

# Santa Monica Daily Press

*A newspaper with issues*

## LOTTO

### SUPER LOTTO PLUS

1, 28, 7, 45, 2  
Meganumber: 18  
Jackpot: \$53 million

### FANTASY 5

25, 21, 15, 28, 9

### DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 2, 5, 8  
Evening picks: 5, 3, 1

### DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 08, Gorgeous George  
2nd Place: 04, Big Ben  
3rd Place: 11, Money Bags  
Race Time: 1:42.72



## NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

In September, religious fundamentalists brawled in Brooklyn, N.Y., when the locally dominant Satmar sect of ultra-Orthodox Jews moved aggressively against slightly less-ultra-Orthodox Jews who were using a loophole to be able to push baby strollers and wheelchairs around during the Sabbath, when such activity is prohibited in public. "The (Satmars) were like animals," said a security guard who witnessed the incident. (The "eruv" loophole allows such labor inside a symbolic wall, which the more liberal ultras had constructed with sticks and string.)



## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Give me a museum and I'll fix it."

— Pablo Picasso



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## Defending City Hall from the top

*SM's chief lawyer happy to defend progressive city*

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

As City Hall braces for a steady stream of lawsuits to trickle in over the July 16 Farmers Market accident, the city's top lawyer is confident they'll be simple to defend.

Five claims have been filed against City Hall in connection with the accident. City Attorney Marsha Moutrie said she anticipates more will be filed in the coming months.

City Hall has rejected all five of the claims, which range from \$500 to \$250,000, said Deputy City Attorney Jeanette Schachtner. Lawyers, who anticipated City Hall would reject their claims, must now file lawsuits to recover any money.

But in order for City Hall to be found liable in the accident, lawyers must prove that a "dangerous condition of public property" existed when Russell Weller, 86, of Santa Monica, drove his car through the market on Arizona Avenue, leaving 10 dead and almost 80 people injured.

The California Highway Patrol, the lead investigator in the case, is expected to complete its report this month. The case will then be handed off to the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, which will determine if charges should be filed against Weller.

In the meantime, lawyers have been retained by the victims and their families. The lawyers said they will target Weller, City Hall and possibly General Motors, the manufacturer of the Buick LeSabre Weller drove through the market.

Despite that the circumstances are emotionally wrenching, Moutrie said the legal issues in the case are not particularly novel because City Hall is often sued when car accidents occur on public property.

"It's pretty much the same with all lawsuits," Moutrie said. "Those are hard because they're sad and a lot of money is involved ... but usually the law is clear."

See CITY ATTORNEY, page 6



John Wood/Daily Press

**Santa Monica City Attorney Marsha Moutrie has been defending the city's legal issues for a decade, fighting off thousands of lawsuits.**



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

**Grocery store clerk Adrian Rodriguez talks to Lesley Kurz outside of Pavilions on Montana Avenue Sunday afternoon. Rodriguez convinced Kurz to shop somewhere other than Pavilions while he and his co-workers are on strike.**

## Grocery store strike is an inconvenience for all

*Customers asked to shop elsewhere*

By staff and wire reports

Santa Monicans shopping for groceries this weekend were greeted by picketing grocery store employees who asked them to spend their money somewhere other than Vons, Ralphs, Pavilions and Albertsons.

Thousands of grocery workers infuriated about inadequate benefits waved

picket signs and chanted pro-union slogans Sunday as major supermarket chains hired replacement workers to remain open while struggling to lure customers turned off by the protests.

Grocery workers paraded in front of stores, urging shoppers to go elsewhere as passing cars honked in support. Lines were noticeably thinner inside the stores and parking lots were less crowded. Some customers crossed the picket lines but were rarely hassled.

At Pavilions on Montana Avenue,

See GROCERY, page 5

## SMC workshare plan fizzles; junior college to cut 18 jobs

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

A group of 18 workers hoping to retain their jobs at Santa Monica College will remain unemployed after the deadline for the so-called "workshare" proposal passed last week.

The failure of workers to strike a deal with the board of trustees erases one of the last question marks in this year's contentious \$208 million budget. Under the proposed "workshare" offer, the campus workers would have kept their jobs, val-

ued at \$842,536, but taken a cut in both hours and pay.

Workers at SMC called the offer a smokescreen and accused the board of union busting. But board members, who have overseen millions of dollars in cuts this year, said their hands were tied by the uncertainty in Sacramento.

Phil Hendricks, president of the California School Employees Association, the SMC worker union, said the offer was rejected in earlier

See SMC, page 7

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## HOROSCOPE

# Work with others today, Sag



### JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★★★-Average  
★★-So-so ★-Difficult

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, October 13, 2003:

You often experience surprises around your work, which could toss you in a new direction. Evaluate what you might like to do in order to make yourself happier. Be especially careful with your health, because you could easily be accident-prone if you don't focus on each task you do. You are entering a period where often you might be more in your head than in the here and now. If you are single, you are likely to meet someone very different from your norm. In fact, this person might be unusually exotic! If you are attached, your relationship flourishes if you stay away from the picky details and look at the big picture. GEMINI reads you cold.

#### ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Getting back to basics could be difficult and challenging, especially with those around you. Everyone wants to put in his or her two cents. Close your door and get as much done as humanly possible rather than getting antagonistic. Tonight: Out and about.

#### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ You might want to jog into work and get the job done. Whatever is important to you needs to be cleared out as fast as possible. You find that unusual requests come in from left and right later on. Friends need you! Tonight: Settle in and pay bills.

#### GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★ Assume a low profile, and you'll find that you can accomplish a lot more. When your work starts popping and others decide they need you, you might not have much of a choice. Later in the afternoon, you get a second surge of energy. Tonight: What would make you happy? Then do it!

#### CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Use the early hours as best you can. Focus on what you want, clearing out as much as possible. A meeting could prove to be unusually significant. Later in the day, you might want to close your door to get some work done. Tonight: Vanish. Do what you want.

#### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Walk into work planning on directing some key projects, even if it's just clearing the paperwork off your desk. Meetings and other types of get-togethers prove to be instrumental. A partner might decide to do something totally different. Tonight: Listen to other points of view.

#### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Quickly get into work, especially if you need to do some research or get a certain job done. Later in the afternoon, you will be "called to duty." Responsibilities weigh heavily on your desk. You could be surprised by what you can get done. Tonight: A must appearance.

#### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Use the morning to get together with a key associate or partner. You might be delighted by how much you really can get done. Though you might feel as if your plate is full, you'll find a new way to check others' information. Tonight: Do something that helps your mind escape.

#### SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Others seek you out; slamming the door won't help you, either. Work with others, hoping for more privacy or "work time" at the end of the day. By late afternoon, you finally accomplish much more. Tonight: Spend special time with a loved one.

#### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)

★★★ Pace yourself, and get as much done as possible this morning. Later in the day, you will discover that others seek you out and need your time and attention. Don't put off a meeting; work with others. Tonight: Follow the path that your popularity takes you down.

#### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ You might like all the attention and general flourishing of ideas in the office this morning. Use this rare time to brainstorm, but also drop your guard, so others can get to know you. Use the afternoon to really get a grasp on your work. Tonight: Work late.

#### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Just because something doesn't seem right to you doesn't necessarily mean there is a problem. Emphasize what you know and what is important to you. Use the morning to clear out work and perhaps add those personal touches. Tonight: Pretend it is Friday night.

#### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might not be able to grasp the amount of calls and requests that tumble onto your desk this morning. You also could be surprised by news that heads your direction. Stay even, plowing through one item at a time. Tonight: Find your friends at a preferred haunt.

## Santa Monica Daily Press

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# LOCAL



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Literary Nobel Prize winner featured at library

By Daily Press staff

John Maxwell Coetzee, 2003 Nobel Prize winner in literature, is the featured author in the Santa Monica Public Library's "The Nobel: Writers of Distinction," a display of works by authors at the temporary library.

Coetzee is a white South African novelist and essayist who often alludes to his country's apartheid system and its post-apartheid transition to represent the desolation of the human condition. Among Coetzee's best known works are the "Life and Times of Michael K and Disgrace," which received Britain's Booker Prize in 1983 and 1999. Coetzee is the first writer to win the prize twice.

In awarding the Nobel to Coetzee for the body of his work, the Nobel Academy noted the "well-crafted composition, pregnant dialogue and analytical brilliance" of his work and described him as a scrupulous doubter, ruthless in his criticism of the cruel rationalism and cosmetic morality of Western civilization."

The Academy notes there is a great wealth of variety in Coetzee's work and a recurring pattern of hope as the protagonists are overwhelmed by the urge to sink but paradoxically derive strength from being stripped of all external dignity.

The library is at 1324 Fifth St. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

### Families find self sufficiency

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Housing Authority and St. Joseph Center held their Third Annual Graduation and Awards Ceremony — "Riding the Wave of Success" — earlier this month at Shutters on the Beach, presenting certificates to 18 men and women who have successfully completed SJC's five-year "Family Self-sufficiency Program" and are now realizing their dreams of economic independence.

