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Health care concession riles the left

DAVID ESPO
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON President Barack Obama's weekend concession on a health care "government option" drew complaints from liberals and scarce interest from Republicans and other critics on Monday, a fresh sign of the daunting challenge in finding middle ground in an increasingly partisan political struggle.

The White House insisted there had been no shift in position, adding the president still favors a federal option for the sale of health insurance. "The bottom line is this: Nothing has changed," said a memo containing suggested answers for administration allies to use if asked about the issue.

But some supporters of health care overhaul sounded less than reassured.

"You really can't do health reform" without allowing the government to compete with private insurers, said Howard Dean, a former Democratic Party chairman. "Let's not say we're doing health reform without a public option," he added in a slap at the administration's latest move.

His remarks were echoed by lawmakers as well as AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, who said the option was the only way to force "real competition" on the insurance industry.

Obama and his top aides signaled retreat over the weekend on proposals for a provision under which consumers could choose from health insurance policies sold by the federal government as well as those marketed by private companies. "All I'm saying is, though, that the public option, whether we have it or we don't have it, is not the entirety of health care reform," the president told a town hall-style audience in Grand Junction, Colo., on Saturday. "This is just one sliver of it, one aspect of it."

The government option has emerged as one of the most contentious elements of legislation taking shape in Congress, with critics saying it is a step toward a federal takeover

SEE HEALTH CARE PAGE 8



RELAXING WEEKEND
A couple Sunday enjoys the sounds of Grupo Falso Baiano, part of the free summer concert series Jazz On The Lawn at Santa Monica City Hall.

Jonathan Kalan news@smdp.com

SMC to offer degree in solar installation

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC Following the emergence of the "green jobs" sector over the past several years, a new program offering certification in the field of solar panel installation will launch

this fall.

The 18-unit curriculum at Santa Monica College includes a three-course-series — PV1, PV2 and PV3 — that covers the essentials of photovoltaic panels and solar systems, getting more detailed as students progress to the next class in successive

semesters. Included with each course is a lab component that involves physically installing panels on roofs.

Seeing a need for more training in the field of solar panel installation, SMC offi-

SEE DEGREE PAGE 8

Credit trends improve for most credit card issuers

DAVID PITT
Associated Press Writer

DES MOINES, Iowa Most major credit card

companies say fewer customers defaulted on their accounts in July, but that doesn't necessarily mean they're financially better off.

A few credit card issuers say more families fell behind on payments, which could

SEE CREDIT PAGE 9

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Calendar

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Time for stories

Ocean Park Branch Library

2601 Main St., 10 a.m. — 11 a.m.

Join Mr. Jesse for a morning of stories, songs, rhymes and puppets. This program is for children ages 2 and 3. The program is free, but registration is required. Call (310) 392-3804 for more information.

Pier in pictures

First United Methodist Church

1008 11th St., 9 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.

The First United Methodist Church presents a beautiful, free photo exhibit by church member Allan Walker to coincide with the Santa Monica Pier's 100th anniversary. This exhibit will be open daily through Sept. 9. For more information, call (310) 393-8258.

Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2009

Ballroom by the bay

Santa Monica Bay Women's Club

1210 Fourth St., 7 p.m. — 11 p.m.

Get a free dance lesson on the 3000 square foot floor and learn how to dance waltzes, fox-trot, swings, Latins and other dances by request. No partner is required. Call (310) 487-0911 for more information.

Kicking it with Kiwanis

Santa Monica YMCA

1332 Sixth St., noon — 1:30 p.m.

Join the Santa Monica Kiwanis Club at its weekly luncheon with guest speakers. Call (310) 613-1249 for more information.

Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009

Muse mixer

Santa Monica Museum of Art

2525 Michigan Ave., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.

Mix and mingle with LACMA Muse members as they raise a final glass to Barkley L. Hendricks: Birth of the Cool, paintings 1964-2007. Vocalist Kalil Wilson & His Trio with pianist Dan Marschak will bring Hendrick's jazz-inspired figures to life while you enjoy a summer cocktail at the open bar. The event is free to museum members, and \$10 for everyone else. RSVP is required. Call (310) 586-6488 or e-mail musersvp@lacma.org for more information.

Preschool story time

Montana Avenue Branch Library

1704 Montana Ave., 11 a.m. — noon

Bring your children to enjoy stories for kids three to five years old every Thursday. Cost is free.

Santa Monica Laughter Club

InFocus Wellness Institute

717 Broadway, 11 a.m. — noon

Laugh your socks off with certified laughter yoga leader Kim Selbert and other adults. It's easy and fun and everyone can participate. Breathing is combined with movement and laughter exercises to improve health, decrease stress, and promote a positive mental attitude. No prior exercise or yoga experience is required. Call (310) 849-4642 for more information. Cost is \$5 per senior and \$10 for everyone else.

What's new this week?

Fairview Branch Library

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.

Come for a free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key news stories at home and abroad moderated by Jack Nordhaus. Cost is free. Call (310) 450-0443 for more information.

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





photo courtesy
AT THE FINISH LINE: Meriel Mitsakos (left) and Tristan Marsh reach the finish line ahead of the rest of the pack at the United States Lifesaving Association National Championship in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. earlier this month.

Future life savers swim ahead

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

DOWNTOWN Swimmers with Team Santa Monica took high honors at the Junior Lifeguard National Championships earlier this month in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., with three members earning first place in various competitions designed to test one's endurance.

Team Santa Monica is a nonprofit, parent-run swim team featuring kids from Santa Monica and other communities on the Westside. Members Isabel Casso, Tristan Marsh and Meriel Mitsakos placed first during the competition, which was held Aug. 6 through Aug. 8 and featured swimmers from across the nation.

Casso, 16, placed first in the girl's AA age group run-swim-run and third in the distance swim and iron guard. Marsh, 13, won the boy's B age group run-swim--run, iron guard, distance paddle and rescue race. He placed second in the distance swim. Mitsakos, 14, won the girl's B age group distance swim and rescue race, and finished third in the iron guard and run-swim-run.

The iron guard event consists of a dis-

tance swim, followed by a distance run, followed by a distance paddle. In the rescue swim a junior lifeguard swims a "torpedo out to a victim and they swim in together."

"It was a really great experience," Mitsakos said Monday. "I am really proud... The whole experience was like an adventure, just going all the way from L.A. to Florida and meeting all these people from all over the country, Texas, New Jersey and New York."

"It was a little scary, but also refreshing at the same time," she added. "Physically you really have to be in shape because it is demanding, but you have to just say to yourself that you can do it and trust in your training and take it from there."

Nick DeVito, 13, placed fifth in the boy's B distance swim and run-swim-run, and Serafina King, 10, finished 7th in the girl's C age group run-swim-run. Also attending were Tiana Marsh, 12; Tess King, 12; and Matthew DeVito, 10.

At the California Surf Lifesaving Association's state championships in Seal Beach July 24, Mitsakos won the distance

swim and run-swim-run for her age group, and placed second in the rescue race. Marsh took second in the distance swim, third in the run-swim-run and was part of the winning swim relay team. Casso was sixth in the distance swim and run-swim-run. Her relay team placed second.

Three other Team Santa Monica swimmers finished in top positions at the state championships. Ana Silka placed third in the AA group distance paddle, Collette Gulick placed fourth in the AA distance swim and Jordan Wilimovsky took sixth in the A distance swim.

