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Santa Monica Daily Press
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2010
Volume 9 Issue 259

Santa Monica Daily Press

THREE-HEADED MONSTER?
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE SENIORS UNITE ISSUE



FINAL TOUCHES

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Overlooking Broadway and Fourth Street, construction workers install a 14,000-pound structure to the side of the Santa Monica Place parking structure on Wednesday afternoon. It is one of the final major projects being worked on at the renovated mall.

Latest smoking ban takes effect today

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

CITY HALL You no longer have to leave the safety of your own home to violate a Santa Monica anti-smoking law.

As of today, it's illegal to smoke outdoors within 25-feet of any apartment building door, window or vent — a rule aimed at preventing smokers from lighting up on patios and balconies of multi-unit residential properties.

The new law was uncontroversial when it came before the City Council recently. Mayor Bobby Shriver, who said he supported the concept of the balcony and patio ban but felt the ordinance should have gone further by requiring landlords to designate certain units as non-smoking, cast the only dissenting vote.

Under the law, a person who smokes in a restricted area is subject to a court-ordered payment of $100 for the first offense. Subsequent violations carry payments of $200 and $500 respectively.

Landlords are also required to post at least one conspicuous sign in an apartment or condo common area notifying residents of the new law and the remedy. They also must give notice by Dec. 1 to all tenants in affected units informing them of the new locations where smoking is banned and the remedies for enforcing the new law.

In order to enforce a penalty for breaking the new smoking law a resident has to file a complaint in small claims court.

Existing law already prohibits smoking in multi-unit residential building common areas like yards, walkways, and play areas. Smoking also is banned on Santa Monica beaches, at public waiting areas like bus stops, in parks, outdoor dining areas and on the Third Street Promenade.

editor@smdp.com

Plans brewing to save Emeritus exercise classes

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC Senior citizens enrolled in yoga, tai chi and other exercise classes at the Emeritus College will still have the chance to sign up for their favorite courses come spring semester, Santa Monica College officials said this week, but the days of free enrollment may be coming to an end.

SMC's ability to continue offering physical fitness classes for seniors fell into doubt earlier this year when the statewide community college system announced that non-credit dance and physical education courses would no longer be eligible for state reimbursement.

That put 38 Emeritus classes, many of which cater to elderly people recovering from injury or dealing with loss, in jeopardy of permanent cancellation.

While the plan to save the courses is still being hammered out, SMC officials this week said they expect all of the Emeritus college's offerings — including four courses that were temporarily canceled — to be held this spring.

The state budget crisis, though, means there will likely be some significant changes.

One idea to preserve the offerings at Emeritus is to re-classify affected classes as "community service" classes — a change that would require students to pay a fee for formerly free courses, said Jeff Shimizu, SMC's vice president of academic affairs.

He said course fees would be $20 per semester, a discount from the $60 average fee for similar classes geared toward non-seniors. The course fees could also be offset with a scholarship from the Santa Monica College Foundation, Shimizu said.

"Despite the budget challenges we have, we realize how important this program is to the community so we want to continue access for our students in these activities," he said.

While the potential shift to a fee-based model for exercise classes at Emeritus could be a financial drag for some seniors, it's the instructors that could be most affected.

Under the fee-based system, instructors

SEE CLASSES PAGE 8

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Thursday, Sept. 9, 2010

Think about it
Santa Monica Senior Center
1450 Ocean Ave., 1 p.m.
In this guided meditation, participants engage in a process that is very restful and rejuvenating and that may free old emotions and thoughts lodged in the body and/or mind. In addition, participants learn to use this meditation in their everyday lives. It is also fun and has immediate long-term benefits. This is a great opportunity to enjoy the community of people who are enjoying life and stepping into true health. Free, must be at least 50 years of age to attend.

Mountains to the Sea
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 PCH, Aug. 26 through Nov. 28
"Mountains to the Sea" art exhibit reflects the land we walk on and the vistas that embrace us, illustrating the diversity of this experience through different artistic lenses and different mediums. After reviewing over 30 proposals from different groups of artists the Santa Monica's Cultural Affairs Division offered a three month show to the artist members proposal of the Topanga Canyon Gallery. In addition to the exhibit, several of the artists will also conduct workshops at the beach site. Check the www.AnnenbergBeachHouse.com site for more information.

Friday, Sept. 10, 2010

Art and a ride
Santa Monica Pier Carousel
Daily
An exhibit featuring photographs by Elena Perrotta are on display in the Carousel Building through Sept. 15, 2010. The exhibit is open during normal Carousel business hours and closed on Tuesdays. This event is free.

Historic tour
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 PCH, 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Learn about the rich history of the Beach House from a Santa Monica Conservancy docent. Tours are free, last approximately 30 minutes, and no reservations are required.

Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010

Become a part of the act
Miles Memorial Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 8 p.m.
Join the Robin Cox Ensemble for a continuous one-hour event that invites the participation of all. Before the concert, dance improviser Stephanie Nugent will offer concepts for movement. Non-dancers welcome, come participate as a mover, listener or dancer. Dance improvisation tips at 7:30 p.m., music at 8 p.m. Reservations for this event only; (562) 243-0848 or at www.robincoxensemble.com. Tickets are $15.

To be or not to be?
Santa Monica Playhouse
Saturday, 8 p.m., Sunday 6 p.m.
Join the cast of "Elizabeth Shakespeare and the Astute Detective" on their opening night as they explore the question of who actually wrote the "Shakespeare" plays. Admission is $17.50 — $20. For more information or tickets, visit santamonicaplayhouse.com.

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.

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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Samohi to use trio at RB

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI Looks like the Vikings are going with a three-headed monster to begin the season at running back.

Santa Monica High School Head Coach Travis Clark has decided to use a committee to carry the ball as the Vikings prepare to take on Leuzinger on Friday to open the 2010 campaign.

The group is comprised of junior Kori Garcia, senior Brandon Taylor and junior Donavan Citrowski.

"The trio has looked explosive in practice," Clark said. "We'll start out with the three of them and go from there."

All three carried the ball for Samohi last season, but none seized the starting spot.

Part of the problem is that all three are counted on at other positions. Garcia plays a key role in the defensive backfield as a corner, Taylor will get time at wide receiver and Citrowski also plays linebacker.

Clark said he'll use the first couple of games this year to decide if one of his ball carriers will assume the feature back role.

SAMOHI X-COUNTRY PREP FOR SEASON

Santa Monica High School's boys and girls' cross-country teams will travel to San Buenaventura Beach for the Seaside Invitational on Friday. The meet is the first of the season.

Samohi Assistant Coach Pat Cady in an e-mail wrote that the meet will give Head Coach Tania Fischer an opportunity to pick varsity squads. Members of the two teams will be announced on Sept. 22.

Of the 125 athletes that went out for the team 90 have made the cut, but have not been assigned to either varsity or junior varsity.

ST. MONICA FOOTBALL NEARLY RANKED

After routing Animo Leadership to start the season, St. Monica football nearly made the California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section Northern Division rankings this week.

St. Monica is listed among a group of teams that are poised to crack the top 10.

St. Monica travels to Christian of El Cajon on Saturday.

daniela@smdp.com

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

IN ACTION: **Samohi's Brandon Taylor runs for a long gain against Palisades last season. He is among a trio of running backs that Head Coach Travis Clark will depend on to carry the ball.**

Brownley calls on Boeing to join lab cleanup

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A group of local and state officials have called on Boeing to sign an agreement committing the company to completely cleaning up the site of a partial nuclear meltdown that occurred in 1959 just outside Los Angeles.

"Every day that the cleanup is delayed is another day that the public remains at risk," said Louise Rishoff, district director for Assemblywoman Julia Brownley of Santa Monica.

Last week the Department of Energy and NASA announced similar agreements with the state to remove all contamination from the Santa Susana Field Laboratory site. Residents cheered the move, which commits to a 2017 cleanup date.

Wednesday's letter calls on Boeing to accept its responsibility for the cleanup. Boeing officials did not comment on the letter but said they are reviewing the agreement and "remain open to continued dialogue with the state."

During the Cold War, workers at the site tested thousands of rockets and experimented with nuclear reactors, leaving contaminants that many believed trickled into the communities below, causing breast cancer, thyroid conditions and a rare eye cancer among infants.

The cleanup has been decades in the making and has been complicated by the number of owners and responsible parties at the site. NASA owns the rocket-testing areas, the Department of Energy owns the buildings where the partial meltdown occurred, and Boeing owns much of the property underneath.

The deal would require a high-level cleanup in the most polluted parts of the site.

Aussie firefighters run across U.S. in 9/11 tribute

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EMMITSBURG, Md. Thirty-six emergency responders from the United States and Australia are on the final leg of a 4,600-mile run from Santa Monica to New York City to honor the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The sixteen Aussies and 20 Americans stopped in Emmitsburg Monday to lay a wreath at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial and tour the National Emergency Training Center.

The group expected to reach Washington on Tuesday.

They plan to arrive at ground zero Saturday, the ninth anniversary of the passenger jet crashes in New York, Washington and western Pennsylvania that destroyed the World Trade Center and damaged the Pentagon.

