

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

22 42 20 46 28
Meganumber: 14
Jackpot: \$7 Million

FANTASY 5

8 11 29 31 37

DAILY 3

Daytime: 3 8 6
Evening: 3 6 2

DAILY DERBY

1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms

RACE TIME: 1:43.95

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In November, Michael Patrick Mikitka, 35, was arrested and charged as the man who had held up six banks in one week in the Pittsburgh area, including one in which he had written the holdup note on a check issued to him when he opened his account. In the final robbery, at the PNC Bank in Wilksburg, he was on his way out the door when the security guard said that the teller needed to see him again, and as he walked back in, the doors locked, and the guard grabbed him. Pending trial, Mikitka was sent to drug rehabilitation, but he left the facility on Dec. 22 and was re-arrested the same day when he allegedly robbed the same National City bank that he had robbed twice during his November spree.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Forty years ago, on Oct. 1, 1964, the Free Speech Movement was launched at the University of California at Berkeley.
■ In 1800, Spain ceded Louisiana to France in a secret treaty.
■ In 1885, special delivery mail service began in the United States.
■ In 1896, the U.S. Post Office established Rural Free Delivery.
■ In 1908, Henry Ford introduced the Model T automobile to the market.
■ In 1949, Communist Party Chairman Mao Tse-tung raised the first flag of the People's Republic of China during a ceremony in Beijing.

INDEX

Horoscopes

Stay close to home, Pisces 2

Local

A helping hoof 3

Surf Report

Water temperature: 68° 3

Opinions

The straight poop 4

Entertainment

Rung burn at box office 8

State

The race is on 11

National

Mining their business 11

Crossword

41 Down: Zsa Zsa's sister 12

Classifieds

Get to work 13

Service Directory

Work to get 15

Chain reaction: Council limits stores

BY GENEVA WHITMARSH

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — A unanimous move by elected officials here this week might discourage high-profile chain stores from setting up shop on the Third Street Promenade.

The City Council voted Tuesday in favor of limiting the frontage of any new or expanding retail stores to 50 linear feet, and setting up a process to allow larger frontages for such uses as bowling alleys, skating rinks and convention and conference facilities.

The law, which was previously in effect as an interim ordinance, essentially discourages chain stores, which typically demand large spaces and a lot of window space. And while many feel chain stores have led to the homogenization of the Promenade, others contend that they are driving its success.

Council members have said in the past that their concern relates to stores whose frontages are too large for the Promenade and therefore alter the visual character of the street. The larger businesses

also cut down on available space and limit the number of stores available to shoppers.

"I think the health of the Promenade and — by extension — the health of the downtown is a function of having a healthy mix of businesses," said City Councilman Mike Feinstein. "The ongoing consolidation of smaller spaces into larger ones ... is a threat to the diversity and uniqueness that helps make the Promenade a draw."

City Councilman Ken Genser

said the law is "intended to discourage large national chains that need a lot of frontage."

The original Third Street Mall was primarily a pedestrian retail mall whose failure to attract residents and visitors threatened the viability of the downtown area. In response, city officials embarked upon an extensive planning and community participation process which culminated in the adoption of the "Third Street Mall Specific Plan," now called the "Bayside Plan,"

See CHAIN GANG, page 6

Calm before the storm



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

The Santa Monica High School Junior Varsity Vikings (foreground) warm up prior to taking on the visiting St. Monica's Mariners (back) on Thursday afternoon at the Samohi campus. The Vikings routed the Mariners, 52-0. The varsity teams from both schools play tonight at Santa Monica College's Corsair Field at 7 p.m. — the first time the rivals will vie for a trophy.

City kickstarts efforts to alleviate parking woes

BY GENEVA WHITMARSH

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Officials here jump-started efforts this week to allow local car dealers to expand their businesses into nearby residential parking lots.

City Council members are considering a new law which would allow local car dealers to use residentially zoned lots near and within their dealerships. The council unanimously took steps to approve an interim ordinance, a related environmental analysis and a public hearing on the subject, the date of which has yet to be set.

Auto dealers, which accounted for a fifth of the city's nearly \$28 million in projected sales tax revenue this year, have long argued that they can't expand, have little room to operate and have no parking for their employees, customers or inventory.

Residents, on the other hand, complain about such things as general noise, lighting, lack of parking, the unloading of new cars, test-drives through their respective neighborhoods and the noise of repair work.

"It was imperative we did this because it helps the car

See WHEELS AND DEALS, page 7

'X' game: Private rocketship team eyes \$10 million

By staff and wire reports

MOJAVE — It appears likely that the private-company race into space, not to mention the \$10 million prize that goes with it, will be won by a team fronted by Microsoft founder and billionaire Paul Allen. SpaceShipOne is halfway to winning the prize after a successful space flight on Tuesday.

The team announced they were

"Go for Launch" in July at Santa Monica Airport.

SpaceShipOne, which was piloted by Michael Melvill on Tuesday when it reached an altitude of 64 miles above the earth, is expected to make a second trip over the next week to claim its lofty prize. Its primary competitor — powered by the da Vinci Project in Canada — scrapped a planned flight for Saturday due to

the "availability of a few key components and their integration into the overall space flight program," according to a statement.

Dr. Peter H. Diamandis, of Santa Monica, serves as chairman and founder of the X PRIZE Foundation, which is overseeing the race. The \$10 million Ansari X Prize was established to reward the first craft to safely complete two flights to an altitude of at least

328,000 feet, or 62 miles, within a 14-day span.

The prize was designed to reflect the spirit of the "Orteig Prize," a \$25,000 sum claimed by famed aviator Charles Lindbergh when he beat out eight competing teams that had spent in excess of \$400,000 attempting to cross the Atlantic Ocean. Similar to the current \$10 million, the Orteig prize

See SPACE COWBOYS, page 10

Jacquie Banks

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Bye Bye Kitty

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)
 ★★★ Vagueness gets to you, as you are bold and direct. Unfortunately, not everyone manifests those traits. In fact, a friend could waffle to such an extent that you toss your hands in the air in frustration. Resist expressing your feelings, and help this person clarify his or her words. Tonight: Organize your CDs, music, etc.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ You are the cat's meow, with the exception of perhaps one person — so you think. Someone pivotal in your life might be the victim of misinformation or be confused. Your magic really does work on him or her. Tonight: Strive for clarity at work, at home and in communication in general.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★ You could be confused by what you are hearing. Don't take someone's comments personally; rather, understand that he or she might be feeling bad about him- or herself. Maintain a low profile as you figure out what is going on. Tonight: Do something just for yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ You might be well-rewarded by your efforts in a meeting or with a group. A key individual in your life might not be reading information correctly. Confirm facts and figures here. Be indulgent of others' failures. Tonight: Go shopping or join friends to play a game.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★ You might think you understand what is going on, but in reality, you don't. The issue might not be you, but the confusion that surrounds others. They might be deceiving or confusing themselves. You are reacting to their persona. Tonight: Work late.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Your vision about what might work certainly doesn't coincide with that of associates. You might need to find a mutually acceptable solution. Know that you have the wherewithal to do it. Find an expert. Stay intellectual; refuse to become emotional. Tonight: Split work ASAP.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ You're not being honest with yourself about a key relationship. You would prefer to delude yourself and stay in your fantasies. Ultimately, this could cause you more of a problem. Listen to a financial adviser. Be practical. Tonight: Be a duo.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Others run with the ball. Meanwhile, you might be thinking of something other than the matter at hand. Realize that it would be better if you were present in the moment. Get with the program, at least at work! Tonight: Christen the weekend with friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ You have a sixth sense about what might be going on. You might even know when something is going to happen before it does. Resist getting into conversations and diversions until you clear out your work. Tonight: Off to the gym or take a walk.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ Your ingenuity helps you clear out the door early for the weekend. You might even ask some co-workers to join you for a glass of bubbly and nibbles. Socializing might be more costly than you think. Tonight: Be a true Goat with money.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★ You confuse others, especially those close to you. Your family and close friends might be scratching their heads at what you do out of the blue. You might consider the impact of your impulsiveness. Let your creativity flow. Tonight: Buy a table fountain on the way home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ You might be worried or concerned about a private matter that you aren't dealing with. Your actions and words might reflect inner concerns more than you realize. Use kid gloves with anyone you meet today. Tonight: Stay close to home.