In the Northwest corner of the country, 16 year old Jonathan Lait competed in both the 100m and 200m breaststroke at the 2009 Junior Nationals held in Federal Way, WA. The event brought together over 1,300 of the top 18 and under swimmers in the country. Following a busy summer which saw him swim in meets for three straight weeks, he managed to place solidly in both of his events.

news@smdp.com

One in a million Santa Monica man chosen to appear on game show

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

NEW YORK Richard Mason wants to be a millionaire.

Whether he wins the seven-figure jackpot will be revealed when ABC's "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" airs Wednesday night.

The Santa Monica resident was one of 110 people from across the country who were selected to contend for the million dollar prize on the famous game show's 10th anniversary this month.

An engineer at the Rand Corp., Mason, 38, flew to New York City with his wife, Maribeth, on Aug. 4 where he spent the day taping on the show's iconic futuristic set. Episodes started airing on Aug. 9 and will conclude on Sunday.

A trivia buff, Mason was among the many Americans who flooded the phone lines during the show's early years, hoping to land a spot among the 10 contestants who sit in a semi circle around host Regis Philbin, competing in the fastest finger question to land on the hot seat.

He and then girlfriend Maribeth both passed the phone test in 2001 and drove to San Diego to audition for the show but never

SEE MILLIONAIRE PAGE 9

Man pleads not guilty to White House threat

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A man who staged an hours-long standoff near the West Los Angeles Federal Building has pleaded not guilty to threatening to blow up the White House.

The Los Angeles County district attorney's office says Joseph Moshe (MOH'-sheh) was charged Monday with making a false bomb threat and attempted criminal threats.

Moshe is suspected of calling police last Wednesday and making threats. A day later, after a chase, he was surrounded by police and Secret Service agents near the federal building.

Police say he refused to leave his red Volkswagen Beetle for more than eight hours. Police lobbed four rounds of chemical agents into his car, and finally fired a Taser and pulled him from the vehicle.

He remains jailed on \$70,000 bail.

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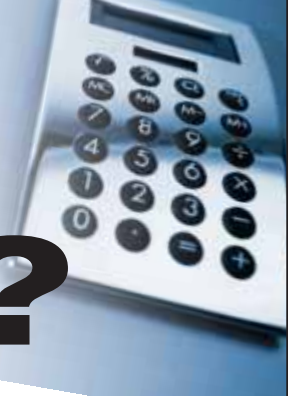
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

No such thing as a free lunch

Editor:

In his Aug. 15 column, “Offering a humane solution to the homelessness issue,” Randy Walburger states, “It’s time all cities stop use- lessly criminalizing the homeless and start sup- porting homeless existence leading to enabled recovery.”

To which I ask, why?

What is Santa Monica? Santa Monica is a resort community in one of the most desired areas with some of the highest-priced real estate in the United States. According to zillow.com, the average dwelling in Santa Monica costs \$825,000, ranging from \$2.1 million in Zip code 90402 to \$610,000 in Zip code 90401. Where does the obligation arise for the citizens and taxpayers of the city of Santa Monica, or any other city, to provide housing for anyone, homeless or not?

When I moved to Santa Monica I knew it was expen- sive. After several weeks at the youth hostel I finally found a place that I could afford, a single unit, not an apartment, but an 8-by-12 room that has been my home for the last 13 years. I have yet to find or ask the city of Santa Monica to provide me an apartment, which today averages \$1,500 for a one bedroom, one bath.

In these past 13 years I have often called the police to quell the fighting, screaming, urinating, and defecating “homeless” camping out in the alley behind my dwelling. In the last two years the SMPD has done an excellent job of removing these people, thereby permitting me and my neighbors to have peace and quiet to enjoy our residences that we have worked and paid for.

There is no “right” to a home. It is the responsibility of each of us to do that, which is necessary in any soci- ety to acquire the resources for a place to live. Personal responsibility is the humane solution to the homeless- ness issue. If Santa Monica is too expensive, move. There are many communities in North and South Dakota, Kansas and Nebraska that provide free land, tax breaks and other incentives to move and work there.

To think that I should pay my taxes to “support free homeless existence” in one of the most expensive beach cities in the United States, I find repulsive.

Finally, I find it amusing, if not disgusting, to listen to some people at City Council meetings or read their comments in this paper about helping the homeless. Few if any of these advocates live in areas with the homeless in their face on a day-in and day- out basis. Instead they evacuate to their safe and quiet neighborhoods north of Wilshire, Montana, and east of Lincoln, or better still to Pacific Palisades and Brentwood. Such persons are often correctly described as “Limo Liberals.” I have done my share of assisting homeless with food distribution, etc. And I am no longer willing to assist those who will not help themselves, nor those who demand a “right” to a home, job, food, etc. There is not, never has been, and never will be a “free lunch.”

Enough.

John Medlin
Santa Monica

Pay your dues

Editor:

Regarding the woman who received a ticket for overtime parking (“Tone down ticketing,” Aug. 9). Stop whining like a big baby and pay the \$2, or in your case \$61! Try making lemonade out of lemons, thus making up for the multitude of times when you outfoxed them and did not get a ticket!

You are not special and thus not entitled to special treatment. Join the rest of us peons. Santa Monica is one of the most beautiful cities in the world; consider it a privilege to park here.

Bernyce Snyder
“Proud resident” of Santa Monica



Back to Nature

Reese Halter

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Size couldn’t save Ice-Age animals

ABOUT TWO MILLION YEARS AGO EARTH

entered the last ice age, known more correct- ly as the Pleistocene epoch. Paleo-humans coexisted with bizarre-looking ice age mam- mals like woolly mammoths, saber-toothed cats and massive ground sloths. Rather abruptly, 10,000 years ago, the mega ice age mammals disappeared en masse. Did the cli- mate change too quickly for them to adapt or did some other event drive them to extinction?

At the peak of the ice age, continental- sized ice sheets covered roughly 30 percent of the Earth’s land surface. Most of Canada was smothered under three kilometers of ice and the oceans worldwide were lowered by 279 feet. Conclusive evidence supports low- ered sea levels because numerous teeth of mammoths and mastodons were dredged from present-day submerged continental ocean shelves.

Cores from Greenland and Antarctica ice caps reveal pulses of major glacial expan- sions and minor glacial retreats. These changes apparently happened suddenly within decades or less. Moreover, deep-sea sediments have different forms of shell life. They contain special oxygen with neutral particles called neutrons in their atoms, decay at different rates depending upon whether they grew in warmer or cooler seas and accurately reflect climate change.

So what causes an ice age? A combina- tion of events occurs to cause Earth’s global temperature to decrease seven to 12 degrees, enabling the accumulation of snow leading up to advancing glaciers. Some of the more common hypotheses include sunspot cycles which cause short term variations of solar output, but it is unclear whether the cycles can last for 10,000 years or more. The Earth’s orbit can change as much as 8,639,308 miles over a 100,000 year period which would induce the onset of glaciation. In addi- tion, the tilt of the Earth has changed and is changing by .01 degrees per century, and in conjunction with a wobble brought on by the gravitational perturbations by the sun and moon would also account for conditions favorable for glaciation. Interplanetary dust could also block solar radiation, thus lowering the Earth’s tem- perature.

Ice age mammals were covered in fur because it was so frigid, but why were they so large? Large animals have less surface area relative to their body mass compared to smaller animals. Larger animals lose propor- tionally less heat and can withstand cold temperatures more successfully than smaller animals. Bigger animals are better insulated with thick skin with or without more body fat. When size and insulation are increased the metabolic rate goes down and animals breath slower and have fewer heart beats per minute.

