Castilla go

SAN DIEGO — Third baseman Vinny Castilla was released by the San Diego Padres, an unpopular move in the clubhouse and one that likely will hasten the NL West leaders’ search for a replacement before the trading deadline. Although his defense was solid, the 39-year-old Castilla was hitting just .232 with four homers and 23 RBIs.

TENNIS

Whitehouse upsets former No. 1

INDIANAPOLIS — Wesley Whitehouse, a 27-year-old South African ranked 512th in the world, upset former world No. 1 Marat Safin 6-1, 6-4 in the second round of the RCA Championships. Whitehouse, who had won only one ATP Tour match before making the Indianapolis event as a qualifier, won 87 percent of his first-serve points in each set. Whitehouse, the 1997 Wimbledon junior champion, has never been ranked higher than 214th.

SOCCER

Parreira quits as Brazil coach

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — Carlos Alberto Parreira quit as coach of Brazil, three weeks after the team was stunned 1-0 by France and eliminated in the quarterfinals of the World Cup.

HOCKEY

Daneyko to face charges next month

SPARTA, N.J. — Former New Jersey Devils defenseman Ken Daneyko was arrested for drunken driving in May and will face charges next month. The 42-year-old Daneyko retired in 2003 after a 20-year NHL career, spent entirely with New Jersey. He took a leave from the Devils during the 1997-98 season to confront an alcohol-abuse problem.

PRO BASKETBALL

Songaila joins Wizards

WASHINGTON — The Washington Wizards signed forward Darius Songaila, less than a year after he signed with the Chicago Bulls as a free agent.

Lacrosse remains a lifeforce for Native Americans

BY BRANDON MEACHUM

Associated Press Writer

LITTLETON, Colo. — When an American Indian boy of the Iroquois tribe is born, he will go through a ritual to point him in the right direction in life. He will be told who his mother and father are, what clan he is a part of and will be informed of his duties as he grows into a man.

Then he will be introduced to lacrosse, a sport invented and cherished by American Indians.

At the recent North American Indigenous Games in Colorado, the athletes followed the path of their ancestors by playing an ancient spiritual game.

“This sport is like walking or eating to us; it is a big part of life,” Team Ontario assistant coach Bruce Longboat said.

Lacrosse is known as the first sport in North America. It was the sport American Indians were playing when Europeans first came to the continent. Its history dates back even further — forever, in the American Indian culture.

“In our belief system, our people played before there was even a world here,” New York coach Vince Schiffert said. “It was played by the people in sky world, the people that created our Earth. That was one of the things that the people from sky world sent down here. It is a sacred game. It is also a medicine game to help people, to heal people. It is to help communities, to help them stay in a good frame of mind.”

It is also meant for athletes to showcase their speed, strength and aggression, but in a positive way.

At the Indigenous Games, lacrosse was played by young boys whose relatives learned the game at an early age. Their fathers, uncles, cousins and grandfathers have played the sport before them.

Lacrosse was used by Indians long ago to get the men of the tribe ready for war. They would play on huge swaths of land, sometimes with goals that were miles apart, to condition for battle. Games could feature hundreds of players at a time, with trees or rocks marked for the goals and deerskin used for the ball.

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Avoiding pitfalls

Southern peach growers enjoy bumper crop thanks to heat

BY ELLIOTT MINOR

Associated Press Writer

FORT VALLEY, Ga. — Georgia and South Carolina growers report strong demand and decent prices for their 2006 peach crops, and consumers may even find the fruit sweeter than usual because of weeks of hot, dry weather.

“We’ve had a phenomenal-tasting peach and excellent quality due to the dry summer,” said Bobby Lane, vice president of Lane Packing Co. of Fort Valley, one of Georgia’s major producers.

The higher prices and stronger demand are linked in part to problems with the peach crop in California, which produces approximately 60 percent of the nation’s peaches, according to the California Tree Fruit Agreement, a marketing body.

California’s warm winter and cool, wet spring are expected to cut the state’s production to 380,000 tons, 21 percent less than in 2005, according to the U.S. Agricultural Statistics Service.

