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Volume 8 Issue 260



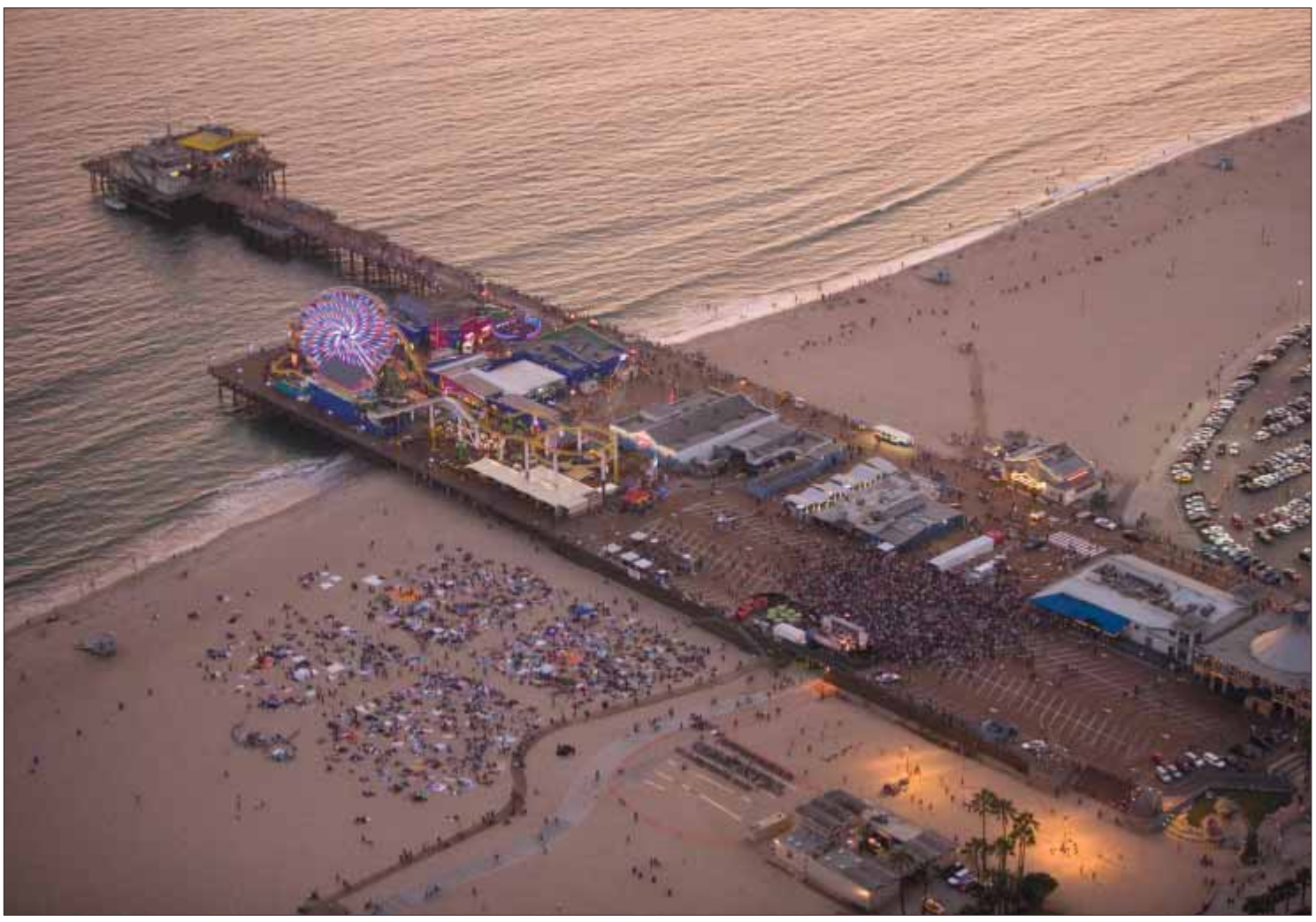
Santa Monica Daily Press

FIRED UP FOR FOOTBALL
SEE PAGE 18

We have you covered

THE TAKE A LOOK INSIDE ISSUE

Safety agencies prepare for pier's 100th



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

SCENE OF THE PARTY: **The Santa Monica Pier will be a popular destination on Sept. 9 when it celebrates its centennial.**

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM PIER If it's one thing that local officials are certain when it concerns the pier's century mark on Wednesday, it's that a large turnout can be expected to ring in the next 100 years.

Just how big that crowd will be remains to be seen.

Regardless of the size, public safety agencies say they're prepared.

The Santa Monica Police Department has been working with the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corp. on safety measures and traffic controls for the event, deciding to close the pier to vehicular traffic that day. Traffic control officers will also be dispatched around the pier to help with the flow.

"We're expecting a lot of people to be there," SMPD Sgt. Jay Trisler said. "This is a historic event."

The Big Blue Bus is planning a series of changes to its schedule that day, including closing the stops where Ocean Avenue meets Broadway and Colorado Avenue at 5 p.m. Linda Gamberg, the spokeswoman for the public transportation agency, said that a southbound lane on Ocean could also be restricted to bus travel only.

In case of an emergency, there's also a plan B to reroute Lines 1, 7 and Rapid 7 to Fourth Street and Main Street.

"We are going to do our darndest to post many temporary signs when the changes are

SEE PIER PAGE 10

New ending proposed for upcoming Los Angeles Marathon

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN AVENUE A new finish line has emerged for the L.A. Marathon in 2010.

Responding to the request of the City Council that an ending point in Santa Monica be considered for the 26.2 mile race, marathon officials have reportedly began exploring the intersection of Ocean Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard as a possible candidate after proposing in July to finish the race in Venice just steps from the city border.

Deputy City Manager Elaine Polachek, who has been working with marathon officials, said the current proposal is to direct runners after the race to Seaside Terrace, which they will take down to Ocean Front Walk before making their way to the 1550 Parking Lot adjacent to the Santa Monica Pier. The after-race festivities will take place in the parking lot.

"It's a beautiful route and ties both sides of the city together," she said.

The race is scheduled for March 21 and will commence at Dodger Stadium, making its way by various Los Angeles area landmarks, passing through West Hollywood and Beverly Hills before arriving in Santa Monica.

Peter Abraham, the creative director of the L.A. Marathon, said the Ocean and Santa Monica proposal is one of several options that are currently being considered.

There are several factors that go into finding a location for the finish line, including the space that's needed for the runners to grab a drink, food and even a quick massage following the conclusion of the race, he said.

"Wherever it ends up, we need to make sure we have space for runners to get their stuff after they finish," Abraham said. "The logistics determine where you end up finishing."

Los Angeles Dodgers owner Frank McCourt, who bought the 24-year-old marathon late last year, told the council in July that he envisioned producing a world-class event that goes from "the stadium to the sea and through and around the iconic places within this great region."

It was then when marathon officials pro-

SEE MARATHON PAGE 10

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Saturday, Sept. 5, 2009

Back to the fair
Pomona Fairplex
1101 W. McKinley Ave., 10 a.m. — 11:30 p.m.
The L.A. County Fair opens Labor Day weekend and offers visitors an endless assortment of new exhibits and entertainment possibilities. With the state of the economy the fair is a great value with admission that includes a ton of fun activities such as animated dinosaurs, the Extreme Canine Stunt Dog Show at Bark Park, pig races and learning about rainforests and how to adopt a more eco-friendly lifestyle. Families can also visit magical FairView Farms to see animals, taste organic foods, try their hands at cow and goat milking, as well as witness the birth of baby animals and enjoy fireworks. Opening day admission is $1. Call (909) 623-3111 for more information or visit www.lacountyfair.com.

Heal yourself
Sacred Healing Arts Studio
220 Pier Ave., 4:30 p.m. — 6:30 p.m.
Did you know your hands can heal you? Invite your friends and loved ones to experience Pranic Healing. Learn how to use Prana/life force to accelerate your body's ability to heal itself. You will also have the opportunity to experience intense peace, stillness and bliss through the meditation on twin hearts. Cost is free. Call (310) 488-4388 for more information or e-mail intro.pranichealing@yahoo.com.

Pet healing
Crescent Bay Park
Intersection of Bichnell and Ocean Ave.
Ton Ren is an energy healing modality that is based on acupuncture, but without the needles. Let your et experience a free healing session. Visit www.tongrenla.com for more information and to set up a private session.

Yoga in the park
Palisades Park
Ocean Avenue and Palisades Avenue, 10 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.
Come each Saturday and start your weekend off right with an energizing and rejuvenating yoga class in Palisades Park, overlooking the ocean. Beginners and all levels are welcome. All you need to bring is your yoga mat and an open heart. If you've always wanted to try yoga, this class is for you. All classes are run with a suggested donation of $12. Call (310) 560-4317 or e-mail jonathan@alignmentforlife.com for more information.

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

Sunday, Sept. 6, 2009

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. The exhibit features contemporary images of the famous structure. This exhibit will be open daily through Sept. 9. For more information, call (310) 393-8258.

Monday, Sept. 7, 2009

Game day
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 3 p.m.
Have fun, meet new people and challenge your mind while playing bridge and Scrabble for free at the library. 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.



PUNK FOREVER

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Punk legend Patti Smith plays the Twilight Dance Series at the Santa Monica Pier on Thursday night. It was the last installment of the series.

Marketing company has friends for sale

RACHEL METZ
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO On Facebook, most people make friends the old-fashioned way — by sending a request to be added to someone's posse of pals. Now, an Australian marketing company hopes to save you time and energy by simply buying you a few thousand buddies.

The service from uSocial is mostly meant for businesses, celebrities and other individuals looking to expand on the social network, and Facebook isn't happy about it.

Under the service, which launched this week, 1,000 new Facebook friends cost less than $200. For 5,000 Facebook friends — the maximum allowed by that site — uSocial charges $727, though through mid-September, the promotional rate is $654.30.

The service can also help companies accumulate fans — Facebook-speak for the users who acknowledge liking a person, business or idea on the site.

Leon Hill, the 24-year-old founder of Brisbane, Australia-based uSocial, said businesses and other clients are essentially buying a base of potential customers.

"We are getting, basically, targeted friends and fans who are saying, 'Yes, I want information on this,'" Hill said in a phone interview, adding that friends and fans can always change their minds and sever ties whenever they want.

He said businesses are interested in his service because they are realizing that social media Web sites can help generate buzz

SEE **FRIENDS** PAGE 11

Firefighters make progress against massive Station fire

RAQUEL MARIA DILLON
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Fire bosses declared progress early Friday in taming the 226-square-mile arson fire north of Los Angeles that has led to a homicide investigation into the deaths of two firefighters.

Flames had died down early Friday and the blaze, which was 42 percent surrounded, was "pretty quiet," fire spokesman John Huschke said.

Firefighters were using bulldozers to clear a containment line around the fire, which destroyed 64 homes and burned three people.

The fire has charred 148,258 acres of the Angeles National Forest, where many city residents escape to nature during the summer.

Investigators determined on Thursday that the 11-day-old blaze was arson, and Los Angeles County sheriff's homicide detectives were investigating.

Two firefighters were killed Sunday when their truck plunged 800 feet down a steep mountain road.

Incendiary material was found along Angeles Crest Highway, the Los Angeles Times reported Friday, citing an unidentified source close to the investigation. The massive blaze is thought to have started in the area.

Sheriff Lee Baca said details were being withheld to avoid jeopardizing the hunt for the arsonist.

County Deputy Fire Chief Mike Bryant said he was glad investigators were making progress in the probe, but "it doesn't mend my broken heart."

"Those were two great men that died," he said. "We've got to put this fire out so no one else gets hurt."

"When you find out it is intentionally set, it's hard to take. A death is a death, but it's so senseless when it's deliberately set," Huschke said.

A tribute for the two fallen firefighters was held before dawn Friday at the camp. Hundreds of firefighters took off their caps and helmets and bowed their heads as the men were remembered with speeches and a

SEE **FIRE** PAGE 11

Diabetic Drugs
MAY BE DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH
New guide sheds light on the dangers of diabetic drugs and why doctors prescribe them anyway.
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Bike thefts lowest priority?

Editor:

As a Santa Monica resident who has had two bikes stolen 10 days apart this April, I have lost faith in the ability of my police force to protect me from non-violent crime. I reported both thefts immediately and provided the Santa Monica Police Department with good leads on one of the cases. So far, no results.

Dozens, if not hundreds of other bike theft cases go unreported in this small town every month. Whether the Santa Monica Police Department realizes it, these are very personal crimes.

At night I hesitate to ride to the businesses I typically frequent at night since I no longer consider the streets of my city safe enough to lock a bike. Didn't Santa Monica receive a bronze award for being "bike-friendly?"

One of my stolen bikes was a mountain bike valued at $600, and the other was an imported Italian steel, 4-seat bicycle car, complete with rack and pinion steering and drum brakes valued at $2,300. The mountain bike's locks were cut on a busy corner of Main Street on a Friday night – an area usually patrolled by SMPD. The other theft was far bolder; the thieves somehow lifted the 200-pound bike-car, carried it through my apartment's gate, then presumably loaded it into the back of a truck or large van.

In the case of the bike car, a man and woman were spotted riding the vehicle in West L.A., and friends obtained their names and phone numbers. I gave the detective assigned to my case the names of two suspects, three cell phone numbers, the home phone number and address of one suspect. All the detective did was leave the suspect a voicemail. I had spent the better part of three work days on this case, but all that a trained law enforcement official could do was leave a voice message with a suspected thief.

On another recent occasion, I spotted a group of six to eight teenage thieves on Main Street riding on bikes erratically, looking for cable locks they could cut. It was a smooth, practiced operation. I called SMPD, but they were too slow to respond, arguing that there's no point in sending a cruiser out since the thieves would soon be outside city limits.

