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AUGUST 1-2, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 231

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVING EXPERIENCE
SEE PAGE 7

We have you covered

THE CAN'T TOUCH THIS ISSUE



Brandon Wise *news@smdp.com*

HANDY MAN: **Dennis 'The Venice' Swift (left) describes his handmade merchandise to people on the Venice boardwalk on Friday afternoon. Swift and other merchants feel that the influx of cheap, non handmade items degrades the atmosphere that is the Venice boardwalk.**

Artists protest boardwalk's loss of originality

BY NATALIE JARVEY
Special to the Daily Press

VENICE BEACH The Venice Beach boardwalk has a history of eclecticism with merchants hawking handmade goods and street performers speaking out in the name of political activism, but a group of local artists is now protesting what they say is a loss of the strip's originality.

This Saturday at 9 a.m. these artists plan to parade along Oceanfront Walk with trolleys of their artwork to speak out against what they are calling loopholes in the weekly lottery process that assigns merchants and performers spaces along the pedestrian street.

They believe that the lottery allows vendors to cheat their way into spots each week to sell commercial items with little original value.

"It's so ludicrous and we all stand here and shake our heads," said artist Michael Oddo, who organized the Saturday protest.

All merchants or performers who want an assigned spot on the boardwalk enter a weekly lottery that occurs Tuesday mornings. The lottery assigns about 100 P-Zone spots — for people who perform or distribute expressive information such as buttons, pamphlets or stickers — and 100 I-Zone spots for merchants selling handmade goods or items inextricably intertwined with a spiritual, religious or political message.

The lottery has become increasingly competitive over the years, with as many as 300 merchants vying for a spot each week.

But Oddo and other artists are complaining that permit holders are using unfair and illegal methods of obtaining lottery spots, including purchasing spots or enlisting family members and friends to enter the lottery to increase the chances of being selected.

"We have a battalion of homeless making money by selling permits," Oddo said.

He explained that Venice Beach Parks and Recreation gives lottery spots to vendors who don't have seller's permits issued by the California State Board of Equalization. This means they cannot legally sell merchandise along the boardwalk and will instead sell their lottery space to merchants who did not win spots.

City officials, however, say they cannot limit who enters the lottery system each week and that it's up to the police to enforce the permits along Oceanfront Walk.

"There's nothing in our rules currently that prohibits us from withholding enter-

SEE VENICE PAGE 11

State to take $21M from RDA funding

Money grab could delay major projects, such as Samohi remodel plan

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL While city officials just last month celebrated the upgraded bond ratings for two local redevelopment zones, the mood has changed substantially in the days following the state's budget adoption.

The Santa Monica Redevelopment Agency (RDA), which finances neighborhood revitalization projects, is expected to take a nearly $21 million hit this year from the state's plans to shift approximately $1.7 billion from redevelopment agencies throughout California to help plug a $24 billion deficit. RDA officials originally anticipated losing about $4 million.

In the wake of the budget's passage on Monday, local officials are still trying to ascertain the impact on City Hall, Santa Monica College, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD), and whether to brace for more cuts when the mid-year budget rolls around.

For the Redevelopment Agency, whose promotion in the bond rating should lead to lower interest rates when it comes time to borrow in the future, the result of the state takeaway could mean it will experience a challenging time issuing bonds for future projects because of uncertainty by investors.

"The uncertainty that the bond investor faces is how much the state can take away in any give year when they can grab this much money (now)," Andy Agle, the director of housing and economic development, said. "It may affect how we are able to think of the long-term investment of funds."

The result could be a delay in about $283 million in projects that in June were earmarked to receive RDA funding, such as $57 million for joint-use projects at Santa Monica High School, $25 million for shared

SEE FUNDS PAGE 10

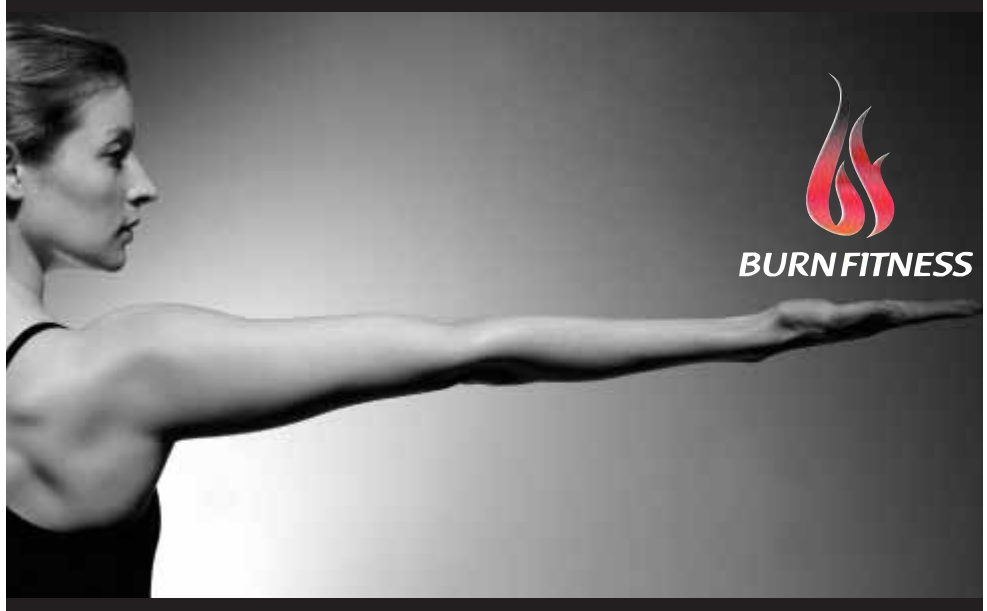


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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Guitar show
Civic Auditorium
1855 Main St., 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.
Learn about different styles of guitars from around the world. Admission is $10 for ages 11 and up. Continues Sunday. For more information, visit www.stringswest.org.

Farmers' Market
Virginia Avenue Park
2200 Virginia Ave., 8 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Purchase fresh seasonal produce directly from California's farmers.

An evening with Patti Smith
Bergamot Station Arts Center
2525 Michigan Ave., 6 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Enjoy programming and improv performances by Patti Smith and director Steven Sebring. Clips from the documentary "Patti Smith: Dream of Life" will be shown. Sponsored by the Santa Monica Museum of Art. Admission is $30.

Post-American art exhibit
18th Street Arts Center
1639 18th St., 6 p.m. — 10 p.m.
This reception kicks off the newest exhibit at 18th Street Arts Center, curated by Pilar Tompkins. Artists featured, including Carolina Caycedo, Sandra de la Loza, Hugo Hopping, Ashley Hunt, Vincent Johnson, Glenn Ligon, Adrian Paci, Vincent Ramos, and Chen Shaoxiong, explore and question American dominance. The exhibit will remain open through Sept. 26. For more information, visit www.18thstreet.org.

Sunday, Aug. 2, 2009

'Cinderella: The musical'
Santa Monica Playhouse Main Stage
1211 Fourth St., 12:30 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Audiences help romance bloom in this delightful Rudie-DeCarlo musical for all ages, featuring a charming prince, zany fairy godmother, silly stepsisters and a zealously well-meaning stepmother. Birthday and tea parties are available with every performance. Admission is $10.50 — $12.50. Call (310) 394-9779 ext. 2.

Monday, Aug. 3, 2009

Working it out
Santa Monica YMCA
1332 Sixth St., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Create your ideal body and lifestyle with fitness coach Simon Gowen. Learn how to find your ideal weight, work out in a way that is right for you, re-energize and take control of your eating and lifestyle habits while enjoying the process. Call (310) 903-7027 or e-mail simongowen@yahoo.com for more information. For reservations, call (310) 393-2721 ext. 135. The program is free.

Game day
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 3 p.m.
Have fun, meet new people and challenge your mind playing bridge and Scrabble every Monday. Call (310) 450-0443 for more information.

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.



SWEET SOUNDS

Brandon Wise *news@smdp.com*

Thomas Mapfumo (left) and the Blacks Unlimited perform music from their home country of Zimbabwe at the Santa Monica Pier's fifth Twilight Dance Concert Series event of the summer on Thursday night.

House approves $2B more for 'cash for clunkers'

BY KEN THOMAS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON The House voted overwhelmingly Friday to rush $2 billion into the popular but financially strapped "cash for clunkers" car purchase program, heeding calls from consumers eager to keep taking advantage of thousands of dollars in trade-in incentives.

House members approved the measure 316-109 within hours of learning from Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood that the program was running out of money.

President Barack Obama said he was encouraged by the House action to keep alive a program that had "succeeded well beyond our expectations." Senate action is likely next week, ensuring the program won' be affected by the sudden shortage of cash.

Rep. Steve Israel, D-N.Y., said of the program: "This is a test drive, and people bought it big time."

Called the Car Allowance Rebate System, or CARS, the program is designed to help the economy and the environment by spurring new car sales. Car owners can receive federal subsidies of up to $4,500 for trading in their old cars for new ones that achieve significantly higher gas mileage.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said the new money for the program would come from funds approved earlier in the year as part of an economic stimulus bill.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said the cars purchased under the program were much more fuel-efficient than the bill requires.

Some Republicans argued that Democrats were trying to jam the legislation through. A number of lawmakers also complained that many dealers have been left to contend with a chaotic government-run program.

"The federal government can't process a simple rebate. I've got dealers who have submitted the paperwork three times and have gotten three rejections," said Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich. "What is a dealer supposed to do?"

There had been a $1 billion budget for rebates for new car sales in the program that was officially launched last week and has been heavily publicized by automakers and dealers.

The program offers owners of old cars and trucks $3,500 or $4,500 toward new, more fuel-efficient vehicles, in exchange for scrapping their old vehicles.

In the Senate, Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., had proposed a plan that would have required the new vehicles to be vastly more fuel-efficient. When Feinstein supported the $1 billion funding plan in June, she said she received "absolute assurance" from Senate leaders that if the program continued beyond November it would be modeled after her bill.



Photo courtesy SMMUSD

LYONS

Will Rogers principal dies

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS Irma Lyons, the principal of Will Rogers Learning Community and 17-year veteran of the school district, died on Thursday at the UCLA Medical Center after a long battle with cancer.

Lyons began her career as a teacher at Will Rogers and was later promoted to assistant principal and then principal, replacing Maureen Bradford when she moved to the central district office about four years ago.

Those who were close to Lyons described her as a passionate and compassionate educator who remained close to the classroom even as she went from being a teacher to administrator at Will Rogers.

"It was a gift to have known this remarkable woman," Kelly Pye, a school board

SEE LYONS PAGE 10

Judge orders jury to continue in Juarez case

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN L.A. The judge presiding over the murder trial of two imprisoned gang members charged with killing the Juarez brothers during a shooting in Santa Monica 10 years ago ordered the jury on Friday to

SEE TRIAL PAGE 12

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The Baron knows best

Editor:

With regards to the arrest of Professor Gates, except for Gates and Sgt. Crowley, later joined by Officer Figueroa, no one else, including President Obama, was there.

