

ART WITHIN REACH
SEE PAGE 3

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE EX-INTERN BEGS FOR FORGIVENESS ISSUE

Children pave way to future

SMMUSD elementary school kids learn about leadership

BY MELODY HANATANI | Daily Press Staff Writer

SUNSET PARK Forget cutting down on homework or placing pizza on the school menu every day of the week, for the

elementary students in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, the issues go deeper than workload.

A group of about 65 students representing the district's 10 elementary schools convened at Grant Elementary School on Wednesday for a day-long leadership training workshop hosted by City at Peace-Los Angeles, a non-profit organization that empowers teenagers and gives them the skills to effect changes in their communities.

On what was an off day from class for all primary school students for the teacher-parent conferences, the fourth and fifth graders that participated in the conference spent their mornings and afternoons honing their leadership skills, identifying some of the key issues in each of their schools, brainstorming solutions and sharing ideas with their peers from the other SMMUSD

SEE LEADERSHIP PAGE 14

DEVELOPMENT

REEL DEAL

City Council explores expanding the silver screen in the downtown area

STORY BY KEVIN HERRERA PAGE 15



Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

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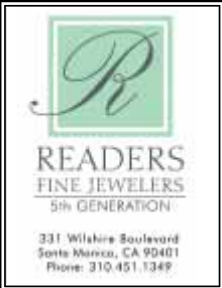
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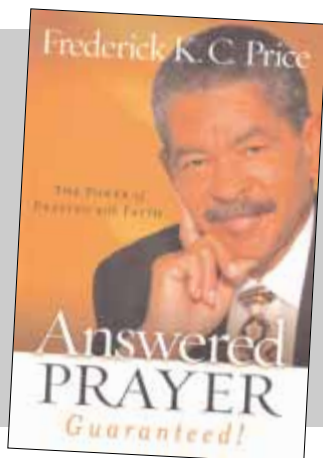
simon says

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Calendar

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 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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(310) 829-9597 Hours: 6:30am - 10:00pm Daily

WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Face to Face

2525 Michigan Ave., 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Stephen Bennett is coming to LA and he's bringing his new exhibit, "FACE to FACE, Uniting Humanity." The exhibit features 12 portraits, some of them as large as 5' x 7', of exotic, indigenous people. For more information on the exhibit, visit www.bergamotstation.com. For more information on the artist, visit www.theportraitpainter.com.

Medicare

1332 Sixth St., 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Learn about all aspects of Medicare coverage, including the new Medicare Part D prescription drug plan. Lecture presented by Joanna Morales, director of the Cancer Legal Resource Center. Free admission.

Beaujolais Passions

649 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, 5 p.m. - midnight
Passions Productions and the French-American Chamber of Commerce, Los Angeles, are hosting their annual Beaujolais Nouveau event at the Shrine Auditorium. Sample food from France, dance, network and taste all the wines from the Beaujolais region. Advance tickets are \$20; \$25 at the door (cash only). For more information, visit www.beaujolaispassions.com.

Wilshire-Montana meeting

1524 Fourth St., 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Monthly meeting of Wilshire Montana Executive Board regarding parking issues, homeless crime, development, rent control and zoning for residents living in the Wilshire/Montana area.

Naturally, it's flu prevention

1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Learn about natural methods to avoid getting sick this winter with Ruth Gould.

Santa Monica Farmers' Market: Guys' Night Out

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Russ Parsons, of the Los Angeles Times, will moderate a discussion on how chefs and farmers find inspiration at the Farmers' Market.

What's New This Week

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
A free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key news stories at home and abroad.

Friday, Nov. 16, 2007

'You Can't Take it With You'

1030 Lincoln Blvd., 8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
St. Monica Catholic High School proudly presents Hart & Kaufman's "You Can't Take it With You." All performances are held in the St. Monica Cantwell Auditorium located on the corner of Lincoln and California. Tickets are \$7 for students and seniors, and \$12 for general admission.

'Cinderella'

1211 Fourth St., 6 p.m. - 7:20 p.m.
"Cinderella" is an original Rudie-DeCarlo musical for kids 2 to 102, featuring a zany fairy godmother, silly step-sisters, zealously well-meaning stepmother, and Cinderella. Tickets for children are \$10.50; adults pay \$12.50. Call (310) 394-9779, ext. 2 or visit www.SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com for more information.

'Bathroom Talk'

1404 Third Street Promenade, 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
The Promenade Playhouse presents "Bathroom Talk," an improv sketch comedy about the unusual things that occur in the ladies room at a nightclub. Tickets are \$12 at the door. For more information, call Laura at (310) 430-8828.

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.





IMPOSING CANYONS

Morgan Genser news@smdp.com

Santa Monica College's Rebecca Chase (center) looks to spike the ball, but faces far-reaching resistance from Nicolette Jens and Priscilla Bremer, of College of the Canyons, at the Pavilion on Tuesday. The Corsairs fell in three games to end their season.

To own art is the luck-of-the-draw

Local trust is raffling expensive art pieces for only \$10 a pop

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

VENICE If you've ever wanted to own a nice piece of art, but sticker shock brushed you away, this could be your chance.

For only \$10, you can purchase a raffle ticket from the Venice Community Trust, and if luck is on your side, you could go home with artwork valued at more than \$15,000.

The raffle, to be held Dec. 1 at Ravenswork Studios in Venice, is part of a fundraising effort to enhance public art and encourage youth to consider careers in creative fields.

"Right now, we have around \$70,000 worth of art that has been donated and we are hoping to sell around \$30,000 to \$40,000 worth of tickets," said Aldis

Browne, co-founder of the Trust, which is selling raffle tickets on its Web site (www.venicetrust.com). "Where else can you get a great work of art for only 10 bucks?"

The Trust has a mission of building an archive of history and art, both indoor and out, to be documented and shared with museums and universities throughout Los Angeles.

WHERE ELSE CAN YOU GET A GREAT WORK OF ART FOR ONLY 10 BUCKS?"

Aldis Browne
co-founder of the Venice Community Trust

The Trust reaches out to donors and corporations to encourage giving and underwriting in order that works can be

SEE ART PAGE 12

Pain at the pump

California gas prices leading the nation

BY RACHEL KONRAD
AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO San Franciscans are used to living in one of the nation's most expensive cities, but even they winced Wednesday as gas prices inched up just as the holiday season approached.

Their neighbors to the south, in Los Angeles, weren't much better off.

The two cities recorded the highest gas prices for metropolitan areas nationwide, with San Francisco averaging \$3.47 per gallon for regular unleaded gasoline, up 14 cents from a week ago, and Los Angeles recording an average of \$3.32 a gallon,

according to the Washington-based Energy Information Administration.

"There's nothing to do about it," said Eve Elbeze, as she filled up her Volvo sedan at a Chevron station in San Francisco, where regular unleaded was \$3.60 a gallon. "I've got two kids — I certainly can't bike everywhere with two kids on the handle bars."

California's skyrocketing gas prices lead the nation.

Prices per gallon here averaged \$3.40, followed by Hawaii with \$3.32, Washington with \$3.26, New York with \$3.25 and North Dakota with \$3.23, AAA reported. The national average is \$3.11, the association said.

At a Shell station in San Mateo, about 20 miles south of San Francisco, prices started

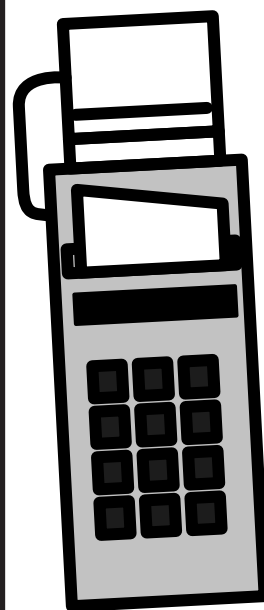
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

SMPD creating cycle of fear
(Editor's note: The following was originally sent to the City Council)

I am a resident of West Los Angeles, very near the West LA/Santa Monica border. I am a cyclist who utilizes a bicycle as my main mode of transportation throughout my neighborhood. Riding my bicycle into Santa Monica is a daily routine for me, as I attend school at the Art Institute of California – Los Angeles, as well as frequent the beach bike path.

In the next few months, I will soon become a permanent resident of Santa Monica. Feeling the pressure of the Santa Monica Police Department (witnessed at last month's SM Critical Mass), I worry about the future of my being able to ride my bicycle in the city without feeling "bullied."

I support the Santa Monica Critical Mass effort to promote safe cycling in the city of Santa Monica.

Kyle Hertler
West Los Angeles

Bikers can stick it in their crank
Editor:

(Re: "Riders of the storm," Nov. 9)

Bicycle riders need to adhere to the laws of the road. They are in no way special. They endanger pedestrians by riding on the sidewalk; they do not stop at stop signs; they cut across four lanes of traffic; they entirely ignore safety is a two-way issue; they violate traffic laws constantly.

They are a wild bullet. Our streets are way too crowded to allow these renegades free rein.

M. L. Duncan
Santa Monica

Save resources for the veterans
Editor:

It was nice to read acknowledgments of the veterans in the column by Marty Conatser ("A grateful nation should remember") and the cartoon "The Other Coast" on Monday, Nov. 12. It is just unfortunate that (veterans') access to health care is not as easy as one would have you believe. Yes, the VA, in general, does a great job. When research dollars get involved, the emphasis too often stops being on care and starts being on data and dollars. I saw this firsthand as I watched as VA resources were utilized on veterans and non-veterans alike with supervisors who instructed that the investigators were to be the priority; not the care of patients.

Having a brother-in-law who is a veteran who has yet to heal, the investigators were never in my mind, the veterans were. Veterans should always come first within the VA systems. This nation should not turn a blind eye to the unethical activities and security breaches within this institution. Walk the campus in Brentwood or Sepulveda; any of the men or women have a story that makes it clear. Please discourage the use of the VA as a source of medical treatment for non-vets and non-US citizens. Our veterans need these resources.

Anyone who works within the VA system should know this – on Veterans Day and every day. If they do not, they should not be there.

Heidi Marshall Booth, MSS
Santa Monica



the doctor will
hear you now

want better health care? start asking more questions. to your doctor, to your pharmacist, to your nurse. what are the test results? what about side effects? don't fully understand your prescriptions? don't leave confused, because the most important question is the one you should have asked. go to www.aivg.gov/questionsandanswers or call 1-800-921-4440 (24/7) for the 10 questions every patient should ask. questions are the answer.