South Carolina and Georgia — nicknamed the Peach State — usually vie for second and third place in production behind California.

Dry weather tends to increase the sugar concentration in fruits such as peaches, making them sweeter and more flavorful.

South Carolina’s crop, reduced by freezing temperatures and frost in the spring and later by hail, is expected to total 60,000 tons this year, 20 percent less than in 2005, the statistics service said.

“Yes, we had a crop reduction,” said Martin Eubanks, a senior commodity merchandiser with the South Carolina Department of Agriculture. “But as the season has worn on with the drier weather, the eating quality of fruit has been outstanding. We still have a good volume of fruit for consumers and the eating quality has been very good.”

The drought reduced the anticipated size of Georgia’s crop, but still the state should produce 42,000 tons, 5 percent more than last year, the statistics service said.

Peach brokers prefer fruit with a total sugar content of more than 12 percent, and Georgia peaches are consistently exceeding that level this year, said Kathy Taylor, the University of Georgia’s peach specialist.

“Consumers may be able to notice that Georgia peaches are a little sweeter,” she said.

With a tighter supply nationwide, the average price for a ton of peaches soared to \$819 last month, \$223 more than in the average price in June 2005, the statistics service said.

“Georgia’s a little short, South Carolina’s a little short, California had a real different spring,” said Al Pearson of Fort Valley’s Big 6 Farm, another major producer. “Combined, it’s just been a shorter supply of peaches.

Georgia’s harvest began in early June and will continue until about the third week of August. South Carolina’s season began a little later and runs through mid-September.

The shorter peach supply shouldn’t have much impact on consumers, Eubanks said.

“It’s still a good value for the consumer and hopefully the farmer is also able to make a little money,” he said.

Extended border fence divides U.S. lawmakers

BY LARA JAKES JORDAN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers grappled Thursday with whether to build a fence along hundreds of miles on the nation’s southern border, weighing combating illegal immigration against a costly barrier that alone might not stop migrants.

Layered fencing stands on about 75 miles of the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border, mostly in cities like El Paso, Texas; Nogales, Ariz., and San Diego. In an election year fixated on illegal immigration and border security, Congress is considering proposals to put fencing on up to 850 miles on the border, costing billions of dollars.

“San Diego was a no-man’s land when we built that fence,” Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., told a House panel examining border barriers as a way to stem illegal immigration. He said immigrant gang-related murders, drug traffic and human smuggling have dropped dramatically since a fence just south of the city was built in 1996.

“The fence did work,” Hunter said.

But Rep. Silvestre Reyes, D-Texas, a former top U.S. Border Patrol official, said fencing could cost as much as \$2.2 billion and might not be effective in all areas.

“There are, in my opinion, no one-size-fits-all solutions for border security,” Reyes said. “I think it wastes money. I think it’s not a good investment of taxpayer dollars.”

The Border Patrol last year arrested 1.2 million illegal immigrants who crossed into the United States at the Mexican border. But agents estimate that two or three migrants go undeterred for every one who is stopped.

Border Patrol Senior Associate Chief Kevin Stevens said fences have stopped, or at least slowed, illegal migrants. But he questioned whether fencing would be effective where there are natural barriers, like mountains or deserts. He wouldn’t talk about specific plans to extend the fence to any length.

“Can you look the American people in the eye and say this is needed? And that it’s the most practical use of taxpayer dollars?” asked Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, D-Md.

“We need an appropriate mix,” Stevens answered. “It’s not about fencing. It’s not about Border Patrol agents. It’s not about technology. It’s about all of those things.”

Critics said little will stop illegal immigration while jobs are so readily available for migrants. The Homeland Security Department recently began cracking down on employers who hire immigrants — many of whom work for cheaper wages and with fewer benefits. But the Bush administration is pushing Congress to approve a temporary worker program that would let illegal immigrants have some legal status.

Conservative Republicans, particularly in the House, largely oppose such a program, which they view as giving amnesty to criminals. An estimated 12 million illegal immigrants already live in the United States.