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 1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • www.smdp.com

PUBLISHER Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com EDITOR Carolyn Sackariason sack@smdp.com STAFF WRITER John Wood wood@smdp.com STAFF WRITER Geneva Whitmarsh geneva@smdp.com ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER Rob Plubeni rob@smdp.com ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Rob Schwenker schwenker@smdp.com	ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Stewart O'Dell stewarto@smdp.com PRODUCTION MANAGER Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II alex@smdp.com EXECUTIVE TRAFFIC MANAGER Brenda Casas brenda@smdp.com CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE Mitch Troy mitch@smdp.com CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE Kitty Seeger kitty@smdp.com NIGHT EDITOR Lori Luechtefeld lori@smdp.com	NIGHT EDITOR Michael Tittinger mikeyt@smdp.com CIRCULATION MANAGER Mike Aviles mike@smdp.com CIRCULATION Keith Wyatt keith@smdp.com CIRCULATION Glenn Bolan glenn@smdp.com SPECIAL PROJECTS Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com MASCOT Maya Furukawa maya@smdp.com
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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Elks lend helping hoof to troops overseas

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Elks, working in conjunction with the Jack Showers Foundation, donated \$1,000 to the American Legion program to send necessities and goodies to overseas military personnel.

There was another \$700 collected from the Elks on hand. The check was presented to Grace and Bob Jacobs — both past commanders of Post 123. Bob Jacobs also is a trustee in the Elks.

The program started in Bosnia and has since spread to all branches of the services. Legionnaires and Elks meet at the lodge and package the boxes. In the last few years, more than 5,000 boxes have been sent. The Red Cross determines the areas of need and handles the distribution.

For contributions, send checks to Santa Monica Elks, attention R.A. Pickett at 1040 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, Calif. 90405, or make a check out to The American Legion Post 123 and mail it Bob Jacobs 833, 20th St., #104, Santa Monica, Calif., 90403. Denote "Overseas Servicemen" on the check. For more information, call Curt Curtiss (310) 645-8989.

A room with a 'View': Library touts Isherwood

By Daily Press staff

James White, author and executive director of the Christopher Isherwood Foundation, presents "Isherwood — A Personal View of his Work" and leads a discussion of Isherwood's 1964 novel "A Single Man" on Saturday, Oct. 2, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the celebrated author's birth. Isherwood immigrated to America in 1939 and lived in Santa Monica Canyon until his death in 1986. "A Single Man" is frequently acclaimed as the author's finest novel, a pioneering work of modern gay fiction, and a quintessential Los Angeles novel.

For more information about this free public program, call the Library at (310) 458-8600, or visit the Web site www.smpl.org.

Picture perfect: SMC attracts photography program

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College is one of eight higher education institutions in the U.S. — and the only public two-year college — to be picked for a new national program designed to help students establish successful careers in commercial photography.

The Advertising Photographers of America has announced it has developed the "Successful Emerging Photographers" program, designed to offer tips and techniques for photography students to make a smooth transition into the profession.

"We picked a few schools we thought had a great reputation," said Bobbi Lane, APA's education chair. "And SMC is known as having a terrific photo program."

The APA program, which was launched in May at the Hallmark Institute of Photography in Massachusetts, involves an intensive one-day seminar that provides an overview of the commercial photography industry and gives useful information about business plans, marketing, copyright and licensing, and more.

Photography professor Ford Lowcock said the seminar at SMC will be offered Nov. 12, and advanced students will be required to attend. He said the seminar also will be open to other students and alumni.

"It's one of the best things that has been offered to our students, to get knowledge of the business, and other aspects of commercial photography," Lowcock said.

APA President George Fulton said his organization has "a grand goal to help develop successful future photographers by inspiring them through our members' successes."

The other colleges confirmed for the program in 2004-05 are the Academy of Art in San Francisco, Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, Art Institute of Atlanta, Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, and the Parsons School of Design in New York. Aside from Hallmark, the program also was offered this summer at the International Center for Photography in New York.



SURF REPORT

Expect 3-4 ft., waist- to chest-high sets, occasionally 5 ft., and fair conditions.

On Friday, the NW swell will fill in a bit more as the SW swell slowly fades. All swells back down over the weekend. Look for a mix of slowly fading SW swell (210-220) and an increase in steep NW ground swell (295+300+).

Today the water is:

68°

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



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	2:00	-0.6	1:52	1.8	8:30	4.9	7:51	6.2
SUNDAY	2:35	-0.5	2:36	1.2	8:57	5.2	8:37	6.1
MONDAY	3:08	-0.3	3:17	0.8	9:24	5.5	9:20	5.9
TUESDAY	3:37	0.1	3:57	0.5	9:50	5.7	10:01	5.5
WEDNESDAY	4:05	0.5	4:36	0.3	10:16	5.8	10:42	5.0
THURSDAY	4:30	1.1	5:16	0.4	10:42	5.8	11:25	4.5
FRIDAY	4:54	1.6	5:59	0.5	11:08	5.7	N/A	N/A

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The Line

The Santa Monica Visitors and Conventions Bureau for the past year and a half has been researching how this city should be "branded" to visitors. Focus groups have been held in New York, Chicago and London, as well as in Los Angeles to determine what people think Santa Monica should be known for — its positive aspects.

Las Vegas is known as "Sin City" and New York is the "City that never sleeps." Whatever Santa Monica's moniker will be is intended to be used in promoting the city as a destination place.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "How should Santa Monica be branded? What should the rest of the world know about us?"

Please don't respond with answers like "Home of the homeless" or "People's Republic of Santa Monica," as many already view the city in that regard.

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

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OPINION



"DID IT TAKE LONG TO FIND ME?"

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ayn Rand assault was all wrong

Editor:

Bravo for Jason Hadleman's marvelous response to the latest Ayn Rand assault with reason and historical truth (SMDP, Sept. 29, page 4).

His critique of Elan Journo's apology for Western imperialism and racism was right on the mark.

John Marciano
Santa Monica

Second thoughts about visiting Santa Monica

Editor:

I just visited Santa Monica last week for the second time. Again, I was impressed with your beautiful oceanfront city. Unfortunately, I would like to mention that your homeless problem has doubled since I visited a year ago. I don't know what kind of action your city is taking, but the problem is getting worse. Politicians like to do a lot of talking, but is anything being done?

Jim Resolute
Virginia Beach, Va.

Judges rule on case law, not politics

Editor:

Ed Silverstein's column, "Incites," has come under attack by your readers for its purported "bias" and left slant, especially its unfairness towards Christians and Republicans. For the record, I am agnostic, a lifelong Democrat and, unlike many of my peers in 1969-1970, I registered for the Vietnam draft. My comments are about Ed's Sept. 29 column.

The column states accurately that the main legacy and influence of Bush or Kerry will be his appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court: "Kerry's appointees ... will be centrist judges who reflect the attitudes of the vast majority of Americans ..."

The last I heard, judges make decisions based on case law and constitutional interpretation, not necessarily or primarily on popular public opinion. When Justice Anthony Scalia was nominated to the highest court — he is undoubtedly one of its most conservative members — it was "centrist," liberal Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry who voted to confirm Scalia's appointment.

Richard Hilton
Santa Monica

Potty-mouthed media spout news you can lose



POLITIGIRL
BY BETH SOLOMON

I left a job in Hollywood about a year ago as the entertainment industry seemed hell-bent on a race to the bottom in dignity and quality. But I was naive. Soft porn, vulgarity, sex obsession and superficiality aren't the sole province of the entertainment media anymore. What's loosely referred to as the "news media" might get to the bottom first.

The vaunted New York Times Magazine dove downward Sunday with a story on bloggers, featuring potty-mouth Ana Marie Cox, also known as Wonkette, pictured on the cover in what appeared to be underwear. Cox's references to penises on her blowsy Web site have made her a star.

But the New York Times didn't come to bury Cox and her low-brow blogger brethren, but to praise them. "Fear and Laptops on the Campaign Trail" began with this tagline: "The bloggers covering the presidential race are maverick, funny, mostly partisan and always hypercaffeinated. Are they ruining political journalism or recharging it?"

