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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In Lebanon, Ohio, Donna Rose, 39, pleaded guilty in June after being accused by prosecutors of allowing an older man to have sex with her then-15-year-old daughter. Rose's behavior came to light when the man was arrested, at which time he produced a note, signed by Rose, which he apparently believed would absolve him. The note read: "(Curtis Lee Barnes) always had and will (have permission to have sex) until she is 18 or until they break up." (Barnes was convicted earlier, and both he and Rose were designated as sex offenders.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 238th day of 2005.
There are 127 days left in the year.

On Aug. 26, 1920, the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing American women the right to vote, was declared in effect.
In 1974, Charles Lindbergh — the first man to fly solo, non-stop across the Atlantic — died at his home in Hawaii at age 72.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Suffering belongs to no language."

ADELIA PRADO
BRAZILIAN POET

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CPUC setting the tone with new area code

Santa Monicans will be dialing into the 424 in '06

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) unanimously approved on Thursday a complete overlay of the existing 310 area code.

As a result of the decision, new telephone customers from Malibu to Rancho Palos Verdes, and some inland areas beyond the Interstate 405, will be assigned the separate area code of 424. The new area code will also include some of those requesting new lines be added to existing ones.

The terms of the approval will allow phone carriers to prepare for the overlay, with a grace period beginning on Dec. 31, allowing customers to familiarize themselves with the new system. After July 26 of next year, callers within the 310 area code will be required to dial 11 digits. By Aug. 26, phone carriers will begin to hand out 424 numbers, according to information the CPUC provided.

CPUC President Michael R. Peevy said the decision to incorporate the overlay was a historic move that came after much debate.

"We have made every effort possible to avoid a split or overlay, and for quite some time our number-conservation efforts held off the need for a relief plan," Peevey said. "The overlay approved is a first for California over its merits versus a geographic split."

In approving the overlay, the CPUC rescinded the previously adopted plan for a geographic split of the 310 area code, which the CPUC leaned toward in 2000. The split would have created a new 424 area code south of the Imperial Highway, leaving the rest of the 310 region untouched.

The overlay, the change preferred by the major telephone companies, will create new 424 lines within the same region as

existent 310 lines — a change that will result in residents having to dial 11 digits to call even a next-door neighbor.

After July 26 of next year, callers within the 310 area code will be required to dial 11 digits.

Opponents of the overlay worked to block the efforts of T-Mobile, Nextel of California, Verizon Wireless, Sprint, SBC and other major phone companies.

While the overlay will force Westside residents to dial an area code when making local calls, it will allow existing business owners to avoid reprinting office sta-

See 424, page 7



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

DRESS REHEARSAL: Samohi freshmen football players go through drills on Thursday, the first day of practice in uniform. Coach Tim Dearn, who ran offensive plays with the team, quipped: "Seventy percent of these kids have never worn football uniforms. We had to help dress them up today in their pads."

House divided makes the grade

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SAMOH — School officials feel confident that Santa Monica High School's process of redesigning its large campus is beginning to foster positive results, with even more drastic improvements expected within the next two years.

Officials of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District attribute last year's boost in ninth grade test scores in part to the "house system" that will continue for a third year this fall. The dis-

trict's optimism comes amid a five-year overhaul to Samohi, a sprawling campus charged with the instruction of 3,500 students.

Still, challenges remain. At least 40 staff members have been replaced, multiple positions juggled and the curriculum re-arranged since the 2002-03 school year.

"My goal is to provide the highest level of education in keeping with the high school's tradition," said Samohi principal Ilene Straus. "But how do you do that

See SAMOH, page 7

LOCAL

Full steam ahead: City Hall's suit to halt global warming alive

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The ability for private citizens to sue organizations for the air pollution they cause overcame a major hurdle on Tuesday, when a judge gave the go ahead for a trial to move forward involving Santa Monica City Hall.

U.S. District Court Judge Jeffrey White this week ruled that environmental groups and four U.S. cities — including Santa Monica — may sue federal development agencies, alleging the overseas projects they financially support contribute to global warming.

"It's the first ruling that allows private citizens to sue over the harm caused by independent organizations that contribute to climate change."

ADAM RADINSKY

Deputy city attorney for Santa Monica

White's decision is the first to say that groups alleging global warming have a right to sue, said Adam Radinsky, deputy city attorney for Santa Monica, who is involved in the case.

"It's the first ruling that allows private citizens to sue over the

harm caused by independent organizations that contribute to climate change," Radinsky said. "The suing parties put forward enough evidence to show that emissions from these government agencies will threaten their interests."

See GLOBAL WARMING, page 10

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Your words do make a difference, though you can be sure there will be misunderstandings left and right, no matter how clear you are. Confirm meetings and communications. Don't take an unreturned call personally. Tonight: Find your pals.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You could be confused about your obligations. What is sure is that you cannot cover all your bases at once. You could be stunned by others you have counted on. Keep your finances in mind when making choices. Those you look up to are vague. Tonight: Head home early.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You cannot get clear communications, even if you try. You find that your mind drifts elsewhere as an escape. Dealing with those in charge tests your will and ability to not lose your patience. Claim your power another day. Tonight: Plans change.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★ Know when to head for the hills. If you want to clear out a problem, postpone all actions and discussions for now. Be very careful with money, as a problem could occur. The facts you are getting aren't exact. Step back. Tonight: Vanish. Leave others to their hassles.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★ Though you know what you want, achieving that goal could be difficult. Sometimes you might feel like you are running in place, going nowhere. Be careful about putting someone on a pedestal. He or she could tumble off. You can only blame yourself if this happens. Tonight: Lie back and don't get uptight.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ You are being observed. You might feel that you cannot accomplish what you want. What occurs and what you think on a deep level could be very different. Let others have their way for now. Tonight: Don't take another's behavior personally.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You might need to adjust and change plans more than once. A conflict could occur between what you want and a child or loved one. You could find solving this issue difficult right now. Funnel a second wind where it counts. Tonight: Adjust and be easygoing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ A partner could be difficult and touchy. You might be shocked at what is going on. Understand what needs to happen with a child or a relationship. You cannot control this person, and you shouldn't even try. Tonight: Try to go along with another's plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Others prove to be challenging, no matter what you do. The best approach is to do nothing right now. You find tension in whichever direction you turn. Do what you must, but stay out of everyone's hair. Tonight: Just go along for the ride.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★ Fatigue marks your actions. If you can clear out your to-do list early on, you will be a lot happier. Don't assume that plans will stay as they are. The unexpected runs through your day. Flex and maintain a level of detachment. Tonight: Home in your favorite chair.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Your playfulness could easily be misconstrued by a partner or someone else. This person might not have the easiness and perspective you have. Use care with finances, as you pull the wild card in this area of your life. Tonight: Look for fun, and help others relax.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★ You add pressure because of a misunderstanding. Watch a tendency to throw everything into chaos or confusion. You might function better, but others will become wary of your unpredictable behavior. Tonight: Order in.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Calling all Angels

By Daily Press staff

Jennie Garth, star of the WB’s “What I Like About You” will be in Santa Monica next month to encourage Los Angeles families to help Western Eagle Foundation and learn about local volunteer opportunities in their communities.