Meredith Pro Tem
Meredith C. Carroll

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Yearning for
the high life

SOMETIMES, I WONDER IF I'VE GONE down the wrong path in life. Sure, I'm happily married; my family is in good health; I have a career that both fulfills and challenges me and, despite the Writers Guild strike, I've discovered an entire season of a complex and sexy, new HBO drama series on my cable's On Demand service. Yet, notwithstanding the richness of my life, I still have moments when I kind of wish I were into drugs.

I don't mean drugs like Claritin or Zyrtec-D. (I was on the former for about 15 years and couldn't have lived without the latter for the past two, unless I was willing to invest a significant portion of my income in the Kimberly-Clark Corporation.) I'm also not referring to drugs like crack or crystal meth (because even I'm not that pathetic). I'm talking about the basics, like pot (or, as my Grandma Nettie used to call it, "the marijuana.")

Oftentimes, I hear people — normal ones who, like me, lead productive and wholesome lives — talk about how getting baked completes them in a Jerry Maguire/Renée Zellweger sort of way. But when I allegedly dabbled in smoking pot (allegedly), it just was never that fabulous. Sure, there were nights when I allegedly giggled for hours while swinging in a hammock, allegedly studying the texture on the bark of a tree, or, allegedly made ghetto nachos using any and all ingredients that were available without having to move more than five feet from the alleged microwave ... allegedly. But mostly, all I really felt after allegedly smoking pot was tired, paranoid, guilty and hungry. Which, ultimately, meant that the amount of time I allegedly spent in my life getting allegedly high was allegedly very short.

At the same time, though, the negative side effects of drugs also are partly what attract me to the idea of using them. It seems like taking drugs would open up a whole new world of excuse-making.

"You'll have to pardon me for not paying my mortgage for the past five months, Wells Fargo. But a shipment of kind bud recently landed in the area, and it would have been completely irresponsible of me to not spend everything I have on the best weed available since the great chronic of 2006."

"Thanks for everything you did for me while I was growing up, even though I can't truly appreciate any of it because I don't actually remember any of it, Mom. If only I hadn't been so stoned!"

Still, the benefits of a drug-free existence are admittedly plentiful. I can change jobs as often as I like without worrying about how my urine will fare in a laboratory screening. I don't have to fret about contaminating my shampoo with a pot-filled Ziploc bag that could leak in the bottle on a cross-country flight (although I'm confident a pro-cannabis organization exists that will readily testify about how hemp does wonders for split ends). My liver might be shot (thank

you, red wine), but my brain cells are the gifts that keep on giving.

Then there are times when I think maybe it's not so much that my calling is to do drugs as it is to sell them, like Denzel Washington in "American Gangster." He portrays a nearly flawless businessman (nearly, because who doesn't predict that hiring, like, 25 of your relatives will end in disaster?) who skillfully procures, markets and distributes his Blue Magic heroin to the tune of something like \$1 million a day. Find me anyone who's seen the movie and wants to argue that his life — what, with the five choice Manhattan apartments, the stunning Miss Puerto Rico wife and the Tara-like estate in North Carolina — wasn't head and shoulders better than that of the teetotaler cop played by Russell Crowe? Even if Denzel only reigned supreme for a short time before being shipped off to prison for 15 years, at least he had a taste of the good life.

STILL, THE BENEFITS OF
A DRUG-FREE EXISTENCE
ARE ADMITTEDLY
PLENTIFUL. I CAN
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LABORATORY SCREENING.

Alas, if only drugs worked on me the way they're meant to. Take sleeping pills, for example. When ingesting the occasional Sonata tablet, it seems like I have more issues with insomnia than on nights when I take nothing. I've also taken Vicodin (only when prescribed, natch), yet I never quite feel any pain relief as a result — and I even do everything it says not to (e.g. double the dose, consume with alcohol, operate heavy machinery).

At least I have my allergy medicine, which, according to the warning label on the bottle, could cause dizziness or drowsiness. And, of course, I'll always have red wine. Although that doesn't really count as a drug because Jesus drank it and whoever heard stories of him checking into Hazelden, Betty Ford or Promises? Oh well.

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A newspaper with issues

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Visit us online at smdp.com



The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2006. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West L.A. Members of CNPA, AFCC, CVC, Associated Press, IFA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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Your column here

Charlotte Laws

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Colbert's politics uncover party bias

I'M NO SLACKER WHEN IT COMES TO politics, but I almost fell off my balance ball when I saw Carol Fowler, the chair of the South Carolina Democratic party, tell Stephen Colbert that her little committee of 16 didn't think he was "quite ready to be president." I hate to be the Col-bearer of bad news, but in case you haven't heard, they voted to keep him off the ballot.

The funnyman had failed the party's "viable candidate" test, despite the fact that one poll showed him statistically tied with Joe Biden and ahead of Dennis Kucinich, Bill Richardson and Mike Gravel. Another gave him 13% of the vote in a three-way race with Hillary Clinton and Rudy Giuliani.

I had no idea that a few political party elites could decide, subjectively, who was viable and vote to scrap the others before America could have its say. Could a not-so-sweet 16 reject Hillary Clinton willy-nilly if they believed a female had no chance?

Fowler's words felt like fowl play (that's southern for chicken ordure) and, no doubt, ticked off millions of young people who had crept out from behind "down with politics" placards to vote for the first time.

In the end, did "the man" (aka the establishment) stick it to Colbert and his fans, or did "the man" puncture its own fantastically undemocratic balloon? I say the balloon has lost its air; there will be backlash for refusing to lend Mr. Popularity a "members only" jacket.

By shutting the door on Colbert's candidacy, some argue the political establishment has revealed its true colors are not red, white and blue. Instead, they secretly salute the flag of monopoly, manipulation, disenfranchisement and hypocrisy.

Ralph Nader would agree. He has no love for the Republican or Democratic parties. In fact, the consumer advocate has recently filed a lawsuit against the Dems for conspiring to intimidate and use other underhanded tactics to prevent him from the 2004 presidency.

The two parties are private organizations with the legal right to choose their candidates however they wish. They can evaluate party loyalty, use ideological litmus tests, weigh campaign nest eggs, cave to daddy's political connections or allow a committee of 16 to call shots "out" even when the masses would rule them in bounds.

Muckraker Colbert has shed a light on this irksome game. It is particularly unappetizing because the two parties have a quasi-public reality to them. They are like public utility companies in that they get all the business all the time: A candidate has little chance of winning — especially the presidency — unless he or she is affiliated with one of the two giants. In addition, the parties simulate nonprofits, saying they exist to benefit the public good. Have you ever heard a Democrat or Republican admit it's all about increasing party power and achieving a monopoly; and well, curses to the little people?

The South Carolina Democrats blundered big time. The assured media coverage of the state and of their party — not to mention the voters who would have been brought into the system — would have made it all worthwhile in the end.

Plus, there is the education factor, as 1.3 million Colbert Report viewers got an entertaining dose of Civics 101 night after night, including information on campaign finance laws, political action committees and Democratic Party "hoop jumping." It is conceivable they were shedding a few layers of a well-entrenched apathy at each sitting.

As a native-born Georgia girl, I once dreamt of crushing the triangular state to the north. But I completely lost the urge because Colbert made South Carolina seem downright warm and fuzzy. Now that Colbert's been rejected, I associate the state with a bunch of Old Guard fuddy duddies.

Colbert's fake campaign was arguably less phony than those of competitors because the comedian was honest about the politics-as-usual hustle. Plus, the entertaining Everyman offered Independents a place to hang their hats with hope that a mountain of headgear could eventually transform the two parties into relatively harmless molehills.

Maybe Colbert and his campaign soldiers should seize the helm, starting The-Party's-Over Party and giving it one platform: to end the two-party stranglehold. It might be the only way to foist the "good ole boys" from their threadbare captain's chair.

The time has come to end political ickiness, folks.

CHARLOTTE LAWS, PH.D. is an author, realtor and former Los Angeles Commissioner. Her Web site is www.CharlotteLaws.org.



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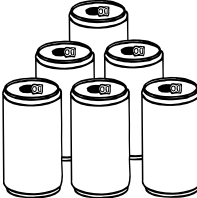
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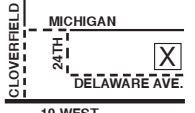
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The Q-Line

Paying up

The City Clerk is currently considering a few changes for the City Council. A few of the talking points are an increase in pay as well as the addition of more council meetings.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you feel that the council should meet more often and if so should they get a pay hike?

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

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Yahoo settles human rights suit

BY PAUL ELIAS | Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Yahoo Inc., reeling from a growing human rights backlash over its China operations, settled a lawsuit Tuesday that accused the Internet company of illegally helping the Chinese government jail and torture two journalists.

The settlement is a dramatic change of heart for Yahoo, which had steadfastly maintained it had little choice but to comply with a request from Chinese authorities to share information about the journalists' online activities, which they said led to their arrest.

But over the last week the company's cooperation with the Chinese government turned into a public relations nightmare, as irate federal lawmakers lambasted the company in hearings on Capitol Hill, accusing it of collaborating with an oppressive commu-

nist regime.

"While technologically and financially you are giants, morally you are pygmies," House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Tom Lantos, D-Calif., angrily said at that hearing.



TECHNOLOGICALLY AND FINANCIALLY YOU ARE GIANTS, MORALLY YOU ARE PYGMIES."

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Tom Lantos, D-Calif

Neither side disclosed details of the settlement other than to agree that Yahoo would pay the attorneys fees of the journalists, Shi Tao and Wang Xiaoning, and the family member who sued. Yahoo also said it would "provide financial, humanitarian and legal support to these families."

The case has raised questions about whether Internet companies should cooperate with governments that deny freedom of speech and frequently crack down on journalists.

Many other U.S. companies, including

Google Inc., Cisco Systems and Microsoft Corp., are facing similar issues in China, said business professor Peter Navarro of the University of California, Irvine.

"They have all crossed a gray ethical line in China with their anything-for-a-buck mentality," Navarro said. "I don't believe that

will change without a broader examination of the U.S.-China relationship."

Shi, a former writer for the financial publication Contemporary Business News, was jailed under state secrecy laws for allegedly providing state secrets to foreigners.

Shi's e-mail allegedly contained notes about a government memo on media restrictions.

Wang was arrested in 2002 in connection with anonymous e-mails and other political writings he posted online. They are both serving 10 year prison sentences.

The men were represented in the lawsuit by The World Organization for Human Rights in Washington D.C.

At the Congressional hearing last week, Yahoo Chief executive Jerry Yang and General Counsel Michael Callahan apologized to Shi's mother, who was sitting behind them.

Museum's expansion plans stir controversy

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Neighbors are losing their tolerance for the Museum of Tolerance.

People who live near the museum in West Los Angeles are opposing plans to build a two-story cultural center that could be rented out for private events such as weddings.