However, bigger animals need more food and therefore larger foraging areas. But larg- er animals have larger strides compared to smaller ones and therefore use proportionally less fuel to obtain food. Larger animals may have to search more widely for a mate.

And there would be no surplus of species to survive adverse conditions or disease. This is applicable to both vegetarians and meat- eaters alike.

Bigger animals also have lower birth rates, longer gestation times and smaller- sized offspring compared to final adult size and are vulnerable to predation. Bigger bod- ies are structurally complex and with com- plexity comes specialization. Specialization makes a species less adaptable to changes in habitat such as climate swings of the ice age.

Some of these mega ice age mammals were really weird looking. For example, huge Rusconi ground sloth herbivores that were six meters tall and weighed an astounding 5,952 pounds. Short necks, powerful chests and long, sharp claws made them formida- ble. Its only real enemy were paleo-humans.

There were giant, 6.5-feet-tall, short- faced bears weighing in excess of 2,204 pounds. They were carnivorous and scav- engers. Enormous beavers weighing a whop- ping 441 pounds with 6-inch-long incisors must have built remarkable dams.

Fearsome saber-toothed cats with 7-inch front teeth were a feared predator as were the 860-pound American lions which were believed to be the most widespread land mammals in North America. They hunted the gigantic mastodons and gargantuan woolly mammoths. These long-lived beasts had 9-foot tusks and could live for about 80 years.

Many woolly mammoths and other ice age mammals have been found in the far north where they have been entombed in perennially frozen grounds called per- mafrost. An excellent site to witness a diverse collection of late Pleistocene mammal fossils is Rancho La Brea Tar Pits in the heart of Los Angeles. Ten thousand animals were trapped over a 40,000-year period in asphaltic seeps representing 565 species.

Between 12,700 and 9,400 years ago North America lost 31 genera of animals each weighing 100 pounds or more. Scientists believe that these beasts perished because habitat changed dramatically due to climatic shifts at the end of the last ice age. And as human populations began to grow, doubling every 20 years, so too did the demand for meat. With Clovis stone projec- tile points, humans began to decimate North American mega fauna. The bigger animals did not have a chance to learn evasive behav- ior to survive.

As greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane are rising today, it is becoming increasingly important that scientists under- stand the cause(s) of ice ages. That also includes gaining a better understanding of the rate of temperature change leading both away and from ice ages so that current day species do not follow the fate of the mega Ice Age mammals.

DR. REESE HALTER is a public speaker and con- servation biologist. His upcoming book is enti- tled “The Incomparable Honey Bee,” Rocky Mountain Books. He can be contacted through www.DrReese.com.

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Your column here

Jill Biden

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

America's best-kept secret

EVERY YEAR AROUND THIS TIME, I AM struck by the growing number of college rankings available to prospective college students. While these reports can be helpful, many of them fail to include an option that nearly half of all U.S. undergraduate students choose to pursue — and one I know to be the single best path to opportunity for millions of Americans: community college.

I have been an educator for 28 years, and I have taught in the community college system for more than 16 of them. I don't have to look any further than my classroom to see the power of community colleges to change lives. For years I have welcomed students to my classroom from many different educational, economic and cultural backgrounds, and seen how the community college system puts them on the same path of opportunity.

I have seen how community colleges fill important gaps: granting two-year degrees, teaching English to immigrants, providing vocational skills training and certification and teaching basic academic skills to those who may not yet be ready to pursue a four-year degree.

It's also hard to ignore the financial advantages. In today's challenging economy, community colleges are an increasingly affordable way for students from middle-class families to complete the first two years of a baccalaureate degree before moving on to a four-year university.

From a policy perspective, community colleges make sense; from an economic perspective, they make sense. But I am a teacher, and my experience with community colleges is personal. People sometimes ask me why I choose to teach at one and why I have continued to teach since moving to Washington, D.C. I'm always surprised by the question because there was never a doubt in my mind that I would stay in the classroom. The reason is simple: The students are inspiring.

Three out of four community college students — and some of my best students — work while attending school. In my classes, I have men and women who rush to class at the end of a busy work day. I have single parents who come to school in the evening, weary from a long day yet eager to create a brighter future with more options for their children.

Many of my students work hard and dream of attending a four-year university, and the community college is a great gateway. They are determined to be the first in their family to attend college. I see recently unemployed workers who are looking for new skills in growing fields like health care, teaching, information technology and green technology — some of the fastest-growing fields in America and the rest of the world.

In the United States there are almost 1,200 community colleges among our 4,100 public and private institutions of higher education. All together, community colleges serve 11.5 million students.

They are flexible, offering specialized training programs to address workforce shortages and often partnering with local businesses to meet the emerging needs of their regions. Some states have programs that allow for admission to four-year schools after two successful years at a community college or at the very least provide for the transfer of credits. Given the high cost of most four-year institutions and the relatively low cost of community colleges, these types of programs can make a big difference for financially strapped families.

It's easy to see why community colleges have seen the fastest growth among U.S. higher education institutions over the last three decades. President Obama recently announced an investment called the American Graduation Initiative that will allow community colleges to meet the needs of rapidly growing enrollment by funding programs to increase graduation rates, make courses more relevant to business needs and strengthen ties to high schools and other colleges and universities.

All Americans deserve an opportunity to receive the best education possible — not just through 12th grade but all the way through college, too. By supporting community colleges and by encouraging them to improve their graduation rates, the Obama-Biden administration is helping millions of Americans gain skills and confidence to lift the nation out of hard times. I can't think of a better investment.

I have often said that community colleges are one of America's best-kept secrets, which is why you won't find them on many of this year's "best college" rankings. But they are essential to our nation's higher education mission and uniquely able to address the needs of our communities. Just as important, they often provide an education to students who would not otherwise enroll in a four-year college or university.

So to anyone considering applying to college, I encourage you to take a look at a community college near you. You might be surprised at the opportunities awaiting you there.

JILL BIDEN, a lifelong educator with a doctorate in education from the University of Delaware, teaches English at Northern Virginia Community College. She is the wife of Vice President Joe Biden.

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The Q-Line

Pigeon problem?

The City Council recently approved a net that will be installed under the Santa Monica Pier to prevent pigeons from fouling the bay, which has some of the most polluted waters in California. This has animal rights activists in an uproar, with some claiming the net could kill or injure the birds who roost underneath the famous structure.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you think the net is a good idea, and why?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press.



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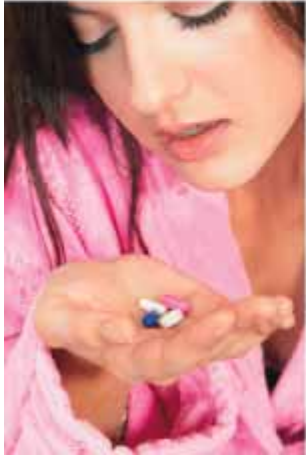
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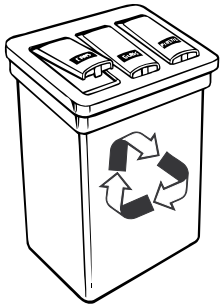
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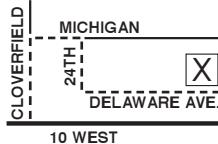


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Parenting

6

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2009

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



The Quackers

Phyllis Chavez

Send comments to editor@smdp.com



photo courtesy University of California Museum of Paleontology

PRECIOUS PLACE: A prairie pothole in South Dakota, part of a threatened wildlife habitat.

