

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

1 3 20 34 45
Meganumber: 27
Jackpot: \$50 Million

FANTASY 5

2 6 8 9 12

DAILY 3

Daytime: 8 3 4
Evening: 0 7 7

DAILY DERBY

1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 03 Hot Shot

RACE TIME: 1:41.72

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site: <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In February, a Judicial Conduct Board in Pittsburgh filed charges against District Judge Ernest Marraccini, who apparently was upset one day at having to sit as a substitute traffic judge. ("Well, I'm not spending the day here," he allegedly said in court.) To the 30 people waiting to appeal their tickets, Marraccini reportedly said, "Well, then, let's just find everybody not guilty!" When the stunned appellants didn't immediately react, Marraccini said, "I told you you're all not guilty. ... What are you, a bunch of morons?"

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 214th day of 2005.
There are 151 days left in the year.

On Aug. 2, 1945, President Truman, Soviet leader Josef Stalin and British Prime Minister Clement Attlee concluded the Potsdam conference.

In 1939, Albert Einstein signed a letter to President Roosevelt urging creation of an atomic weapons research program.

In 1964, the Pentagon reported the first of two attacks on U.S. destroyers by North Vietnamese torpedo boats in the Gulf of Tonkin.

In 1980, 85 people were killed when a bomb exploded at the train station in Bologna, Italy.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Everyone is necessarily the hero of his own life story."

JOHN BARTH
AMERICAN AUTHOR

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Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Bar patrons catch a smoke break on Main Street, outside of Finn McCools, which provides outside ashtrays for its customers. However, the city is grappling with how to curb the onslaught of butts being tossed on the ground. A law is being considered that would require establishments to provide receptacles.

Butts about it

BY SARA MILSTEIN

Special to the Daily Press

MAIN STREET — A bar patron drew in the last of his cigarette and let it slip from between his fingers, dropping the butt onto the dirty sidewalk, and more than likely, sending it out to sea.

It's a familiar scene across Santa Monica, as barflies and restaurant patrons banished to the outdoors tend to drop their cigarettes to the ground. Thousands of smokers are forced to take their nicotine addictions outside as a result of a 1998 law that banned

smoking in public places.

But now — seven years after the ban — restaurants and bars might be forced to provide a place for those butts.

Cigarette butts — often scattered around bar and restaurant patios — are the most littered item in America and around the world, according to litterbutt.com.

Talk earlier this year among City Council members echoed a problem that began when the California smoking ban was passed in 1994 and enacted in '98.

See ASHTRAYS, page 7

Robinsons-May is checking out

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SANTA MONICA PLACE — A major department store is set to be sold, leaving local business leaders to ponder what might replace it.

Federated Department Stores, Inc., which owns Macy's, announced last Thursday it will sell 68 "duplicate" stores in malls occupied by both Macy's and Robinsons-May as the result of a merger. Federated representatives said the local Robinsons-May store will likely be sold off in 2006.

Santa Monica Place, the indoor shopping mall located between Second and Fourth streets and Broadway and Colorado avenues, is anchored by dual department stores Macy's and Robinsons-May, the latter occupying 137,000 square feet of retail space.

The news comes on the heels of re-development plans that may be underway at Santa Monica Place. Randy Brant, senior vice president of development leasing for Macerich, Inc., the company which owns Santa Monica Place, is unsure how the loss of Robinsons-May might affect re-

development plans for the mall.

"I don't know yet," Brant said. "They're going to close the store, and it's for sale."

Federated plans on operating all May stores under their existing name at least through the 2005 holiday shopping season.

Federated plans on operating all May stores under their existing name at least through the 2005 holiday shopping season. Sell of duplicate May and Macy's locations will begin in 2006, which will be offered to landlords, developers and interested third parties.

Federated and May shareholders have approved the merger, which is expected to close in the third quarter of 2005, pending

See ROBINSONS-MAY, page 6

Mighty mice: A little speed goes long way towards cure

BY PAUL ELIAS

AP Biotechnology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Illegal drugs such as Ecstasy and related amphetamines reversed the Parkinson's disease-like muscle rigidity in mice, researchers reported Monday.

While cautioning such a surprising finding in mice doesn't translate directly to patients, the scientists said the research opens up new areas of exploration for an incurable brain disorder that afflicts 500,000 people in the United States.

"We hope that our study doesn't prompt all the Parkinsonians to go out to the street corners to deal

for methamphetamine and Ecstasy," said Marc Caron, a Duke University Medical Center researcher in Durham, N.C., and co-author of the study.

Caron and his colleagues created mice through genetic engineering and drugs to be free of the brain chemical dopamine. Without dopamine, the rodents became rigid like Parkinson's patients.

The researchers then injected the mice with about 60 different chemical compounds, that are widely abused like Ecstasy and several others from the amphetamine family.

The mice receiving the speed

See MIGHTY MICE, page 6

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Happy Birthday, Melly Mel Henderson

Santa Monica Daily Press

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★ Remain centered through any actions or discussions that occur after noon. They might have to be repeated. Confirm plans and don't get emotional about what happens. Learn to walk away from heated situations. Tonight: Stay home.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Try as you might, others seem to get confused. A friend could become quite upset, and a misunderstanding might happen out of the blue. Meetings also might become chaotic. Just hang in there, and refuse to get triggered. Tonight: Swap today's war stories with a pal.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★ Don't handle money today, as problems will only ensue. If you get a problematic letter or call, act on it tomorrow. Actions taken today could be futile or cause more of a problem. Let your imagination flow. Tonight: Add more laughter to your life.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Use the morning well, as you can get a lot done quickly. What you hear this afternoon might be off. In fact, don't worry about the chaos that could easily surround you. Keep smiling, and know that you don't have all the facts. Tonight: Whatever pleases you.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★ Vanish or take a day off if you can. Others are contrary. Do not deal with money — yours or anyone else's. Confusion marks plans, and misunderstandings happen way too easily. Don't take what others say personally. Tonight: Hide out well, so you cannot be found.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Though you might believe that everything is copacetic, you could find out otherwise. You will be in the midst of chaos and mix-ups, which never makes you happy. Keep your long-term goals in mind. Tonight: Find a trusted friend.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Take your time with others. With misunderstandings running rampant, you will have to deal with responsibilities or with someone in charge. Just stay focused. Avoid a hassle at all costs. Tonight: Do only what you must.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Detach and simply head in your own direction. Getting tied up with others could be nothing less than a disaster. You see others acting out because they are confused. Listen more. Say little. A child or loved one acts up. Tonight: Put on your headset. Screen out life for now.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Working with someone you care about could be difficult, if not impossible. You need to let go of preconceived ideas, which often get you into trouble, or at least manage to confuse the situation, as your perspective is off. Tonight: Be positive.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Others are in control, and you might be questioning what is going on here. You might need to playfully take charge, as others are very temperamental and out of control. You will need a good sense of humor. Tonight: Don't count on anything, and you will be happy.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Know what you must do, and don't attempt to take on anything else. Others are unpredictable. Take the conservative road. Keep money out of the equation, if possible. Try to understand rather than get in the middle of issues. Tonight: Make it an early bedtime, if you can.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Sometimes you mean well, but all your efforts go up in smoke. You surprise others and head in a new direction. You could get a strong reaction. Deal with those you care about individually, if possible. Tonight: A good laugh goes far.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

National nonprofit stepping up membership drive

By Daily Press staff

It's time to train the next generation of women.

The Los Angeles chapter of the national nonprofit Step Up Women's Network will hold its fall bi-annual membership meeting.

Step Up is dedicated to training the next generation of female philanthropists through hands-on community service, professional mentorship and development, fundraising and social events, organization officials say. The meeting is open to all interested women and will feature information on Step Up's membership benefits, networking opportunities and community programs.

