



Santa Monica Daily Press

'MICHAEL CLAYTON' PLEASES
SEE PAGE 20

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE DOWN, BUT NOT OUT ISSUE

Saving face

Keeping up with the
latest Halloween
trends can be a
scary proposition



Story by Kevin Herrera Page 16

Illustration by Frances Casareno production@smdp.com



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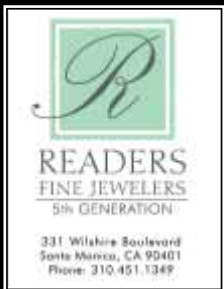
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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Calendar

2

WEEKEND EDITION, OCTOBER 27-28, 2007

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Tabloid Witch Awards

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Winners of the Tabloid Witch Awards, an online amateur horror filmmaking contest, will be screened at this all-day festival. Filmmakers (schedules pending) will be on hand for audience Q & A. All screenings are free. Auditorium seating is first come, first served in the MLK Jr. Auditorium. For more information, visit www.hollywoodinvestigator.com/2007/horrorfilm2007.

CVS flu shots

2505 Santa Monica Blvd., 10 a.m. — 2 p.m.

Cost is \$30 for cash patients, \$27 for Extra Care cardholders. For more information, call (310) 828-6456.

Scary, Goopy, Dark and Spooky

1600 Ocean Front Walk, 12:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Heal the Bay's Santa Monica Pier Aquarium offers up two days of fun just before Halloween. Make an ocean animal costume, learn about the creatures of the deep that glow in the dark, and conduct a slimy experiment in the mad scientists' laboratory. Visit www.healthebay.org/smpa or call (310) 393-6149 for all the gory details.

Spooktacular Extravaganza

Santa Monica Place Mall, noon — 4 p.m.

Pick your pumpkin and decorate it yourself while celebrating amid this fun-filled afternoon. Family-friendly Halloween activities. All activities are free for children up to 13 years old.

Richland School Halloween Carnival and Craft Fair

11562 Richland Ave., L.A., 1 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Come for Carnival Fun and a haunted house. Proceeds benefit the new school learning garden and supplemental education programs.

Edison Language Academy Fall Festival

2425 Kansas Ave., 1 p.m. — 5 p.m.

This free community-wide event features a carnival of games, arts-and-crafts, a haunted house and one of the largest Day-of-the-Dead exhibits on the Westside. Hermanos Herrera will headline on the outside musical stage. Mexican tamales and pozole, as well as homemade baked goods, will be for sale. Prices for food and games range from \$1 to \$3.

'Uncovered'

1130 Lincoln Blvd., 8 p.m.

Dance performance

Donna Sternberg & Dancers presents 'Uncovered,' a program that peels away the layers of the creative process to reveal how dances are made. The performance will explore the inspiration for several dances and demonstrate how the choreographer and dancers work together to craft a dance. With commentary by artistic director Donna Sternberg, new works as well as works from the company's repertoire will be explored and performed. For ticket sales call (310) 260-1198 or buy online at www.dsdancers.com. Prices are \$15 for General Admission; \$12 for Students, Seniors and DRC.s

Sunday, Oct. 28, 2007

Jewish Literature book discussion

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Santa Monica Public Library presents "Your Heart's Desire: Sex and Love in Jewish Literature." Local scholar Barbara Bilson will lead a discussion of A.B. Yehoshua's "The Lover."

Grrrowl-O-Ween Parade

411 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Participants will meet at the Tree Dog Bakery Store and proceed to the promenade for the parade. Prizes will be awarded for the best small, medium and large dog costume, and best ensemble. After the parade drinks, appetizers and 'yap'patizers will be available. To register, visit www.ThreeDogSantaMonica.com.

Evyn Charles stays cool

2819 Pico Blvd., 8 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Singer-guitarist Evyn Charles puts in a rare local appearance at Air Conditioned Lounge. Evyn plays music in the vein of Jack Johnson, Van Morrison and Bill Withers. \$6 cover. For more info, visit www.evyncharles.com.

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.





Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

PACKING HEAT: Members of the Santa Monica Police Department take on a team comprised of St. Monica High School faculty Friday afternoon in an exhibition basketball game during 'Red Ribbon Week.'

Police getting personal

Department to begin taking new approach

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN LIBRARY Starting Sunday, residents should notice a difference in the way police officers patrol their neighborhoods.

Under a law enforcement philosophy that is gathering momentum across the U.S., officers will be provided more time to be proactive in their patrols and interact with the community so that every resident "knows a face and a name," said

SMPD Lt. Pasquale J. Guido, an executive officer in the office of operations, which is responsible for maintaining a 24-hour-a-day patrol throughout the city.

Abandoning the Neighborhood Policing concept that was widely criticized by both residents and sworn personnel, the Santa Monica Police Department is now embracing the Community Oriented Policing model, which gives officers on the streets more responsibility and accountability, but also more time to engage the community, building stronger relationships in an effort to reduce crime and improve quality of life.

No longer will officers be assigned daily to different areas of the city, or beats.

Instead, officers will work one beat for at least six months at a time, allowing them to become familiar with their neighborhoods and the residents, business owners and employees who are there on a regular basis and are more able to inform officers of trends they see.

The beach will also have its own beat, meaning officers will be assigned there on a permanent basis providing extra security, Guido said.

Also, specialized units, such as the bike patrol on the Third Street Promenade, will be working 24 hours a day, seven days a week so that officers patrolling other beats will not

SEE SMPD PAGE 13

Seeking help for schools

Voters to see parcel tax renewal on ballot

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS Santa Monica and Malibu voters will be asked to continue their financial support for the public schools in February — a decision that could determine the job security of more than 50 teachers and extend programs that have made the district one of the top-rated in the county.

Along with determining which presidential candidates should represent the Democratic and Republican tickets on Super Tuesday, the presidential primary scheduled for Feb. 5, voters will be faced with the question of whether they collectively are willing to sustain an annual payment of more than \$10 million to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

Two of the district's largest funding sources, Measures "S" and "Y" together bring in an estimated \$10.4 million to the 2007-08 fiscal year, keeping at least 53 teachers in the classroom, maintaining a fit physical education program, nourishing the school libraries with new materials and librarians and keeping the arts alive through the elementary school music program.

Measures S and Y — both set to expire by 2011 — will be combined when it's brought before voters for renewal. If approved, the measure will take effect at the start of the new fiscal year on July 1 and supersede the existing individual funding sources.

The consolidated measure will charge property owners \$346 per parcel — the same amount they currently pay for the total of Measure S (\$225 per parcel) and Measure Y (\$121 per parcel). The renewed parcel tax combines elements of both existing measures — the senior tax exemption built into Measure S and the

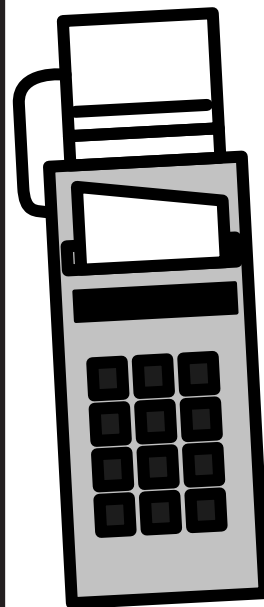
SEE TAX PAGE 11

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EDITORIAL

Where there's smoke, there's ire

As medical marijuana continues to gain widespread acceptance, it would seem logical that Santa Monica become a progressive bastion for the compassionate dispensing of the alternative medication. Less than a year ago, voters seemed to send a clear message to City Council and the Santa Monica Police Department – both of which were in clear opposition – with their overwhelming support of Measure Y.

Maybe their feelings were hurt or confidence shaken when close to two-thirds of all voters – those same voters who elected City Councilmembers – instructed the SMPD to make the prosecution of personal marijuana use its absolute lowest priority. So adamant were the voters that the measure includes a series of checks by city staffers to ensure that police adhere to voters' wants.

In a nutshell, most of the council's constituents and the PD's charges don't care if their neighbors took away in their homes.

One year later, the council and police chief are being accused of stonewalling the regulation of medicinal marijuana dispensaries within the city's borders. In this case, the use of pot isn't just for kicks by pimply-faced slackers home on a Tuesday afternoon or former mayors on Rollerblades, but rather, chronically ill patients looking to alleviate their suffering. The state's Compassionate Use Act, approved by voters in 1996, permits qualified patients and their caregivers to light up. The law was further enhanced by SB 420, which went into effect in January 2004 and created a state-approved medical marijuana ID card program.

Time and again, voters both in Santa Monica and across California have stated their wish to legalize marijuana for medical purposes. Apparently, that isn't enough for the council and Police Chief Timothy Jackman.

Nathan Hamilton, who operates a dispensary in Tarzana, has been waiting for a response from City Hall since February, contending that he has spent roughly \$40,000 for the lease to his proposed dispensary location on Main Street, which continues to sit empty as elected officials seemingly contemplate ways of keeping him from opening up shop.

This week, Mayor Richard Bloom said he had no intention of discussing the matter anytime soon, and doesn't "feel bad knowing that people have to drive a couple of miles to access this kind of business." Tell that to someone battling cancer or AIDS. Maybe Bloom would rather have someone get high and drive back home to Santa Monica.

Bloom added that dispensaries fly "in the face of the pedestrian friendly atmosphere we are seeking." It is questionable whether the "we" to whom he is referring includes his constituents, or is an exclusive club of high-ranking city officials, developers and police officers.

Jackman's alarmist concerns about allowing a dispensary range from federal raids to drug trafficking to the profitability of such businesses. He questions whether the dispensaries would resort to selling illegal drugs in the event that sales drop. Couldn't the same be asked of any business, or down-on-his-luck individual for that matter?

The police chief's concerns about a particular business' profit margin are heartwarming, but really beyond the scope of his office. A downtown dispensary – such as the one proposed by Hamilton – could be a non-profit, have security measures in place and prohibit use of the medicinal herbs on site. It would also likely be situated within minutes of the Public Safety Facility and Second Street substation.

Maybe Mayor Bloom and his fellow Councilmembers should ask the general Santa Monica populace if their "pedestrian friendly atmosphere" would be more adversely affected by a secure dispensary building with covered windows than rampant homelessness and congested streets.

They may not like the answer. But who's asking the voters anyhow?



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Owe the IRS? Not a problem

"IF YOU OWE THE IRS LOTS OF money, forget about it. We'll take care of it. We'll get them off your back. You won't have to pay all of what you owe. So, why should you pay what you really owe when our expert former IRS agents can negotiate a low settlement for you?"

The above is a paraphrase of the many commercials that I've been seeing on television lately. The premise is that through no fault of your own, you have failed to pay the taxes that you owe, and the mean and nasty IRS wants its money. There is no reason for you to despair, because there are companies who can help you negotiate a settlement with the government.

Online, you can see even more explicit ads: "Ex-IRS Agents Solve IRS Problems Up To 99% Off Tax Debt." "How To Settle With The IRS For Pennies On The Dollar." "Average Savings of 90% On Taxes"

The people behind that last ad don't stand a chance. Why would I want to save only 90 percent on my taxes, if somebody else can save me 99 percent? They're actually advertising that some people can pay only 1 percent of what they owe. Do you think the place where you bought your car would make that kind of deal? Or how about the bank that holds the mortgage on your house? Somehow, I don't think if you gave them a check for 1 percent of what you owe, they'd say, "Congratulations! The house is yours now." So why is our government doing it?

I understand that people can get in financial trouble and have difficulty paying the taxes that they owe. I also understand the IRS working out a payment plan with these people so they can pay their taxes without ruining their lives. What I don't understand is why the government negotiates "settlements." Shouldn't people have to pay 100 percent of what they owe eventually?

Why should those of us — often with some difficulty and usually with some anger or, alas, sadness — have to pay 100 percent of what we owe, but those who have failed to meet their tax obligations, get to pay less than what they owe? Again, I'm not talking about the family whose house burns down or whose breadwinner suddenly and tragically dies, leaving the family in financial chaos. I'm talking about people who just don't budget well, spend more than they earn, or simply have the attitude of, "Why should I pay taxes? What's the government done for me lately?" Why is the IRS rewarding people who are financially irresponsible?

The "forgiveness" that the government offers to some people is not necessarily a terrible concept. It's just applied to the wrong people. If you're going to give it, give it to those who went through Katrina or are victims of our current fires, or to

those who have been fighting in Iraq, not to those who just feel that paying taxes isn't a high priority for them.

Or if the government is really intent on having a "sale" in which they mark down what they're charging people, shouldn't they be offering this discount to its good and loyal customers? Give a little break to those of us who pay our taxes every year. Why not? Some stores offer discounts and special sales to their good customers. And who's the owner of the corner drugstore more likely to take a few cents off an item for — the customer who always pays on time or someone who hasn't paid for those glow-in-the-dark condoms for six months?

JUST TO BE CLEAR, IT'S THE IRS THAT I'M BLAMING. I DON'T BLAME THE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO PAY AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE. WE ALL WOULD LIKE TO PAY AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE. AND I DON'T BLAME THE COMPANIES WHO OFFER THIS SERVICE. I'M SURE THEY ARE LEGITIMATE BUSINESSES.

Just to be clear, it's the IRS that I'm blaming. I don't blame the people who want to pay as little as possible. We all would like to pay as little as possible. And I don't blame the companies who offer this service. I'm sure they are legitimate businesses.

However, I did see something surprising when I went online to check out one of these companies' Web sites. I'm no expert in advertising or marketing, but I just don't think I would've chosen the celebrity spokesperson that they picked. It's former baseball great Pete Rose. I'm not kidding. In case you're not familiar with Pete's tragic story, he spent five months in jail in 1990 for tax evasion.

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STRAY talk

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

“Why would we entertain people for eight years only to give them the finger?”

— “The Sopranos” creator, David Chase, finally explaining, after months of speculation, that the blackout at the end of the series finale wasn’t meant as a prank or a tease

“And I pretty much saw everything. The whole package.”

— Model Heidi Klum on how her partner, Seal’s, skin-tight gym shorts were what first attracted her to the singer

“It’s just the way it is for us. The house, wife and 2.5 kids elude. Gosh, I envy lesbians.”

— Santa Monica Daily Press columnist, Mark Marchillo, on being lonely and gay in the city

“People are selfish. These people with the fires and the floods and everything, they overbuild and they put nature to the test, and they get what’s coming to them, that’s what I say.”

— Comedian George Carlin, on why he believes humans are to blame for this week’s fires in California

“It was either the sex trade or music, and I don’t think there was much future in that other trade.”

— Singer Suzy Williams, lead for the band Suzy Williams and Her Solid Senders, who will play at Temple Bar on Monday, on choosing a vocation

“I would rather say the line, ‘I worship you, Satan,’ than say my favorite baseball team is the Yankees.”