Protecting the duck factory

Editor's Note: The Quackers are three awesome ducks from the canals of Venice who are on a mission to educate the community about the dangers of global warming and the importance of practicing sustainability, all while surfing the most gnarly waves possible.

Our eyes were heavy as we watched the evening news. We had drifted off but somehow the words "big waves" penetrated our sleepy brains. Three pairs of eyes snapped open like roll-up window shades. We scrambled closer to the TV. A South Pacific storm was sending big surf our way. We cheered.

Early the next day we jumped on our skateboards. Balancing our surfboards on our heads we sped toward the Venice Pier. The smell of briny surf was intoxicating. We heard the crashing of the waves and saw white water flying when they collided with the pilings.

Massive, 8 to 10 foot waves full of roiling sand surged toward the shore. They came in on four wave sets. After each set an eerie lull followed and then the pounding began anew. It sent a shiver down our spines.

The waves were powerful and wild. The break was sloppy and blown out. No pelicans bobbed in the water. Not a seagull soared above. If the shorebirds didn't trust the water we knew we should not.

Richard and I were watching the waves from the pier when Rusty hurried toward us licking his lips. "Time to go," he said as he rushed by. We were puzzled but hurried to catch up. A few moments later we heard a yell from the pier, "Hey! My bait has disappeared!"

While we were out, Cousin Hoot from Montana had called. He was going to North Dakota to visit family and thought we might like a break from our big city life.

We met Hoot in Montana and continued on to North Dakota. From the sky the prairie seemed to be dotted with craters. We grew closer and saw they were filled with water.

Hoot told us we were in an area known as the Prairie Pothole Region. He said some people also referred to it as the "duck factory." Rusty looked horrified and cried, "Sidney, you told me we came from eggs! We aren't robots, are we?"

With a laugh from deep in his belly Hoot explained that it wasn't a real factory. It is called the "duck factory" because so many ducks are born there. He said more than 60 percent of migratory birds in the U.S. use the Prairie Pothole Region for breeding and as a migration stopover.

We were awed by the number of water filled craters covering the plains. Hoot said about 10,000 years ago the glaciers from the last ice age receded and the area known as

the Great Plains was created. The receding glaciers left behind millions of shallow depressions in the earth that became wetlands. The shallow depressions are called Prairie Potholes. The Prairie Pothole region includes areas of North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota and Montana. It also extends into Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Canada. It was one of the richest wetland ecosystems in the world.

Hoot said he was making the trip because he was concerned about his parents and his birth place. The Great Plains and Prairie Pothole Region had become number one out of the 25 most important and threatened wildlife habitats on the continent.

Hoot's parents told us that before he was born scores of potholes had been drained for crops or development. They shared the sadness they felt when their home had been destroyed and how difficult the relocation had been.

Worry creased their elderly faces as they talked of global warming and the effect the increasing temperatures might have on the potholes. They had also heard talk of more pothole draining to plant corn for ethanol and soy for biodiesel. They feared their golden years would be ruined by the continued shrinking of their homeland.

We all decided Hoot's parents deserved to enjoy their retirement years and that the wetlands were too important in the fight against global warming to stand by and do nothing. We would work to save them. We need them to help prevent flooding and to store water. Our rivers, streams and ground water would face more pollution without them. What would the hundreds of species of wildlife, not to mention humans, do without the food, water and cover they provide? We had to spread the word.

As we worked on our strategy we discovered some good news. The North Dakota Farmer's Union has been helping by selling carbon credits to save the land. Ducks Unlimited launched a program where landowners permanently sell the rights to their stored carbon. The cost of a Duck Stamp for hunting, one of the primary sources of funding for purchasing or leasing land in that area to protect it, may be increased.

Rusty is doing his part. He opened a lemonade stand and is using the money to by Duck Stamps. He gets a lot of attention when he cries, "Buy my lemonade, save the Duck Factory."

PHYLLIS and the Quackers can be reached at phyllis@phyllischavez.com

Allowance helps teach kids about money management

ANGIE WAGNER

For The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS There's a children's book about the Berenstain Bears having a case of the "gimmies." They want what they want and they want it now.

If there is a sequel, my daughter would win, hands down.

I took her to a store with the intention of buying her school uniforms. She had her eye on a pair of hideous, white sandals with a small heel.

She begged. I stood firm. Then she told me she was going to cry.

She did. I was mortified. She continued to beg and even told me she wished she had a different mother who would buy her things.

I didn't cave.

The next day, at another store, she knew better than to pull the "I want it now" routine, but still asked for random things at the checkout counter.

Usually, my kids know we only get special gifts for birthday and Christmas. But we had just returned from a trip to see their grandparents, and let's just say a lot of gifts were given and they were indulged quite a bit.

I have tried explaining the difference between being at their grandparent's house and being at home, but really I think it's time my almost-6-year-old start learning about money.

Six is a great time to start receiving an allowance, according to Janet Bodnar, editor of Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine, who also writes a web column called "Money-Smart Kids."

"Kids will spend unlimited amounts of money as long as it's yours," she said. But "kids are really cheap when it comes to their own money."

Bodnar suggests giving children a weekly allowance equal to half a child's age. And, she said, don't attach it to chores. That way, they won't think they have to be paid for doing things like making the bed. They can always do extra chores, such as weeding the garden or walking the dog, to earn more

money.

The allowance should be given to the child to use to buy the items they really want. If they don't have enough, they don't get the goods, Bodnar said.

"You give her that responsibility with the money," said Bodnar.

Parents also might want to require that their child save a certain amount of the allowance every week.

Elisabeth Donati, who runs a financial camp for kids in Santa Barbara, Calif., called "Camp Millionaire," suggested setting up money jars for kids as a way of allocating and managing their money. Allowance can be split between jars of spending, savings, charitable and education.

She said taking my daughter to volunteer at a charity or visit with less fortunate people would help teach her that people don't have everything.

Donati, author of the book "The Ultimate Allowance," also suggested that parents give their children the money they are already spending on them. For example, if you buy your daughter hair bows or action figures for your son, the money for those items is given to the children. The child decides when to buy the item.

But if they spend the money on something else and still want the item, the parent would say something like: "How can I help you make a better decision?"

As the child gets older, he or she would be fully in charge of the money spent on them.

As far as my daughter and her case of the "gimmies," Bodnar assured me that I really do have the power. I just have to draw the line in the sand and always give a reason as to why I won't buy something for her.

Setting the buying boundary now will pay off later, she said.

My daughter is still asking about the white shoes. She wants to know if we can get them when they go on clearance. It's still a no.

On the Net:
www.kiplinger.com/columns/kids

How-to tips for school vaccinations

LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON Giving injections to thousands of children — even something as easy and safe as influenza vaccine — is complicated. But there are resources to help schools plan flu-vaccine clinics.

"It's not just going from desk to desk and giving a little polio vaccine on a sugar cube," warned Dr. William Schaffner of Vanderbilt University, a vaccine specialist who advises the federal government.

Early planning is key, added Robert Pestronk of the National Association of County & City Health Officials.

His group offers sample letters to parents explaining the vaccination process and also case studies of different ways school systems have successfully performed flu vaccinations. The group even provides a checklist to help officials be sure they've remembered every detail.

Health professionals have to administer flu vaccine, and typically local health departments do the job.

First decision: which to offer, vaccination against regular winter flu, swine flu or

both? Health officials believe that swine flu inoculation will require two shots, three weeks or so apart, whereas vaccination against regular winter flu requires a separate jab.

