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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2008

Volume 7 Issue 272



ALL ABOUT SAM
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Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE ... ISSUE

Budget rains on healthy beach parade

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

DOWNTOWN A celebration of another healthy summer at California beaches was dampened on Thursday by news the governor had slashed all funding for monitoring water quality.

Heal the Bay, a locally-based nonprofit organization, released its annual End of Summer Beach Report Card on Thursday, finding that more than 90 percent of beaches in the state had excellent conditions this summer while the water along the Los Angeles coastline continued to exhibit poor results.

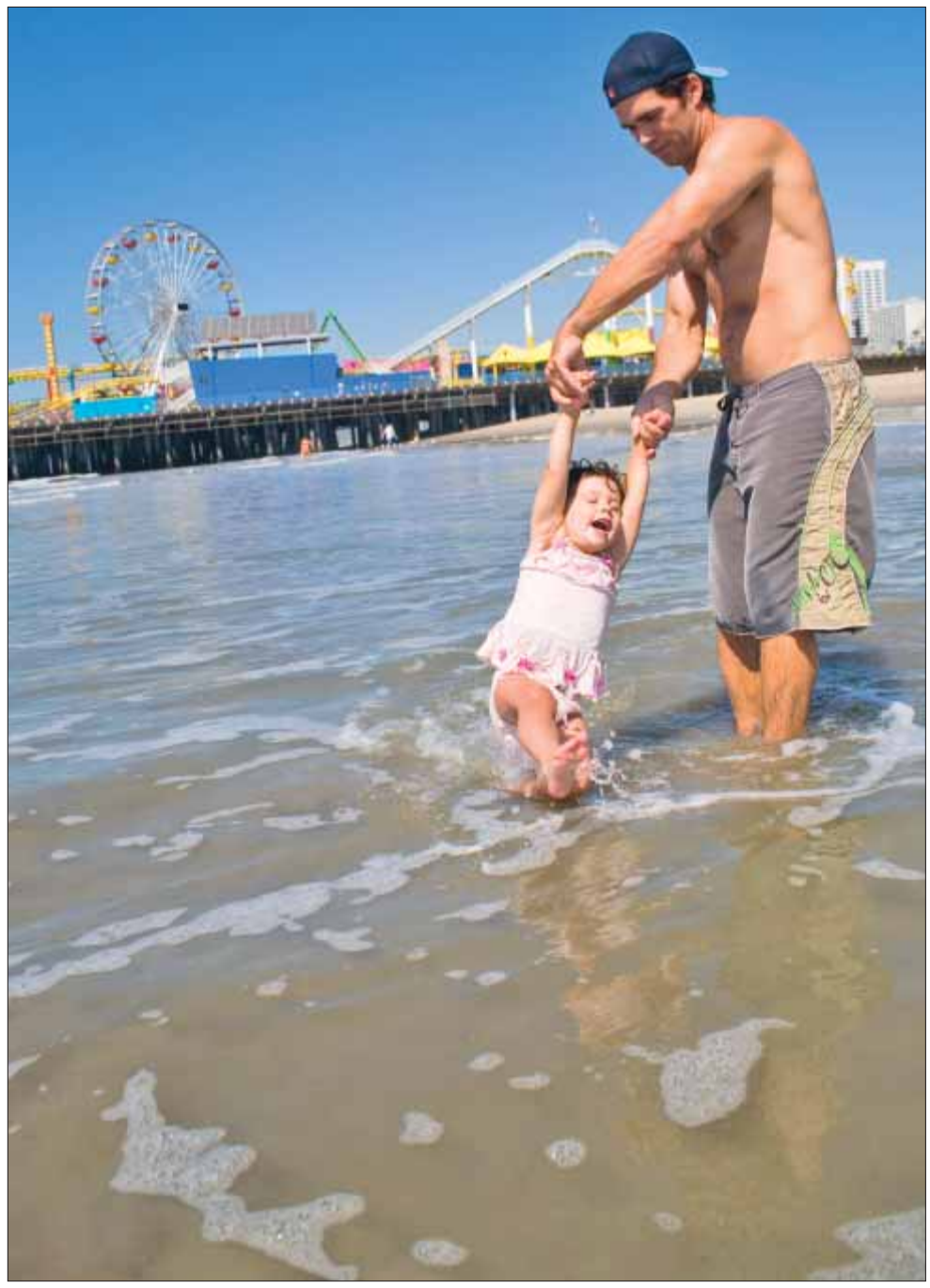
The end of summer report includes data collected from nearly 500 monitoring spots from San Diego to Humboldt counties from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The grades are based on levels of bacteria pollution.

The recently-approved budget in which Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger eliminated funding under Assembly Bill 411 — which created bacteria standards and monitoring requirements for public beaches during the summer — rained on Heal the Bay's parade.

H.D. Palmer, a spokesman for the California Department of Finance, said the governor had to make a number of difficult line-item vetoes in order to build up what was a "paper-thin" reserve when he got it back from the state legislature last week. The reserve was at about $1.2 billion.

The decision was made given the tough economic slump experienced in the state and national economy and the possibility of

SEE GRADES PAGE 8



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

TAKING A QUICK DIP: **Santa Monica resident Ryan McKenzie swings his daughter, Fayre, around in the water just south of the Santa Monica Pier on Thursday afternoon.**

No Prop. T resolution for Dems

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

COLORADO AVE A heated discussion over a controversial traffic and development ballot measure saw an anticlimactic end on Wednesday when the Santa Monica Democratic Club was unable to reach resolution on the hottest issue this election season.

The outcome disappointed a number of supporters for Proposition T, who were trying to gain the club's influential endorsement for a ballot measure that would limit commercial growth in the city to 75,000 square feet per year.

Upon learning the club's time was up for the evening at St. Anne's Catholic Church, the members voted on a motion to make no recommendation on the measure, leaving the door open to take action at a later meeting. That motion failed as a number of Proposition T supporters voted against it.

Julie Lopez-Dad then ended the meeting, sparking outrage by some club members who at that time unsuccessfully attempted to make a motion to endorse the measure.

"It would've been even more democratic to have a vote," Susan Hartley, a City Council candidate and Proposition T backer, said.

The nearly split vote on the "no recommendation" motion could demonstrate a nearly equal split within the club on whether to support or oppose Prop. T. Such was a similar outcome during the Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights convention this summer when its members were unable to reach resolution on the initiative, leaving it open for its steering committee to take action. The organization shares many of the same members.

Councilmember Kevin McKeown and Diana Gordon, the measure's author, presented the pro arguments at the meeting, while Councilmember Ken Genser and former Mayor Judy Abdo spoke out in opposition, pointing out the effects it would have on city and school revenues.

The Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City, which drafted the proposition, argued that the initiative was needed to curb the rate of development that has taken place in the city over the past two decades, resulting in nearly unbearable levels of traffic on the Westside.

SEE ENDORSEMENTS PAGE 9

Vikings on the hunt for bragging rights

Samohi prepares to take on rival Venice

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

VENICE Bragging rights are huge in high school football.

Any time two teams in close proximity take to the field there is bound to be a little animosity. For Santa Monica High School, this week's game against rival Venice has a little extra importance. The Vikings are coming off a 42-6 blowout victory over nearby Palisades High School and head coach Zach Cuda knows that a win over the Gondoliers will solidify his squad's place among the area's elite.

"This game is absolutely important," Cuda said. "The kids get into it. The communities get into it. That's the reason the [Palisades] and Venice games are still on our schedule."

Venice is coming into the game with an 0-3 record, but Cuda isn't taking them lightly. The Gondoliers have beaten the Vikings six straight times and last year's contest wasn't close. He likes his odds going into the game, but a fractured collar bone will keep one of his star running backs out of the game.

SEE SAMOHI PAGE 10


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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Riding into the future

Civic Auditorium, 1855 Main St., 11 a.m.

Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus and Pasadena's renowned Art Center College of Design will unveil visually stunning versions of the next generation of transit at a special event called "Bus of the Future" at the AltCar Expo. Meet the design team, view large-scale concept images and animation of on-board ride experiences, vote for your favorite designs and more. A futuristic symposium called "Transforming Transit" with internationally acclaimed transit, design and environmental experts will begin at 11:15 a.m. Blue ribbons will be awarded for the winning designs at 12:30 p.m. Free admission. For more information go to www.busofthefuture.com, or call (310) 451-5444.

'Made Me Nuclear,' the Operetta

Santa Monica Playhouse, 8 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

They radiated him, but they couldn't silence him — Charlie Lustman, surviving cancer one song at a time. Blending humor and intimacy this is a show for anyone who has faced a challenge in life. It is written and performed by singer/songwriter Charlie Lustman, and directed by Chris DeCarlo. Tickets at www.MadeMeNuclear.com or (866) 468-3399.

On Broadway

Main Stage, SMC, 1900 Pico Blvd., 8 p.m. — Midnight

Theatre students at Santa Monica College want you to check out their latest production, "American Reflections — Broadway in Concert," which they will be performing in China next month. The show features songs, dialogue and dances from "Sweet Charity," "Into the Woods," " A Chorus Line," "Young Frankenstein," and "Seussical." Tickets range from $15 to $20.

Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008

Corsairs come home

Corsair Field (On the SMC campus), 1 p.m.

The Santa Monica College football team plays its first home game of the season against L.A. Valley College. The Corsairs are 0-3 on the season and hope coming home equals a win. This will be the first game played on the revamped field, which now includes artificial turf.

Walkabout on Pico

Pico Boulevard, 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.

The much anticipated "green" themed annual event welcomes visitors to walk, ride bikes, or be shuttled along in one of the two London double-decker buses that will be continually transporting visitors from Centinela to Main street. The event sponsored by the City of Santa Monica and The Pico Improvement Organization will feature an art walk, a car show, food from various local vendors and live music. For more information, call (310) 829-9309.

