

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTO

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

30, 35, 6, 20, 46
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: \$54 million

FANTASY 5

19, 10, 17, 18, 6

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 4, 6, 6
Evening picks: 3, 0, 0

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 08, Gorgeous George
2nd Place: 01, Gold Rush
3rd Place: 11, Money Bags
Race Time: 1:46.53



NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

In 1996, U.S. Republican political strategist Roger Stone was forced to leave Bob Dole's presidential campaign when a magazine revealed that Stone and his wife had placed ads, with kinky photos of themselves, in swingers' magazines. In June 2003, British Conservative Party think tank executive Dougie Smith was revealed to be the founder and coordinator of the 5-year-old Fever Parties, which are upscale orgies held periodically in fashionable townhouses and country mansions, costing couples the equivalent of US\$125 to attend. (However, Smith appears to be secure in his job.)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Television has proved that people will look at anything rather than each other."

— Ann Landers

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Market omelet stand yanked amid controversy

No more amplified music either at Main Street Farmers Market

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

The omelet stand at the Main Street Farmers Market is gone for the rest of the year. Ditto for amplified music.

Both were major attractions for the market and as result, patrons are upset they're gone.

The omelet battle, which has been brewing

for months, reached a boiling point last week when hundreds of customers realized the omelet stand was gone.

A flyer circulated through the market by its supporters pinned the blame squarely on Omelette Parlor owner Bob Hausenbauer, who has complained for years that the outdoor stand creates unfair competition for him.

Glenn Gerson, a caterer who operated the omelet stand, pulled out three weeks ago after settling a year and a half legal dispute with Hausenbauer. The omelet tent was arguably the

most popular stand at the market and attracted hundreds of people each week.

However, the dispute was really between Hausenbauer and former Omelette Parlor owner, Al Ehringer, who sold Hausenbauer the Main Street restaurant a few years ago. Their sale agreement featured a "no competition" clause that was set to run out in January 2004 and has been at the root of Hausenbauer's complaints.

Ehringer also leases from the city the prop-

See OMELET, page 6

No more hash: Dee's Diner closes its doors

After 62 years downtown, old-school cafe shuts down

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

The last weekend at Dee's Diner on Santa Monica Boulevard wasn't all that different from every other weekend in the cafe's 62-year history.

On-duty police officers ate generous portions of the diner's famous corned beef hash, Frank Sinatra crackled over the stereo and owners Bob and Debra Moini greeted long-time customers who have become family friends.

On Sunday, Dee's became one of the last of a handful of local, independently owned diners to close their doors. Le Pain Quotidien, an upscale Belgian bakery, will take its place this fall.

Owner Bob Moini, 55, who has been in front of Dee's for the last 28 years and is a fixture of the Santa Monica Boulevard business family, said it was difficult to say good-bye.

"It feels like something hit me in the head," he said. "I don't know, it's not real."

Debra Moini, 51, who spent 10 years on and off as a waitress in Dee's, described the day as bittersweet. The two plan to travel and enjoy retirement with each other and with their three children, Joy, 26, Mariam, 21, and Mike, 19.

But Moini said he doesn't yet have the will to abandon his nook of downtown. He plans to spend a good amount of time next door at Britannia Pub, where cook Reginald Aguayo and waitress Maribel Garcia will still serve the entire Dee's breakfast menu starting today.

"I'm going to get royalties on the secret recipe for the corned beef hash," Moini said, laughing. He added that he is pleased to be leaving the business of his own volition and not being forced out like so many other small businesses downtown.

See DEE'S, page 7



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Dee's Diner owner Bob Moini, left, and his son, Mike, sit in their familiar spot outside the restaurant recently.

Santa Monica Pier to host Tuesday 'drive-in' movies

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

Pull up a beach chair and watch a movie while the waves of the Pacific Ocean crash behind you.

That's the idea as Santa Monica gets set to host a series of so-called "drive-in" movies at the pier for the first time ever. Films will be screened each Tuesday at 8 p.m. throughout

August. This week's screening will feature the adventure classic, "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

The event, organized by the Santa Monica Film Festival, will raise money for the "Cancer Relief Fund," although the movies are free to the public.

There will be an auction before the movie and the festival will rent chairs for \$5. Money also will be raised through the sales of limited concessions. All of the proceeds will go "The

Cancer Relief Fund," which gives money directly to cancer victims and their families.

Michael Cain, founder of the Santa Monica Film Festival, wants to promote independent cinema while raising funds for cancer victims. The festival held its first event this past February, screening dozens of independent films throughout Santa Monica.

See DRIVE-IN, page 7

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★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average
★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2003

This could be an action-packed year, with little time to stop and relax. Much that surrounds you could seem confusing or hazy. If you're a woman, you might not see the man in your life clearly. If you're a man, you might experience an identity crisis of some sort. No matter what your sex, you could be thinking of a career change. Your instincts come through with family and investments. If you are single, check out someone you meet carefully, because this person might not be all he or she seems. You will have a tendency to put your sweetie on a pedestal, no matter what your status. If attached, you will find your partner to be intuitive and assertive. He or she wants what he or she wants. SCORPIO can be an anchor.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ As you weave through your work, the less responsibility you carry, the more relaxed you will be. Continue to remain alert, as someone could be deceiving you when you least expect it. A family member might see this person with less idealism than you. Take in his or her feedback. Tonight: Spend time with a special person.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You might want and need more feedback. Eventually, you might find that someone in your immediate environment is playing games. Watch, observe and listen to more of what someone close is sharing. Tonight: Opt for social.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Dig into work and check out facts. Information heading your way could ultimately be deceptive. Gossip flies around the office. Especially check out facts that involve a money decision. Examine what you expect from associates. Tonight: Bring extra work home if need be.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Your imagination dips into realms where others don't necessarily choose to go. Others find you to be very serious and extremely constructive. Don't hold back. Ask questions and express your opinions. Inquire and find an expert. Tonight: Answer calls and mail.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Your family plays a large role in what goes on. You might want to listen a little more to a family member, as well as your instincts, regarding a financial matter. Otherwise, you might not be comfortable with what comes down the pike. Tonight: You need some quiet time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Clear out your messages. Don't stand on ceremony with an associate or friend. You'll get a lot done quickly, especially if you focus. Someone on the work scene or in your day-to-day life could be deceptive. You might not realize it. Take off your rose-colored glasses. Tonight: Catch up on friends' news.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Curb your spending and get your finances in better shape. You might not be sure what is happening with a child or loved one. What you can count on is that you're not getting the whole story. If single, be realistic about someone in your life. Tonight: Pay bills.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You feel empowered. Just be careful, because someone could knock you off your pedestal before you know it. Exchange ideas with an expert and possibly a friend. Both points of view could be helpful. Tonight: What is it you want, Scorp?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Step behind the scenes. You might need to gain another perspective right now. Not everything is as it seems. In conversation, someone could present the facts one way, distorting certain events or happenings. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You zoom in, making what you want possible. Work with many people right now. Encourage others to express what is really on their mind. Your sense of direction leads you down a new path. Help others see the wisdom of this decision. Tonight: Where the gang is.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Take charge and handle a personal matter. Recognize that you might be walking around with rose-colored glasses on. Events force you to see more of what is happening. An associate or partner gives you strong feedback about a parent or boss. Tonight: Work as a team.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Realize more of what you really want. You have some dreams that you might want to share with others. Expressing yourself might be step one in making what you desire happen. Don't sit in the back seat any longer. Tonight: Rent a movie on the way home.