Regardless, no kid can be vaccinated in school unless a parent or guardian properly fills out a permission slip that includes questions about the child's health history. For example, people with severe egg allergies aren't supposed to get flu vaccine, and certain conditions require that people receive the flu shot instead of the nasal-spray version.

Have someone check the consent forms ahead of vaccination day because many parents miss questions or forget to sign them, warned Jennifer Johnson of the Knox County, Tenn., Health Department, which has offered in-school FluMist vaccination for four years.

Flu vaccine side effects are generally mild, such as a sore arm or some fever. But Schaffner warns that weird things can happen, too — like the fact that adolescent girls sometimes faint when they get a shot. Health officials recommend observing children for 15 minutes after vaccination.



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Got Toys?

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Experts say solar industry doubled in size in two years

FROM DEGREE PAGE 1

cials in May initiated the process to add a new program to its offerings, receiving approval from the college's curriculum committee and later the Los Angeles/Orange County Workforce Development Leaders.

The program is now awaiting approval from the state but is expected to be ready for its first set of students this fall.

"SMC really wants to be a leader in not just being a green college, but offering a really green curriculum," Genevieve Bertone, the sustainability coordination project manager, said.

Students must also complete several other electives to achieve certification, including Computer Assisted Design (CAD) and environmental studies courses, which provide a context for why solar and renewable energy is important, Bertone said.

The college will also offer an associate's degree in photovoltaic studies for students who decide to pursue the full 60 units, making it one of the few schools in the area to offer such credentials.

The enrollment for PV1 has already reached its max for the fall semester. Bertone said the college is thinking of adding a few more sections for PV1 along with PV2 in the spring.

The courses were developed with the help of Brian Hurd and his company Hands on Solar, which provides consultation to schools interested in creating alternative energy programs. Hurd in 2006 developed the Solar Electric Installer Program for the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Students are encouraged to have an understanding of at least trigonometry because the curriculum involves system design, understanding orientations and tilts and the sun's relationship to the earth, Hurd said.

"We go through a lot of math and it starts at the basic level and ends up being more involved when you get into the system design," he said.

The program doesn't limit its students to working physically in solar construction, but rather gives them potential to explore areas such as sales and public relations, Hurd said.

"There's a lot of different layers of employment," he said.

While there are companies that don't require their candidates for employment to have a background in solar installation, they do look favorably upon those who do have formal training.

SMC REALLY WANTS TO BE A LEADER AND NOT JUST BEING A GREEN COLLEGE, BUT OFFERING A REALLY GREEN CURRICULUM."

Genevieve Bertone
 sustainability coordination project manager, SMC

"Because the solar industry is so nascent, any formal training makes a very positive case for a potential hire," Daniel Dus, the chief financial officer for Santa Monica-based Martifer Solar, said. The company is one of the preferred providers for City Hall's Solar Santa Monica program, which pairs residents with approved suppliers who offer competitive prices in an effort to make the city self-sustaining by 2020.

While Martifer has seen an increase in the percentage of credential applicants in the past 12 months, the vast majority still do not have formal training or certification, Dus said.

He estimates that the solar industry doubled in size from 2006 to 2008 in both revenue and job creation.

"Most companies active in the solar industry are acutely aware that the current job market is looking to green jobs to provide a reprieve from constantly increasing unemployment numbers, and are doing their best to maximize the value of the government subsidies made available to them in order to grow, and hire quickly," he said.

melodyh@smdp.com

Margin for error is slim for Dems

FROM HEALTH CARE PAGE 1

of health care and supporters arguing it is essential to create competition with private firms.

Proposals for creation of nonprofit co-operative ventures have emerged as an alternative, but so far, neither liberals nor conservatives have shown great interest.

Obama made his remarks as he struggled to regain momentum for a health care overhaul that has generated controversy among Democrats and near unanimous opposition among Republicans. Recent polls show a lessening of support, and the administration and its allies were thrown on the defensive earlier this month when angry protesters turned up at widely publicized town hall events held by Democratic lawmakers.

The bill faces numerous obstacles when lawmakers return to the Capitol after Labor Day.

In the House, where Democrats hold a 256-178 majority, passage of legislation will hinge on the ability of the administration and Democratic leaders to satisfy liberals who favor a robust government option and centrists who prefer the co-op approach.

Because they cannot realistically count on any Republican votes, the margin for error is reduced. At the same time, House leaders want to protect their rank-and-file centrists, who tend to come from swing districts, and whose victories in 2006 and 2008 helped give the party its large majority.

In a statement, Speaker Nancy Pelosi said, "There is strong support in the House for a public option," adding it is the best way "to lower costs, improve the quality of health care, ensure choice and expand coverage."

But the statement did not rule out legislation that lacks a government option.

There are similar Democratic divisions in the Senate, where the party controls 60 seats to 40 for the Republicans. A bipartisan group of six senators has been meeting for weeks on a possible compromise that would not include a government option. It is not clear whether they will be successful in reaching a final agreement.

While the president says he favors a bipartisan approach, he has also said it may ultimately be necessary for Democrats to produce a bill more to their own liking.

Santa Monican beats the odds, chosen to appear on game show

FROM MILLIONAIRE PAGE 3

received a call back. The trip however was not a lost cause as the couple came back engaged.

"I was happy to try again when the 10th anniversary was announced and it was very surprising to get a call back," he said.

For the 10th anniversary, contestants had three ways to land a spot on the show — the traditional phone game, regional auditions that included an interview and on-site quiz, and the newest addition, the video submissions, which in two minutes allowed candidates to convince producers why they deserved to be on Millionaire and explain how they would spend their winnings.

Mason called in the beginning of July and successfully answered all five questions. A few weeks later, producers pulled his name at random.

The phone was checked frequently until then.

"I was thinking this is ridiculous," he said. "It's hardly worth my time to check to see if my phone is charged, why am I worried?"

Then on one late July morning, as Mason was about to step in the shower, his cell phone rang, flashing a number with a 212 area code.

"I was very excited and just amazed," he said. "In my mind I had totally written off the possibility because it's such a long shot."

There was some preparation involved leading to game day, watching old episodes to study questions for the topics they covered and examine the arrangement of the buttons for the fastest finger quiz. He even attempted to buy an almanac from the bookstore but left empty handed because the specific title he had in mind was out of print.

"There's an infinite world of knowledge to absorb so it's tough to cover everything," he said.

While Mason contractually could not describe specifics of how he performed on



photo courtesy STEVE FENN

BIG BREAK: Santa Monican Richard Mason will appear on Wednesday night's broadcast of 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire,' the popular game show on ABC now celebrating its 10th anniversary.

the show, he did discuss the hours leading up to the taping of the show, sitting in a green room with nine other contestants.

He could tell what channels the contestants took to get to New York, noting that the callers were introverted while those who auditioned "talked up a storm."

Mason also got a chance to meet Philbin before the taping, learning that the game show host also has family in Santa Monica.

The experience on Millionaire taught the contestant to be open to new pieces of information, no matter how meaningless it may be, whether it's facts about fruit or a movie director.

"You could say, gee, one week from today I could possibly win a million dollars if I knew this fact about lemons," Mason said.

melodyh@smdp.com

More making timely payments

FROM CREDIT PAGE 1

be another sign that household finances have yet to recover from the recession.

With more than 6 million people living on unemployment benefits and the recession continuing to pressure family budgets, many are forced to prioritize their bills. The reality is that credit cards often fall to the bottom.