The article went on to describe Cox as having "peachy cream skin and eyes of a very bright blue, strawberry blond hair and a filthy mind; she likes to analyze our nation's leaders in their most private, ah, parts. She has been talking this way all her life. Until January, no one listened. She's the daughter of a six-foot-tall blond Scandinavian goddess and one of the bright young men who worked under Robert McNamara in the Pentagon."

It's a real service when the New York Times provides enlightening coverage of people we need to know about. In this case, it's critical information, because Ana Marie Cox is a rising star in the new news media. That means, for women, showing as much leg as possible on talk shows — wearing the highest hemlines and the lowest necklines. Just ask the New York Times, Ana Marie Cox is hot!

Not to unfairly single out the nation's

newspaper of record. A day after the New York Times piece, the family-owned Washington Post chimed in with its own story about the story called "Wonkette, Taking Blogs from Geek to Chic." Therein we learned from Cox that "I liked the part (in the Times) about me being a bitchy lush." Who says there's not enough competition in newspapers these days?

Newsweek, still employing real journalists, yanked them into the gutter recently with a cover screaming "Slime Time Live!" about the 2004 election. Why the magazine felt it necessary to pretend its reporters are vulgar is beyond me. But this I know: You can get a case of vertigo watching these venerable publications dive off their pedestals into the sewer.

What's the result? A growing disgust — and an increasing rejection — of the information the media provides. Since the media are largely based on the East and West coasts, what gets rejected is not just offensive language, rude behavior and sexually explicit vulgarity — but serious information itself. It's all lumped together as the product of a hypocritical, immoral and arrogant media elite that is fascinated with its own personalities, dismissive of people outside major urban areas, and confident in dictating what America should think and do.

No wonder America is about to re-elect George Bush. Say what you will, the man maintains a clean shave and keeps his shirt tucked in. It can't hurt that the media's condescension toward Bush has always been so clear.

But the public hasn't written off the liberal media entirely. Americans think CBS News anchor Dan Rather made an "honest mistake" in his controversial story on President Bush's military service, according to a USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll released Monday. In the poll, 56 percent said Rather had made an honest mistake probably due to "carelessness in their fact-checking and reporting."

What really stunned those surveyed was that someone in the media was trying to report facts at all.

(Beth Solomon can be reached at bethsolomon@earthlink.net).

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



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OPINION



Yoga Daddy dilemma: Don't get bent about it

PISTACHIO PERSPECTIVE

BY SUSAN ANN CONNOR



I was thoroughly immersed in a writing project and had lost track of time. Darting my eyes to the clock, I realized I was on the verge of being late for my tri-weekly date with Yoga Daddy. Can't be late for Yoga Daddy! No, no, no!

I knee-jerked out of my chair and rushed through my perfunctory preparation for yoga class — proper clothes, hair up, a little gloss, fill water bottle, find those doggone keys, forget phone is ringing, dash out the door.

As I sprinted up the studio stairs, fear emerged that my unmindful tardiness could put me in the rear of the room. EE-gads! And I was right. I peeked in the door, and the place was packed.

It was two minutes before yoga take-off. My normal spot, up close and personal to Yoga Daddy, was occupied. So were the spots on either side of it ... by the same person! One woman of average size was taking up three places in a very crowded room. It was bumper to bumper. Everyone else had formed parallel lines, she decided to be perpendicular.

Calmly, step by step, I navigated myself through the soon-to-be-in-harmony students. As I approached the perpendicular one, who was lounging in "corpse pose," I bent down to speak to her. In a very pacifist whisper I said, "Excuse me, would you mind turning your mat the other way so I could fit in?"

"Yes, I would mind," she blurted rather loudly.

"But you're taking up enough room for three," I continued peacefully.

"Well," the hoarder peacocked, "that's why I got here early."

I stayed bent, unsure of my next move. It occurred to me to slap her and tell her to snap out of it. Instead, I replied the way I think Yoga Daddy would prefer. I took the edge of her mat and pulled it out from underneath her and asked her to step outside. Nahhh, I'm kidding.

Actually, I stood up in "mountain

pose" and said in a Gandhi-esque tone, "I'm not sure I understand the universal sharing and caring of your concept, but I will retreat." As I turned away from Miss Perpendicular, three kind people in the next row quickly nuzzled together and squeezed me in.

I thanked them, and as soon as I was settled, Yoga Daddy appeared. Darling Yoga Daddy is a 70ish, accent-bearing, 30-year yoga-teaching veteran. Yoga Daddy, of course, is not his real name. It's an affectionate nickname I have imposed upon him. I've never called him that to his face, but he is, indeed, my Yoga Daddy, and a superstar among the yoga teaching breed.

Yoga means "unity" in Sanskrit. Originating in India, it is a 5,000-year-old practice, which is intended to integrate and balance the body, mind and spirit. In the course of its development, many branches and schools have evolved. Considered the most popular is hatha yoga, which is Yoga Daddy's yoga of choice. Thus, mine.

Yoga Daddy is a serious, yet whimsical, sort of guy. And he usually, unintentionally, gets a couple of laughs. Tonight he started by surveying the class and reminding us to breathe in and out of our nose. A beat later, he said dryly, "Knock knock." One brave soul in the back replied, "Who's there?"

"Yoga."

"Yoga who?"

"Yo-ga what it takes. Now lie down please."

Giggling, I lay down, ready for stress relief. Then out of the corner of my eye, I saw two plus-size women enter. They stayed near the door searching for a spot to station themselves. Yoga Daddy is such a gentleman. He motioned both ladies forward and promptly escorted them toward Miss Perpendicular. Squatting down, Yoga Daddy softly said to her, "Turn your mat, please."

I couldn't help but smile as Miss Perpendicular ended up sandwiched between the bountiful lovely yoginis. Ahh, the sweet smell of karma. Lalalala...

(Susan Ann Connor can be reached at pistachiocolumn@aol.com)

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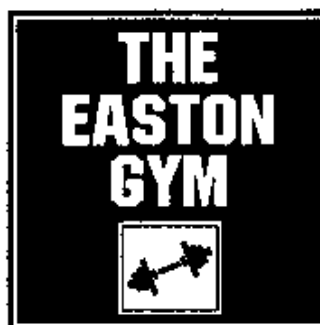
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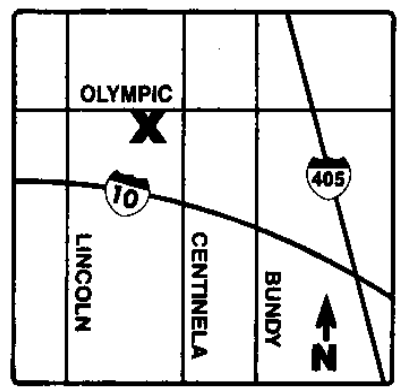
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Council's new mantra: Keep Promenade unique

CHAIN GANG, from page 1

District Specific Plan." The plan was adopted by the City Council in January 1996, and members have since regulated stores, entertainment venues and restaurants.

In its early days, city officials feared that too many restaurants and not enough retail shops threatened the viability of the outdoor mall. Movie theaters were brought in and regulations were put into place that favored more retail. Now, just the opposite has occurred — some feel there are too many chain stores, and not enough independently owned retail shops and restaurants.

Information presented to the City Council in November 2001 showed that the mix of uses was at risk, according to city documents. At the time, five restaurants had been lost in the two years prior, with four more near or at the end of their leases. As restaurants left the Promenade, retail uses grew. The growth of retail already has exceeded the 10-year projection contained in the Bayside District Specific Plan.

"Concern has been expressed that the Promenade is becoming less unique and more like a typical shopping mall," the documents read. "If allowed to continue, this trend will threaten the unique character and economic and social welfare of the downtown area."

In response, on Nov. 27, 2001, the City Council adopted an interim ordinance regulating the concentration of ground floor retail uses on the Promenade by limiting the total linear footage and square footage of retail on each block. The City

Council also established a Promenade Uses Task Force to study the relevant issues and make recommendations to the City Council regarding what's appropriate on the Promenade. The task force included three council members, one Planning Commissioner, two Bayside District Corp. board members and one property owner.