Jack Pearl (1894-1982), a vaudeville performer and star of early radio, portrayed a character he created, Baron Munchausen, very loosely based on the Baron Munchausen literary character. As the Baron, Pearl would tell far-fetched stories with a comic German accent. When the straight man expressed skepticism, the Baron replied with his familiar tagline and punchline: "Vass you dere, Sharlie?" This catch phrase soon became a part of the national lexicon. So when I read columns such as Kenny Mack's on the Gates arrest, I immediately think of Pearl's "Vass you dere, Sharlie?"

Over 50 years ago in law school I took a criminal procedure course taught by a sitting trial judge. One evening when the topic was warrants, the judge was asked, "Your Honor, a police officer comes to your home with a warrant for your arrest, a warrant obviously defective on its face. What would you do?"

The judge said, "If it was me, I would peacefully go with the officer to the police station and then and there argue about the warrant." Common sense from an experienced man knowing that being polite will be met with politeness.

After reading the incident report, I wondered what was going through Crowley's mind as he arrived at Gates' residence after being told about two males possibly trying to force entry. Was Crowley wondering what he would encounter and where are both men – is one behind this "older black male" with a weapon ready to ambush him?

In reading about this situation, I thought that if I were renting a home (as Gates is) from a nearby college, I would have immediately called the school's maintenance department to have them open the door rather than break in the landlord's door.

After breaking into his home, Gates should have known that his action could arouse suspicion of some neighbor or other observer. So it should not have been a surprise to Gates when Crowley came to his front door to investigate the situation. At this point why is Gates refusing to cooperate with the uniformed police officer and then accusing him of being a racist, although Gates denies this allegation.

Norman G. Axe
Santa Monica

Rules to ride by

Editor:

I just recently moved to Santa Monica from Denver. I have been following the dialogue in the letters section about the frustration on both sides of the bicycle rights issue. Being from a city that has been recognized for its bicycle friendly attitude (as has Santa Monica), I have a few observations comparing Denver to Santa Monica.

First, there is a much higher traffic density here, and that's not just due to population, but also street size. Second, the drivers in this town are much more aggressive, with a few crazies running red lights 10 or 15 mph above the speed limit five to 10 seconds after the light has turned. That being said, there are a few rules that Denver uses that I believe could improve the safety for bicycles and pedestrians alike.

1) Bicycles on the street are part of the traffic and therefore must obey all traffic laws as vehicles do, no exceptions.

2) If the traffic is too intimidating and the cyclist decides to take to the sidewalks for safety reasons then they become part of the pedestrian traffic and must walk their bicycles, no exceptions.

Busy downtown areas can be a dangerous place for all concerned. Enforcement of the laws equally for all concerned will only help to make it a safer, enjoyable place for all.

Scott Mossman
Santa Monica

✉WHAT DO YOU THINK?

■ Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Born In the USA?

GENERALLY, THE MAIN REASON THAT a conspiracy theory exists is that it's difficult to disprove. So you may think it strange that this year's big one has been able to survive. I'm talking about the notion that Barack Obama was not really born in the United States and that there has been a conspiracy to cover that up. Obviously, if he wasn't born in this country, then he couldn't legally be president. Even though this has been disproved over and over again, that hasn't stopped a small but vocal minority from passionately buying into it. This week, Congress took time out from avoiding the health care issue, and declared that Obama was, indeed, born in the United States. I'm sure this won't be enough to satisfy the birth doubters. These people are out there. They probably don't just believe that there was a conspiracy to kill Michael Jackson so that his music would sell more CDs; they believe there was a conspiracy to kill Walter Cronkite so his music would sell more CDs.

The president has provided a copy of his birth certificate indicating that he was born in Hawaii. The conspiracy folks responded, "Yeah, but it's just a copy." Well, who has the original of their birth certificate? Almost a year ago, Hawaii's state health director, Dr.Chiyome Fukino, and the registrar of vital statistics, Alvin Onaka, personally verified that Hawaii's health department has Obama's original birth certificate as it should.

Remember the acrimonious Democratic primary? If the Clintons thought this story had been even the least bit credible, don't you think they would have brought it up? And then there was the general election. Are we to believe that John McCain and Sarah Palin were also part of the grand conspiracy to conceal where Obama was really born?

And yet, some TV and radio talkers, along with a handful of Republican officials have kept this thing alive. So finally, when Congress passed a resolution ostensibly celebrating the 50th anniversary of Hawaii becoming the 50th state, there was a clause in there that read, "Whereas the 44th president of the United States, Barack Obama was born in Hawaii on Aug. 4, 1961." It was passed unanimously, but that doesn't mean this thing is over.

It probably won't be over until everyone in the world believes that we really sent astronauts to the moon, and the whole thing was not staged on a movie lot. It will be over when nobody believes that people met with extraterrestrial in Rockwell, N.M. It may not even be over until nobody believes that John Dillinger's penis is in the Smithsonian, but they aren't allowed to show it to anyone.

In other words, this ridiculous story has become part of urban legend. However, there is an ugly side to it. There has been so much anger, so much venom behind this contention that I can't help thinking that hatred and intolerance are involved. It seems that those who just cannot accept that an African American is their president have to find reasons to reject his legitimate right to have that position. They can't believe that someone other than a white guy was elected president, so they conclude that he must have cheated.

IT SEEMS THAT THOSE WHO JUST CANNOT ACCEPT THAT AN AFRICAN AMERICAN IS THEIR PRESIDENT HAVE TO FIND REASONS TO REJECT HIS LEGITIMATE RIGHT TO HAVE THAT POSITION. THEY CAN'T BELIEVE THAT SOMEONE OTHER THAN A WHITE GUY WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT, SO THEY CONCLUDE THAT HE MUST HAVE CHEATED.

It would have been nice if more Republicans hadn't been just passive about this. It would have served them — and us — well if they had stepped up and said, "Let's end this nonsense now. We have more important things to deal with. Of course, Obama was born in the United States." It's like during the campaign when John McCain famously told that woman at the town meeting that Barack Obama was not a Muslim. Maybe it wasn't the best thing for him to do politically, but it was the right thing to do.

While we're on the subject of conspiracy theories and Obama, here's a message to those who see a plot wherever they look: the "beer summit" involving Henry Louis Gates, Police Sgt. James Crowley, and the president was not secretly put together by Budweiser to increase beer sales. Of course, I can't prove that.

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 Web site at lloydgarver.com and his podcasts on iTunes.

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WTGP: want to go private?
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The Q Line

ALL DRESSED IN GREEN?

This past week, Q-line asked:

A recent Daily Press article discovered that a growing number of engaged couples have decided to go green for their wedding. Is going green on your wedding day worth the trouble – and money?

Here are your responses:

"AS THEY SAY 'TO EACH HIS OWN,' AND whatever works for you. I personally would not go to the expense or trouble of going green. It doesn't fit my personality or lifestyle anyway. Too restricting. And anyway, I don't like the color green."

"GOING GREEN FOR A WEDDING WOULDN'T be a problem if I was a Martian."

"GREEN IS KEEN. I ADMIRE ANY PERSON or entity that is dedicated to improving the world's environment. Still, becoming green will render down to the engineers who will endeavor to design and manufacture green products. Until that happens, green is only a dream. So, let's all start thinking green – our atmosphere depends on it."

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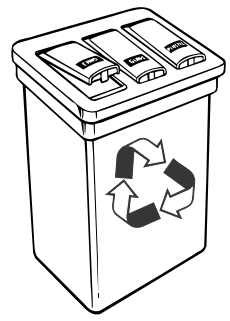

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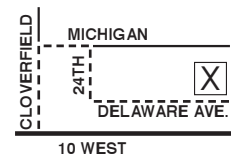


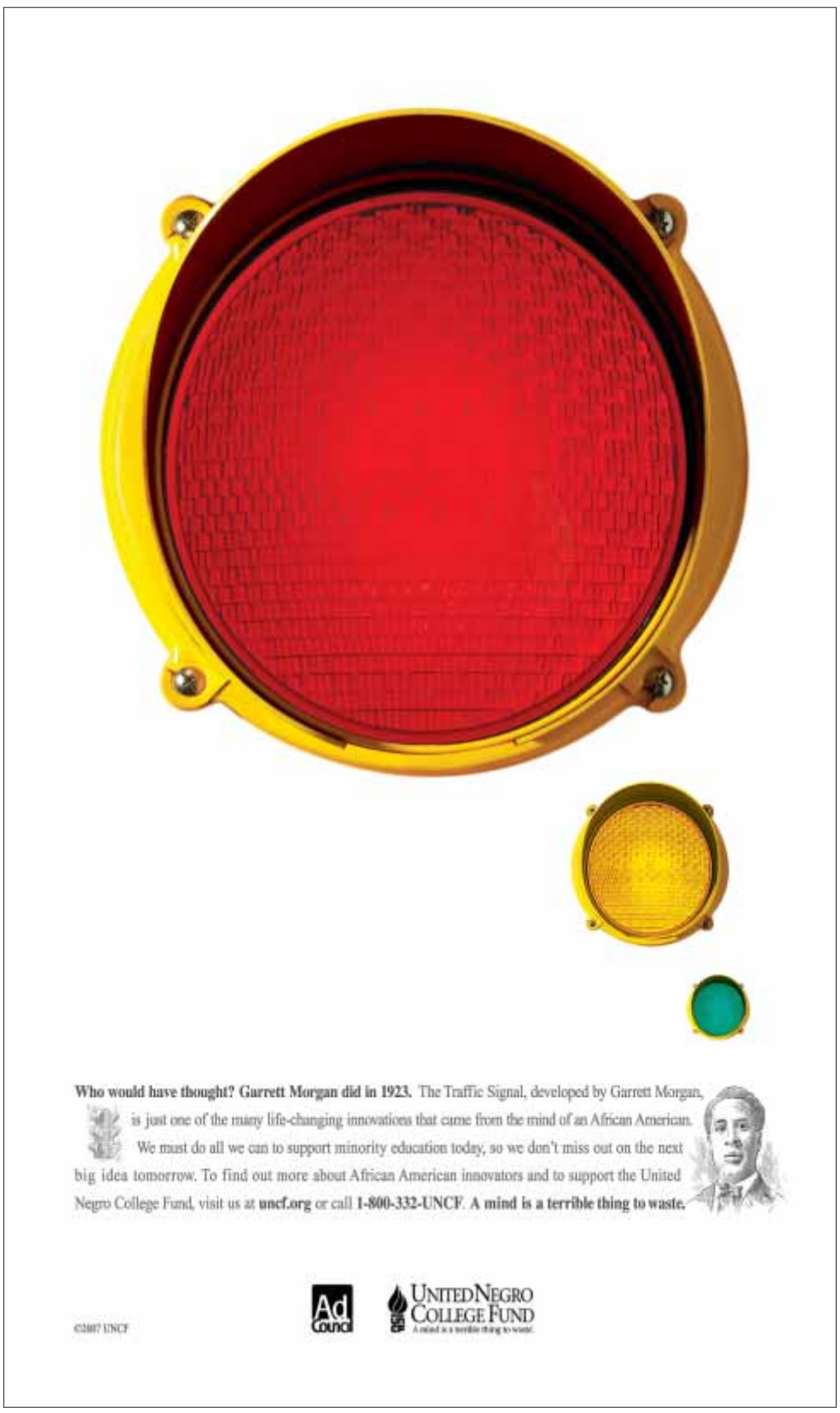
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Write Rachel

Rachel Iverson
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Tall, dark and hard to find

Q: DEAR RACHEL,

Is it a crime to like tall men? I meet nice guys, but they're just too short. I need a guy who's a minimum of 6-feet tall. I'm looking for Mr. Right, but I also want him to be Mr. Tall.