Angel Soft Angels in Action, national celebrity Jennie Garth, the Volunteer Center of Los Angeles and Western Eagle Foundation are joining forces to encourage families to volunteer more in their community. The Angels in Action Day is coming to Santa Monica as part of a nationwide tour to urge families across America to take the Angel Soft Million Family Service Pledge and commit to volunteering together.

Garth will be on the Third Street Promenade, working with local parents and kids to pack kits of food benefiting Western Eagle Foundation. Families will have a chance to talk with National Service Learning expert Cathryn Berger Kaye, who help find them a service project that suits their interests and learning about local volunteer opportunities with a local volunteer center. Advice from the Volunteer Center of Los Angeles on how to become more active in their community also will be available.

The event will take place on Sept. 24 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. at 1351 Third Street Promenade.

Helping hand with seniors sought

By Daily Press staff

The Center for Healthy Aging is hiring volunteers interested in working with seniors. A wide variety of positions are open, including information and referral, health clinic assistance, friendly visiting and daily money management.

The center will provide applicants with a four-week training session starting on Oct. 18 from 12:20 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 1527 Fourth St.

The center also is looking for volunteer senior peer counselors.

For more information, call (310) 576-2550, ext. 371.

Local center to give free immunizations

By Daily Press staff

A local health center will be providing free immunizations and tuberculosis skin tests to all infants and interested minors.

The Westside Family Health Center, along with Saint John’s Health Center, will be providing the shots on Sept. 10 from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

The center is located at 1711 Ocean Park Blvd.

California law requires that all children have up-to-date shot records to attend school or child care centers. For more information, call (310) 450-2191.

YMCA pitches in on health care education

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Family YMCA will be offering a free lecture series in September covering various adult wellness topics.

The first lecture, called “A New Prescription Drug Plan called Medicare Part D” will be held on Sept. 13 at 11:30 a.m. on the second floor of the YMCA senior center.

Attendees will learn about the benefits of the new program along with how it will likely affect current insurance coverage.

The second lecture, covering the basics of colon cancer, is scheduled for Sept. 20 at 11:30 a.m. at the same location.

About 105,000 new cases of colon cancer are diagnosed in the U.S. each year.

The last lecture, dubbed “Integrative East-West Approaches to a Wellness Program” will be held on Sept. 29 at noon in the YMCA’s community room. Health experts will discuss such topics as meditation, TAI Chi and diet plans.

All events will be held at the YMCA’s Santa Monica branch at 1332 Sixth St. Those interested in attending are asked to register at the member service desk.



SURF REPORT

Today, energy from Hilary is expected to decline. Some background southern hemi energy is expected, so south-facing breaks, which will have the best size, should hover around waist to chest high.

Today the water is:

66°

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TUESDAY	6:19	0.6	7:08	1.0	N/A	N/A	12:43	5.5
WEDNESDAY	6:53	1.4	8:23	1.1	1:05	4.2	1:25	5.4
THURSDAY	7:27	2.1	9:59	1.1	2:25	3.4	2:16	5.2
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The Q Line

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Santa Monica has received more than \$700,000 in federal funding as part of a \$10 million nationwide pilot program designed to get chronically homeless people off the streets. Santa Monica officials, who hope the grant will help put 30 people in housing, estimate 90 percent of the money will go toward rent for some of those who have been on the streets the longest.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, “What has to be taken into consideration by local officials to make this pilot program as successful as possible?”

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

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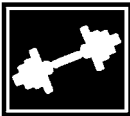
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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Religious extremists are full of it

Editor:

The hypocrisy of religious fundamentalists knows no boundaries and permeates across religions.

You neo-conservatives, you Christian fundamentalists — you are too frequently “caught” in the homosexual and extramarital relationships that you so loudly denounce.

And last night I watched the prelude to Sept. 11 on National Geographic and learned that one group ordered porno films on their motel TV the night before the highjackings.

Who are you all “praising” when you commit your self-described hell-worthy sins?

Flo Ginsburg
Santa Monica

Fear of tickets will only cause accidents

Editor:

Regarding Howard Sage’s letter (SMDP, Aug. 23, page 4):

Everyone who drives knows it is not always safe to just jam on the brakes. When a pedestrian steps off the sidewalk from the far side of the street, the threat of being rear-ended far exceeds the threat of hitting that pedestrian.

I am concerned that drivers reading this letter fearing a \$146 fine and a moving violation will cause rear-end collisions.

Robert W. Grundy
Santa Monica

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author’s name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

Blind faith can only lead followers astray



HERE’S THE THING

BY LARA M. BROWN, PH.D.

So have you heard about Lawrence Greenfeld? He was the director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Operative word being “was.” He recently got demoted and according to the New York Times, it is somewhat fortunate that he did not lose his job altogether. The White House personnel office originally urged his resignation, but in the end, they accepted his right as a 23-year bureaucrat — despite his also being an appointee — to select demotion until he earns his full pension benefits in less than one-year’s time.

Why was he demoted?

He did his job. While this may come as a surprise to most citizens, for those who follow bureaucratic agencies, it is not at all shocking. Because you know that doing your job well is not always considered a good thing in politics.

Especially, if your job is to oversee your agency’s gathering and distribution of statistics, then it is very likely that you personally could incur wrath from the political higher-ups, or that you might be asked to change your tune to suit the administration’s message.

Why?

Statistics aren’t always positive. And they don’t always align with what the president is attempting to accomplish. Worse, they might even reflect negatively upon the president, his administration, and his political party.

This is true whether you work at the Department of Commerce, and the economic numbers don’t look good, or you’re at the Department of Health & Human Services and the number of out-of-wedlock births increases.

Every president wants to be able to say: “The State of the Union is strong and it continues to get stronger.” They dislike having to admit to things like: “On my watch, crime got worse, the economy slipped into recession, and infant mortality increased.” Hence, that is the reason for the political pressure from every president to change the numbers, or to at least hide the numbers.