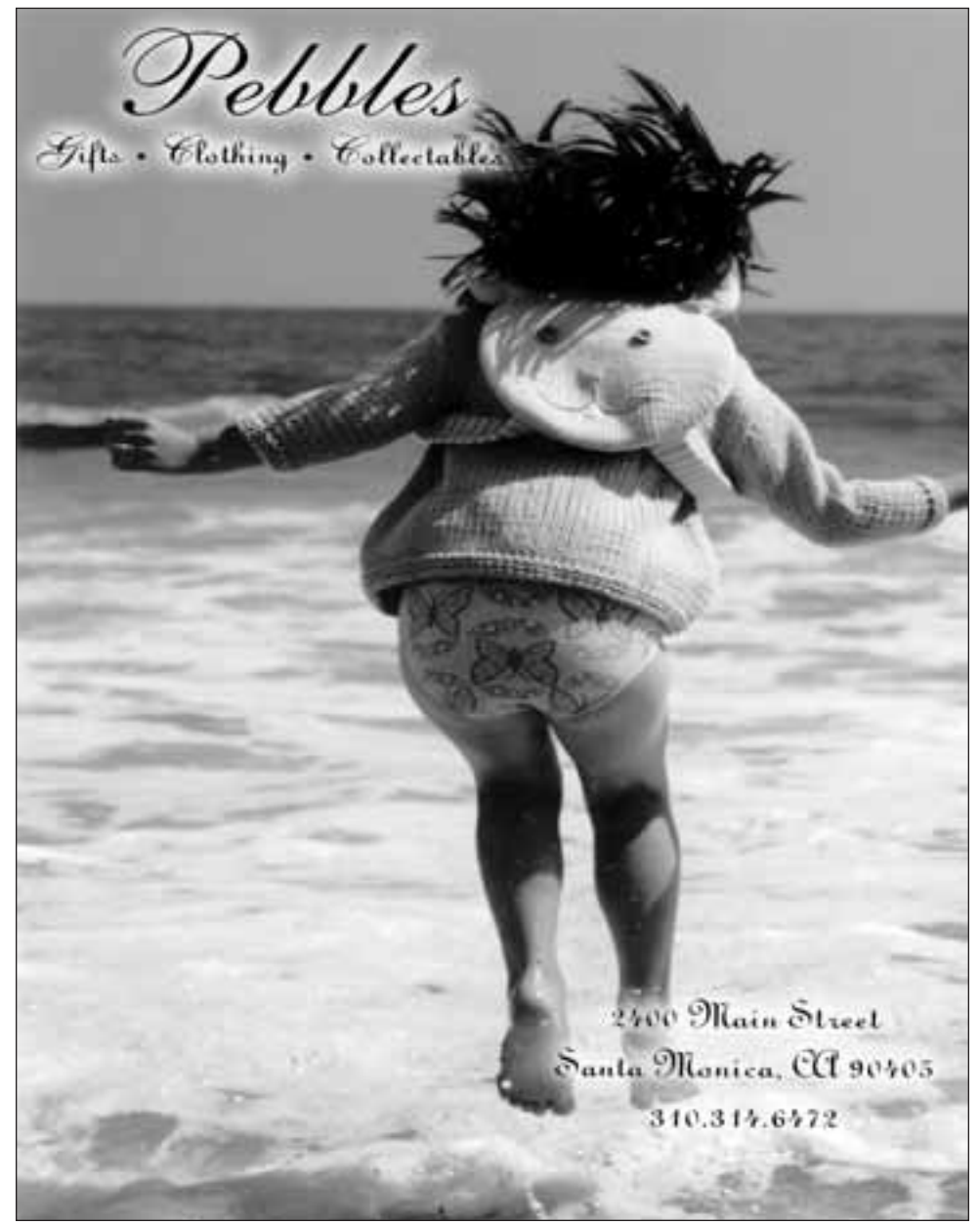
Officials from Bayside District Corp., a nonprofit organization that runs downtown, have routinely said they want city leaders to focus on vagrancy and parking downtown, and leave alone the mix of large and small merchants on the thriving thoroughfare. The contentious matter has been batted back and forth for more than seven years.

Earlier this year, the City Council considered creating a law that could specifically limit chain stores on the Promenade, a notion that outraged local property owners.

Since at least 1997, Bayside has discussed how to address the balance of stores on the Promenade. Though it was against limiting chain stores outright, Bayside last year supported the initial law that limits storefront lengths.

"The 50-foot (rule) doesn't regulate the uniqueness (of the stores), just the size," said Andy Agle, assistant director of planning and community development for the city. "It doesn't say anything about chain stores, but what you'll hear is that formula retailers look for larger spaces."

"This is one the council wanted to move forward with immediately," he continued. "This is something that will hopefully keep a sense of variety and uniqueness (on the Promenade)."



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LOCAL



Car dealerships remain largest tax generators

WHEELS AND DEALS, from page 1

dealers,” said City Councilman Herb Katz. “Even though some of the residents came out and said they don’t want anything done, they don’t seem to understand that it’s for them. It’s going to help reduce the noise, traffic and parking problem.”

The average size of a dealership in Santa Monica is 1.4 acres. However, the standard for the industry in other areas is between five and 10 acres, according to dealership owners. Not having enough space to store the dealership’s inventory creates a burden for the community as a whole, owners say, because they are forced to store cars in garages and parking lots throughout the city. As a result, dealers must routinely haul cars back and forth.

“There just isn’t the room for us to operate our businesses,” a local dealer told the City Council Tuesday. “Something needs to be done.”

Officials on Tuesday were asked to look at several proposals resulting from more than three years of study. Among those they elected to consider:

- Develop more underground parking for auto storage and other dealership activities.

- Build one additional story for projects that include at least one substantial underground level, with taller building facing the main commercial streets to minimize impacts on residential neighbors.

- Develop parking structures for employees and customer parking, or auto storage on nearby lots in the neighborhood, which are often used by dealerships.

The Planning Commission, whose ideas were adopted by the City Council, wants to allow the residential lots to be further developed for use as parking structures that would provide adequate parking for commercial areas without affecting nearby residents.

“The intention would be that these parking structures could only be used for the adjacent dealerships and would need to be demolished if the dealership use ceased,” staff wrote in its report.

Staff, however, disagrees with the commission’s proposal, arguing that it’s an undesirable long-term policy, which will permanently erode potential for neighborhood improvement.

“In a lot of ways, this is (in the begin-

ning stages),” said Amanda Schachter of the city’s planning and community development department. “We did a lot of study and outreach with the dealers and community, and we presented council (Tuesday) with what we found.”

The council directed staff to draft an interim ordinance, a process that requires an environmental review. Officials were hesitant to say how long such a process would take, but Schachter said it could take up to two years.

What to do with the automotive industry in Santa Monica has been on the minds of elected officials and dealership owners for years. In 2001, a group of dealers hired a consultant to outline their issues and present a plan to city leaders that would give them more freedom to operate their businesses. City Hall then hired two consultants — at a cost of \$119,000 — to evaluate the feasibility of the dealerships’ study.

Based on numerous meetings with community groups, city staff and dealership owners, City Hall’s consultants determined much of the complaints of the auto industry and the public were valid. They also determined that while Santa Monica dealerships have increased revenue over the last few years, it has not increased at the rate experienced by larger auto mall dealerships.

“The report points to the pressing need for the city to revise its policies in some way in order to retain these businesses and their tax contributions in the coming years,” city staff wrote in a memo to the Planning Commission.

“The dealers are pressured by the manufacturers,” Katz said. “If they can’t increase their business and secure sales, they could go out of business.”

New car sales generated about \$5 million in sales taxes for Santa Monica in 2003. Auto leases accounted for another \$1.2 million, according to Dave Carr, assistant city treasurer. Auto dealerships are the largest tax generator in the city, he added.

Santa Monica dealerships are up against the consolidation of dealerships into large chains, who sell several brands of cars in one place, creating what is known as “auto rows.” They can be found in Van Nuys and Glendale, and are used by dealerships to pool their advertising together and make it more convenient for consumers.