“As long as illegal immigrants can readily obtain employment in the United States, neither barriers nor increased staffing will discourage millions of impoverished people from crossing our borders annually,” said T.J. Bonner, president of the National Border Patrol Council, a labor union that represents about 10,500 U.S. Border Patrol agents.

Governor looks to cap greenhouses

BY SAMANTHA YOUNG

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is seeking changes to a bill that would make California the first state in the nation to cap greenhouse gas emissions from industrial sources, a move that could put him in a difficult political position if Democrats object to his amendments.

Schwarzenegger has championed policies to combat global warming and has tried to position the state as the first in the nation to limit emissions that are widely blamed for contributing to global warming.

But Democrats fear Schwarzenegger’s requested changes could undermine the effectiveness of the Assembly bill, which would limit emissions from businesses such as power plants and oil refineries.

Both sides agree on the basic framework of the bill — notably the timelines and goals of reducing emissions — but differ over how to accomplish state targets.

Among the stickiest amendments is a proposal being circulated this week by the administration that would create a board composed of agency heads within the governor’s administration. It would have the power to implement a plan that sets emission caps, authority that in the bill is given to the state Air Resources Bill.

It’s an idea Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles, said would give governance authority to an “inherently biased” panel of agency heads accountable only to the governor.

“You need some expertise on climate change on that board, not just agency people,” said bill co-author Fran Pavley, D-Agoura Hills.

Pavley wrote the 2002 law that required the state Air Resources Board to draft regulations curbing greenhouse gas emissions from autos.

California Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Linda Adams defended the proposed amendment, saying the board would have the expertise and time that the Air Resources Board lacks. She also noted that those agency leaders must be confirmed by the Senate.

“What we are proposing makes the bill stronger and workable,” Adams said. “There’s too much at stake not to have a bill that’s workable.”

Both sides said they hope to reach a compromise the governor can sign into law.

Failure to do so could put Schwarzenegger in a tight spot. He would have to consider vetoing a major piece of environmental legislation in a re-election year.

It’s a delicate balance for the governor, who has made global warming a key issue since he signed an executive order last June calling for a reduction in the state’s emission of greenhouse gases. He said the state should cut emissions to 2000 levels by 2010, 1990 levels by 2020 and to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

Many scientists believe greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide are trapping heat in the Earth’s atmosphere, altering weather patterns, shrinking wildlife habitat and raising sea levels around the globe.

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The skinny on Hudson

By The Associated Press

LONDON



HUDSON

Kate Hudson has accepted libel damages from a supermarket tabloid that claimed she was dangerously thin.

The British edition of the National Enquirer has agreed to pay undisclosed damages and print an apology for an October 2005 article that claimed Hudson was “way too thin” and looked “like skin and bones,” Simon Smith, a lawyer for the 27-year-old actress, said Thursday.

American Media Inc., the magazine’s U.S.-based publisher, apologized for “the deep distress and acute embarrassment” caused by the allegations, which it acknowledged were false.

The article — accompanied by a photo of a gaunt-looking Hudson — claimed her mother, Goldie Hawn, planned to confront her about her weight. Both Hudson and Hawn denied the claim.

Smith said Hudson lost weight to get in shape for a film after giving birth to her son, Ryder, in January 2004. He said she took legal action over the magazine’s suggestion she had “recklessly and foolishly endangered her health” by failing to eat.

“The allegations that I sued over were blatantly false, and I felt I had no choice but to set the record straight by challenging them in court,” Hudson said in a statement.

Hudson, who received an Oscar nomination for her role in “Almost Famous,” is married to Chris Robinson of the Black Crowes.

REDWOOD CITY, Calif.

‘Macho Man’ is humbled

Victor Willis, the original policeman in ‘70s disco band The Village People, has pleaded no contest to drug possession charges.

Willis, 54, appeared in court Wednesday. He was arrested in March in South San Francisco after police stopped his car and said they found cocaine and drug paraphernalia. At the time, he faced a

bench warrant for failing to appear at his October sentencing hearing in San Mateo County Superior Court on another drug charge.

A judge will decide Sept. 1 whether Willis should be sentenced to a residential drug treatment program or go to prison. He has been in custody since his arrest.

