



Santa Monica Daily Press

SO REAL YOU CAN SMELL THE GRASS
SEE PAGE 16

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE ON TIME AND UNDER BUDGET ISSUE

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by Melody Hanatani Page 12

Photo illustration by Frances Casareno production@smdp.com

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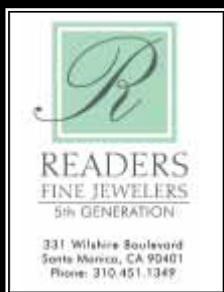
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Calendar

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WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 10-11, 2007

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Happy Holidays



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

Christmas Day Open 7:30a.m. – 2p.m.

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Floral fusion

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

Brenda Berkley, proprietor of The Flower Box, demonstrates the principles of Zen aesthetics in creating unique floral designs for the holiday season. Copies of her recent book, “Zen Flowers: Designs to Soothe the Senses and Nourish the Soul,” will be available for sale and a signing follows the program.

Grand Master VA

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 12:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Simultaneous demonstration and chess instruction with California’s highest-ranking chess player, Grand Master Var Akobian. Register by e-mail to play or attend — akobianlibrary@gmail.com.

Indian Summer Art Exhibit

2525 Michigan Ave., 11 a.m. — 6 p.m.

Schomburg Gallery presents “Indian Summer,” an exhibition of paintings by Los Angeles born-and-raised artist Marlena Chumo. For more information, call (310) 453-5757. To view the exhibit, visit www.schomburggallery.com.

Dockside SoCal Wildfire Donation Drive

13717 Fiji Way, Marina del Rey, 11:30 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Pacific Adventure Cruises has joined with Red Cross of Santa Monica for a special “Dockside Donation Drive.” Cash donations, canned food and Hefty bags will be collected to benefit victims of the recent Southern California wildfires. Donations will be collected aboard the Catalina Adventure. Make checks payable to Red Cross of Santa Monica.

Andre Marins in concert

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 p.m. — 3 p.m.

Andrew Marins returns to the MLK Jr. Auditorium to perform an acoustic guitar concert.

Los Angeles Asian & Tribal Art Show

1855 Main St., 11 a.m. — 7 p.m.

This November marks the return of the Los Angeles Asian and Tribal Art Show — now in its 17th year. This event features a wide selection of internationally renowned art dealers/galleries specializing in antique and contemporary Asian and Tribal art. General admission is \$12 per person; call for details regarding the opening night benefit preview. For additional information, call (310) 455-2886, or visit www.caskeylees.com.

Sunday, Nov. 11, 2007

Community health fair

1637 Butler Ave., West LA, 9 a.m. — noon

First United Methodist Church of West LA is holding free medical services, evaluations and counseling. Among the services to be offered are flu shots, blood pressure checks, geriatric counseling and grief counseling.

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” program. Local scholar Barbara Bilson will lead a discussion of Rebecca Goldstein’s “The Mind-Body Problem.”

‘The Happy Journey’

1220 Second St., 3:45 p.m. — 4:20 p.m.

Arts In Action debuts the new theatre program in the Sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica. The theatre begins its new program with a one-act from Thornton Wilder, author of the classic “Our Town.” Call First Presbyterian for showtimes at (310) 451-1303.

“The Fabulous Flora: A Special New Tour”

601 Santa Monica Blvd., noon — 1 p.m.

Docent Sally Ashear will lead a special outdoor tour of the Main Library.

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.



CORRECTION

A picture caption for the Santa Monica College women’s basketball team (“To new heights,” Nov. 9, page 9) should have stated that the Corsairs lost their season opener, 76-59, to visiting Santa Ana.

ON THE FRONT

Photos on the front page provided by NBA Photos, Los Angeles Dodgers, U.S. Army, PGA.



BBBBRRRRRR!

Work continues on a future public ice skating rink at the intersection of Fifth Street and Arizona Avenue. Crew members from Aggreko Power Solutions (from l to r) Terry Jones, Nacho Rivas and Luis Buis tend to an ice-making machine on Thursday. The rink will open to the public Nov. 16.

Brandon Wise news@smdp.com



Sizing up the City Council

More pay, more meetings among talking points

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Another day, another dollar. The City Clerk's Office is studying other municipalities with similar characteristics as Santa Monica to see if the City Council should hold more meetings, hire more staff and be paid more money for serving in public office. Currently, the seven council members meet, on average, twice a month and hold special meetings throughout the year to discuss complex issues such as the budget or homelessness.

It has become extremely difficult in the last few years to adjourn the meetings prior to 11 p.m., as called for in the council rules. Elected officials and residents have complained that this hurts the democratic process for the simple fact that people get tired at the end of a long day and are not as able to make decisions or give input as they would be if they were more alert.

To address this, it was suggested by Mayor Richard Bloom that the council and city staff do some research to see if having meetings every week would help, along with hiring an additional staff member or two to handle the council's correspondence, prepare reports and provide other assistance.

"We are a much more complex city than we are sometimes given credit for," Bloom told his council colleagues last week during their regularly scheduled meeting, which ended at 12:17 a.m.

Few cities of Santa Monica's size have a thriving downtown, a robust tourism industry, a municipal pier, public beach, airport, bus company and police and fire departments, in addition to the wide range of recreational programs, social services, housing and educational support, Bloom said.

That is in part why Santa Monica boasts a budget of nearly \$500 million annually, the third largest in Los Angeles County, only behind the cities of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

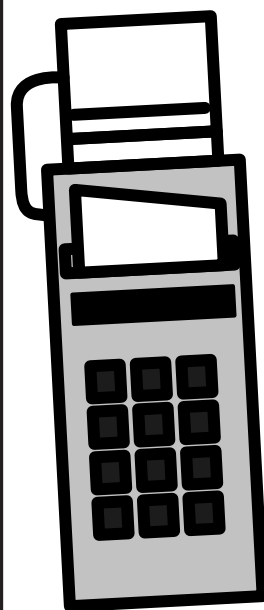
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Cuckoos in the Historic District

Editor:

As ornithologists will tell you, the cuckoo takes advantage of smaller birds, such as hedge sparrows, by laying its eggs in their nests. When hatched, the fledgling cuckoo elbows the legitimate hatchlings out of the nest and, squawking loudly, demands that the unsuspecting and harried little host birds feed its insatiable appetite. Of course, the cuckoo is merely acting instinctively and should not be vilified for its survival techniques, nasty as they may seem. But what if the cuckoo is human?

Recently, a (resident) has landed in the heart of the Third Street Neighborhood Historic District and is threatening to lay an egg there in the form of a large two-story cantilevered Modernist structure that would loom over the adjacent California bungalows. The district guidelines call for new construction and additions to be deferential to the protected homes, but this project would create intolerable visual disturbance to the detriment of all the surrounding homes.

The architect has had other Modernist projects come to fruition elsewhere in Ocean Park and there is reason to believe that the currently proposed building could also find a site in Ocean Park where it would be welcomed. In the Historic District, however, it has met with strongly-felt opposition because of its disregard for the district guidelines and the damage that would result. It is felt that if such a project were to be allowed, a precedent of ignoring the guidelines would have been set, and other homeowners would no longer feel that the district offered any particular protections. As a result, much of the incentive to spend time, money and effort on restoring and maintaining these beautiful old homes would be lost.

On Monday, the Landmarks Commission will be discussing the project for the third time. It is to be hoped that the commissioners will decide to protect the Third Street Neighborhood Historic District by denying a Certificate of Appropriateness to the project and that the applicant will then look for a more suitable location for his dream house.

He has every right to build it, but not to destroy Santa Monica's only historic district in the process.

Karen Blechman
Santa Monica

Let's remember the veterans

Editor:

(Re: Veterans Day is this Sunday)
Come forth the villainous
in shades of gray;
Opposed by the righteous
clad too in gray.
God is with us
they all do say.
Who is right;
which shade of gray?
Glory is in sight;
each right shows might.
But war is no cure,
draws blood from the pure.
So gray creates fire,
then all is red.
Screams ring out,
so many are dead
The villainous, the righteous –
they battle to save.
Memorials for them,
the cowardice and brave
But veterans are all
the carnage we share.
Include innocent and children
war does not spare.
Annihilate all warfare,
this violence of ages.
Help villainous and righteous
victims and sages.
For Veterans Day
is white, red and gray.
The best way to honor:
Pray peace be the day

Ronald M. Koncan
Santa Monica



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

So crazy it might just do the trick

IN ONE OF THE 2007 PRESIDENTIAL debates — and I mean one of the 2,007 debates they’ve held so far, not debates held in the year 2007 — Tim Russert asked Democratic hopeful Dennis Kucinich if, as Shirley McClain reported in a recent book, he has ever seen a UFO. The candidate answered, “I did.”