Founded in 1998 by Kaye Popofsky Kramer, Step Up Women's Network is a nonprofit, membership organization dedicated to strengthening community resources for women and girls. Through hands-on community service, mentoring and fundraising for women's health and critical issues, they believe in educating their membership to ensure that women and girls have the tools they need to create a better future, according to officials.

The meeting will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 23, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Sheraton Delphina Hotel, 530 West Pico Blvd. To RSVP visit www.stepup-womensnetwork.org.

Don't skip the live 'Fandango'

By Daily Press staff

Let there be light through music.

Illumination Ensemble, a new chamber music organization, is set to present its debut concert, entitled "Fandango."

The program will feature works by Vivaldi, Boccherini, Gaspar Sanz and Santiago de Murcia, along with other Baroque and Classical pieces from Italy and Spain.

The concert's centerpiece will be Luigi Boccherini's Guitar Quintet No. 4 in D major, known as the Fandango Quintet because of its final movement. Guitarist Richard Savino, Illumination's associate artistic director, will be the featured soloist.

Savino has recorded the complete Boccherini guitar quintets with the Artaria Quartet for Harmonia Mundi. Savino also will play selections from his award-winning recording of works by Spanish composer Santiago de Murcia (1685-1732) (Koch International Classics). Other works in the program include Vivaldi's Follia in D minor and music by Gaspar Sanz (b. 1640).

Featured players include some of California's period instrument specialists, music officials say: Janet Worsley-Strauss and Susan Feldman, violins; Daniel Seidenberg, violin and viola; and William Skeen, violoncello and viola da gamba.

The Lladró gallery on Beverly Hills' Rodeo Drive at Brighton offers a spacious, yet intimate venue for Illumination's concert, according to organizers. Like much of the music on the program, Lladró, the internationally recognized creator of hand-crafted porcelain, has roots in Spain. The company was founded in 1953 by three Lladró brothers — Juan, José, and Vicente — in Almacera, a rural village near Valencia, Spain. Today, Lladró porcelain is exported to more than 100 countries; the international company is still based in Valencia and owned by the Lladró Family.

Fandango will take place on Friday, Aug. 26, at 8 p.m. at Lladró, 408 North Rodeo Dr. in Beverly Hills. General admission is \$35. For tickets and further information, call (310) 393-8460 or (800) 595-4849 or visit www.illuminatmusic.org.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2!



SURF REPORT

Today, our next SW swell is due. We're expecting size to increase towards waist- to chest-high around most south-facing breaks. Also, we are expecting some minor NW wind swell in the mix from an area of low pressure off of the northern coast. Expect some knee- to waist-high peaks around west-facing breaks.

Today the water is:

67°

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	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
MONDAY	2:45	-0.2	1:37	2.9	9:37	3.7	7:48	5.8
TUESDAY	3:20	-0.4	2:18	2.7	10:05	3.8	8:36	6.0
WEDNESDAY	3:50	-0.4	2:53	2.5	10:28	3.9	9:01	6.0
THURSDAY	4:18	-0.4	3:25	2.4	10:50	3.9	9:33	6.0
FRIDAY	4:44	-0.4	3:58	2.2	11:12	4.0	10:04	5.9

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Animal-rights activists are criticizing City Hall for its attempts to reduce the local population of squirrels — the fleas of which can carry disease — by setting out pesticide bait traps. Officials, who say the city stopped setting the traps in late June, contend the measure was necessary in the interest of public health.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do you feel the city was correct in setting out poison traps to reduce the number of local squirrels in the name of public health? Why or why not?"

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

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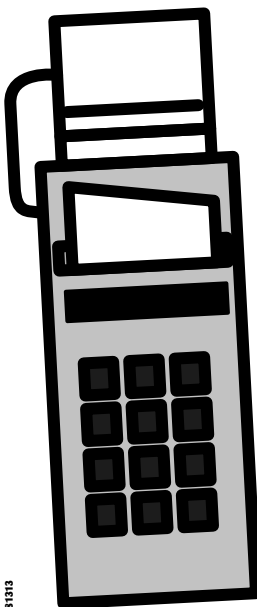
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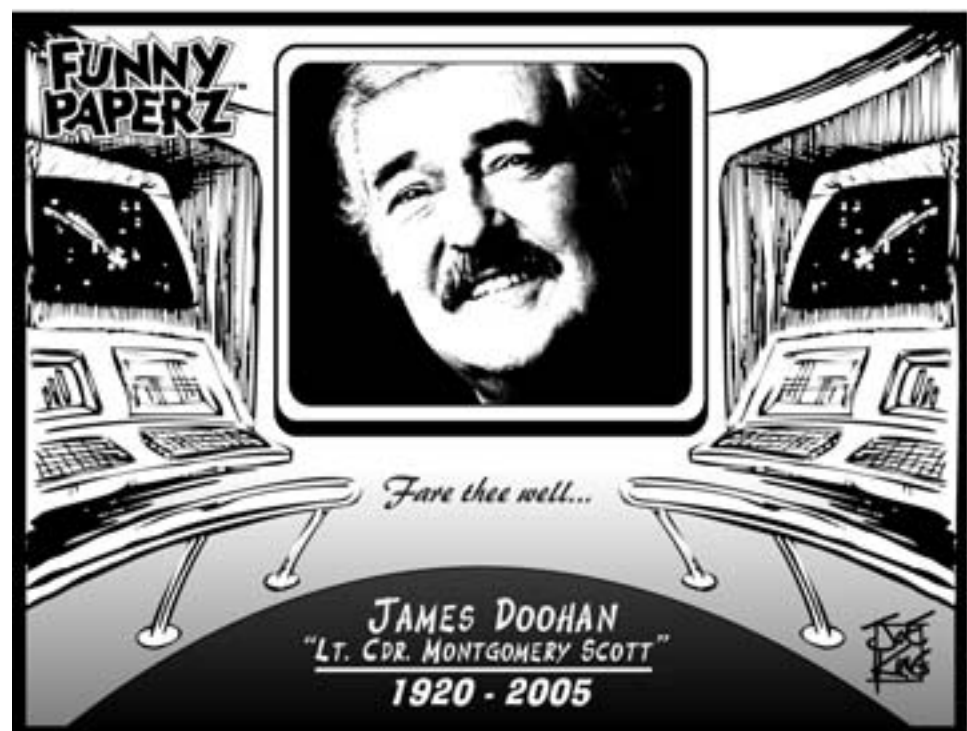
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OPINION



ENGINEERING REPORTS THAT MR. DOOHAN HAS BEEN RESTORED TO FULL POWER...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

