

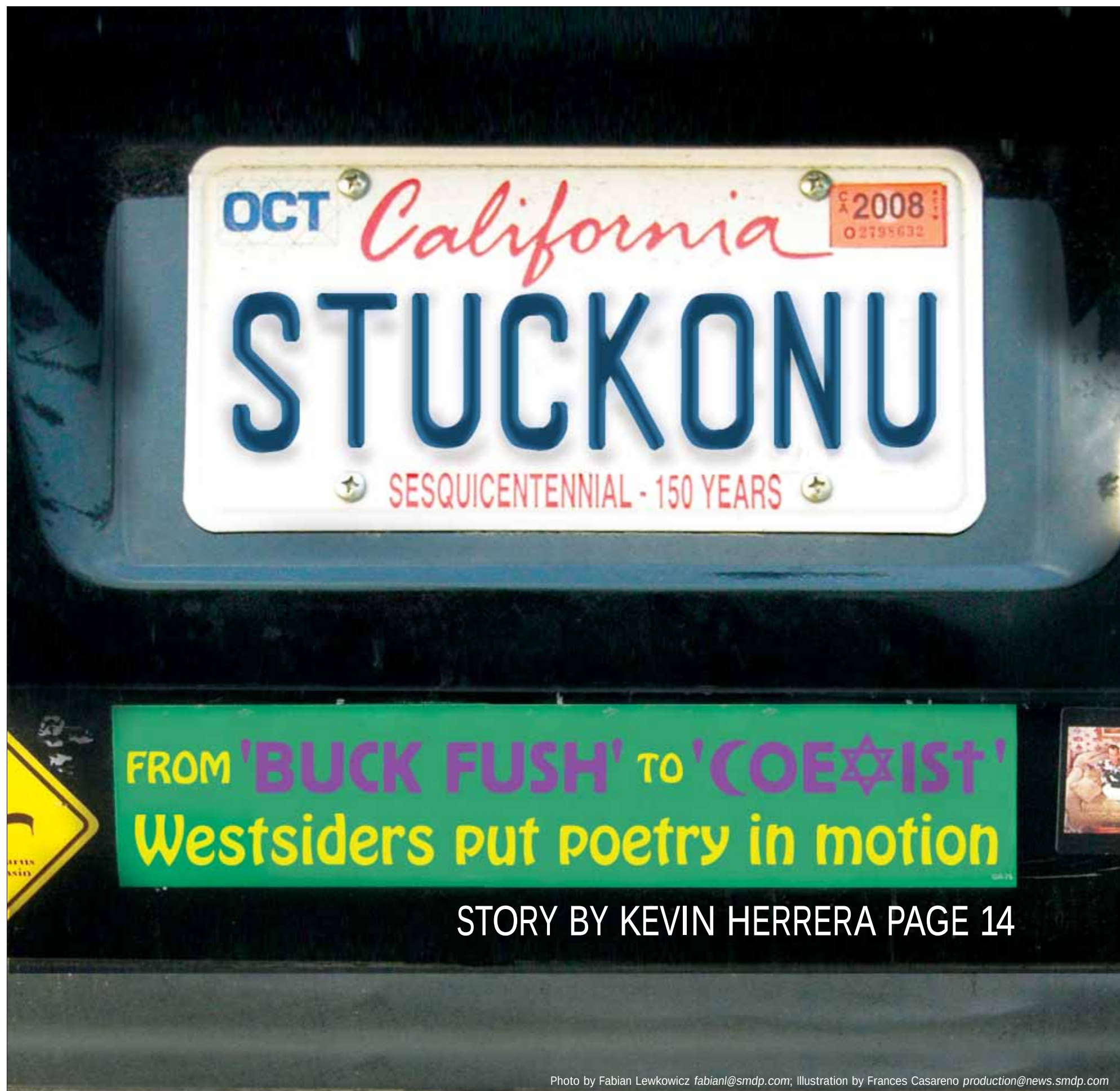


MISSING THE 'MARK'
SEE PAGE 13

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE MIRROR IMAGE ISSUE



STORY BY KEVIN HERRERA PAGE 14

Photo by Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com; Illustration by Frances Casareno production@news.smdp.com

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

'Come On Down!' to the Main Library

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.

The Santa Monica Public Library presents Stan Blits, a long-time co-producer of "The Price Is Right," and the author of the show's new official guidebook, "Come On Down! Behind the Scenes at the Price is Right." Free program. All ages welcome. Seating is first come, first served.

'Innocent When You Dream'

1416 Electric Ave., Venice, 3 p.m.

Alberto Isaac directs Ken Narasaki's "Innocent When You Dream," the story of a Japanese-American war veteran who finds himself returning to a lost memory, while his children struggle to interpret his wishes and unravel his past. Tickets are \$20 regular (discounts for tickets purchased prior to Sept. 15) and are available through www.BrownPaperTickets.com or by calling (800) 838-3006.

Blessing of the animals

1008 11th St., 10 a.m. — 11 a.m.

First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica is blessing all pets at their Animal Blessing festival. The mounted and K-9 units will also be on hand at this free event. Pictures of pets will be blessed too..

Kultural Columbus

1700 Ocean Park Blvd., 11 a.m. — 7 p.m.

"Columbus" is split between Kulturas' two locations — on Fourth Street and Ocean Park Boulevard. The Fourth Street display exhibits two large and striking panels of pastel on paper, while the Ocean Park location exhibits the smaller oil on wood panels.

Shots for Tots & Teens

1711 Ocean Park Blvd., 12:30 p.m. — 2 p.m.

In partnership with Saint John's Health Center, Westside Family Health Center's Shots for Tots & Teens will provide free immunizations and TB skin tests to all infants, adolescents and teenagers under the age of 18. For more information, call (310) 450-2191.

'Absolutely Halloween!'

1211 Fourth St., 12:30 p.m. & 3 p.m.

Audience members help save Halloween in this Rudie-DeCarlo musical tale of "Candy," a young girl who learns some lessons from an array of characters on a magical All Hallows Eve adventure. Tickets are \$10.50 for children (12 and under); \$12.50 for adults. For more information, visit www.santamonicaplayhouse.com.

Electronic Recycling Event

John Tyler Drive, Malibu, 10 a.m. — 3 p.m.

Pepperdine University is holding a free recycling event and will accept televisions, computers, printers, VCRs, phones and more.

Sunday, Oct. 7, 2007

Free SM Symphony Concert

1855 Main St., 7:30 p.m.

A Celebration of Elgar and British Music with Conductor Allen Robert Gross, the Santa Monica Symphony, and featuring Cecilia Tsan on cello. There will be a pre-concert discussion by Professor Raymond Knapp at 6:45 p.m. in the meeting room. No charge for admission. For more information, www.smsymphony.org.

Great Taste in Brentwood

San Vicente Boulevard & Darlington Avenue, noon — 5 p.m.

The Great Tastes in Brentwood festival will be held on tree-lined San Vicente Boulevard, between Darlington and Bringham avenues. The afternoon will feature a live concert, an auction and a wine garden. Admission is \$2 per person or free with a canned good; and children under 6 years of age are free. Attendees can purchase taste scrips with cash or check and redeem them at their food booths of choice.

Malibu Family Wines Harvest & Crush Event

Saddleback Ranch, Malibu, 12:30 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.

This wine-tasting event is a fundraiser to benefit City Hearts: Kids Say "Yes" to the Arts. Wines produced by Malibu Family Wines will be presented for tasting and guests can sample signature dishes donated and served by local restaurants. Tickets can be purchased online at www.malibufamilywines.com or by calling (310) 899-9191.

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.





STAYING UP

The St. Monica High School varsity girls volleyball team breaks from a huddle during their showdown with St. Paul on Thursday night. The Mariners, defending league champs, fell to their Santa Fe Springs counterparts, 3-0.

Christine Chang news@smdp.com

Treesavers get their day in court

BY MELODY HANATANI
AND MICHAEL TITTINGER
Daily Press Staff Writers

DOWNTOWN The trees are safe ... for now. Environmental activists out to stop City Hall from chopping down more than 50 ficus trees along Fourth and Second streets got a Los Angeles Superior Court judge on Friday to grant the doomed trees a stay of execution. Judge John P. Shooks issued the restraining order against City Hall, effectively putting the brakes on a project that was slated to begin Monday morning.

A hearing is set for Oct. 26, at which time the court will consider several options — whether to impose a preliminary injunction, which in essence would serve the same purpose as the temporary restraining order prohibit City Hall from proceeding with the plan or allow project to commence, according to Tom Nitti, an attorney representing the Treesavers, an ad hoc

group of residents that oppose the removal and transplantation of the 54 ficus trees.

"The judge felt that, in weighing everything ... he thinks there should be further public discussion," Nitti said Friday.

The basis for filing the temporary restraining order was that the Treesavers felt that City Hall violated the California Environmental Quality Act and failed to submit an environmental impact report (EIR).

The trees are part of an estimated \$8.2 million streetscape improvement project that will improve sidewalks and enhance lighting on Second and Fourth streets, from Colorado Avenue to Wilshire Boulevard. The controversial tree removal and transplantation portion of the project account for about \$600,000 of the total cost.

Still, the impact of the court ruling remained unclear Friday afternoon, with the Treesavers still preparing to stage an all-night vigil downtown, from Sunday night

into the following morning, when crews were expected to begin cutting down those ficus trees deemed structurally unsound.

"The Treesavers will still be out there (despite the ruling), because they think this is still going to happen," said J. Scott Smith, a participant in the activist group.

Kate Vernez, assistant to the city manager, told the Daily Press that the city planned to abide by the ruling, and that no trees would be felled Monday.

"While we were granted the right to remove dangerous trees, in the (interest) of caution, we're going to leave the trees as they stand and make our case before the court (on Oct. 26)."

LAWSUIT A LONG TIME COMING

During Friday's hearing, Assistant City Attorney Joseph Lawrence claimed that an

In a New York homeless state of mind Out of state agency visits Santa Monica

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN LIBRARY A New York-based agency that has dramatically reduced the homeless population in midtown Manhattan visited Santa Monica on Friday to share their successful model for taking the most troubled clients off the streets and into permanent housing.

Representatives from Common Ground were invited by the Bayside District Corp., which helps City Hall manage downtown and has been looking for ways to reduce the homeless population west of Lincoln Boulevard, where the majority of the city's roughly 2,000-plus homeless people reside.

Common Ground's Becky Kanis said the key to success is focusing on those people who have been on the streets the longest and are fixtures, or "anchors," in the community and who oftentimes attract others seeking advice or guidance on how to survive on the streets.

By targeting that group of individuals, Common Grounds was able to reduce the number of chronically homeless people in a 20-block area of Manhattan from 55 people in February 2005 to just two people today, Kanis said.

The key was building relationships with the homeless and then placing them in permanent housing first, giving them a safe place to live before they can address other issues such as mental illness or drug and alcohol addiction. Common Ground has a 93 percent housing retention rate, meaning when someone finds a home, they most likely remain there and don't regress.

"That blows away the myth that homeless people straight off the streets will not be able to maintain housing," Kanis said, emphasizing the importance of having dedicated case workers who routinely check in on clients to make sure they are following through with treatment, counseling and job training, as well as paying their rent on time.

City Hall is already doing something similar with its Chronic Homeless

SEE TREES PAGE 17

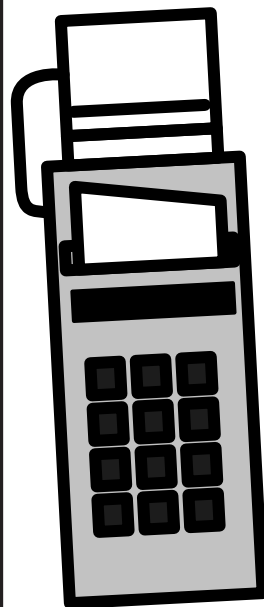
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Is Santa Monica full?