Credit card companies have been trying to limit their risk over the course of the last year. Major credit card issuers reporting monthly results say the rate of losses from unpaid accounts improved from June to July.

American Express Co., Bank of America Corp., Capital One Financial Corp., Citigroup Inc., Discover Financial Services and JPMorgan Chase & Co. all say the number of account balances written off due to nonpayment fell.

American Express, for example, said its net loss rate fell to 8.92 percent in July from 10.18 percent the month before. Bank of America fell to 13.81 from 13.86 and Chase saw a drop to 7.92 percent from 8.04.

What's more, most of the major card issuers also reported more customers making payments on time.

The positive trends don't necessarily mean consumers are suddenly in much better financial shape.

Some of the uptick is more likely due to

credit card companies culling the riskiest customers, which will in time lower default and delinquency rates, said bank industry analyst Richard Bove of Rochdale Securities.

He sees little to point to a significant improvement in the financial health of consumers.

Unemployment remains high and will remain elevated for months and the average household wealth is lower due to falling real estate values.

"It doesn't appear that the recovery in the economy, which seems to be in place at the moment, is going to do anything to change those metrics," he said. "Unemployment is going to stay high and it doesn't appear housing prices will soar anytime soon, either."

The slight increase in the monthly credit card data also could be attributed to the fact that consumers are striving to maintain a good relationship with their card companies, said Ezra Becker, a consultant for TransUnion LLC, a leading consumer credit rating company.

"They recognize that in a recession their credit cards are their primary cash equivalent resource," Becker said. "Credit cards really help a lot of people make it from paycheck to paycheck or tide them over in periods of unemployment."

Overall statistics show that credit card balances are declining as consumers work to pay off debt.

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Applications and letters of interest are invited to fill one unscheduled vacancy on the Santa Monica Rent Control Board for a partial term ending November 2, 2010. The person appointed will serve until the next general election in November 2010. At that time, a person will be elected to serve for the remainder of the term through 2012.

All persons are invited to apply regardless of race, sex, age, disability, religion, marital status, national origin, sexual preference, or ancestry. Applicants must be residents and registered voters in the City of Santa Monica.

All interested parties please send letters, resumes, and/or applications to:

Glenda Jacobs, Board Secretary
City Hall
1685 Main Street, Room 202
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Applications are due in the Rent Control Board office by 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26, 2009.

Applicants will be invited to make a presentation of up to 5-minutes to the Rent Control Board at a public meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 3, 2009. The Rent Control Board will appoint a new commissioner that evening.

The State Political Reform Act requires board and commission members to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action. The applicant appointed to serve in this position will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) with the City Clerk's office upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

Applications and information on Board duties are available from the Rent Control Board Office, City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Room 202, by phone at (310) 458-8751 or online at <http://www.smgov.net/rentcontrol>.

Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request by calling (310) 458-8751.

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2009

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Crowley gets ovation from officers in California

GILLIAN FLACCUS

Associated Press Writer

LONG BEACH, Calif. The police sergeant who sparked a national debate on race relations when he arrested a Harvard University professor in his home received a standing ovation Monday from thousands of police officers at a Fraternal Order of Police convention.

More than 3,000 officers cheered Cambridge, Mass., police Sgt. James Crowley when he briefly spoke to kick off the five-day

meeting. Dozens left their seats to take snapshots of him on the podium at the Long Beach Convention Center.

"The past month has been very difficult for my family, my friends and my colleagues back in Cambridge, and it's no exaggeration to say that it wouldn't be as easy for me to handle this without the support from the Fraternal Order of Police ... and the support that the men and women who do this job have given me," Crowley said. "Thank you very much."

He declined to comment further after leaving the stage.

Protesters want UC Berkeley law professor fired

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERKELEY, Calif. Anti-war protesters are rallying on the University of California, Berkeley campus to call for the firing of a law professor who co-wrote legal memos that critics say were used to justify the torture of suspected terrorists.

The protesters gathered Monday outside the UC Berkeley School of Law to call for the dismissal of John Yoo. He's scheduled to

begin teaching there after spending the spring semester at Chapman University School of Law in Orange County.

Yoo worked for the Bush administration from 2001 to 2003, when he helped craft legal theories for water torture and other harsh interrogation techniques.

The tenured professor has defended the controversial techniques, saying they were needed to protect the country from terrorists after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Sunday school teacher indicted in girl's death

TERRY COLLINS

Associated Press Writer

STOCKTON, Calif. A San Joaquin County grand jury has indicted a Sunday school teacher on charges she kidnapped, raped and killed an 8-year-old girl and drugged two other people.

Melissa Huckaby, 28, broke down in tears as Judge Linda Lofthus read the indictment against her Monday.

Prosecutors convened a grand jury in late July rather than hold a preliminary hearing to determine whether Huckaby would stand trial. Lofthus said the grand jury transcript would not be made public.

Defense attorney Sam Behar asked the

judge to postpone setting a trial date because he said he did not have time to read the lengthy transcript. A hearing to set a date was scheduled for Sept. 10.

Huckaby previously pleaded not guilty to murdering 8-year-old Sandra Cantu, whose body was found stuffed in a suitcase pulled from an irrigation pond in April.

Huckaby is charged with murder with the special circumstances of rape, kidnapping and lewd or lascivious conduct with a child under 14, which could make her eligible for the death penalty if convicted.

Sandra was last seen on a surveillance camera skipping near her Tracy home just five doors down from the defendant.



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Stocks tumble as investors worry about consumers

BY TIM PARADIS
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK Investors are finding out what everybody else already knew: The consumer isn't going to spend the economy into recovery.

Major U.S. stocks indexes tumbled by the biggest amount in six weeks Monday as investors grew worried that they have been too quick to bet on an economic rebound during the market's five-month rally. Overseas markets and commodities plunged, and demand for safe-haven investments sent the dollar and Treasury prices shooting higher.

The Dow Jones industrial average skidded 186 points and all the major indexes fell at least 2 percent. The Nasdaq composite index was hardest hit, dropping 2.8 percent, but it also has had the biggest advance as Wall Street rallied this year.

A shudder in China's main stock market touched off a wave of selling that spread to Europe and then the U.S. A slide in quarterly profits at home-improvement retailer Lowe's Cos. only added to worries that an improvement in the economy is far off.

Joe Saluzzi, co-head of equity trading at Themis Trading LLC, said the selling was warranted.

"The economics obviously don't support where we've been," he said.

The slide was steep but felt more controlled than the plunges of the past year because stocks ended off of their worst levels and because analysts have been calling for a retreat after the Dow and Standard & Poor's 500 index raced up 15 percent in only five weeks.

The Shanghai stock market tumbled 5.8 percent Monday as investors worried that the Chinese government would tighten bank lending policies. Investors outside China have been hoping that strengthening there would spill over to other economies.

Worries grew when Lowe's said con-

sumers are holding off on some purchases. That's troubling because consumer spending accounts for more than two-thirds of U.S. economic activity.

Some investors used to seeing a quick bounce-back in stocks have underestimated how difficult the recovery could be, even though many analysts have warned that it could take well into 2010 for the economy to regain strength. And some traders seem to be in the same mindset as three years ago, willing to take big chances even when there's little economic or corporate evidence to justify a huge advance.

Now, with consumers facing high unemployment, weak home prices and mounds of debt, investors are worrying that they had grown too optimistic even though the stock market tends to improve before the economy after a recession.