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LOCAL

SBC donates \$10,000 to 'Meals on Wheels'

BY LAUREN WOLMAN

Special to the Daily Press

Meals on Wheels West is \$10,000 richer thanks to a contribution from the telecommunications company, SBC.

The donation comes at a crucial time and is one of the largest gifts the non-profit agency, which has a \$453,000 budget, has ever received, said Rosemary Regalbuto, executive director of Meals on Wheels West.

"We are facing cutbacks in funding from the county over the next four years," she said. "With this contribution, along with additional fundraising and grants, we will not start out the year with a deficit."

The organization provides home-delivered, nutritious meals to individuals who are confined to their homes or disabled and unable shop or cook for themselves.

SBC has a philosophy of giving back to the community and getting involved in places where they do business, said Michael John Smith, SBC vice president.

He said they chose to donate to Meals on Wheels West because, "it does a great job."

Meals on Wheels West was established in 1972 and serves about 700 clients a year in Santa Monica, Malibu, Pacific Palisades and Topanga Canyon. The meals it serves address most dietary concerns, including diabetes, lactose intolerance, low-sodium diets, low cholesterol diets and pureed meals for those with difficulty chewing.

There is a fee for those who can afford it, but the agency offers financial assistance and has a policy of turning no one away.

"All they have to do is call and we will come the next day," said Regalbuto.

Brent Hildegard had surgery two months

ago and has had meals delivered to her since she arrived home from the hospital.

She appreciates the help because she has no other option since she cannot walk far.

Joanna Vasquez, director of volunteers, said many people don't think about how they'll be taken care of in case of an illness or accident.

"If we are not there for them, I don't know where they would go," she said.

The meals are delivered by volunteers who are concerned and take an interest in the people they serve.

"I know the people I deliver to," said Terri Reese who volunteers twice a week. "This is my neighborhood, these are my neighbors."

"I could be here one day."

Patricia Polkinghorn who has had food delivered to her house for two years said, "All of the volunteers are lovely people and are so sweet."

More than food, the volunteers provide company for people who don't always receive many visitors.

"It's like having someone who cares for you come over every day — not just bringing you stuff, but spending time with you," said Lloyd Ely, a Meals on Wheels client. "To know that it's there for people who live alone and can't have full-time help, is such a godsend."

Reese agreed. "The thing that is great is that everyone still has their independence and privacy," she said.

Ely said she is grateful to the organization.

"Who ever thought of this is a genius," she said.

For further information on Meals on Wheels West, call (310) 394-5133 or go to www.MealsOnWheelsWest.org.

surf report

SSW swell will hold plenty of energy at the exposed spots on Monday. Northern LA spots will see waist-to-shoulder-high surf, occasional head high-range with a few bigger sets at standout spots. As the swell turns more to the SSW, most South Bay breaks miss it, so expect most spots to see 1'-3' wind swell with some shoulder high sets in the El Porto/Manhattan area.

Get stoked on an epic sesh? Get burned by a bad report? Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing at your local break.

Today the water is:

65°

Sunrise: 6:13 a.m.
Sunset: 7:54 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	6:50	0.2	7:11	2.0	12:01	5.3	1:27	4.8
SUNDAY	7:27	0.8	8:31	1.8	12:56	4.6	2:11	5.0
MONDAY	8:09	1.4	10:05	1.5	2:08	3.9	3:02	5.2
TUESDAY	9:01	2.0	11:35	0.9	3:52	3.3	4:01	5.5
WEDNESDAY	10:10	2.4	N/A	N/A	5:55	3.2	5:05	5.8
THURSDAY	12:47	0.2	(11:29)	2.7	7:28	3.5	6:07	6.1
FRIDAY	1:44	-0.4	12:40	2.7	8:27	3.8	7:03	6.5

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The Q-Line

Frustrated with not having enough parking available during the Main Street Farmers Market on Sundays, some merchants have suggested that City Hall open the beach lots to market patrons for free.

The beach lots directly off of Main Street would be available for market shoppers free of charge from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., under the Main Street Merchants Association proposal. Apparently City Hall officials were receptive to the idea earlier this year, but the proposal has stalled.

This week, Q-Line wants to know, "Should the beach lots be available for the Main Street Farmers Market? If not, what should be done about the lack of parking on Main Street on Sundays?"

Call (310) 285-8106 before Thursday at 5 p.m. and we'll include your response in Friday's paper. Please keep your answer to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response before you dial the phone.



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LETTERS

Animal control is unresponsive

Editor:

I read the article about coyotes in the NoMo area with some wry amusement (SMDP, Aug. 1, page 3).

Coyotes are common in our region. Living here means having occasional encounters with wildlife and I'm grateful for that. But coyotes can often be dangerous pests. When that becomes the case, it is up to all of us residents and the city alike to take responsibility for mitigating the danger.

About two weeks ago, my wife and I were startled when an odd-looking dog darted across the street in front of our car in the same neighborhood mentioned in your article. It turned out to be a very mangy and scrawny coyote, obviously quite hungry and ill — and not easily frightened by passersby.

We noticed some local residents calling animal control and we called the police, who also connected us with animal control. They took the report and said they'd dispatch someone. Meanwhile the coyote got up from where it had been sitting and trotted off.

The residents then told us of their frustration, not with this or similar animals, but with animal control, who never responded to their calls in a timely way. They said they knew — and had reported — where the coyotes seemed to be living, which is an empty home in the neighborhood.

We then drove around the block to see if we could find either the coyote or the animal control officers, alleged to be arriving momentarily. Well, we found the coyote lying down again in the middle of a nearby street. But no animal control, so we called again.

This time someone named Bunny (I'm not kidding) answered. We told her where the animal was located. She acted as if we were telemarketers interrupting her dinner. Her attitude was curt and uncaring. They were "busy" she said.

We waited for another 45 minutes, but animal control never showed up. Who knows if they ever arrived, or if the coyote was still there. We did talk to yet another resident who was calling them as we left.

It seems to me the problem is not only with residents keeping food and garbage secure, but also with an unresponsive agency not doing its job, even when several people were simultaneously reporting and keeping them posted on the exact location of a dangerous wild animal.

Alan Toy

Project director

UCLA Advanced Policy Institute

Market victims must be compensated

Editor:

Like federal officials, who immediately after Sept. 11, insisted they never envisioned planes being hijacked to fly into important buildings, Santa Monica officials maintained they never imagined a driver who would mow down 10 individuals, plus cause scores of injuries at the downtown farmers market.