Almost immediately, Kucinich was mocked by Republicans and others, and had his intelligence and mental health called into question. There was a similar response when three of the Republican candidates at another debate claimed they did not believe in evolution. My point is that everybody has beliefs that somebody else considers crazy.

So, at least for the duration of this column, let’s not look at these things as the opinions of “nuts” and “wackos.” Let’s look at them as “minority opinions.” And remember, just because only a minority believes in something doesn’t mean that they’re wrong. So let’s cut these minority believers some slack, whether they believe in ghosts, that the earth is flat or that President Bush’s Iraq policy is working out great.

As far as the UFO issue is concerned, before Republicans laugh too loudly, they should remember that Ronald Reagan claimed to have seen UFOs twice. And despite his aides’ advice, like Kucinich, Reagan was not afraid to admit that he had seen them.

All of this got me thinking: Hardly anyone believes that Kucinich has a chance of getting the Democratic nomination, let alone winning the presidency, but I think there is a way he could win. He should make more of his “close encounter” and try to get all the people who say they believe in UFOs to vote for him.

About 34 percent of Americans believe in UFOs. If Kucinich could just get all of the registered voters of that group to vote for him, he’d have a great start.

But why stop there? If I were advising Kucinich, I’d tell him to go after all the people who have been called “crazy,” “irrational” or just plain “silly” because of their beliefs.

After all, another 34 percent of Americans believe in ghosts, 13 percent believe Friday the 13th is an unlucky day, while about 7.5 percent believe that an article of clothing will bring them good luck. Six percent believe the moon landing was faked, 20 percent think the sun revolves around the Earth, 27 percent believe they have been reincarnated and were another person in a previous life, and 19 percent believe there’s at least a good chance that Elvis is still alive.

So people with “minority opinions” make up a demographic that is generally ignored by most candidates. And it’s not a small demographic. I’m going to add up all the percentages of people with these beliefs. OK, it comes to a total of 160.5 percent of the American people. Wait, that can’t be right. Even though I’m used to election results not making arithmetical sense, I know that 160.5 percent is a bit high. I guess the reason for this large number is that some people with minority beliefs belong to more than one category. I’ll bet a lot of people who have lucky shirts also believe Friday the 13th is an unlucky day, and some who believe in ghosts probably also believe that they have been reincarnated, etc.

SO, AT LEAST FOR THE DURATION OF THIS COLUMN, LET’S NOT LOOK AT THESE THINGS AS THE OPINIONS OF ‘NUTS’ AND ‘WACKOS.’ LET’S LOOK AT THEM AS ‘MINORITY OPINIONS.’

However, if 160.5 percent of the vote is out of the question (assuming you’re someone who believes in math), let’s face it: The number of Americans with “minority beliefs” (or “crazies” as many people called them until now) is a pretty high number. If you don’t fall into one of these categories yourself, don’t at least a few of the people that you know have some of these minority beliefs? Or maybe they believe in things I didn’t include here.

This might be the only way for Kucinich to win: Round up the voters who are mocked for their beliefs. Since I’m not someone who’s among those who claim to be able to see into the future, I can’t guarantee that this would make him President. But if all of the “minority believers” were organized as Kucinich’s campaign workers, it certainly would be fun to go to one of his rallies.

LLOYD GARVER writes the “Modern Times” column for CBSnews.com’s Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermodern-times.com.

DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?

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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

“Millions of people think they can dance, want to be the next American Idol, great American band, chef, fashion designer, or superhero. Why deal with union writers demanding a bigger share when you can get ordinary people for free?”

— Santa Monica Daily Press columnist, Kenny Mack, on the ill-timed strike by the WGA in light of the plethora of reality TV available to studios

“I see and hear what’s happening to Britney Spears and it’s all I can do not to move her into my guest-house and say, ‘OK, this is how it’s going to be!’ And just take care of her.”

— Julia Roberts, on her overprotective motherly style

“I love romantic films ... But I don’t like being raped by sugar.”

— Actress Keira Knightley

— Critical Mass bicyclist, Alex Thompson

“I am still the chief justice of the Supreme Court and the judges are still the judges under the constitution, and no one can limit our freedom of movement.”

— Iftikhar Chaudry, the former chief justice of Pakistan’s Supreme Court, who was deposed by President Pervez Musharraf

“The bus is loud. It makes the houses vibrate. If I want to sleep in, forget it.”

— Wendy Tatt, a resident negatively affected by the Sunset Ride Big Blue Bus route

“The basketball player, Barak Obamas.”

— Borat, the character portrayed by comedian Sacha Baron Cohen, on whom he’d like elected as the American president

“It is just not possible to be too full of yourself as you walk down your street holding a bag of poo.”

— Santa Monica Daily Press columnist, David Pizarra, on the positive effect dogs have upon their humans

“He’s very likable, it’s just he’s stupid, apparently.”

— Rev. John Mark Hannon, mentor to the Reverend David Ajemian, who was arrested last week for stalking late-night talk show host Conan O’Brien

Quotations captured and compiled with care by CYNTHIA VAZQUEZ.

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The QLine

Is SANTA MONICA REALLY GREEN?

This past week, Q-line asked:
Do you think Santa Monica is truly green or is it all just a bunch of propaganda?
Here are your responses:

"THE CITY TALKS A BETTER GAME than they play. Examples abound. Examples both large and small. Waste management under performs green goals for recycling and reduction. The Pico greenscape was a green failure. Which trees have survived are neglected. Traffic impacts of development are ignored. Grandstanding ordinances like banning Styrofoam have no teeth. Water and electrical uses are up, not down. Santa Monica's City Hall's inflated ego gets in the way every time."

"THE ONLY THINGS GREEN ABOUT Santa Monica are the lovely natural things the City Council hasn't gotten around to destroying yet. We are well on the way to a dense concrete jungle. Just give them time."

"IN MOST RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF SANTA Monica – especially North of Montana – that has a population of folks who have pockets full of U.S. green back legal tender also have some of the most magnificent shrubbery, gardens, lawns and hedges that are very pleasing to one's eyes. Pacific Ocean pollution is not the fault of Santa Monica. The die was cast many years ago when the common area sewage system was designed to empty into the ocean, compounded by the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek. Keep in mind folks, all of the oil that drips upon the highway from motorized vehicles eventually ends up in the ocean when rains wash it into the storm drains. I personally do a great deal of bike riding alone and have always been respected by motorists. A large crowd of riders usurping that automotive roadway seemingly upsets motorists. My personal peeve is the filthy sidewalks that are covered with little black, quarter sized pieces of stepped on, spilled on chewing gum that have to be scraped up, a good minimum wage job for school kids ... A good motto is a green city is a clean city."

"NO SANTA MONICA IS NOT TRULY green. If they were, they would simply not allow the horrendous jet pollution emanating from the airport they own and operate. The City Council members are a joke, including Kevin McKeown who publicly vows how green he is but does not take any responsibility as a councilman for the noxious odors from the idling jets, instead continually announcing that it is in the hands of the FAA. To sit back and allow this pollution to happen, which is making people and their animals sick, and then publicly proclaim how green they area, is reprehensible. Santa Monica is being protected by politicians like Sen. Kuehl on down. There is plenty of propaganda being spewed around by the city staff as well. The main reason is, if the truth comes out about how harmful the jet fuel is to the neighboring communities, the city will be subject to mass lawsuits."

"WHEN ANSWERING THIS Q-LINE question, one needs to understand that there's the environmental green and then there's the greenback dollar. Both should be part of the equation to determine the final answer. Over the past 15 to 20 years the green has gone over to the dollar and away from the environment. The growth of the jet setter traffic at the Santa Monica Airport that brought with it not only extreme noise and air pollution, but also the growth of business that equates to a lot of tax revenue to the city, and, oh yes, the street traffic. The planned removal of the well-established healthy trees points out how far away from the environmental green this city has strayed. It is now difficult to make out the green with all the murky colors that are overpowering it. To me, Santa Monica as an environmentally green city is only a memory."