Firefighter Michael Jones of Melbourne, Australia, says they are running in relays, with 12 members on each six-hour shift.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Overcoming static cling

Editor:

A recent correspondent mis-characterizes what he calls the "airport was here first" club by saying that we pretend that SMO is a static facility. In fact, it is the surrounding neighbors who believe that the airport should remain "static" with no noise, and no jets.

SMO has never been a static facility. The essential character of any airport is simple: it is a place where planes land and take off, where planes are stored, repaired, refueled and where people can learn to fly. Planes and technology have improved over the years and SMO and other airports have followed suit. Following the "static" theory, we could never buy a 1950s house and renovate it. We would be stuck with shag rugs, avocado-colored refrigerators and Zenith tube radios – all old technology.

The fact that there were no jets in 1919 doesn't change the undeniable fact that people who move next to airports are taking a chance that it will be noisy (that, and that alone, is the basis of the "airport was here first" argument). It's the neighbors who want to return to the grass strip era and that just won't happen in this modern age. And it's not just jets that bother them; it's any plane.

What drives the "close the airport" group? Is it the belief that the government should solve everyone's problems? The complaining homeowners made what I feel is a problematic decision, that is, buying a house next to a busy airport. They are now looking for a bailout – they want the local or state governments or the FAA to close, or severely limit, the airport so that they don't have to take responsibility for their decision to move there. No one forced them to buy there, whenever they bought, even if it were before jets. I'd say the same thing if someone bought a house next to a major freeway like Interstate 10 or the 405 and then complained about freeway noise or freeway dirt blowing into his house.

Or is it just selfishness that drives the "close the airport" group? In a letter to the SMDP, one airport hater wants to ghetto-ize planes and pilots. He wants all light aircraft to be forced to re-locate to "rural" areas and all jets required to go to LAX (as if they aren't busy enough). Another correspondent wants to close the airport entirely. In his letter he praised the Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) that was in effect when President Obama came to L.A. It was quiet, he said, and he tried to justify it by saying that the TFR only affected a handful of local pilots and a few flight schools (quite wrong). Their livelihoods are obviously less important than his wish for a quiet patio (next to an airport). A third recent SMDP correspondent wants limits to SMO because he sometimes has to stop talking at dinner because of the noise.

What also bothers me is that none of these correspondents comments on his decision to move next to an airport. They evade this critical point. These folks want to limit the rights of many other Santa Monicans and other users of the airport so that their decision to live close to a busy (and inevitably noisy) airport will be turned to their benefit, i.e., the airport shut down or limited. That doesn't seem right to me and to many other Santa Monicans who want to use SMO as a local airport – like many other pilots, passengers and businesses have done since 1919.

Reynold Dacon
Santa Monica





The Soap Box

Bennet Kelley

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Taking on the GOP's fairy tale politics

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A king who promised to create 5.5 million new jobs by cutting taxes for the rich. Years passed and then Prince Boehner appeared in the Forest City and said that renewal of the tax cuts was required to have "real economic growth."

The growth Prince Boehner speaks of is a fairy tale as the Bush tax cuts yielded little more than half the number of jobs projected; something his audience was painfully aware of since Cleveland (nicknamed the "Forest City") has had double digit unemployment for 19 consecutive months.

Listening to Boehner and then seeing a clip of Paul Broun (R-GA) referring to the Civil War as the "Great War of Yankee Aggression," it struck me how increasingly being a Republican today means having not only a distinct political ideology but your own highly sanitized amusement park version of history.

For example, it means believing that we are a Christian nation despite the founders' clear intention to establish a separation of church and state and the express statement in a treaty signed by President Washington that we are not a Christian nation.

It means believing in the "War of Yankee Aggression" and other revisionist claims that the Civil War had nothing to do with slavery despite express statements in articles of secession to the contrary. With the Vietnam War it means believing that we could have won the war had the politicians let the generals win, but they never explain what winning is.

It means believing that the Roosevelt's New Deal failed and that it took World War II to get us out of the Great Depression. The reality, however, is that Roosevelt restored GDP to pre-Depression levels (in constant dollars) by the end of his first term.

It means believing that government spending on things such as infrastructure is wasteful spending and does not create jobs, when the Obama stimulus plan already has created more jobs than the Bush tax cuts and the GOP's own website lists the party's role in infrastructure projects such as the Trans-American Railway and the Interstate Highway System as major accomplishments. It also means believing that tax cuts pay for themselves since revenues went up under Reagan, when the reality is that the tax cuts caused huge deficits which forced Reagan to sign the biggest peacetime tax increase in history.

It means ignoring 32 national science academies and dismissing climate change as a theory, but I do not see any of them jumping out of windows because gravity is just a theory. Surprisingly, it also means claiming there were no domestic terrorist attacks during the Bush administration when Sept.11 was the sine qua non for many of the Bush policy initiatives from Iraq to torture.

The irony is that as they sleepwalk through history having embraced a cartoon version of America, they claim that only they are true Americans. Is this the result of a dumbing down of America or listening to Fox News and right wing talk radio? Or is this the inevitable result of Newt Gingrich's 1996 strategy memo "Language: A Key Mechanism of Control" in which soundbytes triumph over facts? Either way, there is a risk that such an extreme divergence in views could eventually cause a dangerous schism. In the short term, however, such "Fairy Tale Politics" impedes informed political debate over the direction of the nation.

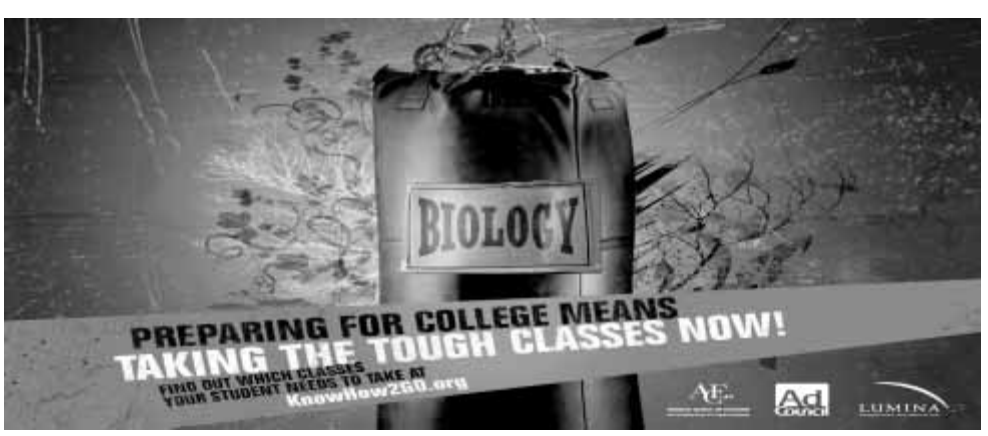
IN THIS MIDTERM ELECTION SEASON, VOTERS ARE RIGHTFULLY ANGRY ABOUT THE STATE OF OUR ECONOMY.

In this midterm election season, voters are rightfully angry about the state of our economy. They have endured high unemployment and lost one-fifth of their net worth (which for many will mean having to postpone college, starting a family or retirement and work extra years to recoup their losses) and want answers.

Yet Boehner only offered them fairy tales in pushing for the renewal of failed tax cuts while dismissing the extension of unemployment benefits (which according to Moody's generates $1.64 in economic activity for every dollar invested). When President Obama responded on Labor Day by following in the footsteps of President Eisenhower and offering a new infrastructure program to create jobs, Prince Boehner of Neverland ignored his party's own history and dismissed it is as "out of control spending" (and no doubt Tinkerbell will chime in to "refudiate it").

This is an important debate for the president to engage, since a recent CNN poll found that over half of Americans believed that Democrats are either responsible or equally responsible for the current state of the economy, yet the result flips when Presidents Obama and Bush are included in the question. Obama needs to combat the GOP's fairy tale politics so that voters understand how we got into this mess and that it simply is too risky to go back to Neverland.

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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll
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This message brought to you by no one you care about

IT WAS WITH A KEEN INTEREST THAT I SAT through the season premiere of "Mad Man" in July, which was presented with limited commercial interruption by BMW. Calculating how much BMW must have spent to be the sole sponsor of the Emmy Award-winning drama series required so much of my attention that I was barely able to focus on how the Drapers were faring following their quickie divorce at the end of season three.

After coming up with some rough numbers, I changed the channel, concluding it was inappropriate to continue watching a program made possible by The Ultimate Driving Machine knowing full well that I have The Ultimate I Could Give A Crap About What I Drive As Long As It Gets Me Safely From Point A To Point B parked outside, and that my next car will likely be a mini-van. I'm clearly not an audience member coveted by AMC and BMW.

At the same time, it's not clear exactly in whose audience I belong. I was channel surfing a few weeks ago when I paused to watch a Beyoncé concert on the Palladia channel. She and I rocked out together to "If I Were A Boy" and "You Outta Know" when a commercial came on for a telephone number featuring "Girls who just want to have fun with you right now."