City leaders have heads in the sand

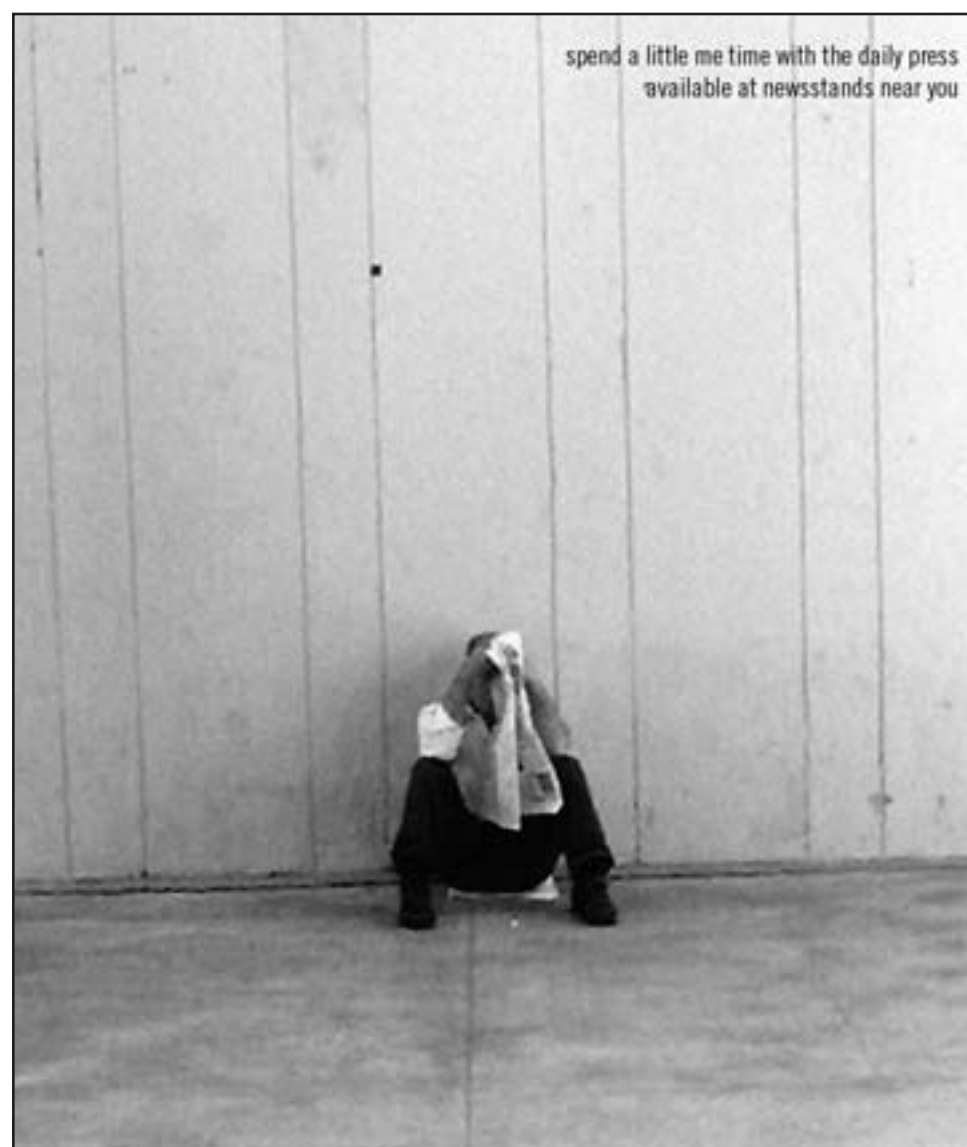
Editor:

Regarding the article in the Friday, July 29 issue of SMDP ("PETA digs in to save city ground squirrels"): Hooray for PETA. I would really be interested in the city's statistics on the illnesses caused and dangers posed by squirrels. This is a city that is totally not interested in cleaning up the urine and feces from druggies and alcoholics whose lifestyle leaves them vulnerable to AIDS and other health hazards, but they will allow children to watch in horror as these small animals die a slow and agonizing death. A sight I'm sure they will never forget.

If the city considers the squirrels dangerous it doesn't surprise me. After all, in their fantasy world there are headlines across the country touting how dangerous squirrels are. Just turn on the television and you hear of nothing else. Not!

Get real and quit being so cruel to animals. If you think the squirrels are truly dangerous and you must kill them, at least do it a humane way.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica



Let's put our energy where it's called for



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

The Hydrogen Highway Governor should do something effective, besides gather headlines and raise more money than his predecessor, that is.

He wants to be the Governor who shakes things up, and does business in a better way. He claims to not be a 'girlie-man' in politics, but if the governor wanted to help the energy crunch he would submit a bill to the legislature requiring any developer who is building more than four residential units to install solar panels.

I'm sure he could find a way to exempt his own building activities while in office.

The source of this new passion for solar came to me as we were driving to Northern California this past weekend. Thanks to a truck spill on the I-5, we spent an hour and a half in the lovely town of Mojave, where we discussed the huge tacky developments of new housing.

Staring at the large number of homes, each with their own air-conditioner, it makes sense for the governor or some astute legislator to propose a solution that would help build an industry, reduce the dependence on fossil fuels, and put the burden on developers who are large enough to fold the costs into their large scale development plans.

For example, if KB Homes were to put solar panels on the homes they are building in the Inland Empire, those homes could be mostly self-sufficient for electricity. Additionally, they would be creating a market for the solar industry, which would help bring prices down. Currently, a system that collects enough energy to put out 3 kilowatts an hour — enough for most homes with a family four or five — costs approximately \$25,000 before the state tax rebates. With the rebates, the costs are down around \$14,000 for an individual home system.

But with some of the famous Eli Broad arm-twisting, and a kick in the butt from the Governor, I'm sure that could be lowered.

The utilities are required by law to purchase any excess power generated, which is good for the homeowners and could be a selling point for KB. Given the gargantuan appetite the state has for power, and with each new baby born, or "must have" gadget created by Silicon Valley, our demands increase, so the home generators are not going to be putting Southern California Edison out of business anytime soon.

By putting this burden on the developers it would be transferring the need for new power plants to the parties responsible for it. It is a viable solution, and for once, not at the expense of the taxpayers. Granted the costs would be passed on to the homebuyers, but they are financing over 30 years.

Politics is a shell game of names, acronyms and deception. But in this game of mystery players and shadow supporters, is a player who has the ability to stand above it all, and carry the standard of truth and honesty — Attorney General Bill Lockyer.

The attorney general finally did something worthy of note. In politics today there has been a concerted effort to misname

groups and causes, so as to mislead the voters. The behavior is engaged in by both liberals and conservatives, but frankly I seem to notice it more from the far right.

The names of these groups are phrased in high sounding principles, but in reality they are just fronts for extremists. Groups like the Traditional Values Coalition and the Alliance Defense Fund, California Family Council, PreserveLiberty.com and ProtectMarriage.com all sound like a patriotic endeavor, but what they really stand for is bigotry and misogyny.

They claim to be fighting for a free and equal society, and I suppose so long as you fit their image of a husband and wife and two tow-headed children, and attend their church regularly, you'll get your equality. But the problem I see, is that most families are not fitting that mold these days.

It is in that spirit of Christian equality that a ballot initiative was sent to the attorney general's office for review under the title of the Voters Right to Protect Marriage Initiative by the California Family Council. The initiative had the stealth title to sound like 'marriage protection' but what it really does is repeal the domestic partnership laws. Those few rights that gays and lesbians have would be stripped away. The attorney general renamed the initiative and called it what it is, Invalidation of Domestic Partnerships.

Last year in the drama over gay marriage, the pundits were quite vocal about how 'protecting marriage' was not about taking rights away from the gays. It seems the battle has changed for those who feel emboldened and are willing to press hard to move their agenda forward with ballot initiatives to enshrine bigotry and homophobia.

This is a woman's issue. Because once the gays have their meager rights taken away, abortion is next.

And I don't want to hear that I'm an alarmist, or that it will never happen here, because last year it was about 'protecting marriage' and now it's about repealing rights. A quick look at the Alliance Defense fund Web site has "Religious Freedom", "Sanctity of Human Life" and "Family Values" as major issues.

This is a black man's issue also. Because once the gays are back in their little box, and the women can't have legal abortions, the stealth patriots are coming after the "promiscuous" black man who has too many children out of wedlock and expects society to support them. It'll be the Family Values again. If you don't believe me, remember most religious folks are Republicans, and they don't have such a great track record with criminal justice laws. Three Strikes — a Republican idea. End welfare — a Republican platform mainstay.

if you need support to believe me, take a look at the fact that then-Governor Gray Davis closed prisons, but the private contractors who build them kept their lobbyists in the state. Current Republican Gov. Schwarzenegger has bowed to the prison system needs and is reopening facilities because we have a population explosion of prisoners. Most are not Caucasian.

So thanks are due the attorney general, for being the one voice that seems to have some truth in his work.

(David Pizarra can be reached at dpisarra@pizarra.com or 310/664-9969.)

COMMENTARY



Burned by yet another not-so endless summer



ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

I've done it again. I've let an LA summer slip right by me. Everyone I see has wonderful tans and I look like my parents never let me out during the day.

