

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

13 27 36 43 44
Meganumber: 7
Jackpot: \$11 Million

FANTASY 5

1 2 20 33 36

DAILY 3

Daytime: 2 9 6
Evening: 8 3 2

DAILY DERBY

1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 07 Eureka!
3rd: 03 Hot Shot

RACE TIME: 1:48.35

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In July, the Transportation Security Agency fired Houston airport baggage handler Bassam Khalaf when it discovered that he is, off-duty, the "Arabic Assassin," a rap singer whose lyrics, according to TSA, glorify the 9-11 hijackers and threaten similar mayhem on the United States in the future. (Khalaf said his lyrics were an innocent effort to gain notoriety as a performer.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 284th day of 2005.
There are 81 days left in the year.

Thirty years ago, on Oct. 11, 1975, "NBC Saturday Night" (later "Saturday Night Live") made its debut with guest host George Carlin.

In 1942, the World War II Battle of Cape Esperance began in the Solomons, resulting in an American victory over the Japanese.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What is time? The shadow on the dial, the striking of the clock, the running of the sand, day and night, summer and winter, months, years, centuries — these are but arbitrary and outward signs, the measure of Time, not Time itself.
Time is the Life of the soul."

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW
AMERICAN POET (1807-1882)

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Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

BEAM ME UP: A construction worker 'tops off' the new 541-seat visual and performing arts center at Santa Monica College's Madison campus on Monday, putting the building's final steel beam into place.

Madison set to take center stage

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY — The theater which supporters say will become a mecca for Westside arts and culture was topped off with its final high beam on Monday.

Dozens of local officials, guests and other well-wishers for Santa Monica College's Madison Theater — a 541-seat performing arts center under construction at the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and

11th Street — celebrated the placement of its last beam onto the 32,000 square-foot facility.

While the theater still resembles a giant metal cage, officials contend the most attractive phase of construction will be underway from now until it opens in the winter of 2007.

On Monday, several supporters for the \$32 million project listened to classical compositions by Antonio Vivaldi and were handed a rose intended to symbolize the

beauty and culture which the theater will foster. In addition, they were given a hammer, representing the hard work needed to make the facility a reality. Then, the group of supporters and others present, which included SMC's interim president Tom Donner and Malibu Mayor Andy Stern, proceeded to sign the last high beam before it was hoisted into place atop the auditorium, with an

See **CENTER STAGE**, page 7

City's pipe dreams could be realized

(Editor's note: This is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures which appear on the upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agenda. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past).

BY JASMIN PERSCH

Special to the Daily Press

CITY HALL — Elected leaders are expected tonight to spend \$5.7 million on wage increases, water line construction, road repairs and raising fluoride levels in Santa Monica's water supply.

The majority of the expendi-

tures — \$4.3 million — will go towards annual pipe replacements throughout the city.

Money is put into the water main replacement program every year to keep the city's plumbing in shape — replacing pipes depending upon their age, condition and how much water passes through them, according to city staff.

The City Council is expected to close the deal with the construction company Majich Brothers, Inc. and the construction management company Black & Veatch, city officials said.

City staff said Majich Brothers, Inc. was chosen for its efficiency

See **CONSENT**, page 7

Raising the roof on city's builders

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Elected officials today will decide whether they will quadruple some developer fees in an effort to provide more affordable housing in Santa Monica.

The proposal is set to be reconsidered by a full City Council after a July meeting in which the six members present couldn't come to a consensus on what the economic impact might be for significantly raising developer "in lieu" fees. As a result, there was neither a financial analysis of the impact to developers, as requested by some councilmembers, nor an immediate decision to raise the fees, as desired by others.

Those supporting further financial analysis included Councilmen Bob Holbrook, Herb Katz and Bobby Shriver. Those hoping to

See **IN LIEU**, page 6

STATE

Feeling i-rate? Review podcasts on Internet

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Hoping to tune into the latest craze in digital media, Yahoo Inc. is introducing tools for finding, organizing and rating "podcasts" — the audio programs designed to be played on Apple Inc.'s iPod and many other portable music players.

The Sunnyvale, Calif.-based company, which operates the world's most visited Web site, plans to begin testing the new service Monday at <http://podcasts.yahoo.com>.

See **PODCASTS**, page 10

GABY SCHKUD

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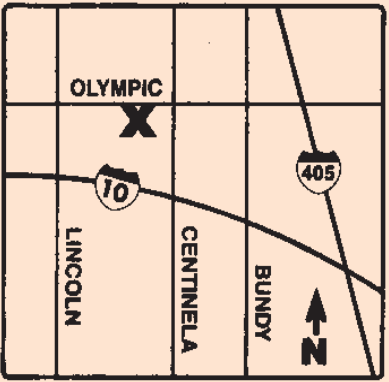
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HOROSCOPE

Quality time tonight, Cancer

Santa Monica Daily Press

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You become more carefree as the day progresses. Associates and friends have many ideas and suggestions well worth listening to. You might want to brainstorm. Confusion happens with plans. Verify what you hear. Tonight: Be where throngs of people are.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Make long-distance calls, do research and find experts in the a.m. By the afternoon, for whatever reason, you will need to assume command of the ship. You walk into a leadership position with ease. Others want and need your insight and skills. Tonight: Confirm that you and others are on the same page.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Handle situations that deal with individuals first. The afternoon presents some time to break past present restrictions. You might want to surf the Net, talk to an expert or plan a trip. Tonight: Pick up some travel brochures on the way home.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Others continue to call the shots. Don't fight that which you cannot change without a mini-revolution. The time will come to put in your two cents. Later on, discussions with an individual enlighten yet at the same time confuse you. Tonight: Spend quality time with a special person.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Get as much work done as quickly and efficiently as humanly possible this morning. You start a new cycle in the afternoon, in which you might want to network, catch up on news and lighten up a bit. Tonight: Go with a spontaneous invitation.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Plug your creativity into work. Carefully realize your limitations with a loved one. Discussions revolve around great moneymaking ideas, which you might want to consider. Make sure you are on the same page as someone else when making plans. Tonight: Take a health night: Eat well, exercise and try an early bedtime.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You might need to hop over an obstacle this morning. Don't let anyone take away your enthusiasm. Your creativity flows in the afternoon. The question is, Where do you want to channel this special energy? Tonight: Ever playful.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Clear out calls and errands in the morning. By midday, you will want to focus on a special project or a problem. You will need thinking time. Check out an investment with care — OK? Tonight: Walk and think.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Deal with serious matters first. By the afternoon, you might be fielding calls left and right, whether you are ready to or not. Someone you care about seeks you out. Lighten up in the afternoon. Tonight: Others might misunderstand you.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You have more energy than you can use this morning. Use it where it counts. Later in the afternoon, do some checking into an investment or financial matter. Do not make a financial decision just yet. Tonight: Pay bills.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Get facts together and make needed calls this morning. Midday, the Moon slides into your sign. Though someone could be confused or disagreeable, you will find that you can work around the situation. Tonight: Ask for what you want. The worst you can hear is no.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Use the morning for meetings and what you deem to be a high priority. In the afternoon, you will want some quiet time, even if it is only to work. Decide how to effectively get just that. Tonight: Could an associate be jealous?



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Volunteer to be honored for emergency aid

By Daily Press staff

The official honoring tonight of a volunteer who contributes his time in responding to disasters in the Malibu area will show that character does count for something.

A surprise awaits an undisclosed volunteer member of Disaster Communications Services (DCS) District 22 — “A Character of Volunteerism Award” for lifetime community service presented by Michael Josephson of “Character Counts!” fame. Josephson will first speak to a welcoming audience of amateur radio operators based at Lost Hills/Malibu Sheriff Station, their families and other community volunteers on “The Character of Volunteerism” tonight, six days before the start of “National Character Counts Week.”

The new award will honor one of the more than 300 amateur radio operators from DCS District 22 who donate their time and equipment at no cost to the taxpayers via the Lost Hills Sheriff’s Station. Those volunteers put in approximately 18,000 hours each year, equivalent to more than \$225,000 in service.