"CALLING SANTA MONICA GREEN WHEN it comes to Santa Monica Airport is a bunch of baloney. Santa Monica Airport is a major health threat to the citizens who

live around it. The jet fumes that are coming off these huge jets that are landing there now, and also the risks that the jets pose to the surrounding neighborhoods from crashes and other issues, is totally unacceptable and inconsistent with Santa Monaco's quote, unquote green view point. We'd appreciate it if the paper would help us, particularly this group called Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution, to convince the city of Santa Monica that they need to live up to their rhetoric and let's get the jets moved out of Santa Monica Airport so we can start enjoying our neighborhoods again."

"THOSE OF US WHO LIVE ON THE L.A. side of the Santa Monica Airport certainly don't think that Santa Monica is as green as it claims to be. There's a lot of jet pollution, a lot of noise over here and it doesn't seem like Santa Monica will do a thing about it. There are smaller things like the Clover Park festival that happens every year where cheap Chinese-made plastic items are handed out, which certainly isn't green nor is the production and shipping of them. I think Santa Monica needs to pay a little more attention to what it means to be green."

"SANTA MONICA'S GREEN IS LIKE A show business publicity campaign, rich in production values while lacking in substance. Genuinely green municipalities do not pander to high rollers who fly anti-green jets in and out of Santa Monica Airport, fouling the air, raising ambient noise levels and risking the safety of surrounding neighborhoods in Santa Monica and L.A. Until the Santa Monica City Council shows enough courage to reject the national priority of wealth first, environment last, claims of green are a sham and shame. Now the only green that flies in Santa Monica is the kind you take to the bank."

"YES I THINK THAT SANTA MONICA IS working very hard at being a green city, however, their policies sometimes are a bit weird to say the least. My husband wanted to build a beautiful condominium complex on Ocean Park Boulevard and it was denied because a bunch of activists went in against it. Now I see all kinds of edifices here in the city of San Malicious. Santa Monica is trying but we are dealing with a bunch of politicos."

"I LIVE NEXT TO THE AIRPORT AND live in Los Angeles and the fumes are just unbearable. That's certainly not green. I also noticed that on the beaches there are no recycling bins as there are in Ventura. I don't think a lot of businesses in Santa Monica are recycling. I think businesses should be required to recycle or receive some incentives. If it was such a green city then it would have those programs in place where businesses would be recycling more. The main problem is the bad pollution from the airport."

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File photo

GOING BIKE CRAZY: While Santa Monica officials cultivate an environmentally sound image, their handling of some hot-button issues call that into question for some readers — and riders.

"SANTA MONICA IS NOT TRULY GREEN. It's a fraud they perpetuate. Jet fumes permeate the southeast corner of the city, actually whole south side of the city. They want to chop down trees that provide not only a tree canopy but much needed oxygen and help combat global warming. So it is a fraud. Santa Monica's airport is a dirty little secret now in our midst."

"THERE IS A LOT OF POLLUTION FROM the airport and the beach water often bad, not always due to Santa Monica. The only way Santa Monica could totally be green would be to kill everyone in town and tear the whole town down and turn it into a vacant lot and let the weeds take over."

"I BELIEVE IT IS ALL PROPAGANDA. I am very disappointed in Santa Monica. I've lived her 20 years and I've just seen a lot of misuse of the political system and the City Council. I don't see anything being done about the smog, air pollution at the airport, which is a major thing, building parks near an airport, allowing those big jets in there. They have invaded my personal space and my backyard. The city is not standing up for us. I love the library, but most of it is B.S. The subway is not coming down here yet, we don't have light rail and many things that can be alternative energy for everybody. Unfortunately I think it's all a facade."

"WE'RE GREEN, THE CITY DECLARES. We're saving the earth for our heirs. But we cut down our trees whenever we please. The truth is, none of us cares."

"WHEN SANTA MONICA PLANS TO remove healthy trees in the downtown district, they can't be that green anymore

because they are making everyone rather blue."

"SANTA MONICA MAY BE TRULY GREEN but it's certainly not green around the Santa Monica Airport for those poor folks under the flight path. The plans now are so huge, big jet planes, the noise is unconscionable, the soot is incredible ... something needs to be done so only small prop planes fly out of Santa Monica Airport."

"TIME AND TIME AGAIN THE CITY of Santa Monica has shrugged off the opportunity to address the disgusting stench and grotesque soot created by idling aircraft at its airport's runway ... No Santa Monica is not truly green and yes there's just a lot of propaganda."

"YES I BELIEVE OUR CITY IS TRULY green. It has regulations that promote recycling, the reductions in cigarette smoking and ocean pollution from the construction and utilization of our SMURF, Santa Monica Urban Runoff Facility."

"THE CITY TALKS A BETTER GAME than they play. Examples abound, both large and small. Waste Management underperforms green goals for recycling and reduction. The Pico streetscape was a green failure, where trees have survived unneglected. Effective around town transportation is a no-show. Traffic impacts from development are ignored. The new Virginia Avenue Park buildings empty their roof runoff directly into the street. Grandstanding ordinances such as banning Styrofoam have no teeth. The tree maintenance is cut in yearly budgets. Water and electricity usage is up, not down. Santa Monica City Hall's inflated ego gets in the way of performance nearly every time."

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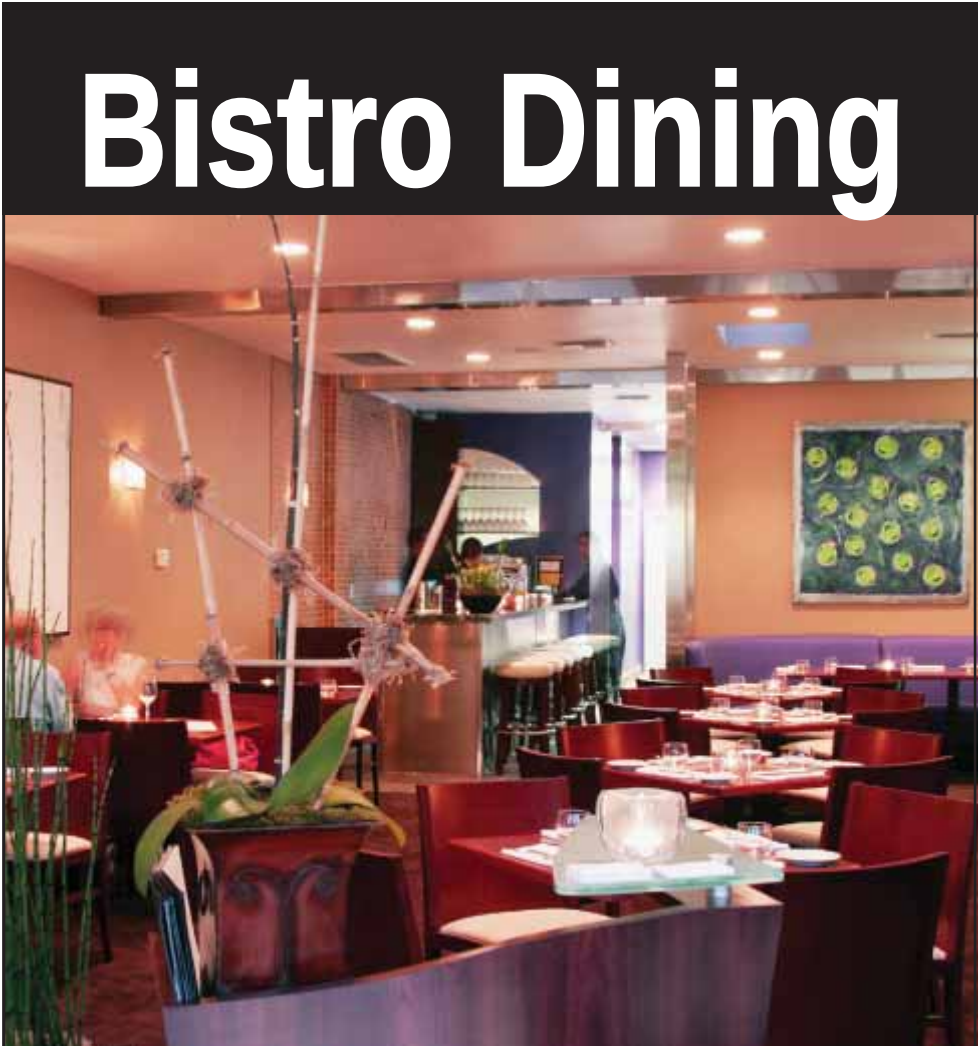
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Tips for being a good global citizen

Forum promotes compassion as means to combat terrorism

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC BUNDY CAMPUS As the FBI and Los Angeles police were downplaying an unsubstantiated claim that Al Qaeda planned to target shopping malls in Los Angeles and Chicago this holiday season, residents and college students gathered here Thursday night to discuss ways in which they can respond to threats to their security.