— Actor and director, Ben Affleck, a Boston Red Sox fan

“It was a terrible accident, a tragedy for the people who were injured. But the city ... and the taxpayers shouldn’t have to pay for Mr. Weller’s acts.”

— Jeanette Schachtner, Santa Monica deputy city attorney, on a reversal by an appeals panel that allows victims of the Santa Monica Farmers’ Market crash to sue the city

“We think we’re on a nerdy mission. Our job is to make the uncool cool.”

— Bathsbea Birman, co-founder of the nerd-themed dating Web site, Nerds at Heart

Quotations captured and compiled with care by CYNTHIA VAZQUEZ.

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Commission on the Status of Women:

One seat available for a term ending June 30, 2008.
Applicants shall be residents of Santa Monica.

Bayside District Corporation:

One seat available for a term ending June 30, 2008.
Applicants must be City residents or persons who are employed, own property or hold business licenses in the City of Santa Monica.

Personnel Board:

One seat available for a term ending June 30, 2010.
Must be a qualified elector of the City. May not hold public office or employment nor be a candidate for any other public office or position and shall not be an officer of any local, state or national partisan political club or organization.

Applications due by noon, Tuesday, December 4, 2007.

Appointments to be made by City Council, December 11, 2007.

No City employee may serve as a member of any Board or Commission listed above.

The State Political Reform Act requires commission members to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action. The applicant appointed to serve in this position will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) with the City Clerk's office upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

Applications and information on Board/Commission duties & disclosure requirements are available from the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 1685 Main St., Rm. 102 (submit applications at this same location), by phone at (310) 458-8211 or on-line at <http://www.smgov.net>. All current applications on file will be considered.

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The QLine

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE SCENE, HIT THE ROAD

This past week, Q-line asked:
Is the Westside entertainment scene a bummer or just a giant in a slumber?

Here are your responses:

"WE DO NOT NEED ANY MORE so-called hip entertainment in Santa Monica. We have enough of it already. Including horrendous traffic and an overflow of people on the weekend. If one is so in need of night clubs, go to Hollywood. Please don't pollute Santa Monica any more than it already is."

"HERE ON THE WESTSIDE, WE DO have quite a few movie theaters. As far as plays are concerned, we have the Geffen place up in Westwood. We have the Getty and the Hammer, but as far as major museums, unfortunately we don't have much in that category."

"SANTA MONICA IS NOT IN A slumber. And by comparison, has always been a bummer. The Hollywood of today is a mere shadow of its former self."

"WHAT'S A BUMMER IS HOW MUCH the elitist entertainment scam costs Santa Monica. Our crass intelligentsia entertainment gurus North of Montana and in Ocean Park don't like the traffic blocking their Volvos on the way to the Hollywood Bowl or the Chandler Pavilion. The traffic is a result of our greedy progressive leaders allowing too many people into this state. To rectify this, Santa Monica College has a new \$32 million not-enough-parking theater that now costs \$45 million. Why? Tax payers have been bilked into this plus millions of dollars to refurbish Barnum Hall at Samohi. Why do we need both? Seems our bogus educators can't spend other people's money fast enough. Then there is the OPCC-funded councilmember support for almost free housing to artists of little or no talent. Oh Santa Monica, where art thou gone?"

"THE PICKINGS ARE SLIM TO NONE regarding Westside entertainment. We have a lovely ocean without boating and a pier for entertaining kids. Sadly, I see nothing on the horizon except more of the same: A boring entertainment bummer."

"CERTAINLY THE WESTSIDE entertainment scene is a bummer. Hopefully the Madison Campus project will help with that. Refurbishing and enhancing the Santa Monica Civic

Auditorium would help a lot. I think allowing the entertainment venues to stay open later would be helpful. The most overwhelming entertainment you get now is the comedy you see at City Council meetings."

"HOPEFULLY, WE ARE THE GIANT who is going to stay in a slumber for a very long time. We have a lot of traffic problems on this side of town. Until we get some lightrail, hopefully we won't attract more people to our side of town."

"IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE NIGHTLIFE here, please move and leave us alone."

"THE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT SCENE on the Westside is really dead. There really is not much happening and I'm not really sure why."

"THERE REALLY IS NO EXCUSE why the live entertainment scene in this part of town is as boring as it is. There hasn't really been a good rock club in Santa Monica since the Music Machine closed. There is no reason why there can't be as much happening in Venice as there is in Silverlake. I don't understand why the Pico neighborhood why the same scene infrastructure as there is in echo park. I don't see why the city can't do more to make a good music scene in this town."

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Family bets GPS will get kid off

Nearly 19 out of 20 ticket recipients would rather not fight it

BY LISA LEFF

Associated Press Writer

WINDSOR Given the option of contesting a traffic ticket, most motorists — 19 out of 20 by some estimates — would rather pay up than pit their word against a police officer's in court.

A retired sheriff's deputy nevertheless hopes to beat the long odds of the law by setting the performance of a police officer's radar gun against the accuracy of the GPS tracking device he installed in his teenage stepson's car.

The retired deputy, Roger Rude, readily admits his 17-year-old stepson, Shaun Malone, enjoys putting the pedal to the metal. That's why he and Shaun's mother insisted on putting a global positioning system that monitors the location and speed of the boy's Toyota Celica.

Shaun complained bitterly about his electronic chaperone until it became his new best friend on July 4, when he was pulled over and cited for going 62 mph in a 45 mph zone.

Rude encouraged him to fight the ticket after the log he downloaded using software provided by the GPS unit's Colorado-based supplier showed Shaun was going the speed limit within 100 feet of where a Petaluma officer clocked him speeding.

"I'm not trying to get a guilty kid off," Rude said. "I've always had faith in our justice system. I would like to see the truth prevail and I would like Shaun to see that the system works."

Though traffic courts do not routinely accept GPS readouts as evidence of a vehicle's speed — and many GPS receivers aren't capable of keeping records anyway — some tech-savvy drivers around the world slowly

are starting to use the technology to challenge moving violations, according to anecdotal accounts from defense lawyers and law enforcement officials.

This summer, for instance, an Australian farmer became a hero to speeders everywhere when he got a ticket dismissed after presenting police with data from his tracking device.

While winning a case this way is far from a sure thing, GPS-generated evidence could at least inject an element of doubt into typically one-sided proceedings, said Jim Baxter, president of the National Motorists Association.

A Sonoma County traffic commissioner is expected to rule within the next two weeks whether to dismiss Shaun's ticket based on Rude's written argument that the motorcycle officer's radar gun was either improperly calibrated or thrown off by another speeding car.

"Radar is a pretty good tool, but it's not an infallible tool," said Rude, who spent 31 years in law enforcement. "With the GPS tracker, there is no doubt about it. There is no human interference."

Rude plans to offer scientific data and experts if his challenge doesn't succeed right away.

Petaluma police Lt. John Edwards said he could not discuss Shaun's case but disputed Rude's contention that GPS is more accurate than a speed gun.

"GPS works on satellite signals, so you have a delay of some type," Edwards said. "Is it a couple-second delay? A 30-second delay? Because in that time people can speed up, slow down."

The device in Shaun's car, originally designed for trucking companies, rental car agencies and other businesses with fleets, sends a signal every 30 seconds that records his whereabouts and travel speed.

His parents signed up to be automatically notified by e-mail whenever he exceeded 70 mph, and the one time he did he lost his driving privileges for 10 days.

Rude said he is talking about the ticket to encourage other parents to keep tabs on their teenage drivers using GPS.

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STATE BRIEFS

RAMONA

Residents return to find a town without water

Ramona residents headed home after fleeing raging wildfires earlier in the week won't be able to take showers, wash clothes or clean kitchens because there is no water.

Since last weekend when the fires started, there have been power outages in the area and reservoir water was diverted for firefighting.

"Water use is prohibited at this time," a stern message on the Ramona Municipal Water District's automated telephone system warned Friday. "No water is allowed to be used by any customer."

Utility crews worked through the night to shut down water connections and are refilling the water system, San Diego County Water Authority spokesman Jason Foster said.

Officials expect to turn connections back on Saturday, but a boil water notice will be in effect until water quality tests come back clean.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BANNING

City pulls plug on Drag City after seven years of delay

After seven years of foot dragging, the Banning City Council has pulled the plug on plans for Drag City.

Councilman Bob Botts says the city decided to terminate an agreement with a developer to build the drag strip on 20 acres of city-owned land near Banning Airport.

Drag City was first proposed by All American Racing owners Ron Marocco and his son Andy. The deal was later transferred to Banning Airport Associates, led by Orange County investor Tom Searles.

The project was recently transferred back to the Maroccos.

Botts says the developer defaulted on several deal points, including missing payments toward the 20 acres the city purchased for the project.

AP

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Aircraft were grounded during fires

BY AARON C. DAVIS
AND MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press Writers

LOS ANGELES As wildfires were charging across Southern California, nearly two dozen water-dropping helicopters and two massive cargo planes sat idly by, grounded by government rules and bureaucracy.

How much the aircraft would have helped will never be known, but their inability to provide quick assistance raises troubling questions about California's preparations for a fire season that was widely expected to be among the worst on record.

It took as long as a day for Navy, Marine and California National Guard helicopters to get clearance early this week, in part because state rules require all firefighting choppers to be accompanied by state forestry "fire spotters" who coordinate water or retardant drops. By the time those spotters arrived, the powerful Santa Ana winds stoking the fires had made it too dangerous to fly.

The National Guard's C-130 cargo planes, among the most powerful aerial firefighting weapons, never were slated to help. The reason: They've yet to be outfitted with tanks needed to carry thousands of gallons of fire retardant, though that was promised four years ago.

"The weight of bureaucracy kept these planes from flying, not the heavy winds," Republican U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher told The Associated Press. "When you

look at what's happened, it's disgusting, inexcusable foot-dragging that's put tens of thousands of people in danger."



ANYONE THAT IS COMPLAINING ABOUT THE PLANES JUST WANTS TO COMPLAIN."

Rohrabacher and other members of California's congressional delegation are demanding answers about aircraft deployment. And some fire chiefs have grumbled that a quick deployment of aircraft could have helped corral many of the wildfires that quickly flared out of control and have so far burned 500,000 acres from Malibu to the Mexican border.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and other state officials have defended the state's response, saying the intense winds prevented a more timely air attack.

"Anyone that is complaining about the planes just wants to complain," Schwarzenegger replied angrily to a question Wednesday. "The fact is that we could have all the planes in the world here — we have 90 aircraft here and six that we got especially from the federal government — and they can't fly because of the wind."

Indeed, winds reaching 100 mph helped drive the flames and made it exceedingly dangerous to fly. Still, four state helicopters and two from the Navy were able to take off Monday while nearly two dozen others stayed grounded.

Thomas Eversole, executive director of the American Helicopter Services & Aerial Firefighting Association, a Virginia-based

ground Tuesday.

Mike Padilla, aviation chief for the forestry department, acknowledged the Guard's helicopters were ready to fly before the spotters arrived. He said state officials were surprised.

"Typically we're waiting for them to get crews," Padilla said.

The delay was even longer for Navy and Marine helicopters. They were ready to fly Monday morning but didn't get airborne until Wednesday morning, a period when the acreage that burned quadrupled to more than 250,000 and the number of homes destroyed jumped from 34 to more than 700.

Republican U.S. Rep. Brian Bilbray was among the lawmakers who learned late Tuesday night in a briefing with state officials that 19 military helicopters were not in use because there were no spotters.

Alarmed, he quickly helped broker an agreement to waive the spotter requirement, allowing flights to begin Wednesday.

"We told them, 'You don't want the public to be asking why these units weren't flying while we had houses burning,'" Bilbray told the AP.

The criticism helped prompt the forestry department's director, Ruben Grijalva, to abandon the state's long-standing policy to have a spotter aboard each aircraft and instead let one spotter orchestrate drops for a squadron of three helicopters.

"I directed them to do whatever was necessary to get those other military assets into operation," Grijalva said.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, R-California

nonprofit that serves as a liaison between helicopter contractors and federal agencies, said valuable time was lost.

"The basis for the initial attack helicopters is to get there when the fire is still small enough that you can contain it," Eversole said. "If you don't get there in time, you quickly run the risk of these fires getting out of control."

The first of the 15 or so fires started around midnight Saturday. By Sunday afternoon, fires were raging in Los Angeles, San Diego and Orange counties.

At the request of firefighters on the ground, at 4 p.m. Sunday the state Office of Emergency Services asked the National Guard to supply four helicopters. Under state rules, a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection "spotter" must accompany each military and National Guard helicopter to coordinate water drops.

The spotters have 24 hours to report for duty, and it took nearly all that time for them and the National Guard crews to assemble. By the time they were ready to go, the winds had made it unsafe to fly.

The helicopters finally got off the

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Returning home can be tough for evacuees

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS

Associated Press Writer

RAMONA Tens of thousands of displaced families began returning to fire-ravaged California communities on Friday, but it will likely be months or even years before they recover the comforts they left behind when they fled giant walls of flames that have destroyed at least 1,800 homes.

In Ramona, a bucolic mountain hamlet perched at the top of a winding road in northern San Diego County, Randy and Aimee Powers returned to find their home intact but without electricity or water.

Fire trucks that had sucked up 300 gallons at a time had drained the town's reservoir.

"We are in extreme water crisis situation. No water use is allowed," was the recorded message from the Ramona Municipal Water District that greeted returning residents who still had phone service. "We must fill the system to supply the fire hydrants first."

It was a reminder that, although substantially less dangerous than they were several days ago, numerous fires were still burning out of control throughout Southern California.

In San Diego County, the area hardest hit, only one of four major fires was more than 50 percent contained. In the Lake Arrowhead mountain resort area of San Bernardino County, one of two fires that have destroyed more than 300 homes was 70 percent contained. But the other was only 30 percent contained, as was the Santiago Fire in Orange County that blackened 26,000 acres and destroyed 14 homes near Irvine.

In all, more than a dozen fires had raced

across more than 490,000 acres — or 765 square miles — an area half the size of Rhode Island, by Friday. At least three people and possibly seven have been killed by flames. Seven others died of various causes after being evacuated.

Still, many people were eager to get back to their neighborhoods Friday, and shelters throughout the region began shutting down. The largest, Qualcomm Stadium, which had housed 10,000 refugees at the height of the disaster, was being readied for Sunday's NFL football game between the San Diego Chargers and Houston Texans.

"It's better to be at home. We're going to stick it out and do whatever we have to do up here to survive. We'll make it through," said Randy Powers, who joined a half-mile-long car caravan on Ramona's Aqua Lane.

