



NERDS FEELING THE LOVE
SEE PAGE 9

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE PRAYING FOR RAIN ISSUE

Santa Monica Daily Press

POLITICS

FAIR FIGHT KNOCKED OUT

Council puts public financing on back burner

STORY BY KEVIN HERRERA PAGE 14



Morgan Genser news@smdp.com

POLITICKING: Susan Moss, a volunteer with Vote 4SM ('Voter Owned Transparent Elections for Santa Monica'), works on a rally sign outside the lobby of Santa Monica City Hall on Tuesday.

No love for thy neighbor

BY MELODY HANATANI | Daily Press Staff Writer

SANTA MONICA COURTHOUSE A former City Council candidate is being sued by a neighbor who is accusing the third-generation Santa Monican of habitual harassment.

In the he said/she said world of small claims court — where plaintiffs and defendants typically throw around accusations of unpaid bills and stolen goods — this case involved allegations of uncontrolled barbecue fires, dead fish decaying in the garden and numerous disturbance calls to the police.

The accusations were laid out before a judge in Santa

Monica on Wednesday by William and Gretchen Richert, who filed a lawsuit on July 11 against Terence Later, the son of their landlord.

Later, an entertainment consultant, ran for City Council in November 2006.

Both parties claim the animosity arose more than two years ago. The Richerts, who have lived in the apartment for 14 years, say Later, whom they believe is heir to the apartment building, is trying to boot out the long-time rent control tenants who pay just \$790 a month for a one-bedroom apartment in Mid-City. But Later, who denies it's an issue of

rent control because many tenants in the building are long-time residents, claims the couple has been antagonistic since Gretchen Richert was allegedly kicked out of her family's estate, blaming Later's mother.

The couple walked into the mainly empty courtroom with two poster boards filled with a timeline of alleged harassment incidents dating back to May 19, 2005, when Later allegedly left a barbecue fire unattended in the common area of the apartment complex on Euclid Street.

SEE TENANT TIFF PAGE 15

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Calendar

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2007

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Happy Holidays



Thanksgiving Day Open 7:30a.m. – 2p.m.

Christmas Day Open 7:30a.m. – 2p.m.

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



'What's New this Week'

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.

The Fairview Branch Library hosts a free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key news stories at home and abroad.

Open up

1807 Wilshire Blvd., Set., 200, 5:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Emperor's College of Traditional Oriental Medicine is opening their house. Learn about Chinese herbs and the healing art of Qi Gong. Tour the school and their Community Acupuncture Clinic.

Halloween Horror Films: 'Ringu'

1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

The Montana Avenue Branch Library is screening "Ringu," the modern Japanese horror flick about a video that kills anyone who watches it.

Back at the farm

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Amelia Saltsman demonstrates sustainable decorating ideas and food recipes from her book, "The Santa Monica Farmers' Market Cookbook." A tasting and book signing will follow the demonstration. This program is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and on a first arrival basis for the MLK Jr. Auditorium. For more information, call (310) 458-8600 or visit www.smpl.org.

International Youth Orchestra Festival

601 Pico Blvd., 7 p.m.

The Santa Monica High School Music Department, in coordination with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, present a free neighborhood concert, as part of the 2007 International Youth Orchestra Festival. The program will include the Debussy work "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun", Klamis' "Forging of Sampot" from Kalevala, and Sibelius' Symphony No. 1. Seating is first come, first served. For more information, call Santa Monica High School at (310) 255-0455.

Friday, Oct. 26, 2007

Halloween costume party

2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., LA, 8 p.m. — 1 a.m.

The Skirball Cultural Center is hosting a Halloween costume extravaganza with a DJ and dancing, snacks, costume contests and raffles. Tickets as low as \$20. For tickets or more information, visit www.DateinLA.com.

Whiskey Chimp

3101 Pico Blvd., 8 p.m.

Whiskey Chimp will perform an eclectic set at McCabe's Guitar Shop. Bring bananas. Tickets are \$15. For more information or to buy tickets, call (310) 828-4497 or visit www.mccabes.com.

Come as you are

100 Market St., Unit B, Venice, 4 p.m. — 10 p.m.

Powder Puff Parlour and Auraline Studios will be doing Halloween makeup, including airbrush/prosthetics work (i.e. bullet wounds, knife gashes, bruises). Prices start at \$25. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information or to make an appointment, call (310) 392-2091.

An enchanting lunch

1211 Fourth St., 12:30 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.

Storytelling, an enactment of a Halloween-themed fairy tale, lunch, and more make up Halloween Enchanted Lunchtime Theatre — an event for 3- to 5-year-olds and their folks. Ticket prices are \$25 for children; parents are free (including lunch) and participate throughout. Reservations are a must. Call (310) 394-9779, ext. 2 or visit www.SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com for more information.

YMCA pumpkin patch

Sunset Boulevard and Temescal Canyon, Pacific Palisades, 3 p.m. — 7 p.m.

Pick a pumpkin, play on hay bales and hide-n-seek in the spooky woods at the Palisades-Malibu YMCA's pumpkin patch at Simon Meadow. For more information, call (310) 454-5591.

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





PAYING RESPECTS: Jerry Rubin (left) and members of the Santa Monica Treeavers, a grass-roots environmental group aiming to save downtown ficus trees slated for removal by the city, observe a moment of silence Tuesday in honor of all the victims of the massive wildfires in Southern California. The Treesaves rallied in front of City Hall prior to the City Council's meeting.

Morgan Genser news@smdp.com

Cash don't grow on trees

Tree wrangling could force City Hall to take a financial hit

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN The temporary hold-up in City Hall's plan to remove and transplant more than 54 ficus trees from Second and Fourth streets could cost the city millions of dollars in grant money for the larger streetscape improvement project.

The estimated \$8.2 million Second and Fourth streets Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvement Project, which calls for the uprooting of 23 structurally deficient ficus trees and the relocation of 31 healthy trees, is being partially supported by grant

funding, including approximately \$2.3 million in Federal Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) funds.

The project was reviewed by Caltrans this summer and any changes to the final plan — including a mandated retention of the ficus trees — could mean a loss of the TEA funds, according to a city staff report in August.

City Engineer Tony Antich is waiting to hear back from Caltrans as to the status of the TEA money if, in fact, the 54 ficus trees are to remain.

The ficus trees will stay put until the Landmarks Commission decides whether it should historically landmark all of the ficus trees along Second and Fourth streets in Downtown Santa Monica, which is expected to take place in the coming months. In an attempt to bar City Hall from moving forward with the tree removal portion of the project, the Santa

Monica Treesavers filed a landmarks nomination application earlier this month.

The trees were also being protected via a temporary court-ordered injunction, which was to be heard on Friday, but the Santa Monica Treesavers withdrew the motion on Wednesday because the ficus trees portion of the city project was already being stalled due to the landmarks application, said Jerry Rubin, who heads the ad-hoc group.

Work towards removing the trees was scheduled to begin on Oct. 8.

The tree removal and transplantation constitutes only a small portion — about \$600,000 — of the overall streetscape improvement project, which would enhance lighting, fix broken sidewalks and add curb bump-outs on Second and Fourth streets from Colorado Avenue to

Time to lace 'em up again

New ice rink brings back fond memories

BY JARED MORGAN
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN When U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Famer Tai Babilonia goes shopping on Broadway at Fred Segal, she tends to weep.

"Not because of the fabulous shoes, (but because) some of the old railing is still there," she said last week.

When the boutique clothing store and hair salon purchased the property at 500 Fifth Street back in 1985, the site was better known as home to the Santa Monica Ice Capades Chalet.

"(That was my home) more than my real home," she said.

The Bayside District Corporation, in partnership with City Hall, is planning on bringing back that spirit of the winter season — an homage to the Chalet.

Memories of winters past are back at the fore since Bayside announced plans to establish a seasonal ice skating rink at the city owned parking lot located at 1324 and 1326 Fifth St. The rink is expected to be open to the public from Nov. 16 to Jan. 7, 2008.

It was Santa Monica's own Chalet that Babilonia trained for the 1980 Olympics.

"It was a dream come true," said Babilonia. "Knowing that the beach was so close was great too."

Randy Gardner, Babilonia's skating partner for years, trained at the downtown Santa Monica ice rink from 1971 until its closure in 1983. The rink sat unoccupied for almost two years until Fred Segal bought it in 1985. "I remember the low ceilings," said Gardner. "And to be able to go to the beach after skating ... was an interesting juxtaposition."