In this case, the politicians attempted to intimidate a bureaucrat over how to frame a press release about a new report on racial profiling, showing that though all groups are stopped by police about 9 percent of the time, blacks and Hispanics are treated much differently and much worse from whites when they are stopped. Since the bureaucrat wouldn’t budge on the factual reporting of the statistics, they moved the bureaucrat and nixed the press release

on the report.

This is just one more example of the Bush Administration tampering with science and information for their political ends. While I am willing to admit that all administrations engage in some efforts to scuttle unfavorable numbers, this administration has been particularly aggressive about making sure that the negative reports don’t surface and dissonant information is altered (see: http://democrats.reform.house.gov/features/politics_and_science/index.htm).

From my perspective, the worst part about having no Democratic power in Washington is that the efforts put forward by Representative Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) to investigate science and the Bush Administration, and the announced investigation of the Greenfeld demotion by Representative John Conyers (D-Mich.) have gone and will go nowhere. Our system works because of competing interests and with everyone in power being a Republican, there is no opposition voice of any relevance. This means that the public is not being served and the Bush Administration is getting away with their continued distortion and suppression of the facts. Without facts, we are continuing to operate as a blind republic.

Here’s The Thing:

Ideological fervor is not enough. Good public policy only comes from understanding the world as it is and this is where science informs all of our lives. Science does not work against religion. And religion — understood as an allegorical and soulful endeavor and not a literal or concrete explanation — does not work against science. Integration of the two domains is possible. The most acclaimed scientists in history were religious men — Einstein and Newton to name just two.

Why is it so difficult for so many to comprehend the possibility that God put the natural laws in place, which science allows us to discover, and which God gave us the free will to learn how to discover? Isn’t it possible that God wants us to learn about his universe, naturally, over time, through trial and error, through experimentation and not through revelation? Why should faith have to be blind to be considered real?

Personally, I think God wants us to learn all about him and his magnificence by engaging deeply with every fact we can find about our world. I just wish the Bush Administration would stop being so scared of the facts. But then, they have a lot to lose by telling it like it is and not how they wish it were.

(Lara M. Brown, Ph.D., is a political scientist and teaches at California State University, Channel Islands. She can be reached at larambrown@aol.com)

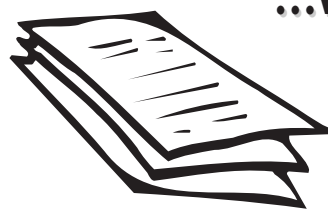


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Santa Monica Daily Press

COMMENTARY



GUEST COMMENTARY BY CHARLOTTE LAWS

A fence is no offense

Of the 359 homeowners in my area, 112 are running afoul of the law in a deviously blatant way by committing the heinous "fence offense." In other words, breaching Los Angeles municipal code sections 12.21 and 12.22, which limit front yard fence and hedge height to a maximum three feet above grade. Now that's a lot of criminal activity for one neighborhood.

With their pens and pads, my investigative team — three 17-year-old, out-of-work baby-sitters — scoured my neighborhood in search of scoundrels and found one very troublesome woman. This 74-year old-widow named Barbara gave them a suspicious story about how her "charming wooden slats" were installed unknowingly by her otherwise law-abiding husband in 1987. My detectives measured the "offensive picket" at a full four feet rather than the legal three feet above grade.

When pressed, Barbara confessed that she had just received a letter from the L.A. City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo asking her to "appear for a City Attorney hearing to determine if a criminal complaint should be issued against (her)... for an alleged (fence) violation."

"It makes me feel like a felon," Barbara says. "Shouldn't there be a statute of limitations on fences that have been in place for so long?"

Fence snitches are on the rise, according to some local representatives. Meddlesome neighbors or quality-of-life protectors, depending upon one's perspective, protest fences by calling the city's toll free number anonymously to tattle on their neighbors for wrought-iron, chain link and hedge indiscretions. Barbara's picket caught the attention of authorities when complainants tipped off the department of building and safety to another neighbor's fence. A dozen families on the street received the ominous code violation letter.

My investigative crew told me to grab my polygraph and interrogation spotlight, and scurry to Barbara's home for a Guantanamo Bay-style probe. But when I arrived, I took pity on the wide-eyed senior, hinting "Have you ever seen Leonardo DiCaprio's movie, 'Catch Me If You Can?'"

Of course, I would never advise Barbara to creep further into the recesses of crime by snubbing Mr. Delgadillo and tossing the violation notice in the trash. And I would hate for the fence fiasco to culminate in a showdown at a dusty printing warehouse in France, all on the taxpayers' dime.

But I wondered — merely as a philosophical exercise — what would the city do if she were a "no show" at the hearing? How would the city react if Barbara faxed them a list of the other 111 high fences in our neighborhood, or better yet, the tens of thousands in LA?

Two things are certain: It would take a lot of out-of-work baby-sitters to compile the list, and it would start a revolution. Homeowners would not be willing to dismantle fences that cost them thousands of dollars to construct.

Whistle-blowing Barbara could then create a directory of every property with any sort of code violation. In fact, we have one now — it's called the phone book.



Photo courtesy

Love thy neighbor, but let them build a fence.

As a realtor for the past 17 years, I have never sold a home that complies with every building and safety rule. There are enclosed patios and guest houses that are not built to code. There are water heaters, roofs and air conditioners that have been installed without permits. It can be illegal to park too many vehicles in the driveway.

Due to a number of break-ins in the area, Barbara wants to retain her picket for security. Fence proponents tout other benefits, such as increased privacy and the flexibility to transform front yards into grassy play areas for kids and pets, especially when pools swallow up the rear of a lot. Hill-adjacent properties, as well as those that have succumbed to expansion or mansionization, may not have room for a yard without enclosing the front.

Too many years have passed and too many fences have been built for LA to attempt a perilous, impractical and costly U-turn back to the "Leave it to Beaver" days when neighborhoods had unobstructed front lawns. One third of all home-owning Angelenos cannot and should not be inputted into a fence offender database.

The city could encourage residents to drape existing fences with greenery to capture the pastoral quality of the yesteryear, or require them to contribute \$100 annually to a neighborhood beautification fund in return for the right to ignore the law.

The city could even change the law to accommodate higher fences and mature hedges. After all, an owner has paid for her front yard, so she should, within reason, be able to use it as she pleases.

The fence controversy has traveled beyond the city of LA to the California communities of Burbank, Santa Monica, Richmond and Glendale where angry homeowners have flocked to City Council meetings — often breaking attendance records — to voice their dissatisfaction with what they perceive to be arcane and restrictive rules. The issue is likely to continue weaving its way across America, since most communities limit front-yard fence heights to three to four feet while property owners routinely disregard the laws.