He was headed to Ramona Community Park, where a water distribution center was being manned by the National Guard. He and his wife needed jugs of spring water for themselves and their tropical fish.

"We can't flush the toilets and we've opened up the floodgates and are letting everyone back. I'm not sure if that's a good thing," said Brad Fisher of the Ramona Community Emergency Response Team. But

he added that "there's a real pioneer mentality here in Ramona" and most everybody wanted to return home.

But not everyone.

Jeff and Janis Griffin came back for only a few minutes before thick smoke and the primitive conditions drove them to a hotel outside the fire zone.

"Let's face it, if you don't have water and you don't have sanitation, that's when disease comes," said Janis Griffin, 55. "This is a bad situation, it's dangerous, and we're not staying."

Others, like Robert Sanders of Rancho Bernardo, had no homes to return to. The 56-year-old photographer came back to find his house reduced to a smoldering pile of rubble. The fire-resistant box he kept his transparencies in was intact but its contents

Wearing gloves and a respirator mask as he swept soot and ash from his driveway, Jost predicted that hard-hit Rancho Bernardo would eventually bounce back.

"It's going to be a construction zone," said Jost, whose home was still without power and gas. "But the neighbors are already getting together and talking about getting a single source for demolition and design and all that. I think when people rebuild, they'll rebuild in a way that this'll never happen again. We're going to have nice new houses — in a year or two."

Until things return to normal, Renee Miller, seven months pregnant, was making do with one of dozens of portable toilets set up around Ramona. Her children, ages 8, 5 and 3, hadn't had showers in four days, she said, but she was swabbing them with anti-septic hand gel found at hand-washing stations.

"They are filthy little kids today," she said.

As residents returned, firefighters continued to battle dangerous blazes in many areas, including one that crested San Diego County's 5,500-foot Palomar Mountain, site of the world-famous Palomar Observatory.

Crews cleared brush and set backfires Friday to halt the flames' advance, said Fred Daskoski, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The observatory, operated by the California Institute of Technology, was home to the world's largest telescope when it was dedicated in 1948.

The structure did not appear to be in immediate danger, said observatory spokesman Scott Kardel who had been evacuated but remained in contact with staff.

IT'S BETTER TO BE AT HOME. WE'RE GOING TO STICK IT OUT AND DO WHATEVER WE HAVE TO DO UP HERE TO SURVIVE. WE'LL MAKE IT THROUGH."

Randy Powers, Evacuated resident

were melted. He also lost the only photo he had of his father.

"I've lost my history," Sanders said. "All the work I've done for the past 30 years, it's all destroyed."

Nearby, Allen Jost and his wife, Edie, were among the lucky ones. Although 26 of 53 homes in their neighborhood were destroyed, they lost only the spa on their back porch.

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Trouble on the homestead

Housing troubles to get worse before they get better

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON The current housing slump, which began in late 2005, probably has another year to go before things turn around. Before it is over, home prices — which had soared during the boom years — will probably have fallen by the largest amount of any downturn in the post World War II period.

The problems in housing have been a serious drag on the overall economy — slashing more than a full percentage point off growth in some quarters. And those adverse effects will get worse in coming months, many private economists believe, reflecting the fallout from the severe credit crunch that hit in August.

The betting is that the overall economy will be able to avoid a recession, but it will be a close call with the point of maximum danger still ahead.

“I think the housing market has got another year of very weak sales, falling construction and lower home prices. And all of that assumes that the economy holds together reasonably well and we don’t have a recession,” said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody’s Economy.com.

The biggest worry is that mortgage financing problems will grow even more severe, with soaring defaults dumping more homes onto an already glutted market, driving prices down further.

In a new report, the Joint Economic Committee estimates there will be 1.3 million foreclosures from mid-2007 through 2009 in subprime mortgages, loans provided to borrowers with weak credit histories.

Those foreclosures will wipe out an estimated \$71 billion in housing wealth directly and another \$32 billion indirectly by lowering the values of neighboring homes, according to the report by the JEC’s Democratic staff. The report predicts that will end up costing states \$917 million in lost property tax revenue through the end of 2009. The states of California, New York, New Jersey and Florida are expected to be among the biggest losers.

“We are looking at a tsunami of subprime foreclosures that has been hitting subprime borrowers hard and is on track to hit prime borrowers and the economy as well by lowering property values and reducing local tax revenues,” said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., who has been lobbying the Bush administration to provide more assistance to help homeowners avoid defaulting on their mortgages.

JEC economists caution that their forecast is heavily dependent on how much home prices decline during the slump. If the downturn turns out to be worse, it will mean even bigger price declines, more foreclosures and more dollar losses in both home values

and property tax collections.

Home prices have declined close to 4 percent from their peak set in early 2006, according to the Standard & Poor’s/Case-Schiller index. David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor’s, believes that before the downturn is over, home prices will fall by 11 percent, according to this gauge.

That would far surpass a 6.5 percent drop in prices, according to the Case-Schiller measurement that occurred in the 1990-91 housing downturn, the only other time this measurement has shown falling prices.

Other economists using different price measurements are also forecasting declines. The National Association of Realtors is predicting the median price of an existing home — the point where half sell for more and half for less — will fall by 1.5 percent this year, the first price decline on an annual basis on the group’s records going back four decades.

Before the slump ends, Zandi said, he believes median existing home prices using the Realtors’ measurement will fall 10.4 percent, making this the biggest downturn in terms of prices since the Great Depression of the 1930s, when home prices dropped by about one-third.

Economists stress that the price weakness must be viewed in the context of an unprecedented run-up in prices that occurred during a five-year boom in home sales, a period that some economists believe reflected a speculative bubble that pushed prices well past affordability levels in many parts of the country.

“We had a surge in investor demand, an explosion in the availability of credit and builders who became overly optimistic. All these things came together to whip the market into a frenzy, creating a huge bubble that is now bursting,” Zandi said.

In terms of construction, Zandi said he was looking for building activity to drop by 54 percent from the high to the trough this time around. That would compare with a 66 percent plunge in housing construction during the 1980s slump, a period when mortgage rates hit double-digit levels, and a 36 percent fall in construction during the 1990-91 housing downturn.

The current housing slump has definitely meant dark days in the industry. The National Association of Home Builders saw its survey of builder confidence drop to an all-time low in October as builders faced a wave of cancellations of sales contracts brought on by the credit crunch, causing lenders to tighten lending standards. The availability of certain mortgage products such as jumbo loans, loans of over \$417,000, all but dried up for a time, a serious setback for high-cost areas of the country such as California.

David Seiders, the home builders’ chief economist, said he believes housing will gradually stabilize in the next year with sales hitting a low-point in the first quarter and then starting to move higher, a development that will help clear out record-high inventories of unsold homes. He said construction will not hit bottom until the spring and housing will remain a drag on the economy.



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For more information please call PAL at (310) 458-8988.



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Survey: Most residents would support parcel tax

FROM TAX PAGE 3

annual Consumer Price Index increase of Measure Y.

Measure S passed in June 2003 and is set to expire in 2009, while Measure Y, which passed in November 2000, will not expire until 2011.

On Thursday, the Board of Education decided to place the measure on the ballot after receiving a recommendation from the Parcel Tax Renewal Feasibility Committee, an advisory group formed in the summer to explore the possibility of a funding measure passing in one of the three upcoming elections in February, June and November 2008.

If the measure does not pass in February, the district will then have the opportunity to place it on the ballot on the subsequent polling days.

"It's critical to our continued achievement in the district and directly impacts the well-being and accomplishment of our students," said board member Kelly Pye.

The revenue from both measures currently contribute about \$1.2 million annually to the library programs, at least \$1.1 million to the elementary music program and about \$2.1 million to maintain small class sizes in the middle and high schools.

The committee predicts that the district could suffer a decline in revenue of about \$5,000 over the next two years when qualified senior citizens can apply for an exemption on a larger pool of money — the entire \$346, rather than just the amount in Measure S. Senior citizens must reapply for the exemption every year.

In formulating its recommendation, the advisory group members divided into four subcommittees that explored public opinion, legality, financial implications and election dates.

Denny Zane studied the pros and cons of placing the measure on each of the three upcoming elections and found that Super Tuesday would be the safest bet, drawing a favorable electorate.

Though the presidential election would pull the most pro-education group of voters, if the measure failed, it would not have any future elections on which to fall back, Zane said.

"You would be facing a do-or-die situation," Zane said.

RESIDENTS STILL SUPPORT SCHOOLS

The advisory committee contracted a research firm that conducted a public opinion survey to gauge whether voters are willing to renew a funding measure.

The survey found that approximately 70 percent of voters will cast their ballots in favor of the parcel tax.

The results indicate that residents are still willing to write a check to the district despite a showing of public outcry earlier this year over a perceived lack of accountability and transparency among school officials, stemming from the resignation

of Winston Braham, the former chief financial officer.

Among the voters that didn't pledge their vote for the district, approximately 40 percent stated their primary reason was because they were concerned about accountability, while 21 percent said they oppose taxes.

IT'S CRITICAL TO OUR CONTINUED ACHIEVEMENT IN THE DISTRICT AND DIRECTLY IMPACTS THE WELL-BEING AND ACCOMPLISHMENT OF OUR STUDENTS."

Kelly Pye
School board member

Goodwin Simon Victoria Research conducted three surveys from Oct. 4-8, each of which had a sample size of 400 residents. The majority of voters gave the district a positive job rating and recognized that additional funding is needed in order to maintain not only good public schools, but high property values as a result, the study found.

The study had a margin of error of 5 percent.

"There are very few voters out there who appeared to be voting no because the district is not doing a good job," said Paul Goodwin.

The research firm has worked with the Santa Monica-Malibu district on two other ballot measures that ultimately passed.

"Let's hope that is a very good omen of a possible third measure you're looking at," Goodwin told the school board.

The results of the survey are typically a good indicator for the outcome of the election.

A study for a parcel tax in the Berkeley public school district in 2006 found that 78 percent of residents were willing to approve the measure, which ended up passing by 80 percent. In the Santa Cruz public school district, approximately 81 percent of voters said they would support a parcel tax in 2005. That measure passed by 80 percent of the vote.

Goodwin stressed the importance of educating the electorate about the implications of not passing a parcel tax and finds it key to the success of the ballot measure.

"The more that voters know about why these measures are being put on the ballot, the more likely they are to support it," he said. "A vigorous citizen-funded education campaign can and will make a difference."

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Father's Office	1018 Montana Ave.	(310) 393-2337
Il Dolce Cafe	1023 Montana Ave #B	(310) 458-4880
Le Marmiton	1327 Montana Ave	(310) 393-7716
Locanda Portofino	1110 Montana Ave.	(310) 394-2070
Louise's Trattoria	1008 Montana Ave.	(310) 394-8888
Marmalade	710 Montana Ave.	(310) 829-0093
Montana Restaurant & Lounge	1323 Montana Blvd.	(323) 330-8010
Patty's Gourmet Take & Bake Pizza	625 Montana Ave.	(310) 576-6616
Pradeeps	1405 Montana Ave.	(310) 393-1467
Ristorante Vincenzo	714 Montana Ave.	(310) 395-6619
Rosti	931 Montana Ave.	(310) 838-4900
Spumoni	713 Montana Ave.	(310) 393-2944
Sushi Sho	1303 Montana Ave.	(310) 393-0035
Via Dolce	1627 Montana Ave.	(310) 456-1562
Vincenzo Ristorante	714 Montana Ave.	(310) 395-6619

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Akbar Cuisine Of India	2627 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 586-7469
Back On Broadway	2024 Broadway	(310) 453-8919
Baja Fresh Mexican Grill	720 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 393-9313
Bergamot Cafe	2525 Michigan Ave. # A3	(310) 828-4001
Big Jos	1955 Broadway	(310) 828-3191
Bistro Of Santa Monica	Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 453-5442
Bizou Garden	2450 Colorado Ave. #1050	(310) 472-6020
Bread And Porridge	2315 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 453-4941
Buon Giorno Caffè	1431 Santa Monica Bl	(310) 260-0073
Cafe L'etoile D'or	2311 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 315-4375
Chandni Vegetarian	1909 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 828-7060
Coogie's Cafe	2906 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 829-7871
The Corner Cafe	28th St. #121	(310) 452-2905
The Cutting Board	1260 15th St. #105	(310) 434-9924
Dagwoods Pizza	820 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 899-3030
Daily Grill	2501 Colorado Ave. #b-190	(310) 309-2170
Drago Restaurant	2628 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 828-1585
Dragon Palace	2832 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 829-1462
El Cholo	1025 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 899-1106
Fromins	1832 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 829-5443
House Of Billiards	1901 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 828-9203
I H O P	1920 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 829-9100
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Koo Koo Roo	2002-2004 Wilshire Blvd	(978) 778-1121
L & L Hawaiian B B Q	1916 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 414-9523
L A Farm Ltd	3000 Olympic Blvd	(310) 449-4007
La Salsa #104	2200 Colorado Ave.	(805) 563-3644
Lee's Chinese Food	1610 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 828-5304
The Lincoln	2460 Wilshire Bl	(310) 828-2217
Lucys Lunchbox	710 Wilshire Bl #100	(818) 762-6267
Maya Japanese Food	2840 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 453-2612
Manhattan Bagel	2216 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 828-3228
Nawab Of India	1621 Wilshire Bl	(310) 829-1106
Networks Cafe	2700 Colorado Ave. #190	(310) 315-0502
Noma Restaurant	2031 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 453-4848
Norms Santa Monica	1601 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 395-6310
O' Briens	2226 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 829-5303
Our Cafe	2104 Wilshire Bl	(310) 828-5313
Overunder	1333 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 899-0076
Pacific Dining Car	2700 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 453-4000
Pot & Pan Thai Food	2315 Santa Monica Blvd	(818) 439-7083
Santa Monica Pizza	1318 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 393-4554
The Shack Restaurant	2518 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 449-1171
The Slice	915 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 453-2367
Sizzler	2025 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 453-3250
Snug Harbor	2323 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 828-2991
Sunshine Cafe & Grill	2021 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 449-7777
Sushi King	1330 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 395-0120
Tacos Por Favor	1406 Olympic Blvd	(310) 392-5768
Taqueria Chihuahua	1909 Lincoln Bl	(310) 874-2057
Tazzina	1620 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 413-4270
Thai Dishes	111 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 394-6189
Toi On Wilshire	1120 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 394-7804
Wilshire Restaurant	2454 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 586-1707

DOWNTOWN		
3 on Fourth	1432 4th St. #A	(310) 395-6765
Abode Restaurant	1541 Ocean Av #150	(310) 394-3463
B O A 101	Santa Monica Bl	(323) 655-3372
Baja Buds	1315 Third Street Promenade	(310) 393-6060
Bangkok West	606 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 395-9658