Best known for his daily radio program, Character Counts!, Josephson is founder and president of the Josephson Institute of Ethics. He is based in Los Angeles and active nationally with the Character Counts! youth-education initiative. His radio program airs on CBS’s KNX-1070 in Southern California and on stations all over the country, as well as worldwide on American Forces Radio.

Lost Hills/Malibu Sheriff Station administers DCS District 22’s volunteer amateur radio operator activities, ranging from disaster communications support to community service at major city and county parades, fairs, races, bike-a-thons and other athletic events. Training and readiness programs include weekly radio drills and exercises, regular equipment checks and maintenance and actual deployment on major departmental operations, like when DCS-22 was activated to provide support during the Chatsworth fire.

The Smothers Theater from Pepperdine University was secured for the free event. DCS-22 invites all local volunteer groups and their families to attend the ceremony, beginning at 7 p.m.

All cities in LA County have chosen amateur radio as their back-up system for government communications, which can become difficult or nonexistent during and immediately after disasters, such as Katrina in the Gulf cities and major earthquakes and fires in Southern California. Amateur radio operators provide auxiliary communications between county and city governments and between agencies such as fire and police departments, as well as between any other disaster agencies not connected by radio or telephone.

SMC presents its musicians

By Daily Press staff

Free music at Santa Monica College this week is aimed to honor the talent coming from the campus.

Beginning today, the Santa Monica College music department will present a three-day celebration of the works of famed composers Frederic Chopin and Felix Mendelssohn, featuring piano music, chamber music and songs, and orchestral music.

Concerts in the Chopin/Mendelssohn Minifest — all free — are scheduled for Oct. 11, 13 and 15 in the SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd.

The Chopin/Mendelssohn Minifest brings together the talent of SMC professors, students, alumni and guest artists, all under the direction of SMC music professor James Martin.

This is the sixth such celebration at SMC devoted to composers. In the past, concerts have been organized around the works of such composers as Bach and Beethoven. The programs include a scholarly component, with talks about the composers.

The concerts are:

■ Tuesday, Oct. 11 at 11:15 a.m.: Piano music. The concert is free.

■ Thursday, Oct. 13 at 11:15 a.m.: Chamber music and songs. The concert is free.

■ Saturday, Oct. 15 at 8 p.m.: Orchestral music, featuring the SMC Symphony Orchestra. Tickets are \$10. For information, call (310) 434-4323.



SURF REPORT

Note that due to the long-period nature of the SW swell there will be variation in size between south-facing breaks. In SoCal, most south-facing breaks are seeing chest- to head-high sets, overhead at standouts. West-facing breaks are running chest- to shoulder-high, head high at standouts.

Today the water is:

62°

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



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
MONDAY	N/A	N/A	11:10	0.2	N/A	N/A	2:42	5.2
TUESDAY	10:35	3.4	12:09	-0.1	6:50	3.9	4:29	5.2
WEDNESDAY	12:09	-0.1	12:01	2.8	7:09	4.3	5:49	5.5
THURSDAY	12:55	-0.3	12:58	2.0	7:33	4.8	6:52	5.7
FRIDAY	1:34	-0.1	2:02	1.7	8:04	4.6	7:40	5.2

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The Q Line

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The City Council has initiated the process to fill the position of city manager, one of the most important jobs in Santa Monica. Thus far, much of the discussion in regard to the hiring process has been behind closed doors. City Hall has hired a headhunter to help in the search, and the City Council hopes to interview the candidates in coming weeks.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, “What kind of qualities and abilities would you like to see in the person who runs Santa Monica?”

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

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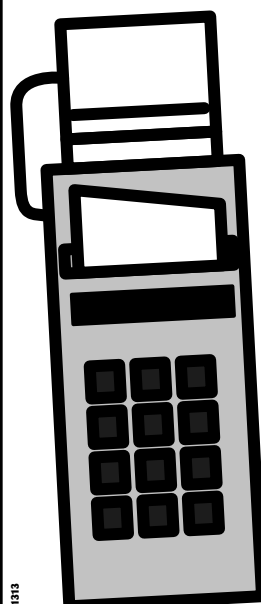
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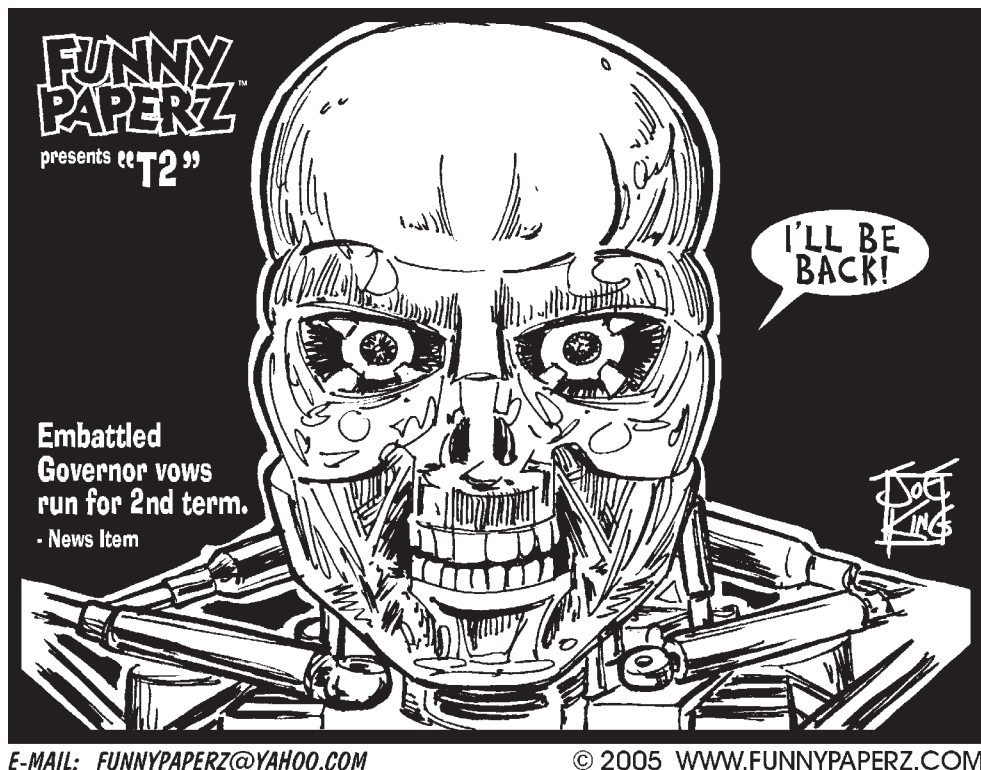
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OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VA grounds have a history

Editor:

I have been interested in your articles on housing for homeless veterans at Brentwood VA, which I think is a good idea. The idea of commercial development of part of the grounds is a poor idea. Such use for non-veterans is not a new idea. My recollection is that about 35 years ago, President Nixon wanted to do the same. He hadn't counted on legal difficulties. At a Memorial Day service in Woodlawn Cemetery several years ago, Mr. Sid Reyes explained that his family had donated the land with the restriction that it be used for veterans. I think they brought a suit with the result that the property remained for the benefit of veterans. Perhaps the city attorneys could check on this and remove an impediment to moving forward.

Ray Mickey
Santa Monica

Guarding a long way from home

Editor:

The Republicans are great about having them run their own investigations into their own activities. We saw it with Schwarzenegger, and we often see it on the federal level.

Michael Brown, FEMA catastrophe and consultant, vehemently defends himself and the federal government regarding their response to the Hurricane Katrina devastation, and blames the Louisiana governor and the New Orleans Mayor instead.

I'm sure that their local governments truly could have been more responsive. If their National Guard was in their home territory and not over in Iraq.

Flo Ginsburg
Santa Monica

Veterans at VA grounds could be criminal

Editor:

Using the veteran facilities in Brentwood as a place for some Santa Monica homeless veterans is not a new idea. I compliment City Councilman Shriver and all others who support this idea, but may I respectfully suggest they review the history of the consequences when in the 1940s and 50s and prior thereto when those facilities did house homeless veterans.