Editor:
Is Santa Monica full? Stuck in traffic the other day, that question came to mind again. The city is about 8 square miles . Subtract all the land needed for roadways, buildings, parks and such, and available resident living space might total about half of that acreage. Presuming each Santa Monican needs at least 1,000 square feet to call their own and have a relatively sane life here, it does, at times, seem that this corner of west coast paradise could be judged full.
More than ever, we seem to be needing – and seeking – more growth. After all, it was to the ending-point and goal of much Route 66 traveling that, just a few decades ago, came throngs of Americans seeking to see and partake of some of that vaunted California Dreaming.
That in-flow of new travelers continues. Humans clearly like life by the water – the sun, sand, waves, and warm wind, back-dropped by the fragrant plants, gardens, and green hills ... all the fine things to do and see. But visiting and enjoying is very different from living in a place. Living fosters roots, and roots bring consequences; sometimes with affects upon the environment that were not anticipated.
Essentially a desert environment, life in L.A., including in Santa Monica, is heavily dependent upon transport – in of many of our needed resources (water, of course, perhaps most critically important among these). Supply affects activity, and activity in part defines the quality of our days? Too many people needing from not enough resource makes for a problem.
I think I'll park the beast, get on my bike and attend the L.U.C.E (Land Use & Circulation Elements) Transportation Workshop on Saturday (Oct. 6), and think some more about this.
David Latham
Santa Monica

Commission didn't dig tree plan

Editor:
Regarding the op-ed column by City Manager Lamont Ewell (“Seeing the forest for the trees,” Oct. 4), with all due respect to Mr. Ewell, I think it is not correct to suggest that the Landmarks Commission approved the removal of the trees for the streetscape project. About one and a half years ago, the Landmarks Commission was given a “courtesy review” of the extensive Second and Fourth streets proposal. My recollection is that the Landmarks Commission was quite critical of the project, including the replacement of street lamps and the addition of a now-dropped public art lighting project and the removal of trees.
The net effect, we thought, was to compromise the historical look of the streets.
Roger Genser
Landmarks Commissioner

A shady deal, this tree-trimming is

Editor:
(As) a longtime Santa Monica resident, I applaud the wisdom and perseverance of the Santa Monica Treesavers. It is wrong to remove healthy trees. There are questions as to whether or not some of the trees scheduled for destruction are diseased or dangerous. This alone should put a halt to the process. Destruction is too easy and too often chosen as a quick solution to a problem. Consider rubber sidewalks for the stretching of the roots. Improve the pruning practices. Place bicycle lanes between the sidewalks and parked cars. The trees will no longer be injured by parking vehicles and the bike riders will have a safer path. Find alternative lighting structures. It takes a long time for a tree to grow.
I often try to walk on the shady side of the street. It is desirable to park a car in the shade, especially if you are leaving your pet inside. Even with windows open, it can get dangerously hot. It is hard to find shade and tree coverage. Our ficus trees provide a wonderful canopy.
When our New Orleans neighborhoods were immersed in 10 feet of water, sewage and filth for weeks, the trees died. As each sweltering New Orleans summer returns, these neighborhoods are without the relief and saving canopy of shade. I thought of my New Orleans friends this summer as I searched for shade mid-day. There is not much shade in our fair city.
I fear something shady is taking place and we need to bring light to the poor planning and decision-making process which would kill our beautiful and healthy trees.
Cindy McQuade
Santa Monica



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Will you elect a nerd as president?

MESSAGE TO PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS:
Now might be the time to get in touch with your inner nerd. If the barometer of popular culture — television — is to be believed, this could be the year of the nerd. Maybe even the Age of the Nerd. Some television shows have nerds as heroes now, and considering how much research TV networks do, they must have determined that Americans want to see nerds in heroic roles. And what could be more heroic than being President of the United States?
Some of you might prefer to use the term “dork” or “geek,” but let's not split bad hairstyles over this. For the purpose of this column, I'm considering those words to be synonymous. Wikipedia defines a nerd as “a person who passionately pursues intellectual or esoteric knowledge or pastimes rather than engaging in social life, such as participating in organized sports or other mainstream social activities.” Merriam-Webster defines a nerd as “unstylish, unattractive or a socially inept person.”

Traditionally, in books, movies and television, the nerd is the friend, the brainy sidekick. It's only recently that the nerd has become the lead, the hero. In fact, NBC's “Heroes” has its share of nerds — people who are better at talking to computers than talking to other people. And CBS' “Numbers” features a math whiz who helps solve crimes.
In terms of new shows, the CW's “Aliens in America” involves both a nerdy American kid and a nerdy Pakistani exchange student. NBC's “Chuck” is about a nerdy computer tech guy who accidentally downloaded a database of government secrets into his brain. This socially inept guy has to do heroic things with his secret agent partner who, naturally, is a beautiful, sexy woman. CBS' “The Big Bang Theory” involves two nerdy guys who happen to live across the hall from a pretty young woman.

Presidential hopefuls have traditionally gone out of their way not to look nerdy. They love to be photographed doing non-nerdy things like attending a baseball game, eating junk food or fly-fishing. They hate it if they look nerdy. Remember Dukakis in the tank? In the past, those running for office were forced to play down their intelligence and education. Adlai Stevenson was scorned as an “egghead.” Even Democrat Dennis Kucinich tries to hide his nerdiness. In his bio, his list of hobbies begins with un-nerdy pursuits: “sports, hiking, golf ...” But then he can't suppress his nerdiness and continues to describe his hobbies as “... singing polka and patriotic songs.”

I think the time has come for Kucinich and the others to stop worrying about

appearing to be a nerd. I believe all of the candidates' advisors are making a mistake in telling their candidate to avoid looking too bright. It's as if they're saying, “Lay off the big words, act like computers are mystifying to you, and don't refer to anything in a book that has more than 100 pages.” They must assume that we are all pretty dumb and therefore, we'd resent a candidate who seemed smarter than we are. I think they're wrong on both counts.
The era of politicians dumbing down and shying away from appearing “too smart” might be over. I hope we have seen the end of anti-intellectualism. If Americans can watch and cheer for nerds on the screen, we just might be ready to elect one. I'd much rather see a photo-op of a candidate walking into a library than into the woods with a shotgun, wouldn't you?
Instead of candidates spending so much time and money trying to convince the electorate that they're just ordinary Americans who aren't really special, would it be so bad if we had a candidate who demonstrated that he or she was special?

I HOPE WE HAVE SEEN THE END OF ANTI-INTELLECTUALISM. IF AMERICANS CAN WATCH AND CHEER FOR NERDS ON THE SCREEN, WE JUST MIGHT BE READY TO ELECT ONE.

It's up to us. We've got to stop considering it a negative if a candidate “passionately pursues intellectual pastimes” — one of the partial definitions of “nerd.” We have to stop caring who has the best haircut, or wears the nicest clothes, or seems most comfortable talking to voters in a rib joint. Those shouldn't be qualifications for the highest office in the land. I don't care if the candidate built a ham radio as a kid, never went to a football game, and now has an ant farm in the living room. Give me someone who's honest, kind, and yes, smart. If that turns out to be a nerd, that's OK with me.

LLOYD GARVER has read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the “Modern Times” column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.

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STRAY talk

A CENTER-CUT, NO-FAT REVIEW OF WHAT WAS SAID THIS PAST WEEK BY FOLKS THE WORLD OVER AND RIGHT AT HOME

“What I’ve realized is that, in some respects, casual sex is necessary. Maybe not for everyone, but just the idea you can go home with another, and drift away in their warm arms for just a minute.”

— Excerpted from Mark Marchillo’s Santa Monica Daily Press column, “Odd Man Out”

“It was probably bad for my career.”

— Actor Ben Affleck, on his high-profile relationship with singer Jennifer Lopez

“The security guard said to me, ‘Well, that’s a girl. Now you go put it on.’”

— Lori Plato, who was asked to remove her bra because its underwire caused the metal detector to go off at a courthouse in Idaho

“I’ve seen sexier pole work during an afternoon of fly-fishing.”

— Entertainment Weekly’s Web site review of Britney Spears’ new video for the single, “Gimme More”

“That is a lot of children who cannot possibly get out of the way of bombings and shootings and explosions of war.”

— Author Alice Walker, on how hundreds of thousands of injured orphans in Afghanistan inspired her new children’s book, “Why War Is Never a Good Idea,” which she read at the Santa Monica Library last week

“Wouldn’t it be really hot if I could just blink and change my outfit right now? How amazing would that be?”

— Singer Mariah Carey, on wishing she were a genie

“Whilst this is one of the more unusual concealments that we have seen in recent times, people need to be aware that customs officers are alert to unusual and often outlandish methods of concealment.”

— Customs Director Post Karen Williams, on the nearly 10.5 ounces of ecstasy found in a Mr. Potato Head toy that was sent from Ireland to Australia

“It’s funny though, the lifeguards get to rescue all the pretty girls or the kids and be the heroes. For us, we’re jumping in after somebody who might just kill you.”

— Wayne Salkoski, a retiring member of the Harbor Guard, on the suicide attempts off the Santa Monica Pier

Quotations captured and compiled with care by CYNTHIA VAZQUEZ.

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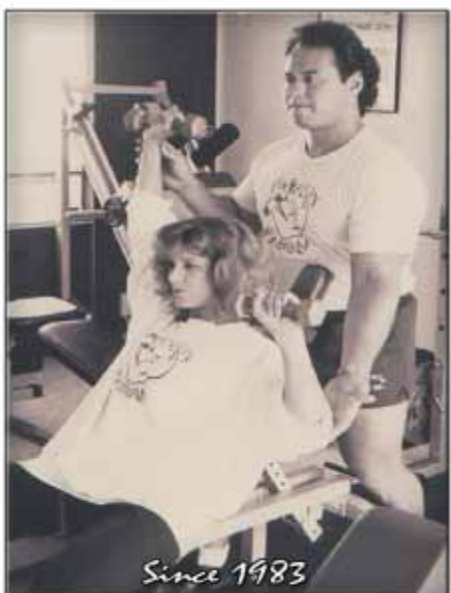
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The QLine

DUH, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE GRADES

This past week, Q-line asked:
Do water quality ratings affect when or where you go swimming?

Here are your responses:

"OF COURSE WATER QUALITY RATINGS affect where I would go swimming. Never do I swim in Santa Monica. It boggles the mind that surfing classes this summer use the worst area of water for their classes. How could the parents commit their children to be there?"

"THE OCEANS OF THE WORLD ARE polluted and never safe for swimming and should only be used by the best swimmers who are willing to risk infection from pollution and the dangers of rip tides, sharks and other forms of poisonous marine life. Public swimming pools are un-healthy due to human waste and open sores upon the skin of those who use the pools. That is why so much chlorine is used to abate the various forms of illness causing bacteria that float into the eyes, ears and noses of those who choose to swim there. Backyard residential swimming pools localize the dangers within the family, friends and neighbors. Still if not cleaned, it becomes very much like swimming in the toilet. Ocean ratings will not influence me due to my intention of not presenting as much as one of my toes to the ocean water. Still there are the hard heads. I do a great deal of bike riding on the bike path and I see – on a regular basis – adults and children crossing the bike path in soaking wet bathing suits. The hard heads of the world have little regards for beach ratings or the various signs warning of ocean pollution."

"I OCCASIONALLY GO INTO THE water, but have never had any problems. The real reason not to go into the water is because it is so cold. Unless it is a really hot day, the water is too cold to enjoy. Of course you can still go down to the beach to look at the pretty girls in bikinis and see all the artists, look at the girls, buy stuff from the vendors, look at the girls in bikinis and watch the street performs. As far as the bacteria, I've never had any problems."

"THANK YOU FOR KEEPING US informed. Yes, sir, it is the rating that affect where I swim or where my family goes swimming. The bums, who you call homeless, are the number one thing trashing our beaches. The most disgusting trash is the disposable diapers. What kind of mothers are they that toss these aside. What gives them the idea that others will clean up after them. Come on people, clean it up and take responsibility for your space. We deserve to have clean oceans and clean beaches."

"I DISTANCE SWIM JUST ABOUT EVERY day in the Santa Monica bay from the end of may to the middle of October. I've done this for 40 years. Except for the Pico-Kenter storm drain, I haven't noticed any notice difference in the ocean water.

We've had 20 years of Heal the Bay and all we get are these stupid beach report cards trying to scare us out of swimming in the ocean. How much money does Mark Gold of Heal the Bay receive in salary? What kind of Ph.D. does he have? Where did he go to school? What were his grades? Heal the bay is another Santa Monica non-profit sucking at the tax payers wallet. What has it cost the taxpayers monetarily by this one non-profit being overly friendly to the life preservers on the City Council."