As I said good-bye to infamous LA picket, Barbara whispered in my ear, "Don't tell Mr. Delgadillo, but I wish my fence were higher. Then I could take out my trash in my nightie."

I nodded, "Why should a person have to get dressed just to walk out her door?"

(Charlotte Laws, Ph.D., is a member of the Greater Valley Glen Council, an author and realtor. Her Web site is www.CharlotteLaws.org.)



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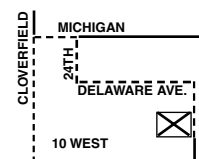
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VIOLET-At Violet restaurant the atmosphere is casual, comfortable, and, like its cuisine, is uncluttered. Chef Jared Simons' flavorful small plate fare has something to suit everyone, from light eaters to those with a taste for a more robust fare. The Braised Short Ribs with Shallot Potatoes (\$14.50) melt apart while the Multi-Colored Beet Salad with Eel delights with Kumquat and Ginger Vinaigrette (\$9) and the favorite among the regulars is the Baked Macaroni and Gruyere Cheese with Serrano Ham (\$7.50). Unique selection of new and old world wines by the bottle, glass or flight as well as an impressive list of domestic & imported artisan beers. Hours: Lunch: Tuesday-Friday, 11:30am-2pm. Dinner: Tuesday-Friday, 6pm-10pm & Saturday and Sunday, 5:30pm-10pm. 3221 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. www.violetrestaurant.com (310) 453-9113.



LOCAL



CRIME WATCH

By Daily Press staff

Take that to the bank

On Thursday, Aug. 18., the Santa Monica police responded to an embezzlement investigation at a business called Testmaster, located on the 1600 block of 20th Street. Officers were contacted by the loss prevention employee and the manager, who said they were notified by a local bank of unusual deposits going into an employee's account. Upon further investigation by Testmaster, it was determined that money in the amount of \$29,000 was moved from a business account into the employee's personal account over a three-month period. Luis Alameda Dongalo, 49, from Reseda, was arrested for grand theft and embezzlement. No bail was set.

At 3:20 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 14, the Santa Monica police responded to the 1200 block of 17th Street regarding a burglary in progress. When officers arrived to the scene, they detained a suspect at the apartment. Officers spoke to the witnesses who said they saw the suspect kicking in the window to the apartment, causing it to break. The suspect then entered the apartment where he was later arrested. Geoffrey Robert Peterson, 24, from Petaluma, was booked for burglary and transported to Santa Monica jail. Bail was set at \$50,000.

At 2:22 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 15, the Santa Monica police responded to the 220 block of Main Street regarding an auto theft that just occurred. When officers arrived to the scene, they spoke to the employee, who said the suspect entered the business and took the keys from the counter and left the location, driving away in a 2001 Chrysler Sebring. At 5:20 a.m., the Santa Monica police received information from the Lenox Police Department that they had recovered the Sebring using lo-jack, an electronic coordinating system that allows officers to locate stolen vehicles within five feet. Gregory John Creedon, 35, a transient, was taken from Lenox police station and transported back to Santa Monica jail where he was booked for grand theft auto and parole violation. No bail was set.

At 6:23 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 15, an employee from the Pier arcade walked into the police substation and informed officers of a vandalism that just occurred on a machine. Officers went with the employee to the arcade, at which time the employee pointed to a suspect who he said had etched some writing on the Plexiglas of one of the machines. Damage was estimated to be \$600. Adan Misael Mendez, 18, from Los Angeles, was booked for vandalism. Bail was set at \$20,000.

At 4:04 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 18, a Santa Monica police officer ran a license plate check on an unoccupied vehicle illegally parked in the 2000 block of Ocean Avenue. The officer was informed the vehicle was from Huntington Park and had been stolen the day before. Officers conducted a surveillance of the vehicle. At 4:30 a.m., four occupants returned to the vehicle and all four were arrested. Only the driver was an adult. Of the three minors, two were male and one female. The female had been reported missing. Their names are not being released because they are juveniles. They were transported to Santa Monica jail and released to parental custody. Eduardo Hernandez, 19, was booked for grand theft auto. No bail was set.

At 12:30 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 21, the Santa Monica police responded to the 1500 block of Lincoln Boulevard regarding an assault investigation. When officers arrived to the scene, they contacted an employee, who said the suspect was inside a restaurant and became angry when he was told not come back, at which point the suspect began to chase the employee with a closed fist. The employee feared for his safety and notified police. Patrick William Woolman, 44, a transient, was booked for assault and transported to Santa Monica jail. No bail was set.

This police report was prepared by Daily Press staff writer Ryan Hyatt.

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Size seems to matter for Samohi students

SAMOHİ, from page 1

when you have class sizes with 30 to 35 students?"

It's a question district officials not only posed, but set out to answer in 2001, developing a five-year program aimed at redesigning Samohi's large campuses into smaller, individual ones.

Studies have shown that size does matter when it comes to education. Large, impersonal schools seldom offer the quality of education that small ones do, school officials say. Smaller schools have higher attendance rates, higher grade-point averages, lower dropout rates, and students and teachers report being more satisfied with the overall experience, studies show.

By focusing on more individualized education for each student, Straus hopes to close the achievement gap that is widespread in large high schools.

"It's basically the English model we're operating on now," Straus said. "We're striving for small within big."

Samohi has been divvied up into six "houses" that each have 25 teachers educating about 550 students. Each house has a different name — "S" "A" "M" "O" "H" "I" — to differentiate them from one another. There is one counselor for every 275 students — roughly half the number of students a counselor is charged with at most large schools, officials said.

Students in the houses take their core curriculum of English, math, science and history. Elective courses, such as foreign language, are taken out of the classroom, as are extracurricular activities, like athletics.

The houses also have separate programs, such as individual student councils, feeding into the main student council.

Overall, the district has continued to see an increase in student proficiency in nine of 10 grade levels since 2001. The greatest improvement has been among ninth graders, 48 percent of whom were proficient five years ago, when the results were first measured. Last spring's results show that 65 percent of ninth graders have met proficiency requirements, a 17-percent increase.

John Deasy, the district's superintendent, attributed part of the academic improvement to changes in teaching methodology and curriculum at the ninth grade level. He also said Samohi's house system has provided freshman with more one-on-one interaction with teachers.

In addition, incoming freshman this year will take a seminar each school day

which focusses on cultural awareness and incorporates history and social studies requirements, as required by the state.

However, despite such changes, similar achievement has yet to be seen among 10th graders, a group that has experienced a 4-percent drop in proficiency over the past five years. Performing at 53 percent in 2001, last year they were only performing at 49-percent proficiency.

