



LAND O' GUNS
SEE PAGE 4

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE TELLING SECRETS ISSUE

Price of parking Downtown

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL It wasn't the kind of welcome gift that one would want the first day on the job.

At the end of her inaugural work day at surf and skate shop Active, Megan Mah approached her car and caught sight of an image that made her heart drop, a dreaded

turquoise and white enveloped tucked snugly under her windshield wipers.

It was a \$47 welcome gift she would've rather returned.

"I was bummed the rest of the day," Mah, currently the manager of Active, said.

She's among a handful of downtown employees who compete for the relatively few free, yet restricted, public parking spaces

in the area, moving her car every few hours to avoid receiving a citation or paying the hourly parking rate.

Free parking for many of these workers might become more challenging as City Hall proceeds with its plans to renovate two public garages that abut Santa Monica Place, bringing the aging facilities in line with the mall renovation, which is currently taking place.

While construction at the structures — located on the corner of Second Street and Colorado Avenue, and Broadway and Fourth Street — isn't expected to commence for a few years, some local workers said they aren't pleased to hear about one of the changes that will be taking place inside.

SEE PARKING PAGE 11

LUCE heads to environmental review process

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL A seemingly never-ending series of meetings dissecting the developmental future of Santa Monica wrapped up on Thursday, the discussions over City Hall's general plan update being placed on hiatus as it undergoes environmental analysis.

More than six weeks and nearly 10 meetings after the outline for the Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) was first presented for deliberation, the City Council endorsed the planning document's framework and narrowly approved the maximum building height requirements that will be studied in the EIR.

City Hall has labored over the LUCE, which plots the city's future, for the past several years, holding countless forums to gather community input on the topic of development, one that is of interest to many Santa Monica residents who have complained about the growth that has taken place.

While the completion of the LUCE's first phase this past week was a significant milestone, the process is far from reaching finality as none of the guidelines endorsed by the council, including the height requirements, are set in stone. The council is scheduled to take another crack at the document next spring and comment on the results of the EIR, deliberating again in the summer before the final plan is adopted later in 2009.

"The fun is just beginning," Eileen Fogarty, the director of planning and com-

SEE LUCE PAGE 13



BEACH TUNES

(left) Singer Puerto Plata, a legendary Dominican rhythm maker, leads The Bachata Roja Legends during the Twilight Dance Series at the Santa Monica Pier on Thursday. (top and above) The band played to a large crowd during this installment of the popular concert series.

Photos by Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

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Calendar

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WEEKEND EDITION, JULY 26-27, 2008

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A newspaper with issues



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



'Some like it hot'

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m. — 5 p.m.

The Main Library presents a free screening of the movie, "Some Like it Hot," starring Tony Curtis, Jack Lemmon and Marilyn Monroe. This cross-dressing comedy will be held in the MLK Jr. Auditorium. Seating is first come, first serve.

An evening of success

11201 Olympic Blvd., 7:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

For one night only, Swami Kriyananda will be instructing a class on how to eliminate obstacles and unlock the pathways to achieve material and spiritual success. He will discuss the Universal Laws of Energy and Magnetism, and how to achieve success without sacrificing spiritual principles. For additional information, contact Ananda Sangha at (310)-396-9900, or at ananda@anandala.org.

'Awaay' to Wonderland

1211 Fourth St., 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Individuals of all ages are invited by the Santa Monica Playhouse to help solve riddles, predict the future, travel through time, experience a mini-language lesson, and ultimately help save the fairytale world, during the musical, "And Awaay We Go To Wonderland." Lots of audience participation makes this captivating Rudie-Carlo Family Theater event the perfect summer outing for the entire family. Kids 12 and under \$10.50, adults \$12.50. For more information, call (310) 394-9779 or visit santamonicaplayhouse.com.

Sunday, July 27, 2008

'Montage'

5269 Lankershim Blvd., 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Wonderworld Entertainment presents "Montage," a grand show of circus daring and skill featuring former artists from Cirque Du Soleil. This performance will defy the perception of what is possible, fusing strength, flexibility, and technical skill altogether, creating an appreciation of the human body and its amazing capabilities. Tickets in the side orchestra are \$40, center orchestra \$50, and VIP tickets are \$75. Additional ticket information is available by calling (818) 508-4200, or by visiting www.elportaltheatre.com.

Get it while it's fresh

Downtown Mar Vista, 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Head out to lovely Mar Vista for the weekly Farmers' Market. Located at the corner of Grandview and Venice boulevards, the market includes fresh fruits and vegetables as well as some prepared foods.

Workouts for teens

3026 Nebraska Ave., 3:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Max offers two daily classes teaching teens how to exercise and eat properly in a cool and fun environment. They get to hang out afterwards in the wi-fi lounge, play Nintendo Wii, or simply surf the Internet. For information, call (310) 867-1650.

The other Jerry's kids

1348 14th St., 7 p.m.

Cubensis brings the sights and sounds of a live Grateful Dead concert to 14 Below every Sunday. Cubensis is known for whipping its faithful crowd into a swirling psychedelic mass for three hours straight.

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





SORE SPOT: The trash that collects at the Pico Kenter Drain eventually makes its way into the Pacific Ocean polluting the water and the beach.
Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

State urges steps to prevent debris

BY CHRISTINA YOON
Special to the Daily Press

SM STATE BEACH Trash that litters California's beaches and oceans may be more than an ecological expense — it may come out of consumers' pockets as well.

Lt. Governor John Garamendi gave a preview on Santa Monica State Beach Friday of a report on marine debris prepared by the state's Ocean Protection Council. The report, which was scheduled to be released on Tuesday, was delayed approximately one

week due to ongoing budget negotiations. If released in time, the marine debris report could be used to assist several pieces of legislation aimed at reducing marine debris, one of which proposes a 25 cent charge on plastic shopping bags.

"When it is finally approved by the Ocean Protection Council, my goal is that it becomes the basis for state and legislative action," Garamendi said in an interview on Tuesday.

He appeared at the press conference with representatives from nonprofit groups

including Heal the Bay and Santa Monica Baykeeper to discuss the report. He was also accompanied by Assemblyman Paul Krekorian (D-Burbank), who authored a bill, signed in October 2007, to restrict the use of "nurdles," tiny plastic packing pellets that often migrate to oceans and kill marine life that mistakes them for food.

"The state has been dependent on the ocean for our survival. Now it's become obvious that the oceans depend on us for

SEE DEBRIS PAGE 7

JAMS childcare facility receives state funds

BY STEPHANIE TAFT
Special to the Daily Press

JAMS After three years of planning its formation and construction, officials from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District are making the dream of a joint-use childcare facility here a reality.

The 5,500-square-foot project at John Adams Middle School is being made possible, in part, thanks to funds made available by the state earlier this week. The district will contribute \$300,000, and the Boys & Girls Club, \$1.5 million. The total cost of the project is estimated to total \$2.8 million.

"Part of the vision of this facility is that it will house the most up-to-date technology as possible, and be compatible with what

JAMS students use on campus. This will be a place where kids can come and go after school to do homework and such things," Jan Maez, the school district's chief financial officer, said. "But our primary focus right now is getting construction started."

Maez said that the district is anticipating at least a nine-month construction schedule, and is hoping to begin the project by Aug. 1.

"During the construction period, the school and the Boys & Girls Club will work on defining what the program looks like," she added.

The funds released by Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell were part of a \$234 million allotment earmarked for the construction, modernization and repair of school facilities around the state. Of those funds, \$21 million was designated specifically for joint-use projects.

"Even though our student population is leveling off, the need for new and improved schools remains great because of the age of our facilities," O'Connell said.

The move marks a distinct new direction for joint-use facilities within the school district.