Nevertheless, the victims of this action have to be compensated, no doubt, in some cases, richly.

If the Weller family is deemed unable to meet the expected liability claims and if

General Motors can prove that the car Weller drove was not responsible, plaintiff attorneys will surely turn to the city.

They'll contend that Santa Monica should have erected sturdy barriers to the market. And the city will probably pay up because the victims of this tragedy must be compensated.

Joanne Gamlin

Santa Monica

Bush must be held accountable

Editor:

In response to Craig Mordoh's letter about Bush's statement being accurate, would he be willing to give up his life based on it? I wouldn't be that foolish.

Mr. Mordoh should keep in mind that the U.S. gave the bogus Niger intelligence to the British. And the only other evidence that Blair could use to support this claim about Saddam trying to buy yellowcake predated the Gulf War.

To give our president a pass on this issue and say that his statement was accurate condones a dangerous practice that could easily be invoked against the U.S. As dutiful Americans, we all need to hold Bush accountable for putting American troops in harm's way based on intelligence he new was bogus.

Let's call it a high crime instead.

Dan Kolhoff

Santa Monica



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Young woman is a role model for homeless youth



Another angel has come to the streets of Santa Monica.

Her name is Alexandra "Alex" Khan and she is an 18-year-old woman with a heart as big as the Pacific Ocean.

She looks like all the other homeless youth out there on the Promenade with one exception: She is not homeless and has been clean and sober for more than a year. She is on a mission to help other youth find their way off drugs and off the streets.

I met Alex when she was a 15-year-old rebellious, runaway kid. I had given her the "daddy talk," telling her of the dangers

of the street and that she should go home. But she did not listen and sank further and further into her addiction between here and Hollywood.

She did heroin and cocaine and stole injectable pharmaceutical drugs from the hospitals where her parents worked as doctors.

You might ask why I did not call the police to send her home. Well, I have spoken to many homeless youth over the years and most of the reasons for running away are serious ones, such as physical and/or mental and/or emotional abuse, molestation or just neglect.

Speaking to Alex now is like speaking to a totally different person than the shy girl I met years ago.

There is sparkle in her beautiful, large eyes today and her smile is like liquid sunshine. She is now a self-published writer with a book of poems called "Songs Burned Into My Mind," which she wrote while in rehab. It is about her whole experience on the streets, her addiction and her salvation through her arrest and the inter-

vention of her parents, who sent her to a lock-down facility in Utah.

When I read some of the poems in the book, my heart broke and tears came to my eyes.

She is also a very talented artist whose paintings of the female figure are as good as artists who have been painting for years longer than she has. I have apprenticed her to help her refine her talent.

Her major goal is to be a youth drug counselor. She wants to give back what God has given her. She wants to help her peers on the streets achieve their goals and dreams.

She is a role model for her age group and many of the kids have come to her for help in getting and staying sober. She does this and spends nights out here with her boyfriend, who is homeless, to help him stay sober, even though she can go home anytime she wishes.

What this young woman is doing proves to me that there is love out here on the streets. And once we learn to look past

outer appearances, we will see that under the stereotype of homelessness, is a human being who has a heart and feelings like anyone who has a home or pays rent.

We will see that we, as human beings, owe it to our own humanity to have compassion for those who are less fortunate. We will see that the love and compassion Alex shows to her peers and her boyfriend is the love and compassion some have lost with age.

We will see that no matter what, this dilemma of homelessness will not just go away and cannot keep being swept under the proverbial carpet any longer without all of us tripping over the lump it is causing. We should all take example from this young woman and do our part to resolve homelessness once and for all.

(Charles Springer is a freelance writer and freelance artist and homeless resident of Santa Monica. Alex Kahn can be reached at alex010885@hotmail.com.)

OPINION

ACROSS THE BAR



Anti-French attitude is ignorance, not patriotism

(Editor's note: "Across the Bar" is a semi-regular column from a guy who sees all walks of life from behind the bar.)

BY BRIAN KALLIEL

Special to the Daily Press

A cloud of anti-French sentiment is hanging around like June gloom.

Many people are boycotting goods and services assumed to be French. The lack of support for French-themed restaurants, wine and water is taking its toll on businesses in America. From my watchtower at the bar, I've all too often overheard people's contorted convictions about the French.

Boycotting French goods and services as a means of punishing France for its role in the Middle East is not only empty-headed, it's ineffective and working class Americans are paying for it.

Unfocused retaliation for France's conduct in the Middle East lands like a cluster bomb, causing collateral damage. Many tax-paying Americans and even non-Americans are footing the bill for this type of protest.

French-themed restaurants across the country have had to close their doors because they are unable to survive. The cost of leases, staff payrolls and other operating expenses cannot be met and financial failure is the result.

Being a sommelier at an area restaurant, I get an ear-load of anti-French attitudes. Conversations protesting the French emanate from countless tables. Faces change from table to table but the tête-à-tête remains constant: "Boycott the French."

The people who are really being punished for this ignorant anti-French behavior are the restaurant owners, food servers, bussers and their families. Owners of French restaurants are serving considerably less dinners, while trying to maintain appropriate staff and product.

Food servers are suffering because the amount of shifts they work is reduced to reflect the current night's bookings. Many people have lost a shift or two a week. A couple of shifts a week can exceed \$1,000 a month or more. A trickle down effect starts to take place.

The support staff — like bussers, food runners and dishwashers — work two jobs at minimum wage. Typically our restaurant will send a couple of bussers, a food runner and a dishwasher home on any given night because of low reservations. Ironically, the only French person we have working in our restaurant is the owner-chef, a Southern California native. More than two thirds of our restaurant's employees have children to support.

I recently met a lovely couple at the bar and proceeded to sell them a bottle of wine. Amid grave concern, the lady chirped, "Is it French?"

I acquiesced and went on to explain that "the man who made this wine probably had very little to do with the position of France in the Middle East." Additionally, I said, "He has been paid for this wine some five years ago," because the vintage was 1998.

The lady paused for a moment, then went on to tell me how she never thought to make the correlation about earlier vintages having already been paid for and that her actions were only hurting our business.

They went on to enjoy a lovely bottle of Alsatian wine.

I came to a table recently to the garish sounds of a man exclaiming, "I've always hated the French," while he scanned the table for like minds, proud to hate. The thought of serving him the worst non-French wines quickly came to my mind.

A friend of mine at the Bel Air Hotel told me Nancy Reagan was dining there recently when she noticed Evian water being poured and she threw a fit. The hotel stopped serving Evian shortly thereafter.

Many restaurants are following suit. Recently, the Water Grill added their name to the list. By the way, Evian is owned by Coca Cola. I talked with Edouard Moieux, whose father owns Chateau Petrus, Dominus, La Tour a Pomerol, et al.