"The FSS program helps Santa Monica families receiving Section 8 rental assistance to rise above the need to depend on public assistance and to contribute back to the community that has helped them through difficult times," said Kristina Eppler, coordinator of the St. Joseph Family Center.

"One family purchased their own home; six graduates completed college degrees; six completed training programs; three received multiple promotions in their jobs and one started her own business," said Julie Lansing, FSS coordinator for the Santa Monica Housing Authority. "Collectively the 18 graduates saved a total of \$210,388 in their FSS rental escrow accounts, which they get to keep now that they have graduated."

Requirements for graduation from the program are: Being off public assistance for one year, being employed, and receiving consistent case management. A project of the Santa Monica Housing Authority, FSSP is a partnership of many Westside agencies, organizations and business. Shutters on the Beach hosted the Graduation and Awards Ceremony for free.

"Somehow when you don't have to worry about your housing, other good things happen," said Bob Moncrief, the manager of the city's housing and development department. "We will continue to support this program for a very long time, to encourage excellence in the lives of its participants."

St. Joseph Center serves 8,000 low-income adults and children each year through 11 programs and services on seven sites in Venice, Santa Monica and West Los Angeles, providing emergency services, case management, educational activities, job training, childcare, and housing assistance.

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The swells out of the N made for some epic sessions this weekend — especially to the north. The sunshine didn't hurt either.

A new round of N is due today, as well as some SW energy that will fill in on Tuesday.

**OUTLOOK:** The weekend could be a little slower. Stay tuned.

Write us at [wood@smdp.com](mailto:wood@smdp.com) and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

**Today the  
water is:**

**63°**

**Sunrise: 7:07 a.m.  
Sunset: 6:23 p.m.**

|           | LOW TIDE |        |         |        | HIGH TIDE |        |         |        |
|-----------|----------|--------|---------|--------|-----------|--------|---------|--------|
|           | Morning  | Height | Evening | Height | Morning   | Height | Evening | Height |
| SATURDAY  | 3:59     | 1.2    | 4:42    | 0.5    | 10:10     | 5.6    | 10:49   | 4.4    |
| SUNDAY    | 4:19     | 1.6    | 5:17    | 0.5    | 10:31     | 5.6    | 11:28   | 4.0    |
| MONDAY    | 4:37     | 2.0    | 5:56    | 0.6    | 10:53     | 5.5    | N/A     | N/A    |
| TUESDAY   | 4:52     | 2.4    | 6:43    | 0.8    | 12:14     | 3.6    | (11:17) | 5.3    |
| WEDNESDAY | 4:59     | 2.8    | 7:47    | 1.1    | 1:20      | 3.2    | (11:45) | 5.1    |
| THURSDAY  | N/A      | N/A    | 9:17    | 1.1    | N/A       | N/A    | 12:22   | 4.8    |
| FRIDAY    | N/A      | N/A    | 10:47   | 1.0    | N/A       | N/A    | 1:32    | 4.5    |

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Last month the City Council passed a law that limits storefronts to 50 feet wide on the Third Street Promenade in an effort to thwart more retail chain stores from entering the market.

Many believe there aren't enough locally-owned businesses here. So by limiting new stores to 50 feet, some corporations will shy away from the busy outdoor mall, some say.

So this week Q-Line wants to know, **"Do you think the Promenade is too homogenized? Will limiting storefronts fix the perceived problem?"**

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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# LETTERS

## Plea for permit parking

**Editor:**

The City of Santa Monica is discriminating against a group of residents and treating them differently than they treat all other Santa Monicans. Apparently because of our racial and economic diversity, i.e. we're not rich, we are being systematically and repeatedly disenfranchised by the transportation management department.

I live on the only street in the entire area that has not been granted permit parking, despite petitioning and meeting every single criteria necessary to have permit parking implemented. Three years since petitioning, our requests continue to be stalled and ignored. Our street is a textbook case of one in need of the relief permit parking would give. Since all other surrounding streets have permit restrictions, we can draw only one conclusion: There is discrimination at City Hall. The demographics on our street represent contrasting social and financial backgrounds that have made us a target for unfair practices that the city would not dare impose on any other street or more affluent neighborhood. We are being sacrificed so that those outside our neighborhood can park for free on our block.

With the east side of Ninth Street routinely 100 percent full with cars often double-parked and waiting for spaces to open up, we assumed we were subject to the same permit parking relief as 10th Street. It seemed simple enough: Submit the petition, demonstrate we met the criteria and be granted permit parking. Instead, staff recommended granting permit parking to all other adjacent streets, even extending to streets such as Bay and Grant, which had not petitioned. But the staff left the east side of Ninth unregulated: "Free parking for all except the residents." Instead of solving our problem, it was concentrated onto the east side of Ninth. We now have to pay for permits, so those who want to park for free can use our street. We must park a block or two away because non-residents are using our street as their free parking lot, often blocking traffic and dropping trash as they do so.

By leaving the east side of Ninth Street unregulated and surrounded by permit parking zones, Ninth Street residents have been disenfranchised by the City of Santa Monica. The residents of Ninth Street are being forced to subsidize nearby businesses and Santa Monica High School by acting as their parking lot. Free parking for the entire neighborhood can be found on only one street: Ninth. All visitors, employees, customers, high school students and residents compete for these 62 free spaces. It is a free-for-all, stimulating much bad behavior and pollution. If you can imagine living at the mall during Christmas, you will have some notion of what it's like to live on Ninth Street every day. The resulting traffic hazards, air pollution, noise, trash, inconvenience and lack of nearby parking for residents are unfair and have adversely impacted the quality of life for residents of this block and further degraded their environment.

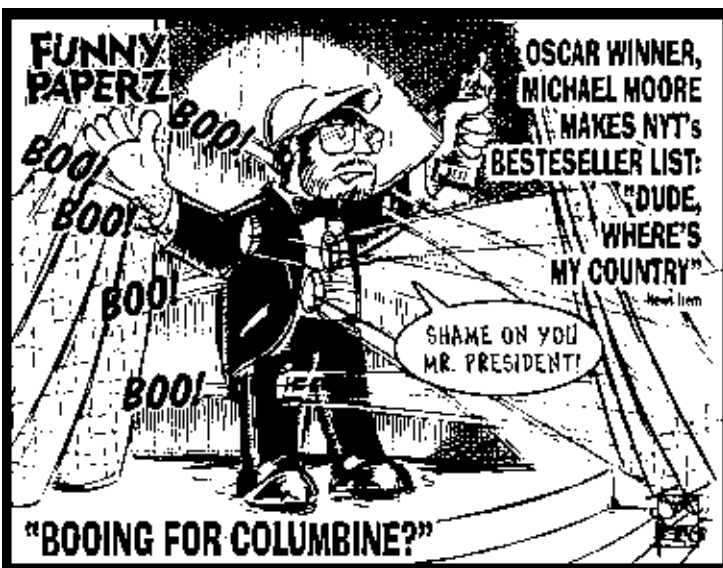
The denial of the permits for Ninth has much to do with accommodating students who choose to drive. This unfair arrangement was intended to contain high school student spill-over parking to the coastal zone (Bay and Grant streets west of Lincoln Boulevard). This wealthier Ocean Park area is not subject to the deadly pollution generated by the Santa Monica Freeway and is west of Lincoln Boulevard. The City of Santa Monica cites the proximity to the coastal zone as being the reason why they refuse to grant permit parking on Ninth Street, yet even the Coastal Commission has been willing to grant preferential parking programs under certain circumstances.

Additionally, there are other ways to protect these coastal zone areas from student parkers without imposing an inequitable denial of permit parking on the disadvantaged Ninth and Michigan neighborhood.

For three years we have worked within the system to no avail. We have been patient and cooperative. We've demonstrated the necessity of permit parking through the required petitions, follow-up letters, multiple surveys, e-mails, phone calls, meetings with transportation management staff and Samohi and multiple neighborhood meetings. My neighbors and I have sent hundreds of e-mails to Ruth Harper, Beth Rolandson and Lucy Dyke of transportation management. We have contacted individual council members and asked to be put on the agenda. We've taken dozens of car counts and more than 2,000 photographs documenting our need for permit parking. In short, we have continually worked within the guidelines the city has laid out. Yet even after proving we meet all the criteria, we continue to be treated unfairly.

The city guidelines state: "If the proposed preferential parking zone meets the criteria ...the City Council must adopt a resolution to establish a preferential parking zone." We're not asking for special treatment, only the same treatment. The disadvantaged residents of Ninth Street deserve the same remedies that are available to residents of adjacent streets.

**Kathryn J. Morea**  
*Santa Monica*



Member: ALEC # \_\_\_\_\_ MCS # \_\_\_\_\_ SP2CS # \_\_\_\_\_

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# Not all homeless people are lazy, drunk criminals



In his column last week, Santa Monica Daily Press columnist Ed Silverstein gave a really bad view of the whole homeless population of this city in order to make a case to “reduce the homeless population by two thirds,” to “free up police and ensure our safety,” “reduce the demands on our EMS units” and “reduce or eliminate the budget deficit and free up more money for schools.”