Sponsored by The League of Women Voters and Our Voices Together, the "Safer, More Compassionate World Forum" addressed preparedness and public safety, but also perceptions of the U.S. abroad and how residents can become "global citizens" that show compassion and understanding for other cultures.

"We have to do some serious thinking about what we want the face of America to be," said Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein, a SMC political science professor who served as a panelist for the town hall forum that drew roughly 40 people. "I fear the U.S. continues to be viewed by our peers as being more militaristic and less compassionate ... It's clear that people have issues with the U.S."

Other panelists for the forum included Santa Monica Fire Chief Jim Hone, Santa Monica Red Cross Executive Director John

Pacheco, Santa Monica Bay Area Human Relations Council Member Dr. Jody Priselac and Deputy Police Chief Phillip Sanchez. The forum was moderated by former City Manager Susan McCarthy.

PROTECTION AND PREVENTION

Since terrorism can take many forms and can be carried out by an organized group or an individual, it is difficult for law enforcement to capture those who are looking to do harm, which is why residents need to be "hyper vigilant" and be on the lookout for suspicious activities, Sanchez said.

It was a resident who informed police in 2003 about three Middle Eastern men who were allegedly taking pictures of the Santa Monica Pier's infrastructure. A search warrant was served and video confiscated, but no formal charges were filed, Sanchez said.

However, the incident so close to home did make more people aware of the dangers that are out there and generated increased surveillance of the pier and additional security measures, such as security cameras.

"We really have to develop a culture of security and make sure that everyone is involved, including community members," Sanchez said. "You're the eyes and ears, the vanguards of this community, this region. The more you are involved, the greater our resolve will be."

That said, residents should not target specific groups of people, but instead focus on suspicious activity.

"Your curiosity should not be ethnic-based, but activity based," Sanchez said.

Fire Chief Hone gave a brief presentation

on the city's ability to respond to a disaster, be it man-made or natural. He also informed residents about Homeland Security funding and how the grant system works. He said that Santa Monica has received \$5 million in no-match, Homeland Security funding; money that has been used to upgrade communications and purchase equipment such as hazardous materials suits for first responders.

ARE YOU PREPARED?

Pacheco, with the local Red Cross chapter, said many families are not ready for a disaster.

"If you had to leave your home in 20 or 30 minutes, how prepared would you be?" Pacheco asked.

When disaster strikes, there is very little time to prepare, Pacheco said, which is why it is good to have a kit prepared ahead of time that includes a battery-powered radio, contact information, copies of birth certificates and other important documents, a first-aid kit and extra clothing.

Families are also advised to establish a meeting place in case members are split up during an evacuation.

It is also good to learn CPR, Pacheco said, and disaster assistance response training so that people can better handle injuries to a loved one.

Being prepared at home is just as important as being prepared at work.

"So many people here in Santa Monica are commuters who may not be able to get home in the event of an emergency," Pacheco said. "It is wise to develop a disaster preparedness plan for your work just like you do at home."

CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

Gathering supplies is the easy part; the hard part is changing the way in which people perceive the U.S., said Jesswein, adding that he's worried about the anger many people abroad feel towards the U.S. He believes more Americans need to become engaged in politics so that they can create a society that is more compassionate and has credibility on the international stage.

The U.S. "has become an empire" that says one thing and then does another, Jesswein said. While U.S. leaders say we support democracy and freedom of speech, the country is friends with Pakistan, whose non-elected leader has just declared martial law and has clamped down on public demonstrations.

"The U.S. is suffering from a credibility issue," said Jesswein, who believes one can tell a lot about a country by how it spends its tax dollars. "We are now living a life of fear and we are taking our limited resources and putting them in a place [the Iraq War] that does not bring us any benefits."

"We need to be taking care of each other and we're not able to do that."

Chief Hone said compassion for one another should be paramount and not something that only occurs when disaster strikes. He said terrorists don't discriminate and use any tactics at their disposal to create fear and division.

"Why is it that compassion only comes as a reaction to an event?" Hone asked. "We need to have that in front of the event."

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City Clerk explores council options

FROM COUNCIL PAGE 3

Take into account the high level of civic participation and the council has all the makings of a bloated agenda that almost never can be handled in the time allotted.

Those factors prompted Bloom to discuss the issue of adding meetings with his colleagues, many of whom seemed reluctant to do so because of commitments in their personal lives, but, in the interest of the public process, they decided to have the city clerk do some research to see if some changes can be made.

Bloom said holding a meeting every week may not be necessary but it is something to consider given that many issues, including the performance reviews for the city manager, city clerk, and city attorney, have been rescheduled multiple times because of time constraints.

"I could foresee a number of meetings being canceled because we were able to get our work done," Bloom said. "In no way am I suggesting that we have 52 meetings."

In 2004-05 the council met 31 times and is expected to match that this year, said City Clerk Maria Stewart, who is responsible for posting the agendas, collecting requests to speak from the public and documenting the minutes.

Several council members said increasing the frequency of meetings could be considered a burden because of other commitments, such as work and family. Since council members are not full-time, but instead considered part-time and paid a monthly stipend, they cannot be expected to spend every minute on council business.

If so, that may turn some people off, said Councilman Bobby Shriver, who admits that he has trouble attending meetings and researching key issues because of his dedication to his private work, which includes serving as chairman for DATA, a foundation to alleviate AIDS and poverty in Africa. Shriver also chairs the state Recreation and Parks Commission.

however long they may be in office, and then once their out, have to reestablish themselves all over again," said Council member Pam O'Connor, who also serves as chair of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Councilman Kevin McKeown said he was opposed to a full-time council because it would make elected officials

more than the council, earning \$14,532 a year compared to the \$12,110 council member's receive.

What could help reduce the workload would be hiring another staff member, Bloom suggested. Today, the council has 1.5 staff members in addition to members of the city manager's office who work collaboratively with the council and city staff.

With e-mail making it easier to communicate with public officials, it has become increasingly difficult for council members to respond to each one, yet good communication is essential to public service, Bloom said.

The mayor did not recommend designating a staff person for each member as is done in some cities.

That was good news for Gender, who expressed opposition to doing so out of concern that a public employee could be used to further the career of an elected official.

"It sets up something that has the potential for problems," Genser said.

As for pay, there did not seem to be a consensus. There is support for surveying other cities to see what their officials are paid. Council compensation has kept pace with inflation over the years, but the increase in workload may necessitate an increase of the base, Bloom said.

A report from the city clerk's office is expected in the coming months, at which time council members will debate the issue to see if more meetings, more staff and more pay are necessary for a community as complex and progressive as Santa Monica.

kevinh@smdp.com

I DON'T THINK WE CAN EXPECT PEOPLE TO GIVE UP THEIR CAREERS FOR FOUR YEARS OR HOWEVER LONG THEY MAY BE IN OFFICE, AND THEN ONCE THEIR OUT, HAVE TO REESTABLISH THEMSELVES ALL OVER AGAIN."

Council member Pam O'Connor, Who also serves as chair of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

"When I talk to people about running (for office), nobody has brought up money to me," Shriver said. "The question is about time commitment, with people referring to the late meetings. If people had to go to a meeting every week, you would X out attractive candidates, and that's a real danger."

Shriver wasn't alone. Other council members expressed concerns about the impact weekly meetings would have on potential candidates, especially if the council became a full-time job.

"I don't think we can expect people to give up their careers for four years or

"professional politicians," concerned with raising money to stay in office, "and that's exactly what the residents do not want."

Council meetings are only the "tip of the iceberg," Councilman Ken Genser said. Council members are expected to attend commission meetings and community events too, which takes time away from other things.

