

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO
5 11 12 19 39
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: \$41 Million

FANTASY 5
15 20 33 37 39

DAILY 3
Daytime: 0 6 4
Evening: 8 2 2

DAILY DERBY
1st: 06 Whirl Win
2nd: 07 Eureka!
3rd: 02 Lucky Star

RACE TIME: 1:47.36
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: <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

A French bus line filed an unfair-competition lawsuit against a group of cleaning ladies in Moselle, who used to be customers but who recently began car-pooling to their jobs across the border at European Union offices in Luxembourg. Transports Schiocchet Excursions wants the ladies fined and their cars confiscated. And in Tokyo in July, a group of French-language schoolteachers filed a lawsuit against the city's governor (asking the equivalent of almost \$100,000) for his having denigrated the French language, calling it a "failed international language." Said Malik Berkane, head of a French school in Tokyo, "(I)t's unacceptable for him to insult French in this way."

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is 259th day of 2005. There are 106 days left in the year.

On Sept. 16, 1919, the American Legion was incorporated by an act of Congress. In 1810, Mexico began its revolt against Spanish rule. In 1893, hundreds of thousands of settlers swarmed onto a section of land in Oklahoma known as the "Cherokee Strip."

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Everything will change. The only question is growing up or decaying."

NIKKI GIOVANNI
AMERICAN AUTHOR AND POET

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New cart program rolls onto Promenade

Operators who stay will pay thousands more in rent

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — A new outdoor vending cart program on the Third Street Promenade could send at least 12 small business owners packing.

The program, intended to improve the consumer experience on the Promenade, has been taken over by a new management company. As part of the changes, the company has only signed on five of the 17 existing retail operators thus far. However, more may be allowed to stay if they are selected and can meet the financial obligations, as well as several conditions related to their business, including

providing sales projections to the city.

Those who have been chosen to stay will face higher rent and thousands of dollars in start-up fees. Currently, rents are about \$1,900 a month per cart. At a minimum, new rents are expected to be \$2,600 a month, with at least \$4,000 in cart renovation expenses, sources said.

Several Promenade cart operators showed up at Tuesday's City Council meeting and expressed concern that bringing in a new vendor will make it difficult for the small business owners to stay afloat. City officials, on the other

See CARTS, page 7



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Under the Promenade's new cart program, business owners will pay higher rents and each company may operate only a single cart.

Sizzlin' seniors



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Dancing to the music of mariachi band Los Palmeros, seniors form a conga line at Reed Park on Thursday as part of "Senior Day in the Park." The event, hosted by the Santa Monica Senior Center, was held in celebration of Mexican Independence Day.

Store owners: Bus-only lane is bad for business

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

BUS BARN — City officials say they've made sufficient efforts to address community concerns about the creation of a new bus-only lane, but they are still willing to work with those who have issues about lost parking.

The Santa Monica City Council's decision on Tuesday to create a bus-only lane on Lincoln Boulevard at peak traffic times, which will cause shops to lose front street parking, triggered criticism among the business owners, who said they were kept out of the

loop on the proposed change. However, representatives from City Hall say they have taken needed steps to inform the public about the proposal. Even so, city officials say they are still willing

See BUS LANE, page 10

Get a taste of Santa Monica this weekend

Tastebuds should be watering by Sunday

By Daily Press staff

SM PIER — Locals and visitors can get a taste of Santa Monica this weekend when some of the city's best restaurants dish out their favorite fare.

The fourth annual Taste of Santa Monica will showcase 30 local restaurants and feature chef demonstrations with a backdrop of live music on the main stage on Sunday

from noon to 4 p.m. New this year is a wine garden, which will feature 15 different wineries offering close to 40 different varietals.

The Art Institute of California-Los Angeles is presenting cooking demonstrations throughout the day. The programs are developed to give novice gastronomes basic instruction so they can attempt to recreate the menus at home.

"We have some tantalizing pre-

sentations and charismatic chefs slated for the demo stage from restaurants including Ma'Kai, Locanda Del Lago, Louise's Trattoria and the Art Institute's culinary arts program," said Kathy Dodson, the president and CEO of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, which organized the event. "I advise all home-chefs to bring their notepads and cameras."

The chamber created the Taste

See TASTE OF SM, page 11

STATE

LA quake could top the wrath of Katrina

BY ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — As many as 18,000 people dead. More than \$250 billion in damages. Hundreds of thousands of people left homeless. That's not the latest estimate of Hurricane Katrina's toll on the Gulf Coast. That's a worst-case scenario if a major earthquake were to hit Los Angeles. The figures are hypothetical, from a model published in May by government researchers studying the Puente Hills fault under the city. Scientists warn that there's little doubt a major quake will hit California in com-

See QUAKE, page 11

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Santa Monica Daily Press

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Carefully mull over an insight. Know when to exit. You might be happiest letting others run the show, especially if you get to start your weekend early. Contact a person who might like to vanish with you. What a ball the two of you could have. Tonight: MIA.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Though you are a sign that plans ahead, go with the impulsive and spontaneous. Others really like you when you relax and express your true feelings. A relationship could be developing or getting warmer. Tonight: Go with a whim. Let go of a need to control.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Last-minute demands could have you screeching out the door. Mellow out and walk back in. By giving 100 percent right now, you will not only make a big difference immediately, but you will make a difference in your reputation. Tonight: Stick it out.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Your mind is already gone and not present. You could receive some jolting or surprising news. Check out facts and information. Let your positive side and your caring come through. Give someone the benefit of the doubt. Tonight: Let warm feelings punctuate the evening.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Don't even attempt to control anyone but yourself. You will learn a lot more about key people in your life if you lie back. You could find someone close very endearing right now. Enjoy this person to the utmost. Tonight: Let someone else choose. Be less dominant.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Your words melt away others' resistance, though someone could have an odd or strange reaction. You might realize how much this person is afraid of being hurt. Read between the lines. Tonight: Just be out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You might need to complete a project or some work. Add that extra touch that only you can. You have an artistic touch or special style that punctuates nearly everything you do. Laugh and enjoy yourself no matter what you are doing. Tonight: Try lounging some.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ With Venus in your sign, you could charm nearly anyone right now. Add in a childlike spontaneity, and others cannot stay away. Use your magic properly right now, no matter what you have scheduled. Tonight: Could this evening be for your memoirs?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ You might be best off working from home, though the unpredictable does occur. Be careful with a new person you might meet; he might not be all he appears to be. Also, try not to take others' comments personally, which you will tend to do right now. Tonight: Everything revolves around your home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Let what you want happen. Or let others do their thing. The end results could be delightful. A get-together or meeting warms up your feelings about the people involved. Flex with the unexpected. Tonight: Let unpredictability rule.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You might want to lie back and maintain the status quo, if possible. You hold the wild card financially, so anything can happen in this area. A must appearance proves to be important and delightful. Tonight: Out on the town.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You will do what feels right in order to achieve your goals right now. Someone at a distance touches base. Or perhaps you are looking to travel or take some time off. Split as soon as you can. Tonight: The more different, the happier you are.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Veterinarians depart to help New Orleans pets

By Daily Press staff

Dr. Annie Hernandez of Santa Monica Pet Medical Center and Dr. Madeline Graham of Veterinary House Calls have headed to New Orleans to assist in the plight of animals left homeless by Hurricane Katrina.