I honestly find this kind of funny. The reason being is the fact that the influx of homeless in this city is caused by this same attitude towards homelessness throughout the county. The population has increased because the "homeless shuffle" had begun long ago by the redevelopment

of Hollywood, downtown LA and Venice Beach, to mention a few of the areas where developers are building more unaffordable housing and not hiring any of the homeless population who would work in lieu of hiring illegal immigrants. These American citizens are being shuffled around the county area and come to Santa Monica because this city has a reputation for being compassionate to the homeless.

Now while I do not disagree with Mr. Silverstein about the types of people he has encountered, they are not the only type of homeless people who live in Santa Monica. There are many of us who you would not even think are homeless. This is because we carry ourselves differently than those he chose to profile in his column.

There are those of us who do not live the stereotypical homeless lifestyle — we either work or want to work. As a matter of fact, there are more than a few of us who want to work and would gladly work if the job market was not in so much of a huge recovery. Sitting in Starbucks right now as I write this column, there are three to six people who want to work and help out with the moving of the vending carts

when we need them to.

There also is the point he tries to make about most of us being criminals who shoplift, mug or burglarize your home, or molest your children and are capable of murder and rape. I wonder where he comes up with all these supposed numbers.

When I wrote about the influx of hardcore drugs on the street last week, I obtusely mentioned the fact that the ones who deal come to the streets to find people to work for them. Yes, the drugs come from your own neighborhoods to the streets, as was the topic of an article in last week about a \$5 million cocaine bust on 18th Street. And as far as people mugging you or molesting your children, you might want to look in your neighborhoods for people of the same ilk who might live right next door — especially the child molesters and sexual predators who reside here in your own neighborhoods. The shoplifting would be mostly for food because the City Council was pushed to rid the city of feeding programs, which has not worked to rid this city of homelessness, but created an environment where a

hungry person would shoplift to feed themselves. What would you do if you were starving?

Now to the mentally ill. They are a product of the Reagan era, when state funding was cut and replaced with outpatient care. As you can see by the amount of mentally ill on the streets today, it was a huge error in judgment. The fact that they are still on the streets is a testament to the fine workings of our elected leaders to take care of their citizens, especially the ones who cannot care for themselves. And to be honest with you, most of the mentally ill here in Santa Monica are veterans, which is a testament to the way the governing body of this great nation treats its war vets.

I hope Mr. Silverstein will consider next time what I have pointed out and ask someone who is knowledgeable about the homeless before he tries to "profile" all of us like he did last week.

*(Charles Springer is a homeless resident of Santa Monica and a freelance writer and artist who is looking for any type of artistic job in the field of animation.)*

## LOCAL



# Many customers convinced to turn around

GROCERY, from page 1

many customers stayed away and went to Wild Oats up the street. Some potential customers even carpooled to the other store, said Pavilions courtesy clerk Adrian Rodriguez.

As Rodriguez and his co-workers picketed outside the store, they individually spoke to customers about their plight. They want better benefits and the pay structure to be changed. But for some customers, they weren't swayed by the employees' stories. They just wanted convenience.

"They said they have to go in there but you don't need to do anything, this is America," Rodriguez said. "I know people have to buy food so we hope it's a fast compromise."

Clerks at Safeway Inc.'s Vons markets went on strike late Saturday after negotiations between union representatives and store officials broke off amid disputes over health care coverage. They were followed by workers at Kroger Co.'s Ralphs and Albertsons grocery stores.

In all, more than 850 Vons, Ralphs, Pavilions and Albertsons supermarkets and about 70,000 union workers at those stores were affected by the strike.

Officials with the United Food and Commercial Workers union initially said strikers would only target Vons and urged the companies not to lock out workers from the other stores. But picket lines sprung up at Ralphs and Albertsons after the chains said a strike against one company would be considered a strike against all three and began locking out employees.

"It's good what they're doing," said Hector Echeverria, 48, who decided to buy soda and groceries at a supermarket

down the street from a Vons in Los Angeles after he saw clerks striking. "They deserve good benefits and we want to help them."

The grocery chains began training temporary workers up to two weeks before talks ended and hired replacements soon after the strike and lockout started. The chains operate 900 stores from San Diego to San Luis Obispo and control nearly 60 percent of the Southern California market.

Supermarket representatives also said workers from stores outside the region were brought in to help, but did not say whether additional replacement workers would be needed. The strike also forced some stores to scale back their hours.

"It's been a much smoother transition than we anticipated," said Ralphs spokesman Terry O'Neil. "We have more help on the way. We expect as each day passes that business will return to normal."

Officials on both sides did not expect negotiations to start up again in the immediate future.

The companies want the workers to take on a larger share of the cost for health benefits, citing a sluggish economy, rising health care costs and increased competition from nonunion rivals such as Wal-Mart.

The proposal does not call for wage reductions and asks employees to pay \$5 a week for individual health care coverage and \$10 to \$15 a week for an entire family, Vons president Tom Keller said.

Grocery clerks work a minimum of 24 hours a week, with 70 percent working part-time. They earn, on average, about \$15 an hour, union officials said. The union wants the companies to maintain health care plans and provide raises of 50

cents an hour the first year and 45 cents an hour the following two years.

Under the current contract, warehouse employees and truck drivers can choose not to cross picket lines. The last time the grocery workers went on strike was 1978, with the walkout lasting less than a week.

With 1.4 million members, the UFCW is among the largest unions in the country. Expecting a possible strike this year, local unions have been building their own funds and warned members to save money. Workers will receive strike benefits ranging from \$200 to \$300 a week for walking picket lines, union officials said.

On Sunday, rings of demonstrators surrounded supermarkets and urged shoppers to buy groceries at other stores such as Jons and Gelsons.

Lucy Tatarian was striking with a dozen co-workers at a Vons on Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles with her 3-year-old daughter and asked customers to try a nearby Food4Less instead.

"We hate to be out here, but we have

to," said Tatarian, 26, who has worked at the Vons for 11 years. "The contract just doesn't look good."

Tatarian's pitch seemed to convince some shoppers, particularly those who frequented the market and recognized her.

"I wasn't planning to be turned back by the picket lines, but this is pretty convincing when you're out here," said Carol Liege, 60. "It's no big deal to go 10 minutes up the street to shop if it helps them out."

Despite the rhetoric on both sides, the strike at some stores was characterized by a certain civility among workers, shoppers, and managers still on the job.

At a Ralphs in Port Hueneme, where the aisles were mostly empty and the deli counters closed, manager Eric Garnier prepared two ice chests with water bottles for the 10 picketers marching in front of his store.

"It's hot out there, these people are my family," Garnier said.

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## LOCAL

# Santa Monica City Hall is sued every 2.8 days

CITY ATTORNEY, from page 1

### BEEN SUED LATELY?

Moutrie's office oversees a broad range of cases, from disputes over how the Santa Monica Airport should be used to land-use litigation and misdemeanor criminal prosecution. In fiscal 2002-03, City Hall was sued 130 times, an average of once every 2.8 days, Moutrie said.

In 2002, Moutrie said City Hall's lawyers negotiated more than a dozen settlements, totaling \$1.34 million. Despite more than \$1 million in settlements, City Hall is known for sticking to its guns — especially on frivolous suits.

"We win a lot," Moutrie said. "That's because we're good ... a lot of people may sue us because we're deep pockets and (they figure), 'Why not?'"

The City Attorney's Office commands a \$6,039,990 budget and has three divisions — criminal, civil and municipal law — as well as a special unit to deal with consumer and housing issues.

Moutrie, 56, has led the 42-person City Attorney's Office for nearly 10 years. She said the most significant lawsuit her department has handled in the past decade relates to Santa Monica's drinking water, which was contaminated in 1996 by underground gasoline storage tanks.

"I can't think of a more valuable thing we can lose in Southern California than our water wells," she said, adding the case is nearing completion after years of legal wrangling over who should pay to clean up the wells.

Deputy City Attorney Joe Lawrence, who is overseeing the case, said he is reasonably optimistic the case will be resolved soon through settlement negotiations. Fourteen oil companies were targeted by City Hall's lawsuit, which seeks compensation for cleaning up the wells.

### PLAYING POLITICS

City Council members, Moutrie's bosses, describe her as a hard-working, even-handed professional.

"She doesn't try to use her office to make policy," said Councilman Bob Holbrook. "She uses it to give the best possible counsel she can to the City Council and ultimately to the city, which is not to say the council usually listens to her advice. I think if we listened to her more it would be less expensive and things would move along better."

Attorneys who work under Moutrie also praised her professionalism and said she is smart enough to separate her opinions from her legal work. It's a style that sets her apart from her predecessor Robert Myers, said Schachtner, who has spent her entire 20-year legal career with the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office.

In 1994, Moutrie replaced Myers, who was fired for refusing to enforce an anti-camping law because he was fundamentally against it.