I can't say for sure, but I'm pretty sure there wasn't a deliberate Cyndi Lauper reference in there, especially considering the amount of clothes worn by the ladies in the spot sewn together wouldn't have equaled half of one of the costumes worn by Cyndi Lauper in any of her 1980s-era videos. Besides, what's so important that these girls have to talk to me right now? Beyoncé's real fans must know the answer.

Magazine ads don't speak to me much more clearly. The only magazine to which I still subscribe is the kind that accuses a movie star of being pregnant if she had a second Arnold Palmer at lunch and is retaining an ounce and a half of water as a result. (I stopped getting "O, The Oprah Magazine" when the sight of the stack of unread issues piling up on my nightstand starting giving me agita. Like the Sunday edition of The New York Times, there was too much pressure to read it from cover to cover, get smarter, inspired, and be a better person.)

Once you pass through all the celebrity photos that make your wardrobe, jewelry, groceries, house, husband, kids and life seem particularly unglamorous and outdated, then flip past the fashion and beauty tips (where it details the mascara and toeless boots you can purchase that will hopefully make people think you could be the is-she-or-isn't-she-getting-married model-cum-actress du jour this weekend), but before you get to the D-List Personality Wardrobe Malfunction section, you'll stumble across the ads for the miracle weight loss supplements (that the fine print says only works with portion control and exercise, which is otherwise known as Weight Watchers) featuring such luminaries as the fifth lead in that straight-to-DVD B movie from nine years ago.

I'm pretty sure I'm also not the target demographic of the magazine ad starring a girl wearing a gel touch strapless push-up bra who's posing in a hot air balloon. Especially because the only time you'd find me in either — together or separately — will be in a nightmare about one or both.

Same thing goes for the ads with the solid sterling silver and crystal pendants featuring your choice of 24 breeds of dogs, the green M&M sneakers (with the sparkling green M&M charm on the laces that say, "I melt for no one"), the self-tanning towelettes, and the Booty Pop panties.

And I'm hopeful that anyone I know is also not in the magazine's demographic, because I don't want them responding to the "get your career diploma at home" ad. After all, who wants their car repaired or teeth cleaned by someone who learned the trade in their jammies?

Then there are the re-targeted and re-marketed Internet ads. I don't need to be reminded, for obvious reasons, that perhaps I was shopping for sensible shoes or Googling for information about the rash on my arm. It's just an ugly reminder that Big Brother has an evil twin cousin online who's as bad or worse than the mean girls in seventh grade.

Facebook seems to be a little more dialed-in with their ads, what with their offers of free Reese's Peanut Butter Cups and free money. I figure if I cash in on enough of the latter, just maybe I'll be worthy of watching "Mad Men" again at some point.

More at meredithcarroll.com.

The Q Line

Weird weather

We've been wondering lately why this summer has been so mild.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What do you make of the strange weather recently?

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



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Play Time

Cynthia Citron
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Still waiting for Lefty?

AS A PASSIONATE PIECE OF 20TH CENTURY history, it works. As a parable for the present day, not so much.

Clifford Odets' 1935 Depression-era play "Waiting for Lefty" is a rabble-rousing tirade against big business and its heavy-handed control of the "downtrodden masses." A situation that might resonate with Americans today, except for the out-of-date solution Odets offers: Russian-style socialism.

Nevertheless, Director Charlie Mount has assembled a truly committed and convincing ensemble — extraordinary actors, every one of them. They represent a branch of the taxi drivers' union, shouting their stories from the stage and from the audience. And the stories themselves are, sadly, relevant today.

A young couple (Heather Alyse Becker and Adam Conger) can't afford to get married. A charity patient dies during routine surgery. A man (Paul Gunning) is verbally attacked by his wife (Kristin Wiegand) for not standing up to his bosses. ("You are stalled like a flivver in the snow," she tells him.) A doctor with seniority (Elizabeth Bradshaw) is "down-sized" because she is a woman and a Jew. "You don't believe a theory until it happens to you," she says. And another man (Jason Galloway) is rudely turned away when applying for a job. He is comforted by a secretary (Sandra Tucker) who offers him a book that she suggests will help him. It is Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels' "Communist Manifesto."

The vignettes are gripping and filled with pathos and elicit an emotional response from the audience. As does Anthony Gruppuso, who plays Harry Fatt, the representative from Management. If anyone can steal this excellent show, Gruppuso does. He is a fireball, charging all over the stage, one moment cajoling, another shouting disputations, getting into a fistfight, and holding back the union's decision to strike. He is everywhere at once, and if the audience had been provided with eggs, he's the one they would have bombarded.

In another telling vignette, a worker in a chemical plant (Donald Moore) is offered a huge pay raise by his boss (Roger Cruz) to spy on a fellow scientist who is working on poison gas. True to Odets' socialist philosophy about the goodness of "the common man," the compromised worker refuses, even though it means he will lose his job.

Capitalism, the clash between the various classes, and the ever-present bigotry against immigrants and other outsiders, is what the play is all about. It was a dark time, the '30s, when up to 25 percent of the American work force was out of work. Almost makes the current recession, with just under 10 percent out of work, look easy. But unfortunately, the roots are pretty much the same.

And I think that's the point Director Mount is trying to make.

He does this on a nearly empty stage and a few wooden chairs put together by Set Designer Jeff Rack, and skuzzy outfits, including scuffed and battered shoes, as well as dramatic lighting designed by Yancey Dunham.

Just about the only things that don't work well are the great billows of mist that are extruded periodically onto the stage in an attempt to simulate a "smoke-filled" union hall. Since nobody on stage is ever seen smoking, the mist sort of misses the point.

But this is a small nitpick in a classic play about a time that older viewers will remember ruefully and younger people will learn about with astonishment and, perhaps, incredulity.

"Waiting for Lefty" will continue Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Oct. 10 at Theatre West, 3333 Cahuenga Blvd. West, in Los Angeles. Call (323) 851-7977 for tickets.

CYNTHIA CITRON can be reached at ccitron@socal.rr.com.

Lawsuit over Beyonce music video filming dismissed

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A Los Angeles man who sued Beyonce Knowles claiming a music video shoot "shattered" his privacy has dismissed the case.

A Los Angeles Superior Court judge dismissed Philip Markowitz's suit against the Grammy-winning singer on Friday. Court filings show Markowitz sought a dismissal of the case roughly three months after it was filed.

Markowitz had sued the singer, claiming that the all-day shooting of Knowles' video for "Why Don't You Love Me" disrupted his privacy in his Hollywood Hills neighborhood. The suit alleged that Markowitz's driveway was blocked and the video shoot lasted until 11 p.m.

He had been seeking more than $25,000 from Knowles, a liability company and a production coordinator. Court filings did not state whether a settlement had been reached.



A change in attitude without a change in latitude

BY CAROLE ORLIN
Special to the Daily Press

This is the time of staycations. Everyone is looking to cut back — yet still have the experience of being away. I've contemplated the idea of staycations at home, but camping in my backyard is out since I don't have a backyard. Setting up a tent in my living room just doesn't cut it, as I still see the stains on my rug and the wall that needs painting. Even my Margaritaville flip flops do not help. So I decided to try a short stay at a hotel close to home that can give me the change in attitude without the change in latitude.

I looked around for a place that is more than just a nice room and big bathtub. I wanted to find a place that would give me the feeling of being far away. I found one in Torrance, (yes, Torrance!) which is just 29 minutes away. The Miyako Hybrid Hotel is right in the heart of Torrance and serves mostly Japanese business people visiting the corporate headquarters of Toyota and Honda. At first glance, it did not seem like this hotel would fit the bill, as I am not a Japanese businesswoman, but after reading about it, it seemed somewhat intriguing.

As we entered the Torrance business district, I was a little worried about my choice. However, my fears quickly turned out to be unfounded. The beautiful Miyako Hybid Hotel, which was built only eight months ago, shone like a beacon in the night. Once you enter the hotel, it is like you stepped into Japan minus the jet lag. It is decorated in traditional elegant Japanese minimalist style, and the modern rooms are set up with Japanese-type showers and deep soaking tubs, Japanese-style oversized beds with down comforters, but with a nod to westerners: with hi-def 46-inch LCD screen TVs and wireless Internet access. The hotel is eco-friendly and LEED certified. Even the water bottles that are supplied in each room are plant based, not plastic!

IF YOU GO

Miyako Hybrid Hotel
21381 S. Western Avenue
Torrance, Calif., 90501
(310) 212-5111
www.miyakohybridhotel.com.

I loved the room, but the next stop was what really sold me. The Relaken Day Spa offers all types of body treatments including Japanese, Thai and Balinese along, with the more traditional Swedish and deep tissue massages. I had the Ganbanyoku (bedrock bath), which is their signature treatment. Gabanyoku originated in Thailand and is gaining popularity all over the world! I found myself in a sauna/steam room lying on a large smooth rock imported from the mountains of Kyushi, Japan. The stone is said to give off infrared rays, negative ions and minerals used for circulation, detoxification, relaxation and healing. All I know is that I felt amazingly relaxed and renewed after the one hour session, and it was a bargain at only $45.