"We've partnered with SMMUSD since the early 1990's and occupied classrooms," Julie Reipen, director of development of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica, said. "This is the first time where we've gotten an actual, stand alone, Boys & Girls Club facility being constructed on the campus. And though the focus will be on middle school age youth, we're going to serve any child that shows up on our doorstep."

news@smdp.com

SEE FILM PAGE 10

Filmmaker channels trauma into film noir for Pasadena film fest

BY CHRISTINA YOON
Special to the Daily Press

MAIN STREET A few hours of wrangling bumper-to-bumper traffic and handling the questionable etiquette of fellow drivers on Los Angeles streets would drive anyone to entertain fantasies of roadside vigilantism.

"Check Brights," a short film by Santa Monica actor and director Barry Levy, takes these vehicular frustrations and manifests them onto the screen. The film plays for the first time in Southern California at the Action On International Film Festival this Sunday at 4 p.m. at the Laemmle Theater in Pasadena.

Levy, who directed and starred in "Check Brights," lived through the consequences of unsafe driving firsthand. In 2001, Levy was the victim of a serious hit-and-run accident that sent him sailing through the air and gave him a serious concussion and major whiplash; for the next two years, he also experienced short-term memory loss.

"I don't even remember my first date with my wife," Levy said.

After going through the difficult process of recovering from his injuries and suing the insurance company involved in his case, Levy found that he had lost himself in the unfortunate events of the accident.

"You tend to forget the bright side," he said.

Then Levy came across the script for "Check Brights," written by fellow Canadian Jason Young. The mild-mannered actor and director felt a connection to the film's narrator and only character, "The Driver," a hardened, chain-smoking traffic monitor who stalks and punishes those who violate such traffic rules as dimming not their brights as they pass other drivers, speeding through school zones and making turns without signaling.

"I was fascinated by this transformation that occurs as soon as we get into our cars," Young said of his screenplay. "What if there was someone that held us accountable for our actions?"

"I wouldn't say I'm a hard-core peacenik but I come pretty close," Levy said. "But I was also in pain for a long time and it's hard not to plot revenge. I would never carry that out but in a lot of ways the film

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SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Take care, McCain

Editor:
What is happening with John McCain? Recently when he was asked if Barack Obama is a socialist, he said, “I don’t know.” If Obama is a socialist, that would come as quite a surprise to his many business supporters. But that’s not the only thing McCain seems confused about. When asked recently if insurance companies should cover birth control, as some do for Viagra, McCain hedged with, “It’s something that I had not thought much about.” Apparently he forgot that he’d voted against legislation calling for insurance coverage of birth control.

It’s all adding up to a disturbing pattern. Take good care of yourself, Sen. McCain. Because I don’t think you can take care of us.

Doug Long
Rio Rancho, N.M.

Hidden agenda?

Editor:
As a former board member of Friends of Sunset Park, I can only laugh at J. Bates’ (picture blacked out, no complete name and no e-mail listed) (July 22, page 5, “Banning jets is about politics, not public safety”) caricature of this civic-minded, intelligent, peace-loving, environmentally friendly group as having some evil agenda (God forbid we should have less noise, more safety, less pollution).

He fails to mention why he thinks this group would even want to get rid of this airport except for some vague reason about the destruction of our historic airport. His figures are skewed and his anonymity in the article bespeaks more of his own hidden agenda than that of this neighborhood association. I wonder if he is Arnold’s pilot?

Gail Myers
Sunset Park

A rebuttal on SMO

Editor:
Regarding the column by J. Bates regarding the Santa Monica Airport (July 22, page 5, “Banning jets is about politics, not public safety”), I’ve written a number of letters and one column on this topic. When I’m writing as a (proud) board member of Friends of Sunset Park, I say so. When I write on my own, as I was in the letter Bates refers to, it would be misleading to use the FOSP identifier.

Bates, ignoring the issues, is annoyed that FOSP’s hundreds of members, along with other hard-working groups in Santa Monica and L. A., have been successful in spotlighting the safety, pollution and noise issues at SMO. Perhaps Bates would prefer SMO had no nighttime curfew. But the courts have said the city has the right to ban air operations overnight to allow residents to get some rest.

The fast-jet overrun danger has been well-documented at airports similar to SMO, a key reason the City Council’s vote to ban those jets was unanimous (anyone who implies the council and FOSP are in cahoots must’ve been hit with a falling ficus tree).

The council, backed by strong arguments from its legal and SMO staffs, approved the ban, despite the FAA’s threat to bleed the city’s resources with an expensive legal battle.

In fact, the FAA now threatens retaliation by blocking federal funds for the Big Blue Bus. That is what’s rightfully called playing politics!

Allowing Class C and D jets at SMO violates the FAA’s own guidelines for such airports. The agency stonewalled the city for years before proposing end-of-runway catch systems inadequate for stopping the fastest jets. It is willing to play runway roulette with the public’s safety rather than bar planes involved in only a dozen takeoffs and landings per day. J. Bates’ annoyance with FOSP, or me, is nothing compared to the organized energy of thousands of Santa Monica and L.A. residents who deserve a safer airport.

Brian R. Bland
Santa Monica



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The land of 10,000 lakes and even more fire arms

I JUST VISITED MINNESOTA, WHICH IS NOT only a beautiful state, but an interesting one. It’s the state whose former Governor was a professional wrestler, and whose next Senator might be a former comedian.

And they’ve got a gun law there that is, well, quite astounding. Adults are allowed to carry guns almost anywhere. If a place of business doesn’t want people to come in toting their weapons, they have to put up a sign saying they ban guns from the premises. If there are no signs, guns are welcome.

The reason I was in Minnesota was to visit my sister-in-law who was in the hospital. Sure enough, on the outside of the hospital, was a sign saying I couldn’t bring a gun inside. Good idea. Can you imagine what it would be like if people were allowed to bring guns into a hospital? Think of that unhappy patient: “You call this a good nose job, Doc?” BAM!

Out of curiosity, I e-mailed the state of Minnesota and asked them if it was legal for me to walk into a bank with a gun. Their response was that it was legal unless that bank had a sign that specifically prohibited people from doing so. You probably can’t smoke in there, but you can bring in a gun. And this was the law!

Of course, there are exceptions to this law. People can’t bring their guns to school property, jails, or courthouses. My favorite exception is that people are prohibited from carrying their guns onto a field while hunting big game by archery, except when hunting bear. Trust me, I’m never going to put that exception to the test. On the other hand, there are some circumstances in which you can carry a gun and don’t even need a permit. For example, you can carry a gun to and from work, which I’m sure makes “road rage” a little more exciting for everybody.

The official name of the law is the Minnesota Citizen’s Personal Protection Act of 2003. To me, a personal protection act is putting on some deodorant.

Obviously, those who passed this law believe that people are safer if more of them carry guns. So everywhere I went, I kept looking around me for people with weapons. I didn’t see any. Then my brother explained that this was probably because, although it’s not required, people are allowed to carry concealed weapons.

I never understand the idea of concealed weapons for “good guys.” If you feel your carrying a gun is a deterrent against a bad guy committing a crime against you, wouldn’t you want that bad guy to see your gun? If you’re wearing your gun in a holster like old-time cowboys, a mugger will probably move onto somebody else.

But if you’ve got that gun hidden in your pants, how is that going to stop a bad guy from trying to hurt you?

Once I learned about this concealed weapons thing, I was checking out everybody, wondering if they were secretly carrying a gun. “How about those three noisy girls behind me in the movie theater? Were they packing lead? What about the busty woman on the other side of the restaurant. Did she have a gun in her bra or was she just glad to see me? What about that minister striding toward me? Was he a gunslinger for God?” It makes for a somewhat uneasy visit.

OUT OF CURIOSITY, I E-MAILED THE STATE OF MINNESOTA AND ASKED THEM IF IT WAS LEGAL FOR ME TO WALK INTO A BANK WITH A GUN. THEIR RESPONSE WAS THAT IT WAS LEGAL UNLESS THAT BANK HAD A SIGN THAT SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED PEOPLE FROM DOING SO.