— Signed, "Height-Lover."

A: DEAR "HEIGHT-LOVER,"

It's great to know what you want and trust me, sister, you're not the first woman to tell me she likes tall men. Just make sure that your preconceived ideas of your perfect partner don't decrease your chance of actually finding him. As I mentioned, height is a concern for many women. When I lead dating workshops, women consistently tell me that they want to date a tall man, "over 6-feet tall." So I say, "Have you ever dated a tall man?" And they say, "Oh, yeah, every guy I've ever dated was over 6-feet tall." Then I say, "How's that workin' for you?" In other words, height, alone, is obviously not enough to make a relationship last. That's why it's so important to aim for deeper personality traits like affectionate instead of more superficial qualities, like athletic. If a man's good qualities don't affect your daily life, then they're not doing you any good. You could date an Olympic gold medalist, but the majority of your time together will be spent without a track, field or toboggan in sight. Your day-to-day moments must be enjoyable and compatible or you won't be satisfied.

IN MY EXPERIENCE, WHEN SOMEONE TELLS YOU THAT YOU'RE 'TOO NICE' THEY USUALLY MEAN THAT YOU DON'T HAVE STRONG, PERSONAL BOUNDARIES.

Sometimes our perfect partner arrives in a slightly different package than we expect. If you narrow your line of sight by clinging to arbitrary qualities that you think you need, you may miss the most compatible person for you. It's not about lowering your expectations; it's about shifting your priorities to personality traits, which have the most bearing on the success of a relationship. I'm not saying that your best match won't be tall. He may be, but focus on how a man treats you and makes you feel, and you may be pleasantly surprised if your ideal man turns out to be 5'10" and the love of your life. I always say, if you must have six pack abs in your life, develop them yourself because toned abs are poor criteria for choosing a life partner.

Q: DEAR RACHEL,

Do men really like bitches? I consider myself to be a good person, but my ex told me that I'm too nice. Do I have to change my personality to get a boyfriend?

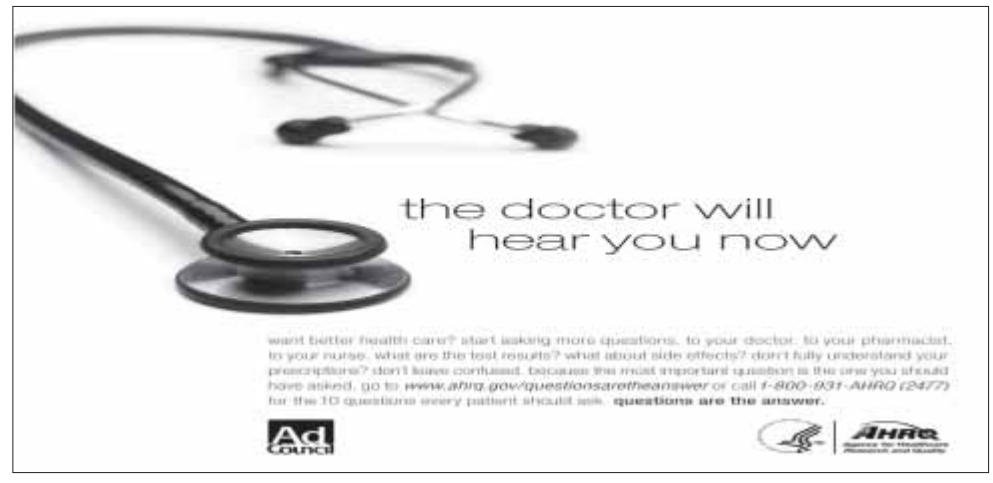
— Signed, "Too Nice."

A: DEAR "TOO NICE,"

Although there are probably some dysfunctional men out there who actually prefer bitches, referring to the well-known derogatory term for a woman, (which compares her to an aggressive, female dog) there is also a newer slang definition of the word. In an attempt to turn a negative into a positive, some women now use the term to refer to a strong, confident woman. So if you're referring to the second definition, then yes, I think men like bitches. In my experience, when someone tells you that you're "too nice" they usually mean that you don't have strong, personal boundaries. It's human nature to respect people who respect themselves, and a man can sense when a woman is desperate or unsure of herself to the point that she's willing to sacrifice her own well being to please him.

What's the solution? Don't help a man be a man. This means you should never try to fix, save or change the people you date or give too much. Practice setting healthy boundaries by making your own needs and desires a priority in your life. If you don't, no one else will. This can take some soul-searching if you have habitually devalued your own needs over a period of time. It's a woman's nature to want to nurture those she loves, a great instinct when dealing with children or pets, but not when interacting with a grown man in a romantic relationship. Overly accommodating behavior causes your partner to lose respect for you and eventually lose interest in your relationship altogether. We teach others how to treat us. If you take the position, initially, of doing more than your share in a relationship, that dynamic will usually continue until the relationship ends. Develop a healthy give and take rapport with your next partner by giving him space to meet you halfway as an equal participant in your relationship from the beginning.

RACHEL IVERSON is a freelance writer, dating coach and author, who lives with her husband in Venice Beach. Her book, "Don't Help A Man Be A Man: How To Avoid 12 Dating Time Bombs," has been endorsed by Dr. John Gray, author of "Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus." For dating advice, contact Rachel at: rachel@rebelgirlpublishing.com.





Kitchen Vixen

Elizabeth Brown
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A truly moving experience

ONE OF MY FIRST JOBS OUT OF COLLEGE was working as a dietitian in a nursing home. Like most people, I imagined nursing homes to be depressing places where people put their older family members when they could no longer care for them. I thought I would only see pain and suffering, but I actually found many good friends, comical moments and life-changing experiences.

I recently reminisced about this job while eating prunes (aka dried plums). My dad always had prunes at his house. It was one of the few sweet things he kept around. So each time he went into the kitchen to grab one, I usually had one, too. I've always loved sweets. I never thought eating prunes was anything unusual, but while working in the nursing home, I learned that older people treat prunes like medicine.

As I was snacking on prunes my boyfriend asked me, "Why do older people always eat prunes?" Older people associate prunes and prune juice with relief from constipation or "moving their bowels."

While walking through the halls of that nursing home, I walked by a patient and said, "Good morning. How are you?" She replied, "Oh I'm fine but I haven't moved my bowels in three days." This was the first, but certainly not the last time I heard this statement.

Prunes have a laxative effect because they are a concentrated source of simple carbohydrates and also a good source of soluble fiber, both of which stimulate bowel function. When you consume simple carbohydrates that don't contain a lot of water, as is the case with dried fruit, your digestive tract must pull in water to aid the digestive process. The influx of water helps move things through and out of the gastrointestinal tract. Soluble fiber helps to form a gel in the bowels which makes everything move through cohesively. Soluble fiber is also associated with lowering cholesterol.

Aside from aiding digestion and lowering cholesterol, prunes also top the ORAC list (oxygen radical absorbance capacity), a rating system that measures a food's ability to fight free radicals. Bear in mind that when pitting one food against another, ounce for ounce, the dried version has more calories and therefore more nutrients than any comparable fresh source. Dried plums may be high in disease fighting antioxidants simply because their nutrients are more concentrated when water is removed. However, purple, blue or red fruits and vegetables are rich in a class of antioxidants called anthocyanins which are some of the most powerful antioxidants in the entire nutrition world.

Six prunes (dried plums, 2 ounces): 120 calories, 30g carbs, 4g fiber and a good source of vitamin A from beta-carotene, as well as copper, potassium, iron and B6.

In addition to popping one or two prunes in your mouth as you pass through the kitchen, you could also dice them up and add them to cooked carrots, pork or chicken stews or chili or even as a fat replacement in baked goods. Here some recipes to get you started. Eat more prunes so the next time someone asks, "How are you?" your answer will simply be, "Everything's running smoothly."

ELIZABETH is a registered dietitian and certified holistic chef who believes that bowel health is tantamount to optimal health. Please visit her Web site to learn more ways to keep things moving, www.TheKitchenVixen.com.

Orange Infused Prunes

Zest of one orange
Juice of one orange
1/4 cup honey
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
20 prunes

In a sauce pan, combine OJ, zest, honey and cinnamon and simmer on high heat. Add prunes. Reduce heat to low and cover. Cook for 10 minutes on low. Heat walnuts in a skillet until fragrant. Remove prunes from sauce pot. Continue to thicken the sauce. Pour over prunes. Top with warm walnuts. Enjoy as a bed for poultry or pork or use to top cooked or raw leafy greens.

Bowel Moving Brownies

(Don't tell your friends and family the name or the ingredients. You will be amazed by the outcome.)
6 Prunes
1/4 cup water
15 ounce can black beans, drained & rinsed thoroughly
3 Eggs
1 cup organic brown sugar or granulated sugar
1/2 cup non-alkalized cocoa
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/8 tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat an 8-by-8-inch baking dish or pie tin with oil. In a small sauce pot, bring prunes and water to a boil. Remove from heat. Set aside. Rinse beans. Process prunes and water in a food processor or blender. Blend into a paste consistency. Add the rest of the ingredients and blend until creamy smooth. Pour batter into baking dish. Bake for 30 minutes or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Serves eight. Per serving: 160 calories, 30g carbs, 5g fiber, 6g protein, 2.5g fat. A good source of copper, manganese, magnesium, iron, folate, selenium, zinc, potassium, thiamin, niacin and riboflavin.