"I DO CHECK THE WATER QUALITY ratings when I go swimming in the ocean because it is important to swim in the areas with the highest ratings because up and down the coast you never know what localized problem there is with water runoff. It is important to check the ratings so I don't go swimming next to the Santa Monica Pier."

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"DO WATER QUALITY RATINGS AFFECT where I would go swimming ... hell no, I would never swim in that stanky-ass ocean. Between the seaweed, the stuff under your feet in the sand, the sharks and the fecal matter, wow, what a petri dish of nasty. Surfers at Surfrider Beach continue to surf in the most polluted spot because of their ego. They are there to get the gallery to watch them. I believe the surfers in Venice and Santa Monica are similarly motivated. I would never put a toe in that water. Forget it. The water around the pier is the dirtiest. Duh, it is common sense people."

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The burden of being dad

What can be expected from Kevin Federline as a full-time father now that he has the kids?

BY SANDY COHEN

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES Kevin Federline failed as a rapper. Now can he succeed as a parent?

K-Fed became K-Dad full-time Monday when a judge ordered Britney Spears to temporarily surrender custody of the couple's sons — Sean Preston, 2, and Jayden James, 1 — to Federline.

The one-time rapper's custodial gains may have more to do with Spears' decline than his own parenting skills. The 25-year-old pop star failed to produce a California driver's license and allegedly missed a drug and alcohol test as ordered by the court, her lawyer, Sorrell Trope, said Tuesday.

But how will the kids fare with Federline?

Well, the 29-year-old father of four left his girlfriend, Shar Jackson, just months after she gave birth to their son, Kaleb. (Federline and Jackson also have a 5-year-old daughter, Kori.) He and Spears married in October 2004, quickly had two children and split just after their second son was born. (Spears filed for divorce last November and it became official in July.)

That track record aside, Dorian Traube, a professor of social work at the University of Southern California, said: "Lately, he's really kind of stepped up as a father. We don't hear much about how he parents his other kids. But with his children with Britney, he's gone to great lengths to keep them out of the public eye and he's gone to great lengths to keep the grandparents involved."

While Spears made her now infamous appearance on the MTV Video Music Awards, Federline hosted a birthday party for the couple's two boys. Spears bounces between houses and high-priced hotels, while Federline keeps a home in the family-oriented suburban community of Tarzana.

"He recently put a safety fence around his pool," said Traube, who has followed the couple's ups and downs closely through news reports. "He is genuinely worried about the welfare of his children and what they might be experiencing when they're with their mother."

What a change from a year ago, when Federline was a party-circuit regular preparing to release his debut album. Even then, though, he talked about waking up with his children, tucking them in at night and building a home studio so he could stay close to them.

"I would just work out of my house the whole time and I could spend as much time as I needed to spend with my children," Federline told The Associated Press in October 2006. "But it's still never enough."

Now that Federline is a full-time father, partying must come second to parenting, said USC sociologist Julie Albright, a marriage and family therapist.

"It all depends on how he carries himself now," she said. "Is he going to step up to the plate as a mature father or is he still going to be a party boy? That's a big part of his image."

Earlier this year, he managed to do both, celebrating his 29th birthday in Las Vegas with his parents, siblings and sons. Jackson was there. Spears wasn't.

HE IS GENUINELY WORRIED ABOUT THE WELFARE OF HIS CHILDREN AND WHAT THEY MIGHT BE EXPERIENCING WHEN THEY'RE WITH THEIR MOTHER."

Dorian Traube, Professor of social work

Spears has been spiraling downward since she and Federline split. She was photographed without underwear and appeared to be drunk and out-of-control. Then she shaved her head, beat a car with an umbrella and ended up spending a month in rehab.

Monday night, after learning she would lose custody of her kids indefinitely, Spears showed up for a stay at a posh Beverly Hills hotel.

"Hopefully this will be the impetus for some positive change for Britney, and then for the kids as a result," Albright said. "It's really unfortunate because the kids are the ultimate victims."

Photo courtesy
NEW GIG:
Kevin Federline
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Taking a ride with the boys

Behind the scenes at the press junket for 'The Darjeerling Limited'

BY TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE

Special to the Daily Press

BEVERLY HILLS For those of you unfamiliar with the term "press junket" just think great catered food, lots of coffee and the soundtrack of whatever movie you're reviewing playing over and over, and over again in the background.

Most people are in and out after a few meetings, but because I'm scheduled to see Wes Anderson early and talent in the late afternoon, I'm trapped at the Four Seasons Beverly Hills the bulk of the day. Not necessarily a bad place to be confined. Everyone, as in all the other reporters, have digital recorders. I'm a holdout with my paper and pen, and I feel like a Luddite, but fellow critics graciously offer to e-mail me copies of the tapes – to them I'm obliged.

I'm excited to meet one of the best film directors of my generation, eager to gain insight on his process, perhaps even get some technical questions answered; but Anderson is completely unexpected. Slight and reserved; I find it hard to believe this quiet, diminutive man could ever yell "action" on a set, let alone direct an entire film.

That Anderson feels comfortable enough around me to kick off his shoes, and seems genuinely pleased when I tell him I love the film indicates he's relaxed and the interview's off to a good start, but his body language suggests otherwise, as he nervously rocks his knees and refuses to expand upon any of his answers.

Discussing Anjelica Huston's portrayal of the nun, I mention how she brought such joy and quirkiness to the role of a woman who essentially abandons her children to follow her own path. I'm told the nun story was inspired by parents of friends of Anderson's who ran off to live in ashrams and also by a friend's aunt who became a nun.

I ask, if he could go back to India and do it all again, what might he do differently. His shy demeanor abruptly shifts and his tone becomes direct, clipped and assertive. He won't answer my question – choosing not to reveal any potential flaws. I'm taken aback by what seems to be



Photo courtesy James Hamilton

FACE TIME: Director Wes Anderson, Adrien Brody, Jason Schwartzman and Owen Wilson (back) talk it out while filming 'The Darjeerling Limited.'

snippiness, but remind myself this is an artist who is extremely protective of his work and quite possibly insecure about critical response to its release.

Only when I ask him about what current music groups he's listening to does he perk up. He tells me, "Arcade Fire, The Strokes, Phoenix ..." Okay, he's got good taste in music. Perhaps he's not a morning person? Maybe he's hungry? I'm trying to believe something other than my inquiries are the cause of his displeasure.

To be certain, Anderson is an enigma, but I have to believe that somewhere inside him is a guy with an irreverent wit, and somewhat upbeat personality otherwise why would Jason Schwartzman (who may just be the most affable fellow I've ever met) travel and hang out with him for months on end? I'm betting (and hoping) when I see him later at the round tables with Roman Coppola, he'll be more relaxed.

Adrien Brody's up next. He's a charming, gracious man, the kind of person you want to be around. He has a soulful quali-

ty about him and his easy-going nature immediately sets our intimate group at ease. He asks if we're cold, which we all are, and whether he can turn down the A/C admitting to us "I'm freezing my ass off," but I get the feeling he honestly cares about our well being.

I notice one of his rings, silver, with a raised skull. It reminds me of the one Keith Richards is known for wearing – but this one, like Brody, is exquisite, delicate, refined and wound together by an intricate filigree. Brody tells me he found it at an antique store in Prague while shooting "The Brothers Bloom." He didn't want to treat himself saying, with a barely perceptible Queens/NY-like gruffness, "Ah, I don't need it," but to his surprise and delight his girlfriend went back and bought it for him. Brody's got that "real person" quality about him (maybe it's that we're both from New York and I feel a kinship toward him), but there's an inner serenity as well, as though material things do not encumber him and I'm convinced of it, when he tells

me, "I really love the ring, more so, that she bought it for me."

Of his performance, it's quite possibly one of his best. Brody brings a truthful exuberance to this role allowing every nuance of emotion to clearly surface from the depths of his inquisitive green eyes. In fact, Brody is so convincing in this film that when he says, "I love the way this country smells. It's kind of spicy." You'll swear you can smell the spice, too. I ask him if that line was ad-libbed. It wasn't. Everything about this movie is so "natural" the question of improvisation comes up. "It feels very improvised," says Brody. "A lot of that is the writing ... but it was very choreographed ... because it was so specific; camera movements, timing, you have to be very prepared. So the physicality is somewhat improvised within that realm."

Of the shoot, Brody said, "It didn't feel like work" adding "Wes creates a wonderful, family-like environment." After sitting down with Wes for 15 minutes I find this



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Photo courtesy James Hamilton

JUST KICKING IT: Director and co-writer Wes Anderson on the set of 'The Darjeeling Limited.'

hard to swallow – but I'm going along with it because I'm smitten by Brody.

Brody hasn't strayed away from doing independent movies "just because I have opportunities now to not do independent movies." He wants to continue along the path of what inspired him along the way. He's very open-minded, looking for challenging and stimulating roles but admits it's a balancing act "finding movies that people see" that are also, "inspirational and allow growth." To Brody it's more about the quality of work and the process. Alas, Brody's interview is over too quickly and Anderson returns with Coppola (co-writer of "Darjeeling" and a well-established music video director in his own right).

Roman cuts an impressive figure with his shock of thick black hair and expensive tweed suit, and as I predicted Anderson is more relaxed and animated with his friend in tow but not much. As Anderson describes being in Shimla, walking around on the trees where he and Coppola first discussed bringing Bill Murray on board, I'm drawn to Coppola's twitchy wrist. He's sporting a Mickey Mouse watch and is struggling, almost painfully, to keep it hidden under the cuff of his suit jacket. The two of them seem so ill at ease it's hard not to get caught up in their tension. Where's Brody? Can someone please bring back Brody?

I ask both Anderson (and Schwartzman) to tell me something funny that happened to them during their travels while they were writing the project that didn't make it into the film – Anderson tells me about the time they wandered around Old Delhi, ended up in a Sikh temple at 2 a.m. and participated in a religious service they didn't understand (this scene did make it in), Schwartzman strategically avoids the subject. It seems no one wants to deviate from the information in the press kit or they're waiting for the release of the behind-the-scenes Barry Braverman documentary (which will be a part of the DVD).

To his credit, and much to my surprise, Anderson apologizes to another reporter for responding irritably to a question that has been asked about Natalie Portman's nude scene. I can tell he's being protective of his actors, not wanting to misrepresent them in any way and is genuinely grateful for their work on "Darjeeling." As I meet and speak with the cast members I get a wholly different picture of the eccentric director. His colleagues love him, describing him as someone who provides a safe, nurturing and creative work environment.

The topic of Owen Wilson is carefully and gracefully avoided. Only the gal from "People Magazine" asks about him and then it's only in reference to what Wilson brings to the set as an actor. Everyone acknowledges Wilson's a funny guy, Brody says, "He's an incredibly gifted comedic actor ... generous and fun to be with." His presence is clearly missed at this event.

For someone who has such an indie-film following Anderson admits, "Mainstream is a good place to be. That's where the audience is." He doesn't set about making movies to see how weird they can be. Though he doesn't speculate whether and by whom his films will be accepted during the filmmaking process, he does think about it afterwards. He hopes everyone's going to like it, and then he worries they may not.

It's incomprehensible that someone with Anderson's credibility, talent and calculated genius could be apprehensive about how this film (or any of his films) will be received. And though he comes across as edgy, stiff and circumspect, I have to withhold judgment on a man who is unanimously regarded as a loyal, magnanimous friend by his peers. I want to tell him, "Wes, relax, you've already got your shoes off; you don't have to worry, 'The Darjeeling Limited' is a perfect film."

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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BOOKREVIEW

BY DANE ROBERT SWANSON



'What My Girlfriend Doesn't Know'

Sonya Sones • Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

Acceptance among peers is very important. A healthy self image helps. But you are 15 and it seems everyone picks on you. On top of that, you feel everyone thinks of you as a jerk.

The characters in this story are believable. The main character, Robin Murphy, is at the ripe age of 15 and he perceives himself as an outcast among the students at his high school. On top of this, he has become the boyfriend of Sophie, a popular co-ed.

The world in which Robin and Sophie live is very credible. We have all lived through a period such as this.

As the story begins, it is just after the winter break. Sophie is approaching Robins' table in the cafeteria. Her friends are watching. She is willing to associate with Robin even if it means she also will be painted with the same brush. She is willing to lose her reputation knowing that being seen with Robin will make her an outcast.