Deasy said the decline in performance for 10th graders is one the district is working to correct, hoping to show improvement within the next two years. He didn't say what role the house system may provide in accomplishing this.

This year's juniors and seniors are expected to feel better about the house system than those grade levels have reported in years past, due to the fact that the system has primarily been in place since they began high school.

In June, the United States' Department of Education (DOE), which provides grants for the house system, surveyed Samohi's progress.

In its report, the DOE noticed many strengths regarding Samohi's house system. In particular, the district was complimented that it has successfully put into place the house system for all grade levels, including the assignment of a house principal to oversee and manage the day-to-day operations of each house.

However, the report noted there is still work to be done. There needs to be better communication within the structure that includes top administrators, house principals, teachers and advisors. House principals are encouraged to attain further professional development in areas of instructional leadership and time management, the report said.

The report also suggested that the district study and find resources to sustain its new system and continue to look at ways to improve student gains and school results.

Straus said the house system will prevail at Samohi, to the benefit of students. She was transferred from Lincoln Middle School specifically to helm the drastic overhaul to Samohi's campus.

"The idea behind the house system is that we wanted to know our kids better, and by doing so, we'd begin to see better achievement," Straus said. "I suspect you will find in the next two years we begin to see the most significant improvement."

"When we went into this project, we were committed to it, knowing what kind of work it would be."

Numbers game begets 424

424, from page 1

tionery and business cards, the CPUC points out. Because a split would not have affected local businesses, the City Council had passed a resolution against the proposed overlay.

Currently, there are 381,000 available phone numbers remaining with the 310 area code, according to the CPUC.

The new 424 area code debate was born in 1999, when the CPUC considered an overlay to meet rapidly growing demand. Talk of overlay soon triggered a public outcry, which swayed the commis-

sion to instead implement number-conservation measures.

While the CPUC's efforts served as a temporary remedy, growing demand in the 310 area returned the issue to the forefront.

One conservation method used was "pooling," which allowed telephone companies to obtain only 1,000 phone numbers at a time rather than the usual 10,000, according to the CPUC.

Before "pooling" was used, carriers often bought out large blocks of numbers, without having enough customers, leaving some numbers to go unused for a length of time.

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Entertainment

A 'Grimm' outcome for an imaginary tale

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Terry Gilliam is as unconventional a director as they come, and the production mayhem he's presided over the past three decades has resulted in some outlandish,

magical and wildly entertaining films, among them "Monty Python and the Holy Grail," "Brazil," "12 Monkeys," and "The Fisher King." But Gilliam's chaotic film-making style has, as one might expect, caused him and his crew to lose their way at times, most notably in 2000, when

numerous on-set problems ultimately led producers to shut down production of "The Man Who Killed Don Quixote." Then there are his uneven but still very worthwhile efforts such as the adaptation of Hunter S. Thompson's Gonzo epic, "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," "The Adventures of Baron Munchausen," and now this, "The Brothers Grimm."

Matt Damon and Heath Ledger star as the celebrated 19th-Century German yarn-spinners, here reinvented by Gilliam and screenwriter Ehren Krueger ("The Ring") as a couple of snake-oil salesmen who've gotten rich and famous by duping gullible villagers into believing they can exorcise evil. When they stumble upon the village of Marbaden, where little girls keep mysteriously disappearing in the surrounding forest, the boys Grimm discover that there's more than a little truth to those tall tales.

Both Damon and Ledger are very capable actors, but abrupt tonal shifts and a script that makes the all-too-obvious choice at every turn noticeably challenge them. Damon has the rougher go of it as Will, the cynic, at times even slipping entirely out of his labored British accent (and what are



Germans in French-occupied territory doing speaking English to begin with?) The supporting cast includes a ravishing but sorely underused Monica Bellucci, Jonathan Pryce and Peter Stormare delivering way-over-the-top turns as the Grimm's main antagonists, and gorgeous British actress Lena Headey as the shared love interest. Shot on location in Prague and the surrounding Czech countryside, "The Brothers Grimm" is a fine-looking film. Production designer Guy Dyas, in his first collaboration with Gilliam, constructed an entire 25-building village that looks like something out of a fairy tale book, which, of course, is the point.

(Rated PG-13 for violence, frightening sequences and brief suggestive material. Running time: 119 minutes)

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BY VIC PLATINUM

Special to the Daily Press



This just in: Diddy has changed names yet again! Henceforth the rap-mogul will be known as "Pee Doody," in honor of pal R. Kelly's bedroom fetishes.

Speaking of R., word on the street has him way peeved over reports that he was nearly dropped from the lineup of performers at

Sunday night's MTV Video Music Awards due to a dispute with the show's producers. MTV ought to be relieved, though, because when it comes R. Kelly, 'tis better to have him pissed off, than to be pissed on.

Crime pays, and pays WELL in primetime: Seven of the 10 most watched shows on television last week were crime dramas, with perennial fave "CSI" leading the way. The top 10 was rounded out by back-to-back episodes of "Two and a Half Men" and "60 Minutes," aka "Lesley Stahl and Five Half-Dead Men."

Scarlett Johansson got into a fender-bender at Disneyland while reportedly trying to evade aggressive paparazzi. Dammit, when I hear stuff like that it makes me ashamed to be in the same business as those cretins!!! Where do they get off calling themselves "the media," anyway?!!! Oh, and that reminds me, unconfirmed rumors from anonymous sources loosely associated with a ticket-taker at the "It's a Small World" attraction indicate the sexy star of "The Island" had visited the Magic Kingdom to have a drug-fueled orgy with Chip, Dale, Donald Duck and Goofy. Again, these rumors have not been confirmed, but we're bringing them to you first!

And finally, a toast ... in honor of the great Ted Knight, who passed away on this date 19 years ago at the age of 62. Raise your glasses if you've got 'em, this one's for Judge Smalls:

"It's easy to grin when you're ship comes in, and you've got the stock market beat. But the man who's worthwhile, is the man who can smile when his pants are too tight in the seat."

'Memory' a Belgian treat for thriller fans

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

The "Memento"-esque crime thriller that is "Memory of a Killer," from Flemish director Erik Van Looy, won five Belgian Oscars, and certainly should be embraced by fans of the genre in the U.S. who have had little to chew their fingernails over this year. Veteran actor Jan Decleir is superb as Angelo Ledda, an elderly international hitman who's been hired to take out two people in Antwerp. Unbeknownst to his employers, Ledda has Alzheimer's disease and his condition is deteriorating rapidly. Though his mind is failing, the old man manages to carry out the first part of the contract. But after discovering that the second mark is a child prostitute, he refuses

to complete the job, telling his employers that nobody in his business would kill an innocent child. He's wrong, however, and following the girl's murder and an attempt on his own life, Ledda seeks vengeance — systematically taking out the players in a high-powered political cabal.