Quincy Krosby, market strategist for Prudential Financial, said some investors are worried that weakness among consumers will hold the economy back.

"Those who are negative say you are not going to see consumers loosen those purse strings in any meaningful way," she said.

The Dow fell 186.06, or 2 percent, to 9,135.34, its lowest close since July 29. The Dow had been down almost 205 points at its low of the day. It was the second straight drop in the index and its sixth in the past nine days. Stocks fell Friday after weak reports on consumer sentiment and retail sales.

The broader S&P 500 index, which is the basis for many investments like mutual funds, fell 24.36, or 2.4 percent, to 979.73. Last week it was up 49.7 percent from a 12-year low of 676 in early March.

It was the biggest slide for the Dow & the S&P 500 index since July 2, when a weak employment report fanned worries about the economy and pushed stocks down more than 2.5 percent.

The Nasdaq fell 54.68, or 2.8 percent, to 1,930.84, its biggest drop since June 22.



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MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre 1328 Montana Ave. (323) 466-FILM Call theater for information. AMC Loews Broadway 4 1441 Third Street Promenade The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard (R) 1hr 29min 12:35, 3:00, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10 A Perfect Getaway (R) 1hr 38min 11:40 a.m., 2:10, 4:45, 7:25, 9:55 Thirst (Bakjwi) (R) 2hr 13min 1:00, 4:10, 7:15, 10:15 The Hangover (R) 1hr 40min 11:20 a.m., 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:30 AMC 7 Santa Monica 1310 Third St. (310) 289-4262 Bandslam (PG) 1hr 51min 11:10 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:15 Ponyo (Gake no ue no Ponyo) (G)	1hr 40min 11:00 a.m., 1:35, 4:05, 6:50, 9:40 The Time Traveler's Wife (PG-13) 1hr 48min 11:05 a.m., 1:55, 4:45, 7:40, 10:35 Julie and Julia (PG-13) 2hrs 3min 12:30, 3:55, 7:10, 10:20 Funny People (R) 2hrs 16min 12:20, 3:30, 6:40, 9:55 G-Force: In Disney Digital 3-D (PG) 1hr 30min 11:55 a.m., 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:15 Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) 2hrs 33min 11:50 a.m., 3:15, 6:40, 10:05 Laemmle's Monica Fourplex 1332 Second St. (310) 394-9741 A Woman In Berlin (NR) 2hr 11min 3:10, 8:30 (500) Days of Summer (PG-13) 1hr 35min 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15	The Hurt Locker (R) 2hr 10min 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:15 Whatever Works (PG-13) 1hr 32min 12:50, 6:10 Adam (PG-13) 1hr 39min 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00 Mann's Criterion Theatre 1313 Third St. (310) 395-1599 Spread (R) 1hr 37min 11:50 a.m., 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:50 G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra (PG-13) 1hr 58min 11:10 a.m., 1:00, 2:00, 3:50, 4:50, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00 The Ugly Truth (R) 1hr 36min 11:40 a.m., 2:10, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40 District 9 (R) 1hr 53min 11:00 a.m., 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20 District 9 (Digital Projection) (R) 1hr 53min 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30
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For more information, e-mail news@smdp.com

Work up a sweat, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You could be sitting on some strong feelings and reacting to someone's unpredictability. Slow down and listen to your inner voice. Understand the fatigue you are experiencing. You have pushed hard. Tonight: Fun and games.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Your sense of what works points you in a new direction. You could be very tired and drawn. Friends surprise you, whereas a family member could be very stubborn. Stay centered on what you want and why. Let fun happen. Tonight: Stay anchored.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Others might not be aware of the kinds of challenges, and perhaps burdens, you experience. You have more get-up-and-go than usual. Think before taking action. Say "no" to a self-destructive tendency. Use care with funds. Tonight: Hang out with friends or a loved one.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Your mood changes quite suddenly. You see events in a new light. Express your anger once you have detached and can see the complete situation. Take a walk or use another means to dispel anger. Tonight: Curb the green-eyed monster.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You bloom, feeling renewed and invigorated. Dealing with partners who might challenge the very basis of your thinking could be tiring. Communicate your expectations to a partner or someone you trust. Tonight: Talks over dinner.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Know when to pull back and see a situation differently. Understanding evolves to a new level because of your willingness to share your feelings. Others seem naturally reactive. Please note that you are not the only one evoking volatile reactions. Tonight: Take some personal time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Where your friends are is where you want to be. Do your share of networking, and touch base with different people. You could be surprised by some of the facts you are hearing. Be open to change and innovation. Hold on tight. Tonight: Find your favorite chair.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You are defined by your imagination. You could surprise a child, loved one or boss with your ideas. You will not tolerate being limited right now. Understand your concerns as well as others'. There are very few issues that cannot be resolved with openness and ingenuity. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Take the high road. You'll want to gain a perspective if triggered. What is going on has to do with your roots and early years, and you might be manifesting this issue in your present life. Think; be sensitive to yourself. Tonight: Take in new vistas.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Work with someone directly on a one-on-one level. You might be surprised by what is going on with a partner once he or she opens up. You are gaining new insight and direction. Caring evolves to a new level. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Defer to another party. You don't need to be on the same page; in fact, different ideas will build a stronger plan. Be open to feedback. Finances have an unpredictable tone, and you might need to question some of the information heading your way. Pick and choose your risks. Tonight: Sort through your choices.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ People feel as if you are pushing their limits with unexpected actions. You know what you are doing, but perhaps communicating your actions and the process that led to them could be important. Verify that you have completed your work. Stick with the details. Tonight: It's exercise hour.

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

Happy birthday

This year, you illuminate many people's lives. You embody excitement. You often get down to basics with lightning clarity, making others uncomfortable. Work on your diplomatic style, and friends and associates will relax more. If you are single, a friend could be quite assertive, as he or she wants more. You can always say no. You could meet someone quite dynamic. Roll with this bond, taking it day by day. If you are attached, your personalities could be combustible. Sometimes you have a hard time working with your sweetie, especially financially. Try to keep your funds separate. PISCES is always a source of excitement.

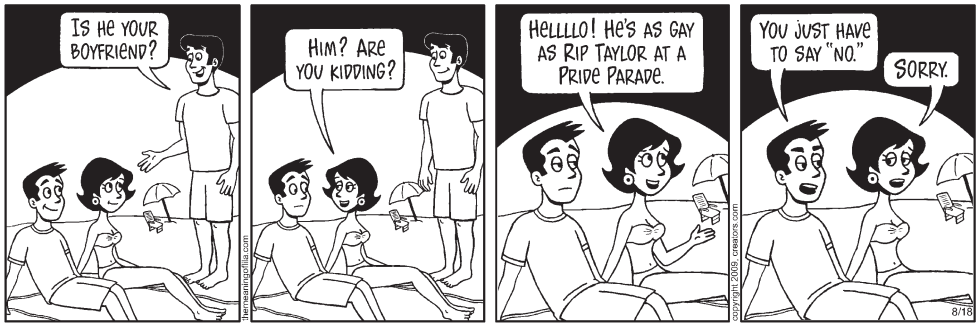
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