He obviously has a poor self image because of the ridicule he is forced to endure. "What girl in her right mind would want to be seen hanging with me? With Murphy, for chrissake, the ugliest guy at Cambridge High? The guy whose last name people use as a diss. As in: "You are a real Murphy," thinks Robin during one of the more poignant passages in the work.

The conflict is with his perception of his identity and his struggle to find himself. It is an internal struggle.

His method of self discovery comes to the fore-

front while he's in his art class. He is so good that his teacher allows him to audit an art class at Harvard. But this creates the problem.

As he heads to this vaunted institution of higher learning the students there don't know him as Murphy, the jerk, but as Robin, the art student. His self image starts to change. Here he experiences being accepted for what feels like the first time. A student there, Tessa, starts taking an interest in him as more than a friend. This forces Robin to take a hard look at his unlikely relationship with Sophie.

As he shifts his dependence for his self image from Sophie to the new group, he starts to lose touch with his high school identity and, in time, with Sophie. He allows his poor self image to cause him to abruptly break off his association with Sophie. He loses his stability and over the summer must find himself again.

We have met these characters before. This can be seen as volume two of the story. Volume one was seen through Sophies' eyes. The present volume takes over where that book ended and is told from Robins' viewpoint. It is not necessary to have read the first book in the series to understand this one, but it will help.

This story is told in first person. The chapters are short and the paragraphs scan as free verse.

I would recommend this book for young teens struggling with their image. It has a positive message. The author, Sones, who lives here in Santa Monica,

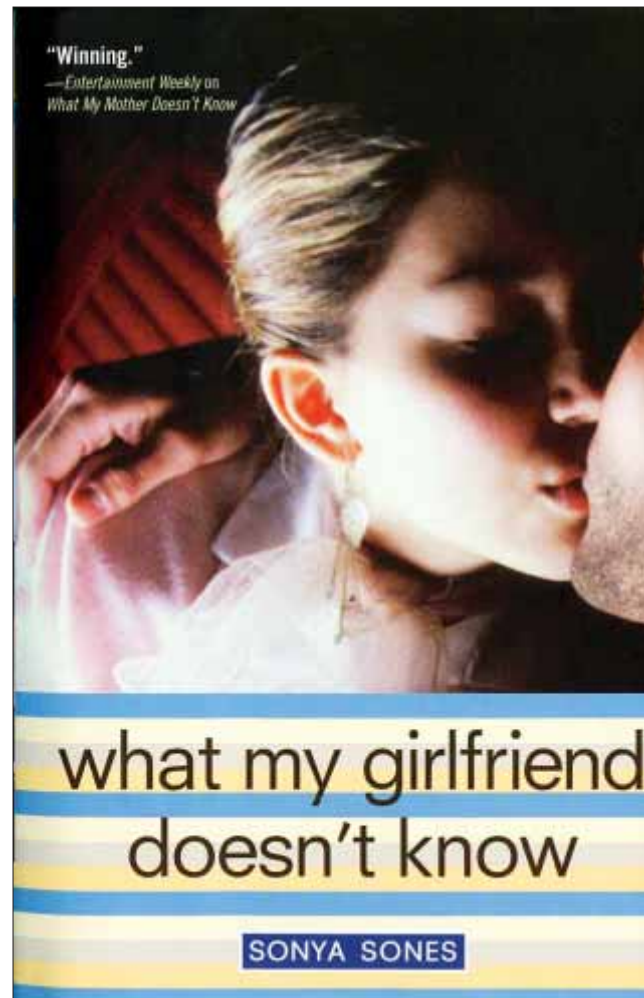


Photo courtesy Simon & Schuster

has also written other young adult books. Her works have received the Christopher Award, the Myra Cohen Livingston Award for poetry, and the Claudia Lewis Poetry award.

Thank you for reading this book review. Dane Robert Swanson can be reached at smdp_review@yahoo.com.

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NEW RELEASES

REVIEW BY TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE



Photo courtesy Sony Pictures Entertainment

FAMILY: Mark Wahlberg (left) as Joseph Grusinsky and Joaquin Phoenix (right) as Bobby Green in Columbia Pictures' /2929 Productions' 'We Own the Night,' written and directed by James Gray.

Generic acting plagues 'Night'

Teetering between generic plot points and surprising intensity, "We Own The Night" (in theaters Oct. 12) is a very functional depiction of a time and a place: Brooklyn circa 1988. The soundtrack, the costumes and the set design distinguish this film as much as "GoodFellas" was able to. However, the viewer is left wondering halfway through the film: What happened to all the surprises from the first half of the film? Directed by James Gray ("The Yards," which also starred Mark Wahlberg and Joaquin Phoenix), this film is overly ambitious, which is a new direction from Gray after fairly straightforward crime-thrillers thus far.

The story is unable to decide whether it is a character study of Bobby (played by Phoenix), a depiction of a family torn apart by corrupting influences or a crime thriller about the Russian Mafia. At times it is good at all three, though mostly is rather remedial and cliché. Bobby has become a successful night club manager by hiding his identity as the son and brother of two NYPD stalwarts (Wahlberg and Robert Duvall). Bobby dates a sexy Puerto Rican (Eva Mendes) and lives a typical '80s life fueled by cocaine and whatever else is hip. This is all to the dismay of the very boring police characters, who decide to start busting his El Caribe club in search of a prominent drug dealer named Vadim (Alex Veadov).

Mostly, and this is making it too simple, Bobby is the only interesting character in the entire film. Anyone could play Wahlberg's Joseph. Especially with concern to the Russian Mafia stereotypes that serve as the villains.

The film works only as a study of how Bobby grows up, gets betrayed and changes his life. Mendes, an actress of intriguing beauty, must suffer through a role that would be an insult to actual writing to say it was actually written. Scenes between Mendes and Phoenix are cloying and mis-handled, and they have real attraction and charisma, making it all the more dumbfounding.

Duvall, at times, is great but mostly struggles for screen time. His demise, which I hope is not a major surprise to anyone is very predictable and choreographed scenes in advance. If this movie didn't feel so much pressure to conform to its formula, it would have been better. As it is, it is definitely good popcorn entertainment and thrilling at times. The first half is actual very original filmmaking in terms of style, camera movements and on-screen action. It does become very by the numbers from that point on. While it is certainly not "The Departed," "We Own The Night" is a good police versus Mafia thriller. Watch it without your thinking cap entirely on. Phoenix deserves attention for this performance and Gray should have seen how much better his character was than the rest and decided to re-think the other characters. It is surprising that this film was and is ready for release as is, but alas, I recommend it though I lament the fact that it degenerates into quasi-schlock at times.

KEN TARR is a student at Santa Monica College, an actor and writer and is also taller than 99 percent of the population. He can be reached telepathically or at trutoulouse@yahoo.com.

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A bumper crop of stickers

Motorists telling it like it is ... on the straight and narrow

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE President Bush isn't too well liked around these parts, a place where locals are encouraged to honk if they're horny and reminded that clones are people two.

Well, that's the word on the street.

It doesn't take a random sampling of voters to monitor the political pulse in Santa Monica. All one has to do is look at the car in front of them and chances are they will see a bumper sticker bashing the embattled president or supporting one of his Democratic rivals. Even you, John Kerry.

There's the sticker with George junior's face and the word "Liar" printed in bold beneath it, or the one that reads, "Like a rock, only dumber." Others simply have a date, 01/20/09 — Bush's last day in the Oval Office.

The stickers have become so popular that Richard Parr, a Santa Monica resident, decided to open his own bumper sticker business (www.antibushbumperstickers.com) strictly dedicated to the 43rd president.

"Unless you have a lot of money, what voice do you really have?" Parr asked, pointing out the importance of bumper messages such as "Dick + Bush = Screwed."

"This is one inexpensive way for people to get their point across."

Bush and the war in Iraq are hot topics on the streets, but Santa Monicans have other things on their minds as well, including health care, favorite sports teams and the environment. While bumper stickers are not posted on every car in the city, and numbers suggest that the sticky message boards are dwindling in popularity, there are still those willing to wear their hearts on their sleeves ... and on their rear bumpers.

'P.E.T.A. — People Eating Tasty Animals'

On her 1993 Nissan pick-up, Limary Vargas placed a bumper sticker the reads: "Yes, this is my truck. No, I won't help you move." It's certainly not as thought-provoking as others, but it has gotten the attention of plenty of drivers.

"I've had people drive up next to me and say, 'Hey, I love your bumper sticker. It's so



Christine Chang news@smdp.com

KEEPING IT NICE: Most bumper stickers reflect the relatively well meaning sentiments of the person driving the automobile.

true," said Vargas, whose truck brandishes the personalized license plate "Grl Powa."

Vargas, who is not a fan of bumper stickers and would never consider putting one on any other car she purchases, felt the sticker was perfect for her truck, since she's always being asked by friends and family to move things for them. She first saw the sticker in a gift shop but passed on buying it. After some careful contemplation, she decided she couldn't drive without it, but could no longer find it.

Vargas spent the next two years seeking out her perfect sticker, finally spotting it while on a vacation in Las Vegas.

"Other people put political statements on their cars," Vargas said. "I just wanted something funny. I'm not a big fan of them in the first place because I think they take away

from the beauty of the car, especially if you have more than one ... but with this one, I couldn't resist.

"I totally identify with it."

Still, the sticker hasn't had the desired effect, with people continuing to ask her to serve as their personal U-Haul truck.

"My friends and family still ask (me to move)," Vargas said. "They know I'll always do it for them. It usually means a free lunch or a full tank of gas."

'Welcome to America, now speak English'

Some motorists take a far more serious approach when slapping sentiments on their rears. Farah Davari is one. The labor representative for the California Nurses

Association has a sticker on his SUV that reads, "Healthcare, not warfare." The sticker was created by his employer and he displays it with pride.

It is the first sticker Davari has placed on any car he's owned.

"It is hard to find the perfect short message that defines one's expression about social and political changes in the world," Davari said. "'Healthcare, not welfare' appeals to me in that sense.

"I never shopped for bumper stickers," Davari added. "Those which I came across mostly seemed a temporary message with short-term resonance. And yes, I did worry about getting them off. But this one seems to be a lasting message ... This bumper sticker will resonate more and more with time. I don't think I'll be able to change someone's



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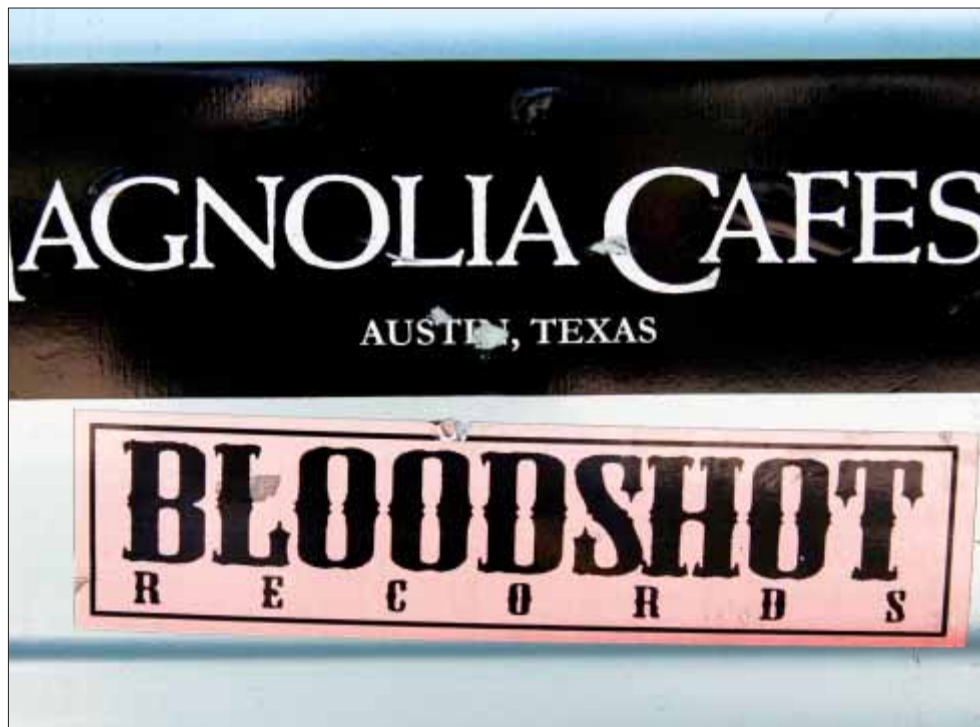
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Christine Chang news@smdp.com**SERIOUS BUSINESS:** Some bumper sticker owners choose to plug their favorite establishments.

mind, but I hope that one or two may begin thinking and searching."