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The Daily Pint 2310 Pico Blvd	(310) 450-7631
El Indio 2526 Pico Blvd	(310) 450-8057
El Pollo Loco Restaurant 1906 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 392-9800
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Axe 1009 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 664-9787
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Baby Blues BBQ 444 Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 396-7675
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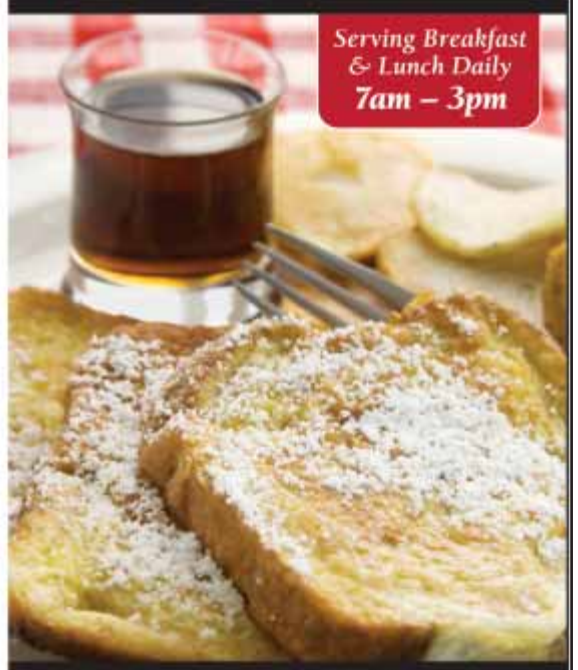
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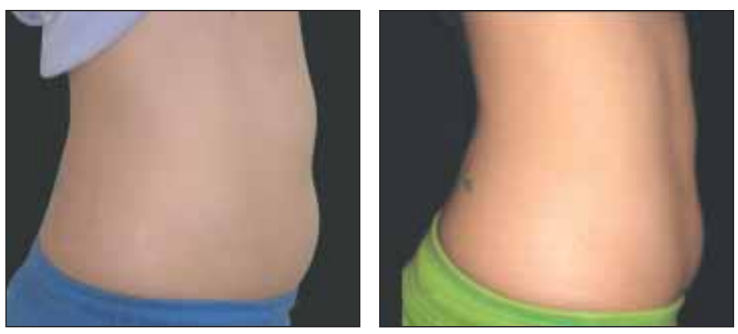
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School district in no worse shape

FROM **FUNDS** PAGE 1

parking, and $43.6 million for affordable housing.

"What we've done in the current fiscal year is put money into primarily design and predevelopment work for all these projects and essentially this means we are going to have less money to expedite those projects," Agle said.

The California Redevelopment Agency is planning on suing the state over the take-aways, claiming that it's unconstitutional. The outcome of the lawsuit could dictate whether investors will be interested in buying bonds in the future.

"I hope they are successful because then that doesn't mean a continued temptation for the state to use RDA money as a way of solving budget problems," Finance Director Carol Swindell said.

City Hall will lose out on $3.1 million in one-time funds as part of approximately $1.9 billion that the state will borrow from cities through Proposition 1A property tax revenues. That money must be paid back within three years with interest.

Swindell said that city reserves will be used to fill that hole.

"I think there is a concern that many have that given the state's precarious financial conditions, there is a question of whether they will be able to repay that loan in three years," she said.

More cuts are expected over at Santa Monica College where the recently approved budget will leave it with $6 million less for the coming school year.

College officials said they will begin exploring ways to save money as soon as they can confirm the final figure that SMC will lose. Those savings could come through cutting 50 percent of courses for the winter session in 2010 and cutting programs that provide tutoring and counseling for socio-economically disadvantaged and disabled students.

Bob Isomoto, the vice president of business and administrative services, said that the college is not exploring furloughing or layoffs at this time. The college will also try to keep its fall and spring semester course schedules intact.

About 6 percent of course sections were eliminated in the spring semester because of the economic downturn, all while enrollment has increased.

The school district came out of the state fiscal crisis facing the same predicament post budget, still anticipating to lose $10 to $13 million over the next 18 months, though the figure is edging closer to the latter.

> **"I THINK THERE IS A CONCERN THAT MANY HAVE THAT GIVEN THE STATE'S PRECARIOUS FINANCIAL CONDITIONS, THERE IS A QUESTION OF WHETHER THEY WILL BE ABLE TO REPAY THAT LOAN IN THREE YEARS."**
>
> **Carol Swindell**
> Finance Director, City Hall

Approximately $4.5 million in cuts have already been made for this year by reducing one house at Santa Monica High School, increasing class sizes and reducing contracts. The remainder will come in fiscal year 2010-11.

Jan Maez, the chief financial officer for the SMMUSD, said the district was fortunate to enter the downturn with large reserves, giving it extra time to think through changes carefully and more thoughtfully.

The approved budget for the 2009-10 year shows the district spending more than it's taking in, using about $8.5 million in reserves to help it balance the books.

The county requires that the district have a reserve level of at least $3.5 million. The district is expected to have about $12.8 million in reserves left at the end of the year.

Maez said the district could spend down its reserves very quickly over the next few years unless some changes are made.

"We have work to do ahead of us with the budget we adopted in June and this state budget hasn't really significantly changed the amount of work the district needs to do," she said.

melodyh@smdp.com

School principal dies from cancer

FROM **LYONS** PAGE 3

member whose two children attended Will Rogers, said. "Irma was profoundly inspirational, she was a true instructional leader who touched countless lives."

Chief Academic Officer Sally Chou said that Lyons launched several successful programs at Will Rogers, including STEM — Science, Technology, Engineering and Math — Academy, which helps build student interest in those subject areas. The program is aimed at maintaining student achievement in the areas of math and science as they go from elementary school to middle school, a time when those subjects see a dip in performance.

The school under her watch also finally exceeded the target 800 API state test score in 2008, going from a 799 in 2007 to an 812 last year.

Even when Lyons became ill this spring, she remained in constant contact with the school, working from home.

"She just never missed a beat," Chou said. "Her heart was really with the students."

Peggy Harris, the director of curriculum and instruction for the district, said that Lyons never turned away a student, teacher or parent who asked for help, always making time for everyone.

"All of the years I worked with her, at the core of her life was an abiding and unwavering love of children and the belief that each child deserves the best," she said.

Lyons is survived by her husband and two children.

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Lottery permits are sold illegally

FROM VENICE PAGE 1

ing someone into the lottery," said Victor Jauregui, who heads the Parks Department station in Venice and oversees the weekly lottery. "My hands are tied."

The selling or giving away of lottery spots is directly in violation of the boardwalk ordinances but it occurred openly during last Tuesday's lottery. Jauregui said he tries to enforce this law but it's difficult to catch everyone.

"We know that it's going on, but it's like anything else. Unless we see it ourselves, there's nothing we can do," he said.

By rigging the lottery, merchants are indirectly affecting other merchants' chances of winning a spot each week. Take, for instance, Reza Kassai.

"I've been shut out eight weeks in a row. I just got called," said Kassai, who has been forced to pay entry fees to expensive art parks and exhibitions to continue selling his work.

But even when the artists win one of those coveted spots along the boardwalk, they aren't guaranteed a successful day. They now have to compete with merchants who sell mass-produced items such as necklaces or lighters.

"I just came back after five years and I'm horrified that there are so few artists down here," said painter Martha C. Wilson. "It's just turned into a flea market."

Merchants are allowed to sell manufactured goods as long as they are associated with a message, but the artists say that religious symbols are often hastily slapped onto an item so they appear to comply with the ordinance.

"It's handmade art, by me, that's what we're fighting for," said Michael Turner, who is known as the "Heart Man" for his carved paintings and spray painted stencils of hearts.

He suggested creating a jury of artists and boardwalk old-timers to review all of the merchandise sold and determine its artistic value or the validity of its message.

Jauregui, however, said that any limits on merchandise sold would violate vendors' rights to freedom of speech.

"Once those symbols are attached to the jewelry, there's nothing I or the police can do to them," he said. "I do understand the frustration of the true artists who are out there making their stuff, but that's the ordinance handed down to us by the federal court."

For tourists and shoppers who visit the boardwalk, the range of items — from plastic gadgets to hand-crafted bracelets — is what gives Venice its charm.

"We just want to experience everything you hear about Venice — the free spirit," said Sandy Harrison, a visitor from the East Coast.

Marcedes Suvia, from Bakersfield, said she likes the variety along the boardwalk, which is why she brings her foreign exchange students to Venice each year.

"They're not familiar with vendors out like this, it's something new to them," she said.

> **"IT'S HANDMADE ART, BY ME, THAT'S WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR."**
>
> Michael Turner
> Venice Beach artist

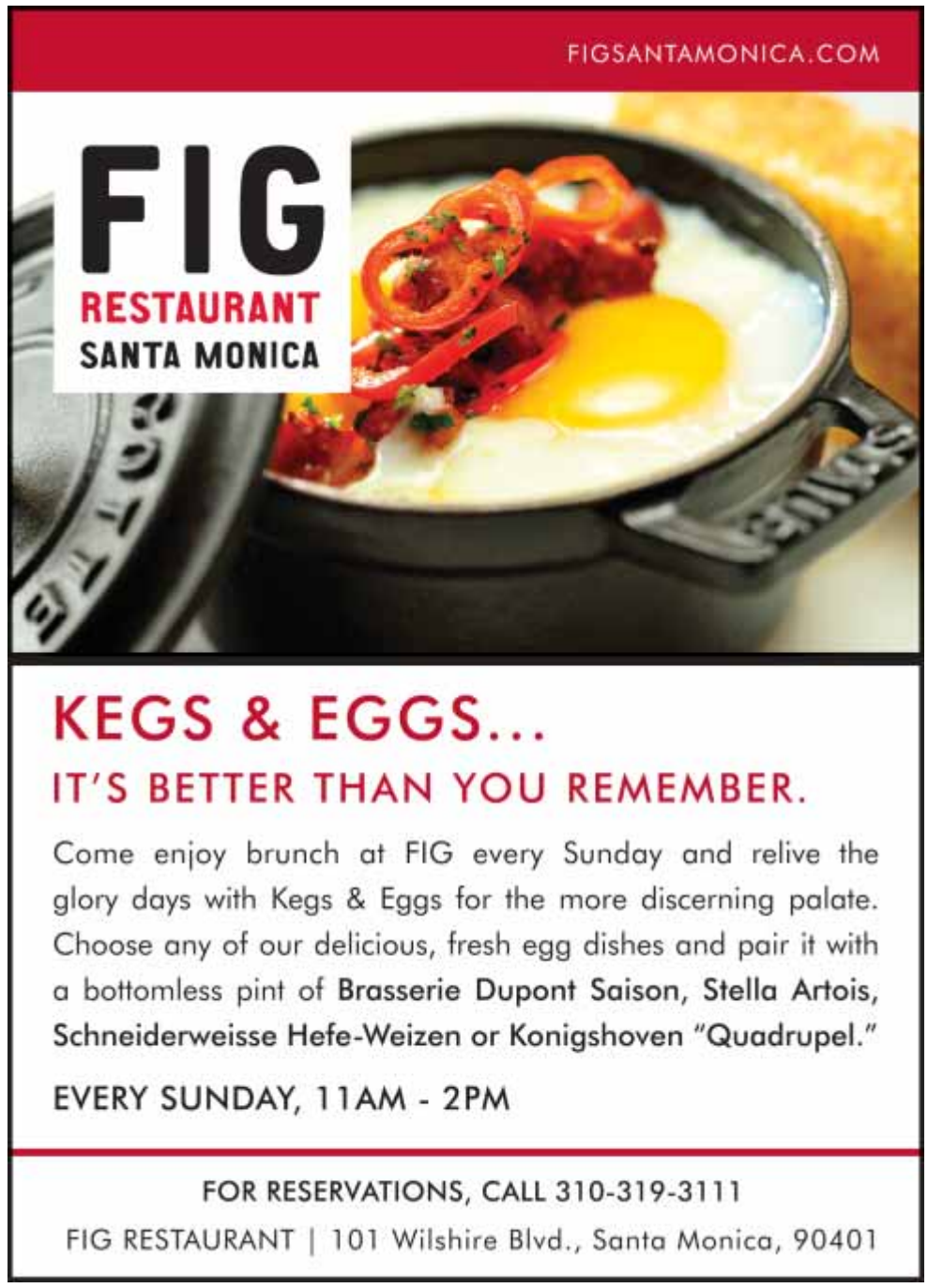
But the artists say that these merchants take away from the boardwalk's original intent, to give artists and performers a place to express themselves.