After the treatment, despite being totally zoned, I managed to get myself to the hotel's Gonpachi restaurant for a delicious dinner of Japanese California fusion cuisine. The restaurant is elegant without being stuffy, and the food was great with the presentation being the jewel in the crown. All the details that went in to the presentation made the dinner an event, instead of just a meal. Definitely two thumbs up!



Photo courtesy Koji Nakayama

A NICE PLACE TO RECHARGE: **Miyako Hybrid Hotel in Torrance, Calif. combines Japanese tradition with sustainable features for an eco-friendly stay.**

Although we stayed over, the spa and restaurant are open to the public, and they also offer spa packages at a reasonable price so you can make this a day trip and still be home in time to walk Cody. This was the first stop on my staycation odyssey, and it was so much more than I had expected from something so close to home. I plan on keeping you apprised of my new local discoveries. Staycations rock!

CAROLE can be reached at carolesorlin@yahoo.com.

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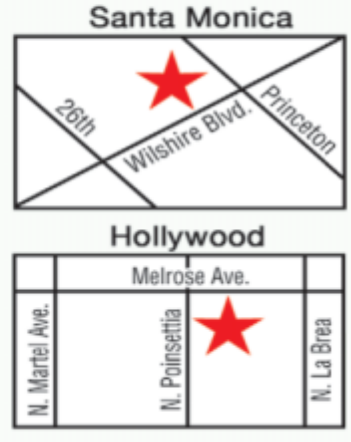


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CLASSES
FROM PAGE 1

would earn less — $50 per hour instead of $57 per hour — Shimizu said, and would lose eligibility for health insurance coverage offered to members of the faculty union.

Pat Akers, a tai chi instructor at Emeritus, on Wednesday said she could accept the pay cut in order to continue teaching Santa Monica seniors.

"No one likes to make less money, but I have a commitment to the students, and so if it means me taking a little less on the salary, then I'm OK," she said.

Olivia Regalado, who teaches body movement and joint maneuver classes at the college, though, said she would "fight with everything in my being" to prevent the compensation cuts, which she said would "open the doors for substandard teachers" to come into the program.

She also said she was disappointed the SMC administration hadn't held meetings with instructors to explain the funding situation.

"The great lack of communication has been a great stress among all of the teachers," she said. "There has been no clarity whatsoever."

Gloria Albert, who teaches health and exercise classes at Emeritus, echoed that sentiment: "We're talking about our jobs and our livelihoods and our medical insurance and we don't know what's going on. There have been no meetings with the teachers."

Prompted in part by fear the college was planning to cancel the exercise classes, an overflow crowd of seniors showed up at an SMC Board of Trustees meeting Tuesday night.

John Forster, 72, who for three years has been a student in a joint maneuvering class, told the board the exercise program has both physical and psychological benefits.

"We've become a family," he said of his classmates in the twice-weekly sessions. "It's quite vigorous and I find that after a couple weeks of [class meetings] my joints ache less."

Raymonde Cenzano, another Emeritus student, said it was unfair that exercise classes were being targeted at the Emeritus college. They're just as important as other offerings, she said.

"What people don't always fully realize, because they're much younger, is that the metabolism slows down, so exercise is really important — it makes all the different in the world," she said.

The issue of Emeritus college exercise classes was not on the agenda and so was not discussed by board members on Tuesday. Shimizu said he expects to update the board on the situation next month.

> **"THE GREAT LACK OF COMMUNICATION HAS BEEN A GREAT STRESS AMONG ALL OF THE TEACHERS. THERE HAS BEEN NO CLARITY WHATSOEVER."**
>
> **Olivia Regalado,**
> Emeritus College instructor

Reached on Wednesday, SMC Board of Trustees member Rob Rader noted that the college is facing a $6 million operating deficit in the budget it adopted on Tuesday and has been forced to cut classes campus wide, resulting in long wait lists for students. Half of the campus's offerings for winter inter-session classes have been cut.

Rader said he believes the college will reach a solution to prevent cancellation of Emeritus exercise classes, but said it will have to be a compromise.

"Everybody has to accept that nothing will look exactly as it did," he said. "I think there's a way to save substantially everything in some fashion, but we all need to pull together and work together."

Meanwhile, there are a couple of other strategies for preventing cuts to class offerings at Emeritus under discussion.

Shimizu said the curriculums of all 38 affected classes will be reviewed to see if the courses could be re-designated as health courses, rather than as physical fitness courses — a distinction that would make them eligible for state reimbursement.

Re-designation decisions must be made by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

There's also a plan to ask City Hall to chip in to fund the 38 courses, which cost about $91,000 per semester in teacher salaries, Shimizu said.

"We're hoping that they would partner with us in offering some of these classes," he said.

nickt@smdp.com







Court won't order California to defend Proposition 8

LISA LEFF
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO California's highest court on Wednesday refused to order Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and the state's attorney general to appeal a federal ruling that overturned the state's gay marriage ban.

The state Supreme Court denied a conservative legal group's request to force the state officials to defend the voter-approved ban.

The court did not explain why it rejected the emergency petition filed by the Pacific Justice Institute. The institute had argued that the attorney general and governor were required to uphold all laws, including initiatives passed by voters.

Earlier Wednesday, lawyers for Attorney General Jerry Brown and Schwarzenegger filed letters with the court maintaining state officers have authority to choose which laws they challenge or defend in court.

"The governor, like any litigant, has complete discretion over his own litigation strategy, including whether or not to appeal an order," counsel Andrew Stroud wrote for Schwarzenegger. "Here, the governor exercised his discretion and decided not to file an appeal."

Both men have declined to appeal Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker's Aug. 4 ruling that found the ban, known as Proposition 8, violated gay Californians' civil rights.

The measure approved by 52 percent of California voters in November 2008 had amended the state Constitution to outlaw same-sex unions five months after the state Supreme Court legalized them.

Schwarzenegger, who has been under pressure from fellow Republicans to appeal Walker's decision, has said he supports the judge's verdict. Brown, who is the Democratic nominee to succeed Schwarzenegger as governor, has said he cannot defend Proposition 8 because he agrees it is unconstitutional.

"Although it is not every day that the attorney general declines to defend a state law, the state Constitution or an initiative, he may do so because his oath requires him (to) support the United States Constitution as the supreme law of the law," Deputy Attorney General Tamar Pachter wrote on Brown's behalf Wednesday.

The coalition of conservative and religious groups that sponsored Proposition 8 has appealed Walker's ruling to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. But doubts have been raised about whether its members have authority to do so because as ordinary citizens, they are not responsible for enforcing marriage laws.

The 9th Circuit has said that is one of the issues it will take up when it hears oral arguments in early December.

If the federal appeals court dismisses the appeal because the ban's proponents lack legal standing, Walker's ruling would become final unless the U.S. Supreme Court agrees to take up the case.

If the high court refuses to intervene, gay couples would be able to marry in California again.

CHP says vehicle thefts are down

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO The California Highway Patrol says vehicle thefts in the state are down for the fourth consecutive year.

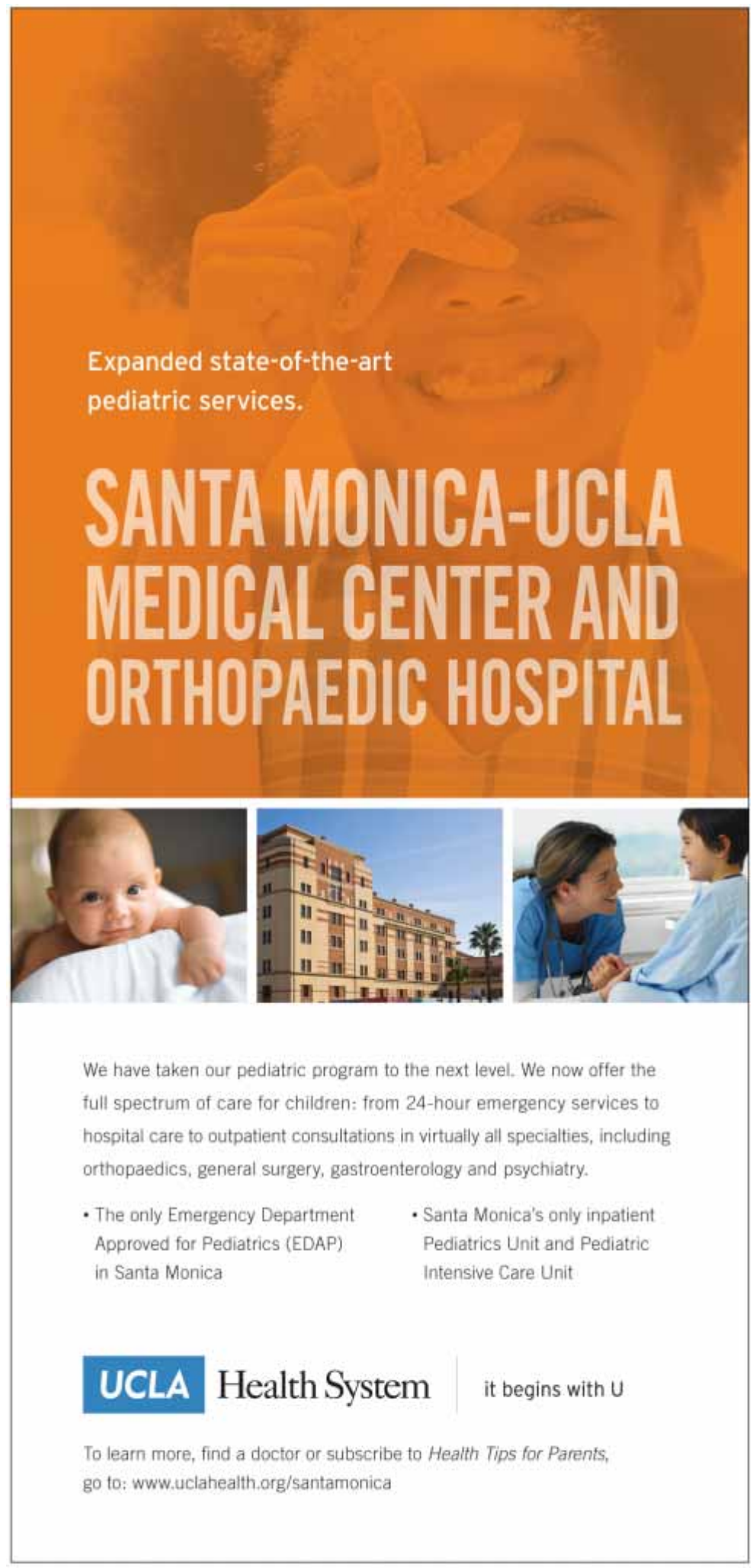
The agency said Wednesday that vehicle thefts in California dropped 15 percent from 2008 to 2009. Of the vehicles reported stolen last year, more than 88 percent were recovered.