Fresh roasted chilies

Virginia Avenue Park, 8 a.m. — 1 p.m.

The Chile Roaster is back at the Pico Farmers' Market. Enjoy New Mexico style roasted chilies fresh from the farmers every Saturday during the month of September. The market is located at Virginia Park at Pico and Cloverfield boulevards.

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.

Improvement project backers get their wish

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL A neighborhood that has dealt with chronic problems of prostitution, drug dealing and conflicts with motorists is one step closer toward seeing a utopia being realized.

More than a year after a group of Ocean Park residents first complained to City Hall about quality of life issues that come with living on a small corridor often mistaken for an alley, the City Council this week gave its OK to designs for a project that would create one of the first "living streets" in Santa Monica.

The living street — a design concept in which autos and pedestrians coexist peacefully — would be located on Longfellow Street, which is located one block west of Lincoln Boulevard between Marine and Ozone streets. Residents in the Borderline Neighborhood Group — a nearly 20-year-old organization which represents a nine-block swath within Ocean Park — have complained about issues with the current design of Longfellow, which does not have any sidewalks. Among the problems are illicit activities, high-speed traffic and frequent occupation by automotive-related businesses on Lincoln to store cars on Longfellow.

"It's a dumping ground that attracts a lot of negative aspects and really has not been consistent with the quality of life in the rest of the neighborhood," Sharon Carothers, who lives in the Borderline Neighborhood, said.

The council received one of two design options by Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates and Van Atta Associates. The first option uses the "living street" concept in which pedestrians and cars share one roadway. The design includes a 14-foot carriageway, two eight-foot-wide parking lanes and two five-foot-wide planting areas. The limited size of usable roadway, combined with a one-way configuration, would serve as a traffic calming measure, encouraging drivers to slow down.

The second option would also include a carriageway of the same width as the first design but would additionally have a six-foot-wide dedicated walkway on the west side of Longfellow. The consultant eventually recommended the first option because the second would require relocating utility poles on the west side of the street. The second option is also more expensive, about $1.9 million compared to $1.7 million for the

SEE PROJECT PAGE 8

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

NICE RIDE: **Paul Pearson, owner of Custom Electric Cars (a kit-car builder in Santa Monica), demonstrates his electric concept car, the Lola EV. Zero-emission and other eco-friendly vehicles were on display at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium parking lot on Fourth Street Thursday morning where the media was invited to get a preview of some of the new designs being shown at this weekend's third annual Alt Car (Alternative Energy and Transportation) Expo at the Civic Center. The expo will include natural gas, all-electric cars, trucks and motorcycles, as well as other 'green' vehicles.**

Gearing up for the Alt Car Expo

BY CATHERINE CAIN
Special to the Daily Press

PICO BLVD In a small garage in an alley off of Pico Boulevard and Second Street, the frame of Paul Pearson's electric car gets the finishing touches.

For the past four months, Pearson and his crew of three mechanics have been building the car from the ground up in anticipation of showing it off at the Alt Car Expo that kicks off today and continues through Saturday at the Santa Monica Civic Center.

The car, called the Lola-EV, is made to be a freeway-speed electric car that runs completely on lithium battery power. Each six-hour charge should give the car about 100 miles if run at about 40-50 mph.

"This is a car for Santa Monica or Malibu," Pearson said.

The self-proclaimed car junkie believes Lola will appeal mostly to other car enthusiasts, but if the price of gasoline continues to rise, it could attract more attention as people search for the next generation of automobiles.

And there's no better chance to do just that than at the expo, one of the nation's largest displays of alternative fuel vehicles.

The free, two-day expo typically draws over 10,000 people and will feature the west coast unveiling of Chevy's new extended range electric vehicle dubbed the Volt.

There is expected to be more than 100 alt-fuel and ultra-efficient vehicles, including zero-emission electric cars and trucks, hybrids, plug-in hybrid electrics rated in excess of 100 miles per gallon, and those running on hydrogen fuel cells, natural gas, propane, biodiesel and ethanol. Scooters, Segways, electric motorcycles, bicycles and more will also be on hand. Low-speed and freeway-capable vehicles will be available for public "rides-and-drives" and for immediate purchase.

The third annual Alt Car Expo demonstrates the growing need for transport alternatives. While much of the technology showcased at the expo has already been introduced to consumers, founder of Alt Car Expo Christine Dzilvelis said technology for cars that use electric or hydrogen power is being perfected constantly.

"There's so much information out there even seasoned environmentalists don't know," Dzilvelis said.

She feels people are not only concerned with increasing fuel prices and the growing environmental problems associated with air pollution, but also care about decreasing traffic congestion and improving mass transit systems.

SEE EXPO PAGE 7

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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The choice is clear

Editor:

When I read your story about Monday's forum for school board candidates, I'm glad I wasn't drinking anything, because I would have sprayed it out my nose ("School board candidates pledge more transparency," page 1, Sept. 24).

It is the height of hypocrisy for the incumbents to call for transparency when they have just participated in two blatant cover-ups: Forbidding their departing chief financial officer from discussing the district's financial practices with anyone except district officials (why should the public get to know how public money is being spent?), and forcing parents of special education students to sign contracts forbidding them from discussing their children's educational plans with anyone except district officials.

Your article quotes one incumbent board member who said, "communication has been a weak point" in the district. Well, duh. Multiple gag orders do tend to put a damper on communication.

The people who allowed and perpetuated this corrupt situation should not be returned to office. Two qualified new people are running: Chris Bley and Ben Allen. These two Santa Monica High School alumni are the only candidates anybody who cares about our public schools should vote for.

Frank Patterson
Santa Monica

Mixed-use would be hurt

Editor:

At the recent Santa Monica City TV debate, Diana Gordon and the proponents of Proposition T stated that the initiative would not impact mixed-use projects since these typically contain little commercial space and consequently would use up little of the allocated square footage under Prop T.

While the second pact of the statement is true, the first part is not. Prop. T will most certainly impact mixed-use developments.

Let's look at the process by which a mixed-use development is approved. First, the applicant has to have the proposed project designed complete with plans, sections, elevations, a couple of renderings and often a model. An application is made to the Planning Department for approval and typically an environmental impact report is required. This alone typically takes 12 months and a considerable amount of money to prepare. Then the project is reviewed, a staff report prepared and then it's heard by the Planning Commission. Assuming that that goes well, the design is then further developed including materials, colors and landscaping. Then it's off to the Architectural Review Board. Again assuming that that goes well, the technical documents (working drawings and specifications) and engineering drawings are prepared and submitted to the Building and Safety Department for permit plan check. Overall this is a good 30-36 month process. Of course there is always the possibility of someone appealing the Planning Commission or the ARB Approval, which could each add another three months to the schedule.

So I ask you, who would initiate this time consuming and expensive process if at the end of it you are informed "Sorry, but the quota for commercial area has been used up and we cannot issue you a permit. In fact we have already used up the next four years of commercial quota so please come back then." And possibly in that time frame the planning and building department approvals may have expired.

So mixed-used projects will simply not be planned.

But we really need mixed-use transit oriented developments if Santa Monica is to improve the jobs-housing balance, create more affordable and workforce housing without going into residential neighborhoods, and make pedestrian friendly, environmentally sustainable communities that can respond to and encourage the Expo Line to come to Santa Monica, all of which will actually have a more significant impact on improving traffic than Prop T.

Hank Koning
Planning Commissioner/architect



Edge of the West

Ron Scott Smith — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Selective socialists

WHEN A CERTAIN SALTY-DOG OLD landlord used to take the rent check from me, he would brand me every time as an "economic illiterate" for paying rent to him rather than buying a house, and you want to talk about that guy biting the hand that feeds him?

Ouch. Truth is, he was probably right because, so help me god I still don't know a sub-prime mortgage from a sub-prime rib, but I do know this:

Welcome to the newly ordained United Socialist States of America. You can pinch yourself all you want but you're not dreaming, sir, you're going Commie.

Your staunch, right-wing, rugged individualist, personal-responsibility-touting, free-market-worshipping, ruling cadre is seizing control of failing financial entities and throwing our common pool of money at so many corporate beggars so fast you'd think we were being led by a bunch of drunken sailors chasing whores in Tijuana. Marx and Lenin are rolling over in their graves with envy.

I'm working on the screenplay as we speak: "Dude, Where's My Free Market?"

Oh, I forgot, there is no free market, not really. Not when the very owners of it, who have deliriously prospered from it, suddenly can't make it on their own rugged-individualist terms and start crying like a baby. "Waaah, I want my big government and I want it now." What do you think happens then? See ya free market, hello big government, that's what happens then. Go figure.

Well, how about big government coming over here for a different kind of bail-out, to 26th Street and Wilshire Boulevard, where that frail 80-something-old lady sleeps on her cardboard slat every night out in front of 3 Day Blinds?

No big government to be found bailing anybody out over there. Big government is very selective, you know. Big government bails out whiny billionaires who get swallowed up by their own ravenous greed and other than that, you know it's pox on big government.

See, it's pox on big government when big government might use its might and wealth to uplift some 44 million of its citizens with a studied healthcare arrangement that might afford that guy down there at Ortho delivering mattresses a chance to see a doctor when his back starts tightening up after 20 years of bringing your bed into your home so you can sleep better.

How can they ever again say with a straight face we don't have the money for national healthcare when it apparently is growing on trees over there in D.C. where they're in the process of picking a cool $700 billion off the branches for this, their kind of bail-out.

See, this common pool of money has a specific delivery instruction attached to it and it reads — "Priority Parcel: Wall Street only. Disregard Main Street."