'Gas, grass or ass, no one rides for free'

There are those who support other causes with less meaning, such as Ken Jones, a screenwriter who has a bumper sticker for the short-lived Sci-Fi series "Firefly" on his ride, as well as two others that read: "Lock down when in anti-gravity."

A big fan of the series, Jones is writing a screenplay that includes anti-gravity as an element.

"The reason I chose that sticker is because I am working on a screenplay in which anti-gravity plays a major role, and I fully expect there to be a world-wide anti-gravity event in December of 2012 (Mayan calendar and such), and that's why I always carry rope and tent stakes in my car," Jones said.

"I agree that bumper stickers tell a lot about people's preferences," Jones said. "I prefer to keep my politics more private."

'Shut up, Hippie'

The history of the bumper sticker is not well documented, but one thing's for sure — they didn't predate the introduction of the automobile. Several sources credit the bumper sticker to Forest P. Gill, a silkscreen printer from Kansas City. The first bumper stickers appeared shortly before World War II and were flag-like, attached to the bumper by wires.

Gill replaced the wire attachments with pressure-sensitive adhesive, and as a result, bumper stickers became more widespread and practical.

Today, bumper stickers can be purchased in liquor stores, gas stations, head shops and over the Internet — where the majority of sales take place, according to John Fisher, owner of BumperStickerGiant.com, one of the largest bumper sticker manufacturers and distributors in the nation.

"Bumper stickers are big business," Fisher said. "We ship over one million stickers a year, and when there's a presidential race, we sell even more."

Fisher started his company shortly after the 2000 election, when no one knew for sure whether the next president would be Bush or Al Gore. Fisher printed the sticker "He's not my president," and his business took off.

Anti-Bush stickers are very popular, Fisher said, but now that his term is coming to an end, more people are leaning towards stickers representing a particular

party, or, ironically, those that advocate for peace or companionship, such as the "Coexist" stickers that spell the word using various religious symbols for the letters, such as the crescent moon of Islam and the Star of David.

Some stickers sell for as little as 99 cents, while others go for \$3 or more. It all depends on licensing fees, Fisher said. Sports teams are the most expensive, while the venerable yellow smiley face is free.

The political cycle has a big impact on sales, Fisher said, as does the perception that bumper stickers are hard to remove. That's no longer the case. Today, bumper stickers are mostly made of vinyl, making them easy to peel off so those still clinging to Kerry/Edwards stickers don't have to drive around anymore with a losing ticket. Older stickers were made with paper and would leave remnants of the adhesive, making a car look unsightly.

'Well-behaved women rarely make history'

Stickers still adversely affect the resale value of a car, but thanks to Web sites like www.ehow.com, people no longer have to worry about that. The sites give step-by-step instructions on how to remove them without causing any damage.

The first step is to spray the sticker with lubricant and try to peel it off. If that doesn't work, grab a blow dryer and hit the sticker with heat, softening the adhesive. From there, gently peel off a corner of the sticker while continuing to apply heat, or gently scrape off the sticker with a rubber spatula or putty knife with its metal blade wrapped in duct tape so as not to scratch the paint. After that, wipe away the sticker with a soft, lint-free rag dampened with rubbing alcohol.

Finally, buff the bumper or panel with a polishing compound and a fresh coat of wax to complete the job.

'If you're not outraged, your not paying attention'

The best thing to do is to pick a sticker you can live with for a long time, like Tracy Metzger, who has a peace symbol prominently displayed along with an Air America sticker in support of the liberal radio station.

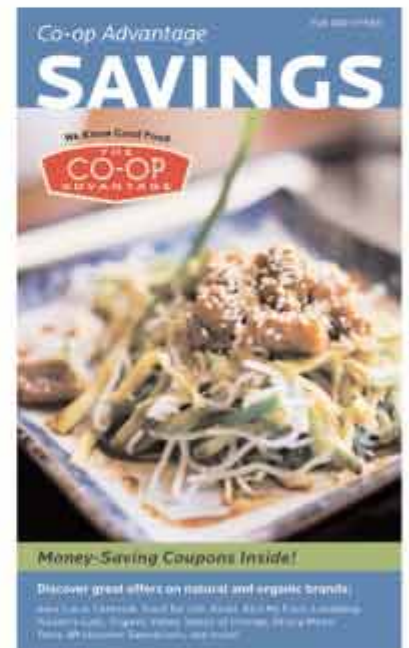
"I've had a peace symbol on all my cars for about the last 10 years," Metzger said. "I am a child of the '70s and have always loved the simple peace sign. Nothing more. "To me, that says it all."

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Bayside gets tips to deal with the homeless

FROM HOMELESS PAGE 3

Program, which was established in July 2004 and focuses an intense level of resources on chronically homeless persons who have been on the streets for at least two years or more and are the most visible in the community, using a large amount of police, paramedic and local hospital resources.

In that program, representatives from City Hall — including Human Services, Housing, Police and Fire departments — meet monthly with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and local non-profit homeless service providers to fine tune the program and monitor outcomes.

Since its inception, 144 people have been enrolled in the program, with 78 (or 54 percent) being housed in permanent housing or temporary/transitional housing.

The average age of those in the program is 55 years old, with the oldest being 89. On average, individuals were homeless for 18 years.



IT SOUNDS LIKE WE HAVE ALL THE COGS, BUT NOT WHEEL."

Kathleen Rawson, Executive director of Bayside

While the programs are somewhat similar in nature, Common Ground seems to have had more success, forcing Santa Monicans to ask why.

City officials said people must look at the conditions in New York and compare them to Santa Monica. One that sticks out is the number of people targeted. When Common Ground started, there were less than 50 chronically home-

less individuals in their target area. The city has nearly 150.

In the city of New York, there are thousands more units available for the homeless, meaning they can be quickly

moved into a home within a matter of weeks or months, whereas in Santa Monica, it can take years, said John Maceri, executive director of OPCC, which has been providing homeless services in Santa Monica since the early 1960s.

"The one thing that is missing is that housing piece, which is a critical component," Maceri said. "The (Chronic Homeless Program) has expanded, but housing hasn't been able to keep pace.

"That's the really challenging part and is a source of a lot of frustration."

Another issue is the large number of service providers working independently of one another. NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg has more control over service providers' funding and can, therefore, make more demands about what types of service should be offered and to whom. He also hired a point person to oversee all of the programs, making sure there was coordination.

In Santa Monica, service providers run fairly independent of City Hall. The overwhelming majority of their funding comes from private sources, leaving city officials without much power to direct how that money is spent.

That led some to question whether or not Santa Monica is trying to do too much and, therefore, is diluting its efforts.

"It sounds like we have all the cogs, but not wheel," said Kathleen Rawson, executive director of Bayside. "We're here to see if we can focus our efforts and make an impact on one problem. I think the goal of this meeting is to bring various people together to see if connections can be made."

That includes residents, the business community, police and fire and City Hall, Rawson said.

SMPD Capt.. Mark Smiley said appointing one person to coordinate efforts seems to be a good idea, but there are many interests involved that can get in the way.

"We have the cog, but there are so many spokes in the wheel," he said. "We need to come to an agreement to work under one model."

Human Services Manager Julie Rusk said the continuum of care needs to be more focused and strategic, and possibly, not serve everyone who comes through the door, but only those who are most in need.

That is difficult, she said, because no one wants to turn someone away who needs help.

"It does get overwhelming," Rusk said about the homeless issue. "We have to remain focused on what we do here and then continue to prod others in the region to do the same."

Mayor Richard Bloom said it is not a question of spending too much money or not, but rather, how does the community better focus its resources. Bloom said those discussion need to happen and will happen. It could mean that service providers would have to be more accountable when receiving city funds.

"We do not issue blank checks," Bloom said. "There is accountability, but these are independent non-profits who do have their own agendas. We all have common goals, but they also have goals of their own.

"The question is: How can we all be on the same page?"

Maceri believes that the Chronic Homeless Program is working, but it has also grown so much that participants may have lost focus. The program has expanded beyond the resources available, mainly housing.

"I don't believe that there is an overlapping of services," Maceri said. "There is a lot of back and forth going on between (service providers) and the city has taken a lead with the Chronic Homeless Program. I believe it's just more about bringing more resources to the table. If we had more housing, we could definitely move people off the streets quicker and you would see a noticeable difference."

Bloom tried to bring everything into perspective, pointing out the differences between a city like New York and a smaller city, like Santa Monica, that must deal with more regional influences.

"I'm Mayor Bloom, not Mayor Bloomberg," he said.

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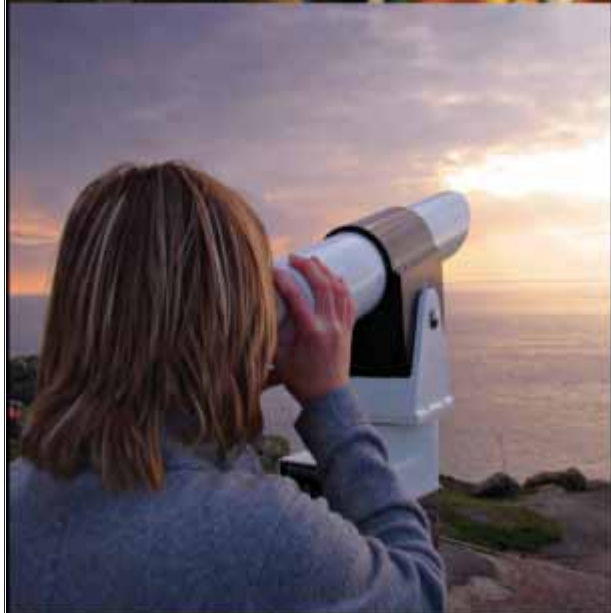




Photo illustration courtesy J. Scott Smith

TREES, OH SO MANY TREES: This photo collage depicts the ficus trees in question along Second and Fourth streets.

Trees get a few more weeks to stand strong

FROM TREES PAGE 3

EIR was conducted in 1996 and again in 1997. Nitti countered that the report in 1997 did not include a study on the trees, nor the effect of removing them from the downtown area.

Lawrence contends another report, conducted in October 2005, did clearly mention the trees.

"I pointed out that, in 2005, the city said that an EIR was not necessary and the judge picked up on the contradiction by the city," Nitti said.

Lawrence is confident City Hall will prevail at the next court hearing because the regular judge that will preside then — David Yaffe — wasn't present at the hearing on Friday. Yaffe's regular substitute judge was not available either, he added.

The assistant city attorney pointed out that the time period in which a lawsuit can be filed claiming that CEQA was violated is 180 days from when the report was conducted.

"So the time between now and October 2005 is four times 180," Lawrence said. "The lawsuit is way too late."

The court order does not prohibit the city from removing those trees that are deemed a danger to the public by the community forester.

About 23 of the 54 ficus trees have been determined as structurally unsafe and were slated to be removed. The remainder will be transplanted to other locations in the city, including the Santa Monica Airport. Each empty ficus plot will be replaced with two ginkgo biloba trees.

The news of the temporary restraining order comes two days after the Planning Commission decided to recommend that the City Council hold the project and bring the matter back for another round of public discussion.

Under City Council rules, an issue that has already been acted on can return to the dais if a member who voted on the prevailing side requests it be brought back. The streetscape project, in its entirety, was approved 6-1 in August, with Councilmember Kevin McKeown being the lone vote of opposition.

Mayor Richard Bloom and Councilmember Bob Holbrook said they do not intend to bring the issue back before Council. Councilmember Herb Katz said he would bring the matter back if he thought it was necessary.

Councilmember Bobby Shriver was not available for comment and both Councilmembers Pam O'Connor and Ken Genser did not return a call seeking comment.

A regularly scheduled City Council meeting is planned for Tuesday.

"I appreciate the fact that they're expressing their opinion," Bloom said Friday. "I don't think ... it provides any new information or raises any new issues."

Holbrook added that if the project was halted, it would cost taxpayers thousands of dollars in contractor's fees that have already been expended.

One of the reasons why Holbrook supports the project is because it eliminates a safety hazard posed by the trees, whose overgrown roots have raised sidewalk panels.