Hernandez and Madeline Graham left this past Sunday. They plan to assist local veterinarians, veterinary students and animal control officers in the care and treatment of the many lost and injured pets left homeless by Hurricane Katrina.

"I was glued to the television every night watching the plight of those poor animals," said Hernandez. Taking all the supplies they could carry in their suitcases, the two veterinarians left Sunday night on the red eye for the Big Easy.

They expect to remain there for at least a week. Local veterinary hospitals, including Pet Medical Center and Animal Surgical and Emergency Center, contributed supplies for the initial journey. Western Medical Supply and Butler Animal Health also are putting together boxes of medical supplies and medicines for shipment this week.

For more information or how to help, contact Kirstin Pirkel at Pet Medical Center at (310) 393-8218. Visit www.petmedical.com for a record of Dr. Hernandez and Dr. Graham's experiences as they come in from the disaster zone.

Restaurants to donate proceeds for Katrina relief

By Daily Press staff

Shutters on the Beach and Casa Del Mar are joining forces in a fundraising effort in conjunction with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

One hundred percent of all food and beverage revenues from lunch and dinner service at all three of their dining establishments — Oceanfront at Casa Del Mar and both One Pico and Pedals Café at Shutters — on Sept. 20 will benefit the local chapters of the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

"Hurricane Katrina has devastated the Gulf Coast, its residents and so many thousands of families throughout the United States," said Klaus Mennekes, vice president, managing director for Shutters on the Beach and Casa Del Mar. "Our hotels, Shutters on the Beach and Casa Del Mar, and all of our staff involved want to give back locally to those organizations spearheading the nation's relief efforts."

The properties, both owned by the Edward Thomas Group, are luxury waterfront properties hosting thousands of guests and business travelers annually from the United States and abroad.

"There have been many worthy product drives and funds created, but we wanted to offer an additional, enjoyable means for our guests and local residents who are dining on property to feel further involved in their support of these lead agencies taking care of the needs of victims and their families," Mennekes added.

Residents of Los Angeles and guests of Shutters on the Beach and Casa Del Mar can do their part by participating in the relief efforts by dining at Oceanfront, One Pico or Pedals, or by donating directly through the Red Cross or Salvation Army.

The effort comes as part of a company-wide effort in tandem with the fundraising efforts their sister property Hotel Andalucia, in Santa Barbara, hosted on Sept. 13. The general manager at Andalucia is a Louisiana native.

For more information about Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, visit www.redcross.org and www.salvationarmyusa.org.

Masters to take the stage

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica College Theatre arts department has announced the fall lineup for its Master Class Series, with leading experts from the stage, beginning Sept. 20 with a lecture by psychologist Dr. Tom Backer.

See BRIEFS, page 7



SURF REPORT

Friday is when our next SW swell is due. This swell-maker has some long, 18- to 20-second periods, and is angled from about 190-200 degrees. Since this swell has such long periods, there will be a variation in size between south-facing breaks. Standouts could see sets well overhead, while slower reefs with gradual shelves may only see sets chest to head high. Additionally, breaks with excellent southerly exposure may see many close-out sets, and there is an increased risk for riptides and alongshore currents, especially at south-facing beach breaks, and especially during the outgoing tide; caution is advised.

Write us at alex@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
MONDAY	9:49	3.5	N/A	N/A	7:38	3.6	4:42	5.5
TUESDAY	11:48	3.1	N/A	N/A	7:48	3.9	6:00	5.9
WEDNESDAY	1:28	-0.5	12:54	2.5	8:11	4.3	7:00	6.4
THURSDAY	2:08	-0.8	1:46	1.9	8:37	4.7	7:53	6.7
FRIDAY	2:38	-0.2	2:39	1.7	8:58	4.0	8:40	6.2

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The Q Line

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City Hall has issued a request for proposals that opens the bidding process for the sites currently occupied by Perry's Beach Cafe and Rentals, four beach concession stands that have been a trademark of Santa Monica for more than 25 years. Officials say it's all part of a basic, legal procedure that ensures the best possible mix of businesses in Santa Monica; the owner of Perry's contends the request invites large food-service chains to sweep away his company.

So this week, Q-line wants to know, "What business(es) would you like to see in the space currently occupied by Perry's stands? Should things stay as they are, or would you like to see a change?"

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your responses in the weekend edition. Please try to limit your comments to a minute or less.

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OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What happens when the levee breaks

Editor:

I strongly concur in a general sense with everything mentioned by David Stoughton in his cogent letter (SMDP, Sept. 5, page 4), especially his insightful observation that terrorists — foreign or domestic — have learned from the recent devastation of beautiful New Orleans that there are some relatively easy ways to kill and terrorize many Americans in one fell swoop.

I must point out, however, one matter of disagreement: The failure of the New Orleans levees was not surprising and it was foreseen.

In fact, the federal government has known for many years now that those levees were susceptible to devastating breaches, especially in the case of a direct or near hit from a class four or five hurricane. Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu has implored Congress for years to appropriate and provide the sufficient funding and expertise required by that relatively poor state to reinforce those levees — to no avail. Moreover, the Bush administration has been economically punishing Louisiana for the past few years because Louisiana voters rejected Rove/Bush Christian-Nationalist candidates who ran against Sen. Landrieu and Governor Blanco in their most recent elections.

Finally, something the nation should be on guard against is an attempt by the Rove/Bush machine to use this catastrophe to alter the political demography of oft-independent New Orleans. Specifically, I am concerned that in addition to the yet-to-be-determined dead and all the water, Bush and his sentries aim to “cleanse” Louisiana’s biggest city of a large portion of those who have freely and democratically chosen to vote against them. I am afraid that this is the current state of American democracy and freedom.

Ivan Smason, Ph.D., J.D.
Santa Monica

Home is a hard place to leave

Editor:

Regard Ken McRae’s letter (SMDP, Sept. 13, page 4).

Yes, extremely poor people — of which homeless people are the supreme example — survive daunting challenges every day. In New Orleans, so the major newspapers indicate, the “haves” of the city piled into their SUVs and got out of Dodge fast, leaving only the poor, or the determined, behind them. And many of the poor who now resist evacuation can be considered among the most determined. The LA Times in an article in the Sept. 10 edition describes the efforts of members of the 82nd Airborne Division to unsuccessfully persuade a number of remaining residents to leave their homes for refuge elsewhere. Imagine. Paratroopers doing the job of social workers. But such is the psychological power of “home” for poor people. A place never, ever, is easily abandoned, especially by people who have so little. For the “haves,” home is only a series of credit card expenditures away.