Rose Larkin, originally from Ireland, moved to Santa Monica in 1968. She used

SEE TIMBER PAGE 12

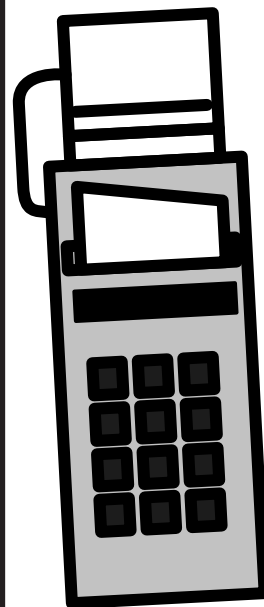
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Mentally ill deserve compassion

Editor:
Thank you for your coverage of (Step Up’s planned Daniel’s Village mental health facility). It’s saddening to realize that many residents of the affected area have such a distorted and inaccurate prejudice toward the victims of mental illness (“Residents to Step Up: Step off,” Oct. 18). The mentally ill are much more apt to be victims of crime than perpetrators. The likelihood a mentally ill person committing a crime against the residents or their children is statistically quite low. The logic of denying access to housing for those with brain disorders is the same thinking applied in the past to exclude racial and religious minorities and discriminate against cancer victims. Mental illness is a treatable medical condition that can be controlled.

Furthermore, the salutary effect of neighborhood children learning that mentally ill people deserve to be treated with respect and compassion can not be underrated. The truth is that between 5 and 10 percent of our population suffers from some form of brain disorder, directly affecting one in five families. I, myself, am the parent of a young man who suffered his first psychotic episode while attending UC-Berkeley as a National Merit Scholar. I can attest to the truth that no informed mental health advocate would ever consider providing independent housing to a mentally ill young person who posed a danger to him or herself and others. The proposed residents of Daniel’s Village are young human beings who need a decent place to live with on-site staff support to develop and maintain independent lives. They have been under treatment for their disorders and pose no danger to the community.

I hope that those who have reacted so vehemently against the Daniel’s Village project will take the opportunity to learn the truth about those who live with brain disorders. They will likely find that they have friends and family with firsthand knowledge, who can educate them and diffuse their irrational fears.

Jeffrey Ellis
Los Angeles

Daniel’s Village could be a model

Editor:
(Re: “Residents to Step Up: Step off,” Oct. 18)
A mentally ill person is not a criminal looking to kill all the neighbors. A mentally ill person is not a monster trying to destroy the community. The community won’t get infected by a mentally ill person.

A mentally ill person is a person like you or I that one day happens to wake up and behaves strange ... his/her personality changes ... acts like a different person for days, weeks, months ... loses sense of reality ... He/she loses control of himself/herself and do not understand what is going on.

Have you been mad and scream and said things you regret later? Well, if you keep on losing control of yourself and let the situation control you, maybe you have a mental illness. You must treat it. Now, do you think is it fair that your community turns against you? Do you suffer from constant depression? If so, maybe you have a mental illness. It is unfortunate that most people still have the perception that a mentally ill person is a criminal looking to harm kids or anybody! This is ignorance at work.

The persons that will live in the Daniel’s Village are the ones who are responsible with their medication, are helping themselves to improve their lives, go to school to learn skills, and attend meetings at Daniel’s Place. These are people that need housing, they have ambition for a better life, and have a potential to be model citizens; the only difference is that they take medication for mental illness. They can be very well an asset to the community.

This will be a model program that will help the future of real people. Please do not act based on fear. Get more information from Step Up. You will find out that there are strict requirements for a person to qualify living in Daniel’s Village.

Isabel Charleston
Santa Monica



Barnes Burning
Seth Barnes

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Mother Nature
always in charge

ON SUNDAY NIGHT, I WAS FLYING BACK to California from the East Coast. From cruising altitude, you could make out the hot-red wildfires beginning to rage below. It was the first day of the recent conflagration, so news of the fires hadn’t reached us yet. Doing my best Smokey The Bear impersonation, I quickly calculated that the blazes were part of an isolated event in the recesses of some national forest. I returned to stoking my bitterness over the ridiculous choice to screen the movie “Nancy Drew” to a plane full of adults.

Of course, after we arrived and woke up the next morning, it was clear a completely different matter was at hand. The smoke over Malibu blotted out the sun. The combination of Santa Ana winds and choking smoke particles made breathing difficult. And we in Santa Monica; we’re the lucky ones by far, for our homes and livelihoods were, for the most part, not at risk. Many of us spent the day worried about friends and family affected by the disaster and wondering how we could help those in need. The big takeaway from all this is simple: We are not in charge.

That’s an easy fact to forget. For if you look at the mass of humanity spread across the Los Angeles basin, it’s clear we’re a species confident about the control and order we exert over the land. Flying into L.A. gives you an opportunity to spend 45 minutes looking at the sprawl of concrete, asphalt and electrical development splayed out across the landscape. Inherently, there’s nothing wrong with this. Our brains have granted us the ability to thrive more than survive. So it’s easy to forget that we are still at the mercy of anything. Technological innovation has brought us Google Maps, a software program that allows developers to create real-time mash-ups showing the progress and scope of these wildfires in excruciating detail. But we’re still at the mercy of an arid, desert environment that’s only produced three inches of rain in the last year. We’re at the mercy of nature as it surrounds our homes. When fires start to burn in this environment, no matter our technical expertise or understanding of the environmental condition, fire department chiefs still say things like “these wildfires aren’t going to let up until they reach the ocean or the wind shifts.” We’re totally powerless.

Modern mankind spends more time developing and enhancing conveniences than trying to just “survive,” so it’s easy to forget that our dwellings are actually shelter against the harsh world around us. Recent news about the bottoming-out sub-prime mortgage market frames the issue nicely: Real estate has become a convertible asset, a piece of financial data subject to the whims of securities market. But to what extent do we actually own that land? Out lives are but a blip compared to the relentless stretch of the natural world. Which, in my eyes, makes us stewards of the particular plot we inhabit. I say that as a cold, hard piece of

analysis rather than a dippy “save the earth” statement. We just happen to have the acumen to quantify the value of our property and readily take advantage of that value if the needle happens to point up or down.

Our relationship to climate change or global warming is no different. We tend to view our actions with respect to the environment as benevolent or harmful. People who act green and take steps to think about the climate are helping (that means you, Nobel Al Gore); those who could care less are ignorant of the damage they reap. But is it really “us versus the environment”? Are

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THAN A DIPPY “SAVE THE
EARTH” STATEMENT.**

we really on the same plane as equals? We seem to think that we have a choice to decimate the world around us, or not; as if we or the environment will survive. But it’s really “us versus us” since the primary beneficiaries of a sustainable environment are members of the same race that can read this column. Mother nature and the greater reality outside of our human affairs will march on for eons, recovering, expanding and existing on its own regardless of what happens to us.

No law posits that existence is supposed to be easy. For many millennia it was not. And while this abstract analysis isn’t going to help the defenseless citizens in our midst displaced by this natural disaster, events like this give us some perspective and put us in our place. At this very moment, The 5 Freeway between San Diego and Los Angeles is closed because of the fires. That’s a good reminder that we are at the mercy of the world around us, not the other way around. We live in a dangerous place, and at our roots, we are still just trying to survive.

Read more commentary and **SETH BARNES’** blog at www.barnesburning.com. He can be reached at seth@barnesburning.com.

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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Some just aren't suited for e-mail

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF PEOPLE — consistently eloquent, meaningful, productive e-mailers ... and everyone else.

I consider myself to be a card-carrying member of the former group. For better or worse, I married an honorary ambassador of the latter.

My husband and I met at a debate, although it was through e-mail that our relationship initially flourished. Before our first date, we exchanged numerous online messages; however, our plans were ultimately postponed because of an injury I suffered minutes before he arrived to pick me up. Later that same day, he e-mailed several alternative accident scenarios (e.g. "Ivana Trump did this to me as we wrestled for the last python handbag in Prada") so I wouldn't embarrass myself explaining to people that my arm was in a sling because I actually hurt it slipping on a linoleum floor.

As our romantic attachment grew, so did the frequency of our electronic correspondences. Sometimes I found loving notes online when I powered up my computer in the morning. We often stole moments during our workdays to swap one-liners through cyberspace. Web site links were passed back and forth. "Just-to-say" messages turned up abundantly on both our computer screens.

And then as we became even closer, the e-mails started tapering. It didn't happen all of a sudden; his name just appeared more sporadically in my inbox. Some messages I transmitted went unanswered for hours, if not entirely. On occasion, replies to my what-do-you-want-to-do (for dinner) (this weekend) (after work) e-mails never materialized. Oftentimes, he didn't click the links I sent him to articles I thought he'd enjoy. The sweet-nothing messages I wrote increasingly went unacknowledged.

But his feelings for me didn't wane. On the contrary, as the cement on our bond dried, he simply pressed play on his life routine that had been all but paused in the first several months of our courtship. Which meant he no longer had abundant time during each day to play cyberspace footsie with me. That was the point at which I realized we're members of opposite tribes.