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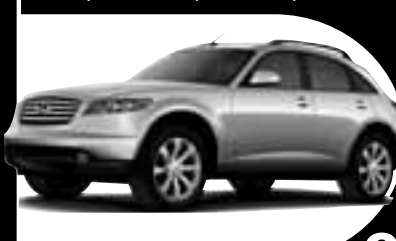
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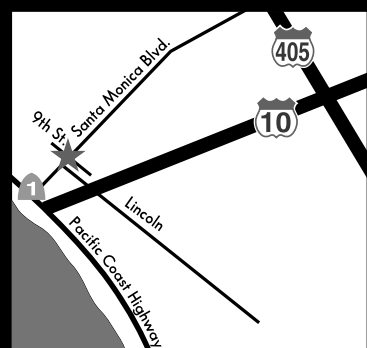
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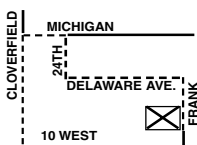
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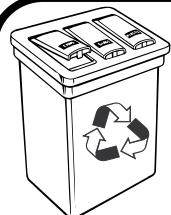
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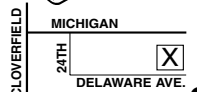
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Entertainment

WHAT’S PLAYING ...

THE FORGOTTEN
The truth is out there: This movie is a dud. Has the tenor of a long-lost episode of “The X-Files” that should have remained missing.
Starring: Julianne Moore, Dominic West

FIRST DAUGHTER
A lackluster but harmless tween flick about the famous daughter of a President, whose greatest desire is to be normal.
Starring: Katie Holmes, Marc Blucas

THE LAST SHOT
A very clever comedy about dreams, and the extraordinary lengths to which people will sometimes go to realize them. Baldwin and Broderick make for a great team.
Starring: Alec Baldwin, Matthew Broderick

SHAUN OF THE DEAD
The cast is spot-on, and the film boasts several riotously funny set-pieces.
Starring: Simon Pegg, Nick Frost

A DIRTY SHAME
It’s pretty boring, which is something that isn’t often said about John Waters’ work.
Starring: Tracey Ullman, Johnny Knoxville

THE MOTORCYCLE DIARIES
This story of personal enlightenment is powerful and touching.
Starring: Gael Garcia Bernal, Rodrigo de la Serna

MR. 3000
Mac squeezes an extra base out of a slow roller in this chalk talk about the value of teamwork, modesty and accurate scorekeeping.
Starring: Bernie Mac, Angela Bassett

HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
Even the most obliging tissue-toters will likely be put off by the film’s conspicuous lack of originality and the absence of chemistry between the romantic leads.
Starring: Charlize Theron, Stuart Townsend

WIMBLEDON
Dunst looks great on the movie poster, but this movie belongs to Bettany. His performance alone is reason enough to recommend this romantic comedy. The exceedingly realistic tennis action isn’t bad either.
Starring: Paul Bettany, Kirsten Dunst

SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMORROW
Has the soft glow of a colorized black and white 30’s noir but with the scale, speed and wit of today’s better, character driven, sci-fi, CGI spectacles.
Starring: Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow

SILVER CITY
Political satire offers no new or compelling arguments against his this movie season’s most popular whipping boys: brainless politicians and the big business interests that corrupt them.
Starring: Chris Cooper, Richard Dreyfuss

GHOST IN THE SHELL 2: INNOCENCE
Will be welcomed as a godsend by diehard fans of Japanese animation, but the typical moviegoer will likely find the director’s philosophizing to be far too esoteric.

CELLULAR
Plies one implausibility upon another until it becomes a nearly impossible burden for audiences to bear.
Starring: Kim Cattrall, William H. Macy

RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE
The bedlam is ridiculous, ear-shattering and relentless, made all the more annoying thanks to the action-horror movie clichés exploding all around.
Starring: Milla Jovovich, Sienna Guillory

CRIMINAL
An Americanized, near exact copy of “Nine Queens,” an entertaining Argentinean heist film released just two years ago.
Starring: John C. Reilly, Diego Luna

WICKER PARK
“Whacko Park” is a more apropos title for this untellible collection of curious coincidences, bad music, far-fetched narrative twists and deadwood performances.
Starring: Josh Hartnett, Diane Kruger

VANITY FAIR
While users and social climbers aren’t often likeable characters, Witherspoon’s Becky Sharp is downright loveable.
Starring: Reese Witherspoon, James Purefoy

SUSPECT ZERO
In spite of the headache some will feel after the gruesome scenes and the halting dialogue, the scenery is breathtaking and no one does a vacant, yet calculating stare like Kingsley.
Starring: Ben Kingsley, Carrie-Anne Moss, Aaron Eckhart

WITHOUT A PADDLE
Fishes out of water comedy that is far from great, but it keeps its distance from awful as well.
Starring: Matthew Lillard, Dax Shepard, Seth Green

THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2: ROYAL ENGAGEMENT
A trifling sequel that panders to a decidedly undiscriminating demographic: Little girls.
Starring: Anne Hathaway, Julie Andrews

WE DON’T LIVE HERE ANYMORE
An achingly honest story about two married couples who find themselves trapped in their relationships and in themselves.
Starring: Naomi Watts, Mark Ruffalo, Laura Dern, Peter Krause

BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS
Eclectic, jazzy, color-saturated sets and costumes are a perfect match for the money- and alcohol-saturated, animated characters.
Starring: Emily Mortimer

COLLATERAL
Cruise makes for one bad-ass bad guy in this unsettling thrill ride from director Michael Mann.
Starring: Tom Cruise, Jamie Foxx

OPEN WATER
If you thought the crew in “Jaws” were screwed out there in their little boat, wait ‘til you see what happens to the unfortunate young couple in this one.
Starring: Daniel Travis, Blanchard Ryan

THE VILLAGE
The final act shocker isn’t worth enduring the rest of the film for.
Starring: Joaquin Phoenix, Bryce Dallas Howard, William Hurt

THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE
Director Jonathan Demme returns to “Silence of the Lambs”-type form, taking us on a suspenseful journey rife with intrigue and fueled by paranoia.
Starring: Denzel Washington, Meryl Streep

HAROLD & KUMAR GO TO WHITE CASTLE
A stoner flick at heart, but even those who’ve never inhaled will find plenty to laugh at from start to finish.
Starring: Kal Penn, John Cho

GARDEN STATE
A smart love story that is a welcome diversion from all that cacophonous summer noise at the multiplex.
Starring: Natalie Portman, Zach Braff, Peter Sarsgaard

Phoenix rising: Joaquin turns up heat in ‘Ladder’

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Joaquin Phoenix enjoys top billing in the firefighter saga “Ladder 49,” and that’s saying something, given that the 29-year-old actor stars opposite perennial A-lister John Travolta. Joaquin’s journey to the top of the Hollywood heap began in 1989 with a bit part in “Parenthood.” Back then, he was called Leaf, but known primarily as the late River Phoenix’s kid brother.

His breakout role came in 1995, opposite Nicole Kidman and Matt Dillon in the dark comedy “To Die For.” He then appeared in “Inventing the Abbotts” and “Clay Pigeons” en route to his Academy Award-nominated performance in “Gladiator.” The star sat down recently with a group of pens-for-hire to talk about his latest film.

QUESTION: Your name is above the marquee on “Ladder 49,” and with that distinction comes great responsibility. What sort of pressure, if any, are you feeling going in to opening weekend?

JOAQUIN PHOENIX: I really just wanted firefighters to be satisfied with this film and to feel it was an accurate depiction of their lives. If firefighters see this film, like it, and think that it’s authentic, well, that’s all we can ask for. That takes precedence over whether the film is considered financially or critically successful.

Q: What sort of reaction have you received from the firefighters who’ve screened the film?

JP: It’s been amazing to go to firehouses and meet these guys and have them come up, shake our hands and say “Thank you for making this movie.” I’ve never had that experience before in my life. No one has ever thanked me for making a movie.

Q: You’ve admitted to having a fear of heights. How did you get up the nerve to slide down those poles in the firehouse?

JP: I wish you could have seen Jay’s face when I went to the first firehouse, and I couldn’t get down the pole. He was like, “Who have I cast, and what are we going to do?”

Q: Did the rigorous firefighting training you went through help you to overcome that fear?

JP: You don’t overcome the fear, you learn to control it. That’s what the training is all about. Firefighters will tell you if you’re not scared, get out of the job. You have to have a level of respect for the fire, and the (other dangers) you’re dealing with. But you never get over the fear. It’s always there.

Q: You’ve spent a lot of time with real firefighters and their families. What impressed you the most about them?