The museum also wants to expand operating hours to midnight when such events are held, and to reduce its 100-foot buffer zone from homes to 20 feet.

But some neighbors concerned about additional noise and traffic have collected about 70 signatures on a petition

calling on the city to reject the proposal.

"They don't care about us as neighbors," said Sharron Lerman, who lives two blocks away and is a museum member. "Very insensitive."

The 14-year-old museum has exhibits dealing with the Holocaust, racism, extremism and human rights abuses around the world.

It has drawn about 4 million visitors.

The museum is owned by the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

The center's founder and dean, Rabbi Marvin Hier, said the 13,500-square-foot cultural center was necessary to raise

money and accommodate growing demand.

"Cultural institutions must be allowed reasonable growth," he said. "We can't stay where we are in the same amount of square footage."

On Wednesday, Hier said most neighbors support the expansion.

"They have 70 signatures but we have 464 letters from homeowners" in support, Hier said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

He also argued that the proposed cultural center actually would reduce noise because it would enclose what is currently an open museum plaza.

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DAY PASSES



Governor cuts the Bay's bait

BY TERENCE CHEA

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Tuesday suspended all fishing in areas affected by last week's San Francisco Bay oil spill. He called the incident an "unbelievable human failure" and promised to investigate both the spill and the U.S. Coast Guard's response.

Fishermen concerned about the 58,000-gallon spill had requested the closure, which delays Thursday's scheduled start of the highly anticipated commercial season for Dungeness crab and interrupts the catch for sportfishermen.

At Fisherman's Wharf, out-of-town fishermen who had traveled to San Francisco for crab season prepared to head home after hearing about the suspension.

"We're going to go home broke," said Jason Morford, 38, of Newport, Ore. "We're going to be in the hole."

The spill occurred when a cargo ship struck the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge in heavy fog last week, tearing a gash in its hull. The pilot of the ship said he immediately reported the presence of oil in the water, but cleanup crews didn't arrive on the scene for nearly 90 minutes. A Coast Guard log places a skimming vessel at the scene in 80 minutes.

Coast Guard officials defended their response as "by the book," but concede mistakes in their communication with the public. Initial reports had the spill at just 140 gallons; the Coast Guard waited hours after learning it was much larger before notifying local officials.

Federal prosecutors are conducting a criminal probe and have interviewed members of the crew about the events leading up to the crash. The harbor pilot who was guiding the ship through the bay toward open water has not been subpoenaed in that investigation, his lawyer said.

A day after the spill, the governor praised the Coast Guard for taking "immediate action."

Speaking Tuesday at the California State Association of Counties' annual meeting, Schwarzenegger seemed to change course.

The oil spill was the result of "unbelievable human failure," he said. "Then on top of

it, it takes that long to react to the oil spill so by the time the next day comes around, the oil is all over the bay."

Later, after a briefing by Coast Guard officials at their command center on Treasure Island, Schwarzenegger sidestepped questions about whether he was satisfied with the agency's response.

"I'm not an investigator," he said.

He did pledge a thorough investigation "to see also if we as a state can do more in order to prevent those kind of accidents."

"Believe me, we will ask the tough questions that need to be asked," Schwarzenegger said.

At Clipper Cove on Treasure Island, more than a dozen cleanup workers in white Hazmat suits worked on their hands and knees, painstakingly skimming thin layers of sand from the beach with hand trowels. By midday, Peter Cabral of the cleanup company Emergency Response Group said, crews had filled about 125 bags with oil and other debris just from Clipper Cove.

Similar cleanup efforts continued across the region.

The state Department of Fish and Game, working with the Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response, will determine which areas will be closed to fishing. That announcement was expected later Tuesday.

Schwarzenegger also ordered the state Department of Public Health to determine whether people can become sick if they eat seafood caught in areas impacted by the spill.

The commercial crab season was supposed to begin Thursday but will now be delayed until Dec. 1, or until state health and wildlife officials deem it safe to reopen the fisheries. The delicacy is enjoyed both by tourists and residents who serve crab alongside the turkey with their Thanksgiving dinner.

Crab fishermen voted Saturday to ask the governor to delay the commercial season. They are worried the crabs could be contaminated because ocean and bay water is used to keep the crustaceans alive on boats after they're harvested from the sea floor.

But the suspension will be an economic hardship for many fishermen, especially crabbers from Oregon, Washington and California's distant North Coast. The Bay Area crab fishery attracts out-of-town fishermen because it opens two weeks earlier than larger fisheries farther north.

Pain at the pump

FROM GAS PAGE 3

prices would remain high through the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas travel seasons.

Merry Clark spent \$31.50 to fill up her Ford Focus, which she bought specifically because of its fuel efficiency. The Redding resident said she had already consolidated errands into a single weekly schlep to save fuel, and she is planning to stay put for the holidays.

"Christmas vacation is going to be short this year — no long trips," said Clark, who paid \$3.60 per gallon at a Shell station downtown. She had to drive more than 225 miles Wednesday morning to drop someone

off at San Francisco International Airport — a round trip that will consume at least a full tank of gas.

Raul Avila only bought a few dollars worth of gas at \$3.60 per gallon at the Shell station on Wednesday, and he planned to drive 10 miles south to top it off at a discount Costco gas station in Daly City.

Avila, 36, and his wife are already talking about ditching their 1997 Toyota 4Runner to buy a Toyota Prius and the San Francisco parents have even toyed with the idea of going car-free.

"I'm a Southern California native, so I think about getting rid of it but can't get beyond the feeling that I always need a car," Avila said. "I feel naked without it."



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Continuing last year's discussion with City Manager P. Lamont Ewell about community priorities

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All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, November 19, 2007

Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th St.

Tuesday, November 20, 2007

Grant Elementary School Auditorium, 2368 Pearl St.

The meetings for the North of Montana and Pico Neighborhood areas will be rescheduled and will be advertised in the *Santa Monica Daily Press* and on the city's website at www.smgov.net. Call (310) 458-8281 for more information.

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All locations are wheelchair accessible. For additional disability-related accommodations, or for more information about these meetings, please call (310) 458-8281.

West used troubled surgeon

Donda West's doctor a target of multiple legal problems

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS | Associated Press Writer

SANTA ANA The doctor who performed a tummy tuck and breast reduction on the mother of Kanye West is a plastic surgeon to Hollywood's elite and something of a celebrity himself, with a TV show of his own and a host of appearances on programs from "Extra" to "Oprah."

What Dr. Jan Adams hasn't publicized, however, is that the state medical board is investigating whether to revoke or suspend his license over alcohol-related arrests; that he has been the target of malpractice lawsuits; and that he's paid out nearly \$500,000 in civil settlements.

Adams, through his spokesman Kevin Williams, confirmed for The Associated Press that he operated on Donda West, who died Saturday night at Centinela Freeman Regional Medical Center in Marina del Rey after she stopped breathing at her home. She was 58.

Adams would not say when and where the surgery was done, citing doctor-patient confidentiality.

"I first want to express my deepest condolences to the West family at a very difficult time," Adams said in a statement read by Williams. "Out of respect for the West family and in the absence of other verifiable information, any comment from me without first discussing that information with the family would be unprofessional."

She underwent cosmetic surgery Friday in Los Angeles and went home, said Capt. Ed Winter of the county coroner's office.

The coroner's office said initial indications were that West died from surgical complications, but an official cause of death won't be made for six to eight weeks pending further tests, Chief Coroner Investigator Craig Harvey said Tuesday after an autopsy was conducted.



**SHE SAW HIM ON
DISCOVERY HEALTH, SO
SHE DECIDED TO CHECK THEM OUT.
HE NEVER TOLD HER THAT HE'D
HAD THESE ONGOING PROBLEMS."**

Thomas Gourde, attorney

Adams, 53, told celebrity Web site TMZ.com that West's death was not caused by the surgery, but could have been caused by a heart attack, a pulmonary embolism or vomiting.

Some patients who sought treatment from Adams said they learned of him through TV, where he appeared as an expert guest on "Oprah," "The Other Half," CNN, "Entertainment Tonight," E!, ABC, NBC and "Extra." Adams, who had his own show on Discovery Health, also appeared in a TV advertisement for Chanel's Allure perfume, according to his Web site.

Adams also sells a line of skin care products, including a product that lightens skin, and has written two books on plastic surgery, including the 2000 title "Everything Women of Color Should Know About Plastic Surgery."

In 2001, two malpractice lawsuits against Adams ended in payouts of \$217,337 and \$250,000, state medical records show. Further details were not disclosed.

A woman suing Adams for medical malpractice in Orange County in 2006 alleged that she had to be hospitalized with a high fever and fluid in her left breast after botched surgery to remove excess skin and reshape her chest and abdomen. Plaintiff Jana Beighle eventually had the implants removed because of complications, her attorney, Thomas Gourde, said.

"She saw him on Discovery Health, so she decided to check them out," Gourde said. "He never told her that he'd had these ongoing problems."

Beighle's case, as well as two others filed in Orange County, are pending.

The Medical Board of California is also investigating whether Adams' license should be revoked or suspended after two alcohol-related arrests in the past four years, records show.

Earlier this year, David Thornton, the board's executive director, filed a complaint with the state against Adams saying he should be disciplined for the arrests and for driving without a valid license. A hearing is pending in the matter.

In a 2006 case, Adams was found guilty of driving with a blood-alcohol level of .08 or greater, the records show. He pleaded no contest in 2003 to driving under the influence.

Adams graduated from the Ohio State University College of Medicine in 1985 and says on his Web site that he received an undergraduate degree from Harvard University.

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

Justice Department to see new era under Mukasey

BY LARA JAKES JORDAN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON President Bush welcomed Michael Mukasey back into government Wednesday and promised to help the new attorney general rebuild the top leadership of the beleaguered Justice Department.

Speaking at Mukasey's ceremonial oath-taking, Bush said the retired federal judge "will bring clear purpose and resolve" to the agency.

"As he embarks on his new responsibilities, Michael Mukasey has my complete trust and confidence," Bush told a packed ceremony at the Justice Department's Great Hall. Agency employees filled the hall and lined the balcony to watch their new boss take the ceremonial oath from Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts.

With a pointed smile at the applauding crowd, Bush added: "And he's going to have the trust and confidence of the men and women of the Department of Justice."

Bush also promised to announce on Thursday nominees to fill some of the dozen vacant senior leadership jobs in the department, which has been in a state of upheaval since a series of controversies including the dismissals of federal prosecutors led to the resignation of Attorney General Alberto Gonzales.