Sure, I went to the beach, twice. I laid out in the sun last weekend, under the shade of a pool's umbrella. I even went rollerblading on the boardwalk, but unfortunately came down with the flu the following day.

Maybe that's the problem right there — my body can't handle an LA summer.

Your regular order of LA is just too sunny and busy for the likes of me. All this lying on the beach and getting a tan, when is a person supposed to have time and relax?

Yeah, I think it's safe to say I possibly take a place for granted.

In England, I didn't awe at the Tower of London, see a Shakespeare play or shake hands with J.K. Rowling. I didn't even see the palace or the Queen's jewels. The "must do" list were all things for tourists, which apparently I was in thorough denial that I was.

In Cardiff, Wales, I was more excited about bowling and Pizza Hut than the 20-plus ruins we saw in one day. I mean, we had already seen two weeks of dilapidated amphitheaters and columns in Corinth, Delphi and Athens. How many more eroding structures did we need to see to realize these places were old?

Yes, I was quite young when I went to Europe.

But three years later, I'm still whistling the same tune. The rationalization is just different — it's just too dang hard to deal

with parking and all the people on a Santa Monica beach to make it enjoyable.

But forget the beach, I could hike in the Sequoias, get a cabin at Big Bear or ride the Ferris wheel on the Santa Monica Pier in my LA Summer.

No, those places are just too far.

Sometimes I forget that most people in the U.S. can't see the ocean blocks away from their house. They can't walk outside without being accosted by 99 degrees and an 100-percent humidity index. A background of precipitous mountains doesn't usually come with the package either.

All right, I've never liked New Year's resolutions, but maybe it wouldn't hurt to devise a summer in LA one.

Fine, here we go. Ahem, next summer I promise to do more things LA. I will go the beach at least three times and get a tan (or as much as my Norwegian skin will allow).

Like true LA celebrities, I will wear sunglasses not only while tanning, but even indoors and at night.

I will partake in outdoor summer sports like hiking and surfing. I will do more indoor sports like buying a purse that equals the down payment of a small car.

I will go to at least one California getaway destination. I will try to make it to Third Street to see the Psychic Cat lady.

I will plan a cookout at my house and invite all my friends. Then I will promptly remind myself that I don't have a grill, backyard or patio, and succumb to heating up my grill fare in the microwave.

I hereby make the Daily Press readers my witnesses, to keep me accountable of my summer 2006 resolution. If I fail to adhere to these said statements in any way, may I feel bad about it and try again next year.

Isn't that the whole point of a resolution, even in LA?

(Heidi can be reached at anydayin-la@gmail.com.)

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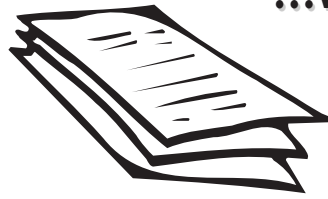
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LOCAL □ STATE



Robinsons-May jobs safe until March '06

ROBINSONS-MAY, from page 1

completion of regulatory review.

Brant said Macerich, which is one of the largest owners and operators of retail malls in the United States, may offer to buy Robinsons-May from Federated.

"Macerich has potential interest," Brant said.

According to Brant, the indoor shopping mall needs to be re-developed because it was based on an old, out-dated suburban model that does not compete well with shops on the Third Street Promenade.

The question of what kind of development should replace Santa Monica Place is one the city has been grappling with in recent years.

The City Council scrapped a proposed development to replace Santa Monica Place last year due to controversy about the height of high-rise buildings that were slated for the site. If implemented, the project would have demolished the existing mall and erected three 21-story residential towers, an eight-story office building and an eight-story apartment building. Those buildings were to be built on top of a new outdoor mall, which developers described as a natural extension of the Third Street Promenade.

Macerich has culled public comment from workshops, surveys and other outreach in order for consultants to come up with proposals to help "re-imagine" Santa Monica Place.

Assistant City Manager Gordon Anderson said City Hall has been authorized by the City Council to spend in the range of \$150,000 to \$250,000 to hire Moore Iacofano, and another consulting firm, Keyser Marston Associates, to facilitate the creation of a project that falls within nine council-directed guidelines intended to better satisfy the public's vision for the Santa Monica Place site.

These replacement concepts will then be presented to the City Council and the public for final approval, Anderson said. Macerich, the developer, will then reimburse the city for the costs of the consulting services.

Alternative proposals to the current Santa Monica Place site were supposed to be presented publicly this summer, followed up by presentations to City Hall this fall with the hopes of approval. So far, the proposals have not been presented.

Rob York, a financial analyst familiar with downtown business issues, said it would be in Macerich's better interest if it purchased Robinsons-May.

"If the ultimate conclusion is that the center is completely re-developed, it could be bad news if Robinsons-May ends up in the hands of a third party," York said. "It would be in Macerich's best interest to be able to manage and control the process."

"Otherwise, there will be limited alternatives."

Although he said it might work well locally if Macerich was able to buy Robinsons-May from Federated, York noted that both companies were so big that such a purchase may not work in the overall picture.

"Macerich has a broader relationship with Federated than just Santa Monica Place," York said. "They have a lot of areas of mutual interests, and it could be difficult negotiations when you look at the fate of some of these department stores."

Federated expects to employ all management personnel in good standing from both stores and to offer positions to the majority of associates. The company's representatives said there will be no workforce reduction or job elimination related to the merger before March 1, 2006.

Other Ecstasy tests underway

MIGHTY MICE, from page 1

showed dramatic results.

"These mice were frozen completely," said Duke researcher Raul Gainetdinov, another of the report's authors. "When we treated them and put them in water, they were able to swim."

The study is being published in the Public Library of Science's journal Biology, which is available free online. It was funded by a National Institutes of Health grant.

The paper suggests that amphetamines, especially when used with the one approved treatment that slows the effects of Parkinson's, helped make dopamine in the genetically engineered mice. Parkinson's patients lose brain cells that create dopamine, a chemical vital for motor function.

Investigating possible medicinal uses of such widely abused drugs like Ecstasy, an amphetamine derivative, is a highly contentious area of research.

Some research suggests that amphetamines — especially methamphetamine — damage brain cells when abused while other scientific reports are uncovering promising areas for therapeutic use of Ecstasy.

One high-profile paper published

three years ago in the journal Science that showed Ecstasy killed dopamine-producing brain cells was later retracted when the researchers said they mistakenly used methamphetamine in their research.

Those results still showed methamphetamine to be toxic.

Caron said that amphetamine abuse is dangerous and unhealthy, but overshadows the possible medicinal benefits the drugs may have. Children have been given two forms of speed for years to combat attention deficit disorders while the brain naturally creates amphetamine-like chemicals, he said.

Meanwhile, two human experiments exploring Ecstasy's use as a psychotherapy drug to treat post-traumatic stress syndrome and terminal cancer patients are currently underway.

Parkinson's experts not affiliated with the Duke research team tempered their enthusiasm for a paper they found intriguing but incomplete.

Dr. William Langston, chief executive of the Sunnyvale-based Parkinson's Institute, said the paper could open up a new field of exploration in a so-far frustrating research area for scientists.

LOCAL



City looks to snuff littering

ASHTRAYS, from page 1

Polls indicated that many Californians supported the ban, but few officials foresaw its aftereffects.

Legislation is currently being drafted in Santa Monica that would require restaurants and bars to provide smoking receptacles outside of their establishments, said Craig Perkins, director of environmental and public works at City Hall.

The issue came to the forefront earlier this year when the City Council relaxed the law that limited business owners from placing items on the sidewalk. Specifically, businesses on Main Street asked that they be allowed to display merchandise and waiting benches in front of their stores. Thinking that ashtrays could be allowed, the City Council directed staff to research the idea and come back with a draft ordinance. It's expected to be presented later this year.