If they investigate, they will find that the "homeless veterans" that did occupy the Brentwood facility permeated the then San Vicente Boulevard (Brentwood) area and caused minor and major criminal acts generating a "hue and cry" in the community for the removal of the "homeless veteran" from the Brentwood facility because of the "minor and major nuisances" caused by the "homeless veteran" who roamed the area.

Wouldn't history repeat itself? I suggest that notwithstanding the superficial merits of the idea, history would repeat itself.

Gerald M. Condon
Santa Monica

Come out, come out, wherever you are



WHAT'S THE POINT?

BY DAVID PISARRA

Today is National Coming Out Day (NCOD). It is a day set aside to publicize awareness, promote acceptance and put a human face on the vast spectrum of human sexuality. It has a genesis that comes from the first march on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights held on Oct. 11, 1987. In 1988, the first NCOD was held to commemorate the anniversary.

In 1987, half a million people converged on Washington. Ronald Reagan was president, and even though the country was in the middle of the AIDS crisis, he still couldn't say the word "AIDS." The Names project was laid out on the mall for the first time. Thousands of hand-made panels remembering the dead were displayed.

Since that time the world has changed radically. Hopefully, in part due to the efforts of this one day, and the spokespeople that have had the courage to come forth and tell their stories.

We are wired to automatically fear that which we know little about. Historically, this has been a good thing, in that it allowed man to evolve from a cave, and survive many of the great threats to his existence.

But as man evolved, it became less necessary for us to fear other humans. Yet, the old wiring is still there. It manifests itself in many ways still today. One look at the national news will tell you that racism is still entrenched in the south, a religious war is still being fought in Ireland, Israel and Iraq. The African continent has known little long-term peace, and ethnic cleansing still occurs today.

How do you change minds? How do you bring people of ignorance into the light and stop the hating?

You put a face on it.

Even with a Constitutional Amendment giving them the right to vote in 1870, black civil rights didn't get very far until a little lady put a face on the issue by not giving up her seat at the back of the bus in 1955.

Women's suffrage got nowhere until Susan B. Anthony came along and was arrested for illegally voting in a presidential election.

For the gay community, this lesson was lost from 1969 — the year of the Stonewall riots in New York — until 1987. It was in the afterglow of the highly visible march on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights, that the originators of the idea Rob Eichberg, and Jean O'Leary, decided a day to celebrate coming out of the closet was needed. And with that, National Coming Out Day was born.

NCOD is important not because of the highly visible gay people who have been associated with it; celebrities like Dan Butler, the actor who played "Bulldog" of Frasier and Candace Gingrich, half-sister of then Republican Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich or Betty DeGeneres, the

first straight spokesperson for NCOD and mother of Ellen DeGeneres. It is not important as a fundraising event because that is not its purpose.

Rather, it is important because it gives permission to Chris the waiter at your local greasy spoon to come out and be who he is. Because when Chris comes out, his friends and family have to confront a new reality, one that perhaps they have never known. It is possible that they never knew a gay person, and he or she might be the example that changes their minds about what being gay is.

Chastity Bono, the lesbian daughter of the late Republican Congressman Sonny Bono will not change the homophobes opinion of lesbians. But she might give courage to the lesbian daughter of a homophobe to come out, and with that, change an opinion of what a lesbian is.

I know for myself, I had an easy time in some ways of coming out. I was in a small liberal arts school, where "different" was commonplace. I grew up in a small town just outside of San Francisco and my brother and mother and I would go each year to the Gay Pride Parade. Yet, I still was anxious about telling my friends and family. I was worried about my mother hating me, my brothers never speaking to me again and losing my best friend.

But Dan Butler was gay. And he was out. And that made it just the tiniest bit easier for me to creep out of the closet and begin to accept who I am. It took years. And yet, I still today, have moments of doubt.

Just last week I had a meeting where I outed myself, and my first reaction was to question if that was a mistake. Had I just ruined my chances at this new contract because the two men I was working with might be homophobic? This being Los Angeles, and me being who I am, it didn't really matter. But the fact is I was still nervous.

Granted, my anxiety these days gets less each time I out myself. But it's still there. And that is why NCOD is important, because if I, a 39-year-old lawyer, with a spouse and a home, and a couple of businesses is still afraid, what is it like for the 19-year-olds who are coming from a less than open-minded background and with little or no resources to fall back upon?

In many ways it is getting easier. The polls are showing greater acceptance by society of sexuality in general — the current governor's bigotry notwithstanding. Gay faces appear on TV and in the movies with greater frequency each year. But that is why NCOD matters. Because progress is being made.

It matters for one person to come out and affect the awareness of his or her family and friends. One person who was given just that little bit of extra courage, thanks to the face of someone they might never had met.

For me, it was Dan Butler. For my friends, it was me.

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

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff.

Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

COMMENTARY



The best medicine is hardest to swallow

ANY DAY IN LA

BY HEIDI MANTEUFFEL



It doesn't take Hollywood to have me in stitches. I laugh at local Santa Monica commercials, perfect strangers and harmless farm animals. I'm not what some may call high-cultured.

Tell me you've seen the Cellular Fantasy commercial with the flashing cell phone images, the futuristic music, and the small kid that says "The future is calling!" It's on TBS late at night, and may well be one of the funniest things I've seen in my life.

I was doubled over when a friend and I were walking on the beach. A moody, darkly clothed woman and her boyfriend slowly passed us on their ten speeds. The woman muttered to us in a low-tone as she was passing, "bikes, only." We were incapacitated for about the next 20 minutes, as the entire beach path was full of rollerbladers and people just like us walking.

I even laugh hysterically when I see ducks plopping through the water with their butts bobbing in the air. My boyfriend can tell you I laugh especially hard at this when I've had six hours of sleep.

It doesn't take a Shakespeare remake or Quentin Tarantino movie to entertain me. As you might guess, my favorite parts of movies aren't often witty lines, or well-constructed scenes of irony. No, I opt for funny sounding phrases like "Milk was a bad choice," from "Anchorman," or "I got a fever, and the only prescription is more cowbell" from an SNL Will Ferrell skit.

I don't have what you call high-brow humor.

For I'm the kind of person that uses e-vite to send fake invitations to Brick Tamland's (from "Anchorman") pants' party, laughing myself to tears as others confusedly look on.

Last of all, I love attending the yearly Santa Monica Cat Show in September. I don't go to look at all the pretty feline friends, however. Rather, I find amuse-

ment in the odd ball cat ladies. Some braise my elbow yelling "Cat coming through!" as they rush to the cat showing that's only a room away. Others scowl at me shouting "No cake for you!" waving their busy bees in front of their frightened kitties.

Yes, life can be ridiculously funny I've discovered, until you become a part of the joke.

The people at Cellular Fantasy didn't think it was funny when I was passing their Wilshire store, laughing at the picture of "the future is calling!" kid on one of their company buses. Oops, maybe that's their little cousin or grandson.

When I asked why there wasn't a cat show this year, I found out one of the main organizers had died. Shoot, now I feel crappy for laughing at these ladies, too.

I bet the ducks don't appreciate that I laugh at their butts waddling and they putt-putt around the pond. That's probably their necessary underwater food finding position. But at least they don't know what I'm saying.

What really topped it off was when a friend of mine laughed hysterically at a project I was extremely serious about and devoted to. Sure, we laughed at some funny things other people did just a minute before. But it made me especially frustrated she would respond so lightly to an issue I thought was vitally important.

It's always funny to laugh at something until we want to be taken seriously.

For the most part, we can't really help what we think is worthy of a laugh. Our brains are wired to crack up at absurdity, hypocrisy and in my case, simple phrases. "Do the chickens have large talons?" And, "It took me like three hours to finish the shading on your upper lip" from "Napoleon Dynamite." Who says that?