Yet, some people don’t think a Minnesota-type law has gone far enough. The governor of Georgia, Sonny Perdue, wants guns to be allowed at public areas of the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. “Sonny” said, “If my wife wanted to carry a gun, if she was going from the parking lot, walking from one of those far parking lots to pick up a grandchild or something like that, I think that’s a good idea, yes.” Sure, who doesn’t think it makes perfect sense to pack heat when picking up your grandchildren?

Has the world gone completely insane? There’s a governor who thinks it’s OK for people to carry guns at the airport, but we’re not allowed to carry a bottle of shampoo onto the plane.

LLOYD GARVER has written for many television shows, ranging from “Sesame Street” to “Family Ties” to “Home Improvement” to “Frasier.” He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He can be reached at lloydgarver@gmail.com. Check out his website at lloydgarver.com and his podcasts on iTunes.

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STRAY talk

A CENTER-CUT, NO-FAT REVIEW OF WHAT WAS SAID THIS PAST WEEK BY FOLKS THE WORLD OVER AND RIGHT AT HOME

“We don’t have a public works commission, we don’t have a roads maintenance commission. We have a professional urban arborist who is well respected and he makes recommendations to the council and I think that’s enough.”

— Councilmember Bob Holbrook regarding the possible formation of a urban forestry commission.

“If ambition has overtaken McCain, so has his need to tell jokes. Somebody on his staff should tell him he’s not funny. We’ve had eight years of Bush’s giggling at his own jokes, even when they bomb. The thought of even four years of McCain doing it is unbearable.”

— SMDP columnist Jack Neworth writing in “Laughing Matters.”

“We definitely don’t want to encourage the use of small side streets. We still believe Ocean Park Boulevard is a better route from the time perspective.”

— Lucy Dyke, the city’s transportation planning manager, regarding a pilot program that restriped Ocean Park Boulevard.

“We’re looking at possibly changing the time frame to early fall or late spring. The area is already at capacity during the summer, so we’re thinking of a time when there’s slightly less pressure on the community.”

— Jessica Cusick, City Hall’s Cultural Affairs manager, regarding the next installment of Glow, the city’s first all-night art festival.

“This means we’ll be able to have an improved sidewalk cleaning program. It means that the festoon lighting program will continue and ultimately be improved.”

— Gary Gordon, the executive director of the Main Street Business Improvement Association, regarding a recently approved assessment district.

“There’s definitely been some conflict in the past. There was more polarization between the chamber and the city at one point.”

— Laurel Rosen, Chamber of Commerce president, regarding its relationship with City Hall in the past.

“... if McCain is trying to get people to vote for him to be the leader of the free world yet still freely admits the economy won’t be his strong suit if he gets elected, could I really trust him to time my contractions accurately? And what assurances will I have that some loose-cannon clergyman from Obama’s past won’t try to sneak into the nursery and whisper all sorts of crazy conspiracy-theory nursery rhymes into my newborn’s ear?”

— SMDP columnist Meredith C. Carroll writing in “Meredith Pro Tem.”

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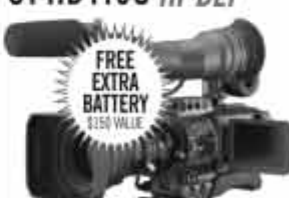
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The QLine

EMPTY CUPS

This past week, Q-line asked:
Coffee giant Starbucks has decided to close one of its 15 locations in Santa Monica. Do you think there are still too many Starbucks in the city?
Here are your responses:

"YES, I DO THINK THAT THERE ARE TOO many Starbucks in this small city. One or two would have been quite sufficient."

"TALK ABOUT OVERKILL, OR BEYOND THE saturation point. Starbucks is the master of that."

"THE QUANTITY OF THE REMAINING 14 Starbucks shops in Santa Monica, fails when one considers the quantity of other coffee shops in Santa Monica, and nearby areas adjacent to Santa Monica, including the coin-offering coffee vending machines that are plentiful. Folks enjoy drinking coffee. I know that I do. The more the better. I enjoy the jitters. Still, in the final analysis, the bottom profit or loss line, will determine the feasibility in keeping or maintaining a business."

"YEAH, THERE ARE TOO MANY STARBUCKS in this country, and in the world. They should shut them all down, tear the buildings down, salt the earth so nothing grows there, and then use mass hypnosis so everybody will forget that they even existed. That's the only way to deal with Starbucks."

"IT SEEMS TO ME THAT STARBUCKS HAS more than 16,000 locations around the world. When it was announced that 600 Starbucks shops would be closing – well – I think the media made a bigger deal out of it then it really is. Maybe a lot of the 600 stores that are closed will become Pinkberry's, which would be great for the Pinkberry addicts."

"OF COURSE THERE ARE TOO MANY Starbucks in Santa Monica. And while your at it, we've got too many of the old-time City Council members. Give them the Starbucks and give them to the council members, but bring in something new!"

"I HOPE EVERY STARBUCKS IS CLOSED IN Santa Monica. They are a mess, especially the ones on the promenade. They harbor all the homeless, and you have no seat to sit down on, so I feel that they should be closed."

"YES, I THINK THAT THERE ARE TOO many Starbucks in this city. In fact, I think there are too many coffee shops to begin with. I think that they are all too expensive. Starbucks coffee is delicious. Why don't they just sell it over the counter in a bag? I know it's expensive, but it's very, very good. But I don't think we need them all over the city."

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Environmentalists support marine report on debris

FROM DEBRIS PAGE 3

their survival," Krekorian said.

The preview of the marine debris report by Garamendi and his supporters was set amid sunbathers, rollerbladers and families soaking in the Santa Monica summer.

"Behind me is the Pacific Ocean and one of the most famous of all beaches in America if not the world," Garamendi said. "But our beaches and our oceans are threatened. They're threatened by a deluge of garbage."

The report will provide an in-depth description of marine debris issues in California, give several priority recommendations for legislators and call for coordination of statewide policies to take steps to reduce garbage that often ends up in the ocean. Garamendi said that this last section of the report was included as a cautionary point.

"Right now the state laws are interfering with cities and counties," Garamendi said in a statement released Thursday. "We must work together to move forward."

One proposed bill that could use the help of the forthcoming report is AB 2058, authored by Assemblyman Lloyd Levine (D-Van Nuys).

The bill would require large grocery stores and pharmacies to meet a 70 percent diversion requirement for the one-time plastic bags that they distribute to shoppers. Currently, a law is already in place that requires stores to take steps to encourage shoppers to bring one-time plastic bags back to the stores for recycling. Stores will be required to charge a minimum of 25 cents per bag to shoppers if the 70 percent is not met by 2011.

Environmental group Heal the Bay is one of the sponsors of AB 2058. Sarah Abramson, the group's coastal resources director, showed her support for the report as a way to bring the legislation to the forefront of the Assembly's attention. Heal the Bay has worked closely with the Ocean Protection Council since its inception in 2004.

"I certainly hope that the report is released as soon as possible," she said. "The momentum on plastic bags is very strong right now on the local level."

THIS IN MY OPINION IS NOT A COMPLICATED ISSUE."

Tom Ford

Executive director of Santa Monica Baykeeper

Garamendi first requested this report a year and a half ago as a former member of the Ocean Protection Council. He had also worked previously with environmental groups to form The Pacific Protection Initiative, which introduced several proposed bills related to banning and reducing plastics that may contain toxins.

"Lt. Gov. Garamendi was a strong leader on those issues," Abramson said. "He has continued efforts to ensure that harmful ocean trash is prevented and reduced."

Garamendi also spoke on Tuesday about the huge costs to city, county and state programs to dispose of garbage such as plastic bags and packaging materials. For example, the city of Los Angeles will spend \$125 million over 10 years to remove garbage from its streets and CalTrans will spend \$300 million over 10 years to clean Los Angeles County highways.