For some of us, losing a bike means losing your main means of transport; sometimes, it could be a vehicle you may have built from scratch or put effort into. At this point, it's clear that SMPD does not have bike thefts at the top of its priority list. But, in a case where they were handed the suspects on a platter and are still empty handed, you start to wonder if the police force even cares. If I was in the thievery business, I would be emboldened, and I would go on right ahead and move up to strong-arm robbery and home invasions.

Mihai Peteu
Santa Monica





Modern Times

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

Sexual equality where it counts

A WOMAN ALMOST WON THE NOMINATION for president recently, women are heads of universities, CEOs of corporations and astronauts. The overwhelming majority of Americans are perfectly comfortable with this development in sexual equality. However, there is still a bastion of sexism that plagues our country. Few people bring up this topic, especially in "polite company," but I think our society is ready to deal with it. I'm talking, of course, about public bathrooms.

At sporting events, the line for the women's bathroom is often two or three times as long as the men's. This isn't right. Something should be done to fix this situation, especially since the world of sports purports to be dedicated to fairness.

This isn't the only area where gender issues are involved with public bathrooms. They are the source of much anxiety. For example, when I'm at a restaurant for the first time and I enter the bathroom, there is often a moment as I step inside when I panic and say to myself, "Did I go into the right bathroom?" I can't be the only person who experiences this. Fortunately, this is only a momentary fear, because you quickly notice other people of your gender or you see that symbol of masculinity — the urinal.

Some restaurants try to be clever with the way they identify the men's and women's rooms. Instead of just writing the word "Men" or "Women" on the door, they may have figures that supposedly depict men and women. The restaurateurs might think these drawings are perfectly clear, but often they're not. If I'm in a dark hallway, how am I supposed to tell the difference between a male and a female elk? Sometimes restaurants use symbols that are supposed to represent men and women. They look like some sort of scientific drawings, and I can spend several minutes trying to sort them out. Some restaurants have what they think are clever synonyms for "men" and "women" on the doors like "Ballerinas" and "Danseurs." Yeah, that's really helpful. And of course, if you go to an ethnic restaurant, there's a good chance that they will have the words for "men" and "women" in a foreign language on the doors. They might think this is cute, but the rest of us aren't sure which door is which.

This anxiety about "men's" and "women's" rooms brings up the relatively new concept of unisex bathrooms. I'm all for them. OK, maybe they aren't a good idea at ballparks where, well, things are just too public. But when it comes to those in restaurants and office buildings, why not?

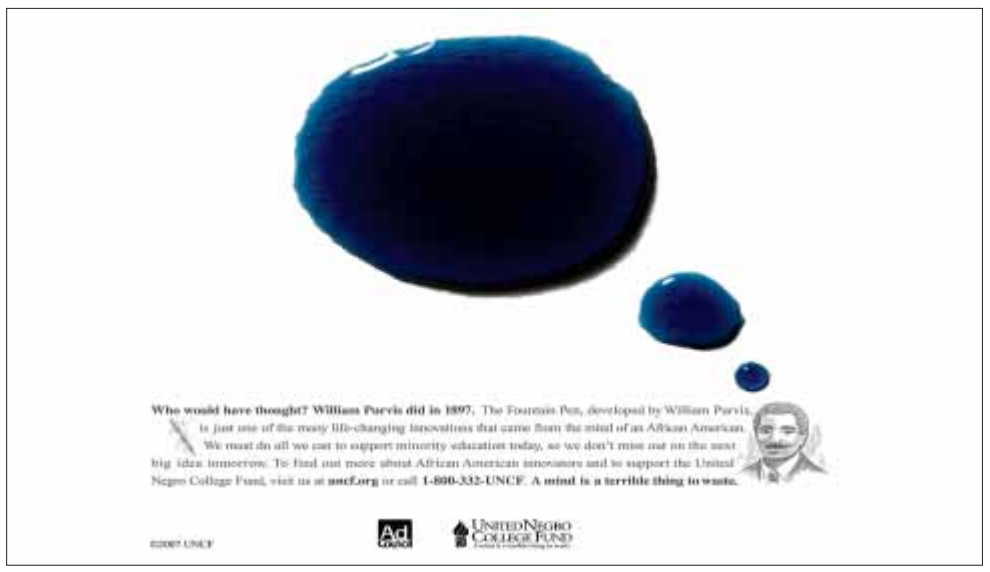
I doubt that you have separate bathrooms for men and women in your house. No, I'm not suggesting that people of different genders use the facilities at the same time. But if it's a public bathroom with just one toilet and a sink, why should someone have to wait for the one that has his or her gender on the door if nobody is in the other one?

What is it that those who set up separate bathrooms fear that a man or woman will experience if he or she is in the "wrong" one? Are people going to write some graffiti in there, claiming that their gender is better than the other one? "We're Number One At Number One?" I don't think so. My theory is that some of it has to do with the aforementioned plumbing fixture, the venerable urinal. I have the feeling that some women just don't want to be in the same room with a urinal. It's like that annoying cousin whom you avoid at all costs. Some women would rather wait 20 minutes for a room that has flowers and a little couch in it than go into a room immediately if it has a dreaded urinal.

There are two solutions to this problem: the first would be to get rid of these plumbing fixtures, and the second would be for women to just get over their urinal-phobia.

Designing and building more unisex bathrooms would solve so much of this sexual anxiety and politics. No longer would we have to worry that we were in the wrong place. We wouldn't have to try to decipher symbols while we're really in a hurry. And we'd never have to push open another door marked, "Caballeros," "Cheerleaders," or "Wahines" again. Obviously, the unisex bathroom is the way to go.

LLOYD GARVER has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Home Improvement" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He can be reached at lloydgarver@gmail.com. Check out his website at lloydgarver.com and his podcasts on iTunes.



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The Q Line

Road Work

This past week, Q-line asked:

A pilot project that converted a stretch of Ocean Park Boulevard from four lanes to two is currently being studied by city officials. Some say the new configuration helps keep pedestrians safe while others believe it creates more traffic. Do you think Ocean Park Boulevard should be kept to two lanes or should it be restored to four?

Here are your responses:

"TALK ABOUT A NO-BRAINER. IT SHOULD definitely be returned to four lanes. And while you are making changes, would you please get rid of the so-called 'traffic engineers' that have screwed up the already difficult traffic big time in this city. Let the pedestrians and bike riders move to Bermuda, or some other lovely, less populated place to do their thing."

"I THINK THAT OCEAN PARK BOULEVARD should be restored to four lanes. The traffic is unparalleled in my experience. I live on Seventh Street, right off of Ocean Park and there is a line over the hill for much of the day whereas before traffic flowed much better and much easier."

"YEAH, I THINK THAT OCEAN PARK SHOULD be four lanes. It's ridiculous that there're two lanes. I can't even get out of my house up on 18th Street because there's always a line of cars."

"I HAPPENED TO READ THIS WEEK'S DAILY Press article by Bill Bauer about city staff doing what they wanted to do and not what the council had said. Hasn't City Council directed staff to go and install traffic signals at Ocean Park and Euclid, Ocean Park and 16th and Ocean Park and 18th? Wasn't that done a year or two ago? And staff still refuses to do it for pedestrian safety? That should be done first and then we can decide if we need one or two lanes of traffic. The traffic engineer czar should stop doing what he wants to do and do what City Council tells him to do."

"THEY SHOULD PUT IT BACK THE WAY IT was, and they should put back the other streets the way they were. All the idiots in charge of traffic in Santa Monica have done nothing but mess it up and make traffic worse than it used to go, because they're idiots and they should all be fired."

"LIVING IN THE AREA WEST OF Lincoln Boulevard, I do notice an increased amount of traffic, of people speeding along the side streets, trying to avoid the congestion on Ocean Park Boulevard that's been created by the one lane coming up through the intersection at Lincoln and then all along the length of Ocean Park up to the school and past it in the little commercial area near 14th and Ocean Park. It does seem that we do need to have the four lanes returned, and if people take up speeding on Ocean Park, then the police just have to give them speeding tickets."

"THE HEAD OF TRAFFIC PLANNING SHOULD be sent on a broken tricycle back to New York City. Our City Council plan was to slow traffic so people would stop and shop. Their thinking was that if your car is stuck in traffic, you might pull over and spend money at our stores. They've done this by reducing speed limits, eliminating lanes, adding bumps and swerving roads and adding stop signs. What this really did was cause traffic congestion, smog, a waste of gas, noise and angry and frustrated drivers."

"IT SHOULD STAY THE SAME. AS A resident who bicycles and travels by car, I must say that this configuration is the least stressful for bike riders. First time in 30 years I have felt safe riding on Ocean Park Boulevard, as well as driving a vehicle making left turns; I don't have that anxious feeling that I am going to be rear-ended or slow down traffic. So with this configuration, discounting the need for an artery for commuters and such for locals and residents in the neighborhood, the left turn lanes and the bicycle lane I think are the most glaring positive impacts that this reconfiguration has had as well as the fact that traffic is slower and pedestrians are that much safer."

"RESTORE THE FOUR LANES ON OCEAN Park Boulevard. Install traffic lights. The latter should have been done right away."

"THE PEOPLE WHO CHANGED THE TRAFFIC pattern on Ocean Park Boulevard are idiots. They really have no clue what's going on. The traffic is backed up over the hill at all times of day, access is ridiculous and the parking there is stupid, and it really needs to go back to four lanes so that traffic can flow. And also, there really needs to be some turn lights. I mean, whoever's in charge of traffic here is ridiculous."

"DEFINITELY TWO LANES WITH A LOWER speed limit. It's so much safer for everyone. You must remember, there are at least four schools nearby and a library. So what if rush hour traffic backs up? Ocean Park commuters can wait. People can make their trip during off-peak hours. It's great for bicyclists and for people parking on Ocean Park Boulevard. Sunset Park shouldn't have to become a freeway for commuters. Keep the two lanes."

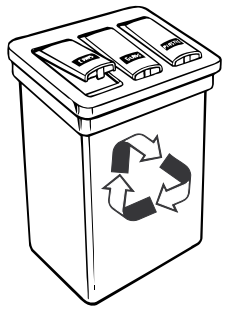
"I THINK THAT OCEAN PARK BOULEVARD should be four lanes. I've never seen such bad traffic in my life as I have since they made it two lanes; it's a complete nightmare most of the time."

"IT TOOK ME 22 MINUTES TODAY TO GET from 31st and Ocean Park Boulevard to Lincoln Boulevard. I say yes, restore it to four lanes."

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Chicago opens up to non-deep dish pizza

DON BABWIN
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO In the deep dish city, thin seems to be in.

The pizza joints that for decades have given Chicago its heavyweight vibe are finding themselves pushed around by the culinary equivalent of a pencil-neck geek: gourmet restaurants with trendy names like "Piece" or "Crust" serving up sometimes cracker-thin pizzas.

One after another, these interlopers — pushing a style of pizza already popular elsewhere in the country — are popping up around Chicago, pulling from their ovens skinny pizzas sprinkled with everything from goat cheese to white corn to cauliflower.

In recent years, some two dozen such pizzerias have opened, with more on the way. Meanwhile, other restaurants — such as Roof, a lounge atop a trendy hotel — are making sure thin pizzas figure prominently on their menus.

And it's not just the pizzas that look different. The new shops generally ditch pizzeria staples, such as checkered table cloths and Chianti-bottle candles. They don't always act like pizzerias either, sometimes insisting diners bring their own beer or wine or refusing to deliver (claiming even a short car trip would ruin the flavor).

And they certainly don't sell them frozen, the way some deep dish places do. One won't even take phone orders because such a work of art should not have to rest for even a few minutes before being experienced.

"A pizza is always dying," explained Jonathan Goldsmith, who opened Spacca Napoli in 2006, and who neither delivers nor takes phone orders. "As soon as it is out of the oven it is meant to be eaten."

Locals are eating it up, even putting up with the same kind of two-hour waits deep dish restaurants such as Pizzeria Uno are famous for.

"People are more experimental today than ever before," Rich Melman, a prominent Chicago restaurateur who recently added two thin-crust pizzerias to his empire, said of locals buying in to thin-crust pies.

Outsiders are taking notice, too. In June, GQ magazine named the thin-crust mortadella pizza from Chicago's Great Lake pizzeria to the top spot of its roundup of the nation's top 25 pizzas. No other Chicago pizza made the list, and no deep dish pizzas from anywhere made it.

"It's a terribly flawed concept in pizza," said Alan Richman, who rated the pizzas for the magazine. "It's more like a casserole, a Sunday dinner... I'm astounded by deep-dish pizza, but it gives you no aspect of a pizza eating experience. It isn't eating pizza."

Which isn't to say deep-dish emporiums are in any danger. Throngs of tourists (in summer) and locals (in winter) still line up outside the great slingers of deep dish. Seasoned eaters know to skip lunch, maybe even breakfast, before bellying up for the big pizzas.

"People are still looking to have an original experience, one they can't find in another city," said April McRaven, the general manager of Pizzeria Uno, which along with Pizzeria Due, Gino's East and Lou Malnati's head the list of still-popular deep dish restaurants.

People like Mike Lemieux, a 30-year-old recreation supervisor from Grand Rapids, Mich., has made sure he had deep-dish pizza during each of his four visits to the city.

"When we come to Chicago we know we're having deep dish," Lemieux said during his most recent visit. "It's not the same anywhere else."

But there is something going on that is opening the door for the nontraditional Chicago pizzerias, said Melman.

Perhaps people are growing a bit weary of Chicago's standard, as hometown President Barack Obama himself seemed to suggest when this spring he invited the owners of a — Gasp! — St. Louis restaurant to recreate their pizza in White House ovens.

"It's not exciting any more," Jeff Ruby, who writes about food for Chicago magazine, said of deep-dish pizza. "It's a tourist thing."

Ruby — who wrote that the thin "Neapolitan pizza is to the '00s what martinis were to the '90s" after about a dozen of them opened in a matter of months — said many Chicagoans think about deep-dish pizza about as often as they think about showing visitors around town.