When Bush praised Gonzales as a man of integrity and decency, Justice Department employees responded with sustained applause. It got even louder moments later after Mukasey took the oath, formally ending the Gonzales chapter in the agency's history.

Mukasey, who also worked in the Justice

Department early in his career as a trial prosecutor in New York, said "it's great to be back."

He promised to make sure the Justice Department follows an "unswerving allegiance" to the law and the Constitution.

Though he was officially sworn in last week to begin work, Mukasey said he did not feel he had become the attorney general until taking the oath in front of his employees.

"My job involves not only an oath, but also a pledge, which I now give you," Mukasey told the 110,000 Justice employees nationwide, some of whom watched on the department's internal TV system.

"And that is to use all of the strength of mind and body that I have to help you to continue to protect the freedom and the security of the people of this country, and their civil rights and liberties, through the neutral and evenhanded application of the Constitution and the laws enacted under it."

He said he would "ask myself in every decision I make whether it helps you to do that, to take the counsel not only of my own insights but also of yours, and to pray that I can help give you the leadership you deserve."

Mukasey, 66, inherits a Justice Department struggling to restore its independent image with more than a dozen vacant leadership jobs and little time to make many changes before another president takes office. He now has 14 months to turn it around after almost a year of scandal that forced Gonzales to quit and cast doubt on the government's ability to prosecute cases fairly.

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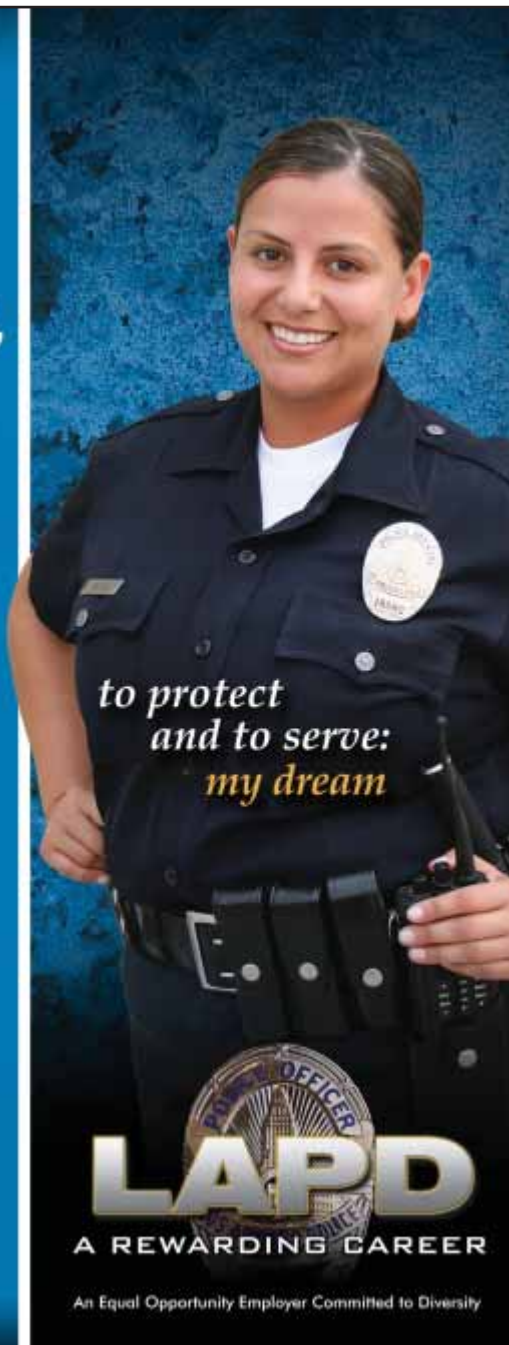
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Elway is scoring parenting points

BY ARNIE STAPLETON
AP Sports Writer

COMMERCE CITY, Colo. John Elway's focus has shifted from football to fatherhood.

The 47-year-old Hall of Famer who led the Denver Broncos to two Super Bowl titles just finished serving as his son's quarterbacks coach at Cherry Creek High School, helping strong-armed Jack Elway earn an athletic scholarship from Arizona State.

"I wanted to get back close to it and be close to him," Elway told The Associated Press. "To me it was important to be around Jack. I had played too long to not at least be able to give him some of my knowledge that I had gained over the years of playing and that I had gained from my dad. I would have been kicking myself if I hadn't done it."

Juliana, 16, the youngest of four children raised by Elway and his former wife, Janet, just got her driver's license and is starting to look into colleges herself.

"She's a junior so she'll be gone in a year-and-a-half, and I'll be an empty-nester, which is hard to believe," Elway said.

So, he sat down with Jack and Juliana this week and signed a contract, one that for a change had nothing to do with football.

A master pitchman in the nine years since he threw his last pass, Elway's latest endeavor is serving as a spokesman for Allstate Insurance Co.'s teen safe driving campaign, which includes a downloadable pact between parents and teenagers.

"I've had a chance to spend more time with my kids. That's why this is kind of a fun thing for me," Elway said. "It was fun to sit down with Jack and Juliana and create those boundaries," such as no talking or texting on the cell phone, no eating or drinking on the road.

Elway said the campaign, which kicks off nationally this week, is close to his heart because he's really had a chance to

give his youngest kids some face time lately, such as tutoring Jack on the finer points of quarterbacking.

"It was great. It was really a chance for me to get to know him better," Elway said. "And it wasn't about telling him how to throw the ball or where to go or he missed a read or whatnot. It was really kind of helping him out through the tough situations."

Such as last week, when the younger Elway was intercepted seven times in a 35-7 playoff loss to Grandview.

"He was like, 'What do I do, Dad?' And I said, 'You know what you do, you've got to keep battling. I don't care if you throw 10, let's keep trying to win this football game,'" Elway recounted.

At 6-foot-3 and 215 pounds, Jack Elway already is as big as his father was when he entered the NFL.

"He's still a late bloomer," Elway said. "He still hasn't come close to his potential, in my mind. He made leaps and bounds from last year to where he is this year. But his upside's all ahead of him. He hasn't really scratched it. If he can unmask everything and get through everything, he's got the ability to be really, really good. But at this point, it's up to him to take that next step."

"He's going to physically mature more. I mean, he's as big now as I was when I got out of college. And then if he just keeps making the leaps he's made from year to year then he's got a chance to be a pretty good player."

Elway, who will undergo left knee replacement surgery in two weeks, is now co-owner and CEO of an arena league team.

He led the Broncos to five Super Bowls, winning twice. He retired as the winningest quarterback in NFL history, a mark that Green Bay's Brett Favre broke with his 149th win in September.

"If someone was going to break it, I'm glad it was him because here's a guy that's been around 17 years," Elway said.

Dealer testifies Simpson barged in with weapons

BY KEN RITTER
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS What a sports memorabilia dealer believed was supposed to be a meeting with a buyer turned into an armed robbery when men alongside O.J. Simpson barged into his hotel room with guns, the dealer testified Wednesday.

The dealer, Alfred Beardsley, said he tried to make clear to an "irritated" Simpson that he had not stolen items from the former football star.

"Somebody yelled out, 'Police,'" said Beardsley, testifying at a preliminary hearing to determine whether Simpson and two co-defendants should go to trial in the alleged Sept. 13 robbery. "I was ordered to stand up. I was searched for weapons," Beardsley said.

Justice of the Peace Joe M. Bonaventure is tasked with deciding whether whether Simpson, Clarence "C.J." Stewart and Charles "Charlie" Ehrlich should go to trial on 12 charges, including kidnapping and armed robbery. The hearing is expected to end Wednesday.

A conviction on the kidnapping count could result in a sentence of life in prison with the possibility of parole. An armed robbery conviction could mean mandatory prison time.

Chief Las Vegas Justice of the Peace Douglas Smith, who is not involved in the Simpson case, said the question before the court is: "Was a crime committed, and did this person probably commit the crime? That's all that needs to be proved."

Simpson, 60, has maintained that no guns were displayed during the confrontation, that he never asked anyone to bring guns and that he did not know anyone had guns.

He has said he intended only to retrieve items that had been stolen from him by a former agent, including the suit he wore the day he was acquitted of murder in 1995 in the slayings of his wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

Beardsley testified that he did not steal any of the items and that he told Simpson the memorabilia came from a former partner of dealer Bruce Fromong.

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Businesses to benefit from raffle

FROM ART PAGE 3

installed in public spaces. The Trust also enables donors to make gifts of everything from paintings to manuscripts to public institutions throughout Los Angeles on the condition that they may be made available for study and to appropriate public exhibitions.

The raffle features works from more than 40 local artists, including Ed Moses, Peter Alexander, Ed Ruscha and Robert Graham. The art will be on exhibit each weekday from Nov. 5 to Nov. 30, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Ravenswork.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit 1st Fridays, which is a collaboration between the Venice Chamber of Commerce, Venice Neighborhood Council and the merchants of Abbot Kinney Boulevard, who are working to promote local commerce while helping the less fortunate in the Venice community.

The raffle will take place along with a screening of a new film called "Cool School," which tells the story of the legendary Ferus Gallery, which helped spark the art movement in Los Angeles during the 1950s. There will also be live musical performances inspired by that era.

Mark Farina, an artist and instructor at Otis College of Art and Design, has donated one his works, a silk-screen print called "Death B 4 Disco," which features a red disco ball and a white skull before a pinkish-red backdrop.

"I think it's really a great opportunity for someone who is not your average collector and can't afford high prices for art to get a good piece at a low price," Farina said. "I'm encouraging people to buy tickets. I'm going to buy some tickets myself."

The Trust plans to use the raffle proceeds to produce a series of videos about the arts world that they hope to

show in schools across Los Angeles County to encourage kids to not only become artists, but to also consider careers as directors, actors, grips, location scouts, agents and other fields that are not traditionally considered.

RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE AROUND \$70,000 WORTH OF ART THAT HAS BEEN DONATED AND WE ARE HOPING TO SELL AROUND \$30,000 TO \$40,000 WORTH OF TICKETS."

Aldis Browne
co-founder of the Venice Community Trust

Farina, who was influenced by his older brother, said he believes there needs to be more opportunities for students to get involved in the art world. He has taught after school programs at the Brentwood Art Center and believes more children should have opportunities to participate.

"I never had opportunities like that growing up," Farina said.

kevinh@smdp.com

✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com



Rendering courtesy Venice Community Trust

THAT'S ART: A raffle held to benefit public art and encourage young artists will include donated works from more than 40 local artists.

FOOD

We're Giving the Bird to Artificial Additives...