Perkins said his staff is looking at other cities with comparable laws for ideas.

"It's more complicated than 'you must have an ashtray on the sidewalk,'" he said, adding that business owners need to maintain and manage the receptacles and disposal of cigarette butts. "If not, it could become a bigger problem."

Santa Monica Mayor Pam O'Connor said she would support a measure that would enforce responsible cigarette disposal.

"As long as people smoke, they will need a place to dispose their cigarettes," O'Connor said. "(Ashtrays) are a reasonable amenity for restaurants and bars."

Meanwhile, environmentalists like Mark Gold, the executive director of Heal the Bay, are left to brood over the 2,500 tons of trash and debris that are taken off the beaches annually, according to city officials. Gold recalls when his and other organizations first took a stand against cigarette litter after the California smoking ban was enacted. A bill was proposed in the state legislature that would have required restaurants and bars to provide cigarette receptacles in front of their establishments.

Gold said the bill failed because many didn't consider it a crucial enough issue to merit a statewide law.

It is the hope of Heal the Bay officials and other groups that smokers will take it upon themselves to ensure environmental responsibility, not to mention legal disposal practices. Their biggest fight might just be defeating the misconception that cigarette butts are biodegradable.

Ninety-five percent of a cigarette filter, often called a "butt," is made out of cellulose acetate, a derivative of plastic. Filter material is slow to degrade and has a cottony appearance that often misleads smokers to believe it's a naturally decomposing substance, when it's not.

Cigarette butts also can contain a strong toxin called alkaloid nicotine, which is among the deadliest of all plant products, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Cigarette waste is by far the most common item picked up as litter on beaches and sidewalks, said Heal the Bay officials, who organize Coastal Cleanup Day and other environmental initiatives. Filters are often washed from sidewalks and streets into the city's storm drains and waterways, degrading water quality and the ocean's health.

Cigarette waste has been found in the stomachs of whales, fish, birds and other



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

A familiar sight in Santa Monica, spent cigarette butts lining sidewalks and street curbs.

animals because they are sometimes unable to distinguish them from real food, according to scientists.

Even though reports have shown a 60-percent decline in Californians' cigarette smoking habits in the past 15 years, the amount of litter from cigarettes remains significant.

"Santa Monica has a pretty huge infrastructure for collecting beach waste and trash," said Andrew Basmajian, the environmental outreach specialist with City Hall's environmental programs division. "While all those cigarette butts don't account for much weight and volume, they are by far the most common item on the beach and greatest in number."

And while Santa Monica officials pride themselves on being leaders in environmental affairs and sustainable practices, it appears that local laws prevent the appropriate disposal of cigarette butts.

"It is an important issue here, but there are many worse issues in this city," said Willy O'Sullivan, owner of O'Brien's Irish Pub on Wilshire Boulevard. "Security and crime are two of those issues."

O'Brien's Irish Pub is part of a coalition of bars and restaurants which has discontinued its cigarette-selling license, but still finds City Hall's laws vague and is unsure of what "items on the street" applies to. O'Sullivan said officials have warned him repeatedly that anything obstructing public walkways is against the city's code.

Despite that conflict, bars such as JP's on Wilshire Boulevard make ashtrays available outside their front doors.

Santa Monica's efforts toward coastal and aquatic health have been significant in recent years, and include a wastewater reclamation facility, a co-mingled recycling program and a city-sponsored task force to oversee all environmentally related activities. As far as storm drain facilities and maintenance, City Hall owns and maintains about 2,000 storm drains, 650 of which have catch basins that are cleaned and maintained at least twice per year, according to Neal Shapiro, the city's urban runoff expert. Catch basins are filter-like mechanisms that keep trash from eventually entering the ocean.

Yet, if the sidewalks in front of numerous bars and restaurants are any indication, thousands of cigarette butts are washing into the Pacific just feet away.

"All we can do is put the ashtrays out there and hope that people respect their purpose," said David Caughey, the general manager at Finn McCools, a bar on Main Street.

"That's all we can really do."

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DEAR DORIE

Reality bites, don't take it personal

Dear Dorie,

My 1-year-old son — my second child — is a biter. At first I thought it was just teething, but he seems to use his mouth aggressively. I'm afraid he's going to hurt someone and that he won't grow out of it. My mother told me to bite him back. What do you think?

— Biter Bearer

Dear Bearer,

In most situations, if not all, a young toddler who bites is responding to over-stimulation. They are in the process of acquiring the verbal skills necessary to communicate anger, frustration or even joy but, unfortunately, don't have them yet. The good news is that the victim very rarely suffers serious injuries. The bad news is that you must guide your little one through and out of this developmental phase, and that can be frustrating and embarrassing.

The old remedies like biting back are harsh and abusive. When you're right there for the bite, a stern, "NO! We bite apples but we don't bite people!" is much more effective. Then, immediately move your son from the victim. With a 1-year-old use the same line for each incident until the message is clear.

In a proactive move, if you sense he's going to bite, acknowledge his feelings while moving him to a different location. For example, "It looks like you want to bite. Are you mad?"

Finally, don't be too harsh on yourself. Biting is another version of kicking, pushing or hitting. All toddlers use these types of tools to communicate at some point or another. It is absolutely no indication of good or bad parenting. With your help, he will grow out of it.

— Dorie

(Submit your questions to "Dear Dorie" at meek@smmusd.org, or call (310) 452-6132).

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Being too nice is naughty



How Much Is Enough?

By Connie Dawson

Being nice is something no parent expects to result in long-term negative consequences for the children they love so much.

"But I'm a nice person," I hear you say.

Of course you are. You follow the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. You are considerate, empathic and respectful.

Is there such a thing as being too nice for the child's good? Too accommodating? Too helpful? Too willing to say 'yes'? Apparently so.

The helpful, kind, loving parent sometimes chooses not to help.

Surprising results

Overindulgence Research Project studies tell us parents who are "too nice" can raise children who develop a distorted or confused sense of who they truly are. Not at all what parents want.

The goal of parents is to raise children to be competent, confident, loving adults. And the parents look to stay on the right side of NICE.

If being nice is OK and being too nice is a problem, how do I know when I've crossed the line?

See if this example of "nice" and "too nice" makes sense.

A child learns

Siri is at the tummy-time-on-the-floor stage. Her eyes light up as she sees a toy a few feet away. She's highly motivated to get the toy and aims herself in the right direction. She scrooches. She wiggles.

Her parents encourage her. "She's going for the toy." "She knows what she wants." "Look at her strong body." She makes such an all-out effort she takes a pause to rest. "Smart girl! She's resting" When she's ready, she resumes her mission.

At last! The toy is within reach. Yeah! She has it!

Imagine that moment. Does she look like a winner? What do you think she's deciding about herself, others and the world? How does I can work toward a goal and

feel stronger as I accomplish it sound?

What if Siri had whimpered or otherwise shown her frustration? If her parents had moved the toy to make it easy for Siri to reach, how might Siri's experience have been different? What may she have decided about herself, others and the world if I struggle, someone will rescue me. Maybe. Maybe not.

Crossing the "Too Nice" line

Applying the Test of Four can help you know when you've been too nice. These four questions can be used in knowing when to say yes and no when it comes to anything that costs money. They can also be used to decide when to jump in to help a child and when to hang back.

Any YES answer to these questions raises a red flag that the situation might not be in the best interests of the child.

1. Does moving the toy hinder Siri from learning the tasks that support her development and learning at this age? Yes.

2. Does the situation require Siri's parents to give a disproportionate share of family resources? Probably not.

(Remember that resources mean money, time, energy, effort, attention.)

3. Does making Siri's job easier apt to benefit the adult more than Siri? The answer is probably Yes.

4. Would moving the toy potentially harm Siri, others, society or the planet in some way? This is hard to answer with what we know now.

Two YES answers indicate that if parents move the toy, they over-function; they do something for Siri she is developmentally capable of doing for herself.