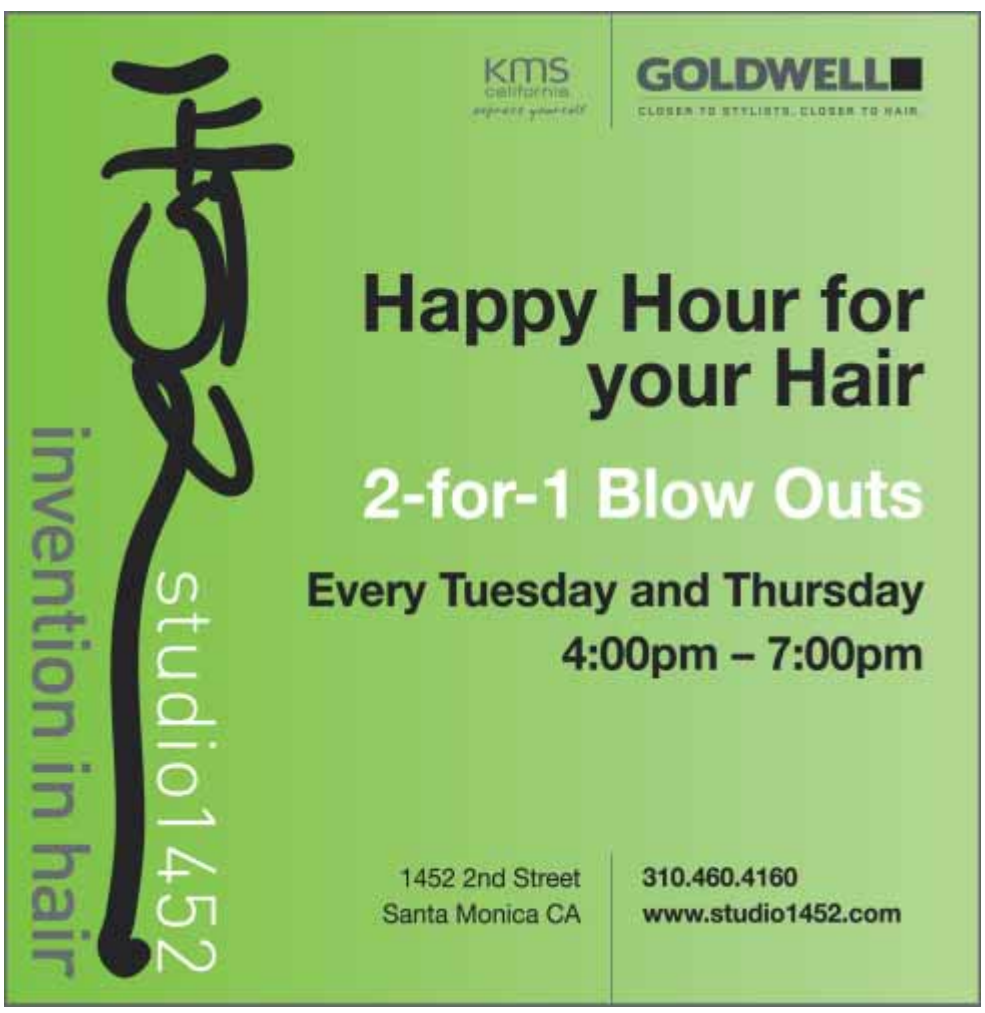
"We're asking to be a part of something that belongs to us, that was ours," said painter James Matter. "We just want to paint."

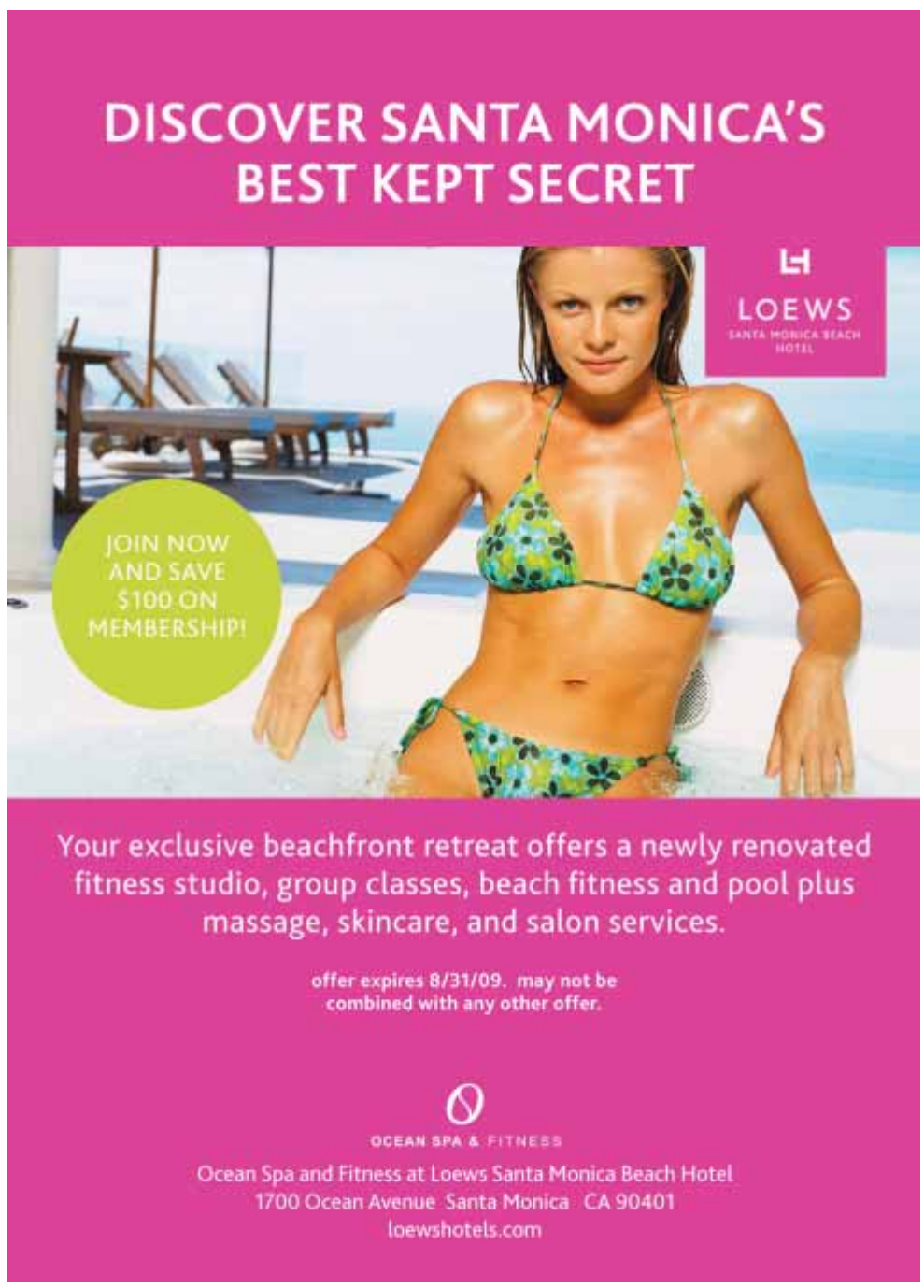
Jauregui, too, understands that the environment along Oceanfront Walk has changed.

"We're in times now where people are looking to survive," he said. "The artists feel it's no longer an artists zone, it's a survive zone. We do the best we can to eliminate those individuals."

news@smdp.com















Jurors to continue next week

FROM TRIAL PAGE 3

continue deliberating after the panel said it could not reach a verdict.

The court clerk for Department 119 of the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center said the jurors were deadlocked Friday afternoon but Judge George Lomeli ordered them to continue to see if they could reach a verdict. The jurors did not come to a conclusion by Friday at 4 p.m. and are scheduled to return Monday.

Jurors began deliberating Wednesday afternoon in the murder trial of David Robles and Jessie Garcia, who face two counts of murder and two counts of attempted murder, said Deputy District Attorney Joseph Markus, the prosecuting attorney.

The two cousins are believed responsible for the deaths of Michael Juarez, 27, and Anthony Juarez, 19, on Oct. 27, 1998.

The Juarez brothers were visiting their cousin, Frank Juarez Jr., who owned Westside Clothing on Lincoln Boulevard, when masked gunmen stormed into the store in broad daylight and fired numerous rounds from an assault rifle and pair of handguns.

The murders were believed to be in retaliation for a homicide which occurred days earlier. Apparently, a gang member who was attending a drug class at the CLARE Foundation on Lincoln Boulevard was shot while waiting for the bus, sources said, prompting the Culver City Boyz to retaliate against Santa Monica gang members.

The Juarez brothers weren't from Santa Monica, nor affiliated with any gangs. They were interested in opening a store similar to Westside Clothing where they lived, in Cayucos, a small town in San Luis Obispo County. The brothers had come into Santa Monica the night before to check out their cousin's operation.

Wearing masks, the gunmen entered the store — which was located between Pacific and Strand streets on Lincoln Boulevard — shortly before noon, opened fire and ran out. Michael Juarez and Frank Juarez Jr. ran toward the back door to escape the gunfire, police said. Anthony Juarez didn't make it to the back of the store, and was gunned down.

kevinh@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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Jazz it up on the lawn

With August comes Jazz on the Lawn.

The free concert series presented on the City Hall lawn offers residents a chance to kick back in their favorite beach chairs for a picnic with cool breezes and the smoothest jazz, with a lineup that features Tony Award nominee Valarie Pettiford and composer and saxophonist Geoff "Double G" Gallegos of the fusion favorite DAKAH hip-hop orchestra.

The fourth annual Jazz on the Lawn series kicks off Aug. 9 at 5 p.m. Concerts will be held every Sunday. Free parking is provided at the Civic Auditorium free of charge after 4 p.m.