Rick Reutter
Santa Monica

Planning department memo shifts burden onto the city’s citizens



OUR TOWN

BY TED WINTERER

It’s a tough time to remodel or build a residential property in Santa Monica.

Builders and subcontractors are hard to come by due to the real estate frenzy of the last few years. As a result, they have jacked their fees in accordance with the law of supply and demand. Interest rates are rising on loans. And the Katrina tragedy will no doubt cause further increases in the already inflated prices for lumber and other construction materials.

And if that’s not enough to cause migraines for anyone fixing up a condo or planning their dream home, one has to contend with the Santa Monica Planning and Community Development Department, and the delays and inconvenience for which it is notorious.

Granted, the process of obtaining a building permit, which in the past has reduced grown men to tears, has been streamlined in the last year or two and is not as torturous as it once was.

But after you get your permit and begin work on your home, the planning department has a real nightmare in store for you: the inspection process. You see, one of the city’s building inspectors must visit your site and approve various stages of construction, such as framing or rough plumbing. In the meantime, much of your work comes to a halt: You can’t finish the plumbing, nor can you put drywall over the pipes until you get the inspector’s OK.

It’s actually a worthwhile process, as nobody wants to live next to a dwelling that doesn’t meet the safety criteria of the building code and might have faulty wiring or substandard structural support. And in most communities, the process isn’t so onerous. You or your contractor call for a certain inspection and a city staffer arrives the next day to give the thumbs up or down.

But not in Santa Monica. First, building and safety’s phone lines were overburdened and callers couldn’t get through to schedule an inspection. So the city put in a fancy-schmancy automated voice mail program to process inspection requests without that confounding human component. There’s just one problem: The voice mail system has broken down at least twice in the last month.

Then if you are able to schedule an

inspection, it’s not uncommon for the turnaround on your request to exceed the industry standard of 24 hours. In fact, the city’s inspection supervisor recently sent out a memo to holders of building permits stating that “based on current staffing and workload limits ... permit holders may wait several days for services.” In fact, I’ve spoken to architects and homeowners who’ve had to wait a week to get an inspection.

The memo notes that those delays will “continue for several months until all vacant building inspector positions are filled.” The memo then plaintively asks that if “you know of any qualified applicants, please encourage them to apply for one of our open positions.” Now there’s a new approach to headhunting.

Well, why not hire your plumber or electrician on a temp basis? They’ll have free time until you get your inspection.

Actually, they won’t. They need to work so they’ll take another job while you wait for your inspection and then won’t be able to return to your project right away. In the meantime, you’re losing time and money.

Then here’s the kicker in this insidious memo. Since some folks know about the delays in getting an inspection, they try to schedule them in advance. Then when the electrician has car trouble or gets sick and isn’t ready for his final review as promised, at the last minute they cancel the inspection.

Is such behavior strictly ethical? Perhaps not, but it’s human nature to try to game a broken system to one’s advantage. Is City Hall compassionate and understanding about the consequences of its inefficiency and inability to hire and retain critical staff? Not at all.

Instead, the memo to permit holders notes that when “an inspection request is cancelled (sic) at the last minute ... we lose valuable staff time to inspect.” The inference couldn’t be clearer: Staff time is more important than yours ... or your money and mental health.

Consequently, the memo lays down the law: Effective Aug. 15, 2005, “you will be charged reinspection fees for work not ready for inspection” which “must be paid prior to scheduling another inspection.”

So that’s how City Hall deals with the shortcomings of its own devising in the inspection process. It issues fines. In polite society, this is known as rubbing salt on the wound. Others might use a crude expletive for bull manure.

(Ted Winterer is a writer who lives in Ocean Park. He can be reached at ourtownsmdp@aol.com.)

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

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COMMENTARY



Katrina reveals Bush's monumental failures



INCITES

BY ED SILVERSTEIN

Anyone — I repeat — anyone, who still approves of President Bush after his response to Hurricane Katrina must fall into one of the following categories:

1. Someone who was severely deprived of oxygen in the womb.
2. A corporate CEO who has earned record bonuses by decimating the environment and creating conditions favorable to category five hurricanes.

3. Those who don't necessarily care too much about the plight of the poor people.

4. Anyone who still holds to the myth that Fox News is "news."

5. Anyone who accepts that Katrina was the hand of God smashing sinful New Orleans while being unmindful of the collateral damage inflicted on true believers in Alabama and Mississippi.

Katrina is proof of Bush's failure at every level.

Prior to the hurricane, Bush took steps that guaranteed that this natural disaster would turn into a national disgrace. Our exploding debt, caused by a fraudulent war in Iraq, massive tax cuts to the wealthy and giant giveaways to profitable corporations, forced the president to cut funding for desperately needed infrastructure. This included money for the repair and maintenance of the levees in New Orleans that ultimately failed.

Further, the president has viewed all federal agencies, other than those that boost business or religion, with scorn. Nowhere was this more clearly displayed than in his treatment of FEMA. The agency was demoted from cabinet level and folded into the already unmanageable Homeland Security Department. In addition to adding an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy to a rapid response agency, Bush slashed funding.

If that wasn't enough, Bush appointed Michael Brown, a man with no disaster experience, to head up the agency. Now the president is disingenuously claiming that Brown lied on his resume. Which begs the question, why wasn't the administration during an extensive vetting period able to uncover a lie that the media discovered within hours?

And like 9/11, when Bush failed to respond to news that terrorists had flown into the World Trade Center, then disappeared for most of the day, when Katrina hit and in the day that followed, the president was conspicuously absent. Of course that's not really true. He was on yet another five-week vacation, which he was loath to end early.

Federal agencies were no better. FEMA reacted slowly and remained ineffect

fective and disorganized. The war in Iraq and the equally misguided policy of using National Guard troops as active duty combatants left the country with insufficient troops to manage this tragedy.

Had there been a strong military presence and a more timely response, it is possible that the levees might have shored up before they failed, many who died could have been saved and the pervasive violence and looting could have been prevented.

Of course, only the president could have stopped the worst of the looters, the disaster pirates known as the oil and gas industry. Instead, the president ignores soaring gas prices and continues to embrace policies that will only exacerbate global warming, which, in turn, will lead to more storms such as Katrina.

And despite Bush's claims that he is a compassionate conservative, what Americans witnessed was an astounding lack of sensitivity. As thousands were held captive without food in the sewage-filled Astrodome or remained trapped in flooded homes, the president promised that Katrina would make them stronger. As bodies of the dead lay abandoned in the rising toxic sludge, the president congratulated FEMA director "Brownie" on a wonderful job. More misplaced was his heartfelt concern over the loss of millionaire Sen. Trent Lott's mansion.

But the prize goes to the president's mother. Barbara Bush, while visiting evacuees who had lost everything, remarked: "... many of the people in the arena here, you know, were underprivileged anyway, so this is working very well for them." She went on to say that she was, "scared that all those left homeless would stay in Texas."

But what is most repulsive is the pathological dishonesty on which the administration habitually relies to sell deceitful policies and to shift blame for their disastrous consequences.

For instance, the president claimed that he had no way of anticipating this disaster, when in fact FEMA had been warning for years that a hurricane hitting New Orleans was one of the three greatest potential catastrophes facing the country. Another lie was Bush's excuse for not sending troops and aid sooner. Five days after the governor sent him a letter requesting federal aid and he promised to provide it, the president went on national television and said he was unable to provide federal help because Louisiana's Democratic governor had failed to request that the president declare a national emergency.

But maybe the biggest joke of all is that the president wants to lead the investigation into what went wrong, when most of us already know the answer. We "elect" George Bush for a second term.

(You can reach Ed Silverstein at incites@incites.net.)



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CRIME WATCH

By Daily Press staff

Hotel guest decides it's time to toss her bags

At 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 7,

the Santa Monica police responded to the 1100 block of Second Street, to the Huntley House, a hotel, regarding an investigation into the defrauding of an innkeeper. When officers arrived, they spoke to the employee, who said that a guest in one of the rooms had used a fraudulent credit card to acquire the room. Apparently the guest had registered on Sept. 5, and the cost of the services for the two days was \$1,205.04. As the officers knocked on the guest's door, another guest outside contacted the hotel employee, saying a large bag had been thrown out the window and nearly hit him on the head. Officers entered the hotel room and arrested the suspect, recovering various drug paraphernalia used to smoke methamphetamine. Officers also obtained the bag and found papers inside containing credit card numbers, bank account numbers and social security numbers. Livia Pinheiro, 25, was booked for defrauding an innkeeper, theft and using a fraudulent credit card. Bail has been set at \$115,000.

At 3:15 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 7,

the Santa Monica police on the 2100 block of Ocean Avenue noticed a vehicle commit a traffic violation. The officer ran the license plate, and it returned as a vehicle used in an armed carjacking on Sept. 5 in Fontana. The officers stopped the vehicle and the driver, Nestor Delgada Iglesias, 19, of Los Angeles, was arrested for carjacking, auto theft and an outstanding warrant. Bail was set at \$100,946.

At 9:16 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 8,

the Santa Monica police responded to the 1100 block of Seventh Street regarding a child endangerment investigation. When officers arrived to the scene, they spoke to the reporting party, who said the suspect had given a 14-year-old female cigarettes and provided her Coricidin. Joseph Ronald Chipman, 20, a transient, was arrested for child endangerment. Bail was set at \$25,855.

At 1:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10,

officers were in the 5050 Beach Parking Lot when they ran the license plate on a vehicle that returned as being stolen. The vehicle was stopped, and the four occupants were arrested. The driver was a 17-year-old male, who was transported to a juvenile facility. Marco Antonio Cruz, 22, Jose Farriel Guerra, 19, and Kevin Segura, 18, were arrested and transported to Santa Monica Jail.

At 10:20 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10,

the Santa Monica police responded to the 1700 block of Delaware regarding a noise disturbance. When officers arrived to the scene, they saw the suspect standing on the second floor and throwing glass bottles onto the street. Officers called the subject down and, while talking to him, determined he was under the influence of alcohol. Waldo Carmicheal Card-Brosveen, 21, of Santa Monica, was placed under arrest for public intoxication. A charge of littering the roadway was added, due to the glass debris. Bail was set at \$10,000.

At 10:36 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10,

the Santa Monica police responded to the Robinsons-May store at Santa Monica Place Mall regarding a theft suspect in custody. When officers arrived to the scene, they contacted the store employee, who said the suspect entered the store, took jeans, a belt, a shirt and boxer shorts, placed them in a bag and walked out of the store, failing to pay for the merchandise. Once outside, the loss-prevention officers attempted to arrest him, at which time the suspect fought to escape until they detained him. The recovered items were valued at \$260.99. John Harvey Cevelo, 48, a transient, was arrested for robbery. Bail was set \$50,359.

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

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LOCAL



Cart operators say new program means they will take a hit

CARTS, from page 1

hand, said the vendor, Provenzano Resources Inc., has essential marketing expertise that will increase sales for cart operators.

In June, Provenzano Resources Inc., (PRI) was awarded a five-year contract to replace Promenade Services Inc., the group that had managed the Promenade's cart operations since 1989. City officials and the Bayside District Corp. — a non-profit group of business leaders who help manage downtown with City Hall — felt it was time to see if there were any vendors who could present better concepts or approaches to handling the Promenade that would make it more profitable for all parties involved.

City Hall put out a request for proposals in April of 2003 to see what offers it received. The incumbent vendor, Promenade Services Inc., had been managing the cart program on a month-to-month basis.

Since the approval of PRI's contract in June, company officials say they have begun to revamp the cart program.

"We're contracted and dedicated to giving Santa Monica the best," said Deborah S. Kravitz, PRI's president. "Therefore, there will be changes."

The new program, expected to be underway by Nov. 21, will consist of 17 retail, five food and three artists carts. The new carts are intended to be a more attractive addition to the Promenade, Kravitz said. PRI also has hired a merchandising expert who will see to it the wares for sale at each cart are distinct from other carts and nearby shops.

Such moves will likely increase revenue for the cart operators, Kravitz said.

"Our professional merchandiser will make sure the tenant products are as well presented as they can be to maximize selling ability," Kravitz said.

Cart operators say the changes are being made at their expense.

"It's an abusive program not in the spirit of what the city supports," said Sylvia Espinoza, a cart operator.

PRI, which owns the carts, has the discretion to choose which cart operators it

will use, according to Miriam Mack, the city's economic development manager.

"Everyone's goal is to be making more money," Mack said. "The bottom line is, there's going to be change, but the whole idea is to provide a level of excitement and interaction on the Promenade, and ensure quality service and a quality product."

Previously, merchants complained because an operator could have multiple carts on the Promenade. Under the new system, operators will only be allowed to have one cart, so "everyone can have piece of the pie," Kravitz said.

Also, now there will be carts dedicated just to artists and to food vendors. The crafts to be sold, such as photos and paintings, are intended to promote LA-based artists, Kravitz said.

Starting Oct. 1, no carts will be operating on the Promenade while PRI renovates the carts' storage facilities. The improvements are expected to be finished by Nov. 21, in time to have the new carts up and running for the holiday shopping season, Mack said.

Meanwhile, old operators whose contracts have been renewed will have a six-week lag during which they won't be earning revenue.

The concerns that cart operators discussed at Tuesday's meeting raised a few eyebrows among elected officials. Councilman Kevin McKeown said City Hall should respect the small business people whose hard work has helped make downtown vibrant and exciting for residents and visitors.

"I heard concerns that there may be some disparity between changes in the cart program and the council's stated policy supporting local small businesses providing unique craft and artisan products," McKeown said. "Along with similar concerns about possible changes in our beach food stand operations, this makes me want to examine our practices on leasing in public spaces and make sure we're providing what our community really wants."

City Councilmembers said they want a report from city staff that will update them on the process, as well as address the cart operators' concerns.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

Backer's master class — "The Psychology of Performance in Acting and Musical Theatre" — will be held at 7 p.m. in the Hangar Stage, located at SMC's Airport Campus, 2800 Airport Ave., Santa Monica. The master classes are free and open to the public, and seating is on a first-arrival basis.

Backer, a psychologist who specializes in working with creative people, has led seminars and workshops for performing artists at the Screen Actors Guild-AFI Conservatory, for dancers at Jacob's Pillow, and for writers with Ray Bradbury and Michael Crichton. A member of the clinical faculty at UCLA Medical School and the Board of Directors of the Musical Theatre Guild, he will be executive producing — with ASCAP's Michael Kerker — the Guild's 10th Anniversary Gala in November.

The remaining master classes for the fall semester will be "The Joy of Acting," led by Obba Babatundé, on Wednesday, Oct. 19, and "The Art & Business of Voiceovers," led by actor and vocalist Gregg Marx.

The series is co-sponsored by the SMC Associates, a private organization that funds speakers and special programs on campus. For information, call (310) 434-4393.



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THE SLICE-A true neighborhood pizzeria serving authentic New York pizza & buffalo wings. We also offer a selection of hot & cold subs, pastas and salads. You can also create your own calzone. Eat in, take out, or delivery. Catering is available. Hours: open daily 11am-9pm. Visit one of our three locations: 915 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica (310) 451-7542, 1622 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica (310) 399-4060, 13151 Fountain Park Drive, Playa Vista (310) 437-7499.

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

Entertainment

‘Illuminated’ is a stellar adaptation

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

An obsessive artifacts collector from America, a break-dancing Russian translator, a crotchety old soldier who claims to be blind (but isn't) and a demonic “seeing eye bitch” named Sammy Davis Jr. Jr. go on a road trip ... while it sounds like the set-up for a surrealist joke, it's actually the central storyline of actor-turned-director Liev Schreiber's wonderful adaptation of the celebrated novel by Jonathan Safran Foer.

Elijah Wood makes us forget all about Frodo as the bespectacled socially awkward author who packs a lone black suit and heads to the Ukraine in the hopes of tracking down the woman who saved his grandfather from the Nazis during the Holocaust. His “tour guides” are a grandfather and grandson team from Odessa who shuttle Jonathan across the Ukrainian

countryside — the film was actually shot just outside Prague — in a broken-down Trabant with the dog. As Alex, a hilarious 20-something FUBU-wearing Russian enamored of American consumer culture, Eugene Hutz (better known to hipsters as the lead singer of the gypsy punk outfit Gogol Bordello) practically steals the entire movie out from under his co-stars with a dynamic performance worthy of an Oscar nomination. Veteran Boris Leskin also is very good as the grumpy grandfather whose unexpected encounter with painful, long-forgotten memories ultimately lead to his salvation.

As directorial debuts go, Schreiber's remarkably assured work here rates among the very finest. “Everything is Illuminated” is funny and dramatic and thought provoking — a beautifully composed, powerfully moving film about the healing power of love.

(Rated PG-13 for disturbing images/violence, sexual content and language. Running time: 100 minutes)

This ‘Heaven’ can definitely wait

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

Manly men be forewarned: Getting dragged to see “Just Like Heaven” by a significant other is going to feel a lot like hell within the first 15 minutes. The film opens with Reese Witherspoon's overworked ER physician daydreaming about love in an efflorescent oasis while crooner Katie Melua, who's being hyped as the “next Norah Jones” (as if one Norah Jones isn't enough at this point) butchers The Cure classic for which the film is named. Then America's Sweetheart, M.D., wakes up and charms the pants, literally in one instance, off her patients while former Letters to Cleo singer Kay Hanley gives Iggy Pop's “Lust for Life” the Lilith Fair treatment.

OK, so Reese Witherspoon is awfully cute and Mark Ruffalo delivers a spirited performance in a challenging role (you try keeping a straight face in the midst of such mawkishness, tough guy!) but the narrative is a sickly sweet hodgepodge of maudlin romantic comedy conventions ... sans comedy, and with a dreadfully unconvincing romance. Director Mark Waters' (“Mean Girls”) attempts to tug on the heart-strings are labored and ineffectual, and for a host of reasons — the weak script foremost among them — his charismatic leads fail to develop well-rounded characters.



Reese's Elizabeth doesn't have time for a life, and by the end of an exhausting 26-hour shift she's none too stoked about the blind date her sister (Dina Waters) has orchestrated. En route, a head-on collision with a truck puts an end to Elizabeth and the rendezvous with Mr. May-Be-Right ... or does it? Widower David (Ruffalo) is a landscape architect (a tres chic chick flick profession) still drowning his sorrows two years after his wife's passing. He moves into a fantastic San Francisco flat, where he encounters Elizabeth's nagging ghost. At first, she thinks she's still alive, and he wonders if he's gone totally bonkers. But they quickly figure things out, and despite all their obligatory bickering and the fact that she's, you know, dead, fall head over heels. Of course supernatural love ain't easy, but when there's a will, there's a cheesy plot device to make it happen.

(Rated PG-13 for some sexual content. Running time: 94 minutes)



Elijah Wood illuminates his character

BY EMILY CHRISTIANSON

Special To The Daily Press

Lord of the Rings memorabilia, bits of paper, photographs ... perhaps Elijah Wood needs to take up scrap booking.

“It's rubbish how poorly organized I am, but I keep like the tiniest pieces of paper that have some type of relevance to an experience,” said the 24-year-old.

Best-known for his role as Frodo, he even admits to having boxes and boxes of the trilogy collectibles.

“I basically just said, ‘Listen, send everything. I want everything. I don't care if it's underwear. If it's got something to do with Lord of the Rings, I want it,’ because when am I going to have an opportunity again to be a part of something that has this kind of merchandise?” Wood asked.

Wood's tendencies aren't a far cry from his “Everything is Illuminated” character Jonathan, a quirky young American obsessed with his Eastern European heritage. Jonathan, a more organized collector, carries Zip Lock bags for preserving everything from family heirlooms to hand soap.

“I'm not nearly as socially awkward or inept as he is,” insists the actor who hails from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. “I don't think I am, am I?”

Not compared to some of his fans.

“I had a woman breakdown and cry when she met me, which was difficult to deal with because immediately when someone starts to cry, you want to comfort them, you know,” he said. “Poor thing. I comforted her. I tried to make her feel better.”

Wood doesn't complain about answering to Frodo, the “Elijah marry me” signs, or even the gay Web sites.

“There is one called elijahwoodis-verygay, which is actually a personal favorite of mine, it's absolutely hilarious,” he told Conan O'Brien. “It's this kind of joke Web site that maintains that they have proof that I am very, very gay in various photographs ... photographic evidence (of me) holding hands with a male.”

He admits that another offered a doctored photo of him and Dominic Monaghan “making sweet love. If you didn't know any better, it kinda looks real.”

He later added: “These people have a lot of time on their hands and my hat's off (to them) because it's very good work.”

Wood still maintains a close relationship with his Rings costars and even considered a King Kong cameo with his fellow hobbits.

“I think early on we had conceived of maybe getting the hobbits out there,” he said recently during a press conference at the Beverly Hills Four Seasons. “Maybe Dom, (Billy Boyd) and myself get stomped on or something or maybe even dressed as hobbits way in the background or something. We never got to do it because Dom was super busy on Lost ... and we couldn't coordinate schedules to do it.”

The child actor, who shot to superstardom with the Lord of the Rings trilogy, started in commercials and television before landing minor parts in movies like Back to the Future Part II and Internal Affairs. Bigger roles were soon to follow such as Avalon, Forever Young and The Good Son.

He confesses that after Rings “anything remotely large in scale was the last thing I wanted to do.” So he opted for projects like Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, Everything is Illuminated and Green Street Hooligans.

In Hooligans, which opened in theaters Sept. 9, Wood plays Matt Buckner, an expelled Harvard journalism student living in London who quickly gets drawn into the camaraderie and violence of the football mob.

The 5-foot-6-inch actor, who went through intense training and choreography for the fight scenes, now maintains that “I could handle myself pretty well (in a fight).”

Wood's new record label also is keeping him busy. The eclectic music lover, who plans to sign friends at first, wants to put out music that he loves and thinks people should hear.

Any chance he'll sign himself to the label?

“I don't have a great love for bands with actors in them,” he tells British magazine Q. “Me prancing around on stage? That's not going to happen.”

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THE IMBIBER

BY DAN DUNN

A toast to Hendrix is in order

Sunday marks the 35th anniversary of the passing of Jimi Hendrix, the rock-and-roll revolutionary whose unprecedented sonic explorations forever altered the landscape of popular music and, on a less favorable note, inspired millions of ungainly dorks like the Imbiber to embarrass themselves doing air guitar solos in bars. While pondering an appropriate way to mark the occasion and celebrate Jimi's life and music, it occurred to me that there are several cocktails named after Hendrix tunes. While there is a certain irony to a booze-soaked tribute for a man who died after ingesting a lethal combination of alcohol and sleeping pills, something in the reckless hurricane blasts of noise he created suggests Jimi wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

So pop in "Are You Experienced?" and turn the volume up really loud. No fewer than three tracks from Hendrix's incredible 1967 debut album were intoxicating enough to have drinks named after them. The most popular being a "Purple Haze," which is usually prepared one of two ways — either with vodka, blackberry schnapps and orange juice, or vodka, raspberry liqueur and 7-Up. A "Foxy Lady" is Amaretto, crème de cacao and light cream shaken with ice and strained into a cocktail glass. Those with sweet teeth might want to try a "Red House" (Black Haus blackberry schnapps, sloe gin and cranberry juice). Jimi often made magic playing other artists' music, and one of his most rousing covers was of the Trogg's hit, "Wild Thing," which appears on several of his live recordings. The drink that bears that name sounds pretty rockin' as well: Tequila, club soda, cranberry and limejuice on the rocks.

Enjoy the weekend, friends, and here's hoping Jimi Hendrix's spirit and music move you. And with that, please excuse me while I kiss the sky.

(Thirsty for more Imbiber? Pull up a barstool at www.TheImbiber.com)

'Lords of War' will have allies

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Andrew Niccol ("Gattaca," "The Truman Show") began shopping his "Lord of War" project around Hollywood a week prior to the U.S. invasion of Iraq. So just how does a New Zealand-born filmmaker come by \$50 million to make a movie that rebukes the United States government for being the world's foremost supplier of weaponry at a time when jingoism ruled the day in this country? Well, he turned to France, of course! Producer Philippe Rousselet secured the dough, an iconoclastic cast led by Nic Cage signed on, and a feature that Michael Moore will surely enjoy was born. I mention Moore not only because his name has the same sort of polarizing effect this movie is likely to have on audiences, but also because the subject matter in "Lord of War" seems better-suited for a documentary than a feature film.

Cage is undoubtedly the right choice to play Yuri Orlov, who emigrated from the Ukraine to Brighton Beach as a boy, and grew up determined to buy his way out. After witnessing a shoot-out between Russian mobsters in a Little Odessa restaurant, Yuri realizes his destiny lies in fulfilling a "basic human need" — that being to kill one another. So he makes a connection down at the local synagogue, sells a few handguns, and before long he supplants Ian Holm's Simeon Weisz as the king of international arms dealers. Yuri's only allegiance is to the almighty dollar and he steadfastly avoids weighing the moral implications of his profession. The closest thing he's got to a conscience is his impressionable younger brother, Vitaly, rendered with aplomb by the versatile Jared Leto. Cage plays his part with a preternatural detachment while still imbuing Yuri with an odd likability. He peddles mass destruction, sure, but he still comes across as the kind of guy you'd like to be around. By-the-book Interpol agent Jack Valentine (Ethan Hawke) certainly is intent on getting close to Yuri, though his attempts to bust him are repeatedly thwarted. Bridget Moynahan is relegated to window-dressing as Yuri's trophy wife.

(Rated R for strong violence, drug use, language and sexuality. Running time: 122 minutes)



ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Venice Music Festival jazzes out

By Daily Press staff

After 12 years of hosting "Jazz at Palms Court," the Venice Community Housing Corporation will unveil the Venice Music Festival on Sunday.

A trio of annual events including a brunch, a silent auction and the Music Festival concert will raise money for the VCHC's ongoing efforts to provide affordable housing and social and family support services to low-income families and at-risk youth in Los Angeles.

In celebration of the diverse character of Venice, the theme of the Music Festival will be "World Music." The Festival will begin at 1 p.m. and continue until 6 p.m. in an expanded performance space around the Palms Court, located at 733-743 Palms Blvd. A suggested donation of \$20 is requested.

Scheduled to perform at the Venice Music Festival are:

- ☆ Braziliando, one of L.A.'s best Brazilian bands, featuring beautiful guitar playing, soulful vocals, a wide variety of drums and percussion instruments, saxophone and flute music.
- ☆ Sono-Lux, an energetic band that combines Afro-Cuban, Latin Soul, Folkloric and modern Cuban styles.
- ☆ Alula, a multi-talented Ethiopian musician, composer, arranger, lyricist, singer, performer, and dancer who has toured the world playing African pop music.
- ☆ Argentinean rockers "Los Pingüos," who will be sure to have the audience dancing with their mixture of Latin rhythms, performed with Spanish guitars, a Cuban Tres, Peruvian cajón (box-drum) and harmonizing vocals.

Brunch guests will enjoy delicious gourmet fare generously donated and prepared by Venice's own Off the Wall Catering. The champagne brunch is the talk of the Westside of Los Angeles each fall and is always sold out. The brunch will begin at 11 a.m. at the Palms Court and tickets are \$100 per person, which includes entry to the Venice Music Festival.