Refrigerator door time

The Test of Four might well be posted on the refrigerator door as a constant reminder of what's best for children. We are all immersed in the sea of overindulgence that surrounds us. We need all the help we can get to remember that what may look nice, sometimes isn't.

(Connie Dawson, Jean Illsley Clarke and David Bredehoft are co-authors of *How Much Is Enough? Everything You Need to Know to Steer Clear of Overindulgence and Raise Likable, Responsible and Respectful Children, Toddlers to Teens*. Connie can be reached at cdawson@whidbey.com. To read more about overindulgence, go to www.overindulgence.info.)

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MON. thru FRI.
SUMMER SOUNDS at the HOLLYWOOD BOWL – 10:00 and 11:15 a.m.
This excellent ten week series of live performances features music and dance from around the world. This week join the gang as they visit Russia. There is also craft making before or after the show. Tickets are “sold-out” online, but are usually available at the box office prior to the show. Also, many groups have extra tickets available if you ask around just before the show. Ages 3 – 10; \$5 show, \$3 craft. Hollywood Bowl, 2301 N. Highland Ave., 323-850-2000.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4
TWILIGHT DANCE SERIES – 7:30 p.m.
Enjoy the 21st season of this great musical event on the pier presented by LACarGuy.com. This week enjoy SUPER DIAMOND (Neil Diamond covers) and IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY. Parents with small children – I recommend bringing a picnic to the beach just south of the pier where the kids can run around and you can still enjoy the music. This is truly one of Santa Monica's best events. For more info visit www.twilightdance.org.

FRI. – SUN., AUGUST 5 - 7
CHALK FEST at HOLLY WOOD & HIGHLAND – 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Top chalk artists will transform the courtyard into a work of art; and kids can create their own masterpieces while enjoying music and entertainment. FREE! Hollywood and Highland Center, 323-467-6412.

SAT., AUGUST 6
EMERGING ARTISTS FAMILY WORKSHOP – 10:00 a.m. – noon
Today's program: “Puff n' Stuff” with artist Katie Bowen. Create original forms of mixed-media art. \$12, ages 6 and up, Santa Monica Museum of Art, 2419 Michigan Ave., 586-6488, ext. 3.

BIG! WORLD! FUN! FAMILY SERIES at the FORD – 10:00 a.m.
Today's performance features the Rangoli Foundation for Art and Culture, a dance-theatre group that will perform and Indian folk tale. Ages 4 -11, \$5. John Anson Ford Theatre, 2580 Cahuenga Blvd., Hollywood, 323-461-3673, www.fordamphitheatre.org

SUN., AUGUST 7
AMERICAN ROOTS MUSIC FESTIVAL – 2:00 – 7:00 p.m.
This family concert features folk, bluegrass, zydeco and gospel music along with a body percussion workshop and family art projects. \$15 adults, free for ages 12 and under. Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., LA, 440-4500.

TUESDAY

MOMS Club of Santa Monica Playgroup – 11:00 a.m., for children born 1/04 – 9/04. Call or email Alison at 393-4481/riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

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

Storytelling
Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.
Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m. For 2 year olds with adult.
Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.

Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds.
Lap Time – 11:00 a.m., six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Program. Current session June 21 – Aug. 9 for both.
Twilight Story Time -7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages. Summer Activity Program – 2:30 p.m., thru Aug. 16, ages 4 and up.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 2 to 3 year olds. Current session thru Aug. 30.
Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis For ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, www.storyopolis.com
Barnes and Noble at the Grove Storytime for ages 2 – 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years, (Mon – Fri); Infant & Me Class – 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. and 1:30 – 2:30 p.m., 0 – 12 months; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
YWCA – Attachment Parenting Classes - 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., 1332 Sixth St., 393-2721 (ask for Shelana Philip-Guide or Audrey Meyer). This new class for mothers/dads and babies up to 12 months is presented by Karol Darsa, PsyD, a licensed psychologist with extensive experience working with children and families. Fees: Members – 1 class - \$40, 5 class pass - \$180; Non-members - \$50, 5 class pass - \$200.
BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.
An advanced 10-week parent education course. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise
Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA
10:00 – 11:00 a.m and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Thursday nights 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.. (babies welcome, includes

baby massage and workout at the end)
Itsy Bitsy Yoga – Baby IBY (6 weeks to pre-crawling) – 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. With Khefri Riley at Ocean Oasis, 1333 Ocean Ave. Register at www.khefri.net or call 323-549-5383.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 – no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

MOMS Club of Santa Monica Playgroups – 4:30 p.m., separate groups for children born in 2000 and 2001. Call or email Alison at 393-4481/riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!
Storytelling
The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge – 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4 at this neighborhood coffee shop.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Toddler Story Time – 9:30 a.m., for two year olds.
Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m., six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult.
Current session thru Aug. 10 for both.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Lap Time - 10:15 & 11:15 a.m., ages 0-2. Current session July 20 – Aug. 24.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 392-3804.
Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144
Border's, Westwood – 11am – 310-475-3444.

Classes
Rhythm Child Parent & Me Rhythms, Santa Monica Studios, 3025 Olympic Blvd., 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Children explore rhythms through drum play. Ages 6 mos. – 3.5 years; \$100 for 8 weeks. Call 204-5466 or visit www.rhythm-child.net for more info and session dates.
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years; (Mon – Fri); 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Step Aerobics, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 – no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

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

THURSDAY

MOMS Club of Santa Monica Playgroup – 3:30 p.m., for children born 3/03 – 12/03, Call or email Alison at 393-4481/riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling
Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590 10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.
Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.
Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m.; for 2 year olds with adult.
Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.

Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.
Summer Activity Programs – 2:30 p.m. thru Aug. 4, ages 4 and up.
Youth Chess Club – 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. All levels welcome.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., for 2 year olds, current session thru Aug. 25.
Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m., for 3-5 year olds.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Lap Time, 9:20 and 10:20. Ages 0 – 2. Current session thru Aug 11.

Classes
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years; (Mon – Fri); 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
An advanced 10-week parent education course. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise
Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA
7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Tuesdays at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 – no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

MOMS Club of Santa Monica – New Mother Group – for new moms with babies born from 10/04 to present. Meet for conversation, support and playtime. All new Moms welcome! Call or e-mail Alison at 393-4481, riversalison@hotmail.com for more info.
Parent's Night Out at Child's Play, 2299 Westwood Blvd., 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.
Kids get a night of supervised fun with pizza, games and more while parents go out. Ages 3-10, \$9 per hour, \$7 siblings, 3 hour minimum.

Reservations required, 470-4997. www.child-splayonline.net
La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista – meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call 310-390-2529 for info.
Planetarium Show at SMC's John Drescher Planetarium, 7:00 p.m. - Night Sky Show, 8:00 p.m. – featured program. \$5 adults, \$4 children. Pico and 17th St., 434-3000.

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

Yoga & Exercise
Fitness for Moms – Babies Welcome! Indoor Cycling, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

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

SATURDAY

Storytelling
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am, 310-260-9110
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5, 310-475-4144.
Children's Book World, 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., 310-559-800K.
Village Books, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m., 454-4063.
826LA, 685 Venice Blvd, 2nd Floor, Venice – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., ages 3-6, RSVP to info @825LA.com or 310-314-8418. (826LA is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write).

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

Yoga & Exercise
Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. 1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonica-yoga.com
Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.(babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:00 a.m., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Other
Emerging Artists Family Workshop - 10:00 a.m. – noon. Program varies, ages 6 and up, \$12. Santa Monica Museum of Art, 2419 Michigan Ave,

586-6488, ext. 32.
Barnyard Madness at the Santa Monica Playhouse
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, thru Sept. 25; \$12 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com, 1211 4th St.
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime
Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.
Lakeshore Learning Stores “Free Crafts for Kids” – Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., 8888 Venice Blvd., 559-9630.