Bill O'Reilley said it on his show the other night, barely able to conceal his glee, "You can kiss any notion of national healthcare good-bye now." Lou Dobbs, right-wing wolf in faux-populist clothes, also with glee, said, "There will be a reduction in entitlements, period." Of course "entitlements" is the code word for programs like welfare for poor single mothers, healthcare for the sick elderly, and maybe even the Social Security that my generation can only hope is still there by the ever-shortening time that we will come to depend on it.

Where would you think our common pool of money would go when so many duly elected leaders in the executive and legislative branches have big-time investments in some of the very firms that now hold their hand out?

WELL, HOW ABOUT BIG GOVERNMENT COMING OVER HERE FOR A DIFFERENT KIND OF BAIL-OUT, TO 26TH STREET AND WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, WHERE THAT FRAIL 80-SOMETHING-OLD LADY SLEEPS ON HER CARDBOARD SLAT EVERY NIGHT OUT IN FRONT OF 3 DAY BLINDS? NO BIG GOVERNMENT TO BE FOUND BAILING ANYBODY OUT OVER THERE. BIG GOVERNMENT IS VERY SELECTIVE, YOU KNOW.

And where would you think our common pool of money would go when that common pool of money is about to be placed solely in the hands of Henry Paulson, Jr., secretary of the treasury, who ran into the ground one of the biggest panhandlers of all, Goldman-Sachs, and who sold some five million shares of his failed company's stock for oh, around $400 million, give or take a buck or two as he took over the U.S. Treasury in 2006?

His ex-firm now sits in line to get tens of billions from this common pool, and Bush has placed a directive in this deal that would give Paulson absolute, king-like authority to do whatever he wants with the cash. Talk about putting the coyote in charge of the hen house?

However stupid they must think we are, well, we're even stupider.

By the way, do they forward Social Security checks to Paris, France?

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Solzhenitsyn and me

I WAS GOING TO SUSPEND THIS COLUMN until after the economic crisis is solved. In the meantime, Kevin, my editor, wants local stories from me, not politics. Censored, I suddenly began to identify with the late Russian novelist, Aleksandr (not a typo) Solzhenitsyn.

I don't think humor was Al's forte. I'm getting the uneasy feeling my editor doesn't think it's mine, either. Here I thought "Can Sarah Spell Potato?" was kinda clever. Apparently not.

This week, I was going to propose a question to my readers: If one candidate has nine houses and 13 cars (I'm not mentioning names) and the other has 1 house and 1 car, who might be more for the little guy?

Part Two: If one vice presidential candidate is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the other can see Russia from her porch, who is better qualified? Hello, local stories.

Among local stories, our City Council may soon ban plastic bags at markets. Actually, I've been trying to take my own bags but I always seem to forget. When I finally remember to put them in the trunk, I forget to take them into the market. I'm obviously a work in progress.

I shop at Albertsons because it's close and I'm congenitally lazy. Two weeks ago was a typical shopping disaster. The parking lot was packed and my shopping cart made a piercing noise from a wobbly wheel. It was a tad embarrassing as other shoppers turned to look.

And naturally I picked the slowest checkout line. The woman in front of me had a mountain of coupons and paid with change she counted, slowly. Very slowly. When the checker finally began my order, I wondered why my items only scanned after four passes? Shopping done, I wobbly-wheeled to the car. First I broke open the pretzels before putting the groceries in the trunk. Note to self: Never shop hungry!

I live in a high-rise where it's essential to have your own shopping cart. I grabbed mine from the closet and trekked back to the car. I put the bags into the cart and headed to the lobby. I was so hungry if the elevators were out, I was having dinner in the laundry room. The elevators were working but crowded, so I squeezed in, much to everyone's dismay (Hey, the frozen food was thawing).

I could feel my neighbors' critical stares as they surveyed my groceries. When the elevator opened, everybody had to move to let me out. I sensed a silent "good riddance" as I exited.

I pulled the overloaded cart down the hallway, praying a wheel wouldn't pop off. I took the bags out of the cart and placed them onto the counter.

I opened a jar of green olives (pretzels and olives, my idea of a balanced meal) as I put the groceries in the cupboard and refrigerator, and put the cart away (I'm exhausted just from writing this).

Friends of mine have been bringing their own bags to the market for years. It's charming if you're in Paris buying fresh bread, cheese, vegetables and a bottle of wine.

It's not quite so elegant if you're schlepping a 5-pound sack of potatoes, giant-size laundry detergent, bleach, two gallons of milk (cost slightly more than one) and all the "grub" I need to last for a week (My father used to say I ate for two, me and the tapeworm).

On the next trip to the market, 10 days later, I took a duffel bag. I buy so much, often the checkers will comment about the family they assume I must have.

I usually complain, "Oh the twins eat me out of house and home." It beats telling the truth, "I hate Albertson's, the neon lighting, the motor oil, and aisle after aisle of food that has no nutritional value! Other than that, I love it here."

Back in the parking lot, my duffel bag was so heavy I needed a forklift to get it into the trunk.

And in the elevator with my neighbors, it was more embarrassing than normal. With my duffel bag I looked like Scott Peterson transporting a body.

Back to the environment, it's tragic how badly we've screwed it up. I was in grade school when we first had smog alerts. In high school I remember "gas war" signs at self-service stations that advertised gas at $2.39 a gallon.

Now it's real wars and $4 a gallon. So to do our part, we're going to have to use our own bags at the market. My grumbling aside, I just hope it's not too late.

In exile, it took Solzhenitsyn over 20 years to get his reprieve. I was hoping I could get mine next Friday. Assuming they solve the economic crisis.

JACK can be reached at JnatDailyPress@aol.com.

The Q Line

Building frustration

An ongoing streetscape improvement project in Downtown has led to increased traffic and some business owners have complained that it has hurt their bottom lines. This, coupled with the renovation of Santa Monica Place, has made the area a hard place to navigate lately.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Have Downtown construction projects impacted your life and how?

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

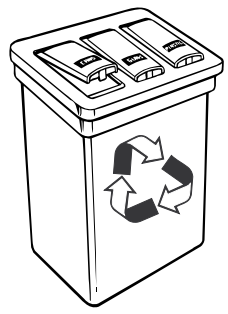

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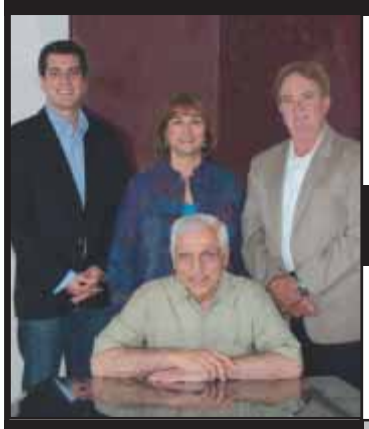
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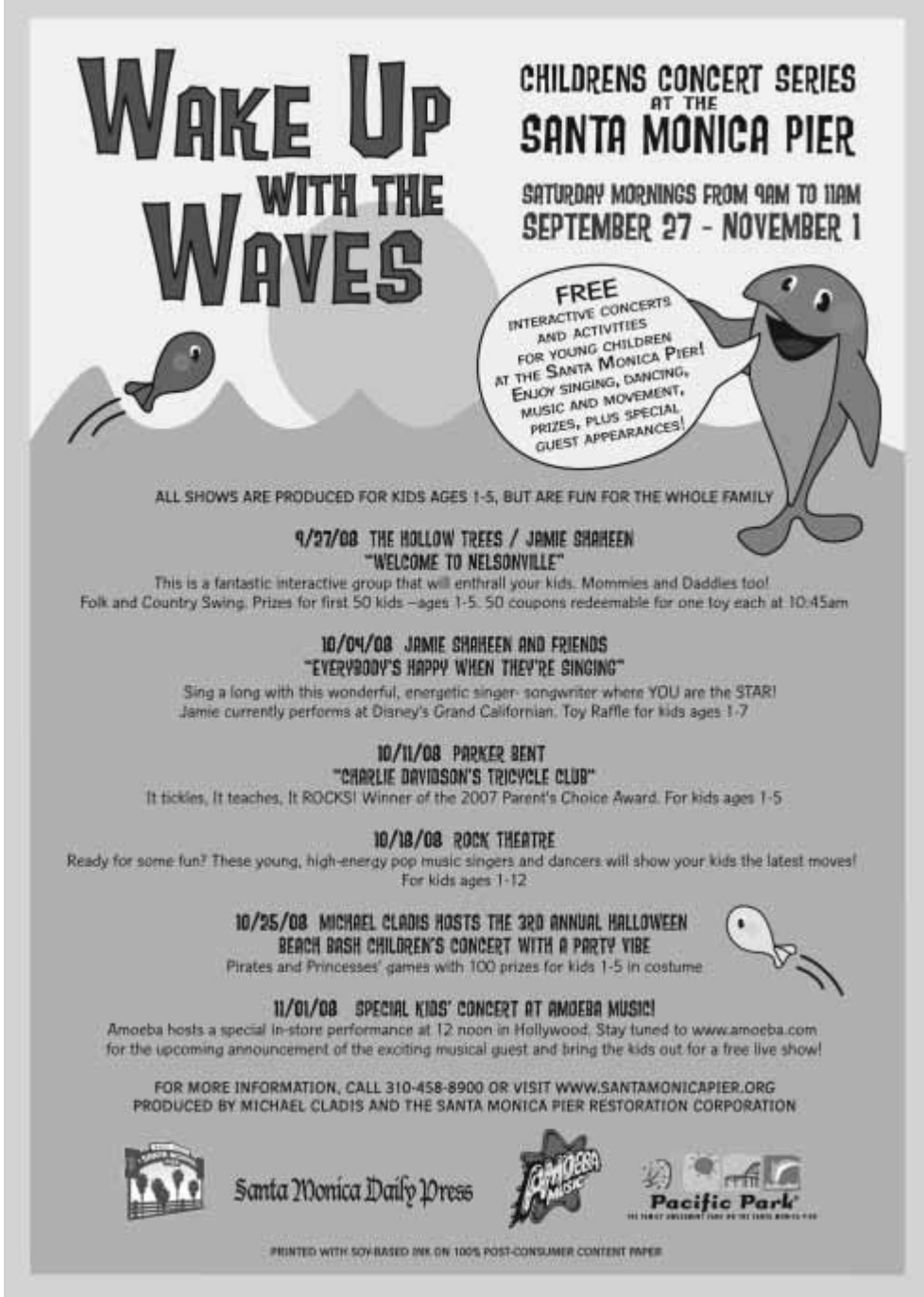
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CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Not so fast

Crime Watch is a weekly series culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 14, AT 12:02 A.M.,
Santa Monica police officers responded to the 300 block of the Santa Monica Pier – Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. – regarding a report of someone pulling a knife on a restaurant employee. When officers arrived, they made contact with store employees who said the suspect sat down for a meal, and then left without paying the bill. When a waiter went to confront the suspect, he allegedly pulled out a pocket knife and lunged at the employee and threatened to kill him. The suspect then fled on foot and was followed by the employee until police arrived and placed the suspect under arrest for assault with a deadly weapon, making criminal threats and defrauding an innkeeper. The suspect was identified as Ronnie Paul Huff, 49, a transient.