But Moutrie keeps her personal politics under wraps.

"I'm not elected, so I can't (discuss them). I have them just like anybody else ... I really believe in the process, I'll say that. I'm kind of 'Mom and apple pie' about that. I really believe in that."

Deputy City Attorney Tony Serritella, who has worked in both the public and private sector, said Moutrie is a good fit with the staff.

"She's exceptionally knowledgeable and easy to work with," Serritella said. "And she is not aloof at all."

Before taking over the legalities of Santa Monica, Moutrie worked at Richards, Watson and Gershon, a private L.A. law firm that primarily handles municipal cases. Moutrie worked briefly as a deputy city attorney in Santa Monica in the 1980s.

Though Moutrie's impartiality has earned her the respect of people on both sides of local issues, some have been critical of her work. Because City Hall initiates many progressive policies and is known for passing controversial legislation that sometimes hurts big business, Moutrie is often found defending issues that garner national attention.

That was the case with the living wage law, which the City Council passed in 2001 only to be repealed by voters last fall. The law would have mandated all coastal businesses with more than \$5 million in annual revenues pay employees \$10.50 with benefits or \$12.50 without.

Tom Larmore, a local property rights attorney, vigorously campaigned for the anti-living wage camp. His firm, Harding, Larmore, Kutcher and & Kozal, has sued City Hall multiple times. At least two are pending.

"She finds herself in a difficult situation, sometimes, trying to defend very aggressive public policy decisions the council tries to make — I think sometimes very poor ones," Larmore said.

### SAME OLD ISSUES

Moutrie, who says she carries a reputation as a "round-eyed fanatic" and is a die-hard fan of the First Amendment, took the job in part so that she could work closer to her Santa Monica home and her twin sons, who are now 16 years old.

Having since moved to Thousand Oaks with her sons and husband of 20 years, David, Moutrie said that although a lot has changed in Santa Monica in the last 10 years, many things haven't.

When she was hired, a homeless task force was being formed, camping in parks was outlawed and a host of other public safety issues were at the forefront of the political debate.

Today, the constitutionality of a community events law — which puts restrictions on outdoor gatherings and requires groups that feed homeless people in area parks to obtain permits — is being challenged in court.

Moutrie, who grew up in Menlo Park and studied English at UC Berkeley and UCLA before dropping out of a graduate program to pursue law, said what has remained constant in the past decade is that the City Council has always been a pioneer with new legislation.

She pointed to the failed living wage ordinance, the street performer ordinance, which limits when and where people can perform in public, and the failed ATM ordinance, which would have made it illegal for banks in Santa Monica to charge fees at ATMs.

"Santa Monica does all kinds of things that other cities don't do," she said. "In some ways I think of us as the capital of self expression."



## LOCAL □ STATE



# College waits on news from Sacramento

SMC, from page 1

negotiations because the school refused to guarantee no more layoffs this year. He said the cut positions, which range from athletic trainer to clerical assistant to gardener, targeted union leaders.

"They put a poison pill in what was supposed to be a fair deal for us," Hendricks said. "It seems to be a mindset, I think, that came with this administration that they can get by without unions."

Board members told a different story. They said they are doing everything in their power to preserve classes, but are unable to promise there will be no more layoffs because of the horrendous state of California's economy.

"I think the board wanted to do work-share," said Nancy Greenstein, a board member who in the past has earned praise for her support of academic programs and faculty. "But I had issues with agreeing to no layoffs ... just because of the unknown state of the state budget."

With the window on the offer now closed, SMC officials said the only variable left in this year's budget is what, if any, further cuts will be handed down from Sacramento later this school year. The school has \$1.8 million in reserve funds, and Tom Donner, SMC's executive vice president, said he expects that money will be used to offset further shortcomings from the state.

When the final word will come is anybody's guess. With Gov.-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger now in the driver's seat, it could be a month or longer before SMC officials have a sense of what direction the finances will go.

A total of \$10 million has been cut at SMC since February — classes are down

by 26 percent, five programs have been eliminated, and hundreds of jobs for teachers, workers, administrators and student workers are gone. Enrollment at the school, considered one of the best junior colleges in the state, is down from 31,000 to 25,000 this fall.

Despite all the trimming, SMC has embarked on a series of ambitious development projects funded with bond money not available for teacher salaries and classes. One of those capital projects the new library, will open Tuesday.

Lantz Simpson, president of the faculty association, said the irony of the new buildings has not been lost on campus staff. Simpson, who has been a vocal proponent of alternative ways of dealing with the budget cuts, criticized the board of trustees for its handling of the deficit.

"Many faculty are very angry about what's happening at the college and believe that the drastic cuts are unnecessary," he said.

Simpson was joined by an overwhelming majority of faculty, who orchestrated a vote of no confidence in SMC President Piedad F. Robertson last school year. College workers in a separate election also approved a vote of no confidence in Robertson.

All told, the cuts at the college have left deep wounds that will take time to repair, officials said.

"It's been a difficult year," Greenstein said. "The decisions we were asked to make were very critical to the college and to the life of the people who attend class and work there."

"At this point, I wish I could say we know what's going to happen, that we know what our budget's going to be, but I can't."

## STATE BRIEFS

### Algae bloom takes toll on Bay Area sea mammals

By the Associated Press

**SAUSALITO** — The Marine Mammal Center in Fort Cronkhite has seen twice the normal number of sick sea lions and other animals this year.

The cause is domoic acid poisoning, an overdose of neurotoxin caused by consumption of tainted sardines or anchovies. The smaller fish become infected by ingesting tiny zooplankton that, in turn, had ingested phytoplankton, an algae that produces the domoic acid.

The sea lions "get disoriented and they have seizures," said Denise Greig, a marine biologist at the center. "Then they're really out of it — they're flat out on the beach."

The Marine Mammal Center has seen 780 sick animals this year compared with about 400 last year at this time, said Kathy Zagzebski, manager of the stranding program.

Adding to the problems with disease are cases of malnourished young sea lions. Sick mothers can't help their pups, so they leave their mothers' care before being fully weaned.

"We're seeing lots of skinny little sea lions," Zagzebski said.

Oceanographers, algae researchers, county health officials and scientists are studying harmful algae blooms.

### Animal rights activist charged in Bay Area bombings

By the Associated Press

**SAN FRANCISCO** — An animal rights activist possessed components to make a bomb when he evaded federal agents investigating his involvement in bombings at two San Francisco Bay area companies, authorities said Saturday.

It was the first time authorities have alleged links between Daniel Andreas San Diego and the recent bombings.

FBI agents are still searching for the 25-year-old Sonoma man, who ditched them last week as they followed his car to San Francisco. They believe he may still be in the Bay Area.

Investigators have issued an arrest warrant for San Diego and filed suit in federal court charging him with bombings at Emeryville-based

Chiron Corp. in September and Pleasanton-based Shaklee Corp. in October.

San Diego escaped federal agents when he abandoned his Honda Civic on a San Francisco street. When they searched his car, they found chemicals and bomb parts similar to devices used in the two bombings, they said.

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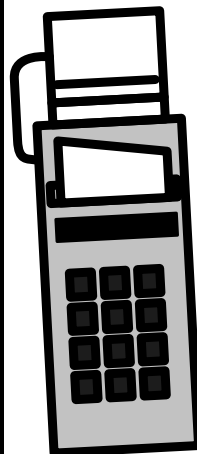
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# STATE □ NATIONAL

## Barriers installed to stop wrong-way drivers on I-8

BY MICHELLE MORGANTE  
Associated Press Writer

**SAN DIEGO** — Workers are installing 2-ton concrete barriers intended to stop immigrant smugglers who have taken to driving the wrong way on Interstate 8 in order to avoid a U.S. Border Patrol checkpoint.

The barriers, each 12 feet long and 3 feet tall, were being placed on the I-8 median near the checkpoint, about 40 miles east of San Diego.

The 3-mile line of barriers should be completed in the next week or so, said Tom Nipper, a Caltrans spokesman.

"This is lifesaving news for area residents and all who drive east on Interstate 8," said San Diego County Supervisor Dianne Jacob, who represents the area. "They fear for their lives and their children's lives. This barrier should go a long way to help stop wrong-way drivers from crossing the median."

The stretch of the interstate, the main traffic artery between San Diego and the desert that straddles the U.S.-Mexico border, has become a major corridor for illegal immigrant smugglers.

California Highway Patrol officers and U.S. Border Patrol agents have complained that wrong-way driving was becoming increasingly common as smugglers apparently realized patrol vehicles

would not chase them as they sped into oncoming traffic.

On Aug. 31, a Chevrolet Astro Van drove against oncoming traffic on I-8 for about 17 miles before swerving back into the westbound lanes. The van, reaching speeds of about 100 mph, spun out of control and crashed, injuring 19 suspected illegal immigrants.

In June 2002, a van carrying 27 people collided with a Ford Explorer on the same roadway. Five people in the van, including the driver, were killed, along with a man in the sport utility vehicle.