BENIHANA		
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1447 4th St.		(310) 260-1423
Bookmark Cafe	601 Santa Monica Bl	(310) 587-2665
Bravo Cucina	1319 Third Street Promenade	(310) 394-0374
Broadway Deli	1457 Third Street Promenade	(310) 451-0616
Brunos Italian Rest Deli	1652 Ocean Ave.	(310) 395-5589
Bubba Gump Shrimp Co	301 SM Pier	(310) 393-0458
Buca Di Beppo	1442 2nd St.	(310) 587-0771
The Cafe	445 Pacific Coast Hwy	(310) 393-8282
Cafe Crepe	1460 Third Street Promenade	(310) 576-0499
Cafe Paradiso	2408 Wilshire Blvd	(818) 427-1796

Cafe Presto	2425 Colorado Ave. #107 B	(310) 829-7757
Cafe Sol	2425 Colorado Ave.	(310) 829-0031
California Chicken Cafe	2401 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 453-0477
California Crisp	13 Santa Monica Place	(310) 394-3800
California Pizza Kitchen	214 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 393-9335
Callahans Restaurant	1213 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 394-6210
Capo	1810 Ocean Ave.	(310) 394-5550
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Crepes Company Inc	213 Arizona Ave.	(310) 801-0670
Dennys Restaurant	1645 1560 Lincoln Blvd	(714) 251-5409
Fast Taco	2901 Ocean Park Blvd #115	(310) 664-8722
Fritto Misto	601 Colorado Ave.	(310) 458-2828

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Gate Of India	115 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 656-1665
Gaucha Grill	1251 Third Street Promenade	(323) 468-0220
Georges Bistro	1321 Third Street	(310) 451-8823
Hedwigs Cafe	1509 4th St.	(310) 394-3956
Hot Dog On A Stick	1633 Ocean Front Walk	(760) 930-0456

HOUSTON'S		
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202 Wilshire Blvd		(602) 553-2111

I Cugini Restaurant	1501 Ocean Ave.	(310) 451-4595
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Infuzion Cafe	1149 3rd St. #100	(310) 393-9985
Interactive Cafe	215 Broadway	(310) 395-5009
Ipanema Cafe	150 Santa Monica Place	(310) 838-8586
Ivy At The Shore	1535 Ocean Ave.	(310) 278-2908
Jinkys Cafe	1447 2nd St.	(818) 981-2250
Jiraffe Restaurant	504 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 917-6671
Johnny Rockets	1322 Third Street	(949) 643-6100
Kaiten Restaurant	1456 Third Street	(310) 451-8080
La Botte, Inc.	620 Santa Monica Blvd #A	(310) 576-3072
La Salsa #44	1401 Third Street Promenade	(310) 587-0755
La Serenata	1416 4th St.	(310) 204-5360
Le Merigot Hotel	1740 Ocean Ave.	(310) 395-9700
Leonidas	331 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 417-8851
Light House Buffet	201 Arizona Ave.	(310) 451-2076
The Lobster Buffet	2602 Ocean Ave.	(310) 458-9294
Locanda Del Lago	231 Arizona Ave.	(310) 451-3525
Loews Santa Monica	1700 Ocean Ave.	(310) 458-6700
Manchu Wok 11	Santa Monica Pl	(310) 458-3558
Mariasol 401	Santa Monica Pier	(213) 626-5554
Michaels	1147 3rd St.	(310) 395-7911
Musha Restaurant	424 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 576-6330
Newsroom Santa Monica Inc	530 Wilshire	(310) 451-9444
Ocean Avenue Seafood	1401 Ocean Ave.	(310) 437-8824
Ocean Cafe	100 Wilshire Blvd #B1-10	(310) 260-6010

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Panera Bread	501 Wilshire Bl	(714) 241-7705
Perrys Pizz	930 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 372-3138
Perrys Pizza	2600 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 372-3138
Perrys Pizza	1200 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 458-3975
Perrys Pizza	2400 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 372-3138
Promenade Cafe	321 Santa Monica Bl	(213) 700-2373
R A W 609 Broadway		(310) 451-4148
Real Food Daily	514 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 393-0804
Renees Court Yard	522 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 451-9341
Rustic Canyon	1119 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 560-7787
Scarboni	312 Wilshire Bl	(310) 704-8079
Stefano's	1310 Third Street Promenade	(310) 216-7716
Sunset Bar & Grill	1240 Third Street	(310) 393-3959
Sushi Mon	401 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 576-7011
Sushi Roku	Santa Monica 1401 Ocean Av	(310) 655-3372
Sushi Shogun	1315 Third Street	(213) 500-4989
Sushi Teri Express	1551 Ocean Ave. #130 B	(310) 394-2189

SWINGERS		
The local diner, serving traditional diner fare with a southern california twist. Open 24 hours, the crowd in Swingers will change from late night clubbers to early morning coffee drinkers around 4am.		
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Tandoor Cafe	395 Santa Monica Place #009	(310) 435-3845
Tastie16	Santa Monica Place	(310) 770-6745
Thai Dishes Restaurant	1910 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 828-5634
Tokyo Kitchen 15	Santa Monica Pl	(310) 451-5385
T's Thai	1215 4th St.	(310) 395-4106
Tudor House	1403 2nd St.	(310) 451-8470
Victoria Pizzeria	1607 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 394-6863
Villa Italian Specialties 8	Santa Monica Pl	(310) 451-3031
Wahoo's Fish Taco	418 Wilshire Blvd	(949) 222-0670
Whist	1819 Ocean Av	(310) 260-7509
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Library Alehouse 2911 Main St. (310) 314-4855
Lula Cocina Mexicana 2720 Main St. (310) 392-5711
Main Street Bagels 2905 Main St. (310) 392-6373
Malia 2424 Main St. (310) 396-4122
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Schatzi On Main 3110 Main St (310) 399-4800
Shoop's Delicatessen 2400 Main St (310) 452-1019
Sparky's Fine Frozen Yogurt 3110 Main St. #12 (310) 399-4513

Urth Caffè 2327 Main St. (310) 749-8879
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California Pizza Kitchen 3345 Fiji Way (310) 301-1563
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EASTERN EXPOSURE

Michael Tittinger miket@smdp.com
Taiwanese dancers perform a native dance for diners and guests at the 'Taste of Taiwan' event hosted by the Sheraton Delfina Hotel on Wednesday to promote tourism.

SMPD reaches out to the populace

FROM SMPD PAGE 3

have to be pulled away from their neighborhoods to fill in the gaps when the specialized units are off duty. That should help keep response times low and ensure that there is sufficient coverage in all areas of the city, including the east side, police said.

Customer service training will also be a key factor in the new policing strategy, which was developed over the last eight months by officers and community stakeholders at the direction of SMPD Chief Timothy Jackman.

“It’s a sound plan that we think is going to work and be around for a long time,” Guido said.

“IT’S A SOUND PLAN THAT WE THINK IS GOING TO WORK AND BE AROUND FOR A LONG TIME.”

Lt. Pasquale J. Guido
SMPD

Neighborhood Centered Policing, introduced under former Chief James T. Butts, made it so that lieutenants in the department were assigned a specific beat and became the face of the SMPD for that beat. Residents or business owners were instructed to contact their lieutenants and inform them of issues happening in their

community.

The problem with the model is that it never evolved, Guido said.

Residents also complained that while they knew their lieutenants, they did not know the officers who were the first to arrive on scene when a crime occurred. This led to a lack of communication and a disconnect, especially given that officers could be assigned to a different beat each day.

Now, officers will be assigned to beats longer and be held more accountable for their beats. The plan is to decentralize decision-making and ensure that “every officer is responsible for every square inch of the city,” Guido said.

To be effective, the community must get involved, police said. Community Policing is only successful if the partnerships between the community and the police department are healthy and vibrant. This means residents, schools, churches, businesses, community-based organizations and government agencies.

Guido told those who attended a Thursday night briefing at the Main Library that he and other officers are eager to share the concept with as many neighborhood groups or business organizations as possible so that people can better understand the Community Oriented Policing model.

“We want to be more collaborative with the community, be more personal,” Guido said. “We want to be flexible. Nothing is set in stone. If something doesn’t work, we can change it.”

kevinh@smdp.com



CITY OF SANTA MONICA NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed request for proposals for:

RFP: Computerized Maintenance Management System

■ The City of Santa Monica Community Maintenance Department is requesting proposals from vendors to implement an internet-based, Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) that provides real time status of building and open space repair and maintenance work order requests and includes features and capabilities for management of facility and other Community Maintenance assets. A copy of the RFP can be downloaded at <http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearchform.cfm?StateID=52>.

■ Please submit six (6) copies of your entire proposal and one (1) electronic copy in Microsoft Word format or Adobe PDF format to Ryan Kraemer, Sr. Administrative Analyst, at 2500 Michigan Ave, Maintenance Management Division, Santa Monica, CA 90404 by 12:00 PM on November 15, 2007.

For further information, please contact Mr. Kraemer at ryan.kraemer@smgov.net

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Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

SETTING A GOOD AND SCARY EXAMPLE: This house across the street from Santa Monica College is picture perfect.

How to take a great photo on Halloween

Getting the right shot is easier than you would think

BY COLLEEN LONG | Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK Halloween ... Where eating candy 'till you're sick is encouraged, and parents have an excuse to dress their child up as a jelly bean, circus clown or Muppet of their choosing.

And everyone seems to want to capture these moments for the ages — or at least for the grandparents.

Photo Web sites like Ofoto, Snapfish and Shutterfly are crushed with business in the early days of November, which means Halloween is the most popular time to showcase pictures, beating out Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Last year, more than 3.1 million photos were uploaded to Shutterfly on Nov. 1 alone, making it the busiest time for the site.

"Grandparents just really want to see pictures of kids in costumes," said Jeff Housenbold, CEO of the Redwood City, Calif.-based company.

The company gears up for the holiday in advance by buying more storage — and there are at least 1.6 billion images already being stored.

Five tips for great Halloween photos from Shutterfly:

- Lose the "say cheese": It's hard to get a natural look when your children are grinning like a Cheshire cat. Instead, talk to them to get them to emote. Plus, the excitement and anticipation of gobs of candy will shine through.

- Stoop to their level, literally: Get down on one knee when you're photographing little children, and get close. That way you can see their cute faces without zooming in, and the photos don't look down on your pint-sized kids.

- Stay close to the action: The closer you stand to people mobbing a neighbor for candy the less shaky your camera work is and that translates to a better quality photo.

- Keep the cameras rolling: Don't stop shooting after the costumes come off. Grandparents love anything having to do with the grandkids, even photos of them chowing on candy.

- The Golden Rule: Nothing is more precious than a row of babies in their Halloween best. Prop up the pumpkins, teddy bears and little ones on a couch and get clicking.



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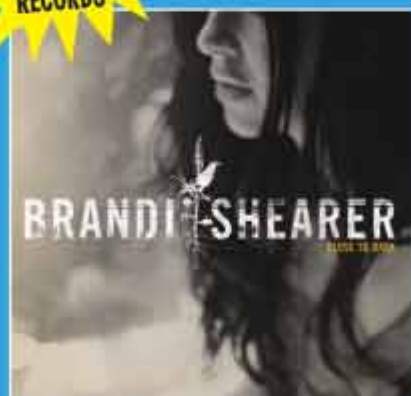
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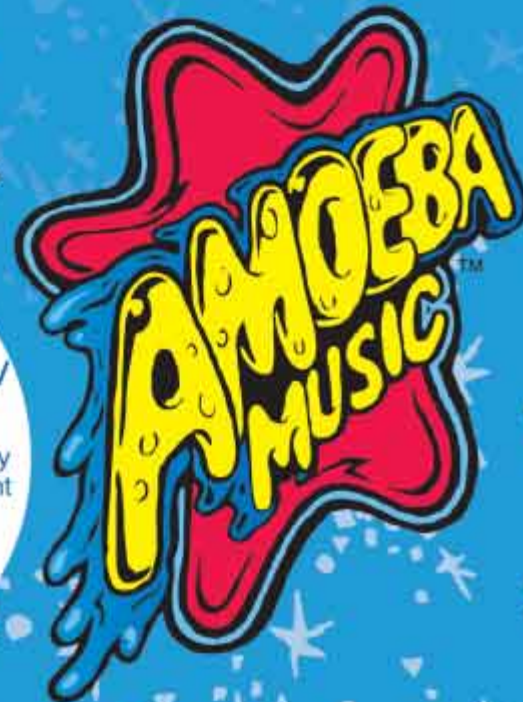
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Things that go 'boo' in the night

Kids of all ages get to play dress-up once each year

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

HILL STREET Adam Johnston's house is haunted. At least that's what he wants people to believe, and for roughly \$5,000, they better.

For the last 13 years, Johnston has gone to the extreme, investing vast amounts of time and money into creating one of the scariest haunted houses in Santa Monica. There are skeletons hanging from the gallows, spiders that jump from the ground and zombies that seem to emerge from nowhere.

Using animatronics, a little smoke and sound effects, Johnston tries to give people a scare to remind them, and himself, how fun Halloween can be. His efforts have paid off. People line up around the block to get a glimpse of his ethereal abode and he plans to host tours on Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

"I think it all goes back to this 'Little Rascals' episode when I was a kid," said Johnston, a sound editor and drummer in a local rock band. "They had this haunted house and all this gadgetry that was automated, the same with Disney's Haunted Mansion. Those things really stuck with me and ever since I have tried to capture that feeling I had and try to build on this



Photos by Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

THESE SCARY DUDES ARE GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT: Adam Johnston, who lives on 14th and Oak streets, creates a Halloween wonderland filled with animatronic ghouls and ghosts. He prides himself on building one of few completely solar-powered haunted houses by hand.

imagination.

"I just feel that Halloween is a super fun holiday and by hosting a haunted house, I hope that I can reach some young kids and spark their imagination."

Johnston isn't alone. For the most part,

Santa Monicans are enthusiastic about celebrating Halloween. Old or young, it seems people are ready to dress up and hit the streets in search of treats.

"I'm going to be an alien," said Jackson Jones, as he picked out pumpkins at a patch on Wilshire Boulevard with his dad Trent and brother Noah. "We're trying to make our house really scary."

Jones and family plan to stay within their neighborhood on Halloween, hitting 24th Street between Carlyle and Margarita avenues. The area is known for being a great place to take kids.

"The neighbors really go all out," said Trent Jones. "I was kind of surprised by it when we first started going. You see people come from all over the city. It's really something you have to experience."

I JUST FEEL THAT HALLOWEEN IS A SUPER FUN HOLIDAY AND BY HOSTING A HAUNTED HOUSE I HOPE THAT I CAN REACH SOME YOUNG KID TOO AND SPARK THEIR IMAGINATION."