COME TO BOB'S MARKET FOR AN ALL NATURAL, PREMIUM QUALITY, RANGE GROWN DIESTEL TURKEY

By Tom Guttman *Neighborhood Patron Since 1984*

To compete with large supermarket chains and warehouse stores, Bob's Market offers a level of personalized service, high quality produce and meats, outstanding selection of fine wines, and a commitment to the community that can only come from a family owned business. That's why Bob works with other family owned businesses, such as Diestel Turkey Ranch, because they share his belief in uncompromised quality. Here's Tim Diestel's story:

My father, Jack Diestel, worked as a young man on the ranch learning the secrets of range growing turkeys. I would like to share four of these secrets with you which will help explain what makes our Diestel Turkey so special.

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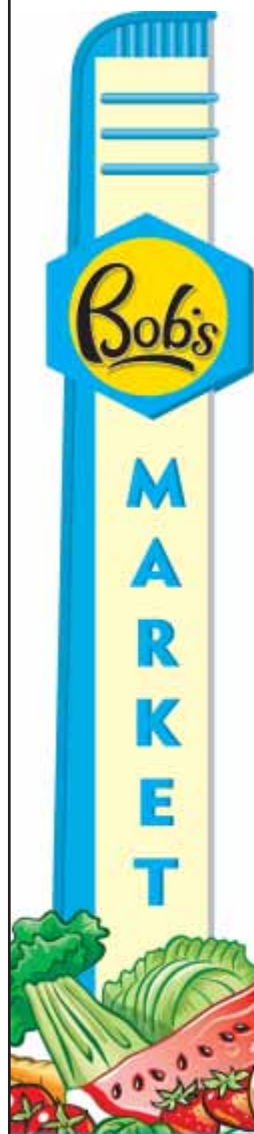
FAMILY SECRET #3 Don't rush things. We give the turkey the time to develop flavor naturally. Instead of a high fat, high protein diet, Diestel Turkeys enjoy a wholesome vegetarian diet of grains mixed daily on the ranch, cool clean mountain water and an extra two months of growing time.

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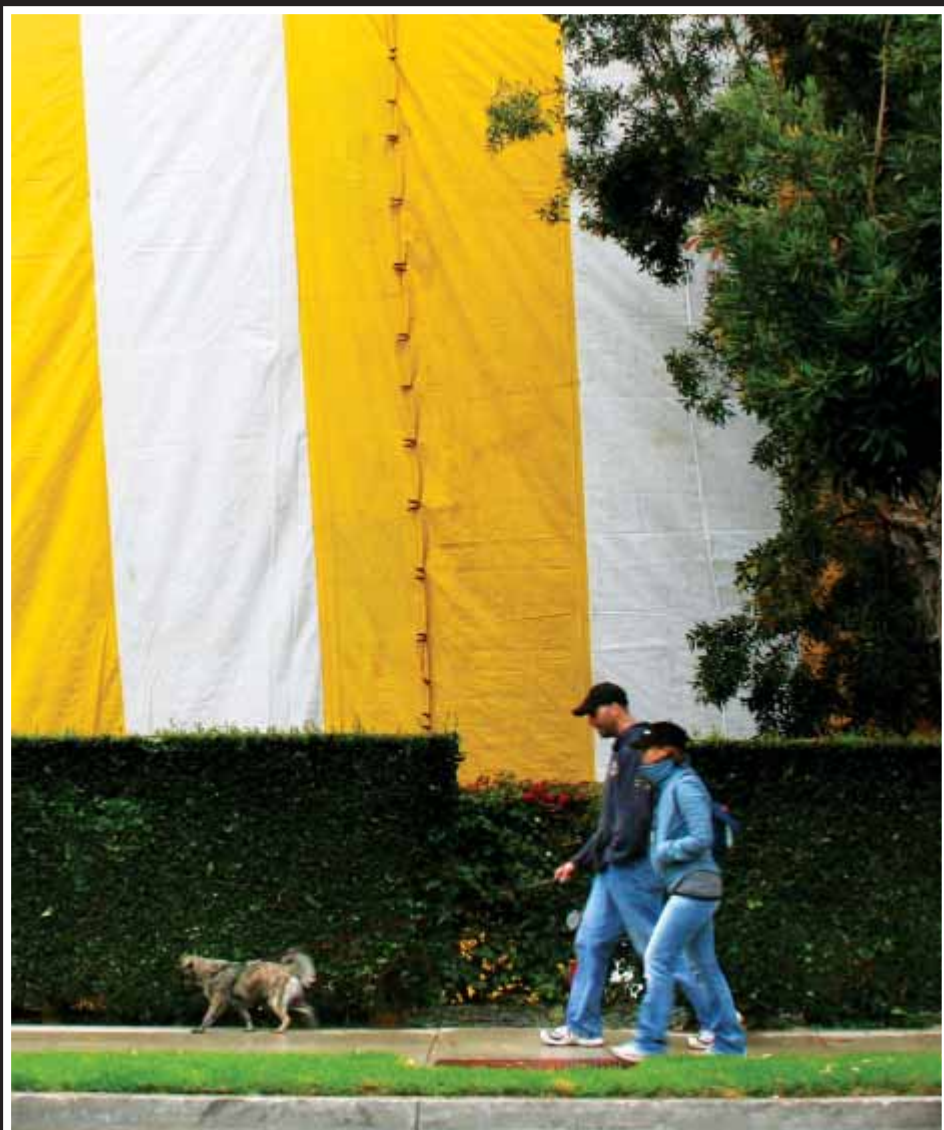
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IT'S NOT A CIRCUS

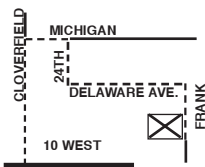
Frank Cappello news@smdp.com

The bright, circus-like tent of a building being fumigated struck a contrasting image against gray skies over the weekend. The condominium building at 3002 Third St. was being cleared by Excellent fumigation.



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Students think and act locally

FROM LEADERSHIP PAGE 1

schools.

"Being a leader takes more than just sticking up for other people," said Elijah Lax, a fifth grader at Grant Elementary School. "It takes a good listener, and you have to be respectful and kind to people with disabilities."

In the elementary schools, the issues range from bullying to school safety to recycling.

The gathering on Wednesday marked the first time the district has hosted an all-elementary student conference.

"We hear so much from adults, we never hear from kids," said Grant Principal Alan Friedenberg.

The workshop was intended, in part, to bring the diverse student population in both Santa Monica and Malibu together. Most of these students will go on to become classmates in high school, some even running for student council in the future, Friedenberg noted.

Each school sent a delegation of their brightest fourth and fifth grade students to the conference, as nominated by their principals. The students were then split into six "color councils," each of which included a good representation of each school. Only one third grader was picked to participate in the conference — Nico Balderrama, the student-elected historian at Grant Elementary School.

The mixing of schools appeared to have an effect on the students, who seemed to befriend each other fairly quickly, spending their break-time talking about their respective schools. In one conversation, a group of students talked about how they enjoyed playing dodgeball while a student at another school complained about how that activity wasn't offered at his elementary school. Another group of boys discussed their favorite sports.

The students engaged in a variety of leadership-training activities, including one in which they filled out a "scattergram" — a sheet of paper containing certain leadership attributes, such as "team player" and "thoughtful." The terms were scattered throughout the sheet of paper. Students circled each quality with which they identified and started connecting the circles, forming a shape. The students were then able to compare the shapes with their classmates and find the peers with



Morgan Genser news@smdp.com

KEEPING THE PEACE: The members of the "Yellow Group" demonstrate the key points of the issue of school safety, collectively creating human statues at the student leadership conference at Grant Elementary School on Wednesday. The school hosted the first leadership conference, bringing together more than 60 fourth and fifth graders that attend the 10 elementary schools in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. The students spent the entire day honing their leadership abilities, identifying issues in their schools and brainstorming solutions to those problems.

whom they shared the most qualities.

"Our program helps facilitate what it means to be an effective leader in school and how to harness individual and unique leadership skills," said Stephanie Wieland, the artistic director of City at Peace-Los Angeles.

and performing the key points of that issue as a group statue. In the issue about the lack of recycling in schools, one student froze in a position that demonstrated his intention to recycle a bottle, while another student pretended to pat him on

The students are expected to report back to their respective schools about what they learned from the workshop and see if they can effect any changes in their communities.

For Ara Bolander, a fifth grader at Webster Elementary School in Malibu, the most pressing issue is cliques.

"I'm going to see if we can work harder to go around and ask (students) if they can play with someone (they don't know)," Bolander said.

WE HEAR SO MUCH FROM ADULTS, WE NEVER HEAR FROM KIDS."

Alan Friedenberg, Principal, Grant Elementary School

One of the more popular exercises required the students to identify an issue

the back, commending his efforts to save the environment.

✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Send letters to editor@smdp.com

Landmarks Commission postpones tree talks

Ficus trees' pending historic designation to wait a month

By Daily Press staff

CITY HALL The Landmarks Commission postponed a public hearing on Monday to determine whether 153 ficus trees along two Downtown Santa Monica corridors should be designated as landmarks.

The decision stalled attempts by a group of environmental activists that are trying to prevent City Hall from transplanting and destroying more than 50 trees as part of a larger streetscape improvement project.

The request to postpone the public hearing came from peace activist Jerry Rubin, co-founder of the Santa Monica Treesavers, who asked the commission to grant him more time to compile research for his argument as to why the trees on Second and Fourth streets would warrant landmark status.

Though the streetscape project, which would overhaul both Second and Fourth streets by enhancing lighting and improving pedestrian accessibility, commenced last month, the tree removal portion has been held up pending the decision by the commission as to whether it should file a landmarks designation application.

WE SHOULD'VE AT LEAST GOTTEN A JANUARY MEETING."

Jerry Rubin, co-founder of the Santa Monica Treesavers

Both city staff and city consultant PCR Services Corporation are recommending the commission not move forward with a landmark designation because the trees do not meet any of the six criteria required for designation.

The commission rescheduled the hearing to December, denying a request by Rubin to push the hearing until February in order to give the Treesavers adequate time to prepare their defense of the trees. Rubin noted that Marcello Vavala, president of the Santa Monica Conservancy, has volunteered to help the Treesavers with their research, but is taking a neutral position on the issue.

If the public hearing on the trees was postponed past December, it could jeopardize funding and affect financing for the \$8.2 million project, according to Assistant City Manager Gordon Anderson.

But it shouldn't matter if the hearing was rescheduled to February since construction for the streetscape project is expected to be on hiatus soon in order to accommodate the expected increase in traffic from holiday shoppers, Rubin said Tuesday.

"We should've at least gotten a January meeting," Rubin said.

news@smdp.com

A box-office hit plan

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Movies set in 1980s are often box office gold. Theaters from the 1980s — not so much.