MONDAY, SEPT. 15, AT 12:20 A.M.,
Police responded to the 300 block of Santa Monica Boulevard regarding a fight in progress. When officers arrived, they made contact with the alleged victim, who was bleeding from the face, the result of a broken nose. Santa Monica fire fighters responded and transported the victim to a local hospital for treatment. Witnesses told officers that the suspect punched and kicked the victim in the face and then fled the location. The suspect later returned to the scene and was placed under arrest for assault with a deadly weapon. He was identified as John Paul Griffiths, 24, from Venice. His bail was set at $20,000.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 17, AT 11:44 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 1900 block of Pico Boulevard regarding a report of an assault with a deadly weapon. When officers arrived, they attempted to detain a possible suspect, who allegedly ignored commands and had to be forcible taken to the ground. The officers then spoke to the alleged victim and witnesses who said the suspect punched the victim several times and attempted to stab him with a paid of sheers while chasing him down the street. Witnesses positively identified the suspect in custody as the one responsible for the attack and he was placed under arrest for assault with a deadly weapon and resisting arrest. The suspect was identified as Michael Maza, 26, of Los Angeles. His bail was set at $30,000.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 17, AT 4:43 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 2400 block of Pico Boulevard – Rite Aid – regarding a report of shoplifting. When officers arrived, they spoke with store security who said they observed the suspect select items from the shelves and exit the store without paying for them. Once outside the store, security detained the suspect and recovered the stolen items, which included a bottle of Absolut vodka and some Vitamin Water valued at $45.29. The suspect was placed under arrest for commercial burglary and for violating his probation. The suspect was identified as Thomas John McMionigal, 20, of Woodland Hills.

THURSDAY, SEPT., 18, AT 2:16 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 2000 block of 18th Street regarding a report of domestic violence. When officers arrived, they made contact with the alleged victim who said she and her boyfriend were involved in an argument when he slapped her, threw her to the ground and choked her. The girlfriend was taken to a local hospital for treatment. The boyfriend was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon and domestic violence. He was identified as Peter Cushnie, 56, of Santa Monica. His bail was set at $30,000.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 19, AT 12:51 P.M.,
Officers on routine patrol in the 100 block of Wadsworth Avenue observed a man scaling a wall of a private residence. Officers detained the suspect and later determined that he did not live at the home. Officers searched the suspect's backpack and found burglary tools and possible stolen property. The suspect was arrested and later booked for burglary, possession of burglary tools and violation of probation. He was identified as Erlindo Rodriguez, Jr., 28, of Los Angeles. No bail was set.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 21, AT 12:50 P.M.,
Police responded to the corner of Second Street and Washington Avenue regarding a report of unknown trouble. When they arrived, officers made contact with the alleged victim who told them the suspect became angry when she almost struck him as she backed out of a parking space. The suspect allegedly banged on the back of her car with his hand. The driver pulled out her cell phone to take a picture of the suspect, and that is when he hit her in the arm, knocking the cell phone to the ground. He then picked it up and ran off, police said. Armed with a description of the suspect, officers were able to locate him a short time later and placed him under arrest for assault and battery and robbery. He was identified as Roy Stuart Fischer, 51, from Santa Monica. His bail was set at $50,000.

MONDAY, JULY 21, AT 7:22 P.M.,
Police responded to the 1300 block of Stanford Street regarding a report of an auto burglary that occurred. When officers arrived, they made contact with the alleged victim who said his car stereo and iPod were missing, both valued at roughly $800. Forensics technicians were able to lift fingerprints from the vehicle and a warrant was issued for Leonard Victor Stanley, 48, of Santa Monica. Stanley was stopped by officers from the Los Angeles Police Department on Sept. 18 and police discovered he had a warrant. He was taken into custody and booked at the Santa Monica Jail for auto burglary. His bail was set at $20,000.

Editor in Chief Kevin Herrera compiled these reports. news@smdp.com



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

NEW CONCEPT: **Regina and Robert Keith of Santa Monica demonstrate the maneuverability of the TrioBike with their two kids in the front seat. The TrioBike, a Danish bicycle with a two-seat detachable stroller in front, will be on display during the Alt Car Expo this weekend at the Civic.**

Alternative transportation products to be showcased during Alt Car Expo at Civic

FROM **EXPO** PAGE 3

"There's acceleration across the board. Things are happening quickly. There's a demand from people who want more efficient cars," Dzilvelis said.

A new bike from Denmark will be showcased by Regina Keith, and the unveiling of the Bus of the Future by Big Blue Bus will take place Friday morning. On Saturday, a panel will compare the cities of Portland, Austin, and Santa Monica and discuss solving the issues of transporting people.

The current regulations on neighborhood electric vehicles (known as NEVs) in Santa Monica prevent them from going on the freeway and state that they must run under 25 mph.

At the expo, a petition will be available to sign to change legislation, allowing the cars to run up to 35 mph. This would make the cars "just hugely more useful," Dzilvelis said.

U.S. trioBike distributor Regina Keith is exhibiting the trioBike at the expo for the first time. The trioBike is a bicycle and stroller rolled into one product.

Keith, whose husband found this original product on the Internet, loved the bike immediately and asked to become the first U.S. sales representative for the bike.

"The bike is a lifestyle for [me] and my family," Keith said. "I actually get excited to wake up and take my kids to school, go to the market and run a couple of errands. The smiles I get from people who see us riding by [are] a nice way to start the day."

Keith guesses that she uses the bike about 90 percent of the time now. Her car is mostly used to take her son to his gymnastics class in Playa Vista once a week.

The bike can be ordered at the expo for $4,500 and will ship within seven weeks.

Because alternative fuel sources play a large role in making the lifestyles of many more environmentally friendly, other exhibits at the expo feature many other environment-friendly products and activities, like the ecological footprint test by Sustainable Works. The footprint shows people how much impact they have on the planet by taking into account factors ranging from fuel output to consumption of animal products.

The production of animal products is globally more harmful than anything else — even car exhaust — between farms, feeding, and packaging, Dzilvelis said. The footprint shows how much impact each person has on the environment. People are also given suggestions to reduce this impact.

Dzilvelis feels residents of Santa Monica are extremely educated on the importance of alternate fuel and transportation.

"It's such a vital issue," she said.

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Nonprofit criticizes funding cuts for water quality testing

FROM **GRADES** PAGE 1

additional costs for emergency wildfire suppression this coming year.

The governor ended up making about $510 million in line item vetoes, which included the roughly $948,000 for water quality monitoring.

Palmer pointed out that there will be an ongoing fund of $425,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that can be used for water quality testing.

"This in no way shape or form should be viewed as the governor believing it's not an important program or water quality at California beaches is not a priority," Palmer said.

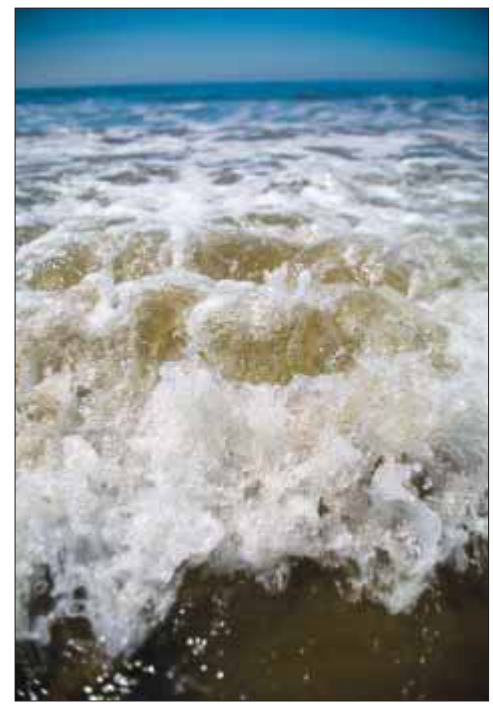
The bill was adopted in 1997 and went into effect in time for the summer of 1999. The line item veto puts 15 coastal communities at risk because it eliminated funding under AB 411, according to Heal the Bay.

"The governor has essentially placed a 'Swim at Your Own Risk' sign along the entire California coastline," Heal the Bay President Mark Gold said in a statement. "It's depressing to announce near record water quality at the same time you see the state program that supports it being dismantled."

While the rest of the state enjoyed a relatively low-bacteria summer at the beach, it was once again a different case in Los Angeles County. Taking the county's beaches out of the equation balloons the state's average of beaches receiving an A or B grades to 97 percent.