"You can't believe the number of people who have been hurt by displaced sidewalks in the city," Holbrook said Friday. "We've had people with broken arms, broken legs and broken hips file lawsuits against the city and we've had to settle."

Katz, a professed tree-lover, said he needs a few facts verified before he will consider bringing the matter back to Council, including a definite answer as to whether the trees are decayed and if they can be moved successfully.

"Before we jump on it and say 'let's bring it back,' I want to see where we are," Katz said on Friday.

On Wednesday, the tree discussion was placed on the Planning Commission agenda by commissioners Julie Lopez Dad and Jay Johnson.

The commission concluded that the issue warranted more discussion based on the level of public outcry.

Some councilmembers believe the Planning Commission acted out of their purview.

"They should not have brought it back," Katz said.

But Johnson said on Friday that it's the commission's responsibility to provide a forum for residents clearly upset about a controversial project.

"Hopefully, we can continue to work for a so-called win-win solution," Johnson said. "In particular, they can start on Monday to remove the clearly diseased, decayed and non-controversial trees ... and it may give City Council time for Tuesday night (to reconsider) at least additional discussion."

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Ballot measure could help schools

Committee most likely to recommend a parcel tax renewal

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

MALIBU CITY HALL Santa Monica and Malibu residents can expect to see a ballot measure next year asking that they continue to open their wallets to support the public schools.

That was how Rochelle Fanali prefaced her status report on the activities of an ad hoc group that is examining the feasibility of placing a parcel tax renewal on one of the three statewide elections next year.

"One thing is very clear — we will most certainly be recommending renewing the critical funding by Measures S and Y," Fanali said Thursday during the Board of Education meeting in Malibu.

Fanali, along with Colleen O'Beirne Brydon, is the co-chairwoman of the Parcel Tax Renewal Feasibility Committee, an ad hoc group of residents, parents, city officials and experts that are exploring different options to continue two major funding sources in Measure S and Y.

Measure S passed in June 2003 and assesses a flat rate of \$225 per parcel in the school district every year. The measure is set to expire in 2009. Measure Y passed in November 2000, assessing residents a tax of \$98 per parcel. That assessment has

since grown as the tax is adjusted annually in accordance to the Consumer Price Index. Measure Y is set to expire in 2011.

The measures account for approximately \$10 million in the 2007-08 budget.

SPLITTING THE WORKLOAD

The advisory committee of roughly 20 members has met three times since its formation in early August and has since split into four sub-groups, each specializing in a factor that is believed to play a role on the measures' survivability next year.



ONE THING IS VERY CLEAR - WE WILL MOST CERTAINLY BE RECOMMENDING RENEWING THE CRITICAL FUNDING BY MEASURES S AND Y."

Rochelle Fanali, Co-chairwoman, Parcel Tax Renewal Feasibility Committee

One subcommittee is determining in which of the three elections next year the measure would hold the best odds of winning.

The three elections are scheduled for February, June and November 2008, the last being a presidential election. The subcommittee is being headed by Denny Zane, a long-time political consultant and head of the Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights group.

The group is studying the pros and cons of each election, whether there will be other education-related funding measures on the ballot, examining the makeup of the anticipated electorate in each election, finding which would draw the most pro-education voters.

The second subcommittee is studying the legality of combining the two measures. Each comes with its set of complicated characteristics — Measure Y includes an annual adjustment, but does not have a senior exemption. Measure S does include a senior exemption, but is not affected by the Consumer Price Index.

The committee, headed by attorney Gleam Davis, will try to find a way to compromise the two measures.

Another subcommittee, headed by Fanali, is conducting a public opinion

of passing one of the two measures or of combining them.

"It's a little difficult to project the financial implications ... each of the two measures have slightly different parameters," Silvern said.

PUTTING A FACE TO FINANCIAL LOSS

The loss of funding from two parcel taxes could be devastating in terms of jobs security for many district employees — a loss in teaching positions, physical education instructors and music instructors, Fanali said in requesting district officials to provide some specifics as to which programs and types of personnel would be cut if the measures are not renewed.

"People do not know where the funds go," she said.

School board member Maria Leon-Vazquez added that it would be important to provide that information for the new parents that have come into the district since the two parcel taxes passed in the earlier part of the decade.

"We have to give the historic perspective," she said.

Fanali added that there is very little information available to parents as to the needs of the district, many people just generally thinking the school districts don't have enough money.

"We think that sentiment goes across our own core group of parent volunteers and we need to make sure we educate them what's really at stake," Fanali said.

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Opponents of LNG proposal flood meeting

By The Associated Press

OXNARD Opponents of a proposed offshore liquefied natural gas facility dominated the first public hearings on LNG processing plans for oil rig Platform Grace some 12 miles off Ventura County.

Residents want an environmental impact study to examine the potential effects on marine wildlife, air quality, shipping lanes, seismic safety and terrorism threats.

"California has no need for this gas," community activist Ed Ellis said during Wednesday's hearing at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center. "Why should Ventura County suffer all the ill effects of this project?"

NorthernStar Natural Gas of Houston wants to convert Platform Grace to an LNG receiving station in the Santa Barbara Channel. The proposed facility would convert superchilled natural gas to vapor and send it ashore by undersea pipeline to the Reliant Energy plant at Mandalay Beach.

Opponents said the onshore pipeline required to transport gas from the Reliant plant to a facility in Somis would travel too close to public schools. And many questioned whether California even needs an LNG plant.

Community activist Diane Moss said Sempra Energy has nearly completed a Mexico natural gas conversion facility in Baja California.



INSPIRATIONAL START

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Actress and author Jamie Lee Curtis mentors women during breakfast at the Casa del Mar following the Oxygen Mentors Walk on Friday morning. The walk is a national initiative to pair high-profile female business leaders with young women who share their passion and dream of breaking into their respective fields.



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RIP CURL

SURF CENTER

Santa Monica
1451 Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica CA
310-656-curl
RIPCURL.COM



SURF REPORT



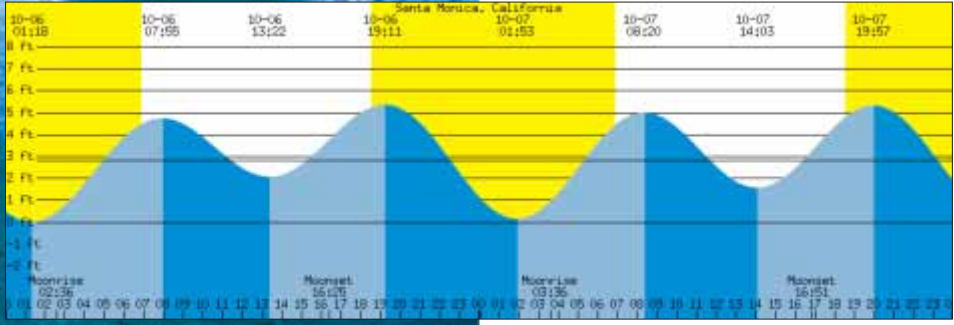
SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 63°

SWELL FORECAST (3-4 FT)
Saturday, the NW swell combo should continue with similar size, at least for the AM: chest high at west facing breaks with some head high set waves at standouts, waist to chest wrap for south facing spots. This swell though will diminish throughout the day. Sunday, the NW should back down considerably to waist high at best for west facing breaks.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
NW SWELL FOR NEXT WEEK NOT WORKING OUT...
SMALLER SURF NEXT WEEK...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



Santa Monica, California

Date	Time	Height
10-06	01:18	8 Ft.
10-06	07:55	7 Ft.
10-06	13:22	6 Ft.
10-06	19:11	5 Ft.
10-07	01:53	4 Ft.
10-07	08:20	3 Ft.
10-07	14:03	2 Ft.
10-07	19:57	1 Ft.

Moons: 02:36, 16:05, 03:36, 16:51

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

October 3, 2007

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 -- 1

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0

Number of wet days -- 5

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 40 / 35

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / 9

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from



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

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

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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NCAA FOOTBALL

UCLA cornerback doesn't like green

BY KEN PETERS

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES It's not easy seeing green for Trey Brown this week.

The UCLA cornerback said he even pitched his wallet before getting ready to talk about the Bruins' game against Notre Dame on Saturday, such is his distaste for the Fighting Irish colors.

Asked if he's surprised by Notre Dame's 0-5 start that's the worst in school history, he replied, "I'm not a big Notre Dame fan. I don't know their history."

He grinned and added: "All I know, I don't like the green. I don't even like money this week, that color. Before I came in here, I threw my wallet in the trash.

"I don't like those guys and they don't like us, and that's what it is."

The Bruins (4-1, 3-0 Pac-10) are coming off a strong showing last weekend, when they rallied from a 14-0 deficit to beat Oregon State 40-14.

Brown, a senior who is the son of former UCLA and NFL running back Theotis Brown, was named the Pac-10 defensive player of the week for his performance against the Beavers. He had two interceptions and made eight tackles, seven of them solo.

"We're coming off a great win in Corvallis," UCLA coach Karl Dorrell said.

He gave both the defense and special teams high marks for the job against the Beavers, and said the offense also made some positive strides.

The Bruins, ranked No. 10 before they were shocked 44-6 by Utah in the third game of the season, seem to have rebuilt some

momentum as they head into Saturday's game at the Rose Bowl against Notre Dame.

"We are anxious and excited about the opportunity," Dorrell said. "There's a lot of work to be done. We're 4-1 and we get a chance to improve on that start."

He said the Irish are a dangerous team, but "we need to continue to focus on us, on getting better."

UCLA is 0-3 against Notre Dame, but all three meetings were in South Bend.

Last October, the Bruins were up 17-13 with 62 seconds remaining before Brady Quinn moved the Irish quickly down the field and threw a 45-yard touchdown pass to Jeff Samardzija with 27 seconds left to pull out a 20-17 victory.

Dorrell said he was sure that players on both teams would remember that finish, but added: "We can't let that get in the way."

Notre Dame will be making just its second trip to Pasadena. The Irish played in the 1925 Rose Bowl, when the Knute Rockne-coached Irish defeated Stanford to earn their first national title.

The other two Notre Dame-UCLA games were in 1963, when the Irish won 27-12, and 1964, when they won 24-0.

But those were quite different Notre Dame teams than the one that's having historic struggles this fall.

"They're desperate for a win," Brown said. "And so are we. They've got the mind-set of trying to come into our place and get a 'W' and we have the mind-set to not let that happen."

Dorrell said Chris Markey, who shares the tailback duty with Kahlil Bell, has turf toe and isn't expected to practice until later in the week.

NCAA FOOTBALL

Stanford's Ostrander will miss game due to seizure

BY JOSH DUBOW

AP Sports Writer

STANFORD Stanford quarterback T.C. Ostrander will miss this week's game against No. 2 Southern California after having a seizure at a restaurant over the weekend.

Ostrander was watching former teammate Trent Edwards play on television for the Buffalo Bills on Sunday when he had the seizure. Ostrander was hospitalized for about seven hours after the seizure but was released after all tests were normal.

"It's tough to get my head around but we have the situation under control," he said after watching the team practice Tuesday. "Apparently the pain medication I take after the game makes a greater disposition toward having a seizure."

Teammate Evan Moore was at the restaurant when he heard Ostrander's father yell out his son's name. Moore turned and saw Ostrander fall to the ground and slam his head on a pole.

He saw his friend bleeding from the mouth and said the scene was difficult to watch. Moore said he felt much better after seeing Ostrander later that day.

"You're watching it thinking 'Is he even going to make it through this?'" Moore said. "It's a scary looking thing. To see him come

home and hear him converse normally was obviously very relieving to say the least."

Ostrander was back at classes this week and will travel to the game on Saturday in Los Angeles. He won't play as a precaution but could be back for the game Oct. 13 against TCU.

"I was looking forward to this game for a while," Ostrander said. "It's not often you get to play the best team in the nation. It's a fun atmosphere down there. I feel like I'm letting the team down, in a sense. It's tough being at practice and not being able to play."

Sophomore Tavita Pritchard will make his first career start Saturday for the Cardinal (1-3, 0-3 Pac-10). Pritchard is the nephew of former NFL quarterback Jack Thompson, better known by his nickname, "The Throwin' Samoan."

Thompson, who starred in college at Washington State, was picked third overall by Cincinnati in 1979. He played six years in the NFL for the Bengals and Tampa Bay.