I don't know if can stop laughing at the ducks, feisty strangers, and Fitness Made Simple commercials with John Basedow. But I guess I should keep this in mind the next time someone is laughing at me and my cockamamie ideas, wondering what all the hooplah commotion is about.

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

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LOCAL

Council expected to OK new fees for developers

IN LIEU, from page 1

put the new fee structure in place immediately included Councilmen Richard Bloom and Ken Genser, and Mayor Pam O'Connor. Councilman Kevin McKeown wasn't present at the July meeting.

He has indicated, however, that he will likely support the fee increases because he feels it will be a common sense approach to bolster affordable housing.

"Further delays on this mean less affordable housing for families who need it, and bigger short-term profits for market-rate developers," McKeown said. "These fees should have been adjusted sooner, not later."

The council's consideration comes after a May presentation that indicated City Hall hasn't kept promises made to voters that it would be consistent in the number of affordable housing units it produced over the past 10 years.

While Santa Monica, overall, has produced 2,208 units of affordable housing in the last seven and a half years — exceeding the region by 126 percent — City Hall has failed to be consistent in production, as promised to voters in Proposition R, according to information provided by Hamilton, Rabinovitz and Alschuler, the firm hired to help Santa Monica manage its affordable housing portfolio.

Proposition R — a measure approved in 1998 by Santa Monica voters requiring 30 percent of housing units constructed in the city each year to be affordable — has been met or exceeded five out of the last 10 years, according to HR&A. However, that rate of production has been declining steadily in the past few years, prompting elected officials to take action.

The City Council agreed in May that city staff should draft a resolution which would increase the in-lieu fee for apartment developments from \$6.14 per square foot, a rate established in 1998, to \$26.08 per square foot citywide, an increase of 300 percent. Condominium development fees, which were \$11.01 per square foot in 2000, would be doubled to \$22.33 per square foot citywide.

Jim Kemper, acting housing administrator at City Hall, said developer "in lieu" fees comprised approximately \$500,000 of the \$12 million that went toward the affordable housing fund in Santa Monica last year. The vast majority of the affordable housing fund — \$9.2 million — came from re-development taxes accrued and distributed throughout Los Angeles County, which City Hall has no direct control of, Kemper said.

Kemper said it was difficult to speculate

what effect increases to in-lieu fees might have on development in Santa Monica and the affordable housing fund since the two factors are inter-related. He said the fees could contribute significantly to the affordable housing fund if development continues at the same pace or increases, but he said an adverse effect of slowing development also was a possible result.

Allen Freeman, a developer with JSM Construction, Inc., a local development company, has previously said the increases would likely not affect his firm, since it already takes the general approach of building affordable housing off site as opposed to paying the "in-lieu" fees.

However, Freeman noted other developers, who typically pay the "in-lieu" fees, may not be pleased with City Hall's approach.

Meanwhile, some residents are concerned the fees would put a significant burden on their ability to re-develop their own property. Mark Shepherd, a screenwriter who first moved into his Santa Monica home as a renter, said he would like to tear down his house — wedged between two commercial buildings — and create a five-unit condominium complex.

Shepherd said the proposed fees would require he pay \$40,000 for affordable housing for each unit he builds, a total of \$200,000. Shepherd, who said he voted in favor of Proposition R, nonetheless believes the new fees would go too far to burden him and other property owners trying to make better use of their land.

"I'm not a big developer and these proposed fees are just killing me," Shepherd said. "I think there needs to be better justification for increasing the fees, especially since we're exceeding our affordable housing goals overall."

"Santa Monica residents want to use their property, and these fees are going to make it hard for them to do so."

Councilman Herb Katz said he's concerned that a lack of financial analysis could mean the fee increases may have a disastrous effect on the local market.

"The fee increases are unconscionable," Katz said. "We have no idea how this will play out economically and staff has done nothing to find out."

However, some councilmembers feel there is too much concern about the economic impact of the fees.

"I think these fees are justifiable and appropriate," Genser said. "If it has the consequence of deterring market rate development, that's something, frankly, I think most residents wouldn't mind."

"The amendment will help us get more affordable housing."

Bitch!

Whine!

Complain!

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

The  Line

LOCAL



Hoffman's troupe in residency at Madison

CENTER STAGE, from page 1

American flag and small tree attached.

Plans for the theater have been at least seven years in the making. Funding comes from a variety of sources, one of which was private contributions from a number of celebrities, including actor Dustin Hoffman. Still, the largest chunk of funding, \$24 million, came courtesy of Measure S, the \$135 million bond approved by Santa Monica-Malibu voters in November. Another \$4 million came from Measure U, passed in 2002, and an additional \$1 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation, said SMC spokesman Bruce Smith.

In addition to the theater, the \$32 million will pay to renovate the Madison campus for use by the SMC music department and convert the existing auditorium into a rehearsal hall.

Once complete, the outside of the theater will feature gardens, a reflecting pool and fountain. It will have a limestone exterior with rough-board concrete and a wood-paneled entry canopy that will lead

into a hardwood floor auditorium with stone and paneled walls, as well as a structural glass curtain.

Hoffman, a former SMC student who lives in Brentwood, has previously decried the lack of a major performing arts center on the Westside. The beauty of the Madison Theater, he has said, is that actors and directors who live on the Westside will be able to participate in show runs between their stage, screen and television engagements. Unlike Broadway plays, which typically run for six months, a year or longer, shows at Madison will have three-month runs, theater representatives said. Hoffman's acting troupe, 3 Coasts, will be in residency at the theater.

The Madison theater was designed by Santa Monica architect Renzo Zecchetto. Dale Franzen, SMC's project director, said it will be a unique contribution to Santa Monica life.

"It will bring the community together in a way that the beach or Promenade can't," Franzen said. "It will be a source of cultural enrichment in which all people can participate and be equal."

Council geared up to approve pay raises for transit workers

CONSENT, from page 1

and quality work. It is expected that it will receive \$3.9 million, which includes the \$354,689 the company will be paid in contingency funds after completing the construction.

Black & Veatch will receive \$440,000 — including \$45,000 in contingency funds — to oversee the construction of water lines, manage traffic control and detours, monitor noise and vibration, conduct progress meetings regularly, provide information for the contractor when needed, and documenting the construction work, according to city officials.

SALARY HIKES FOR TRANSIT WORKERS

City officials will spend \$530,000 in order to give transit workers a higher hourly wage.

The contract with the United Transportation Union, Local 1785 expired this past summer so the City Council tonight is expected to renew the agreement for three more years.

The agreement would take effect immediately and would end June 30, 2008, raising the hourly salary from \$20.55 to \$21.25 for the fiscal year 2005-06; to \$22 for the fiscal year 2006-07 and to \$23 for the fiscal year 2007-08. Transit employees also will receive \$35 per month instead of \$30 in their uniform allowance.

BOOSTING FLUORIDE IN SM WATER

Close to half a million — \$466,255 — will fund the construction of a well in Santa Monica that would make the city much more self-sufficient when it comes to water.

The project also includes building a fluoridation system that will increase fluoride levels that are half of what they should be, city officials said. The Centers for Disease Control recommend fluoride levels to be at a certain level for optimal

dental health, according to city staff.

Santa Monica currently receives 90 percent of its water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

The water supply currently passes through the Arcadia Water Treatment Plant before making its way into Santa Monica's pipes, but city officials expect to build a treatment plant to be ready by 2010 which will allow Santa Monica's water to come mainly from local resources.

Water wells that are currently shut down because of the contamination of MtBE — a chemical in gasoline that often lands in water when oil storage tanks leak — are expected to have a fluoridation system constructed and become part of the treatment plant project.

City officials said 80 percent of the city's water will come from local ground water once the wells are completed. The rest will come from MWD.

The funding the City Council is voting on tonight will go to Pascal and Ludwig Constructors, which is constructing the first well, which bypasses the Arcadia Water Treatment Plant and goes directly into the city's distribution system.

SALARY INCREASES IN CITY HALL

City Hall's department heads will get pay raises with the \$160,392 the City Council is expected to approve tonight.