The group cites the drought and infrastructure improvements as the reason why the beaches enjoyed success this summer.

Water quality in Santa Monica Bay beaches dropped this summer from 93 percent receiving A or B grades last year to 86 percent this year. Several beaches in Malibu, including Surfrider Beach and Paradise Cove received a D or F grades.



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

LESS THAN CLEAN: **The water near the Santa Monica Pier continues to fail quality testing.**

The beach at Wilshire Boulevard received an F.

Santa Monica Pier, which attracts more than three million tourists every year, continued to perform poorly, exceeding the standard bacteria level 60 times from April 1 to Sept. 3.

The end of summer report is just one of several water quality-related studies the group publishes every year, including the annual and weekly reports.

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Project to beautify Longfellow neighborhood

FROM **PROJECT** PAGE 3

first choice.

The council's approval of the design allows the consultant to begin developing a construction bid, a process that will require an additional $310,000.

Dennis Woods, a 10-year member of the neighborhood group who chairs its improvement committee, asked that residents be included in the decision-making for the trees, lights and other decorative elements that will be included in the project.

The consultant also considered a third option that would've put in diagonal parking on alternating sides of the two blocks of Longfellow, which would be considered a traffic calming measure. The idea was nixed following a mock test with emergency response vehicles since fire trucks were unable to make a turn from Marine and Navy streets onto Longfellow.

The project received an enthusiastic stamp of approval by residents who attended the City Council meeting on Tuesday when the designs were approved.

Robert Rottman, a resident of Navy Street, said the project is in line with the city's goals for sustainability and creating a safe environment for pedestrians.

"Just last week a young boy on a bike was hit by a motorist at the corner of Navy and Longfellow," Rottman said. "I would like to believe if the project had been implemented, that problem could've been averted."

Carothers said the project was a long-time coming.

"The project will speak so much better to what the neighborhood is all about," she said.

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DRESSING UP

Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

Santa Monica College theater students run through a dress rehearsal of 'American Reflections — Broadway in Concert,' at the SMC Main Stage on Thursday. The show features songs, dialogue and dances from 'Sweet Charity,' 'Into the Woods,' 'A Chorus Line,' 'Young Frankenstein,' and 'Seussical.' The cast will be traveling next month to China for the International Exchange Month and the 50th Anniversary of Shandong University of the Arts.

Dems endorse UUT

FROM **ENDORSEMENTS** PAGE 1

"I remember when it was pretty easy to get around town," McKeown said. "Those days are gone."

More than 10,000 residents signed a petition to get the measure on the November ballot, a reaction that Gordon called the "20-year-itch." She said it started in the 1970s when residents rallied against a proposal to tear down the Santa Monica Pier and build a hotel in its place, later recalling all the City Councilmembers who supported the project. In the 1990s, residents again got together to stop the increasing high-rise hotel developments that were taking place along the coastline, Gordon said.

In 2008, the residents got together to support the Residents' Initiative to Fight Traffic, she said.

The measure's supporters also refuted a claim that there would be harm to city and school revenues, quoting a city consultant report on RIFT that impacts would not be felt until 2023.

Genser shot back, arguing the loss of money would be continual and would not come at once in 15 years.

The two sides also got into a debate over the effect on the existing rental housing market, the opposition pointing out that the measure exempting residences would force developers to target that area. The fear is renters would be forced out of affordable places to live.

Genser said that he doesn't believe the measure would do anything to affect traffic, arguing that while development has grown modestly over the past few years, congestion has exploded.

"RIFT is a feel-good measure but it does a lot of bad," he said.

The club could take action on the measure at a future meeting, which has not yet been scheduled.

SUPPORT FOR TAX

The club did at least make one decision, supporting Proposition SM, which would modernize and expand the Utility Users Tax.

The measure would update the telecommunications portion of the UUT, which is assessed on natural gas, cable, water/wastewater and electricity. The language in the local UUT was modeled after the Federal Excise Tax, which has since been repealed.

A number of cities that have also modeled their UUT after the Federal Excise Tax have since been sued. City Hall said that an update is needed in order to protect itself from litigation, which if ruled in favor of the plaintiff, could cause the loss of $12 million in existing revenue. The money is needed to maintain vital services such as public safety and education.

> **"IT WOULD'VE BEEN EVEN MORE DEMOCRATIC TO HAVE A VOTE."**
>
> **Susan Hartley**
> City Council candidate

The update would tax some areas of telecommunications that have not been assessed, including T-1 Internet service. The intent is to tax fairly, City Hall said.

"Communication technology has certainly changed a lot over the last four decades … and the law has not kept up," Santa Monica Police Chief Tim Jackman said.

A group that formed in opposition to the UUT, which runs the Web site "KeepInformationFree.com" argues that passing the measure would pave the way for City Hall to tax the Internet and satellite television when a federal moratorium on such taxes is repealed in 2014.

The club's executive committee recommended the general membership vote against the UUT, mainly because of the possible effect on the Internet.

"The current ordinance has served us well for 40 years," Peter Tigler, one of the opponents, said.

The opponents point out that there is no money lost if the measure does not pass since City Hall is not being sued, nor are there any imminent lawsuits.

"Voters need to remain in control," Tigler said.

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Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

MAKING A BREAK FOR IT: **Santa Monica High School's Christian Ross (left) runs for a long gain against Palisades High School last Friday. The Vikings won the road game, 42-6.**

Samohi Vikings hit the road to take on Venice

FROM **SAMOHI** PAGE 1

Senior Vince Lawrence injured his shoulder during the first game of the season against Leuzinger High School, but tried to play through it against Pali, but was limited to just five carries and 20 yards.

Fellow senior running back Christian Ross returned from a one-game suspension and torched the Dolphins for 230 yards and three scores. Cuda will again rely on Ross in Lawrence's absence.

Even with the injury, Cuda plans to stick to his run-first offense against a historically sound Venice defense. The Gondoliers limited Muir High School (Pasadena) to 77 rushing yards during its 33-14 loss last week.

"We'll add a little wrinkle here, a little wrinkle there," Cuda said of his game plan going into the game. "We are not going to surprise anybody with what we do. We're going to run the ball between the tackles."

He said his team played a nearly flawless game against Pal last week, but said that the few errors the Vikings made could be the difference between a loss and a victory.

"One defensive or offensive mistake is enough to lose the game," Cuda said. "Their record is a misleading 0-3. We're expecting a heck of a game."

The game will be the third road game of the season for the Vikings. Samohi will play one more road game at Jordan High School in Long Beach before finally making its home debut at a revamped Corsair Field at Santa Monica College on Oct. 10. The team had to take to the road while construction crews installed a new artificial turf playing surface.

"I haven't had a chance to get up there, but I've heard rave reviews," Cuda said of the new field. "I look forward to finally getting on the field at home."

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Photo courtesy Fox Searchlight

COMING INTO HIS OWN: **Brad William Henke (left) and Sam Rockwell star in 'Choke.' Rockwell plays the role of Victor Mancini, a sex-addicted con man who feigns choking for financial gain.**

Rockwell grows into 'adult' actor

BY TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE
Special to the Daily Press

I'm sitting on a deck chair, overlooking the pool at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, from a fourth floor hotel room terrace preparing to speak with my all-time favorite actor, Sam Rockwell.

On the bed nearby is a black duffle tossed loosely atop a garment bag, which I assume holds a change of clothes for Rockwell's appearance later this evening at the Westwood Barnes & Noble where he will answer questions along with noted author Chuck Palahnuik and the film's director Clark Gregg about his role as Victor Mancini the sex addicted protagonist in "Choke."

He travels light, like a pro, probably a result of having been through one too many of these junkets/interviews yet he couldn't be more accommodating as he gently clears and deftly stacks plates from a lunch he's just finished and places them near the TV set. Rockwell, clad in a T-shirt and a pair of blue corduroys is an easy-going host and he graciously tries to make me as comfortable as possible.

I'm surprised to see him sporting a faded tattoo on his right arm. "It's a rooster hanging from a noose," he says. Then still musing about his character, "Very sadomasochistic, Victor Mancini would think." It's his only tattoo, which he acquired when he was in his 20s.

Even though he acted in his youth, and both his parents are actors, Rockwell didn't always take the craft seriously. He credits William Esper whom he trained with when he lived in New York for helping him make the journey to "becoming ... an adult actor", and says, "That's what got the ball rolling."

Rockwell is an enigmatic performer, a modern-day chameleon, shifting accents and physical behavior to accommodate his eclectic roles: "Wild Bill" Wharton in the "Green Mile" – which he's quoted as describing on IMDB.com as "Huck Finn meets Satan;" Guy Fleegman in "Galaxy Quest" – "an homage to Bill Paxton in "Aliens" with a bit of Bill Murray's lounge singer character from SNL;" Zaphod Beeblebrox in "The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy;" and Chuck Barris in "Confessions of a Dangerous Mind." Rockwell lightly quips he likes to think of himself as the "George Clooney of $3 million movies."

But joking aside, there's no question that Rockwell is one of the most versatile working actors around, each character he portrays emerges organically as a unique, compelling force. Indeed, his ability to commit so purposefully to each part is one reason Gregg knew he wanted him for the role of Victor.

"Choke takes so many stylistic chances I needed someone like Sam who can take risks without the audience doubting his reality for a second," Gregg said.

The book is very dark in its tone, the film much lighter.

"With a movie like this it's a different kind of story telling," said Rockwell, who likens "Choke" to a, "punk rock romantic comedy," and acknowledges, "Victor's a tough role, it's got to be both comedic and dramatic."

Rockwell brings great depth to this heartbreakingly vulnerable character.

The ending of the movie (which I won't give away) feels a tad nebulous. I ask Rockwell for his interpretation and discover he's an optimist.