Concerned that movie theaters here could soon be obsolete if not allowed to expand to include more amenities such as stadium seating, the City Council on Tuesday night voted unanimously in favor of soliciting proposals for a new cinema development at Parking Structure No. 3 that would include ground floor retail and subterranean parking.

“This is basically testing the waters to see what’s out there,” said Councilman Ken Genser.

Upgrading the district’s aging theaters has been a hot topic for years, as Santa Monicans have watched other cities benefit from the increases in tax revenue generated by moviegoers flocking to new or renovated theaters, spending money at the concession stands, or heading out for drinks and dinner following screenings.

There have been calls for theater chains such as Mann and AMC — both located near the intersection of Third Street and Arizona Avenue — to make significant investments in their venues downtown, but a lack of available land in which to expand has proven a barrier.

That is, until now.

With City Hall going on a spending spree, purchasing large parcels of land in downtown to be used for future parking, there appears an opening for theater operators to transition into the 21st Century.

Mann, which operates the Criterion 6 next to the Third Street Promenade food court, has already approached City Hall about possibly demolishing Parking Structure No. 3 on Fourth Street and turning it into a new theater complex that could accommodate stadium seating, as well as ground floor retail that could help enliven the block.

Under the proposal, Mann would maintain the historic marquee on the promenade. Roughly 500 additional seats would be added, giving the theater the capacity to host premier events or better handle the demand for big blockbusters like the latest “Harry Potter” film, said Andy Agle, economic development director for City Hall.

“Theaters have been critical to the revitalization of downtown and Third Street, and the Promenade Uses Task Force identified the importance of cinemas to the diversity of downtown, both as an activity itself and an anchor for other activities,” Agle said.

Representatives from Mann did not return phone calls seeking comment. A spokesperson for AMC, which operates two theaters on the promenade — the Santa Monica 7 and the Loews Broadway Cinemas — said the chain has no plans to expand or make upgrades at this time, but “we’re always looking at ways to enhance the movie-going experience.”

Rob York, a consultant for the Bayside District Corp., a public-private management company that helps run downtown, said in September that any chain would be willing to move into downtown if there was space available to add stadium seating and other amenities because Santa Monica, and particularly the promenade, is such an attractive market.

The Bayside District now offers four cinemas with a total of 21 screens and more than 5,500 seats, Agle said. Until recently, these four cinema complexes, plus the Landmark on Wilshire Boulevard, which closed earlier this month because of a planned redevelopment, have been competitive with theaters in Westwood, Century City, Hollywood, Culver City and West Hollywood.

Still, the continued success of cinemas in the Bayside District is threatened from both internal and external factors. The existing

Bayside cinema complexes only offer between four and seven screens each, which could potentially put them at a disadvantage in competition for first-run movies, as movie distributors prefer to offer their product to theaters that can show movies on multiple screens at multiple times, Agle said.

Since 2002, several new cinemas have opened, each offering more choices and amenities to directly compete with Santa Monica’s cinemas.

Contemporary cinemas at the Howard Hughes Center and in Culver City are in direct competition, and have been joined by new cinemas at Westside Pavilion, Century City and the Grove.

Both Mann Theaters and AMC Theaters are on long-term leases which expire within the next 15 to 20 years, Agle said. If cinema patrons and distributors favor other cinema centers, the economic viability of existing operations in Santa Monica will decline, the operators may decide to leave Santa Monica, and residents will be forced to travel outside the city to see first-run films.

Mayor Richard Bloom said a sustainable city such as Santa Monica cannot allow for its residents to have to travel outside of the city to see films, especially when Santa Monica considers itself to be a home for the arts.

“We pride ourselves on having everything a resident would want to do in this city,” Bloom said. “This type of proposal promises to improve the pedestrian environment on Arizona (Avenue) and Fourth Street and will also hopefully help to create a more cohesive environment.”

Based on preliminary studies by City Hall’s economic consultant, Allan D. Kotin and Associates, it is estimated that, annually, there are about 1.25 million people who attend the cinemas in the Bayside District. They spend about \$1.25 million on parking, between 50 and 70 percent of the movie patrons eat at nearby restaurants, and movie patrons spend, on average between \$2 and \$5 per person on concessions at the movie theater.

While there are significant public benefits to building a new theater at Parking Structure No. 3, Agle did point out there are some issues that still need to be addressed that could negatively impact the area.

Dedicating the parking structure for cinema development and only reserving the subterranean area for public parking may not achieve the full number of spaces envisioned for downtown, Agle said. This could place pressure on City Hall to properly plan for additional parking on its remaining city-owned land.

That creates an element of uncertainty relative to the overall parking plan, Agle said.

Another issue for consideration is that making only one site available for new cinema development will not fully satisfy the need to modernize the cinemas in the Bayside District, nor satisfy existing demand for upgraded cinemas, Agle said. If one cinema operator is able to upgrade successfully using Parking Structure No. 3, other cinema operators could be at a competitive disadvantage until other opportunities arise.

Preference will be given to those proposals that maximize parking and result in the preservation of or a modest growth in the total number of cinema seats.

“I think we have to be serious about doing something,” Councilman Bob Holbrook said. “In a bold venture, the city convinced theater operators to put theaters in downtown ... (and) it is important the operators be given a chance to expand screens to be viable.

“We certainly don’t want to lose them.”

kevinh@smdp.com

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Keeping it real

Zellweger is proud she hasn't gone crazy yet



RENEE ZELLWEGER

What makes **RENEE ZELLWEGER** most proud in her celebrated acting career is that she's kept her sanity. "It's weird to have fame precede you in any situation ... and I'm very proud of myself that I've not been to Betty Ford (Center) yet," Zellweger, 38, tells Harper's Bazaar. "Never say never!" Among her career achievements? "Learning what my boundaries are. That I've been able to stay

out of the psychiatric wards despite the really bizarre exchanges I have on a daily basis," she says in the magazine's December issue, on newsstands Nov. 20. Zellweger prefers privacy to hanging out with the Hollywood crowd _ in public at least. "I'm not a big scene girl," she says. "If I see the scene once a year, that's more than plenty." The "Bridget Jones" star says an ideal night out could

be a "really nice Christmas party." "I love to go to somebody's house when it gets a little bit later and there's dancing and laughter and nobody's pointing at the weird actor-girl in the corner," says Zellweger, an Oscar winner for 2003's "Cold Mountain." Zellweger, who filed for an annulment four months after her 2005 wedding to Kenny Chesney, says she's

"not sad" about being single. "I'm so busy catching up with the people I miss when I'm working that I'm not busy missing someone." She's been romantically linked with Jim Carrey, George Clooney _ and Paul McCartney. When asked about McCartney, Zellweger says: "He's as lovely as I expected. We have mutual friends. The crush and I have mutual friends."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONORING SPIELBERG

STEVEN SPIELBERG will receive the Cecil B. DeMille Award for his "outstanding contribution to the entertainment field" at the 2008 Golden Globe Awards. Josh Brolin made the announcement Wednesday at The Beverly Hilton. The 60-year-old director has won six Golden Globes and three Oscars _ best director and best picture for "Schindler's List" and best director for "Saving Private Ryan." He is in post-production on "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," which will be released next month .

AP

'People' believes Damon is hottest man on earth

MATT DAMON has been named the "sexiest man alive" by People magazine, an honor that has been bestowed twice on his pals George Clooney and Brad Pitt. The 37-year-old actor is featured on the cover of People's annual issue, on newsstands Friday. Damon, who is married to Luciana Bozan, said the honor came as a surprise. "You gave an aging suburban dad the ego boost of a lifetime," he says in a letter published in the magazine. "My 9-year-old stepdaughter now thinks I'm cool _ well, cooler." Damon, who has a 1-year-old daughter, Isabella, with Bozan, says "all the campaigning" by Clooney and Pitt had finally paid off.

"Unfortunately, after all those years out on the trail, the meet and greets, the fundraisers, the stump speeches, I've finally come to terms with the fact that this is a mantle I wasn't meant to hold," he says in the letter, which was signed "Matty." "Don't get me wrong, though. I was really shocked and happy (Lucy said I actually blushed) when I heard the news. So I can't thank you enough for that." People's "sexiest man alive" list began in 1985 with Mel Gibson. Others on the list: Clooney (1997 and 2006), Pitt (1995 and 2000), Denzel Washington (1996) and Johnny Depp (2003).

AP



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

A force to be noticed, Taurus

Happy Birthday!

This year you might feel as if you have no choice but to constantly adjust to others' issues and plans. At times, you could become irate when dealing with the many people in your life. You might need to pull back and understand your role in events. If you are single, romance could be toasty, if not stable. If you are attached, agree to disagree, and the two of you will have many more stimulating talks and times. **AQUARIUS** can be provocative.



Born Today
Singer Petula Clark
(1932)
Actor Ed Asner (1929)
Actor Sam Waterson (1940)

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

★★★ Though you are a sign that often hesitates to say you regret an action, you might. If you don't feel this now, you will in the next few months. Your perspective could change. Schedule meetings for the late afternoon. Tonight: Where your friends are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ A misunderstanding or problem could challenge your ability to detach. You can do it, Taurus. We know you can. Kick back and imagine what it might be like to walk in another's shoes. Tonight: A force to be noticed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Work with one other person directly, and you'll get results like you won't believe. If you thought you had a problem previously, now you might be baffled by someone's temper or attitude. Tonight: Know that you are not going to change anyone.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Others certainly are running the show. Right now you have a way of kicking back that gives many a jolt. You will also discover that you might not be as comfortable as you might like to be with a key associate. Tonight: Try to be easy, like you used to be!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ You might become more self-destructive than you are aware of. Ask yourself this question: How do you handle your anger? Might there be a more effective way? Make this your project. Tonight: Go along with another's choice.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Focus on creative responses to difficult situations. In fact, consider making that your specialty for the next few months. How others respond could be strange. Don't lose your temper. Go for a walk instead. Tonight: Stay on top of your game.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You might want to rethink a problem more openly. How you visualize a change on the home front might be much different from what takes place in reality. Don't hold back so much. You will be happier. Tonight: Why not more fun and games?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Clear your chest of what is ailing you. Think in terms of growth and opportunity. News from a distance could toss your plans in midair, whether you like it or not. Get used to this theme in your life. Tonight: So happy to be home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Be more in touch with your spending, and you will be a lot happier in the long run. A partner might be flagrant or more extravagant than you think. Know when to pull back and say no. Tonight: Hang out with a favorite person.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Put your best foot forward, but don't be surprised at a flub-up. Others might be more aggressive or assertive than you'd anticipated. Be understanding yet honor your boundaries. You will be much happier. Tonight: Buy yourself a treat.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might spend a good part of the day feeling off-center. How you deal with someone could change radically as a result of today and upcoming events. Focus your power where it counts. Listen to an associate. Tonight: Your call.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

HHHH A friend drives a hard bargain. The real issue is whether to say yes or no. Remember, though the idea might seem harmless, there could be ramifications. Think before you leap into action, for your sake. Tonight: Easy does it.