Nipper of Caltrans said the barriers would be one additional tool in the effort to solve the problem. Crews also will install increased lighting over the eastbound lanes near the Border Patrol checkpoint to help motorists see wrong-way drivers, who have been known to turn off their headlights to avoid detection.

The barriers and lights will cost Caltrans about \$1 million, which the agency hopes will be reimbursed by the Border Patrol, Nipper said.

The CHP has increased the number of officers who patrol the stretch of Interstate. Jacob said she also wants to have spike-strips installed that would flatten the tires of vehicles driving up off-ramps that connect to the eastbound lanes.

## North Shore development threatens Tahoe's 'hamlet' feel

By The Associated Press

**TAHOE VISTA** — The mood in Tahoe Vista these days is uneasy.

Change has arrived in the form of big-time developers and new projects, making some longtime residents nostalgic for the sleepy town they remember and apprehensive about where it's headed.

"Tahoe Vista was a hamlet — it was volleyball on the beach," says Gary Vandewiele, who moved to Tahoe Vista 23 years ago from the San Francisco Bay area and rented a cabin on the beach for \$250 a month. Now, he said, "there are large projects with big money moving in."

As Tahoe Vista becomes a hub for construction projects that supporters say will boost the economy on the north shore of Lake Tahoe, other local residents worry the community's small-town feel will be replaced with an exclusive atmosphere that caters to wealthy tourists.

Many are concerned that a string of plans, including timeshares, is likely to price out the middle class and overload the area's infrastructure. According to some residents, the only way to direct their fate is to update the community plan, making it a detailed blueprint for a future that everyone can agree on.

Since the emergence of Tonopalo, a 19-unit timeshare complex that bills itself as "uncompromised beachside luxury," locals are leery of new projects. Outraged by the removal of several unique sand dunes and the buildings' large scale, people want to be sure Tonopalo isn't the beginning of a trend in Tahoe Vista.

"Everyone is definitely afraid of having more Tonopalos, so every project that comes through is going to get a lot of scrutiny," said Dale Munsterman, who

lives in Carnelian Bay and sits on the North Tahoe Design Review Board.

Jason Koverchuk, Tonopalo's sales director, said the units at Tonopalo are in the same price range as nearby single-family homes, though Tonopalo homeowners will own shares of their condos along with other families.

"We don't feel we're disrupting the lifestyle of Tahoe Vista, we're just changing the look and making it less of an eyesore," Koverchuk said.

While most people agree tourist accommodations should be updated, locals worry that if they become too high-end, middle-class tourists won't be able to come here and middle-class families won't be able to live here.

One reason for the high-end trend, according to business owners, is that often it's the only way to make a decent profit margin.

"The days of these mom and pop economy hotels are becoming limited because of what people have to pay for property and the cost of new construction is so high," said Dave Ferrari, a longtime Kings Beach resident and owner of Ferrari's Crown Motel.

People in Tahoe Vista are "lamenting the loss of the middle class in Tahoe," he said. "One thing people are missing is we're eliminating the middle-class tourist too — we have families that have stayed with us 30 years. Some would still be able to buy a timeshare unit, but a lot of them wouldn't be able to."

Vandewiele, a building inspector, said most of the newly purchased homes he inspects are second homes, not primary family residences. The current median price for a home in Tahoe — \$350,000 according to Placer County — is too much for most families, he said.

## NATIONAL



# Court order sought to exhume Billy the Kid's mom

BY LESLIE HOFFMAN  
Associated Press Writer

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.** — Was Billy the Kid shot dead by Sheriff Pat Garrett in 1881, or did he escape to die in Texas nearly 70 years later, as some claim?

Lincoln and De Baca county authorities are asking the courts to help them find out.

Lincoln County Sheriff Tom Sullivan, Deputy Sheriff Steve Sederwall and De Baca County Sheriff Gary Graves filed a petition last week, asking the Grant County District Court to order the exhumation of the Kid's mother, Catherine Antrim.

DNA testing is supposed to show whether Antrim was related to Ollie L. "Brushy Bill" Roberts, who died in Hico, Texas, proclaiming he was Billy the Kid.

"You know, Texas already gets our water, they're not getting our guy. He's from Silver City," said Sherry Tippet, an attorney representing Lincoln and De Baca county authorities.

A coroner's inquest at the time found that Garrett killed the Kid in Fort Sumner. As the story goes, the Kid entered a darkened room and said "Quien es?" or "Who is it?" That's when Garrett opened fire.

Many in Fort Sumner believe Texans have been deluded by Roberts' tale and that the Kid is buried in a local cemetery.

Sullivan and his modern-day posse are also investigating whether an accomplice provided a pistol before Billy's escape April 28, 1881. During that escape, the Kid killed two deputy sheriffs — James W. Bell and Robert Ollinger.

"He was generally really well liked, so

is he a murderer or is he a good guy? He's probably all of those things," Tippet said. "But I think it's really important to figure out what happened in those last days."

Dr. Debra Komar, a forensic anthropologist with the state medical investigator, has researched the exact location of Antrim's remains and is confident they can be exhumed without disturbing other graves, according to the court petition.

Tippet said she and the plaintiffs elected to go to state District Court for an exhumation order rather than getting a permit from the medical investigator's office to make sure the process is open.

"To me, it's a protection of due process so that if someone complains, they have the opportunity to be heard," she said.

Barring any legal troubles, they hope to begin exhumation by mid-November.

However, one town councilor in Silver City is already objecting, calling the exhumation a "cheap publicity stunt."

"Who cares? Who cares if it's Billy the Kid buried in Fort Sumner or if it's Brushy Bill in Texas? We might regret this if the DNA shows it's not Billy the Kid," Steve May said. "We could shoot ourselves in the foot."

May argues that tax dollars could be spent in more beneficial ways.

"They call it a criminal investigation. I think that's a bunch of malarkey," he said.

May complains that no one has consulted the town of Silver City, which owns the cemetery, on the exhumation. He said he plans to ask the town's attorney to get involved in the case during next week's council meeting.

## Regional forester rejects appeals of Arizona forest thinning plan

By The Associated Press

**FLAGSTAFF, Ariz.** — An 8,000-acre forest thinning project in Kaibab National Forest should be allowed to continue, a regional Forest Service official said in rejecting an environmental appeal.

The thinning project, which is expected to cover 267,000 trees including 7,000 trees larger than 18 inches in diameter, followed all environmental laws and guidelines, said Abel Camarena, the southwestern deputy regional forester in Albuquerque, N.M.

Environmental groups have opposed the project saying the large — or old growth — trees should not be cut.

"We're not satisfied at all," said Sandy Bahr with the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club. "Especially when we have such little old growth left. This is an area that has been heavily logged in the past, so the old growth that remains is critical."

The Sierra Club, the Southwest Forest Alliance and the Center for Biological Diversity had filed an administrative appeal to the decision to go forward with the thinning project, but the regional

forester's office rejected that appeal. The environmental groups will continue to fight it, Bahr said.

The bulk of the trees that will be cut down in the thinning project are smaller than 12 inches in diameter, and 400 of the biggest trees are infested with mistletoe, the Forest Service said.

Mistletoe stunts a tree's growth and makes it susceptible to bark beetles, which can spread to and kill smaller trees.

"Generally, the Forest Service is hesitant to remove old, large trees because of their value to the forest ecosystem and the high regard held by the public," said the Forest Service statement about the director's decision.

"The intent is to contain the mistletoe infection to prevent a larger outbreak, not to eradicate the disease."

Bahr said the Sierra Club doesn't want any old-growth trees cut from the forest because there is no ecological benefit to doing so, and there are so few left.

"We have been supportive of thinning small-diameter trees," Bahr said. "What we aren't supportive of is the Forest Service logging the old growth that we have."

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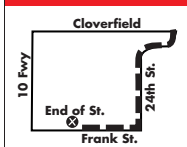
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## FACE-to-FACE with the Women & Children of Iraq

Local resident Kelly Hayes-Raitt just returned from her second trip to Iraq, where she found some of the children and women who touched her so deeply during her first visit in February. She also saw firsthand the impact of the bombings and invasion on innocent people's lives, homes and hearts. The trip revealed much devastation — and much inspiration.

She will be speaking about the people she met — and remet — in Baghdad, Hillah, Babylon, Fallouja, Basra and Umm Qasr.

**Tuesday, October 14**

**7:00 pm LA County Democratic Central Committee Meeting  
United Teachers of Los Angeles**

Since February, Kelly has addressed over 60 audiences, including religious congregations, state women's conferences, school classes, community clubs, large peace rallies and small neighborhood meetings. If you would like her to address your group, please call (310) 581-4421 or e-mail C2CCampaign@aol.com. Photos may be viewed at www.CommunityCampaigns.com/Iraq.

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*Santa Monica Daily Press*

## NATIONAL

# Vegas contest identifies chefs destined for greatness

BY ADAM GOLDMAN

Associated Press Writer

**LAS VEGAS** — Inside a nondescript conference room at the Mandalay Bay hotel-casino, Gerald Louis Ford sat and listened to the influential speakers.