Southern California is a hot spot for vehicle theft. The agency says approximately 53 percent of all thefts in 2009 occurred in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties. But San Diego County had the largest drop in thefts, down 30 percent in 2009 from the year before.

CHP Commissioner Joe Farrow said in a statement that since 2005, the state has seen a 35 percent reduction in stolen vehicles.

The drop is attributed to a combination of education, technology and tougher enforcement.







Stocks resume rally as European debt worries ease

STEPHEN BERNARD
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Stocks resumed their rally Wednesday after a successful auction of Portuguese government debt eased worries about Europe's financial system.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 46 points, and broader indexes also rose. European markets reversed their losses after the results of the auction were announced.

Major indexes pulled back from their highs in the afternoon after the Federal Reserve said more regions of the country saw slower growth late in the summer. The Fed's "beige book" report on regional economic activity showed five of the 12 regions tracked by the Fed showed mixed or slowing activity compared with just two during the most recent report in July.

JPMorgan Chase & Co. and other banks led the market higher, reversing a downturn from the day before. Stocks had fallen on Tuesday, breaking a four-day winning streak, following news reports that European banks held larger amounts of risky government debt on their books than had previously been disclosed.

Energy stocks rose after Fitch Ratings raised its credit rating of BP. BP also released an internal report that largely spread blame from the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico to rig owner Transocean Ltd. and contractor Halliburton Co. as well as itself.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 46.32, or 0.5 percent, to close at 10,387.01. The Dow had been up as much as 86 points earlier in the day before paring those gains after the Fed's regional economic report came out.

The S&P 500 index rose 7.03 or 0.6 percent, to 1,098.87, while the Nasdaq rose 19.98, or 0.9 percent, to 2,228.87

The two-day swing based on the ebb and flow of European debt fears fit into a pattern of jittery trading in recent weeks in response to economic news.

"There seems to be a fixation on the latest news and data," said Mike McGervey, president of McGervey Wealth Management. Mixed economic news has helped keep stocks stuck in a tight range in recent weeks.

European markets rose. Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.4 percent, Germany's DAX index gained 0.8 percent, and France's CAC-40 rose 0.9 percent.

About two stocks rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange, where consolidated volume was low at 3.3 billion shares.

Volume remains very thin, which means many traders are avoiding stocks altogether. Many investors are waiting to get a better sense of the pace of recovery and to see what might happen during November's elections.

Rick Fier, an equities trader at Conifer Securities, said the elections more than the economy are likely to be the catalyst that moves the market higher in the coming months. Traders are assuming that the recovery will be slow and uneven, but growth will remain in place over the next few months, he said.

Uncertainty about potential tax increases and the costs associated with health care and financial regulatory reform have helped to keep businesses from hiring, which in turn has slowed the recovery. The results of the elections should provide businesses and investors with a clearer sense of those issues.

In corporate news, women's clothing retailer Talbots Inc. said its fiscal second quarter profit rose, but its outlook for the third quarter fell short of expectations. Shares dropped 14 cents to $10.97 on the cautious outlook.

BP shares rose $1.18, or 3.2 percent, to $38.37. Halliburton rose 37 cents to $30.21. JPMorgan Chase rose 86 cents, or 2.3 percent, to $39.14.

Treasury prices bounced off their lows after an auction for 10-year notes was well received by investors. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 2.66 percent from 2.60 percent late Tuesday. Its yield helps set interest rates on mortgages and other loans.

Have it your way at New York City burger eatery

ARIAN SMEDLEY
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK Ever chow down at a restaurant and think, "I could do better"? A new burger joint is giving you the chance to prove it.

At 4food, a recently opened burger shop in Manhattan, you're not restricted to the menu on the digital screen. Customers are encouraged to mix and match ingredients, actually add their creations to the menu, then share them with friends on social networks like Facebook and Twitter.

What's the incentive, you ask, other than the satisfaction of (maybe) watching your culinary creation be devoured by the masses? If someone orders your dish, you get a 25-cent credit.

And you can build your better burger online or onsite.

In the store, you can be guided by a staffer, called a hawker because they "swoop in and help when needed," said one. Or, you can go at your own pace on one of the bolted-down iPads. When you get to your table, you can continue dreaming up great creations — there's free Wi-Fi for browsing the Web while eating. You also also see Foursquare check-ins and tweets about the experience on their 240-square-foot LED monitor, if that's your thing.

And if it's all just too confusing, prebuilt burgers also are available.

Adam Kidrom, the man behind 4food, says his goal was simply to provide fast, nutritious, customizable foods made of all-natural, local ingredients.

But sorry, no French fries.

Something else that may jar the average customer — the burger patties have holes in the center. That's right, they look like beef doughnuts.

The cooks fill that hole with the customer's choice of 25 different mixtures called VeggieScoops, such as avocado chili mango or edamame with sea salt.

The scoop "transforms the taste and nutritional profile of the burger," said Kidron.

They call it the (W)holeBurger. Get it?

Kidron doesn't like the way the average fast food burger ends up overcooked to make sure it is safe to eat. So after considering the barbecue trick of indenting the middle of a burger patty to help it cook more evenly, he decided to try removing the center entirely. From there, it was an easy leap to fill the hole with something delicious.

"It was absolutely scrumptious," he said. "And everything led from that."

Kidron says the benefits of their social networking presence go both ways. Offering in-store credit and giving away food to Facebook and Twitter followers will create loyal customers. It's also made news of the restaurant go viral even before the grand opening. So far, they've gained over 3,000 followers on Facebook and Twitter combined.

"We have not spent one cent on advertising," said Kidron. "If a customer sells one burger, that's money we can put into ingredients, making a better burger and keeping the price down."

Customized burgers start at $6. A meal, which includes a burger, side and their own cold tea blend, is $12.

But how does it taste?

Early reviews have been positive. In the days before its grand opening, locals and passers-by got a sneak peak during the soft launch.

"You can tell a lot of love went into the burger," said David Schlosser, 34, a chef from Los Angeles in town on business who heard about 4food from a friend. He ordered the Somos Americans, a beef patty with chipotle hominy, manchego cheese and guacamole on a multigrain bun. "It just tastes better and fresher. But I'm not sure how I feel about the Square Roots. It's hard to recreate the fry."





BP takes partial blame for Gulf spill

DINA CAPPIELLO & HARRY R. WEBER & MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press Writers

NEW ORLEANS BP took some of the blame for the Gulf oil disaster in an internal report issued Wednesday, acknowledging among other things that it misinterpreted a key pressure test of the well. But in a possible preview of its legal strategy, it also pointed the finger at its partners on the doomed rig.

The highly technical, 193-page report attributes the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history and the rig explosion that set it off to a complex chain of failures both human and mechanical. Some of those problems have been made public over the past 4? months, such as the failure of the blowout preventer to clamp the well shut.

The report is far from the definitive ruling on the cause of the catastrophe. For one thing, government investigators have not yet begun to fully analyze the blowout preventer, which was raised from the bottom of the sea over Labor Day weekend.

But it provides an early look at the company's probable legal strategy — spreading the blame among itself, rig owner Transocean, and cement contractor Halliburton — as it deals with hundreds of lawsuits, billions of dollars in claims and possible criminal charges in the coming months and years.

Critics of BP called the report self-serving.

"This report is not BP's mea culpa," said Rep. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass., a member of a congressional panel investigating the spill. "Of their own eight key findings, they only explicitly take responsibility for half of one. BP is happy to slice up blame as long as they get the smallest piece."