I and people like me instantly reply to e-mails and expect the same in return. His clan finds no fault with making a phone call in place of an e-mail response. Members of the

club to which I belong always properly inform messaging partners in advance of terminating a back-and-forth. His people tend to abruptly abort exchanges without advance notification (oftentimes leaving people on the other ends of the terminals sitting and waiting minutes or hours for answers).

When posed with a question, my ilk will wait a day to respond only after informing the asker that the response merits a 24-hour waiting period, whereas his people leave questions unanswered for indefinite periods with zero explanation. My kind creates folders in our inboxes to save memorable e-mails, which we then include in our wedding scrapbooks. His class deletes each message before they reach the period of the last sentence. We would never respond to a tender e-mail with anything other than the same sentiment in return. They've been known to say, "Me, too" in lieu of "I love you."

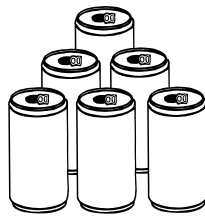
To be fair, though, my husband lacks a great affection for most things electronic. He got his first cell phone only just more than a year ago (and proudly tells anyone who asks that his particular model was wildly popular in 1999). He prefers analog anything to digital everything. He doesn't understand the art of blind copying someone on an e-mail and has been known to accidentally hit "reply all" at inappropriate times.

To be ultra-fair, he might not e-mail as often as he did when we were first met, but he still calls me no less than six times daily. And while most people who are guilty of letting e-mails fall to the wayside once the relationship has been soundly established probably also send flowers at the beginning and then never again. However, I am still the blushing recipient of fresh flowers several times a year.

So while his electronic communication may be inconsistent and at times slipshod, I'll take him, his (practically) rotary-dial cell phone and the affectionate messages he leaves on my voicemail over another e-mail geek from my breed any day. Besides, we only have one computer at home, and if we had to fight over who gets more time on it, he'd lose in a heartbeat.

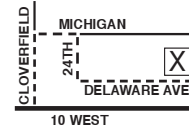
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The Q-Line

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Is the Westside entertaining?

Most Westsiders are often forced make the trek to Hollywood or other points east to find their entertainment because this side of town isn't really known for being the center of all things hip.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Is the Westside entertainment scene a bummer or just a giant in a slumber? Please elaborate on your answers.

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



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Banks pressured to lend a hand

BY ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES Countrywide Financial Corp., the nation's largest mortgage lender, said Tuesday it will begin calling borrowers to offer refinancing or modifications on \$16 billion in loans with interest rates set to adjust by the end of 2008.

But as defaults and foreclosures snowball, the mortgage industry is under increasing pressure to do even more to help financially strapped borrowers hang on to their homes.

"People are talking about it, saying it might be necessary, but there's not a lot of it going on," said Guy Cecala, publisher of Inside Mortgage Finance, an independent trade publication.

The Mortgage Bankers Association is currently surveying its members to determine how many mortgages have been modified in recent months.

Moody's Investors Service recently surveyed 16 mortgage servicers that accounted for 80 percent of the market for subprime loans made to borrowers with shaky credit histories.

It found that most of those companies had modified only about 1 percent of loans with interest rates that reset in the first half of this year.

The bankers association said the survey was flawed because it didn't include other ways that borrowers are being helped, including temporary reductions of monthly payments or spreading delinquent amounts over future payments.

So far this year, Calabasas, Calif.-based Countrywide said it has completed about 20,000 loan modifications — a figure that represents less than 5 percent of the more than 500,000 loans the lender reports were behind in payments as of last month.

The figure amounts to about 24 percent of the roughly 82,000 loans the company said were in foreclosure.

Countrywide said the statistics can be misleading.

"The number is not small when you sort down to the people who are seriously in trouble," said Steve Bailey, CEO of loan administration at Countrywide, which has

more than 40,000 borrowers and would reach out to 82,000 more to provide some kind of relief.

Countrywide shares fell 63 cents, or 4.02 percent, to \$15.05. The shares have traded in a 52-week range of \$14.40 to \$45.26.

Many lenders have only recently began ramping up their loss mitigation departments after years when the booming housing market let many borrowers who fell behind on mortgages sell their homes for more than the value of their mortgage.

Another problem has been investors balking at interest rate cuts that could eat

delinquent at the end of June, while 0.56 percent had entered foreclosure.

"We work hard to keep customers in their homes, whenever possible, when they experience financial difficulties," bank spokesman Jason Menke said in a prepared statement.

Charlotte, N.C.-based Bank of America Corp., the nation's second-largest bank, said it modified 3,200 home loans representing \$240 million during the eight months ended Aug. 30, and had just 192 homes in foreclosure as of Sept. 30.

The bank declined to break out how many mortgages made up its loan servicing portfolio, valued at \$377 billion at the end of September.

"We believe we're already doing an excellent job helping our borrowers avoid foreclosure," spokesman Terry H. Francisco said in a statement.

Despite industry efforts, relief remains out of reach for many borrowers such as Carlos Ortiz, who says he's on the verge of losing the four-bedroom home he bought for \$580,000 in suburban Rancho Cucamonga, east of Los Angeles.

Like other buyers at the height of the housing boom, he got a loan that kept his monthly payments low for two years and counted on being able to refinance before the rate adjusted sharply higher.

When he didn't qualify for a new loan, he tried to get his mortgage servicer to restructure his existing one.

"I told them I cannot afford it, you have to help me to refinance or modify my loan," Ortiz said. "They don't want to work with me."

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT IT, SAYING IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY, BUT THERE'S NOT A LOT OF IT GOING ON."

Guy Cecala, publisher of Inside Mortgage Finance, an independent trade publication

8.9 million loans valued at \$1.45 trillion,

On Tuesday, the company said it would discuss possible loan changes with borrowers who are current on loans but face pending interest rate resets. The lender said it intends to refinance about \$10 billion in loans and modify another \$4 billion.

It also plans to contact holders of loans totaling some \$2.2 billion who are late on their loans and struggling because of recent rate resets.

Countrywide said it has already helped

into their profits.

Earlier this year, Seattle-based Washington Mutual Inc., with a mortgage servicing portfolio valued at \$713.3 billion, said it would refinance up to \$2 billion in subprime loans to discounted fixed-rate loans for borrowers who are current on payments.

Wells Fargo & Co., with a mortgage servicing portfolio of \$1.41 trillion at the end of June, declined to say how many home loans it has modified.

The San Francisco-based bank reported that less than 4.5 percent of its loans were

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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

County prosecutors given the OK to organize

Deputy district attorneys in Los Angeles got the OK to vote on unionizing.

The Los Angeles County Employee Relations Commission voted 3-0 to allow prosecutors to decide on union representation. Commission approval is required to be recognized by the county as a bargaining unit.

Los Angeles is the only large county in California whose deputy district attorneys have no collective bargaining unit.

Association of Deputy District Attorneys president Steve Ipsen says Los Angeles prosecutor pay lags behind other urban counties in the state. Los Angeles prosecutors start at \$56,000 a year, compared to \$91,000 annually in San Francisco.

A majority of prosecutors must vote in favor of unionizing within 60 days.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Cafeteria worker gets 30 months for identity theft

A Hawthorne woman who stole the identities of dead people in a scheme to cheat the government out of \$1.1 million is going to prison.

Uzeegoa Makeba Sayles was sentenced Monday to 30 months in federal prison and was ordered to pay more than \$600,000 in restitution.

Federal prosecutors say the 39-year-old school cafeteria worker admitted filing 204 false income tax returns from 2001 to 2006. She was charged with filing only one false tax refund claim under a plea deal.

Sayles told investigators she lifted Social Security numbers from online databases, filed bogus refund claims and instructed the Internal Revenue Service to deposit refunds at one of 19 bank accounts she had opened.

AP

SANTA CRUZ

City fights crop dusting meant to kill moth

The Santa Cruz City Council decided to fight state plans to spray a chemical over the city to tame a crop-destroying moth.

The voted Tuesday to hire an environmental lawyer to challenge the state, saying officials failed to conduct an environmental review on the impact the pesticide will have on people and the environment.

Santa Cruz County supervisors also voted to condemn the state's plan to spray in urban settings until a full environmental assessment was completed. But the county won't take legal action.

The state filed an exemption from an environmental review on the basis that the moth, if not stopped, could cause significant agricultural damage.

AP

CARPINTERIA

Meth found in kid's sippy cup, dad arrested

Sheriff's detectives investigating a suspected Carpinteria drug dealer found methamphetamine inside his toddler's sippy cup.

Israel Lara Gutierrez is in jail with bail set at \$100,000.

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department detectives went to the 29-year-old man's home and allegedly found cocaine and methamphetamine in various locations, all accessible to his three children.

Sergeant Erik Raney says "a Baggie of suspected methamphetamine was hidden inside of a child's sippy cup found on the floor."