Defense lawyer Mark Geragos said Willis is serious about breaking the cycle of addiction.

“He’s knocking on the door of double-digits for state prison,” Geragos said outside court. “He’s got to take it one step at a time ... get a handle on this.”

Prosecutor Steve Wagstaffe said Willis needs to prove that he’s committed to recovery.

“He’s going to have to do some convincing,” he said.

Willis, who co-wrote hits such as “Macho Man,” “YMCA” and “In the Navy,” left The Village People in 1980.

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE, Calif.

‘Sense’ star flips his Saturn



OSMENT

Haley Joel Osment was hospitalized after he apparently lost control of his car while heading to his Los Angeles area home, authorities said.

Osment, who was nominated for an Academy Award for his role as a boy who could see dead people in “The Sixth Sense,” was driving a 1995 Saturn about 1 a.m. Thursday when the car collided with a brick pillar and flipped, said Los Angeles County sheriff’s Lt. Greg Sisneros.

The 18-year-old actor was awake and talking following the crash, Sisneros said. He had been alone in the car and was taken to Huntington Hospital in nearby Pasadena.

Sisneros had no information on his condition, and an emergency-room receptionist said no one under that name was at the hospital.

Osment is set to appear in the upcoming “Home of the Giants.” In the film, he plays a high school journalist covering a basketball team as it heads toward the state championship.

La Canada Flintridge, a suburb of Los Angeles, is about 14 miles northeast of downtown.

DALLAS

Corvette sale is a relief



McCONAUGHEY

Matthew McConaughey is selling a sports car on eBay to raise money for hurricane relief.

The 36-year-old actor is donating all proceeds from the sale of his 1971 Corvette Stingray convertible to Oprah’s Angel Network for Katrina and Rita recovery efforts, according to details on the Web site www.oprah.com

Katrina hit the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29, forcing several hundred thousand Louisiana evacuees to flee to Texas. Rita slammed southeast Texas on Sept. 24.

McConaughey, who was born in Uvalde and grew up in Longview, says he bought the Mediterranean blue sports car in the late 1990s at a California car show.

He dubbed it Mako, like the shark, according to his statement on the Web site, and has driven to Mexico and back in the vehicle and many times across Texas, with the top down.

McConaughey’s film credits include roles in “Failure to Launch,” “U-571” and “Sahara.”

CINCINNATI

Baseball fans kept in stitches

Tom Hanks, Ron Howard and Dennis Miller turned a two-hour rain delay during a Reds-New York Mets game into a media event.

The actor, director and comedian sat at a table in an interview room behind the press box Wednesday, cracking jokes and recounting their boyhood baseball memories.

Cincinnati was the third stop on their hush-hush ballparks tour. Hanks, who turned 50 on July 9, decided to visit seven ballparks as a birthday present to himself.

“This is the dream you have all the way back,” said Hanks, star of “The Da Vinci Code,” directed by Howard.

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

SHOWTIMES: FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2006

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Avenue
(310)395-4990

Friday

Tommy 7:30

Saturday

The Wizard of Oz 3:00

Jesus Christ Superstar/Hair 7:30

Sunday

Pennies from Heaven 7:30

AMC7 Santa Monica
1310 3rd Street
(310)289-4262

My Super Ex-Girlfriend (PG-13)
11:50, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:30, 11:25

Pirates of the Caribbean:

Dead Man’s Chest (PG-13)
10:40, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:20, 4:20, 5:30, 6:45, 7:45, 9:00, 10:10, 11:00

Superman Returns (PG-13)
12:30, 4:00, 7:30, 10:50

Nacho Libre (PG)

10:30, 12:35, 2:40, 4:50, 7:05, 9:20

Cars (G)

11:00, 1:45, 4:25, 7:15, 10:00

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-6232

Little Man (PG-13)

11:55, 2:40, 5:00, 7:15, 10:00

The Devil Wears Prada (PG-13)

11:40, 2:00, 2:30, 4:55, 7:00, 8:00, 10:30

Click (PG-13)

11:50, 2:50, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

The Break-Up (PG-13)