Pettiford will kick off the series Aug. 9, a guest performer with the Upright Cabaret, an eclectic mix of artists from stage, record and screen inspired by the Golden Age of entertainment – think Coconut Grove. Pettiford was last seen on Broadway in "Fosse," for which she was nominated for a Tony. Her other Broadway and national tour credits include "Sophisticated Ladies" and the 30th anniversary tour of "West Side Story." On television she has had recurring roles on "House," "CSI Miami," "Bones," and "The West Wing." She is currently performing "Guys and Dolls" at the Hollywood Bowl with Jessica Beil, Beau Bridges and Brian Stokes Mitchell.

On Aug. 16, Grupo Falso Baiano will lead the way. The hot, young ensemble from San Francisco performs "choro," a musical form created by blending African rhythms with the structures of classical music, representing the diverse culture of Brazil. Dating from the 19th century, choro has evolved into many forms including "samba," while retaining its daring improvisation, highly sophisticated counterpoint, and syncopated Afro-Brazilian rhythms.

On Aug. 23, Double G will bring his fusion to the forefront. This cat has played to capacity crowds at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, The House of Blue, the Playboy Jazz Festival and the New Orleans Jazzfest. Come help "shape the evolution of a new sonic consciousness" with Gallegos as he continues to challenge musical conventions.

To round out the series on Aug. 30, the city's Cultural Affairs Division presents John West, a Louisiana native who is fresh from selling out the Roxy. The up-and-coming singer/songwriter combines soul, R&B and pop for a smooth style that is anything but commercial drivel. His musical influences range from Otis Redding and Cat Stevens to Jill Scott and Jack Johnson.

For more information, go to www.arts.santa-monica.org, or call (310) 458-8350.

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COLORADO AVENUE

Saint Anne best of the best

Saint Anne School, a local Catholic school, has been selected for the 2009 Best of Santa Monica Award in the Religious Schools category by the U.S. Commerce Association (USCA).

The award, given annually to small businesses throughout the country, recognizes companies that have achieved exceptional success, while maintaining a high quality of service to their customers and communities.

Saint Anne School, founded in 1908, serves students from kindergarten to eighth grade. The school was recognized in particular for its outstanding enrichment programs in science and music.

The school has partnered with the UCLA School of Engineering in order to provide middle school students with microbiology lessons, including the opportunity to analyze samples from Santa Monica's beaches and provide their findings to UCLA graduate students and the Santa Monica City Council. Online tutoring in math and science is also available to students through this partnership.

Every Saint Anne student receives weekly instruction in instrumental music and music appreciation. The program is staffed by faculty from Crossroads School for the Arts, as well as music educators from the Westside Music Foundation and the Music Teacher's Association of California.

DP



Play Time

Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A royal good romp

CAN YOU IMAGINE A MORE DELIGHTFUL way to spend a sunny Sunday afternoon than in the lush wooded tranquility of the Theatricum Botanicum watching several dozen gifted players gambol over the hillside declaiming the words of Shakespeare?

This secluded outdoor theater in Topanga Canyon has begun its 2009 season, ready again to enliven everyone's summer with its potpourri of classic plays and vintage comedies, presided over by the matriarch of the Theatricum family, actress/director/teacher Ellen Geer. This Sunday's offering was Shakespeare's "Cymbeline," a play not as often performed as the more well known comedies and tragedies. But the Theaatricum company does justice to this convoluted plot, thanks mostly to the superb acting of Thad Geer as King Cymbeline and the beautiful Willow Geer as his daughter Imogen. (Just to keep the record straight: Ellen and Thad are the children of the late actor Will Geer, who founded the Theatricum; Willow is Ellen's daughter.)

The plot of "Cymbeline," like many of Shakespeare's plays, involves the intrigues of royalty, the scheming of an ambitious queen, a forbidden love between a princess and a commoner, a pair of royal twins who have disappeared, disguises, identity switches, gender reversals and miscommunication. Even murder. I guess if you've seen one Shakespeare dramedy you've seen them all. (Just kidding!)

Shakespeare is not easy. It takes intelligent acting to make the poetry of the arcane language and the obscure references accessible to a modern audience. The necessary clarity and precision of speech was provided by Thad and Willow Geer, by Susan Angelo as the Queen, by Mike Peebler as the Princess' lover, Posthumus Leonatus, by Gerald Rivers as Pisanio, Posthumus' servant, by Aaron Hendry as Iachimo, the treacherous Roman, by Jeff Wiesen as Cloten, the Queen's obnoxious son, and by Tim Halligan as Caius Lucius, the leader of the invading Romans.

The difficulty of projecting the voice from an outdoor stage, however, was a distinct handicap for some of the performers, causing them to screech. Particularly shrill were Samara Frame as one of the royal twins, and Earnestine Phillips, who played the twins' supposed "mother." Phillips, a long-time veteran of performances at the Theatricum, was surprisingly bad, emoting at such a frenzied pitch that all of her speeches were totally unintelligible.

There were a couple of gender changes that Shakespeare didn't author. The royal twins were both boys in Shakespeare's original manuscript, not a boy and a girl, and their "mother" in this version, the Earnestine Phillips role, is an amalgam of the banished Lord who had kidnapped the twins and the nurse who cared for them and brought them up. Neither of these changes is significant to the action of the play, but one wonders why the director seemingly arbitrarily changed the second brother to a sister.

Like all the plays presented at the Theatricum, "Cymbeline" has a fairy-tale quality that is provided by the natural outdoor settling, and the ambience goes a long way toward enhancing the mood, as does the varied array of costumes. This play will be presented every Sunday at 3:30 p.m. through Sept. 27, alternating with performances of "Julius Caesar," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," Chekhov's" The Cherry Orchard," and Moliere's "The Miser."

The Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum is located at 1419 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., halfway between the Ventura Freeway and Pacific Coast Highway. For ticketing and performance schedules, call (310) 455-3723 or go online to www.theatricum.com.

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

Madonna shares spiritual awakening

MATTI FRIEDMAN
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM After a long career as a singer, dancer, new-age seeker and megacelebrity, Madonna added a new item to her resume Friday — Israeli newspaper correspondent.

An article in Friday's edition of Israel's biggest daily, Yediot Ahronot, bears the Material Girl's byline. It describes her spiritual awakening upon discovering Jewish mysticism, called Kabbalah, after which, she writes, "all the puzzle pieces started falling into place."

Madonna is bringing her Sticky & Sweet tour to Israel in September, which no doubt explains the timing of her journalism debut here. But she also has ties to Israel and Judaism through her involvement with the Los Angeles-based Kabbalah Center, whose new-age version of Judaism's ancient mystic tradition has become popular among members of Hollywood's A-list.

The 50-year-old pop icon has taken the Hebrew name Esther and came to Israel on private pilgrimages in 2004 and 2007 along with other Kabbalah devotees.

In the article, Madonna, who was raised Roman Catholic, describes hearing about Kabbalah for the first time at a dinner party in Los Angeles while pregnant with her daughter Lourdes, who is now 12. She had recently completed a star turn in the movie Evita, she writes, but "still felt like something was missing in my life."

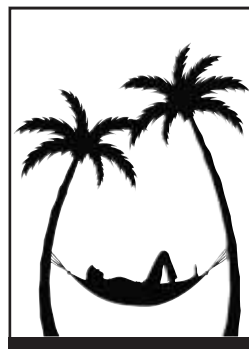
She went to her first class, taught by a teacher named Eitan, after years of practicing yoga and reading about Buddhism, Taoism and early Christianity.

"I heard what he had to say and I knew at this moment my life would never be the same," she writes in the article, which the paper published both in Hebrew and in the original — and apparently unedited — English.

"Life no longer seemed like a series of Random events," she writes. "I also began to see that being Rich and Famous wasn't going to bring me lasting fulfillment and that it was not the end of the journey."

The Kabbalah Center's devotees have included other celebrities such as Demi Moore, Ashton Kutcher and Britney Spears. Some rabbis were particularly incensed by Madonna's song, "Isaac," about the revered 16th-century Kabbalist Rabbi Isaac Luria.

Jewish tradition has long held that Kabbalah is so complicated and so easily misunderstood that students may only begin to approach it with a strong background in Jewish law and only after age 40.



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CITY OF SANTA MONICA SEEKING A CULTURAL AFFAIRS SUPERVISOR

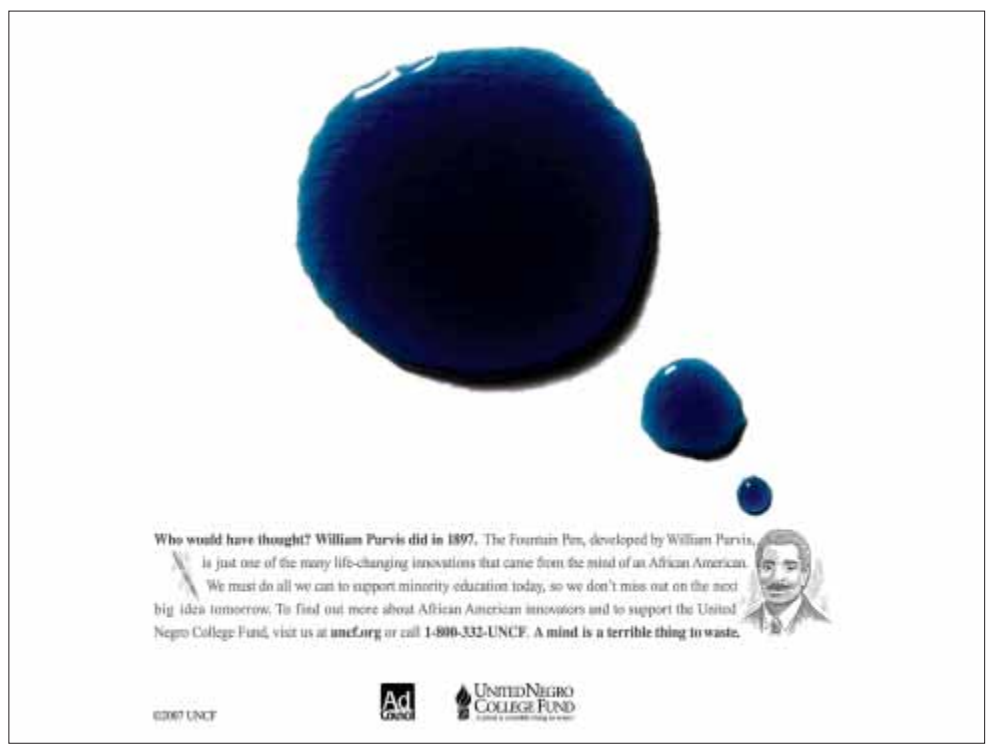
ANNUAL COMPENSATION: Up to $83,068 which includes a base salary of $79,992 per year + cashable leave days (paid at end of the fiscal year) equaling up to $3,076 per year.