"You go there when your parents are in," he said.

Nick Lessins, who owns Great Lake pizzeria, attributes it to changing demographics.

"Chicago has a lot of out-of-towners who live here," said Lessins, who is from Detroit. "They're used to more of a variety, attracted to a non-Chicago style."

Not to mention a taste for fresh. As with many higher end restaurants, the thin crust pizzerias make a point of using (and telling you that they use) fresh, local, even artisanal ingredients. Spacca Napoli, for example, has its mozzarella delivered weekly from Italy. Great Lake makes its own.

"Physically, the thin Neapolitan style crust is an excellent vehicle to showcase nice fresh products," said Jason Finn, the general manager at Crust, where they don't like the word "pizza" as much as "flatbread."

It also seems the thin-crust pizzas offer something that has long been associated with some of the city's finest restaurants and famed chefs such as Charlie Trotter, Jean Joho and Grant Achatz, but not pizzerias: the artistry of the chef, er, pizza maker.

At Great Lake, after watching Lessins carefully and excruciatingly slowly place each piece of zucchini and chorizo on a pizza after equally slowly working the dough, diners are actually raving about the slow service at a pizza restaurant.

"This is perfect, the way a pizzeria should be," said Andrew Klein, a student at Humboldt State University in Northern California, who recently ate at Great Lake while making a cross-country trek to visit the most famous pizzerias in Chicago, New York and Philadelphia.

"We were watching him work and you can tell that every individual pie was of the utmost importance to him," said Klein.



Kitchen Vixen

Elizabeth Brown
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Gluten-free on a budget

IF YOU'RE GOING GLUTEN-FREE THESE DAYS, be prepared to spend more on groceries. According to a *New York Times* article, it costs three times as much to eat gluten-free as it does to eat foods containing gluten. But let's consider the alternative: the enormous health care costs of having osteoporosis or Type 1 Diabetes, two chronic conditions often seen in people with celiac disease or gluten-intolerance.

Those who claim that following a gluten-free diet is more costly are assuming that everyone following a gluten-free diet will be buying every specialty product under the sun. This is why my past three articles have contained gluten-free recipes you can easily make yourself for a fraction of the cost of prepackaged items.

Following a gluten-free diet does not mean that you have to stockpile your pantry with specialty foods; instead, this may just be the motivation that many of us need to eat more fresh vegetables, fruits, fiber-rich legumes (beans) and alternative grains.

All grains contain some type of gluten but wheat, rye and barley are the only grains which have the specific type of gluten that gives some people a problem. You can still consume brown rice and quinoa on a regular basis as well as teff, amaranth, millet and buckwheat that surprisingly is not wheat. However, bulgur is cracked wheat so beware. Oats are questionable because they may be manufactured in a facility that processes wheat. Spelt, seitan and semolina are all derived from wheat, and triticale is a hybrid of wheat and rye so they're all out. Glutinous rice, also known as sticky rice, is safe. Corn is a gluten-free grain, not a vegetable, sorry. Yellow corn is loaded with zeaxanthin and lutein, two antioxidants which promote eye health, all the more reason to add it to your diet. Plus it's cheap.

The list of potential gluten offenders goes on and on. There are many Web sites about celiac disease, such as www.celiacdisease.about.com, which provide lists of the hidden sources of gluten. Even salad dressings can be harmful, but not my recipe — so enjoy being gluten-safe!

Please visit **ELIZABETH'S** Web site for more recipes and "nutritious" information: www.TheKitchenVixen.com

Salad Niçoise (nee-swahz) (A French composed salad similar to a Cobb Salad)

2 small red potatoes, small dice
High heat canola cooking spray (Spectrum brand)
1 cup corn, fresh or frozen, thawed
1/4 pound fresh green beans, cut into 1-inch pieces
6 gluten-free fish sticks or a 6-ounce can of canned tuna (Wild Caught or American brand)
1/4 cup chopped pitted kalamata olives
1/4 red onion, thinly sliced
1 roasted red pepper, cut into 1-inch long, thin slices
1 head romaine lettuce, washed and chopped

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Coat potatoes with high heat canola cooking spray and spread on a baking sheet. Bake for 30 minutes or until golden brown. To roast the corn, add to the baking sheet with the potatoes for the last ten minutes. While corn and potatoes are cooking, blanch green beans. Add to boiling water until they turn bright green. Rinse under cold water to stop the cooking process. For each serving, place romaine on a plate. Place fish sticks or tuna in the center of the lettuce. Place other ingredients around the tuna to make a colorful salad chock full of nutrients. Place 2 tablespoons of Thousand Island dressing a opposite ends of the plate. Dip your fork in the dressing before taking a fork full of salad. That way you get some creaminess with every bite.

Thousand Island Dressing

1 cup Greek yogurt (Fage brand)
1 tablespoon canola-based mayonnaise
1/4 cup ketchup
3 tablespoons sweet pickle relish (Whole Foods 360 brand)

Combine ingredients in a bowl and mix with a fork. Perfect for adding creaminess to salads or as a dip for fish.

Fish Sticks

1 pound white fish such as cod, snapper or tilapia
4 slices gluten-free bread such as brown rice bread
1/2 cup almond milk or milk of your choice
1 whole egg
1 cup millet or brown rice flour
1/2 teaspoon sea salt
1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Toast bread in the oven for 10 minutes to dry it out. Line a cookie sheet with parchment or spray with non-stick cooking spray. Pour milk into a bowl and beat with the egg. In another bowl add flour, sea salt and pepper. When the bread is toasted crisp, break into pieces and add to food processor to process into crumbs. Cut fish into finger-sized pieces about one half inch thick and 2 to 3 inches long. Dip fish into milk/egg mixture, then flour mixture, then roll in bread crumbs. Set on baking sheet and bake for 7 minutes then flip and bake for 5 more minutes to promote even cooking. Serve with Thousand Island dressing for dipping.

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256 Santa Monica Pier (310)393-PIERS

Scarboni 312 Wilshire Bl	(310) 704-8079
SONNY MCLEAN'S 2615 Wilshire Blvd.	(310) 449-1811
Stefano's 1310 Third Street Promenade	(310) 216-7716
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Sushi Mon 401 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 576-7011
Sushi Roku Santa Monica 1401 Ocean Av	(310) 655-3372
Sushi Shogun 1315 Third Street	(213) 500-4989
Sushi Teri Express 1551 Ocean Ave. #130 B	(310) 394-2189
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Whist 1819 Ocean Av	(310) 260-7509
Yangtze 1333 Third Street Promenade	(310)260-1994
Yankee Doodles 1410 Third Street	(310)394-4632
Ye Olde Kings Head 116 Santa Monica Blvd	(310)451-1402
	(310)451-1402

PICO/SUNSET PARK

310 Lounge & Bistro 3321 Pico Blvd.	(310) 453-1331
Abbots Pizza Company 1811 Pico Blvd	(310) 314-2777
Acapulco Restaurant 3360 Ocean Park Blvd.	(310) 450-8665
Air Conditioned 2819 Pico Blvd	(310) 829-3700
Ameci Pizza Pasta 2218 Lincoln Bl	(310) 314-0090
B B Q Garden 1707 Pico Blvd.	(310) 450-6494
The Bread Factory Inc 1900 Pico Bl	(310) 434-4653
Buddha Boba 1701 Pico Bl	(626) 674-8882
Bud's Famous Deli & Desserts 2727 Ocean Park Blvd.	(310) 450-6860
Cafe Bolivar 1741 Ocean Park Blvd.	(310) 581-2344
Campos Mexican Food Inc 2008 Pico Blvd	(310) 450-4477
Classic Pizza 2624 Pico Blvd	(310) 399-0452
The Counter 2901 Ocean Park Bl #102	(310) 399-8383
The Daily Pint 2310 Pico Blvd	(310) 450-7631
El Indio 2526 Pico Blvd	(310) 450-8057
El Pollo Loco Restaurant 1906 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 392-9800
El Torito 3360 Ocean Park Blvd.	(310) 450-8665
El Texate 316 Pico Blvd.	(310) 399-1115
Fresh & Natural Cafe 1900 Pico Blvd	(310) 392-0516
Ocean Park Pizza 2819 1/2 Ocean Park Blvd	(310) 450-9949
Georges Burgers 3101 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 452-0445
Gilbert's El Indio Mexican Food 2526 Pico Blvd.	(310) 450-8057
Hotel Casa Del Mar Restaurant 1910 Ocean Way	(310) 581-5533
The Hump 3221 Donald Douglas Loop South	(310) 390-3177
The Hungry Pocket 1715 Pico Blvd	(310) 458-5335
Il Forno Caffe & Pizzeria 2901 Ocean Park Blvd	(310) 450-1241
Josie Restaurant 2424 Pico Blvd	(310) 581-4201
La Playita 3306 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 452-0090
Lazy Daisy Inc 2300 Pico Blvd	(310) 450-9011
Le Pain Du Jour 828 Pico Blvd #2	(310) 399-4870
Mandarin Food Service 2618 Pico Bl	(310) 396-9559
Michael D'S Cafe 234 Pico Blvd	(310) 452-8737
Miyako 2829 Ocean Park Blvd	(310) 396-5588

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Panchos Tacos 2920 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 452-2970
Pedals Cafe One Pico Blvd.	(310) 587-1707
Raes Restaurant 2901 Pico Blvd	(310) 820-1416
Santa Monica Bar and Grill 3321Pico Blvd	(310) 453-5001
Santinos 3021 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 779-1210
Sheraton Delfina 530 Pico Blvd	(310) 399-9344
The Slice 1622 Ocean Park	(310) 453-2367
Spitfire Grill 3300 Airport Ave.	(310) 397-3455
Star Of Siam 3133 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 396-9511
Subway 2901 Ocean Park Blvd	(310) 396-3004
Sunset Grill 1701 Ocean Park Blvd	(310) 450-7546
Tandoor India 2622 Pico Bl	(310) 581-9964
Tom's No 1 Pico 2350 Pico Blvd.	(310) 396-4481
Typhoon 3221 Donald Douglas Loop	(310) 390-6565
UnUrban Coffeehouse 3301 Pico Blvd.	(310) 315-0056
Valentino Restaurant 3115 Pico Blvd	(310) 829-4313
Richie Palmer's Pizzeria1355 Ocean Ave	(310) 255-1111
Vitos 2807 Ocean Park Blvd	(310) 450-4999
Windows Restaurant 530 Pico Blvd.	(310) 399-9344
Yongs Cafe 3020 Nebraska Ave.	(310) 828-4775
Yuni Sushi 1928 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 396-4039
Zabies 3003 Ocean Park Blvd	(310) 392-9036

MAIN STREET

Amelia's 2645 Main St.	(310) 396-9095
Bravo Pizzaria & Deli 2400 Main St.	(310) 392-7466
Chinois On Main 2709 Main St.	(310) 392-3038
The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf Ocean Park Blvd.	(310) 396-6706
Creative Sushi 2518 Main St.	(310) 396-2711
Dhaba Cuisine Of India 2104 Main St.	(310) 399-9452
Elvira's Cha Cha Chicken 1906 Ocean Ave.	(310) 581-1684
The Enterprise Fish Co 174 Kinney St.	(310) 392-8366
Euphoria Loves RAWvolution 2301 Main St.	(310) 392-9501
Finn McCools Irish Pub & Restaurant 2700 Main St.	(310) 452-1734
Goudas & Vines 2000 Main Street	(310) 450-6739
Groundwork Coffee Co. 2908 Main St.	(310) 930-3910
The Galley 2442 Main St.	(310) 452-1934
Holy Guacamole 2906 Main St.	(310) 314-4850
It's All Good Bakery 2629 Main St.	(310) 260-0233
Joes Main Street Diner 2917 Main St.	(310) 392-5804
La Vecchia Cucina 2654 Main St	(310) 399-7979
Library Alehouse 2911 Main St.	(310) 314-4855
Lula Cocina Mexicana 2720 Main St.	(310) 392-5711
Main Street Bagels 2905 Main St.	(310) 392-6373
Malia 2424 Main St.	(310) 396-4122
Manchego 2510 Main Street	(310) 450-3900
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Schatzi On Main 3110 Main St	(310) 399-4800
Shoop's Delicatessen 2400 Main St	(310) 452-1019
Sparky's Fine Frozen Yogurt 3110 Main St. #12	(310) 399-4513
Urth Caffe 2327 Main St.	(310) 749-8879
Via Veneto 3009 Main St.	(310) 399-1843
The Victorian Baker Cafe 2640 Main St.	(310) 392-4956
Wildflour 2807 Main St.	(310) 452-7739
World Café 2640 Main St.	(310) 392-1661
Yose Restaurant 2435 Main St.	(310) 255-0680

VENICE

26 Beach Restaurant 3100 Washington Blvd.	(310) 823-7526
Abbot's Habit 1401 Abbot Kinney Blvd	(310) 399-1171
Abbot's Pizza Co 1407 Abbot Kinney Blvd	(310) 396-7334
Agra Indian Kitchen 2553 Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 396-8749
Axe 1009 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 664-9787
Azteca Restaurant 835 Sunset Ave.	(310) 396-6576
Baby Blues BBQ 444 Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 396-7675
Beechwood 822 W. Washington Blvd.	(310) 448-8884
Benice 1715 Pacific Ave.	(310) 396-9938
Big Daddy and Sons 1425 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 508-2793
The Brig 1515 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 399-7537
The Brick House Cafe 826 Hampton Dr.	(310) 581-1639
Cafe 50's 838 Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 399-1955
Casablanca Restaurant 220 Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 392-5751
Chaya 110 Navy St.	(310) 396-1179
China Beach Bistro 2024 Pacific Ave.	(310) 823-4646
Danny's Deli 23 Windward Ave.	(310) 566-5610
French Market Cafe 2321 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 577-9775
Great Western Steak & Hoagie Company 1720 Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 450-4545
Hal's Bar & Grill 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 396-3105
Hama 213 Windward Ave.	(310) 396-8783
James Beach 60 N. Venice Blvd.	(310) 823-5396
Joe's Restaurant 1023 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 399-5811
La Cabana Restaurant 738 Rose Ave.	(310) 392-6161
La Meditrina 1029 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 396-5000
Lands End Restaurant 323 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 392-3997
Lilly's French Cafe & Bar 1031 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 314-0004
Lincoln Fine Wines 727 Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 392-7816
Maos Kitchen 1512 Pacific Ave.	(310) 581-8305
Piccolo Ristorante 5 Dudley Ave.	(310) 314-3222
Primitivo Wine Bistro 1025 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 396-5353
Rose Cafe 220 Rose Ave.	(310) 399-0711
Shima 1432 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 314-0882
Siam Best Restaurant 2533 Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 827-8977
Stroh's Gourmet 1239 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 450-5119
Szechwan Restaurant 2905 Washington Blvd.	(310) 821-6256
Uncle Darrow's 2560 S Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 306-4862
Wabi-Sabi 1635 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 314-2229
Wacky Wok 2805 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 822-7373

MARINA DEL REY

Beachside Cafe 4175 Admiralty Way	(310) 821-5313
C & O Cucina 3016 Washington Blvd.	(310) 301-7278
Cafe Del Rey 4451 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-6395
California Pizza Kitchen 3345 Fiji Way	(310) 301-1563
Casa Escobar 14160 Palawan Way	(310) 822-2199
Chart House 13950 Panay Way	(310) 822-4144
The Cheesecake Factor 4142 Via Marina	(310) 306-3344
Chin Chin 13455 Maxella Ave Ste 266	(310) 823-9999
Chipotle Mexican Grill 4718 Admiralty Way	(310) 821-0059
Harbor House Restaurant 4211 Admiralty Way	(310) 577-4555
Islands 404 Washington Blvd	(310) 822-3939
Jer-ne at The Ritz-Carlton 4375 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-1700
Kaya Sushi 13400 Washington Blvd.	(310) 577-1143
Kifune Restaurant 405 Washington Blvd	(310) 822-1595
Le Marmiton 4724 Admiralty Way	(310) 773-3560
Mercedes Grille 14 Washington Blvd	(310) 827-6209
Mermaids-Juice Java & More 14045 Panay Way	(310) 306-3883
Rainbow Acres Natural Foods 4756 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-5373
Sapori Ristorante 13723 Fiji Way	(310) 821-1740
Tony P's 4445 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-4534
Tsuji No Hana 4714 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 827-1433
The Warehouse Restaurant 4499 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-5451







Marathon may end at Ocean and Santa Monica

FROM MARATHON PAGE 1

posed a final leg that would go west on San Vicente Boulevard, heading south on Ocean Avenue to Barnard Way and concluding just beyond the border in Venice, holding the post-race party at the south beach lot in Santa Monica.

Organizers returned shortly after the meeting with the new proposal, Polachek said.

"I think this will keep runners more engaged and will open up a whole new part of the city to the marathon," she said.

The marathon issue is expected to return to the council on Sept. 22 when officials will consider establishing a route segment.

The 1550 lot has hosted numerous large events in the past, including Ashes & Snow, a nomadic photographic exhibit that occupied the space from January to May 2006, and Cavalia, an equestrian show. Cirque du Soleil will return to the lot this fall with its new show, Kooza.

"The reason (the proposal) works well in addition to tying in the pier and having it as a backdrop for the end of the race is that the 1550 lot has already been identified by the City Council as an area for commercial events," Polachek said. "This essentially allows us to work with the marathon and establishes a license agreement for the use of the lot."

The route proposed for Santa Monica is appropriate considering that portions of it, specifically San Vicente Boulevard and Ocean Avenue, are part of the training ground for groups like the L.A. Leggers and L.A. Roadrunners, Abraham said.

"Those areas are in a way the running capital of Los Angeles," he said.

melodyh@smdp.com

Big Blue Bus could make changes to accommodate pier centennial

FROM PIER PAGE 1

occurring as possible so people can check the bus stop and get regular bus stop information about where they might have to walk to get to the changed route," Gamberg said.

If traffic from the event causes major detours and delays to the public transit system, Gamberg said she believes ridership will decline by as much as 50 percent. A 5 percent increase in boardings is expected if the service is not significantly disturbed.

The festivities will kick off at 7 a.m. with a multi-denominationall blessing at the pier's west end where religious leaders and city officials will in a moment of silence reflect on the importance of the landmark over the past century.

The grand reopening of the pier will take place at 6 p.m. with an official ribbon cutting ceremony when a famous 60-year-old photo showing a group of Santa Monica business men lined up underneath the pier sign will be re-enacted.

The evening will feature performances from the 14-member L.A. Brass Ensemble, award-winning a cappella group Vybration, and the king of surf guitar, Dick Dale.

The celebration will conclude with a fireworks show around 8:30 p.m., the first by the pier in more than 20 years.

In preparation for the centennial, the Santa Monica Fire Department will activate its Emergency Operational Center in the Public Safety Facility, which only goes live during major events and disasters. Doing so will allow the SMFD to reach out to fire departments in other municipalities to respond to local emergencies.

A unified command post including the fire department, the SMPD and the Public Works Department will be stationed at the 1440 lot near the pier. Gerber Ambulance will also be on standby at the command post.

Fire Training Capt. Brad Graham said that the department will be hiring extra personnel specifically for the event to maintain the normal level of staffing and adequately respond to other emergencies in the city.

Los Angeles County Lifeguards also plan to staff its stations with additional lifeguards.

"There's going to be a lot heavier crowd that evening so if anything happens with someone going into the water from the pier, we'll be able to respond," L.A. County Lifeguard Terry Hearst said.

Pier tenants are also busy preparing for the big event. All restaurants will be open late.

Mariasol Cocina Mexicana, which has been on the west end of the pier since the extension was completed in 1994, is expecting capacity volume of customers during much of the day, especially once the fireworks show begins, having the best seats in the house.

Don Luis Camacho, whose family owns Mariasol, said that the restaurant will debut a special menu that day featuring the best hits over the past 15 years.

"To be part of the celebration for what's not only a Santa Monica and Los Angeles but a California and Western United States icon is huge and a lot of hard work has gone into making this a special day," he said.

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Firefighter crew overcome by fumes from remains

FROM **FIRE** PAGE 3

moment of silence.

Elsewhere, a 25-acre wildfire broke out just after midnight about 60 miles southeast in Orange County in the Cleveland National Forest, county fire Capt. Greg McKeown said. No homes were threatened.

On Thursday, a six-member firefighting crew mopping up in Angeles National Forest was overcome by fumes, apparently from the smoldering remains of a makeshift methamphetamine lab. Huschke said a hazardous materials squad was called in and one firefighter was hospitalized overnight.

Hand crews and water-dropping helicopters had almost contained the fire's western flank in rugged canyons, but 65 miles of fire line have yet to be cut, U.S. Forest Service Incident Commander Mike Dietrich said.

A historic observatory and TV, radio and other antennas on Mount Wilson, which at one point was dangerously close to the flames, were "looking pretty darn good," he said, but the fire was pushing east into the wilderness and down toward foothill cities of Monrovia, Sierra Madre and Pasadena.

Even in a landscape blackened by wildfire, clues abound for investigators following the path of a blaze and trying to find out how it started. Investigators start where firefighters were first called and work backward.

Jeff Tunnell, a wildfire investigator for the Bureau of Land Management, said even in charred terrain, investigators can detect important signs in the soot.

"Fire creates evidence as well as destroys it," said Tunnell, a veteran of 50 wildfires who is based in Ukiah. "We can follow fire progression back to the point at which it started."

Clues can come from burned trees and grasses, where the amount of burned foliage can show the direction and speed a fire was moving. Investigators search for the remains of whatever started the fire: a charred match or cigarette butt, a piece of metal from a car or part of a power cable. If no such object is found, they often conclude that a fire was "hot set," meaning it was started by a person holding a lighter to the brush.

"That's what you are going to assume, because there's no other competent ignition source," he said.

Most wildfires are caused by human activity. Even a fire caused by a singed squirrel tumbling from an electrical transformer is designated as human-caused, because humans put the electric box there, Tunnell said. Other wildfire causes are lightning and volcanoes.

At the time the current fire broke out, Forest Service officials said there was no lightning and there were no power lines nearby.

Three years ago, arson investigators probing the cause of a wildfire in the San Jacinto Mountains that killed five firefighters discovered evidence of different types of incendiary devices at several fires. They recovered everything from simple paper matches to more elaborate devices made up of wooden matches grouped around a cigarette and secured with duct tape or a rubber band.

The evidence was enough to build a first-degree murder case against mechanic Raymond Lee Oyler. In March, the evidence was used to convict him and send him to death row.

Practice not considered spamming

FROM **FRIENDS** PAGE 3

more quickly, cheaply and effectively than online ads and more traditional types of advertising.

Hill said friends are all gathered manually.

USocial logs in to a client's Facebook profile or creates a new one. It seeks out people who would be a good fit — like car buffs if uSocial is trying to promote a specialty auto-parts company — and sends them friends requests tailored to that business. The requests don't mention that uSocial is working on behalf of the business.

The process for getting fans is similar, except uSocial does not need to log in to a client's profile.

Because all that is done manually, Hill doesn't consider it spamming. He also said potential friends aren't getting anything in return for adding a client — he wants people interested in the company rather than a freebie.

Hill said that as far as he could tell, he's not violating Facebook's terms of service — something with which Facebook disagrees.

Facebook spokesman Barry Schnitt said that giving anyone else access to your Facebook account goes against the site's policies, as it makes Facebook less secure. Sending out friend requests on behalf of others is also unacceptable, he said.

Beyond that, Schnitt said uSocial detracts from Facebook's efforts to foster a culture of authenticity.

"Buying and selling of actions that are supposed to be taken by a user are certainly, we would argue, not authentic," Schnitt said.

Palo Alto-based Facebook is investigating uSocial's practices, and Schnitt said any Facebook users found sharing their passwords with third parties could have their accounts permanently disabled.

This is not the first time uSocial has tried to help businesses up their visibility on social Web sites. Four months ago, it began offering a similar service on the online-messaging site Twitter, which did not respond to multiple e-mail requests from The Associated Press for comment.

Debra Aho Williamson, a senior analyst at research firm eMarketer, said uSocial's practices seem part shady, part effective for companies to increase their social-media presence very quickly.

But she warns uSocial's tactics could irritate a lot of Facebook users — and a company's potential customers — if the targeting isn't done properly.

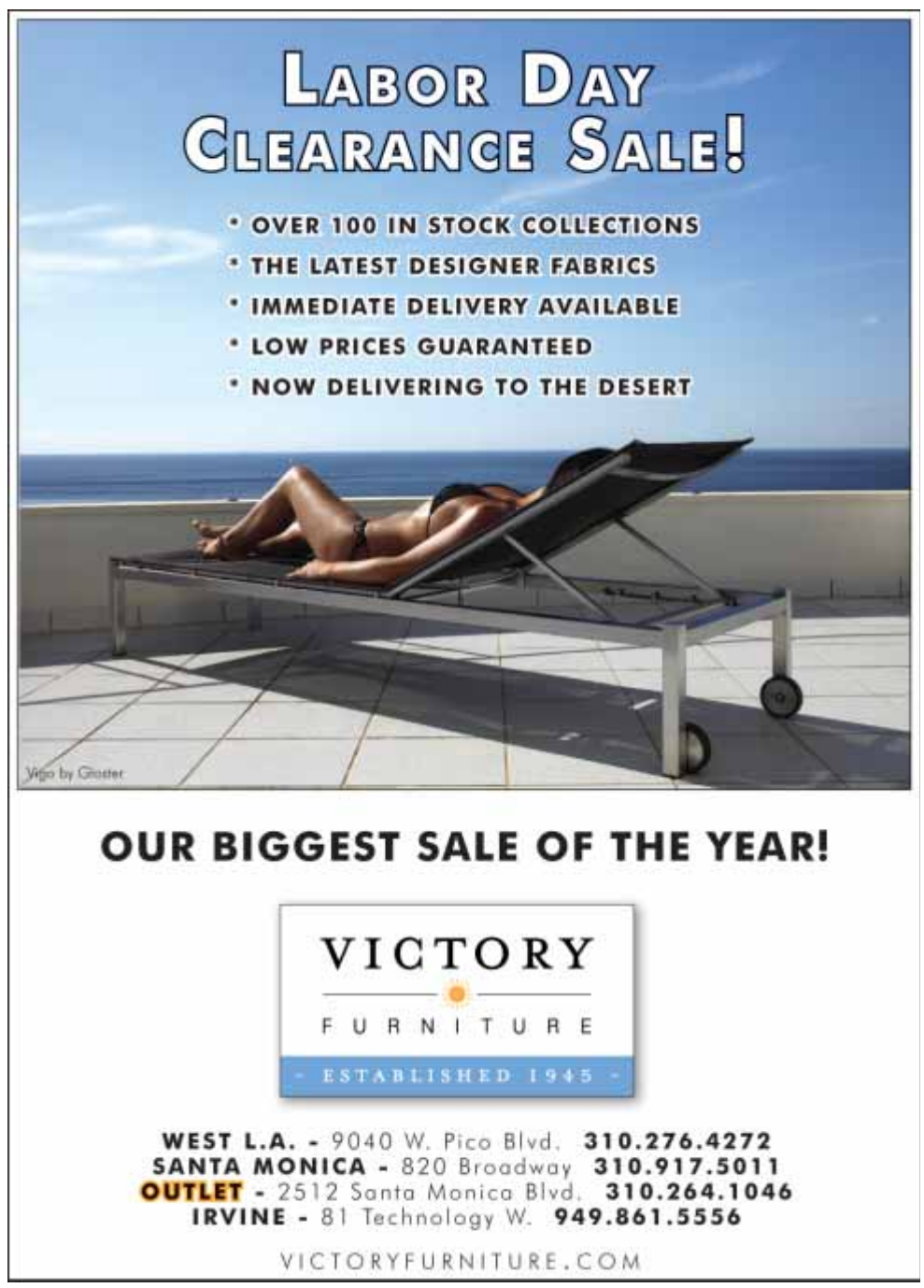
Hill started uSocial in December 2008 by selling votes on news aggregator site Digg.com. For nearly $100, uSocial would vote 100 times on Digg's site for any story chosen by the client, raising its position on the site and gaining exposure. Clients could pay up to about $700 for 1,000 votes, Hill said.

In this case, uSocial was using software to vote, Hill said.

He said Digg ultimately ordered him to stop, saying uSocial was breaching the site's policies. He halted the Digg service a few months later, saying he had too many clients to keep up with demand. He said he will eventually relaunch it with better software for automated voting. Digg declined comment.

Hill would not name any clients currently using uSocial on Facebook or Twitter, but said the Mormon Church used its Digg services twice.





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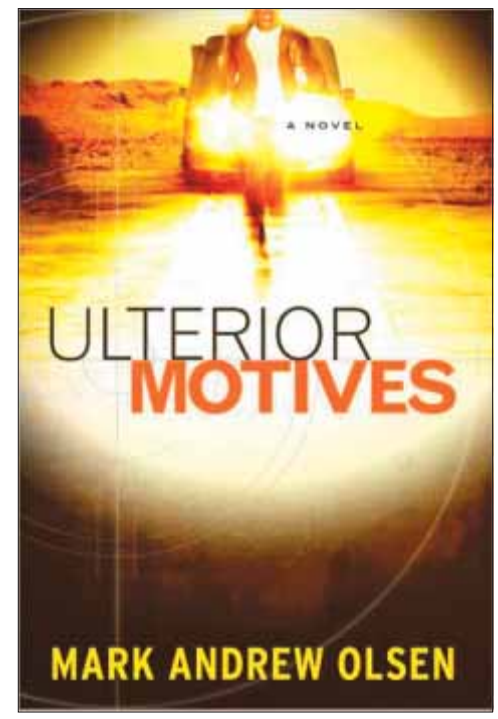
BOOKREVIEW

BY DANE ROBERT SWANSON



'Ulterior Motives'

By Mark Andrew Olsen | Bethany House



A MESSAGE SHOWS UP ON THE Internet in code. "Dar al-Harb to Dar al-Salaam base: The weapon is tested and ready, the perfect time and place chosen with great care and cunning. Hundreds of thousands of infidel souls will flood into hell, their New Year's stillborn. Praise be to Allah! — Azzam the Younger."

This could have come from our current headlines. America is being targeted by an al-Qaida group. They are planning an attack called the New Year ambush. Nerve gas is being prepared to be released. The American government must stop it. They don't know where nor what to expect. Their best plan is to capture an al-Qaida leader and break him down until he reveals the details. "Osama bin Laden's successor, his associate Omar Nirubi, had emerged as al-Qaida's new leader and, accordingly, Americans' new global Enemy Number one. Capturing him would represent the War on Terror's most spectacular coup ever."

The one chosen to do the interrogation must not be anyone the opposition identifies with the government. Enter Greg Cahill, a disgraced soldier who is struggling to repair his reputation. The plan is to use him but not to let him know what is going on, offering him clemency and the chance to clear his record if he cooperates.

As in most stories of this sort, the government doesn't fulfill its side of the bargain, which leaves Greg and Nirubi running for their lives when they learn that Homeland Security is hunting them down. At the same time the threat of the New Year ambush is still on. This reads like a Ludlum novel.

The war on terror since 9/11 is still very real. There are small pockets of terrorists that we are unaware of all around us. Olsen uses a current concern to package his message of a need for vigilance.

Bethany House is putting out a line of fiction in the suspense realm to grab that section of the market. This story follows the formula: it has the unsuspecting innocent person, in this case a man who has lost his family and is offered a pardon if he is successful. We have the terrorist who is planning the deed. We have limited time. Unknown to Greg is the unspoken agreement by those above him to terminate both him and the terrorist after using them. If there is no witness there is no crime, the saying goes. Will the two be able to stay alive long enough to stop the attack?

DANE wants you to know that he enjoys hearing from you. Keep those letters and suggestions coming. Contact him at smdp_review@yahoo.com.

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Photo by Michael Mazzeo

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NEW DVD RELEASES

BY RANDY WILLIAMS



Photo courtesy of HBO

'Flight of the Conchords'

The sophomore package of the trials and tribulations of a pair of musicians from New Zealand struggling for success in Manhattan includes deleted scenes, outtakes and a documentary segment. (HBO)

'X-Men Origins: Wolverine'

Another edition from the popular comic book, 'Wolverine' explores the roots of the hero. Early in the 19th century deep in the wilds of northwest Canada, two boys are raised amid violence but have very special powers. They develop into amazing warriors, but also become victims of a super-secret government program. Wolverine and Sabretooth are played respectively by Hugh Jackman and Liev Schreiber. Jackman and Patrick Stewart are the only two cast members to appear in all four "X-Men" films. Teen Choice Winner for Best Actor and Movie categories. (Fox)

'Pete's Dragon' Flying High Edition

This popular magical musical adventure combines live-action and animation to tell the story of friendship between a young orphan and his unusual best friend. Starring Mickey Rooney, Shelly Winters, Sean Marshall and Helen Reddy among others, this edition comes with nearly an hour of brand-new bonus segments. (Disney)

'One Way'

Til Schweiger ("Driven," "Inglourious Basterds") is featured as philandering corporate advertising star Eddie Snyder who gets blackmailed by his employer. To protect his past and future, Snyder falsifies his testimony, triggering a downward spiral of deceit and destruction. Who said revenge is sweet? (Vivendi)

'Rudy Maxa's World: India'

Maxa, one of America's leading travel experts and acontributing editor for National Geographic Traveler magazine provides an inviting look into the history, culture, cuisine and personality of this fascinating subcontinent. From northern India's teeming hub of Delhi with the nearby majestic Taj Mahal to the nation's largest state, Rajastahn, where spiritualism and commerce co-exist, viewers are provided with a high-definition lesson on how to make sophisticated travel accessible. (Questar)

'Scrubs' The Complete Eighth Season

The doctors at Sacred Heart hospital administer more of their curious brand of comedic medicine over 19 episodes. Dr. John "JD" Dorian (Zach Braff) has survived his internship to become an attending physician, while Dr. Cox (John C. McGinley) has been kicked upstairs. Bloopers, deleted scenes and 10 webisodes are included as part of the package as well as a bonus disc that profiles other popular TV series for '09. (Disney)

'The Mentalist' The Complete First Season

Simon Baker ("Devil Wears Prada") stars as Patrick Jane – an independent consultant with the California Bureau of Investigation (CBI), who has a brilliant track record for solving serious crimes by using ultra heightened skills of observation. The six-disc set contains all 23 one-hour episodes and such extra materials as a gag reel, interviews with the creators about the origins and inspirations for the show, as well as observations from actual police psychics, detectives and mentalists. (Warner Bros)

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NATO jets bomb hijacked fuel tankers

FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press Writer

KUNDUZ, Afghanistan A U.S. jet dropped 500-pound bombs on two tanker trucks hijacked by the Taliban before dawn Friday, triggering a huge explosion that Afghan officials said killed more than 70 people, including insurgents and some civilians who had swarmed around the vehicles to siphon off fuel.

Germany, whose troops called in the strike, said it feared the hijackers would use the trucks to carry out a suicide attack against its military base nearby.

The airstrike happened about 2:30 a.m. in the northern province of Kunduz despite efforts by the top U.S. general to curb use of air power and reduce civilian casualties, which have strained relations between the NATO force and the Afghan government. Hours earlier, the top Pentagon officer, Adm. Mike Mullen, said civilian casualties had recently been greatly reduced in Afghanistan.

Germany said about 50 fighters were killed and no civilians were believed in the area at the time. NATO chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen, however, acknowledged some civilians may have died, and the U.S.-led coalition and the Afghan government announced a joint investigation.

Local government spokesman Mohammad Yawar said police found pieces of dozens of weapons scattered around the site. He estimated that more than 70 people were killed, at least 45 of them militants. Investigators were trying to account for the others, he said.

The local governor, Mohammad Omar, said 72 were killed and 15 wounded. He said about 30 of the dead were identified as insurgents, including four Chechens and a local Taliban commander. The rest were probably fighters or their relatives, he said.

Many of the bodies were burned beyond recognition, and villagers buried some in a mass grave.

Despite the uncertainties, the attack is likely to intensify Afghan public anger over civilian casualties. Last June, the NATO commander, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, ordered curbs on airstrikes where noncombatants are at risk.

In Washington, Defense Department press secretary Geoff Morrell said Friday that McChrystal's new orders have started to reduce civilian casualties, but that the effort is "a process" as opposed to something instantly achieved.

A large number of civilian casualties in Friday's attack could also stoke opposition in Germany to the Afghan mission ahead of the Sept. 27 German national elections. There are 4,050 German soldiers in Afghanistan, and polls show a majority of Germans oppose their presence here.

Violence has soared across much of Afghanistan since President Barack Obama ordered 21,000 U.S. troops here this year to curb the Taliban, which has regrouped and rearmed since American-led forces drove the hard-line Islamist group from power in November 2001. Fifty-one U.S. troops died in Afghanistan in August, the deadliest month of the war for American forces.

Friday's attack came a day after Defense Secretary Robert Gates signaled for the first time that he may be willing to send more troops.

It began when Taliban gunmen seized the tankers near the German military base — possibly for a suicide attack against the installation, according to German Deputy Defense Minister Thomas Kossendey.

German Defense Minister Franz Josef Jung said the Taliban had previously threatened to carry out attacks on the country's military, particularly as Germany's elections approach.

"So it was a very concrete situation of danger for the Taliban to get hold of two tankers, which meant significant danger for our soldiers," he told ARD television.

The German commander ordered the airstrike after an unmanned surveillance aircraft determined no civilians were in the area, German officials said.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity as a matter of policy, said the jet dropped two bombs 40 minutes after the request. It was unclear whether civilians began to gather during that time.

It was impossible to independently verify details because the attack was in an area where Taliban forces operate. Travel is risky, and the Germans refused to allow an Associated Press reporter to accompany them to the site. German troops who inspected the area hours afterward exchanged gunfire with militants but there were no German casualties, an army statement said.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said the trucks were headed from Tajikistan to supply NATO forces in Kabul. When the hijackers tried to drive the trucks across the Kunduz River, the vehicles became stuck in the mud and the insurgents opened valves to release fuel and lighten the loads, he said.

Villagers swarmed the trucks to collect the fuel despite warnings that they might be hit with an airstrike, Mujahid said, claiming no Taliban fighters died in the attack.

Abdul Moman Omar Khel, a member of the Kunduz provincial council and a native of the village, said about 500 people from surrounding communities swarmed the trucks after the Taliban invited them to help themselves to the fuel. Many were awake at that hour because of a late-night wedding party and festivities marking the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims can eat and drink only during hours of darkness.

"The Taliban called to the villagers, 'Come take free fuel,'" he said. "The people are so hungry and poor."

He said five people were killed from a single family, and a man he knows lost three sons.

Survivors expressed anger that NATO and Afghan forces were unable to provide enough security in the area to prevent Taliban violence.

"The Taliban were there from 2 p.m. yesterday," said Habibullah, the driver of one of the tanker trucks that was hijacked. "I informed the military about this and I told them they will hijack us. They told me that they will inform the (NATO) military about this. No one came to protect us."



North Korea officials say uranium enrichment is in its final stage

KWANG-TAE KIM
Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea North Korea said Friday that it is in the final stages of enriching uranium, a process that could give it a second way to make nuclear bombs in addition to its known plutonium-based program.

North Korean state media said officials had informed the U.N. Security Council it is forging ahead with its nuclear programs in spite of international calls to abandon them.

"Reprocessing of spent fuel rods is at its final phase and extracted plutonium is being weaponized. Experimental uranium enrichment has successfully been conducted to enter into completion phase," the Korean Central News Agency reported.

The U.S. and North Korea's neighbors had been negotiating for years with the North to dismantle its plutonium-based nuclear program, which experts say has yielded enough weaponized plutonium for at least half a dozen atomic bombs. North Korea walked away from those talks earlier this year.

The U.S. had long suspected that the North also had a covert uranium enrichment program, which would give it a second source of nuclear material. North Korea for years denied the claim but in response to U.N. sanctions announced in June that it could enrich uranium.

The United States' special envoy on North Korea said any activities in the area of nuclear development are "of concern to us."

"These are issues we are dealing with as they arise and we maintain the need for cooperation and dialogue and complete denuclearization" of the Korean peninsula, Stephen Bosworth said in Beijing during an Asia trip to discuss how to bring North Korea back to disarmament talks.

Enriched uranium would provide the North with an easier way to build nuclear bombs compared to reprocessing plutonium. Uranium also can be enriched in relatively inconspicuous factories that are better able to evade spy satellite detection, according to experts in the U.S. and at South Korea's Institute of Nuclear Nonproliferation and Control.

Uranium-based bombs may also work without requiring test explosions like the two carried out by North Korea in May and in 2006 for plutonium-based weapons.

However, plutonium bombs have more potential to be miniaturized to fit on top of a missile, according to one expert, Ivan Oelrich of the Federation of American Scientists.

North Korea is not believed to have mastered making a nuclear bomb small enough to mount in a long-range missile. An April rocket launch widely condemned by international powers and the U.N. Security Council was seen by many as a test of its long-range missile technology.