"Once people find out I'm French everything changes," he said. Although he is not involved in politics, he has a burden to carry. Sounds familiar.

We must recognize that punishing any group of people as a whole is the work of fear and ignorance — a tool our government has slowly and patiently wielded. As a society we've been taught to listen to our authorities and do as we're told. We have been taught to attack opinions and beliefs outside the norm. We have been programmed to judge and move with the masses.

By limiting information and promoting fear, people can easily be led to dehumanize, removing any redeemable qualities and replacing them with condemnation. In the style of herding sheep, it is easier to hate the masses than it is to hate the person in front of you.

The only logical solution involves a lot of work, which requires researching a product or company before boycotting them. Taking responsibility for one's actions is essential. Taking money out of a person's pockets who is associated with French culture, food and wine is only hurting your own people. Refusing to buy French products bought and paid for by Americans operating businesses in America is thoughtless and without sense. It just goes to show how misguided prejudice is.

To all of the French bashers: You're hurting the American economy, not the French. A good starting point may be by narrowing down the group of people you would like to focus your assault upon. Maybe we should start by kicking out all the French tourists spending their money in America.

Let's not forget the greatest thing the French gave us. It's not the Statue of Liberty or the fact that if it weren't for them we'd be British.

It's not the French brothers who brought us our most important commodity in Southern California, which is the movies.

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(Brian Kalliel loves the French, their wines and their kisses.)

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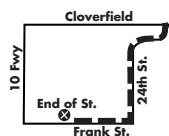
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**LOCAL**

Omelet stand, amplified music are out at market

OMELET, from page 1

erty where the omelet stand operates. In turn, Ehringer rented the space to Gerson, which made Hausenbauer believe Ehringer was violating their no competition clause.

As part of the agreement, Gerson agreed not to compete with Hausenbauer through January 2004. However, the agreement allows Gerson to bring the omelet stand back to the market in six months.

As for the live music, about five neighbors who live near the market, complained to City Hall that the amplified music from the weekly bands disturbed them. City officials measured the volume from one man's balcony at the Sea Colony across the street and realized the decibel level violated city code.

According to the market's conditional use permit approved in 1997, music can't be audible beyond the western point of the market, City Councilman Kevin McKeown said.

"I don't know who wrote that because it's virtually impossible to not have it audible," he said. "So technically, the city was violating its own CUP and we cannot ask people to comply with their CUPs and not follow our own."

So as a result, the farmers market will book acoustic musicians to lower the noise level.

"It limits the variety of music we can have," said Main Street Farmers Market Coordinator Diana Rodgers.

Both McKeown and Rodgers were at the market the last Sunday in July, when those two issues, plus a few others, rose to the surface and upset many vendors and customers.

"It was a convergence of issues that came up," Rodgers said. "The truth is there are a lot of differing opinions and everybody has an idea of how it should be run."

Hausenbauer's opinion, for one, is well known.

For more than two years he has lodged complaints at City Hall that the market creates unfair competition by having outdoor food vendors and allowing the event to grow so much that a lack of parking along Main Street has become a serious issue.

Hausenbauer claims City Hall violates much more than the noise level in its CUP, which doesn't even define what the farmers market is. What's more, Hausenbauer claims, City Hall has ignored his requests to address the issue or even respond to his complaints.

He argues that if a business owner applied to City Hall to hold a weekly event similar to Sunday's farmers market, which attracts thousands of people, he would be denied based on traffic and parking issues alone.

"Any other CUP would have had to do a traffic study and that's where they are in trouble," he said. "It would never be approved the way it is."

But McKeown, Rodgers and Main Street Merchants Association Executive Director Gary Gordon, all say the lack of parking was an issue long before the farmers market started because people park off of Main Street and walk to the beach.

"It's an easy event to blame," Rodgers

said.

Hausenbauer points out that the city's CUP describes the event as "pedestrian oriented," yet the parking lots behind his restaurant are filled with market patrons. He added that he pays assessment fees to maintain those lots, yet his customers rarely can use them on Sundays.

"If people perceive a parking problem on Sunday, how does that trickle down the rest of the week?" Hausenbauer asked.

He also points to a section of the permit that states the event's activities should not negatively affect surrounding properties. Hausenbauer argues that having non-agricultural food vendors cooking at the market is detrimental to his business.

Hausenbauer wants the market to go back to the way it was during its early days in the mid 1990s when it was mostly agricultural vendors selling produce. There was no outside food vendors, no live music, no pony rides and no competition for him. He claims he loses thousands of dollars each Sunday because of the farmers market.

"Between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., we have empty tables," Hausenbauer said.

However, many people say there is a line outside his restaurant every Sunday.

Rodgers said between 65 and 70 percent of the market's sales are from agricultural stands.

It appears Hausenbauer is alone in his complaints about the market.

Most Main Street merchants think the market helps their businesses because it attracts thousands of people to the area every week.

Gordon, who runs the association that represents Main Street, said a survey conducted in 2001 of 80 merchants shows that most felt the market was good for business. Others said it had a negative impact because of the lack of parking.

While the Main Street Merchant's Association has not taken a position on Hausenbauer's complaints, Gordon said he agrees that the city has created an event that has resulted in a lack of parking.

"I've always felt that was a valid complaint," he said.

City Hall maintains it isn't violating any part of the CUP except for the noise issue and it has responded to Hausenbauer's complaints adequately.

"It's regrettable that he feels that the farmers market is detrimental," said Mark Richter, the city's economic development manager. "We disagree."

Hausenbauer has received plenty of criticism from market supporters in the past. A war of misinformation started brewing more than a year ago when Omelette Parlor employees began wearing T-shirts saying "Keep the market green." What followed was a flyer distributed anonymously throughout the market that gave the top 10 reasons not to eat at the Omelette Parlor.

And then two Sundays ago, the flyer blaming Hausenbauer for the omelet stand being closed ignited people's tempers once again.

"There were a lot of raised hackles at what should be a fun event," McKeown said. "It was designed to be a community event."

"There are kids, there is music, people are serving fresh food and people are pissed off. That's not right."

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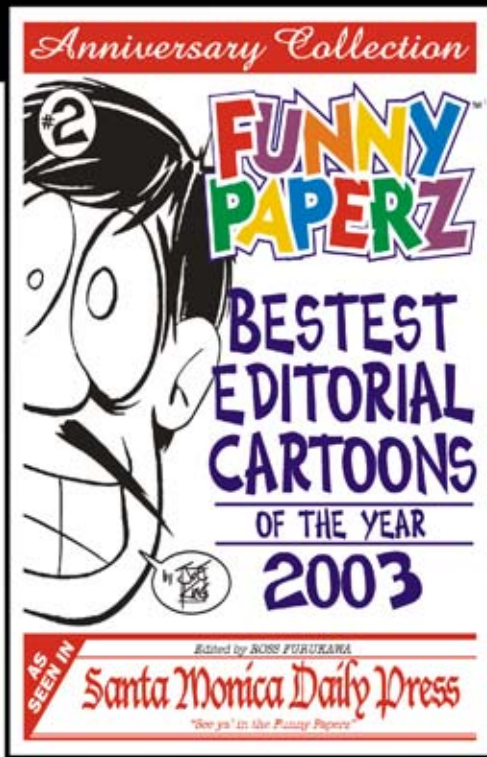
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Dee's closes but corned beef hash will survive

DEE'S, from page 1

He pointed to the Old World Cafe, Nat's Coffee Shop and Biff's Coffee Shop — all out of business — as examples and said the rising cost of rent in Santa Monica has made it difficult for mom-and-pop merchants to survive.