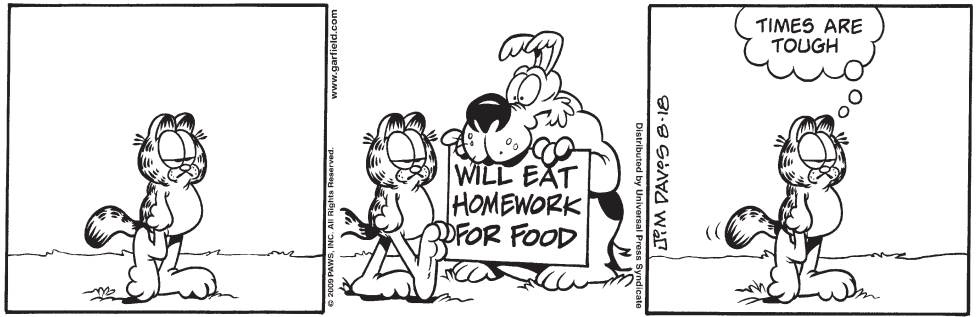
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



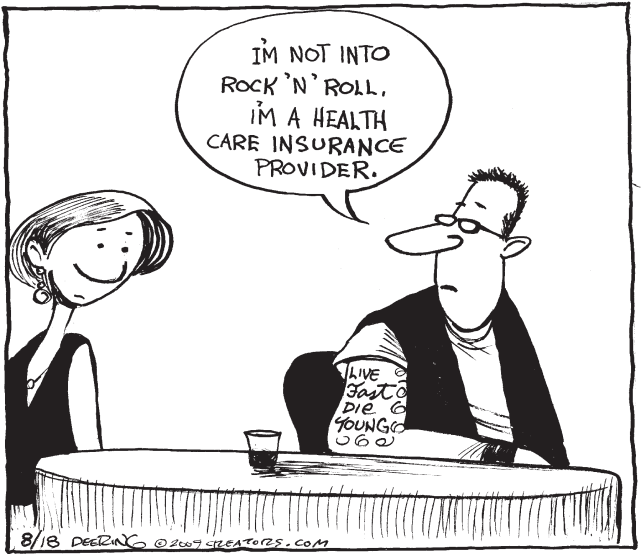
Garfield

By Jim Davis



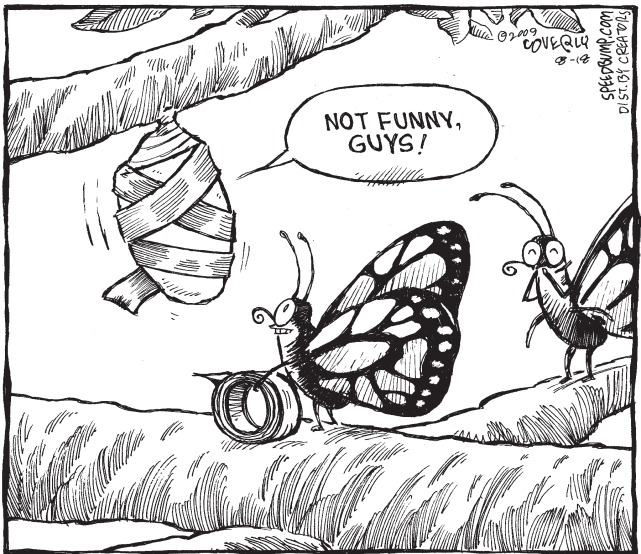
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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Maya Sugarman news@smdp.com

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Elite unit

6 Mechanical man

11 Home of the Dolphins

12 Satirist's specialty

13 Advantageous position

15 Put into words

16 Dripping

17 Glimpse

18 Oregon's capital

20 Sordid

23 Track events

27 Lacking color

28 Coffee, in slang

29 Even a little

31 Planted

32 Permanent inmate

34 Lingerie item

37 Saloon

38 Ozone, for one

41 Temp workers, for example

44 Audibly

45 Marilyn's real name

46 Musical pace

47 Jingle creator

DOWN

1 Writer Martin

2 Fey of "30 Rock"

3 Effortless

4 French friend

5 Carnival section

6 John of "Three's Company"

7 Hockey's Bobby —

8 Big snakes

9 Formerly

10 Young one

14 Twisty fish

18 Aroma

19 College study

20 Restful resort

21 Have lunch

22 In the style of

24 Crow cry

25 Second person

26 Down

30 Lusty drive

31 Venus Williams' sister

33 Craze

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

Yesterday's answer

34 Dinghy or dory

35 Hold power

36 Physics bit

38 Start of an idea

39 — mater

40 Reach across

42 Have a late meal

43 Brick bearer

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1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13						14				
15					16				17	
				18				19		
20	21	22				23		24	25	26
27								28		
29					30		31			
				32		33				
34	35	36			37				38	39
41				42				43		
44							45			
46							47			

8-18

DAILY LOTTERY

8 22 25 33 35
Meganumber: 46
Jackpot: \$170M

7 9 25 29 47
Meganumber: 24
Jackpot: \$11M

10 11 14 27 37

MIDDAY: 5 4 3
EVENING: 8 4 8

1st: 04 Big Ben
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1:49.20

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

■ World-Class Adolescent Endeavors: Japanese engineer Takuo Toda's paper airplane was certified in May as the Guinness Book record-holder for the longest flight from a single folded sheet of paper: 27.9 seconds. And in Witcam, England, in July, Jim Collins won the World Peashooting Championship, using a "traditional" instrument blowing at a target 12 yards away, but noncompeting ex-champion George Hollis once again drew the most attention with his homemade, gyroscopic-balancing, laser-guided peashooter, with which he won three previous championships. ■ When motorist Timothy Pereira, 19, rammed Christine Speliotis' car head-on in Salem, Mass., in March, there was no doubt in police officers' minds what the cause was: Pereira was driving 85 mph in a 35 mph zone and had swerved into Speliotis' lane. However, in July, Brandon Pereira, 17, an injured passenger in his cousin's car, filed a lawsuit against Speliotis for negligence, claiming that if she had been quicker to get out of the way, the collision would not have occurred.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1227 Mongol ruler Genghis Khan died.
1846 U.S. forces led by Gen. Stephen W. Kearny captured Santa Fe, N.M.
1914 President Wilson issued his Proclamation of Neutrality, aimed at keeping the United States out of World War I.
1920 The 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed the right of all American women to vote, was ratified as Tennessee became the 36th state to approve it.
1938 President Franklin Roosevelt and Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King dedicated the Thousand Islands Bridge connecting the United States and Canada.

WORD UP!

undulation \uhn-juh-LEY-shuhn, uhn-dyuh-, -duh-\ , noun: 1. A regular rising and falling or movement to alternating sides; movement in waves. 2. A wavelike form, outline, or appearance. 3. One of a series of waves or wavelike segments.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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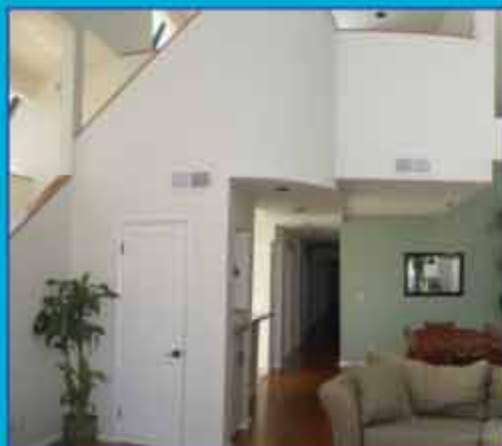
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	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
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North of Montana	\$3,250,000	\$1,049,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	\$1,899,000	\$995,000
South of Wilshire	\$889,500	\$599,500
Sunset Park	\$1,199,000	\$605,000
Ocean Park	\$1,624,500	\$825,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday