

FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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FANTASY 5

14 15 20 32 37

DAILY 3

Daytime: 2 5 7

Evening: 0 9 3

DAILY DERBY

1st: 09 Winning Spirit

2nd: 01 Gold Rush

3rd: 11 Money Bags

RACE TIME: 1:40.66

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Incompetent Home Improvement: A bee-plagued homeowner in northwest Tucson, Ariz., attempting to "frighten the bees off" (according to a fire department spokesman) by lighting a small fire in the attic, inadvertently ignited insecticide vapor, with the resulting blaze causing about \$100,000 damage to the roof (March). And a woman in Mecklenburg County, N.C., attempted to chase snakes out of a couch on her front porch by dousing the nest with lighter fluid, but then an accidentally dropped match set a fire large enough that she had to jump out a window to safety (June).

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 263rd day of 2005.
There are 102 days left in the year.

On Sept. 20, 1519, Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan set out from Spain on a voyage to find a western passage to the Spice Islands in Indonesia. (Magellan was killed enroute, but one of his ships eventually circled the world.)

In 1947, former New York City Mayor Fiorello La Guardia died.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"History must stay open,
it is all humanity."

WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS
AMERICAN AUTHOR AND POET (1883-1963)

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Prosecutors lay out case against Vargas

One witness said she was forced by police to testify

LAX COURTHOUSE

Prosecutors laid out their case on Monday against the teenager accused of killing another Santa Monica teenager.

Prosecutors from the Los Angeles District Attorney's office presented evidence to Superior

Court Judge James R. Dabney to support their allegations that Matthew Felix Vargas, 18, fatally shot Jalannie Carter in September, 2003.

Five witnesses testified related to the murder. Meanwhile, one witness told the court she was forced to take the stand and threatened that she'd be arrested if she didn't testify against Vargas.

In addition to first-degree mur-

der, Vargas also faces six counts of sexual assault for a rape he allegedly committed on Nov. 21, 2004, involving a girl who was younger than 14. Vargas, who was 17 at the time of the alleged rape, also faces one count of fleeing an officer who attempted to question him about it, according to the DA's complaint.

Vargas, who has pleaded not guilty to all of the charges, faces life

in prison, plus 50 years if he is found guilty, according to prosecutors.

Belinda Ramos, Vargas' mother, insists her son isn't responsible for the crimes he's been accused of.

The preliminary hearing lasted throughout Monday, and is set to finish on Wednesday, according to court officials. Once complete, Judge Dabney will decide if there's

See VARGAS, page 7

90,000 lbs. of garbage cleaned up off beaches

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

THE BEACH — A handgun, a sex toy and three suitcases of horror films.

Those were the more notable items found by volunteers this past weekend during California Coastal Cleanup Day, which was part of a world-wide effort in 88 countries and all 50 states to cleanse coastal communities.

The handgun — found stuck in the mud in Compton — was spotted by Mark Gold, executive director of Heal the Bay, the Santa Monica-based nonprofit group that helped organize the cleanup effort in Los Angeles County. The

See CLEANUP, page 6



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Randi Parent, community outreach coordinator from Heal the Bay's Santa Monica Pier Aquarium, stacks bags of trash on Saturday at Santa Monica Beach. The cleanup was part of an international effort conducted in 88 countries.

Cell phones becoming remote controls of our lives

BY GREG SANDOVAL

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Forget voice calls. They're oh so retro. That cell phone in your pocket is well on its way to becoming a remote control for your life.

"Smart" handsets are already being used by busy executives to retrieve important documents from office computers halfway across the globe. They're handling e-mail, programming set-top

boxes and keeping an eye on the home surveillance system.

Tourists lost in some foreign capitals can now, with a GPS-equipped cell phone, get their bearings using on-screen maps. Commuters crossing town can tap into the same tools to avoid traffic jams and reroute in mid-journey.

Millions of Japanese already use their handsets as digital wallets.

"The phone is rapidly becoming a window to the world," said Rob Enderle of the Enderle Group

research firm. "In many ways it's becoming a replacement for the PC."

Cell phones have far outpaced personal digital assistants as the electronic device favored by consumers — 187.7 million people, or 65.4 percent of the U.S. population, own cell phones, according to the Yankee Group, which has stopped tracking sales of handheld computers that lack cellular connectivity, calling them irrelevant.

Software makers, keenly mindful of the trend, are coming up

with new ways to lend mobile handsets some of the prime functions of a personal computer.

Phones that double and triple as digital music players, personal organizers and cameras are just the beginning.

A number of mobile applications making their debut at the DEMOfall conference, a showcase of tech innovation that began Monday in Huntington Beach,

See CELL PHONES, page 9

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HOROSCOPE

Vanish quickly, Gem

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)
 ★★★★★ You clearly cannot control others, though conversations are enlightening. You might not like what you hear in a gathering or a meeting. Give others the space to figure out what you already know. Tonight: Pay bills so you know how much play money you have.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ The Moon in your sign makes you a major player in what happens right now. You might feel a tightness or negativity. Let it go. Consider a home office. You find that the unexpected marks events and associates. Tonight: What would make you happy?



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★ Know when to retreat into your office or perhaps call in sick. You or your associates might be unusually negative. Who is the common denominator here? You might feel that a higher-up is unpredictable. Tonight: Vanish quickly.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ You hear surprising news. On some level, you might feel as if your budget is taxed. Be ready to put a halt to activities that are making your checking account an empty pit. Tonight: Find your pals.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ Of late, you have had an attitude change. You are more serious or a bit down. Be aware of the impact of your personality on different situations. Someone could be quite reactive. Tonight: Take charge and handle a responsibility.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ You might not be sure what motivates someone close to you who might be quite unpredictable. Know when to give this person space. It might be helpful to detach and imagine what it's like to be this person. Tonight: Do something you normally don't do.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ You must deal with a partner, whether you want to or not. This person seems to know what he or she wants, and will not budge. Don't pout. Everything can change at the last moment. Be inventive with work. Tonight: Just go along for the ride.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Clearly, others are in command. You might not like what is happening, but you cannot change it. A boss or higher-up could be difficult or bossy. You can't change him. Just flex. Tonight: Say yes.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ A friend could easily talk your ear off. You might need to set boundaries with this person or spend less time together. Your imagination and creativity will help you step out of this situation gracefully. Tonight: Consider this situation temporary.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ Thea unpredictable marks your closer relationships, as well as those you deal with on a regular basis. You could be uncomfortable if you aren't in control. Otherwise, you might like all the excitement around you. Tonight: Feel free to enjoy yourself.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ You need to isolate a personal or domestic issue. You could find an expenditure tied to this situation. If you find experts, you will like what happens. You will see other solutions to your predicament. Tonight: Stay close to home.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ Your unpredictability might force a conversation, if not today, then in the near future. Others might be having more trouble than you realize dealing with this new trait. Explain what you are going through. Tonight: A talk is in order.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Sights and smells of Octoberfair in the air

By Daily Press staff

The 42nd Annual Octoberfair, presented by the St. Monica parish community, is slated to return to Santa Monica on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Sept. 23, 24, and 25. The theme of this year's event is "Celebrating the Circle of Friends, Family and Community."

Highlights of the fall festival include a chili cook-off on Friday evening, and on Saturday morning, the 18th Annual Santa Monica 5K Race, followed by the "Diaper Dash" event. Sunday begins with a pancake breakfast and concludes with the announcement of raffle winners, one of whom will take home the grand prize of a 2005 Ford Mustang. There also will be a special raffle for a 2005 Vespa. Octoberfair attracts more than 10,000 attendees each year and features carnival rides, games, live music, bingo, and a boutique of hand-made crafts. Local restaurants will participate with food booths selling crepes, sushi, pizza, burgers, shaved ice, and more.

The hours of the event are 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for seniors 65 and over and students age 12-17, and free for children 11 and under when accompanied by a paid adult. Proceeds benefit St. Monica's elementary and high schools, parish outreach programs, and local charities. Past recipients of Octoberfair proceeds include Boys & Girls Club of Santa Monica, Ocean Park Community Center, American Red Cross, SAMO Shelter, and many others.

St. Monica Catholic Church is located at 725 California Ave. in Santa Monica. For more information about Octoberfair and the Santa Monica 5k Race, call (310) 393-9287, ext. 550 or visit <http://www.stmonica.net/octoberfair/>.

Give them shelter and give them food, clothing

By Daily Press staff

Thousands of relief items were distributed to displaced hurricane victims earlier this month by a local organization.

Everychild Foundation held a drive for baby food and supplies for Hurricane Katrina evacuees who will be temporarily housed in the Los Angeles area. In the days leading up to Everychild's annual family day service project, held at Westside Food Bank on Sept. 11, members brought their donations to the food bank's Santa Monica warehouse.

In the largest volunteer gathering ever held at the food bank, 150 Everychild volunteers, including more than 75 children, packed the 4,320 pounds of food, diapers, children's clothing, supplies and linens that they had donated for distribution to families displaced by the hurricane. Westside Food Bank provided trucks and drivers to deliver the items to the Salvation Army Shelter in Bell, near downtown Los Angeles, where families from the affected areas will be temporarily housed as part of Project Angel Island, a joint effort coordinated by the city of Los Angeles, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Dream Center, FEMA, and the AFL-CIO.

Bruce Rosen, president of Westside Food Bank's board of directors and board member at Temple Kehillat Israel, connected Westside Food Bank and Everychild Foundation with Temple Kehillat Israel's efforts to provide children's items for Project Angel Island. On Sept. 12, Westside Food Bank delivered to the Bell Shelter the three truckloads of relief supplies that were collected by the Everychild Foundation and the Temple.

In addition to their work on the hurricane relief effort, Everychild Foundation volunteers also sorted 20,160 pounds of food that will be distributed to children, families and individuals in the Westside area who are in need. While so much attention is focused on efforts to aid those affected by the disaster, the Food Bank remains committed to the thousands of local people who are in need of food assistance. Everychild Foundation volunteers also assembled the centerpieces that will be used at the Westside Shelter and Hunger Coalition's upcoming 10th annual Success Breakfast honoring individuals who have moved from homelessness to self-sufficiency with the aid of Westside social service agencies. The centerpieces are made up of baskets of food that will be donated to the food bank for distribution after the event.

Further information on the participating organizations is available at everychild-foundation.org, westsidefoodbankca.org, kehillatrael.org and westsideshelter.org.



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SURF REPORT

Most south-facing breaks are seeing chest- to head-high sets with occasional pluses at standout spots. West-facing breaks are running waist to chest, bigger at dual exposure spots.

We had a Full Moon Saturday, which is causing a tidal swing with abnormal highs and lows. The tide will be reaching highs near six feet mid to late morning over the next few days. Look for a slow-down near these extreme highs, with the best wave size around the mid tide hours.

We're expecting some energy from Hurricane Kenneth. Winds from Kenneth peaked Sunday at 105 kt, stronger than models originally predicted. This is good news in that Kenneth was also located ideally at an angle from 190-220 degrees.

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

Today the
water is:

64°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
MONDAY	4:25	0.2	4:56	0.2	10:37	6.1	11:04	5.3
TUESDAY	4:56	0.9	5:46	0.2	11:10	6.2	11:57	4.6
WEDNESDAY	5:26	1.6	6:43	0.4	11:45	6.0	N/A	N/A
THURSDAY	1:01	3.9	12:22	5.7	5:55	3.0	7:51	0.7
FRIDAY	2:39	3.4	1:08	5.3	6:21	2.9	9:20	0.9

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The QLine

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The City Council has approved a new bus-only lane along Lincoln Boulevard that officials say will help ease congestion during peak traffic times of the day. Business owners along Lincoln, however, say the subsequent loss of street parking will hurt their businesses.

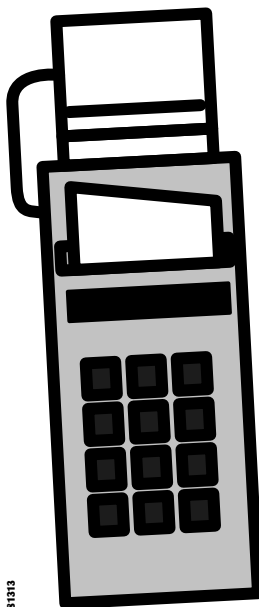
So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do you support the creation of the new bus lane as an attempt to ease traffic congestion despite the loss of some street parking for local businesses? Why or why not?"

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

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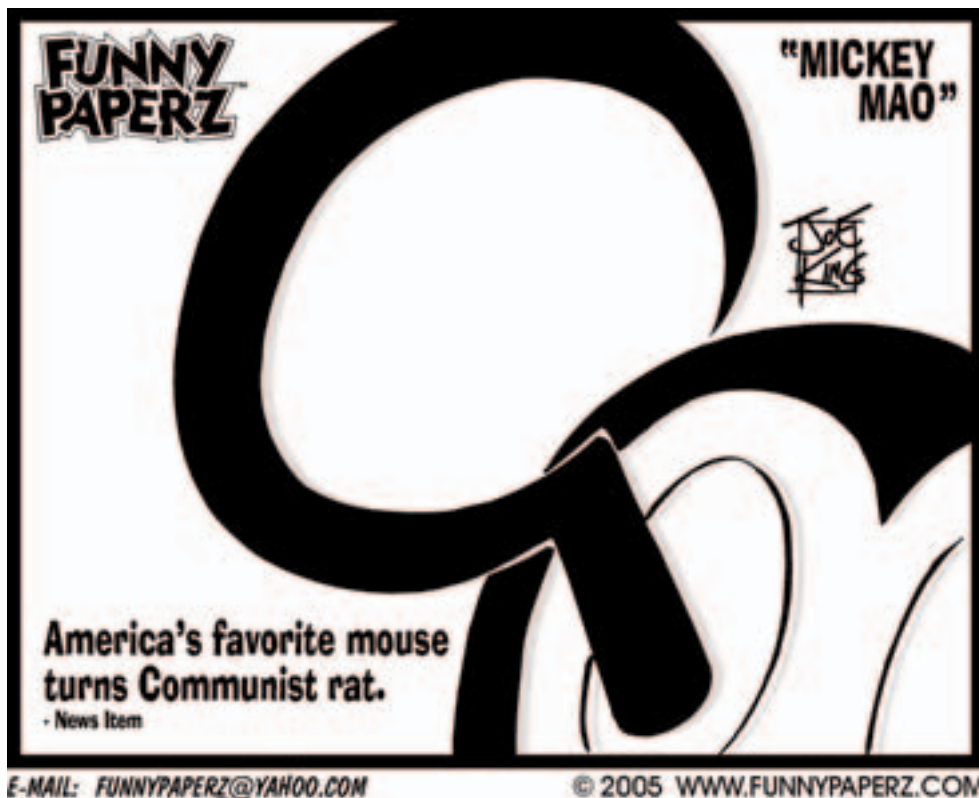
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OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lefists pointing their finger in the wrong direction

Editor:

A headline in last week's L.A. Times read, "Come Back For Big Government," referring to the New Orleans tragedy and how leftists can exploit the victims suffering. Historically, this is how leftists have come to power, be it in Cambodia, Cuba, Venezuela, etc.

It is the belief that the government should take care of us and in return we allow them to lord over our lives. It is the same relationship that I had with my dog. It simply isn't human. Contrary, the right-wing view is self-reliance.

If anyone needs proof that the right-wing view is correct, the citizens in New Orleans who relied on themselves survived, while those who put their lives in the hands of the government died horrible deaths or had their lives torn apart. Still others wait patiently for the government to fix their lives for them. They'll be waiting a long time.

This issue has been avoided by separating the survivors into racial categories instead of the self-reliant and those that put their fate in the hands of the government. The leftist and the rightist. Another trademark of the left is to play the race card. It allows them to avoid reality and further prey on the disenfranchised.

They put their faith in the god of the left, the almighty state as exemplified under Communism, the highest form of leftism. This religion has left in excess of 100 million people dead and counting. Approximately 100 times more than the Spanish Inquisition and all crusades combined.

Let us not forget this tragedy when Hillary "Big Government" Clinton runs for president. Vote for self-reliance. Vote as far right as possible at every level of government and end senseless death and suffering.

Thomas Kenney
Los Angeles

Let the bicyclists go head on

Editor:

The deaths of two bicycle riders on the PCH two Saturdays ago may have a direct causal link to the driver of the catering truck that mowed them down, however there is another cause, too — the California vehicle code regulation that defines bicycles as vehicles, and requires that they therefore be ridden on the same side of the road as motorized vehicles.

While this is consistent with the pertinent legal definitions, it does not take into consideration a simple law of physics. On a road where cars travel at 50 mph (or faster), a bicycle traveling at 10 or 15 mph is virtually an object with no velocity, just like a pedestrian or jogger. The latter two, when using a road, may lawfully face oncoming traffic, enabling them to take evasive action should an approaching driver not see them. Bicyclists are not permitted to enjoy this life-protecting capability.

Had the two cyclists who were killed been riding on the shoulder facing oncoming traffic, they could have seen that catering truck coming at them and bailed out. They'd be alive today.

I have ridden bicycles for many years on California roads, and I always ride facing oncoming traffic. I've been stopped twice by officers, and gotten off with a lecture and a warning. While I'm appreciative not to have received a ticket, I do not heed their admonitions. Even if I'd been cited I'd still continue to ride my bike facing traffic.

I may be wrong. But at least I'm not dead wrong.
The law should be changed.

David Stoughton
Santa Monica

The judging is over



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

The political ideologues on the far left, and the far right, and a few in the middle, have made much hay lately over the appointment of the now certainly to be confirmed Judge John Roberts. From the far left, we hear that he is the embodiment of all that is evil on the right. He has credentials that scream his Republican pedigree. He has worked in the Reagan, and Bush Sr. presidencies. He has worked in the private sector for business, and he has appeared in front of the U.S. Supreme Court more than 38 times.

The far right is screaming that this man is an unknown quantity because he has made no specific, identifiable statements about his conservative credentials on abortion, gay rights, civil rights, affirmative action and taxation.

Both sides want more information, and neither is happy with his closed-mouthed answers during the confirmation hearings.

This is precisely why the presidential election holds such immense power. The presidency is considered the most powerful job on the planet. Most people immediately go to the nuclear arms, the aircraft carriers, our mostly amazing Army, and the infrastructure that can dominate other countries, along with the economic power we hold.

All of that is true. The president could order the bombing of Russia, or the invasion of a small Caribbean island, and has the resources to make it so. Thankfully though, he has a few buffers around him to forestall such flights of fancy, at least I think he might.

However, that is merely the obvious power that the position holds. The less obvious powers, and the ones which effect our daily lives far more, are found in his ability to put people in charge.

Presidential appointments are coveted and highly fought for, precisely because they carry with them so much power. This is why presidential politics matters.

I've said before that the residents of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi, got the president they voted for, and they have no right to complain about his actions, or inactions.

Judge John Roberts was nominated by this president because he feels that Roberts is the right man to lead the court.

At this point, it now becomes the job of the Senate to interview Mr. Roberts and give their advice and their consent, or not, to his becoming the next Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

The political groups on both sides of the aisle have issued press releases, held press conferences, run TV commercials, and advertised their disapproval of his nomination.

Frankly, they have the right to waste all their money on such pointless activities, which really are just about fundraising for the next year. The reality is that the Senate will take its cue from the Judiciary Committee, which is Republican controlled, and therefore, this man shall become the next Chief Justice, and all the posturing and advertising will do nothing to change that.

The committee on the other hand, will engage in its own vain and useless attempts to grill the judge, on his views and opinions about what he thinks he might do in the future.

Again, this is merely set dressing for the future fundraising of these politicians since there is not a chance in hell of this incredibly eloquent, and intelligent man giving them what they want. He did not give them the soundbite they all were fishing for, "I believe that Roe vs. Wade should be ..."

Judge Roberts refused to answer many questions. And that is how it should be.

The Senate's job is to determine if this candidate, like all candidates, is qualified. That means they should be seeing if he is academically suitable, experienced, and possesses the character necessary for the job. Consequently, the Senate Committee should be asking questions about his schooling, his experience working in law, and any questionable business or personal activities that would indicate he is a liar, a cheat or a thief. (I realize that last one is cutting a little close to the bone for most politicians. Which is probably why they avoid it the most.)

Instead of doing their job, which would take about a day, with a person who possesses the qualifications of this man, they posture, and pander, and prevaricate, and drag out the process, so that they can have the necessary video clips for their next campaign.

The questions should have been, 1) Does he have a license to be a lawyer? 2) Does he have experience suitable for the Supreme Court? 3) Has he been convicted of any felonies that would preclude his performing his duties?

But, as we learned with the Katrina debacle, we have a Senate that rarely does their job as they should.

The president nominated Michael Brown, a man with no serious qualifications to an agency the president felt was pretty much useless. I say that, because he fairly well gutted the budget, and the mandate for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Had the Katrina media blitz not come along, we likely would never have noticed how completely inept and inappropriate Mr. Brown was. Additionally, we would not have realized that the Senate spent barely an hour on this man and his lack of qualifications.

The Senate is supposed to judge candidates as qualified or not. The judging of the judges should happen by the electorate. But as I have frequently pointed out, we have an electorate that is at best apathetic, and at worst, numb and ignorant.

For those people who are now bemoaning the bungling of the hurricane relief, or panicking at the thought of this president nominating two Supreme Court Justices, I just want to know, where were you in October of 2004?

You were warned about this man. You were told about the importance of this past election.

You have no right to complain about a result, of an election in which you did not participate.

(David Pizarra is a business development lawyer in the Santa Monica law firm of Pizarra & Grist. He can be reached for comments at (310) 664-9969 or dpizarra@pizarra.com.

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COMMENTARY



It just gets weirder: The week that was in Santa Monica



ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL

My week in Santa Monica is always shaped by a myriad of odd events which are getting weirder and more random by the minute.

My short list for this week would be "Thumbsucker," a woman cussing me out at Von's, exercising and Brennan's turtle racing, though not in that order.

After noticing that the members of VH1's "Celebrity Fit Club" were in better shape than myself, I chose to start exercising at 7 a.m. on weekdays. I have a strict, no-budge policy on workouts creeping into my lunch or after-work schedule — my time in front of the TV is sacred.

I reacquainted myself with the ancient practice of stretching, set my iPod to Royksopp, and expected a quiet, serene city to be my background.

Little did I know there's a whole other world bustling in Santa Monica before the masses open their weary eyes. Vans full of Frito-Lay, 7 UP, Hostess and Pilsner were lined against the sides of Pavillions and tumbled into the streets. Loaves of fresh bread were delivered to Pioneer Boulangerie to kick off the funky fusion of Asian stir-fry and French baguettes. A large civilization of run-walkers I never knew to exist took to the sidewalk, beating out their daily woes before the day even started.

It was like waking up on Christmas morning to find elves filling your stocking with Twinkies, barbecue chips and pale ale.

Inside the grocery store was a whole other scenario. Shopping on your lunch break is a dangerous thing to do when blood sugars are low and tempers run high. Wearily, I looked for the shortest starting gate to run my groceries through, accidentally clipping an elderly woman in the process.

It was like Mt. Vesuvius was just waiting to erupt.

"Why don't you watch where you're going!" she bellowed, her words mirrored by a terrible scowl. "If you actually paid attention, and pushed your cart like this instead of dragging it you could see where you're going," she gruffly motioned to me.

I tried to quickly calm her down with a succinct, sincere apology. "I'm so sorry, ma'am. I never meant to do that," I said accompanied by a strong apologetic gaze

as I found a line a bit away from her. "I'm terribly sorry."

As Newton tried to explain, though, you can't stop an object in motion.

"This girl just ran into me with her shopping cart, not paying attention to where she's going," the woman yelled to anyone who could hear. Now I erupted, but more out of weariness and frustration of stereotypes.

"Look, I told you I was sorry. I didn't mean to do it." I raised my voice to her in exasperation.

"I know you didn't mean to," was the odd thing she said to me, the intensity of her tone finally lessening. Why don't those dang kids ever know where they're going, I could hear her internal beating.

I'd never been to Brennan's turtle racing before, but the instructions were pretty easy to follow. Just go a little past Washington off of Lincoln on the right. There was a huge crowd gathered on the outside patio, waiting to rent a turtle that night. I got in line with the other girls, who for whatever reason were let ahead of the boys. That's so nice, I thought. Ladies first.

But when they had me bend over twice, after I followed their instructions of slowly leaning down to place the turtle gently, I was quickly brought up to speed. It wasn't about scaring the turtles, which I was nervous about. It was about watching girls' backsides as they do it.

Witnessing those turtles scamper in all directions as the plastic gate lifted is one of the most enjoyable things I have witnessed. The mystery of why a turtle race had so many security guards was answered as they adeptly caught the swift turtles before they could meander into the bar. With a few Guinness' in their system, the race might turn hostile and little more personal.

I supposed Brennan's didn't do straight gambling with the turtles, since gambling is considered by some to be a vice. But as the movie "Thumbsucker" reiterated, we essentially all are escapists. Whether it's cocaine, thumb sucking, gambling, stereotyping or exercising, we all find ways to release our pressures without directly dealing with the problem.

One escape turns into another, and I wonder if we ever break free from the chain. Or as the film's guru/orthodontist Keanu Reeves proposed, do you simply accept life as an imperfection, knowing that one's misplaced cart is another's lost turtle and another's forgotten birthday, none of us ever meaning to cause any harm?

(Heidi can be reached at anydayin-la@gmail.com.)

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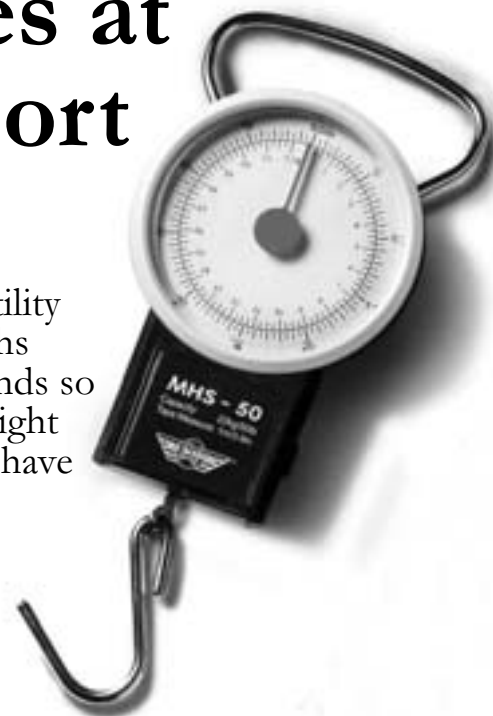
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Cleanup efforts happen once a month in LA

CLEANUP, from page 1

suitcases of horror films were found in San Diego and won the top prize in the state for the weirdest find.

Also found locally: a severed cow's head in Ballona Creek, head gear for braces on the beach, and a pornographic video featuring a pregnant woman, which was found in the Sepulveda Basin. Other items included sofas, recliner chairs, a dining room table, dentures, a car hood, a frozen turkey and a toilet.

In Northern California, a volunteer in Marin County found a message in a bottle, written in German by a man looking for a pen pal. And in Mono County, a volunteer found an 18-inch-long, three-inch in diameter zucchini, which apparently looked fresh enough to eat.

Once again, cigarette butts were the most common pieces of trash found on the beach, said Meredith McCarthy, Coastal Cleanup manager for Heal the Bay. And needles are still ever present near Playa Del Rey, McCarthy said.

Just more than 10,000 people volunteered for the cleanup effort in Los Angeles County, which was held in 61 locations on Saturday.

The take: 89,908 pounds of trash and 2,682 pounds of recyclable material, according to McCarthy. That's 10,000 more pounds of trash collected over last year.

Fifteen more sites were added inland

this year, with many organized as neighborhood cleanups.

"The volume of what they pull out is incredible," McCarthy said. "And those communities understand that they might not use the beach all the time, but they are part of the watershed."

Volunteer attendance was slightly down from last year, partly due to relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina, McCarthy said. The Pacific American Volunteer Association, headquartered in Koreatown, brought close to 1,500 people to Santa Monica.

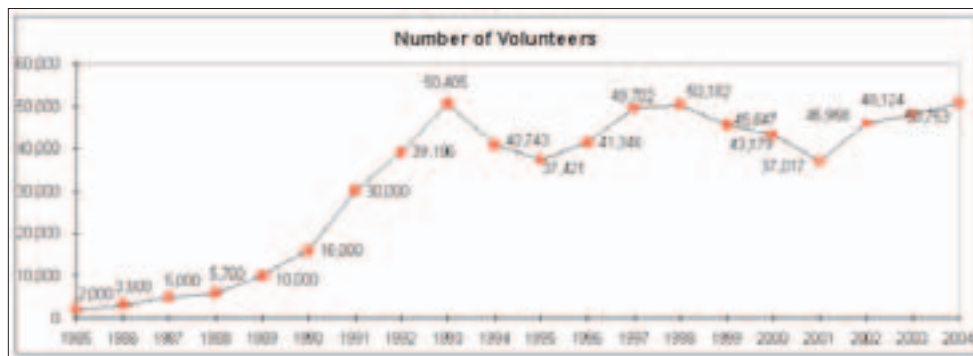
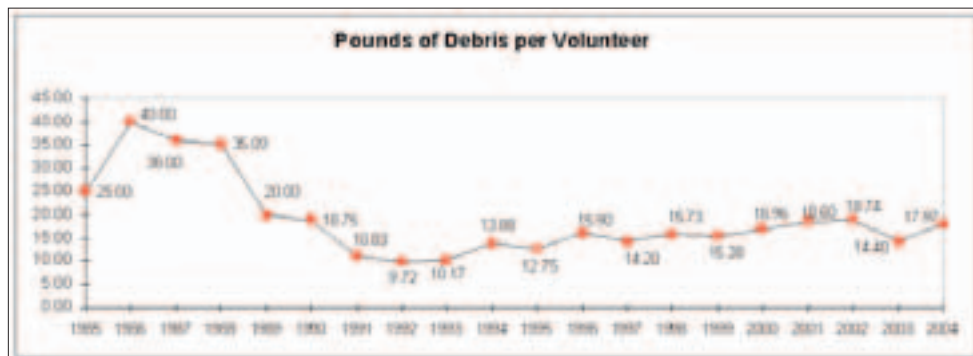
Santa Monica had the most volunteers with 2,500 people picking up garbage at six sites.

"The city makes a big commitment," to the local effort, McCarthy added. "It's so impressive because people are so busy and it's a beautiful thing to see people cleaning the beach on a Saturday."

All of the trash was hauled off the sand and brought to a landfill. There were thousands of pounds of Styrofoam and plastic. It's been said that for every one pound of plankton in the Pacific Ocean, there are six pounds of plastic, McCarthy said.

And as volunteers combed the beach, the dirty, brown waves lapping up on shore couldn't be ignored. The visibility was so bad as a result of the red tide, and the high surf, that the dive/kayak cleanup site in the ocean off the Santa Monica Pier

See CLEANUP, page 7



Source: California Coastal Commission

Since California Cleanup Day began in 1985, hundreds of tons of trash have been picked up by volunteers throughout the state.

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Timeline doesn't match up, attorney argues

VARGAS, from page 1

enough evidence to merit a trial.

Vargas was being detained at a juvenile detention facility in Sylmar on April 7, where he was awaiting trial for the rape charges when Santa police detectives arrested him for Carter's murder.

Carter, 19, was shot in the back with a .22-caliber gun in the 1800 block of 20th Street while he was walking through an alley on Sept. 2, 2003. Police believe the shooting occurred at 5:41 p.m. The bullet pierced Carter's heart, and he died a few hours later at a local hospital. It was the only homicide in Santa Monica that year.

Shortly after, police arrested a neighbor in connection with the murder, but the DA's office dropped the charges due to a lack of evidence.

Carter is described by family and friends as a hard-working young man who was studying for a career in computers while working two jobs.

According to the DA's office, Vargas is being tried as an adult on both the rape and murder charges. The fact he will likely be tried for both crimes at the same time is coincidence, prosecutors said, since the rape case was postponed by Vargas' defense attorney.

Testimony from the victim of the alleged rape was heard in a closed court session on Monday morning. During the afternoon, the murder case was heard.

Vargas appeared in court with a shaved head. He wore a blue L.A. County Jail jumpsuit. During the proceedings, he sat next to his attorney and occasionally clicked a pen and glanced back at his mother, and a dozen family and friends who had come to support him.

WITNESS REFUSES TO TESTIFY AGAINST VARGAS

One of the witnesses, who allegedly overheard Vargas admitting to Carter's murder, refused to take the stand on Monday.

At approximately 2:35 p.m., a middle-aged woman could be heard crying and shouting in a room behind the court. For several minutes, the witness, pregnant, refused to take the stand.

By 2:40 p.m., Judge Dabney shouted, "bring her in, now" and a Santa Monica detective ushered the witness inside the courtroom.

"Belinda, help me," the woman cried, calling on Vargas' mother from the witness stand. "They're making me do this. They tell me if I don't I'm going to be arrested."

The witness refused to answer questions from prosecutors. She claimed she didn't know Vargas and didn't know anything about Carter's murder.

By 2:50 p.m., the witness was dismissed, while Deputy District Attorney Larry Droeger reserved the right to bring

See VARGAS, page 8

Statewide cleanup expected to produce 800K of trash

CLEANUP, from page 6

was canceled.

"It's like diving in Guinness," said McCarthy, who also is a diver.

September should be one of the cleanest times of the year for the coastal areas, since the storm drains are dry and there's been no rain causing urban runoff. McCarthy hates to think what would be pulled out if the international effort was held during the rainy season.

"If we did this after the first flush, we'd get a lot more," she said.

The effort was the 16th annual for Heal the Bay, the 21st for the state and the 20th internationally.

With 75 percent of the cleanup sites reporting on Monday, the statewide count for volunteers was 40,723 people, who picked up 653,847 pounds of trash and 61,805 pounds of recyclable material. The California Coastal Commission expects to exceed 800,000 pounds of trash when the totals are in.

Last year's cleanup holds the record for the most trash ever collected — 50,753 volunteers picked up more than 912,000 pounds of trash and recyclables, 40 percent of which were cigarette butts. Volunteers picked up more than 309,000 of them in only three hours last year. To date, Heal the Bay's efforts have netted 402 tons of trash.

California Coastal Cleanup Day was first organized in 1985 by the California Coastal Commission, but the idea of a community-based cleanup event didn't originate in the state. The year before, Oregon resident Judie Neilson had grown

concerned over the amount of plastic debris she saw littering the Oregon coast. In October of 1984, she organized the first Coastal Cleanup Day, turning out more than 2,800 volunteers to the beaches of Oregon. California watched, admired, and the next year, emulated Neilson's efforts with its first statewide Coastal Cleanup Day, according to the California Coastal Commission.

Close to 2,500 Californians joined in the initial cleanup, and the program has been growing ever since. In 1986, The Ocean Conservancy ran its first Coastal Cleanup in Texas, and in later years became the coordinating agency for the International Coastal Cleanup, helping to spread the concept to nations around the world.

In 1993, California Coastal Cleanup Day was recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the "largest garbage collection" ever organized, with 50,405 volunteers. Since then, the reach of Coastal Cleanup Day has steadily spread inland. Most of the marine debris that are found on the beaches starts as urban trash or street litter.

Cleanup efforts don't just happen once a year — Heal the Bay hosts a cleanup the third Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon at a different location.

"Nothin' But Sand Cleanups" are hands-on opportunities designed for volunteers to directly improve the condition of Santa Monica Bay beaches. Locations rotate throughout the year amongst Los Angeles County's dirtiest beaches.

The next cleanup is scheduled for Oct. 15 at Venice Beach. Check healthebay.org for more information.

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Schwarzenegger's strategy bears political risk

BY BETH FOUHY

AP Political Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. — When Arnold Schwarzenegger ran for governor two years ago as a nonpartisan reformer, it was hard to envision him turning into a union basher. But with seven weeks left before the Nov. 8 special election, that's exactly what he appears to be.

At the state Republican Party convention here this weekend, Schwarzenegger publicly embraced Proposition 75, the bal-

lot initiative designed to defund the political activity of public employee unions. With that, the governor can no longer credibly suggest that his "year of reform" agenda is anything other than a partisan war on Democrats and their allies.

That's a hard war to win in California, where fewer than 35 percent of voters identify themselves as Republicans. And the party's two standard bearers in the state — Schwarzenegger and President George W. Bush — have seen their job approval ratings hit an all-time low.

Schwarzenegger is also trying to pass three other initiatives that would change the way Sacramento does business: Prop. 74, which would make it harder for teachers to get tenure; Prop. 76, his state spending cap; and Prop. 77, which would strip lawmakers of the power to draw their own districts. While opponents have complained that those measures amount to a pure Republican power grab, none goes as directly to the heart of Democratic power in the state as the union dues measure.

Not surprisingly, the governor was cheered wildly at the GOP convention when he announced he was supporting Prop. 75. Polls show it is the only one of the four "reform" initiatives currently enjoying majority support.

But by adopting the measure as one of his own, Schwarzenegger faces a steep challenge. He must spend the next seven weeks convincing voters — especially Democrats and Independents, who have abandoned him in droves — that public employee union "bosses" are the real obstacles to meaningful reform. And he must somehow do this without stigmatizing rank and file workers.

There's little doubt that public employee unions, especially the California Teachers Association, wield a heavy stick in the

Democrat-controlled Legislature. And the notion that such unions can skim extra dues from their members to fund political activity that benefits only Democrats may indeed smack of "Soprano fundraising," in the words of Mike Murphy, Schwarzenegger's political consigliere.

Speaking with reporters Friday, Murphy said the campaign's polling showed two-thirds of California voters believe public employee union leaders have too much power in the political process and would be receptive to Schwarzenegger's message. Now that the governor has begun to campaign in earnest, Murphy argued, voters will tune in and understand.

The problem with that strategy is that the campaign isn't starting now. It started months ago, after Schwarzenegger announced his "year of reform" measures and a coalition of labor unions took to the airwaves, undermining his message before he had the chance to deliver it.

Instead of allowing Schwarzenegger to cast unions as yet another "special interest" blocking much-needed change in Sacramento, the coalition's ads presented regular workers — teachers, nurses and firefighters — as the faces of organized labor. And they did so with devastating effect.

Preliminary hearing to resume on Wednesday

VARGAS, from page 7

her back in for further testimony.

"I'm going to sue you, pigs," she said to Droeger, crying, as she was escorted outside the courtroom.

Prosecutors procured a video tape for the court and submitted it for evidence. The tape is an alleged interview which took place in January. Santa Monica Police Detective John Henry told the court that in the video tape, the witness described how she overheard Vargas tell her step-daughter and step-son that he killed Carter because of his involvement with a rival gang.

OTHER WITNESSES TESTIFY

Another witnesses, a 19-year old woman, testified that she was driving Vargas and his girlfriend on the day of the murder along 20th Street at approximately 3 p.m.

She claimed Vargas may have shouted "junk" to someone outside the window, or might have made another sound she couldn't distinguish. "Junk," or "junkyards," she explained, was a derogatory reference to the Graveyard Crips, a street gang supposedly at odds with Santa Monica's 17th Street gang, to which police believed Vargas was a member.

Vargas requested the witness stop her vehicle. She did, Vargas departed, and he called for a ride 15 minutes later, she testified.

The witness said she and Vargas' girlfriend returned to the location 15 minutes later where they had dropped off Vargas previously. They picked him up at 3:15 p.m. at the same location, which was close to the murder scene. Inside the car, Vargas handed his girlfriend an item covered in a bandana. The next day, the girlfriend showed the witness a handgun tucked inside the bandana.

Droeger argued that the handgun was a .22 caliber Rutger, the same weapon that had been used in Carter's murder.

Sheldon L. Levitin, Vargas' attorney, noted in his cross examination that the timing in which Vargas was dropped off and picked up — during which he allegedly committed the murder — was hours earlier than when police say the shooting occurred.

The gun Vargas' girlfriend allegedly kept for him was soon sold to another witness, a drug dealer, who told the court on Monday he needed it for protection. However, having learned the gun was "hot" from Vargas' girlfriend, the drug dealer sold it to another friend, who put it in the trunk of his car, near the spare tire, he testified. That car was subsequently impounded for unrelated matters, then sold twice.

Santa Monica detectives heard from the gun's last known owner that it may still have been inside the car. Detectives told the court that the owner agreed to let them search the car earlier this year. The gun was found.

Prosecutors said an expert analyzed the shells found at Carter's murder scene and determined the gun was the same one used in the shooting.

Ramos said the prosecution's efforts were wrong and noted how shamefully it made the criminal justice system look that a witness allegedly had to be threatened in order for her to agree to testify.

Vargas, who lives in the Pico neighborhood, is described by family and friends as respectful and mild-mannered. When Judge Dabney asked Vargas if it were OK to finish the preliminary hearing on Wednesday, Vargas, soft-spoken, told the judge, "Yes, sir."

Carter's mother and father, also present for the preliminary hearing, declined to comment on the case.

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STATE



Smartphone to start leveraging GPS service

CELL PHONES, from page 1

Calif., point the way to a world where the cell phone is a key to greater efficiency.

One such program comes from EasyReach, a Campbell, Calif.-based startup that is jumping into the remote document-retrieval space.

EasyReach founder John Stossel says it's the first software that enables users of smartphones such as Palm Inc.'s Treo, which boast computer-like operating systems, to search their PCs by keyword. Punch a few more buttons and EasyReach users can e-mail retrieved documents to whatever address they choose.

In addition, EasyReach enables a user to search multiple desktop PCs on which EasyReach's software has been installed.

Services such as pcAnywhere and GoToMyPC allow a user to control a PC remotely, but most offer PC-to-PC access only. Other software packages try to give handheld users virtual control of their PC, but that can be unwieldy, says Stossel.

Since most handhelds already efficiently display document and e-mail lists, trying to replicate the PC's interface on a handheld doesn't make sense, Stossel said.

"Why try to squeeze a 19-inch screen on a 3-inch display?" said Stossel. "What do you want? Files and e-mails. Let's get them and be done with it."

The software works on any mobile device equipped with an Internet browser — regardless of the operating system, and a native application is available for the BlackBerry, made by Research in Motion Inc. And while many competitors' products only work on certain handhelds or Java-enabled phones, EasyReach says its software is designed to support the devices of any wireless carrier worldwide.

Some companies are betting that people will use their PCs as a sort of home base for content that can be accessed anytime, anywhere, through a mobile phone.

Software created by Orb Networks Inc., based in Emeryville, turns the PC into a personal network server that can stream video files and music to handheld devices.

"We think the reason you invested in broadband is so everything you own is available to you at any time," said Ian McCarthy, vice president of product marketing at Orb, which was founded in 2004. "You have a blurring of the lines between the stuff at home and stuff in your hand."

Orb also recently launched TiVo Anywhere, which lets handheld users watch shows they've recorded on their TiVos as well as program their TiVo set-

top boxes from their smartphone.

Avvenu, a Palo Alto startup founded in 2004 and backed by Motorola Corp., intends to challenge Orb on both fronts, said spokesman David Trescot.

Starting next week, Avvenu will match Orb's network server functions and soon thereafter will launch a service bringing TiVo to smartphones, said Trescot, whose company is a DEMO alumnus.

Several companies have developed smartphone applications that leverage Global Positioning System technology, which pinpoint locations anywhere on Earth through satellite triangulation.

Last March, MapQuest and Nextel Communications launched the "Find Me" Service, which uses MapQuest's digital maps, on GPS-enabled mobile phones.

At the DEMO conference, MapQuest is expected to announce a similar service for the BlackBerry.

A rival company, Destinator Technologies Inc., is unveiling software for GPS-enabled smartphones and handhelds that automatically updates a route based on the device user's location.

The Destinator platform, which has been available in Europe for more than two years, also allows friends and colleagues to spot each other's locations on a map in relation to their ultimate destination and send directions via instant message.

Destinator also includes a real-time traffic-monitoring feature. Few U.S. companies aggregate traffic information but this is expected to change soon.

"We're going to automated-live navigation," said Jeff Kukowski, senior vice president of marketing. "Your printed directions from Yahoo or Google can't tell you how to get back on route."

The Destinator software takes the user's GPS location information and compares it to the planned route. Miss a turn, and the software offers up a revised route.

Adoption of all these new smartphone functions isn't widespread yet, probably because phone carriers such as Verizon, Cingular and Sprint make it difficult for customers to obtain services the carriers can't closely control and profit from, analysts say.

But smartphone makers are encouraging software companies to keep developing new applications that can drive sales, says Kevin Burden, program manager of Mobile Devices at research firm IDC.

"The makers are lawyers looking for a nice hook because the phones come at such a premium price tag," Burden said. "To sell these things, they have to offer more than a phone and e-mail."

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DEAR DORIE

Avoid the front lines of sibling battles

Dear Dorie,

I have two boys ages 4 and 2 and they fight constantly. Everything seems to be a loud battle and I find myself losing it on a regular basis. I know some of this is to be expected but any suggestions for control over the other part?

— Battle Weary

Dear Weary,

It is amazing how loving two siblings can be one minute, and how horrific they can be the next. Sibling rivalry, fights, possession conflict, races to win, you name the conflict and they'll run with it. You're exactly right — part of this is normal and part of this is insane.

Conflict resolution skills are the goal of sibling attacks. These can be developed with or without your intervention. Ask yourself, is there a physical safety issue? If not, remove yourself from the situation and let them at it. Often these conflicts are, consciously or subconsciously, seeking your involvement. If you stay out of it when appropriate, studies show the number of altercations decline.

So, how do you do it when they're screaming at the top of their lungs?

- Remove yourself from the room.
- Refuse to take sides (avoid comparisons or blame).
- Encourage them to solve the problem together.
- Ignore the little fights.
- Talk about the fights later, when both children are calm ("remember when you and your brother were yelling ...")

In the long run, they will gain immensely from these exchanges. In the short run, do your best to stay sane. Good luck.

— Dorie

(Dorie Meek is director of the Infant & Family Support Program, provided by Saint John's Health Center in partnership with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Meek answers questions concerning children ages birth to 5 years old. Submit your questions to "Dear Dorie" at meek@smmusd.org, or call (310) 452-6132; fax (310) 452-6392).

Women waiting longer to have a baby

By Daily Press staff

Today, more and more couples are starting families later in life. Although there is no set age that is unsafe for women to become pregnant, women in their 30s and 40s tend to have concerns about whether their age will affect their ability to become pregnant, their health and the health of their babies.

The most common concern is fertility, according to Jon Matsunaga, M.D., an Ob/Gyn specialist and chair of the Ob/Gyn department at Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica.

"Although ovulation — the release of an egg from one of the ovaries — continues until menopause," he explains, "the quality of the eggs decreases with age. Since these eggs are older and less viable, they are more difficult to fertilize than those of a younger woman."

According to the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, for a woman under 30, the chance of becoming pregnant in any one month is estimated to be about 20 percent. In women ages 30 to 40, that number drops to 5 percent. After the age of 35, we see a significant decline in fertility in that age group. Once a woman turns 40, her fertility drops even further. It is estimated that only 10 percent of women over the age of 40 will be able to conceive.

Of course, these are statistics. Every woman — and her ability to get pregnant — is different. Many women in their late 30s and early 40s conceive and bear children either naturally or with the help of fertility treatment.

Once a woman over the age of 35 becomes pregnant, it should be reassuring to know that she runs about the same risk as a younger pregnant woman in terms of developing medical/obstetric conditions such as gestational diabetes or high blood pressure. And her chance of needing a Cesarean delivery or having a low birth weight baby is about the same as for a younger woman.

Miscarriage (the loss of pregnancy before 12 weeks), unfortunately, is slightly more common in women over the age of 35, where it occurs in 20 to 25 percent of pregnancies as compared to about 15 to 20 percent of all pregnancies, warns Matsunaga.

"Being prepared for pregnancy is the best way for couples of all ages to improve their chances of having a healthy baby," he said. "Regular and early prenatal care

is important as your doctor can closely monitor and treat potential problems early on."

Genetic counseling is advised for women who will be 35 or older when their baby is due as chromosomal abnormalities are more common in that age group. Couples who have already had a child with a birth defect, or couples with a family history of genetic problems or birth defects, should also receive counseling.

A number of tests are offered to pregnant women over the age of 35. The tests, which include amniocentesis and chorionic villus sampling (CVS), can help diagnose genetic disorders or chromosome problems during pregnancy. Your doctor can provide you with more information on those tests.

"A woman having her first child in her mid-30s or older may have other issues to be concerned with as she tries to become pregnant," notes Matsunaga. "It may take longer to become pregnant than she had hoped or fertility treatments may be needed, both of which can be stressful. On the other hand, an older woman may feel more emotionally mature and ready to have a child, which can make her feel more relaxed and in control during pregnancy."

If you are over the age of 35 and considering getting pregnant, there is no need to panic," he said. "You should, however, make an appointment with your Ob/Gyn to discuss how to maximize your chances of becoming a parent. He or she can best advise you on an individual basis."

Research shows that most women have healthy pregnancies and normal babies, so age in of itself should not be a barrier when considering pregnancy. Generally, most women in their 30s and 40s show no greater signs of problems once they are pregnant than their younger counterparts, a fact that should be reassuring to women considering having a child later in life.

(To find an Ob/Gyn like Dr. Matsunaga (or any type of physician), log onto the Saint John's Web site at www.stjohns.org. Select "Find a Physician" and respond to the computer prompts. Browsers can choose from a wide range of specialists, which are then sorted by location, gender and language. The service instantly refers patients to one of Saint John's experienced and caring physicians.)

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SPECIAL EVENTS

THURS., SEPT. 22
KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL FAIRE – 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Don't miss a chance to find out about many independent/private schools in the LA area. This exciting, informative evening will introduce families to approximately 40 different schools including Crossroads, New Roads, The Brentwood School and more. At the Willows Community School, 8509 Higuera St., Culver City, 310-815-0411

DAILY THRU OCT. 2 – LA COUNTY FAIR

The fair returns with the usual exhibits and competitions including livestock, food and more, as well as lots more fun for the kids in a time travel exhibit at the Education Expo Building. Various times, adults \$10 - \$15, kids ages 6 – 12 \$4 – \$8, free for kids under 5. 1101 McKinley Ave., Pomona., 909-623-3111. More details available online at www.lacounty-fair.com

SAT. and SUN. THRU OCT. 2

THE VELVETEEN RABBIT – 11:00 a.m. Margery William's classic book springs to magical life in this enchanting play about love, loss and self esteem. Presented by Y.E.S. – Youth Education/Entertainment Series – part of the SM Theatre Guild. For all ages. \$7 adults, \$5 for children under twelve and FREE for children of military, police and fire service personnel. Call for reservations – 828-7519, Morgan-Wixson Theatre, 2627 Pico Blvd.

SUN., SEPT. 25

21ST ANNUAL ABBOT KINNEY FESTIVAL – 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Celebrate Venice's 100th year of community at the ultimate block party full of live music, crafts, dancers, performance artists and a spectacular children's court. Lots of food and over 300 vendors featuring original, handcrafted goods. Abbot Kinney Blvd. from Main St. to Venice Blvd. FREE! Shuttle buses provided from parking lots on Venice Blvd. west of Abbot Kinney. For more info: 396-3772 or www.abbotkinney.org. RHYTHM CHILD PARADE at the festival – 10:00 a.m. Join the percussionists of Rhythm Child for a parade down to the Kid's Court for a morning drum circle. Meet at the corner of Abbot Kinney and California in front of Abbot's Habit Coffee.

LOS ANGELES LIVE STEAMERS – Ride a miniature train pulled by a steam locomotive in Griffith Park. Ages 2 and up, FREE! (donations welcome) 5202 Zoo Dr. (next to Travel Town), 323-669-9729. Ongoing Sundays.

TUESDAY

MOMS Club of Santa Monica Playgroup – 11:00 a.m., for children born 1/04 – 9/04. Call or email Alison at 393-4481/riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Movies for Moms! 11:00 a.m., Loews Cineplex Broadway Theatre, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms for details. Sept. 20 – Tim Burton's The Corpse Bride starring Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter and Emily Watson. Animated Fantasy; Rated "PG."

Storytelling
Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.
Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m. For 2 year olds with adult.
Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.
Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park

Blvd – 310-450-0443.

Cuentos Para Pequeños – 10:00 a.m., six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds.
Lap Time – 11:00 a.m, six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Program. Current sessions thru Oct. 11
Twilight Story Time -7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.
Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.
Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 2 to 3 year olds. Current session Sept. 13 – Oct. 18. Registration required.
Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis
For ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, www.storyopolis.com
Barnes and Noble at the Grove
Storytime for ages 2 – 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years, (Mon – Fri); Infant & Me Class – 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. and 1:30 – 2:30 p.m., 0 – 12 months; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
YMCA – Attachment Parenting Classes - 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., 1332 Sixth St., 393-2721 (ask for Shelana Philip-Guide or Audrey Meyer). This new class for mothers/dads and babies up to 12 months is presented by Karol Darsa, PsyD, a licensed psychologist with extensive experience working with children and families. Fees: Members – 1 class - \$40, 5 class pass - \$180; Non-members - \$50, 5 class pass - \$200.
BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.
An advanced 10-week parent education course. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA
10:00 – 11:00 a.m and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Thursday nights 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
Itsy Bitsy Yoga – Baby IBY (6 weeks to pre-crawling) – 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. With Khefri Riley at Ocean Oasis, 1333 Ocean Ave. Register at www.khefri.net or call 323-549-5383.
Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 - drop-in, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

MOMS Club of Santa Monica Playgroups – 4:30 p.m., separate groups for children born in 2000 and 2001. Call or email Alison at 393-

4481/riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling

The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge – 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4 at this neighborhood coffee shop.
FAIRVIEW BRANCH LIBRARY – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.
Toddler Story Time – 9:30 a.m., for two year olds with adult.
Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; for 3-5 year olds with adult.
Current session Sept. 7 – Oct. 12.
MONTANA AVENUE BRANCH LIBRARY – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.
Lap Time - 10:15 & 11:15 a.m., ages 0-2.
Current session Sept. 7 – Oct. 12
OCEAN PARK BRANCH LIBRARY – 2601 Main St. –392-3804.
Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.
BARNES AND NOBLE, WESTSIDE PAVILION – 2 pm - ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144
Border's, Westwood – 11a.m. – 310-475-3444.

Classes

RHYTHM CHILD PARENT & ME RHYTHMS, SANTA MONICA STUDIOS, 3025 Olympic Blvd., 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Children explore rhythms through drum play. For toddlers. \$100 for 8 weeks. Call 204-5466 or visit www.rhythmchild.net for more info and session dates.
YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years; (Mon – Fri); 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

YOGA WORKS, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
FITNESS FOR MOMS – Babies Welcome! Step Aerobics, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.
STROLLER STRIDES FITNESS CLASS – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group

THE PUMP STATION, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981, drop-in, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Other

PUPPETOLIO – 1:00 p.m., 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

THURSDAY

MOMS CLUB OF SANTA MONICA PLAYGROUP – 3:30 p.m., for children born 3/03 – 12/03, Call or email Alison at 393-4481/riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling

BABYSTYLE, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.
MAIN LIBRARY – HELD AT REED PARK, CORNER OF 7TH AND WILSHIRE.
Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m.; for 2 year olds with adult.
PRESCHOOL STORY TIME; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.
FAIRVIEW BRANCH LIBRARY – 2101 OCEAN PARK BLVD – 310-450-0443.

LA HORA DEL CUENTO – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.
MONTANA AVENUE BRANCH LIBRARY – 1704 MONTANA AVE – 310-829-7081.
TODDLER STORY TIME – 10:15 a.m., for 2 year olds, current session Sept. 8 – Oct. 13.
PRESCHOOL STORY TIME – 11:15 a.m.; for 3-5 year olds.
OCEAN PARK BRANCH LIBRARY – 2601 MAIN ST. – 310-392-3804.
LAP TIME – 9:20 & 10:20 a.m., for babies up to age 2. Current session Sept. 1 – Oct. 6.

Classes

YWCA – A PLACE FOR PARENTS –TODDLER & ME CLASS - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years; (Mon – Fri); 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.
BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
An advanced 10-week parent education course. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise

PRENATAL AQUA AEROBICS AT THE SANTA MONICA YMCA
7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Tuesdays at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.
YOGA WORKS – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.
STROLLER STRIDES FITNESS CLASS – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group

THE PUMP STATION, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 - drop-in, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

MOMS CLUB OF SANTA MONICA – NEW MOTHER GROUP – for new moms with babies born from 10/04 to present. Meet for conversation, support and playtime. All new Moms welcome! Call or e-mail Alison at 393-4481, riversalison@hotmail.com for more info.
PARENT'S NIGHT OUT AT CHILD'S PLAY, 2299 Westwood Blvd., 6:00 – 11:00 p.m. Kids get a night of supervised fun with pizza, games and more while parents go out. Ages 3-10, \$9 per hour, \$7 siblings, 3 hour minimum. Reservations required, 470-4997. www.child-splayonline.net
LA LECHE LEAGUE OF LA/MAR VISTA – meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call 310-390-2529 for info.
PLANETARIUM SHOW AT SMC'S JOHN DRESCHER PLANETARIUM, 7:00 p.m. - Night Sky Show, 8:00 p.m. – featured program. \$5 adults, \$4 children. Pico and 17th St., 434-3000.

Classes

YWCA – A PLACE FOR PARENTS –TODDLER & ME Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years; (Mon – Fri); 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

FITNESS FOR MOMS – Babies Welcome! Indoor Cycling, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.

YOGA WORKS – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.
STROLLER STRIDES FITNESS CLASS – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Other

BABY ATTUNED - Fridays, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., A new program promoting sensitive parenting and developmental awareness. Eileen Escarce, PhD, MSN. (PSY 18819). Introductory fee: \$15 per screening with feedback. 1137 2nd Ave, Suite 213. By appointment only 310-367-1155.

SATURDAY

Storytelling

BARNES AND NOBLE, 3RD ST. PROMENADE – Kid's Story Time – 10am, 310-260-9110
BARNES AND NOBLE, WESTSIDE PAVILION – 10:30am – ages 2-5, 310-475-4144.
CHILDREN'S BOOK WORLD, 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., 310-559-B00K.
VILLAGE BOOKS, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m., 454-4063.
826LA, 685 Venice Blvd, 2nd Floor, Venice – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., ages 3-6, RSVP to info @825LA.com or 310-314-8418. (826LA is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write).

Classes

YWCA – TODDLER & ME EVERY OTHER SAT., 9:45 – 10:45 a.m., \$15 per class; Parent Enrichment once per month , 11:00 a.m. – noon, \$15 per class, \$25 per couple.

Yoga & Exercise

SANTA MONICA YOGA – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga. Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. 1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonicaayoga.com
MOMMY CARE – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.(babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)
STROLLER STRIDES Fitness Class – 9:00 a.m., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Other

BARNYARD MADNESS AT THE SANTA MONICA PLAYHOUSE
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, thru Sept. 25; \$12 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com, 1211 4th St.
PUPPETOLIO – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St, ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
MAGICOPOLIS – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St, Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
PRECIOUS PRINTS – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime
Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintstudios.com for more info.
LAKESHORE LEARNING STORES "Free Crafts for Kids" – Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., 8888 Venice Blvd., 559-9630.
"A Faery Hunt" – 10:30 a.m., every Saturday at Franklin Canyon Park. An interactive children's show, searching for fairies and other enchanted creatures in the magical canyon and finding them! \$10, call for reservations – 818-324-

6802. www.faeryhunt.com. Meet in the parking lot of the Sooky Goldman Nature Center, 2600 Franklin Canyon Dr., Beverly Hills.

SUNDAY

MAIN STREET FARMER'S MARKET – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.
PUPPETOLIO – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested
MAGICOPOLIS – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.
BARNYARD MADNESS AT THE SANTA MONICA PLAYHOUSE
Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, thru Sept. 25; \$12 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com, 1211 4th St.
Family Funday at the Will Geer Theatrum Botonicum – 11:00 a.m Live music and theatre for all ages. \$8, 1419 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga, 455-3723, www.theatrum.com.

Breastfeeding

WORKING MOTHER'S SUPPORT GROUP THE PUMP STATION, 2415 Wilshire Blvd. - Call 998-1981 for more info.

MONDAY

MOMS CLUB OF SANTA MONICA PLAYGROUP – 9:30 a.m., for children born 1/02 – 2/03, Call or email Alison at 393-4481/riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling

MAIN LIBRARY – LAP TIME AT JOSLYN PARK – 9:30 A.M. CURRENT SESSION THRU DEC. 12.
"Family Connections" – 10:00 a.m., immediately following Lap Time - a series of discussions related to early childhood development and growth. Children welcome, free.
OCEAN PARK BRANCH LIBRARY – 2601 MAIN STREET, 310-392-3804.
"Spanish for Little Ones" - 11:15 a.m., for ages 2 – 5.
BARNES AND NOBLE, 3RD ST. PROMENADE – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

Classes

YWCA – A PLACE FOR PARENTS –TODDLER & ME CLASS - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years; (Mon – Fri); 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Breastfeeding Group

THE PUMP STATION, 2415 Wilshire Blvd., 310-998-1981 - drop-in, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Yoga & Exercise

YOGA WORKS, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15
ITSY BITSY YOGA – TOT IBY (crawling – 2/3 years) – 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. With Khefri Riley at TURNOUT Performing Arts Center, 12113 Santa Monica Bl., St. 201. Register at www.khefri.net or call 323-549-5383.
YOGA GARDEN, - Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal – 6:30 p.m., 310-450-0133. www.yogagardenstudios.com
STROLLER STRIDES FITNESS CLASS – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

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Check Out the Question of the Week on Page 3 and let us hear what you have to say

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NATIONAL

Ambitious Google project: A test of copyright law

BY ANICK JESDANUN

AP Internet Writer

NEW YORK — Tony Sanfilippo is of two minds when it comes to Google Inc.'s ambitious program to scan millions of books and make their text fully searchable on the Internet.

On the one hand, Sanfilippo credits the program for boosting sales of obscure titles at Penn State University Press, where he works. On the other, he's worried that Google's plans to create digital copies of books obtained directly from libraries could hurt his industry's long-term revenues.

With Google's book-scanning program set to resume in earnest this fall, copyright laws that long preceded the Internet look to be headed for a digital-age test.

The outcome could determine how easy it will be for people with Internet access to benefit from knowledge that's now mostly locked up — in books sitting on dusty library shelves, many of them out of print.

"More and more people are expecting

access, and they are making do with what they can get easy access to," said Brewster Kahle, co-founder of the Internet Archive, which runs smaller book-scanning projects, mostly for out-of-copyright works. "Let's make it so that they find great works rather than whatever just happens to be on the Net."

To prevent the wholesale file-sharing that is plaguing the entertainment industry, Google has set some limits in its library project: Users won't be able to easily print materials or read more than small portions of copyright works online.

Google also says it will send readers hungry for more directly to booksellers and libraries.

But many publishers' remain wary.

To endorse Google's library initiative is to say "it's OK to break into my house because you're going to clean my kitchen," said Sally Morris, chief executive of the U.K.-based Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers. "Just because you do some-

thing that's not harmful or (is) beneficial doesn't make it legal."

Morris and other publishers believe Google must get their permission first, as it has under the Print Publisher Program it launched in October 2004, two months before announcing the library initiative.

Under the publishers' program, Google has deals with most major U.S. and U.K. publishers. It scans titles they submit, displays digital images of selected pages triggered by search queries and gives publishers a cut of revenues from accompanying ad displays.

But publishers aren't submitting all their titles under that program, and many of the titles Google wants to scan are out of print and belong to no publisher at all.

Jim Gerber, Google's director of content partnerships, says the company would get no more than 15 percent of all books ever published if it relied solely on publisher submissions.

That's why it has turned to libraries.

Under the Print Library Project, Google is scanning millions of copyright books from libraries at Harvard, Michigan and Stanford along with out-of-copyright materials there and at two other libraries.

Google has unilaterally set this rule: Publishers can tell it which books not to scan at all, similar to how Web site owners can request to be left out of search engine indexes. In August, the company halted the scanning of copyright books until Nov. 1, saying it wanted to give publishers time to compile their lists.

Richard Hull, executive director of the Text and Academic Authors Association, called Google's approach backwards. Publishers shouldn't have to bear the burden of record-keeping, agreed Sanfilippo, the Penn State press's marketing and sales director.

"We're not aware of everything we've published," Sanfilippo said. "Back in the 50s, 60s and 70s, there were no electronic files for those books."

Google, which wouldn't say how many books it has scanned so far, says it believes its initiative is protected under the "fair use" provisions of copyright law.

Gerber argues that the initiative will "stimulate more people to contribute to the arts and the sciences by making these books more findable."

Washington lawyer Jonathan Band says Google's case is strong given the limits on display — a few sentences at a time for works scanned from libraries, with technology making it difficult to recreate even a single page.

"I don't see how making a few snippets of a work available to a user could have any negative impact on the market," said Band, who has advised library groups and Internet companies on copyright issues.

Under Google's strictures, readers can see just five pages at a time of publisher-submitted titles — and no more than 20 percent of an entire book through multiple searches. For books in the public domain, they can read the entire book online.

Not all publishers are opposed.

"For a typical author, obscurity is a far greater threat than piracy," said Tim O'Reilly, chief executive of O'Reilly Media and an adviser to Google's project. "Google is offering publishers an amazing opportunity for people to discover their content."

James Hilton, associate provost and interim librarian at the University of Michigan, said his school is contributing 7 million volumes over six years because one day, materials that aren't searchable online simply won't get read.

"That doesn't mean it's going to be read online, but it's not going to be found if it's not online," he said.

Hal Hallstein, a 2003 Colby College graduate, said Google's project would have been useful for his studies in Buddhism. He typed the word "shunyata" — Sanskrit for emptiness — and found several books he didn't know existed.

"The card catalog in my experience is rather limited in terms of the amount it really describes," he said.

Nonetheless, as e-media coordinator at Wisdom Publications, he believes each publisher should be able to decide whether to join, as his company has.

Much of the objections appear to stem from fears of setting a precedent that could do future harm to publishing.

"If Google is seen as being permitted to do this without any response, then probably others will do it," said Allan Adler, a vice president at the Association of American Publishers. "You would have a proliferation of databases of complete copies of these copyrighted works."

Publishers won't rule out a lawsuit against Google.

The technology juggernaut, whose name is synonymous with online search, isn't just shaking up book publishing.

Google has a separate project to archive television programs but has so far received limited permissions. The company also faces lawsuits over facilitating access to news resources and porn images online.

Jonathan Zittrain, an Internet legal scholar affiliated with Oxford and Harvard universities, says the book-scanning dispute comes down balancing commercial and social benefits.

"From the point of view of the publishers, you can't blame them for playing their role, which is to maximize sales," he said. "But if fair use wasn't found, (Google) would never be able to do the mass importation of books required to make a database that is socially useful."



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NATIONAL



West's natural resources industries booming again

BY SANDY SHORE

AP Business Writer

PARACHUTE, Colo. — John Loschke climbs out of his truck in the cramped parking lot outside the Outlaws restaurant and surveys the collection of cars, trucks and RVs.

It's lunch hour on a hot summer day and he figures about 70 percent of the vehicles bear the unmistakable signs of oil and gas country. It reminds Loschke, the town's mayor, of the chaotic scene when Parachute's fortunes were changed during an oil shale boom some 30 years ago.

Today's energy boom, he says, is "managed chaos." "We're better prepared. It's 25 years later and we've got infrastructure," he said.

Now, some two decades after the West's last oil bust, production of coal, natural gas, oil and uranium is on the upswing again as the world's energy supplies dwindle and demand rises unabated. Even oil shale is getting a fresh look.

Operations are scattered across the sparsely populated land, prompting concern about potential impacts on land, water, air and even the communities, says Pete Kolbenschlager of the Colorado Environmental Coalition.

"Communities in the West are not being given the opportunity to really see what this package of possibilities means," he said.

Audra Moore, who owns a video game rental shop in Battlement Mesa, is worried about the landscape, noting the oil wells seem to be sunk every few acres in the Grand Valley area.

"I'm concerned about the looks and how it will affect the wildlife," she said.

Natural resources have helped drive the West's economy since it was settled — gold, silver, copper, coal, natural gas, oil. It's proven to be a roller-coaster ride, with thousands of jobs created during prosperous times and then lost as demand ebbed.

A recent example occurred when Middle East oil producers shut off oil supplies to the United States in 1973 for its support of Israel. The move sent companies scrambling to develop domestic supplies as gas was rationed and prices skyrocketed.

Thousands of workers filled housing complexes; city and state coffers were bolstered with revenue and government began building up infrastructure. Then the price free-fall began, sending the West spiraling down as tens of thousands of jobs were lost, bankruptcies jumped and businesses died.

Difficult years followed as the region eased its reliance on natural resources by diversifying the economic base to include tourism, manufacturing, technolo-

gy, construction and services.

"All of Colorado has grown in the meantime to a much more sophisticated place," said Russell George, a native of nearby Rifle who heads the state Department of Natural Resources. "We have a much broader mix of people than we had then."

As the United States and other countries search for reliable energy sources, the West's industry has turned around yet again with a new demand for oil, natural gas, coal and uranium.

Luke Popovich of the National Mining Association said the resurgence in mining is "almost unprecedented in modern times."

The bulk of the nation's electricity is produced in coal-generated plants, with nuclear power plants generating about 20 percent and natural gas, 17 percent to 18 percent, Arch Coal Co. spokesman Deck Slone said.

St. Louis-based Arch, which operates the world's largest coal mine near Gillette in Wyoming's Powder River Basin and three other mines in Colorado and Utah, is gearing up to open other facilities.

"We expect demand to be tremendous," he said.

In Colorado, coal production hit a record in 2004 for the fifth consecutive year with 40 million tons produced.

Wyoming, the nation's No. 1 coal producer, mined a record 396 million tons, up 5.4 percent, according to the Wyoming Mining Association.

Standing in Parachute, about 160 miles west of Denver, oil rigs are on buttes; crude oil is produced in Rangely, in northwestern Colorado, and uranium and coal reserves aren't far away.

"This is a natural area for energy development. And it's not going to be stifled. People are going to complain and all that stuff but they're not going to stop it," said Robert Loucks of Grand Junction, a former manager of oil shale operations here for Shell and Occidental Oil Shale. "Hopefully, they'll get it to where it's far more acceptable to more people."

With most industry watchers predicting production will continue for years, government leaders and residents are hoping they can strike a balance between the need for energy and the desire to protect the environment. Each energy process has the potential to affect the environment.

George says governments need to coordinate development.

"You can't have oil shale on the same place as a gas field," he said. "I think there are ways of sorting all that out."

Mad-cow related ban will be tightened

BY LIBBY QUAID

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The government will close a gap in the U.S. defense against the spread of mad-cow disease by changing feed regulations to mirror those in Canada, FDA Commissioner Lester M. Crawford said Monday.

In remarks to a food policy conference hosted by the Consumer Federation of America, Crawford said the new regulations would be coming soon. He did not say when.

Canada has proposed regulations banning at-risk tissues — brains, spinal cords and other parts that can carry mad cow disease — from feed for all animals, including chickens, pigs and pets. The new rules have not yet taken effect; current rules are the same as U.S. rules.

Ground-up cattle remains — leftovers from slaughtering operations — were used as protein in cattle feed until 1997, when a mad cow outbreak in Britain prompted the U.S. to ban the feed industry from using cattle remains in cattle feed.

However, the U.S. ban doesn't apply to feed for other animals, creating a potential pathway for the mad cow protein to be fed back to cattle.

For example, it's legal to add cattle protein to chicken feed. Feed that spills from cages mixes with chicken waste on the ground, then is swept up for use in cattle feed. Besides the risk of transmission from uneaten feed, scientists believe chicken waste presents a risk because the BSE protein will survive the trip through a chicken's gut.

The FDA promised to tighten the rules after the nation's first case of mad cow disease was confirmed in December 2003. FDA said it would ban blood, poultry litter and restaurant plate waste — all potential pathways for the mad cow protein to be fed back to cattle.

FDA scrapped those restrictions last July. At the time, Crawford said an international team of experts assembled by the Agriculture Department was calling for even stronger rules and that FDA would produce new restrictions in line with those recommendations.

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NATIONAL

Some N.O. residents return at mayor's invitation

BY DAVID CRARY

AP National Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Residents began streaming back Monday as part of a plan by the mayor to reopen New Orleans one neighborhood at a time, despite repeated warnings from the top federal official on the scene — and President Bush himself — that the city is unsafe.

Mayor Ray Nagin, under mounting pressure to rescind his decision to let people in, defended the move and complained that the federal official in charge in New Orleans, Coast Guard Vice Adm. Thad Allen, had made himself “the new crowned federal mayor of New Orleans.”

Around midday, Nagin spokeswoman Sally Foreman said the mayor was reassessing the timetable for bringing people back into the city because of “external factors,” such as a tropical storm headed for the Gulf of Mexico.

The dispute underscored the lack of coordination between federal and local officials that has marked the disaster practically from the start.

Algiers, a neighborhood of 57,000 people across the Mississippi River from the French Quarter, became the first section Monday to reopen to residents. Algiers, home to many of the companies that make floats for the Mardi Gras parade, saw little damage from Hurricane Katrina three weeks ago. Unlike much of the rest of the city, it has electricity and drinkable water.

Over the next week, the Uptown neigh-

borhood, the Garden District and the historic French Quarter are also set to reopen to residents and businesses at Nagin's invitation, bringing a total about one-third of New Orleans' half-million inhabitants back.

John Schwab, 31, came back to Algiers with his brother and encountered no checkpoint getting into the neighborhood, despite warnings from the mayor that police would be checking IDs. Schwab owns a janitorial service that had contracts with movie studios. But they have all pulled out of New Orleans because of the storm.

“I'll probably have to look for a job in construction,” he said. “That's about the only thing around.”

A few gas stations and convenience stores were open, but little else. The manager of Winn Dixie supermarket said he had hoped to be open by Monday, but it took longer than he anticipated to clear out the spoiled food and other debris.

“We're now shooting for Thursday,” said Grady Shavers. “Salvage crews already took everything out of the store. That was a nasty job.”

In Washington, President Bush on Monday questioned the plan to let people back in, saying there is “deep concern” about the possibility that Tropical Storm Rita, which was headed toward the Florida Keys, could head into the Gulf of Mexico and drop more rain on New Orleans. He said he has been warned that the city's levees would be breached again

if that happened.

Bush said there are significant environmental concerns. New Orleans still lacks drinkable water, and there are fears about the contamination in the remaining floodwaters and the muck left behind in drained areas of the city.

“The mayor — you know, he's got this dream about having a city up and running, and we share that dream,” Bush said. “But we also want to be realistic about some of the hurdles and obstacles that we all confront in repopulating New Orleans.”

Allen, head of the federal government's hurricane response, warned over the weekend that city services may not be able to handle the influx of people. He cited a lack of drinkable water and 911 service, and he, too, expressed concern that another storm could cause the patchwork repairs to New Orleans' levees to fail and bring another round of flooding.

He said hoped to meet with the mayor later Monday to discuss his concerns and work out a timetable for bringing the city back.

Asked on CBS' “Early Show” when it would be safe for people to return, he said, “We know potable water will probably be restored soon and the levees will be fixed, so that may mean days, weeks.”

Nagin defended the decision to bring people back.

“If he's suggesting I'm pushing a little hard, I am. The citizens of New Orleans deserve the opportunity to see what they have left and what they can salvage,” Nagin told Fox News in response to Allen's warnings.

“I'm a little surprised the admiral came out publicly on this,” he added. “Maybe since I've been away a day or two, maybe he's the new crowned federal mayor of New Orleans.”

About 20 percent of the city is still flooded, down from a high of about 80 percent, said Mitch Frazier, spokesman for the Army Corps of Engineers. The still-flooded areas are near Lake Pontchartrain where the levees broke and in eastern New Orleans. Frazier said all of the water is expected to be pumped out of the city by Sept 30.

With hurricane season still in full swing, he said, engineers are trying to repair the broken levees “to offer at least a baseline level of protection.”

“There is not the hurricane protection here that there once was. It is significantly compromised. The hurricane level protection we have had here prior to Hurricane Katrina will not be able to return. It will be years, not months,” he said.

On Monday morning, traffic was backed up severely along Interstate 10 west of New Orleans and was stop-and-go across the elevated portions of the highway that crosses Lake Pontchartrain. Tractor-trailers, emergency vehicles and National Guard trucks shared the highway with cars towing trailers full of hurricane gear and pickup trucks with their beds loaded with water, cleaning materials and coolers.

In the Uptown section, where the floodwaters left behind mud and other debris, residents were cleaning up, even though the neighborhood had not officially been reopened.

Refrigerators, strapped shut with rotting food still in them, lined some streets. Garbage bags, stacks of mattresses and box springs, furniture, clothing, toys and other goods were piled at the curb to be picked up.

In Algiers, Barry Kern, president of Mardi Gras float-maker Kern Studios, said he supports the mayor's plan to bring businesses and some residents back.

“Obviously we need to get businesses up and running any way we can,” Kern said. “If we don't start somewhere, where do we start?”

He said that the city might be unfit for children, but that there are key businesses that need to be reopened, like his, so that people can start making money and the city can get back on its feet.

The vice president of the national hospital accreditation organization also cautioned against reopening parts of the city, saying several hospitals probably were damaged beyond repair, while others may try to rush back into business before conditions are safe.

“Essentially the health care infrastructure of New Orleans is gone — it no longer exists,” said Joe Cappiello, who had just completed a three-day mission to the city for the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

Although the city has more than a dozen hospitals, none has resumed normal operations. Officials at Children's Hospital, which Nagin had hoped would be ready in time for the planned return of residents to the Uptown neighborhood, said they may need 10 more days to prepare.

The Garden District's Touro Infirmary, one of the city's largest hospitals, announced plans to reopen on Wednesday, when residents are due to start moving back there. That would make it the first hospital to reopen since the storm. Cleaning crews were busy Sunday carting out debris and readying the hospital.

Dr. Brobson Lutz, New Orleans' former health director and an assistant coroner for Orleans Parish, said the hospitals clearly will not be up to accreditation standards, but the city still needs them open as soon as possible.

“I don't believe the people in New Orleans or the doctors give a hoot whether they accredit our hospitals or not,” Lutz said. “We need to have our emergency rooms open so that if people returning need emergency care for trauma or infections or other things, they can get it.”

Crews still searched by boat for the dead. The state Department of Health and Hospitals said the death toll in Louisiana had risen to 646. The toll across the Gulf Coast was 883.

In the impoverished and heavily damaged Ninth Ward, a search team found four corpses Sunday and also discovered a 39-year-old man who had survived in his home with his dog since the flood. Louie Fernandez, a spokesman for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's search-and-rescue operations, said the man — who gave his name as Reyne Johnson — was disoriented and taken to a medical center for treatment.

Fernandez said the man may have sustained himself by eating some of the food that National Guardsmen had been leaving at the house for the dog.

Cappiello also said he had heard unconfirmed reports that some doctors may have euthanized some critically ill patients who could not be moved out, rather than leaving them to die from flooding or neglect.

“There was a whisper about that when we were down there,” he said. “It may prove to have some viability to it. Sometimes horrible decisions like that have to be made.”

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INTERNATIONAL



N. Korea pledges to drop nuclear programs

BY BURT HERMAN

Associated Press Writer

BEIJING — North Korea agreed Monday to stop building nuclear weapons and allow international inspections in exchange for energy aid, economic cooperation and security assurances, a breakthrough that marked a first step toward disarmament after two years of six-nation talks.

The chief U.S. envoy to the talks praised the development as a “win-win situation” and “good agreement for all of us.” But he promptly urged Pyongyang to make good on its promises by ending operations at its main nuclear facility at Yongbyon.

“What is the purpose of operating it at this point?” said U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill. “The time to turn it off would be about now.”

Despite the deal’s potential to help significantly ease friction between the North and the United States after years of false starts and setbacks, Hill remained cautious.

“We have to see what comes in the days and weeks ahead,” he said.

President Bush called it a positive step, but he expressed some skepticism about whether North Korea will live up to its promises.

“They have said — in principle — that they will abandon their weapons programs,” Bush said. “And what we have said is, ‘Great. That’s a wonderful step forward.’ But now we’ve got to verify whether that happens.”

“The question is, over time will all parties adhere to the agreement,” Bush said.

The agreement clinched seven days of talks aimed at setting out general principles for the North’s disarmament. Envoys agreed to return in early November to begin hashing out details of how that will be done.

Then, the hard work of ensuring compliance will begin, officials attending the talks said.

“Agreeing to a common document does not mean that the solution to our problems has been found,” said Japan’s chief envoy, Kenichiro Sasae.

Another Japanese official, who spoke on condition he not be named in order to discuss the issue more freely, noted that there was no common understanding among the participants about the nature of North Korea’s nuclear program.

The head of the U.N. nuclear nonproliferation agency welcomed North Korea’s decision to allow inspections, saying he hoped his experts could take the country at its word as soon as possible.

“The earlier we go back, the better,” said Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

According to a joint statement issued at the talks’ conclusion, the North “committed to abandoning all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs and returning at an early date” to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards.

“The six parties unanimously reaffirmed that the goal of the six-party talks is the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner,” the statement said.

Responding to Pyongyang’s claims that it needs atomic weapons for defense, North Korea and the United States pledged to respect each other’s sovereignty and right to peaceful coexistence, and also to take steps to normalize relations.

“The United States affirmed that it has no nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula and has no intention to attack or invade (North Korea) with nuclear or conventional weapons,” according to the statement, in assurances echoed by South Korea.

The talks, which began in August 2003, include China, Japan, Russia, the United States and the two Koreas.

The negotiations had been deadlocked over North Korea’s demand to keep the right to civilian nuclear programs after it disarms, and the statement acknowledges the North has made such an assertion but doesn’t go beyond that.

North Korea had also demanded that it be given a light-water nuclear reactor at the latest talks but Washington had said it and other countries at the talks wouldn’t meet that request.

Putting aside the question for now, the statement said: “The other parties expressed their respect and agreed to discuss at an appropriate time the subject of the provision of light-water reactor” to North Korea.

The North will have to build trust by fulfilling all its pledges before that issue would be discussed, said Sasae, who is director of the Asia and Oceania Bureau at Japan’s Foreign Ministry.

North Korea has also refused to totally disarm without getting concessions along the way, while Washington has said it wants to see the weapons programs totally dismantled before granting rewards. The statement says the sides agreed to take steps to implement the agreement “in a phased manner in line with the principle of ‘commitment for commitment, action for action.’”

The other countries at the talks said they were willing give energy assistance to the North, including a South Korean plan to deliver electricity across the heavily armed border dividing the peninsula.

“This is the most important result since the six-party talks started more than two years ago,” said Chinese Vice

Foreign Minister Wu Dawei, Beijing’s envoy.

North Korea was promised two light-water reactors under a 1994 deal with Washington to abandon its nuclear weapons. That agreement fell apart in late 2002 with the outbreak of the latest nuclear crisis, when U.S. officials said North Korea admitted having a secret uranium enrichment program.

The North is believed to have enough radioactive material for about a half-dozen bombs from its publicly acknowledged plutonium program, but hasn’t performed any known nuclear tests to prove its capability. In February, the North claimed it had nuclear weapons.

Japan and North Korea also said in the statement they would move to normalize relations regarding “the outstanding issues of concern.” The reference appears to allude to Tokyo’s concerns over its citizens that the North has admitted abducting.

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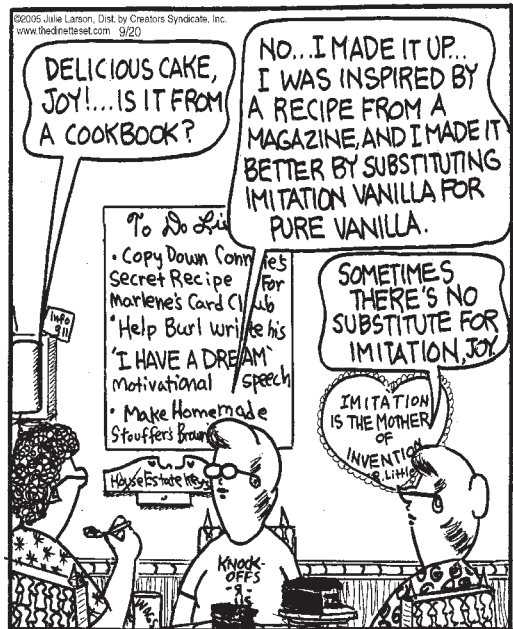
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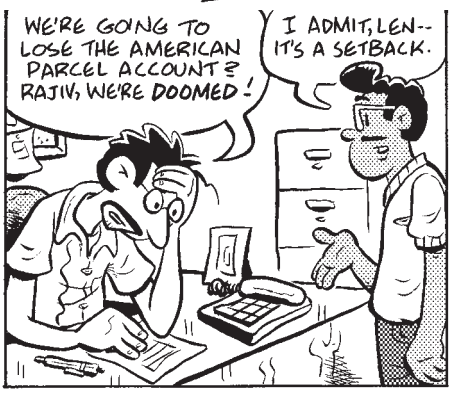


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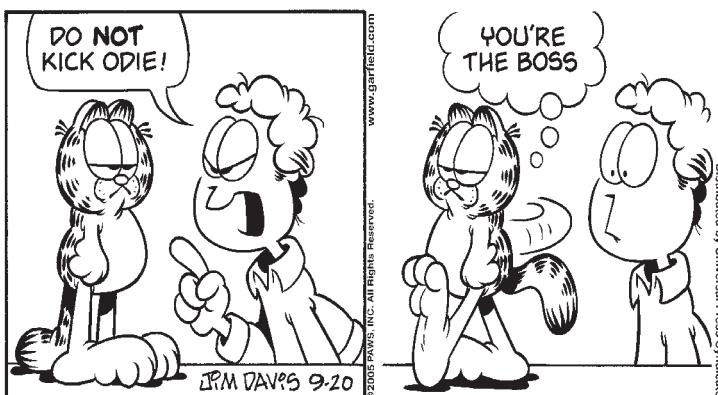
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