11:30, 4:30, 9:45

Landmark Nuwllshire
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310)281-8228

Strangers with Candy (R)

12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00

Who Killed the Electric Car? (PG)

12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50

Laemmle’s Monica Fourplex
1332 2nd Street
(310)394-9741

A Scanner Darkly (R)

1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30

Leonard Cohen: I’m Your Man (PG-13)

1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55

Wordplay (PG)

1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15

An Inconvenient Truth (PG)

12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10

Mann’s Criterion Theatre
1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

Clerks II (R)

12:40, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:20, 12:25am

Lady in the Water (PG-13)

11:00, 11:40, 1:40, 2:10, 4:20, 4:50, 7:10, 7:40, 10:00, 10:30, 12:30

Monster House (PG)

11:30, 12:30, 2:00, 2:50, 4:30, 5:10, 7:00, 7:30, 9:50, 12:00

You, Me and Dupree (PG-13)

11:10, 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 9:20, 10:10

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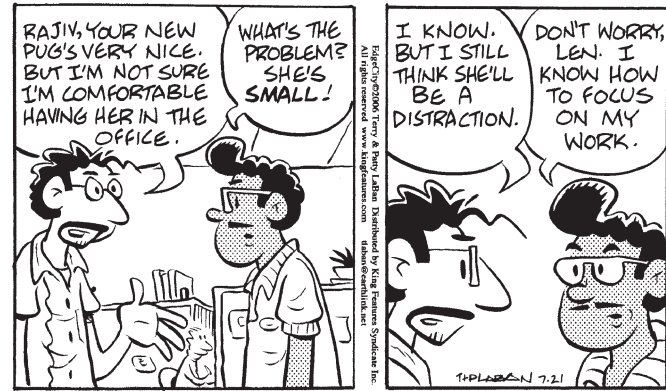
This Is No "Bull"

"If you're gonna play the game you're gonna need the energy"

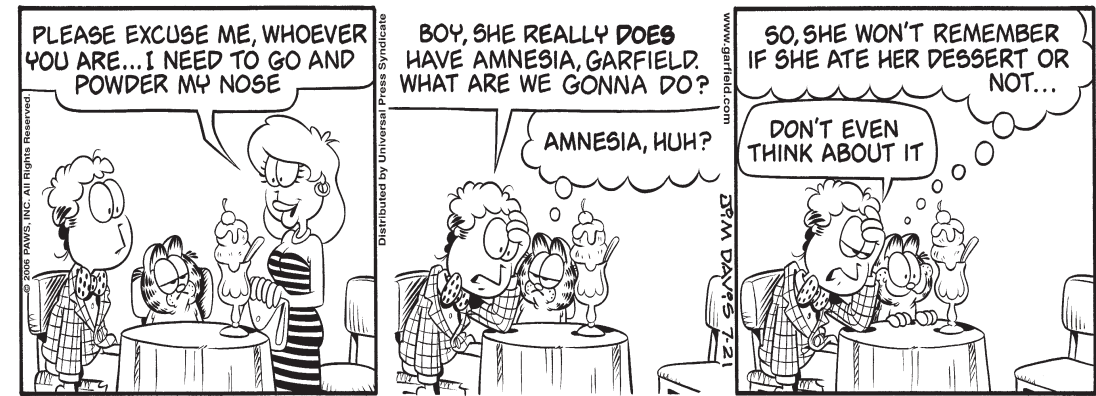
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