The mayor is expected to do even more. In addition to presiding over the council meetings, the mayor works with the mayor pro tem to build an agenda, and must also appear at several functions. In exchange, the mayor is paid slightly



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Living the sports dream

Fantasy sports has beget a generation of multi-taskers

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

VENICE As the manager of his own professional football team, Wannie Park is living a sports fan's fantasy.

But rather than coaching on the sidelines every Sunday, with playbook in hand and wearing a headset, Park sits on his living room sofa, watching one NFL game on his Plasma TV, streaming another match-up on his Mac computer and monitoring a third game on his laptop — all while keeping track of his players' statistics on a third computer.

"I don't like picture-in-picture, it's a distraction," said Park, who subscribes to a media package that gives him access to all NFL games. "The Internet and laptop ... allows me to watch the videos online and monetize my investment so I'm watching more than one game."

Once considered a form of entertainment for the so-called sports dorks, requiring just a simple paper and pen and knowledge of an athlete's statistics, fantasy sports has exploded over the past decade into a subculture that claims every type of sports fan, from the devout football follower to the number lovers.

"The people I know wouldn't consider it dorky," said Larry Rosales, a sports lawyer in Santa Monica who has played fantasy sports for nearly a decade.

An estimated 19.4 million people in the United States and Canada actively participate in at least one fantasy sports league and approximately 34.5 million people have played fantasy sports at least once, according to the Fantasy Sports Trade Association. The 11-year-old trade organization represents more than 120 members, from small start-ups to the larger multi-media corporations such as CBS, which offers several fantasy leagues through CBSSports.com, ESPN and Yahoo, whose sports division is based in Santa Monica.

The basic concept of mainstream fantasy sports is to manage a team of actual pro athletes, handpicking specific players in a draft held prior to the beginning of the professional sports season and selecting the line-up before each game. Teams win based on the collective performance of their professional athletes in their respective real-life games. Whichever coach has accumulated the most points at the end of the season wins the league.

For example, in football, most leagues set rules so that a touchdown is worth six points and an offensive player could earn additional marks for total yardage.

Depending on the service provider, the points and rules are established by the fantasy league's players. A commissioner, who enforces the league's bylaws, is usually appointed by the league's players, unless already preselected by the service provider.

Perhaps the most celebrated element of fantasy sports is the draft.

Some fans will pick a player purely based on name recognition, selecting a Vladimir Guerrero over a Jonathan Broxton, others study players' statistics in



Photo courtesy of Wannie Park



Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

INTENSE: (Top) Wannie Park, who works at an electronics company, monitors the NFL — and his fantasy league players — via a plasma TV and three computers each Sunday. Close to 20 million people in North America participate in fantasy sports leagues. (Above) Two men watch college football Thursday night at Barney's Beanery on the Third Street Promenade. Many sports fans turn to fantasy leagues as a means of keeping up on the games, as well as in touch with distant friends.

the weeks leading up to draft day, reading fantasy sports magazines cover to cover. Many users will wait until the end of the preseason in case their number-one guy has gone down with an injury.

Then, there's the draft day rituals.

Venice resident Abe Quigley will usually do the draft online with his friends, many of whom live out of state, or grab the ones that live nearby and have a small draft party at someone's house, sitting around with chips and beers for several hours, talking trash.

Last year, Quigley, a musician, was on the road in Nebraska when his friends started the draft, so he pulled over and participated in a four-hour conference call, selecting his choice players.

"I can have fun with my buddies," Quigley said. "I tell them how much their team sucks."

There's an art to selecting players, finding the right mix of offensive and defen-

sive players, checking to see when the selected players would actually meet-up in the season, assessing which players are vulnerable to injuries. Park spends a week preparing for the draft and spends about \$20 on a draft guide, reading up about how the players are performing in training camp.

"It's no different from the war room you see in the (NFL) draft," he said.

In late August, Park, who works at the electronics company Belkin, set up his laptop at Bay Cities Deli and spent four hours doing a live draft for his league, munching on his sandwich and taking in the sun as he went through more than 14 rounds.

"That is the most fun you'll have all year," Park said. "That is when you do the strategizing, in terms of which players to pick up."

In virtually all fantasy leagues, the lineup has to be determined before kickoff.

For Yahoo, the deadline to select NFL players is 7 a.m. on Sunday, Park said.

After the lineup is all set, fantasy league players will go about their ways enjoying game day, some sitting at a sports bar with multiple televisions, others setting up their own entertainment system in their home, some ignoring the games and checking online at the end of the day to see which user is leading the league. Almost all fans agree that fantasy sports is a great way to keep in touch with the game.

"It definitely makes me watch the game more," said Thomas Hale, a bartender at Britannia Pub.

FROM INK TO MOUSE

The paper and pen version of fantasy sports experienced a surge in popularity when it was made more widely accessible, going online thanks to Internet companies like ESPN and Yahoo.

But before the Internet, there was Andrew Mousalimas and his Greater Oakland Professional Pigskin Prognosticators League (GOPPPL).

While many trace the first fantasy sports league to Rotisserie League Baseball, founded in the 1980s by Daniel Okrent, who met with a group of friends at the La Rôtisserie Française restaurant in New York City, the origins can be found in the GOPPPL, according to Jeffrey Thomas, the president of the FSTA.

A group of men led by Mousalimas met in a bar in Oakland on Sundays in 1963 and developed what is believed to be the first fantasy league, each player moving his team name's placard up or down a wooden board affixed to a wall at the bar, depending on how well their team performed that day.

By the 1990s, there was an estimated nine million people playing some form of fantasy sports. One of the most popular ways to play fantasy sports was in a newspaper. In the late 1990s, Yahoo and CBS both premiered their fantasy sports features, opening the "floodgates," according to Thomas.

This football season mark's Yahoo's 10th anniversary of offering fantasy sports. The Internet company accounts for about nine million fantasy sports players.

Yahoo started with football and offers everything from fantasy football to fantasy golf.

Some companies even offer fantasy fishing and fantasy curling. Quigley said he has tried fantasy golf, but gave up after a few weeks, unable to keep focused.

"I tried fantasy golf because I'm an idiot," he joked.

"There's definitely been an exponential growth year after year since the first offering," said David Geller, the director of fantasy sports for Yahoo.

Football is, by far, the overwhelming sport of choice for Yahoo fantasy players, surpassing baseball in popularity. Many fantasy sports users say they prefer to play football because baseball, which plays 162 games a year, requires more of an investment in time and energy.

CBS' fantasy sports division is based in Florida and attracts more than three million fantasy players. The company launched its fantasy product in 1997, and today, offers several fantasy sub-games, like the Office Pool Challenge, where users can pick winners of the NFL games



Photo courtesy of Mike Nowak/San Diego Chargers

OBJECT OF DESIRE: Players like the San Diego Chargers' LaDainian Tomlinson are coveted by fantasy sports players, who send their picks into virtual battle each Sunday.

every week for a chance to win a cash prize.

Like Yahoo, the most popular sport is football, with baseball being a distant second.

The Internet has allowed fantasy players to get a live update of players' statistics and the latest scores and news on injuries.

"It's absolutely caused the explosion of fantasy sports," said Alex Riethmiller, spokesman for CBSsports.com.

JUDGMENT GAMES

Even though they're not played out in reality, fantasy sports are not immune to legal disputes. Just like in the world of professional sports, trade issues do arise in fantasy sports.

Enter Marc Edelman, founder of Sportsjudge.com.

A sports law professor at Seton Hall University and Manhattanville College, Edelman has been resolving fantasy sports disputes for eight years, presiding over several hundred cases.

While the decisions wouldn't hold up in a court of law, that doesn't stop a player from bringing a case against a fellow league member.

It started with a few favors, meeting at a bar and deciding a case over beer, both sides presenting their cases in several documents, which includes the league constitution. Then in January 2007, Edelman launched the Sportsjudge.com. He charges \$15 per dispute.

He upholds about 75-80 percent of the trades.

"My rationale in doing that is not that I was looking to make money off the site, but I firmly believe fantasy sports should

be regulated in a court of law much like any other business industry," Edelman said.

THE ORIGINAL SOCIAL NETWORKING

Though the viewing demographic for sports has increasingly changed to include more women, the fantasy version sure seems to be a guy thing.

In a 2007 study, the Fantasy Sports Trade Association found that approximately 93 percent of fantasy sports players are men. The average fantasy sports player spends an average of \$467.60 per year playing fantasy sports, is 40 years old and lives in the United States.