Adam Johnston, Owner of a haunted house on Hill Street near 14th.

HEY, BIG SPENDER

It seems more people are going all out this Halloween compared to years past. According to the National Retail Federation's "Halloween Consumer Intentions and Actions Survey," consumers are expected to spend \$64.82 this Halloween compared to \$59.06 in 2006. Total Halloween spending for 2007 is estimated to reach \$5.07 billion.

Party-goers, it seems, are bobbing for

more than just apples. They'll also be on the lookout for candy, costumes and decorations. The average person will spend \$23.33 on costumes, though young adults will spend far more. According to the survey, 18- to 24-year-olds plan to be the most festive, spending \$34.06 on costumes — nearly twice what they'll spend on candy.

Those findings were apparent this week at Aahs costume store on Wilshire. The parking lot was packed, as were the store's aisles. Mothers and their daughters looked at princess costumes while young adults seemed smitten by the slutty nurse and cop costumes.

"It has been crazy here for the last few weeks," said Sanil Chand, manager of Aahs, which sells costumes and accessories, masks and props. "People have been coming in early to make sure they can get the costumes they want. It's amazing — the young adults especially. They are buying two or three costumes because they are going to multiple parties and don't want to wear the same thing to each."

Most people are picking up pirate costumes, Chand said, as well as Spartan warrior costumes like those sported in the movie "300." For women, nurse outfits are still hot, as are pregnant nuns and sexy cats.

"I have never seen this much spending before," Chand said.

BACK TO THE BEGINNING

While it may be a day for fun and folly, Halloween wasn't always so trivial.

Its origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France, celebrated their new year on Nov. 1. The day marked the end of summer and the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death.

Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On Oct. 31, they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the



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PICKING ONE FROM THE PATCH: Noah Jones (left) carries a pumpkin while his friend Cameron Jacquet follows. The Jones family plans to hit 24th Street between Carlyle and Margarita avenues for trick-or-treating on Halloween. The street is known for neighbors who elaborately decorate their homes in the spirit of the holiday.

ghosts of the dead returned to earth. In addition to causing trouble and damaging crops, Celts thought that the presence of the otherworldly spirits made it easier for the Druids, or Celtic priests, to make predictions about the future. For a people entirely dependent on the volatile natural world, these prophecies were an important source of comfort and direction during the long, dark winter.

To commemorate the event, Druids built huge sacred bonfires, where the people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the Celtic deities.

During the celebration, the Celts wore costumes, typically consisting of animal heads and skins, and attempted to tell each other's fortunes. When the celebration was over, they re-lit their hearth fires, which they had extinguished earlier that evening, from the sacred bonfire to help protect them during the coming winter.

By A.D. 43, Romans had conquered the majority of Celtic territory. In the course of the 400 years that they ruled the Celtic lands, two festivals of Roman origin were combined with the traditional Celtic celebration of Samhain.

The first was Feralia, a day in late October when the Romans traditionally commemorated the passing of the dead. The second was a day to honor Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. The symbol of Pomona is the apple and the incorporation of this celebration into Samhain probably explains the tradition of "bobbing" for apples that is practiced today on Halloween.

By the 800s, the influence of Christianity had spread into Celtic lands. In the 7th century, Pope Boniface IV designated Nov. 1 All Saints' Day, a time to honor saints and martyrs. It is widely believed today that the pope was attempting to replace the Celtic festival of the dead with a related, but church-sanctioned holiday. The celebration was also called All-hallows or All-hallowmas (from Middle English, "Alholowmesse" meaning All Saints' Day) and the night before it, the night of Samhain, began to be called All-

Hallows Eve and, eventually, Halloween.

In A.D. 1000, the church made Nov. 2 All Souls' Day, a day to honor the dead. It was celebrated similarly to Samhain, with big bonfires, parades and dressing up in costumes as saints, angels and devils. Together, the three celebrations — the eve of All Saints, All Saints', and All Souls' — were called Hallowmas.

That was then. Today, it's really all about ghouls and goblins, pumpkins and candy, slutty nurse outfits and ripped-abs Spartans.

NOT A TREAT FOR THOSE WITH FOUR FEET

While Halloween is supposed to be fun, it isn't always so for pets, particularly black cats, who are associated with bad luck and therefore, tend to get a bad rap.

The Santa Monica Animal Shelter and the Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control department remind people to keep pets indoors in a secure and comfortable area with a radio or television playing in the background. Many pets are startled by the noise from trick-or-treaters.

Owners are also told to keep current license and ID tags securely affixed to a pet's collar since it is the only voice a pet has if he or she becomes lost or stolen.

Do not leave pets unattended. Loud noises frighten pets and they may panic, become confused and can go to great lengths to escape their enclosures. This can include chewing leashes or breaking fences.

Keep pets away from all candy. Chocolate, which contains theobromine, can be poisonous to pets, causing nerve damage and even death. The same goes for candy wrappers. Tin foil and cellophane candy wrappers are tempting treats for pets and can cause them to choke or to have intestinal blocks.

Another important tip is to keep jack-o-lanterns away from pets because they can knock them over, which could result in a fire.

Don't dress up pets unless they are

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Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

A LITTLE FACE TIME: Masks line the walls at Aahs on Wilshire Boulevard. The costume shop was packed this week with kids of all ages seeking out that perfect costume.

Scary time of year

FROM BOO PAGE 17

used to it and enjoy it. Costumes can restrict their movements, vision, hearing or their ability to breathe or bark. Costumes can also have small or dangling accessories that can be swallowed by a pet.

Some adoption agencies will not allow people to adopt black cats in the weeks before Halloween because they are fearful that someone will do harm to the animals as part of some sick prank. Donn Umber, the director of the Santa Monica Animal Shelter, said there is no such policy here, but his staff does keep a close eye on black cats in their care and do not allow just anyone to adopt them.

"My staff is pretty experienced and savvy enough to

spot red flags, like if someone came in and specifically asked for a black cat, if they come in and the first question they ask is how much does it cost to buy a cat, or if they say they want to adopt a cat without spending any time with it," Umber said. "That really goes for all of our pets. If someone is willing to spend time with the animal and spend the money to have them spayed or neutered and the whole nine yards, then we wouldn't hesitate."

THE OTHER LITTLE ONES

Pets aren't the only ones who need protecting. Young children also need help. They are often out after dark, crossing busy streets and perhaps going to unfamiliar homes.

"It's definitely a concern, which is why I go with them," said Sarah Fix, a mother of a 4-year-old who will be dressing up as a firefighter this Halloween. "We pretty much stick to our neighborhood and try to get done before it gets too late. At this age, the kids tend to get tired pretty early on, so there's really nothing to worry about there. I guess my biggest concern is keeping them away from all the candy before I have a chance to sort through it. You have to hide it or else they'll eat it all in one night."

Law enforcement officials are warning drivers to be careful on Halloween. Drive slowly, particularly when driving over a hill or around a curve where visibility is limited. Use high beams to see and be seen.

Trick-or-treaters should always be accompanied by an adult or travel in a group. Children should be told not to eat any unwrapped candy or treats until they return home where their parents can see them. Making sure kids have already eaten before heading out may help.

Parents should incorporate reflective tape in costumes or add bright colors to increase visibility. Make-up rather than masks should be worn to help ensure that children have an unobstructed view of their surroundings.

Kids can get caught up in the excitement and may not be as careful as they should and cross in the middle of a street instead of at the corners. Children should stay on the sidewalk or if none is available, walk facing traffic. They should also carry a flashlight to make themselves more visible.

THE ALTERNATIVES

For those who do not want to hit the streets for trick-or-treating can still get their fix at several locations, such as the Santa Monica Place Mall, Barker Hangar and the Santa Monica Playhouse. Each year, Macerich Co., the owners of Santa Monica Place, open their doors on Halloween and invite youngsters and their parents to come and show off their costumes while individual stores hand out candies. This year, the "Spooktacular Extravaganza" will feature pumpkin decorating on Saturday, Oct. 27, as well as mall-wide trick-or-treating and a costume contest on Oct. 31.

The Police Activities League does something similar, hosting PALoween at Barker Hanger. There, families can trick-or-treat in safety and receive candy donated by various businesses and residents.

"It's just a safe place where people can bring their kids and have a good time without having to worry about going out on the streets and having to deal with the traffic or the weather," said SMPD Lt. Alex Padilla.

The Santa Monica Playhouse is presenting the "Halloween Enchanted Lunchtime Theatre" from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Admissions is \$25 per child. Parents are free. Lunch is included. There will be storytelling, sing-alongs, crafts and an enactment of a Halloween-themed fairy tale. There will also be a "Mummy (or daddy) and Me" event for 3- to 5-year-olds.

For the older crowd, there's nothing like a good house party.

"That's what I'll be doing," said Bethany Cox, a 22-year-old student at Santa Monica College. "When you're a kid, you really get excited about dressing up and going trick-or-treating, but as you get older, like in high school, you feel like you're too cool for it, that it's for little kids. Then when you get out of high school, it all changes and you can't wait to put on your costume and go party."

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Trying not to scare kids can be difficult

BY JOSH L. DICKEY
Associated Press Writer

ARE HALLOWEEN BOOKS OK TO READ TO CHILDREN?

Roberta Michnick Golinkoff, author of "Einstein Never Used Flash Cards" and a professor at the University of Delaware offers some advice:

CAN CHILDREN BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY HALLOWEEN IMAGES IN BOOKS?

"Children can't tell the difference between appearance and reality until they're about 5. So you have to be careful, and you have to be your child's censor. You can't wait for them to tell you that they're frightened or scared."

WHAT KINDS OF BOOKS ARE APPROPRIATE TO CHOOSE?

"The book has to be fun, not menacing or scary. Use words like: 'It's just pretend, it's make believe.' You know, they're going to see these images no matter what. It's

not like you can totally shield them from Halloween. The easiest thing to do is to take off the mask and show the child that it's make-believe."

ANY TIPS ON DETERMINING WHAT'S OK TO EXPOSE THEM TO?

"You've got to be really attuned to what's developmentally appropriate for your kid. The National Association for the Education of Young Children has a section on its Web site that defines developmentally appropriate." (That site: <http://www.naeyc.org/about/positions/daptoc.asp>).

IS THERE A "BEST" WAY TO GO ABOUT READING HALLOWEEN BOOKS TO YOUNGER CHILDREN?

"You do want to make these things seem like fun: If you could show the books where there are fun-looking pumpkins, and the kids are in mask and then out of the mask, and they're having a good time, and they're getting candy ... then you reinforce the associations of fun with Halloween."

Books to make kids go boo!

BY JOSH L. DICKEY
Associated Press Writer

Every child has his or her own capacity for processing the difference between "fun" scary and genuine fear. Lucky for parents, there's a wide spectrum of kids' books new for Halloween, from the safely cute to the uncomfortably eerie, with points between for all ages.

Here's a sampling:

BABIES TO TODDLERS:

The concept of Halloween may be entirely lost on the 2-and-under crowd, but if younger kids are making the rounds with the rest of the family on Halloween night, a comforting bedtime story with images they're sure to encounter may not be a bad idea in the runup to the big night.

* Though not exclusively Halloween-themed, "Little Spider," by Wendy Lui and illustrator Kloartje van der Put (Chronicle Books, \$6.95), could go a long way toward instilling a sense of the holiday's playfulness in the littles of readers, with its chunky board pages through which a finger-puppet spider (controlled and voiced by the hammy parent, of course) pokes her adorable felt head.

* "Tucker's Spooky Halloween" (Candlewick Press, \$7.99) evokes the epic struggle between coming-of-sentience kids, who naturally want to be something garish or terrifying for the holiday, and their parents, who would ever prefer "cute." Except that Leslie McGuirk's protagonist is a little white dog (once truly cute as a smiling puppy-pumpkin) who, no longer a pup, longs to be a ghost, or a skeleton, or anything more frightening than the cowboy outfit his owner buys him to match her own.

AGES 2 TO 4

At this age, some children are learning that they enjoy the feeling of being a little scared — to a point. As long as they're assured of the harmlessness lurking behind the mask all's well.

• To that end, the classic "Scary, Scary Halloween" (Clarion Books, \$5.95) delivers. The halting, repetitive cadence of Eve

Bunting's text reads like a chant, and the story launches with an air of anticipation and mystery: "I peer outside, there's something there."

Jan Brett's dark, surrealistic paintings are suitably eerie. What follows is a progression of people in admirably hair-raising costumes, who are watched all the while by four sets of green eyes in the darkness. A surprise ending reveals the harmless creatures who own the eyes.

• Also toeing the lighter side of that threshold is "Skelly, the Skeleton Girl" (Simon and Schuster, \$12.99), the third Halloween-themed kids' book by writer and illustrator Jimmy Pickering.

"Skelly" occupies the same macabre-but-endearing space of Tim Burton's characters in "The Nightmare Before Christmas," and seems to borrow heavily from that cult classic's aesthetic, too.

Skelly is a happy-go-lucky (if not particularly fetching) "skeleton girl," who makes it her mission to find the owner of a bone she finds on her floor. Even the ghosts seem a jolly lot, and Pickering's way with color and style are themselves enough to fire the imagination.

AGES 4 TO 8

This is the Halloween sweet-spot, where the thrill of being someone or something else for a night is fully realized, and children either develop a passion or a distaste for "ghost" stories.

• A more cerebral child will appreciate "How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?" (Schwartz & Wade, \$14.99), by Margaret McNamara and illustrated by G. Brian Karas. It tells the story of Charlie, the smallest kid in class who, by way of a class-wide experiment with pumpkins, learns a math lesson that teaches "small things can have a lot going on inside of them." Parents will appreciate a few bits of humor that were embedded just for them.

• Newbery award-winning author Kate DiCamillo ("Because of Winn-Dixie"), better known for her novels aimed at older children, gives her series about a spirited pig who is treated by her owners like a spoiled child the Halloween treatment with "Mercy Watson, Princess in Disguise" (Candlewick Press hardcover, \$12.99).



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Clooney powers 'Michael Clayton'

Heartthrob George takes on a role worthy of awards talk

BY KEN TARR | Special to the Daily Press

This is a given: The high-stakes world of big-business law firms and corporate malfeasance is not exciting. However first-time director Tony Gilroy (screenwriter of "The Bourne Identity" trilogy) does build up quite a bit of tension in this film about a legal "fixer" Michael Clayton (played by George Clooney) forced to prevent disaster when his mentor Arthur Edens (Tom Wilkinson) turns into a loose cannon when defending a big-business case.