Moini declined to comment on the value of his building, which he bought 24 years ago, or how much rent he will charge the new bakery. He said it might give some the impression that he is leaving for financial reasons, when in fact he is simply ready to retire.

It took Moini months to find a worthy tenant in Le Pain Quotidien, which he described as a good addition to Santa Monica. Matthieu Devaux, manager of west coast operations for the bakery, said he is excited about the Santa Monica store and will open the doors as soon as he completes the permit process at City Hall.

The restaurant and bakery, which has outlets in New York, LA and throughout Europe, is known for its fresh breads and open-faced sandwiches, Devaux said.

It'll be big change from the pork chops, eggs and patty melts that have been served in the small space since 1941, when the two twin German brothers named Dietrich first opened the diner and gave it its name.

Moini took over Dee's in the early 1970s and for a short time paid \$400 in

"It feels like something hit me in the head. I don't know, it's not real."

—BOB MOINI
Dee's owner

monthly rent. He bought the building in 1979 for \$400,000.

Some of the antiques that have decorated the diner's walls for decades will be packed up and taken home. Others will be given away. Many of the Tiffany lamps that hang from the diner's 18-foot ceilings will be given as gifts to the Moini children.

Garcia on her final Sunday shift broke into tears.

"It's really sad," she said. "I've been coming here eight years, almost 10 hours a day. I've spent so much time here. It's like my family."

'Raiders of the Lost Ark' to kick off drive-in at pier

DRIVE-IN, from page 1

Wanting to do something different, Cain approached the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corp. to host the first annual "Santa Monica Drive In at the Pier."

Throughout August, classic films including "Raiders of the Lost Ark," "Jaws," "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" and "Grease," will be shown on a large screen at the pier.

"It's family oriented films where you can bring the whole family," said Ash Christian, who is promoting the event. "Michael Cain thought the Santa Monica Pier is famous so why not do it?"

A screening of an upcoming surfing film called "Step Into Liquid" took place last week on the pier, which gave a preview of what Tuesday's event will look and feel like.

"It was so cool, sitting on the beach and watching a movie," Christian said. "This is the first time they've screened a film on the pier. I'm really glad it's happening."

Before his father died of pancreatic cancer in Dallas, Cain, who lived in Los Angeles as a film producer, vowed that he would find a way to raise money to combat the disease.

He moved back to Dallas and in 1999, founded "Deep Ellum Film, Music, Arts and Noise," a non-profit organization with a dual mission of promoting the art of filmmaking and the entertainment industry while raising funds to help improve the quality of life to individuals fighting cancer.

DEFMAN helps accomplish that through its two annual film festivals held

in the historic Deep Ellum district of Dallas and in Santa Monica. Dedicated to the independent filmmaker, both the Deep Ellum Film Festival and the Santa Monica Film Festival showcase the best of local, national and international independent films.

DEFMAN strives to give back to filmmakers, musicians and artists by providing them with exposure, funding and education. Aside from advancing independent film and filmmakers, the mission of DEFMAN is to aid cancer victims in enduring the hardships associated with cancer by providing them with financial assistance.

The monetary aid is generated through the festivals. The funds are then distributed through "The Cancer Relief Fund," which was established by the DEFMAN Board of Directors. Individual donors are also able to contribute to the fund through private donations.

"The money goes directly into the hands of cancer victims so they can pay their mortgages, groceries and the other things they can't afford to buy," Christian said.

Tuesday's event will have a grand opening before the 8 p.m. showing. Several celebrities will be on hand to walk the red carpet an hour before showtime.

This month's screening schedule:

Aug. 5 — Raiders of the Lost Ark

Aug. 12 — Jaws

Aug. 19 — Willy Wonka

Aug. 26 — Grease

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STATE

S.F. company sells CDs for nonmusic retailers

BY JENNY STRASBURG
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Growth in the retail-marketing groove that has chains including Pottery Barn, Gap and Jamba Juice selling millions of CDs alongside sofas, jeans and fruit smoothies owes a lot to a handful of people in an office in San Francisco.

Dozens of music compilations from companies including Restoration Hardware, Volkswagen and Jaguar were conceived and produced by a small, niche music firm called Rock River Communications Inc.

From offices here and in Brattleboro, Vt., Rock River has flourished while the music industry overall has choked amid declining sales and Internet file sharing.

And it's about to flourish more.

Gap Inc. is introducing a CD featuring Madonna and hip-hop star Missy Elliott singing about Gap jeans — which will coincide with TV ads showing both in Gap corduroys.

Gap first entered the music business in 1996 with a Valentine's Day compilation. The company later introduced CDs into its Old Navy and Banana Republic stores.

The Gap chain, meanwhile, took a break from distributing music, until the Madonna project.

San Francisco's Pottery Barn has been selling music for almost a decade, with astonishing success.

The chain more commonly known for \$1,500 sofas and \$400 rugs started carrying CDs in stores in 1995.

That year's experimental "Cool Christmas Vol. 1" was such a hit that Pottery Barn has released 56 more compact disc compilations — and more are coming. Each compilation offers a sampling of what could be considered a pleasantly mood-altering soundtrack of the Pottery Barn lifestyle, as presented by parent company Williams-Sonoma Inc.

"Eight years ago, it was a lot harder to license tracks for these compilations," said Jeff Daniel, Rock River's president, who oversees business development, creative work and licensing deals through the San Francisco office. Now the labels send boxes of new CDs each week, pitching artists for compilations, Daniel said.

"If we can find a way to get our music into someone's hands, whether it's one song or a whole album, we're going to do that," said Pat Berry, chief executive officer of San Francisco independent label Six Degrees Records, known for its rich selection of world music.

"It's much harder to reach the public today," Berry said. "I think it's interesting how much the business is struggling and how well Rock River is doing. I think a lot of consumers who go out and buy these CDs are just so happy to find something new."

Gap planned to distribute the Madonna-Missy Elliott promotional CD to customers in its stores, spurring one of the largest worldwide music releases so far by a clothing chain. Neither Rock River nor Gap would say how many CDs are being made.

The two-song Madonna-Missy Elliott disc will be free with the purchase of full-priced adult jeans or corduroys, Gap spokeswoman Rebecca Weill said. In a TV spot, Madonna and Missy belt out a

"It's much harder to reach the public today. I think it's interesting how much the business is struggling and how well Rock River is doing. I think a lot of consumers who go out and buy these CDs are just so happy to find something new."