The salary hike of 4 percent is for the fiscal year 2005-06 and will be retroactive from the first day of the new fiscal year, which is July 1, 2005. The new raises will stay in effect until the City Council votes on the salaries of City Hall employees again, according to city staff.

The City Manager will be able to decide which employees can have their retiree medical insurance before they complete the now-required five years tenure with the city or have the requirement waived alto-

See **CONSENT**, page 11

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DEAR DORIE

A daily dose of sleepless nights

Dear Dorie,

My 2-year-old wakes up at least three times each night. I feel like a walking zombie. Do you have any suggestions to break the habit?

— Sleep Deprived

Dear Deprived,

Sleep deprivation is one of the tried and true facts of parenting that no one really wants to talk about. While there are techniques out there for letting your little one “cry it out,” I support a more humane approach to helping your loved one learn to sleep through the night. Be warned, there is no easy fix for this. Prepare for the long haul — do the hard work now and within a few years you’ll have a contented, well-slept child. Accept sleep deprivation as part of the parenting formula and pursue other healthy habits to balance it out (eat right, exercise, nap when you can, etc.).

Your toddler’s sleep cycle is interrupted for a variety of reasons: dreams, voiding urine (common) or bowel movement (less common), noise, etc. He wakes up and is seeking reassurance that all is well. If you’re breast-feeding, this is the ultimate comfort and he probably wants to nurse back to sleep. If he’s weaned, he is looking for you to hold and rock him back to sleep. Your goal is to teach him that our world sleeps at night and, with love and affection, get him back to sleep. Try a repetitive phrase, “I’m going to hold you for a little while and then go back to sleep. All the world is asleep right now, the animals are asleep, the birds are asleep, and we’re all going to go back to sleep.” Establish a place (e.g. a rocking chair) and a rhythm to this routine. Every time your toddler wakes, do the same thing and return him to his crib when he’s peaceful. Slowly but surely, he will extend his sleeping hours, and yours. Good luck.

— Dorie

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

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GUEST COMMENTARY BY LINDA MILO

Grrr! Getting ahold of anger

Parents are losing their self-control to their own anger. A friend recently called me and told me a very troubling story. She had seen on a TV news program the story of a mother driving with her 4-year-old child. The mother became angry with her child and couldn’t cope anymore with her child’s misbehaving. Finally, the mother abruptly braked, stopping the car on a busy highway. She pulled over to the side of the highway, opened the door and pushed her child out of the car, slammed the door and just drove away. Luckily, someone saw this poor kid on the side of the highway, stopped and spoke to the child, had the police come by and the mother was eventually found.

Anger is feeling irked, annoyed, furious, impatient, irritated, frustrated and disgusted. There is nothing wrong with the feeling of anger. Feeling and expressing your anger is healthy for everyone. What is not appropriate is taking your anger out on someone else. Hitting, yelling, and belittling are not the answers for expressing your anger.

Parents are understandably older, bigger, more powerful and stronger than their child. Even with all this clout on the parent’s side, parents are uncomfortable with their child’s behavior and become angry toward their child. Children are petrified of their parent’s anger. If you ask anyone what their worst memory of anger is, it probably relates to their parent’s anger with each other or with themselves, the child. When a child hears loud voices, a certain tone of voice, and hears his parents fighting, it plays havoc with him because his relationship with his parents is the foundation of his existence.

Four-year-old Beth had frequent bouts of temper tantrums, dawdling, rudeness, and just loved to tease her younger brother Ken. Beth’s parents were becoming fed-up and angry with Beth because no matter what they did, Beth continued being a handful. Beth’s parents found themselves nagging, scolding, punishing and, finally, spanking Beth every time she acted up. They started to feel guilty. Beth’s parents knew there had to be a better way to overcome their anger, as well as to guide Beth to more emotionally acceptable behavior, but didn’t know what to do. They noticed that their aggressive behavior toward Beth increased the behavior they wanted to discourage. They came to see their punishment really had no corrective value.

It’s simple: Children learn by imitating. Every child watches and learns from her mother and father. Beth also needed a way to be encouraged to express her anger constructively, not disruptively. Allowing your child to express his or her anger, to say what’s on his or her mind is a healthy way to connect with your child. Your child’s verbal expression of anger is allowing you to know that your child feels safe enough to express an

uncomfortable thought.

The next time you feel angry, try one, or all, of the following:

Physical exercise to exhaustion activity

When you’re angry, take your child outdoors and take a brisk walk. Tell your child that you are working off your anger. Keep walking until you start to feel calmer and in control.

The closed door gigantic bear activity

Tell your child that you are angry and need to let it out. Go into a room. Don’t invite your child in, just tell your child to wait outside the door. Close the door and pretend you are a gigantic bear. Grunt, groan, stomp around and let it all out. This episode sounds funny, but it allows your anger to come out in a non-threatening way. You need to vent and let that anger out.

Angry letter time

When you become angry, bring your child to a table with two pencils, two envelopes, and some paper. Tell your child that you are writing your anger away. Give your child a pencil, or crayon and paper. Encourage your child to start writing or drawing. Start writing your “anger letter” (just write, don’t speak), by placing on paper what it is about your child that makes you so angry, what they did or didn’t do. After you finish, put the letter in an envelope unsealed. When you feel angry again, open and read it. Add how you are feeling to the end of it. After you no longer need to look at the letter, dispose of the letter with a ceremony. The gesture allows your child to understand that anger can be expressed without physicality.

Anger role play

Go into a room alone and place two seats facing each other. Imagine your child sitting in the other seat. (Don’t invite your child to this activity.) Tell your imaginary child how angry you are with him/her. Then move to the empty chair and speak as he/she would speak to you. Then jump back to your chair and discredit your child’s argument or logic. Tear it to shreds. Go back and forth, playing yourself and your child as long as you need to. You can share this anger role play with your child once you vent all your anger out and can demonstrate how effective the technique is to expressing anger and feeling refreshed by its outcome. Remember, feeling and expressing your anger is healthy for everyone.

(Find out more at <http://www.empoweringparentsnow.com>.)

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CHECK HERE EVERY TUESDAY in OCT. for PUMPKIN PATCH and HALLOWEEN INFO.

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ABSOLUTELY HALLOWEEN at the Santa Monica Playhouse
12:30 and 3:30 p.m. A family theatre world premiere this show tells the heartwarming tale of a young girl who learns valuable lessons about life, love and laughter from her cat on Halloween. 1211 4th St., 394-9779, ext. 2 for reservations, \$10.50 children under 12, \$12.50 adults.

TUES., OCT. 18 – HALLOWEEN HAHA'S PUP-PET SHOW

3:30 & 4:30 p.m. Stories and puppets for ages 3 – 7. Free, but tickets required, pick up day of show. Ocean Park Library, 2601 Main St., 392-3804.

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The ranch celebrates its 40th year with pumpkin patch fun including a new corn maze, Scarecrow Alley contest, pumpkin carving, music, train rides and face painting. Free admission, pumpkins available through Thanksgiving. Open daily from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. 29527 Bouquet Canyon Rd, Saugus, 661-296-8697, www.lombardiranch.com.

SPOOKY HOUSE HAUNTED THEME PARK and VALLEY HARVEST FESTIVAL – 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., weekends through Oct. 30.

By day enjoy a pumpkin patch, bouncers, children's rides, games and three toned-down haunted houses. Free admission, ticketed attractions. For a frightful experience walk through the Spooky House at night – 7:00 p.m. – midnight Fri. & Sat., 'til 10:00 p.m. Sun. – Thurs. through Oct. 31. From \$15. 19401 Parthenia St., Northridge, 818-888-8570, www.spookyhouse.com and www.valleyharvestfestival.com.

MON. OCT. 17 – MOMS CLUB of SANTA MONICA PRESENTS

Dr. Joel Furhman, nutritionist and author of Disease-Proof Your Child, Feeding Kids Right will talk about his book and eating for optimal health. RSVP and for location information contact Alison at 310-3930-4481.