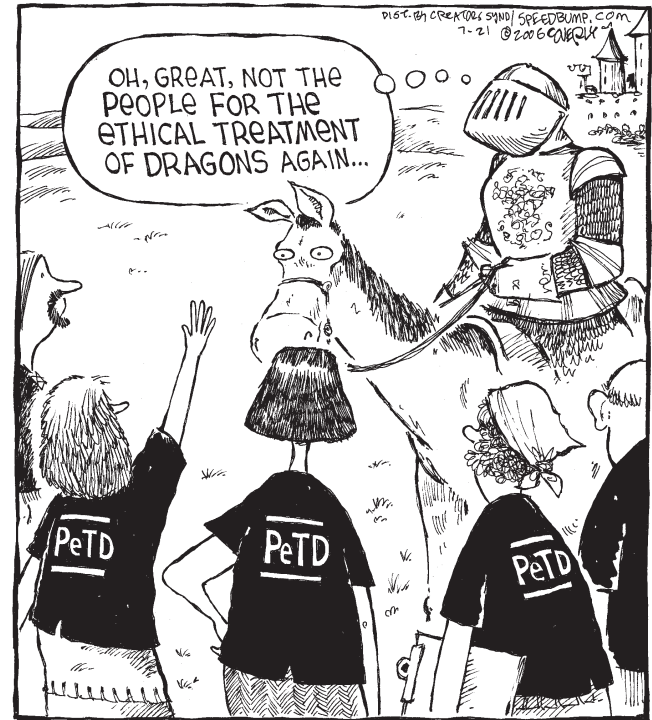
edge city by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



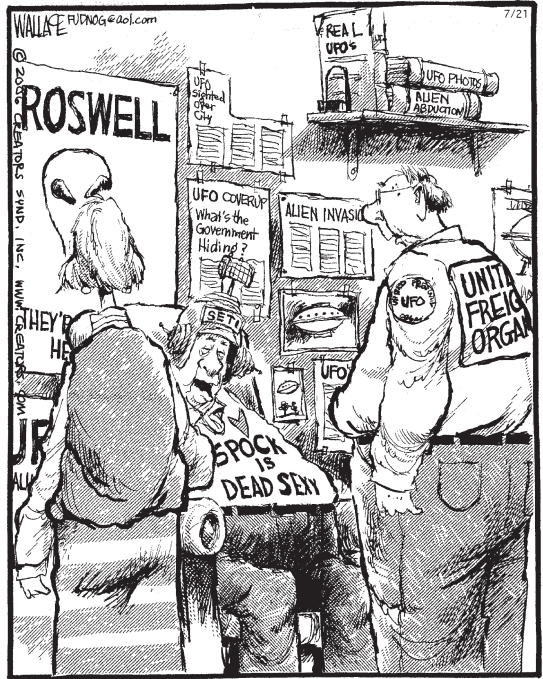
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Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



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By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 1 Spoil
 - 6 Small streams in England
 - 11 Hopping mad
 - 12 Big name in TV talk
 - 13 Script makeup
 - 14 Plow creator
 - 15 Broadway's Salonga
 - 16 Skateboarder's accessory
 - 18 Hostel
 - 19 Hang down
 - 20 UFO pilots
 - 21 Doe's mate
 - 23 Do grammar work
 - 25 Harden
 - 27 Mayday call
 - 28 One of the black keys
 - 30 Jostle
 - 33 Earthy prefix
 - 34 Mauna —
 - 36 Chaotic place
 - 37 Do another take
 - 39 Moose cousin
- 40 Choose to participate
- 41 Mesa's kin
- 43 Tick off
- 44 Late bloomer
- 45 Misplayed
- 46 Cold forecast

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Yesterday's answer

- 6 Grocery stores
- 7 Foil's kin
- 8 Fancy dessert
- 9 Chopping sport
- 10 Loses
- 17 Carpet feature
- 22 Mousse kin
- 24 Hold up
- 26 Like a hawk
- 28 Paging device
- 29 Overly
- 31 Like lava
- 32 Fireplace tools
- 33 Feel blindly
- 35 Up
- 38 Worker's home
- 42 Employ

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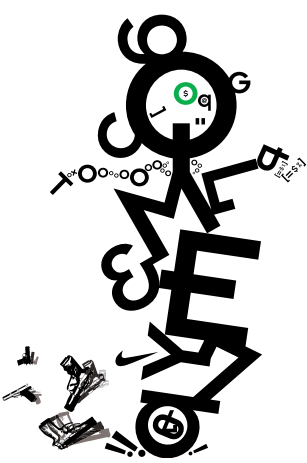
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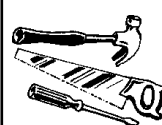
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