Although not everyone who sees this film will appreciate what is at stake, many will be intrigued by the multi-layered plot and stellar performances. The plot jumps around as well and withholds many key details till the satisfying conclusion. The story barely held my interest at times. However, I knew a major pay-off was coming and the ending is very much worth the wait. Tilda Swinton ("The Deep End") co-stars as the corporate villain here. By virtue of her being a woman in this high-risk world, the audience trusts her until we realize that everything she says and does is tangled corporate-speak and that while there is no murder and mayhem at every turn, her character, Karen Crowder, is a dangerous one to cross. Written and directed by Gilroy, this film could have

infused some more character development but Clooney is able to reveal quite a lot about Clayton's personality in the best performance of his career. At times powerful, at times scared and at times on the verge of giving up completely, we feel bad and most importantly feel Clayton's vulnerability and sense of being unfulfilled. Sydney Pollack is also effective as the law firm's kingpin, Marty Bach, a man who is equally villainous and amoral as he uses Clayton and the law to evade what is morally correct.

This film was executive produced by Clooney, frequent collaborator Steven Soderbergh and the excellent writer-director Anthony Minghella ("The English Patient") for reasons I am not so sure of. While this film is successful at what it is, it is by no means ground-breaking. They must all see some real talent in Gilroy, and he is definitely given a venue to shine here, absent of murders and explosions. "Clayton" will hold your interest after a good cup of coffee. The performances are most memorable and hopefully the film will get some awards attention as well, especially for supporting actor Tom Wilkinson. His portrayal of a frenetic, genius, off-balance corporate attorney is entirely unique. Clooney, in between his entertaining "Ocean's" popcorn films is able to turn in fine performances and is great in this film. The film could have used a little more intrigue and excitement, however, but as it is, it is still worth recommending.

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com



Photo courtesy Warner Bros.

SHOWDOWN: Arthur Edens (Tom Wilkinson) gets in Michael Clayton's face (George Clooney) in this scene.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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NEW RELEASES

REVIEW BY KEN TARR



Photo courtesy Sony Pictures

SMILE FOR THE CAMERA: '30 Days of Night' is generic at best.

'30 Days of Night'

This completely unoriginal "horror" film is the latest in the never-ending zombie genre. I like zombie movies, good ones, and still think there are more innovations that can be made in this genre. However, this year's example, "28 Weeks Later" and the terminal "Night," do nothing to reinforce this thought. Starring a thoroughly bored and unchallenged Josh Hartnett, the film seems to think it is setting up some kind of original, epic clash against Alaskan villagers and non-descript zombies, but it is all overly familiar schlock. Ben Foster, as a haunting stranger is a strength to this film however. Prepared to be grossed out and lament the days when horror was scary rather than funny.

'The Heartbreak Kid'

Yes, "There's Something About Mary" was hilarious. Nearly 10 years later, writer-directors Peter and Bobby Farrelly re-team with Ben Stiller to re-make an original film of the same title. The original was written by Neil Simon and this one definitely was not. Stiller plays an unhappy newlywed who strays from his new wife on their honeymoon. The love triangle seems forced, as does the attraction between either party. The humor has all been done before, and the Farrelly brother's latest attempt at "growing-up" after the dismal failure of "Fever Pitch" is embarrassingly bad. The film waffles from slapstick comedy to gross-out flick and relationship commentary with as much ease and comfort as an epileptic elephant. See this for a funny scene or two when flipping through HBO in 2008 or later preferably.

'The Darjeeling Limited'

Wes Anderson also trudges familiar ground. Fortunately the ground is much more scenic and lush. Not often will I recommend a film for that, and I don't fully recommend this one. Adrien Brody, Jason Schwartzman and Owen Wilson do pull off being brothers despite obvious physical dissimilarities and there are some very quirky characters and original situations. The brothers all head to India for a journey of self-discovery and to re-ignite a relationship with their mother, played by Angelica Huston. But this is too much of the same emotion in each film. "The Royal Tenenbaums," "The Life Aquatic" and now "The Darjeeling Limited" might as well all be the same film. They all have the same moody, quasi-upbeat soundtrack and the same conflicted character shtick without ever really seeming real. This film is hardly a triumph and is no match for "Tenenbaums," but still worth watching. If the next Anderson flick is the same, I may boycott it.

'Why Did I Get Married?'

Tyler Perry is a phenomenon. A very popular play producer and writer and actor for the African American community, his recent films have created him a unique film niche. He is one of the only continually successful African American filmmakers since "Diary of a Mad Black Woman" and "Madea's Family Reunion." I figured I would see what all the fuss was about. In this film, various couples deal with marriage turmoil. Wow. Call me crazy, but I didn't laugh once and was shocked. The performances (if you want to call them that) coaxed by Perry from Janet Jackson and others are boring and seem like a cold-reading. Nothing original emanates from this film and it is actually very painful to watch. Perry's talents are sadly lost on me.

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

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West Dressed

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Photo courtesy Alija

GENDER BENDER FOR SURE: What's so wrong with allowing a boy to dress like a girl or vice versa? This guy seems to dig it.

Censoring of costumes is just plain ridiculous

I HAVE STEPPED INTO A TIME WARP.

A couple of weeks ago, there was a memo in my box at the LAUSD school where I teach, explaining the district's policies concerning students' Halloween costumes. Now, I understand the importance of telling students that they can't bring fake weapons to school. I also understand why we don't allow students to bring masks on campus. Students aren't supposed to wear "nightwear," a category that encompasses both innocent flannel pajamas and nearly naked negligees. I don't see the harm in students wearing flannel pajamas to school one day out of the year, but I do think it's a costume cop-out.

I used to love Halloween, before I became a teacher and realized that none of the costumes I wanted to wear were at all appropriate for public school. You can't be a sexy-anything. You can't be truly scary, because the things you find scary are way too dark or abstract. How does one dress up as a tax form? Ghosts and vampires are camp. And so, teachers dress up like pumpkins (the answer is yes to "Does this costume make me look fat?") and lionized historical characters like American suffragist Susan B. Anthony.

My costumes of Halloweens passed includes: a clown, a purple flower, a hippie, a sock-hop girl, a gypsy, a dead flight attendant, Batman villainess Poison Ivy, a valkyrie, Mary Poppins, a geisha, and half Wicked Witch of the West/half Dorothy Gale of Kansas.

As a little girl, I never got to pick out my costumes from the drugstore. As a result, I never got to be Rainbow Brite, Jem, or a Thundercat. At the time, I was really jealous of the kids at school who showed up in flame retardant-treated polyester dresses and plastic masks as their favorite cartoon characters. Why wouldn't my artist mother just let me have something off the rack?

Speaking of racks. . . The memos that were distributed by the district said that it's not okay for boys to dress as girls. The memo called it "discriminatory." I can understand "distracting," but discriminatory? Really? Discriminatory means "treating a person or group unfairly, especially because of prejudice about race, ethnicity,

HALLOWEEN COSTUME TIPS:

- **DON'T LIMIT YOURSELF** to the costumes at the seasonal Halloween store.
- **DO GET CREATIVE:** Shop thrift stores and craft stores.

age, or gender." When Tim Curry dressed as a sleek transvestite, I didn't feel that I had been treated unfairly.

The memo also says it's not okay to come to school as a different ethnicity. I'm half Armenian and half Scottish. I don't know that I would feel I had been treated unfairly if someone put on a fake nose and gave themselves a uni-brow or dressed in a kilt and carried around some bagpipes, but I understand that the district doesn't want it to look like they're encouraging people to instigate a race riot.

The memo says nothing about girls dressing as boys. Why is it only discriminatory for boys to dress as girls? Is that to say that because if a boy dresses as a girl, he's making fun of girls? Students are also not allowed to dress as if they are handicapped. No, you should be sensitive to the handicapped. They didn't choose to be handicapped. And, you should also be sensitive to those not born male. We didn't choose to be girls.

So, for Halloween, I am going to dress like a man.

You know what I'd like to do (in my most wild of costume fantasies)? Put on a wife beater tank top, boxer-shorts, black knee socks. I'd like to stuff a pillow under my shirt as a belly, stipple my face with a five-o'clock shadow, and tuck my hair up into one of those plastic hats that holds two cans of beer. I'd like to hot glue a remote control to my belly, along with a half-eaten hero sandwich. Or is that still not discriminatory?

Let's do the time warp again.

MARIEL HOWSEPIAN digs black coffee, fairy tales and a man in coveralls. She lives in Santa Monica and can be reached at Mariel_Rodriguez@antiochla.edu.

Nobody's fessing up to slaying

BY TOM HAYS AND LARRY MCSHANE

Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK The mother of rap icon Jam Master Jay knows the truth: The people who brazenly pumped a bullet into her son's head remain on the street. So do the witnesses – some of them Jay's friends – who can identify the killers.

Law enforcement knows it, too. Five years, a substantial reward and a lengthy investigation haven't changed a thing when it comes to arresting the murderer of the Run-DMC turntable legend.

"The people who know something haven't talked," said Jay's mother, Connie Mizell-Perry. "They have to live with themselves. Whoever did it, let them live with themselves."

On the night before Halloween 2002, 37-year-old Jason Mizell was in his recording studio in his neighborhood of Hollis, Queens, where the hip-hop star was as recognizable as Santa Claus at the North Pole. Two armed men were buzzed inside; according to some reports, Jay hugged one of the pair.

And then he took a single .40-caliber bullet to the back of his head.

While the homicide lingers as an open case, the identity of one suspect/eyewitness was made public this year by prosecutors: Ronald Washington, a career criminal and local zero. Washington, in the days before Mizell's slaying, was reportedly living on a couch at Jay's home.

The arrangement infuriated Jay's family, since Washington was already linked to another rap slaying: the 1995 shooting of Randy Walker, a close associate of the late Tupac Shakur. Next month, Washington faces sentencing for a series of robberies that took place after he went on the lam following Jay's death – a nomadic tour of Long Island motels as he dodged the police.

He denies any role in the murder at Jay's 24/7 Studio, and has not been charged in the case. But prosecutors detailed Washington waving a handgun and ordering people in the studio to lie on the ground while the execution took place.

The gunman "provided cover for his associate to shoot and kill Jason Mizell," said the court papers, filed by prosecutors opposing a defense motion to dismiss the federal gun and robbery charges against him. Prosecutors declined further comment.

Police identified at least other four people in the studio that night. There were two armed gunmen involved, including one suspect with neighborhood ties. In Hollis, it seemed everybody had heard something about Jay's death.

And still, nobody opened their mouth. And no one is charged in the death.

"There are people who may not be directly culpable, but they damn sure know who did it," said Bill Adler, a hip-hop historian and one-time Run-DMC publicist. "And they keep their mouths shut because they know they could be the next one to end up dead."

His slaying made Jam Master Jay part of the trinity of high-profile hip-hop heroes senselessly slaughtered by gunmen who escaped legal retribution, along with Tupac and his East Coast nemesis, Christopher "Biggie Smalls" Wallace.

The investigations were all stunted by a lack of witness cooperation, part of the national "stop snitching" trend. More recently, the same thing happened when a bodyguard for rapper Busta Rhymes was gunned down during a Brooklyn video shoot on Feb. 5, 2006.

"Stonewalling has hurt these investigations, obviously," said Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, referring to the New York slayings. "What makes it even more insidious is

SEE JMJ PAGE 25

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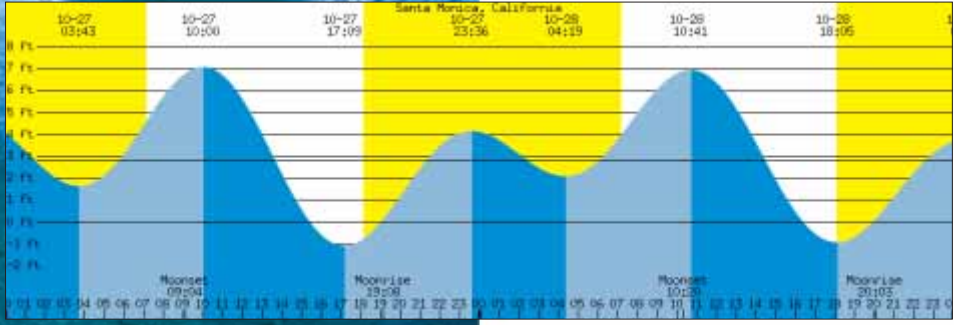
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QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 4

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

Number of wet days -- 8

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 41 / 30

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / 10

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

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



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Heal the Bay's Beach Report CardSM is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A–F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

ON THE SHELVES

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA



Photo courtesy Rock-A-Fella Records

BREAKING NEW GROUND: Kanye West takes a new direction in 'Graduation.'

Kanye West, 'Graduation'

Kanye West has set a pretty high bar for himself and it was interesting to see if he could even match, let alone top, his previous works. It doesn't help that he talks such a big game and rankles more than a few music fans and critics. But, of course, Mr. West comes out of the box with not only his best work to date, but an entirely different direction for his music.

From the first track, "Good Morning," it's obvious West is tinkering with new samples and drum loops. He says he's trying to reach "stadium status" with "Graduation" and he appears to have done exactly that.

"Stronger," the Daft Punk-sampled hit single, really sets the tone for this collection of decidedly progressive tracks. The lyrics on the single leave a little to be desired, but the innovative use of electronic music by such an urban-centric artist is both bold and risky. He did the same thing on 2005's "Blood Diamonds," which didn't receive the same warm welcome that "Stronger" has enjoyed, but helped set the tone for this new direction for this backpack rapper.

As we've come to expect from West, he does drift toward sentimental content matter on this album. In the past, he's given props to his mom and grandmother with odes so emotionally charged that they seem to offset West's overt brashness. On "Big Brother," he delves into an apparent rift he had with one of his primary mentors and benefactors, Jay-Z. Even on this telling track, the synth sound he leans toward is distinctly different than most of his urban contemporaries.

Collaborations with Lil' Wayne and T-Pain help to maintain his street cred and mesh well with this innovative release. For good measure, West even brings Chris Martin from Coldplay along for the ride. (Roc-A-Fella Records)

Jill Scott, 'The Real Thing: Words And Sounds, Vol. 3'

From the jump, "The Real Thing: Words And Sounds, Vol. 3" could have only been pulled off by the effervescent Jill Scott. "Let It Be," the album's first track, is a bassline-driven quickie featuring some of the varying styles that make up this complex performer. While, it borrows its name from a Beatles track, the similarities end there. This is vintage Scott at her best, harmonizing over a hip hop-inspired track. While short, it sets the stage for this excellent collection of songs. She could easily have stayed in the so-called neo soul genre, but apparently

Lips still sealed in Jay’s murder case

FROM JMJ PAGE 23

the profit motive. Stop snitching is all wrapped up in music sales, and the so-called ‘street cred’ in violence and keeping quiet about it.” Kelly said NYPD investigators were told by potential crime witnesses that cooperating with authorities could end their rap careers. Among witnesses without star power, the concern about cooperating is more self-preservation than career preservation. “Many people obviously know a lot,” said David Kennedy, director of the Center for Crime Prevention and Control at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. “And they see people who have killed friends and family members walking around the neighborhood all the time.”