The report's conclusions stand in contrast to a widely seen BP ad campaign in which the company casts no blame for the explosion and vows to clean up and restore the Gulf Coast.

"BP blaming others for the Gulf oil disaster is like Bernie Madoff blaming his accountant," said Robert Gordon, an attorney for fishermen, hotels and restaurants affected by the spill. Another plaintiff's lawyer, W. Mark Lanier, scoffed: "This is like the ringleader of a lynch mob saying, 'Well, I didn't bring the rope; he did.'"

The disaster began when the Deepwater Horizon exploded off the coast of Louisiana on April 20, killing 11 workers. BP's well spewed more than 200 million gallons of oil into the Gulf before a temporary cap stopped it in mid-July.

Members of Congress, industry experts and workers who survived the blast have accused BP's engineers of cutting corners to save time and money on a project that was 43 days and more than $20 million behind schedule at the time of the blast.

Nearly 24 hours before the explosion, Halliburton was using cement to seal the gap between the well casing and the hole drilled in the seafloor. It was also cementing the bottom of the well shut until the day BP was ready to begin extracting oil and gas from it.

In its report, BP said that it was a bad cementing job that contributed to the blowout and that the design of the well was probably not to blame. It also said "more thorough review and testing by Halliburton" and "stronger quality assurance" by BP's well team might have identified weaknesses in the plan for cementing.

The report acknowledged, as investigators have previously suggested, that BP's engineers and employees of Transocean misinterpreted a pressure test of the well's integrity before the explosion.

"The Transocean rig crew and BP well site leaders reached the incorrect view that the test was successful and that well integrity had been established," the investigators said.

They also blamed employees on the rig from both companies for failing to respond to other warning signs that the well was in danger of blowing out.

The words "blame" and "mistake" never appear in the report. "Fault" shows up 20 times, but only once in the same sentence as the company's name.

"The team did not identify any single action or inaction that caused this accident," the investigators said. "Rather, a complex and interlinked series of mechanical failures, human judgments, engineering design, operational implementation and team interfaces came together to allow the initiation and escalation of the accident. Multiple companies, work teams and circumstances were involved over time."

Mark Bly, who as BP's safety chief led the internal investigation, said the report was a reconstruction of what happened on the rig based on the company's data and interviews with mostly BP employees and was not meant to focus on assigning blame. The six-person investigating panel had access to only a few workers from other companies, and samples of the actual cement used in the well were not released to BP.

Transocean blasted the report as a self-serving attempt to conceal what it called the real cause of the explosion — "BP's fatally flawed well design."

Halliburton said it found a number of omissions and inaccuracies in the report and is confident the work it completed on the well met BP's specifications. "Contractors do not specify well design or make decisions regarding testing procedures as that responsibility lies with the well owner," the company said.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs noted "there is an active investigation into what went wrong" and said the administration's job is to find out what happened and hold those responsible accountable. Federal prosecutors are among those investigating.

In Wednesday trading in New York, BP stock rose $1.18, or 3.2 percent, to close at $38.37.

Investigators know the explosion was triggered by a bubble of methane gas that shot up the drill column and ignited. But they don't know exactly how and why the gas escaped. And they don't know for certain why the blowout preventer didn't work.

But in its report, BP said the blowout preventer didn't do its job because it was damaged in the explosion and because it had a bad valve and weak batteries. Transocean, which was responsible for maintaining the blowout preventer, has insisted the batteries were in working order.

BP also reported:

• Its use of six centralizers during the cementing, instead of the 21 recommended by Halliburton, probably did not contribute to the cement's failure. Centralizers make sure the casing is running down the center of the well bore. If the casing is cemented off-center, there is a risk of an imperfect seal that could allow oil and gas to escape.

• Just before the blast, the flammable gas leaking from the well was directed onto the rig instead of being vented overboard. The rig's ventilation system may have allowed the gas to enter the engine rooms, where it may have ignited.

• Recommendations should be considered to improve offshore drilling practices. It suggested, among other things, that standards for reporting and investigating incidents be clarified and strengthened.

Separately on Wednesday, the Obama administration said it sent a sixth bill, for $128.5 million, to BP and others for costs associated with the spill. The first five bills, totaling $389.9 million, have been paid in full by BP, the government said.

The disaster has already cost BP roughly $8 billion, not including a $20 billion victims' compensation fund it has agreed to set up.

Lustful Court residents want less racy name

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MACON, Ga. Some residents of Lustful Court in a central Georgia community say they're tired of being kidded and want the street's sin-friendly name changed.

Bibb County Commissioner Lonzy Edwards brought up a possible name change Tuesday after receiving complaints.

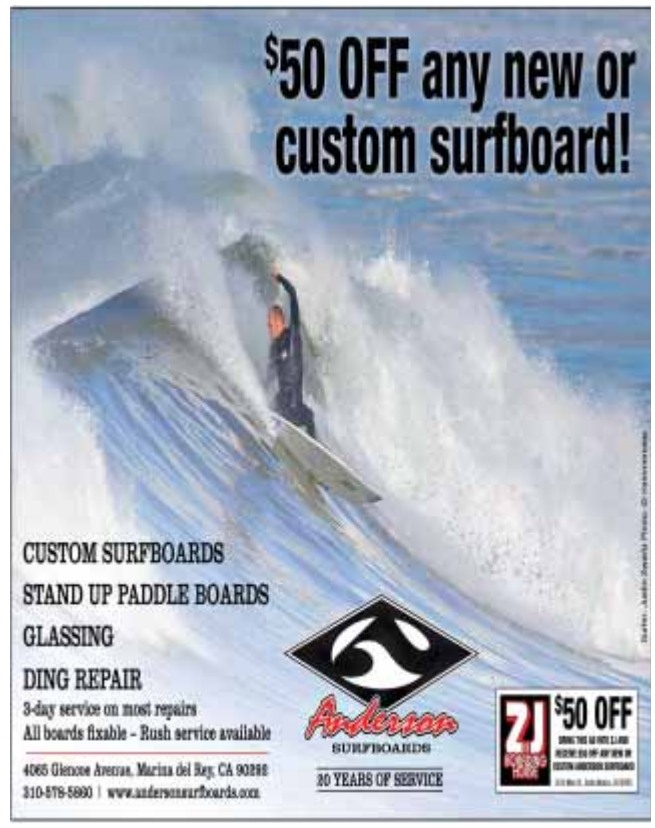
Lustful Court resident Michelle Washington says the name sparks laughter and confusion when she tells people where she lives.

Yoshonda Patterson says she thinks the name gives people the wrong idea about the neighborhood on the east side of Macon.

After listening to residents, commissioners decided they'll consider the change if neighbors start a petition.

The street is in a subdivision and no one could recall where the name originated.

Macon is about 90 miles south of Atlanta.







SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 64°

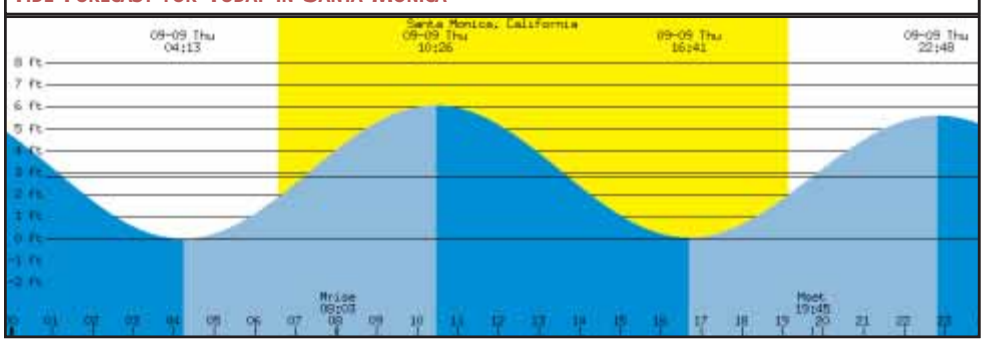
Swell Forecast

Looks rather small: knee high most everywhere.

Long Range Synopsis

Looks smaller.

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 30 days up to the ending date of **September 1, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 0
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 45 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 2 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Groetzbeck Family Foundation, simplehuman, SIMA, Carlson Family Foundation, Inc.

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
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechasa and Las Alisos 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 Blacker County Beach.	A	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	D	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 (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	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.	D	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.	A	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.	A	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

USC works on shaky defense

GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES Monte Kiffin has been coaching long enough to know he probably deserved a tongue-lashing from his boss when his Southern California defense gave up 588 yards and 36 points to Hawaii in his first game.

Because the USC defensive coordinator's boss is his 35-year-old son, the Kiffins mostly decided to skip the fireworks and move straight to fixing the 16th-ranked Trojans' problems before Saturday's home opener against Virginia.

"He was my (son) before the game," Monte Kiffin said with a laugh. "After the game, he was the head coach. ... We need to hurry up, though. When you come in, any time you're new, it's going to be different."

Different wasn't better for the Trojans in their first game since Pete Carroll's defense was replaced by the schemes of Kiffin, the architect of countless standout defenses and Tony Dungy's famed Tampa 2 coverage.