He said that the report and the legislation it hopes to influence would reduce the garbage that is created in the first place by encouraging businesses and consumers to use greener alternatives.

Tom Ford, the executive director for Santa Monica Baykeeper, said that the report was integral in bringing environmental issues to community members who could take steps to improve marine debris issues.

"Environmental issues become so big that people lose their place," he said. "This, in my opinion, is not a complicated issue."

Garamendi stressed the importance of the report as a long-term foundation, not a quick fix to California's debris issues.

"These things are usually not done in one year," he said. "It's important that we put a lot of time and effort into this."

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NOTICE OF ELECTION AND ARGUMENT DEADLINE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a Special Municipal Election will be held in the City of Santa Monica on Tuesday, November 4, 2008, and setting the deadline for submittal of arguments in favor and in opposition of the following measure:

PROPOSITION " ": Shall an ordinance be adopted to continue and update Santa Monica's Utilities Tax on telecommunication services to fund City activities including police, fire, paramedic and emergency services, school and afterschool programs, gang and drug prevention programs, parks and recreation programs, environmental protection and other general fund services, with tax-exemptions for low-income seniors and disabled residents, with provisions ensuring equal treatment of taxpayers regardless of technology used, and with expenditures subject to independent annual audits?"

Yes

No

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to Article 4, Chapter 3, Division 9 of the Elections Code of the State of California, the legislative body of the City, or any member or members thereof authorized by the body, or any individual voter or bona fide association of citizens, or any combination of voters and associations, may file a written argument, not to exceed 300 words in length, accompanied by the printed name(s) and signature(s) of the author(s) submitting it, or if submitted on behalf of an organization, the name of the organization, and the printed name and signature of at least one of its principal officers who is the author of the argument, for or against the City measures. No more than five signatures of authors shall be accepted with any argument submitted.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that, based upon the time reasonably necessary to prepare and print the arguments and sample ballots for the election, the City Clerk has fixed **Wednesday, August 6, 2008**, during normal office hours, as posted, as the date after which no arguments for or against the City measures may be submitted to the Clerk for printing and distribution to the voters as provided in the Article 4. Arguments shall be submitted to the City Clerk, accompanied by the printed name(s) and signature(s) of the author(s) submitting it, or if submitted on behalf of the organization, the name of the organization, and the printed name and signature of at least one of its principal officers who is the author of the argument, at City Hall, Santa Monica, California. Arguments may be changed or withdrawn until and including the date fixed by the City Clerk.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 11.04.125 rebuttal arguments not exceeding 250 words, as submitted by the authors of the opposing direct arguments, may be filed with the Clerk, and shall be signed by any one of the persons filing the original argument, any combination of the persons signing the original argument or by all of the persons filing the original argument. The rebuttal shall not be signed by any person who did not sign the original argument nor shall it contain more than five signatures. The deadline for filing rebuttals with the City Clerk may be not more than ten days after the final date for filing original arguments, the date being Monday, August 18, 2008.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 11.04.190, the City Clerk shall make any ordinance, impartial analysis, or direct arguments and rebuttals filed under the authority of the elections code available for public inspection in the City Clerk's office for a period of ten calendar days immediately following the filing deadline of such materials. Any person seeking a writ of mandate or an injunction requiring any or all of the materials to be amended or deleted shall comply with the time requirements in Elections Code Sections 9295 and 13313 for filing such actions.

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Filmmaker explores his dark side in short

FROM FILM PAGE 3

was an exorcism."

Levy made "Check Brights" on a budget of approximately \$25,000 over three years. The entire film was made in Levy's home, using his own vintage BMW. He used cinematography tricks that he picked up as an actor on the set of a Stephen King movie several years ago.

"I would leave it and come back, leave and come back," Levy said. "I don't think I had all my problems solved. There was still some residual pain while filming."

The film is set to a soundtrack featuring music from electronic duo The Crystal Method in the form of a car CD player as the lead character makes his rounds. The music was a choice Levy said he never thought would come to fruition.

"I said to myself, 'I'll just use it because I'll never get the rights and then replace it.' But then I realized I can't change it. It took months of phone calls and e-mails."

Levy hopes that the film's success in the film festival circuit will lead to a feature-length version of "Check Lights." He recently optioned another screenplay written by Jason Young, along with co-writer David White, which Levy describes as "the werewolf story that's never been told."

"Check Brights" will play at the Action On film festival, opening for Kevin Keresey's comedy feature "The Rat Thing."

IN A LOT OF
WAYS THE FILM
WAS AN EXORCISM."

Barry Levy
Filmmaker

The festival runs from July 25-31 in Pasadena, and will end with a black-tie dinner and awards show featuring actors Michael Madsen, John Savage and Jason Statham.

Although "Check Brights" has helped Levy to work through the unresolved issues that came along with his 2001 accident, he has had no shortage of bad driver's luck. Recently, he was involved in a serious crash caused by a drunk driver on Main Street, crushing his car into the back of a bus. This time, however, he came away from the accident unharmed and the perpetrator was arrested immediately. Still, Levy's negative experiences have not driven him even close to the lengths of his psychopathic main character.

"I love driving and I've always loved driving," he said. "People always say your stuff's all so dark but you're not. It's a way of getting that stuff out."

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CURRENT LOOK: The parking structure at Colorado Avenue and Second Street is slated to be completely renovated.

Mall garage changes could make parking woes worse for employees

FROM PARKING PAGE 1

The two garages are the only city-owned structures where drivers can park their cars without receiving a stub and paying an attendant. While the cars are currently restricted to three free hours, many, specifically workers whose employers don't provide parking, leave their vehicles far longer, checking their tires occasionally for chalk marks, an indicator that a parking enforcement officer is on the lookout.

Post-renovation, the mall structures will operate on attendant parking, bringing them in line with the other city-owned garages in Downtown where drivers are allowed to leave their cars free for two hours and begin paying the hourly rate after that time has elapsed.

"We just want to make the pricing and the use of the parking consistent with the other downtown parking garages," Nia Tang, a senior administrative analyst with the Economic Development Division (EDD) at City Hall, said.

The estimated \$10 million project, a cost that will be shared by both City Hall and the mall's operator Macerich, will remodel the exterior of the two garages, transforming them from the dingy outdated look of the 1980s to a modernized and sleek facade, improv-

ing what many believe would be the first image that visitors would have of the area. The City Council earlier this month approved a partnership with Macerich for the project.

"It's their first and last experience at the property so it's important to have a good first and last impression," Bob Aptaker, the vice president of development at Macerich, said. "What we're trying to do is make it easier to access, make it more convenient, and make it have a feel-good experience all the way around."

The ground floor of the structures will feature ground-floor retail spaces and protected bicycle parking that could hold nearly 300 spaces. The retail spots will be leased by Macerich, which has yet to determine the type of businesses they will target. It was one of the reasons why the national mall operator felt it was important to act as the leasing agent, ensuring a synergy exists with the stores in the new Santa Monica Place, which is expected to reopen in late 2009.

"The facade improvements are about freshening up something, creating a new and improved look," Elana Buegoff, a senior administrative analyst with EDD, said.

The project also includes solar panels and new landscaping along Colorado. At least one of the garages will also have a valet parking option

that Aptaker called "white glove," unique in that it will include a system where customers can page when they're ready to leave.

The improvements at the mall garages will coincide with the similar enhancements that will take place at the city-owned structures along Second and Fourth streets.

"We really want this to be a very good experience," Aptaker said.

City Hall and Macerich will each be responsible for handling a certain set of tasks — the former paying for the aesthetic improvements, outside stairs and solar panels; the latter paying for the security cameras, new elevators and inside stairwell. Both will jointly pay for the attendant parking booths and gates as well as new signs.

The intent for the renovation is to change the perception of the two structures.