JP: I was struck by the effect that the firefighters’ job has on their family, and by how brave the families have to be. In a sense, it’s more difficult to handle because (the families) don’t really know what’s happening at the fire scene. Some of the wives told me about how they would call the firehouse, and no one’s there, so they know they’re off on a run. And all (the wives) have then is their imagination, and many of them say it’s so hard not to imagine the worst-case scenario.

Q: It’s been reported that your suit caught on fire during the shoot.

JP: I guess it did. I didn’t really remember this, but it seems to be something memorable for a lot of people. I remember the embers hitting me in the face — that I remember. And I guess once the floor collapsed, the coat had caught on fire ... but we always had at least five firefighters from the (Baltimore Fire Department) with us every day, and I felt really safe while I was working.



‘Ladder’ takes rung turn, lacking in depth

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Joaquin Phoenix and John Travolta star in this well-intentioned but somewhat overly indulgent encomium to the brave firemen who run into burning buildings for a living. Set against a busy Baltimore engine company, “Ladder 49” takes us inside the ordinary lives of men who regularly exhibit extraordinary courage under the most dire of circumstances. Director Jay Russell and his crew clearly have tremendous respect for the film’s heroes, so much so that they resist imbuing them with any appreciable imperfections ... you know, the peccadillos that make us human. Without any significant personal predicaments to react to outside the workplace (beyond boiler plate relationship issues), Phoenix and Travolta are left

with but one issue to resolve: Putting out the fires. And in “Ladder 49,” there are plenty of five-alarmers.

When we meet Jack Morrison (Phoenix), he’s trapped inside a burning warehouse in which he was seriously injured saving the life of a civilian. Lying helpless in the rubble as all hell breaks loose around him, Jack flashes back to the seminal events that brought him there: His first day on the job; meeting his mentor, Capt. Mike Kennedy (Travolta); marrying the lovely and devoted Linda (Jacinda Barrett); the birth of his kids; saving a young girl from an inferno; etc. Meanwhile, back in real time, Kennedy and his men try desperately to rescue Jack as conditions deteriorate, providing Russell and director of photography James L. Carter the opportunity to showcase some spectacular fire sequences. A buffed-up Phoenix does a fine job fleshing out an underwritten role — with a simple facial expression he has the ability to impart a sense of conflict that might otherwise not exist. Travolta’s talents are underutilized here, his one-dimensional character relegated to delivering platitudinous sermons about honor and duty without a hint as to what makes him tick. Barrett, a former “Real World” cast member, is a revelation who anchors the film’s most heart-rending scene.

(Rated PG-13 for intense fire and rescue situations, and for language. Running time: 117 minutes)



Heartfelt comedy searches for meaning

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

The search for meaning in an incomprehensible world is the leitmotiv of writer-director David O. Russell's ("Spanking the Monkey," "Three Kings") bizarre and very funny metaphysical farce. Inspired casting, a retro-European production design and Russell's smart incorporation/exploration of several conflicting existential philosophies combine to make "Huckabees" one of the most interesting comedies in recent memory. To be sure, there are problems — most notably, a convoluted narrative that moves in no readily discernible direction toward a resolution that many will find a bit baffling. But if you're willing to wrap your head around the idea that this is a film that just is, you'll no doubt appreciate the lofty intent and a host of flat-out fantastic performances.

Albert Markovski (Jason Schwartzman) is a manic environmentalist convinced that a series of coincidental meetings with a doorman hold some secret to life's biggest secrets. To help him uncover the truth, Albert employs two "existential detectives" (Lily Tomlin and Dustin Hoffman), who follow and record his every move while offering some decidedly off-the-wall counsel. The biggest thorn in Albert's side is Brad Stand (Jude Law), a sleazy hotshot executive for the Huckabees chain of Wal-Mart-esque superstores, who's dating the store's iconic spokesmodel, Dawn (Naomi Watts). The conflict between Albert and Brad makes for some high comedy, especially after an increasingly disillusioned Albert pairs up with another of the detectives' clients — a violent petroleum-obsessed firefighter named Tommy (a hilarious Mark Wahlberg in a performance that ranks with his best, "Boogie Nights"). The angry young men soon fall under the influence of sexy French nihilist Catherine Vauban (Isabelle Huppert), setting up a final-act battle of the senses that leaves no mind unblown.

(Rated R for language and a sex scene. Running time: 106 minutes)

'Shark Tale' — heartbreaker that bites

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Before we begin, I'd like you to try something: Turn to the first 10-year-old kid you can find — yours, somebody else's ... it doesn't matter — and in your best raspy, Michael Corleone voice whisper, "I know it was you, Fredo. You broke my heart. You broke my heart!" OK, see that blank stare you're getting in response? That look should tell you all you need to know about the merits of "Shark Tale." But since I get paid by the word, I'll tell you a little more.

As movies about marauding deep-sea predators go, "Shark Tale" bites. Of course, this PG-rated animated feature from DreamWorks isn't intended to terrify audiences like, say, "Jaws" or "Open Water," but what is pretty scary is the filmmakers' apparent indifference to the appetites of the children who will be filling the seats opening weekend. "Shark Tale" boasts top-notch animation and a cast full of names that look mighty impressive on the poster, but in sending up classic mob films such as "The Godfather" and "Scarface," directors Vicky Jenson, Bibi Bergeron and Rob Letterman seem to have lost sight of an important detail: Little kids don't know those movies. So as a slew of one-liners pilfered from those bloody fossils fell upon the deaf ears of the tykes at the screening I attended, an obvious question emerged — "Who was this movie made for?" Fans of a histrionic Will Smith, perhaps? People who always wondered what it would be like to watch the normally very funny Jack Black struggle for laughs playing an ambiguously gay shark? There's much else to find fault with here: Martin Scorsese's blowfish gives old school rap a try (yes, it IS as awful as you might imagine), as the Great White ("Godfather," Robert DeNiro makes us an offer we can't help but refuse; Ziggy Marley and Doug E. Doug disoblige the Rasta community, playing sadistic stoner jellyfish; and, most inexcusably, the animators somehow managed to make the fish voiced by Renee Zellweger and Angelina Jolie look like something you'd throw back into the drink.

Oh, "Shark Tale." You broke my heart. You broke my heart!

(Rated PG for some mild language and crude humor. Running time: 89 minutes)



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SPACE COWBOYS, from page 1

had been available for eight years.

Ignoring a recommendation to abort the flight on Tuesday, Melvill piloted the stubby-looking rocket plane on a corkscrewing, white-knuckle ride outside the atmosphere, completing the first stage of its quest.

As viewers watched nervously from the ground, SpaceShipOne rolled dozens of times as it hurtled toward space. Designer Burt Rutan said he asked Melvill to shut down the engine, but Melvill kept going until he passed the 62-mile altitude required to win the Ansari X Prize.

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That distance is generally considered to be the beginning of outer space.

"I did a victory roll at the top," Melvill joked from atop the spaceship after it landed safely at Mojave Airport, north of Los Angeles. He acknowledged, however, that he hadn't planned the maneuvers.

Melvill said he did shut down the engine 11 seconds earlier than planned after determining the craft would reach its target height. He suspects he may have caused the rolling himself.

"You know, you're extremely busy at that point," he said. "Your feet and your hands and your eyes and everything is working about as fast as you can work them, and probably I stepped on something too quickly and caused the roll."

The situation was being analyzed by spacecraft builders, who must decide if they should proceed with another flight Monday in order to win the X Prize.

Rutan said rolling had occurred in flight simulations and it made controllers "uncomfortable" on Wednesday.

"It's no big deal," he said. "We didn't want it to do (that). In fact, it caused us to recommend to Mike to shut the motor down. He didn't feel as uncomfortable as we did, so he let it run another couple seconds."

Melvill was asked about the flight video watched by TV audiences and how it appeared to show a difficult flight.

"Part of it is the speed," he said, "and if you put any kind of a roll into it, (the roll) is going to ramp up very fast. But the roll rate was very controllable."

Rutan and Melvill were confident Monday's flight would go on as planned.

"I've looked at it, and I think we just change out the engine and fill it with gas and let it go," Melvill said.

During the flight, SpaceShipOne climbed to an altitude of 337,500 feet — nearly 10,000 feet above its target, said Gregg Maryniak, executive director of the X Prize Foundation.