Van Looy keeps the film moving at a nimble clip, and his characters feel like living, breathing people as opposed to the slapdash caricatures found so often in noirish thrillers. And while Decleir is the best of the bunch, the rest of the cast is quite impressive, especially Koen De Bouw and Werner De Smedt as the intrepid young detectives on Ledda's trail.

(Rated R for violence, sexuality and nudity. Running time: 120 minutes)

Newton-John's missing boyfriend was mired in debt, child payments

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — The missing boyfriend of singer Olivia Newton-John filed for bankruptcy in 2000 and was recently embroiled in a legal dispute over late child support payments, according to court documents.

Patrick Kim McDermott, 48, was taken to court in April by his ex-wife, actress Yvette Nipar, over payments for the couple's 13-year-old son, documents showed.

McDermott, of the Van Nuys area of Los Angeles, failed to return from a June 30 overnight fishing trip off the California coast. He was reported missing a week later by Nipar, who became alarmed when he didn't show up for a family event.

The Coast Guard has been investigating his disappearance as a missing person case. A spokesman said investigators were looking into all possibilities, including that McDermott had staged his disappearance.

"That's part of their investigation. Until the investigation is concluded, we can't really say anything about his (financial) situation," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Nathan

Henise, a Coast Guard spokesman.

In a March 2000 filing in U.S. Bankruptcy Court, McDermott said he owed nearly \$31,000 to creditors ranging from Home Depot to Fleet Bank. He listed his 1995 Toyota 4Runner as his most valuable property at \$4,500.

As a result of the April court action, McDermott was ordered to make all his outstanding payments to Los Angeles County's child services department instead of to Nipar. It wasn't immediately clear how far behind he was in the payments.

Nipar, who has appeared in a number of films and TV shows, had regular roles on the soap operas "General Hospital" and "Days of Our Lives" and the TV series "Robocop" and "21 Jump Street."

McDermott signed the passenger manifest of the ship "Freedom" when he went on board and was last seen eating in the galley, according to the Coast Guard. His wallet and other belongings were found in a fanny pack on the boat. Investigators say no one saw him get off the vessel.

Newton-John, 56, appeared opposite John Travolta in the 1978 movie "Grease" and is best known for songs such as "I Honestly Love You" and "Physical."

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LOCAL

Global warming suit still has long way to go

GLOBAL WARMING, from page 1

The case is still long from being settled. The next pre-trial hearing will likely be some time next early next year, Radinsky said.

Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and the cities of Boulder, Colo., Santa Monica, Oakland and Arcata, Calif., sued Overseas Private Investment Corp. (OPIC) and the Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im). Those government agencies provide loans and insure billions of dollars of U.S. investors' money for development projects overseas. The case was originally filed in 2002, with Santa Monica signing on in January of 2004.

Many of the projects are power plants that emit greenhouse gases, which the groups allege cause global warming.

Linda Formella, a spokeswoman with Ex-Im, said the agency doesn't comment on pending litigation.

Calls to OPIC weren't returned.

The suit asserts that OPIC and Ex-Im breached the law when they financed more than \$32 billion in projects without assessing their contribution to global warming or impact on the environment as required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Key provisions of NEPA require all federal agencies to conduct an

assessment of programs and project-specific decisions that have a significant effect on the human environment.

The projects, which were approved during the past 10 years, include oil fields, pipelines and coal-fired power plants, and account for 32 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, or 8 percent of worldwide GHG emissions annually, environmentalists claim. Projects include many of the largest new oil field developments in South America, Mexico, the Caspian region and Southeast Asia. Companies that have benefited from Ex-Im and OPIC funding include Exxon, Halliburton and Enron.

That output contributes to global warming, officials argue, which threatens to erode Santa Monica's beaches and bluffs, batter the pier and overwhelm its state-of-the-art drainage system. In the lawsuit, Santa Monica officials demand that fossil fuel projects be studied.

Local officials said the stakes are high in Santa Monica. The health of a \$788 million tourist industry that employs more than 11,000 workers and pumps nearly \$24 million a year into city coffers is at stake, they argued, adding increased storm activity will not only lead to erosion but require more upkeep, and, in the case of the Palisades Bluffs, endanger motorists and pedestrians.

In 2002, the Environmental Protection Agency released a report on the growing domestic impacts of global warming. According to the report, changes over the next few decades are expected to put southeastern coastal communities at greater risk of storm surges, prompt more severe heat waves, and reduce snowpack

The health of a \$788 million tourist industry that employs more than 11,000 workers and pumps nearly \$24 million a year into city coffers is at stake.

and water supplies in the West.

Ex-Im and OPIC claimed that U.S. environmental regulations do not apply to overseas projects, and that the courts have no right to intervene in those agencies' affairs.

The defendants attempted to show that the cities' and environmental groups' arguments were more theoretical than substantive and, therefore, ought to be dismissed. Citing that the developing agencies' roles were "too limited and attenuated" to demonstrate they were responsible for the emissions, the defendants contended that most of the energy-related projects they backed would have proceeded without their support.

However, Judge White believed allegations that "projects supported by OPIC and Ex-Im are directly or indirectly responsible for approximately 1,911 millions tons of carbon dioxide and methane emissions annually," was potentially harmful enough to this nation's citizens that the case ought to be heard in court.

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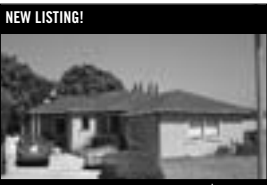
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Bracing for the battle over Colorado River

By The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Arizona hopes to create a \$1.5 million legal defense fund to protect its Colorado River allocation in case a simmering dispute among neighboring states turns into a regional water war.

A worst-case loss in court could force the state to give up half of the water that flows through the Central Arizona Project canal and leave it in reservoirs to benefit upstream users or satisfy a treaty with Mexico.

Most of that water is now reserved for cities in Maricopa, Pima and Pinal counties or set aside to settle claims with Indian tribes.

Representatives from all seven Colorado River states were scheduled to meet Thursday in San Diego to consider a plan that might solve some of the issues without legal action.

The states hope to submit their proposals to Interior Secretary Gale Norton next week as part of a larger effort to create a long-term drought plan for the Colorado.

Drought and growth have pushed the river past its limits and renewed tensions among the states who rely on the river's water.