"When you look at the garages today, they look like parking garages and we really want them to represent Santa Monica Place as part of the same property," Aptaker said. "That is why it is so important they look good and visually are enhanced."

Macerich previously provided free parking for mall employees. That could all change when the garage reopens as employees will be asked to leave their

SEE PARKING PAGE 12



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Rendering courtesy Pugh + Scarpa Architecture

FUTURE SHOCK: The parking structure at Broadway and Fourth Street is in for major changes.

Employees struggle to park

FROM PARKING PAGE 11

cars at the nearby Civic Center Parking Garage.

Several shoppers to the area seem unfazed by the changes slated for the mall garages.

"As long as there's two hours free," Monet Brock said after parking her car in the Broadway lot.

For many Downtown workers, the changes in the garages might make them rethink their mode of transportation.

Travis Miller, who works at Vans shoe store directly across from the Broadway structure, has to arrive 20 minutes before his shift in order to secure a spot, which doesn't come as easily since more than 50 percent of the garage was recently shut down.

"It's crowded and sometimes takes me half an hour to find a spot," Miller, who also moves his car every three hours, said. "But if they're going to change it, I'll just have to deal."

Miller said that his company has only a few parking permits available.

"Unfortunately, it's the closest place to park," he said. "If it changes, I'll be encouraged to ride my bike more."

Some workers said it's challenging to leave the stores to check their cars, especially for those who run a one-man show.

Casey Collins, who has worked for Papyrus on the Third Street Promenade for more than a year, said she used to leave during 10-minute breaks to check on her car at the Broadway garage. Today she has her boyfriend for drop offs and pick ups.

Collins estimated that she has spent more than \$500 on tickets over the past year.

"We just can't leave every two hours to move a car," Collins said when notified of the changes to the mall garages. "It's just not feasible."

While some say it isn't the responsibility of City Hall or Macerich to provide free parking for all Downtown employees, they would like to see a discounted monthly permit rate offered for workers.

Several of the structures have spaces occupied by monthly permits, including at the public library and Civic Center, which is the only one out of the bunch that actually has spaces available for sale. The remainder have a long waiting list.

The permits cost \$82.50 a month, far less than if a driver was to pay the flat \$7 every day.

"We limit the monthly parking spaces in the downtown area in order to make the two-hour spaces available," Lucy Dyke, the transportation planning manager for City Hall, said. "In general we like to operate the garages so some spaces are available."

Approximately 23,000 monthly spaces were sold during the fiscal 2006-07 year, which if divided by 12 months, would mean there were about 1,900 people with an account.

Dyke said that some of the accountholders might also have their names on the waiting list to find a more desirable spot to their workplace.

A total of 3.8 million people enter and exit the Downtown garages every day.

Dyke said the mall structures are not intended to serve as all-day parking.

"Employee parking is really important but it's a complicated problem and the city struggles with both not having resources to make parking available to everyone at whatever price they want," Dyke said.

She pointed out that the downtown area is roughly the same size as Santa Monica College, the largest single transit generator in the city. Both places have a high use of public transit relative to parking, she said.

"To the extent we can avoid having everyone driving a car, it will help the mobility for everyone else," she said.

For some employers, the monthly parking permit is too costly to provide to all of their workers. Such is the case for Hannah Hartnell, who runs a bridal dress shop on Fourth Street and currently owns three permits for a structure located one block away.

She subleases one permit to another store owner and gives one to a long-time employee. The rest of her staff, which is comprised of interns, park in the Broadway mall garage.

"If I didn't have that garage, I don't know what I would do," Hartnell said in reference to the mall lot.

Hartnell said that City Hall should consider offering an employee discount and shuttle service from the Civic Center to the downtown area, making it more attractive for workers near Wilshire to purchase a permit.

"If they want to fill the garage they should have a discount, that would accomplish it," she said.

Stephanie Taft contributed to this report

melodyh@smdp.com

Document to be adopted next fall

FROM LUCE PAGE 1

munity development, said.

The endorsed framework included a number of revisions to the original document that was presented in mid-June, the majority of which focused on the height requirements for the major boulevards, and proposed activity centers and districts, responding to the concerns of council and community members that development would be too dense.

The activity centers, which are proposed at several lively intersections throughout the city, would be a one-stop shopping type area where drivers can leave their cars in one place and complete their errands on foot. Other districts, such as Bergamot Station

and Memorial Park, would be centered around transit projects, such as the Exposition Light Rail.

The revised LUCE proposal shaved off a few feet from many of the previously suggested building height requirements, including reducing the maximum for a building in the mixed-use zone on Wilshire Boulevard from 58 feet to 55, which would be permitted for a developer who provides affordable housing. The base height for new buildings in that zone would be 32 feet, the same as permitted today. Developers who would provide "public benefits" would be allowed to build up to 45 feet, down from the previous LUCE proposal of 48.

But the changes were still dismissed by

several of the councilmembers who found them to be too dense, especially when taking into consideration the floor area ratio (FAR), which in some cases, such as on Wilshire, would be higher than allowed today.

"These are inappropriate for this boulevard and in this city and I think that with proper tweaking and adjustment we can get them in a reasonable range," Councilmember Ken Genser said in reference to Wilshire. Genser was one of three officials, including Councilmembers Bobby Shriver and Kevin McKeown, who voted against several of the height proposals.

The LUCE is said to preserve the integrity of more than 90 percent of the city and all of the existing neighborhoods. The council

also directed staff to write a policy that would require the exterior of structures in multifamily zones to be appropriate to the surroundings.

Such a policy would mandate that new infill housing be designed to preserve the character and scale of the community.

Several residents spoke in favor of more development, as long as it would help with public transit.

"If you do not have the density where it needs to be, you are absolutely ruling that (transit) will not happen and you are absolutely preventing the people from getting what they need, and it's mass transit," Greg Ames, a resident, said.

melodyh@smdp.com

An Important Message from Gilmore Bank

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Play Time

Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

This ain't a 'Cabaret'

IN THEATER, AS IN BASEBALL OR ANY other group endeavor, a team is only as good as its weakest link. And if your team is full of weak links, you're in trouble.

Unfortunately, this is the case with the eerily beautiful musical, "Cabaret," now running at the Morgan-Wixson Theatre in Santa Monica.

The city is known to have a plethora of talented actors and singers living close by its many fine theaters. Apparently they were all engaged elsewhere, however, when this production was being cast. One has only to wince through Hannah Campbell's completely off-key rendition of the title song and her raucous and shrill "Mein Herr" to recognize that this is not the production's finest hour (or finest two-and-a-half hours, to be precise).

To give credit where it's due, however, (and bleak as that prospect is), Ron Gloff, who has a reasonably good voice, does a nice job as Clifford Bradshaw, the identity chosen by author Christopher Isherwood for his autobiographical alter ego. (Bradshaw was actually one of Isherwood's middle names.) Gloff is understated and credible, and he doesn't end all his songs with a harsh and grating bellow, as most of the other singers do.

Also good, in a soft, understated way, is Joanna Churgin, as the landlady, Fraulein Schneider, who sings her numbers in a sweet, earnest voice. Especially her solo, "So What?" whose clever lyrics

are an anthem to staying calm in the face of trivial woes.

Kashena Sampson as Fraulein Kost, the sailor-loving lady who does "business" in Fraulein Schneider's house, has a fine strong voice which she puts to good use outsing the rest of the company. There ought to be more of her.

Anne Gesling, who is the producer and musical director, also served as costume designer, and in that capacity has designed some appropriately tacky costumes for the Kit Kat Club girls, some slinky and silky 1930s costumes for Sally (including a gorgeous black dress with a handkerchief hemline that would be exquisitely fashionable today), and wide-lapelled suits for the men. Further, the Nazi armbands worn by Herr Ludwig and the Nazi Youth singers (who did a powerful job on the chilling "Tomorrow Belongs to Me") would have been more effective and affecting if they had been real. Drawing the swastikas on the armbands with a black marking pen just didn't do it for me.