Ford, 23, a recent graduate of a prestigious New York school, heard about how he might need to hire media handlers. He was informed that acting classes could be a good idea. He was taught in a mock news conference how to deflect tricky questions and give the right answers.

The instruction might have seemed appropriate for a blossoming Hollywood star or young politician, but Ford was neither. The tall, burly Ford is a cook — one singled out as perhaps the next celebrity chef. Ford and seven other top cooking school graduates recently sliced and chopped their way through the "Almost Famous Chef" competition.

The 2-year-old contest — sort of American Idol for fledgling culinary artists — was an effort by food service companies to identify the next kitchen icon, the person who might use their products on television shows and in high-profile restaurants.

It also was an education in shameless self-promotion, one key to prospering in the grueling restaurant business.

Purists might argue the contest is corrupting. Industry insiders say it makes sense. If editors are going to splash chefs posing as rock stars on covers like Gourmet magazine's most recent edition, they might as well know how to play the game.

There's nothing wrong, they say, with aspiring to be a Jamie Oliver or Bobby Flay — mainstays on the popular Food Network.

"In this day and age it's not an unworthy goal," said Bill Rice, Chicago Tribune food critic and chairman of the James Beard Awards Restaurant Committee. "It's not crass."

Contestant Nathan Lyon, 32, a one-time model and cook at Lucques in Los Angeles said cooking is the easy part; most chefs, he said, are socially challenged.

"The only thing we can do is work in

## The promising cooks then headed to the sprawling Aureole kitchen at Mandalay Bay to compete in a version of "Iron Chef" — and a chance to win a trip to Italy and cash.

the kitchen," he said.

What better place, the event's creators said, to expose promising cooks to the perks and pressure of fame than Las Vegas — a city that built its food reputation on the backs of celebrity chefs.

The contestants learned the competition involved much more than food.

They were served up a series of lectures by Rice, chef Susan Feniger of the TV food show "Too Hot Tamales," Katie O'Kennedy, a senior editor at Bon Appetit, and others.

The eager invitees were told not to lose sight of the food, which will ultimately establish their reputation. And don't set out to be a celebrity chef, but if it happens, then listen up.

Then the critics and gastronomes unsheathed some trade secrets.

Lesson No. 1 came from Feniger.

"You want the media to be there," she said. "You want to be covered because the more you're covered the more business you do."

O'Kennedy deconstructed the Food Network's personalities. How did Mario Batali and Emeril Lagasse succeed outside the kitchen?

"Timing and a certain amount of luck" are important, O'Kennedy said. Placing yourself in a restaurant with noted chefs and cutting-edge cuisine is vital. A niche can help. See Alton Brown, she said, the wizard of food science who made Bon Appetit for the first time in its Thanksgiving issue.

"Personality is a big deal," she said. "Creating buzz is the last step."

Rice gave "10 steps to removing the almost in almost famous."

Locale, persona and profit centers play a role, he said, adding "causing controversy is one path to fame."

Avoid tricky questions and never go off the record, the reporter-critic said, because it can be "terribly embarrassing."

Lastly, when a bad review levels the restaurant like a bang flattens a soufflé, "try to turn the other cheek," Rice advised.

The promising cooks then headed to the sprawling Aureole kitchen at Mandalay Bay to compete in a version of "Iron Chef" — and a chance to win a trip to Italy and cash.

The nervous-looking cooks were given baskets of whole duck, fennel, squash, green apples, red pepper, carrots, rosemary, basil, thyme, garlic, onion and baby artichokes.

Their task: Prepare a menu in 15 minutes and complete the dishes in 90 minutes.

Easy? Maybe.

But these wonderkinds had to do it while being peppered with judges' questions as a roving camera peered into their stock pots. Feniger, a judge, roamed the kitchen with a spoon in hand, tasting unfinished sauces to the shock of the contestants.

Every so often, someone would bark out the time, sending the sweating cooks into a flurry of culinary activity.

They were chided to embrace sponsor products. One clever cook used S. Pellegrino Natural Sparkling Mineral Water to boil carrots and listed the combination on her menu.

"We'd like to remind you that Cuisinart and Waring are our sponsors," a spokeswoman screamed. "You need to use their equipment."

What is a celebrity without sponsors?

one judge yelled.

When the chaotic cookoff concluded, all the nascent chefs plated their dishes and delivered them to the judges' table.

Ford barely finished his rendered duck breast with thyme and rosemary, stuffed artichoke and nouveau soubise.

"Too close," said Ford, who graduated from the Culinary Institute of America and took a job with the Mandarin Oriental hotel that's opening in New York City.

Others stumbled. Felicia Shallow Davis, 34, of Chicago, Ill., flopped her herb roasted duck breast all over the plate. Davis recovered with about a minute to spare and put the precious pieces back together. Somehow the plucky Davis kept a wide, arching smile.

Soon the esteemed palates began tasting, prodding, disparaging and complimenting the food.

"Eye catching."

"Vanilla was his favorite spice — that was scary."

"Didn't render the duck fat enough."

They used video to evaluate the cooks' performance on camera and referred to the judging sheet.

"Please bear in mind that this is not just a cooking contest, we are trying to identify a potential 'star' chef with all that entails!"

Star potential was worth 20 percent of the total score.

The judges didn't hold back.

"That's not confidence, that's confusion."

"He's cocky, out of control."

"Her cheeks are too red."

Then silence as scores were tallied.

The choices seemed clear. Ford and a woman from Germany, Uta Schepers, had the top cooking skills, though they were too stiff on television — too worried about the food!

Who had those subjective star qualities?

The judges' choice was Davis — a cop turned cook four years ago and mother of five.

She was almost famous.

Almost.



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## NATIONAL □ INTERNATIONAL

## WORLD BRIEFLY

**Arafat, Palestinian prime minister at odds over new security chief**

By The Associated Press

**RAMALLAH, West Bank** — Yasser Arafat fought with his new prime minister Saturday over who should be the new Palestinian security chief, in a deepening dispute that threatens to bring down the government appointed less than a week ago.

In an argument with Arafat two days ago, Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia hinted he might step down, a possibility that appeared more likely as their fight continued into the night Saturday. As it stands now, Qureia's Cabinet, which Arafat appointed by decree Oct. 5, will serve for one month as planned.

"We have a crisis but we are still trying to work it out," Palestinian Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat said.

Meanwhile, battles continued for a second day in the Rafah refugee camp in Gaza, where Israeli troops were searching for weapons smuggling tunnels. One Palestinian was killed Saturday.

**Afghani warloads halt territorial fighting**

By The Associated Press

**MAZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan** — Tanks and soldiers withdrew from a battlefield in northern Afghanistan on Saturday as rival warlords met to cement a shaky truce threatened by recent skirmishes.

There were no reports of new fighting as Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum and his archrival Atta Mohammed met in Mazar-e-Sharif for discussions mediated by Afghan Interior Minister Ali Ahmad Jalali and British Ambassador Ron Nash.

The fighting was believed to have been sparked by both sides' desire to control territory belonging to the other. The Afghan government in Kabul has little authority in the countryside, much of which is ruled by warlords and their private militias.

After Saturday's hour-long meeting, Jalali told reporters that despite some minor fighting late Friday,

he was optimistic clashes between the two sides had ended and the cease-fire — signed Thursday — would stick.

**Sniper trial focuses on relationship between triggerman and alleged Swengali**

By The Associated Press

**MANASSAS, VA.** — Perhaps the biggest mystery remaining before trial begins Tuesday for sniper suspect John Allen Muhammad is the true nature of his relationship with his teenage companion, fellow suspect Lee Boyd Malvo.

The men's relationship has become a key and complex element in each case, with all sides painting different portraits of the dynamic.

Muhammad's defense team has said evidence points toward the young suspect as the triggerman. Malvo's attorneys now say the older man was so domineering that they are basing an insanity defense on the argument that the teen was indoctrinated to the point he could no longer tell right from wrong.

Malvo's prosecutors portray it differently, saying the teen laughed about the shootings that induced a wave of fear in the Washington, D.C., region during a three-week spree last October, and admitted pulling the trigger in several shootings.

**Gephardt leans on labor for boost in Iowa**

By The Associated Press

**DES MOINES, Iowa** — Democratic presidential hopeful Dick Gephardt nurtured his already solid ties to organized labor Saturday, building on a constituency that could make the difference in Iowa's leadoff precinct caucuses.

Gephardt rallied with Teamsters president James Hoffa, collected the endorsement of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union and said his close ties with labor are crucial to Iowa's organization-driven caucuses.

Hoffa said he met Saturday with shop stewards from around the state. "We put a game plan into effect," Hoffa said. "We're going to go city by city, local by local so every member of the Teamsters is on board."

Hoffa said Gephardt has spent a quarter-century advocating labor causes in Washington.

"We have never been so committed to a candidate for president," Hoffa said.

**Conjoined twins undergo separation surgery**

By The Associated Press

**DALLAS** — In an attempt to give 2-year-old conjoined twins from Egypt a chance at independent lives, a team of 18 doctors began a complicated separation surgery Saturday that could take four days to complete.

The risks are high: One or both of the boys may die, and even if they survive, some brain damage is possible.

"Ahmed and Mohamed Ibrahim have begun the first stage of their surgery that will physically separate them and — we all hope — will give them the opportunity to grow and develop like other brothers," said Dr. Jim Thomas, chief of critical care medicine at Children's Medical Center Dallas.

By mid-afternoon, doctors were entering a critical stage as neurosurgeons prepared to separate an intricate web of shared blood vessels, Thomas said.

Thomas relayed a message from Dr. Dale Swift, one of five pediatric neurosurgeons: "Everything is going fine. There have been no problems."

**Bill aimed at ensuring continued coverage**

By The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — Fearing a political backlash, lawmakers at work on a Medicare drug bill are ready to spend billions of dollars to discourage companies from dropping or reducing coverage for retirees when a new federal benefit begins.

Options under consideration include subsidies or tax breaks for companies, beyond money contained in legislation that passed the House and Senate earlier this year, congressional aides said.

Lawmakers also probably will loosen federal regulations envisioned under the proposed new Medicare prescription drug program for companies that maintain existing coverage, according to the aides, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

## Interior reverses Clinton mine waste decision; industry cheers

BY SCOTT SONNER

Associated Press Writer

**RENO, Nev.** — The Interior Department rolled back another environmental policy of the Clinton administration, overturning a legal opinion that tightened regulation of mine waste on public lands.

Interior Secretary Gale Norton approved the reversal of an opinion that her agency and the mining industry blame for a significant drop in U.S. minerals exploration, mine development and mining jobs since 1997.

The department said the agency's solicitor general under President Clinton had no legal basis for his opinion that the 1872 Mining Law limits each 20-acre mining claim on federal land to a single five-acre waste site.

That opinion had the effect of either reducing the amount of land a mining operation can use to dump waste — including cyanide and other chemicals used to separate ore from rock — or reducing the size of the mining operation itself.

"It created an atmosphere of uncertainty and when you are making investments of hundreds of millions of dollars, uncertainty is not something you want to face," Assistant Interior Secretary Rebecca Watson said.

Watson said U.S. minerals exploration has dropped 57 percent and mine development declined 54 percent since the earlier opinion was issued.

"We anticipate we will now see more

development and exploration for mining," she told The Associated Press.

The new opinion by Deputy Solicitor Roderick Walston, signed by Norton Wednesday and released Friday, said that while individual mill sites with the waste are limited to five acres, there is no limit on the number of mill sites on any given 20-acre claim.

"The Mining Law has sufficient flexibility to allow for evolving mining practices and does not, at least in the mill site provision, impose rigid limitations that would make modern mining practices unworkable," Walston wrote in an Oct. 8 memorandum obtained by AP.

Congress passed the law "to encourage development of the nation's mineral resources and a limitation of one mill site per mining claim would frustrate that congressional purpose," he said.

"If this congressional policy is to be changed, it must be changed by Congress."

The decision was cheered by the mining industry and its allies.

"This is good news," said Russ Fields, executive director of the Nevada Mining Association. "The old opinion did create a lot of uncertainty for our industry."

But environmentalists said the move would allow gold mines and other large-scale hardrock mining operations to dump unlimited amounts of toxic waste on public lands.

"Negotiated behind closed doors between the Bush administration and America's most

toxic industry, this outrageous reversal directs the government to quit enforcing existing federal law," said Steve D'Esposito of the Mineral Policy Center, a watchdog group based in Washington.

"It puts clean water and community health at increased risk, with an open invitation to dump massive quantities of toxic mining waste on unlimited amounts of our public land," he said.

Nevada is the third largest gold producer in the world behind South Africa and Australia, and its lawmakers also applauded the decision.

"Simply put, new mines cannot be developed under the criteria" of the old opinion, Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., said Friday.

"It doesn't make sense that only five acres of land should be allocated to provide facilities for every 20 acres of ore. That's like trying to pour a gallon of milk into a 10-ounce glass," he said.

Rep. Jim Gibbons, R-Nev., said the old opinion was "nothing but a blatant attempt by the Clinton administration — and the extreme groups that dictated their environmental policy — to completely destroy America's mining industry."

"I applaud President Bush's leadership, his actions to support Nevada's No. 2 industry and his commitment to strengthening our economy," Gibbons said.

The National Mining Association estimates U.S. metals mining operations have lost 21,000 jobs since 1997, association

spokeswoman Carol Raulston said.

"We think this will help reverse the trend in terms of lost jobs and declining investment in U.S. mining operations," she said from Washington.

Environmentalists have long opposed the bulk of the Civil War-era Mining Law, saying it is an antiquated law that gives public resources to private mining companies for a fraction of their value. They claimed a rare victory when ex-solicitor John Lesly issued his opinion in 1997 and applied it to the Crown Jewel open-pit gold mine in northern Washington state.

"The mill site provision is the one piece of the monstrosity that is the 1872 Mining Law that is actually helpful to American taxpayers," said Whitney Painter, a spokeswoman for the Mineral Policy Center in Denver.

Environmentalists have been highly critical of Bush's policies on a number of fronts, from easing air pollution standards to relaxing forest protections so as to accelerate logging aimed at easing wildfire threats.

Lesly, now a professor at the University of California's Hastings School of Law in San Francisco, said Bush has tried recently to "paint himself as a moderate on the environment."

But "there is nothing moderate about capitulating to the hardrock industry's request for an unlimited legal right to dump polluting waste on our public lands," he said.

## COMICS

**The Dinette Set** by Julie Larson**Natural Selection®**

By Russ Wallace

**edge**

by KERRY E. PATRY LEBLANC

**Reality Check®**

By Dave Whammond

**Speed Bump®**

By Dave Coverly

**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

- 1 Sandbar
- 6 Online journals
- 11 Therefore
- 12 Bolter
- 13 Bring to bear
- 14 Ostracize
- 15 Leave off
- 17 Friend of Frodo
- 18 Australian capital
- 22 Region
- 23 Lamented loudly
- 27 ERA and RBI
- 29 Took the wheel
- 30 Spotted
- 32 Kitchen fixture
- 33 Prying tools
- 35 Motor part
- 38 "Star Wars" princess
- 39 Suspect's story
- 41 Employee group
- 45 De Niro movie
- 46 Sprite
- 47 Wasp attack
- 48 Play part

**DOWN**

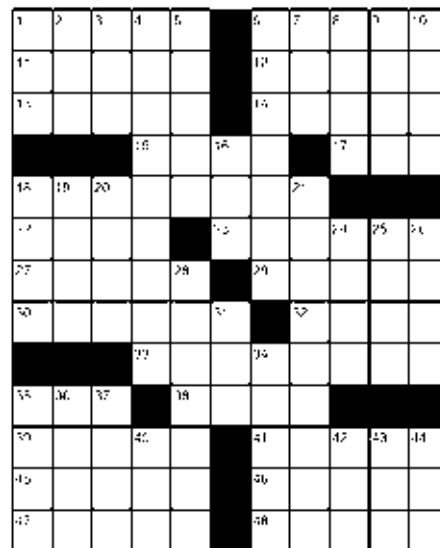
- 1 Thal lass
- 2 Spell
- 3 A single
- 4 Like gymnasts
- 5 Door holder's words
- 6 Noticeably blushing
- 7 Lenient
- 8 Elevator pioneer
- 9 Big party
- 10 Rose part
- 16 Annoy
- 18 Beer buy
- 19 College study
- 20 Tide type
- 26 Lairs
- 28 "The Twilight Zone" host
- 31 Buck's mate

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**Saturday's answer**

- 21 Like barnstormers
- 24 Telescope target
- 25 At any time
- 26 Lairs
- 28 "The Twilight Zone" host
- 31 Buck's mate
- 34 Bits of smoke
- 35 Autos
- 36 Scads
- 37 Short skirt
- 40 Storage site
- 42 Chopping tool
- 43 Shark feature
- 44 Doc's pay

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'01 F150 XLT Supercab \$14,988 Low Mis. Great buy! (1KA29098) Santa Monica Ford (310)451-1588.

'98 Explorer Spt 2D XL \$8,888 Low Miles, SAVE(WUC90497) Santa Monica Ford (310)451-1588.

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**FOR SALE "Classic" 1982 Jeep Wagoneer. Solid Truck, mechanically sound, custom seats, carpet kit, cd, surf racks, great bike rack, \$2500 Firm.** Call (310)699-7835.

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**NATIVE FRENCH** speaker offers tutoring in French \$40/hr. Call (310)348-3050.

**Instruction**

**WRITING INSTRUCTOR:** Aol's former L.A. Editor offers help w/ essays, papers, stories, personal statements. Call (323)893-1356.