Pritchard has thrown only three passes in his career, completing one for 10 yards. He now must face Southern Cal (4-0, 2-0), which has the top-ranked defense in the Pac-10, allowing 277.5 yards per game.

"You hate to have an opportunity come like this," Pritchard said.

Feeling better

Owen Wilson attends Los Angeles premiere

OWEN WILSON has returned to the public eye, making an appearance at the Los Angeles premiere of his new film, "The Darjeeling Limited." Sporting a shaggy blond beard and wearing a dark jacket, Wilson was joined by cast mates

Adrien Brody, Anjelica Huston, Jason Schwartzman and filmmaker Wes Anderson. It was among Wilson's first public appearances since an apparent suicide attempt in late August. The premiere was held Thursday night at the

headquarters of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. "The Darjeeling Limited," now in theaters, is the story of three brothers who journey by train through India. Before the movie started, Anderson introduced

Wilson, his longtime friend and collaborator, saying, "I've never made a movie without him and I hope I never have to." Anderson and Wilson have worked together on several films, including "Bottle Rocket," "Rushmore" and "The

Royal Tenenbaums," for which they were nominated for a best screenplay Oscar. Wilson, 38, has also starred in "You, Me and Dupree," "Wedding Crashers" and "Starsky & Hutch."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPRINGSTEEN GETS SUED

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN and his wife are being sued, accused of backing out of a contract to buy a horse worth \$850,000 for their teenage daughter. Olympic equestrian Todd Minikus filed the breach of contract lawsuit Thursday in Florida's Palm Beach County. It claims Springsteen and Patti Scialfa reneged on a deal to pay Minikus \$650,000 for the horse, named Pavarotti, and give him their horse named Scarlett, worth \$200,000. The lawsuit says the couple put a \$25,000 deposit on Pavarotti in July but later had second thoughts.

AP

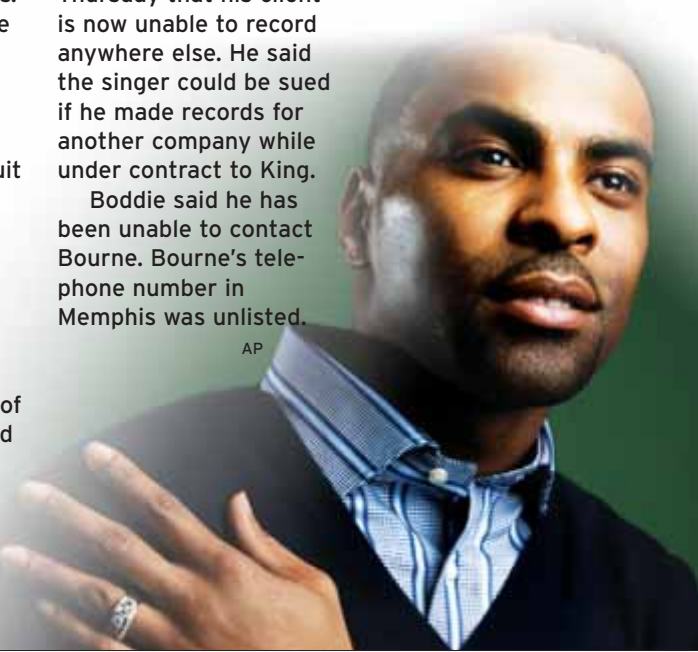
Ginuwine alleges recording contract was a fraud; lawsuit seeks \$4 million

GINUWINE says he was duped into signing a contract with a record company that doesn't exist. In a lawsuit filed in Manhattan's state Supreme Court, the R&B singer says he was persuaded to sign on May 8, 2007, with King Music Group Inc., a company that a personal acquaintance, Michael Bourne of Memphis, Tenn., said he owned. Terms of the contract gave Ginuwine, whose real name is Elgin Baylor Lumpkin, \$1.75 million to record his first album with King, including a \$500,000 advance,

according to court papers. In nearly five months, the singer hasn't made any records and hasn't been paid a cent, the lawsuit said. In addition, the lawsuit said, there is no corporate record for King Music Group Inc. anywhere in New York, California, Florida or Tennessee. The lawsuit accuses King Music and Bourne of breach of contract, fraud and negligent misrepresentation. It asks for a total of \$4 million in damages. Ginuwine's lawyer, Corey D. Boddie, said

Thursday that his client is now unable to record anywhere else. He said the singer could be sued if he made records for another company while under contract to King. Boddie said he has been unable to contact Bourne. Bourne's telephone number in Memphis was unlisted.

AP



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

Talk up a storm, Gemini

Happy Birthday!

You know what you want this year. You also might be unusually creative or dynamic in manifesting your desires. You are more focused than in past years. Friends often support you down the path to creating what you want. If you are single, it is through a friend that you will meet your next relationship, or a friendship could transform into a deeper bond. If you are attached, also be a friend to your sweetie. Help your significant other create more of what he or she wants.



Born Today
'Bond Girl' Britt Ekland (1942)

Inventor George Westinghouse (1846)
Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
(c) 2006 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Confusion surrounds a friendship and/or personal relationship. You might not be able to sort it out just yet, even if you would like to. Give yourself a break. You don't always need to find an answer. Hop in the car for a day outing. Tonight: Opt for different.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Be willing to take a stand. You can be sure many don't agree, especially family. Confusion or a lack of information identifies the situation. You know what you want. Go for just that. Tonight: Special time with a loved one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Make an effort to sort through what you want. Investigate an opportunity when you have time to judge and separate fact from fiction. Give someone the benefit of the doubt. In this spirit, you will see resolution. Tonight: Talk up a storm.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ You might decide the way to alleviate a money problem is to make more money. As a result, you'll see a dramatic change in your daily life, which might not be for the better. Less leisure time might not work. Tonight: Fun doesn't have to cost.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You might be mystified by a partner and how he or she reacts. Now what are you going to do? Don't worry, and enjoy your illusions. You might want to revise your thinking later. Meanwhile, indulge in a wonderful happening. Tonight: Go for what you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ You might be planning something for a very selective few. Make that OK and share more of yourself. If you would like to do something differently, now is the time. Laugh and relax while sorting through key issues. Tonight: Shhh. Don't tell.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You might want to focus on what can happen if you give 100 percent. Also, clear your mind and try to dump the rose-colored glasses. The more realistic you are about others, the less likely you are to be hurt. Tonight: Where you are, the party is.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Realize you are responsible for making plans. You could be concerned about a personal matter that might force you to take another look at a relationship or investment. You cannot be too careful. Tonight: In the limelight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision, especially if you wonder if there could be a better solution. Your instincts might have more of an impact on what you are saying than you think. Try a new type of adventure. Tonight: Certainly be where there is music.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Share more with a specific partner who really understands you. You find that the two of you relish this special time no matter what you decide to do. Let go and enjoy. Don't bring daily problems into the mix. Tonight: Add that special touch of romance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might confuse a situation and make it more difficult than need be. Relax. Others will also relax and let you know how important you are. A new friend and/or a change in a friendship might be likely. Tonight: Say yes to a request.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Opt for an easy pace where you go to the gym or toss yourself into a home project. You might also need some "dream time." Choose activities that suit your temperament and mood. Tonight: Be the big cheese in your life.

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 395-4990

Check theatre for showtimes

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-1506

Bourne Ultimatum, The (PG-13)
4:40, 7:25, 10:10
Feel the Noise (PG-13)
10:45am, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20
In the Valley of Elah (R)
11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
Kingdom, The (R)
10:50am, 1:25, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
Superbad (R)
11:05am, 1:55

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

3:10 to Yuma (R)
11:05am, 1:50, 4:35, 7:25, 10:10
Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford, The (R)
11:15am, 12:10, 2:40, 3:35, 6:05, 7:00, 9:30, 10:25
Brave One, The (R)
11:10am, 1:55, 4:45, 7:35, 10:30
Game Plan, The (PG)
11:00am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:05
Kingdom, The (R)
11:25am, 2:15, 5:05, 7:50, 10:35
Resident Evil: Extinction (R)
DLP-Digital Projection
11:30am, 2:05, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8223

Eastern Promises (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:15, 9:45
Into the Wild (R)
11:45am, 3:15, 7:00, 10:15

LAEMMLE'S MONICA
FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

Darjeeling Limited, The (R)
11:15am, 12:30, 1:30, 2:50, 3:50, 5:15, 6:15, 7:40, 8:40, 10:00
Jane Austen Book Club, The (PG-13)
1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55
Let It Ride (NR)
3:10, 7:40
Man Who Souled the World, The (NR)
1:00, 5:30, 10:00
Milarepa: Magician, Murderer, Saint (PG)
11:00am
Trade (R)
11:00am

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

Across the Universe (PG-13)
1:10, 4:15, 7:10, 10:20
Feast of Love (R)
12:20, 2:50, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
Good Luck Chuck (R)
12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
Heartbreak Kid, The (R)
11:50am, 1:00, 2:30, 4:05, 5:30, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30
Seeker: The Dark Is Rising, The (PG)
12:00, 2:20, 5:00, 7:30, 10:30

Janric Classic 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 Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

Difficulty
GOLD

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

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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

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

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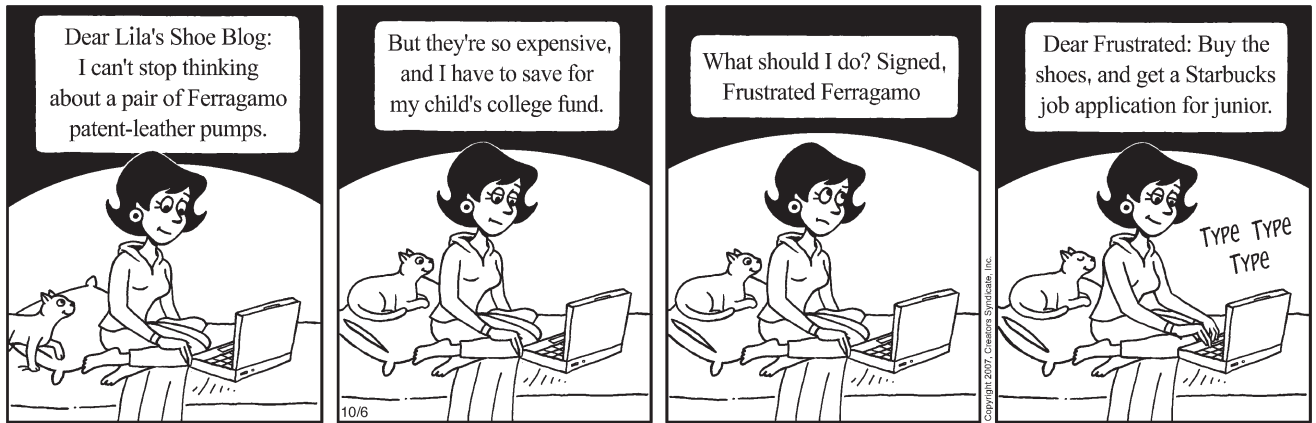
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



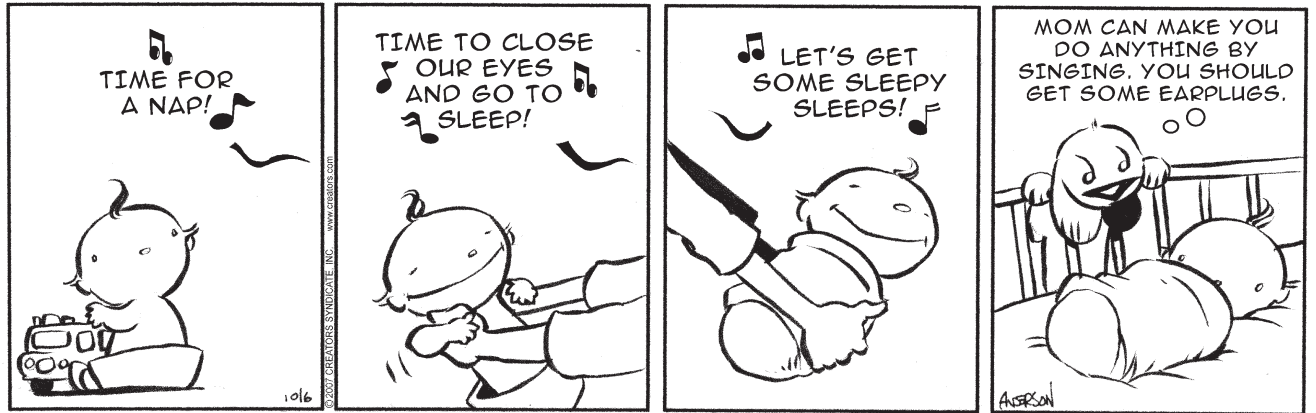
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