Rutan revealed that another pilot had initially been chosen for the flight but had been diagnosed with what appeared to be a serious illness and was entering the hospital at the same time his wife was having a baby.

The illness no longer seemed to be as serious as first believed, Rutan said.

Rutan also said his mother's ashes were among the cargo carried aboard Wednesday's flight.

The mission began when a specially designed jet with the spacecraft under its belly took off from Mojave Airport. At 47,000 feet, SpaceShipOne was released into a brief glide before Melvill fired its rocket motor and pointed the nose up toward space.

A crowd of invited VIPs watched from below the airport control tower, while news media looked on from bleachers along the runway. The mission was televised live.

Melvill, 62, earned the nation's first commercial astronaut's wings by piloting SpaceShipOne's history-making flight in June — a flight unconnected to the Ansari X Prize. During the ship's first flight in June, history and the record books were on the line. Now it's about the money — a \$10 million payoff for years of secret work.

The St. Louis-based X Prize Foundation hopes to inspire an era of space tourism in which spaceflight is not just the domain of government agencies such as NASA.

The idea appeared to be working far faster than might have been expected.

Rutan, with more than \$20 million in funds from Microsoft billionaire Paul Allen, secretly developed SpaceShipOne and is well ahead of two dozen teams building X Prize contenders around the world. SpaceShipOne has a wing span of 16.4 feet and travels at about three times the speed of sound.

Already, the ultimate goal of the X Prize appears in sight.

Richard Branson, the airline mogul and adventurer, announced in London on Monday that his Virgin Group plans to offer passenger flight into space aboard rockets based on SpaceShipOne by 2007.

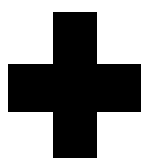
Among those watching Wednesday's flight was Adam Smith, 14, of Vienna, Va., who has earned \$1,000 this summer toward a down payment to a company called Space Adventures, which is taking reservations for future space travel.

Smith said he's had an interest in space "as far back as I can remember."

"It was just one of those things — I want to do this," the 9th-grader said.

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Uranium industry enjoys rebound, prices triple

BY ROBERT W. BLACK

Associated Press Writer

DOUGLAS, Wyo. — Watching a computer screen, Pat Drummond monitors a complex system of pipelines and vats that produces 55-gallon drums of uranium, weighing 600 to 1,000 pounds each, ready to be shipped to nuclear power plants across the globe.

Drummond, who began mining at age 16 in his native Scotland, is among a dwindling number of workers in an industry that has been plagued by low prices for more than a decade, but is finally seeing a rebound.

"Mining's in my blood," Drummond said in a thick brogue during a recent afternoon at the Smith Ranch-Highland mine in east-central Wyoming. "I enjoy the challenge of uranium, and given the price wars of the last 15 years, it's been a challenge staying in the industry."

Prices are nearly triple what they were four years ago, and Cameco Corp., a Canadian firm that owns the last two active uranium mines in the United States, is stepping up exploration and production.

The Saskatchewan firm holds a fifth of the world uranium market, but may soon be joined by other companies reopening or starting operations to meet rising demand.

Uranium produced at Smith Ranch is typically yellowish powder, or "yellowcake," which is sent to other plants to be enriched and formed into pellets to fuel nuclear reactors. About 20 percent of America's electricity comes from steam

created by nuclear fission.

Yellowcake prices were \$7.10 per pound in December 2000 but have risen steadily and recently surpassed \$20 for the first time since 1984.

Uranium was discovered by German chemist Martin Klaproth in 1789. It was used in the 19th century mainly to give vases and glassware a yellow-green color. After its radioactive properties were discovered in 1896 by Pierre and Marie Curie, other scientists began trying to unlock more of uranium's atomic secrets.

In the 1940s, the U.S. government began buying large amounts of uranium in the effort to produce the world's first atomic bomb. After World War II, the Atomic Energy Commission began examining peaceful uses. The first privately funded nuclear energy plant came online in 1959 in Illinois.

By the 1970s, about 250 nuclear reactors were planned across the United States — but then an accident in Pennsylvania changed all that.

"Three Mile Island hit, and starting in the 1980s, utilities started canceling plants," said David Miller, a Wyoming state lawmaker from Riverton and geologist with more than 25 years experience in uranium exploration and consulting. "Only 104 were actually constructed, and one's been taken off-line."

"The investing public, the lay public, everyone kind of turned on nuclear power at that time. The uranium market collapsed on all those canceled plants."

A second blow came when the Soviet Union fell apart, and enriched uranium

removed from Russian bombs was blended down to reactor-grade fuel and dumped on the market.

The third jolt occurred when the Clinton administration privatized a government-owned uranium-enrichment program, and 70 million pounds of yellowcake was unloaded on the market to guarantee a dividend to stockholders.

"You basically have had a long period of inventory liquidation, which pushed prices down to quite low levels, and during this time you also pushed production down," said Jeff Combs, president of Ux Consulting Co., of Roswell, Ga. Exploration also tapered off.

Wyoming once had about eight uranium operations, producing 12 million pounds per year. Now it has one.

After the bottom fell out, the Legislature lowered taxes on the industry, then totally exempted uranium producers from paying any severance taxes until the price stayed at \$14 or higher for six straight months.

That threshold has now been reached, and the state began collecting revenue again in June.

"If the markets are there for it, I think they'll mine as much as they can, and we'll see an increase in tax revenues as a result," said Randy Bolles, administrator of the state Mineral Tax Division.

With exploration almost nonexistent for many years, the gap has widened between supply and demand.

Global uranium production is about 90 million pounds per year, while consumption is 160 million to 180 million pounds

by the 435 reactors in the world, Miller said. Thirty-five more reactors are under construction in China, Taiwan, India, Brazil and Eastern Europe, which will further increase demand.

America's 103 reactors are housed in 66 plants that have cranked out more than 700 billion kilowatt hours for five straight years, but American uranium production peaked in 1980 at 43.7 million pounds, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

By 1990, U.S. production had dropped to 8.9 million pounds. Last year, it was only about 2 million, with most coming from the Smith Ranch-Highland mine north of Douglas, Wyo., and Cameco's other active mine, the Crow Butte operation near Crawford, Neb.

Both use a method more environmentally friendly than conventional open-pit mining. It is known as "in-situ leaching." Water rich in oxygen and carbon dioxide is circulated through an underground reserve, loosening uranium from sand and sending it to the surface.

Tiny beads of resin attract and remove uranium from the water. The heavy metal is then compressed, dried, sealed in drums and loaded onto trucks for shipment. The water is reinjected into the ground.

Permitting of Smith Ranch in the late 1980s and early 1990s met no opposition. Only 82 workers are needed, compared to up to 500 at a typical open-pit mine.

Indeed, mule deer and pronghorn antelope are everywhere. Eagles, hawks and owls are also abundant above the rolling grasslands north of Douglas.

The O.C.: Quintessential suburbia no longer white-washed community

BY RYAN PEARSON

Associated Press Writer

GARDEN GROVE — Minorities now make up a majority of residents in Orange County, California's quintessential swath of white suburbia, newly released census data show.

Two other suburban counties — high-growth Riverside east of Los Angeles and wealthy San Mateo south of San Francisco — also joined 17 other California counties that as of 2000 had reached majority-minority status.

Two opposite trends tipped the balance in Orange County, which lost white residents as the number of nonwhite residents increased, according to an Associated Press analysis of Census Bureau estimates released Thursday.

The same was true of San Mateo County, where the loss of white residents actually decreased the region's overall population to fewer than 700,000.

Statewide, 55 percent of California's 35.5 million residents were minorities, compared with 53 percent of 34 million residents in 2000.

One city that perhaps best illustrates the rapid changes in an area once known across the country as white, conservative and Republican is Garden Grove. The city near Disneyland noted for its tidy single-family homes was incorporated in 1956, at the height of the postwar population boom that transformed Orange County from a quiet rural area to a sprawling suburb.

"We do really have a real salad bowl here," says Mayor Bruce Broadwater, noting that 82 languages are spoken in the

households of the Garden Grove school district. The city also is home to one of the country's largest mosques, located in what was once a Protestant church.

Each year Garden Grove plays host to a Korean Festival, a Tet Festival and an Arab Festival, as well as its enduring Strawberry Festival, which recalls its earlier agricultural days.