USC simply couldn't slow down the Warriors in Kiffin's first game in charge of a unit that lost key depth to NCAA sanctions, giving up the most points by an opponent in a USC opener since 1976. Although the Trojans' offense and special teams salvaged a victory, Kiffin already is making lineup changes to fill holes in his scheme — and his boss is watching.

"He has very high standards for himself and our defensive unit," head coach Lane Kiffin said. "He's going back to work. He's been at it a long time."

Monte Kiffin shuffled his defensive line Tuesday night in the Trojans' first practice in five days, moving defensive end Armond Armstead back to tackle and shifting Jurrell Casey to nose tackle. Talented sophomore Nick Perry, who missed the opener with a sprained ankle, and Wes Horton lined up on the ends of the defensive line, with starting nose tackle DaJohn Harris moving back to the second team.

None of it will matter if the Trojans can't tackle, which they failed to do with alarming frequency in Honolulu. Yet Lane Kiffin insists the Trojans won't do any extra work on the defense's most fundamental skill: With an already thin depth chart, USC simply can't afford to risk any injuries in practice.

The Trojans did very little hitting during training camp, and they don't have plans for full contact in practice any time soon.

"It's not the best scenario," Lane Kiffin said. "We wish we could have tackled all the way through camp, but we need to be smart and manage our team so we can stay healthy, which is more important. It's a long season. Even though we had some issues tackling, I like when we look at our injury report this week and see almost all of our front-line guys will be available for our home opener."

The players solidly back the strategy, uniformly saying they haven't forgotten how to tackle after just a month with little practice at it. Armstead was among several players who cited Hawaii's high-octane offense for most of USC's troubles, saying the matchup was a brutal way to start a new defense.

"I thought we did all right, but the quarterback was getting the ball out quick," Armstead said. "We did what we could, but it's hard. All we have to do is keep rushing the passer, and the secondary is going to improve. Everything will improve."

USC's defense was the bedrock of its run to seven straight Pac-10 titles and two national championships during the past decade, but much of that mystique evaporated last year.

The Trojans endured humiliating losses to Oregon (47-20) and Stanford (55-21) — both setting a record for the worst loss in Carroll's tenure. The Cardinal's blowout win at the Coliseum was USC's worst since 1966.

Still, few doubt the overall talent level of the Trojans, whose conveyor belt of elite recruits has only been slowed by NCAA scholarship restrictions.

Monte Kiffin can teach the Tampa 2, but he can't teach experience to a lineup dotted with underclassmen, including sophomore starting safeties Jawanza Starling and T.J. McDonald. Freshman cornerback Nickell Robey was involved in a jaw-dropping 95 plays in his first game, a number Kiffin promises will go down.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Piranha 3D (NR) 1hr 29min
12:15pm, 2:35pm, 5:10pm, 7:35pm, 10:00pm

Dinner for Schmucks (PG-13) 1hr 50min
1:15pm, 4:15pm, 7:05pm, 9:45pm

Nanny McPhee Returns (PG) 1hr 40min
11:00am, 1:30pm, 4:00pm, 6:30pm, 9:10pm

The Kids Are All Right (R) 1hr 44min
2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

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

Eat Pray Love (PG-13) 2hrs 13min
12:10pm, 3:10pm, 6:15pm, 9:20pm

Takers (PG-13) 1hr 47min
1:50pm, 4:35pm, 7:15pm, 9:50pm

Inception (PG-13) 2hrs 28min
12:00pm, 3:15pm, 6:30pm, 9:45pm

Going the Distance (R) 1hr 37min
12:00pm, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:40pm, 10:15pm

Switch (PG-13) 1hr 40min
1:45pm, 4:25pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

American (R)
2:05pm, 4:50pm, 7:35pm, 10:10pm

Scott Pilgrim vs. the World (PG-13) 1hr 53min
2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

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

Highwater (NR) 1hr 40min
1:00pm, 3:10pm, 5:20pm, 7:45pm, 10:15pm

Cairo Time (PG) 1hr 28min
3:20pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

Get Low (PG-13) 1hr 40min
1:30pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

The Concert (Le concert) (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:50pm

A Film Unfinished (R) 1hr 28min
1:00pm, 5:40pm

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

Salt (PG-13) 1hr 39min
12:00pm, 2:35pm, 5:10pm, 7:45pm, 10:25pm

Expendables (R) 1hr 43min
2:10pm, 4:50pm, 7:25pm, 10:05pm

Other Guys (PG-13) 1hr 47min
1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:15pm

Machete (NR)
11:45am, 2:20pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

Last Exorcism (PG-13) 1hr 40min
12:15pm, 2:45pm, 5:30pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

Avatar: Special Edition 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 40min
11:30am, 3:00pm, 6:30pm, 10:00pm

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

Relax, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You might wake up on the wrong side of the bed, but by late morning, you will have regained your sea legs. Pressure builds around your performance and direction. Fatigue floats through midday. If you cannot take a power nap, opt for a brisk walk. Tonight: Go with another person's ideas.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Weigh the pros and cons of a risk. If you keep thinking, you might not be all that happy about the option. A boss or older relative adds some confusion into the mix. Your sense of organization comes out. Tonight: Choose something relaxing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You might have a difficult time getting started, but once you get going, you renew. A partner could be testy and difficult. Don't go into open combat! Be more creative with your thinking, and bypass others' resistances. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ You might have a lot going on this morning. Your instinct might be to play the recluse, despite the impact. Pressure builds on the home front. Deal with issues directly with the party involved. You cannot keep a secret much longer! Tonight: Head home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Be aware of the costs of doing something differently. You might change your mind, as a mini-revolution rises around you. A stern approach might be necessary. Others inspire a change of pace and perhaps a more cerebral approach. Tonight: Hang with others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ After recent events, wind down and look at the costs of behaving in a certain manner. You could be very tired and drawn from a financial problem. Get past rigid thinking, and you'll find an answer. Tonight: Stop and meet a friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You could rain on your own parade of you're not careful. You are hardest on yourself. Turmoil appears where you least want it. Let it go rather than worry. It might transform itself. Tonight: Get into the weekend spirit early.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Take a backseat, knowing other people can handle any problem that might turn up. Avoid spending too much time alone, as you could become depressed. You need the company of a trusted friend. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Emphasize the positives of a friendship. This person could be older or a friend of many, many years. Sometimes you might be annoyed with the innate demands of this friendship, but it is worth it. Tap into your sixth sense if you think someone isn't telling you the full story. Tonight: Where you want to be, with the person you want to be with.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Take a stand with a boss who could be tough, rigid and somehow limiting. Be ready for a strong discussion. Though you might be irritated, you gain an understanding of why this person has made the choices that he or she has made. Tonight: Working to the wee hours.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Sometimes you limit your perspective and view without intending to. What could be a near argument might open up new ideas and allow you to gain a better perspective. Remember to ask others to play devil's advocate sometimes. Tonight: The world can be your oyster, if you want.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Pace yourself and understand what is happening behind the scenes. How you handle a difficult meeting or associate might be more important than you realize. Your instincts guide you within an agreement and a partnership. Tonight: Follow a partner's lead.

Happy birthday

This year, unprecedented creativity emerges from you. What would be the most appropriate manner in which to use this unusual energy? You will want to take a strong stand with finances, and not take unusual risks in this realm. Your professional status could be enhanced with perhaps a seminar or an image and/or resume change. Be open. If you are single, romance always is on the horizon. Will it be with the same person? If you are attached, avoid getting into hassles over little issues. You could have an unusually intense and romantic year. LIBRA encourages you to enjoy life more.

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

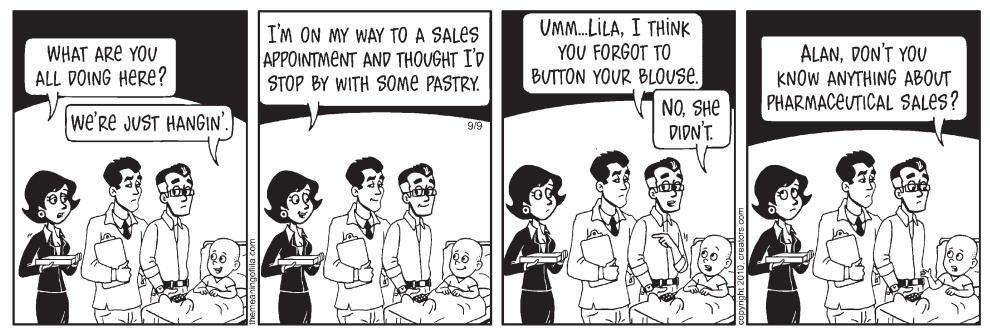
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