It won't be easy to verify North Korea's claims on uranium enrichment, South Korean Defense Ministry spokesman Won Tae-jae said, adding that the announcement could just be a negotiating tactic.

Friday's statement comes amid a series of conciliatory moves after months of provocation, from the April rocket launch and May nuclear test to the test-firing of a flurry of missiles.

North Korea called its actions a response to the Security Council's decision to tighten sanctions against the regime as punishment for the May nuclear test, a resolution KCNA called a "wanton violation" of the country's sovereignty.

The U.S., China, Japan, Russia and South Korea have been trying for years to persuade North Korea to dismantle its nuclear program in exchange for much-needed aid and other concessions.

The North says it needs the nuclear program as a security guarantee against a threat from the U.S., which has 28,500 troops based in South Korea, which technically remains at war with the North because their three-year conflict in the early 1950s ended in a truce, not a peace treaty.

"We are prepared for both dialogue and sanctions," the KCNA report said, warning it would be left with no choice but to take "yet stronger self-defensive countermeasures" if the standoff continues. It did not elaborate on the possible countermeasures.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry expressed regret and urged the communist country to abandon its nuclear weapons programs and return to the stalled disarmament talks.

"The North's move to continue provocative steps ... can never be tolerated. We will deal with North Korea's threats and provocative acts in a stern and consistent manner," it said in a statement.

In Tokyo, Japanese Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone urged North Korea to refrain from actions and remarks that could heighten tensions.

"We will definitely not tolerate North Korea possessing nuclear weapons," Nakasone said, adding that Japan is cooperating closely with South Korea, the U.S. and China on North Korean issues.

Bosworth, the U.S. envoy, met Thursday and Friday with Chinese officials.

"We confirmed that the U.S. and China share a strong common approach in dealing with the challenges of North Korea," he said. "We agree on the complete and verifiable denuclearization of the North Korean peninsula, which remains our core objective."

Bosworth, who heads next to Seoul and Tokyo, reiterated the importance of the six-nation framework for any talks, including those between the U.S. and North Korea, and emphasized President Barack Obama's commitment to dialogue with North Korea.

The North has long sought one-on-one negotiations with Washington. The U.S. has said it is willing to hold direct talks, but under the framework of the six-nation disarmament negotiations.

KCNA said Friday that North Korea has never objected to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, and left open possibility for dialogue with some permanent members of the Security Council — an apparent reference to the U.S.

In promising signs, North Korea last month freed two jailed American journalists and five detained South Koreans. The two Koreas also agreed to restart the temporary reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War, and restored regular cross-border traffic to a joint industrial park in the North.

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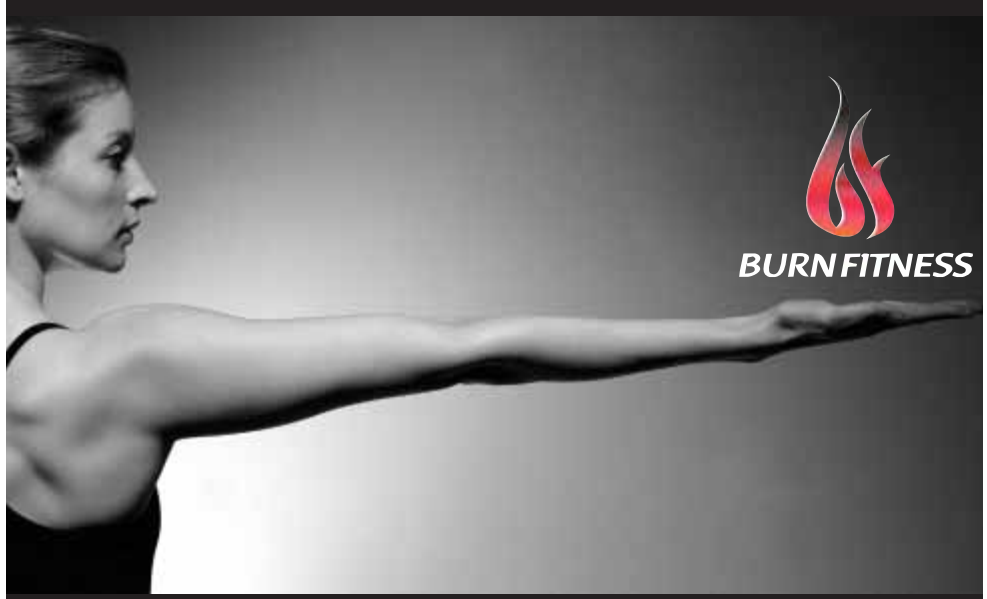
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Radical environmentalist topple towers near Seattle

TIM KLASS
Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE Two radio station towers north of Seattle were toppled early Friday, a banner left nearby bore the initials of the Earth Liberation Front and an FBI spokesman said authorities haven't found any evidence that other individuals or groups besides the ELF were involved.

The towers were torn down because of health and environmental concerns, according to an e-mail from the North American ELF Press Office, which has represented the shadowy group in the past.

"We have to weigh our priorities, and the local ecosystem in Everett, along with the local residents, do not need additional sports news radio station towers that come at the expense of reduced property values and harmful radio waves," ELF press office spokesman Jason Crawford said in the e-mail.

The ELF is a loose collection of radical environmentalists that has claimed responsibility for dozens of attacks since the 1990s. The FBI has taken over as lead investigator in Friday's incident.

The towers apparently were taken down with a track hoe, a piece of heavy construction equipment that was already on the site, FBI agent Marty Prewett said.

The ELF's Web site featured a picture of one of the towers lying on its site with the caption "Earth Liberation Front Topples Two Radio Station Towers in Snohomish County, WA," followed by the words: "Details coming soon."

Crawford told the AP by telephone he believed more than one person was involved. He said he had not spoken directly with anyone who claimed to be involved but received some e-mail from what appear to be locals who support the action.

The towers belonging to KRKO — a family-owned station in Everett, about 25 miles north of Seattle — have prompted complaints from neighbors of interference from radio signals on home telephone and intercom lines. The site for the towers is in the town of Snohomish, about eight miles southeast of Everett.

The station's plans to increase its transmission capacity by building more towers on the site have been embroiled for more than a decade in appeals and litigation over issues ranging from trumpeter swan habitat to potential health hazards to humans.

A neighbor told a 911 operator that someone seemed to be attacking the towers with a bulldozer or other heavy equipment at about 3:30 a.m., Snohomish County sheriff's office spokeswoman Rebecca Hover told The Herald of Everett.

Sheriff's deputies on Friday morning found a 349-foot tower and a smaller tower on the ground with heavy construction equipment nearby, Hover said.

Investigators have found no evidence of injury, Prewett said.

The station remained on the air Friday after shifting to other transmission equipment. A $25,000 reward for information leading to the capture of whoever was responsible was announced by Andy Skotdal, the station's general manager.

"We'll use our airwaves to do it, too," Skotdal told The Herald.

The ELF has claimed responsibility for several arsons in the region, including a fire that destroyed the Center for Urban Horticulture at the University of Washington in Seattle in 2001.

An ELF sign was left at the scene of fires set on March 3, 2008, at a number of luxury houses in a development in Echo Lake.

White House: Trouble over school speech is just 'silly'

BEN FELLER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON The White House on Friday dismissed as pointless the furor over President Barack Obama's plan to deliver a televised back-to-school speech to the nation's students.

"I think we've reached a little bit of the silly season when the president of the United States can't tell kids in school to study hard and stay in school," presidential spokesman Robert Gibbs told reporters. "I think both political parties agree that the dropout rate is something that threatens our long-term economic success."

Obama's planned address to students has prompted a surprising push-back from some quarters over what the White House sees as an important but innocuous topic.

Some conservative critics say Obama is trying to promote a political agenda and overstepping his bounds, taking the federal government too far into public school business.

Republican Gov. Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota, a potential presidential contender in 2012, said Obama's speech is "uninvited" and that the president's move raises questions of content and motive.

Many school districts have decided not to show Obama's speech, to be delivered at 12 noon EDT Tuesday, partly in response to concerns from parents.

Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, on Friday defended Obama's plan to address students.

"The bottom line is we need the president of the United States of America to use his bully pulpit to talk to kids about the importance of education and to help inspire kids," she said on "The John Gambling Show" on radio station WOR NewsTalk Radio 710 in New York.

Gibbs said former Republican presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush delivered similar speeches to students. He said Obama's speech will not be partisan but rather a chance for children to get "a little encouragement as they start the school year."

The White House spokesman said he couldn't speak to the motivations of some school districts.

"Look, there are some school districts that won't let you read 'Huckleberry Finn,' " Gibbs said.

He said the administration understands that some districts have logistical concerns with the timing of Obama's speech.

The White House plans to release the speech online Monday so parents can read it. Obama will deliver the speech at Wakefield High School in Arlington, Va.

Senate negotiator says health care bill on the way

RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON The Senate's top health care negotiator signaled Friday that he'll move forward with legislation soon, whether or not months of bipartisan talks produce a breakthrough on President Barack Obama's top domestic priority.

Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., held a nearly two-hour teleconference with his small group of negotiators, who call themselves the "Bipartisan Six." Afterward, Baucus was careful to leave the door open to a long-sought deal, but he clearly signaled the time has come for him to move ahead.

"I am committed to getting health care reform done — done soon and done right," Baucus said in a statement.

Finance is the only one of five congressional committees with jurisdiction over health care that has yet to produce a bill. Baucus had held back from convening a bill-drafting session, hoping that his group of three Democrats and three Republicans would reach a compromise behind closed doors that could win broad support. But he faces a Sept. 15 deadline from the Democratic leadership — and the prospect of losing control of the legislation if he doesn't act.

On Friday, Baucus said the members of his group agree on several big-picture items, including the need to control costs, provide access to affordable coverage for all Americans and ensure that health care fixes don't add to the deficit. The negotiators have been working on a pared-back bill that would cost under $1 trillion over 10 years and drop contentious components, such as the government-sponsored insurance plan that liberals insist must be in the legislation.

"Health reform is certainly a significant challenge, and each time we talk, we are reminded just how many areas of agreement exist," Baucus said.

The bipartisan group has scheduled a face-to-face meeting when the Senate returns on Tuesday, on the eve of a major speech by Obama to Congress. The president is trying to rescue his health care overhaul after a summer in which angry critics filled the Internet and airwaves with attacks, some clearly based on misinformation.

Aides say the six senators realize they have an historic opportunity to influence the direction of the health care debate — and its ultimate result.

But with Republican leaders solidly opposed to Obama's approach, the GOP negotiators are under tremendous pressure not to cooperate. In the last few weeks, two GOP negotiators — Chuck Grassley of Iowa and Mike Enzi of Wyoming — have made harsh public statements about the Democrats' approach. However, both insist they are serious about their negotiations with Baucus. The third Republican, Olympia Snowe of Maine, has been circumspect.

"When Congress returns to session next week, we will be working with the same intensity ... to achieve a consensus bill," Snowe said in a statement.

Appeals court rules against Ashcroft in Sept. 11 case

REBECCA BOONE
Associated Press Writer

BOISE, Idaho A federal appeals court has ruled that former Attorney General John Ashcroft may be held liable for people who were wrongfully detained as material witnesses after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

In a harshly worded ruling handed down Friday, a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals called the government's use of material witnesses after Sept. 11 "repugnant to the Constitution and a painful reminder of some of the most ignominious chapters of our national history."

The court found that a man who was detained as a witness in a federal terrorism case can sue Ashcroft for allegedly violating his constitutional rights. Abdullah Al-Kidd, a U.S. citizen and former University of Idaho student, filed the lawsuit in 2005, claiming his civil rights were violated when he was detained as a material witness for two weeks after 9/11.

Al-Kidd said the investigation and detention not only caused him to lose a scholarship to study in Saudi Arabia, but cost him employment opportunities.

He argued that his detention exemplified an illegal government policy, created by Ashcroft, to arrest and detain people — particularly Muslim men and those of Arab decent — as material witnesses if the government suspected them of a crime but had no evidence to charge them.

Al-Kidd's attorney, Lee Gelernt with the ACLU, said the ruling by the three-judge panel had implications reaching far beyond the government's actions in detaining material witnesses post-Sept. 11. The court flatly rejected Ashcroft's claims that has absolute immunity from such lawsuits because of his job, Gelernt noted.

"The use of the material witness statute as a post-9/11 detention tool is one of the least understood parts of the post 9/11 landscape, but it has enormous implications because it was done in secret and the government has never renounced the policy," Gelernt said. "Our hope is that we can now begin the process of uncovering the full contours of this illegal national policy."

The 9th Circuit judges said Al-Kidd's claims plausibly suggest that Ashcroft purposely used the material witness statute to detain suspects whom he wished to investigate and detain preventively.

"Sadly, however, even now, more than 217 years after the ratification of the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution, some confidently assert that the government has the power to arrest and detain or restrict American citizens for months on end, in sometimes primitive conditions, not because there is evidence that they have committed a crime, but merely because the government wishes to investigate them for possible wrongdoing, or to prevent them from having contact with others in the outside world," Judge Milan D. Smith Jr., for the majority. "We find this to be repugnant to the Constitution and a painful reminder of some of the most ignominious chapters of our national history."