The message is clear: They got away with one murder. What’s another? Ryan Thompson grew up in Brooklyn with his cousin Jay, the two of them spinning records side by side as nascent DJs. Thompson was working two security jobs back in 2002, and finishing up his shift on one when his phone rang. It was a friend delivering an

incomprehensible message: Jay was dead. Thompson couldn’t believe it then, and has

“IT’S REALLY PATHETIC – WE’RE HERE FIVE YEARS LATER, AND NOTHING IS SOLVED, AND NO ONE’S ARRESTED.”

Ryan Thompson, Jay’s cousin

trouble accepting it now – particularly the fact that no one has come forward to identify his cousin’s killer. “It’s about snitching – people are supposed to live by that,” said Thompson. “It’s nonsense. There’s no such thing as snitching when someone’s been murdered that you love and care

about. Did those people really respect Jay?” An assortment of names have surfaced over the years as suspects, ranging from local nobodies to one of Queens’ most notorious drug lords, Kenneth “Supreme” McGriff, currently serving life without parole for a pair of murders. Other than Washington, authorities identified no suspects. The names of two witnesses surface repeatedly in the case: Mizell’s business partner, Randy Allen, and his sister Lydia High. Reports from four years ago indicated she was placed in protective custody by police. Today, her attorney says he has not heard from High in more than a year. The investigation into Jason Mizell’s death continues; the NYPD never closes a murder probe. No one ever claimed the more than \$60,000 in reward money posted by the city and Jay’s friends. Some would say no amount of cash was worth their life. Thompson disagrees. “It’s really pathetic – we’re here five years later, and nothing is solved, and no one’s arrested,” he said. “How is that?”

Jill Scott continues to do her extremely soulful thing

FROM CDS PAGE 24

Scott is far more ambitious than that description allows. She has driving guitars, subtle phrasing and those ever present heavy beats on just about every track. Scott seems to be moving in a more orchestral direction than on past recordings. On “Come See Me,” a laid back horn section leads into an almost ‘70s inspired sound that compliments her sweet, sexy style. At times, she can be as forceful as a young Tina Turner, at others, she evokes a Diana Ross easiness that not many of her contemporaries could even dream of matching.

Unlike some of her previous releases, she seems more than happy to go it alone. She has often recruited some of the hottest stars in urban music in the past, but this time, she shares the spotlight with no one. Every track is all about Jill. She even borrows from the world of spoken word on this Hidden Beach release. “Epiphany,” a seductive narrative about some of her favorite things, features her nearly rapping over a rich track that any rapper would be happy to flow on. (Hidden Beach recordings)

daniela@smdp.com



Photo courtesy Hidden Beach Recordings
KEEPING ON: Jill Scott is solid as ever.

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

Keep costs low, Taurus

Happy Birthday!

This year you will be open to many different approaches. Deciding which way or manner suits you could be very demanding. You will evolve into a far happier person as a result. You will like variety and understand its role in your life much better by your birthday in 2008. If you are single, you could draw a slew of admirers. The question remains: Who would you like as your special loved one? If you are attached, your relationship opens up.



Born Today

Poet Dylan Thomas (1914)
Actress, sportscaster
Jayne Kennedy (1951)

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

★★★★★ Discussions are animated and full of fun. You might not realize how much can happen all at once. Listen to answers that come forward. You might not be sure someone is grounded. You also might not care. Tonight: Visiting; catch up on news.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Know when to back off. Someone might have more rigid yet less effective ideas. Each person needs to see the end result of his or her idea. Investigate what might be going on through your own method. You easily could be on overload. Tonight: Keep costs low.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Your energy makes you close to unstoppable. Listen to what someone says with more care. Your personality might be more mellow than it has been in a while, as you take a risk. You know what you are doing. Tonight: All smiles.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Use your instincts to follow through on what might be most important. Other people are vague, but just the same, you can get to the bottom of a problem. Use the morning for active interactions. Mellow out later. Tonight: Stop the rat race. Do what you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Zoom in on what you want. Don't be surprised if you receive a mixed message. How you handle an issue could be very different from others. Give others space to just be. Tonight: Where the action is.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You might feel you need to do something very differently. Though you might be unusually tired or dragged down, it doesn't mean you need to do something different. Examine alternatives rather than negate them. Tonight: Where the action is.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ If you can, opt for adventure or do something very different. You don't need to have all the answers. Trust your decision. You might not be as open to a creative venture as you would like to believe. Relax more. Tonight: Read between the lines.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You might want to try something very different and more dynamic. Listen to suggestions that head in your direction. A partner gives you strong feedback. Do listen, as this person often has unique suggestions. Tonight: Go along for the ride.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You might not always be able to handle everything that heads down your path, nor should you. Investigate with an eye to the different. You might not be sure what is the best way to proceed. Tonight: Sort through invitations.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Knowing when to call it a day would be smart. Fatigue earmarks the later day. Remember, you are only one person and can only do so much. Listen to what is being shared with an open mind. Tonight: Take some down time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Though you might feel out of sorts as the day begins, by the evening, you are a force to behold. During a boring moment or two, think about what you would do if you could. You might be able to do just that. Tonight: Fun and games.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Your centering proves to be remarkable, especially if someone wants to push or nudge you in a different direction. Knowing what works could be instrumental to your success. Know when to put a halt to a game. Tonight: Entertain from your castle.

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 395-4990

The Haunting (1963) (NR)
7:30
The Return of the Living Dead (R)
7:30

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

The Comebacks (PG-13)
11:25am, 1:35, 3:45, 5:55, 8:05, 10:10
Lars and the Real Girl (PG-13)
11:15am, 1:50, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50
Saw IV (R)
2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:30
Things We Lost in the Fire (R)
11:05am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45

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

30 Days of Night (R)
11:45am, 2:35, 5:20, 8:05, 10:50
Dan in Real Life (PG-13)
11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:45
Elizabeth: The Golden Age (PG-13)
11:35am, 2:20, 5:05, 7:55, 10:45
The Game Plan (PG)
11:40am, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:35
Gone Baby Gone (R)
11:05am, 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:10
Saw IV (R)
11:00am, 1:20, 3:40, 6:05, 8:30, 11:00
We Own the Night (R)
11:25am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40

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

Bella (PG-13)
1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:55
Canvas (PG-13)
11:00am
The Darjeeling Limited (R)
1:40, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
Golda's Balcony (NR)
11:00am
Hollywood Dreams (R)
11:00am
Lust, Caution (Se jie) (NC-17)
1:00, 4:30, 8:00
Slipstream (R)
1:50, 4:50, 7:30, 9:55
Total Denial (NR)
11:00am

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)
12:40, 3:40, 7:40, 10:20
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, 10:00
Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas in Disney Digital 3D (PG)
12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20

Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
GOLD

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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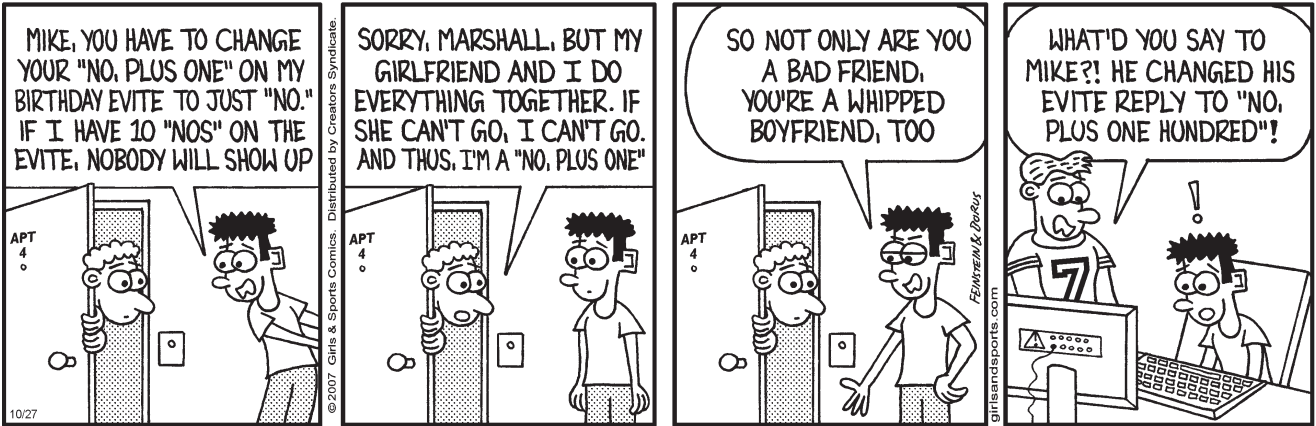
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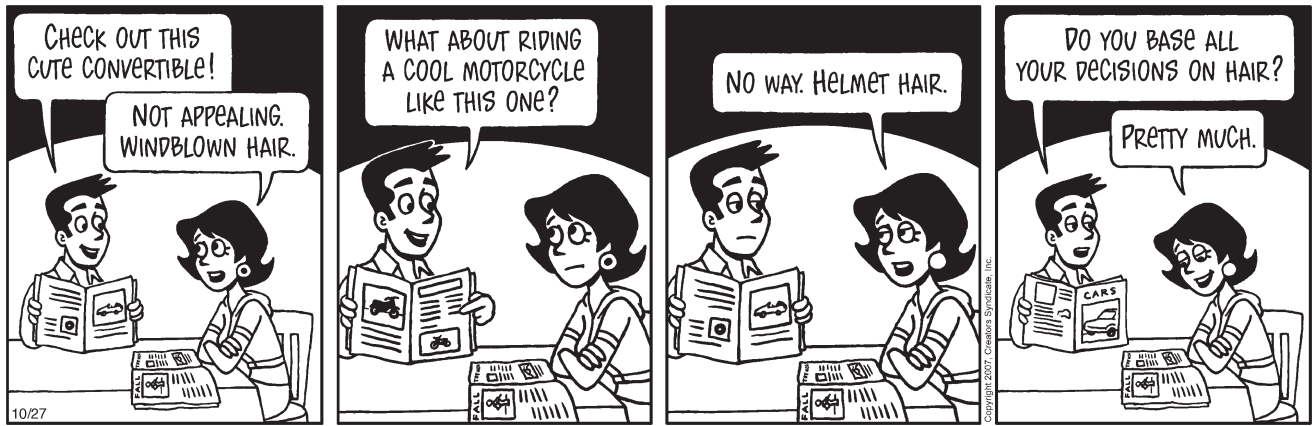
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



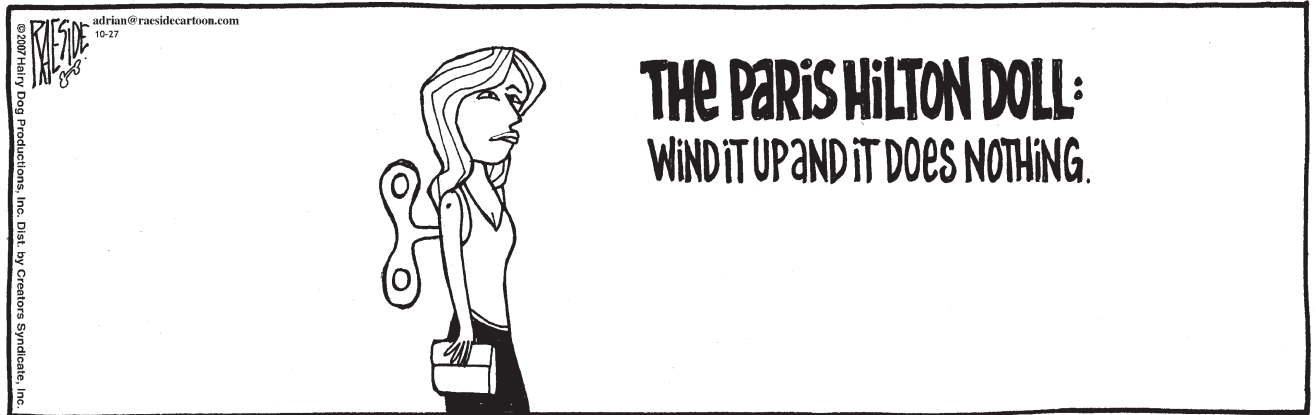
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



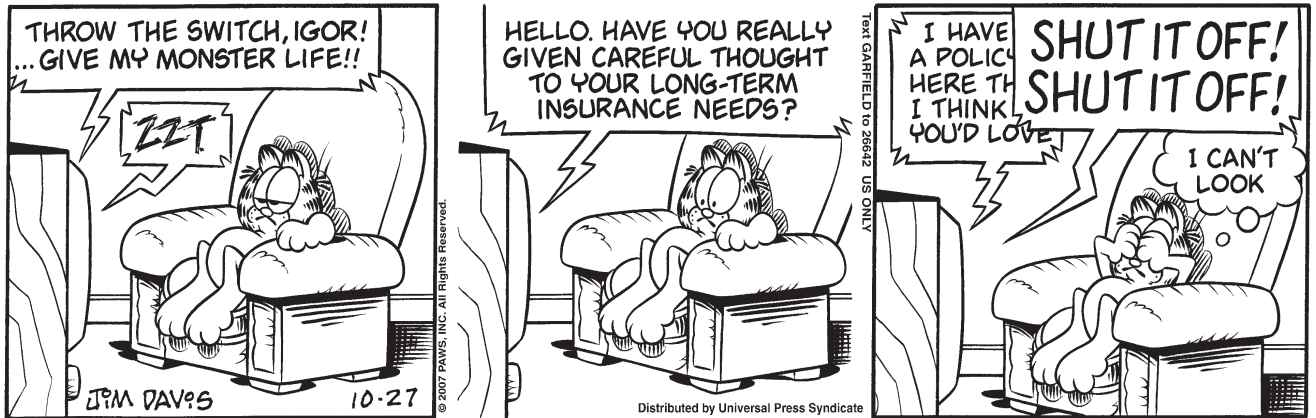
The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