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9:30 – 11:30 a.m. & 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

SANTA PIER AQUARIUM – MICRO BIOLOGISTS PROGRAM

This two-hour educational program for children ages 3-5 includes stories, games, aquarium exploration and crafts with a changing ocean theme. Space is available on a first come, first served basis so enroll as soon as possible. Non-refundable, advance payment is required to reserve space. Heal the Bay members - \$20 per class, non-members - \$25. Please plan to leave your children for the class. For more info or to register by phone call 393-6149, ext. 102 or stop by the aquarium at 1600 Ocean Front Walk, directly under the pier.

TUESDAY

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

Movies for Moms! 11:00 a.m., Loews Cineplex Broadway Theatre, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. Visit www.enjoytheshow.com/reelmoms for details. Oct. 11 – Good Night and Good Luck starring

David Strathairn, Patricia Clarkson and George Clooney. Historical drama, Rated "PG."

Storytelling

Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.

Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m. For 2 year olds with adult.

Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.

Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.

Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds. **Lap Time** – 11:00 a.m, six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant & Family Support Program. Current sessions thru Oct. 11

Twilight Story Time -7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.

Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.

Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St – 310-392-3804.

Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30. Music, rhymes and stories for 2 to 3 year olds. Current session Sept. 13 – Oct. 18. Registration required.

Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis

For ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, www.storyopolis.com

Barnes and Noble at the Grove
Storytime for ages 2 – 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years, (Mon – Fri); Infant & Me Class – 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. and 1:30 – 2:30 p.m., 0 – 12 months; 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

YMCA – Attachment Parenting Classes - 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., 1332 Sixth St., 393-2721 (ask for Shelana Philip-Guide or Audrey Meyer). This new class for mothers/dads and babies up to 12 months is presented by Karol Darsa, PsyD, a licensed psychologist with extensive experience working with children and families. Fees: Members – 1 class - \$40, 5 class pass - \$180; Non-members - \$50, 5 class pass - \$200. BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

An advanced 10-week parent education course. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA

10:00 – 11:00 a.m and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Thursday nights 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal - 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me - 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end) **Itsy Bitsy Yoga** – Baby IBY (6 weeks to pre-crawling) – 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. With Khefri Riley at Ocean Oasis, 1333 Ocean Ave. Register at www.khefri.net or call 323-549-5383.

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group

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

WEDNESDAY

MOMS Club of Santa Monica Playgroups – 4:30 p.m., separate groups for children born in 2000 and 2001. Call or email Alison at 393-4481/riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling

The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge – 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052

10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4 at this neighborhood coffee shop.

Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.

Toddler Story Time – 9:30 a.m., for two year olds with adult.

Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m.; for 3-5 year olds with adult. Current session thru Oct. 12.

Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.

Lap Time – 10:15 & 11:15 a.m., ages 0-2. Current session thru Oct. 12

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. –392-3804.

Preschool Twilight Story Time – 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Parents/children ages 3-5.

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144

Border's, Westwood – 11a.m. – 310-475-3444.

Classes

Rhythm Child Parent & Me Rhythms, Santa Monica Studios, 3025 Olympic Blvd., 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Children explore rhythms through drum play. For toddlers. \$100 for 8 weeks. Call 204-5466 or visit www.rhythmchild.net for more info and session dates.

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years; (Mon – Fri); 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Enchanted Lunchtime Theatre at Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., 394-9779
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. For ages 3 – 5 with parents. This theatrical adventure includes story time, theatre games, crafts, play building and lunch. Reservations required 24 hours in advance, \$19.50 includes lunch for child and lunch.

Yoga & Exercise

Kids' Yoga Circle, 1814 14th St., 260-2736 – Yoga and more for ages 4 – 7, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. 8 week session \$125/Drop-in \$18

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15 **Fitness for Moms** – Babies Welcome! Step Aerobics, 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA, 393-2721, ext. 117 for more info. Free for members, non-members pay \$90 for 10 classes.

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group

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

Other

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

THURSDAY

MOMS Club of Santa Monica Playgroup – 3:30 p.m., for children born 3/03 – 12/03. Call or email Alison at 393-4481/riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling

Babystyle, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590
10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.

Main Library – held at Reed Park, corner of 7th and Wilshire.

Toddler Storytime; 10:00 a.m.; for 2 year olds with adult.

Preschool Story Time; 10:30 a.m.; for ages 3-5.

Fairview Branch Library – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.

La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.

Montana Avenue Branch Library – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.

Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., for 2 year olds, current session Sept. 8 – Oct. 13.

Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m.; for 3-5

year olds.

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.

Lap Time – 9:20 & 10:20 a.m., for babies up to age 2. Current session Sept. 1 – Oct. 6.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years; (Mon – Fri); 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices. BREAKTHROUGH PARENTING CLASSES – 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

An advanced 10-week parent education course. Continuous enrollment. For info call Jayne A. Major, Ph.D., Breakthrough Parenting Services, Inc., 310-823-7846, jm@BPinAction.org.

Yoga & Exercise

Kids' Yoga Circle, 1814 14th St., 260-2736 – Yoga and more for ages 8 – 11, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.; ages 12 – 15, 5:15 – 6:30 p.m. 8 week session \$125/Drop-in \$18

Prenatal Aqua Aerobics at the Santa Monica YMCA

7:30 – 8:30 p.m; Free for members, non-members \$90 for 10 classes. (also Tuesdays at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.) 393-2721. ext. 117 for more info.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal - 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me - 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Breastfeeding Group

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

FRIDAY

MOMS Club of Santa Monica

New Mother Group – 10:30 a.m. - for new moms with babies born 6/05 to present. Meet for conversation, support and playtime. All new Moms welcome!

11:00 a.m. - playgroup for children born 10/04 – 5/05. Call or e-mail Alison at 393-4481, riversalison@hotmail.com for more info.

Parent's Night Out at Child's Play, 2299 Westwood Blvd., 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.

Kids get a night of supervised fun with pizza, games and more while parents go out. Ages 3-10, \$9 per hour, \$7 siblings, 3 hour minimum. Reservations required, 470-4997. www.childsplayonline.net

La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista – meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call 310-390-2529 for info.

Planetarium Show at SMC's John Drescher Planetarium, 7:00 p.m. - Night Sky Show, 8:00 p.m. – featured program. \$5 adults, \$4 children. Pico and 17th St., 434-3000.

Classes

YWCA – A Place for Parents –Toddler & Me Class - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. – walkers to 3 years; (Mon – Fri); 2019 14th St. Call 452-3881for details and prices.

Yoga & Exercise

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

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal - 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:30 a.m. Mon. – Fri., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Other

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

SATURDAY

Storytelling

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am, 310-260-9110

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5, 310-475-4144.

Children's Book World, 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., 310-559-800K.

Village Books, 1049 SwarthmoreAve, Pacific Palisades – 10:30 a.m., 454-4063.

826LA, 685 Venice Blvd, 2nd Floor, Venice – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., ages 3-6, RSVP to info @825LA.com or 310-314-8418. (826LA is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write).

Classes

YWCA – Toddler & Me every other Sat., 9:45 – 10:45 a.m., \$15 per class; Parent Enrichment once per month , 11:00 a.m. – noon, \$15 per class, \$25 per couple.

Yoga & Exercise

Santa Monica Yoga – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonicyoga.com

Mommy Care – at the Dance Factory, 11606 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood, 310-394-6711. Combined Pregnancy/Recovery Exercise Group – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.(babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Stroller Strides Fitness Class – 9:00 a.m., Palisades Park, call 800-795-6708 or visit www.strollerstrides.com for more info.

Other

Absolutely Halloween at the Santa Monica Playhouse

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, thru Oct. 30; \$12.50 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com, 1211 4th St.

Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

Magicalopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime

Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit www.preciousprintsstudios.com for more info.

Lakeshore Learning Stores “Free Crafts for Kids” – Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., 8888 Venice Blvd., 559-9630.