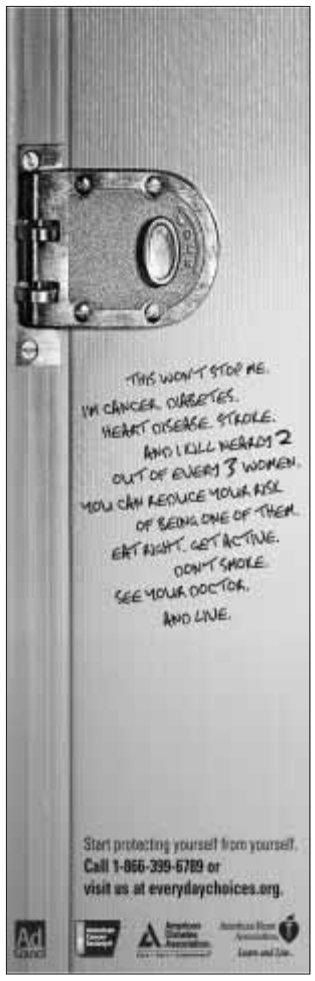
Job Summary: Plans, develops, coordinates and promotes cultural arts programs and activities. Administers one or more cultural program areas that include City grant programs to non-profit organizations, planning and coordination of special cultural events, management of cultural event facilities and public art coordination; Supervises, assigns and reviews the work of staff and/or consultants responsible for the implementation of assigned cultural arts programs.

Requires: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration, Arts Management, Theatrical Production or a closely related field. Three years of recent, paid work experience delivering cultural programs. Experience must have included grant application and management and the preparation and maintenance of financial records. At least two years of the recent, paid experience must have included supervisory responsibilities or one year of leading and coordinating the work of others and successful completion of the City of Santa Monica's Pre-Supervisory Academy at the time of application.

City of Santa Monica

Apply by: 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 4, 2009.
Apply at: City of Santa Monica Human Resources Dept., 1685 Main St., P.O. Box 2200, Santa Monica, CA 90407.
Phone: (310) 458-8697
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NEW DVD RELEASES

BY RANDY WILLIAMS



Photo courtesy Paramount

'I Love You, Man'

Paul Rudd ("Knocked Up") stars as friendless Peter Klaven who goes on a series of man-dates to find a best man for his wedding. But when his insta-bond with his new guy pal puts a strain on his relationship with his fiancée, can the trio learn to live happily ever after? This is a strange "bromance" that takes male bonding to unusual levels indeed. Added segments include a gag reel, a making-of piece, assorted commentaries as well as deleted and extended scenes. (Paramount)

'This Is Spinal Tap' (Blu ray)

In one of the funniest films ever made about music, Christopher Guest, Michael McKean and Harry Shearer star as band mates satirizing the wild personal behavior and musical pretensions of classic rock gods. Presented as a second rate band made up of aging members who are desperately trying to cling to what little fame they had, the movie clearly left a mark on pop culture when it debuted in 1984, evidenced by countless imitators. Rob Reiner made his directorial debut here and also plays a commercial director chronicling the band behind the scenes. The actors are all competent musicians and the soundtrack is actually them playing. Cast and crew commentary, music videos and an exclusive performance at London's Wembley Stadium of their 2007 reunion performance of "Stonehenge" are part of the package. (MGM)

'The Soloist'

Based on a true story, Robert Downey plays a Los Angeles newspaper reporter who discovers a brilliant street musician (Jamie Foxx) and their unique relationship that follows transforms both of their lives. A making-of segment, deleted scenes and cast and crew commentary are part of the bonus materials. (Paramount)

'Five Fingers'

This shattering look at the shifting morals of terrorism and covert torture stars Laurence Fishburne ("The Matrix"), Ryan Phillippe ("Crash") and Colm Meaney ("Con Air") in a cat-and-mouse thriller involving prisoner abuse that takes place in Morocco. "Endgame: Inside Five Fingers" and a trivia track are part of the DVD. (Lionsgate)

'Nobel Son'

Alan Rickman ("Die Hard," "Harry Potter") gives a star performance as scientist Eli Michaelson a womanizing egotist whose self-regard balloons to the breaking point when he wins the Nobel Prize in chemistry. Just when he and his wife (Mary Steenburgen) fly to Sweden to claim the award, their son (Bryan Greenberg) is kidnapped by a revenge-minded young man (Shawn Hatosy) who claims to be the scientist's illegitimate offspring. More than few twists and turns later revenge comes to some one else. (Fox)

'Shark Bites'

Based on record-shattering ratings comes this two-disc set of the Discovery Channel programming about the world of Sharks. Hosts and experts go swimming with the ocean's most feared predator to seek answers to such questions as: Why do sharks sometimes prey on humans? When are you most likely to be attacked? Where are the most dangerous sharks located? Bonus segments include: "MythBusters: Jaws," "Shark Attack Files IV," "Dirty Jobs: Jobs That Bite" and "Dirty Jobs: Jobs That Bite Harder (Discovery/Image)

RANDY WILLIAMS can be reached at www.sportandcinema.com

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Santa Monica Daily Press

The Agent Directory

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 70°

Swell Forecast

Today looks smaller, perhaps knee to waist high most everywhere. Winds should be light and variable in the AM, and onshore in the afternoon 15 mph.

Long Range Synopsis

Later this weekend is looking fairly small, although we may see some weak NW wind swell bump up a bit.

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 28, 2009**

HEAL THE BAY - 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - www.healthebay.org - brc@healthebay.org - 800 HEAL BAY

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 -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 44 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 3 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by simplehuman, Goldhirsh Foundation, the James Irvine 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 Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Los Cerrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechasa and Las Alisos creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blacker County Beach	A+	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pierce Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	A+	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	D	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	F	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	B	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. 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's Beach Report Card® is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A–F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

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.

Heal the Bay

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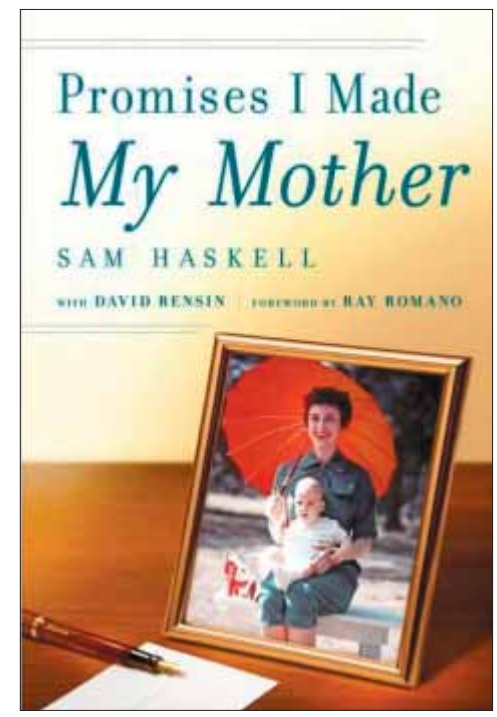
BOOK REVIEW

BY DANE ROBERT SWANSON



'Promises I Made My Mother'

By Sam Haskell with David Resin • Ballantine Books



There is an Irish proverb that states, "A man loves his sweetheart the most; his wife the best; but his mother the longest."

This may be so. Mothers teach us lessons by what they say and do. They are very important people. Sons need them and their influence lasts a long, long time. It is the mother not the father who socializes the boy. She presents the example of how a female should be treated. "They embrace, nourish, and comport us. Our mothers are our conscious, and our safe harbor." They do more than just give us life.

Author Sam Haskell has given us an important look at the principles learned through his mother's daily lifestyle and speech.

Haskell was born in Mississippi in 1955 and moved to Los Angeles in 1978, but never quite lost his accent. He has been referred to by many as Gomer Pyle because of his speech patterns. His mother had told him "First and foremost, have faith in your dreams." He seems never to have forgotten the good example his mother was. He shares her with us.

Haskell details his career in the William Morris Agency. He started in the mailroom and moved up to being one of their top agents. He has handled such programs as "Everyone Loves Raymond." He represented Kathie Lee Gifford, Debbie Allen, Dolly Parton, Ray Romano, Bill Crosby, George Clooney, Whoopi Goldberg, Lily Tomlin and His Royal Highness Prince Edward.

"My mother's life," he reports, "was the best example of the importance of having special friends. Hers were her sister, Betty Rogers, my high school English teacher, Jeffrie Robinson; Virginia Cole, and Helen Rutledge. She could open her heart to these women, know they'd listen, and get emotional support and honest feedback without being judged." Haskell took that to heart and made friends also.

He learned a secret. To get others to do what you want them to do you should present how it could benefit both of you. That is, give people what they want. Also seek understanding. Listen to what the other person has to say as to why they are reacting a certain way. "Every client comes with a mix-and-match assortment of the following: spouse, adviser, manager, hairdresser, physical trainer, driver, cook, psychic, relatives." He states. "When a compromise must be sought, it's often these satellite folks who require it most."

In this book he attempts to provide principles to live by. He does a very good job. Some principles covered are honesty, self-reliance and thoughtfulness.

Haskell has also provided a way to help young students who need financial assistance to attend college. He has established a scholarship fund in his mother's name to do so. That also was based on a promise he made.

Anyone reading this book will come away with ideas on how to make this world better. You will also feel optimistic about the world. We need more people who will keep promises made to their parents. We also need more people who follow the good examples their mothers have left them.

Good books bring us good times. Good times bring us good memories. Share your memories with the best looking book reviewer in Santa Monica at smdp_review@yahoo.com.

Amazon sued over deletion

TIM KLASS
Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE A high school student is suing Amazon.com Inc. for deleting an e-book he purchased for the Kindle reader, saying his electronic notes were bollixed, too.

Amazon CEO Jeffrey P. Bezos has apologized to Kindle customers for remotely removing copies of the George Orwell novels "1984" and "Animal Farm" from their e-reader devices. The company did so after learning the electronic editions were pirated, and it gave buyers automatic refunds. But Amazon did it without prior notice.

The lawsuit seeking class-action status was filed Thursday in U.S. District Court in Seattle on behalf of Justin D. Gawronski, 17, a student at Eisenhower High School in Shelby Township, Mich., as well as Antoine J. Bruguier, an adult reader in Milpitas, Calif.

Patty Smith, an Amazon spokeswoman, said the Seattle-based company was aware of the filing but does not comment on pending litigation.

The case seeks unspecified damages for all buyers of e-books that Amazon deleted from the Kindle as well as a ban on future deletions.

The lawsuit said Amazon never disclosed to customers that it "possessed the technological ability or right to remotely delete digital content purchased through the Kindle Store."

Bruguier complained to Amazon repeatedly after losing his copy of "1984," appealing in vain for that or an authorized edition to be restored to his Kindle, according to the lawsuit. "I thought that once purchased, the books were mine," he wrote.

MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(323) 466-FILM

Saturday, Aug. 1
Baraka (NR) 1hr 36min
7:30

Sunday, Aug. 2
The Monster Squad (NR) 1hr 22min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Public Enemies (R) 2hr 23min
12:50, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) 2hrs 33min
11:15 a.m., 2:45, 6:15, 9:45

Up (PG) 1hr 36min
11:00 a.m., 1:40, 4:15

Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
6:45, 10:00

The Proposal (PG-13) 1hr 48min
11:30 a.m., 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20

AMC 7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

Aliens in the Attic (PG) 1hr 26min
11:20 a.m., 1:50, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30

Funny People (R) 2hrs 16min
11:45 a.m., 12:30, 3:00, 4:00, 6:50, 7:30, 10:20, 11:00

G-Force (PG) 1hr 28min
11:15 a.m., 1:40, 4:10, 6:30, 9:05

G-Force: In Disney Digital 3-D (PG) 1hr 28min
12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:20, 9:45

The Hangover (R) 1hr 36min
12:20, 2:45, 5:20, 7:40, 10:10

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) 2hrs 33min
11:30 a.m., 3:10, 7:10, 10:40

Laemmle's Monica Fourplex
1332 Second St.
(310) 394-9741

(500) Days of Summer (PG-13) 1hr 50min
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 7:00, 8:00, 10:15

Cheri (R) 1hr 47min
1:40, 4:10, 9:30

Live Music (NR) 7 min
1:00, 1:10

Moon (R) 1hr 52min
1:50, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50

The Hurt Locker (R) 2hr 26min
1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:15

Mann's Criterion Theatre
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Orphan (R) 2hrs 3min
1:20, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30

The Ugly Truth (R) 1hr 36min
11:10 a.m., 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10

The Ugly Truth (R) (Digital Projection) 1hr 36min
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

Bruno (R) 1hr 21min
12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:20

Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs 3D (PG) 1hr 27min
11:40 a.m., 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:20

The Collector (R) 1hr 25min
12:20, 2:50, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40

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

Make the most of the night, Leo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Your adventurous spirit signs you up for a hike or another type of excursion. A friend is involved somehow. A power play simply doesn't work, especially if it involves a family member or your home. Tonight: Break new ground.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Don't allow a child or friend to impact your mood. Relate to others individually. Your words do have an impact, allowing more creativity and energy. Your imagination or that of an older relative cooks up some fun ideas. Tonight: Dinner for two.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Others have many ideas, and you are overwhelmed. Reach out for someone at a distance and let go of worrying about a controlling partner. The unexpected occurs when out and about or when dealing with an older relative. Tonight: Sort through messages.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Focus on a hobby or project, which might be getting ready to go to the beach. Enjoy today's opportunities. You'll hit an obstacle that could be quite difficult and challenging. Plans could get tossed because of news. Tonight: Squeeze in something physical, even if it is just a brisk walk.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You keep coming up with new ideas, perhaps confusing others. Are these ideas for today, or for the near future? Forget what you should do. Everyone needs a day off from the world. A close partner could be full of surprises. Tonight: Make the most of the night.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Screen your calls. Stay close to home. Everyone needs a break. Get through some must-dos in order to free yourself up. You also might opt to invite friends over. Why not? Just make it easy and relaxed. Tonight: Hang close to home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Keep discussions open. Don't stand on ceremony with others. Your instincts prove to be right-on with a child or new loved one. Be willing to talk and not close yourself off. Tonight: Visit with friends. Catch up on news.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Your possessive side emerges. Think through your attitude toward a child or loved one. One of you could be quite brusque. This doesn't serve anyone. Consider a new computer or car. Don't act on this purchase until you have done sufficient research. Tonight: Your treat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Confusion or a nebulous quality surrounds a talk, call or meeting. You could easily tumble into an upsetting misunderstanding. Don't get caught up in this situation. Forgiveness goes far. Tonight: Just be yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You could be out of sync and controlling. Look at others' reactions. Curb a tendency to overspend or invest in what seems like a great idea. Be a financial cynic. Tonight: Keep your own counsel.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Zero in on what you want. True to the Aquarius sign, you value friends and will opt to get together with some of your pals. Spending could be erratic at best. Know when to say "no," not only to others, but also to you. Tonight: Where the action is.

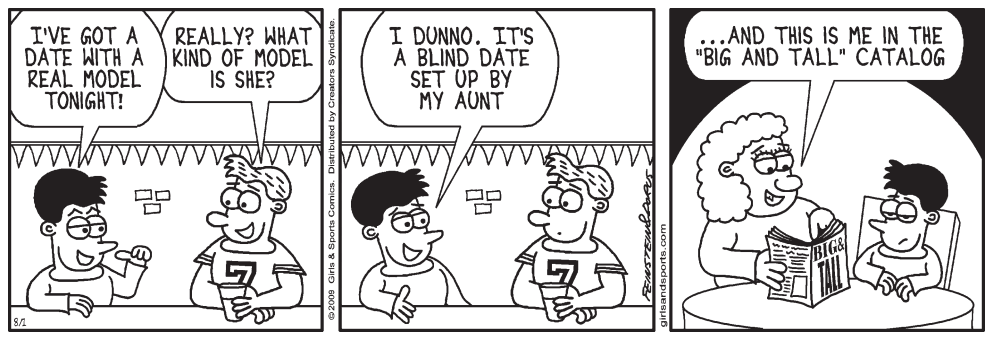
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ You jolt others far more than you realize. Your humor and generosity come out. You have the ability to approach situations individually, adding to the comfort of others. How you express your caring could be a bit indulgent. Tonight: A must appearance.

Happy birthday

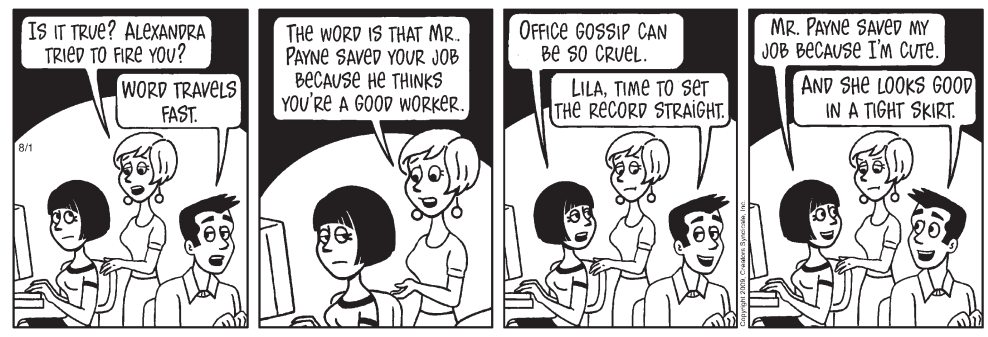
This year, you will want to be more social. No matter what age you are, you seem to don a naivete, which could be startling to many -- even to you! A key associate could continue to act impulsively. Breaking his or her pattern might not be possible, but it really isn't your issue. You might greet risks a little too easily. If you are single, you draw many people. Remember, it takes a year to really get to know someone. If you are attached, keep communication clear. Try to prevent confusion by confirming what you think you heard, as well as other important details. SAGITTARIUS always proves to be fun!

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

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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 ★★★★

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

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

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Maya Sugarman *news@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Hint: Try Downtown. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Lynx
7 Rotisserie
11 Land west of the Urals
12 Ticklish Muppet
13 Was rude, in a way
14 High-lander
15 Essays
16 Rock genre
17 Dis-patched
18 Peaceful
19 Informal farewell
21 Succor
22 South American tree
25 Pollen collector
26 Bear in the air
27 Yard tools
29 Biting remark
33 Barrel piece
34 Ping producer
35 Mosaic piece
36 Sioux people
37 Sign
38 Eats into
39 Sunset site
40 Vacillates

DOWN

1 Conquers
2 Bizarre
3 Hippo-campus setting
4 — Scott King
5 Big galoots
6 Rocker Nugent
7 Rocker Bob
8 Mesa's kin
9 Parent's warning
10 Rang
16 Café offerings
18 Agitates
20 Blue hue
22 Kind of story
23 Feasts
24 "Lolita" author
25 Confer
28 Calendar entry
30 Battery part
31 Critic, at times
32 Army VIPs
34 Mystery writer Woods
36 Grass coat

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

Yesterday's answer

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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					

8-1

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 4 17 24 25 48
Meganumber: 34
Jackpot: $73M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 8 12 19 25 39
Meganumber: 17
Jackpot: $11M

FANTASY 5: 1 5 24 35 36

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 3 8 1
EVENING: 9 0 8

DAILY DERBY
1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 01 Gold Rush
RACE TIME: 1:40.31

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ (1) A British prison research organization revealed in July that, over the last 10 years, the country's notoriously generous inmate furlough program has seen almost 1,000 of its prisoners escape, including 19 convicted murderers. (The government said the rate of "non-return" is less than it used to be.) (2) The East Anglian Daily Times reported in July that its Freedom of Information Act request for the names of recent escapees from the Hollesley Bay prison had only been partially fulfilled by the government. A list of the crimes represented by the 39 escapees was handed over, but not their names, because prison officials said that would violate the escapees' right of privacy.

■ Michael Warner, 58, passed away in May 2004 of acute alcohol poisoning (with a 0.47 blood-alcohol level) in Lake Jackson, Texas, from ingesting three liters of sherry wine, which entered his body by enema. His widow, Tammy, told authorities that he had been addicted to taking them since childhood and even had favorite recipes, such as enemas by coffee, by Castile soap, by Ivory soap. Said Tammy, "I'm sure that's the way he wanted to go out because he loved his enemas." Tammy was originally charged with negligent homicide for helping prepare Michael's fatal wine dose, but the prosecutor dropped the charge.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1714 Britain's Queen Anne died at age 49; she was succeeded by George I.

1876 Colorado was admitted as the 38th state.

1894 The First Sino-Japanese War erupted, the result of a dispute over control of Korea; Japan's army routed the Chinese.

1907 The U.S. Army Signal Corps established an aeronautical division, the forerunner of the U.S. Air Force.

1933 The National Recovery Administration's "Blue Eagle" symbol began to appear in store windows and on packages to show support for the National Industrial Recovery Act.

WORD UP!

sui generis \soo-eye-JEN-ur-us; soo-ee-\ , adjective: 1.Being the only example of its kind; constituting a class of its own; unique.

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501 N. Venice 1+1, #25 $1225/mo stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. $750 off move-in (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

501 N. Venice unit 10 single, $1025/mo $500 off move-in stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

833 5TH St. SM unit 101 2+2 $2495 stove, carpet, blinds, swimming pool, laundry, granite countertops, wood/tile floors, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets. (310)393-2547 www.jkwproperties.com

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Median Price of ALL Santa Monica Properties Listed for Sale As of Late July 2009

	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	$2,499,000	$3,495,000
North of Montana	$3,250,000	$1,049,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$2,000,000	$1,049,000
South of Wilshire	$899,000	$575,000
Sunset Park	$1,175,000	$615,000
Ocean Park	$1,650,000	$879,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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