Broadwater, who has lived here for 33 years, says Garden Grove has taken pains to "make sure that everybody has a seat at the table." But some newer residents say fitting in hasn't always been easy.

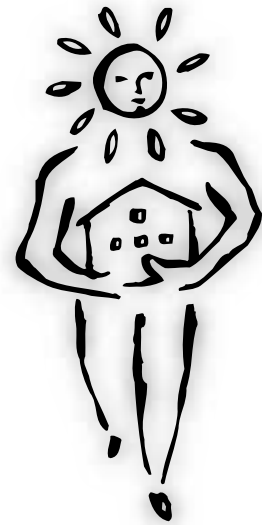
Katelyn Nguyen, 22, recalls being called out of class as a child by concerned counselors who thought the red marks on her back were a sign of child abuse. They were actually caused by her mother's use of an Asian health technique that involved using coins to rub her body with oil.

"It happened all the time. They just didn't know," Nguyen said Wednesday as she fed her 2 1/2-year-old daughter, Dana, at a Vietnamese sandwich shop across the street from City Hall.

Nguyen, who moved to Orange County from Vietnam when she was 9 months old, says she has been called derogatory names and that her mother in particular is looked down upon because of her limited English. She finds television's "The O.C.," which depicts a rich, white crowd living in Orange County's Newport Beach as amusing in how far it differs from her own reality.

"It's nothing like that," she said. "There are a lot of minorities out there that have nothing."

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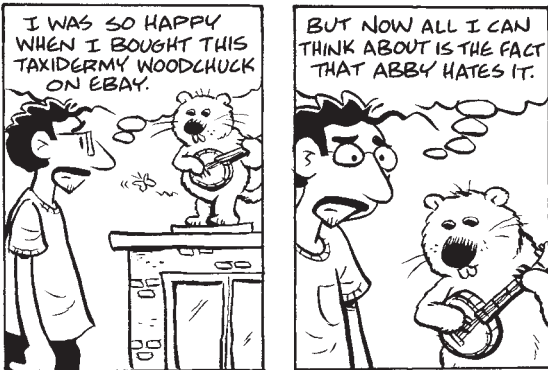


COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



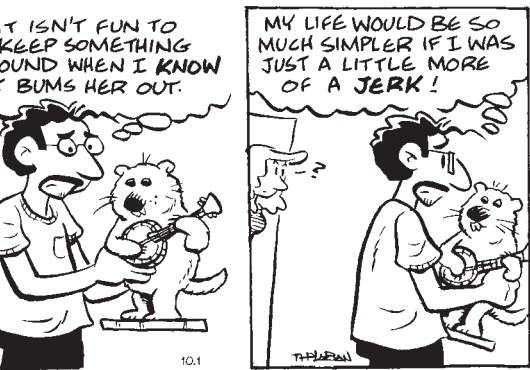
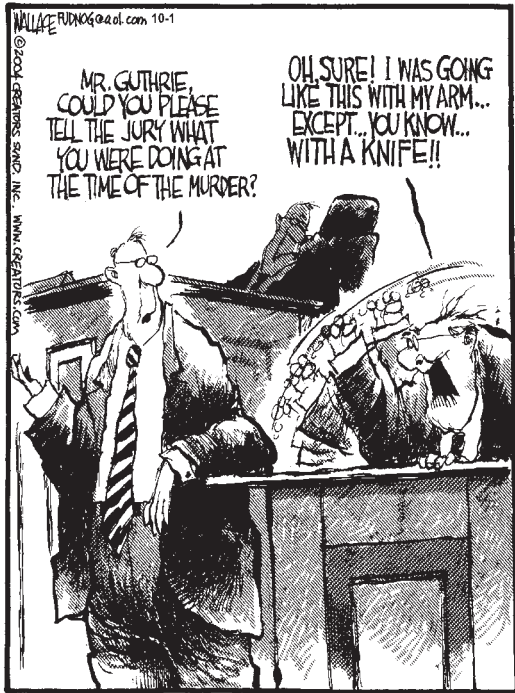
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ACROSS

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- 6 White's colleague
- 11 Site of action
- 12 Coeur d'—
- 13 Ditties
- 14 Grazing region
- 15 Attila, for one
- 16 Decline
- 18 French turndown
- 19 "— see it ..."
- 20 See 4-Down
- 21 Fury
- 22 Resistant one
- 24 Wor-shiper's place?
- 25 Back
- 27 Port closer
- 29 Chin covers
- 32 Non-sense
- 33 Cam-bridge sch.
- 34 Like Abner
- 35 Actor Wallach
- 36 None too cordial
- 37 Some gametes

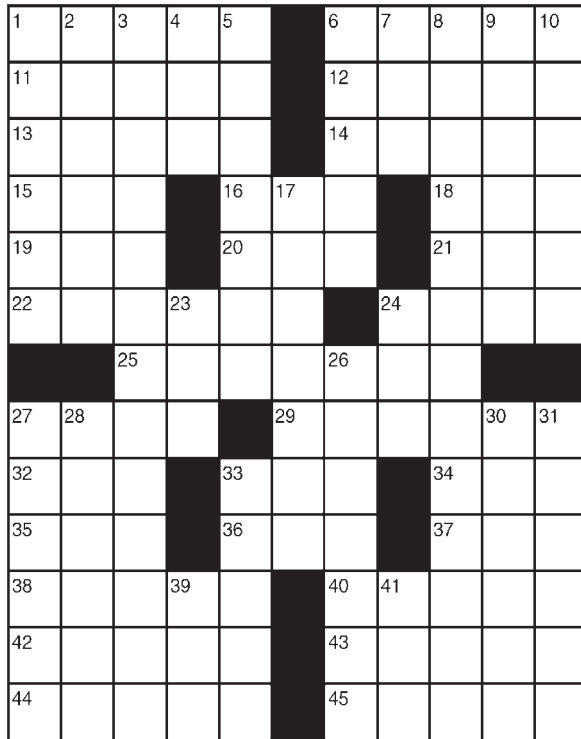
38 Maze

- blocks
- 40 Chef Jacques
- 42 J.R.'s mom
- 43 Bit of history
- 44 Tier
- 45 Stupefies

DOWN

- 1 Sports-caster Ahmad
- 2 Wake
- 3 "Bound" star
- 4 With 20-Across, "The Hulk" director
- 5 Gave a hard time
- 6 Private's boss
- 7 In the style of
- 8 "Enough" star
- 9 Fluffy cat
- 10 More acute
- 17 Like some workouts
- 23 Squid's defense
- 24 Simile center
- 26 Made a new man-
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- 27 Some embroi-
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- 28 Wolf's comment
- 30 Heavenly
- 31 Italicizes fellow
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- 39 Whopper
- 41 Zsa Zsa's sister

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Yesterday's answer

- 6 Private's boss
- 7 In the style of
- 8 "Enough" star
- 9 Fluffy cat
- 10 More acute
- 17 Like some workouts
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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE
NO. 042205047 FIRST FILING. The following per-
son(s) is (are) doing business as Tsolutions, 13739
Valley Vista Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423. The
full name of registrant(s) is/are : Brady Tsurutani,
13739 Valley Vista Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
This Business is being conducted by, an individual.
Signed: The registrant commenced to transact
business under the fictitious business name or
names listed on (Date)8/26/2004. /s/: Brydy Tsuru-
tani
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of
LOS ANGELES County on 8/26/2004. NOTICE: THIS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES
FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRI-
OR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement
does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a
fictitious business name statement in violation of
the rights of another under federal, state, or com-
mon law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and
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Inspect brake friction material, caliper operation, rotors, drums, hoses and connections. Inspect parking brake for damage and proper operation. Rotate and inspect four tires. Dual-rear-wheel vehicle extra. See Service Advisor for details.

Must mention this ad at time of write up. Taxes extra.
Expires 09/30/04

4-wheel alignment & Tire Inspection \$69.95

Check and adjust camber and toe. Check tread depth and condition all four tires. Additional parts and labor may be required on some vehicles. See Service Advisor for details.

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\$9.95

COOLING SYSTEM INSPECTION

Inspect radiator for leaks, Check hoses, clamps and belts. Pressure test system for leaks.

Offer valid with coupon. Taxes extra.
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2-wheel alignment & Tire Inspection \$39.95

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