Detectives seized nearly 10 grams of cocaine and 16 grams of methamphetamine as well as cash, scales, packaging material and other drug related items.

AP

O.J. facing additional charges

BY KEN RITTER

Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS Lawyers for O.J. Simpson and three co-defendants were due before a judge Wednesday on an amended criminal complaint increasing to 12 the number of charges against them in the alleged armed robbery of two sports memorabilia dealers.

Simpson faces a second coercion charge, and each of his three remaining co-defendants faces two new coercion charges in the revised document, which removes Walter Alexander and Charles Cashmore from the case following their guilty pleas on Tuesday to reduced charges.

Alexander and Cashmore have agreed to testify against the aging football star and co-defendants Charles "C.J." Stewart, Michael McClinton and Charles Ehrlich, who were not due to appear in person for the status check before Las Vegas Justice of the Peace Joe M. Bonaventure, lawyers and court officials said.

Each remaining defendant is due to appear before Bonaventure for a preliminary hearing Nov. 8-9 on 11 felonies — including

kidnapping, armed robbery, assault with a deadly weapon, conspiracy and coercion — and one gross misdemeanor, conspiracy to commit a crime.

The revised complaint, obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press, alleges Simpson and Stewart conspired to persuade others to tell authorities that no guns were used in the Sept. 13 confrontation with memorabilia dealers Bruce Fromong and Alfred Beardsley.

It names Thomas Riccio, who is not charged in the case, and describes the role the California collectibles broker played in arranging the meeting at the Palace Station casino hotel between Simpson, Fromong and Beardsley.

Riccio's lawyer, Ryan Okabe of Redondo Beach, Calif., said Clark County District Attorney David Roger long ago promised Riccio immunity from prosecution.

"Mr. Riccio has been telling the same thing from the beginning," Okabe said. "He was asked to arrange the meeting. He never knew guns or anything like that was going to be involved. He never once changed his story."

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Nerds finding out smart is new sexy

BY KAREN HAWKINS
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO The nerds of the world have finally met their match: each other.

Thanks to nerd-themed dating Web sites, museum parties, steamily intellectual lectures, meetups at comic book conventions and yes, even a matchmaking company called Nerds at Heart, self-identified nerds are finding that smart is the new sexy.

Carrie Dahlby, 29, of Chicago sought out Nerds at Heart after becoming disappointed with the more conventional ways of connecting.

"As a shy teetotaler who attends 10-20 science-fiction fandom conventions per year, I knew I needed a place other than a regular bar or club to meet people," she said.

WE THINK WE'RE ON A NERDY MISSION. OUR JOB IS TO MAKE THE UNCOOL COOL."

Bathsheba Birman
Nerds at Heart user

The one person she met online and dated wasn't a good match, and the results were equally fruitless on a singles phone line.

She struck gold at the first Nerds at Heart event she attended, meeting boyfriend Josh Rasey. Organizers pride themselves on providing a casual, low-pressure atmosphere for nerdy mingling, complete with board games, trivia, and giveaways of items such as Princess Leia Pez dispensers.

Dating and relationship experts say the nerd dating trend makes sense.

"People are looking for fresh social spaces," said Cary Tennis, relationship/advice columnist for Salon.com. "There's too much heaviness in the traditional candlelit dinner, walk on the river. All those things are too heavily freighted ... with gender expectations and cliché."

Held at a bar on the North Side of Chicago, Nerds at Heart events cost \$20-\$25 and include one free drink. Bathsheba Birman said she and business partner Julia Borcherts founded the company as an alternative to traditional singles events.

"The bar scene is very meat market" with no opportunities for real interaction, she said. "You're making snap judgments. I call it the '30-second' once-over."

The nerds who attend their events are looking for something deeper, someone with whom they can hold a conversation and who shares the same interests, she said.

And they aren't just for heteronerds; there's also a monthly "Queer Nerds" event.

Steve Hickson, 41, discovered Nerds at Heart and its trove of smart — and cute — guys after years of being single and refusing to post a profile online.

"I'm probably the only gay man I know who's never done the online thing," he said. "It just seems like so much work."

But playing Clue with a bunch of eligible bachelors was fun, and he said for once he didn't feel like he had to dumb things down.

At "Live from the New York Public Library," dumbering down isn't really an option. Not when guests such as author Christopher Hitchens and the Rev. Al

Sharpton are debating heady topics such as "God is Not Great."

The library's event featuring Norman Mailer sold out its 800 tickets in just under four minutes. While Paul Holdengraber, the library's director of public programs, said he didn't set out to attract Manhattan's young, single intellectuals, he isn't surprised they're turning up.

"I really think that thinking is exciting," he said. "I think it's really quite marvelous when you hear something that has the power of transforming yourself."

And the library provides the ultimate balance of a low-key environment with intellectual stimulation.

"There are very few ... places where you can meet people that isn't a dating setting per se," he said. "Libraries are quite neutral spaces, though highly charged."

Angelique Power, marketing director for Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art, echoed those sentiments in explaining why her First Friday events have become so popular with singles.

"People are longing to interact with other humans and not to do it in bars ... to do it in other environments," she said.

With a DJ, martinis and free Wolfgang Puck appetizers, the First Fridays parties draw about 1,800 people each month, though Power notes that not all of them are young or single.

Tennis said the explanation for the event's popularity is simple.

"Art is sexy," he said. "When I go to an art museum, women look, like, 20 percent better."

Many of the event organizers noted that the solitary nature of modern life — with its cubicles, takeout dinners and the ability to create second "lives" online — has left people hungry for real connections. Hickson, of Chicago, said that's one reason he's resisted online dating.

"I'm a romantic enough to want to meet someone and feel that electric spark in person," he said.

These nerdy/intellectual events all also carry less expectation than traditional dating scenes, organizers said. If people attending meet someone they want to date, great, but if not, at least they've gotten to beat someone at Scattergories, hear a great lecture or see some powerful modern art.

And as nerds become hipper by pop culture standards — think Ira Glass on Showtime — the stigma around identifying as a nerd lifts.

Managers of nerdpassions.com, TrekPassions.com and GamingPassions.com report that the sites' memberships have doubled year to year. And participants couldn't wait for a singles event at the recent Comic-Con in San Diego, said organizer Jason Essex, 37.

Back in Chicago, Nerds at Heart recently invited all nerds — gay, straight and coupled — to its first anniversary party.

Dahlby planned to go back to thank the group for bringing she and her boyfriend together. It's the kind of story that Birman and her co-founder live for. "We think we're on a nerdy mission," she said. "Our job is to make the uncool cool."

ON THE NET

■ **Nerds at Heart**

www.nerdsatheart.com

■ **"Live from the New York Public Library"**

www.nypl.org/live

■ **NerdPassions**

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BY ERIC RISBERG

Associated Press Writer

Early birds make the finest wines



Eric Risberg / AP photo

BEAT THE HEAT: Picking grapes is best done before the sun comes out.

NAPA Harvest on the vineyards begins hours before dawn, with bright lights moving slowly between rows of grapes.

The motor of a tractor hums. Workers yell. Freshly-picked grapes get tossed into bins. After the grapes are brought in they are sorted, then crushed, before fermentation begins.

Long before a bottle of wine is bottled and corked, dozens of pairs of hands work to bring it to fruition, with the emphasis on harvesting the grapes at exactly the right time, under the right conditions, within a very narrow timeframe.

In the Napa Valley, it begins in August with the picking of grapes for sparkling wine. With afternoon temperatures often topping 100 degrees, vineyard workers begin their day in the middle of the night.

“They start at 4 in the morning (and) go until 11 or 12. They love it because it is nice and cool,” says Doug Shafer, president of Shafer Vineyards in Napa. “We’ve got all day to process it. It’s a nice way to start the vintage.”

By November, when the mountain fruit is picked to make robust red wines, the days are much shorter and the leaves have turned red. The work takes on added urgency with the onset late autumn rains that can ruin an otherwise promising vintage.



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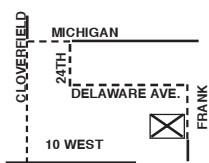
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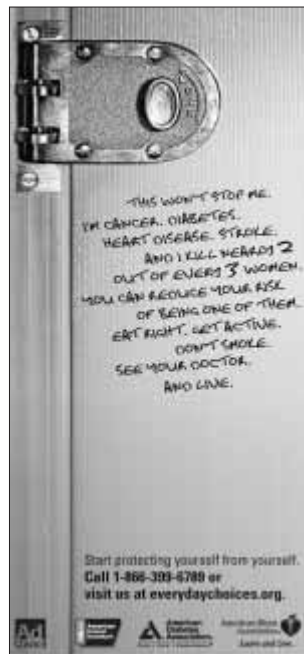
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Temporary injunction withdrawn

FROM TIMBER PAGE 3

Wilshire Boulevard. Each vacated ficus tree plot was to be replaced with a pair of ginkgo biloba trees.