The silent auction will be set up along Palms Boulevard. in front of the courts from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The silent auction items are available for online bidding now at www.vchcauction.cmarket.com. Online bidding will close on Friday, Sept. 16. Many of the 165 items available for bidding, including art, restaurant gift certificates, personal and professional services, were donated by VCHC board members and supporters.

Founded in 1988, VCHC's mission is to preserve, maintain and expand affordable housing opportunities for low-income people; provide economic development opportunities and support services; and preserve the economic, racial and social diversity of Venice.

'Proof' proves Oscar worthy

Intelligent, character-driven studio films are becoming increasingly hard to come by, and so the insanely smart "Proof" should be forgiven its only readily-apparent transgression: With numerous dialogue-laden scenes and few set changes, the movie, which finds John Madden directing his "Shakespeare in Love" star Gwyneth Paltrow, feels more like a stage play than a cinematic production. That should come as no surprise since the film is based on David Auburn's award-winning play of same name (the playwright adapted for the screen with the help of Rebecca Miller), and the theatrical bent certainly doesn't significantly hamper what is a very solid film.

As 27-year-old Catherine, daughter of a famous Chicago mathematician, Paltrow delivers what may be the best performance of her short, stellar career. Catherine is highly enigmatic, and has spent the bulk of her waking life battling personal demons. Gwynnie conveys her character's complexity seemingly with ease. Catherine's deceased father Robert (the always dependable Anthony Hopkins) was a genius plagued by mental illness who we come to know through flashbacks and Catherine's imagined encounters. At the film's core is a mystery: Did Catherine, as she claims



to have done, write the groundbreaking mathematical formula that Robert's former star pupil Hal (Jake Gyllenhaal) discovers among his mentor's notebooks? Gyllenhaal delivers a strong supporting effort, as does one of Hollywood's greatest unsung talents, Hope Davis, as Catherine's domineering big sister. The actors' performances in "Proof" are proof that the Oscar contenders have arrived early this year.

(Rated PG-13. Running time: 100 minutes)



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Business leaders said they weren't informed of change

BUS LANE, from page 1

to work with those who are concerned about how the new bus-only lane may affect their businesses.

"We will continue to look at how the bus-only impacts the Lincoln Boulevard area," said Dan Dawson, director of marketing for the city's Big Blue Bus. "If there is any more help we need to offer businesses in finding parking solutions, we will help however we can."

The Santa Monica City Council on Tuesday approved a limited bus-only lane at peak traffic hours along a portion of Lincoln Boulevard. While proponents say the move will encourage mass transit use and improve traffic conditions along the city's busiest commercial corridor, local business owners contend it will lead to a reduction in parking that will result in fewer customers patronizing their establishments.

The bus-only lane still needs to be approved by the state, which city officials said is likely to occur. Upon approval, it would allow exclusive access on Lincoln Boulevard for buses and other shuttling vehicles during weekdays.

As a result, parking will be prohibited on the east side of Lincoln Boulevard from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. between the south city limit and Grant Street, as morning traffic heads north toward Santa Monica and the Interstate 10 freeway. Parking will also be prohibited on the westside of the roadway from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. between Pico Boulevard and the city limit, as evening traffic heads south.

While business owners told the Daily Press earlier this week they weren't informed about the proposed change, Dawson said the Big Blue Bus's outreach has included two letters sent to all of the affected shops on Lincoln

Boulevard. The Big Blue Bus has held five community meetings, which a total of 50 residents attended to discuss concerns about the bus-only lane.

Although eight speakers turned out at Tuesday's meeting to endorse the bus-only lane, only one spoke against it.

Dawson said he didn't notify community members that the bus-only lane was on Tuesday's meeting agenda because it would have been contrary to the Brown Act had the discussion been bumped.

The handful of individuals who spoke on behalf of the bus-only lane on Tuesday were local environmental and political leaders, many of whom had attended the community meetings and were closely following the issue, Dawson said. They, as well as members of the business community, would only have known the proposal was set to be discussed if they had read Tuesday's agenda, posted on the Web.

A group called the Lincoln Boulevard Task Force, comprised of regional government groups and local citizens, studied the expansion of public transportation on Lincoln and concluded that adding the bus-only lane is the most immediate way to ease congested traffic on the roadway, according to the staff report.

However, local business owners said reduced parking at peak times will be bad for business. Customers will be forced to park on residential side streets, where parking is already limited.

Dawson said City Hall hired Ilium, a traffic consultant firm, which conducted a parking utilization study to determine how much parking may be available for businesses when the bus-only lane was in effect.

According to the study, the residential streets along Lincoln Boulevard will have less than 100 percent occupancy, even with the added load from customer-motorists.

Some street-cleaning schedules and temporary parking zones have been changed or added on side streets to accommodate business owners as well, Dawson said.

A survey conducted by the Harrison Company showed 17 percent of motorists living near Lincoln Boulevard would use the Big Blue Bus to travel to and from work if a bus-only lane were in place.

Dawson said that even if 1 percent of these survey takers actually switched to bus use, it would have a significant effect on Lincoln congestion.

"It would be extremely significant," Dawson said. "What we're seeing here is a large part of the population that is very interested in transit and wants to do whatever they can to avoid traffic on Lincoln."

"With the bus-only lane, now they will be able to."

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Experts say government not ready for earthquake

QUAKE, from page 1

ing years or decades, though many scenarios are not as disastrous as Puente Hills.

As was the case with Katrina, experts say the federal government hasn't done enough to prepare.

"There's not enough money to carry out the research and implementation programs that need to be put into place," said Susan Tubbesing, executive director of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute in Oakland, Calif. "If funds were available, if these were higher priorities, these kinds of things could be addressed now — before an earthquake."

California has been hit by significant quakes about every 15 years over the past century. Experts say there's a better-than 60 percent chance that a quake with a magnitude around 6.7 will hit Southern California or the San Francisco Bay Area within decades.

"The reality is when you have a disaster of that proportion, you need the federal government," Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said Wednesday in Washington, where he was meeting with federal officials. "I think the question is, is the federal government prepared to provide the resources that we need? I think that, clearly, by what we've seen in Louisiana, the jury's out."

Just as Katrina exposed a failure to sufficiently strengthen the levees around New Orleans, experts say a big quake in California, Washington state or the Mississippi Valley could reveal that too little was done to make buildings, bridges and roads earthquake-proof.

"There's very little mitigation going on, and it's because it's so expensive to do, just like it was so expensive to fix the levees," said Chris Poland, head of Degenkolb Engineers in San Francisco. "So I think we would have the same reaction: Why didn't we fix those buildings? Why didn't we fix the infrastructure?"

Congress created the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program in 1977 after a series of major quakes in Alaska, California and China. The goal was to reduce the loss of life and property by funding research on how buildings and structures respond to earthquakes, improving building codes, and conducting earthquake models along different fault lines.

But funding for the program has been essentially flat for more than a decade.