"I think they find each other somehow ... it's a happy ending ... and they're able to integrate love and eroticism. I think [Victor's] whole problem, like any sex addict, is that he compartmentalizes the two."

For research Rockwell and his co-star Brad William Henke attended several 12-step sex addiction meetings and both admit, they thought, as depicted in the book, that the meetings might be, "Pretty cool. Maybe see some hot chicks," but in actuality Rockwell states, "It's a pretty severe disorder ... a real psychological car crash these people go through."

As for upcoming projects, sci-fi buffs can look forward to seeing Rockwell in director Duncan Bowie's (yes, David's son) highly anticipated project "Moon" about a, "Robinson Crusoe character stranded on a space station who meets a clone and discovers what it's like to meet himself."

Kevin Spacey voices the robot.

Rockwell's also playing a girl's basketball coach in "The Winning Season" and is currently being coached by Sean Green (a former pro player) and athlete Michelle Greco. When he's not working he says, "I like boxing ... not sparring ... and yoga."

TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE is a writer/producer and movie reviewer for the Daily Press. She can be reached at Tailfish@roadrunner.com

MOVIE REVIEW

'Choke' surpasses humor of Palahnuik's original best-selling book

BY TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE
Special to the Daily Press

It's rare when a film adaptation surpasses the best-selling novel from whence it originated, but Clark Gregg's "Choke," based on Chuck Palahnuik's bestseller, has managed to achieve this difficult feat.

"Choke" stars Sam Rockwell as Victor Mancini a sex-addicted yet likable con man who feigns choking in restaurants as a way to garner sympathy, affection and income from patrons who "save him" with a quick Heimlich Maneuver. Victor hustles patrons out of their cash, providing what he deems is a "service:" a "savior experience" that makes them feel good about themselves. He then uses their funds to keep his Alzheimer afflicted mother, Ida (Angelica Huston) in a nursing home.

By day Victor works as a "tour guide" in a Colonial theme park (he's quick to point out he is actually an "historical interpreter") along with his best friend Denny (Brad William Henke). The two disheveled misfits (both also sex addicts who attend 12-step meetings), frequently discard their period attire while within the confines of the compound; a gross violation of character, that provokes the ire of "Lord High Charlie" (brilliantly played by director/actor Clark Gregg) who takes his role as an 18th century American pilgrim a tad too seriously.

Victor is adrift, running his choking scam, having sex with strangers, and avoiding punishment from his overzealous boss, who seems bent on catching "flagrant violators" of the compound rules, until he meets new ward doctor Paige Marshall (Kelly MacDonald) who believes she may have an unconventional cure for his ailing mother.

Motivated by his interest in Dr. Marshall and the chance to learn the true identity of his father, whom Ida lets slip is not actually, "a Norwegian salesman with turrets," Victor begins a journey of self-discovery he hopes may also reveal the reasons behind his addiction. Instead, his roots may prove to be divine in nature.

Strict Palahnuik devotees may be disappointed in the tone, which is more romantic comedy than a dark complex satire, but rest easy because Palahnuik himself said of the film, "It's just smarter [than the book]."

Huston, whose been picking up roles as eccentric, non-conformist mothers, is a treat as Ida, a woman beset by emotional problems but who, in her own sick-little-way truly loves her son, and Rockwell is explosive as the vulnerable, disillusioned, manipulative and lusty Mancini.

The most hilarious scene in the film is the rape sequence (there's a sentence I never thought I'd write) in which Rockwell meets a woman from an online sex site and at her bidding pretends to be her knife wielding "faceless attacker." In case the scenario gets out of hand, they agree on a "code word" that once said, means "stop." Rockwell's expressions of confusion are priceless as is the brief but terrific performance from Heather Burns as the uptight "Gwen" who insists on controlling the entire experience, thus defeating the purpose of their role-playing game.

Gregg imbues "Choke" with heart, soul and wry humor and his cast delivers great performances. Don't miss the hippest, funniest flick around ... and remember, "The code word is "Poodle."

TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE is a writer/producer and movie reviewer for the Daily Press. She can be reached at Tailfish@roadrunner.com

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NEW DVD RELEASES

BY RANDY WILLIAMS



UNIVERSAL

'House, M.D.' Season Four

Hugh Laurie returns in his double Golden Globe-winning role as the perplexing and prickly Dr. Gregory House, a rather unconventional but brilliant physician who constantly puts his staff, new and old, through the medical wringer with his sarcasm and irreverent ways. Also featuring Omar Epps and Lisa Edelstein as House's boss, storylines on the four-disc set include topics of amnesia, long-distance diagnosis, the CIA, and screening fellowship candidates. The use of visual effects and the show's writers are profiled in the extra features. (Universal)

'The Godfather' The Coppola Restoration

Five discs including all three films and over four hours of supplemental materials are presented here by the filmmaker as originally envisioned for the cinema. Beginning with the epic masterpiece featuring Marlon Brando in his Oscar-winning role as the patriarch of the Corleone family, Francis Ford Coppola directs Al Pacino, James Caan, and Robert Duvall in career-making performances that won Best Picture of 1972. Presented in all-new 5.1 digital surround sound, Coppola's influential trilogy is enhanced by a wealth of supplements. Bonus material include: Godfather World; The Masterpiece That Almost Wasn't; When the Shooting Stopped; and four short films on The Godfather. (Paramount)

'Fletch' The Collection

With his brand of brashness and sarcastic humor, Chevy Chase slips easily into the skin of I.M "Fletch" Fletcher, a disillusioned investigative reporter whose cynicism and detached view on life mirrors the actor's understated approach to comedy. Driven by one-liners and disguises, Chase as the newspaper sleuth stars in both the original and "Fletch Lives." A making-of segment and an inside look at the disguises are part of the bonus features. (Universal)

'Lonesome Dove' 2-Disc Collector's Edition

Robert Duvall and Tommy Lee Jones star in this 1989 mini-series as Gus McRae and Woodrow Call, former Texas Rangers and long-time friends seeking one more adventure before going out to pasture. Stealing a thousand head of cattle from rustlers south of the border, the tale really begins when they have to hire a motley crew of herders to help them bring the cattle to the grasslands of Montana. A long list of featured artist include: Chris Cooper, Anjelica Huston, Danny Glover, D.B. Sweeney, and Steve Buscemi. Original interviews from the set, a detailed making-of segment and a gallery of the original drawings and sketches of the production design are part of the special features. (Genius)

'Entourage' The Complete Fourth Season

In the series about the price of dreams, Vince Chase's dream project, "Medellin," finally gets a green light but is also the start of a new set of troubles for him and his pals Turtle, Eric, and Drama. Financial concerns, a tough director, bidding wars, the fickle features of fame have never been more prominent for the group from Queens. Gary Busey, Dennis Hopper, Snoop Dog and Kanye West are among the guests. (HBO)

'Mannix' The First Season

Developed by the creator of the "Mission Impossible" television series and coming to DVD for the first time, is this dramatic series that made its debut in 1967. Mike Connors stars in the title role as a tough-talking private detective constantly at odds on work methods with his boss (Joseph Campanella) at their large agency, Intertect. The six-disc package also includes new interviews with Connors and Campanella. (Paramount/CBS)

'Television Under the Swastika'

Here is a rare look into the origins of television broadcasting which the Germans, in a race to beat the British and Americans, began in March 1935. Making use of over 200 reels of film recently discovered at the Berlin Federal Film Archive, the program explores both the technology behind this new medium and the programming the Nazis chose to put on it. An intriguing study at the intersection of media and propaganda. (First Run)

Randy Williams can be reached at writtenbyrw@yahoo.com



SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 66°

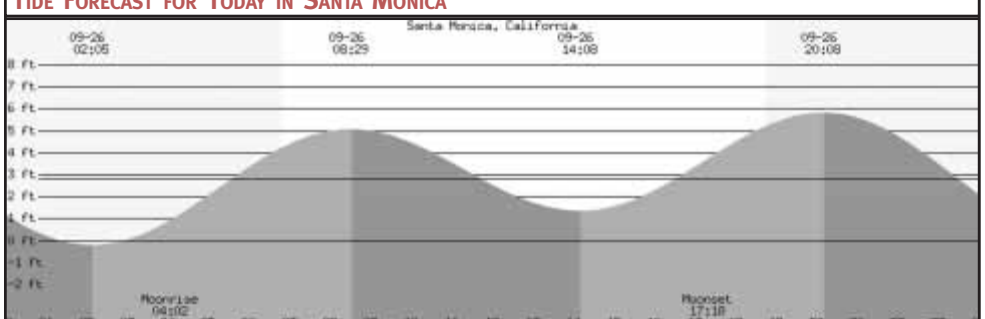
Swell Forecast (1-2 FT)

Friday is when we'll see southerly swell build from a system that spun off Antarctica south of French Polynesia last week. Today we're seeing some of its forerunners pass through.

Long Range Synopsis

Monday the 29th the southern hemi swell should back off further to waist high max. No significant NW energy is expected at this time.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **September 15, 2008**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 39 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / ns

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

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

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

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

LEGEND

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

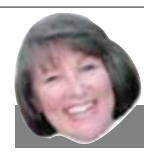
Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

Heal the Bay

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

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



Play Time

Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A standing O for the 'girls'

THE AHMANSON THEATRE WAS FILLED TO the rafters, so you can imagine the energy generated by some 2,000 delighted theatergoers applauding and cheering after every single number. But their enthusiasm was nothing compared to the exuberance of the 30 cast members cavorting onstage in one of the liveliest shows to open in Los Angeles since the long-ago heyday of great musical extravaganzas.

The show is "9 to 5," written by Patricia Resnick, based on her original screenplay for the 1980 Fox film, with music and lyrics by Dolly Parton, and choreography by Andy Blankenbuehler, whose staging is akin to Bob Fosse or Michael Bennett in their prime. And Joe Mantello, who has won every directing award imaginable, does his usual magic in this show as well.