The project is being funded by eight different sources, including approximately \$800,000 from city coffers and another \$2.5 million from the Redevelopment Agency, Antich said.

"We're keeping (Caltrans) informed, but we've asked them what it does to the funding," Antich said Wednesday.

If the trees are ultimately landmarked, extra costs could be tacked on to the project because the architect would have to redesign the sidewalk element, Antich added. In the current plan, the street lighting is based on the spacing of the new ginkgo biloba trees. Antich is waiting to hear back from the architect on the pricing for a possible new design.

The possible losses in funding has been a concern, said Mayor Richard Bloom.

"The delay hasn't resulted in any out-of-pocket losses to the city," he said. "As things continue to be delayed, that could change, and that ends up costing residents of Santa Monica money. That's not a good thing."

Meanwhile, construction work has already begun for other portions of the project, including saw cutting and preparations to demolish the sidewalk. Crews have also begun installing conduits for the new street lights, said Bob Petri, the manager for PBS&J, which is co-managing the construction project with Civil Source. Work has been confined to Second Street, from Santa Monica Boulevard to Colorado Avenue, and will be done in phases.

"We just had to rearrange our path of work that we're doing," Petri said. "We've just substituted different things in place of what we (originally) needed to do."

THE FIGHT CONTINUES

The Treesavers held another peace rally on Tuesday, this time in front of City Hall in anticipation of the City Council meeting that night.

"I think the trees are beneficial in so many ways," said Sal Greenberger, a Santa Monica resident who joined the fight three weeks ago. "There's no reason constituting cutting down these trees or moving them."

The rally, which was held in the midst of a fast by some of the environmental activists, included a moment of silence for the victims of the Malibu Canyon fire and a musical performance.

The Treesavers seemed cautiously optimistic that their cause would prevail. Some said they believe the City Councilmembers are seeing the light.

"City Council is really beginning to recognize that people feel strongly about this," said Dan Jansenson, an architect on Fourth Street. "I'm hopeful City Council will come around."

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TRIPLE LOTS: Parking lot attendant Ernesto Robles seemingly glides across the city owned lot at the southwest corner of Fifth Street and Arizona Avenue in downtown Santa Monica. The expanse will be remade into a public ice rink that will be open to the public from Nov. 16 through Jan. 7.

Cold feet

FROM NICE ICE PAGE 3

to take her kids to the ice skating rink on their birthdays.

"It was a shock when they took it away," Larkin said. "It was unique to Santa Monica at the time."

Ice Capades, a division of Metromedia, purchased the property in 1968. Back then, it had been a bowling alley.

For 15 years, the Santa Monica Ice Capades Chalet was used by professional and leisure ice skaters alike. Toward the end of its tenure, however, the rink's use began to dwindle.

"We bought the property in 1985. It had been an empty ice skating rink," said Michael Segal, president of the Fred Segal clothing boutique. "I used to skate there and play hockey."

A common misconception is that Fred Segal closed the Santa Monica ice skating rink, said Michael Segal.

Ruth Yannatta Goldway, a former mayor of Santa Monica, said in a Sept. 5, 1982, Los Angeles Times interview that Metromedia wanted to sell the ice skating rink to a developer who would build a six-story building on the property.

With nostalgia edging deep this winter, skaters of all skill levels will be welcome to take to the Santa Monica ice anew.

"We talked about it five years ago," said Kathleen Rawson, executive director of Bayside. "The problem was finding a place to put it."

WE BOUGHT THE PROPERTY IN 1985. IT HAD BEEN AN EMPTY ICE SKATING RINK. I USED TO SKATE THERE AND PLAY HOCKEY."

Michael Segal
president of Fred Segal clothing boutique

Babilonia and Gardner will host the grand opening of the ice skating rink on Nov. 21.

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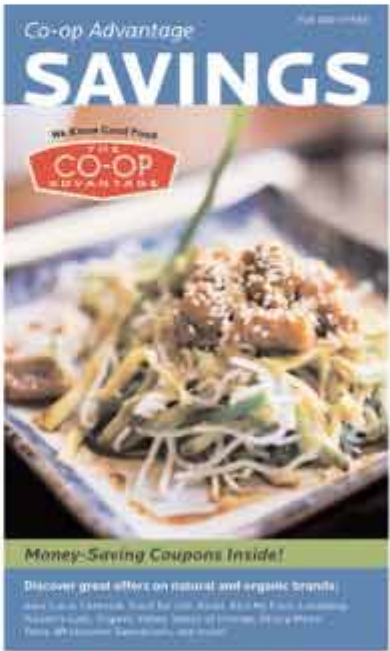


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Family friends turned enemies

FROM TENANT TIFF PAGE 1

William Richert accuses Later of leaving the fire going as high as “16 feet tall,” fully knowing that Richert has a fear of flames since his Malibu house burned down in the 1970s.

“We will not be driven out,” William Richert told Pro Tem Judge Frank Ariel, who was presiding in place of the absent judge.

The timeline of events continues, listing similar fiery episodes, incidents of when Later would allegedly leave some dead salmon on the Richerts’ front yard and would repeatedly call the police with fake claims. A narcotics officer once came knocking on the Richerts’ door on a report that the couple sold drugs from their bicycles, Gretchen Richert said.

The couple, which unsuccessfully applied for a restraining order against Later a few months ago, also accused Later of trying to run Gretchen Richert off the road during the summer. Both husband and wife were riding their bikes on Georgina Avenue when a truck nearly hit Gretchen, allegedly missing her by three inches. Gretchen believes that Later was driving the truck, but never filed a criminal complaint.

Later disputed all the claims, adding that he has not opened any of the correspondence he has received from the couple since they ended their friendship in 2005.

“They are loud and abusive,” Later said.

The un-neighborly feud has been documented in a nine-minute video created by William Richert, an actor and director. The video, which includes footage of the fires and is narrated by Richert, was posted on YouTube three months ago and had garnered 174 views and five comments as of Wednesday afternoon. Entitled “Santa Monica candidate versus tenants,” the video shows a distressed Gretchen Richert pleading with the Santa Monica Police Department to take action against Later, and later attempting to file a

restraining order at the Santa Monica Courthouse, where video cameras are not allowed.

The long-time Santa Monican is countersuing the Richerts for defamation, accusing the couple of harming his reputation by spreading “false claims” to the City Council, acquaintances and local newspapers.

I CAN'T BELIEVE ONE IS TELLING THE TRUTH AND THE OTHER ISN'T."

Cleone Eichholz, mother of plaintiff

JUDGING JOCULARITY

Some people watching the trial unfold Wednesday occasionally chuckled as the two parties made their cases against one another, laughing a little harder when the judge would take a comical shot at the case.

“Isn’t that against the law?” Judge Ariel asked, in reference to the dead fish. “(Isn’t it) cruelty to dead fish?”

Gretchen Richert and Later’s relationship dates back to when they were both children. The former registered nurse once played with Later’s younger sister and their two mothers remain good friends.

In fact, among those watching in the nearly empty courtroom were the matriarchs for the two families — Evelyn Later, who came as a witness, and Cleone Eichholz.

Eichholz seemed flabbergasted at the trial, which she called frivolous on Wednesday afternoon.

“I’ve known both of those kids ever since they were born

and I can’t believe one is telling the truth and the other isn’t telling the truth and I don’t know which is which,” Eichholz said. “Knowing both their personalities, I just can’t believe it.”

At the conclusion of the trial, to ensure the safety of both parties, the Richerts and Later were escorted by LA County Sheriff’s officers through two different exits. A decision isn’t expected until next week.

NEIGHBORS AT A LOSS

The feud has left some Mid-City neighbors puzzled.

“Things have gotten blown out of proportion, based on what I do know,” said J.T. Katzman, who has lived in the building for more than two years. “Terence likes to barbecue and they think it’s dangerous. I don’t know what they are talking about.”

Paulette Ferris, who has lived in the building for 22 years, was in the courthouse on Wednesday. Ferris disputed a claim made by the Richerts in court that the frequent outside barbecues were the cause of her cancer.

“I try to stay out of any politics in the building,” Ferris said. “I think it has to do with the estate — the mom cutting Gretchen out of the will.”

Former tenant Steve Gentry, who moved out of the building a year and a half ago after living there for seven years, is siding with the Richerts. Gentry, who no longer lives in Santa Monica, remembers the incidents when police officers were called to the apartment building. Gentry recalls several of his own strange encounters, including seeing Later standing outside of his own apartment for no reason.

“He has done several things that have been very out of the ordinary,” he said.

melodyh@smdp.com



MOTIVATING FACTOR

Kerri Eich, head coach of the Santa Monica College women's volleyball team, lets her team hear it Tuesday at the Pavilion on the campus of SMC. The Corsairs hosted Bakersfield College, falling in three games in the conference match.