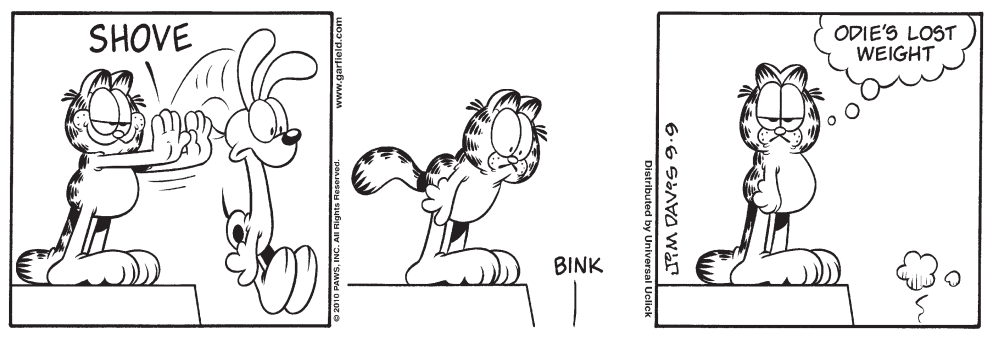
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield

By Jim Davis



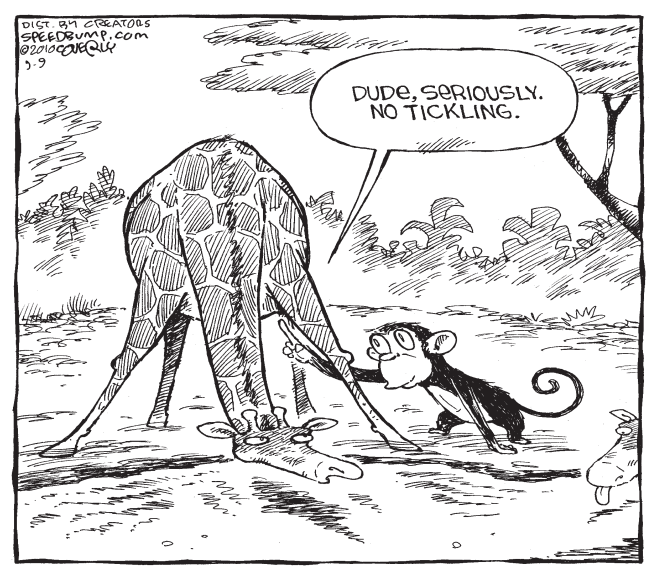
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly





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 ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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





MYSTERY PHOTO

Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II *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*. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Grade
5 Lowlife
10 Notorious czar
11 Small shake
12 Volcano shape
13 Energetic
14 Brad's partner
16 California island
20 Diamond stats
23 Veto
24 Complains
25 Joust need
27 Yale student
28 Gingerbread eater
29 Pasta basis
32 Short composition
36 Rich backer
39 Skunk weapon
40 Globe features
41 Simple
42 Bike parts
43 Thanksgiving dish

DOWN

1 Layered mineral
2 Stratford's river
3 Chimed
4 Patella
5 Panda's home
6 Competitor
7 Genesis name
8 Long swimmer
9 Be a snoop
11 Narrow cuts
15 Back muscles, for short
17 Hostels
18 Pleasant
19 Skating jump
20 Top pilots
21 Yarn
22 Derby part
25 Turner of film
26 Art-school class
28 Pointers
30 TV grouch
31 Bank offerings
33 Creative germ
34 Standard
35 God of war
36 Sailing hazard
37 Good serve
38 Assam export

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

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					■	■	43			

9-9

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 8 18 22 24 38
Meganumber: 23
Jackpot: $34M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 12 15 21 30 45
Meganumber: 23
Jackpot: $13M

Fantasy 5: 9 16 29 37 38

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 3 2 2
EVENING: 9 2 3

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1.47.66

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

■ The most recent instance of the cardinal sin of the jailing profession occurred in a Minneapolis lockup in May, when a witness in an active murder case was arrested, probably on an unrelated charge, but placed in the same cell as the murder suspect, Jonathan "Thirsty" Turner, who knew that the witness had already given a statement against him. The witness was badly beaten, but jailers were not certain enough that Turner did it to file charges.

■ The Animal Planet channel, perhaps hard-pressed for new series ideas, has reportedly ordered "The Skunk Whisperer" into production, but there remain multi-use whisperers who claim they can talk to and analyze all critters, with New Zealand's Faye Rogers the latest to draw attention (and she singled out her ability with "worms"). All beings, she said, are "connected by a higher consciousness," allowing, for example, traveling birds to pass on important "international information" to fish. She disputed a notion spread by "horse whisperer" Bill Northern that cats are "wily" -- explaining that cats merely appear wily because they prefer to be asked specific questions rather than generalities. In an August interview with the Christchurch Press, she referred to "clients," indicating that at least some people pay the $65 (N.Z.; $45 U.S.) an hour for her services.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1739 Stono Rebellion, the largest slave uprising in Britain's mainland North American colonies prior to the American Revolution, erupts near Charleston, South Carolina.

1776 The Continental Congress officially names its new union of sovereign states the United States.

1791 Washington, D.C., the capital of the U.S., is named after President George Washington.

1801 Alexander I of Russia confirms the privileges of Baltic provinces.

1850 The Compromise of 1850 strips Texas of a third of its claimed territory (now parts of Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Wyoming) in return for the U.S. federal government assuming $10 million of Texas's pre-annexation debt.

WORD UP!

gerrymander \ JER-i-man-der \ , verb;

1. The dividing of a state, county, etc., into election districts so as to give one political party a majority in many districts while concentrating the voting strength of the other party into as few districts as possible.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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For Sale

MARKET & BISTRO
Beach View in Santa Monica
ABC B/W license
Kitchen and equipment
Low rent
Amazing Deal
$115k
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MOVING SALE

Items include couch, chair, ottoman, entertainment center, kitchen table, coffee table, lamps, night stands, kitchen wares, etc!
All must go!!!
For info and pictures go to http://conniemovingsale.blogspot.com/ or email csommerville@gmail.com

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Mar Vista $1895.00 2Bdrms, 2 Baths w.loft, No pets, Stove, Refrig, Dshwshr, Parking, 4077 Inglewood Blvd., # 7, Open daily 9am-7pm. Additional info in Unit.

MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. gated parking, intercom entry, stove, fridge, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. $1000 and up $750 off move-in (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

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For Rent

MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. #113 Single, gated parking, intercom entry, stove, fridge, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. $875, $500 off move-in (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA: 12434 CULVER Blvd. unit 6 2+2 stove, fridge, AC, carpets blinds, laundry room, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets.$1350/mo $1000 off move-in (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

PALMS 9804 Regent unit #8. 1+1 $1075/mo, dishwasher stove, ceiling fan, balcony, carpet, on-site laundry, parking, no pets, $750 off move-in (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

ROOM FOR rent in apartment in Santa Monica at water, on California Ave. Great neighborhood, pool. $700 310-470-4255

SANTA MONICA near Ocean Park /Lincoln 1bdrm upper, stove, refrigerator, hardwood floors, parking, laundry $1385 310-489-0880

VENICE BACHELOR 714 Indiana Ave $875/mo. Double hot plate, small refrigerator, microwave, blinds, hardwood floors, tile, laundry, no pets or parking. (310) 578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

Westwood 1639 Selby unit C 2+2 $1750/mo stove, fridge, carpet, dishwasher, blinds, washer, dryer, patio, tandem under ground parking, intercom entry no pets, $500 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 20101123745 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 08/12/2010 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as RAWARRIOR FOODS AND JUICES. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: SYLVIA C. RIVERA 137 N. LARCHMONT BLVD LOS ANGELES, CA, 90004. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:SYLVIA RIVERA; OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 08/12/2010. 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 09/09/2010, 09/16/2010, 09/23/2010, 09/30/2010.

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Kate Bransfield

Estates Director
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1608 Montana Avenue
Santa Monica, CA

Kate@SantaMonicaListings.com



624 Marguerita Avenue
4 Bed, 2 Full & 2 Half Bath
$2,900,000
North of Montana Ave.
Roosevelt School District
Open Sunday,
September 12th
2:00 - 5:00pm



317 Marguerita Avenue
5 Bed, 3.75 Bath
For LEASE
$11,500 / Month
North of Montana Ave.
Roosevelt School District
Open Sunday,
September 12th
2:00 - 5:00pm

Brand New Listing!



934 2nd Street #3
2 Bed, 2.5 Bath
$939,000
Remodeled Townhouse
w/ Ocean View fro
Roof-Top Deck
Open Sunday
September 12th
2:00 - 5:00pm

Income Property!



1224 21st Street
4 Unit Building
$899,000
Great Investment Opportunity!
Call for More Information!



11687 Montana Avenue
#208
2 Bed, 1.75 Bath
$519,000
Huge Balcony!
Open Sunday,
September 12th
2:00 - 5:00pm

Price Reduction!



1325 Washington Ave
Unit E
1 Bed, 1 Bath
$419,000
Top Floor Unit
North of Wilshire!
Open Sunday,
September 12th
2:00 - 5:00pm



1425 Stanford Street #6
2 Bed, 2.5 Bath
$639,000
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Great Location & Value!
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2:00 - 5:00pm



1031 18th Street #5
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Wonderful Townhome
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	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	$1,997,000	$1,860,000
North of Montana	$3,447,000	$1,262,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,862,500	$809,000
South of Wilshire	$799,000	$619,000
Sunset Park	$1,150,000	$529,000
Ocean Park	$1,402,000	$899,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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