— **PAT BERRY**
Chief executive officer
Six Degrees Records

tune combining Madonna's 1987 hit "Into the Groove" with her recent single "Hollywood."

Pottery Barn sells its branded CDs for \$10 to \$15 each. With each CD costing an estimated \$3 to \$4 to produce, there's a low-risk profit for chains that sell music. But the marketing value is greater than the math suggests.

"Literally, people come into the store and say, 'Oh, I love that music. What is it?'" said Patricia Sellman, marketing vice president at Williams-Sonoma, which has unleashed more than 3 million Pottery Barn CDs since 1995.

Rock River, which is privately held, has produced nearly 200 different CDs since 1995 for retailers, banks, carmakers and hotel and restaurant chains.

They include "Margarita Musica" for Chevy's Fresh Mex restaurants and "Street Mix: Music from Volkswagen, Vol. 1" in 2001.

Rock River reportedly booked about \$8 million in revenue in 2001, a banner growth year for the firm. Executives would not divulge recent sales figures but said that business has grown consistently despite the economic downturn.

"I don't think in the very beginning I sensed it would turn out to be as big a phenomenon as it has become," said founder and chief executive Billy Straus, in a cell phone interview from inside a noisy New York recording studio.

Straus, 43, a musician who has a hand in song arrangements, has heard the common condemnations of chain stores, and the critics who feel that a lifestyle — if it can be distilled at all — should not boil down to a CD of cleverly chosen tunes.

It's obvious in talking with Straus that his favorite projects involve the original and lesser-known music — such as Latin artists with limited exposure in the United States — rather than repackaged standards.

"To the extent that people are going home from Pottery Barn with Cuban music or Brazilian music or club music from Europe, they're hearing something they haven't heard before, and that's a good thing," Straus said.

NATIONAL



Preparing for the worst: life in a former missile silo

BY MEAD GRUVER

Associated Press Writer

KIMBALL, Neb. — In the era of fear since the 2001 terrorist attacks, the underground home of Don and Charlene Zwonitzer 140 miles northeast of Denver makes duct tape and plastic sheeting seem like the first little pig's house of straw.

The Zwonitzers figure they could hold out a year without having to leave their home in an Atlas E missile silo.

"Maybe longer than that," said Don Zwonitzer, 55, a retired electrical engineer. "The two of us could live longer than that. But we would probably open up our doors to everyone we can."

Built in 1960, Atlas E silos not only cradled the most powerful weapon of the time, they were designed to withstand a 1-megaton blast a mile away. The Zwonitzers have topped that off with a nuclear-biological-chemical air filtration system; generators, batteries, solar panels and a wind turbine; a huge, mostly underground, greenhouse; fish ponds; and stockpiles of food and clothes.

"I go to sleep at night and I don't worry about natural disasters or manmade ones," said Charlene Zwonitzer, 53.

Some of the other 26 Atlas E silos nationwide and eight in the Nebraska-Wyoming-Colorado area have also been made into homes since they were decommissioned. But most silo-dwellers say the principal attraction is owning an unusual historic site and having the space of a mansion — 15,000 square feet — with heating and maintenance costs more like a cabin.

Ed Peden lives in an Atlas E silo outside Dover, Kan., and helps sell former missile sites through his company, 20th Century Castles. He estimates people live in as many as a dozen of the nation's former missile silos, including some of the elaborate Atlas F and Titan sites from the mid- to late-1960s.

"After 9-11, our calls increased probably fivefold," he said. Sales have been flat, however, due to the soft economy and rising cost of moving into a missile silo.

While a rough Atlas E silo sells for about \$150,000, it can cost that much again to make it habitable. When solid-fuel missiles rendered the liquid-fuel Atlas E obsolete in 1965, the government all but gave away the silos to farmers, ranchers and local governments. They usually fell victim to flooding, dirt, vermin and vandalism.

Pollution from cleaning chemicals is another problem, although the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will drill water wells and monitor pollution for people living at polluted missile sites.

Peden, 56, said the years of work he and his wife, Dianna, 49, put in before moving into their silo was an adventure, but they have no regrets — especially when the Kansas summer bears down at over 100 degrees and

they enjoy a natural underground climate in the 70s.

"Tornadoes don't blow it away, termites don't eat into it," Peden said. "It's going to be here for centuries."

Atlas E silos find other uses. One near Holton, Kan., has been a high school more than 30 years. Another is a museum and a records warehouse for Weld County, Colo. And one near Chugwater, Wyo., was until recently a constant-temperature environment for machining precision metal parts.

An Atlas E silo is not the stereotypical vertical concrete tube in the ground, a method that began with the Atlas F. The Atlas E was suspended horizontally under a 100-foot-long lid of concrete and steel. Before launch, powerful hydraulic equipment moved the lid to the side and the missile was raised skyward.

The silo housed a crew of 20. Chambers off the main missile bay housed maintenance equipment and the missile's liquid oxygen fuel. At the far end of the missile bay

was a 40-foot-deep blast pit.

The Zwonitzers have covered their blast pit with a greenhouse roof and built metal terraces up the slanted wall. They grow vegetables in 5-gallon buckets and irrigate the plants with a drip system.

A 100-foot, concrete-and-metal tunnel linked a workshop off the missile bay with the control center, mess area, crew quarters and generator room. The Zwonitzers have converted their generator room into a cavernous yet homey recreation room with a dining table, hot tub, pool table, electric organ and a big American flag on the wall.

Into one side of the room they have installed a large glass wall with a sliding door. On the other side of the wall, where the missileers' tiny mess area used to be, they have put in a large, modern kitchen with huge pantry drawers that slide out from under their living room.



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WORLD BRIEFLY

Hussein brothers buried, troops attacked

By The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Saddam Hussein's two elder sons and a grandson were buried as martyrs Saturday in rocky soil near the deposed leader's hometown, where insurgents afterward attacked U.S. troops with three remote controlled bombs.

Despite the violence in Tikrit — a center of anti-American guerrilla resistance — the U.S. administrator for Iraq declared he had not seen hatred of American troops among the country's people.

Instead, L. Paul Bremer, chief of the American occupation administration, blamed incessant attacks against U.S. forces on foreign terrorists and three groups aligned with the ousted Saddam regime.

He implied those fighters did not represent the larger Iraqi population. "I have not noticed any hatred among the Iraqi people for the American soldiers," Bremer said at a news conference.

Glacier wildfire stopped

By The Associated Press

WEST GLACIER, Mont. — Firefighters have won the battle to stop a wildfire's advance on this gateway town to Glacier National Park, officials said Saturday.

Residents displaced by the fire could return to their homes possibly as early as Sunday. "This is a big turning point for us," said fire information officer Wyn Menefee.

Three days of risky backburns along the eastern front of the fire succeeded in creating a barrier 12 miles long and up to half a mile wide between the fire and the town.