121: one to one ADN: any day now AFAIK: as far as I know AFK: away from keyboard **A/S/L: age, sex, location** B4: before B4N: bye for now BAK: back at the keyboard BBIAB: be back in a bit BBL: be back later BBN: bye bye now BBS: be back soon BFD: big #@! grin **BF: boyfriend** BFN: bye for now BG: big grin BL: belly laughing BMTIPG: brilliant minds think in parallel gutters BRB: be right back BTA: but then again BTW: by the way BWL: bursting with laughter BWTHDIK: but what the heck do I know C&G: chuckle & grin CD: crying in disgrace CHP: continued (in my) next post CP: chat post CRBT: crying real big tears CSG: chuckle, snicker, grin CU: see you CUL: see you later CYO: see you online DBAU: doing business as usual DIKU: do I know you? DL: dead link DLTBBB: don't let the bed bugs bite DUMMY: don't quote me on this EG: evil grin EMFH: excuse me for butting in EMSG: email message EOT: end of thread F2F: face to face FC: fingers crossed FISH: first in, still here FMTEWTK: far more than you ever wanted to know FOMCL: falling off my chair laughing FTBOMH: from the bottom of my heart FUD: fear, uncertainty, and doubt FWIW: for what it's worth G2G: got to go G- grin GA: go ahead GAL: get a life GD&R: grinning, ducking, and running GF: girlfriend GFN: gone for now GIWIST: gee, I wish I'd said that GMBO: giggling my butt off GMTA: great minds think alike GOL: giggling out loud GTRM: going to read mail GTSY: glad to see you H&K: hug and kiss HAGN: have a good night **HDOP: help delete online predators** HHIS: hanging head in shame HTH: hope this helps HUB: head up butt IAC: in any case IANAL: I am not a lawyer (but) IC: I see IDK: I don't know IHA: I hate acronyms IIRC: if I remember correctly ILU: I love you IM: instant message IMHO: in my humble opinion IMNSHO: in my not so humble opinion IMO: in my opinion IOW: in other words IPN: I'm posting naked IRL: in real life IWALU: I will always love you IYSWIM: if you see what I mean JIC: just in case JK: just kidding JMA: just my opinion JTLYK: just to let you know K: okay KIT: keep in touch KOC: kiss on cheek KOL: kiss on lips KOTC: kiss on the cheek KWIM: know what I mean? LDR: later LD: later, dude LDR: long distance relationship LLTA: lots and lots of thunderous applause **LMIRL: let's meet in real life** LMSO: laughing my socks off LOL: laughing out loud LSHMBB: laughing so hard my belly is bouncing LTM: laugh to myself LTNS: long time, no see LTR: long-term relationship LULAB: love you like a brother **LULAS: love you like a sister** LUWAMH: love you with all my heart LY: love you M/F: male or female MOSS: member of same sex MOTOS: member of the opposite sex MSG: message MTF: more to follow MUSM: miss you so much NADT: not a dam thing NFOC: naked in front of computer NP: no problem NRN: no reply necessary OIC: oh I see **OLL: online love** OM: old man OTF: off the floor OTOH: on the other hand OTTOMH: off the top of my head P2P: peer to peer PDA: public display of affection PEBCAK: problem exists between chair and keyboard PLZ: please PM: private message PMFJI8: pardon me for jumping in but POAHF: put on a happy face **POS: parent over shoulder** PU: that stinks QT: cutie RL: real life ROTFL: rolling on the floor laughing RPG: role playing games RSN: real soon now SAL: spam for life SEEE: smiling ear to ear SMCOON: shoot hot coffee out of nose SMD: slap head in disgust SF: surfer friendly SNERT: snot nosed egotistical rude teenager SO: significant other SOMY: sick of me yet? SOT: short of time STR: search the web SWAK: sealed with a kiss SWL: screaming with laughter SYS: see you soon TA: thanks again TCOB: taking care of business TCOY: take care of yourself TIA: thanks in advance TLA: tell it like it is TMI: too much information TOY: thinking of you TTYL: talk to you later UW: you're welcome WB: welcome back WFM: works for me WIIFM: wouldn't it be nice if **WTGP: want to go private?** WTG: way to go WU: what's up WUF: where are you from? YBS: you'll be sorry YL: young lady YM: young man

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NCAA FOOTBALL

Carroll stoked to start USC's season

BY GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES Even with injuries piling up and nervous anticipation building around his freshman quarterback, Southern California coach Pete Carroll only seems to get more excited about the season ahead.

Not even that significant injury list, an academic disappointment and a rookie passer can discourage the perpetually optimistic Carroll, whose fourth-ranked Trojans open the season Saturday at the Coliseum against San Jose State.

"We feel very comfortable with the transitions we've made, the decisions we've made," Carroll said after bounding into his weekly news conference. "We're looking forward to getting off to a fast start."

Carroll created a bit of news by announcing his starting tailback Tuesday, naming Joe McKnight to the spot. The honor doesn't mean much, since the Trojans likely will play fellow tailbacks Stafon Johnson, Allen Bradford and C.J. Gable extensively.

Quarterback Matt Barkley will get most of the attention when he makes his first college appearance after winning the job in camp. Carroll remained effusive in praise of the 18-year-old entrusted with the offense in what seems like a high-risk move to most outside the program.

"Matt could not have accomplished more in the time he's been with the program," Carroll said. "He would have to be an exceptional kid to accomplish what he's had to accomplish. ... I don't see it as a gamble at all. I see it as a really good, solid decision."

While sophomore quarterback Aaron Corp is healthy enough to play after breaking his leg during camp, Carroll isn't certain he'll get on the field.

"The plan is to play the game and see what happens," Carroll said. "Aaron is a capable player. We feel good about him, and I'd love him to get some playing time."

The Trojans still have several injury woes that won't be repaired by the time San Jose State arrives.

Center Kristofer O'Dowd, widely considered among the nation's top handful of players at his position, is almost certainly out to give himself one more week to rest his dislocated kneecap. No. 2 receiver Ronald Johnson is out until next month at the earliest after breaking his collarbone in last weekend's mock game, while starting defensive tackle Averell Spicer hopes to play after injuring his ankle last month.

NCAA FOOTBALL

Oregon Ducks suspend Blount for season

ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

EUGENE, Ore. Oregon suspended running back LeGarrette Blount on Friday for the remainder of season for punching Boise State defensive end Byron Hout.

As Boise State began celebrating on their famous blue turf, Hout yelled in Blount's face and tapped him on the shoulder pad. Before Broncos head coach Chris Petersen could pull Hout away, Blount landed a right to Hout's jaw, knocking him to his knees.

Blount also had to be restrained by police officers from fans heckling him on the way to the locker room after No. 16 Oregon's 19-8 loss Thursday to the No. 14 Broncos.

Blount's suspension includes any bowl games. Coach Chip Kelly said Blount will remain on scholarship.

Hout will not be suspended for taunting Blount. Boise State spokesman Max Corbet told The Associated Press in an e-mail that Petersen planned to spend time with Hout this week to help him learn from what happened.

Mike Bellotti, who stepped aside as head coach to become Oregon's athletic director this summer, said the Pac-10 was consulted about the punishment and supported Oregon's decision.

Pac-10 commissioner Larry Scott was at the game and saw the altercation firsthand.

After the game, Blount apologized for his actions.

"It was just something that I shouldn't have done," said Blount, who had eight carries for a loss of five yards. "I lost my head."

Regardless, Oregon University president Richard Lariviere called Blount's behavior "reprehensible."

"We do not and will not tolerate the actions that were taken by our player. Oregon's loyal fans expect and deserve better," Lariviere said in a statement. "The University of Oregon Athletics Department is reviewing the situation and will take appropriate action, reflecting the seriousness of the player's behavior."

In February, Blount was suspended indefinitely from the team for "failure to fulfill team obligations." Bellotti did not share any details, elaborate at the time, but Blount reportedly missed offseason team meetings.

He was reinstated before spring practice.

Santa Monica Daily Press
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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 70°

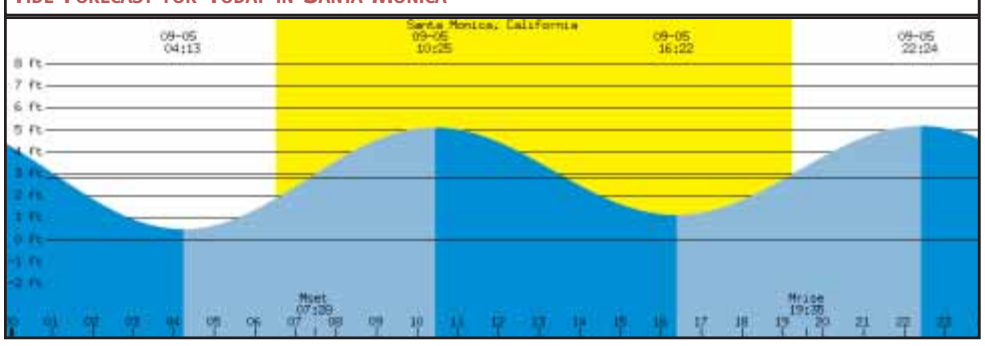
Swell Forecast

The wind swell should come to its peak with waist+ waves around west facing breaks. Southerly energy is looking nil, so south facing breaks are looking at smaller surf.

Long Range Synopsis

Some light southern hemi from 220 is due as minor NW wind swell lingers. Most all breaks are looking at knee to maybe waist high surf.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **September 2, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 44 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 2 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by simplehuman, The Goldhirsh Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, Ford

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Las Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechuse and Las Alisa creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	A+	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location) - daily	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (paint zone)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	B	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	B	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	ns

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone
WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
ns -- no sample taken

Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card℠ is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A–F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

Heal the Bay

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

NCAA FOOTBALL

Hoke hopes to turn the Aztecs around

BY BERNIE WILSON
AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO Eleven years after their last winning season and bowl appearance, the San Diego State Aztecs are turning to no-nonsense Midwesterner Brady Hoke to try to resuscitate their moribund football program.

Hoke's task seems enormous, considering that he inherited a program that's coming off its first 10-loss season and won only nine games in three seasons under Chuck Long.

After experiencing a 12-win season last year at Ball State, Hoke is eager to do away with a culture of losing at SDSU.

"I think anytime you come into a situation, you know, like San Diego State was, I think there's always that," he said. "There's a little bit of mindset, a little bit of a culture, a little bit of apathy, for what's going on. You're coaching every day — you're coaching attitude every day, you're coaching expectations every day."

The Aztecs will be tested right away. They're 19 1/2-point underdogs for Saturday's game against UCLA at the Rose Bowl.

Whether he's going to have the players to even be respectable this year remains to be seen. At the very least, Hoke has assembled a big-time coaching staff.

His offensive coordinator is Al Borges, who previously held the same position at Auburn, Indiana, Cal, UCLA and Oregon. The defensive coordinator is Rocky Long, the former head coach at New Mexico who also was defensive coordinator at UCLA and Oregon State.

The quarterbacks coach is Brian Sipe, who played for the Aztecs under Don Coryell and went on to a 12-year NFL career that included winning the league's MVP Award with the Cleveland Browns in 1980.

"Obviously, I'm excited to have the staff that we have," Hoke said. "There's not a better staff, in my opinion, and group of guys in this country when you look at their relationships that they've built with the players in the short amount of time and the expertise in what they all bring to the table. That's something we're very proud of as a staff."

Hoke went 34-38 in six years at Ball State, but drew national attention when his team went unbeaten into December before losing to Buffalo in the Mid-American Conference championship game.

While Long promised a winning program and then underdelivered, Hoke is making no such boasts. Instead, he uses coaching buzzwords such as toughness, accountability and discipline.

Like Hoke, Borges said he came to SDSU because he said he saw an opportunity.

"Why not?" he said. "This place has got incredible potential and it has a rich football tradition. They've won a lot of games here; it just hasn't been recently. I've always felt, being from California and knowing West Coast football pretty well, that this is a place that can flourish if you do all the right things and get some good players in here.

"We've got the right coach," Borges added. "He knows what he's doing. He knows how to go about building programs. He's been in enough of them. Now what we've got to do is kind of shore up our depth and our talent and our discipline. I think we can be what everybody's always said they thought we could be."

The Aztecs haven't had a winning record since 1998 under Ted Tollner, when they were 7-4 before losing to North Carolina in the Las Vegas Bowl. Tollner had three straight losing seasons before being replaced by Tom Craft, a junior college coach and former Aztec quarterback. Craft topped out with a 6-6 record in 2003, going 19-29 before making way for Long, who was 9-27.

Borges said the Aztecs have all the resources available for a successful program.

"This might be the greatest big town in America," he said, mentioning the weather, the talent base and SDSU's membership in the Mountain West Conference, which includes two-time BCS-buster Utah.

And he knows that winning can change everything.

"The one thing I have found is if you can restore the image of the place you are, if they can start believing that they can win here and this is a good place to play football, that it's contagious and affects everybody," he said.

"You start winning and people think you're going to win. You stop hoping to win and start expecting to win, and all that stuff falls into place. But you've got to do it the right way, and I think Brady's doing it the right way."

NCAA FOOTBALL

UCLA decides to play on

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PASADENA UCLA will go ahead with its season-opening game against San Diego State at the Rose Bowl on Saturday despite the wildfire in the nearby San Gabriel Mountains.

Athletic director Dan Guerrero said Thursday the decision to play was made after consulting with Pasadena officials and discussing projected air quality conditions at the venerable stadium.

The Rose Bowl is less than 10 miles south of the fires burning in the Angeles National Forest.

Guerrero said UCLA will monitor the situation. The forecast for Saturday calls for sunny skies and a high of 90 degrees.