MOVIEGUIDE

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7:30

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
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30 Days of Night (R)
7:05, 9:45
Darfur Now (PG)
1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30
Lars and the Real Girl (PG-13)
1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55
The Martian Child (PG)
1:50, 4:20
P2 (R)
2:05, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00

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

American Gangster (R)
1:00, 3:30, 4:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:30
Beowulf: Digital 3D (PG-13)
9:30, 12:01am
Dan in Real Life (PG-13)
2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
Fred Claus (PG)
1:05, 1:45, 4:00, 4:35, 6:50, 7:20, 9:40, 10:10
Gone Baby Gone (R)
1:40, 4:25
Saw IV (R)
2:00, 4:40, 7:10

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

Before the Devil Knows You're Dead (R)
1:20, 7:10
The Darjeeling Limited (R)
4:30, 10:00
No Country for Old Men (R)
1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:55
Southland Tales (R))
12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15

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
BRONZE

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

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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

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

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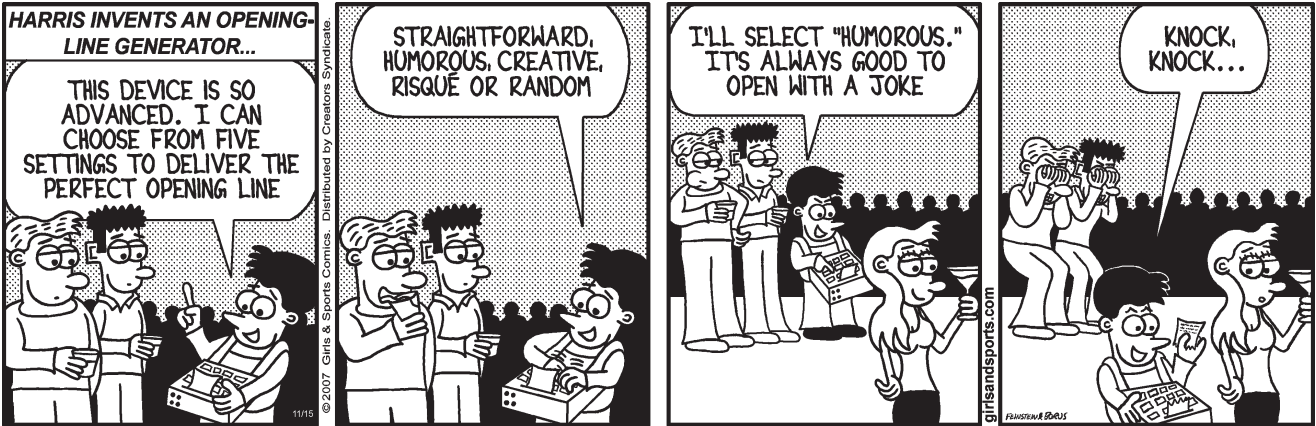
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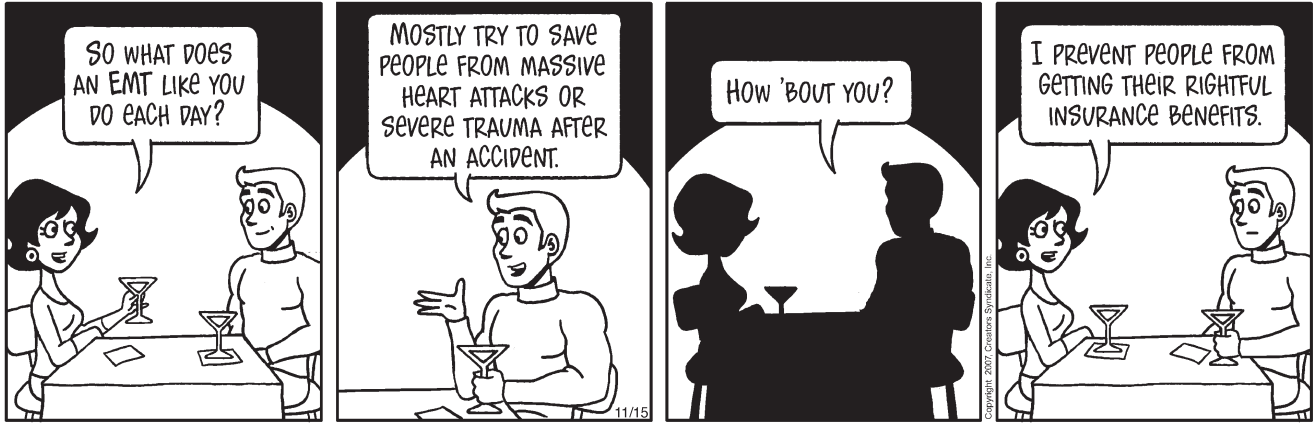
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



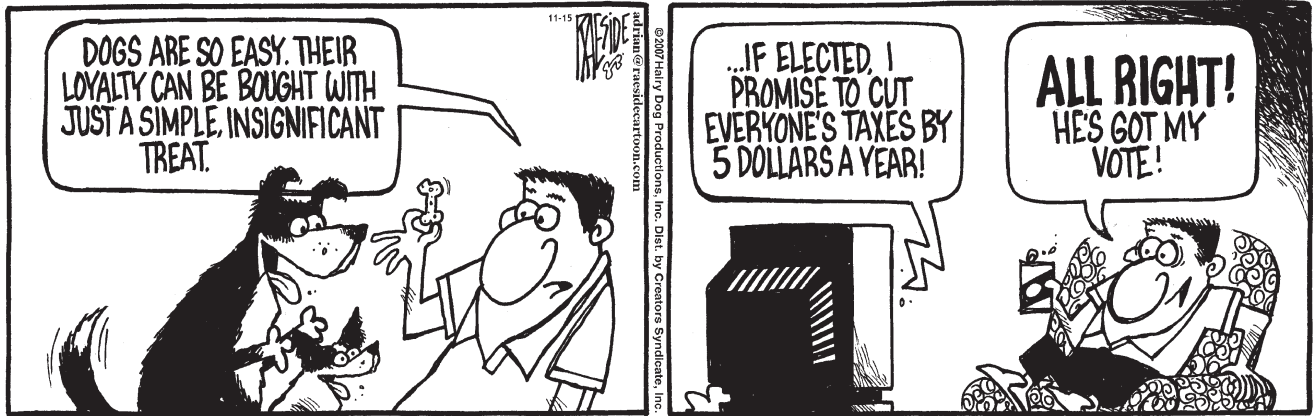
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



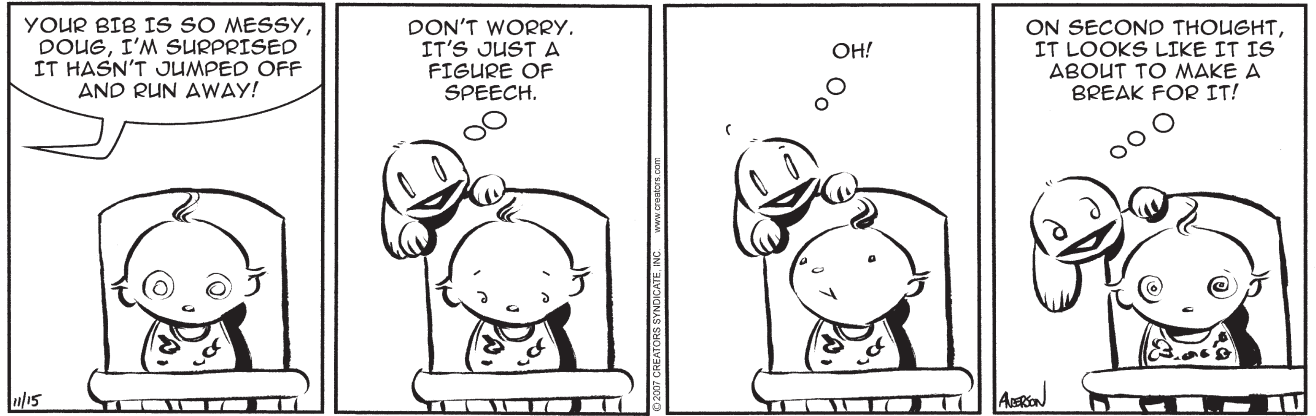
Garfield

By Jim Davis

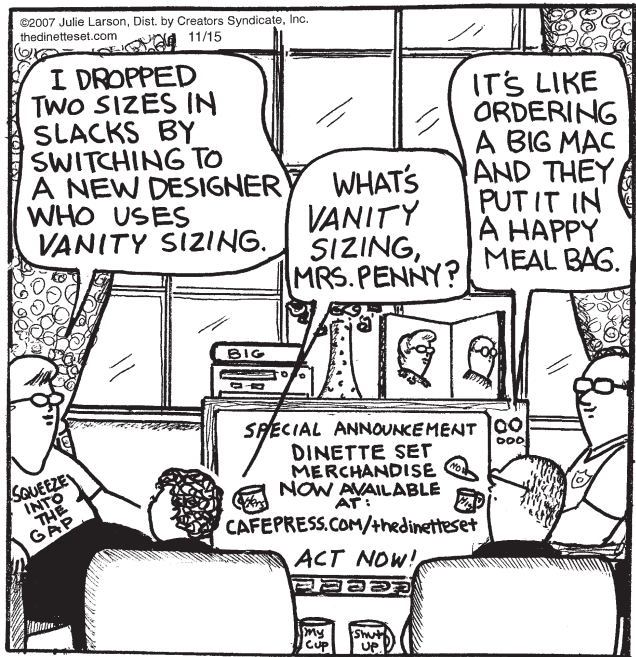


Dog eat Doug

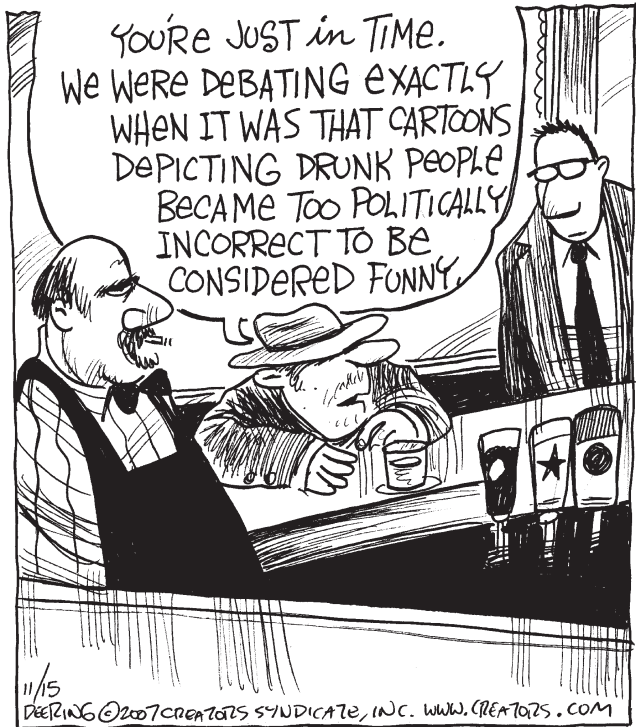
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Brandon Wise news@smdp.com