"We've turned the corner," said Rod Dresbach, incident commander for Flathead County.

Although the town was considered safe, the fire was still dangerous and far from controlled.

Secret parts of report examine Saudi connections

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Still-secret parts of the congressional report into the Sept. 11 attacks examine interactions between Saudi businessmen and the royal family that may have intentionally or unwittingly aided al-Qaida or the suicide hijackers, according to people who have seen it.

The report suggests that one, and possibly two, Saudi men who encountered the hijackers or their acquaintances were tied to Saudi intelligence and that a Muslim imam in the United States may have been a facilitator for some hijackers, the sources said, speaking only on condition of anonymity. The Saudi ambassador to the United States said Saturday that any suggestion the two Saudi men are agents of the Saudi government is "blatantly false."

U.S. investigators are setting out anew to determine if the connections are innocent coincidences in an Islamic culture that urges charitable support or a pattern of pro-terror money and patronage flowing from the wealthy kingdom that is a longtime U.S. ally, according to government officials familiar with those efforts.

Defense lawyer group says tribunals are unethical

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense lawyers could not do their utmost to represent terror-

ism suspects tried before military tribunals and thus cannot ethically participate in any such trials under rules the Pentagon has laid out, the largest organization of criminal defense lawyers said Saturday.

"We took the position that it is unethical for a lawyer to represent a client under current conditions for military tribunals, and if a lawyer chose to do so, he or she must contest all of those unethical conditions," said Barry Scheck, the incoming president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

The organization will issue the ethics statement to its 11,000 members. Lawyers are not legally bound by the organization's positions, but state bar associations sometimes adopt the same reasoning for their rules.

The NACDL's board of directors voted on the matter at its annual meeting in Denver. Scheck discussed the action in a telephone interview.

Russian commanders accused of negligence

By The Associated Press

ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia — Russia's military chief accused commanders of negligent security Saturday as rescuers retrieved bodies from a military hospital near Chechnya that was destroyed by a suicide truck-bomb, killing at least 44.

Russian authorities suspected Chechen rebels in the blast and drew a link with 1999 apartment bombings that helped start a second war in the separatist republic.

President Vladimir Putin called the bombing "yet another confirmation of the inhumanity and cruelty of the bandits who are trying to destabilize the situation in the Northern Caucasus" — the region that includes Chechnya.

"But the terrorists will not succeed in imposing their criminal will," Putin said in a condolence telegram. "Their bloody evil-doing will not stop the process of political settlement and the restoration of normal peaceful life."

President Bush receives clean bill of health

By The Associated Press

WACO, Texas — President Bush's doctors pronounced him in excellent health after his annual physical examination Saturday and said a calf strain that had slowed his running regimen has healed.

The summary of the physical declared Bush "in excellent health and fit for duty."

"All data suggests that he will remain so for the duration of his presidency," said the doctors' report released just as Bush arrived in Texas for a monthlong stay at his Crawford ranch.

The president has resumed his running routine after recovering from a muscle tear in his right calf in April that forced him to give up his seven-minute-mile runs for several weeks. He has gained five pounds since his last physical, to 194. But doctors said his body fat is unchanged at 14.5 percent and that the additional weight was muscle.

The doctors called the calf injury "resolved," but urged him to continue a stretching and cross-training program. Bush spokesman Scott McClellan said Bush is "doing a lot of stretching."

Foreign Episcopalians denounce homosexuals

By The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Some of the gravest warnings to Episcopalians about their upcoming vote on the role of gays in their denomination have come from sister churches as far away as Nigeria and Malaysia.

The Episcopal General Convention, meeting this week in Minneapolis, will make decisions only for the American church. But conservatives overseas have said a pro-gay vote would damage their ability to win members to the global Anglican Communion, of which the Episcopal Church is the U.S. branch.

Convention delegates are expected to decide by Monday whether to approve the first openly gay elected bishop — the Rev. V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire. Later in the week, they will consider authorizing a blessing ceremony for same-sex couples.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

ENTERTAINMENT



'Fight Club' author pens twisted travel guidebook

BY JULIA SILVERMAN
Associated Press Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. — The guy wandering around outside the time-capsule tiki bar on the north edge of town here couldn't even pay for a clue, he's so lost.

"Does anybody know the area?" he asks.

Lucky for him, he's just asked Chuck Palahniuk for directions in Portland. Nobody knows the area better than Palahniuk, author of the cult classic "Fight Club." And Palahniuk has written a new book to prove it.

"Fugitives and Refugees: A Walk in Portland, Oregon," is the latest in a series of offbeat travel guides by authors who write with a strong sense of place: they've included Christopher Buckley on Washington, D.C., Edwidge Danticat on Haiti, and now Palahniuk on Portland.

Palahniuk's version of a travel guide is stuffed with juxtapositions and secrets, chamber-of-commerce-ready sound bites on the next page over from detailed descriptions of Portland's apparently thriving, wildly kinky underground sex industry.

"The idea was to present the banal next to the spectacular," he said over coffee at the Alibi, the straight-from-the-50s Polynesian paradise that leads off the book's list of recommendations of places to eat in Portland. "I think that makes each one a little more special."

Interspersed throughout the book are postcards from Palahniuk's two decades in Portland — there he is crashing the party at the city's June Rose Festival, or high on LSD at age 19, catching the Pink Floyd laser light show at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry. They are the stories he dines out on, Palahniuk says, and he wanted to write them down before he could get to the verge of forgetting them.

The stars of the book, though, are fugitives and refugees who have flocked to one of the West Coast's loosest, hippest cities over the years, eccentrics all — but Palahniuk (say it: PAULA-nik) says he loves every one of them.

"If I didn't love them, why bother portraying them?" he said. "There are reasons why I am so charmed by them, and I wanted to reinvent that."

So we meet Francis Gabe, an 87-year-old who lives alone in the "world-famous Self-Cleaning House," in a Portland suburb.

"To clean the house, you just turn on the water to a spinning spray head in the center of each room's ceiling," Palahniuk writes. "The wash and rinse water runs down the sloped floor and out through the fireplace. You turn on the heat and blower to dry everything."

There's the couple who founded the local ghost-hunters group, who say Portland is especially receptive to ghosts because of "something organic, possibly the soil, that allows spirits to manifest there more easily."

And there's the Portland collector who has amassed thousands of cast-iron banks, including, "a 'Freedman' bank made just after the Civil War that features a black man who takes your money, shakes his head no, and thumbs his nose at you."

For Palahniuk, writing "Fugitives and Refugees" was a chance to prowling around

"The idea was to present the banal next to the spectacular. I think that makes each one a little more special."

CHUCK PALAHNIUK
Author

Portland before the city is totally lost to the oncoming tides of gentrification. Already, he says, it's hard to find a good dive bar downtown, and the Cacophony Society couldn't find a single condemned building to break into as a site for their annual potluck supper.