“A Faery Hunt” – 10:30 a.m., every Saturday at Franklin Canyon Park. An interactive children's show, searching for fairies and other enchanted creatures in the magical canyon and finding them! \$10, call for reservations – 818-324-6802. www.faeryhunt.com. Meet in the park-

ing lot of the Sooky Goldman Nature Center, 2600 Franklin Canyon Dr., Beverly Hills.

SUNDAY

Main Street Farmer's Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.

Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

Magicalopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info. Absolutely Halloween at the Santa Monica Playhouse

Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m, thru Sept. 25; \$12.50 adults, \$10.50 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaplayhouse.com, 1211 4th St.

Family Funday at the Will Geer Theatrum Botanicum – 11:00 a.m Live music and theatre for all ages. \$8, 1419 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga, 455-3723, www.theatrum.com.

Breastfeeding Working Mother's Support Group

The Pump Station, 2415 Wilshire Blvd. - Call 998-1981 for more info.

MONDAY

MOMS Club of Santa Monica Playgroups

Noon – 2:00 p.m., for children born 1/02 – 2/03; 9:30 a.m. – for children born 1/04 – 9/04; call or email Alison at 393-4481/riversalison@hotmail.com for more info. All moms welcome!

Storytelling

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park – 9:30 a.m. Current session thru Dec. 12.

“Family Connections” – 10:00 a.m., immediately following Lap Time - a series of discussions related to early childhood development and growth. Children welcome, free.

Ocean Park Branch Library – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804.

“Spanish for Little Ones” - 11:15 a.m., for ages 2 – 5.

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

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STATE

Search and ye shall find ... Yahoo unveils podcast service

PODCASTS, from page 1

Although it can do several things, the free service focuses on making it easier for people to sift through the tens of thousands of podcasts currently available on the Web to find the programming best suited to their personal interests.

"We intend to be the most comprehensive source for podcast content," said Geoff Ralston, Yahoo's chief product officer.

Yahoo isn't the first Web site to search podcasts. Specialty Web sites such as Odeo.com and Podcast.net already do the same thing.

But Yahoo is the first Internet heavyweight to tackle the task. "We feel like we are really getting ahead of the curve with this," Ralston said.

It's only a matter of time before Yahoo's rivals, including online search engine leader Google Inc., introduce similar podcasting features, predicted Phil Leigh, an analyst for Inside Digital Media in Tampa, Fla.

"Beyond a shadow of a doubt, the future of search is in audio and video. Searching through text on the Internet has really reached a maturity point," he said. "If you look 10 years down the road, everyone is going to be searching for podcasts."

All the major search engines are adding more bells and whistles in an effort to retain and attract visitors. The traffic is crucial because the search engines need a substantial audience to continue generating the ad sales that account for most of their profits.

Yahoo estimates that up to 5 million people currently listen to podcasts, which run a gamut of topics. Everything from the president's weekly address to ordinary citizens ranting about their pet peeves are available on podcasts.

The potential market is much larger. Apple so far has sold more than 20 million iPods, accounting for about three-fourths of the MP3 players in the United States.

But the podcasting phenomenon remains a mystery to most of the country — something that Yahoo believes it can change by delivering more comprehensive search results and enabling users to store the podcasts in their computer's music players, including Apple's iTunes and Microsoft Corp.'s Windows Player in addition to Yahoo's.

That way, people can listen to the podcasts at their convenience, even if they don't have an iPod or another portable device that plays MP3 audio files.

Besides the iPod, Yahoo's service also is compatible with the iRiver player, Dell Inc.'s DJ and Creative Technology Ltd.'s Zen.

Yahoo's service is built strictly for listeners. Unlike Odeo's site, Yahoo isn't providing any tools for creating podcasts, although there are plans to do so eventually, said Joe Hayashi, Yahoo's director of product management.

"This is all about discovery for now," Hayashi said. "Step One is all about growing the ecosystem."

STATE BRIEFS

Paradise lost, despite takeover

By The Associated Press

SANTA FE SPRINGS — A decade after the state took over troubled Paradise Memorial Park, the cemetery is still an eyesore with discarded trash, dead lawns and dilapidated structures.

"The last time I visited, it was very painful for me to see the condition of the yard," said Toni Moore, who has more than 30 relatives buried at the cemetery, which is closed to new burials.

Moore brings bottled water and garden tools when she visits -- to water the grass and clear away weeds and leaves.

State officials took over Paradise Memorial Park amid a scandal involving recycled graves and mis-handling of remains, but relatives and others said there is still little upkeep at the graveyard.

"It's an attractive nuisance meaning that it's attractive to kids and vandals," said Paul Ashworth, the city's assistant to the director of planning and development. He inspected the cemetery on Oct. 4.

"The shed poses a risk of collapse," he said, referring to an equipment shed that burned two years ago but is still at the site. "This is simply a matter of respect for the deceased and a breakdown of responsibility for who should be maintaining the cemetery."

The state Cemetery Board took over the property in 1995.

The families of those whose graves had been desecrated won an \$8 million lawsuit against Paradise managers Alma and Felicia Fraction, who were jailed and fined. The state used nearly \$1.8 million for an endowment to keep up the cemetery.

The Cemetery Memorial Fund, a nonprofit organization of three board members, was created to oversee the money. The fund also owns and manages the property.

Schools target working world

By The Associated Press

ROSEMEAD — In an effort to lure children to local schools, which are facing an enrollment decline, the Rosemead School District has come up with a marketing campaign aimed at workers who commute to jobs in the city.

"People who work in Rosemead, bring your kids to our schools," school board member Linda Clark-Molina said.

The district hopes to boost enrollment by stressing its strong Academic Performance Index test scores to workers outside the area. Demographic shifts, mainly smaller families moving into area homes, have led to four years of sagging enrollment.

There were 3,421 students in the district in 2001-2002 and there are currently 3,302 students.

The Rosemead School District has always welcomed students from outside the area, school board President Ron Esquivel said.

"We're probably going to emphasize it more," Esquivel said.

Each student is worth \$5,000 to \$7,000 a year in state money, making other districts with declining enrollment reluctant to release them.

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Chip off the old block? Microsoft is growing up

BY ALLISON LINN

AP Business Writer

SEATTLE — Microsoft Corp. promises its software will make people better workers — more productive, more profitable, more able, as the company likes to say, to achieve their potential.

Yet some wonder why the software behemoth isn't taking more of its own medicine.

As Microsoft hits 30, critics reel off a list of complaints that sounds like, well, a Microsoft commercial: stifling bureaucracy, frustrating miscommunication, different units working on overlapping technology without adequate cooperation. In short, the very ills Microsoft promises to cure with its software.

Growing pains have delayed products, leaving the door open for Microsoft to be beaten to market by younger, more nimble competitors led by Mountain View, Calif.-based Google Inc. and Sunnyvale, Calif.-based Yahoo Inc.

Meanwhile, Microsoft shares have been trading at about the same level for several years.

As it gears up to release a slew of new products, Microsoft is trying to untangle bureaucratic snags with a corporate shakeup meant to get the best ideas to market faster and increase the company's push toward over-the-Internet software and services.

Of course, no one would argue that the company co-founded by Bill Gates is in dire straits. Microsoft continues to earn billions from its flagship Windows and Office products, and the company is steadily making inroads in markets including mobile phones, video game consoles and server software.

But it isn't just Google and Yahoo that should worry Microsoft.

It's also up-and-comers big and small that offer products as Internet-based services. Salesforce.com, which manages customer relations, is a big one. Writely and gOffice, which provide Web-based word processing, and e-mail application Zimbra are among the small.

Web-based offerings give users easy online access to products and services, sometimes for free. The threat to Microsoft is that such products, by their very nature, could decrease the importance of Windows or Office.

Google and Sun Microsystems Inc. announced a partnership last week that, while still vague, could eventually yield tools that provide, cheaply or for free over the Internet, an alternative to pricey Microsoft software such as Word or Excel.

"What you've actually got going here between Google and Sun is their own personal version of the film 'Kill Bill,'" said David Garrity, director of research for Investec's U.S. operations.

Let there be light: Council to illuminate pedestrian zone

CONSENT, from page 7

gether. The decision is based on the employees' previous employment.