"Cabaret" will continue Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Aug. 3 at the Morgan-Wixson Theatre, 2627 Pico Blvd., in Santa Monica. For tickets, call the box office at (310) 828-7519.

CYNTHIA CITRON can be reached at ccitron@socal.rr.com.

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Send comments to editor@smdp.com

In search of perfect jeans

LAST WEEK, LEVI STRAUSS & CO.

announced that it would stop manufacturing different cuts of its signature 501's, and start selling a one-cut-fits-all across the globe.

Imagine a young, curvy Brazilian woman peeling off her 501's and handing them to a 50 year-old Japanese businessman. She puts on his suit. He puts on her jeans.

It's very Kum Ba Yah. It's very "Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants."

Imagine all the people, wearing just one cut. The "global fit" jeans have yet to hit the stores, but on Tuesday, I went to the Levi's store at the Third Street Promenade to try on a pair of good ol' fashioned 501's.

It had been a year since I last subjected myself to the nightmare of tugging on pair after pair of jeans in search of something unattainable: Nirvana in denim. I wanted a length that brushed the top of my shoe. Nothing high-waisted. Nothing pleated or tapered. Nothing too light. None of that designer-fading on the butt.

And no whiskering around the crotch. Who came up with that? Look at my crotch. Doesn't it remind you of a cat? What's another word for cat?

Every pair I tried on revealed derriere décolletage. Was this a design flaw of the jeans, or a design flaw of me?

Why couldn't I just find a pair of jeans

**PART OF THE PROBLEM
WOMEN HAVE WHEN
TRYING ON JEANS IS
THAT WE EACH WANT TO
BE A CERTAIN SIZE, AND
WE WANT THE SIZE TO BE
SMALL. THOUGH THE SIZE
IS PRINTED IN A PLACE
WHERE NO ONE ELSE CAN
SEE IT, WE DEFINE
OURSELVES BY THAT
SECRET NUMBER.**

that were so comfortable that I would forget I was wearing them? Jeans that would make me feel naked. Jeans made by the fake tailors in "The Emperor's New Clothes."

I would have to settle. Terribly disappointing. The only option was to buy

myself a heavy-duty sewing machine, a bolt of dark indigo denim, light some candles and channel the spirit of Levi Strauss.

During the gold rush, Strauss arrived in San Francisco to sell fabric to miners so that they could make tents. The fabric was serge, a strong cloth, from Nimes, a town in the south of France. Serge de Nimes. The name was shortened to denim.

Strauss heard miners complaining that their britches weren't strong enough. He was only 24 years old when he came up with the idea to take his denim and make it into pants. A global fit, for miners of all races. Red and yellow, black and white...

On Tuesday, an employee at the Levi's store helped me carry eight pairs of jeans back to the dressing room. The jeans were different cuts of the same size: Hi Rise Flares, Mid Rise Straights, Mid Rise Boots, Ultra Low Boots, Ultra Low Skinnies, Low Skinnies, Vintage 70's Flares, and, of course, 501's.

In addition to what was available in the store, I looked online. There are Swanks, Slouch Straights, and Super Lows, not to mention cuts like Relaxed and Perfectly Slimming.

It was vertigo-inducing. The shades of blue swirled around me: Stonewash, Sky, Twilight, Ocean, Blue Wave, Blue Rail, Arctic Blue, Junction, West Coast, Metro, Rodeo, Road Trip, Dusty Road.

JEANS 101

- Dark indigo is the most slimming shade of denim.
- Flares and boot cuts are flattering on most women because they create a balanced silhouette.

The dressing room was my-own-personal-hell hot. "How are things going in there?" asked an employee.

"Fine," I said, doing the squat-test in the first pair of jeans. "It's really warm." "Yeah, it's the lighting."

Part of the problem women have when trying on jeans is that we each want to be a certain size, and we want the size to be small. Though the size is printed in a place where no one else can see it, we define ourselves by that secret number.

After what seemed like an eternity, but was really more like 20 minutes, I carried a pair of 534's to the register. I was actually happy about buying them. I was not going home empty-handed. I was victorious ... until an employee told me Levi's would soon be discontinuing my almost-perfect cut.

MARIEL HOWSEPIAN digs black coffee, fairy tales and a man in coveralls. She lives in Santa Monica and can be reached at Mariel_Rodriguez@antiochla.edu.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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BOOKREVIEW

BY DANE ROBERT SWANSON



'The Forbidden'

Beverly Lewis • Bethany House

Change happens. Things must develop and grow. Yet in a small community of Amish things tend to stagnate. Then all at once new ideas and new ways of doing things intrude upon the community. Choices must be made. Change must be allowed or denied.

When most of us hear "Amish" we think of people atop horse and buggy and wearing hats. We don't think progress and modern ways. We think of families of about eight children on the average. Farming comes to mind as the means of livelihood.

The truth is, the Amish community is currently in the midst of being confronted by change. During the mid-1960s there was a growing debate among the Pennsylvania Amish about tractors and other modern conveniences. People were gathering to hold Bible studies without the bishop's consent. This was leading to a revival among the Amish.

It is around this actual historical event that Beverly Lewis writes her series known as "The Courtship of Nellie Fisher." "The Forbidden" is the second

book in the trilogy

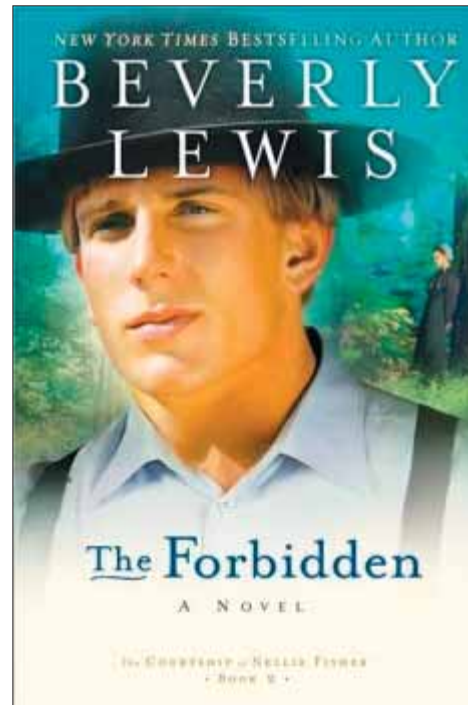
Nellie Fisher is the strong and loving main character who sacrifices all to hold together the split between the old ways and the uprising of the New Order Amish church.

The tension is between her family's new beliefs and her love for Caleb Yoder who holds staunchly to his old-order beliefs. If he marries Nellie he loses the farm which is his inheritance. The land has been in the family for many generations and his father wishes to pass it on to his son.

But to keep it, Caleb must marry a woman of the old-order. To keep it he must persuade Nellie to give up her family's belief system and the family bakery she runs almost single-handedly.

"I expect you to marry a respectable girl from one of the families in our church. It's the only way to get your land," his father tells him.

That is one plot. The other has to do with the desire of Rhoda to be part of the world around her. Electricity and phones as well as cars were forbidden, of course.



We see a split forming within the Amish community over the old order and the new way. The old order wants to keep

things simple and in its time-honored belief system.

The new way wants to allow freedom of each member to determine the teachings found in the Christian faith.

The theme of this book is change. The premise is that real, lasting change divides even the most tightly-knit families.

An example of that is the splitting of a family over systems. In the first book of this series we saw the unselfish giving of twins to a cousin who is unable to bear children. In this book the twins are taken back because of the difference in belief systems.

Another change is seen as Rhoda seeks a car, a phone and a life in the city away from her family.

As the book ends we are left unsure about the love between Nellie Mae and Caleb because of the difference in belief.