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

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 1 Rotisserie
 - 5 Fleece seeker
 - 10 DVR attachments
 - 12 — nous
 - 13 Isolated
 - 14 Canary chow
 - 15 Hauler's unit
 - 16 "Piece of cake!"
 - 18 Did salon work
 - 20 Tall tale
 - 21 A long time
 - 23 Football lineman
 - 24 Rum cake
 - 26 Sea dogs
 - 28 Scot's topper
 - 29 Velcro feature
 - 31 Radius setting
 - 32 Small increase
 - 36 November sign
 - 39 Friend of Harry and Hermione
 - 40 Braga of "Moon Over Parador"
 - 41 Emergency light
 - 43 Fiat
 - 44 Deadly

- 45 Security problems
- 46 Skin

- DOWN
- 1 Smacks
 - 2 TV tryout
 - 3 Bitter humor
 - 4 Highish card
 - 5 "Gilmore Girls" character
 - 6 Fresh
 - 7 Pittsburgh pro
 - 8 Predes-tines
 - 9 Like Russian dolls
 - 11 Dakar's nation
 - 17 Exalted poem
 - 19 Techies' place
 - 22 Visit en route
 - 24 Scanning target
 - 25 Cleaner additive
 - 27 Likely
 - 28 Fez feature
 - 30 Yves' yes
 - 33 Furious
 - 34 Pink hue
 - 35 Prepared to propose
 - 37 "Casa-blanca" role
 - 38 Butter servings
 - 42 Pet perch

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Yesterday's answer

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Fantasy 5 9 15 25 30 31

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EVENING: 3 1 4

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3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1:47.74

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In August, News of the Weird wrote about 12-year-old Kyle Krichbaum's lifelong obsession with the sound and feel of vacuum cleaners and his collection of 165 machines and his five-a-day vacuuming habit. In September, two Georgia Tech researchers told a conference in Austria that many owners of the Roomba vacuuming robot seem to ascribe human qualities to it, including giving it a name and, in some cases, dressing it up. Professor Beki Grinter and her colleague said part of the Roomba obsession was because a robot qualifies as a gadget, which means that males can be expected to do more of the household vacuuming.

■ Two high-ranking D.C. school officials were charged in recent months with stealing money from the school system, including Brenda Belton (who pleaded guilty in August), who stole almost \$650,000 while she was in charge of all charter schools in Washington, D.C., and Eugene Smith, who allegedly stole \$46,000 just after he left the job as the schools' director of internal audit.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1777 The Second Continental Congress approved the Articles of Confederation, a precursor to the Constitution of the United States.

1926 The National Broadcasting Co. debuted as a radio network.

1939 President Roosevelt laid the cornerstone of the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C.

1948 William Lyon Mackenzie King retired as prime minister of Canada after 21 years; he was succeeded by Louis St. Laurent.

1966 Flight Gemini 12 ended successfully as astronauts James A. Lovell and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin Junior splashed down safely in the Atlantic.

1969 a quarter of a million protesters staged a peaceful demonstration in Washington against the Vietnam War.

1979 The British government publicly identified Sir Anthony Blunt as the "Fourth Man" of a Soviet spy ring that included Guy Burgess, Donald Maclean and Kim Philby.

1982 Funeral services were held in Moscow's Red Square for the late Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev.

1987 28 of 82 people aboard a Continental Airlines DC-9, including the pilot and co-pilot, were killed when the jetliner crashed seconds after taking off from Denver's Stapleton International Airport.

WORD UP!

fleaneur (flah-NUR), *noun*: One who strolls about aimlessly; a loungeur; a loafer.

Opening lines of communication

Korean prime ministers meet for the first time in 15 years

BY JAE-SOON CHANG
Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea The prime ministers of North and South Korea met Wednesday for the first time in 15 years, hoping to extend the detente fostered by the second-ever summit of their leaders last month with new South Korean investment in the impoverished North.

North Korean Prime Minister Kim Yong Il said after arriving in Seoul on a direct flight from Pyongyang that he thought the three days of talks would “go well in a warm atmosphere” based on his welcome.

The two sides last held prime ministerial talks in 1992 that were suspended amid the first crisis over the North’s nuclear weapons program.

Kim ranks below the top members of the North’s ruling elite: leader Kim Jong Il and the country’s No. 2 official Kim Yong Nam. He is meeting with South Korean Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, who is the deputy of South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun.

This week’s talks are aimed at fleshing out an agreement that Roh and the North Korean leader signed at their October summit in Pyongyang — only the second such meeting since the Korean peninsula was divided more than half a century ago.

That accord calls for greater peace and economic cooperation across the world’s most heavily fortified border.

Praising that agreement as a big step toward reconciliation, the North Korean delegation stressed Wednesday the importance of taking action.

“No matter how good an agreement is, it ends up an empty piece of paper unless carried out,” the North Koreans said in an arrival statement.

The South’s Han agreed in comments at the start of the meetings. “We have to reach a very specific agreement at these talks and put it into action,” he said.

“I totally agree with your remark,” Kim replied. “What’s important is to have a good result, rather than sitting here and squabbling.”

IF WE GO UP THE STAIRS STEP-BY-STEP LIKE THIS, WE WILL REACH THE TOP ONE DAY.”

Cheon Ho-seon, South Korea presidential spokesman

Cheon Ho-seon, South Korea’s presidential spokesman, said the talks demonstrate the two sides are firmly committed to carrying out the summit agreement.

“If we go up the stairs step-by-step like this, we will reach the top one day,” Cheon said.

The North-South talks come amid progress in international efforts to rid North Korea of its nuclear programs, with the communist nation beginning to disable its sole operational nuclear reactor recently under a deal with the U.S., South Korea, China, Japan and Russia.

Seoul believes that promoting reconciliation with Pyongyang would facilitate resolution of the nuclear dispute.

This week’s negotiations focus mainly on economic cooperation projects, including setting up a joint fishing area around their disputed western sea border and estab-

lishing a joint economic area on the North’s southwestern coast.

Also on the agenda are building joint shipyards in the North and improving convenience for South Koreans working at a joint industrial zone in the North Korean border city of Kaesong by simplifying border customs inspection and improving communication networks at the zone.

Other topics include expanding reunions of separated families.

Security issues are not expected to be on the table as the two sides will hold defense ministers’ talks in Pyongyang later this month.

The North’s premier Kim is an economic technocrat who served as the country’s land and marine transportation minister. Kim recently visited Vietnam, Malaysia, Cambodia and Laos, signing a series of economic cooperation accords with those countries.

Most other members of the North’s 43-strong delegation are also economic officials.

Dozens of anti-North Korea protesters staged a rally outside the talks’ venue, accusing the South of making too many concessions to Pyongyang and getting little in return. The group set fire to a picture of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il and the country’s flag.

“Stop lavishing aid on North Korea!” the protesters chanted as riot police stood guard to prevent them from attempting to approach the hotel.

The two Koreas fought the 1950-53 Korean War that ended in a truce, not a peace treaty, which means that the sides are still technically at war. Their relations have warmed significantly since the first-ever summit in 2000, although the reconciliation process has often been overshadowed by the standoff over the North’s nuclear weapons programs.

Pakistani president tells U.S. he isn’t a pushover

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM
Associated Press Writer

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan President Gen. Pervez Musharraf said for the first time Wednesday that he expects to quit as chief of Pakistan’s army by the end of November, heralding a return to civilian rule.

But in an interview with The Associated Press, he also rejected U.S. pressure to quickly end a state of emergency and a demand from opposition leader Benazir Bhutto that he leave the political stage altogether.

Musharraf, wearing a dark business suit rather than his military uniform, said rising Islamic militancy required him to stay in control of the troubled nation but he left the door open for future cooperation with Bhutto if she wins January parliamentary elections.

He said his government “would prefer to engage with all the foreign concerns and tell them our difficulties so that they understand.”

“But basically my concern is Pakistan,” Musharraf said. “I take decisions in Pakistan’s interest and I don’t take ultimatums from anyone.”

The general, who seized power in a 1999 coup and sided with the United States after the Sept. 11 attacks, has appeared increasingly isolated since he declared an emergency and suspended the constitution on Nov. 3.

Authorities have rounded up thousands of opposition and human rights activists, purged the courts and blacked out independent TV news channels — giving ammunition for his opponents to brand him a dictator.

The U.S. and other Western allies have been pushing for Musharraf to take off his uniform and end the emergency, warning it

could seriously undermine the legitimacy of the elections that are meant to end eight years of direct military rule.

Washington wants Musharraf to share power with other moderate forces to try to rein in extremists allied with the Taliban and al-Qaida, who have seized control of swaths of territory near the Afghan border.

“We don’t see how it is possible to have free and fair elections under emergency rule. We want to have emergency rule lifted, so that people could protest peacefully, or that they can campaign, and so that a free media can cover the election as we do here,” White House press secretary Dana Perino said Wednesday, after Musharraf’s comments to the AP.

Musharraf should return to democracy “as soon as possible — we think as soon as possible is now,” Perino said. “We’d like to see it done immediately.”

The Commonwealth of Britain and its former colonies have threatened to suspend Pakistan unless the emergency is lifted by Nov. 22.

However, President Bush continues to describe Musharraf as a trusted ally and U.S. officials have indicated they won’t cut generous aid to Pakistan’s military.

Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte is due in Islamabad on Friday.

“All those who are blunt enough to tell me to my face what the reality is, all of them think, yes, it will lead the country to chaos if I do not handle the political environment now with me remaining as the president,” Musharraf said Wednesday.

Musharraf was in an affable mood during the 50-minute interview at his army office south of the capital, the latest in a series of meetings with foreign media designed to blunt criticism.

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Notices

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