Though money is at stake in many fantasy sports leagues, players say what they love most about the game is having fun with their buddies.

Quigley jumped around the country as a youth, growing up in New York, Florida and Illinois. He initially joined in order to stay in touch with his friends from back east.

More than 10 years after he started fantasy football, Rosales is still playing the league with the same friends from high school.

"In general, what kept me going through the years is it helps me keep in touch with my friends," Rosales said.

Many users find that playing fantasy sports forces them to keep up with games.

"I'm a sports junkie," said Quigley, who watches the games online. "It gives me one more way to watch sports."

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GETTING IT DONE: Russell Crowe stars in 'American Gangster.'

'Gangster' should pick sides already

The third film directed by Ridley Scott and starring Russell Crowe, "American Gangster" has a purposely confused identity. The plot has two distinct courses, that very much seem like two separate films, at times to the detriment of the entire piece. Mostly, it works with some suspension of disbelief and thanks to a golden script by Oscar winner Stephen Zaillian (who actually wrote the film as two separate scripts and then united the two – it shows). Crowe's character (Richie Roberts), a divorced man who chooses busting bad guys and dating women

SEE REVIEW PAGE 20



Notes from the film scoundrel

Kenn Tarr

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Finally, a decent flick

"AMERICAN GANGSTER" REVIVED A MORIBUND BOX office season last weekend, opening with around \$43 million. Jerry Seinfeld's "Bee Movie" also opened strong, at nearly \$38 million. "Gangster," R-rated and two and a half hours long, is quite impressive in storming out to such a big opening.

The film is unique to this fall, because it isn't completely boring. Rather, with Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe it was money in the bank especially with its dual-underdog protagonist set-up and generically smooth execution by director Ridley Scott. Box office since the record-breaking 2007 summer had been down and actually rather embarrassing lately, with "Heartbreak Kid," "30 Days of Night" and "Rendition" all fizzling and many other films like "Elizabeth: The Golden Age" and "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford" quickly becoming punch-lines.

It remains to be seen if presumed "sure-fire" hits like "Beowulf," "Enchanted," "Fred Claus" and "I Am Legend" will perform well. Inside tip: "Fred Claus" will not do well. Yes, I will apologize if I am wrong, but I predict an opening in the low 20s at most and then a quick drop. Not all Christmas movies hit, and it really looks god-awful. With the video game "Halo 3" making more money than any three movies this fall combined and NFL ratings sky-high, it seems that the fall movie season needs to take note and realize that if you are gonna stretch the summer into spring, you may need to push the summer into fall, or deal with the consequences of people wanting to stay home and play video games rather than sitting through three hours of pretentious filmmaking.

FABIO THROWDOWN

I guess he can't believe it's not butter. Or he can't

believe George Clooney isn't a nice guy. Friday night at Hollywood's Madeo restaurant, a celebrity fist-fight almost occurred. Fabio, the blond, long-locked, walking romance novel cover and Clooney were both dining when friends of Fabio's began snapping photos. Clooney, leery of photographs of any kind apparently, erupted at the female Fabio friend. Fabio, always the polite gentleman, trotted over to Clooney's table and explained the situation and Clooney and his girlfriend Sarah Larson would have no part of it. Fabio yelled "Stop being a diva!" reportedly.

That would have been a great fight.

Clooney paid his bill and left without eating dinner. Fabio was the real loser in this celebrity battle. The fourth most recognizable celebrity in the restaurant at the time behind Joe Pesci, Helen Mirren and Clooney, it looks like Fabio's "No Like" list now includes Clooney, geese, fast-moving roller coasters at Busch Gardens and butter or margarine or whatever the hell it is that wonderful product is. Just so you all know, Fabio has one of the world's most premiere home entertainment systems which the icon installed himself. I'm glad his manager leaked that to me, now I totally think he's not just another pretty face.

GETTING HITCHED

Anthony Hopkins (I refuse to call him "Sir") is slated to star in a biopic about Alfred Hitchcock. He has played John Quincy Adams, Richard Nixon, Ptolemy, Pablo Picasso and now he will play Hitch, the Master of Suspense himself. He does resemble him in recent years and can definitely do the accent. The film will take place during the production of "Psycho" and will show

SEE SCOUNDREL PAGE 20

Santa Monica Daily Press

The Agent Directory

Your guide to local real estate agents

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SURF REPORT



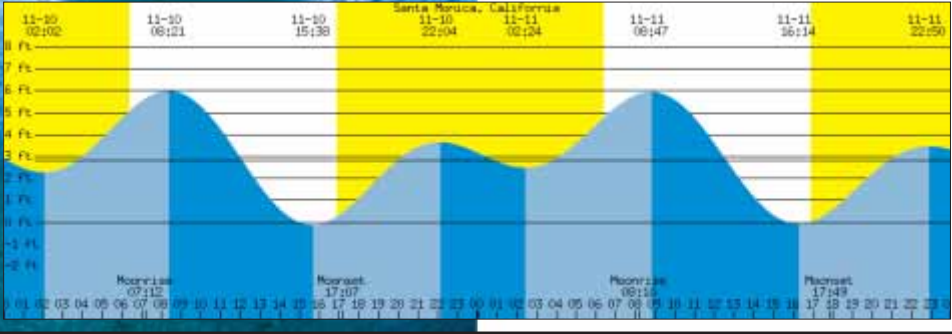
SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 60°

SWELL FORECAST (3-4 FT)
Saturday the 10th looks smaller for SW, waist high or so, maybe some chest high plus waves at south facing breaks from time to time, but rare. NW energy will be nil. Some drizzly weather could linger into Saturday in many areas, although winds should calm a bit for the AM. Tide though nears the 6-foot mark early to mid-morning

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
TRACKING TWO NW SWELLS FOR NEXT WEEK.

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **November 5, 2007**

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

QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 4

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

Number of wet days -- 5

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 34 / 33

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 10 / 12

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth (leocarrillo)	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	B	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	F	A+
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	B
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	B	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	D	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)	A	A+

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken



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

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GAMEREVIEW

NEW IN STORES

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA



Photo courtesy EA SPORTS

TRUE TO LIFE: EA Sport's 'FIFA 08' gives gamers a chance to be David Beckham.

‘FIFA 08’ keeps it real

XBOX 360 Who needs scoring?

EA Sports' "FIFA 08" may be that rare sports game where that could be said. If you've played other games in the EA Sports catalog, you've most likely grown accustomed to scoring points by the armload. Even their hockey title, "NHL 08," lets players streak down the ice and score with relative ease. It isn't uncommon for a game to end 7-6 or some other outrageously un-hockey-like final. But with "FIFA 08," not even the computer seems capable of being able to rack up goals – or gols, depending on your native tongue.

This most recent edition of the soccer mainstay is about as close to reality as they come. Most matches either end in a 1-0 outcome or head into penalty kicks following a scoreless defensive battle. Even the Samba Boys of Brasil aren't really apt to put up goals in bunches. The only way to ensure a good scoring side is to pit a lowly club team against a national powerhouse like France. Put the San Jose Earthquakes up against the national side from England and then, just maybe, you'll have a laughter depending on what side of the ball you're on.

While soccer isn't really Americans' favorite sport, the world is crazy for this kind of stuff. Most of the citizens of planet Earth would much rather see a hard-fought 2-1 match than a scoring orgy. It took some time for this American to get a taste for it, but once I did, I couldn't help but be wrapped up in a grimy low-scoring affair. Sure there are exceptions, but let's just say that this title is as authentic as they come.

Even some of the side features really help reinforce this notion. The most notable of the special features allows a gamer to select just one solitary player and stay that guy for an entire game,

or even season. It's called "Be a Pro" and allows you to control one player from the opening kickoff to the final whistle. It's an interesting tilt on the gaming experience, but can get to be a bit of a drag. You'd think being Ronaldinho would be worth the trouble, but even a truly gifted player like him is a bit boring to control off the action.

There is one advantage to being just one player, though. It is easier to set up scoring plays when your teammate has the ball and is driving toward the goal. This really works well if you're a defender or midfielder and crash the goal area, something the computer wouldn't necessarily have your players do when your team has control of the ball. Of course, if this ploy doesn't work, you're a man short on defense and the other team has an easier path to the goal. Trust me, it happens and the results aren't always pretty.