A radiant Allison Janney, a timid Stephanie J. Block, and a misunderstood, tush-swinging Megan Hilty are the three office "girls" who foment a rebellion against their obnoxious, overbearing boss, played by Marc Kudisch. Or, as he was known in the original film: "the sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot." You get the picture.

The initial opening of this production was delayed for a couple of weeks, which usually hints at some massive glitches in the script or a feud among the actors. Not so in this case, and you'll understand the delay when you see Scott Pask's spectacular and complex set design. The scenery changes minute by minute, whirling around, disappearing beneath the stage, moving up and down and sideways, springing into new venues, and performing feats of sheer magic: like the huge Xerox machine that behaves so hilariously that it deserves an acting credit of its own. The technical manipulations involved must have taken a crew the size of the Hungarian Army to get it all moving in unison.

The three leading ladies sparkle throughout. What's more, they and the rest of the huge ensemble cast appear to be having one helluva good time. Especially in a delightful dream sequence in which each woman reveals her own inner reality, a surprising alter ego, in which, for example, the brusque, business-like Janney turns up in a Snow White costume, complete with a bow in her hair, to spread sweetness and light among her co-workers.

Kudisch as the "villain" boss has an exceptionally fine voice, as does Hilty in the part played by Parton in the film. But most delightful is Janney, who became a household name for her dramatic presence in TV's "West Wing." Who knew she could also sing and dance with the best of them?

William Ivey Long's costumes, lighting by Jules Fisher and Peggy Eisenhauer, and sound by John H. Shivers are integral and satisfying elements of the production, as is the musical direction by Stephen Oremus. And, of course, the music and lyrics by the incomparable Parton are sweet, and clever, and full of bright melody. There is, in fact, an inherent sweetness and charm to this whole production that sincerely warrants the standing ovation it inevitably receives here at its world premiere, and undoubtedly will continue to receive when it opens on Broadway in February 2009.

"9 to 5" will continue at the Ahmanson Theatre Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 6:30, with matinees Saturdays at 2 p.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m. through Oct. 19. The Ahmanson Theatre is part of the Music Center complex located at 135 N. Grand Ave., in Downtown Los Angeles. Call (213) 628-2772 for tickets.

All together now

BY MONA DAY
Special to the Daily Press

L.A. Opera opens its new 08-09 season with Puccini's trilogy of one-act operas, 'Il Trittico.'

It's a treat to see Puccini's trilogy of one-act operas, 'Il Trittico,' all together because although they were originally intended to be performed in order. Today, out of time considerations they rarely are. Typically, it is "Suor Angelica" (Sister Angelica) that gets ditched because of its sentimentality and the limitations of its all female voice cast.

The trilogy issue has actually dogged the work since its inception. Puccini's original pitch was discouraged by his publisher Ricordi, because a triple bill meant three very different sets of considerations, voices and audiences, and so tripled the risk associated with new works. This feedback made Puccini put his plans on the back burner to pick them up again only after Ricordi's death. He worked on them through the difficult years of World War I and it had its world premiere at the Metropolitan Opera in December 1918.

The opening piece, "Il Tabarro" (The Cloak), is opera verismo. It deals with a passionate love triangle with a tragic ending, including with a dark, graphically macabre final scene.

Set on a barge on the river Seine in Paris, the piece expresses Puccini's love for Parisian city life, with a nice touch of a motor horn which he worked into the score. Singers include Mark Delavan,

MOVIE TIMES

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Ave.
(323) 466-FILM

Winter Journey (Winterreise) (NR) 1hr 35min
7:30

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(310) 458-1506

Towelhead (R) 1hr 56min
11:10am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35

Vicky Cristina Barcelona (PG-13) 1hr 36min
11:40am, 2:05, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45

The Women (PG-13) 1hr 54min
11:05am, 1:50, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00

Igor (PG) 1hr 26min
11:00am, 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:25, 9:30

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

Lakeview Terrace (PG-13) 1hr 50min
11:55am, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:45

Tropic Thunder (R) 1hr 47min
11:30am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:35

Miracle at St. Anna (R) 2hrs 46min
12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30

Righteous Kill (R) 1hr 41min
11:40am, 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00

Appaloosa (R) 1hr 48min
11:00am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20

Ghost Town (PG-13) 1hr 42min
11:50am, 2:30, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15

Burn After Reading (R) 1hr 37min
11:20am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45

LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
1332 Second St.
(310) 394-9741

Choke (R) 1hr 29min
1:00, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:15

The Duchess (PG-13) 1hr 45min
12:00, 1:20, 2:40, 4:00, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:30

Man on Wire (PG-13) 1hr 30min
4:30, 9:50

Frozen River (R) 1hr 37min
1:40, 7:20

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Dark Knight, The (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
12:20, 3:40, 7:10, 10:20

Eagle Eye (PG-13) 1hr 58min
11:30am, 1:20, 2:20, 4:10, 5:10, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00, 11:00

My Best Friend's Girl (R) 1hr 41min
12:10, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:30

Nights in Rodanthe (PG-13) 1hr 37min
12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 4:00, 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 9:00, 10:10, 11:30

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

Out and about tonight, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Precision could define your next few days. You need to zero in on what is important and what counts. You have a way of loosening up talks by expressing your caring. Someone reveals more than you thought possible. Tonight: Easy does it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Your playfulness emerges, and others see your creativity and bounce. Evaluate and consider what is happening. Others see you in a golden light. Let what you need happen. Think positively. Tonight: Let your imagination rock and roll.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Stay centered, and do not let someone trigger you. Investigate what is happening at work or with a cohort. You might like what comes up. A partner is in the midst of making big changes. Tonight: Nice and easy.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Keep communication flourishing. Easy does it; relax with others. Your creativity flourishes, especially with a child or loved one. Brainstorm with others, and let ideas pop. Pace yourself. Tonight: Easy works.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Treat yourself well, making a new option a possibility. You might be surprised by what comes up out of the blue. You have humor and the ability to help others see possibilities. Someone quite close to you often gets stuck. Tonight: Fun and games (it's Friday).

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Go for what you want, and stop selling yourself short. Others like what they see, or else they would not be so pro-you. Accept a change on the personal front rather than fight city hall. Relax and work with what you have. Tonight: Charge into your weekend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Take your time moving a project. You could be overly tired or withdrawn. Your imagination takes a new direction. Test out ideas on others. Stay centered with a conversation that goes in a different direction. Tonight: Out and about. Celebrate life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by news that heads your direction. Eye a problem more carefully. Seeing a situation differently could help manage it. You have a way of drawing many. Use that charm. Tonight: Find your pals.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Review a situation with an eye to positive change. Whether you like it or not, you are in the limelight. Talk to others, and share recent events. You might be more of a role model than you are aware. Tonight: A must appearance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Take an overview, and you'll come up with unique ideas. Listen to someone you consider to be somewhat of an expert. In any case, you will discover that there is another point of view. Think positively. Tonight: New vistas.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You deal with people differently. Realize what others want to express. Take time with each person. He or she will feel as if you care more. You will revive your thinking after a talk if you feel it's necessary. Tonight: Dinner for two.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Defer to others, knowing full well where you are heading. Listen to other point of views, especially those of someone you look up to. Investigate possibilities openly. Make a special call to a loved one or friend. Tonight: Out and about.

Happy birthday

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

You have the unique ability — especially this year — to read others cold. As a result of this characteristic, sometimes you do not see what you are projecting, especially in your personal life. Learn to pull back and listen more frequently to what loved ones say. They probably are telling you the truth, as much as they can be aware. You could react strongly when you think your feelings are being hurt. You have energy and a dynamic personality. Go for what you really want. If you are single, you make a big change in your life and consequently are more likely to enjoy others. 2009 could be very exciting for all Libras. VIRGO reads you cold.

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Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from ★ (easiest) to ★★★★★ (hardest).

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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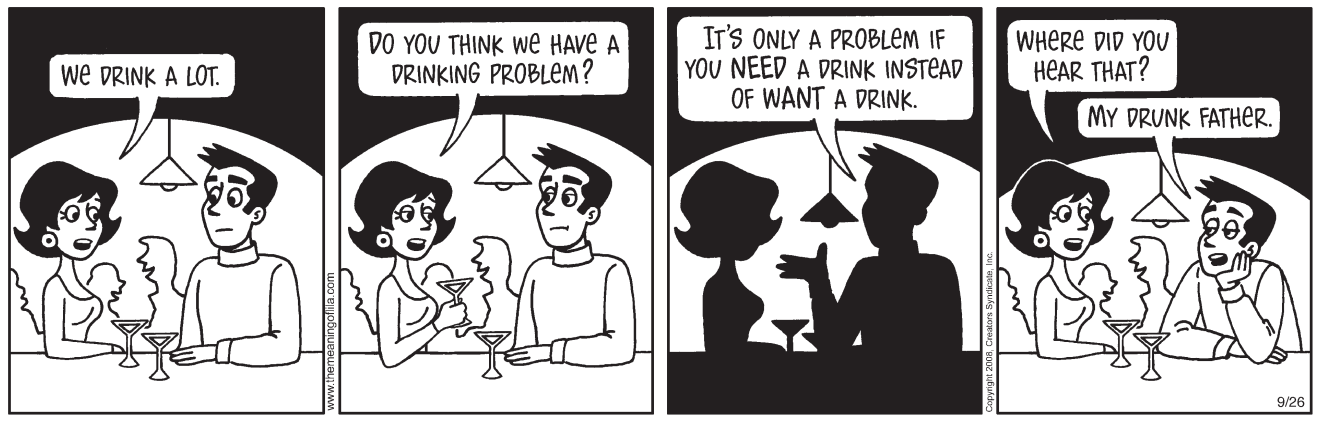
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