SUNDAY

Main Street Farmer's Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.
Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
Magicopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St, Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
Barnyard Madness at the Santa Monica Playhouse
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, thru Sept. 25; \$12 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com, 1211 4th St.
Family Funday at the Will Geer Theatrum Botanicum – 11:00 a.m Live music and theatre for all ages. \$8, 1419 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga, 455-3723, www.theatrum.com.

Breastfeeding
Working Mother's Support Group
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd. - Call 998-1981 for more info.

MONDAY

MOMS Club of Santa Monica Playgroup – 9:30 a.m., for children born 1/02 – 2/03, Call or email Alison at 393-4481/riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling
Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, Craft Room, 9:30 a.m. A series for babies up to two years old, July 18 only. (“Family Connections” is on summer break.)
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804.
“Spanish for Little Ones”, 11:15 a.m., July 11 – Aug. 15.
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

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

Breastfeeding Group
The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 – no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

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NATIONAL

Walking tall: Astronauts go above and beyond

BY PAM EASTON

Associated Press Writer

SPACE CENTER, Houston — As NASA mulled what to do about fabric dangling from Discovery's belly, two astronauts floated outside Monday with another key task: to replace a failed washing machine-sized spinning wheel that helps to steer the international space station.

Astronauts Stephen Robinson and Soichi Noguchi spent five hours exchanging the broken down 660-pound gyroscope, which failed in 2002, with a new one.

"Oh, the view is priceless," Noguchi said as he hitched a ride to Discovery's cargo bay on the outpost's robotic arm. "I can see the moon."

With Robinson's help, Noguchi secured the controller aboard the shuttle and retrieved the new gyroscope for installation. After hours of tedious bolting and unbolting with specialized silver drivers, the pair completed the installation.

"This is just like putting in an airplane engine," said Robinson, a pilot.

"Just wiggling until you get it," Noguchi responded, causing his partner to

chuckle.

"Yeah, exactly. Prepare to wiggle," Robinson said.

Both continued bolting and wiggling until the unit was tightly attached.

Their seven-hour-plus spacewalk came a day after NASA officials said they may consider sending them to repair material dangling from Discovery's belly during a third spacewalk scheduled for Wednesday.

Before going back inside, Robinson and Noguchi gathered a pry bar and forceps from an outdoor tool box to use for the potential shuttle repair. It took both of them to force open the box, on a count of three. "Yeah!" they shouted when the lid finally popped open.

There remains debate among engineers and others over how to handle what would be an unprecedented repair.

During their first spacewalk Saturday, the pair restored power to another gyroscope, which had stopped spinning in March. The gyroscopes are among four that help steer the station.

"Being outside was the most incredible experience I've certainly ever felt so far, and I almost can't believe we get to do it again," Robinson said Sunday as he prepared for his second orbital outing.

Only two of the four gyroscopes that control the orientation of the orbiting science lab have worked recently. Once power was restored to the third gyroscope Saturday, one of the two that continued spinning was given a break because its 6,600 revolutions per minute had become sluggish.

Once Discovery undocks from the station Saturday, NASA hopes to have all four gyroscopes operating simultaneously for the first time in three years.

NASA officials were scrambling to determine if repairs were needed by the astronauts. Some engineers worry the material that is protruding from between thermal tiles in two areas beneath the shuttle near its nose could trigger potentially treacherous overheating during re-

entry.

NASA officials stressed that Discovery and its crew could be perfectly safe flying back with the exposed filler. Space shuttles have flown with exposed filler many times before, just not necessarily with such a large protrusion.

One piece is sticking out 1.1 inches. The other protrudes at an angle from six-tenths to nine-tenths of an inch. The general wisdom and flight history indicate that the limit should be a quarter-inch, said flight director Paul Hill.

One solution would be to pull the filler completely out or fold it back in. Another could be to cut it, said Steve Poulos, manager of the orbiter project office.

Deputy shuttle program manager Wayne Hale said more technical information is needed and the risks of causing further damage by going underneath the shuttle need to be considered.

"We certainly don't want to make the situation worse than it is," he said. "My immediate knee-jerk reaction was that we can live with this. On the other hand, this is bigger than we have seen before."

In 24 years of shuttle flight, astronauts have never ventured beneath their spacecraft in orbit and have made few repairs to their ship.

If NASA's spacewalking specialists can come up with an easy fix, Hale says correcting the problem may be worth eliminating concern about flying home with the protrusions.

"Why would you not just go take care of it?" he asked. "Why should I lose sleep over these gap fillers if we can take care of them that easy?" The tools are aboard Discovery and the crew has already been trained how to cut the fillers, Poulos said. The filler keeps the shuttle's thermal tiles from damaging one another as the spacecraft heats up during re-entry and its protective thermal tiles expand.

Hale said the analysis isn't complete. "I certainly think the jury is out at this point as to whether or not we will do anything," he said.

Bush administration has much riding on Middle East deadlines

BY ANNE GEARAN

AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration has a lot riding on the outcome of two deadlines that loom in the volatile Middle East: the historic withdrawal of Israeli troops and settlers from the occupied Gaza Strip and the drafting of a constitution for an independent Iraq.

In both cases, the United States has invested time and a great deal of money to promote democracy and peace. In the case of Iraq, the United States has also spent blood. In both cases, success might mean a reduction in terrorist violence while failure could damage both Middle East stability and U.S. credibility.

For the Bush administration, each situation presents an opportunity to demonstrate to the Middle East that political participation can pay off, said retired Col. P.J. Crowley, a National Security Council staff member in the Clinton administration and now a foreign policy analyst at the liberal Center for American Progress.

"In the battle for hearts and minds, you've got to be able to point to some-

thing positive," Crowley said.

One imponderable is the effect, if any, of the changing power equation in Saudi Arabia, where King Fahd died Monday after several years of illness. He was succeeded by his half-brother, Crown Prince Abdullah, who had been effectively in charge of the kingdom since 1995.

Separately, August could mark a new chapter in the longrunning political maneuverings over the nuclear ambitions of North Korea and Iran. North Korea returned to six-way international talks last week, after a year's absence.

Iran is to resume discussions with European diplomats in August, after the installation of a new hardline president, over what it insists is a peaceful nuclear program. The United States contends that Iran is using a civilian nuclear power program as cover to develop weapons.

A draft Iraqi constitution is due Aug. 15. The document, meant to represent the interests of all Iraq's squabbling factions, is the first step in a six-month political process that the United States sees as crucial to its own exit from the country after more than two years of war.

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INTERNATIONAL



Do you Baidu? Chinese search engine hits U.S.

BY JOE MCDONALD

Associated Press Writer

BEIJING — Baidu.com takes its name from a 900-year-old poem but its ambitions are ultramodern — to become the Chinese-language equivalent of Internet search giant Google Inc.

Little known abroad, 5-year-old Baidu.com says it already is the world's sixth most-visited Internet site, thanks to a strong following from China's 100 million-plus Web surfers.

Now the startup founded by two Chinese veterans of American tech firms is preparing to follow Google's example with an initial public offering in the United States, hoping to raise \$45 million.

Baidu.com is in the front ranks of an emerging group of Chinese companies that are trying to create Internet services uniquely suited to their country's ideogram-based language and the political restrictions of its communist government.

"Here's a homegrown company that has created what really is a very strong search product," said David Wolf, managing director of Wolf Group Asia, a Beijing consulting firm.

Baidu.com was founded in 2000 by Robin Li, who earned a master's degree in computer science from the State University of New York at Buffalo and worked for U.S. search engine firm Infoseek, and Eric Xu, a Ph.D. from Texas A&M and a veteran of American biotech firms. Xu later left the company.

The name — pronounced "by doo" — means "one hundred times." It comes from a Song dynasty poem and refers to a man ardently searching for his lover in a festive crowd.