Aside from being just one footballer, "FIFA 08" offers quite a few more interesting features. According to the press release, it offers something dubbed "Intelligent Soccer." It includes artificial intelligence with a 35-point decision engine which allows players to process 1,000 potential options and reactions in real time. I'm not sure what technology is behind this feature, but it supposedly adds to the realism in gameplay and makes it all the more authentic.

As with all EA Sports games, this title allows you to play online against other gamers and participate in pretty elaborate leagues and tournaments. It even allows you to upload your favorite highlight video from your personal experience to the game's Web site to share with the world. This title is available on all major platforms.

Taking a cue from Sublime

Beantown's State Radio knows how to co-op

BY GABRIELLE HARRADINE
Special to the Daily Press

A schizophrenic time was had by all at the State Radio show at the House of Blues on Friday night. This Sublime-like Boston trio takes mixing styles even further – dabbling deep into blends of reggae and punk, heavy with the wa-wa peddle, and sprinkled with politically charged lyrics.

The drums, played by Mad Dog, were the force of the music, leading the way with manic tempo changes and flips from reggae beats to punk, although overall there was much more punk than reggae. It could have been tricky at times, having to put down your splif to bang your head. Not to mention watching out where the ashes fall.

The strong moments included sweet and poignant lyrics – Chad Stokes, the lead singer and guitarist, has an intriguingly gentle voice when used that way – as well as catchy and distinctive jams. Although, at times these riffs were cut off to go into something less melodic.

Rounding out the trio is Chuck Fey, State Radio's bassist and harmonica player. Fey had a strong solo and a cool punkish presence with his short, strip mohawk and floating chops.

The night included a Sudan genocide shout out, which was followed by a song that crooned with reggae intonation: "Watch out for the politicals." Obviously, these guys are taking the message to heart.

The tour, which moves on to Colorado this week, comes right before the release of their second album "Year of the Crow." This 13-song disc produced by Tchad Blake, who has also produced Peter Gabriel and Pearl Jam,



Photo courtesy State Radio

UNDER THE INFLUENCE: State Radio borrows here and there, yet remain true to their sound.

includes an anti-Halliburton ode entitled "Gang of Thieves". You might consider buying a copy for Dick Cheney and sending it with love. "Guantanamo" is another track on the album, which comments on our current administration's failings. A comparison to Rage Against the Machine cannot be avoided.

State Radio proved their abilities to rock the packed crowd and even got them singing

on several songs. Stokes and Fey faced each other on numerous occasions to frame Mad Dog as they whipped out frenzied strums. This act felt like a summary of the band's music: Respecting the drummer as king, and building off those beats to rock the world in both punk body and reggae mind.

news@smdp.com

Follow the crowd, Capricorn

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

Happy Birthday!

You demonstrate unusual creativity and dynamic energy this year, making you close to unstoppable. If you are single, you certainly will have your pick of potential suitors. You could meet someone very important to your life this year. If you are attached, let your sweetie be more dominant and strong-willed. He or she will appreciate this behavior from you. If you can balance the power between you, you will be happier. SCORPIO is a soul mate.



Born Today
Singer Donna Fargo (1945)
Lyricist Tim Rice (1944)

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Finally you feel free to put on your dancing shoes. Do take off for wherever your fantasy leads. It also might be fun to visit with a friend at a distance. Getting together proves to be valuable and important to your friendship. Tonight: Go for unique.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Work with a partner directly, and you'll get results, the type you might have dreamed of. Make today about the two of you and the quality of your life. This type of event bonds you even closer. Let it happen. Tonight: Say yes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You might want to try another approach or do something far differently. You will want feedback from those in your life who count. Don't instantly negate what you are. Tonight: Go along with another's suggestion.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Get into a job, and you'll clear out more work than you ever thought possible. Demonstrate your ability to help all sides meet. You might wonder what you need to do in order to accomplish your long-term goals. Tonight: Easy does it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Allow your creativity to flourish in a new dimension. Sometimes you get locked in certain thought processes. Open up to possibilities. How you see an adventure could color an event considerably. Tonight: Fun and games.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ You might want to continue a situation or talk that is very important. You might not have the answers you would like right off the bat. Trust that because of someone else's input, you will have the answers. Tonight: Togetherness works.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Work with someone as clearly as possible, especially if money is the issue. If you make a new resolution or a decision to head in another direction, it could be vital to your own well-being. Extremes mark people's visions. Tonight: Your treat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You might want to stay on top of your game. Many want and expect a lot from you. Timing works, especially with a new beginning. Don't underestimate your charm or charisma. Go for what you want. Tonight: As you like it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Take your time making important decisions. You will know when the time comes to change gears and approach a situation differently. Communication could be vague. Don't jump to conclusions. Tonight: Get some extra R and R, or at least vanish.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Friends might want to coerce you into a different direction than you might normally choose. Just be sure you understand the risks involved. Unexpected news tosses in a different perspective. Tonight: Follow the crowd.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Yes, you are seeing the world through rose-colored glasses, and you might not really care. Loosen up and decide what works for you. Don't you want to escape all the disappointment? Tonight: A must appearance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ You are full of punch and get-up-and-go. You might have difficulty making certain decisions with an element of confusion around you. Are you the one working in the haze? Ask an associate to help you gain some perspective. Tonight: Follow the music.

MOVIEGUIDE

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The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (Le Scaphandre et le papillon)
7:30

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

30 Days of Night (R)
7:05, 9:45
Darfur Now (PG)
11:00am, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30
Lars and the Real Girl (PG-13)
11:10am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55
The Martian Child (PG)
11:15am, 1:50, 4:20
P2 (R)
11:30am, 2:05, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00

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

American Gangster (R)
11:45am, 12:30, 3:15, 4:00, 6:45, 7:30, 10:15, 11:00
Dan in Real Life (PG-13)
10:40am, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:30
Fred Claus (PG)
10:30am, 11:15am, 1:15, 2:05, 4:05, 4:55, 6:55, 7:45, 9:40, 10:40
Gone Baby Gone (R)
10:45am, 1:20, 4:15, 7:05, 9:55
Saw IV (R)
11:50am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:10, 9:45

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Before the Devil Knows You're Dead (R)
1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00
The Darjeeling Limited (R)
1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00
Hollywood Dreams (R)
11:00am
No Country for Old Men (R)
11:15am, 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:55
The Rape of Europa (NR)
11:00am

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

Across the Universe (PG-13)
1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20
Bee Movie (PG)
12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 3:50, 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 9:00, 10:00
Lions for Lambs (R)
11:40am, 12:40, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30
Michael Clayton (R)
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

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

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

**Bradley's
Tips for a
Healthy
Relationship**

*Tip #6:
Stay on
Your Toes*

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I WORK OUT, I STILL HAVE THESE AWFUL WARREN SAPP ARMS

OH, THAT MUST'VE BEEN MY CUE TO SAY SOMETHING

The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose

I WANT TO GO SHOPPING FOR NEW SHOES FOR WORK.

YOU WORK ON THE PHONE. NO ONE KNOWS WHAT TYPE OF SHOES YOU'RE WEARING.

I CAN TELL BY JUST TALKING TO SOMEONE. REALLY? THEN WHAT AM I WEARING?

COLE HAAN LOAFERS. CIRCA 1998. YOUR LEFT HEEL IS WORN.

YOU'RE AMAZING.

The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside

DO YOU REALIZE THAT IN OUR LIFETIME THERE WILL BE A PERSON ON MARS? WHAT AN ACHIEVEMENT THAT WILL BE!

HUH, THAT'S NO BIG DEAL!

WHAT COULD BE MORE OF AN ACHIEVEMENT THAN THAT?

FINDING A PARKING SPACE DOWNTOWN.