The third book in the series should be able to tie up all the loose ends.

Comments and concerns can be sent to smdp_review@yahoo.com.

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Photo courtesy Sony

DOING TIME: Stephen Dorff plays Wade Porter, an average American guy in 'Felon.'

MOVIE REVIEW 'Felon' is the real deal

BY TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE

Ric Roman Waugh's "Felon" is a gritty look at the reality of the events that can transpire when a law-abiding citizen – and one of modest financial means – is convicted of involuntary manslaughter and suddenly finds himself a victim of the injustice and brutality of the prison system.

Stephen Dorff plays Wade Porter, an average American guy trying to live the American Dream – he's just bought a home that he shares with his live-in love/soon-to-be new wife (Marisol Nichols) and their young son.

They've allocated most of their liquid assets to pay for their upcoming nuptials, so things are pretty tight. But as fate would have it, Porter's also just been approved for a business line of credit.

Life is looking up ... that is until a break-in occurs, and Porter, in a fit of blind rage, charges after and kills the perp.

What follows is a series of escalating events; one more unfortunate than the other, until what was to be a "short" 18-month stint in a minimum security prison, turns into a five year ordeal with Porter being transferred to the Security Housing Unit (aka the SHU) a special facility for the deadliest of criminals.

The film is based on actual events that transpired at California's Corcoran State Prison and was primarily shot on location at the New Mexico State Penitentiary,

home of one of the deadliest prison riots in U.S. history, with actual prisoners functioning as extras in the film. Of this Dorff said, "I was surrounded with the real deal."

On set, Dorff, a naturally gregarious guy, is used to hanging out and chatting with the crew, but admitted he was reminded not to, "get too close" to the hardened criminals.

At times, it was Dorff said, "a little awkward because some of them were excited and wanted to hang."

Waugh shot the film primarily in sequence so Dorff's responses to the atrocities encountered in the prison system seem even more organic.

Val Kilmer makes an appearance as John Smith a legendary lifer with a bad attitude, and Harold Perrineau is exceptional as the violence-addicted prison guard with a penchant for torturing the inmates.

There are some obvious questions you will ask yourself, such as: "Why didn't anyone ever call 911?" and "Would a psychotic rogue such as Kilmer's character truly take up with and befriend the naïve Porter?"

But suspend your disbelief on these points because Dorff's performance is riveting and well worth the price of admission.

Taylor Van Arsdale is a writer/producer and movie reviewer for the Daily Press. She can be reached at Talfish@roadrunner.com

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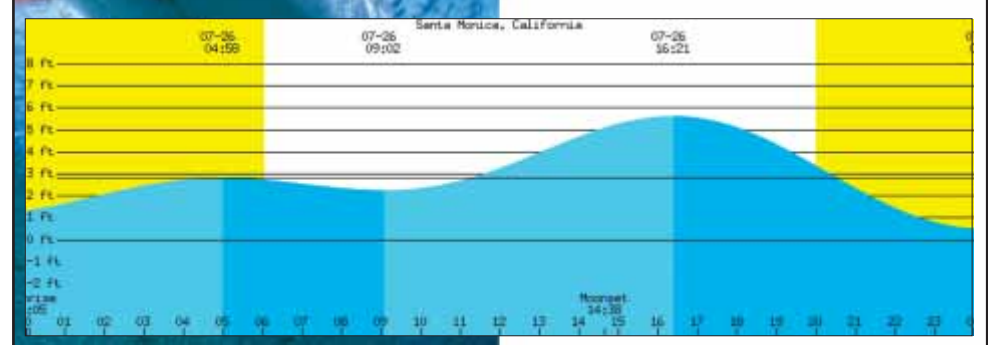
SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 59-71°

SWELL FORECAST (1-2 FT)
We should see an increase in southwesterly swell from a recent Antarctic originating system. This should bring chest+ waves to south facing breaks. Angled from 200 degree with 16-second periods, this swell may be sporadic in nature as the storm that created this wave energy didn't hold together well once passing the lower 50s. Winds on Saturday should be light and variable.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
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TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **July 22, 2008**

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QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 0

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0

Number of wet days -- 0

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 41 / 15

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / 15

The Beach Report Card is made possible by **simplehuman**

Goldhirsh the Beach United Foundation **FORD**

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Las Cañitas Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Del Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Palga Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
El Pescadero State Beach, between Luchessa and Las Alces creeks	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Tennessee Canyon drain	A+	ns
Escalante Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauque)	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Tomales Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	D	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kanter storm drain	A	ns
Escalante Creek, just east of Escalante State Beach	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurants)	A	ns
Lariga Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	D	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A	ns
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	D	ns	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	ns
Surfside Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A	ns	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A	ns
Surfside Beach (beach location)- daily	C	ns	Venice Beach- projection of Topail St.	B	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	ns	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- Flagstaff tower	A+	ns
Carlson Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	C	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 18948 PCH stairs	A+	ns	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Pine Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns	Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17280 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns			

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A - F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken

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

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MOVIE TIMES

AERO THEATRE 1328 Montana Ave. (323) 466-FILM	WALL-E (G) 1hr 37min 11:45am, 2:10, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50	1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
The Great Race (NR) 2hrs 10min 3:00	Step Brothers (R) 1hr 35min 11:30am, 12:45, 2:00, 3:15, 4:30, 5:45, 7:00, 8:15, 9:40, 10:45	Take (R) 1hr 39min 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30
Once Upon a Time in the West (C'era una volta il West) (PG-13) 2hrs 45min 7:30	Journey to the Center of the Earth - 3-D (PG) 1hr 32min 11:15am, 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:20	Brick Lane (PG-13) 1hr 41min 11:00am
AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4 1441 Third Street Promenade	Wanted (R) 1hr 48min 11:40am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:50, 10:30	Kenny (PG-13) 1hr 39min 11:00am
The X-Files: I Want to Believe (PG-13) 11:00am, 12:00, 1:40, 2:40, 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:40	Hancock (PG-13) 1hr 32min 12:20, 2:40, 5:15, 7:30, 10:10	Trumbo (PG-13) 1hr 36min 11:00am
Get Smart (PG-13) 1hr 50min 11:10am, 1:50, 4:35, 7:10, 9:55	Space Chimps (G) 1hr 21min 11:00am, 1:05, 3:20, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE 1313 Third St. (310) 395-1599
Hellboy II: The Golden Army (PG-13) 1hr 50min 11:20am, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:25	LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX 1332 Second St. (310) 394-9741	Dark Knight, The (PG-13) 2hrs 30min 11:30am, 12:30, 1:30, 3:00, 4:05, 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00am
AMC 7 SANTA MONICA 1310 Third St. (310) 289-4262	Bustin' Down the Door (NR) 1hr 30min 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40	Sex and the City (R) 2hrs 15min 12:10, 3:20, 6:40, 9:50
	The Wackness (R) 1hr 35min 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45	Mamma Mia! (PG-13) 1hr 48min 11:00am, 12:00, 1:40, 2:40, 4:15, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:40
	Baghead (R) 1hr 24min	