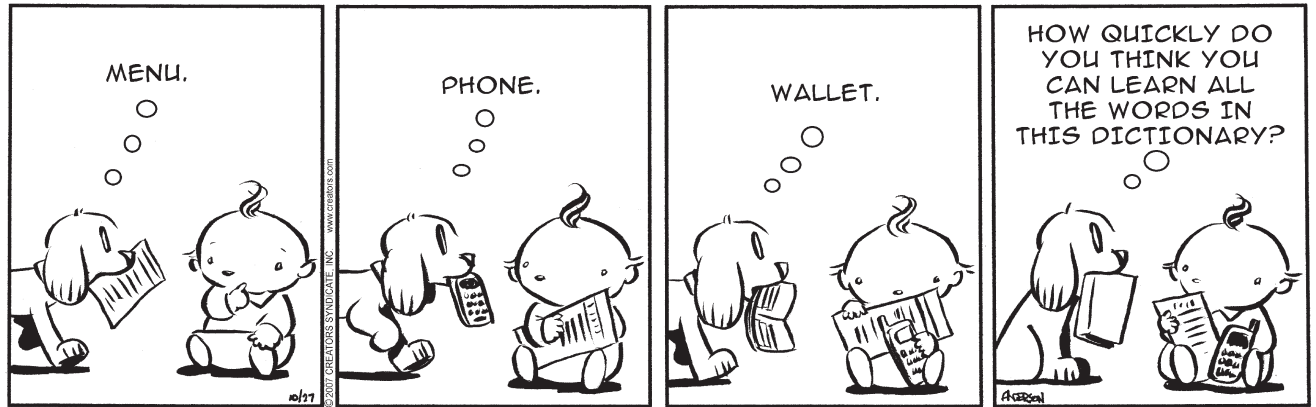
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew

By John Deering

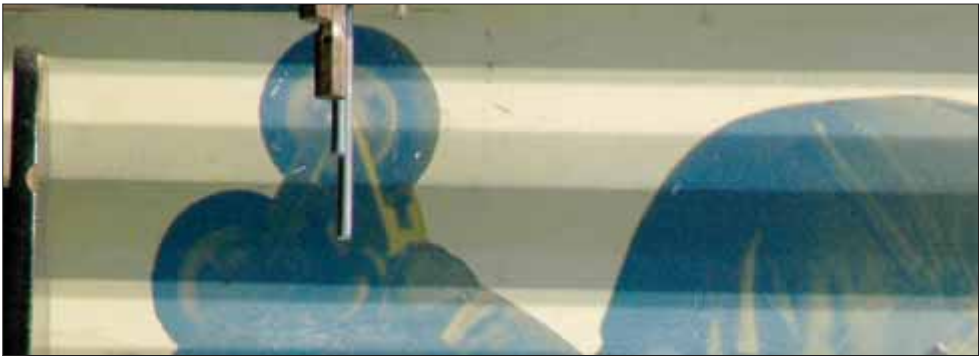


Speed Bump

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 39 Moves with speed

1 Distant energy emitter
7 Macramé unit
11 Frank McCourt's mother
12 Bumpkin
13 Reunion girls
14 Flock reply
15 Forbidden acts
16 Formal fights
17 Nay voter
18 Rob and Laura's last name
19 Frank
21 Farm animal
22 Vaccine pioneer
25 Collar
26 Seasonal song
27 Theater parts
29 Splinter group
33 Spiked weapons
34 Back biter?
35 Out of the wind
36 Corps member
37 Refinery sight
38 Warring woman

DOWN 1 1990 Nick Nolte movie
2 Labor group
3 Operative
4 News-paper part
5 Pub brews
6 — Tafari
7 Dog topper
8 XII, for one
9 Washing- ton Monu- ment, e.g.
10 Prepares for a blow
16 Slow-witted
18 Cuban cash
20 Sheets of stamps
22 Fronton sport
23 Coarse loser
24 Campaign

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

1 1990 Nick Nolte movie
2 Labor group
3 Operative
4 News-paper part
5 Pub brews
6 — Tafari
7 Dog topper
8 XII, for one
9 Washing- ton Monu- ment, e.g.
10 Prepares for a blow
16 Slow-witted
18 Cuban cash
20 Sheets of stamps
22 Fronton sport
23 Coarse loser
24 Campaign

Q	U	I	T	O		C	H	I	L	D
U	N	D	E	R		R	I	D	E	R
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M	A	T		L	I	D		T	O	E
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		T	O	S	S	P	O	T		
M	A	Y	S		H	E	Y	Y	O	U
A	P	T		F	O	R		C	U	T
D	O	H		A	W	L		A	T	T
C	L	E	F	T		M	O	R	S	E
A	L	F	I	E		A	D	D	E	R
P	O	T	T	S		N	E	S	T	S

25 "Broad- way Joe"
28 Onions' kin
30 "My Fair Lady" lady
31 Church code
32 Senator Lott
34 Broadway aunt
36 Welcome sight

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					

Comics & Stuff

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
12 20 24 38 51
Meganumber: 3
Jackpot: \$53M

Super LOTTO
8 11 18 37 46
Meganumber: 15
Jackpot: \$23M

Fantasy 5
2 10 16 25 39

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 2 8 8
EVENING: 3 8 7

DAILY DERBY
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms
RACE TIME: 1:46.59

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

■ Endangered! (1) Biologists who have been studying "Lonesome George," the sole survivor of a species of Galapagos Island tortoises, told Reuters News Service in July that they are skeptical he will ever mate, even though he may live another 100 years. After so many abortive attempts to pair him with a female (even having randy young male and female tortoises demonstrate mating for him), they say George remains totally uninterested. (2) And in Australia, a turtle species named in 1990 for Steve Irwin is now thought to be growing endangered, according to an Australian Associated Press dispatch in August. The "Elseya irwini" is one of a few turtles that respire through their excretory openings. ■ Britain's Housing Crises: (1) Alex Baker, 96, told London's Daily Mail in May that he is very happy to have lived all his life in the same Portsmouth house in which he was born (although the neighborhood has certainly changed a lot since 1911). (2) David and Jean Davidson, who are retired and own an apartment in Sheffield, told the Daily Mail in September that they've actually been living at a Travelodge motel for the last 22 years because they prefer the simplicity. (And of course during a holiday in the U.S., the Davidsons made sure to stay at TravelLodges.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1787 the first of the Federalist Papers, a series of essays calling for ratification of the U.S. Constitution, was published in New York.
1795 the United States and Spain signed the Treaty of San Lorenzo (also known as "Pinckney's Treaty"), which provided for free navigation of the Mississippi River.
1858 the 26th president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, was born in New York City.
1880 Theodore Roosevelt married his first wife, Alice Lee.
1904 the first rapid transit subway, the IRT, was inaugurated in New York City.
1907 Union Station in Washington, D.C., opened.
1922 the first annual celebration of Navy Day took place.
1938 Du Pont announced a name for its new synthetic yarn: "nylon."
1947 "You Bet Your Life," starring Groucho Marx, premiered on ABC Radio. (It later became a television show on NBC.)

WORD UP!

bravado \bruH-VAH-doh\, noun; plural bravados or bravadoes \bruH-VAH-dohz\:
A real or pretended show of courage or boldness.

Santa Monica Daily Press

**WANTS YOU TO SEE WHAT
ALL THE BUZZ IS ABOUT**

JERRY SEINFELD

RENÉE ZELLWEGER

HONEY JUST GOT FUNNY



DREAMWORKS

**BEE
MOVIE**

DREAMWORKS ANIMATION SKG PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH COLUMBUS JI PRODUCTIONS "BEE MOVIE" MUSIC BY RUPERT GREGSON-WILLIAMS
WRITTEN BY JERRY SEINFELD AND SPIKE FERESTEN & DARRY MARDEN & ANDY ROBIN PRODUCED BY JERRY SEINFELD CHRISTINA STEINBERG
DIRECTED BY SHAWN J. SMITH STEVE HICKNER
BeeMovie.com **NOVEMBER 2**

**ENTER FOR
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**BEE
MOVIE**

**PRIZE
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5 lucky winners will win:

■ 4 passes to a special
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November 1 at The Grove
at 7:30 p.m.

■ Wowwee Flytech™
Barry B. Benson™



Please arrive early as seating is on
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Simply complete the information below and send to:

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All entries must be received by Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2007. Winner will be notified on Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2007.
(Employees of Santa Monica Daily Press, Paramount Pictures, and Wowwee are not eligible to participate.)

NAME _____

PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

IN THEATRES NOVEMBER 2

Santa Monica Daily Press

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--	---	--	---	--	--

All classified liner ads are placed on our website for **FREE!** Check out www.smdp.com for more info.

Obituaries

BETTY MILLER TOMELO, born in Santa Monica on June 21, 1929, passed away on October 5, 2007. She was a life long resident of Santa Monica, attending Santa Monica High School, Santa Monica City College and graduating from UCLA. She was very active in the Santa Monica community: Historian for Santa Monica High School, member of the Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board, kept the history of Sea Scout Ship 16, and supported many other local organizations. She leaves her family: Jananne Miller Cralle, sister-in-law; Leanne Miller Rangel, niece; Gregory Miller, nephew; Curtis Miller, nephew; Megan Miller Salazar, great niece; Ian Douglas, great nephew. In lieu of flowers, we ask that you make a donation to Sea Scout Ship 16, c/o Dave Moore, 747 Ave A, Redondo Beach 90277

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Miscellaneous

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by day, honest reliable, own transportation, references, L.I./L.O. nanny housekeepers. Low fees, been in business since 1988, open 7 days. Call, ask for Adeline (818)705-0295 or fax (818)705-0297

Motorized wheel chair at no cost to you for disabled and handicapped people. Call (310)542-6575

Announcements



\$1000. REWARD for Lost Pot Belly Pig. Lost in Santa Monica Cyn. 10/22 at 8 AM. "Henry" or "little piggy" 15 lbs. PLEASE CALL 310-573-1760

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CO-OPPORTUNITY NOW HIRING! Produce, Grocery, Community Deli and Maintenance Assistants Go to www.coopportunity.com for more info or stop by the store at 1525 Broadway for an application.

Employment

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GIVE OF YOURSELF volunteers wanted at the discovery shop. Help us contribute to the American cancer society by spending 4 hours per week assisting in our resale shop in Santa Monica. Contact Terry or Shaunna at (310)458-4490

IMMEDIATE POSITIONS available in the Environmental Services Department. Looking for part time housekeepers/ floor techs. Hospital Experience preferred. Call (310)829-8431 for interview.

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20072127312 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as ISHOUUEU.COM, 15900 CRENSHAW BLVD. #G281, GARDENA, CA. 90249. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : KIMBERLY L. CANNON, 18 CORTE RIVERA, LAKE ELSINORE, CA. 92532 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: KIMBERLY CANNON
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 9/14/2007. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 10/13/2007, 10/20/2007, 10/27/2007, 11/3/2007

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20072234747 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as A PLACE IN THE SHADE INFANT AND TODDLER CHILD CARE, 27527 SANTA CLARITA ROAD, SANTA CLARITA, CA. 91350. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : KAREN MARIE FURY, 27527 SANTA CLARITA ROAD, SANTA CLARITA, CA. 91350 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: KAREN FURY
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 9/27/2007. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 10/27/2007, 11/3/2007, 11/10/2007, 11/17/2007

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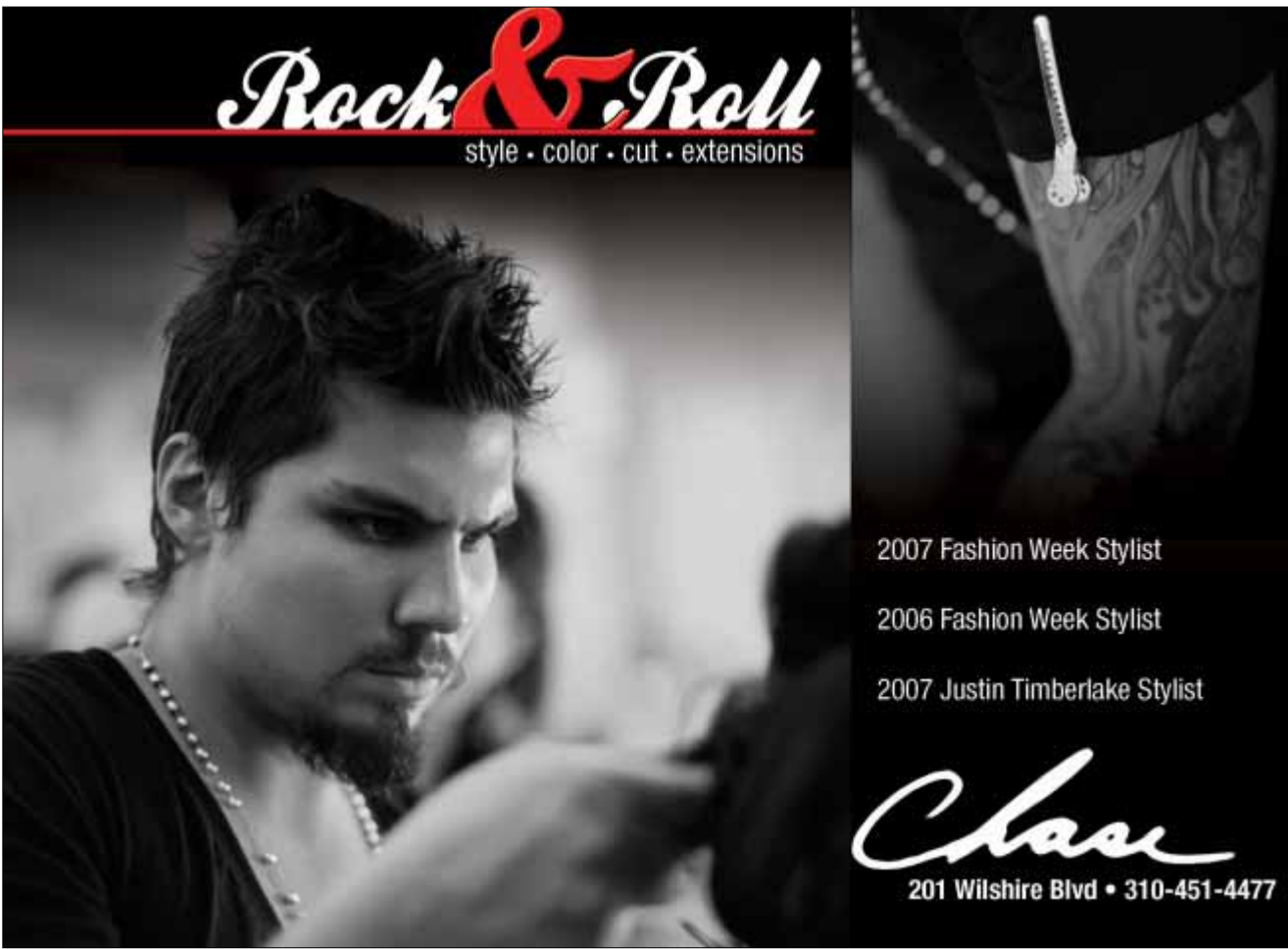
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