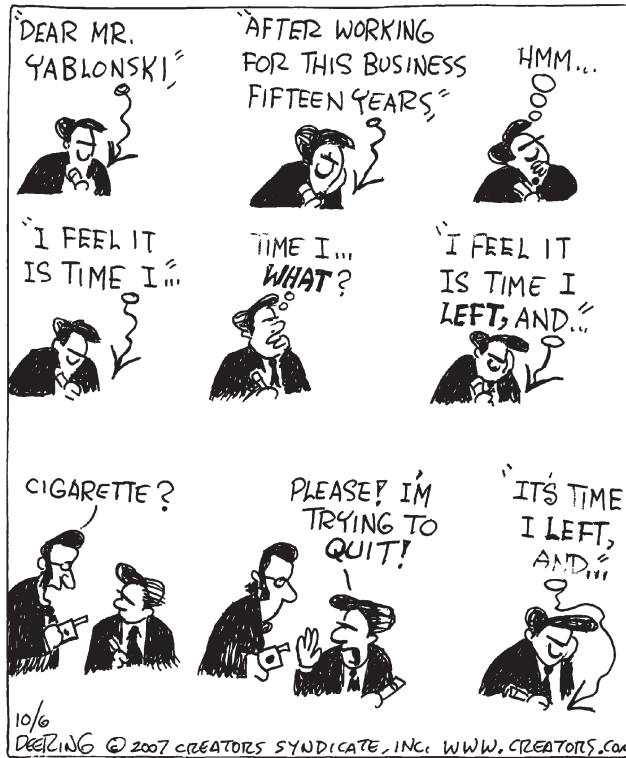


The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



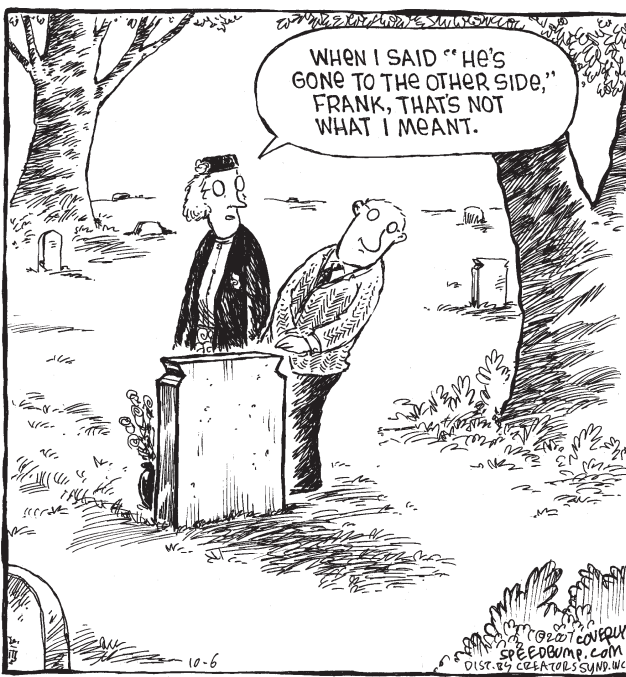
Strange Brew

By John Deering

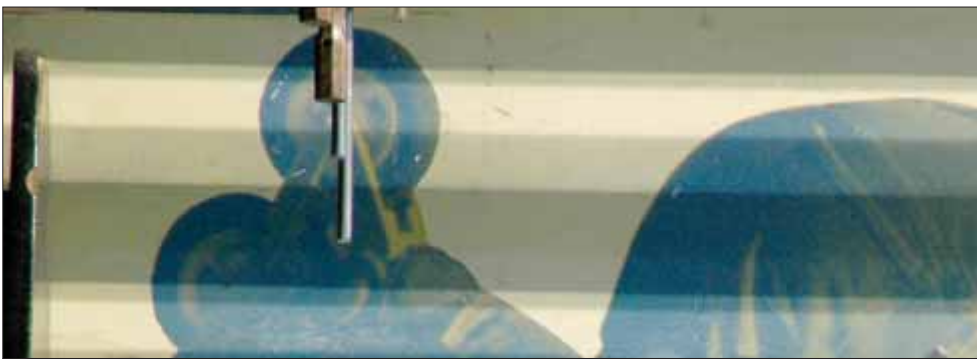


Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Work breaks
 - 6 Hotel units
 - 11 Abrasive powder
 - 12 "Cats" poet
 - 13 Daughter of Lear
 - 14 Charming lass
 - 15 Blows one's top
 - 17 Snoop group: Abbr.
 - 18 Census form question
 - 19 Milliner's ribbon
 - 22 —
 - 23 Odorless gas
 - 24 Hog holders
 - 25 Baseball's Suzuki
 - 27 Monk's title
 - 30 Con man
 - 31 Trip segment
 - 32 Imitating
 - 33 Capitol group
 - 35 Put out
 - 38 Disney meerkat
 - 39 Oscar winner Wither-spoon
- DOWN**
- 40 Lethargic meal
 - 41 Passover meal
 - 42 Runs to
 - 1 Peruse anew
 - 2 Appear
 - 3 Musical transitions
 - 4 Golf bunker
 - 5 Artificial
 - 6 Yank's foe
 - 7 Flamenco cry
 - 8 Tin Man's prop
 - 9 Illinois city
 - 10 Place
 - 16 Swift works
 - 20 Untested
 - 21 — relief
 - 24 That lass
 - 25 Answer akin to "Maybe"
 - 26 Put a stop to
 - 27 Calgary team
 - 28 Snappy answer
 - 29 Holly-wood workers
 - 30 State events
 - 34 Spanish tyke
 - 36 Applica-tion
 - 37 Poetic "always"

T	A	P	E	S		A	P	P	L	E
S	P	I	L	L		C	A	R	O	L
P	E	N	C	E		T	R	U	N	K
		K	I	W	I		O	N	E	S
S	K	I	D		D	A	L	I		
P	A	N		M	A	G	E	N	T	A
A	N	G	L	E		E	D	G	A	R
R	E	S	E	N	T	S		S	K	I
		H	O	U	R		S	H	E	D
P	E	E	N		Y	A	L	E		
A	W	A	I	T		N	O	A	H	S
V	E	R	N	E		A	P	R	I	L
E	S	S	E	X		T	E	S	T	Y

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13						14				
15					16			17		
18				19		20	21			
22				23						
			24							
	25	26						27	28	29
30								31		
32					33		34			
35			36	37		38				
39						40				
41						42				

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
28 37 40 43 44
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: \$26M

Super LOTTO
7 13 27 31 41
Meganumber: 19
Jackpot: \$11M

Fantasy 5
18 20 21 25 28

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 8 7 2
EVENING: 1 5 0

DAILY DERRY
1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 10 Solid Gold
RACE TIME: 1:46.80

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

■ Quinton Thomas, 22, inadvertently strengthened the murder charge against him in April when he mailed a letter from the jail in Rockville, Md., believing that the contents would not be read by jail officials. However, Thomas had gotten the recipient's address wrong, causing the post office to "return to sender," and, as long-standing policy, officials inspect all incoming mail (for contraband). According to an August Washington Post report, Thomas characterized his emerging alibis and also wrote about a witness, "This white (expletive) can't make it to court on May 7 through May 12, ya feel me. I don't care what you gotta do, you don't even gotta stink the cracker, he just cant make it to Rockville that whole week, Homie."

■ Bad Judgments: (1) In Huntsville, Ala., in June, Dwight Clark, running his finger inside the rim of his car's gas tank to clear some gunk, got it stuck past the first knuckle, and it took doctors at Huntsville Hospital, plus a Sawzall tool, about two hours to free him. (2) Jenny Robertson, purchasing a house on a golf course in Maricopa, Ariz., had the home scrutinized according to "feng shui" principles to assure open spaces and the correct placement of doors and windows, according to a June New York Times story, but to her consternation, apparently nowhere in feng shui teaching is the concept of "bad golfers." Said Robertson, "When I go outside, it's like dodge-ball out there."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1582 Due to the implementation of the Gregorian calendar, this day is skipped in Italy, Poland, Portugal and Spain.

1600 Jacopo Peri's Euridice, the earliest surviving opera, premieres in Florence, signifying the beginning of the Baroque Period

1789 French Revolution: Louis XVI returns to Paris from Versailles after being confronted by the Parisian women on 5 October

1849 The execution of the 13 Martyrs of Arad after the Hungarian war of independence.

1854 Great fire of Newcastle and Gateshead start shortly after midnight, leading to 53 deaths and hundreds injured.

1884 The Naval War College of the United States Navy was founded in Newport, Rhode Island.

WORD UP!

paroxysm \PAIR-uhk-siz-uhm/, noun: 1. (Medicine) A sudden attack, intensification, or recurrence of a disease. 2. Any sudden and violent emotion or action; an outburst; a fit.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20072041246 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as KOMFORT VALET SERVICES, INC. AI #/ON 3011604, 1541 OCEAN AVENUE, SANTA MONICA, CA. 90401. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : VICTOR H. KAMT, KOMFORT VALET SERVICE, INC. CA. 19916 W. HOLLY DR. SANTA CLARITA, CA. 91354 This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: KOMFORT VALET SERVICE, INC. OWNER, VICTOR H. KAMT This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 8/31/2007. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq. Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 9/29/2007, 10/6/2007, 10/13/2007, 10/20/2007

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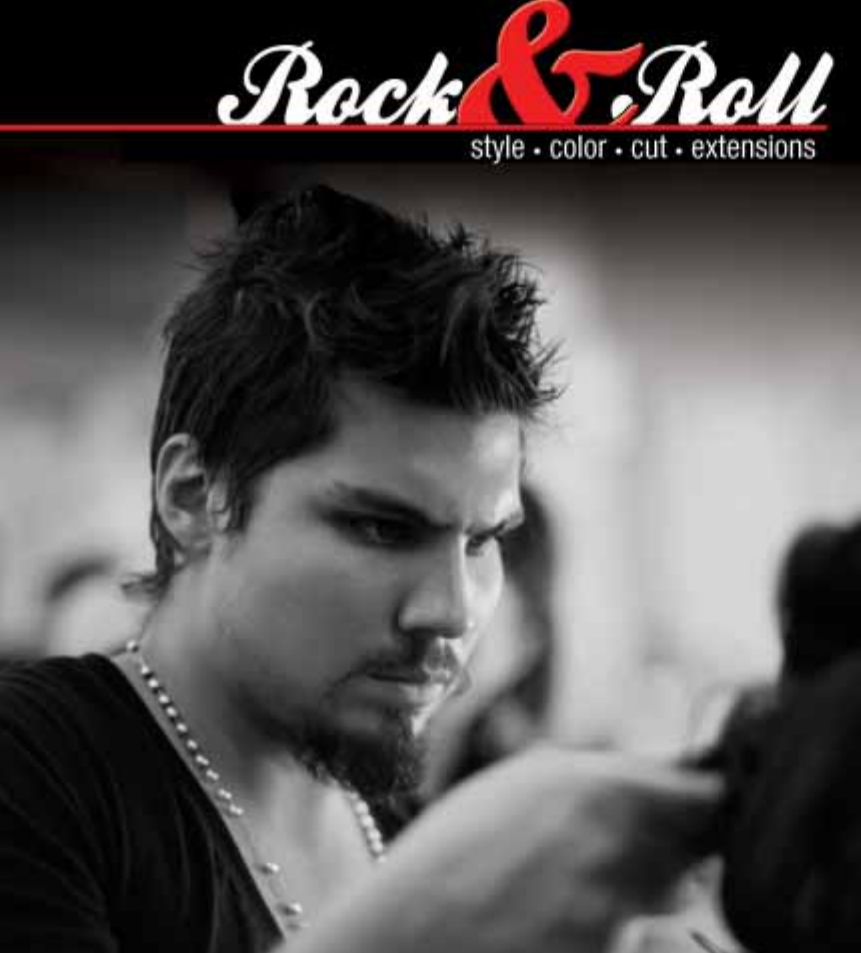


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Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 2,905,900	\$ 978,799
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