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

Be spontaneous, Taurus

- ARIES (March 21-April 19)**
★★★★ Deferring to someone might not be all that bad. In fact, the good will that is established by this act might be surprising. Your strong reserve of energy helps a parent or older associate. Tonight: Take the time to buy a token of affection.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Your magnetism dominates situations more than you might think. Others go out of their way for you. Be aware of what an offer that involves travel might be mean. There is more going on behind this suggestion. Tonight: Go for spontaneity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Know when to let others play lead actor. Be happy to be a stage consultant and nothing more. You'll learn a lot about a key friend or loved one by letting him or her come forward. Tonight: Vanish, but not necessarily alone.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Network, socialize or get together for a game of softball. What is important is to be among people. You have a very special opportunity to meet new people and get to know present friends better. Tonight: As you like.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Others often look to you for leadership. Now you become the role model for how to have a good time! Someone encourages you to go a bit overboard or to exaggerate in order to make a point. Tonight: A force to be noticed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Don't assume that you have the answers. Explore other options, perhaps yet unsought of. If you are in the mood to play and enjoy yourself, try a new type of sport, adventure or restaurant. You might like the change. Tonight: Go for something different.
- LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
★★★★★ Clearly a partnership is very important. Make plans to be with just this person, not allowing others to interfere. This type of quality time encourages more bonding and understanding. As a duo you will be able to weather difficulties more easily if you have a reserve of wonderful, private times. Tonight: Togetherness, of course.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Others want you to join in, but to go along with their ideas. You are strong. You are determined. Do you really think you can meet the demand? Try anyway, as the plusses are worth it. Tonight: Among crowds ... where you are the party is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Get into a fun project or join some friends for a favorite sport. Exercise rejuvenates your energy. What starts as a fun conversation could end up a day spent getting to know someone better. Tonight: Know when to call it quits.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ As stately as you might seem, holding you back could take a lot right now. Creativity merges with a sense of fun or mischief. You might feel as if there is no tomorrow. Tonight: Try an old-fashioned date.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Even though the offbeat often appeals to you, you decide to stay close to home. Whether you want company is your call. A partner or dream friend appreciates special time with you. Tonight: Make it OK to be vulnerable.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Sometimes it is wise to say little. Right now your words mean a lot. In fact, others finally want to listen and might ask questions just to hear what you think. Allow others the same exchange back and forth. Tonight: A local hangout.

Happy birthday

Your commitment professionally and on the community level comes to the forefront. You feel a need to be out there, to make a difference. If you want to be more visible, understand the limitations that this type of publicity could cause. You could opt to do less, also caring about your personal life, especially in 2009. If you are single, you could enjoy a very intense period starting this winter where you date and meet some very interesting people. If you are attached, you'll want to do more as a couple and socialize more in 2009. TAURUS tosses you into the limelight.

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

Extraordinary Times!

An evening with British author
Benjamin Creme

Saturday August 2 7:30 pm (Free)
Courtyard Marriott Hotel (Main Ballroom)
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Free Parking

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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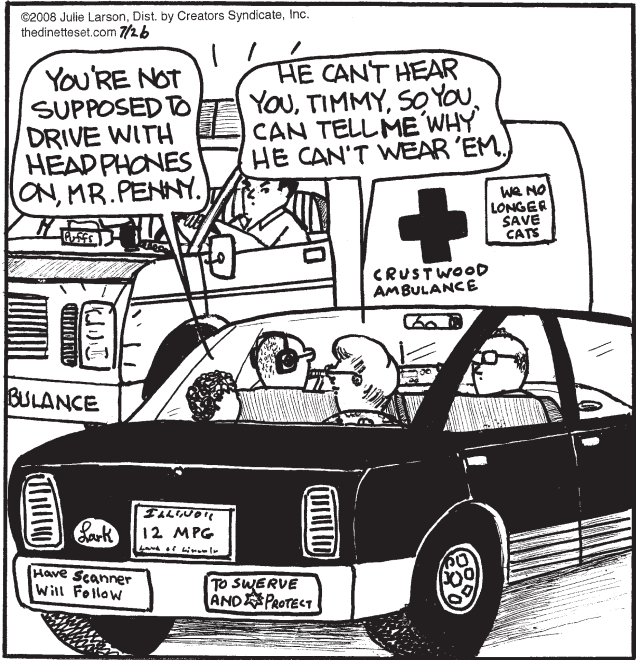
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Soraya Danesh news@smdp.com

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Calls for

1 Unruly groups

5 Not nude

9 California

10 Earring sites

12 Realm

13 Visibly stunned

14 They tote bags

16 Drink from a bag

17 Meringue source

18 Budding

20 Short jacket

22 Casino figure

23 Lazy fellow

25 Crystal gazer

28 Had a gabfest

32 Garb for grooms

34 Bustle

35 Knack

36 Meantime

38 Natasha's partner

40 Send

41 Punish, in a way

42 Ceremonies

DOWN

1 Desert sight

2 Anxious

3 M's top man

4 Tough to clean

5 Elegance

6 Record

7 Let up

8 Rely

9 Indiana player

11 Theater units

15 Right at the start

19 Port closer

B	A	B	Y			C	A	D	S	
O	G	R	E	S		A	S	Y	E	T
A	R	E	N	A		P	I	E	C	E
R	E	D				T	R	E	A	D
D	E	I	T	I	E	S			I	N
	S	N	O	R	T		E	N	D	S
			T	E	E		C	A	T	
R	A	H	S			B	E	T	H	S
U	S	E				P	E	R	S	E
R	I	B	C	A	G	E			W	I
A	M	O	U	R			A	R	O	S
L	O	N	E	R			L	O	O	S
	V	E	R	Y			B	L	E	D

Yesterday's answer

21 Forest

24 New York's

25 Rough

26 Moon of

27 Crowd

28 scene

29 Dojo

30 Fixed

31 Stadium

32 Music

33 Writer

34 Wiesal

35 Publicity

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

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Meganumber: 20
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Fantasy 5 6 10 11 14 21

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 3 4 5
EVENING: 1 4 5

DAILY DERBY 1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1:47.95

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Denmark has already aroused Muslims' ire for a Danish newspaper's publishing blasphemous caricatures of the Prophet Mohammad in 2006, and in June, the country's public broadcast channel DR1 sponsored an Internet-voting contest to choose among women (presumably Muslims) modeling headscarves. The winner was 18-year-old Huda Falah, who is Iraqi and one of the 46 women who submitted photographs. DR1 insisted that the contest was more about fashionable headscarves than a beauty contest for the models. Among the prizes: an iPod and a subscription to Muslim Girl magazine.

■ "This proves that we are normal," said the founder of the Liberty Gay Rodeo Association in May during the organization's event in a Philadelphia suburb. The sight of rugged cowboys and cowgirls, she said, dispels some sexual stereotypes that have plagued gays and lesbians. However, among the events (besides traditional steer riding and calf roping) was "goat dressing" (with pairs of contestants trying to put hot-pink underwear on an uncooperative goat in the shortest time, according to a Reuters report).

■ After motorist Mark Holder, 30, had a seizure in Boynton Beach, Fla., in June, his car swerved off the road and smashed into a sign, badly injuring him. Emergency workers arrived and, protecting against possible nerve damage, attempted to put a brace on to stabilize his neck. However, Holder became combative, and sheriff's deputies reported that they were forced to shoot Holder "several times" with a Taser to calm him enough that the brace could be fitted.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1775 Benjamin Franklin became Postmaster-General.

1788 New York became the 11th state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

1856 playwright Bernard Shaw was born in Dublin, Ireland.

1947 President Truman signed the National Security Act.

1952 Argentina's first lady, Eva Peron, died in Buenos Aires at age 33.

WORD UP!

sempiternal \sem-pih-TUR-nuhl\, adjective:
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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING CONDITIONS: REGULAR RATE: \$5.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. PREMIUMS: First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. TYPES: Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. DEADLINES: 3:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 2:30 p.m. PAYMENT: All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. CORRESPONDENCE: To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310) 458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 410 Broadway, Suite B, Santa Monica. OTHER RATES: For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310) 458-7737.

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907 12th Street # 4
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3 + 2 Condo

Average Price of All Santa Monica Properties Listed for Sale As of Late July 2008

		Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	=	\$ 2,745,143	\$ 5,730,000
North of Montana	=	\$ 4,119,200	\$ 2,280,474
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 3,111,000	\$ 1,066,246
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 975,619	\$ 680,048
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,422,569	\$ 791,275
Ocean Park	=	\$ 1,858,071	\$ 1,174,158

Statistics Updated Every Monday

What is Your Home Worth? Contact Me to Find Out!