Morgan Genser news@smdp.com



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SURF REPORT



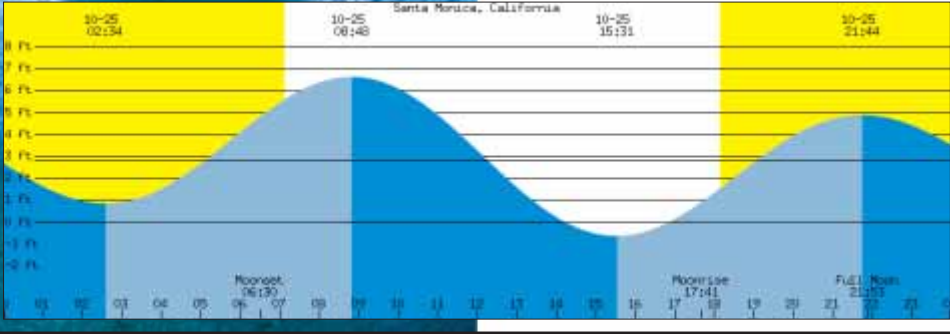
SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 60°

SWELL FORECAST (3-5 FT)
Today the SW drops off to around waist to chest. Some NW wind swell is expected to form off the coast, but so far, this is looking to be similarly sized (waist to chest). Winds should be lightly offshore in the AM, and then lightly onshore in the afternoon. The tide though will be swinging wildly from a near 7-foot high mid morning to a negative low mid afternoon.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
LIGHT SW MONDAY...
TRACKING SW FOR 31ST-1ST...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of

October 17, 2007

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

QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 4

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

Number of wet days -- 10

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 41 / 29

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 4 / 13

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from



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

LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth (leocarrillo)	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	B
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	B	F
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	A
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	C	A
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	A+	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	F	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	B
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	C
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A+	A	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	A
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A+	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	D	A+	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	A+	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	F
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	A+	A+	Venice Beach- projection of Topsis St.	A+	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	B	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	B	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	B	F	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	F
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A+	A	Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	B
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	A+			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	D	A+			

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A -- F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken



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

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NFL

Chargers in limbo because of fires

BY BERNIE WILSON
AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO The San Diego Chargers don't know where or when they'll play their next game.

While they spent Monday taking care of their families and trying to find out if their homes survived the wildfires sweeping Southern California, the Chargers were busy Tuesday preparing to fly to Phoenix to practice at the Arizona Cardinals' suburban headquarters.

That means three days of hotels and bus rides and an unfamiliar workplace while wondering what's going on back home.

"How we handle that will have an impact on how it turns out on Sunday," quarterback Philip Rivers said.

It's a drill familiar to some Chargers.

Four years ago to the week, the Chargers were forced to move a Monday night game to Tempe, Ariz., on short notice because of deadly wildfires.

The Chargers are scheduled to host the Houston Texans on Sunday afternoon at Qualcomm Stadium. But, as it was four years ago, the stadium is being used as an evacuation center. On Tuesday morning, there were about 10,000 evacuees at Qualcomm, and smoke hovered over the stadium in early afternoon.

Qualcomm is in Mission Valley, northeast

NCAA

USC plays the underdog

BY JOHN NADEL | AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES When Southern California loses, it's usually an upset. That won't be the case should the Trojans stumble this weekend.

For the first time since Nov. 17, 2001, the ninth-ranked Trojans will be underdogs in a Pac-10 game when they face No. 5 Oregon on Saturday. It will be the first matchup between top-10 teams in the 41-year history of Autzen Stadium.

"That means absolutely nothing to me," USC Coach Pete Carroll said Tuesday at his weekly meeting with reporters. "I never bring it up. If you guys didn't bring it up, I'd never know."

Perhaps not, but his players are aware of the odds.

"I heard that today," quarterback John David Booty said with a smile after practice Monday. "It really doesn't make any difference to us. You've got to go out and play the game."

The Ducks were listed Tuesday as 3-point favorites.

"We like it," cornerback Terrell Thomas said. "The rest of the season is all about respect for us. We're still SC football. We're after respect, we've got to get that back. When you lose a game like we did, that's what happens."

Thomas referred to USC's surprising 24-23 loss to Stanford on Oct. 6, when the Trojans were favored by 41 points. That snapped the Trojans' 35-game home winning streak.

Oregon's loss was also at home, but not nearly as big a surprise — the Ducks were beaten 31-24 by California on Sept. 29.

The Trojans and Ducks both bring 3-1 Pac-10 records and 6-1 overall marks into the game. Oregon is doing it with an offense that ranks second nationally in yards (550.9 per game) and scoring (46.6 points), while

of downtown and out of harm's way. The league, which is holding owners meetings in Philadelphia, is debating what to do. In 2003, the NFL was sensitive to the fact that the stadium served as an evacuation center.

The Cardinals have a bye Sunday, and their stadium, located in Glendale, is scheduled to host a motorcycle show Friday through Sunday afternoon.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell has been meeting with Chargers president Dean Spanos and others. Goodell said the options include playing the game in Los Angeles, at Arizona State's Sun Devil Stadium — the Cardinals' former home — at Texas Stadium in Dallas or Reliant Stadium, the Texans' home field.

The precedent for playing at Reliant Stadium would be the New Orleans Saints playing a "home" game against the New York Giants at the Meadowlands after Hurricane Katrina. That move was later criticized.

"They'll figure out a time for us to play the football game," Houston coach Gary Kubiak said. "You're concerned for those people in California in those fires. I've been through that in Denver and that's a horrible thing, so you just keep them in your prayers and we'll figure out what to do with the football game."

Rivers and reigning NFL MVP LaDainian Tomlinson were among the 40 players, coaches and staff members who were forced out of their homes by fires that started on Sunday.

USC is third in total defense (252.1 yards) and 10th in scoring defense (16.6 points).

USC entered this season having won or shared five straight Pac-10 championships, going 37-4 against conference opponents. UCLA was a 3-point favorite over the Trojans in the final regular-season game in 2001, according to Las Vegas Sports Consultants, but lost to their crosstown rivals 27-0.

THE REST OF THE SEASON IS ALL ABOUT RESPECT FOR US. WE'RE STILL SC FOOTBALL."

Terrell Thomas, USC cornerback

The Trojans went off as 2 1/2-point underdogs to Michigan in the Rose Bowl game last winter, and won 32-18.

"They deserve to be an underdog going up to Oregon," Jay Kornegay, director of the sports book at the Las Vegas Hilton, said of the Trojans. "Bettors have short-term memories. They only remember what just happened. You look at USC's last four games — you've got to throw out the Notre Dame game — they struggled against those other three teams."

"The way they've played, most of the bettors will probably come in on Oregon. On the other hand, I wouldn't be surprised if some of the bigger bettors came in on USC."

✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

Drafted Dave Matthews Band will play ‘rallies’ for Army following students blitz contest

THE DAVE MATTHEWS BAND will play for Army football next month – at two free shows.

The U.S. Military Academy beat out Air Force, Navy and more than 100 other colleges

BON JOVI TO ROCK NEWARK

The music of **BON JOVI** battled with the din of saws and drills in the Prudential Center as the New Jersey rockers prepared for 10 shows at the downtown Newark facility.

Bon Jovi is the first act to perform at the new arena, starting Thursday. According to media reports, the band praised the facility, even as last-minute construction was being finished Tuesday.

Jon Bon Jovi, the band’s frontman, said the shows will hopefully help invigorate Newark’s economy.

Due to the large number of shows, Bon Jovi has been practicing many songs they haven’t performed in years.

AP

that participated in the World’s Loudest Pep Rally contest to win a visit from the rock star. Matthews will play for cadets Nov. 14 and 15.

“Congratulations! We’ll see you in November,”

Matthews, 40, said in a videotape that was to be shown to cadets at West Point’s mess hall Wednesday.

Cadets at the storied Hudson Valley academy won the contest by sub-

mitting invitations by text messages or postings at attblueroom.com. AT&T sponsored the contest.

Cadets showed off their hip-hop moves in one posted video, while others

made direct pleas to Matthews, such as “West Point NEEDS someone to ROCK our stonewalled campus.”

Army’s Black Knights are 3-5 this season.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Kicking Olympics off

JACKIE CHAN has flexed his vocal muscles for the Olympics.

The 53-year-old actor, best known for his daredevil stunts, has recorded “We Are Ready,” the official countdown song to the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics.

He spent three hours recording the song during a recent trip to Beijing, Chan said in a blog entry on his Web site Wednesday.

Chan, star of the “Rush Hour”

movies, dabbles in music and has released several albums.

He praised the lyrics of the Mandarin Chinese song composed by Peter Kam, who won a Silver Bear award for best film music at the Berlin Film Festival last year.

“Waiting year after year/ We can see into the future/ Together with hard work and sweat, we’ve created the five different (Olympic) colors,” says one refrain.

AP

Wes Anderson wins for being lonely

WES ANDERSON will be awarded the Stockholm film festival’s Visionary Award for his humane and humorous portrayals of lonely people.

Anderson – director of offbeat comedies “The Royal Tenenbaums” and “The Life Aquatic With

Steve Zissou” – has created “unique and stylized universes inhabited by characters searching for something to search for,” the prize citation said.

“Through his visionary filmmaking, Anderson has given a modern face to the classic auteur,” organizers

also said Wednesday.

The award will be presented during the Nov. 15-25 Stockholm Film Festival.

Anderson, 38, grew up in Texas. He had his feature debut with the comedy “Bottle Rocket” in 1996.

“The Royal

Tenenbaums,” starring Gene Hackman, Gwyneth Paltrow and Ben Stiller, earned Anderson an Oscar nomination for best screenplay together with Owen Wilson in 2002.

Anderson’s latest film is “The Darjeeling Limited.”

AP

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

Play it easy, Sagittarius

Happy Birthday!

This year you’ll discover just how much you have to offer. Let others come forward more often and ask for what they want. You might not be in sync with their desires, but they might have great ideas. If you can find a way of working as a duo, you will be a lot happier. The unexpected, especially involving creativity, benefits you. Know that there is no way you won’t succeed if you remain optimistic and don’t push.



Born Today

Artist Pablo Picasso (1881)

Singer Helen Reddy (1941)

Composer Georges Bizet (1838)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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- ARIES (March 21-April 19)**

★★★★ You might be more pronounced and thoughtful than you have been in a while. An unexpected jolt or two might force you to regroup. You’re still in a position of strength, making dynamic decisions that work for many. Tonight: Treat yourself.
- TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**

★★★★ A partner could be instrumental in using your thoughts to empower an idea or project. Don’t hide from questions. Be willing to reveal yourself. New information from a trusted associate helps you see yet another perspective. Tonight: Nap and then decide.
- GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**

★★★★★ Use the daytime hours to complete an important project. You keep holding back hoping for different circumstances. Recognize that the present might be as good as it gets. Tonight: You might want some downtime.
- CANCER (June 21-July 22)**

★★★★ Sometimes you might wish you didn’t have to be so vital or instrumental to an idea. This role seems to be yours for now. Unexpected news is best understood by you. Tonight: Where the crowds are.
- LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**

★★★★★ You are in the position of stepping up and leading. Confusion surrounds partners and interactions. Once you are sure of yourself and events, you will make great choices. A child or new love interest piques your interest. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.
- VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**

★★★★★ As others could get involved in the twists and turns of the day, you might wonder exactly what are reasonable limits. Unexpected news could jolt you, but not in a manner that you cannot deal with. Tonight: Search for more information.

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

★★★★★ Build with a partner. There is a general sense of trusting and well-being that lies between you. As a result, you could make nearly anything happen with teamwork. Change or adapt your words for a situation. Tonight: Some special time with that special person.
- SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**

★★★★★ You might want to allow others to indulge more. Sometimes you assume you need to do everything. Change that thought, and surprise a child with a new sense of vitality and fun. Tonight: You, too, make a great kid.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**

★★★★ You will put a lot of energy into whatever is important. A project allows you to breeze through the problem without a snafu. A family member might surprise you with his or her attitude. Be open, and others will be too. Tonight: Play it easy.
- CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**

★★★★★ Your creativity emerges no matter what you approach. There could be damages if you plug your imagination into your finances. Know when to say enough and head in a new direction. Your instincts guide you. Tonight: Let your sensuality emerge.
- AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**

★★★ Slow down and consider what is basic and important to your well-being. Sometimes you could be overwhelmed by events and people. Know when to clear out. Choose your words with care, as you might not want a problem. Tonight: Mosey on home.
- PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**

★★★★ You will have a tendency to say a lot and then think about what you said. You could easily feel as if you stuck your foot in your mouth. Think before making generalizations and decisions. You will be happier. Tonight: Out and about.

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 395-4990

Check theatre for showtimes

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

Elizabeth: The Golden Age (PG-13)
4:30, 9:55
The Kingdom (R)
1:45, 7:20
Lars and the Real Girl (PG-13)
1:50, 4:35, 7:15, 10:00
Things We Lost in the Fire (R)
1:35, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50
Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married? (PG-13)
1:40, 4:20, 7:05, 9:45

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

30 Days of Night (R)
1:20, 4:00, 4:35, 6:40, 7:15, 9:15, 10:00
3:10 to Yuma (R)
1:45
The Comebacks (PG-13)
1:15, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
Elizabeth: The Golden Age (PG-13)
1:35, 4:15, 7:00, 9:35
The Game Plan (PG)
1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:45
Gone Baby Gone (R)
1:50, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40
We Own the Night (R)
1:25, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8223

Eastern Promises (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:15, 9:45
Into the Wild (R)
1:15, 4:45, 8:15

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

Darjeeling Limited, The (R)
12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:00
Lust, Caution (Se jie) (NC-17)
1:00, 4:30, 8:00
The Price of Sugar (NR)
12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50
Sleuth (R)
1:10, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10

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

Across the Universe (PG-13)
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
The Heartbreak Kid (R)
1:40, 4:50, 7:40, 10:40
Michael Clayton (R)
12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30
Rendition (R)
1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20
Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas in Disney Digital 3D (PG)
12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20

More information email news@smdp.com

Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
BRONZE

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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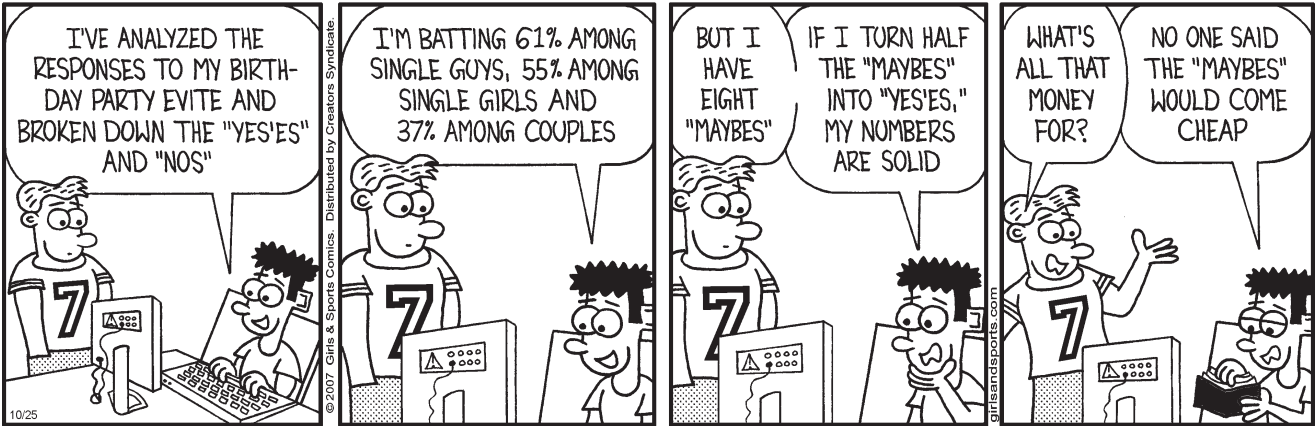
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Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



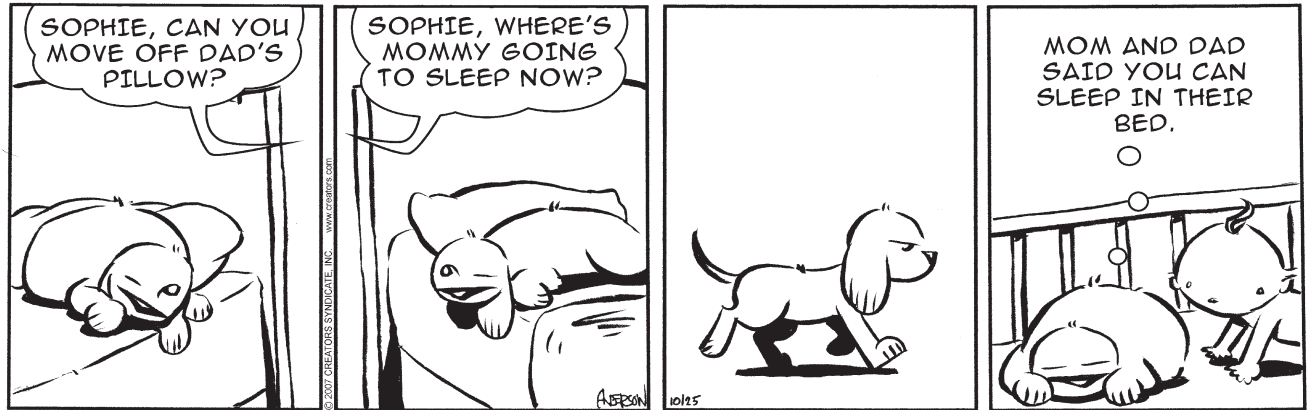
Garfield

By Jim Davis

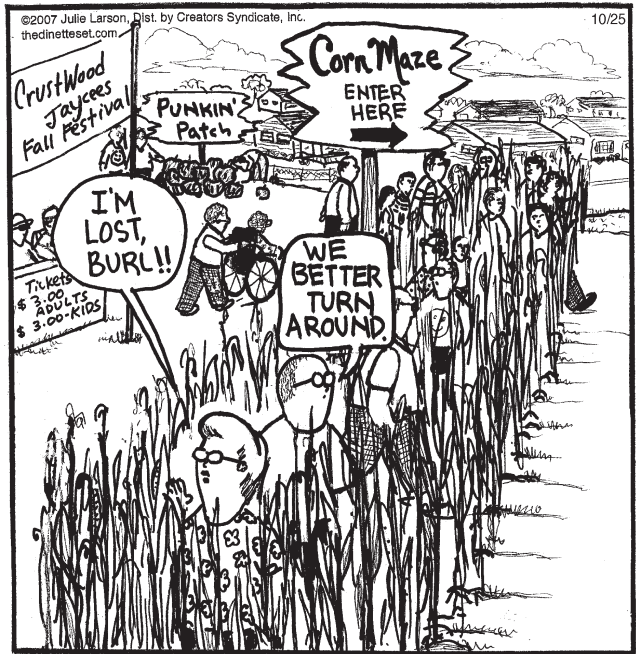


Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



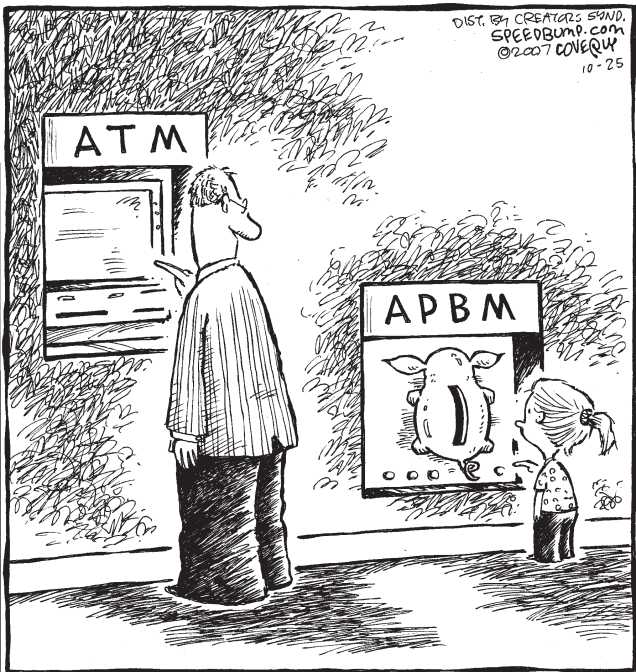
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO

Fabian Lewkowicz fabiani@smdp.com

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Persian Gulf nation
- 6 Lazy sort
- 11 Aisle walker
- 12 Ingenuous
- 13 Truck-stop sights
- 14 Terror
- 15 Menu choice
- 17 Colony member
- 19 Phoned copy
- 20 Remote
- 23 Distraught
- 25 Comic Carvey
- 26 Time for evaluation
- 28 Mosque figure
- 29 Exaggerate
- 30 "East of Eden" brother
- 31 Wk.'s end
- 32 Finger count
- 33 Chop shop buy
- 35 Settle, as a debt
- 38 Musical chord
- 41 Wow
- 42 Tickle pink
- 43 Radio dial
- 44 Parcels out

DOWN

- 1 Some NFL stars
- 2 Is for two?
- 3 Racing event
- 4 Tennis score
- 5 Soothing
- 6 Book section
- 7 Be bold
- 8 Tall tale
- 9 Zsa Zsa's sister
- 10 Blushing
- 16 Affinity
- 17 Top story
- 18 Marilyn's real name

Q	U	A	L	M			M	A	T	T
U	N	T	I	E			G	O	N	E
A	T	L	A	W			E	N	T	R
C	R	A	M			U	T	T	E	R
K	I	N		E	N	S		S	A	T
S	E	T	S	D	O	W	N			
		D	A	N	G		I	O	W	A
				L	E	T	S	D	O	W
S	A	D		D	O	E		B	E	E
T	U	R	N	O	N		M	E	S	A
A	D	I	E	U			V	I	G	O
R	I	V	E	T			I	C	O	M
T	O	E	D				M	A	N	E

Yesterday's answer

- 20 6th Amendment guarantee
- 21 Battery end
- 22 Hazardous gas
- 24 Saigon setting
- 25 Rap's Dr. —
- 27 Gave the boot
- 31 Entrance hall
- 33 Mist
- 34 Singer Guthrie
- 35 Informant
- 36 Outback bird
- 37 Bad review
- 39 Had supper
- 40 —
- Plaines

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

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13						14				
			15			16				
17	18			19				20	21	22
23			24				25			
26						27				
28					29					
30				31				32		
			33				34			
35	36	37				38			39	40
41						42				
43						44				

Comics & Stuff

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 2 7 45 52 53
Meganumber: 18
Jackpot: \$53M

Super LOTTO 8 11 18 37 46
Meganumber: 15
Jackpot: \$21M

Fantasy 5 2 3 16 23 24

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 6 7 1
EVENING: 8 4 3

DAILY DERRY 1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 09 Winning Spirit
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1:48.82

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In September, prominent California cardiologist Maurice Buchbinder had his privileges revoked at Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla after he allegedly roughed up an unruly angioplasty patient during and immediately after the procedure. Buchbinder was so irritated by the patient's combativeness that he even (according to witnesses interviewed by state medical licensing officials) delivered a pair of what could be described as "Three Stooges" moves: bopping the patient in the head with the tip of his elbow and twisting the patient's nose until it turned "bluish." **

■ The Entrepreneurial Spirit: (1) A Japanese clothing manufacturer, Kochou-fuku, announced in August a line of air-conditioned shirts, with two tiny battery-operated fans inside to evaporate perspiration (for the equivalent of about \$95). (One drawback: The shirt billows out, suggesting that the wearer is overweight.) (2) Among the recent recipients of Marin County (Calif.) Green Business certificates of environmental awareness was Pleasures of the Heart, a sex-toy and lingerie store that sells, among other items, rechargeable vibrators and erotic undergarments made of organic bamboo fabric.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1854 The "Charge of the Light Brigade" took place during the Crimean War as an English brigade of more than 600 men, facing hopeless odds, charged the Russian army and suffered heavy losses.

1400 Author Geoffrey Chaucer died in London.

1760 Britain's King George III succeeded his late grandfather, George II.

1918 The Canadian steamship Princess Sophia foundered off the coast of Alaska; some 350 people perished.

1939 The drama "The Time of Your Life," by William Saroyan, opened in New York.

1951 Peace talks aimed at ending the Korean War resumed in Panmunjom after 63 days.

1957 Mob boss Albert Anastasia, the "Lord High Executioner" of "Murder Inc.," was shot to death in a barber shop inside the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York.

1957 The movie musical "Pal Joey," starring Frank Sinatra, Rita Hayworth and Kim Novak, was released.

WORD UP!

recidivism \rih-SID-uh-viz-uhm/, *noun*: A tendency to lapse into a previous condition or pattern of behavior; especially, a falling back or relapse into prior criminal habits.

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Notices

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To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of NINA DAY BELLMAN. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by RALPH DAY, JR. AND KIRSTIE L. BELLMAN in the Supe-

Notices

rior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that RALPH DAY, JR. AND KIRSTIE L. BELLMAN be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act . (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on 11/30/07 at 9:15AM in Dept. R located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner JOHN B. JAKLE #049540 LISA ALEXANDER #122975 HARDING LARMORE MULLEN JAKLE KUTCHER & KOZAL, LLP 1250 6TH STREET #300 SANTA MONICA CA 90401 10/24, 10/25, 10/31/07 CNS-1218987# SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

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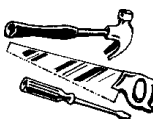
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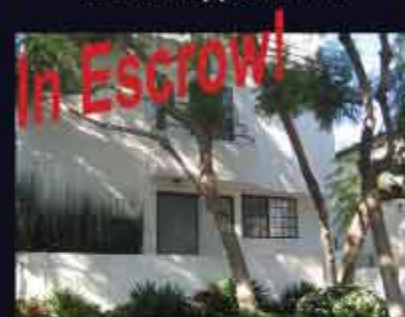
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