About \$125 million was allocated in 2005 — a decline of more than 30 percent in real dollars from its first 1978 budget of \$67 million, according to House Science Committee budget figures.

In California, where earthquake risk is highest, the U.S. Geological Survey has about 140 employees working on earthquake issues under the joint federal program, down from more than 300 a decade ago, said William Ellsworth, chief scientist with the earthquake hazards team at USGS in Menlo Park, Calif.

"We have greatly reduced the number

of people we have doing research, we have had to cut way back on field investigation programs, we've had to work smarter with less," Ellsworth said.

According to some experts, earthquake readiness has been hurt by the same shift of focus from natural disasters to terrorism that's being partly blamed for the bungled response to Katrina.

In 2003, when Congress moved FEMA to the Department of Homeland Security, lawmakers also moved the lead agency role for the earthquake program from FEMA to the National Institute of Standards and Technology. But they never gave NIST any money to perform its new leadership role.

"Right now you have a program that probably has appropriated somewhere around \$130 million per year, and we don't have a lead agency to supervise or manage it," said Tom O'Rourke, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at Cornell University.

Michael Buckley, deputy director of FEMA's mitigation division, denied there had been a decreased focus on disaster preparedness or mitigation, and said FEMA's work on earthquake preparedness has led to successes such as improved building code recommendations.

"From my perspective, we're holding our own pretty well, certainly are very busy, and I expect that that would be the trend here in the future," Buckley said.

California has instituted new building codes and spent billions to shore up old structures in the wake of the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989 and the Northridge earthquake of 1994, which, before Katrina, was the nation's costliest natural disaster with \$40 billion in losses.

But many older buildings still need upgrades, among them some 900 hospital buildings in California and the Los Angeles Police Department headquarters, Parker Center. Scientists also would like to do more research to learn more about how to build structures that can withstand earthquakes.

A key network of seismographs USGS is installing around the country is lagging — only 563 of a planned 7,050 machines have been put in place, mainly because funding has stuck far behind planned levels. For example, Congress authorized \$35 million for the network in 2005 but appropriated only \$8 million.

Experts contend that spending on mitigation reaps huge dividends. They point out that retrofitted roads and buildings survived the Northridge earthquake, while others that hadn't been retrofitted did not.

Some experts fear Americans have become complacent about earthquake risks because it's been more than 10 years since the Northridge quake.

"What happens is people forget and people lose interest in the seismic networks," said Jeroen Tromp, director of the Caltech Seismological Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. "And then how do you stay alive? How do you generate enough funding to do more than just keep your head above water?"

Chamber expects its Taste of SM to sell out

TASTE OF SM, from page 1

of Santa Monica more than four years ago to showcase the city's restaurants. The revenue generated from the event funds the chamber's many community programs.

"It's really a culinary event," Dodson said, adding that a bar, wine garden and a live music trio are bonuses to the day.

The chamber has been careful not to

grow the event too much in order to keep it well-organized and not overcrowded. Dodson said she thinks the event will sell out since the chamber is ahead of last year in sales.

Tickets, which are \$35 for adults and \$10 for children 4 to 10 years old, are on sale at www.tasteofsantamonica.com or available at (310) 393-9825, ext. 10. Wine garden tickets are an additional \$15.

Taste of Santa Monica cooking demonstrations:

■ 12:30 p.m. — Gamberi al Prosciutto: Grilled tiger shrimp wrapped with parma prosciutto, served over an arugula salad with shallot and fresh orange wedges, drizzled with red wine vinaigrette. Demonstration by Davide Vedovelli, executive chef of Locanda Del Lago.

■ 1:30 p.m. — Summer bruschetta: Fresh mozzarella, sun-dried tomatoes and other fresh summer ingredients served on grilled crostini bread. Demonstrations by students from The Art Institute of California-Los Angeles

culinary program.

■ 2:30 p.m. — Fettuccine with chicken: Fresh egg-fettuccine, sautéed chicken breast, sun-dried tomatoes and scallions tossed in a chardonnay cream sauce. Demonstration by Ignacio Hernandez Rojas, executive chef of Louise's Trattoria.

■ 3:30 p.m. — Lentil dahl: A traditional dish from India served with rice, consisting of 18 to 20 various unique ingredients. Demonstration by West Humphries, chef of Ma'Kai.

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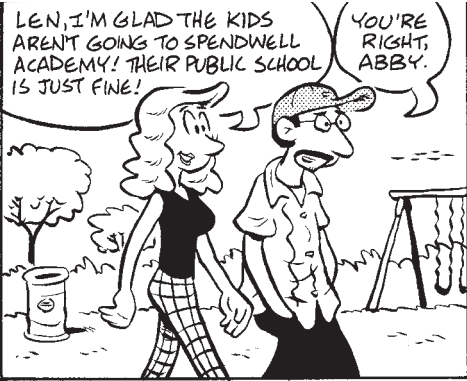
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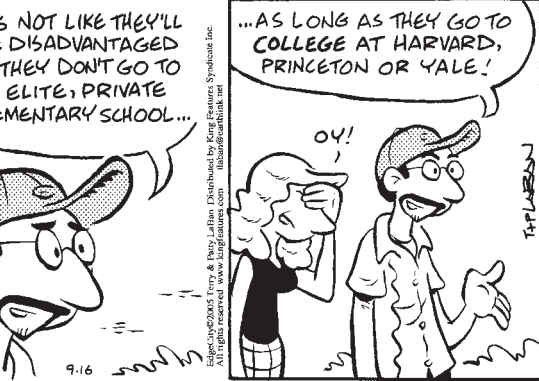
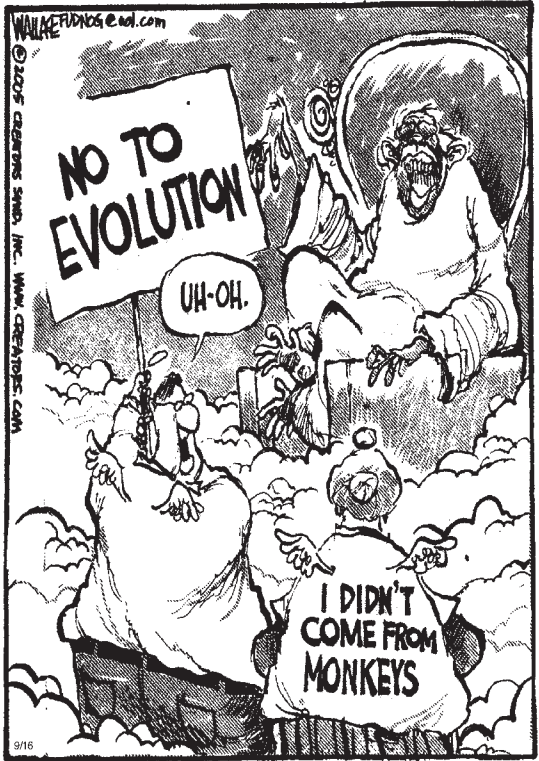
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