Garfield

By Jim Davis

YAWN

MOMMA WOULD BE PROUD TO KNOW SHE RAISED A TRIVET

Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

SHH-VWIK
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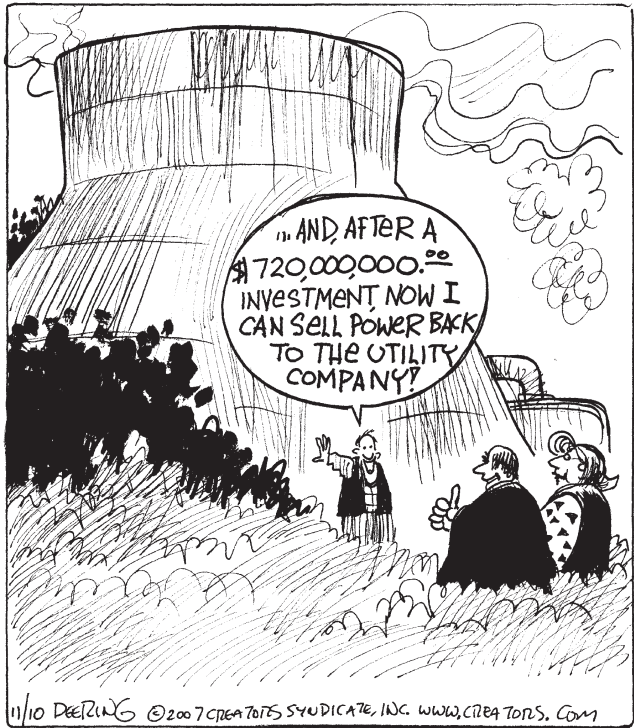
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AS IF WEARING DOG BOOTS WASN'T HUMILIATING ENOUGH.

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew By John Deering



Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



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CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Appropriate
 - 5 Stews
 - 10 Voter, e.g.
 - 12 Kingly
 - 13 Fancy home
 - 14 Designer Simpson
 - 15 Fabergé creation
 - 16 Charged bit
 - 18 Dandy
 - 19 Truculent sort
 - 21 Little one
 - 22 Arizona State team
 - 24 Boston airport
 - 25 Hit song of 1960
 - 29 School book
 - 30 Trojan War sage
 - 32 Fan cry
 - 33 — Lobos
 - 34 Weed whacker
 - 35 Wow
 - 37 Good judgment
 - 39 Cart pullers
 - 40 Spring sign
 - 41 Used up
 - 42 Land unit
- DOWN**
- 1 Broken
 - 2 Saws
 - 3 David Carradine series
 - 4 "Evil Woman" group
 - 5 Friend to Kukla
 - 6 Scepter
 - 7 Real looker
 - 8 Hawk's grasps
 - 9 Sacked out
 - 11 Checked for fit
 - 17 Italian dressing ingredient

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

- Yesterday's answer**
- 20 Cove
 - 21 Magic props
 - 23 Lynn Redgrave's sis
 - 25 Join forces
 - 26 Puff
 - 27 Like some restaurants
 - 28 Less taut
 - 29 Street-cars
 - 31 Joaquin's "Walk the Line" co-star
 - 33 For fear that
 - 36 Meditative school
 - 38 History bit

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Retired assistant school principal Nelson Winbush, 78, of Kissimmee, Fla., is an African-American who has become a passionate promoter and historian of the Confederate States of America, even though it was that entity's secession from the Union that sparked the Civil War. Winbush told the St. Petersburg Times for an October profile that his grandfather had fought for the South, not to retain slavery but because he thought the South was being overtaxed. Winbush became more aggressive in the 1990s, opposing campaigns to remove Confederate flags from government buildings in the South. He has declined to be drawn into the racial implications of the Confederacy, telling the Times, "Black is nothing other than a darker shade of rebel gray."

■ The city of Toronto is campaigning with posters and a Web page to urge citizens to vote a 1-cent set-aside tax for municipal services, but in October received a bill from Canada's mint for about \$47,000 in licensing fees. The mint cited the posters' use of a photograph of a penny and the campaign's use of the phrase "one cent" (as in the Web site address www.OneCentNow.ca), which a spokesman said are "registered trademarks of the Royal Canadian Mint."

■ The 2,600 members of the Minnesota National Guard returned recently from extended duty in Iraq, which was reportedly the longest consecutive deployment of any outfit (22 months, counting extensions). However, the Guardsmen still do not qualify for government education benefits. The law allows the benefits only for those on "active duty" at least 730 days, but the Minnesota Guard's orders (as well as some other outfits' orders), were specifically written for "729 days."

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1951 The first long distance telephone call without operator assistance took place.

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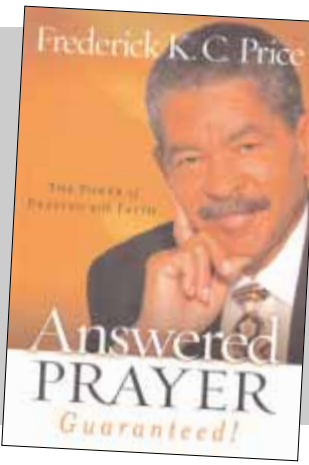
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The scoundrel ravages films

FROM SCOUNDREL PAGE 15

Hitchcock's troubles with being a perfectionist and never thinking he was a good director. Isn't that refreshing for a genius, most modern directors could take a page from his book.

MOVIE TERRORS

No movie about the Iraq war or modern terrorism as a whole has been a bona-fide hit or critical success. "The Kingdom" failed to impress critics, "Rendition" as I mentioned last week was schlock and "In The Valley of Elah" was well-received but who even remembers that it came out just two months ago? The latest film to cover some aspect of our modern terrorism/Neo-Con agenda is "Lions for Lambs." Directed by Robert Redford and starring himself, Tom Cruise and Meryl Streep, this film should clunk out just the same. It looks like a filmed position-paper, overly talky and not based in reality (i.e. graduate students joining the military ... isn't that what our criminals and drop-outs are for, right Senator Kerry). Though I am sure the film has its



Photo courtesy Dreamworks

GETTING BUZZED: 'Bee Movie' opens big.

moments, going head-to-head with "Gangster" and "Claus" is no way to guarantee success. A three-hour anti-war movie playing from Wauwatosa to El Paso will definitely lose out. Most people in our country would rather watch "Paint Drying: The Movie" than be uncomfortable questioning our nation's agenda.

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

Denzel plays Denzel

FROM REVIEW PAGE 15

over playing a part in his son's life.

In the more dynamic of the two plots, Denzel Washington plays Frank Lucas, a man who goes from driver and thug to Harlem drug lord over-night after his boss Bumpy Johnson (Clarence Williams III) suddenly dies. Washington uses many of the same mannerisms and inflections he does in every movie. One could criticize this by saying he is just playing himself. However, he has become so good at absorbing characters into his persona that this along with "Training Day" are two of his best roles. Here he is just as malevolent and cunning as he was in "Training Day," but in this film he starts out as an underdog.

After seeing a documentary on BET about the same subject, I must say that the film really doesn't capture the essence of Frank Lucas, who seems to not operate with as much class as Washington does in his portrayal. If the film were more true to life, we definitely wouldn't root for Lucas and at most times during the film it is easier and more probable that we would be rooting for Roberts, or at least Murphy's Law, anything so that Lucas can stop victimizing people to get rich as drug-lords often do.

When Lucas needs help he retreats to North Carolina and buys his mother (Ruby Dee) a huge plantation home. He returns with an organized crime family, his brothers. He puts them all to work in New York and New Jersey in legitimate businesses that are cover operations for his heroin enterprise. Huey (Chiwetel Ejiofor, who also starred with Washington in "Inside Man") is the most developed of these characters, but none of them ever get a distinct plot line or scene of their own. Ejiofor is

one of today's strongest new actors and it would have been great had the film done something unique with his character.

Artistic license is usually taken in stories based on facts. Lucas was real, Roberts was real and nearly everything in the film really happened. However, lots of intimate details and moments between some characters have been omitted and at times the film seems like a color-by-numbers story arc filled with vivid images and performances.

There is nothing legitimately wrong with this film, good performances, interesting production value at all times and it provides a great glimpse into a moment in time where corruption and poverty ran rampant. This being 2007, no soundtrack can seem original. Songs from "Jackie Brown," "Purple Haze" by Jimi Hendrix and many other songs that have been used in many other films and TV shows are again used in this film, often to the detriment of what's on-screen.

With all its minor problems, "Gangster" is a very involving film and one of the rare films that tells two stories at once and then brings them together successfully. This film is more than just cheap thrills and popcorn entertainment that I feared it would be. If it could have developed more aspects of the story then the film would have had even more conflict and competing interests and ultimately more drama. Instead it serves as a mixed-up, entertaining dual-biopic that wants to showcase black organized crime and the beginning of the drug war, but doesn't fully accomplish this.

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

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