Ah yes, the Cacophony Society. Palahniuk describes them as a ragtag bunch of people with the most ordinary of jobs, who periodically pull the most extraordinary of pranks. The group features prominently in the book, with a loving description of the annual "Santa Rampage," during which benevolently drunken Santas storm downtown streets, bawling out carols and tossing back cocktails.

Of course, the first rule of membership in any secret society is that you don't dish the dirt about it. At a recent book-reading in Seattle, a group of out-of-season Santas stormed the room, chanting, "You don't talk about Santa," and forced Palahniuk to don a Saint Nicholas suit and chug back an airplane-size flask of tequila as penance for his sins.

Palahniuk says he knows that telling anyone who can plunk down \$16 at Barnes and Noble about the Cacophony Society does dilute the myth.

"That is always the tragedy," he said. "But the alternative is not to acknowledge these fantastic things. That's more of a tragedy — maybe the Santa Rampage is destroyed, but knowing that it is out there might encourage the spin-off of other forms."

Besides, Palahniuk says, he kept some of Portland's secrets, like the story of the hospital that for years was the nation's premiere clinic for sex-change operations. He couldn't bear the thought of tourists gawking at it, he said.

And there are some quintessentially Portland people and places in the book, like the woman who for a small fee will teach your dog to dance to the strains of "I Fought the Law (and the Law won)" or the garden growing entirely from recycled materials, which Palahniuk terms, "the closest thing we have to a humane society for plants."

In the end, the book is a twisted Valentine to Portland, a celebration of a slacker culture in which, Palahniuk says, "It's OK to work a cruddy job as long as you maintain the world's largest collage of Elvis pictures. Or something like that."

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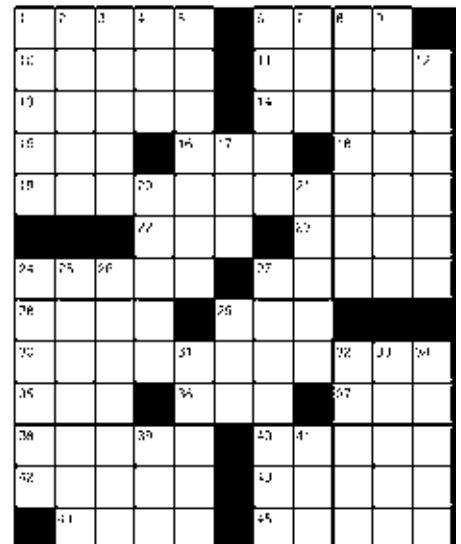
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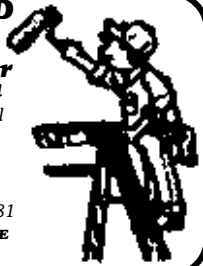
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Kobe appears in public, accepts Teen Choice Award

By The Associated Press

UNIVERSAL CITY — In a rare public appearance since he was accused of sexual assault, basketball star Kobe Bryant and his wife Vanessa attended the 2003 Teen Choice Awards, where he was picked as the favorite male athlete.

The show was taped Saturday night at the Universal Amphitheater, and the media was prevented from recording Bryant's acceptance speech.

Bryant held his fist in the air after claiming his trophy, a multicolored surfboard emblazoned with the words "Teen Choice Awards 2003." He also won last year.

The Los Angeles Lakers' star made a peace sign with his fingers, made a thumbs-up gesture and waved for fans on the arrivals line. He also kissed the hand of his wife, Vanessa.

Bryant and his wife attended the ESPY awards July 16 but have made few public appearances since the scandal erupted last month.

The 24-year-old basketball star has said he had sex with a 19-year-old employee at a Colorado resort June 30 but denies her claims of sexual assault. He's free on \$25,000 bond.

The Teen Choice Awards ceremony was taped for broadcast Aug. 6 on the Fox network. That's the same day Bryant is due in court for a hearing on the charges.

Votes for favorite actors, musicians and athletes were cast on forms published in Teen People and made available on the Internet through AmericaOnline.

Winners were chosen from the top four vote receivers in each category by a committee of AOL, Teen People and Fox representatives. Spokesmen for the companies did not return calls seeking comment Sunday on whether the winners were chosen before or after accusations against Bryant were made public.

NEW YORK — Actors Robert De Niro and Harvey Keitel, radio host Howard Stern and developer Donald Trump are among the New Yorkers licensed to carry a loaded gun, according to police records.

But some stars — including Joan Rivers, action-movie star Steven Seagal and conservative commentator William F. Buckley — were rejected when they applied to have their gun licenses renewed by New York City police this year, the New York Post reported Sunday.

Police told the Post only that Rivers had an "incident" on her record. She was reportedly in a fight with a car-rental clerk last year but was not criminally charged.

Police declined to say why Seagal and Buckley were turned down for permits. Seagal's permit was a premise license — which allows gun owners to keep their weapons unloaded and locked in a safety box when they travel.

About 3,600 New Yorkers are authorized to carry a loaded weapon, down from 4,500 at the end of 2001. Police have been re-examining records to make sure gun owners have up-to-date licenses and clean criminal records.

DAYTON, Nev. — Former Motley Crue singer Vince Neil has been charged with misdemeanor battery for allegedly attacking a prostitute at a brothel last month, a prosecutor said.

Neil, 42, allegedly grabbed prostitute Andrea Terry by the throat on July 10 and threw her against a wall at the Moonlite Bunny Ranch just east of Carson City, according to the criminal complaint.

If convicted, the rocker could face up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine. No date has been set yet for Neil's initial appearance in Dayton Justice Court.

Neil's lawyer, Robert Shapiro of Los Angeles, did not immediately return a phone call to his office Saturday.

Brothel owner Dennis Hof was out of town and also did not return a call.

But Hof had told the New York Daily News that Neil and Terry got into an argument because he didn't want to have sex with her.

Neil stopped by the brothel after a July 9 concert in Reno with the fellow 1980s metal bands Poison and Skid Row.

In April, Neil entered a no contest plea to misdemeanor battery in an assault involving record producer Michael Shuman outside a West Hollywood, Calif., nightclub last year.

In that case, a Superior Court judge ordered Neil to complete 100 hours of community service and pay restitution.

NEWTON, Iowa — Former Minnesota governor and pro-wrestler Jesse Ventura discussed his political future — and his "interest" in running for president — over the weekend while receiving an award for his sporting past.

Visitors packed a room at the International Wrestling Institute and Museum in this central Iowa town on Saturday to see Ventura, who was Minnesota governor from 1999 to 2002. He received the Frank Gotch award for bringing professional wrestling to a new level through his work as a politician.

Ventura said he'll never say never when it comes to getting back into politics, but added he might be interested in running for president.

"Now, that doesn't mean I'm announcing today or anything, just that if I were to get into politics again, that would be the only office I'm interested in."

Gotch was world heavyweight champion from 1908 to 1915 and one of the best-known athletes in the United States at that time. The award is given each year.

"I'm humbled by this award," Ventura said.



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