ROAD REPAIRS

The City Council is expected to allot \$99,000 for street repairs on Yale Street, between Montana Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard.

The money will pay the company city officials have chosen for the project — RBF Consulting — for their engineering design of road repairs and resurfacing, city staff said.

The discussion over street improvements between residents who live on Yale Street and city staff go back to September 2003 when there was talk of cutting down the trees so the pavement and sidewalk could be repaired.

The talks resulted in the decision to preserve some of the trees and try to address some of the parking and traffic problems. Yale Street residents were in favor of widening the parkway, according to city officials.

A year later, Yale Street property owners completed a petition that outlined their interests in street repairs and their support for an assessment district on Yale Street, city staff said.

In March, the City Council approved the formation of an assessment district between Montana Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard, and decided to continue with the Yale Street Improvement Project.

MORE MONEY FOR PUBLIC ATTORNEYS

Public attorneys would get a 4 percent

raise with the \$70,038 the City Council will vote on tonight.

City Hall is expected to renew its contract for two more years with the Public Attorney's Legal Support Staff Union that expired in June, according to city officials.

Public attorneys would get a pay increase of 4 percent the first fiscal year, 2005-06, and a minimum of 2 percent and maximum of 4 percent for the 2006-07 fiscal year, city staff said.

They also will have city-paid short-term disability insurance coverage.

PEDESTRIAN ZONE OUTSIDE THE PROMENADE

The remaining \$39,700 will give additional pay to the company designing the pedestrian project on Second and Fourth streets.

Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Partnership, which already has a \$522,700 contract with City Hall, was chosen to design the project more than a year ago. The company is now in its third phase of the downtown urban plan that was adopted in 1997, city officials said.

The project will expand the pedestrian zone downtown and include more lighting on the streets and mid-block crosswalks, according to city staff.

The actual construction costs of the project are an estimated \$3.5 million, which available grant funds can partially pay.

The new project will add \$61,300 in yearly maintenance costs like replacing light bulbs and street poles.

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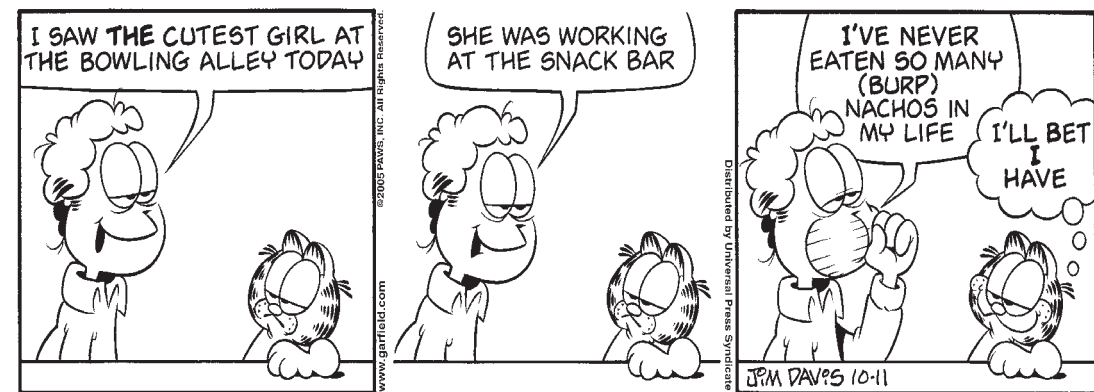


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DOWN

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Yesterday's answer

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Q is for quarrel: Yoko takes another shot at Paul

By The Associated Press

LONDON — Yoko Ono picked up an award on behalf of John Lennon — and appeared to take a dig at his former Beatles bandmate Paul McCartney.

Accepting the special trophy at the Q Awards, Ono said Lennon had sometimes felt insecure about his songs, asking why “they always cover Paul’s songs and never mine.”

“I said, ‘You’re a good songwriter, it’s not June with Spoon that you write. You’re a good singer, and most musicians are probably a little bit nervous about covering your songs,’” she said Monday.

McCartney has sometimes clashed with Ono, Lennon’s widow. She objected when McCartney reversed the traditional “Lennon-McCartney” songwriting credit on his 2002 album, “Back in the U.S.” Ono’s spokesman accused him of attempting to “rewrite history.”

McCartney had earlier complained that Ono wouldn’t let him take credit for “Yesterday,” a song written entirely by McCartney.

Oasis took the best album trophy and the people’s choice prize at the awards, sponsored by British music magazine Q. Coldplay was named best act in the world.

NEW YORK — Olivia Newton-John is still hoping her missing boyfriend returns.

“I love him very much and this is very hard to go through,” Newton-John said Monday on ABC’s “Good Morning America.” “He has a young son so we still hold out hope that he will come back.”

Newton-John’s longtime boyfriend, 48-year-old Patrick Kim McDermott, failed to return from a June 30 overnight fishing trip off the California coast.

The Coast Guard has been investigating his disappearance as a missing person case, including the possibility that McDermott had staged his disappearance.

McDermott had filed for bankruptcy in 2000 and was embroiled in a legal dispute in April over late child support payments to his ex-wife, actress Yvette Nipar. The couple have a 13-year-old son.

“It’s very much a mystery and speculation has been rife and I choose not to buy into the speculation,” Newton-John said. “This is such a personal thing for me and his family and we’ve chosen not to talk about it because it’s an ongoing investigation.”

Newton-John, 57, appeared opposite John Travolta in the 1978 movie “Grease.” She is best known for songs such as “I Honestly Love You” and “Physical.”

The singer recently released a new album, “Stronger Than Before.”

PARIS — Anna Wintour, editor in chief of Vogue magazine, was hit with a tofu pie by anti-fur demonstrators as she attended Paris fashion week.

Dan Mathews, vice president of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, said the vegetarian tofu tart was retaliation for Vogue’s decision to run fur ads while refusing to use PETA’s anti-fur messages.

The animal rights group offered to pay the same fee, Mathews said. Wintour, editor of the U.S. edition of Vogue, was hit with the tart as she waited to see the Chloe fashion show Saturday. It was the second time in a year that PETA has hit her with a pie.

LOS ANGELES — Mo’Nique is seeing double — and their names are Jonathan and David.

The “Parkers” star has given birth to twin boys, her sister Millicent Imes said Friday. “She’s doing well,” Imes said.

She said the boys were born last Monday.

Their father is Mo’Nique’s fiance, Sidney Hicks.

Mo’Nique — full name Mo’Nique Imes-Jackson — gained popularity as single mother Nikki Parker on the

sitcom “The Parkers.”

The 36-year-old actress appears in the film “Domino,” which opens Friday.

WINDSOR, Nova Scotia — Bad weather ended up derailing Martha Stewart’s plans to ride in a giant pumpkin on a Canadian lake.

But residents who braved a downpour to watch competitors in the annual Pumpkin Regatta already were calling on her to try again next year.

Stewart’s flight was grounded Sunday morning at a Maine airport as heavy rains fell across the East Coast.

She was expected to settle into a giant, hollowed-out pumpkin and paddle her way across Lake Pesaquid, alongside 40 other competitors.

Howard Dill, whose family farm grew what was supposed to be Stewart’s pumpkin, said Stewart’s field producer competed in her place.

Stewart’s film crew arrived in Nova Scotia the day before the race to decorate the 660-pound pumpkin. It was painted in stripes of pastel blue, orange, yellow and green. Canadian officials initially had refused Stewart, 64, entry into the country because of her conviction for lying about a stock sale. That issue, though, had been cleared up.

DES MOINES, Iowa — Former White House spokesman Ari Fleischer says his old job was exhilarating but sometimes made him feel like a “human pinata.”

Fleischer says he’s now enjoying spending time with his wife and young daughter.

“It wasn’t only that I was leaving somewhere, it was that I was going somewhere,” Fleischer told people at an event sponsored by the Republican Jewish Coalition Sunday.

Fleischer, a board member of the coalition, served the president from 2001 to 2003.