**Wanted**

**LOOKING FOR a used beach cruiser in good condition** willing to pay \$50. Please call (310)902-7656.

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**For Rent**

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**PACIFIC PALISADES**

\$1100-\$1450  
1 Bdrm. and Single Gorgeous, newly remodeled, new tile, pool, some views, walk to village.  
974 Haverford  
(310)454-8837

**PACIFIC PALISADES**

\$1450  
1 Bdrm. Gorgeous, newly remodeled, pool, some views, walk to village.  
974 Haverford  
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**Open House**  
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**2121 OCEAN AVE.**  
**310-899-9580**

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**SANTA MONICA** \$1725, 2 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath townhouse 18th near SM Blvd. Stove, 2 door refrigerator, d/w, ample closets, private patio, closed garage w/extra storage, security building. Available 10-01-03. owner (310)828-4481.

**SANTA MONICA:** \$1275, 2 + 1 1/2, stove, new carpets, laundry, vertical blinds, parking inc., month-to-month.

(310)395-7368  
[www.westsiderentals.com](http://www.westsiderentals.com)

**SANTA MONICA:** \$1700, 3+2, stove, patio, carpets, quiet neighborhood, bright unit.

(310)395-7368  
[www.westsiderentals.com](http://www.westsiderentals.com)

**SANTA MONICA:** \$700, studio, refrigerator, stove, ceramic tile, pool, parking and utilities included.

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[www.westsiderentals.com](http://www.westsiderentals.com)

**SANTA MONICA:** \$975, 1+1, blocks to the beach, refrigerator, microwave, carpets, parking optional, laundry.

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[www.westsiderentals.com](http://www.westsiderentals.com)

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**20 BROOKS**  
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**Houses For Rent**

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(310)395-7368  
[www.westsiderentals.com](http://www.westsiderentals.com)

**SANTA MONICA** \$5500 3 bdrm, 2 bath colonial charmer near Georgiana. (310)393-9711 appt/broker.

**SANTA MONICA:** \$1200, duplex, 1+1, charming, pet ok, hardwood floors, yard, mirrors throughout.

(310)395-7368  
[www.westsiderentals.com](http://www.westsiderentals.com)

**SANTA MONICA:** \$1650, house, 2+1, plus dining room, hardwood floors, ceramic tile in kitchen and bath, storage, parking.

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[www.westsiderentals.com](http://www.westsiderentals.com)

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- If interested, please call Dr. Daniel Furst, MD, Dr. Dinesh Khanna, MD, Emma Hasan or Huping Zhou at:

**310-206-5732 or 310-825-9682**

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Roommates

SANTA MONICA: \$500, prvt bdrm, carpets, fireplace, laundry, quiet neighborhood, month-to-month.

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www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA: \$565, prvt bdrm, prvt bath, prime location, r/s, laundry, high speed internet, month-to-month, util included.

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www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA: \$650, Spanish style house, prvt. bdrm, pet ok, r/s, hardwood floors, fireplace, w/d.

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\$1450.00 AND UP

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SANTA MONICA 1427 THIRD STREET PROMENADE 900 SQ/FT OFFICE/CREATIVE SPACE. SHARE KITCHEN. INCLUDES DSL, HIGH CEILINGS. \$2000 PER MONTH. AVAILABLE DECEMBER 1 OR SOONER. CALL 310-458-7737 X104

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STRONG & SOOTHING Deep-Tissue Therapy. Intro: \$35/70min. Non-sexual. Will also trade. Paul: (310)741-1901.

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE, Swedish, Accupressure, Deep-tissue, Sports Massage, Reflexology. For apt call Tracy at (310)435-0657.

## Announcements

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP meeting. Last Wednesday of the month; at Sunrise Assisted Living, Pacific Palisades call (310)573-9545/Linda.

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## SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

# MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2003

## CULTURE

### A Hansel and Gretel Halloween

The Santa Monica Playhouse presents a light, sing-along musical that takes the audiences through the mysterious Black Forest. Suitable for all ages, this play is written and directed by Chris DeCarlo and Evelyn Rudie. Birthday parties are available. Tickets for kids 12 & under cost \$9; adults \$10; they are available at (310) 394-9779 ext. 2. Showings Saturday and Sunday at 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Santa Monica Playhouse Main Stage  
1211 Fourth Street

### Puppetolio!

Watch a puppet show at the Santa Monica Puppet and Magic Center. This is a great place to take the kids and to unwind after a long day. Showings on Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Admission: \$6.50.

1255 2nd Street Santa Monica, CA 90401  
(310) 656-0483

### The Other Shoe: Original Short American Plays

On Saturday and Sunday, the Edgemar Center for the arts will present this compilation of musical and comedic plays. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. and costs \$20. Reservations can be made at (310) 392-7327. Showings on Saturday and Sunday. Edgemar Center for the Arts  
2437 Main Street

## EVENTS

### Teen Book Discussion Group

Seventh and eighth graders are welcome to attend this free book discussion, featuring Frank Herbert's novel, Dune. 4:45 - 5:45 p.m. For more information, call (310) 450-0443. Santa Monica Library, Fairview Branch  
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.

### The radio story

Lara Scott, a radio personality on Star 98.7 discusses the styles of the radio story. She is a well-established radio and television personality and actually began her career in radio on a dare. The discussion is free and will begin at 7 p.m. For more information, call (310) 434-3777.

SMC Academy of Entertainment & Technology  
1660 Stewart St.

### Whole Body Scanning

Learn more about this innovative body imaging technique with Dr. Daniel Beilin, a doctor of oriental medicine and specialist in regulation thermography, along with naturopath Carola Huenca. This free lecture will begin at 7 p.m. and last until 8:30 p.m. For more information, call (310) 395-4510. Wild Oats Natural Marketplace  
500 Wilshire Blvd.

## ENTERTAINMENT

### 14 Below

An intimate and well-equipped club that is leading the Westside music scene with live performances seven nights a week. Tonight 14 Below features the following: The Marvich at 8 p.m. and Meet Me At the Pub at 10 p.m.  
1348 14th St. Santa Monica  
(310) 451-5040

### Harvelle's

Established in 1931, Harvelle's is the oldest blues club on the west side. This is the kind of blues joint you'd expect to find in a dark Chicago alley; yet even if it's your first visit, it feels familiar. Tonight, Harvelle's features an All Star Pro Jam, playing jazz, R&B, blues, soul, pop and funk.  
1432 4th St.  
(310) 395-1676

### Temple Bar

Here visitors can enjoy concoctions like White Chocolate Martinis, a Gingertini or a Razzmatazz. Those who are really hungry can enjoy a Chicken Tamale Plate with Fried Plantains. Temple Bar even offers vegetarian options like veggie eggrolls and burgers. But no good bar would be complete without live music. Tonight, the Temple Bar features Richard Swift at 9:00 p.m. and the 88 at 10:15 p.m. \$5.  
1026 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica  
(310) 393-6611

## MOVIE °GUIDE

### LAEMMLE'S MONICA 4-PLEX

1332 2nd Street  
American Splendor R - 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45  
The Event R - 1:35, 4:25, 7:15, 9:55  
Wonderland R - 12:45 p.m., 1:45, 3:25, 4:25, 6:05, 7:05, 8:45, 9:45

### LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd  
Casa de los Babys R - 4:30, 7:30, 10:00  
My Life Without Me R - 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

### LOEWS CINEPLEX BROADWAY CINEMAS

1441 Third Street Promenade  
Anything Else R - 11:15 a.m., 1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30  
Kill Bill Vol. 1 R - 11:30 a.m., 1:00, 2:15, 3:30, 5:00, 6:05, 7:40, 9:00, 10:30, 11:30  
Lost in Translation R - 10:45 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 1:10, 2:30, 3:45, 5:00, 6:10, 7:45, 8:40, 10:15

### AMC SANTA MONICA 7

1310 Third Street Promenade  
House of the Dead R - 11:40 a.m., 2:00, 4:20, 7:05, 9:35  
Out of Time PG-13 - 12:00 p.m., 2:35, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10  
School of Rock PG-13 - 11:45 a.m., 1:00, 2:25, 3:50, 5:10, 6:45, 7:45, 9:30, 10:15

Intolerable Cruelty PG-13 - 11:35 a.m., 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

Under the Tuscan Sun PG-13 - 11:30 a.m., 1:55, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45

Once Upon a Time in Mexico R - 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40

### MANN CRITERION 6 THEATERS

1313 Third Street Promenade  
Good Boy! PG - 11:45 a.m., 2:15, 4:45, 7:10, 9:45  
Secondhand Lions PG - 11:20 a.m., 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

Duplex PG-13 - 12:15 p.m., 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 9:55

Matchstick Men PG-13 - 11:30a.m., 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:30

The Rundown PG-13 - 11:15a.m., 2:00, 4:55, 7:30, 10:20

Underworld R - 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

If you know of an upcoming event which may be included in the calendar please send the information to calendar@smdp.com or fax it to (310) 576 9913



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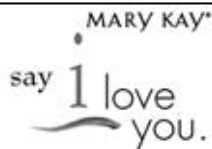
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