Without a workable plan, "litigation is inevitable at some point," said Herb Guenther, director of Arizona's Department of Water Resources. "We've been staring at it for a long time. But we're trying to avoid the head-on collision and see if we can't work together on these issues."

Guenther's agency has come up with the first \$200,000 for the defense fund, and Arizona will ask boards governing the CAP and Salt River Project to contribute similar amounts.

A fund-raising committee will then seek donations

from others with a stake in the river, including cities and home builders, Guenther added.

There have been long-standing arguments over how the river and its tributaries are divided among users.

In states along the upper river — which include Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico and Utah — water taken from tributaries is counted against the states' shares.

In states on the lower river — Arizona, Nevada and California — tributaries are not included in the accounting.

That means Arizona, the primary beneficiary to the difference in rules, can use water from the Salt and Verde rivers and still take its full share of the Colorado.

In recent years, Colorado and other upper river states have argued that the lower river states have abused the rule and, as a result, take more than they should.

Elections tribunal prepares documents for voters abroad

BY E. EDUARDO CASTILLO

Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's federal elections tribunal has approved documents that will allow Mexicans living abroad to vote in their native country's elections for the first time in history.

The forms passed by the Federal Electoral Institute during a special session Wednesday night will enable citizens who are on the country's voter registration list to cast a ballot without having to travel to their original hometowns in Mexico.

The institute's action follows months of discussions

among Mexico's leaders and political aspirants, some of whom initially tried to find ways to also register the millions of Mexicans who are not on voter rolls.

Government officials estimate that 11 million Mexicans live abroad, 98 percent of them in the United States. Of those located in the U.S., about 4 million are believed to be registered voters.

Previously under Mexican law, citizens living abroad were allowed to vote, but the government lacked the infrastructure — such as absentee ballots — to allow them to do so. In June, Congress approved reforms to the law to include those mechanisms.

Under the new law, voters abroad can register on a

special list of Mexican expatriates by filling out forms that will be available on the Institute's Web site, and at the Mexican Embassy and Mexican consulates in the U.S. and other foreign countries starting Oct. 1.

The institute, whose Spanish initials are IFE, will receive inscriptions until Jan. 15, 2006. Once registered, voters will be able to send in absentee ballots with their vote until one day before the July 2 elections.

Mexican migrant groups say studies have shown that no more than 10 percent of citizens — from any country — who live abroad exercise their right to vote. Consequently, they calculate that no more than 400,000 Mexican expatriates will vote next year.

Crude oil prices retreat after hitting record \$68 a barrel

BY EDITH BALAZS

Associated Press Writer

BUDAPEST, Hungary — Crude oil prices backed off after briefly touching a record \$68 a barrel Thursday amid worries about what effect approaching storms may have on production in the Gulf of Mexico.

Tropical storm Katrina was expected to reach hurricane strength as it slowly approached the Florida coastline, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said.

Price momentum was also supported by a U.S. inventory report showing a decline in gasoline stocks and by China saying its crude imports spiked in July.

"Gasoline continues to take the market higher and the overall technical picture suggests that at some stage we are going to hit \$70 a barrel," said Orin Middleton, an energy analyst at Barclays Capital in London.

Light sweet crude for October delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange fell 41 cents to \$66.91 a barrel in midday trading in Europe after earlier reaching an intraday record of \$68.

The contract had settled at a NYMEX record \$67.32 a

barrel on Wednesday. On an inflation-adjusted basis, oil prices would need to hit about \$90 a barrel to match the highs of 25 years ago.

Heating oil fell more than a cent to \$1.8550 a gallon, while gasoline gained half a cent to \$1.9305 a gallon.

On London's International Petroleum Exchange, October Brent crude oil futures fell 38 cents to \$65.63 a barrel.

The International Monetary Fund said Thursday that Asian growth could be derailed by high oil prices, and warned of high inflation in Indonesia and the Philippines.

IMF managing director Rodrigo de Rato warned that high oil prices posed a significant risk to global economic expansion, and said they were not likely to fall in the near term.

He said both Indonesia and the Philippines need to be vigilant to curb the inflationary threat of high oil prices. In Indonesia, oil prices have pulled the local currency to a 41-month low and have slowed economic growth.

The price spike in Asian trading also came after China released data showing that its crude imports rose 15 percent in July from a year earlier. In the first seven months of this year, China's crude oil imports have risen 5.4 per-

cent compared to a year ago.

The United States and China are the world's top two consumers of crude, and China's growing appetite for crude is said to be one of the key reasons for the world's shrinking excess capacity to offset any lost output.

"The market sentiment is not whether crude will one day reach \$70, the question is when," said Victor Shum, energy analyst at Texas-based consultants Purvin & Gertz in Singapore. "We are now heading into the fourth quarter, a seasonally higher demand period."

Market focus is now shifting to heating oil and natural gas as demand for these products usually peaks in the winter.

On Wednesday, the U.S. Energy Department said domestic inventories of gasoline fell by 3.2 million barrels last week to 194.9 million barrels, or 7 percent below year-ago levels.

U.S. supplies of crude oil grew by 1.8 million barrels to 322.9 million barrels, or 13 percent above year-ago levels, the agency said. The supply of distillate fuel, which includes heating oil and diesel, increased by 1.4 million barrels to 132.5 million barrels, or 4 percent above last year's level.