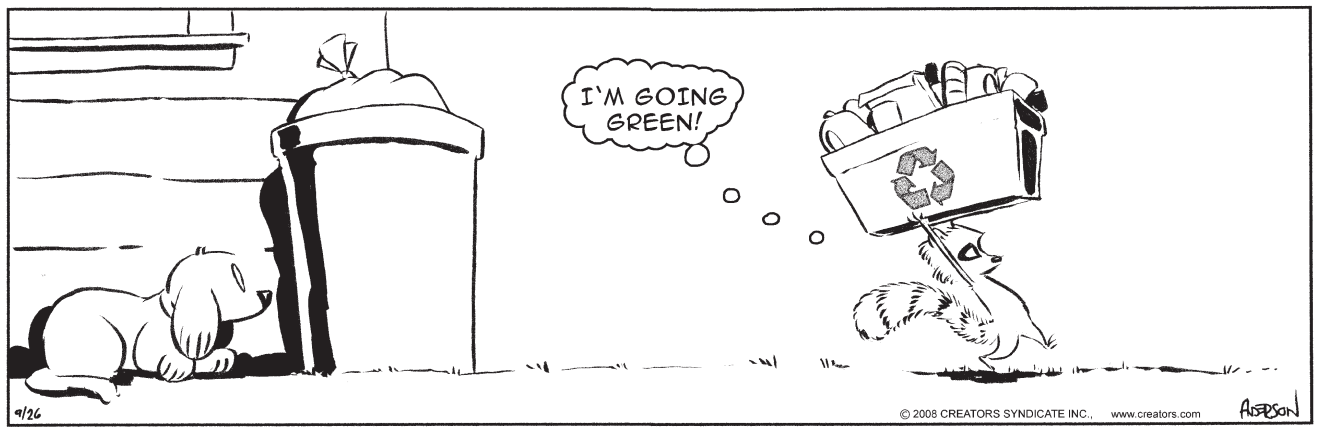
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



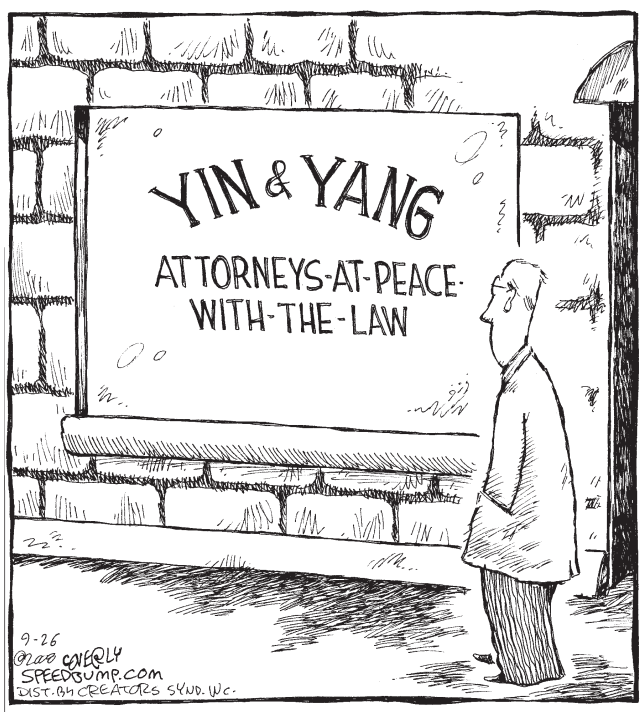
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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Loses
6 Met offering
11 Crude home
12 Homes for workers
13 Concert venue
14 Showtime series
15 Ruin
16 Supporter's side
18 Maiden name label
19 Frigid
20 Carpentry tool
21 Asian holiday
22 Do over, as travel plans
24 Resistance units
25 Jazz great Coleman
27 Store cargo
29 Exhibited
32 Wall climber
33 Whopper
34 World labor grp.
35 Nourished
36 Co. abbr.
37 Fire
38 Stumbles
40 Do a butler's job
42 Deplete
43 Embarrassing outburst
44 Nuisances
45 Down source

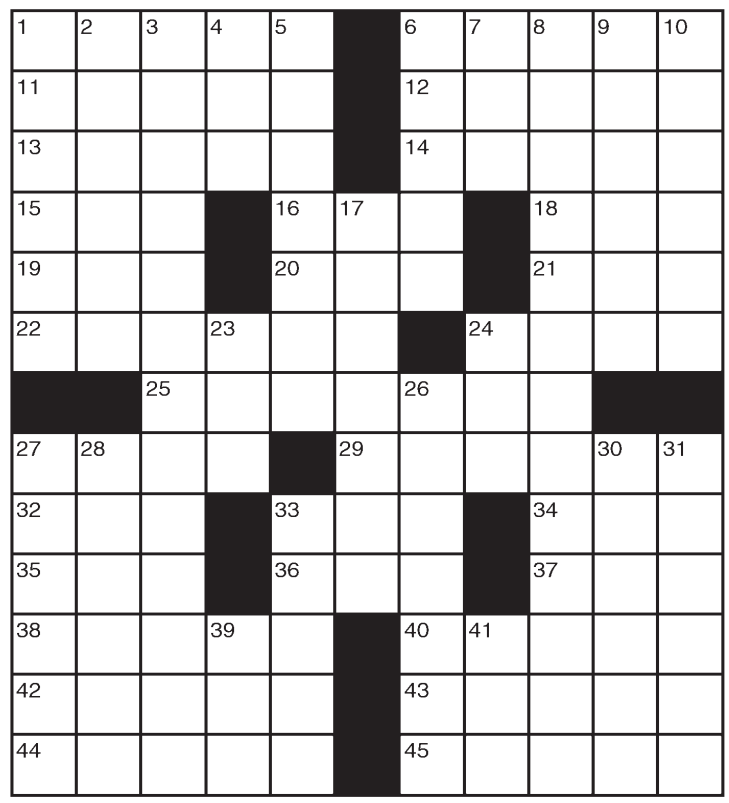
DOWN

1 Israel's Yitzhak
2 Ancient odist
3 Lawrence Block book
4 Bear lair
5 Applies hurriedly
6 "Awesome!"
7 Diner dessert
8 Lawrence Block book
9 Cash in
10 Good qualities
17 Gains in abundance
23 Vein yield
24 Ear: Pref.
26 Start of any Perry Mason title
27 Boost
28 Reluctant
30 "Seinfeld" role
31 One of Santa's team
33 Speech problems
39 Place
41 Chem. or biol.

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



9-26

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 9 32 34 43 52
Meganumber: 4
Jackpot: $24M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 1 6 20 40 41
Meganumber: 18
Jackpot: $31M

Fantasy 5: 21 22 23 27 37

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 3 3 6
EVENING: 2 1 9

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1.41.76

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The Texas criminal justice system continues to astonish. In August, federal judge Orlando Garcia of San Antonio ordered a final-hours' stay of execution for Jeffrey Wood based on serious concerns about his sanity, that the Texas state courts had somehow summarily dismissed. Judge Garcia said substantial evidence supported at least holding a hearing on the issue but that state law seemed to require the inmate to prove his insanity first in order to obtain a hearing on whether he is insane. That, said Garcia, is "an insane system."

■ Adding to the list of stories that were formerly weird but which now occur with such frequency that they must be retired from circulation: (89) People who call the emergency-only 911 number for stupid reasons, such as Reginald Peterson, who called Jacksonville, Fla., police in August because Subway didn't make his sandwich correctly. (90) People who seem to lose all respect for the danger of walking on railroad tracks when they listen to music on a headset or talk on cell phones (such as the two people hit by trains three weeks apart in April and May on the same rail line in suburbs of Seattle).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1777 British troops occupied Philadelphia during the American Revolution.

1892 John Philip Sousa and his newly formed band performed publicly for the first time, at the Stillman Music Hall in Plainfield, N.J.

1914 the Federal Trade Commission was established.

1918 the Meuse-Argonne offensive against the Germans began during World War I.

1955 The New York Stock Exchange saw its worst price decline since 1929.

1957 the musical play "West Side Story" opened on Broadway.

1960 the first debate between presidential candidates took place as John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon faced off in Chicago.

WORD UP!

edify \ED-uh-fy\, *transitive verb*:
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Santa Monica Daily Press

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DENTAL back office with experience. Santa Monica dental office PT (310) 393-9706 fax resumes to (310)899-1828

Customer service/sales position/on site coordinator at lawfirm in Santa Monica. Prior experience in lawfirm preferred.Salary negotiable. Contact bsberkowitz@aol.com.

OCEAN HOUSE, an upscale retirement community, is looking for a **full time dining room supervisor** to oversee all dining room operations, train new staff, and provide excellent customer service to our guests. Must have previous experience in the restaurant industry. If interested, please come by 2107 Ocean Ave. SM, CA 90405 and fill out an application or fax a resume to (310) 314-7356

OCEAN HOUSE, an upscale retirement community, is looking for a **part time receptionist** to work Fri & Sat from 8am-4pm at the front desk. The ideal candidate will have great customer service skills, communication skills, and be able to handle multiple tasks well. If interested please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM 90405, fax a resume to (310) 314-7356, or email a resume to adennis@brookdaleliving.com.

PART-TIME OR FULL-TIME Driver. Must have own car, need to be familiar with L.A. have Ca. driver's license, English speaking. Can earn up to $100/ a day. Submit resume to bsberkowitz@aol.com

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833 5TH St. SM upper unit 209 1+1 $1925 stove, d/w, carpet, blinds, swimming pool, laundry, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets. (310)393-2547 www.jkwproperties.com

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MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. Unit 208 1bdrm/1bath, gated parking, intercom entry, stove, fridge, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. $1150/mo on site manager (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

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