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CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 21!
Santa Monica Daily Press Call us at (310) 458-7737

MOVIE TIMES

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

Los Angeles Plays itself (NR) 2hr 49min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Funny People (R) 2hr 16min
11:35 a.m., 2:45, 6:45, 9:50

The Hangover (R) 1hr 36min
11:15 a.m., 1:55, 4:40, 7:15, 10:05

Taking Woodstock (R) 1hr 50min
11:00 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, 7:25, 10:15

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) 2hrs 33min
11:30 a.m., 3:00, 6:30, 9:55

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

Shorts (PG) 1hr 29min
11:30am, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50

Ponyo (Gake no ue no Ponyo) (G) 1hr 40min
11:05am, 1:30, 4:05, 7:05, 9:40

The Time Traveler's Wife (PG-13) 1hr 48min
10:50am, 1:25, 4:10, 7:15, 10:00

Julie and Julia (PG-13) 2hrs 3min
10:45am, 1:35, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30

Halloween II (2009) (R) 1hr 41min
12:00, 2:30, 5:20, 7:55, 9:30, 10:45

My One and Only (PG-13) 1hr 25min
11:00am, 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

Gamer (R) 1hr 35min
11:50am, 2:40, 5:05, 7:45, 10:15

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

Extract (R) 1hr 30min
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15

(500) Days of Summer (PG-13) 1hr 35min
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45

The Hurt Locker (R) 2hr 10min
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55

In the Loop (NR) 1hr 46min
1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

Valentino: The Last Emperor (NR) 1hr 36min
11:00 a.m.

Play the Game (PG-13) 1 hr 45min
11:00 a.m.

Irene in Time (PG-13) 1hr 34min
11:00 a.m.

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

The Final Destination 3D (R) 1hr 22min
12:30, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

Inglourious Basterds (R) 2hrs 32min
12:00, 1:30, 3:30, 5:00, 7:00, 8:30, 10:20

G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra (PG-13) 1hr 58min
12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:50

District 9 (R) 1hr 53min
11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

All About Steve (PG-13) 1hr 39min
11:40am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40

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

Redo plans, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★ You might want to sound off. If you really feel this emoting will help, by all means, do so. Later in the day, you'll see life with renewed interest and more excitement. Tonight: You might want to redo plans.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ A child's or a loved one's actions or attitude could set you on your haunches. Understand what is going on. If you don't get a straight answer, observe. Good feelings return with excitement. Tonight: Go for quiet.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ A must-show situation could get you past negativity. Somehow you feel as if everything always lands on you. Whether you like it or not, that seems to be the case. When all's said and done, you might want to revise that thought at the end of the day, or in a few days. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Keep breaking through a problem and searching for a new way of looking at things. Your sense of humor opens many doors. Flex more and let go of preconceived opinions. Happiness surrounds you. Tonight: A force to be noticed!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Close relating draws others into your thinking. Suddenly they get it. Up till now, you have not been able to instill your ideas in others. The element of surprise plays a significant role. Don't let insecurity be the source of a response. Tonight: Take in a movie.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might not be so sure of yourself. Did you wake up on the wrong side of the bed? When dealing with a problem, try a new attitude or approach. What you have been doing isn't working. Tonight: Sort through the possibilities, then decide.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Dig into a project, and just get it done! All the negativity surrounding you needs to be dispelled. You feel surprisingly renewed by events and what occurs. Once you get past this "burden," nearly everything looks like a piece of cake. Tonight: Join friends or throw a party!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your creativity surges. You feel on top of your game. How you handle a matter and the choices you make will be much different in the p.m. You have a unique way of dealing with issues. Go for an afternoon movie. Tonight: Going full force until you drop.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Others know where to find you. You discover just how much you are valued. An unexpected development keeps you on your toes. Throw negativity in the garbage. Tonight: Don't you think you deserve a night on the town?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ What you say has an impact. Though you might not be as empathetic as you would like or see the whole picture, you ferret your way through a puzzle. Others prove to be unpredictable but responsive. Complete a project in the p.m. Tonight: Make it early.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Clearly you didn't expect a landslide on your path. You discover exactly what has been going on with someone close. Once information comes forward, you can handle a situation. Tonight: Be whimsical.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Others prove to be highly responsive, even if they find you a bit too spontaneous. You help shake another person out of his or her mood. Use your combined energy and magnetism. Everyone might be most happy with the end result. Tonight: King or queen for the day.

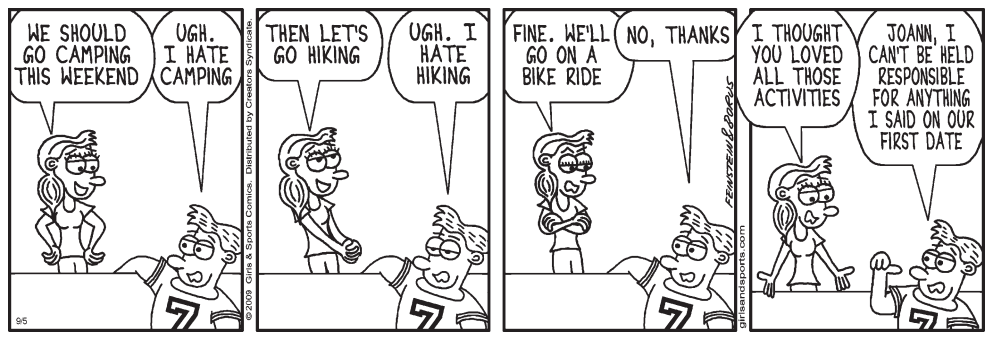
Happy birthday

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

This year, your actions make a difference. Kick negativity out of your life; lose the word "no." You'll discover that the end results are far better. Many times, your knee-jerk reactions prevent you from getting what you honestly deserve. Learn to hold back some, and respond accordingly. You find others exciting and dynamic; they find you to be their pillar of stability. What a nice combination. If you are single, your allure is unique. You have many more choices than you think, especially in 2010. If you are attached, with acceptance, the two of you will develop a more exciting bond. PISCES has the same issues as you, but a different approach.

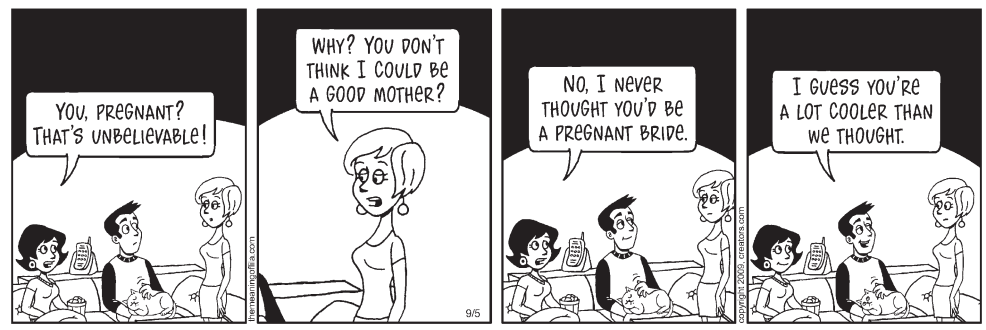
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield

By Jim Davis



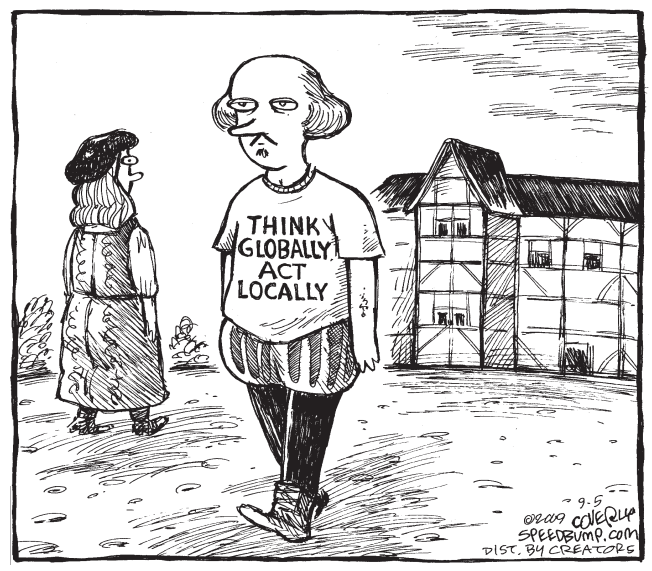
Strange Brew

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 ★★★★

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

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Maya Sugarman *news@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Coot's home
6 Green sauce
11 "A Passage to India" character
12 Distant
13 Speedy
14 Android's cousin
15 Words of understanding
17 Parisian season
18 Gusher flow
19 Strain
22 Some answers
23 Cave
24 Third point in tennis
25 Financially solvent
27 Little lie
30 Truck medium
31 Mary's boss
32 Have life
33 Wanderers
35 Derby prize
38 Knock off work
39 Roofed patio
40 Forsaken
41 Decorate
42 Comfy eatery

DOWN

1 Oscar winner Cotillard
2 Slow passage
3 Pushes away
4 Open envelopes
5 Was fortunate
6 Hole number
7 "Xanadu" band
8 "Amen!"
9 Affectedly cute
10 Many a time
16 Topography
20 OK
21 Hog holder
24 Neighbor of Ga.
25 Overseas
26 California city
27 Ale container
28 Cut treatment
29 Mac
30 "Cheers" barmaid
34 Niger neighbor
36 Ring setting
37 Naughty act

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	10
11					■	12				
13					■	14				
15					16	■	■	17		
18			■	19		20	21			
22			■	23						■
■	■	■	24					■	■	■
■	25	26					■	27	28	29
30							■	31		
32			■	■	33		34			
35			36	37	■	38				
39					■	40				
41					■	42				

9-5

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 2 9 28 51 53 Meganumber: 19 Jackpot: $12M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 18 21 29 32 34 Meganumber: 27 Jackpot: $20M

FANTASY 5: 18 21 29 32 34

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 7 8 4 EVENING: 7 3 0

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 11 Money Bags 2nd: 08 Gorgeous George 3rd: 10 Solid Gold RACE TIME: 1.48.50

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ They Took It Too Far: (1) Maryland corrections officials, hoping to improve juvenile rehabilitation by a kinder, gentler approach to incarceration, opened its New Beginnings Youth Center in May. The lockdown facility had declined to use razor wire, instead merely landscaping its chain-link fences with thorny rose bushes. After one inmate easily escaped on the second day of operation, razor wire was installed. (2) Bride Lin Rong wed in August in China's eastern Jilin province, walking down the aisle in a dress that was more than 7,000 feet (1.3 miles) long (rolled up in a wagon behind her).

■ Britain's National Health Service of Sheffield issued a "guidance" to schools this summer to encourage teaching students alternatives to premarital sex, including masturbation. According to the Daily Telegraph, the leaflet (titled "Pleasure") contains the slogan "(A)n orgasm a day keeps the doctor away" and likens the health benefits of eating fruits and vegetables, and exercising, to the benefits of masturbating twice a week.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1698 In an effort to move his people away from archaic customs, Tsar Peter I of Russia imposes a tax on beards.

1725 Wedding of Louis XV and Maria Leszczyfska.

1774 First Continental Congress assembles in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

1781 Battle of the Chesapeake in the American Revolutionary War.

1793 French Revolution the French National Convention initiates the Reign of Terror.

1798 Conscription is made mandatory in France by the Jourdan law.

1800 Malta is conquered by Great Britain.

1816 Louis XVIII has to dissolve the Chambre introuvable ("Unobtainable Chamber").

1839 The First Opium War begins in China.

WORD UP!

gadabout\GAD-uh-bout\ , noun: 1.Someone who roams about in search of amusement or social activity.

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2478 Corinth Ave. $1595 front unit 1+1 stove, fridge, carpet, ceiling fan, onsite laundry, small gated front yard 2 parking spaces, 20 lb. pet OK w/ deposit $300 off move-in (888)414-7778

MAR VISTA near Marina. $1050/mo 1bd+den 1ba, carpet, blinds, stove, refrigerator, laundry, parking, no pets. 310-456-5659.

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3623 KEYSTONE Ave.unit 5, $675 bachelor, lower, fridge, microwave, carpet, blinds, utilities included laundry, no parking, no pets $300 off move-in (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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833 5TH St. SM unit 101 2+2 $2350 stove, carpet, blinds, swimming pool, laundry, granite countertops, wood/tile floors, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets. (310)393-2547 www.jkwproperties.com

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PALMS 2+1 3633 Keystone ave #1 stove, blinds, tile flooring, carpets, ceiling fan, laundry,parking, AC, no pets. $1400/mo $500 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

PALMS 3346 S. Canfiled #104 $850 Single, stove, fridge, blinds, on-site laundry, garage parking, intercom entry no pets. (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

PALMS 3346 S. Canfiled #205 $995 1+1 upper, stove, fridge, blinds, bamboo & vinyl floors, on-site laundry, garage parking, intercom entry no pets.$500 off move-in (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

PALMS 3540 Overland units 2 & 5 $950 Stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, laundry, street parking, no pets. $700 off move-in special. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

PALMS ADJ/ LaCienga Hghts. $995.00 1 Bdrm, 1Bath, NO PETS, stove, refrg, parking 2009 Preuss Rd., #10 Open daily 8am-7pm . Additional info in unit

For Rent

Santa Monica $1195.00 1 Bdrms, 1Bath NO pets, gas, paid stove, refrigerator, parking 2535 Kansas Ave., #210 Open daily 8am-8pm. Additional info in unit. .

SANTA MONICA $1225.00 1 bdrm, 1 bath, no pets, stove, refrig, patio, parking 2533 Kansas Ave., #109 Open daily for viewing 8am to 7pm. Additional info in apt Mgr: apt #101

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Venice 25 19th Ave.unit A 1+1 $1295/mo. stove, fridge, wood/tile flooring, laundry, cieling fan garage parking, no pets. $700 off move-in (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

WESTCHESTER 7087 1/2 Manchester Ave.Single stove, fridge, hardwood floors, on-site laundry, street parking, no pets, $995/mo $300 off move-in (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

WESTWOOD: 617 1/2 Midvale unit 2.& 3 Bachelor, no kitchen, sink, fridge,hot plate, microwave, ceiling fan, carpet, street parking, no pets $850/mo (310)578-7512 wwwjkwproperties.com

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This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 7/31/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 8/29/2009, 9/5/2009, 9/12/2009, 9/19/2009



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Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,973,500	$922,000
South of Wilshire	$874,500	$749,000
Sunset Park	$1,297,000	$644,250
Ocean Park	$1,598,500	$835,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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