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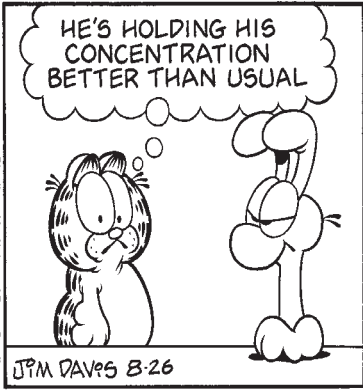
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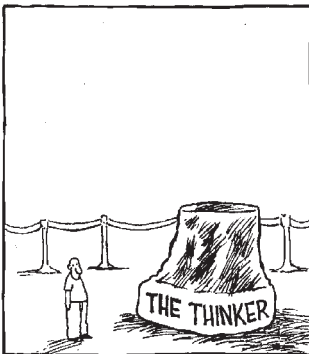
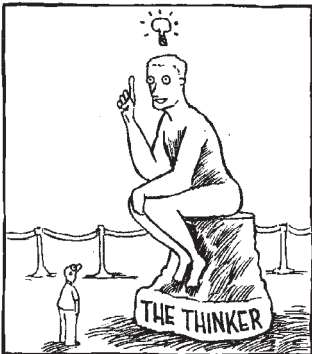
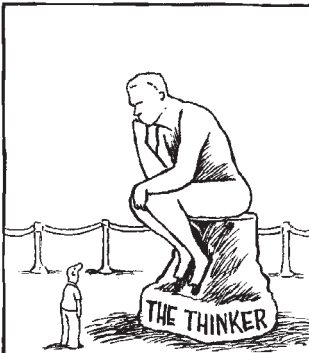
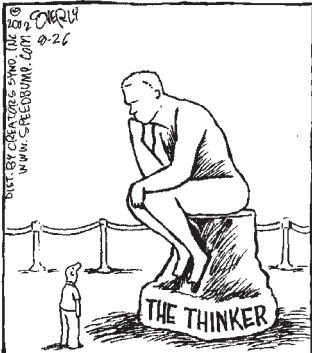
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- 9 Rubber gasket
- 11 So far
- 13 Pit worker
- 14 Rope
- 15 Dreamer's spot
- 16 Rewrote for the screen
- 18 Allergy signs
- 20 Greek vowel
- 21 Use the gym
- 22 Burro sound
- 23 Afore
- 24 Calendar box
- 25 Broker's advice
- 27 Rose part
- 29 Completely
- 30 Say inadvertently
- 32 Oblivious
- 34 Had a bite
- 35 Cap
- 36 — Rica
- 38 Trap
- 39 Bet acceptor
- 40 Cameo stone

41 Sea dogs

DOWN

- 1 You may part with them
- 2 Set right
- 3 Russell Crowe movie
- 4 Unbroken
- 5 Refrain bits
- 6 Kin of PDQ
- 7 Russell Crowe movie
- 8 Pre-euro Spanish coin

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Yesterday's answer

- 10 Italian thanks
- 12 Right now
- 17 Bear lair
- 19 Countess' husband
- 22 Belfry bunch
- 24 Sense
- 25 Bellow and others
- 26 Pacific current
- 27 A pop
- 28 Roadside eyesore
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Photo finish at Disney doesn't faze 'Lost' star

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Scarlett Johansson remained calm after a minor car accident while trying to duck paparazzi near Disneyland last week, according to a tape of the 911 call she made.

"Hi, we've just gotten into an accident," the 20-year-old "Lost in Translation" star tells the dispatcher. "Unfortunately we have a bunch of paparazzi cars also following us."

The tape was released by the California Highway Patrol after Johansson's publicist said the actress had hit a car while trying to elude four sport utility vehicles full of celebrity photographers that had followed her from her Hollywood home.

No one was hurt in the Aug. 18 accident. Johansson clipped the right side of a car carrying a woman and her two daughters.

"About the media," the male dispatcher asks Johansson at one point. "Are they starting to cause problems?"

"They've pulled all around us," she replies on the 911 call, "waiting for us to ..."

"Gotcha," the dispatcher responds. "OK, I'm going to roll a couple of (units) out there, OK, Miss Johansson?"

The owner of a photo agency has said that some of his photographers had been trailing Johansson for four days and had tracked her to Anaheim. But he denied they had contributed to the accident.

Although Johansson's publicist, Marcel Pariseau, initially said the accident occurred in a Disneyland parking lot, the 911 tape suggests that it happened outside the park, on Disneyland Drive near the entrance to the Santa Ana Freeway.

"We pulled off to the side," Johansson says on the tape.

LOS ANGELES — The warm voice of Ray Charles filled the neighborhood near his recording studio during a ceremony christening a post office in his name.

As Charles' rendition of "America the Beautiful" rang out over speakers, family, friends and associates

watched Wednesday as workers unveiled the new Ray Charles Station post office sign.

"My hopes are that the naming of this post office facility is only the first of many tributes for a man who started from nowhere to end up a national treasure and global phenomenon," said Rep. Diane Watson, D-Calif., who sponsored the federal bill to rename the post office.

President Bush signed the bill into law last month.

Charles died in June 2004 of acute liver disease at age 73. His death ended a 58-year career in which he combined rock 'n' roll with gospel and soul to create a new style for hits such as "What'd I Say," "Hit the Road Jack," "Georgia on My Mind" and "I Can't Stop Loving You."

The renaming of the post office touched all of Charles' family, said his son, the Rev. Robert Robinson.

"We miss him so much. So we appreciate every little piece that people do to keep his memory there," Robinson said. "Now we have something we can always see with his name on it and the world can share."

The Ray Charles Station is located just blocks away from the recording studio and business office where Charles produced "Georgia on My Mind" and his final album, the Grammy-winning "Genius Loves Company."

NEW YORK — JLO is going on the auction block — for charity.

Starting Thursday, fans of singer-actress-designer Jennifer Lopez can bid on two VIP tickets to the opening of her first U.S. boutique in Chicago.

Her boutique at Marshall Field's on State Street will open Sept. 22. The first JLO boutique opened in Moscow last year.

Winners of the VIP tickets also will get premiere seating at the store's fashion show and the chance to meet Lopez, the Web site Overstock.com announced Wednesday.

Samples from Lopez's first Sweetface fashion show, which closed New York Fashion Week in February, also will be included in the seven-day auction, to bene-

fit the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles.

The samples include an olive green fur-trimmed poncho, brown knit short-shorts, an off-the-shoulder pom-pom sweater and 4-inch, studded suede heels.

NEW YORK — Mary Tyler Moore will return to the soundstage where "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" was filmed in the 1970s when she guest-stars in three episodes of "That '70s Show."

Moore will play a local newscaster who hires Jackie (Mila Kunis) as her personal assistant. Beloved by her audience, Moore's character isn't so charming when the cameras are off, as Jackie discovers.

The episodes will air next year, the Fox network said Wednesday. Moore starred as TV reporter Mary Richards on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and as Laura Petrie on "The Dick Van Dyke Show" in the 1960s.

The new season of "That '70s Show" will premiere Nov. 2.

NEW YORK — John O'Hurley, a popular contestant on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars," will host the 29th annual Mrs. America competition Sept. 7 in Palm Springs, Calif.

Helping O'Hurley get the backstage dish on the 51 contestants will be Omarosa Manigault-Stallworth, a former candidate on "The Apprentice" and a former Mrs. District of Columbia.

WE will broadcast the competition on Sept. 14, the network announced Wednesday.

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo. — A little bit of Hollywood is coming to Cape Girardeau.

Producers of "Killshot" have confirmed that Diane Lane and other stars and crew will be in town later this year or in early 2006 to shoot scenes for the movie.

Based on the 1989 novel by Elmore Leonard, "Killshot" will tell the story of a married couple who find themselves in Cape Girardeau while on the run from a pair of hitmen.

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