Google bought 2.6 percent of Baidu.com last year in a move that outsiders thought might lead to the American giant taking over the tiny Chinese startup. But Baidu.com has stayed independent.

Google's influence shows, though, in Baidu.com's spare white site that is nearly identical to the American

firm's.

By contrast, competitor 3721.com — bought in 2003 by U.S.-based Yahoo! — is a busier, colorful site with animated graphics.

Baidu.com's IPO is modest beside the \$1.2 billion that Google's public offering raised last August. But its tentative price for the block of shares being offered values the whole Chinese company at \$650 million.

The company says it already makes money — some \$303,000 in the three months that ended on March 31.

China's communist government promotes Internet use for business and education. But it also has launched the world's most sweeping effort to police what its people can see online, blocking access to material deemed subversive or pornographic.

The extent of the censorship controls has been highlighted by the changes that foreign companies have made when they launch Chinese versions of commonly used services.

Free-speech activists criticized Microsoft Corp. when the blogging section of its recently launched China-based Web portal rejected such words as democracy, freedom and human rights, labeling them "forbidden language."

Google has also taken heat for blocking access to some government-opposed news sites. A search on Google's China-based service for such topics as Taiwan, the Dalai Lama or the banned spiritual group Falun Gong returns a message that says "site cannot be found."

And communist leaders, early believers in the Internet's economic promise, seem intent on keeping foreign involvement to a minimum in order to keep the profits for China's own firms.

Baidu.com's decision to stay independent could help it with intensely nationalistic Chinese regulators, eliminating any doubts about divided loyalties, said Wolf.

"It's a company that has grown up in the Chinese system. It's going to be a favorite of a lot of partners here and an implicit favorite of the government for that reason," he said.

Internet firms with foreign partners have been chal-

lenged by regulators who demand assurances that Chinese managers will stay in place and not surrender control to outsiders.

Baidu.com, 3721.com and other Chinese search engines also face daunting linguistic challenges that designers working in English and most other languages don't.

Chinese uses thousands of ideograms. On a computer, they usually are written by typing words phonetically in Roman letters, then using special software to convert them to characters.

Making things even more complex, the mainland's communist leaders simplified many characters after the 1949 revolution, while Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and other societies use the old system.

So a search engine must sift through twice as many characters. And Chinese is written without spaces between words, making it hard for a machine to figure out where one ends and the next begins.

Then there are the quirks of a writing system with a vast literary history, 1 billion modern users and pressure to keep up with technology and international commerce. Baidu.com's advertising notes that Chinese has 38 ways to say "I."

Financial analysts forecast fast growth but brutal competition in the industry over the next few years, leaving only a handful of competitors.

Already, Baidu.com has been through a court battle with 3721.com after accusing its rival of adding elements to its software that blocked users from reaching the Baidu.com site.

A Beijing court ruled against 3721.com in April, ordering it stop such "unfair competition."

The lawsuit "did much to reinforce Baidu's underdog image," said Wolf. "That turned out to be very positive for them in China. It made people check them out."

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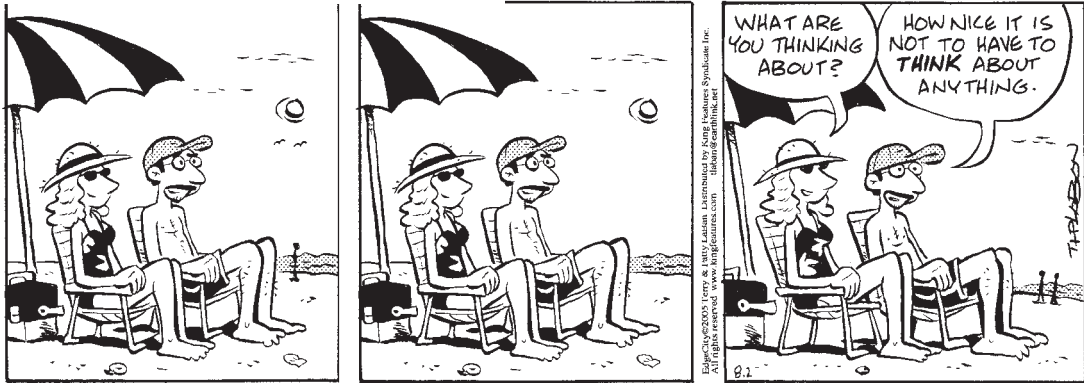


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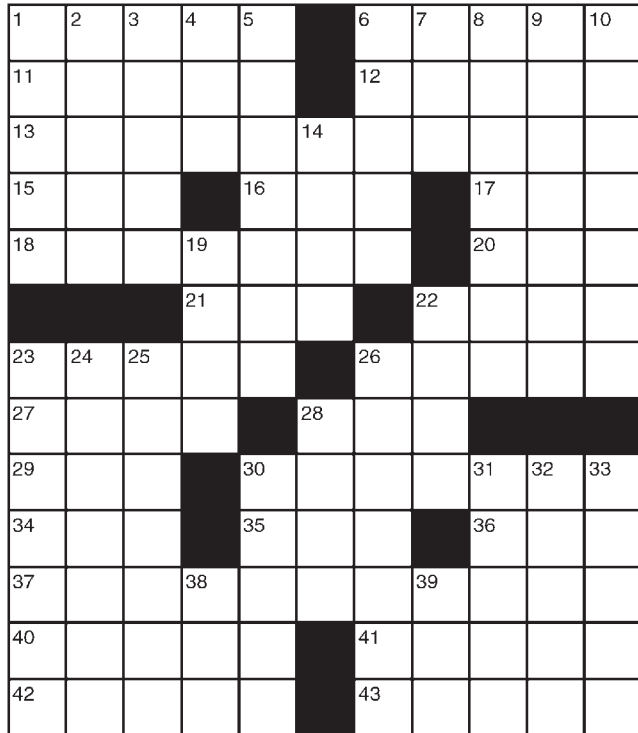
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- 27 Challenging
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30 HORIZON Ave., #3. Venice Beach single, great location, just 1/2 block from beach. 1 year lease, no pets, \$950. Available mid-August. Call (310) 396-4443 x 2002.

For Rent

1220 S. Barrington Ave. Apt 06. West LA single with garden view, centralized location and private parking. Laundry rm, carpet, private entry, Available September. 1 year lease, no pets. \$950 (310) 396-4443 x 2002.

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1304 RIVIERA Ave., Unit C. Great apartment in historic Venice building. This apartment is centrally located between the beach and commercial centers. New paint and carpet. One year lease. No pets, \$1350. Call (310) 396-4443 x 2002

131 CLUBHOUSE Ave. Venice Beach. Large two-story historic craftsman style home. Great location close to parks, beach and commercial centers. Beautifully landscaped gardens, large front porch, fireplace and lots of charm. Second floor bedrooms with private balcony. Wood floors throughout. \$2550. One year lease. Call Jack at (310) 396-4443x2002.

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2641 RIVERSIDE Terrace 1/2. Very charming ground floor unit in garden setting. Great access and original floor plan. One year lease. Utilities included. \$995. Call (310) 396-4443 x 2002.

2724 ABBOT Kinney Blvd., Unit 103. MDR Adjacent. 2+2, fireplace, dishwasher, stove, large private patio, new paint & carpet in newer gated building with gated, subterranean parking, AC, quiet neighborhood, laundry rm., 1 year lease, no pets. \$1395 (310) 578-9729.

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50 BREEZE Ave., #9, Venice sunny 1+1 one block from beach. Westerly view. Hardwood floors, full kitchen. Very charming, security building. 1 year lease, no pets. \$1345. (310) 396-4443 x 2002

For Rent

605 SANTA Clara Ave. Quiet unit on quiet street. Great location close to Abbot Kinney and just six blocks to the beach. Available mid-August, 1 year lease, no pets. \$745. Call (310) 396-4443 x 2002. Open house Thursday, August 11, 12:00-1:00pm.

For Rent

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